

» In Praise of Jewish Dads

Jewish Observer

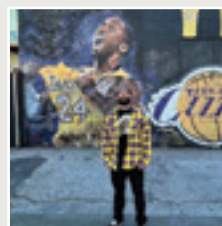
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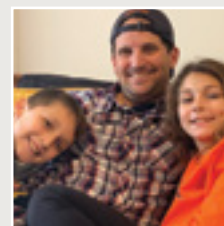
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June 2021

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

Judaism is considered a patriarchal religion. Until recently, there was no mention of foremothers in our prayers, only forefathers. *Pirke Avot*, the compendium of wise and pithy rabbinic sayings, were the “Words of our Fathers.” God was always He.

Yet while it is easy to come up with definitions of a “Jewish mother,” the term “Jewish father” is not commonly used nor easily defined. That is why the *JO* asked our readers what the term “Jewish father” meant to them. As is often the case, crowd-sourcing produced diverse and engaging results, from thoughtful definitions to heartfelt essays. Tamara David, for example, pointed out that “a father is someone who gives support, guidance and unconditional love,” and that fathers “are not necessarily biological fathers.” Kelly Klapper noted that “a Jewish dad will greet every crazy part of child-rearing with a sense of humor.”

And while it may seem sexist to associate sports and dads in this issue, the most amazing connections resulted from this juxtaposition. Who knew that the big mural going up in downtown Syracuse was the work of a Jewish artist whose dad is very proud of him? Who knew that one of those depicted in the mural would connect to a first-person account of a memorable sports moment by a local participant? Somehow, it all seems *besht*.

It has been a year since the *Jewish Observer* transitioned from a bi-weekly newspaper to a monthly newsmagazine. While there are some who miss the old format, most readers seem to really like the new one, particularly the emphasis on our local community and especially since we added a page of news about Israel. Each month, I am fascinated and delighted by how many local folks are willing to contribute stories and photos to the *JO*. No matter the topic, there are knowledgeable, informed and engaged people willing to share their personal experiences and expertise with the larger community, which is eager to learn about them. The *JO* is a reader-oriented publication, and when people write for us, they are, in effect, engaging in a conversation with their Jewish neighbors, reminding us that we *are* a community, with shared memories, experiences, dreams and values.

The Federation, over 100 years old, is an integral part of that community and the *Jewish Observer* is one of the most important ways Federation strengthens our communal life. We know Jewish America is undergoing transitions – institutions are changing, people are changing. But what is constant is that Jews value and support one another, despite our differences and despite changes. We do not live in a *shtetl* in Central New York. We live in an America which is open and filled with choices. The virtual world offers us even more options. But when push comes to shove, it is wonderful to have a Jewish community. It is vital that there be a continuum of Jewish services available to us, from high-quality childcare at the JCC and the best possible Jewish education at the Day School and synagogue and community schools, through teen engagement and learning at the Epstein School, the resources of Jewish Family Service accessible to those in need, and the care provided for the elderly and vulnerable at Menorah Park.

Sometimes, as with our fathers, we take all this for granted and perhaps even turn away from it. But, when we really think about it, we realize how good it is to have a Jewish community that cares and which is there for us when we need it. Just like dad.

D’var Torah Parents and Children

by Rabbi Joel Goldstein

“Heed, my child, the discipline of your father, and do not forsake the Torah of your mother.” (Proverbs 1:8).



For many of us, Judaism is not just a personal practice, but one that is inherited from our parents, who inherited it from theirs. Even those who chose Judaism have a stake as descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. But how much does being inheritors bind us to follow the Judaism of our parents, and how much are we to forge our own path? What happens when our parents’ paths are not ones we can follow?

In the Babylonian Talmud (Chullin 105a), Mar Ukva calls himself “vinegar the son of wine” in comparison to his father. For his father, after eating meat, would not eat dairy until a full 24 hours later. Mar Ukva would eat dairy at a meal after eating meat. If the chain of continuity is important, why doesn’t Mar Ukva follow the tradition of his father and wait 24 hours between meat and milk? And if the chain of tradition from father to son isn’t important, why does Mar Ukva refer to himself as “vinegar” in comparison to his father’s “wine”? Why compare himself to his father at all and instead of championing his own unique practice?

If children can deviate from their parents’ practices as Mar Ukva did, where is the chain of transmission? How do we become inheritors of our parents’ tradition and follow the advice of Proverbs to not forsake the Torah of our mothers? The Pri Chadash differentiates between two types of customs of parents. The first type is customs unique to the parent (or possibly even a line from parent to child). In such a case, the custom is not necessarily incumbent on the child. The second is a custom the parent takes on because their entire community or locality has taken it on. In that case, the custom is transmitted to the child. That is, if the custom is something that most people in the community are capable of upholding, then the child inherits it. But if the custom is something unique to the parent, the child is not expected to have the same skills as the parent and is expected to take on different Jewish practices. In this case, we do not ask a child to be like their parent, because they are not their parent and we honor their unique abilities.

The Aramaic word for child, bar means “outside.” Children are outside or distinct from their parents. They have different skills, needs, desires, and dreams. But nonetheless, there are still ways to pass on traditions between generations when those are traditions that tend to match the capabilities of the average person in the community. That is why those traditions and customs become incumbent on the child. Despite all of this, many parents and children will still struggle, like Mar Ukva to see themselves as unique and instead see themselves as inferior for not living up to the ways of their parents. My hope for everyone is that we can all see ourselves as wine the child of wine, just different vintages and even different varieties.

Fathers are a crown to their sons and sons a crown to their sires. [B’reisheet]

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From the Federation President/CEO

Michael Balanoff



If you have been watching *Shtisel* on Netflix, or intend to, you will learn that the main character told his son that our ancestors are alive and present with us every day — all the time. I believe they mean that we are who we are largely because of who came before us and what they left us with.

Our Jewish community today is also a product of our past, significantly through the generosity of many people who came before us and left us with their legacy. Their foresight in establishing their legacy funds—of which there are now 50 —enables our Federation to maintain the financial support for many Jewish institutions and people, both here and abroad. They trusted in our ability to make wise decisions to assure the continuity of Jewish education, Jewish culture and Jewish values and keep them relevant to today's times.

Twenty years ago, the Foundation did not exist. It provided no funding to the Federation campaign. From the endowments established since then, the Foundation provided the Federation \$320,000 for its 2021 campaign, up from \$250,000 last year. The Foundation's assets have grown from zero to \$22 million dollars. Most recently, thanks to the astute and assiduous stewardship of Steve Miron and the Foundation Investment Committee, our assets have outpaced the market and delivered handsome benefits to the organizations, synagogues and agencies we support.

No one can accurately predict what our Jewish community will be like 10, 20 or 30 years from now. Who

would have thought 30, 20 or 10 years ago that the community would be what it is today? There was a promotion I heard several years ago which went something like this: A company human resources person said, "What if we spend all that money investing in our employees and they leave?" The response was, "What if we don't and they stay?"

I can tell you this with complete certainty and confidence—there *will* be a Jewish community in Central New York that will express a Jewish identity that will be valuable, important, exciting and attractive. It will be up to us to assure that that community has the means to flourish—just as those I described above have done for us. We must continue to invest in our future so that those who come after us will have the advantages of funding for our future—their present.

So here's my pitch. Be a part of a living legacy. Be a part of our Jewish future. Segregate some of your wealth for the support of our future. And this is a perfect time to consider donating appreciated stock to the Foundation to take advantage of the tax savings available to you. Call me. Let's talk about how you feel about what I have written and how you and I see us supporting this community—not just today and next year—but for generations to come. Our predecessors saw our community as worthy of preserving and protecting—not just now—but far into the future. That job is now ours.

Federation to Honor Neil Bronstein at 103rd Annual Meeting



At Federation's annual meeting on Thursday, June 10th, Neil Bronstein, chair of the board of the Jewish Community Foundation Board Neil Bronstein will be given the prestigious Roth Award for community service. Bronstein cites Winston Churchill in explaining his lifelong involvement in the Jewish community: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." A Syracuse native, Neil has always been a leader in the Jewish community. He served as president of the Jewish Community Center and Menorah Park boards. He chaired the Federation's annual

campaign. He has been a member of the boards of the Menorah Park Foundation and Temple Adath Yeshurun. He also chaired the Syracuse Jewish Community Campus project. Neil has been active professionally in the health care field, as president of Interim HealthCare. He also served as vice president of Families Against Cancer Terror and sat on the boards of the Crouse Hospital Foundation and CenterState CEO Foundation. He is the third person to chair the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York, after founding chair Alex Holstein and Lynn Smith. His commitment to the Foundation is based upon his belief that "our Foundation represents the best of what we have to give, as it provides the means to financially sustain our future for generations to come."

The Federation's educational partners will also honor volunteers at the meeting. The Rabbi Epstein school will honor Fran Ciardullo, the Syracuse Community Hebrew school will honor Jeanette Myshrall and the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will honor Holly Bossert. The Jewish Community Center will also hold its annual meeting.

Although the meeting will again be virtual, Federation hopes that many will come together to honor and celebrate the leaders and volunteers who do so much for our community.



ABECEDARIUM of FEDERATION SUPPORT

G is for Grants.

In addition to funding camperships and trips to Israel, Federation this year gave grants from non-campaign funds to our community's synagogues, Menorah Park and the JCC, Hillel and the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. In awarding the grants, Federation noted that the Board was motivated by the desire to help as many of our Jewish institutions as we could to get through a crisis that has affected all of us in so many ways. "Building Jewish COMMUNITY is Federation's primary goal," said Michael Balanoff, Federation President/CEO. "We hope this helps."

The response from the synagogues was immediate and positive. "Thank you to the Federation. This is another brick in unifying and strengthening our community!" wrote Rabbi Evan Shore of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse. Rabbi David Kunin of Congregation Beth Shalom-

Chevre Shas noted, "The generosity of Federation during this strange and difficult year is greatly appreciated by the entire community. It is a wonderful way of showing support for all of our synagogues." "Please accept our sincerest thanks to the Federation board for your generous commitment to the well-being of our entire community and all of its institutions," wrote Rabbi Yehoshua Zehavi of Temple Adath Yeshurun. "Together, may we grow stronger and even more successful in our work on behalf of the community." Sally Cutler, President of Temple Concord, wrote that "We at Temple Concord echo Rabbi Zehavi's thanks for this generous decision by the Federation. Supporting the synagogues in this way at this

time is truly appreciated."

