

» BOOTHS!

Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

of Central New York

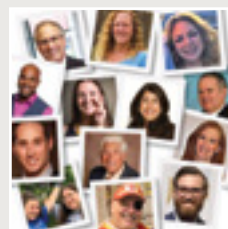
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OCTOBER 2020 | TISHREI - CHESHVAN 5781

חג סוכות שמח

Happy Sukkot!



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From the Editor



Barbara Davis

This issue of the *Jewish Observer* celebrates two kinds of booths: *sukkot*, which represent the temporality of life, and voting booths. As we transition from summer to fall, beset by unpredictable and never-before-experienced circumstances, these two kinds of booths offer us hope and inspiration.

I was thinking recently (goodness only knows why) about the concepts of inertia and entropy. Inertia is the tendency of things to remain at rest, to remain unchanged. Entropy is the tendency of things to become random, to lose order. To a certain extent, our Jewish community has been beset by both of these forces. Throw in a pandemic and one cannot help but wonder what will become of us.

But wait!! There are people today – young people, mature people, senior people – who still want to make a Jewish difference, to live Jewish values, to have a vibrant, active Jewish community in Central New York. The current crisis has made these people even more committed to action. In last month's *JO*, we introduced Federation's expanding Young Leadership group and described young families who decided to make Syracuse their home because it's a great place to live. This month, we present the Federation's 2021 Campaign Cabinet, a group of dedicated, enthusiastic and energetic people representing a range of ages and interests, who will help Federation stay authentic and relevant. And we read the words of our Federation board chair, Neil Rosenbaum, who urges us all to say yes to positivity, action, the present *and* the future.

Maybe the silver lining to the coronavirus cloud is that we have started to think about what *really* matters. Debbie Tuttle Berkowitz, a philanthropy advisor at the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation, recently made the point that that society's fee-for-service model has weakened the fabric of the Jewish community. She drew an analogy to the warp and weft of a weaving loom. While the colorful weft creates the pattern, without the underlying warp to hold it, there would be no fabric. "It is time to rebuild the warp strings of our community," she states, adding that we need to use new yarn because this is a new fabric. "This is not a call to rebuild our community of fifty years ago," she emphasizes. "It is a call to find our new communal structure – one that is inclusive, thoughtful and representative. This is our opportunity to remember what it feels like to support people not things, community not services, and to build the strong ties that will support us for the coming generation."

All of our community's institutions – synagogues, schools, the JCC, NCJW – are bursting with activity and energy this fall as they develop ways to keep us socially distanced yet still very socially connected. The creativity and enthusiasm they are employing is contagious. Which brings us back to the booths. Though communal *sukkot* are out this year, if you get to eat in a small *sukkah*, your thoughts might turn to the other kind of booth. No matter where we stand on the political spectrum, we can all identify something that needs to change. American Jews have historically been grateful for and felt a responsibility to a country that gave them the right to elect its leaders. In this challenging and deeply fraught election year, we join with NCJW in urging all members of our community to affirmatively participate in the electoral process, in support of all that they believe in.

D'var Torah

by Rabbi Daniel Fellman

A holiday centered on impermanence hardly seems necessary this year. After months and months of pandemic, after hundreds of thousands have died, we have been deluged with reminders of our fragility, of the risks we daily face.



Sukkot comes along just after Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and calls us, as if we would ordinarily have forgotten the life-and-death nature of repentance and atonement so prevalent in the High Holy Days.

In a normal year, we would gather with friends in gratitude, offering words of thanks, sharing food and even more important, time together.

In a normal year, *Sukkot* reminds us to see the long arc of history, to see our past and future as interconnected.

In a normal year, a week spent dwelling in a temporary structure, susceptible to the elements and away from the safety and security of our homes presents an exciting challenge, a fun opportunity for families and friends to come together in celebration.

In a normal year, the crowded *sukkah*, warmed by the presence of dear ones, reminds us the power of peoplehood, of our need for and connection to community.

But this year is far from normal.

This year, gratitude seems hard to muster as we continue to live gripped by fear, negatively impacted by some who are not taking or will not take the risks as seriously as many of us might like.

This year, the arc of history is blurry, and instead we see the clear risks of the present, the very real challenges posed by an invisible virus.

This year, we keep ourselves separate, wearing masks, meeting online instead of over a meal.

This year, we yearn for community like never before, knowing that we must accept the notion of distance to protect ourselves and each other.

So yes, *Sukkot* may not seem so needed this year.

But in reality, we need *Sukkot* this year more than ever. We need the reminder to connect with each other and with our history, even if we have to use new means. We need to be open about the fears we face, be willing to confront all that the pandemic poses. We need to invite guests into our lives, even if not to share a meal in person, but at least to share our humanity, to acknowledge our frailty, to honor our commitment to caring for each other.

Sukkot of 5781 will be like no other *Sukkot* any of us have ever known. But it might just be the most important *Sukkot* any of us will ever observe.

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Neil Rosenbaum

Board Chair



I love Syracuse. I believe in this community. There are great things to see and do here. It's the place we chose to live, where we raised our family and where we will continue to choose to live.

I never thought of myself as someone who would chair the Federation board. When I looked at those who preceded me, I didn't think I had the credentials or experiences in the community.

So how did I get here? I was asked and I said yes. I said yes to Steve Volinsky because I respect him, and if he thought I could help, I would. I joined the Federation board and was very impressed. It was the discussions, the agreements and disagreements, the topics, the philosophy and the passion for the community. I was asked to become vice chair by Ellen Weinstein. Again, if she thought I could help, I would. You used to do things in the community because you were "supposed to," but that wasn't my reason for accepting. I did it because I wanted to participate, I wanted to contribute, and I wanted to support and help develop the community. So again I said yes, knowing that when she stepped down, I would step in.

I said yes because whether it's helping financially or by participating, when you engage and say yes, good things happen, not only to you personally but to the

whole community. I value having a Jewish community where we support each other, where we have a Jewish preschool, day school, Hebrew school, afterschool, high school. Where we have synagogues for life cycle events, spiritual support, prayer and learning. Where we celebrate our history, Israel and our culture.

Syracuse gets a bad rap. There's developing culture, dining, music, art, sports and new businesses. There's affordable living, no traffic, clean air, access to major cities in 3-4 hours and an outstanding work ethic and values. We need to be positive and take the offense in championing our community, and making sure that everyone in the region has opportunities to thrive.

There are many different ways to contribute. My father used to say that when it comes to the problems life presents, you can look up or you can look down. He didn't realize it but his words echoed the words of God in the Torah, "I set before you life and death...therefore chose life." We must always look up, we must always choose life, we must always be positive and realize that while there are people better off, there are many more worse. Anybody in our community has the ability to help somebody else less fortunate.

That's what the Federation is all about. We act collectively to benefit everyone. The core and ancillary financial support that Federation provides to the JCC, to the Day School, the Epstein School and so many other organizations allows them to focus on providing services to those who need them, rather than spending precious resources on fundraising. And it allows donors to give one gift instead of dozens.

