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Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

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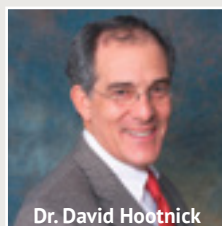
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JULY 2021 | TAMMUZ-AV 5781

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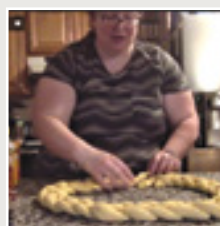


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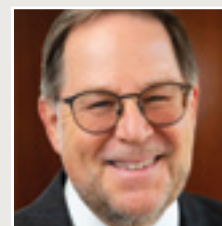


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From the Editor



Barbara Davis

Tisha b'Av, the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, occurs this month. Many Jews observe the day by fasting, praying and reading passages relating to the destruction of the First and Second Temples. The Temple's destruction transformed Judaism from a religion of sacrifice to a religion of

prayer and Torah study.

Is there a place for *Tisha b'Av* in the 21st century? How many of us truly yearn for the restoration of the Temple? What is the value of sitting on the floor, bemoaning the atrocities Jews have suffered over the centuries? Do we really want to teach our children that *bkhol dor v'dor omdim alenu l'halotenu*, in every generation a new enemy rises up to destroy us?

Rabbi Lewis Eron addressed this question in *Reconstructing Judaism*. "To speak to us today, *Tisha b'Av* can no longer be the day on which we remember all the evil that has happened to us. It needs to become the day on which we understand that despite our setbacks, our struggles, our real losses and deep suffering, we, the Jewish people, have overcome the obstacles fate has set before us."

"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, that you and your children may live." These words from Deuteronomy have guided me throughout my adult life. "Choose life." To me, they mean prioritize blessings over curses, the good over the bad, the positive over the negative. But so often I see around me the opposite. I see people who are constantly looking to find flaws, mistakes, omissions. Perhaps COVID is to blame. We were all tired of being masked, cooped up in our homes, missing friends and family. Staring at screens all day is exhausting. Yet we are told that life is not always going to be smooth sailing: "I have set before you life and death." And we are commanded to do something: "Now choose life."

We recently held a program that was well attended, well-run, featuring presenters who did a superb job with a challenging topic. The feedback was immediate and overwhelmingly enthusiastic. But one person was not happy and contacted the moderator. What happened next? We ignored all the people who were affirmative and appreciative and focused on the one person who wasn't. Why?

Spring was approaching. It was getting warmer and we saw the sun. Clocks sprang forward and flowers were bursting forth. And email brought an article from *The Forward* entitled "Is Daylight Saving Time Bad for the Jews?" Why?

What is it about us Jews? Why do we focus on the curses and not the blessings? It's like the joke about the waiter who approached the table of Jewish women and asked, "Ladies, is anything all right?"

As Jews, we have overcome a lot in our history, much of it dark and tragic. But we must remember the words of *Devarim*: "Choose life." In our age, that means we need to stop being critical, negative and self-interested. We need to think positively, work cooperatively, build things up instead of tearing them down. Let us celebrate accomplishments. Let us rejoice in one another's successes. Let us work together to achieve more. The Talmud speaks of two processions – a wedding procession and a funeral procession – that meet at an intersection too narrow to allow both to pass. Which yields to the other? The wedding procession goes first, the rabbis say, because hope and optimism about the future always take precedence over sadness and sorrow.

As Jews we are rooted in the past, but we have always had a deep and abiding commitment to the future. Let's imbue that future with positivity and a commitment to making things better. Let us count our blessings and be grateful for all the good which has been bestowed upon us, so that we and our children may live.

D'var Torah

A REVOLUTIONARY PSALM

by Rabbi Daniel Jezer



*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat, sat and wept,
as we thought of Zion.*

*There on the poplars we hung up our lyres,
for our captors asked us there for songs, our tormentors,
for amusement,*

"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

*How can we sing a song of the LORD on alien soil?
If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither;
let my tongue stick to my palate if I cease*

to think of you,

*if I do not keep Jerusalem in memory
even at my happiest hour.*

Psalm 137

This psalm is a dirge we sing on *Tisha B'Av*, the anniversary of the destruction of both the first and second temples, the ending of national independence. It conveyed a revolutionary idea, that has contemporary importance to our Jewish people. The psalm expresses the attachment and loyalty of the Jews exiled to Babylon to their homeland and to Judaism. Today the idea that a nation exiled from its land and religion would continue to express its hope of return and its allegiance to its religion is very normal. We read about these longings regularly. However, at the time of the psalm's composition, the cohesiveness of a nation in exile was unique to our Jews.

When the Temple was destroyed in 586 BCE by Nebuchadnezzar's army, the Judeans were exiled to Babylon. Most surprisingly they did not assimilate and disappear as did other nations in similar circumstances. Rather, they clung to their Judaism, reformed and strengthened it to respond to the new circumstances. They maintained their integrity as Jews, evidenced by the words of the psalm. Fifty years after the exile they were permitted to return and begin to rebuild the Land of Israel.

The integration of the land of Israel as an integral aspect of Judaism, what today we call Zionism, has its root in the very inception of Judaism. This has been so for close to 4,000 years. Judaism began with a call to Abraham. God said to Abraham, Go from your land (Syria), from your birthplace, from your ancestral home to the land that I will show you. And there you will become a great nation (Judaism) and a source of blessing to many nations." The land to which Abraham migrated was then called Canaan, now called Israel. It was there that Abraham began to develop Judaism. The historical books of the Bible are all focused on Israel as the place for building our Judaism. The Bible relates forced emigrations from the land and always the return to the homeland, Israel. To paraphrase an old song "Judaism without the Land of Israel is like a body without a soul."

Since the Holocaust, for the most part, it has been unfashionable for most people to be overtly antisemitic. Some have adopted a subterfuge by denying the centrality of Israel to Judaism, denying the right of the Jewish state of Israel to exist. This is an expression of antisemitism as it negates one of the basic tenets of our Jewish people.

I will follow Jewish tradition by not ending on a negative note. *Tisha B'Av*, a day of mourning, ends on a positive note. In the afternoon the mood changes and hope for a better future becomes the dominant theme. My hope is that all people will recognize the centrality of Israel to Judaism and that all people will enjoy the blessings that Israel has to offer.

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fax: 315-445-1599
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President/CEO.....Michael Balanoff
Board Chair.....Neil Rosenbaum
Editor.....Barbara Davis



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Produced by



Creative Director.....Jean-Pierre Thimot
jpthimot@buffalospree.com
Lead Designer.....Kimberly Miers
kmiers@buffalospree.com
Senior Graphic Designers.....Josh Flanigan, Adam Van Schoonhoven,
Nicholas Vitello
Director of Advertising.....Barbara E. Macks
Sales Director.....Cynthia Oppenheimer
coppenheimer@buffalospree.com
Senior Account Executives...Terri Downey, Keren Green, Mary Beth Holly,
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President & CEO.....Sharon C. Levite
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Vice President/Administrative & Finance.....Michele Ferguson
Corporate Counsel.....Timothy M. O'Mara, Esq.

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Central New Yorkers Take on National Roles

Of the 146 member federations of the Jewish Federations of North America, 45 are categorized as Intermediate and 15 seats on the JFNA board represent those 45 intermediate federations. So being selected to serve as a JFNA trustee is an honor. The Jewish Federation of Central New York is proud to announce that its past chair, Ellen Weinstein, has been selected to serve in that capacity this spring.



Ellen has been an active leader in the Jewish Federation of Central New York for many years. She has been deeply involved with the larger Jewish community as well. She is a life member of Na'Amat and has been a Lion of Judah since 2009. She is a member of the boards of Menorah Park Group Residences, Syracuse Jewish Family Service and Advocates, Inc. She is a past member of Temple Adath Yeshurun's Board of Directors, as well as a past president of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District Middle School Parent-Teachers' Group. She also serves as secretary of the board of directors of the Volunteer Lawyers of Central New York.