H is for Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program.

Federation's Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program lends money interest free to any Jewish person from Central New York who is in need of temporary financial assistance. Zero interest personal loans, up to \$7500, can be obtained for many purposes, including medical and dental bills, debt consolidation, small business loans, lifecycle events, family emergencies, car and home repair, camp fees, school tuition and fees, adoption and fertility services.

All information is kept in the strictest confidence. As loans are repaid, funds are recycled to make new loans. For more information about the Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program, go to <https://jewishfederationcny.org/federations-hebrew-interest-free-loan-program/>.



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» Community Businesses

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Central New Yorkers have their favorite ice cream places. There's always a line outside of SnoTop, some people swear Gannon's is the best and Carvel is kosher. But this column is about Jewish-owned businesses, so the delicacy we're going to learn about comes from Abbott's Frozen Custard, which is located at 4282 Fay Road, in the western part of Syracuse. Our writer, Marilyn Cohen Shapiro, is Syracuse-adjacent, being married to a native Syracusan, who is a graduate of the Maxwell School and a lifetime Orange fan. Marilyn relocated to Kissimmee, Florida in 2015. She is the author of There Goes My Heart and Tikkun Olam.

Abbott's Frozen Custard

by Marilyn Shapiro



How will I celebrate a milestone birthday during the pandemic? The hoped-for week away with my family is out. A party at my home is out. But there is a silver lining. An Abbott's frozen custard stand is less than 33 miles away from our Florida home.

The history of one of my culinary favorites began in 1902 when a young and enthusiastic Arthur Abbott traveled the Eastern seaboard with summer carnivals, eventually finding his way to Rochester, where he opened a frozen custard stand on the shores of Lake Ontario near a bustling amusement park. As word of his frozen concoction spread, people lined up from morning to night. Abbott retired in 1957 and handed his scoops to fellow frozen custard lovers Lenny and Tibby Schreiber. Tibby's parents had owned a kosher meat market in the heart of the Rochester Jewish community.

The Abbott's Frozen Custard franchise is now run by the Schreibers' daughter Gail Drew and her family. It has locations throughout New York and has expanded Massachusetts, Florida, Colorado, South Carolina, Virginia, Louisiana and North Carolina.

My husband Larry was hooked on Abbott's from his first lick of a chocolate almond cone. Abbott's chocolate almond frozen custard is in a class by itself. The chocolate custard is rich and smooth and creamy and delicious but what makes it outstanding are the roughly chopped roasted almonds that are stuffed into the custard.

Whenever we went to Rochester, we made sure Abbott's was on our agenda.

Fortunately, our son Adam went to the U of R, so we had plenty of chances to go. At this point, we thought Abbott's was only located in Rochester. In 2012, however, in Naples, Florida, I was strolling down Fifth Avenue when Larry began running. "Come on! I have a surprise for you!" And there in front of us was an Abbott's frozen custard.

We don't get to Rochester very often now, so you can imagine our joy when Abbott's opened up in Winter Garden, only 33 miles away. We celebrated Father's Day 2020 with our first visit. It was almost as wonderful as we imagined, but they didn't hear our request for chocolate ALMOND, as we realized halfway through our cones that the familiar crunch was missing. So what's a sixty-six mile detour for the love of Abbott's? This time we not only got plenty of almonds, but the size small was bigger than the previous Sunday's medium. Heaven!!

When we make our trip up for my birthday cone, I will pack a cooler and plenty of ice and we will bring extra home, including a quart for friends who previously lived in Rochester. It may not be the celebration for which I hoped to kick off my eighth decade, but it's a sweet start!



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Jewish Cooks of the Month



Jeffrey Scheer

Jeffrey Scheer is an attorney, originally from Buffalo, who lives in Manlius with his wife, Abby (a librarian) and their three daughters, Rachel, Sophie and Rose.

Where did you learn to cook?

My mother taught me how to cook. She always said "if you can read, you can cook." I've always carried that motto with me and have passed it on to my kids, who also like to spend time in the kitchen cooking with me.

Why do you like to cook?

First, I like to cook because I like to eat. Cooking has also given me the opportunity to spend time with my kids. The kids take turns every Sunday night making dinner with me. Our rule is that we can make anything that they want, so long as we can find a recipe to follow. Nothing is off the table, so to speak. We've made everything from kreplach to pierogis to Moroccan stew to Chicago-style pizza - all from scratch.

What is your favorite dish to prepare?

I don't necessarily have a favorite dish, but I do like anything smoked in my ceramic grill



- brisket, beef ribs, turkey, salmon, chicken wings....I'm getting hungry just typing this.

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

I have no secrets - anything I make can and should be shared and enjoyed by all. If you want to replicate a dish you've eaten at a restaurant or have seen on TV, find a recipe and GO FOR IT!

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

Fudgy Brownies (parve)

2 sticks margarine
4 oz of unsweetened chocolate
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup flour
10 oz mini chocolate chips



Grease 9x13 pan and preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Melt the margarine and chocolate in the microwave. Once melted, stir with a whisk to combine. Add the sugar and rapidly stir with the whisk for several minutes until smooth. Add the eggs and vanilla and briskly stir with the whisk until well combined. Add the flour and, using a spatula, stir until just incorporated, but not too much (you don't want to release the gluten in the flour or it will be more cake-like, than brownie).

Pour into the greased pan and sprinkle the chocolate chips on top.

Bake for 32-35 minutes until fudgy, but just set (I usually take the brownies out of the oven when the first crack appears on the top crust). Cut when cool but not ice cold (after 30 minutes). The brownies will store nicely in the freezer for several months, or until your family consumes them one-by-one until they are gone and you are left with an empty container.



Joe Eglash

Joe Eglash lives in Jamesville and is the husband of Cantor Kari Eglash and father of Ari and Judah. He is a musician and director of Transcontinental Music Publications and JLicense.

Where did you learn to cook?

My mom Helen is my primary source of cooking knowledge. She is a survivor from Poland and brought that straight-from-the-source Ashkenazi cooking with her. My aunt Marcie, who lives in Israel, was a major influence on my cooking, since Israeli/Middle-Eastern food is my favorite. When I was around bar mitzvah age, my dad would spend Wednesday evenings with me and we learned to cook together without my mom there. We made all the same mistakes in a lab-like environment. Also, when I want to learn how a restaurant makes something, I'm not shy about asking the staff about how to make it.

Why do you like to cook?

I like to make people happy. Nothing does that better than food. Mixed in with the cooking is love, friendship, passion, creativity, hospitality -- everything a good friendship or family relationship has.



What is your favorite dish to prepare?

Anything Middle-Eastern or Israeli, but the thing I've spent the most years of trial and error getting it to where I want is humus. As smooth and mouth-watering as possible, as close to the chumusiyyot in Israel that I love more than any food in any restaurants in the world that I've been to. Humus is the perfect food.

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

The more years of cooking every day that I do, the more I understand never to be shy with spices, to let things sit and absorb flavor more and to take my time and not rush the cooking. It relaxes me to be in kitchen and I think the food is better for it.

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

My recipes don't have specific measures or quantities. It's all feel and experience. That being said, here is a recipe for easy homemade lebneh, the Middle-Eastern yogurt dip:



Middle-Eastern yogurt dip

Add a quart of 5% Greek plain yogurt to a small metal colander resting in a slightly larger bowl. Seal top with plastic wrap and refrigerate for five days. Each day, empty the liquid from the bowl. On the sixth day, remove the lebneh and drain remaining liquid. It now should have the consistency of light goat cheese, spreadable but somewhat thick. In a bowl, add the juice of a fresh lemon, some olive oil, and kosher coarse salt and mix very well. The consistency will begin to lighten. Spread onto a flat dinner plate and top with olive oil, then zaatar. Serve at room temperature with fresh pita and/or vegetables to dip.

At the 1977 Maccabi games, the United States team, coached by Dolph Schayes and with his son Danny Schayes, Ernie Grunfeld, Howard Lassoff and Willie Sims on the team, won the gold medal for basketball. The New York Times reported, "The United States basketball team, with only a week's practice before the start of the Maccabiah Games, beat Israel by 92-91 today and won the last gold medal of the Jewish Olympics." Syracusean Leo Eisner shares his recollections of that memorable game. Eisner went on to participate in four more Maccabiah World Games in a management capacity. He has served on Maccabi USA board since 1981.

Two Weeks to Experience, A Lifetime to Remember: the 1977 Maccabiah Games

by Leo Eisner

My phone rang in Buffalo. Why would my wife be calling? My boys, ages fourteen and sixteen, were in school. They were good kids. I hoped nothing was wrong. My wife Billie told me to call Haskell Cohen as soon as possible. Cohen was the chairman of basketball for Maccabi USA and the editor of *Parade* magazine's All-American High School Basketball Teams section. I called, and Cohen told me that I had been named the basketball team manager for the 1977 Maccabiah Games. When I asked him how many others had applied for this position, his answer should not surprise anyone. "None," he replied.



Hall of Famer Dolph Schayes was the team coach. His son Danny was on the team. During Danny's high school career, the fact that he was six or more inches taller than the opposing centers led officials to treat him differently. So the team needed someone who could prevent an international incident from happening. That was me. Prayer became a daily ritual, ensuring a smooth and uneventful experience every game.

The team trained at CW Post College before departing on my first trip to Israel. The Maccabi USA theme was "Two Weeks to Experience, A Lifetime to Remember." Forty-three

years later, I recall that time as if it were yesterday. At the sold-out Ramat Gan stadium, 60,000 Jews cheered each team as it entered. As our turn got closer, I could feel goosebumps forming. Our flagbearer entered at the front of our delegation and the cheers changed to a chant: "USA. USA. USA." In the stands, my wife and Naomi Schayes hugged so hard that Billie got a broken rib.

The torch was placed high above the stadium and the cry rang out, "Let the Games Begin!" All of the sports contested at the summer Olympics one year earlier were scheduled for these games also. The standout accomplishments at the Games were Mark Spitz's winning a record seven gold medals and Team USA playing against the World Champion Israel basketball team. Team Israel had upset Russia in the World Games for their only championship. They were led by first round draft choice of the then Baltimore Bullets, Tal Brody and former star, Mickey Berkavitz of UNLV.