We live in a time when there are difficulties, but we do not live in a difficult time historically. Think of all that we have, despite the pandemic and other social issues. Syracuse is having a resurgence. Jewish Syracuse is having a resurgence. Let's stop talking about the bad weather and the population decline. There are still plenty of people here to have a vibrant community. Let's value what we have, let's appreciate our history and our culture and work to make it better. Even during a pandemic, you can make a difference.

Michael Balanoff

President/CEO



***Sukkot*, like everything else this year, is different. We wish we could have been in our community or synagogue *sukkot*, greeting each other with hugs and smiles, enjoying a *l'chaim* and some food together. Nonetheless, we are thankful to celebrate the season of booths in other ways as we reflect on an unprecedented year. The fragile, temporary nature of the *sukkah* reminds us to focus on the important things in life – our families, our health, our values – and not on the peripherals.**

At Federation, we are grateful to each of you, our donors, members, supporters, staff and friends for your continuing commitment to our Jewish community. We enter 5781 with excitement despite the pandemic, although everything will have a plan A and a plan B – one in person, the other virtual. We are aware that all of our Jewish entities – synagogues, schools, the JCC, Menorah Park – are walking on tightropes, balancing the need for community and connection with the need to stay distanced and safe.

Federation has been working to offer meaningful, timely responses to a multitude of needs and serving as a source of hope and positivity to help individuals and our community navigate today's difficulties and emerge stronger and more resilient for the future. In addition to providing the core funding that keeps our community on track, Federation has been able to assist on many other fronts: providing masks for the community; setting up a food pantry for the staff at Menorah Park; giving \$57,500 to Menorah Park for PPE; establishing a COVID-19 Emergency Fund and providing \$22,500 to the JCC and the Day School for coronavirus-related needs.

We all recognize that we are at an inflection point, a time of significant change. We are responding by making what we do reflective of where we are as a community and where we want to be, not where we once were. Our new communications modalities are an example of how we can change successfully. Soon you will see additional changes in the ways we are structured, in the ways we support our community programs, in the ways we reach out to and involve young people and

people of different backgrounds and affiliations or lack thereof.

Federation supports, through and with our partner agencies, a broad range of offerings from infant care to the cemetery association and everything in between. In a year in which the very definition and experience of community has been radically altered, Federation remains committed to a belief in Jewish peoplehood and the dictum that all Jews are responsible for one another. This tenet lies at the heart of what we are all about and what we do to assure that Central New York's Jewish future is bright.

The *sukkah* is purposefully an impermanent structure that reminds Jews of the fragility of life – so very evident in the middle of a pandemic – as contrasted with the solidity of faith and tradition. It is supposed to be a joyous place, decorated with children's drawings and *sukkah* meals meant to be shared with guests. In 5781 *sukkah*-hopping and food-sharing are out, but the joy of the *Z'man Simchateinu* (the time of our rejoicing) is still ours, as we reflect on the important things and the good things that enrich our lives and our community.

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Barrie Gewanter – Human Rights Advocate

Barrie Gewanter until recently was the Human Rights Director for Onondaga County. She previously served as the director the CNY chapter of the NY Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and as the Director for the CNY Council for Occupational Safety and Health. She has engaged in civil and constitutional rights advocacy on behalf of individuals and groups throughout the Central New York region and in the North Country and Southern Tier. She was involved in the passage of several anti-discrimination laws in Syracuse and has also contributed to the passage of civil rights measures at the state level. Since 1996, she has led coalitions that worked for law enforcement accountability, voting rights, economic justice and preservation of civil liberties. In the latter part of her 18 years with the NYCLU she played key roles in the revision of the enabling legislation for the Syracuse Citizen Review Board (CRB) and the creation of the Onondaga County Jail Oversight Committee that is now in its fifth year.

Gewanter has a special interest in law enforcement community relations and reform. She is an active member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE), where she has focused on support for jail and prison oversight. “Inmates should be treated as human beings and not animals in a zoo,” she emphasizes. “Not treating them humanely is counterproductive for both the inmates and the facilities.” In the past five years, Barrie has become a local resource for issues related to language access and disability accommodation, and she serves as the Title VI and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator for Onondaga County. Her educational background seems unusual for a focused civil rights career. She holds a master’s degree in sociology and a B.F.A. in stage management, and has worked professionally in both fields. Her advocacy work has displayed similar variety. She has engaged in efforts related to women’s rights, gay, lesbian and transgender rights, voting rights, the rights of people with disabilities,



the rights of immigrants and refugees, workplace health and safety and solidarity with workers and unions. During her time with the NYCLU, she also developed particular expertise in the legal principles related to students’ rights, New York State election law and procedures, free speech and protest rights and the policies and procedures of law enforcement officers and agencies.

Barrie maintains grassroots connections with local leaders in a wide range of communities, including Black and Latinx, LGBTQA, Disability & Deaf Advocates, advocates for immigrants and refugees, interfaith groups, unions, peace and social justice advocates. Her networks are broad and varied, but it was not until recently that she decided to affiliate with a local synagogue, joining Temple Concord in 2019. She has always recognized that her commitment to her work has an inherent and deep connection to Judaism and to her family’s history as immigrants and as a result of the Holocaust. “I have never really involved myself in Jewish ritual life,” she says, “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.” She says that “*tikkun olam* is something I try to live 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.”

Sharon Sherman – Helping People Help Themselves

Sharon Sherman has been the executive director or treasurer of the Greater Syracuse Tenants Network since 1994. The Network’s mission is to organize, inform and empower primarily low-income tenants to improve the quality of life in their communities and preserve affordable housing. The Network helps tenants organize into associations at individual low-income properties, such as McCarthy Manor and Parkside Commons, to represent their interests with management and supervisory agencies. The Network provides leadership development training, information, education and counseling to tenant leaders and individuals, who then become the leaders of the tenant associations. It provides training for landlords and human service workers. Every day, Sharon provides telephone advice, information and referrals to tenants from all over Central New York.

“Tenants in Syracuse are facing a housing crisis that gets worse every year,” Sherman wrote in a local op-ed. “Unaffordable rents, evictions, substandard housing conditions and homelessness are epidemic as the supply of housing that low-income people can afford is shrinking away.” In her quarter century of working with low-income tenants, Sherman has identified many of the causes of the critical housing situation. “The most obvious hardship facing low-income tenant families is unaffordable rent,” she says. “More than half of renter households with incomes below \$25,000 pay more than half their income in rent.”

Other problems she identifies are overcrowding and slumlord conditions in apartments. She points out that many landlords of local housing do not live in Central New York, but bought up the properties for very little and “are milking them for whatever they can get by making minimal repairs and charging unaffordable rents.” The situation affects not only Syracuse City residents but rural tenants as well. That is why Sherman is an ardent advocate for reforms, including rent assistance



subsidies and protections from arbitrary eviction. She is worried that unless steps are taken to address the situation, which has only been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, “we’re going to have more homeless people than ever, and we’re going to have a lot of people who previously weren’t in poverty being homeless. Landlords are going to be driven out of business, and slumlords will look to slide in.”