Ellen began her professional career as a teacher, but after the birth of her fourth child, set out to achieve her dream of becoming an attorney. She earned her Juris Doctor from Syracuse University College of Law and was admitted to practice law in New York state and federal courts, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. She joined the law firm of Pinsky and Skandalis and was a partner in the firm until leaving private practice in 2009 to become the Chief Clerk of the Onondaga County Surrogate's Court.

Ellen was given the Federation's major service honor, the Roth Award, in recognition of her outstanding Jewish community leadership. In making the presentation, Paul Roth said, "Not only has Ellen Weinstein been a significant member of this community throughout the years, but she's taken upon herself countless volunteer roles and selfless responsibilities in order that things be accomplished for not just the greater good of the Jewish community, but for the whole Syracuse

community as well. For the kind of person who neither seeks acknowledgment nor accolades for tireless work done to enhance the lives of so many others, this seems to be the perfect recognition of her exceptional and most positive abilities."

Upon learning of her selection, Ellen said, "It is a privilege and an honor to represent our Central New York Jewish Federation community. I am grateful for the opportunities to serve locally and the privilege of now furthering Federation's mission on a national level."

Talia Zames has been accepted as a fellow in the Jewish Federations of North America's Changemakers Fellowship.



Talia is a pre-med biomedical sciences major at RIT. JFNA sponsors Changemakers in partnership with more than 30 leading organizations serving Jewish communities around the world. Jewish Changemakers is an online leadership development experience designed to expand participants' career options, network and, most importantly, their desire and ability to effect positive change in their communities and the world at large.

The three-week summer intensive fosters growth, engagement and leadership in the Jewish community. Each week focuses on a specific theme that builds on the prior week's topics. The experience is guided by the public narrative leadership model developed by Harvard professor Marshall Ganz, which brings values to action through three different types of narratives: Story of Self, Story of Us and Story of Now.

Changemakers fellows gain new insight into themselves, the broader Jewish community, and the issues they care about. They come out ready to take the initiative in shaping the Jewish future in their communities, based on shared values. They feel empowered to speak out and advocate on behalf of themselves, the broader Jewish community and the issues they care about. And they deepen their personal connection to the local Jewish community and the broader Jewish world.

Following the summer, Changemakers alumni have exclusive access to curated opportunities for ongoing Jewish

engagement and leadership development – locally, across North America, and globally – organized around three key themes: Career Networking, Service and Advocacy and Global Jewish Life.

"One of the biggest lessons I take away from my years at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School is the importance of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world," said Talia. "I have always found great purpose in the concept that, as Jews, we are called upon to help others, and I have a continued passion for leadership within my work. When I first heard about the Jewish Changemakers Fellowship, I jumped at the chance to hear the stories of other young Jewish leaders and learn how my Jewish faith can guide me through both the successes and challenges of leadership."

Leah Goldberg is the third member of the CNY community working on the national level with JFNA. She is a member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet. Central New York can be very proud that three of its local members have been recognized nationally for their abilities and accomplishments.

NexGen is Moving Up



Federation's Young Leadership group is transitioning to NexGen. NexGen is 20-, 30- and 40-somethings who want to build our Jewish community as they build their families and careers. They gather at social events, volunteer together to make Central New York a better place, learn about our local Jewish community and Jewish communities around the world and help those in need. NexGen provides social programming and networking opportunities based on Jewish values to deepen engagement in communal Jewish life. NexGen wants to invite a very broad range of Jewish individuals, couples and families to join. In fact, they want to create the largest group in the history of our community. They plan to create programming opportunities for different cohorts, which would still be open to all who wish to participate, recognizing that what is attractive for families with young children may be different from what appeals to young professionals.

"Let's Buy an Ambulance"

"Let's buy an ambulance," said the early morning email from David Hootnick on May 12. That was the beginning of one of the most amazing community fundraising efforts ever conducted in Central New York. Two weeks later, early in the morning, Michael Balanoff emailed David back: "We did it." Over one hundred thousand dollars had been raised in a fortnight and a new ambulance and emergency supplies for Magen David Adom was being readied for delivery to Israel from the Jewish community of Central New York.

"The community response was overwhelming," said Balanoff, "from our first responders, who provided the foundation for the fundraising effort, to the dozens of people who sent checks and donated online. It all took place so quickly and so wonderfully. It demonstrates the power of a Jewish community when we work together in common cause." In addition to the first responders, who immediately and collectively gave over \$80,000 to kick the campaign off, there were over 100 additional donors who brought the campaign to its successful conclusion. The JO is pleased to salute the First Responders in this issue and, in the August issue, will recognize all donors once permission to publish their names has been received.

The First Responders gave the backing needed for a successful campaign launch: Anonymous, Anonymous, Anonymous, Michael and Euni Balanoff, Karen and Marc Beckman, Shira and Jared Boschan, Bill and Sylvia Cohen, Barbara Davis, Melissa and Rabbi Daniel Fellman, Jewish Federation of Central New York, Mark and Sue Field, Jacki and Michael Goldberg, Robin and Neil Goldberg, Steven and Sondra Goldberg, Lisa and Seth Greenky, The Children of Jacob and Anna Hootnick, Jack Lyon, Sidney Manes, Debbie and Neil Rosenbaum, Rose and Carl Rosenzweig, Elaine Rubenstein, Deborah and Rabbi Evan Shore, Bonita Tarkenton, Robert Weisenthal, Warren Wolfson and Carole Kametz and Phyllis and Mark Zames.

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Jewish Federation
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

**We support the Jewish education
of our children through
the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the
Syracuse Community Hebrew School
and the Rabbi Epstein School
of Jewish Studies.**

**We support our community's synagogues
through direct grants and the
Philip L. Holstein Community
Program Fund.**

"Thank you to the Federation. This is another brick in unifying and strengthening our community!"

- Rabbi Evan Shore, Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse.

"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."

- Rabbi David Kunin, Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas.

"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. Together, may we grow stronger and even more successful in our work on behalf of the community."

- Rabbi Yehoshua Zehavi, Temple Adath Yeshurun.

"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."

- Sally Cutler, President, Temple Concord.



"The Syracuse Hebrew Day School enjoys acknowledging the support given by the Federation. The Federation has been with us through thick and thin, this year certainly being no exception. It is thanks to their largesse that SHDS continues to offer a well-rounded, high quality, dual curricular education to the children of Central New York. Without question, the Federation has helped SHDS to turn the corner of COVID and be an even stronger school today both educationally and financially."

- Laura Lavine, Head of School, Syracuse Hebrew Day School

"The Syracuse Community Hebrew School (SCHS) owes a great deal to the Jewish Federation for its support over the past six years. SCHS is designed as an inclusive setting for students in grades 3-7. Students acquire a quality T'filah-based Hebrew education and are challenged to explore a deeper and more personal understanding of prayer. The school fosters a sense of Jewish community throughout the Greater Syracuse area. Graduates are prepared to lead and participate in services in synagogue and at home."

"We deeply appreciate the Federation's past and ongoing generous support of Epstein School initiatives. Our students benefit from the Federation's financial and community support in a myriad of ways, from outstanding Federation community programming, through individual support like scholarships and camperships, to the ultimate Epstein experience: the biannual Teen Taste of Israel trip, none of which would be possible without the Federation's community leadership and careful stewardship. Todah rabah to you and all of the Federation leadership from our students, faculty, staff and volunteers."

- Aaron Spitzer, Education Director, Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies



We provide camperships and scholarships.

