

» MASKS!

Jewish Observer

of Central New York

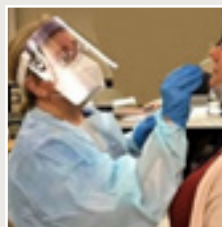
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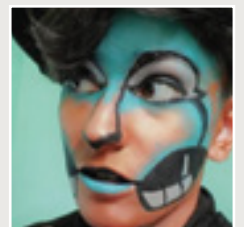
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From the Editor



Barbara Davis

Purim in the Year of Masks
 "Thou shalt wear a mask"
Hygenes 20:20

We think of Purim as a happy, fun-filled, perhaps even alcohol-laced holiday, without strictures, but Purim has a more somber side. It represents deliverance from danger. There are actually many purims, not just one. The

Jewish Encyclopedia lists 30, each with a unique megillah, called purim katan, and celebrated in places like Cairo, Lepanto, Florence, Padua, Tiberias and Tripoli. Purim has traditionally been a masked holiday, with people donning disguises and God noticeably absent from the narrative. Queen Esther's very name comes from the Hebrew word nistar, which means "hidden."

For the past year, the wearing of masks has acquired new meaning and deepened urgency. The protection a mask offers is not just from the revelation of one's identity but from a virus that has devastated our lives and our world. The *JO's* cover, with its multitude of masks, may next year serve as reminder of Purim 2021, perhaps to be retold in a Coronavirus Megillah. Masks helped deliver us from danger this year, and we pray that the vaccines that are now available will make the COVID-19 scourge a thing of the past.

Masks make it possible for children to go to school, for health care workers to care for the sick, the elderly and the vulnerable, for first responders to do their jobs. Masks make it possible for us to carry on with a whole new vocabulary: pivoting, going virtual, zooming, social distancing, self-quarantining and super-spreading. But perhaps most importantly, masks remind us that we need to think about others. Mask-wearing in the age of COVID is an example of altruism, a physical reminder of what we owe to each other and what unites us against a common threat.

I have always loved Purim for this very reason. Unlike the October costume holiday with which it is often compared, Purim does not involve children demanding treats accompanied by threats of tricks. Instead, it asks us to think about others, specifically that we give gifts of food to the poor. This Purim, because Federation has re-established its Matan b'Seter/Giving in Secret food pantry at Menorah Park, you can easily and safely do this holiday mitzvah without endangering yourself or others.

Purim reminds us, as do our masks, that we are all responsible for one another and that, as you will see in the pages of this month's *Observer*, we can all play a part in supporting our community and improving our world. There are so many ways people can make a difference: providing food or clothing for those in need, donating funds to support our community institutions, working for social justice or just going the extra mile in their work to make life better for others. Our Jewish tradition teaches that *kol yisrael areivim zeh bazeh*, we are all responsible for one another. This year especially, we need to follow this mandate.

And because it is Purim and things should be lighthearted, here is some mask humor:

Q. What should you use to fix your mask if it breaks?

A. Masking tape.

Q. What do you call it when you see people wearing masks everywhere?

A. 2020 vision.

Q. Why should you wear a mask before seeing posts that are trending

A. Because they are viral.

I bought my pet duck a mask to protect it from COVID. It's nothing flashy, but it fits the bill.

I tried to make a mask out of pita bread. But it just made me falafel.

Chag Purim Sameach!!

D'var Torah Masks and Purim



By Rabbi Evan Shore

It is a well-known custom for Jews to dress up and masquerade on the holiday of Purim. What is the origin of this universal custom? A hint may be found in the Torah: *Devarim 31:18* - "I will hide My face." Our rabbis teach that as a consequence of our negative behavior, God will "hide" His face from us. Yet though Hashem appears to be absent, Rabbi Elie Munk writes, "He still continues to help Israel through indirect and concealed ways."

Megillat Esther is the only book in the entire Torah that does not contain the name of God. Hashem is present during the story, however, He just remains obscured behind a mask.

The first mention of masquerading on Purim was by Rabbi Judah (Mahari) Mintz in the late 1400s. He does not cite a reason or a source for the custom at all. Personally, I have felt the reason for the custom may be traced to an incident in the Megillah. Haman is in the king's court awaiting the opportunity to seek permission to kill Mordechai. Achashverosh, on the other hand, desires to honor Mordechai for saving his life years previously. As fate plays out, Haman is tasked not only with honoring Mordechai but also with proclaiming, "This is what is done to the person the King wishes to honor." Instead of killing Mordechai, Haman parades him through the streets of Shushan praising him. I think the entire story contains a sub plot. It is evident that Hashem is behind the scenes orchestrating the events enabling the Jews to be saved from the wicked Haman.

A well-known and leading Sefardi Rabbi, Ovadia Yosef z"l (1920-2013) writes: There is a custom to dress and wear masks on Purim. Surely the act of masquerading underscores Hashem's "uncredited" part in the story.

Purim, therefore, is the time we acknowledge outwardly the camouflage of Hashem's loving and caring for the Jewish people. Our masking on this day is a form of giving thanks and praise to Hashem for all He has done for us throughout our history.

Without a doubt, Purim is the most festive of all the days on our Jewish calendar. Let us all dress up and masquerade and, by doing so, affirm the fact Hashem is always with us, "pulling the strings."



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From the Federation Board Chair Neil Rosenbaum



The Flywheel Effect is a concept developed by Jim Collins in his best-selling book *Good to Great*. It explains that, no matter how dramatic an end-result, good-to-great transformations never happen all at once. Instead, the transformation occurs as the result of relentlessly pushing. He proffers the image of a



giant heavy flywheel, 20 feet in diameter and two feet thick. You can't move the huge round stone. If you push it, it barely budes. But if you keep pushing, and if you get more people to help push, eventually inertia is overcome, and it starts to move. And it gets easier and easier to push until you get to the point where it's going on its own, carried forward by momentum.

It occurred to me that the same concept can be applied to a community. Once inertia has set in, it's very difficult to move forward. Last month, I wrote about "saying yes" and received positive feedback. But it's not enough to just be agreeable. We also have to all push ahead. But the reality is that when anyone wants to move forward, there will be some who will enthusiastically join the effort; there will be others who don't care or won't get involved; and there will be others who will just want to put the brakes on. Even worse, there may be some people who will push in the opposite direction.

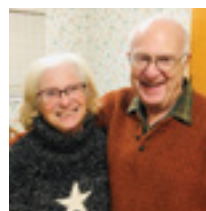
When it comes to our Jewish

community, we all have to be pushing in the same direction. We need to be inclusive, bringing together community members from all walks of life and backgrounds, religious perspectives, political beliefs and financial means. We cannot allow anyone to put on the brakes, we cannot allow anyone to change our direction or jeopardize our success for fear it may offset theirs. If we want our community to be what we all know it can and should be – with more services for seniors, strong and viable institutions for lifecycle events, cultural, educational and social activities for all ages – we have to move that flywheel forward and we have to do it together.

Our community's literal flywheel is funding, the funding that keeps our institutions solvent, the funding that will allow us to do more and **do better**, the funding that will make the Central New York Jewish community a magnet community where our children and others can plant and extend their roots. We have to raise the money even before we know what we need it for. Our 2021 campaign is off to a tremendous start, but we need more people to push the wheel, more people to exert effort, more energy to move us ahead.