Sharon is a native of Far Rockaway and a graduate of SUNY Cortland. She came to Syracuse in 1972 to do voter registration in support of the re-election of Congressman Jim Hanley. In 1973 she joined the staff of the Syracuse Consumer Affairs office under the leadership of Rosemary Pooler. She continues to be active in local politics. A member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, Sharon also serves on the board of the Jewish Genealogy Society of CNY. Her most consuming volunteer activity is being the chair and treasurer of the Westcott Street Cultural Fair.

Sharon grew up as the oldest of four girls who were very involved in Temple Emanuel, a Reform temple in Far Rockaway. She taught Sunday school for kindergarteners until she left for college. Sharon’s dedication to social justice is very much a part of her Jewish identity. “I am dedicated to working with poor people,” she says, “but not in the sense of doing charity. I’m about empowering them to speak up for themselves. I’m dedicated to helping people help themselves.”

Federation's 2021 Campaign Cabinet Takes the Stage



An extraordinary cabinet for an extraordinary year, Federation's Campaign Cabinet is a unique reflection of our community. The Cabinet provides the strategic leadership for Federation's most important job: raising funds to support Jewish life in Central New York. The Cabinet's members, ranging in age from 17 to 94, will set the Campaign's vision and strategy and prioritize its work.

"Federation invigorates Jewish life for all community members, offering a multitude of opportunities for connection," said Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff, adding, "We are thrilled that so many members of our community are willing to take on leadership positions in our campaign so that we can partner with the Jewish organizations in Central New York to offer a life infused with Jewish purpose and meaning. Our Cabinet represents our community. We want to listen and hear what people have to say."

"I would love to!" responded Rachel Scheer when asked to join the cabinet. "I would love to be part of this!" echoed her sister Sophie. The Scheer twins are the youngest members ever of a Campaign Cabinet but it is clear that

their enthusiasm will be contagious. Both girls have been involved in fundraising activities in a variety of ways and are active members of their youth group and the Teen Funders. The Cabinet's most senior member, 94 year old Sidney Manes, said that the reason he joined is because "The Federation is my nuclear family and as a family we must be one voice for strength protection and to survive."

"Because of You" is the theme of this year's campaign. "Our goal is to show our donors how they are making a difference for our community," said Debbie Rosenbaum, this year's campaign chair because "It's important for people to see what the power of their gift is doing for our partner agencies."

Campaign Cabinet members, shown in a circle clockwise around chair Debbie Rosenbaum, are (top left) attorney Bruce Smith; Super Sunday SuperWomen Anick Sinclair and Phyllis Zames; endodontist Dr. Jeff Stein; Lion of Judah chair Dr. Robin Goldberg; development professional Jon Zella; Teen Funders Sophie and Rachel Scheer; businessmen Andy Fox and Seth Goldberg, and child life specialist Kendall Malkin. Pictured next to Debbie are (top) author and speaker Arel Moodie and attorney Sidney Manes.



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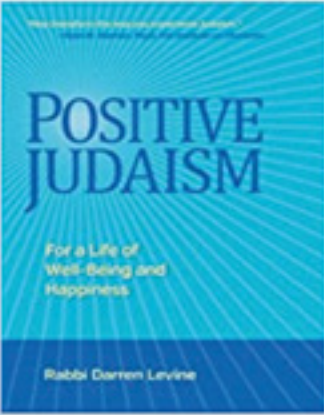
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» TAY Book Club Review

Marie Benedict's *The Only Woman in the Room*

by Carol Lipson

Marie Benedict's novels focus on women with significant accomplishments that are not well known. In *The Only Woman in the Room*, Benedict presents twelve years of the life of prominent Hollywood movie star Hedy Lamarr. Alongside that career, Hedy (with George Antheil, a Hollywood musician) received a patent for a technological advance that has become fundamental to modern wireless technologies such as Bluetooth. What is truly remarkable is that Hedy never even graduated from high school.

Hedy was born Hedwig Kiesler in Vienna to a cultured and quite affluent family of highly assimilated Jews. Though they lived in a Jewish section of Vienna, the family did not practice any religion. Hedy underwent a quick conversion to Christianity as part of her marriage. Her children didn't even know about her Jewish background until after her death. At 16, Hedy talked her way into a minor part in a film and left school. The novel begins in 1933 when she is 19, playing the lead role in a play about the beloved 16-year old wife of the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef. Hedy was lauded in this role, which led to her marriage to a wealthy industrialist named Fritz Mandl who owned weapons and ammunition factories throughout Europe. Soon she found herself locked in a prison of great wealth with a jealous and controlling husband. Ever resourceful, Hedy found a way to escape to London.

During her marriage, Hedy had been required to sit quietly through long meals with military men and Nazi sympathizers, who discussed issues in the weapons business. They had no idea that this beautiful teenager could absorb the complex information they exchanged, for she gave no indication.

In London, she arranged a meeting with



Louis B. Mayer, head of the MGM studio, who put her under contract. Though Benedict briefly discusses Hedy's early years in Hollywood, and her second unsuccessful marriage, she focuses on Hedy's conviction that her knowledge of military needs might be useful in helping the Allied forces. Hedy homed in on the need to find a better way to guide torpedoes, so they wouldn't be intercepted before reaching their targets. Her idea — now called "frequency-hopping spread spectrum"— is today used in a host of common devices such as smartphones, tablets and personal computers.

Hedy and George's patent application for this idea was approved in 1942, but the Navy didn't want to start working with new ideas in the midst of a war. Instead, they advised her to use her beauty and fame to help the war effort by raising money. She did so, bringing in huge sums. The novel ends here, though Hedy lived until 2000, when she was 87. In an afterword, Benedict informs the reader that the Navy did use Hedy's ideas in the 1960s and that three decades later, she received a few awards for the invention.

The novel's depiction of Hedy in heroic fashion for her brain power is well done. However, while Benedict has chosen to write this as fiction, some of the fictionalizing does not ring true — especially her depiction of Jewish sympathies as underlying motivations for Hedy — such as in adopting her first child and in devoting herself to help beat the Nazis. It makes an appealing story, but it misrepresents the full and complex individual that was Hedy Lamarr.

Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, peaceful, safe and sweet New Year.