Our team, like theirs, had won every preliminary game. This set up the Games' concluding event: the Basketball Gold Medal Game, with most of the 12,000 Israeli fans whistling for their beloved champs. The loud shrill tone nearly raised the roof off of the building every time we stepped up to the foul line. The game went down to the final four seconds with the score 91-90 in favor of Israel. Willie Sims, a third generation Afro-American Jew from Long Island City, who had announced before the game that he would attend LSU over SU, went to the foul line with three attempts, to make those critical two points for the lead. Sims had shot less than 50% during the preliminaries, so his teammate Joel Kramer, a 6'9" future NBA player from San Diego State, could not bear to watch these crucial shots. He stood with his back to the court. The crowd's whistling went silent. Sims made the shot. The game was tied. Sims swished the second, followed by Berkavitz's desperation shot that missed. The late great Hall of Famer, Coach Dolph Schayes, had his second 92-91 championship.

This definitely was two weeks to experience and a lifetime to remember.

A promotional graphic for the 38th Menorah Park Open golf tournament. The background is a scenic view of a golf course with green fairways and trees. The text is overlaid in white and yellow.

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Jews, 'Cuse and Basketball

A six-story mural on the side of a building at 333 East Onondaga Street will honor four athletes who advanced human rights in sports. It will be the work of a world-renowned Jewish muralist, Jonas Never. The four athletes are Dolph Schayes, the record-setting Jewish Syracuse Nationals forward who was named “One of the Top 50 Greatest Players in the History of the NBA,” Breanna Stewart, Women’s NBA champion, Manny Breland, the first Black men’s basketball player at Syracuse University and Earl Lloyd, the first African-American to play in the NBA.

Each of the players being honored had first-hand experience with discrimination yet overcame the challenges to become stars in the world of basketball. Even six foot seven inch Dolph Schayes, called “the most prominent professional Jewish athlete to ever to play his sport” by *The New York Jewish Week*, who was the first NBA player to score 15,000 points and led the Syracuse Nationals to the NBA championship in 1955, experienced some antisemitic incidents during his career.

Los Angeles-based artist Jonas Never, whose portfolio includes tributes to Tiger Woods, LeBron James, Ronda Rousey and Kobe Bryant, will begin work on the giant mural in July, living in Syracuse for three to four weeks to complete the project. Frank Malfitano, a prominent promoter of the arts in Central New York and champion of the mural, explains its importance. “As the nation remains gripped in a frightening wave of renewed misogyny, racial inequity, antisemitism, political division and polarization, we need creative artistic solutions that will help bring Syracusans together again in unified fashion. Visual art has the ability to do that. And murals have the ability to tell our story in ways it has not been told.”

Never works in public, not in a studio, although he has to do a lot of prep work before he climbs up a ladder. “All of my murals are based on realism,” he says. “So I need to make sure everything is proportionate: a person’s face, shoulders, hair, all of it. Unless there’s already a brick or tile pattern on it, I’ll spend the first day drawing a grid on every wall. This helps ensure consistency while I’m painting. At the end of this process, I look like a coal miner or professional weightlifter, with chalk all over my hands. But when I lose reference, it’s easy to go back over these grids.”

He starts his work by taking a photo of a wall, measuring it and digitally placing the images he wants to emulate onto it. During this step, he ensures that parts of the painting won’t be over a drainpipe or window and that everything fits and is

cropped appropriately. Then, the painting begins. “I normally work with spray paint for the skin tones and clothing, and house paint for the fine details,” he explains. “I don’t want teeth or eyes to look blurry or foggy, and I’ll use brush paint for that.” Some murals can be done in three to four days, but larger murals can take months to complete.

Jonas has always been passionate about sports, his father Alan Swyer reports. “He went to college on a baseball scholarship and was the UCLA batboy when he was young. That resulted in his choice to have his bar mitzvah -- not the reception, but the actual service -- at UCLA’s Jackie



Robinson Stadium. Family members sat in the dugout, while friends, including the entire UCLA baseball team, sat in the stands. It was great!” Jonas’ real surname is Swyer, but according to his dad, “during his graffiti days (which coincided with his college baseball years), Never was his tag. Thanks to the acclaim he received, he continued to use it once he progressed to murals, which made sense since some were in rough parts of L.A. It also made

him somewhat mysterious à la Banksy.”

Never says there is “something powerful about doing sports murals,” although the work can be exhausting. “Most people don’t realize it’s a long workday. You’re climbing ladders, you’re in the sun. [Sometimes] I feel like I’ve run a marathon, my legs are all shaky from 12 hours on a ladder.” He is also used to work in California, where it is almost always sunny, so working in Syracuse might be a more meteorological challenge.

Never’s giant, realistic paintings are influenced by Los Angeles graffiti and tattoo culture, and he says that seeing his own work “become a part of L.A. culture is a dream come true.” His portraits include not only sports figures but such cultural icons as Mr. Rogers and chef Anthony Bourdain. Never has done so many murals in so many places that he has lost track of the number and plans someday to make a list. But he loves what he does. “I enjoy painting,” he says. “It’s a passion. And it rarely seems like a job to me.” Syracuse is fortunate that it will soon have an example of this unique artistic expression for all to see and admire.



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The Impact of Jewish Fathers

According to the Talmudic tractate *Kiddushin*, a Jewish father is required to circumcise his son, redeem him, teach him Torah, assure that he marries, teach him a trade and teach him to swim. His obligations to his daughter include clothing her and providing her with all she needs in order to get married. Some things have changed, others remain the same. In *Nedarim*, we read, "You can tell a Jew by how he treats his children." We asked *JO* readers to contribute photos and descriptions of Jewish fathers for this issue. The responses help define Jewish fatherhood.

"A Jewish father has so many different meanings. First of all, family meant everything to him. Being a friend, not only a father. Pushing us to achieve our goals. Always behind us 100%. Treating people fairly, and with respect. Having religion and maintaining a Jewish home as part of our lives. And the ultimate 'kibitzer.' Happy Father's Day, Dad. Miss you more than words can say."

Deborah Meltzer



Sanford Meltzer with Deborah and Gary, c. 1968



"Like his dad Roy, Todd is an amazing Jewish father. He leads by example, making it clear every day that he prioritizes family over everything and everyone else. When the world outside is chaotic, he is always calm and ready with a terrible dad joke to make us feel better."

Sarah Pinsky

"First generation American.

A proud Jew.

A fabled salesman.

A great cribbage player.

Singlehandedly stopped a runaway horse headed for a schoolyard full of children in Quincy, Mass.

Saved two drowning women and a policeman using a plywood surfboard (for which he received a commendation from the governor of Massachusetts).

Was offered a professional pitching position with the Boston Braves by Casey Stengel in 1942 (left-handed).

Daring, resourceful, brave and strong.

He could lift four cases of beer with one hand (won a number of lunch bets with that trick which I can demonstrate).

Could roof a house and raise a porch.

World-famous vintner (maybe only Ferndale Street) and grape jelly manufacturer.

Renowned singer - first lines only.

Long distance spitter.



Jacob Hootnick

Loved my mother immensely, and she returned that love.

Raised four greater than average sons.

Thirteen grandchildren.

Twenty-two great-grandchildren and counting (Joanna due in August).

His memory is a blessing.

Last month was his tenth *yahrzeit*, and I miss him still.

That was my Jewish father!"

David Hootnick

"A father's influence doesn't end when he is no longer physically present. My father loved classical music. Every time I land on a classical music station while scanning stations in the car, I think, 'Hello, Dad.' My father loved photography and had a huge selection of lenses, each larger than the next, one large enough to photograph the moon. Every time I see a pro with a giant lens, I smile and remember dutifully trailing behind my dad, lugging a giant suitcase of lenses so he could choose just the right one to capture that cactus or flower or zoo animal. I pilfered most of those lenses from him over time, and I'm grateful every time I go to take photos and I have the right tool for the job.

When I was 21, my father insisted that I open an IRA (what's that?) and organize a monthly direct deposit (what's that?) for retirement. It seemed a shame at the time to lose a fraction of my paltry paychecks, but I figured my dad knew what he was talking about. Retirement doesn't seem so far off now, and when I check my balance, I thank my lucky stars that my dad insisted and I listened. I buy



Leslie Davis and Pamela Wells

brands of cars that my dad approved and don't buy brands that he didn't.

Sometimes, I rebelled. I dyed my hair, painted my toenails and pierced my ears, all practices which he considered 'barbaric' and a use of 'chemicals which will ruin your body' and which were forbidden until I reached the legal age of adulthood. Agree to disagree, Dad. I was never good at the things my dad excelled at -- math and science -- though he tried to teach me. But I did learn to love what he loved: opera, Torah reading and photography, and it has enriched my life a thousandfold."

Pamela Wells

"Bert Erlebacher was, thankfully, sponsored by the owner of an haute couture (à la Lord & Taylor) department store in Washington, D.C. named Erlebachers. The owner simply signed a form for his passage to the United States. His establishment in New York City and the help he received, including a place to stay, was from a Jewish agency, HIAS. As a result, Bert was a lifelong supporter of the Jewish Federation.

Bert was a very hard-working man, raised in a tiny town in Germany. He barely missed capture by hiding in an attic in Frankfurt. The people in the place he was staying lied to the Gestapo about his being there. He escaped to England and, as a well-trained machinist, tool and die maker, worked for Singer Sewing Machine Company before his fortuitous entry to the U.S. with his brother Fritz. Their parents, Sophie and Julius, were not so fortunate and died in a mass execution in a Polish concentration camp.

Bert's genes and his work ethic live on as his sons continue to work full-time past the usual retirement age. He instilled by example hard work, love of hard work, and 24/7 availability to his customers. He and his wife Laura never made any scholastic demands on their two sons, who learned from this experience and fathered hard-working sons



Bert Erlebacher

using this "free-range parenting" philosophy.

It is 25 years since Bert passed in a tragic car accident, returning from seeing a customer. His memory lives on. His jokes, his ethics and his honesty get passed from generation to generation. He died just six days before his 82nd birthday, still schlepping slicing machines. Two were in the car with him."