Thank you so much for providing funds to help our family pay for us to attend Camp Seneca Lake. We are so grateful that this money was available to us as we know how hard it is for our parents to send all three of us to camp. We couldn't imagine not going to CSL each summer. It is our favorite place in the world, and we so appreciate you making it possible for us to keep going there. Sincerely,

Thank you so much for your immense generosity. Life isn't always easy and I have struggled to pay my tuition. This was a huge blessing that helped me continue my education towards becoming a registered nurse. I appreciate it more than I can put into words.

Dear Federation,

Thank you very much for all the money that's helping ~~me~~ to send me to camp! I can't wait to go to Camp Ramah again, (for my third summer)! Again, thank you so much for your help.

Hi... Thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to go to Camp Ramah this summer. This will be my 7th year at camp and each year seems to get better and better and better! This year I will be in the oldest age group which will allow me the opportunity to help plan color wars, which is always one of my favorite days at camp. I'm so excited to be able to attend Camp Ramah this summer and I really appreciate all of your amazing support in helping to send me there. Thanks again.

We provide for those in need and our seniors through the Food Pantry, Kosher Meals on Wheels, the Senior Lunch Program at the JCC, the Hebrew Interest-free Loan Program and Jewish Family Service.



We connect our community through social media sites on Facebook and Instagram, our weekly Community Happenings newsletter and our monthly Jewish Observer.

Dear JO:

Years ago, I sat on a committee with several community leaders to design a new JO. It had served its purpose for years. We did what we could with it, but with limited budgets and various administrative issues, it went along basically informing the Jewish community of what was going on. But today we are in a time of high-tech media and new forms of knowledge. The JO today is beautiful to look at and has become more than a PR piece for our Federation. It is now truly a magazine to attract all segments of our community and covers interesting issues important to Jewish and non-Jewish readers alike. I really look forward to receiving it now. Though I live in Stuart, Florida, Syracuse will always be home.

Carol Richman Wandner

We support programming at Hillel at Syracuse University,



Zoominars on Antisemitism and Diversity, commemoration of Yom HaShoah and celebration of Yom HaAtzmaut, online cooking classes, women's philanthropy programming, young adult programming, the mikvah, Beit Tikvah, Jewish Family Service, PJ Library, community security and much, much more.

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Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas Reflects on 2020

by Joanne Villegas

"I doubt that there could be a stranger time to come so far to a new community," said Rabbi David Kunin, who was hired at the start of the pandemic. "In any year a transition from Tokyo to Syracuse would have been interesting with some culture shock. This year everything was complicated by a pandemic which led to social separation and isolation. Imagine coming to a community and not meeting people face to face, and almost never going into the synagogue or leading services from the sanctuary. Yet, despite these challenges, I have felt welcomed into CBS-CS and indeed, the broader Syracuse Jewish community. Even my wife Shelley, stuck in Edmonton, has also felt embraced. As things open up, I look forward to experiencing Central New York and getting to know the people in this welcoming and strong community."

Rabbi Kunin's comments were part of a series of reflections by leaders of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas on the challenges of the last year and how they created a "new normal" during a time of uncertainty.

"Rabbi Kunin, our new spiritual leader, brought his deep understanding of Kabbalistic thought, knowledge of

eastern cultures, commitment to interfaith dialogue, love of nature, and passion for *Tikkun Olam* to us," noted Joan Bordett, CBS-CS ritual vice president. "Our twin priorities have been to keep everyone safe and connected to CBS-CS and to each other during this year of COVID, offering meaningful, interactive services to those near and far, underscoring our founders' insistence that CBS-CS is not a building, but a sacred community."

Congregation President Jeff Stanton added, "The ancient proverb/curse, 'May you live in interesting times,' certainly applied to all of us this past year. In this interesting time, I've appreciated having the benefits of the strong

community that CBS-CS represents." "2020 confirmed that my CBC-CS family is full of innovative, thoughtful, dynamic people who provide me with a spiritual and cultural home," is how Membership Committee Co-Vice President Sarah Reckess sums up the past year.

Robert Tornberg, vice president of Adult Learning commented, "We scrambled to figure out how to provide interesting and stimulating programs without getting together in person. And were we ever surprised! Not only did we offer more programs than usual because of the number of presenters/teachers who stepped up, but our attendance was significantly larger. Holding classes on Zoom meant that congregants who had moved or who wintered in Florida could participate as easily as those within walking distance. Lesson learned: while we will certainly go back to in-person learning, we must continue to offer programs online to allow participation by people who couldn't otherwise join us. In my opinion, Zoom is one of the silver linings of COVID-19."

At CBS-CS we can't predict what the future holds, but we've learned that, no matter what we have to tackle, we can do it by depending on one another.

TAY: Year in Review

by Sonali McIntyre

"Many designs are in a man's mind, but it is God's plan that is accomplished." (Proverbs 19:21). In other words, "Man plans, God laughs." The last 15 months have been unimaginably different from what we expected. It was a difficult year to navigate, initially, but all of us found a groove and adjusted to our "new normal." Temple Adath Yeshurun's clergy, professional staff and Board of Directors worked tirelessly to offer a variety of exciting and meaningful programs, learning opportunities and services.

Services looked different as they moved to streaming platforms like Zoom and StreamSpot. Nevertheless, we were still able to pray with each other and "attend" daily and Shabbat services.

Rabbi Zehavi offered a weekly contemplative Havdalah service, with

time for meditation, chanting and reflection. Cantor Jaffe offered the gift of music through programs such as Singing with the Cantor and Shabbat Together at Home. Alicia Gross continued her monthly Tot Shabbat programs via Zoom and joined with Rabbi Zehavi each holiday to share stories, music and poems.

New virtual programs included a Q&A session with SkyTop Coffee, a wine tasting with Cinagro Wine Experience, a tour of the Tenement Museum, a *Tu b'Shvat* planting tutorial with Carol Watson Greenhouses and cooking and mixed drink demonstrations with Sonali and Derrick McIntyre.

For more information regarding upcoming TAY events, programs and services, please visit www.adath.org or call 315-445-0002.

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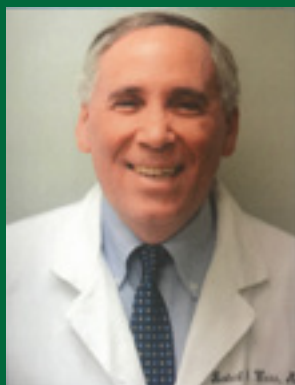
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Jewish Heritage Center Produces New Video About Growing Up in Syracuse

The Jewish Heritage Center of Central New York announced the release of a new DVD in its series about growing up in the Jewish immigrant community. Entitled “Conversations from the Syracuse Jewish Community,” it adds to “Stories from The Syracuse Jewish Community” (2014) and “People and Places of the Syracuse Jewish Community” (2016).

“I never intended for this to be a trilogy,” said videographer Jay Lurie. “However, as time has gone on, we have unfortunately lost a number of the storyteller interviewees from these projects. Knowing that I still had around 70 percent of the digital recording cards still packed away, I decided to catalogue those remaining sound bites. As I was going through the media, I discovered material that had been left on the cutting-room floor. The words of so many missing people now seemed even more pertinent. So I decided to make their voices heard one last time.”

Howard Port, president of the Jewish Heritage Center, said, “The mission of the Jewish Heritage Center is to preserve the history of the Syracuse Jewish Community. Jay Lurie brings us stories that now only exist in memory.” Among the topics explored in the new video are Bubbies and Zaydees, The Block Family, Leonard Meltzer P.O.W., Cracker Jack Revue, Stories from Shul and Hebrew School, Camp Fren-Le and Artifacts.

Jay Lurie is a veteran photojournalist who worked for over three decades at WKBW-TV. After he retired, he started his own freelance video production business, Jay Lurie Productions. His work with the Jewish Heritage Center is, in many ways, a labor of love, as Jay has fond memories of summers spent in Central New York with his grandparents.