L'Shanah Tovah

from Cheryl Schotz



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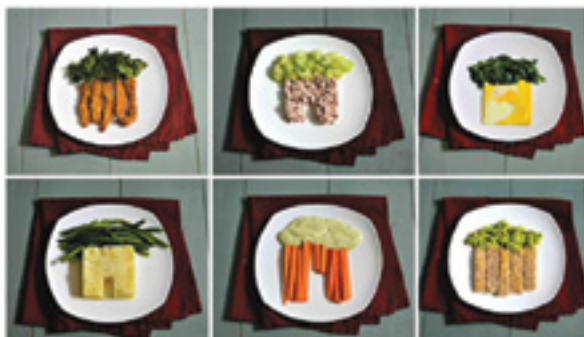
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The Best Edible Sukkot

While this year we may not be able to eat food in *sukkot*, we can still eat the *sukkot* we build out of food. But move over pretzels and marshmallow fluff! Here are some delectable and healthful *sukkot* which both kids and grownups can enjoy through holiday. The design and pictures are courtesy of Miriam Szokovsky and Chabad.org/Food. From left to



right on the top row are chicken fingers and kale chips, tuna and celery and eggs and spinach; bottom row mashed potatoes and green beans, carrots and dill dip and toast and avocado. *B'tay avon!*

Thou Shalt Ride Keeps the Faith



Thou Shalt Ride is the local affiliate of the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance, which consists of Jewish biker clubs around the world. The Alliance's philosophy is that "as individuals, we share the fundamental passion to ride motorcycles, but we are drawn to each of our own clubs by our common faith and heritage as members of the Jewish faith." This year, the CNY Thou Shalt Ride members are riding through the pandemic with one change: they pack a lunch or get some takeout and find a park bench to eat on. The Alliance had to cancel its annual Ride to Remember, which raises significant funding for projects dedicated to Holocaust education, but they hope it can be rescheduled next year at the Chabad of Poway, CA. *Shown in the photo are bikers Dave Feldman, Peter Caplan, Gary Stevens, Dan Glazier, Dave Channin and Joel Stein.*

Even A Little Kid Can Make a Big Difference



Eli Gnacik is seven years old. When the pandemic began, he worried about people in our community who were not able to afford food. He called a food bank to ask what it cost to feed one person one meal. He learned that the \$7 he had in his piggy bank would cover three meals. He asked his parents, family and friends to match his donation, with a goal of feeding one person one meal a day for a year. He raised just under \$1800 in a month. "I didn't know that I could make a big difference with a small amount of money," said Eli. "It turns out all I needed was a big idea!" Eli's work was recently recognized by the Kennedy Center which is spotlighting fifty "Small Work Stories" and pairing them with original small artworks by Mo Willems, which are sent to the spotlit entries. The Small Works Project is designed to demonstrate that although "the problems of the world are so large, they can overwhelm....you can effect change by helping in small ways."



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Becoming *B'nai Mitzvah* Under Quarantine

Becoming *bar* or *bat mitzvah* is stressful for teens at any time. There is a lot to learn, a lot to do and a lot of people watching very attentively every step of the way. Throw in a pandemic, virtual schooling, no parties and the inability to hold services in the synagogue, and the rite of passage becomes infinitely more fraught. Nonetheless, the transition to Jewish adulthood was accomplished most successfully even in these challenging circumstances by a number of young people.

At Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas, Jonah Sahm celebrated becoming bar mitzvah from his home via Zoom Shabbat services. He also read Torah on Monday morning in the sanctuary and Noah Cabrey, who also became bar mitzvah, had an *aliyah*. Jamie Kuss and his family were the only people present in the sanctuary on Shabbat morning as he chanted the *maftir aliyah* and his *haftorah*, and Jamie helped to lead *musaf*. The congregation, family and guests



participated via Zoom. (The photo was taken as Jamie rehearsed on Friday morning.)

Several young people at Temple Adath Yeshurun also celebrated becoming *b'nai mitzvah* via Zoom: Andrew Wladis, Dylan Friedman, Alex Kruth and Nathan Snell. Temple Concord celebrants under quarantine and via Zoom were Jake Salzhauer, Cameron

Tallarico, Bryce Wheeler and Zachary Fellman. The quarantine bar/t mitzvah experience is distinctly unique. As Zachary Fellman commented, "there's a lack of a sense of community, because there were only the five members of my family with me in my dining room, but there's also a big sense of community because there were over 200 screens, or about 800 people, watching."

The *Jewish Observer* congratulates all the *b'nai mitzvah* on this milestone life cycle event and wishes them *mazal tov*. May they grow from strength to strength. Despite the deprivations of the pandemic, they entered into Jewish adulthood with resounding success. Space limitations in this issue preclude our profiling each teen individually, but we will do so in an upcoming issue.

Making Manot



Cantor Esa Jaffe and her son Jonah filled hundreds of gift bags to give to members for the TAY High Holiday Drive-Up on September 15.

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National Council of Jewish Women Celebrates 118 Years of Good Works

The National Council of Jewish Women, a volunteer organization at the forefront of social change for over a century, has an impressive history in Syracuse. After its founding in 1896, the Greater Syracuse Section established Bible classes, a sewing school for girls and a Jewish boys' club. At the beginning of the 20th century, it created a Jewish girls' club, a Sabbath school, an industrial arts shop for boys and dancing and art classes. NCJW women supervised dental and medical work for the underprivileged and held Americanization classes for immigrants. During World War I, NCJW members provided a thousand meals for Jewish servicemen during the High Holidays, rolled bandages, aided the Red Cross and helped locate homes for refugee children.

During World War II, NCJW sponsored a USO committee and sent war relief packages; members served as air raid wardens, volunteer nurses and Red Cross workers. NCJW's Service to the Foreign-Born program aided local refugees, providing them with food, shelter, clothing, English lessons and Americanization classes. Syracuse Section sold more than \$15,000 in war bonds and began a Ship-a-Box program to send educational supplies, toys and health products to needy Jews in Europe and Israel.

Locally, NCJW opened a play area for urban youngsters, started a community camp offering low-income families a week of overnight camping, a Friendship Club for senior citizens at the Jewish Community Center and opened the Mother Goose



Nursery for families in the Salt Springs housing project. NCJW worked with the Junior League and the Technology Club of Syracuse to explore the feasibility of a science and technology center. The partnership produced the Discovery Center which later became the MOST. NCJW assisted with the settlement of Russian immigrants and initiated a Women's Seder. "Goodies for Good Guys" was NCJW's way of offering thanks at holiday time with baskets of homemade cookies for public servants.

The first Hannah G. Solomon Award, given to a woman who has helped to change and expand the role of other women in vital areas of the community, was presented in 1973 and given annually thereafter. A tradition evolved at the Hannah G. Solomon luncheon to provide clothing for children in protective custody and diapers for the community diaper bank. NCJW volunteers annually contribute over 100 dozen home baked cookies annually to the Samaritan Center for their annual dinner.

NCJW is celebrating 118 years of achievement, honoring the heritage of the past, even as they look forward to the future. This year they are focusing on getting out the vote. The following helpful information has been provided by NCJW to benefit all members of our community.