Mark Erlebacher

The Journey to Joining the Jewish People



Throughout Jewish history there have been men and women who joined the Jewish people through conversion. Converting to Judaism is not easy. It involves at least one to three years of study and many lifestyle changes. The process is governed by Jewish religious law and overseen by a rabbi and a religious court, which must be convinced that the convert is sincere, is converting for the right reasons, is converting of their own free will, has a thorough knowledge of Jewish faith and practices and will live an observant Jewish life.

The American Jewish Committee released a study several years ago that found that Jewish men are much more likely to marry non-Jewish women than the reverse and that women are more likely to convert than men. In our local community, however, the Jewish Observer found three fathers, two who converted to Judaism and one who is in the process of doing so. We asked them to share the stories of their Jewish journeys with our readers.

A Late-In-Life Conversion Story

by Jeffrey Stanton

I married my Jewish spouse, Judy, in 1987. Prior to meeting her, I didn't give much thought to religion. As a kid, I barely tolerated the religious experiences of childhood. My mother was Episcopalian. She dragged me to various unpleasant Sunday school experiences until, at 10, I refused to go anymore. Judy and I married with an understanding that we would raise children Jewishly, but also without the expectation that I would convert.

Over the years, Judy and I lived in four states and experienced synagogues in each place. I gradually learned cultural aspects of Judaism and some home rituals, as well as the many different ways that contemporary U.S. Jews live their lives. When our son Abe was born, we lived in a small Midwestern town with churches on every block. The nearest shul was miles away. We realized that to raise him Jewish, we would need to live in a place with a vibrant Jewish community.

When we arrived in Syracuse, Abe was an active kid who needed a stimulating learning and social environment. The JCC's Early Childhood Development program was perfect for him. Abe spent his elementary school years at SHDS and came with us to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas for services and holidays. He was one of many *b'nai mitzvah* students ably tutored by Marty

Miller and became a *bar mitzvah* almost ten years ago with Rabbi Pepperstone officiating.

Watching Abe's progress towards that important lifecycle event, I realized that my own cultural identity had gradually become more Jewish, but lacked for that very important step – conversion. I started taking Rabbi Pepperstone's class, and when I told him that I hoped to complete, the process he gave me the biggest hug and, of course, shed a couple of tears.

What I didn't fully appreciate as I finished my conversion was that being Jewish offers so many beautiful opportunities for lifelong learning. Last summer, after studying with Lisa Levens for several months, I led Friday night services on my own and was elated at how much I had learned. And yet there's always more to know – one of the enduring qualities of Judaism. I love CBS-CS as a place that nurtures those growth opportunities.

Jeffrey Stanton is Professor of Information Studies and Co-Director of the Center for Computational and Data Science at Syracuse University. He is the current president of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas.

My Jewish Journey

by Stephen Bittner

Karen and I were married in 1987. We discussed our desire to have children, and it was important to me that they grow up in a religious household. I had been raised Roman Catholic and had become disillusioned with the church. Karen is Jewish, so we agreed that we would raise our children in the Jewish religion.

We were married in Kennebunkport, Maine by a Reform rabbi. He met with us several times before agreeing to perform our ceremony, and one of his conditions was that we be affiliated with a Jewish organization. After visiting several synagogues in the Syracuse area, we ultimately joined Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas. During our first 10 years of membership, we were infrequent attendees at synagogue.

I began attending Shabbat services with our son Zachary regularly around 1999, since it was a requirement as part of his *bar mitzvah* preparation. After his *bar mitzvah*, I continued to attend Saturday services at first alone, but Karen began joining me regularly. It was during this time I decided I wanted to become a bona fide member of the community, and I hoped to complete my conversion before our daughter Alyson became *bat mitzvah*.

I met weekly with Rabbi Jezer, who was an excellent guide through a process of learning how much I didn't know about Judaism. I read several books, some assigned and some unassigned. Some weeks we would discuss the readings, and some weeks we would discuss other aspects of Judaism. For me, the culminating activity was reading from the Torah at my daughter's *bat mitzvah* to the surprise of Karen's parents.

I have always felt supported by the members of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas along my journey into Judaism. Many members of the congregation have become part of our extended family. I wish we had participated in more synagogue activities when our children were younger. There is a richness to sharing in the joyous events of other members of our community and comforting members during difficult times.

Stephen Bittner is a retired teacher of secondary mathematics and a former president of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas.

My Conversion to Judaism

by Nu Kvar Gever Yalla

I was an observant Roman Catholic growing up and for a number of years into my marriage. My wife and I respected each other's religions. Converting was neither discussed nor considered. I've found that when something is right for my life, it usually doesn't come with conscious thought, it just is. It was that way when I proposed to my wife, it was that way in raising our children Jewish, and it just developed with respect to my converting to Judaism.

My decision to convert began with renouncing my Catholic faith, then learning about the Jewish religion, attending shul and observing Shabbat. Next was raising our children in a Jewish home and building for them a solid Jewish identity through the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. The other steps were hosting the Israeli Scouts, becoming part of our Israeli "family," visits to Israel and standing at the Kotel and visiting Yad Vashem and the Holocaust memorial with our survivor friends.

The birth of our first child started my journey towards Judaism. We joined a synagogue, but I continued to attend church. I went to shul for the high holidays and *Kabbalat Shabbat* services. I enjoyed following the transliteration and the sound of Hebrew prayer. I took pleasure in learning the religion of my wife and child.

I became more concerned about the Church's doctrines regarding women's rights and sexual orientation. I had not understood that my interfaith marriage (or marriage "with disparity of cult" as the Church sees it) required an "express dispensation." At this point I realized I could no longer follow the Catholic faith and found other Christian faiths even less tolerant of other religions. I found myself in a state of spiritual limbo.

In my conversion class, I learned that Christianity is a universal faith, intended in principle for every human, which envisions that, at the end of history, humanity must embrace its way. Judaism, in contrast, is a faith intended for a specific people, without any expectation that humanity must embrace its way. This distinction between Judaism and Christianity moved me greatly, and Judaism's allowing for the validity of other faiths more fully resonated with my own beliefs.

A life-changing event occurred when I was given the honor of an *aliyah* at my nephew's *bar mitzvah*. I held the Torah! My heart was pounding, tears of joy filled my eyes and my cheeks hurt from smiling so widely. Now every time the Torah is raised, I think of

having the privilege to experience that again as a Jew.

I've come to think Jewishly on a daily basis, reading about Israel, enjoying synagogue services, observing Shabbat and reading *Daf Yomi*. One day, during our daughter's *bat mitzvah* studies, I had a conversation with our rabbi about what I was allowed to do at shul. I couldn't have an *aliya* but could say the *Prayer for Our Country*. I didn't take this negatively but with the knowledge that the day would come when I would be able to participate ritually. I knew that converting to Judaism wasn't whether, but when.

I believe conversion to Judaism includes having a connection to the Jewish people and with Israel. Jewish peoplehood and faith are inseparable. My wife and I were honored to tour the Holocaust Memorial in Washington with friends who were survivors. Hearing about their experiences became a lasting connection to the pain of that era. My connection to Israel began when our family became a host family for the Israeli Scouts. Through the Scouts, we "adopted" Israeli sons and daughters. Meeting them in Israel, we were adopted into their families as well.

Judaism as a religion and the Jewish way of life together provide me with a spiritual fulfillment that has led me to my conversion to Judaism. *Baruch HaShem!*

Nu Kvar Gev'er Yalla is a popular Hebrew expression meaning "Come on already, man; let's go!"

Jewish News from Around the World

Grandson follows survivor into the IDF. Chaim Luviner escaped the Nazis and eventually arrived in Israel, where he served in the Israel Defense Forces' Armored 7th Corps. Today, his 22-year-old grandson, Lt. Ran Shaked, serves as a team commander in the elite reconnaissance unit of the IDF's 401st Armored Brigade. <https://www.jns.org/from-the-holocaust-to-the-idf-a-grandfather-and-grandson-share-a-story-of-survival-and-continuity/>

Communicate with your grandchildren. Israel's Zoog allows anyone to create content that their young grandkids would enjoy. Users record themselves reciting a story directly in the app and then send it to the mobile device of anyone in their phonebook. It is then delivered via an SMS or message link. <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctech/articles/0,7340,L-3905111,00.html>

"We will never forget Israel's help." As Japan marks the 10th anniversary of its devastating tsunami, Israel's medical teams are praised as heroes for coming to the rescue. The IDF was the first foreign relief delegation to arrive – the only country that could bring its own equipment on such short notice. <https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/03/30/we-will-never-forget-israels-help/>

Smart mobility for top vehicles. The Italian unit of automaker Stellantis has signed an agreement with Israel's Innovation Authority to develop identify and develop smart-mobility systems. Stellantis's vehicles include Maserati, Alpha Romeo, Dodge, Jeep, Lancia, Fiat, Chrysler, Opel, Vauxhall, Peugeot and Citroen. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/stellantis-maker-of-dodge-and-maserati-scouting-israeli-startups-for-tech-edge/>

Welcoming more flights from the Gulf. The first flight from Abu Dhabi to Israel brought the UAE ambassador and the CEO of Etihad Airways, who said he has never received a warmer welcome anywhere in the world. Gulf Air is starting direct flights from Bahrain to Israel. <https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/04/06/israel-welcomes-inaugural-abu-dhabi-tel-aviv-flight-in-official-ceremony/>

The oldest pottery inscription. Archaeologists have discovered a 3,500-year-old inscription on a pottery shard at the ancient town of Tel Lachish, about 25 miles from Jerusalem. It has been described as the "missing link" of early writing in the Southern Levant, to which most, if not all, alphabetic scripts can be traced back. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/missing-link-in-alphabets-history-said-uneearthed-in-israel-on-canaanite-sherd/>

Museum of the Jewish People upgraded. Tel Aviv's Museum of the Jewish People (formerly Diaspora Museum) has just completed a \$100 million makeover. Artifacts range from a 15th century Book of Esther to Leonard Cohen's guitar, making the rebranded ANU ("We") the world's most comprehensive Jewish museum. <https://www.israel21c.org/tel-aviv-museum-of-the-jewish-people-gets-100m-makeover/>

Judoka medals at Euro Championships. At the European Judoka Championships in Portugal, Israel's Tohar Butbul won the silver

medal in the men's under-73kg event, while Israel's world champion Sagi Muki won bronze in the under-81kg. Israel's Gefen Primo won bronze in the women's under-52kg. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-judokas-land-1-silver-medal-2-bronze-at-european-championships/>

HBO buys "On the Spectrum." HBO has bought the adaptation and syndication rights to the Israeli TV show "On the Spectrum" featuring the lives of adults on the autistic spectrum. Amazon Studios has also purchased the series, to remake an English language version. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/culture/israeli-tv-show-dealing-with-on-the-spectrum-adults-sold-to-hbo-max-663970>

How to control aging. Ben Gurion University scientist Dr. Debra Toiber and her team have identified several genes involved in the aging process. Whereas SIRT6 helps repair DNA to promote healthy aging, other genes cause damage. Longevity can be extended and damage reversed with targeted gene therapy and interventions. https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/pages/news/genes_aging.aspx

The hunger switch. Researchers at Israel's Weizmann Institute and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, with UK colleagues, have found that melanocortin 4 (MC4) receptor is the master switch for hunger in the brain. It is normally "on" ("I feel full") until energy levels drop. Its discovery can help develop anti-obesity medications. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/304339>



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Community Strength and Resilience

In this second year of COVID, the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center has made the difficult decision not to hold its in-person Gala/Annual Meeting.