We need to say yes, but then we need to **push**. We need to increase our energy output and our financial input into our community's coffers. Our goal is to do better, to push harder, to develop momentum to keep us moving forward. To the right of this column are quotes from people who are pushing that flywheel with us. We are indebted to them, to our major donors and to all who answered the call on Super Sunday. But we need **everyone** to join in the effort. The little pushes create the needed energy when magnified by the numbers. You may not even realize how that energy is being created until you feel the wheel begin to move, then move faster. But once we get moving in the right direction, nothing will be able to stop us.

Why We Support Federation



Phil and Joan Schuls support Federation "because of all the good work it does for our Central New York Jewish community. We believe 'the whole is better than the sum of its parts.' Federation is a perfect example of this. It makes us all better by helping individuals and organizations in our community."



Ruth Stein grew up in Wisconsin and Ohio in towns too small to have a Jewish Federation. She says, "I didn't realize that the JCC, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the *Jewish Observer*, and Jewish Family Service were able to function because of the Federation's yearly fund-raising campaigns. I receive so many requests to donate money, but giving to the Federation is an easy decision. The money helps the most essential organizations in our community, and it also reaches Jews in many other countries."

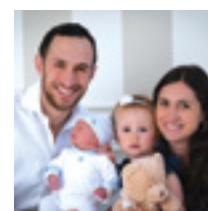


Ryan Hinshaw, one of Federation's youngest regular donors, gives "because I have personally benefited and grown from many of the institutions Federation supports. From my grade school education at the Day School to my trip to Israel through the Epstein School, I have grown up loving Judaism and Israel. I give

because I want other children to have the same connection that I have to our heritage and homeland."

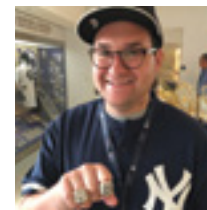


Even though she now lives in Dallas, neurologist **Dr. Deborah Friedman** still supports the Jewish Federation of Central New York "because I saw firsthand the good the Federation does throughout the lifespan, locally and overseas. Our introduction to the Federation system was through the Syracuse Young Leadership Development program and our local beginnings led us to involvement at a national level. We are committed to the Syracuse Jewish community, which enabled us to have a life-changing Jewish journey. It is gratifying to see, thanks to the *JO*, the graduates of 'our' Young Leadership classes in leadership positions and their children being involved as well."



Amira and Adam Goldberg grew up in very strong Jewish communities. "We attended Jewish day school, Jewish summer camps, Jewish youth groups and lived in Israel for extended periods of time. Now that we are growing our own family here in Syracuse, we want to give our children the same experience. We support the Federation because it helps local Jewish schools and assists children to attend Jewish camps and travel to Israel. Our oldest daughter currently attends the JCC and we are looking forward to

many years of experiences in the institutions and activities backed up by Federation."



Seth Goldberg supports the Federation "because I believe it is important to support the Jewish community. If we do not support ourselves, who will? It is up to us, and this is a way to stay connected. Some people feel connected to their faith by participating in services or religious rituals, but that has never been how I've felt connected. I feel connected through the community, through meeting others and being a part of a larger group. Being involved in Federation gives me that feeling of community, of being a part of a larger whole."



Steve Volinsky supports Federation "because it supports the interests of our Central New York Jewish community. It raises money to support many Jewish agencies including the Jewish Community Center, Hillel, the Hebrew Day School, the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies. Money is also allocated to many different projects throughout the community. The Community Relations Committee represents the Jewish community on sensitive issues with all groups within our community. In addition, it develops young Jewish leaders. Federation works to assure that we have a thriving Jewish community."

Jews Around the World

The Jewish Observer is pleased to bring readers a page of stories about Israel and the global Jewish community. For those who wish more information than can be provided on this page, links to articles that provide greater depth are included where possible.



“Lost tribe” arrive in their hundreds. After many years of waiting, 252 members of Bnei Menashe from India landed at Ben Gurion Airport. Hailing from northeast India, the Bnei Menashe have preserved the Jewish tradition across generations. <https://unitedwithisrael.org/israel-brings-home-hundreds-from-lost-tribe-in-india/>

Israel normalizes ties with Bhutan. Israel has established full diplomatic ties with Bhutan, a small, majority-Buddhist landlocked kingdom in the Himalayas neighboring India and China. Bhutan has diplomatic relations with some 50 countries (not US or UK). Israel will help Bhutan with water management, agriculture and health.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-inks-deal-establishing-diplomatic-relations-with-bhutan/>

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Please patronize those who partner with us, through the JO, to make our Jewish community ever better.

Morocco to become first Arab nation to teach Jewish history, culture in schools. Morocco announced that its schools will soon begin teaching Jewish history and culture as part of the official curriculum—a first in the region and in the North African country, where Islam is the state religion. It follows King Mohammed VI’s decision to normalize relations with the Jewish state. [JNS]

Canadian Jewish News to Relaunch Online. The *Canadian Jewish News* announced that it will relaunch its publication in January but will be online only. The announcement was reported in *The Canadian Jewish Record*, a free online volunteer Jewish-news site launched in May to fill the void left by *CJN*, which had folded due to financial troubles exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Stem cell treatment can help MS patients. Jerusalem’s Hadassah-University Medical Center and Israel’s NeuroGenesis have developed a stem cell treatment for patients with progressive multiple sclerosis. A Phase II human trial not only halted progression of the disease but led to improvement in neurological ability. <https://www.jpost.com/health-science/hadassah-stem-cell-treatment-could-let-ms-patients-walk-again-651475>; <https://www.neurogenesis-cell.com/>

Israeli blood tests for the Gulf. The OLO finger-prick blood tests from Israel’s Sight Diagnostics will soon be available in medical centers across the Gulf region. The Israeli company is partnering with Dubai’s Phoenix Capital to install OLO initially in the UAE and then other Gulf states. <https://elwatanelarabynews.com/archives/67584>

Israeli doctors in Gaza. Israeli-Arab orthopedists, neurologists, heart surgeons and mental health experts are in the Gaza Strip relieving the strain on hospitals

fighting coronavirus. They are conducting urgent surgeries on non-COVID-19 patients and training Palestinian Arab medical teams. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-medical-delegation-heads-to-gaza-to-provide-essential-care/>

Israel to join International Energy Agency. The State of Israel has been accepted into the International Energy Agency (IEA) after members of the agency voted unanimously in favor of the move. It recognizes Israel’s role in regional and international energy and gives it access to important sources of industry research. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/292896>

New Moon project. Israel has begun Beresheet 2, the country’s second lunar project. In 2024, SpaceIL, the Israel Space Agency and others plan to launch a mission to put a spacecraft in lunar orbit and two landing craft on the Moon’s surface. Seven countries including the UAE want to participate in the project. <https://www.jns.org/israel-launches-second-program-to-put-a-lander-on-the-moon/>

Israeli hi-tech on display in Dubai. For the first time, Israel participated at Dubai’s Gitex exhibition, the world’s largest digital exhibition. Export Institute Director Gadi Arieli called it “a milestone in building a platform for developing economic relations between us and the Emirates.” <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/292659>

Mr. Avdija goes to Washington. The Israeli basketball star notes that he is “excited to play against the NBA greats—all the guys I played against when I was little -- in video games!” Avdija, the 19-year-old Maccabi Tel Aviv phenom, was taken No. 9 overall by the Wizards in the recent NBA draft. The 6’9” forward understands what it means to make it to the most elite league in the sport and to represent Israel. “I worked so hard to get here. I am here to show Israelis there is no limit.” [JNS]

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CANTOR KARI EGLASH

Cantor Kari has been heroic in keeping Temple Concord afloat during the pandemic. She runs the school and our school did not miss a beat; she helped reimagine Shabbat and holiday worship and has been a tremendous blessing.