The process of creating the latest film was complex. Lurie reports, “Along the way I supplemented



this information with a series of a dozen Zoom interviews with former members of the Syracuse Jewish Community across America, from Los Angeles to Florida, Denver, Detroit, Baltimore and D.C., even good old Binghamton and right here in Fayetteville. The people I talked with were my contemporaries from our days at H.W. Smith and Nottingham High School. While I was making the second film, the late Walter Miller provided me with discs containing photos and yearbooks from the Genesee Street JCC and Camp Fren-Le. I didn’t have the time then to pursue those angles, but now I did. So each of these places is documented in my film, each a missing piece in the puzzle of the past.”

As he worked, a theme emerged: the endless chain of generational storytelling that links history and memory. Lurie contrasts the third video with those that preceded it. “The previous films dealt with iconic figures like Solomon Rosenbloom and Hiram Weisberg and important institutions and places. In this project I was free to tell smaller personal stories which are no less important. From the Greatest Generation to the Baby Boomers, some vital documentation is now available for the first time.” He hopes that “after the pandemic, the Syracuse Jewish Community can once again gather and view my film together. That we can laugh together, remember together, maybe even cry a bit together. Just be together.”

The videos are available for purchase through the Jewish Heritage Center at 5730 Commons Park Drive, East Syracuse, NY 13057 or through the Federation website (designate Jewish Community DVD) at <https://jewishfederationcny.org/donate/>. The cost is \$18 for one video or \$36 for all three videos.



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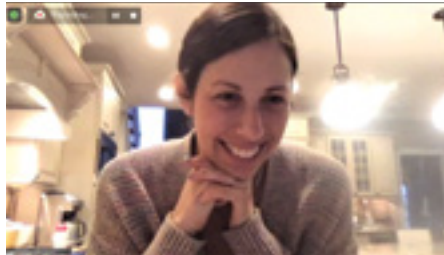
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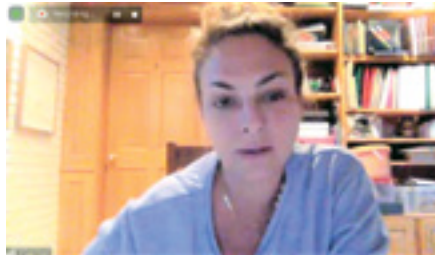
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Braiding Challot with the 'Cuse Challah Club

The 'Cuse Challah Club was organized by Leah Goldberg and Anick Sinclair to share the joy and techniques of making challah. The limitations of COVID caused the program to move online, but those who zoomed in, women and men from teens to their 80s, were undeterred by the change and enthusiastic about baking together. Having made their dough in advance, they were excited to learn more about braiding.

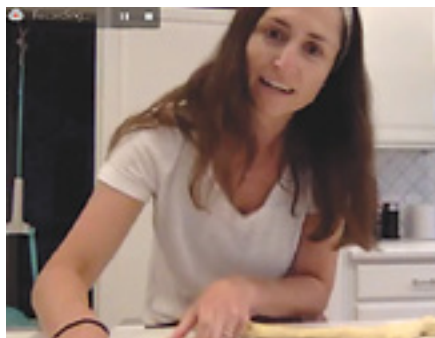


Anick opened the program with an explanation of the significance of the challah braid, citing several biblical references to braids associated with prosperity, honor and strength. "When we eat challah," she noted, "we are reminded of the beauty, honor and strength associated with Shabbat." She explained that the number of strands braided has multiple interpretations, including "that because the strands look like arms intertwined, the loaf symbolizes love, consistent with Shabbat being the traditional time to make love." She added that "three braids can symbolize truth, peace and justice, the past, present and future or the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Four strands might refer to the matriarchs, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah, since it is usually women who prepare the challah. Six braids represent the six days of the week leading up to Shabbat, intertwining our experience of the week, culminating in the beauty of Shabbat. Eight strands symbolize new beginnings and the future, as in circumcision on the eighth day after the birth of a male child. The most



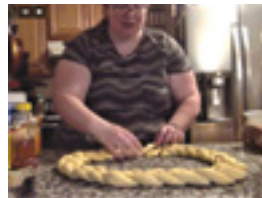
straightforward explanation for using 12 strands is that they represent the 12 tribes of Israel." In every case, she pointed out, "you are tying up the loose ends from a hard week and you are therefore ready for a peaceful Shabbat."

The braiding instructors introduced themselves and told the Zoom participants how they learned their braiding techniques and why they bake challah regularly. Leah



Goldberg demonstrated how to make a one braid challah, which can also be used to make challah rolls. Amira Kipnis showed participants how to make a four-strand challah and a six-strand challah. Kelly Klapper showed her technique for braiding very long strands of challah into a circle into which a bowl of honey or other accompaniment can be placed. Joseph Guss proudly showed off the loaf that he had braided.

Questions and comments allowed those on the Zoom to learn more and share some of their own techniques for braiding, adding seasonings and perfecting the egg wash. Of particular interest was Anick's explanation of the word "challah." She pointed out that it did not originally refer to the bread, but rather to "the command to separate a small amount of the dough that one kneads when baking bread. In



Temple times this portion of dough (called 'challah' in the Torah) was given to the *kohanim*, the priestly tribe, who were responsible for the Temple service. Today there is a rabbinical command to separate 'challah' from the dough and throw it out, as a sacrifice, a *korban*, just as the *kohanim* made sacrificial offerings at the temple."

As everyone put their loaves in the oven, Anick reminded them that "however many strands are braided, twisted, and woven into the challah, eating it as part of welcoming the Sabbath symbolizes the weaving of our weekday mentality into a Shabbat state of mind, a braiding of the weekday mindset into a more sublime Shabbat-driven consciousness. May we enter each Shabbat in beauty, honor, and strength."

Later in the evening, photos of many of the participants' beautiful loaves were uploaded onto the Federation's social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram). Eli Goldstein's loaves are shown here.



Concluding the program, Leah announced that, in addition to the recipe, yeast packet and seasonings that were sent to enrollees before the Zoominar, "We'll be emailing you all two of our favorite recipes: a challah *strata* with goat cheese and asparagus and a delicious chocolate chip challah casserole."

The 'Cuse Challah Club is planning another session which they hope will be in person. Given the success of the first meeting, it is likely that the second will be an even bigger hit.

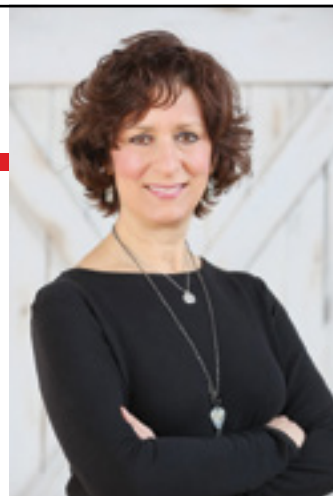


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What is RAV Properties?

RAV Properties, the generous sponsor of the JO's local Jewish business column, was formed in 2010 to manage the properties it owns in Central New York. Part of a collective of investors and managers that spans over 100 years, its local focus is on leasing affordable commercial space. "We believe that Central New York is a prime location for commerce, attributable to reasonable cost of occupancy, proximity to major populations in the northeast and the synergy of an educated workforce," says Robert Lieberman, RAV's managing partner. "Our company is deeply committed to supporting and adding value to the Syracuse community."

RAV Properties is an owner/operator with a long-term holding horizon. From the outset, the company believed in acting responsibly, sporting pride of ownership and providing businesses "a place where local commerce prospers." They sustain success and fuel growth by building strong relationships, managing thoughtfully and maintaining an excellent reputation. During the COVID pandemic, they made space available, rent free, to Mercy Works, the Abundant Life Church and the Food Bank of Central New York so that hundreds of volunteers could prepare food kits for Syracuse City schoolchildren and their families. A valued sponsor of the Energy 21 Symposium and a proud member of CenterState CEO, RAV demonstrates its keen interest in the arts through major support of Symphoria, the orchestra of Central New York.