Marci Erlebacher, JCC executive director said, “Our annual event is not only historical in nature, since we conduct our annual meeting and would have celebrated our 159th year, but also poignant as we honor community leaders who have dedicated themselves to service for their Jewish community. The hard reality is that this event is the largest fundraiser the Jewish Community Center holds. The proceeds from this event support the many scholarships that we give out to children and their families for early childhood care, school-age programming, summer camps and senior adults. To do without the dollars generated by this event is difficult and may have serious consequences.”

JCC President Steve Sisskind noted, “We have come to this decision based on our obligation and commitment to keep our community safe. We miss the camaraderie and support we receive with these events every year. We have vigorously debated the pros and cons of holding some type of event: virtual meeting or a non-event event, ad book or just a much smaller event? The

most important issue is we do not feel comfortable asking businesses who may have been struggling through a difficult year for money.”

“Our community has been very generous to us this past year whether continuing to pay tuition while we were closed, buying Super Bowl squares, or contributing to our end-of-year campaign,” added Erlebacher. “How do we come to you and ask you for still more? We know you are supporting us because of the excellence of our programs and how desperately they were missed for the two months that we were closed last year. We know that this support came from an understanding of our importance to your community! We are the central address, the town square so to speak.”

The two JCC leaders noted, “This past year has been a lesson about strength and resilience of community. The lesson learned this year was the lesson of strength we gather when we stand together shoulder to shoulder and support each other. We must never forget that we are the beneficiaries of those leaders who came before us and that it is our responsibility to be the trustees for those who will stand in our place.”

JCC Summer Camp Registration Happening Now

Who's looking forward to summer?! This year's JCC Camp Joe & Lynne Romano summer day camp for preschoolers and school-age children runs June 28 - August 20. Just like last summer, a variety of health and safety protocols will be in place to help keep everyone safe. Register today!

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JCC Made Virtual Learning Easier



Since March of 2020, when the pandemic first hit, families have been forced to figure out how to work and learn, all from home. When virtual learning began, no one could imagine the toll this would take on the children and their education and emotional health. Often, working parents struggled to continue their children's learning while also working to provide for the family.

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center saw how difficult this was for working families and knew it needed to provide some type of programming. They were one of the only summer camps to operate with all the COVID restrictions for the Summer of 2020. The new safety measures and protocols were intense, but with dedicated staff they were successfully able to operate a seven-week camp program for children. Both the children and the parents needed this program, not only for the children's wellbeing and mental health, but so the parents could continue to work.

In August 2020, New York State announced new mandates for schools, and the dreaded hybrid learning idea came to fruition. Parents were at a loss of what to do. Both their children's education and the ability to continue to work and provide for their families was at stake. Many jobs require parents to leave the house or, if working remotely, do not allow time for much assistance with the demands of virtual learning.

The JCC's mission is to provide quality programs to fit the needs of their families, and they realized those needs were dramatically changing. The children's programming team came together and was able to start a new program called Club J All Day. This program allowed children from the Jamesville-DeWitt School District to attend virtually on days when not physically in school. Trained staff were onsite and worked with the children to adapt to virtual learning and support them through this new school structure. It seemed like a win-win for many families. Not only would their children be supported while learning virtually, they would also get some social interactions with other children going through the same thing.

To say Club J All Day was difficult is an understatement. Children are not meant to sit in front of a screen all day to learn. They crave the face-to-face engagement and interaction that expands on their learning. JCC staff were amazed at the children's resiliency as they continued to adapt and staff worked to motivate them.

When the JCC heard the news that the school district was beginning to bring back its students in-person full time, it was bittersweet. The JCC staff knew getting back to school was best for the children's learning, but they had created their own “school” and worked together through the hard times. JCC staffers would miss helping the children each day but were excited to still get to be a part of their day during the JCC's After School Program.

Isabella Balash, a third grader at Moses DeWitt, said it best when on her last Club J day she stated, “School will be good, but I will miss coming to Club J.” Children returning to school in-person full time is a step in the right direction for getting back to our new normal. The JCC will continue to change and adapt to meet the needs of its families and the community at large.

Congrats to the 2021 Grads

Yasher Koach to the Syracuse Community Hebrew School Graduates

Sydney Bergquist, Isaac Choseed, Lillian Engel, Sadye Gitner, Aaron Graham, Eric Kozlowski, Noah Mowers, Shayna Nellis, Myah Pettiford, Owen Reckess, Talia Salomon and Emma Waldman are completing their studies at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School this year.

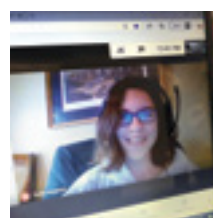
In offering congratulations to the students, Education Director Ora Jezer said, "I am very proud of this seventh grade class. They were a great class who worked well with the *chevrutah* style of learning through analyzing, discussion and debating shared text. Their focus has been developing their own understanding of the themes of *T'filah* and relating them to their everyday life. Deeper bonds were made with clergy as they joined in monthly class discussions, presenting different takes on *tefillot*. These discussions were a great match for this passionate and generally vocal group of students."

Jezer noted that "we had students come from Brewerton all the way to the outskirts of Tully, with an attendance close to 90 percent. The students also attended a weekly individual Hebrew tutoring session where they became more fluent in their reading skills. They came in third grade knowing very few letters and are now graduating leading parts of *T'filot*. It has been such a heartwarming feeling to watch my seventh graders grow in confidence, maturity and personality. They are talented and successful both in school and out."



Syracuse Hebrew Day School Class of 2021

Judah Eglash, Rose Scheer, Jacob Fellman, Julia Zames, Isabella Weinberg, Makayla Seidman, Benzion Ashkenazi, Barack Mostafa and Thalia Benjamin, who learned remotely, are the Day School's pandemic graduating class. SHDS Head of School Laura Lavine said, "The members of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School Class of 2021 are to be congratulated for their unique talents as individuals but, more important, for their magnificent ability to collectively help to guide SHDS back into full-time, in-person learning. Their support of each other and their leadership throughout the school have been extraordinary and will always be remembered."

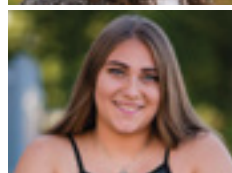
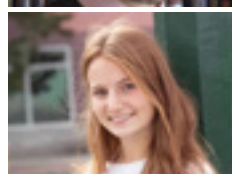
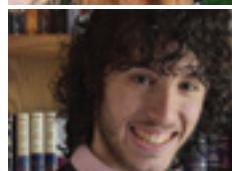


Epstein School Graduates Nine

At the Epstein School's annual Siyyum (completion), the school community celebrated the nine graduates of the class of 5781/2021. The graduating seniors are Elise Beckman, Kyla Cooper, Ryan Hinshaw, Edwin Hirsh, Alana Jacowitz, Peri Lowenstein, Rachel and Sophie Scheer, and Lexi Snell. Many graduates also attended the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, and, in the words of Ryan Hinshaw, one of the highlights of the Epstein experience was "the opportunity to keep up with my classmates from the Day School."

Most graduates cited the Epstein School's 2019 Teen Taste of Israel trip as the best part of Epstein. For Elise Beckman, the Israel trip was one of the highlights of her sophomore year: "It was an amazing experience for everyone, from Shabbat in Jerusalem, visiting the Dead Sea and riding camels, to staying in a Bedouin tent in Arad." Lexi Snell agreed, noting that her favorite Epstein memory was being able to ride a camel in Israel. The connections students forged in Israel continued once they returned home. As Alana Jacowitz reflected, "My favorite memories of Epstein are the classes following our trip to Israel. Everyone was still very close and our inside jokes lived on from the trip." For Rachel Scheer, the Israel trip allowed her to make "new connections" and to visit "sites that connected me more deeply to my Judaism."

Memories from the trip to Israel are not the only aspects of the Epstein School that stood out for graduates. For some, like Alana Jacowitz, it was elective courses: "I remember looking forward to the Jewish cooking elective every Tuesday." Rachel Scheer emphasized that, "Epstein introduced me to new friends, amazing experiences, and thoughtful conversations over the past six years." A number of students remarked on their growth as Jewish scholars at the Epstein School. For Ryan Hinshaw, "Epstein has allowed me to grow as a scholar and a Jew. May Epstein continue to educate and inspire its students, instilling a love of Israel and Judaism in every student who walks through its halls for another successful 50 years."



Epstein Student Among Winners of International Jewish Photography Competition

by Aaron Spitzer

Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies ninth-grade student Jonah Jaffe's photograph, "Flame," was one of the winning images for "The Jewish Lens 2021 International Competition" in Tel Aviv, Israel. His photo was displayed at the competition's remote gallery opening in April and will be exhibited for the thousands of people visiting the brand new ANU — Museum of the Jewish People, the world's largest Jewish museum, this year. Additionally, "Flame" will be featured at the websites of The Jewish Lens and ANU with the other winning images.