Rabbi Daniel Fellman



STEVEN SISKIND and JOEL FRIEDMAN

During the COVID-19 crisis, funeral directors have been subjected to Incredible stresses and dangers. Yet they have never stopped serving, consoling and caring for the members of our community.

Barbara Davis



THE STAFF AT MENORAH PARK

The staff of Menorah Park went beyond the call of duty. They put aside their own well-being to assist others.

Rabbi Evan Shore



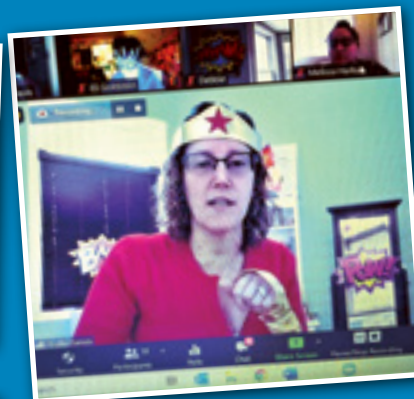
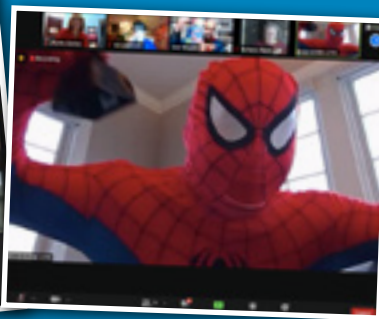
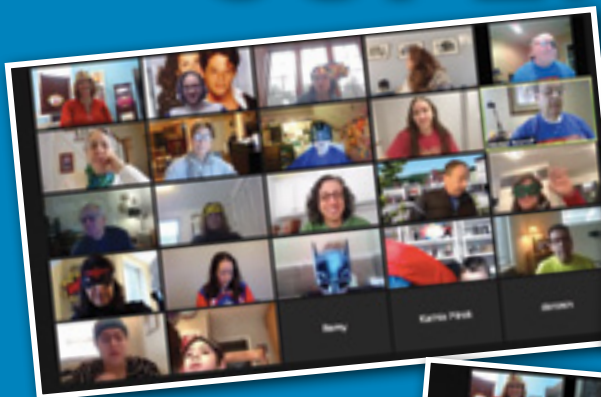
SHERRIE MCCOMBIE, R.N., SHDS SCHOOL NURSE

When I asked my children who was a hero to them this year, my 5-year-old son said "I want to nominate a doctor or medical person. And I like Mrs. McCombie!" Throughout this pandemic she has worked so hard to keep SHDS open every day as well as safe for so many kids and as a parent that has been Heaven-sent. She is proof that not all superheroes wear capes.

Arel Moodie



SUPER SUNDAY 2021



Helping Others through Syracuse Winters

COVID-19 put a stop to a lot of things, but not to people helping others. The **National Council of Jewish Women's** annual Hannah Solomon luncheon could not take place, but in its stead, NCJW members were asked to raise funds for the purchase of children's coats for Onondaga County's Child Protection Services, diapers for the Diaper Bank of Central New York, and incentive reward items for the Syracuse City School district's McCarthy@Beard program, which provides specialized services for students with social/emotional, behavioral and academic concerns. NCJW annually raises \$1,000 in donations which is then matched 3:1 by the Pomeranz, Shankman, Martin Charitable Trust and used to support these programs.



The **Wladis Hat and Glove Giveaway** is an annual tradition begun almost a quarter century ago by businessman George Wladis. This year more than 11,000 hats and gloves were distributed

to every elementary school student in the City of Syracuse schools. Attorney Mark Wladis, whose father started the tradition, explained that "This year the distribution was done over Zoom although usually people who contribute get to go to classrooms and participate in the Hats and Gloves distribution. This allows everyone to actually see where their contribution goes and witness the excitement of the children as they receive the hats and gloves." More than 60 businesses, unions and individuals contribute to the effort and Mark says that "the number that contributes and the amount that we receive

from them continues to increase year after year. One of the best things about it is that people learn about it through articles like this and word of mouth." [Photo is from a prior year.]



The **Matan b'Seter (Giving in Secret) food pantry** at Menorah Park was established by Federation when the pandemic first hit to help out front-line workers get basic food essentials. Funds donated to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund were used to stock the pantry for over four months with supplementary food donations by community members. The food pantry proved to be a way for many community members, particularly those who were older, to safely help others without putting themselves in jeopardy of catching the virus. The pantry blew over in a storm and was temporarily taken down, but as the second wave of the pandemic

swept over Onondaga County, it was put up again by Menorah Park maintenance staff and securely bolted to a platform, ready once again to be stocked with canned and packaged goods. Federation, in association with the Pomeranz, Shankman, Martin Charitable Trust, is again provisioning the pantry and members of the community are invited to resume making donations.



Finally, to recognize and thank the employees of Menorah Park on behalf of the Jewish community for their dedication and hard work through all the challenges of work in a nursing home during a pandemic, the Trust and the Federation distributed gift cards and messages of appreciation to the workers on all three shifts.

TAY Rising to the Challenge



by **Sonali McIntyre**

Syracuse winters can be dark and brutally cold, but the Social Action Committee at Temple Adath Yeshurun is trying to bring light and warmth to those in need this season. The committee's inaugural initiative is a collective drive for winter gear, supporting **We Rise Above the Streets Recovery Outreach**, a local non-profit and charity organization. The **Syracuse Hebrew Day School**, the **Epstein School of Jewish Studies** and the **Rothschild Early Childhood Center** have enthusiastically partnered with the Social Action Committee in their efforts.

According to the Housing & Homeless Coalition of Central New York's dashboard, in December 2020 there were 522 people in shelter and street outreach programs and 112 of those individuals entered homelessness with no other episode of homelessness in the previous three years. We Rise Above the Streets' mission is to "open up a gateway between those who have a passion to

help humanity and those who are in need of assistance." The organization helps to care for the homeless and food-insecure in our community.

The Temple Adath Yeshurun community answered the Social Action Committee's call. Within a few weeks, approximately 400 pounds of winter gear was donated. The committee requested donations of new hats, gloves, socks or hand warmers for men, women and children, as well as new or gently-used winter coats. Monetary donations were also welcomed.

Rebecca Resig, co-chair of the Social Action Committee, said, "I hope that we bring light to difficult topics and events that are happening in our community and beyond in an effort to help mend the world along the way."

The Social Action Committee plans to have long-term, seasonal projects. The winter gear collection drive will continue through the winter. A collection bin for donations is located at the front entrance of Temple Adath Yeshurun. **For more information about TAY, visit www.adath.org or email info@adath.org.**

Syracuse Jewish Family Service Fills Gap in Therapy Services

With the COVID-19-related demand for psychotherapy services outpacing the capacity of local providers, Syracuse Jewish Family Service is ramping up its ability to serve the mental health needs of both the Jewish and general community.

SJFS Director Judith Huober has joined the therapy staff of the agency, in addition to her other duties, having completed her master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and receiving her limited permit to practice in New York State. "I am excited to add formal counseling to the many ways I've been privileged to serve individuals, families and other providers in the community over the past ten years," she said, "and I'm especially pleased that I am able to contribute to meeting some of the pent-up need for counseling which the current pandemic has stirred up."