HOW TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

- To check if you are registered in Onondaga County, call 315-435-VOTE.
- Download form from <http://www.ongov.net/elections/voterRegistration.html>
- Register online at the MYDMV website. www.dmv.ny.gov
- Registration forms are available from post offices, libraries and town clerk offices
- To receive registration forms by mail, click: <http://www.ongov.net/elections/mlldb.html>
- Call Board of Elections office at 315-435-8683 to request a voter registration application.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED BY OCTOBER 9TH OR HAND-DELIVERED TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS, 1000 ERIE BLVD WEST, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13204 BY OCTOBER 14TH. YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER IN PERSON ON OCTOBER 9TH.

HOW TO VOTE:

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The Board of Elections will send a notice indicating your polling place. If you are not available that day or want to avoid long lines, you can vote early or by absentee ballot.

HOW TO VOTE EARLY:

All registered voters can vote early. Early Voting will be October 24 - November 1. The voting process is the same as voting on Election Day. You just go to any site listed below.

Early Voting Sites

- **CAMILLUS FIRE STATION** (rear entrance) 5801 Newport Rd, Camillus NY 13031
- **CLAY TOWN HALL COURTROOM** (rear entrance) 4401 Route 31, Clay NY 13041
- **DEWITT TOWN HALL COURTROOM** 5400 Butternut Drive, E. Syracuse NY 13057
- **LAFAYETTE FIRE STATION #1** (rear entrance) 2444 Route 11 South, Lafayette NY 13084
- **ARMOND MAGNARELLI COMMUNITY CENTER** at McCHESNEY PARK
2300 Grant Blvd, Syracuse NY 13208
- **SYRACUSE COMMUNITY CONNECTION** (SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY CENTER)
401-425 South Ave, Syracuse NY 13204

Early Voting Hours

Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25: 10:00AM – 3:00PM
Monday, October 26: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28: 12:00PM – 8:00PM
Thursday, October 29 and Friday, October 30: 10:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1: 10:00AM – 3:00PM

HOW TO CAST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT:

You must fill out an application for the Absentee Ballot even if you voted absentee in the primary election. Print one from the BOE website or call 315-435-VOTE to have it mailed. *You can use an absentee ballot under temporary illness because of COVID-19.*

Absentee ballots will be mailed out starting mid-September. Completed ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 (received no later than November 10, 2020) or dropped off at any Early Voting or Election Day polling site in Onondaga County or at the Board of Elections, 1000 Erie Blvd West.



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Day School Enrollment Soars



by Laura Lavine

With many public schools facing pressure to delay the implementation of their reopening plans, some of which require students to learn remotely either full-time or part-time, and pressure to defund their School Resource Officers, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will have nearly 60% more students this year than last. Many families wanted their children to attend school daily and in person, which SHDS is offering. The school also eagerly welcomed the return of the much-loved Sheriff's officers who enhance the safety of the school.

Safety and security continue to be the top priorities of the Day School. With small class sizes, students can be distanced in their classrooms. The students and employees wear masks, and the students' desks are surrounded by three-sided acrylic booths as an added precaution. The school has also made changes in scheduling and grouping in an effort to keep everyone healthy.

The security officers have become a valuable part of the school's culture. In addition to their work to keep SHDS safe, they have formed important relationships with the students and their families. Some even stayed in touch with several students during the lockdown. Because of their vital role in the school, there was no consideration of discontinuing them.

Every student from last year returned to SHDS, except one who needed a year away while her parent was deployed. Joining the returning students are new enrollees whose Jewish and non-Jewish families want their children to benefit from the school's commitment to high quality education, its successful experience with online learning in case schools are forced to close again and

the individualized approach that SHDS offers, including the choice to learn remotely. Because of the enrollment increase, the equivalent of a full-time teacher was added to the faculty. With great excitement, the faculty, staff and administration of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School got the 2020-2021 school year underway in order to do what they do best—teach young children.

Safety and security continue to be the top priorities of the Day School.



Asher Moodie tries out the shield for his desk at the Day School as his brother Davin watches. Asher is entering second grade and Davin is beginning kindergarten.

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The Syracuse Hebrew Day School does not discriminate in employment or in its educational programs and activities against qualified individuals on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, ethnic group, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, pregnancy, age, military status, veteran status, marital status, or disability, weight or any other basis prohibited by New York State and/or federal nondiscrimination laws.

» SHDS Alumni Profiles

Lillian Schaeffer, SHDS '11

Lillian Schaeffer, SHDS '11, is enrolled in the Penn State Integrated Undergraduate Degree Program, where she will spend a fifth year at school receiving both a B.S. in Security and Risk Analysis and an M.A. in International Affairs. Lillian is committed to helping others. She is also someone who makes lemonade from lemons, turning a quarantine hobby into a business that helps coronavirus victims.



With a \$2,000 grant from Penn State's Student Engagement Network, Lillian started making Crunchy Sudz Natural Soap Bars in an effort to help the Syracuse community. She decided on the name because she felt it resonated with the brand she wanted to create, deriving from the term "crunchy granola," which she sees as "kind of hippy, meaning very natural." Schaeffer says that today there are many unknown ingredients and chemicals in cosmetics, and it can be difficult to find natural products that are both cruelty-free and not harmful to skin. "I thought it was interesting not only to learn how to make soap but to learn what chemicals are in our products," Schaeffer says. She uses different ingredients for different purposes — apricot oil for sensitive skin; castor oil for making the soap extra bubbly; turmeric, spinach and charcoal powder for coloring; and essential oils like lemongrass, orange and lavender for scent. She made 1,500 bars of natural soap from scratch, molding, designing, tracing and curing the bars and then distributing them to local nonprofits. Gayln Murphy-Stanley, coordinator of the United Methodist Church food pantry, expressed their appreciation, noting that "toiletries, diapers, hygiene and even home-cleaning products cannot be purchased through food stamps." Thus, Murphy-Stanley said, "when

we are all trying to be 'hyper hygienic' due to COVID-19, what Lillian is doing is wonderful."

Lillian is modest about her accomplishments, saying only that she "tried to figure out how to apply a niche skill to help people right now," because "at a time like this, I wanted to give people something beautiful and have the power to brighten someone's day." But as she heads to Israel for a four-month internship, taking a break from her roles as president of the Penn State Speech and Debate Society, board member of the Tea Society and congressional intern for Congressman John Katko, it is clear that this multi-talented multitasker will have a great future. She has her eye firmly set on a career in the federal government even if Crunchy Sudz "becomes a 'thing'." Ultimately, she says, "the goal of national security is to make the world safe, and if you're passionate about what you do, you can make the world better."

This profile is based on an article by Courtney McGinley in the Penn State Collegian.

"I Don't Know What Was Better – the Classes or the Socializing"

In September 1975, as David Bowie's "Fame" climbed to number one on the Billboard chart, Andrea Pearl began attending the Epstein School. In many respects, the school has remained remarkably consistent over the intervening five decades: class topics are diverse and driven by student interest, teens make lifelong connections with their peers by attending Epstein, and, since 2015, connect even more deeply to one another and to their Judaism through the biannual trip to Israel.