Each year, ANU (formerly Beit Hatfutsot) sponsors an international competition that invites Jewish teens worldwide to submit photographs in culmination of Jewish Lens coursework. Hundreds of teens from twenty different countries submitted photographs that captured "My Jewish Moment of 2020." The selection committee in Israel, directed by renowned photographer, Zion Ozeri, chose outstanding images for exhibition based on four criteria: Jewish Peoplehood, Aesthetics, Creativity and Photographer's Note (a brief narrative of no more than 50 words that reveals "the inner world of the photographer" and is given strong consideration in the judging process).



"Flame" is a striking image: brightly-lit Chanukah candles against a dark background, with wisps of smoke and softly reflected candlelight. Jaffe's photographer's note is powerful

and hopeful: "The Jewish people have survived for thousands of years even when many people have tried to extinguish the flame that is the Jewish people. This picture represents that the Jewish people's flame cannot be extinguished. The Jewish people's flame will continue to burn."

Students at The Epstein School submitted a total of 11 images in January 2021, shot as part of "The Jewish Lens" elective course taught at the school during the fall semester. The course's popularity necessitated its division into two sections: Ora Jezer taught 7th and 8th grade students, while Leah Eve Jezer-Nelson taught students in grades 9-12. Students in both sections explored the art of photography, Jewish values and community through The Jewish Lens coursework, developed by Zion Ozeri and the Center for Educational Technology in Israel. All photographs submitted to the competition were exhibited virtually as part of the school's remote Justice Fair in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January and as part of its Siyyum on May 25th, and are featured on the Epstein School's website.

This is the second consecutive year that a photograph submitted by students of The Epstein School has received special recognition. Samuel Allen's photograph, "Menorah from Heaven," received special mention last year as part of the 2020 competition.

Jewish Chaplains in Our Midst

Chaplains are spiritual care providers who work in a variety of settings: healthcare, the military, prisons, higher education, workplaces and a range of other spaces. There is no single definition of a chaplain and no single path for entering the work. The work that chaplains do varies significantly by the setting in which they work, but in general it may be said that chaplains provide compassionate presence to vulnerable people in need of spiritual care. The three local chaplains interviewed below, all rabbis, give us a glimpse into the diverse and challenging nature of chaplaincy.

University Chaplain Rabbi Barry Baron

Rabbi Barry Baron served as a U.S. Army chaplain for 30 years. In a major career pivot, this year he was appointed university chaplain at Colgate University in nearby Hamilton. Rabbi Baron began his career at Colgate in 2019, when he was named associate university chaplain and campus rabbi. Prior to arriving at Colgate, Baron had retired as an Army colonel and command chaplain for the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC. He had served as an external reviewer to the U.S. Air Force Academy, assessing the effectiveness of the religious pluralism awareness program, as the deputy director of the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council and as a rabbi for congregations in Texas, Ohio and Vestal, NY, his current home.

Rabbi Baron was history major at Cornell and has a master's degree in religious studies and a doctorate of divinity (honorary) from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. His position at Colgate was, in some way, preordained by his own undergraduate days. He says, "I came to college with my own previous life experience. When I got there, I found out that my experience of Jewish life wasn't the only one, and then I had the task of redefining my identity in the context of this new space I was in. My parents were no longer defining what I was doing, so I had to really start thinking about what form my adult religious identity would take."

Rabbi Baron's career change is accompanied by his awareness of the extent to which the role of rabbis has changed in the 21st century. "Traditionally, the role of rabbi has been to teach people how to apply Judaism to life. I still think of my responsibility in those terms, although life has changed over time and will continue to change. As that happens, you have to apply Jewish teachings differently than may have been the case previously."

He is very happy with his role at



Rabbi Barry Baron

Colgate, noting that, "If you think about what a liberal arts education is supposed to be about, it's answering questions about who we are, what we're about, how we got here and where we are going in life. Religion speaks to all of those questions. A person who is involved in religious life has the opportunity to approach these questions in a deeper and somewhat more holistic way than solely through the courses that one takes. No 32 courses can represent the totality of human life, so religion is another framework to approximate our understanding of the human experience." Furthermore, he feels very fortunate "to be able to help young adults choose life directions when they have more years to exercise those choices and those values."

"Your Jewish identity is yours to choose if you want it," he says, and he hopes that his work at Colgate, including weekly Shabbat evening services and dinners, monthly morning Shabbat services and luncheons, and planned interfaith trips to Europe and Israel will encourage Colgate's 325 Jewish students to make that choice.

Hospital Chaplain Rabbi Irvin Beigel

"I am a career shifter," says Rabbi Irvin Beigel. "For many years, I served as a rabbi

within a congregational setting. I always found satisfaction in the role of counselor. While I served in my last pulpit, I was asked to serve as the Jewish chaplain at the Justice Center. Subsequently, I enrolled in Clinical Pastoral Education and completed four units of study. I later took on other chaplaincy responsibilities, including those I now have at Crouse Hospital, Upstate University Hospital, Hutchings Psychiatric Center and Loretto."

Rabbi Beigel says that the role of the chaplain is often misunderstood. "As a rabbi, I want to teach Judaism. I want to bring Jews closer to tradition. As a professionally-trained chaplain, my goal is not to make anyone 'more religious.' Neither does my presence in a hospital room mean that the patient is near death, although that sometimes may be the case." Instead, he explains, "patients are in an unfamiliar world, separated from their familiar routines, from community, and often from family. As a chaplain, my goal is to support patients in identifying what gives meaning to their lives and in identifying what gives them strength in difficult times." He also provides support to families of patients.

"I offer Jewish patients the opportunity to connect with Jewish community and tradition and with God," he explains. "Sometimes, I do that by my presence, sometimes by facilitating Jewish observance, and sometimes by asking for permission to let their rabbi know that they are in the hospital. When a patient has no connection to a rabbi, I may be called upon to answer questions about the Jewish approach to difficult decisions about medical care." He recalls that "one of the most fascinating conversations I have had was with a Jewish patient who greeted me by declaring that he is an atheist and I could do nothing for him."

The most challenging aspect of his chaplaincy is assessing the spiritual needs and utilizing "the appropriate interventions that will help them find hope and peace,"

whether the patient is Jewish or not. "I often enter into people's lives at a very stressful time," he notes. "Even a routine medical procedure can make us very anxious. The most rewarding part of my job is to know that what I do makes a difference. Whether I am supporting a patient at end of life in finding purpose and meaning in their remaining days, or helping a psychiatric patient integrate into the community, or wishing mazal tov to parents of a newborn baby, I am doing what other hospital staff often have no time to do."

Menorah Park Chaplain Rabbi Evan Shore

The desire to make a difference in a person's day or life is what led Rabbi Evan Shore to serve as the chaplain of Menorah Park. Rabbi Shore is the rabbi of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse and also teaches at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies. The role of the nursing home chaplain has many layers, he says. "First and foremost, I am there for the resident. Many times, this involves a conversation about the day's events or current events. Of course, for many, a short prayer asking God for health is recited. My position enables me to develop close relations with the extended family as well. Thirdly, the staff. The Menorah Park staff is second to none. I have become friends with many."

The most difficult part of his chaplaincy is knowing when to recite the end-of-life prayers known as *Vidui*. "Usually the resident is very receptive," he says. "However, many times the family is less so as they are avoiding the reality of the situation." Even this sensitive part of his work is not devoid of humor, however. Once Rabbi was informed by the nursing staff about a woman who had only a day or two to live. "I asked the resident if she wanted to recite the end-of-life prayer. She opened her eyes, looked at me and told me 'NO WAY!' She ended up recovering and living for two more years."

"Being there for others, whether the resident or the family," is the Rabbi's mission as chaplain. "In many cases I keep in touch with the family after the resident is discharged from Menorah Park or passes away." He finds one dimension of pastoral care as a chaplain particularly meaningful: knowing that "I have provided spiritual closure, especially with end-of-life cases."

Farewell

by Rabbi Daniel Fellman

The first time I visited Syracuse was in April of 1990. I was a high school student, visiting my brother at Colgate University for a weekend. I flew in and out of Hancock Airport, attended an Eric Clapton concert at the Dome and had no idea that this community would someday be home.

Many years later, Melissa and I, along with infant Zachary, drove through Syracuse on our way from our home in New Jersey to a family event in Toronto. As we drove up 81 and then west on 690, we mused about whether we could see ourselves living here. And we both agreed that we could not even imagine it.

And then a wonderful surprise — we moved to Syracuse and found a loving congregation in Temple Concord and a community that soon became our home. Over the last 12 years, Melissa, Zach, Jacob, Lizzie and I have been embraced, encouraged and enveloped with love. We found joyful connections, not just at Temple Concord but at the JCC's ECDP, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and so much more.

Whether we were working together to create the new Syracuse Community Hebrew School, reviving the Syracuse Rabbinical Council, serving the Federation, connecting with InterFaith Works or any other activity in our Jewish community, my family and I have been blessed beyond measure.

Our Syracuse Jewish community has so much good to savor. We have strengthened our bonds with each other, embracing differences instead of allowing them to separate us. We have come together to celebrate and learn, to grieve and mourn,

to dream and build. Yes, the community has changed from what it was in the 20th century. But so much good is possible in the 21st century that we are limited only by our own imagination.

Temple Concord, now beginning its 183rd year, stands as a congregation honoring history while harboring great hope for the future. History has thrown many challenges at the congregation, and every generation has answered the call. Today, with the prospects of a new building and a newly emerging identity, a bright future awaits. I am convinced that today's leaders will chart the best possible course for the congregation and the community.

My decision to accept the offer to become the rabbi of Temple Concord was one of the best decisions in my life. The Temple family allowed me to learn and grow, to experiment and try new ideas, to succeed and even to fail a time or two. Together we have explored Jewish traditions and texts, we have traveled the world and we have worked to make our own community stronger and more loving.

When Temple Sinai of Pittsburgh called and offered me the position of Senior Rabbi, Melissa and I faced a difficult decision. Syracuse has been home. But Pittsburgh provided so much for our family—a bustling congregation of 750 families, a Jewish community of 50,000, opportunities for our children we could not pass up. So even as it is hard to bid farewell to our Syracuse family, we are excited about what is possible for us in Pittsburgh.

Melissa, Zach, Jacob, and Lizzie join me in thanking you for allowing us to be a part of this gem of a community. We have received far more than we have given, and we are all eternally grateful. We look forward to continuing our friendships and to forever feeling the warmth of the Syracuse Jewish community whenever we wear orange!