Graduate interns also provide therapy at SJFS under the supervision of licensed professionals. Several of them are moving into the clinical portion of their field work at SJFS and two counseling-focused interns

have joined the agency for the coming year. Common issues for which people seek therapy, especially under the trying circumstances of COVID-19, include relationship dynamics, sadness and grief, planned and unplanned life transitions and mood disruptions such as anxiety and depression.

SJFS continues to offer two free mental health programs: **Stay Connected**, piloted this year in answer to the COVID-19 outbreak, is a telephone service that includes support and evidence-based strategies to help older adults experiencing stress, anxiety or mild depression symptoms due to isolation. It complements the wider-ranging **PEARLS** depression program for older adults, an evidence-based series of eight sessions over about five months, with several months of follow-up. Most of SJFS's individual and group programs are currently provided through online or FaceTime video connections, or via telephone. The agency is currently building a new suite in the Oaks building with technology to house simultaneous in-person and remote attendance and plans additional programmatic expansion in psychoeducational and therapeutic directions.

CBS-CS Hosts Racial Justice Workgroup

by Sarah Cumbie Reckess

Twelve adult members of CBS-CS participated in a five-week virtual Racial Justice Workbook Group in October and November 2020. Led by Membership vice presidents Sarah and David Reckess, participants read and completed the workbook, *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla Saad. Structured as a 28-day reflective journaling process for white-identifying readers, participants convened weekly to discuss the writing prompts, explore concepts such as white exceptionalism and white fragility, explore how Judaism informs our concept of oppression and whiteness, and find common ground to support each other as we work toward becoming better allies to our Black and Brown community.

"I was pleased that we had such a thoughtful group of CBS-CS members who allowed themselves to be vulnerable and challenge themselves in a virtual Zoom

space," facilitator Sarah Reckess said. "We weren't sure how this process would work over Zoom, but we were able to communicate in a way that deepened our connections to each other and allowed a space to admit that at the end of the day, many of us are distressed by racial inequality in our country but have little idea how to address it in a meaningful and lasting way."

The workbook, first published in January 2020, is divided into four themes: The Basics, Anti-Blackness and Racial Stereotypes, Allyship, and Power, Relationships and Commitments. At the suggestion of author Saad, the facilitators used a discussion process called "The Circle Way." This process shifted participants away from informal socializing or debate and instead created room for thoughtful reflection, deep listening, and quiet exploration. Each session included a small ceremonial opening and closing, often with a Jewish theme, that set the tone for the week. Participants were sorted into a speaking list, which ensured everyone had

equal time to participate and no one could dominate the conversation. The structure emphasized that participants should be listening to understand each other rather than listening to respond.

Bob Tornberg, vice-president of adult learning at CBS-CS, was a participant in the Racial Justice Workgroup. He commented, "I am so pleased that we offered this program opportunity. It was challenging, thought-provoking, and difficult. It caused me and others to look in a mirror and consider whether and

how we have contributed to systemic racism and what we, as Jews committed to justice, can do moving forward that will impact change in our community. I am especially grateful to Sarah and David for facilitating this process so sensitively and meaningfully!"

The Adult Education Committee is committed to helping other community members discuss the challenging topic of racial inequality. Keep an eye out for other offerings during the year that match the theme: *If I am not for myself, who am I? But if I am only for myself, what am I? And, if not now, when?*

Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry at the JCC

Lives and finances are still being upended due to the coronavirus pandemic. People across Central New York and the nation are hungry. The JCC wants to help. They've partnered with the Food Bank of CNY to provide a little assistance for our neighbors in need. JCC staff and board members will mobilize by volunteering to help distribute food during a Mobile Food Pantry at the JCC on Monday, February 15.



There are limited spots available to receive food during this and advance registration is required. **Visit www.jccsy.org for more details and to register.**

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The Benefits of Early Childhood Education

When it comes to preparing young children for a successful future, parents will go to great lengths to afford them every opportunity. Often this entails attending an early childhood education program.

But what exactly is early childhood education? It's so much more than daycare or nursery school. Early childhood education provides a safe, nurturing environment for children to learn, grow and develop through interactions with individuals outside of their family. This typically occurs from infancy to kindergarten as children's brains develop more in the first five years than the entire rest of their lives.

There are many wonderful benefits to early childhood education which can stick with children for a lifetime," says Pamela Ranieri, director of children's programming at the JCC of Syracuse. "The diverse teachings and interactions go a long way in promoting socialization and gross motor skills. This can be seen through behaviors such as turn taking, self-regulation, problem solving, listening/following directions and self-help skills/independence."

Starting in infancy, early childhood



education helps to form secure attachments. This allows children to explore their environment in a safe and caring way, thus facilitating their social, cognitive and gross motor development. Language skills are also enhanced as children learn to appropriately communicate their needs while problem solving in the classroom. Compromise and problem solving can then be applied in all situations, teaching children that there are

different perspectives and everyone deserves a voice.

"Another important part of early childhood education is providing support to parents," says Ranieri. "Teachers work with parents as a team so the child grows and learns at their own pace, in their own style. This is all part of supporting different learning styles, cultures and needs."

Finally, early childhood education helps to recognize areas of growth so that teacher planning can support goals and make sure children are reaching their potential.

"Besides the developmental benefits of early childhood education, there are also long-term monetary benefits," adds Ranieri. "Harvard has calculated that for every dollar invested in early childhood education, the return is at least four times greater."

The JCC's Jerome and Phyllis Charney 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. Early-bird registration for the 2021-2022 school year begins on Monday, February 1. Early registration is open to JCC members. Registration opens to the public on March 1. **For more information and to schedule a tour, call 315-445-2040, ext. 120, or visit www.jccsy.org.**

A Year of Tikkun Olam at the Epstein School

In honor of the *Yovel* (Jubilee) year at the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies, students intensified their *tikkun olam* commitments. More than 40% are participating in *Shalsholet* (Chain), a program which connects them as volunteers at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School or the religious schools at Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas, Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Concord.

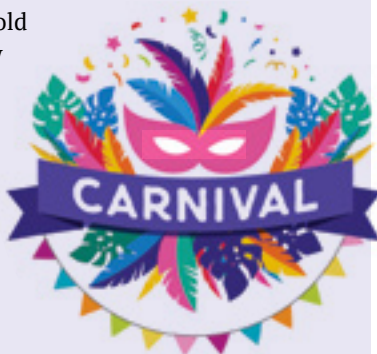
During the fall semester, the core class for 9th and 11th graders, *Tikkun Olam* with *Morah* Ora Jezer, examined immigration at the U.S. southern border, racial justice, climate change, organ donation and the Syrian refugee crisis. Other highlights included school-wide presentations by Refugees & Immigrant Self-Empowerment (RISE) and a winter gear drive to benefit RISE families and We Rise Above the Streets. Students learned about Jewish approaches to combating climate change from Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, chair of the National Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life. Syracuse University Professor Genevieve García de Müeller spoke about "U.S. Immigration: Facts vs. Misconceptions" at a school-wide event.

Spring semester events included a Justice Fair following Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, where students learned about opportunities for pursuing justice with organizations both near and far, and a *Tu B'Shevat* seder led by Rabbi and Dr. Jezer. Upcoming opportunities include a food drive during a *mishloach manot* drive-thru and a community clean-up event for Earth Day.