Lieberman is a people person who pays attention to details. He first learned to navigate property management in New York City at the Benenson Investment Company. He was responsible for tenant communications, property maintenance, supervision of resident managers, leasing and collections of both residential and commercial tenants. A graduate of the University of Michigan and The Jewish Theological Seminary, he served three synagogue communities as full-time cantor from 1993 to 2008, when he formed his first partnership and invested in apartments and a self-storage facility in Lafayette.

In 2010, RAV purchased and improved a two-building industrial complex, once known as the Flickinger's Warehouse. Near Carrier Circle, it had been home to various businesses since 1998. Totalling



290,000 square feet in DeWitt, it was not far from Military Circle and RAV's next targeted acquisition, the Salina Industrial Powerpark. RAV purchased the property from the RACER Trust, which took title following the General Motors Corporation's bankruptcy. The acquisition was well-received. "RAV Properties' investment is further affirmation of Salina and Central New York as a great place to live and work," said Salina Town Supervisor Colleen Gunnip. "I'm very pleased that RACER Trust's marketing efforts produced an experienced local buyer who plans to bring even more investment and jobs to our community."

RAV's latest acquisition features a 795,000 square foot main building, situated on approximately 74 acres. The building's 13 tenants employ about 425 people. "I am confident in our vision for the property," said Lieberman. "We have already launched our strategic investments in energy efficiency and new roofing that benefit current tenants and should encourage trust from prospective businesses." RAV's brokers are marketing and showing a high bay 109,000 square foot industrial space with refurbished offices, bathrooms, multiple loading docks and LED lighting. "We plan to be good neighbors and exemplary stewards of an older building, once a local industrial gem."

The work certainly has its challenges. "We began by attacking areas of deferred maintenance," said Lieberman, "the roof, lighting, testing and maintaining the fire protection system, as well as

the electrical equipment, responding to every tenant's needs, building community relationships and demonstrating pride of ownership through painting, cleaning and beautifying the landscape. With the building, I acquired a maintenance staff of six. I've set the theme and my expectations for us to work together as a team: work safely, work smarter and work efficiently. They know the nuts and bolts; I take care of everything else. I've made it clear that when they speak to me, I am both manager and owner. There is no multilayer management to pierce. We can respond swiftly."

Lieberman adds that "we are approximately 70% occupied; the value-add will be realized when we achieve 90-92% occupancy. We realize it may take a couple of years to accomplish that." His Jewish learning surfaces as he considers the task before him. "It reminds me of Rabbi Ben Bag-Bag in *Pirkei Avot*," he says. "Turn it, and turn it, for everything is in it. There's plenty of work to do."



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Jewish News from Around the World



The Israeli scientist who is bringing Google's Moonshot Lab to Tel-Aviv. Google is setting up its "radical" lab outside the U.S. for the first time, and the project's Head of Strategy Dr. Adi Aron Gilat, is moving back to Israel to find the right people to join. The Jewish state is planned to be the first country outside the U.S. to welcome what is known in Google's parent company, Alphabet, as the Moonshot Lab. The Israeli laboratory, which will serve as a

"sister-lab" to the one located in Silicon Valley, will operate at first from the local Google office in the Electra Tower in Tel Aviv. "To get into our lab, you have to highlight a big issue like how to connect people to the internet or how to feed humanity. You need to suggest a radical solution for it and develop groundbreaking technology," Dr. Aron Gilat explained. <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctech/articles/0,7340,L-3907452,00.html>

Gazan children in Israeli hospital. Children from Gaza, being treated free of charge by doctors at Israel's Save a Child's Heart (SACH), normally go home after surgery. But due to the recent conflict, 3 post-surgery Gazan kids had to stay in the SACH children's house and six more in the hospital itself. <https://www.israel21c.org/gazan-kids-celebrate-ramadan-in-israeli-hospital-despite-rockets/>

Success in trials of multiple myeloma treatment. Israel's BioLineRx

has reported positive results in the Phase 3 trial of its Motixafortide treatment in combination with G-CSF for multiple myeloma. The treatment demonstrated improvement from five-fold to 14-fold compared to the control. <https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-biolinerx-soars-on-positive-phase-3-blood-cancer-trial-results-1001347840>

Brain stimulation approved for major depression. Israel's BrainsWay has received US FDA clearance for its three-minute Theta Burst treatment protocol for Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). Patients demonstrate meaningful reduction in depression scores after the treatment. https://www.brainsway.com/news_events/brainsway-receives-fda-clearance-for-three-minute-theta-burst-treatment-protocol-for-major-depressive-disorder/

Molecular tweezers to destroy bacteria. Researchers from Israel's Ben-Gurion University and elsewhere have developed "molecular tweezers" to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The tweezers

destroy the biofilm that protects the bacteria against the immune system. Bacteria cannot develop resistance to this method of attack. <https://americansforbgu.org/bgu-molecular-tweezers-battle-bacteria/>

Blind Israeli Arab changes perceptions. Arab Israeli Saleem is one of only a few blind Muslims who has a guide dog, as many Muslims consider dogs to be impure. By showing fellow Muslims how Winston, Saleem's guide dog, has truly improved his life, they are starting to understand that having a dog is not a bad thing. <https://www.israelunwired.com/blind-arab-israeli-muslims-view-dogs/>

Sweet beginnings. Israel's Amai Proteins is close to launching its hyper-sweet sugar substitute. It has signed a deal with Ocean Spray to produce sugar-reduced cranberry juice. It now has five PhD employees and 20 "super tasters" and is moving out from R&D premises into a large pilot production facility. <https://nocamels.com/2021/05/israeli-food-tech-amai-proteins-sugar-sweet/>

More vegan eggs. Israel's SavorEat has joined the list of Israeli startups producing egg alternatives. Its new subsidiary company Egg'n'up says its proprietary plant-based ingredients retain the egg's taste, texture, nutrition, appearance and culinary properties. <https://jewishbusinessnews.com/2021/05/06/savoreat-establishes-eggnup-for-plant-based-egg-alternatives/>

Recycling old tires. Tires are the world's largest source of waste rubber. 290 million tires are discarded each year in the US alone. Israel's EcoTech Recycling has developed a thermodynamic process that turns waste rubber into Active Rubber - a nontoxic synthetic material for making new tires, auto parts and insulation. <https://www.israel21c.org/heres-a-cool-green-way-to-upcycle-millions-of-old-tires/>

A smart industrial zone in Dubai. Israel's Tefen consultancy group is to project manage the building of an industrial zone in Dubai where the factories will be operated by robots with almost no human contact. Tefen is also bidding on a tender for the construction of a new airport in Dubai. <https://jewishbusinessnews.com/2021/05/04/israeli-consulting-group-tefen-closing-mega-infrastructure-project-in-dubai-worth-200-million/>

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» Book Reviews

Jew-Ish Beach Books



Whether you relax in a hammock, sit by the shore or lounge at a lake, here are some books by Jewish authors with minimal or more Jewish touches that will help you pass the lazy days of summer enjoyably.

BOOKS by Elin Hilderbrand

Elin Hilderbrand has been called “The Queen of Summer Beach Reads.” Her 23 novels are all set at the beach, mostly Nantucket but sometimes the Caribbean. The prolific, best-selling Jewish author writes escapist novels and has hordes of devoted fans. Bumper stickers proclaim, “I’d rather be living in an Elin Hilderbrand novel.”

JEWISH REGENCY series by Libi Astaire

In this humorous historical mystery series, wealthy-widower-turned-sleuth Mr. Ezra Melamed teams up with General Well’ngone and the Earl of Gravel Lane, the lovably quirky leaders of a gang of young Jewish pickpockets, to solve crimes involving Regency London’s Jewish community.