Meeting You Where You Are ... Even In A State Park

by Joanne Villegas

Rabbi David Kunin made his debut at Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevre Shas in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Nothing about his arrival was typical, including where he was traveling from. He and his wife Shelley had been living in Tokyo, where he was the rabbi of the Jewish Community Center of Japan, an affiliated synagogue of the *Masorti Olami* movement. So what do you when you move to a new place and you can't be inside with your congregation? You go outside!

Rabbi Kunin used his love of hiking and nature as a way to connect immediately to the

members of CBS-CS he could only see on Zoom. As he put it, "Our Torah teaches that the world is full of wonder, as it expresses God's creative power. When we go out into nature on a hike or walk, we can feel God's presence and exclaim with wonder, 'God is in this place, and I did not know it.' Our psalms and prayers are filled with this sense of awe, and the Hasidic master, Rabbi Nachman of Breslow, suggested that the most effective prayers are done in the midst of the natural world. Outside, we can allow ourselves to enter a meditative state as we move away from all the commotion and stimuli of our everyday lives. In this way, we can actualize Heschel's suggestion, that 'Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement ... get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.'"

Rabbi Kunin hosted monthly hikes through the summer and fall of 2020 and will continue meeting anyone from the congregation or community once a month through the summer and fall of 2021.

"It is just this goal that motivated our CBS-CS hikes, whether at Fillmore Glen



or Green Lakes. Together, as a community, we were able to appreciate nature's beauty and awe and find God in unexpected places. The hikes also allowed us to connect during the COVID hiatus. After long isolation, we gathered as a social-distanced group, feeling the peace of the outdoors and a sense of continuity and hope for the future," Rabbi Kunin added.

To join Rabbi Kunin on one of the monthly hikes, go to the monthly calendar on the CBS-CS website at www.cbcs.org, contact the CBS-CS office at 315-446-9570 or by email at admin@cbcs.org.

Menorah Park Open Golf Tournament

by Molly Lane

The Menorah Park Open, the oldest golf fundraiser in Syracuse, tees off for the 38th time on Wednesday, August 11 at Drumlins Country Club. A full day of golf, lunch and dinner and a raffle and silent auction with a variety of items will highlight the day. Mary Ellen Bloodgood, Menorah Park CEO, gave examples of how funds raised support the programs and facilities that comprise the Menorah Park continuum of care campus:

- \$1,000 provides a year's worth of Sunday resident entertainment.**
- \$750 brings Beit Tikvah residents to 10 local special events.**
- \$500 keeps the Menorah Park van running for 20 community activities.**
- \$250 covers the cost of weekly outdoor picnics at Adult Day Care.**
- \$100 serves Kosher Meals on Wheels to one person per month.**
- \$50 provides the cost of "Happy Hour" for our residents each day.**

"I guarantee golfers, sponsors and all who participate in the Menorah Park Open are helping people and families we know and could someday very well help us too," Bloodgood said.

The Menorah Park Open starts with lunch at 11:30 am, followed by Captain & Crew golf at 12:30 pm. A cocktail reception will be followed by an awards dinner. A silent auction will feature local gifts and everyone will have a chance to win a raffle prize.

Foursomes and individual golfers are welcome, sponsorships are available, donations of goods for door prizes and the auction are encouraged and all are welcome to attend the dinner. **For golf registration, donations and dinner reservations visit the Menorah Park website, www.MenorahParkofCNY.com or contact Susie Drazen, Menorah Park Director of Development at sdrazen@menorahparkofcny.com or 315-446-9111 x141. Drumlins and Menorah Park will closely follow NYS COVID-19 guidelines so attendees can be assured of safe conditions.**

» Book Review

Jews and Sports

There are a lot of books about Jews and sports. In 1998, Syracuse University Press published *Sports and the American Jew* which attempted to “debunk the conventional stereotype that Jews and sports are somehow anathema” and clearly demonstrates “that sports have long been a significant institution in Jewish American life.” Five years later, *The 100 Greatest Jews in Sports: Ranked According to Achievement* was published and the floodgates were opened. *Great Jews in Sports* and *Judaism’s Encounter with American Sports* (2005) were followed by *Day by Day in Jewish Sports History* and *Jews, Sports, and the Rites of Citizenship* (2007) and *Jewish Jocks: An Unorthodox Hall of Fame* (2012). Specialized studies were written: *Out of Left Field: Jews and Black Baseball* and *When Boxing Was a Jewish Sport* in 2011, *American Jews and America’s Game: Voices of a Growing Legacy in Baseball* in 2013 and *When Basketball Was Jewish: Voices of Those Who Played the Game* in 2017. The most recent book examining the topic of Jews and athletics came out last year. Its title asks the question at the heart of all of the books cited above: *Are Jews Really No Good At Sport?* We asked attorney Jeff Drimer, a big sports fan, to review the book for the JO.

Are Jews Really No Good at Sport?

by Michael Meyerson

A Review By Jeffrey Lee Drimer, Esq.

If you could write a title to a book that could offend me more, I’d be surprised. I’ve spent my life rejecting stereotypes. This book, written and published in late 2020, means that this “lie” still has the credibility to warrant a cogent analytical response in opposition. I credit Mr. Meyerson for having undertaken the effort. I thought this fairy tale died along with “women don’t belong in the Army” and “Black football players can’t play quarterback.” I really thought we were done with this.

Apparently, Mr. Meyerson didn’t think so, so he came up with a plan to prove that it is not true. Meyerson has found an ingenious way of rating Jewish sporting achievements against a standard, by comparing Jewish athletes systematically with those of a country whose sporting excellence is beyond dispute – namely Australia. The book decisively disproves, according to the author, the prevalent misconception regarding Jewish prowess in athletics. I am not a mathematician, but I don’t need



Jeffrey Lee Drimer, Esq.

to be to opine that it is not numbers that prove athletic achievement, it is people, athletes past and present that put this lie to flight. That is to say, please read this book... just ignore the argument and the numbers. What this book does

provide is a comprehensive collection of anecdotal evidence of the history of Jewish excellence in sport. It is a history book that is nothing short of inspiring.

The author himself states that his statistics prove that Jews are good at sports but that it is easier “to deceive than undeceive.” With that I agree. It’s just the argument isn’t worth the effort. The history of Jewish athleticism is magnetic and worth exploring. It is worth the effort to read.

Meyerson’s book focuses on Jewish athletics prior to the Holocaust, during World War II and post WW II to the present. It turns out to be a history of courage and dedication to athletic excellence. It is a history of athletes that not only had to compete with their opponents but had to face unrelenting antisemitism. For this reason alone, this book is worth reading.

Let me give you one example of why you should familiarize yourself with the history of Jewish athletics. How many of you know who Marty Glickman was? To my generation he was part of our culture, living proof of how hard it was to be a Jewish athlete. Now ask yourself, how many of your children know why Marty Glickman is important? That is why this book should be read, so that every generation can remember and venerate Jewish athletic effort.

Believe it or not, in 1936, the greatest female high jumper in the world was a young German Jewish woman named Gretel Bergman. She was on the German Olympic team but was dropped because of antisemitism. She eventually came to the USA and was a champion athlete here. In 1995 Germany honored her by naming a Sports Stadium after her. What she said at that occasion is why this book is useful. “I was not going to participate,” she said, “but when I was told that they were naming the facility after me so that when young people ask, who was Gretel Bergman? They will be told my story and the story of those times. “I felt it was

important to remember, and so I agreed to return to the place I swore I’d never go again.” I agree with Gretel Bergman. It is important to remember.

This book literally has hundreds of stories like this. They are of necessity brief because the author has so much material to reference. Who knew that there was a generation of Jewish women that were shot putters? The book is 13 chapters of readable anecdotes that preserve the history of Jewish athletes and will hopefully inspire and motivate the next generation. Their stories are a gift to the future. Read the book so their courage will not be forgotten.

It should always be remembered that it was Jewish Olympians (a wrestler and a weight lifter) who barred the doors at the Munich Olympics from terrorists and fought hand to hand to protect their teammates. Do these stories live on in our cultural mind set? Mr. Meyerson’s book makes sure that they do.

Athletic involvement in the Jewish Community is not the exception in this day and age, it is the rule. If there is a Jewish community, there are soccer fields, health clubs, golf courses, volley ball courts, youth programs, school teams, dojos, pools and tracks wherever Jewish people live. They are filled with women and children all pursuing athletic achievement through their efforts to compete and succeed. It is in that observation that one can dismiss the “Big Lie” -- not by a medal count (skewed by Mark Spitz whose gold medals give him more than most countries).

In conclusion, no one, Jewish or otherwise needs to compare Olympic records to appreciate Jewish athleticism. One need only to look around their own communities to see Jewish athletes trying, training, competing and winning in everything that they are motivated to accomplish. They are the ones answering the question, “Are Jews Really no Good at Sports?”

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Jewish Observer
of Central New York

Young Leadership Steps Up to Meet Community Needs

Federation's Young Leadership group enjoys doing nice things for others. Recently, they donated the funds to allow the Syracuse Hebrew Day School to purchase a class set of ukuleles for the 6th grade music class. Due to COVID, it is not possible to use recorders for class instruction, but ukuleles fit the bill because they are strummed, not



blown. An additional benefit is that the 6th graders could accompany their schoolmates at a socially-distanced school-wide in-person music performance, to the delight of their families. The 6th graders posed with their Young Leadership benefactors prior to the concert.

Marking a grave with stones was customary in Biblical

times before the adoption of gravestones. Over time, it became a Jewish tradition when visiting Jewish graves to place small stones on the headstone as an act of remembrance and respect for the deceased. Oftentimes, there are no stones available for those who wish to follow this tradition. Some of the members of Federation's Young Leadership group made this mitzvah more accessible by putting planters full of stones at several of our community's Jewish cemeteries.



Tzedakah for Kitties



Philadelphia and Sahara Van Treuren took a trip to the Pawsitivitea Cat Cafe to donate the contents of their tzedakah box. Owner Alisha Reynolds received the donation with appreciation and introduced the girls to all the cats. Their donation went toward the care for the Cat Cafe cats, 54 of whom have been adopted since Pawsitivitea opened in September 2020. Pawsitivitea's mission is to find fur-ever homes and to provide a cat adoration space for the whole community. The Cat Cafe and the Rosamund Gifford Zoo are in a tie for Philadelphia's favorite places to visit during the pandemic.