Andrea remembers that one of her favorite things about Epstein was the variety of classes: "Yiddish, Hebrew, Talmud,

ethics, with teachers from every synagogue, so it wasn't like you were getting just one perspective." In her experience, "Epstein was extremely well attended, with kids from all over. There were many classrooms with a full load of students." She notes, "I don't know what was better -- the classes or the socializing."

In 1975, Jewish teens belonged to different youth groups: United Synagogue Youth, B'nai Brith Youth Organization or Young Judea. Andrea recalls that there was a big split among them. At Epstein, however, they were all together, and it was "nice to see the other kids from the other groups." She remembers wanting to go to

Epstein each week. "In contrast to Sunday school, where you had to get up early, this was fun. There were stimulating classes, interesting conversations that aligned with my interests and with my ideas of what social action and Judaism meant at the time."

Are you an Epstein alum who would like to share a story from your Epstein days? To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Epstein School is hoping to collect stories, videos and photos from its past. ***If you have any that you can share, please send them to epsteincny@gmail.com.***



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A Beginning Like No Other: Temple Concord Religious School Online

By Cantor Kari Siegel Eglash

Every year we begin again, full of hopes, expectations, and excitement. I have always found it poignant that the Jewish new year coincides with the beginning of school. There is so much potential in this moment. What will *this* year bring? How have we grown? What new experiences will we discover?

And even in the newness of each start of the year, there is that familiar feeling of preparing spiritually and intellectually for what is to come. This school year's beginning is like no other we've yet experienced. As we are all grappling with how to stay safe and healthy during a pandemic, we have been forced to look at everything we do with new eyes. We have to shake off habits of how we have done things in the past and build new ways to be together and to learn.

Temple Concord's religious school has always been an innovative learning community, so we were up to the challenge of moving our educational program online. In early spring this year we didn't miss a beat. We took one week off to re-tool and we began meeting via Zoom immediately. We could not have done this if everyone--teachers, clergy, madrichim, and students--did not invest themselves fully in making online learning a success. And a success it was! We found our religious school community to be robust and enthusiastic.

Our attendance was actually up as we all craved opportunities to connect and learn together.

This year we are building on that strength. We will kick off the school year on September 13th with a short socially distanced event outdoors at Ryder Park (weather permitting) so that students and parents can meet their teachers and madrichim. We will begin classes online on Sunday, October 4th. Our program will feature family t'filah services, class time, chugim (electives) and specials like music and library/story time. Our faculty has been busy this summer getting ready. They have been engaging in professional development to get them up to speed on the latest in educational tech tools as well as honing their lesson planning skills, and this will continue through the fall and beyond. For now, we are going to continue doing what we do best: create a warm, fun, innovative environment where students can both connect and learn. This fall it will be online, and we hope in the spring we can be together in person again.

CBS-CS Honors Two High School Seniors with 2020 Pearlman Award

by Karen Morton

For twenty years, Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas has presented awards to high school seniors from among its members who have made outstanding contributions to the Jewish community and to the congregation, excelled in Jewish educational experience and respected and loved Torah.

The Gus Pearlman Memorial Award was established in 2000 by his wife, Alice, following his death. Dr. Pearlman, a dentist, was a founding member of Congregation Ner Tamid. He read Torah at Temple Adath Yeshurun and then moved to CBS-CS, where he became Ba'al Koreh and Torah teacher for 25 years. In this role, he not only read Torah, he welcomed everyone, both young and older, to approach, study, explore and love Torah. Even his young students felt his respect for their questions and points of view as he taught them.

In 2016, when the Congregation lost Alice, a retired reading specialist and congregational leader, a decision was made to change the name of the award to the Dr. Gustave and Alice Pearlman Award. With this change, CBS-CS recognized the legacy and essential partnership that was so characteristic of Gus and Alice.

This twentieth anniversary award was presented on July 25 during Shabbat morning services to two graduating seniors: Alethea Shirilan-Howlett and Colby Porter. Both awardees exemplified the Pearlmans' values of character, commitment and love of Torah in

similar ways: involvement in synagogue and wider Jewish community activities, participation in services and reading Torah, assistant-teaching at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School, continuing their Jewish education and performing mitzvot. Their individual paths to recognition were also very different. Alethea accepted more responsibility for USY leadership each year, ultimately becoming president, while Colby was a member of Syracuse Jewish Federation's Teen Funder program. Alethea wrote and brought to production a Jewish-themed play, No Exodus; the proceeds were donated to support scholarships to youth arts camp experiences. Colby was inspired by a trip he took to Israel with the Epstein School of Jewish Studies, enhancing his Jewish identity. He went on to pursue more learning about Jewish teachings as they relate to today's world. When the pandemic hit, he developed his own lesson plans and shared them with young students online.

On this 20th anniversary of the award, CBS-CS recognized Alethea's and Colby's love of Jewish learning, strong Jewish identities, service to community and creativity. As they both chanted Torah meaningfully and beautifully during the service, this writer thought how overjoyed Gus and Alice would have been to have known the two outstanding young awardees who are carrying on their legacy.

Jewish Education Adapts Amid Pandemic Challenges

by Cantor Esa Jaffe

Challenges in 2020 have prompted changes in the way Jewish educators prioritize learning goals and create curriculum for this school year. Temple Adath Yeshurun's religious school will be using a new curriculum developed to help children and families deal with the effects of the pandemic and to help teachers address the challenges of maintaining connections while teaching virtually. The curriculum, called *La-B'riut: To Our Health and Wellness*, is being developed by the Jewish

Education Center of Cleveland (JECC) and was made available at no cost to all schools, through the generosity of the JECC and the Covenant Foundation. The curriculum focuses on five Jewish values such as *Sukkat Shalom* (shelter of peace - a sense of safety) and *Hesed* (loving kindness - hope attained by reaching out to assist others). While the lessons don't overtly mention it, they aim to provide the emotional tools to deal with all the changes the pandemic has brought, all through a Jewish lens. TAY chose this curriculum to address the many needs of both learners and teachers. As teachers use

the curriculum, they can continue to draw connections between these Jewish values and other areas such as Torah and prayer.

Like many other Jewish schools, TAY staff spent the summer utilizing professional development opportunities through virtual conferences and online forums, allowing virtual communications to connect educators nationwide. The JECC is a prime example of the wide reach through shared expertise and resources, with estimates that the new curriculum will reach over 10,000 Jewish students this year. Locally, religious schools shared in professional

development online as SAJE (Syracuse Area Jewish Educators) brought in expert Batsheva Frankel to work on curriculum development and techniques for online teaching.

TAY teacher, Trish Feinberg-Haggerty said, "We are lucky that we live in a time where Jewish education can be so flexible and adaptable to our community. We can meet our community where they are in their own homes and hopefully our choice of curriculum for Zoom can have a meaningful impact on our students this year."