SOLOMON VS. LORD series by Paul Levine

Steve Solomon is an ethically-challenged, Coconut Grove beach bum who lives by his own set of rules, Solomon’s Laws. When the law doesn’t work, work the law. Victoria Lord is a strait-laced Coral Gables blueblood who does everything by the book. The squabbling pair have a love-hate relationship, but they make a surprisingly good team – even if there’s a chance they’ll kill each other while the jury’s out in this four-book series.

ANDY CARPENTER series by David Rosenfelt

Lovers of dogs and entertaining fiction will enjoy reading this series featuring Andy Carpenter, a New Jersey lawyer whose legal maneuvers are legion in and out of the courtrooms of Paterson. A reluctant attorney, Andy and his faithful golden retriever face a dog-eat-dog world, in which Andy solves cases and wins courtroom battles in a series of legal thrillers.

JEWISH ROMANCE NOVELS by Chaya Hirsch

Chaya T. Hirsch is an Orthodox Jewish woman who lives in New York. She is the author of nine romance novels featuring Orthodox Jewish women including *Meant To Be*, *Shira’s Secret* and *That Special Someone*.

NICK HELLER series by Joseph Finder

Joseph Finder is a creator of sleuths and spies, sleazy politicians, corrupt corporate criminals and ingenuous victims. Finder spent his early years in Afghanistan, immersed himself in Russian studies at Yale and Harvard, wrote a history of the relationship between leading American capitalists and Soviet apparatchiks and was even recruited by the CIA. Then he traded reality for fiction and wound up one the world’s leading thriller writers.

NOVELS by Jamie Brenner

Jamie Brenner’s books center on family sagas and beach towns. “Family life is the ultimate origin of all drama and strife,” says Brenner. “It’s endless fodder — parents and children, siblings. The struggle for most people is how you keep all these balls in the air. In real life, you don’t always have happy endings or reconciliations. But in a book, we can take the characters to the extremes of conflict and bring them back to a happy place.” Brenner’s books include *The Gin Lovers*, *Drawing Home*, *The Wedding Sisters*, *The Husband Hour* and *Summer Longing*.

Fleishman Is in Trouble by Taffy Brodesser-Akner

In this debut novel, Dr. Toby Fleishman, 41, a 5’5” liver specialist, thought he knew what to expect when he and his wife separated after 15 years: weekends and every other holiday with the kids, some residual bitterness and the occasional moment of tension in their co-parenting negotiations. What he did not predict was that, in the middle of his summer of emancipation and new women, his ex-wife Rachel would just drop their two children off at his place and simply not return.

10 Takeaways from the 2020 Pew Report on Jewish Americans

The Pew Research Center, an arm of the Pew Charitable Trusts, studies and analyzes issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs by conducting surveys, demographic analyses, and other research about the practice of religion and its place in American life. Recent work includes a major portrait of Jews in America to provide a more complete understanding of the beliefs and political views of members of the American Jewish community. The *JO* is sharing some of the results of the survey with its readers. The complete report can be found at <https://www.pewforum.org/2021/05/11/jewish-americans-in-2020/>.

1. The size of the U.S. adult Jewish population has risen 6.7 million in 2013 to 7.5 million. The number of children has increased from 1.3 million to 1.8 million. 2.4% of U.S. adults are Jewish, up from 2.2% in 2013. The Jewish population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. Eight percent of Jewish American adults identify with a race or ethnicity other than non-Hispanic white, but 15% of Jews ages 18 to 29 do so. Seventeen percent of all Jews surveyed, but 29% of those under age 30, live in households in which at least member is Black, Hispanic, Asian, other or multiracial.

2. U.S. Jews are less religious than American adults overall. Twelve percent say they attend services weekly compared to 27% of other Americans. Twenty-one percent of American Jews say that religion is “very important” to them, compared to 41% of the general public. One third of Americans say that religion is not important in their lives, but more than half of Jews say that. Only 26% of Jews say they believe in God “as described in the Bible,” compared to 56% of all U.S. adults who believe in the God of the Bible.

3. 71% of Jewish Americans are Democrats or Independents; 75% of Orthodox Jews are Republican (up from 57% in 2013).

4. Three-quarters of American Jews think there is more Antisemitism in the U.S. today than there was five years ago. 53% say that, as Jews, they personally feel less safe than they did five years ago.

5. 82% of U.S. Jews say that caring about Israel is “essential” or “important” to what being Jewish means to them. But more than half of American Jews gave a negative rating to Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel’s prime minister and 63% say they think a way can be found for Israel and an independent Palestinian state to coexist peacefully.

6. U.S. Jews engage in cultural activities like cooking Jewish food (72%), sharing holidays with non-Jewish friends (62%) and visiting historical Jewish sites (57%). Many also say they engage with Judaism through Jewish media by reading Jewish literature, history or biographies (44%), watching television with Jewish or Israeli themes (43%), or reading Jewish news in print or online (42%).

7. Forty-one percent of younger Jewish adults don’t identify with any branch of Judaism and 17% identify as Orthodox, compared with 3% of Jews aged 65 and older. Reform and Conservative movements, American Judaism’s largest branches, seem to be losing ground with younger generations. Members of different branches of American Judaism generally do not feel they have much in common with one another. Both groups are more likely to express feelings of commonality toward Jews in Israel than toward each other.

8. About four in ten married Jews (42%) have a non-Jewish spouse, but intermarriage rates differ within

subgroups. For example, intermarriage is almost nonexistent among married Orthodox Jews (2%) while nearly half of all non-Orthodox Jews who are married say their spouse is not Jewish (47%). Intermarriage is more common among those who have married in recent years. Among Jewish respondents who got married since 2010, 61% have a non-Jewish spouse, compared with 18% of Jews who got married before 1980. Intermarriage also is more common among Jews who are themselves the offspring of intermarried parents: 82% of married Jews who have one Jewish parent have a non-Jewish spouse, compared with 34% of those who report that both of their parents were Jewish.

9. Seven-in-ten or more U.S. Jews say that remembering the Holocaust (76%) and leading a moral and ethical life (72%) are essential to their Jewish identity. About half or more also say that working for justice and equality in society (59%), being intellectually curious (56%) and continuing family traditions (51%) are essential. Far fewer consider eating traditional Jewish foods (20%) and observing Jewish law (15%) to be essential elements of what being Jewish means to them, personally. However, the observance of halakha – Jewish law – is particularly important to Orthodox Jews, 83% of whom deem it essential.

10. Survey respondents who describe their religion as atheist, agnostic or nothing in particular but who have a Jewish parent or were raised Jewish and consider themselves Jewish in some way are called “Jews of no religion” in the survey. As in 2013, Jews of no religion stand out in 2020 for low levels of religious participation – particularly synagogue membership and attendance – together with comparatively weak attachments to Israel, feelings of belonging to the Jewish people and engagement in communal Jewish life. They tend to be politically liberal and highly educated, with relatively high rates of intermarriage and a low median age (38 years). “Jews of no religion” constitute 27% of those surveyed but 60% of those surveyed who were between the ages of 18 and 29.

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Matthews Grant To Benefit JCC Children's Programming

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center of Syracuse recently received a \$1,000 grant from the Matthews Children's Foundation to benefit its Children's Programming department. This latest round of funding is the result of JCC Board President Steven Sisskind's ongoing efforts to sponsor the JCC's grant application.

"We truly appreciate the Matthews Foundation's continued support of our children's programs, especially as we continue to recover financially from COVID-19," said Sisskind. "The Foundation's wonderful generosity will go a long way in helping to enhance our childcare programs and better serve local families."

The JCC's Children's Programming department is using the funds to support its early childhood program and after school program, which have operated very differently this year due to the pandemic. Implementing and maintaining health/safety protocols to help keep children



safe and healthy has been a primary focus this past school year.