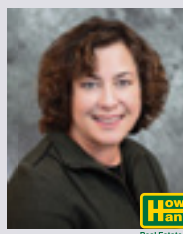
JCC Purim "Car'nival" on February 21

The JCC's annual Purim carnival is a decades-old tradition, beloved of generations of Central New Yorkers. In the year of COVID-19, the celebration has been reimagined to be a safe and socially-distanced drive-through that will still offer plenty of fun for the whole family.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, February 21 and look for more details on the JCC Facebook page and website www.jccsy.org. For more information, contact the JCC at 315-445-2360 or info@jccsy.org.



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» Community Businesses

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Touch of Broadway NY Delicatessen



Delicatessen was the “soul food” of the Jewish community in America and the pastrami sandwich was a staple of the kosher delicatessen, of which there were over 1500 in New York City in the 1930s. Deli scholar Ted Merwin, author of *Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli*, notes that “most delicatessens were not restaurants but takeout stores. You didn’t have a sandwich. You bought a platter of meat.” That meat was pastrami, corned beef and tongue. Merwin writes, “People ate meat and celebrated being American.”

The 21st century brought a new twist to the deli situation. While nationally Jewish delicatessens are in decline, driven out by health concerns, new ethnic cuisines, and demographic and taste changes, Syracuse got lucky. A Touch of Broadway NY Delicatessen, located at 6812 Manlius Center Road, opened in September and serves, according to its owner Huseyin Turan, “the best hot pastrami and corned beef in Central New York.”

Turan learned to make “kosher-style” food working at Liebman’s Kosher Delicatessen in the Bronx. “That’s how I specialized in it,” he said. Turan is Turkish and Muslim, not Jewish, but he was convinced that “there was definitely a need of a kosher-style delicatessen in Central New York.” He talked with his friend Mike Shine, who owned Pickles in Dewitt for years, and decided to open one. He never worried about opening in the midst of a pandemic, “since I knew there was a need for a real delicatessen in the area, and business has been great from the day we are open.”

For those who still mourn the demise of Pickles, A Touch of Broadway will bring consolation. It features delectable corned beef, pastrami, beef brisket, beef tongue, roast beef, turkey and chopped liver either in the form of wonderfully over-stuffed sandwiches or as platters with potato salad or coleslaw, pickle and rye bread. There’s also chicken soup, matzoh balls, knishes, burgers, hot dogs and more.

The corned beef and pastrami are prepared in-house, as are the pickles that accompany every sandwich.

Huseyin is conscious of contemporary culinary concerns. The deli’s website states, “Food authenticity is a huge deal with us – where it comes from, how it’s prepared – and of course, how it tastes. From pressing our dough daily to roasting vegetables – we’ve



made it a priority to keep our food true. We’re also mindful of animal ethics, environmental impact, and working with food partners that share our commitment to quality. If we wouldn’t serve it to our kids, we won’t serve it to you. It’s that simple.”

Opening a new restaurant in the age of the coronavirus is challenging. Although the seating area is large, the serving area is small, and COVID restrictions mean more take-out and less eating in. A Touch of Broadway’s online ordering system is very efficient. Since everything is made fresh, there is sometimes a short wait at pickup when it’s busy, but that inconvenience is outweighed by the quality of the food.

“I really enjoy this type of food myself,” explains Turan. “Pastrami is my favorite, and I really love making a sandwich, so this is also an enjoyable place for me, not just a business. I love building a sandwich on rye bread. I love cooking. I also don’t eat pork nor shellfish myself so this is a perfect place for me.” If A Touch of Broadway keeps up the quality of its meats, it should have a very long and successful life stuffing sandwiches and Central New York carnivores with the best deli around.

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» Book Review

If All The Seas Were Ink

Review by Sharon Hochstein

If All the Seas Were Ink is a memoir by Ilana Kurshan that is breathtaking in its scope and quality of scholarship, yet ultimately relatable and timely. The author invites us on her journey of *Daf Yomi*, a communal study session in which thousands of Jews, predominantly men, read and discuss the same page of Talmud daily until they finish it seven and a half years later.

Kurshan studied literature at Harvard and Cambridge and worked in literary publishing in New York and Jerusalem. But she struggled along the way with some serious issues, including anorexia and a failed marriage. And no matter how many miles she jogged, or how much Shakespeare or Byron she studied, or even how much she davened, she felt unmoored and adrift.

This is a memoir of how the *Daf Yomi*—read, discussed, and annotated over a period of seven and a half years—saved her from those turbulent seas and helped to bring understanding, stability, and direction to her life. Although daunted by her task initially, Kurshan soon realized that the project would provide a daily challenge to her bottomless thirst for learning, with endless commentary and interpretations, which in turn sparked more invitations to interact with the text and apply it to world literature as well as to her own life.

And so Kurshan embarks on her odyssey. One of her first steps is to tack a map of the First Temple onto the door of her studio apartment, so that she will have a “road map” to her learning as she reads about the various places and rituals described in her guidebook. Her memoir is structured in



chapters based on the tractates of Talmud that she reads every day, and often listens to via podcast as she runs or cleans or attends to the minutia of daily life. Along the way she throws in quotes from her beloved English literature that relate to whatever tractate she is on. She finds a way to connect these two literary sources and her own life. Thus, for example, when she is reading *Moed Katan*, which deals with the laws of mourning, she quotes Emily Dickinson’s poem, “Because I could not stop for death...” She points out that the Talmud contains stories about rabbis who made it difficult for the Angel of Death to claim their souls; in other words, how it is not easy to stop for death. She then connects this idea to her father-in-law’s recent death, and how her husband Daniel stopped for death three times a day to say *kaddish* for him.

The chapters are pearls of wisdom packed with citations and anecdotes reflecting Kurshan’s own experiences. As the reader marvels at the author’s ability to literally live what she is reading and to find deep meaning in her people’s holy books, we also become aware that her voracious appetite applies not only to knowledge, but to ritual. At times her pursuit seems obsessive and overly cerebral, yet *If All the Seas Were Ink* inspires the reader to use every precious moment and resource that is gifted to us to grow and flourish and share our bounties.

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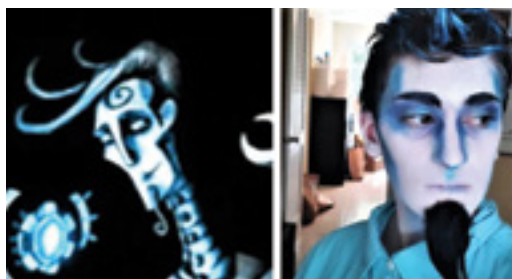
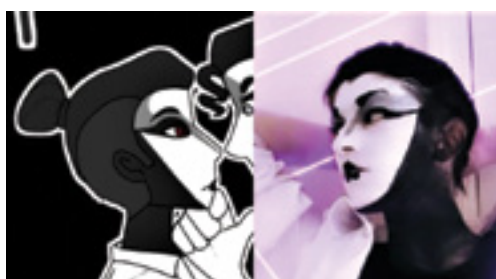
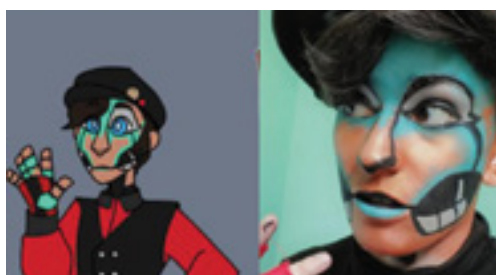
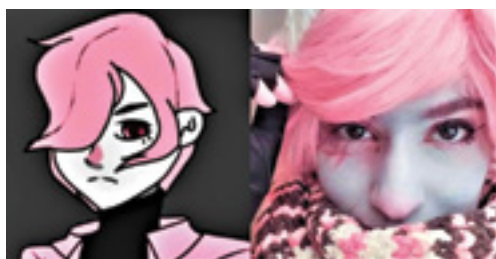
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Purim Masks, Makeup and Transformations

The Age of COVID is also the Age of Masks. Most of us wear them for protection, both of ourselves and of others. There are some who object to wearing them for political reasons. As the pandemic grimly progresses, people have adopted a tremendous variety of mask colors and patterns, emblems and wordings, all designed to make mask-wearing less unpleasant.