Reaching for Outer Space

Israel just sent *Beresheet* to the moon, the first Israeli spacecraft to travel beyond Earth's orbit. Regrettably, the spacecraft crashed on the lunar surface due to technical problems on its descent. Closer to home, Ian Beckman, is involved with AeroBing, a student-run research group at SUNY Binghamton that is planning to launch a rocket beyond the Karman Line, the international boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space.

Ian, a Day School and Epstein School alum, serves as the aerodynamics team lead. A double major in mechanical engineering and English, he completed internships at Astra and United Launch Alliance. At AeroBing, he designed and built the nose cone for the rocket, taking into account such factors as strength, heat resistance and radio transparency.

The rocket is named Ambition-III and the team was planning a launch this spring. Although it is being built in Binghamton, it will be launched in New Mexico or California to avoid having it land in the ocean. AeroBing has a budget of roughly \$100,000 and space in the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator in Binghamton. The students developed a



marketing plan, solicited sponsors and established social media channels for their project. They also had to apply to the Federal Aviation Administration for permission to launch, which involved predicting the rocket's trajectory and landing site.

The NASA/New York State Space Grant Consortium awarded AeroBing a grant to fabricate wind tunnel simulations, conduct burner rate testing and procure elevated computing power for large scale simulations. In addition to the rocket launch, Ian and his teammates hope to spread a love for aerospace education and bring some attention to upstate New York.

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JERRY GOODISMAN**May 2, 2021**

Jerry Goodisman, 82, of Syracuse, NY died peacefully in Francis House, Syracuse, May 2. Born on March 22, 1939, Jerry was the son of Abraham and Ida (Machover) Goodisman. He grew up in Brooklyn, NY, graduated from Stuyvesant High School and earned his undergraduate degree from Columbia University and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. Goodisman was a chemistry professor at Syracuse University for more than 40 years and also served as vice-chair of the department. He mentored upper-level and graduate students and made introductory courses accessible to undergraduate students from all disciplines. He authored textbooks and scientific articles that advanced the field of physical chemistry. He had become most excited about applying his theoretical approaches in scientific collaborations that advanced human health. Fluent in English, French and Yiddish, Jerry loved literature and all kinds of puzzles and riddles. An accomplished violinist, he was also an active athlete who played handball and tennis and an avid cyclist and cross-country skier. Jerry embraced the culture and climate of Central New York, and he was an enthusiastic supporter of Syracuse University sports. He enjoyed engaging in academic discussions surrounded by friends and family. He maintained bonds with school friends and colleagues throughout his life. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 58 years, Mireille (Eifermann), daughter Nathalie Cornelius, son Michael, son-in-law Eric Foster, daughter-in-law Janet Hatt, grandchildren Stefan Cornelius and Sofie Foster, step-grandchildren Sarah and Sean Foster, brother Leonard, and sister-in-law Nancy. Jerry's warmth, humor and generosity will be dearly missed. Due to COVID restrictions, funeral services were private for the immediate family. They were held at the Beth Sholom section of Oakwood Cemetery in Syracuse.

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DEBRA GOLDBERG DAVIDSON**April 29, 2021**

Debra Goldberg Davidson, 62, passed away peacefully April 29 in the comfort of her mom's home with her family by her side.

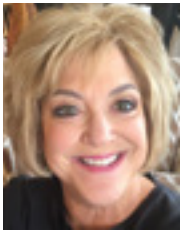
Born on April 4, 1959 in Syracuse to Arnold and Lois Hodis Goldberg, she grew up in Syracuse until moving to Atlanta about 12 years ago where she met her then future husband who became the love of her life. They were married in Atlanta and then settled in LaFollette, TN. She loved the south; especially the countryside, the lakes, and the Tennessee mountains.

Debbie was a graduate of Boston University. She was a successful and creative entrepreneur who was the founder of Bracellettas Jewelry. She was a loving daughter, wife, sister, aunt and friend to so many. She was the life of the party, and although she had no children of her own, she was the best aunt to not only her nieces and nephews, but an aunt to all her cousins' children as well as her friends' children. Debbie will be missed by so many. Her memory will make those that loved her laugh and smile. She possessed an infectious laugh and always shared a genuine concern for the welfare of others.

Her family includes her husband and best friend Chris Davidson, her sister Dr. Susan (David) Rifkin, her twin brother Michael (Jacki) Goldberg, her mother Lois Goldberg, her nephews Dr. Zachary (Alexa) Rifkin, Kaunor Davidson, Will Davidson, and Hayden Davidson; her nieces Dani (Adi) Vaknin, Natalie Goldberg, and Laurin Goldberg; her mother-in-law Rosemary Davidson; brothers-in-law John Davidson, Jamie Davidson, and Billy Davidson; and a large and loving extended family. Debbie loved her dog who she rescued while she was making barley soup, hence the name Barley.

Private services were for the immediate family. Burial was in Adath Yeshurun Cemetery next to her father Arnold of blessed memory. Contributions in lieu of flowers in her memory may be made to Make-a-Wish of CNY (www.cny.wish.org) or the Dana Farber Cancer Institute to benefit the Dr. Pasi Janne Research Fund, PO Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284.

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ROSE WALD
March 31, 2021

Rose Wald, 96, of DeWitt, died on March 31 at home in The Oaks at Menorah Park, where she lived for the past four years. Rose was born on March 27, 1925 on the Lower East Side in New York City to Samuel and Anna Kreiger, who had immigrated from Lithuania. She was the youngest of six siblings.

Rose grew up in the Bronx. She met her future husband, Nathan Wald, in 1942. She graduated from James Monroe High School in 1943 and they married in 1945. They later moved to Far Rockaway and then Forest Hills, Queens. Rose loved to read, and after raising her three children, she worked at the Queens Public Library. When children's books were discarded, she occasionally took them home for her grandchildren to enjoy. Her family was everything to her.

Rose loved traveling and went to many different countries with her husband before he passed away in 1988. Before moving to DeWitt, she split her time between Forest Hills and West Palm Beach, Florida, where she enjoyed the sun and sitting by the pool. While living at The Oaks, her favorite activities were attending the

Klezmer band concerts, Shabbat services and programs with Rabbi Shore. She always had a kind word for everyone. "Just be well" were her usual parting words. Above all else, she loved visits with her children and grandchildren.

Rose was predeceased by her son, Eli Wald, and her husband, Nathan Wald. She is survived by her daughter, Shelley (Ken) Werner and son, Jody (Susan) Wald and grandchildren Kate Werner, Nathan (Mary) Wald, Ben (Stacey) Werner, Jessica Wald and Corey (Shira) Wald and several nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the compassionate staff and volunteers at The Oaks who enriched the last years of Rose's life, as well as her caring aide, Gloria Mullings-Antoine, Rabbi Evan Shore, all those who led Shabbat services every week, the staff at Hospice and especially Rose's Hospice RN, Dawn.

Private graveside services and burial took place at Beth Israel Cemetery in Woodbridge, NJ. Funeral arrangements were entrusted to the Wilson Funeral Home in Norwich, NY. To leave the family a message of condolence, please visit: <https://wilsonfh.com> Contributions in Rose's memory may be made to Hospice of Central New York and the Finger Lakes, Liverpool, NY.

MICHAEL BENJAMIN SNYDER
March 27, 2021

Michael B. Snyder, 76, of Watertown, NY died March 27 at the Bishop Rehabilitation & Nursing Center in Syracuse.

Michael grew up in Chicago and Kansas City. He graduated with his Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and earned his Master's at Emory University in Atlanta, GA.

He briefly worked as a teacher before becoming a Certified Management Accountant and later worked as an Accountant in Nashville, TN. After his "retirement", Michael worked with Doldo Management in Watertown.

He was a member of Temple Concord, appreciated the Metropolitan Opera, but most of all loved his children and stepchildren and was widely read and a master of the Jewish calendar.

Survived by his second wife, Rabbi Teresa Snyder; son, Alan (Sharon) Snyder; daughter, Melanie Bloom; stepdaughters, Teresa Whitesell and Anne (Adam) McGough; 8 wonderful grandchildren and his first wife, Harriet Snyder.

Private services and burial were conducted in the Temple Concord section of Woodlawn Cemetery in Syracuse.

Contributions may be made to the local SPCA, the Metropolitan Opera of New York City, American Red Cross, the American Diabetes Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

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CAROLYN MAE STEIN
MAY 2, 2021

Carolyn Mae Stein, 64, passed away May 2 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, TN after a brave battle with gastric cancer. She was born October 16, 1956, in Springfield, Massachusetts, the daughter of Leonard and Vera (Weiner) Stein.

Carolyn graduated from J-D High School, Class of 1974 and was a 1978 graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a bachelor of science degree in paper science engineering.

She started her professional life at International Paper, Hudson River Mill, Corinth, NY in 1978. She continued her long and successful career with International Paper with moves to Androscoggin, ME; Chicago, IL; Ukiah, CA and finally the Memphis headquarters in 2002 as a project manager, retiring in 2009.

Carolyn was predeceased by her father, Leonard. She is survived by her mother, Vera, and brothers Kenneth (Eileen Burns) Stein of Sandy Hook, CT and Jeffery Stein of Phoenix, AZ; nephews Patrick Stein and Nathan (Brittany Walden) Stein.

Carolyn's greatest love was her friends, and she counted many. Her generosity of spirit attracted those who understood the compassion of a great friend, the intellect of a searcher and the soul of an adventurer.

Private services and burial were in Beth El Cemetery beside her father of blessed memory.

Those who wish to remember Carolyn in a special way may make gifts in her memory to the Mid-South Food Bank, c/o Sharon Ryan, 6400 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38197.

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Father's Day is about realizing that being a dad is about more than a day or a title. It is about accepting the responsibility not only for our children but also for our grandchildren. It is about accepting responsibility for the future.

One day, Honi the Circle Maker was walking on the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man, "How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" "Seventy years," the man replied. Honi then asked him, "Do you think you will live another seventy years and eat the fruit of this tree?"

The man answered, "Perhaps not. But when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. As they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren, so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees."

You can make a lasting difference in our community not only now but for generations to come by creating an endowment at the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York. Contact Michael Balanoff at 315-445-0270 to learn more.