Matthews Children's Foundation awards grants to nonprofit organizations whose purpose is to support children. It

has contributed millions of dollars to date to such charities. The JCC of Syracuse has received a substantial amount in grants over the years from Matthews Children's Foundation to benefit the JCC's children's programming.

"I am so appreciative of all that Steven has done on behalf of the JCC to continue securing the Matthews Foundation funding throughout the pandemic," said Marci Erlebacher, JCC executive director. "We are extremely grateful for the Matthews Foundation's continued support of the good works that our programs are doing."

For more information about the JCC and supporting its many programs serving infants through seniors, contact Erin Hart at 315-445-2040, ext. 112, or ehart@jccsy.org.

JCC Senior Lunches Moving Indoors on Fridays in July

As more people receive the COVID-19 vaccine and restrictions are lifted, the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's Senior Kosher Lunch Program for seniors age 60+ is taking a big step toward resuming in-person dining. Starting Friday, July 2, indoor dining on Fridays at noon will begin for fully vaccinated seniors. Takeout service will also be available on Fridays for seniors who are not vaccinated or uncomfortable dining indoors in a group setting.



Everyone dining in-person on Fridays must show their COVID vaccination card the first time they come. Wearing a mask is optional while dining in-person at the JCC. Just like before the pandemic, reservations are required for in-person Friday lunches by calling the JCC by noon at least one business day in advance. Curbside senior lunch pickup will continue Monday through Thursday with advance reservations still required for these days.

Starting Monday, July 5, the JCC's Senior Kosher Lunch curbside pickup will move to the front of the building outside the main entrance near the flag pole. The 12-12:30 pm pickup time remains

the same. Whether dining in-person at the JCC on Fridays or doing curbside pickup Monday-Thursday, the suggested meal contribution is \$4.25 for seniors age 60 and older. Cash or JCC Senior Meal Coupon only are accepted. **Reservations are required by noon at least one business day before the meal date by calling 315-445-2360, ext. 100. Contact Cindy at 315-445-2360 or cstein@jccsy.org.**

The JCC's Senior Kosher Lunch Program is funded in part by Onondaga County Adult and Long Term Care Services, New York State Office for the Aging, and the Jewish Federation of Central New York. Additional funds are provided by the JCC.

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JCC Fitness Center Relaxes COVID Protocols



A JCC line dancing class in the Schayes Gymnasium this past May shortly after starting to meet again in-person but before the JCC made masks optional for fully vaccinated members.

Work out at the JCC without wearing a mask? Yes, it's true, and it's finally time for those who are fully vaccinated. In late May, the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's Neulander Family Sports & Fitness Center ended its mask requirement for fully vaccinated individuals while working out, taking group exercise classes and using the track. The one exception to this is masks must still be worn in the gymnasium and on the track whenever children are in the gym. Anyone not fully vaccinated must wear a mask at all times while inside the JCC.

While wearing a mask in the Fitness Center is optional for fully vaccinated members, masks must still be worn by everyone—even those fully vaccinated—when entering the JCC, in the hallways,

in the locker rooms (unless showering) and in non-Fitness Center common areas of the building. The JCC has adopted this policy in an effort to better protect all children in the building.

The JCC Fitness Center also reopened its showers at the end of May for the first time since the pandemic began. Members using the showers are asked to spray it down with the provided disinfectant spray after showering. JCC staff continue to clean and disinfect the showers on a regular basis.

"Seeing our Fitness members working out again without wearing masks has been great," said Patrick Scott, JCC Sports & Fitness director. "It's finally starting to feel like things are returning to normal. We really appreciate everyone's help and cooperation in following the COVID protocols since the beginning and getting us to where we are today."

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

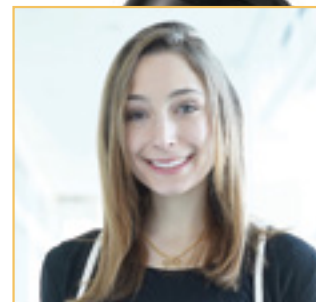
JCC Teen Camp Aide and CIT Programs Restarting This Summer

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center has some good news for parents of young teens who are afraid that their children will be sitting at home bored all summer because of the pandemic. The JCC is restarting its teen Camp Aide and Counselor in Training (CIT) weekly summer camp programs. Registration is happening now for all eight weeks of summer camp running June 28 through August 20.

Camp Aides must be 14-years old and CITs must be 15-years old at time of program attendance. In addition, current JCC of Syracuse family membership is required to register. Each Camp Aide and CIT will be placed with a group for the week. During the week they will learn the basics of camp counseling and provide support to the camp groups. Participants will also help plan and run themed activities for Nitzanin campers under the guidance of Camp Romano staff. This program helps develop leadership skills and is a great way to get some camp counselor experience.

For more information about the JCC's Camp Aide and CIT programs, and to register, contact Pamela Ranieri at 315-445-2040, ext. 123, or pranieri@jccsy.org.

Dr. Robert & Lisa Weiss are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter



ANNIE WEISS

on the occasion of her graduation from Cornell University in May. They are so very proud of her hard work, many accomplishments and awards, especially the excellence award for the highest GPA in her major! Annie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in International Agriculture and Rural Development with an Emphasis in Economics and Entrepreneurship as well as a Bachelor of Science in Communication with an Emphasis in Social Influence. Annie will continue her education at the University of Cambridge in England, where she will pursue a master's degree in Management.



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Epstein School Welcomed Emmy Winner Hughie Stone Fish

by Aaron Spitzer

The Epstein School welcomed Hughie and Avery Stone Fish at this year's *Siyyum*, where the Los Angeles-based brothers led a moderated dialogue on maintaining Jewish connections in today's America. Epstein School and Syracuse Hebrew Day School alumni Hughie and Avery were in Central New York to promote The Arts Projects Syracuse, an initiative they founded to bring transformative arts education to Syracuse students.

As part of the evening's program, generously co-sponsored by the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the brothers discussed Hughie's 2020 Emmy for Outstanding Original Song with Jason Alexander fighting antisemitism in the media. Hughie uses his voice to share about his Jewish connection, his fight against antisemitism and hatred of all forms, and his Jewish Pride with his 300,000 monthly social reach.

Audience questions centered on the alarming rise of antisemitism, especially



via social media, as well as changing antisemitic tropes in the media. The discussion touched upon Hughie and Avery's individual personal and professional experiences of antisemitism. The brothers spoke candidly, but their message was ultimately positive, stressing the power of speaking up, not just in opposition to antisemitism, but to counter hate in all forms. Even more importantly, the brothers celebrated their own pride in being Jewish, and encouraged Epstein students to embrace their own Jewish pride, noting that, being different can be a strength and not just a challenge.

Community Schools Honor Their Volunteers

At the Federation's Annual Meeting, the community's schools honored their special volunteers.



The Syracuse Community Hebrew School recognized Jeanette Myshrall, noting that "Jeanette was instrumental in creating the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and has continued to work to take a vision and mold it into a successful Hebrew Education Program. Jeanette fosters cooperation within the Jewish Community on a personal level. SCHS has benefited from her impeccable organization and tireless work ethic. She has repeatedly advocated for the school to receive resources and recognition. SCHS will continue to be successful thanks to Jeanette's leadership and countless hours of service.

This past year Jeanette served her final year as President and has agreed to stay on the Board to continue to advise the school."

The Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies honored Fran Ciardullo, saying "Fran's leadership of the Epstein School has been invaluable this year. Since becoming president of the Epstein board in 2017, Fran's partnership with the school's executives has truly been a blessing. Especially this year, her professional experience as an attorney specializing in healthcare helped inform the school's balanced approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been a creative partner to the head of school, finding ways to keep students feeling connected while learning remotely. Fran's commitment to supporting and recognizing the Epstein faculty is unwavering. Serving as the president of any organization is a significant volunteer commitment in a typical year, supported by a full complement of other officers and an experienced executive. This past year, possibly the most challenging in the school's history, with a new head of school, the challenges of the pandemic and Epstein's 50th anniversary, Fran led the Epstein Board with passion, creativity, and a vision of the school's role in our larger Jewish community."