JCC Preschool Boosts Health/Safety Precautions



Sandra Mandell (left) answers health screening questions from ECDP teacher Maria Puglisi while dropping off her son Max at the JCC's early childhood program last June.

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's Jerome and Phyllis Charney Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP) successfully reopened for four weeks in June and for seven weeks of summer camp in July and August with many new health and safety protocols implemented. Everything went smoothly for both the staff and children, and it provided a great foundation for program's fall opening last month. In addition to the social distancing and modified activities that began last spring, new air scrubbers were installed in each classroom this fall for more effective indoor air filtration. The JCC's Early Childhood Development Program is a comprehensive childcare facility and preschool rooted in Judaic teachings and traditions, serving infants six weeks old through pre-K children. **For more information and to schedule a tour, call 315-445-2040, ext. 120, or visit www.jccsy.org.**



ECDP teacher Rebecca Wojtanowski stands next to one of the new air scrubbers (on the floor) installed in every ECDP classroom.

Club J Offers Support for Distance Learning and Reworked After School Care

The JCC of Syracuse has changed its school-age childcare this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is offering programs to accommodate the distance learning and after school needs of Jamesville-DeWitt students and the after school needs of Syracuse Hebrew Day School students.

The JCC's new Club J All Day program started in September and offers support for distance learning onsite at the JCC from 8 am to 5:30 pm four days a week for J-D students in grades 2–6. Students in Club J are provided socially distanced work spaces and internet access to attend class virtually. Two Club J sessions (each meeting two days a week with no overlapping days across the two sessions) are offered each week to coincide with J-D's distance learning schedule.

Club J students bring their own laptops/tablets and any other required distance learning materials. JCC staff are not certified teachers and will supervise and assist the children with distance learning activities but not with curriculum.

After School care at the JCC this fall also began in September and offers a variety of engaging activities for J-D Schools and SHDS students in grades K–6. The program runs Monday–Friday from 3–5:30 pm. Students from the different schools are kept from co-mingling.



Students in Club J and After School care must wear a mask/cloth face covering whenever social distancing is not possible. Because of this year's extraordinary circumstances, current JCC family membership is required to register your child for Club J and After School care. Non-members may join the JCC in order to register their children.

The JCC has a proven track record of safely reopening children's programming in the midst of the pandemic this year. Its Jerome and Phyllis Charney Early Childhood Development Program successfully opened for four weeks in June and the Camp Joe & Lynne Romano summer day camp successfully opened for seven weeks in July and August. Club J and After School student groups are kept small, separated, following a set schedule and paired with the same staff. All CDC and New York State health and safety guidelines are strictly followed.

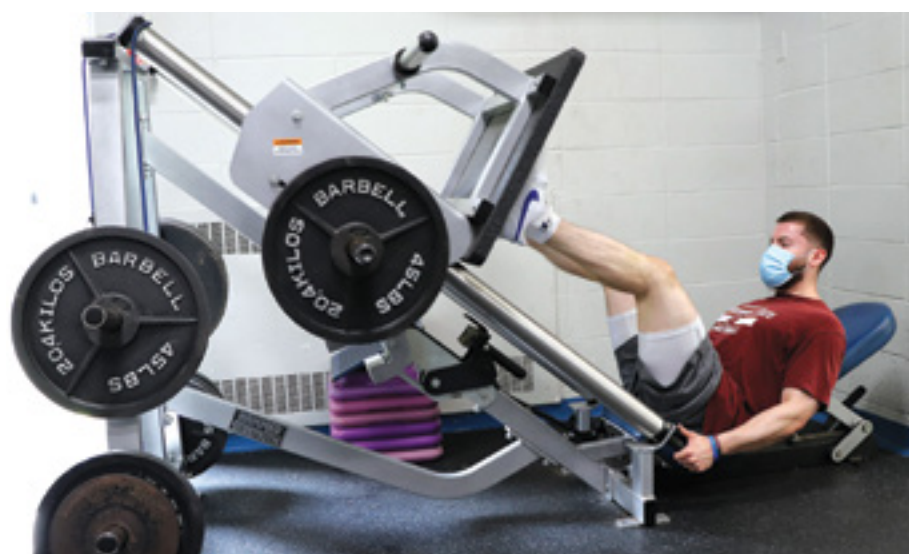
For more information and to sign up your child for the JCC's Club J and After School care, visit www.jccsy.org, call 315-445-2360 or email Amy at abisnett@jccsy.org.

JCC Fitness Center Reopened

After sitting on the sidelines for several months and watching nearly all of Central New York reopen, the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's Neulander Family Sports & Fitness Center finally reopened in August. It started slowly with the indoor track and basketball court reopening by reservation in early August. Then indoor fitness/equipment room workouts by reservation opened up on August 24 with new hours, policies and procedures in place. Since then,

more and more JCC Fitness members have been coming to work out indoors and trying to make up for lost time. Pictured is Josh Kantrowitz using the leg press machine a few days after the Fitness Center reopened.

For information about the JCC Fitness Center and membership options, visit www.jccsy.org or call 315-445-2360.



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EZKERA / REMEMBERING

MILDRED BEVERLY NEWLANDER COHEN

July 13, 2020

Mildred Beverly Newlander Cohen, 95, passed on July 13 in her home in Delray Beach, FL with her daughter at her side. Milly left the world smiling.

Born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Milly spent most of her adult life in Syracuse. Following the passing of her husband of 52 years, Milly moved to Florida in 1998 and lived a successful independent life for the next 22 years.

She was an inspiring person. She was the daughter of Eastern European Jewish parents who came to the US at the turn of the 20th century to escape oppression. They were educated and insisted on the same for their children, especially the girls. After high school, Milly went to college for art history studies.

In 1944, at age 19, she married Dr. Philip Cohen, an army dentist. Together they raised six children. A military wife, she was outspoken and bold and Phil supported her speaking out. The family stories were legend. Milly was an artist, did all the carpentry on the house, owned a needlepoint and crafts store, worked as Phil's dental assistant, and got all of the kids everywhere they needed to be. She was strong, determined and created a welcoming home for all.

Milly was president of everything, was a community organizer and fought for equality and fairness. She was a fierce supporter and advocate for all children. She was kind and open to all and had a way of making every person she encountered feel important. She had many friends. She will truly be missed.

Milly got more into 95 years than you can imagine. She went parasailing at age 85, organized and taught water aerobics for eight years while in her eighties, continued to travel even as recently as last year, and was busy day and night up until a few weeks prior to her passing.

She is survived by her six children and their spouses, Lynn (Ceil), Joel (Sandra), Mark (Margaret), Ralph (Kim), Jay, and Sheri (Keith); seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and "adopted son" Howard Rosenthal (Patricia). She was predeceased by her parents, Manuel and Eva Newlander; her beloved husband, Dr. Philip Cohen; siblings Leonora Wachtel and Daniel Newlander; niece Ilene Wachtel, daughter-in-law Maureen Agley and son-in-law David Webert.