Those who wear lipstick have learned that it is not a good thing to do when wearing a mask. Mask-wearing has focused attention on the eyes. Bold eyes are all the rage, but there are also accompanying precautions about safety and sterility. Mascara, which is makeup for the eyes, has an etymological root similar to that of the word “mask,” deriving from the Spanish word *máscara* and the Italian word *maschera*. There is even a Hebrew word *maskarat*, relating to women’s eyes, found in *Isaiah 3:16*.

Maquillage is a word that refers to the application of makeup and cosmetics in theatrical ways. It has been said that makeup is not a mask, that makeup is art and expression. The truth of that is evident in the special effects and



character artistry of Finn Cohen, a 17-year-old high school senior at Fayetteville-Manlius High School who loves art and storytelling. “When I was 10 or 11,” recalls Finn, “I found a video of people dressed as characters from one of my favorite cartoons walking around pretending to be them. That was just absolutely the coolest thing to me—so I wanted to try my hand at it!” Finn wants people

to know that SFX (special effects) exists outside of injury makeup. “I think everybody’s heard the term SFX, but most think it means bloody nose, black eye or something like that. But it’s hard work to transform someone’s face to look like someone else entirely!”

During Purim everything is topsy-turvy but sorrow is converted to joy. Finn’s artistic transformations fit perfectly with the holiday, especially in the midst of a pandemic, when nothing is the way it was before.

Topsy-Turvy Holidays

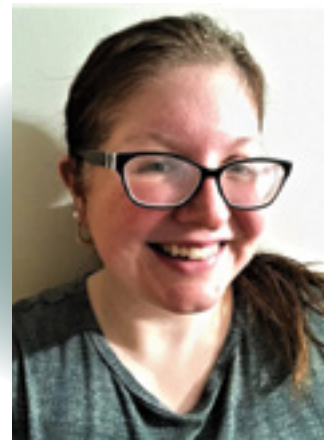
Purim turns things upside down, just as a pandemic does. Temple Concord’s tradition of helping at the Samaritan Center’s sit-down holiday dinner was turned into the provision of pre-packed meals, desserts and essential items for guests on Christmas Day.

This year, Temple Concord’s Purim celebration will be virtual, but a look back at last year’s “Megillah on the Roof” is a reminder that “without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as a fiddler on the roof.”



Teachers Meet Pandemic Challenges

Teaching has always been a challenging profession. Teaching during a pandemic only heightens the difficulties and stresses. But teaching in an urban school in the era of COVID-19 is especially fraught. “Poverty takes a huge toll on student learning in urban schools,” wrote Professor Joseph McDonald of NYU’s Steinhardt School. “Teaching can be a lot harder to address if poverty is walking in the door every day, if there are shootings in the students’ neighborhoods, if safety is an issue, and if these children are going hungry every day.” The city of Syracuse has one of the nation’s highest poverty rates. Almost half of Syracuse children live in poverty. Two members of our community deal with these issues on a daily basis in their work in the Syracuse school district.



In 2011, Louis Klapper exploded things at the Orlando Science Center. Kelly Bernhardt, a first-year teacher at the Four Corners Charter School, took her class on a field trip there and met Louis in the Kaboom Show, the last stop on their visit. The students left entertained; Kelly left smitten. She gave Louis her number. Fast forward ten years and the Klappers are now living in Syracuse, where Louis is an energy engineer, Kelly is a teacher at the Franklin Elementary School, and their family includes a young son. “Teaching in the City School District is difficult sometimes,” notes Kelly. “Last year, two of my students lived part of the year in a storage locker when their family couldn’t afford any other place to live.” Kelly put out a call to her congregation and to the families of the Day School, asking for coats for both boys and girls. “Having the right winter gear in Syracuse is crucial to our students’ ability to attend school regularly during Syracuse winters,” she wrote, requesting new or gently used and washed coats which she would pick up or which could be delivered to Franklin.

Grant Middle School math teacher Brad Seidman was conducting his twice-weekly pandemic phone wellness checks with Grant families. “One mother I spoke with was in tears,” he recalls. “Her

daughter has a heart condition and she was afraid to go shopping and put her daughter at risk of getting sick. So I put together a box of food and delivered it to her house.”

The next day, he had a similar conversation with another family. “After two calls like that, I realized: we have to do more.” He posted an online request for donations of food or money to purchase food. With support from community members and groups like the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Erin’s Angels and the Allyn Foundation, Brad organized a full-scale food pantry in his garage. His wife Stacy, also a teacher, and their children, Joseph and Makayla, helped him pack boxes of food and snacks that would help feed a family for a week or two. Grant staff picked up the boxes and brought them to families. In just a month, more than 100 boxes were made and delivered to families. “One parent called to say that this added support helps them get through a week or two when they don’t have extra food available to them,” Brad said. “There are so many people locally who have lost their jobs. This is a way we can help families who are struggling to put food on their tables. No one should be hungry, ever. These are such difficult times for everyone.”

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“Happiness comes to a man when he dwells beneath his own roof-tree.”

- Talmud Yerushalmi, Mo'ed Katan

Many Jewish immigrants to America took up careers in real estate, enthralled with what the 1927 *American Hebrew* magazine called the “romance of realty.” The opportunity to invest in real estate was a manifestation of the freedom that America represented. Denied the right to own land in the Old World, Jews in America could buy, own and build on land in safety.



Our local Jewish community likewise boasts many members involved in the field of real estate. **Ellie Hayman** was one of the first. The number one realtor in Central New York for 22 consecutive years, Ellie was a trendsetter. Mark Re, vice president of Howard Hanna Real Estate, notes that “Billboard advertising was unheard of in Central New York until Ellie put up the now-famous quote ‘You can’t spell SELL without ELLie on board.’” Ellie’s innovative marketing campaigns made her the first local realtor to average over a hundred home sales a year.



Ellie’s daughter **Nancy** followed her into the field, specializing in first-time home buyers, Spanish-speaking buyers and listing and selling houses in Fayetteville, Manlius and Syracuse. “I feel like I grew up in real estate because of my mother,” she says. “I love putting the pieces of the puzzle together and finding the right house for my buyers. I also love that I have sold houses to people of many different nationalities. It’s so much fun learning about different cultures.” Nancy believes that her work reflects her commitment to *tikkun olam*. “I work with a lot of immigrants and not only help them to buy a house, which they could never do in their own countries, but am well-versed in grant programs to help people improve not only their homes but their quality of life. I have helped clients find jobs. I also have helped people who want to donate furniture to ensure that their items help families in need.”