The Syracuse Hebrew Day School paid tribute to Holly Bossert, a retired school band director, who devoted hours to the Syracuse Hebrew Day School library. "Along with her sister Linda Eisenberg, who was our volunteer of the year last year, Holly enjoys organizing and making sure the library books are shelved properly and neatly. Working with students is also professionally gratifying for her. An added benefit is that Holly gets to work with her niece Stacy Seidman who teaches at SHDS, and her great-niece Makayla who graduated in June."

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Jewish Observer
of Central New York

Day School Honors Those Who Learn, Who Served and Who Teach



The **Syracuse Hebrew Day School** maintained its traditions despite the restrictions of the pandemic. Kita Alef, the first grade, received their siddurim at *Kabbalat HaSiddur* ceremony, attended in person by parents and grandparents and watched virtually by other well-wishers. In a concession to COVID, the usual Hebrew performance was presented via YouTube.

It is a tradition at the Day School for fifth and sixth graders to place flags at the graves of Jewish War Veterans for Memorial Day. This is the 17th year that Steve Siskind has donated more than 600 flags for this purpose and that the Day School students have helped to honor those who served their country in the armed forces. For the past three years Steve Nathan, a



Vietnam veteran and member of Temple Concord, has not only donated half the cost of the flags but has personally placed flags at the graves of Jewish war veterans in Temple Concord's section of Woodlawn Cemetery. "We are honored to be able to do this for people who did so much for us and our country," said Head of School Laura Lavine.



A surprise trip to Howe Caverns was arranged for the Class of 2021, which had seen so many of its usual senior year activities curtailed. "After this crazy year, Howe caverns was a great way to have some fun to celebrate our graduation," said Julia Zames.

The spirit of *I'dor v'dor*, from generation to generation, was much in evidence at the Day School's Middle School Transition

Panel, at which alumni shared their experiences in middle and high school with the Class of 2021 and their parents. "The SHDS alumni helped to relieve our worries about middle school," commented Rose Scheer. Classmates Barack Moustafa and Benzi Ashkenazi added, "I found out that I don't have to be worried about what people will think of me" and "I'm looking forward to making new friends in middle school."

The **Syracuse Hebrew Day School** presented the 2020-2021 Jeremy Blumenthal Award to Cantor Kari Eglash. Cantor Eglash joined the leadership team at Temple Concord as its cantor and educator in 2014, and has enriched that historic community with innovative musical and educational programming ever since. In addition to her work for Temple Concord, Cantor Eglash volunteers as the cantillation teacher for SHDS fifth graders. Her weekly instruction provides essential skills and knowledge without which students would not have a full Jewish education. The Jeremy Blumenthal award is given to Cantor Kari Eglash in thanks for her years of volunteer service to the Day School.



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GEORGE FELDMAN

May 14, 2021

George Feldman, 87, passed away at Francis House on May 14. Born in Hungary, he and his mother fled to America because of the looming threat of Nazi occupation. He lived most of his life in Syracuse.

George was a technician and dedicated union official for General Electric in Syracuse until retiring. He was a former member of Temple Beth El and served his country in the U.S. Army.

George was predeceased by a daughter, Wendie Feldman Moore, in 2015. He is survived by his beloved wife Irina, his daughter Deborah Feldman Vigeant, his son Lester Feldman and his grandsons Benjamin Moore and Marc Vigeant.

George's sense of humor, ability for wonderful conversations and intelligent perspective will be missed by all who knew him.

Private services and burial in Beth El Cemetery beside his daughter Wendie of blessed memory were for the immediate family.

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MARVIN FEINBERG

May 18, 2021

Marvin Feinberg, 88, of Bloomfield, NJ, passed away on May 18 after a brief illness. Marvin was born on October 19, 1932 in Syracuse, NY to Lena and Phillip Feinberg. He graduated from Central Tech High School and attended Syracuse University where he received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. Upon graduating from Syracuse University, Marvin moved to New York City where he became involved in the fashion industry, becoming the buyer for women's coats for many of the major retailers in the metropolitan area.

After he retired from the fashion industry, Marvin continued to be called on to work various positions. He was an office manager for a physician and, in his final years, worked in the bakery of the local grocery store, which was a passion of his. Marvin lived life to the fullest and loved to travel, bake and spend time with his family, as well as his best friend Maria Cosentino. Marvin loved his neighbors and, in turn, became like a second grandfather to them. Later in years, they assisted him as his health declined. The family will be forever grateful to them, especially Sharon Murphy and Pat and Ned Currie for being so caring and attentive to Marvin.

Marvin was predeceased by his parents, Phillip and Lena Feinberg, as well as his siblings, Edith Feinberg and Bennett Feinberg. He is survived by his niece, Marilyn Feinberg, and his nephews Barton (Sarah Stack) Feinberg and Robert Andrew (Heidi Wasserstrom) Feinberg, along with several nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services were conducted in the Temple Concord section of Woodlawn Cemetery for the immediate family.

Contributions may be made to Helping Hounds of Central New York.

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YETTA BIBEN
May 18, 2021

Yetta Biben, 97, passed away in the comfort of her home on May 18. Born on October 6, 1923 to Samuel and Lena Berman Lipkin, she was a life resident of Syracuse. She married Asher Biben on September 7, 1947. They had been married for 53 years when he passed in 2000. Yetta was independent and lived a full life. She was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun. She will forever be remembered for her love and devotion to her family and friends.

She is survived by her son Eric, her daughter Dr. Maxene (Linwood Williamson) Biben and her grandchildren Seth (Jacquelyn) Williamson and Lacey (Kevin Hedrick) Williamson.

Graveside funeral services were held at Frumah Packard Cemetery.
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WILLIAM I. LEVY, MD
June 4, 2021

William I. Levy, MD, 79 passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side on June 4. Born in Akron, OH on July 24, 1941 to Harry and Ruth Levy, Bill had been a resident of Syracuse since 1987.

He was a proud alumnus of Western Reserve Academy of Hudson, OH, a graduate of Brown University and a graduate of the University of Miami Medical School.

Bill was a practicing anesthesiologist in Lexington, KY while also pursuing his passion for thoroughbred horses, eventing and fox hunting at Bay Harbor Farm which he had established. In 1987 Bill, Linda and their son Harry relocated to Syracuse where he joined CNY Anesthesia Group and welcomed daughter Sarah a few years later.

In 2000 Bill established office-based anesthesia, providing high quality outpatient anesthesia services. Bill was always pursuing a challenge and in 2011 he joined the military entrance processing station where he was responsible for medically examining military applicants. Although Bay Harbor Farm was reluctantly sold, his interests in thoroughbreds, guitar, fishing, golf, music and Australian Rules Football never waned.

His family includes his wife Linda of 38 years and their children Harry (Tessa) and Sarah.

Funeral services were held at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Burial was in the family plot in Mobile, AL.
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MARILYN C. MILLER
May 30, 2021

Marilyn C. Miller, 79, died May 30 at Crouse Hospital. Born on July 24, 1941 to Morris and Frieda Simon Miller, she was a life resident of Syracuse. Marilyn was proud to guide and teach many, many students during her career as a teacher in the Syracuse City Schools.

As an only child she was devoted to her parents of blessed memory. She cared for them in their

senior years as they had cared for her until those roles reversed. Marilyn was a former member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and was laid to rest beside her parents in the Adath Yeshurun Cemetery.

Besides her parents, Marilyn was predeceased by her dear friend Anne Meltzer who was truly like a sister to her. She is survived by a close circle of friends who became her family
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