Mildred was buried with her husband at the Temple Adath Yeshurun cemetery in Syracuse. Donations may be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Hospital: www.stjude.org/donate.

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INA RAE BURDMAN LEVY

August 30, 2020

Ina Rae Burdman Levy, age 91, of Sarasota, FL, passed away peacefully at the Sarasota Bay Club on Sunday, August 30, 2020.

Mrs. Levy was born on July 22, 1929 to Harry and Doris Burdman, in Youngstown, Ohio. She was raised in Youngstown and in 1957, married the love of her life, Rabbi Theodore S. Levy. Together for 48 years, they lived in in Syracuse for three years. They then spent ten years on Hilton Head Island where Rabbi Levy died in 2004. Ina Rae moved to Sarasota, where she enjoyed continued community work, new friends and being closer to her children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Levy's life was full of educational pursuits, community involvement, philanthropic work, family, and travel. She earned her B.S. in education and M.S. in family therapy from Syracuse University, where she later worked as assistant professor and assistant to the dean in the College of Human Development. She was vice president of the New York State Federations of Women's Clubs and was the first president of the Women's Assembly of Syracuse Jewish Federation. Active in the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, she was president of her district. As vice-chair for the World Union for Progressive Judaism, she traveled extensively with her husband, visiting member Reform congregations around the world. In Syracuse, she received the NCJW Hannah G. Solomon Award and was twice named a Post-Standard Woman of Achievement.

Foremost for Mrs. Levy was her love for her family. She was predeceased by her three younger brothers, Ronald, Richard and Kenneth Burdman. She leaves behind two sisters-in-law, Babette Burdman and Marsha Burdman and their families. In addition to her children Seth (and wife Alice), Cyndi, Jonathan (and wife Karen), she leaves five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. They were all the joys of her life.

Funeral services were held graveside at the Temple El Emeth Coitsville Cemetery in Youngstown, Ohio on Friday September 4th at 11 am. Mrs. Levy was buried next to her beloved husband and her parents and brothers.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to: Rabbi Theodore S. Levy Endowed Fellowship at the American Jewish Archives, Hebrew Union College, 3101 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45220 or to the AJC West Coast Florida Chapter, 1605 Main Street, Suite 612, Sarasota, FL 34236.

BERTON R. SHAYEVITZ, M.D.

August 20, 2020

Berton R. Shayevitz, MD, 88, died Thursday evening at Bishop Rehab. Born in Albany, he was a former resident of Holyoke, MA and had been a resident of Syracuse since 1995. A graduate of NYU Medical School, and an undergraduate of Cornell University, he was a practicing physician in Holyoke; was the former director of rehabilitation at the VA hospital in Northampton, MA and in Syracuse he practiced at Loretto and was on the faculty at Upstate Medical University, teaching first year students. He was truly beloved by his patients and students.

Berton was active in "Men of Note", a men's singing group. He was

also a member of Congregation Beth Sholom Chevra Shas. He will be forever remembered for his love and devotion to his wife, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

He was a man of few words...but when he spoke everyone listened.

His family include his wife Myra of 63 years; their children Jessie (Bob) Kellman; Adam (Dana) Shayevitz; grandchildren Tina (Erik), Noah (Alba), Sam, Maxfield, and Golda; great grandsons Lionel, and August; and his sister Sondra Bernard.

Private graveside services were in the Beth Sholom section of Oakwood Cemetery.

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PENNY FRANK DOUBEK

August 26, 2020

Penny Frank Doubek, 59, died Wednesday, August 26 in California of an apparent heart attack.

Born and raised in Syracuse she was the fourth child of Warren and Janice Frank.

She was predeceased by her parents and brother Jeffrey. Her family includes her husband Scott, their sons Josh, Michael, and Sam; her "4 legged children" Charlie and Rose; her brother Gary and her sister Pam (John) Renock as well as many loving nieces and nephews.

Penny was a graduate of Jamesville-DeWitt High School, and attended Ithaca College. She enjoyed a long and successful career in the mortgage brokerage business in California.

She was an avid skier, tennis player, gardener, chicken whisperer, and recent fly fisher. She will forever be remembered for her charisma and way of lighting up a room. She was everyone's confidante.

A private graveside service for the immediate family was held in Adath Yeshurun cemetery where she was buried next to her parents and brother.

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SUSAN M. MILLER

August 26, 2020

Susan M. Miller, 76, of DeWitt, died August 26, 2020 at Menorah Park. Susan was a graduate of Nottingham High School and Syracuse University. She worked for many years at Syracuse University's Bird Library as a library specialist and, prior to that, as a social worker at Jewish Family Services.

She was a voracious learner, passionate about art, photography, and most importantly, her family and friends. She was an active member of the Jewish community and a member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

She was daughter to the late Sidney and Zelda Block and the beloved wife to the late Martin Miller. She is survived by her children Jennifer Cohen (Phil Cohen) and Zachary Miller (Kelly Dwyer-Miller) and grandchildren Elise, Paul, Ilianna and Finn Cohen and Shea, Flynn and Everly Miller.

A private service and burial for the immediate family was conducted at the Temple Beth El Cemetery. A memorial event will be announced sometime in the future.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to We Rise Above the Streets, Meals on Wheels of Syracuse, or your local food pantry.

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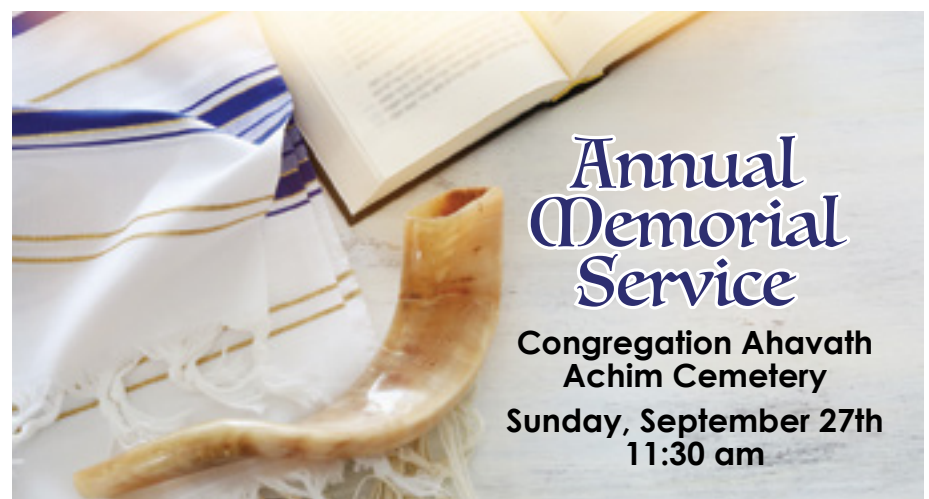


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Annual Memorial Service

**Congregation Ahavath
Achim Cemetery**

**Sunday, September 27th
11:30 am**

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