Hunt Real Estate’s **Laurie Kushner** also sees her faith as an influence on her career. Laurie’s main focus is on residential properties in the eastern suburbs. She enjoys being a realtor for the independence and flexibility it affords, but she adds, “What I love the most is meeting new people and working with my clients to help them find their dream homes. The relationships that I have made are especially important to me. Buying or selling a home can be a stressful life cycle event. I try to make the process as stress free as possible. Being raised in Judaism and identifying as Jewish, I feel it is important to be honest and upfront with my clients and when dealing with other professionals. I am ready to give of my time and expertise to help others. I believe being a good, fair, honest person in all aspects of one’s life carries over into your professional life.”



For Berkshire Hathaway’s **Beth Rapowitz MacCrindle**, the best things about being a realtor are “helping clients find a wonderful new home no matter where and what size it is, helping clients with all the details of selling a home from finding repair help to staging and explaining the process in small bites to ensure they understand everything. Beth’s specialties include first-

time home buyers, relocation and the Syracuse, J-D and F-M areas, although she works as far afield as Henderson Harbor, Rochester, Tully and Oneida. She works with clients of all faiths, but has a special relationship with her Jewish clients, including those who are looking for homes in an *eruv*.

Cheryl Schotz, a leader in the Jewish philanthropic community, is also a leader in the real estate community. She is a relocation specialist, helping people new to the area get acclimated and find services. The new Jewish client who moves to the area is especially fortunate if Cheryl is their realtor because she is very knowledgeable about what the area has to offer. She serves on the boards of the Federation, the Jewish Community Foundation and Menorah Park. If she doesn’t know the answer to a question, “I will do the research to find out where they can connect.” Cheryl is also a new construction specialist, buyer/broker specialist and first homeowner specialist at Howard Hanna. “I love helping clients find their dream home and introducing them to the wonderful opportunities afforded us in this area.” She loves meeting new people and never gets bored. “Every deal is different,” she says, “and I adore negotiating.”



Residential real estate and investment properties are **Gabe Seifter**’s focus at Howard Hanna. He enjoys helping buyers find their dream homes and helping sellers position their homes in order to get the best price and terms. Having been a full-time investor

previously, he likes helping other investors find properties that fit their goals. “I have a vast network and many times am able to find deals before they hit the market for my investor clients,” he notes. Gabe believes that helping people is a *mitzvah* “and helping doesn’t end with contracting on a house. Connecting buyers and sellers with contractors, lawyers, inspectors, and staying on top of every detail of a transaction all the way through closing is generally something people appreciate long after the deal closes.”



Youchi Holstein specializes in residential sale and rental for Howard Hanna. “As a former Hebrew and religious studies teacher,” she notes, “it was the love of teaching and interactions with the community that led me to a career in real estate. I guide my clients through the buying and selling process in a relaxed yet professional manner. My goal is to make the whole process easy.” Youchi’s guiding philosophy in both life and business is “*Ve’ahav’ta lere’acha ka’mocha* -- love your neighbor as yourself.”



“After 35 years of being a realtor in the area I have an expansive network of contacts, including mortgage consultants, home inspectors, attorneys and qualified contractors,”

notes Coldwell Banker Primer Properties associate broker **Edward Glassberg**. “But the reason I love my job is the people. Every time I get to help a client achieve their real estate dreams, I am reminded of why I have been dedicated to this for so long. I have had the pleasure of selling people their first home and their second home, and I have even helped some of their children purchase a home. There is no better compliment than becoming their family realtor.” Ed’s Judaism impacts his career in a very special way. “Being raised in a Jewish family by a father who survived the Holocaust, I was taught the importance of being honest, hardworking and caring. These values and lessons carry over in everything I do. As a first generation American, my parents wanted me to know that life is a gift and instilled in me to do everything to the best of my ability.”

For Arquette Realtors’ **Barbara Miller**, nothing is more satisfying “than knowing my clients are happy, and that I have helped them successfully reach their goals.” She has a quarter-century of experience in the purchase and sale of residential real estate in the eastern suburbs of Syracuse. Barbara is particularly interested in architecture and old historic homes and loves “to showcase the beauty and history of these homes.” Over the years, she has helped numerous Jewish families through the process of buying and selling a home. Her appreciation of *tikkun olam*, “the need to be responsible for the welfare of my community,” has influenced her in one specific way: “Finding group homes for special needs children has been a very gratifying experience for me, and I hope to continue to be involved in this special and meaningful goal.”

SARAH KOOCHER FELDMAN

December 11, 2020

Sarah Koocher Feldman, 98, passed away on December 11. Born in Boston, MA to Samuel and Rose Fineman Koocher, Sarah was a graduate of Brighton High School, and Burdette Business College. Upon graduation she worked for insurance companies where she was highly sought after.

The post-war scarcity of automobiles led to a chance family introduction of Bill Feldman to Sarah at a Syracuse Jewish War Veterans picnic. They were happily married for 56 years. Sarah was also an active participant in the family business, Phil Feldman & Sons.

Sarah was a gifted pianist, taking lessons from a Boston Conservatory instructor. In recognition of her talent, she became a piano teacher as well. She was an avid reader and was extremely accomplished in knitting, crochet and needlepoint,



especially in the bargello style. She always had a book, or needles in her hands. Sarah loved playing Mah Jongg and was an active member of her bowling league. She was a wonderful mother and a lovely, sweet person. She raised her daughters to be respectful and kind.

Sarah will be forever remembered for her love, joy and devotion to her family, and especially the delicious holiday meals she lovingly created.

Sarah was pre-deceased by her husband William, and her brother Abraham Koocher. Her family includes her two daughters and sons-in-law, Anne and Marvin Mondlick of Scottsdale, AZ; and Ilene and Dr. Herb Mendel of Fayetteville; three grandchildren, Dr. Josh and Leah Mondlick, of Phoenix, AZ, Dr. Marisa and Josh Abraham, of Boston, MA, and Jordan Mendel and Julia Gabel Mendel of NYC; and great-grandchildren Abraham, Wesley, Zane, Alessandra, and Halle.

Graveside services were in Adath Yeshurun Cemetery. Donations in Sarah's memory may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun.

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SHEILA C. BRITTAIN

December 22, 2020

Sheila C. Brittain peacefully passed away on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. Sheila was born on December 15th, 1939 to Benjamin and Minnie Friedman Ziegler in Brooklyn, NY. As a teenager she moved with her parents and brother to Syracuse and remained here for the rest of her life.

Sheila founded and operated Creative Environment Day School in Fayetteville, NY since 1966, and it remains one of the longest-operating nursery schools in the state of New York.

Sheila made sure that every family that came through the doors was greeted with open arms and a smile. She acted as a consultant for many other local educational programs that looked to her for advice on operating and navigating the difficult field of childcare. To those that didn't know her, she may have seemed tough and very direct, but those that knew her knew that she had a heart of gold.

She gave not only generously but quietly to those in need, especially throughout the Village of Fayetteville. She sponsored "at risk" children at her summer camp, giving those children an amazing experience that they would never forget. Her giving was done spontaneously, significantly and always accomplished very quietly without drawing attention to her generosity. Even the families "sponsored" didn't know who or where it came from.

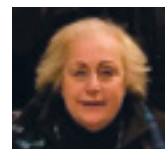
The passion and devotion she had for her school and the families that attended it was unprecedented. It was always the safety, welfare, and education of the children that was the driving force of her life. The only thing in this world she valued more than her school was her family.

Her family includes her children Ellen Karkowski and Michael (Barb) Berger and her beloved grandchildren Ashley Karkowski, Jordan (Laura Cardoso) Berger, Chad Karkowski and Mitchell Berger. They were her pride and joy. Her only great-grandchild, Ari, did not get to meet her but she certainly knew who he was.

Sheila was predeceased by her parents Benjamin and Minnie Ziegler and her brother Larry Ziegler.

A memorial service will be held at a later date and time to be announced for those who wish to pay their respects to Sheila and her family. A memorial scholarship fund for a student pursuing an education in early childhood education will be established in Sheila's name.

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**MARCIA SCHOTZ**

December 18, 2020

Marcia Schotz, 78, died early Friday morning in Boca Raton as a consequence of a stroke several months ago.

Born on July 20, 1942 in Binghamton, NY to Saul and Beulah Riger, she had been a resident of Syracuse since 1964 when she and her husband David, of blessed memory, were married and made Syracuse their home.

During her professional career, once her children were independent, she was a sales associate for Dey Brothers fine jewelry department and then at Ra-Lin's fine jewelry department as well.

She was a former member of Temple Concord and currently a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun. Marcia was an active volunteer at Menorah Park. She totally enjoyed her time spent with her friends, playing mah jongg and canasta and loved the book club at The Hamlet where she had lived for the past eight years.

Marcia will forever be remembered for her love of her family, her generosity of friendship and her easy laughter.

Marcia was pre-deceased by her husband David in 2013. She is survived by her loving children Karen (Dan) Amish and Larry (Marsha) Schotz, grandchildren Mariah and JaGarr, her sister Janet (Dr. Harvey) Levine and her brother-in-law and sister in-law Irving and Cheryl Schotz and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions in Marcia's memory may be made to the Foundation of Menorah Park: <https://menorahparkofcny.com/donate/>.

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FRANCES "FRANCY" GREEN VOLINSKY

December 19, 2020

Frances "Francy" Green Volinsky, 72, died Saturday morning in the comfort of her home surrounded by her loving family. Francy was born on October 11, 1948 in Bryn Mawr, PA to Judge Seymour and Frances Green. She was especially proud to have been the great-great-niece of former New York State Governor Horatio Seymour.



Francy was a high school graduate of The Agnes Irwin School, and earned her undergraduate and master's degree in education from Syracuse University. She was an active member of Zeta Alpha Tai Sorority. For 30 years, and until her retirement, she was a pre-K teacher in the East Syracuse-Minoa school district.

Francy was a dedicated member of Temple Concord and a past president of the Sisterhood of the Temple. She enjoyed playing golf and being a member of golf leagues at Drumlins Golf Club, cooking, sewing and gardening. She especially loved swimming and had fond memories of summers spent at her family's home at Beach Haven on the New Jersey shore.

Francy will be remembered as a tremendously caring person. She truly cared about you. It was her nature to be friendly. Though strong-willed, her kindness always shined through.

She was pre-deceased by her parents, her brother "Skip" Green and her in-laws Ethel and Jerry Volinsky.

Her family includes her husband Steven, their children Jeffrey and Rebecca, sisters-in-law Andrea Green and Barbara Lasser, nieces Laura (Blake) Gandy and Amanda Lasser and nephews Sean (Sheryl) Lasser and Adam (Ananika) Lasser.

Contributions in Francy's memory may be made to Temple Concord, The Jewish Federation of Central New York or the ALS Association, www.als.org.

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EDWARD WEINSTEIN

January 2, 2021

Edward Weinstein, fondly known by his family and friends as "Ed" or "Eddie," aged 92, passed away peacefully on January 2, 2021.

Ed was a loving husband and father and greatly enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren; he was especially fond of their numerous pets. He enjoyed many hobbies, including fishing and boating and watching SU sports and the Yankees. Ed was an excellent solver of puzzles and builder of matchstick models and was an avid golfer and tennis player in his younger days.

Along with his father, Ed owned and operated W.A. Harvey Sporting Goods on West Washington Street in downtown Syracuse, which was in business for over 50 years. For the next chapter of his career, Ed ran the sporting goods and hardware departments of Sears for over 30 years, retiring in 1991.

He is survived by his two sons, Lee (Dani) Weinstein and Larry (Elisa) Weinstein, and his grandchildren Jonathan (Ally) Weinstein, Devorah Weinstein (Nick Nadeau), and Alex Granozio. Ed was predeceased by his loving wife of 57 very happy years, Selma, his parents Rose and Albert, and his grandson, Allan Weinstein.

Family and friends will always remember him for his quick wit and love of laughter, jokes, and good food (and, of course, his disdain for chicken).

In accordance with current health guidelines, a private graveside service and burial was held for the family. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to charities benefiting Leukemia, Hospice of CNY or the Centers at St. Camillus.

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NAOMI PINSKY BLUMENTHAL

December 14, 2020

On December 14, Naomi (Pinsky) Blumenthal, loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and great-aunt, died peacefully at her home, following a long illness, with her family by her side.



Naomi was born on April 2, 1942 in Syracuse, NY to Norman and Rose Carlin Pinsky. She graduated from Nottingham High School in 1956 and received her degree in psychology and elementary education from Syracuse University in 1962.

Naomi developed a passion for horses as a child, and it led her to a long and storied career. After graduating from Syracuse University, she taught elementary school in Liverpool before returning to the place she loved: the barn. A life-long entrepreneur, she started her first business boarding horses at a farm in Oran before opening the first indoor, privately-owned arena ring in the area, which allowed her to host horse shows year-round.

During her tenure, she modernized and expanded the shows to what they are today. She also introduced thousands of fairgoers to horses with her World of Horses tent, a popular breed and educational exhibit.

During her more than four-decade career, Naomi served as superintendent of the NYS Fair Horse Shows for 40 years, executive treasurer of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA); chairwoman of the Syracuse Chapter of the Professional Horsemen's Association; national president of the Professional Horsemen's Association (PHA), and a committee member and zone director of the US Hunters and Jumpers

Association. She also taught equestrian studies and equine business management at Cazenovia College for 27 years and coached the college's equestrian team.

Naomi developed the first Apple-compatible horse show management software and Apple even flew her to its headquarters to demonstrate her breakthrough software program. For her significant contributions in equine education and events, Naomi received a Lifetime Achievement Award from IHSA and the Frank J. Hawkins Award from PHA. Countless horse show riders and fans benefited over the years from her wisdom and skill as a mentor, teacher and promoter.

Naomi's professional achievements were plentiful, but the most important thing to her was family. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, aunt and great-aunt. She was wise, generous, fun and loving. She loved taking trips with her grandsons, hosting the family's annual Thanksgiving gathering and cheering on the SU football and basketball teams.

Naomi was predeceased by her parents, Norman and Rose Pinsky, her brothers Philip and Roy Pinsky and her nephew Ari Bluman.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law Shari and Corey Schneider, her grandsons Cooper, Riley, and Jaxon Schneider, her sister Elaine (David) Bluman, her sisters-in-law Marilyn Pinsky and Stephanie Pinsky, and many devoted nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Contributions in Naomi's memory may be made to the Intercollegiate Equestrian Foundation Scholarship Fund (contact Kelly Francfort, ief.kfrancfort@gmail.com), or The GFYC Foundation (gfycfoundation.org), a family charity benefiting cancer research.

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