

Jewish Observer

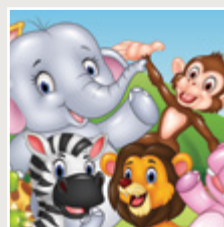
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of Central New York

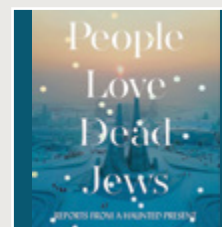
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DON'T MISS:
ZOO-PER SUNDAY
PREVIEW
(1)



INSIDE:
PEOPLE LOVE DEAD
JEWS REVIEW
(2)



LOOK:
HONOR ROLL
OF DONORS
(4-7)

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

I recently came across a college which described itself as “futuredriven.” Yes, one word and a good one. So much of our living today is futuredriven. Technology, artificial intelligence and social media increasingly determine how we do the most mundane things – communicating, banking, shopping, driving. Our futuredriven selves are hurtling toward tomorrow nonstop. Not that it’s necessarily bad. I don’t miss going to a bank to make a deposit; I prefer doing it on my phone. I get a kick out of telling Alexa to turn on the light or announce the time or the forecast. Shopping online is the best, and I thrill to the fact that my car can alert me to a driver in my blind spot.

But when Chanukah rolls around, and I take out the *chanukiya*, I revel in the fact that this holiday is so low-tech, so pastdriven. All it really asks is that you light candles, sing songs, play dreidels and fry foods in oil. It’s old-fashioned. It recalls events that happened long ago and which may not even have happened. Chanukah is also very much a contemporary holiday. It is not mentioned in the Torah and, to my great surprise, was not even celebrated in many Jewish communities outside of the United States. In anticipation of this issue of the *JO*, I wrote to several community members who were not born here to ask how they celebrated Chanukah where they were children. To my surprise, many responded that they did not celebrate Chanukah at all or even know it existed until they came to America.

Besides frying latkes or donuts in oil, the only other Chanukah custom that is somewhat universal is the giving of gelt to children. Gelt today most likely takes the form of Amazon gift cards, but the idea is the same. So that got me thinking about giving and getting and gelt and gifts. Federation, for many, is synonymous

with getting gelt – as much and as often as possible. Hopefully, people are also aware Federation gives gelt – a LOT of gelt – to a lot of programs and organizations that support and sustain our community.

And that leaves gifts. For kids, Chanukah may be all about gifts. Getting gifts for eight nights often serves as compensation for not celebrating that other holiday which dominates December. But the gifts that I appreciate the most, and for which I have developed a tremendous sense of gratitude, are those given to Federation by our community members. We all owe a tremendous debt to the hundreds of people who contribute each year to the campaign. They are listed in this Chanukah issue of the *JO* because they exemplify the literal meaning of the word chanukah – dedication.

But what is it that makes people give? I wanted to learn the answer to that question, so I wrote to another group of community members: 29 donors named Cohen and 29 donors named Goldberg. I asked them, “What makes Cohens contribute?” and “What makes Goldbergs give?” The answers I got were heartwarming. I hope *JO* readers will be as inspired reading them as I was.

Why Goldbergs Give and Cohens Contribute

M. Cohen replied, *“I give to Federation because I know that my needs and interests can and will be met by the organizations that Federation supports. It is both a comfort and an obligation I am grateful to have.”*

E. Goldberg said, *“I give because the Federation makes it possible for us to send our daughter to the best little school in Central New York - SHDS!”*

S. Goldberg wrote, *“I support Federation because I believe it is important to support the Jewish community. Some people feel connected to their faith by participating in services or religious rituals, but that has never been how I’ve felt connected. I feel connected through the community, through meeting others and being a part of a larger group. Being involved in Federation gives me that feeling of community, of being a part of a larger whole.”*

E. Cohen wrote, *“When I give to the Jewish Federation of Central New York, I know that my money is being divided and used as efficiently as possible.”*

T. Cohen said, *“With all the divisiveness, polarization and hate surrounding us these days, solidarity with our Jewish Community is more important than ever before. We must never let the ‘light go out!’”*

A. Goldberg said, *“The reason for my support for Federation is simple: I see Federation as the glue that holds the parts to the whole together, making a community and acting on behalf of the community.”*

R. Cohen answered, *“I give to Federation because when we work together to support our Jewish institutions, we make the biggest impact in our community.”*

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From the Federation President/CEO

Michael Balanoff

Looking over the past year, I am overcome with a sense of gratitude at what our community has accomplished by working together and partnering with others.



- Our community is safe because we have a security program that is second to none, with kudos to Susan DeMari.
- We have held very well-attended and meaningful programs about diversity and antisemitism and our Community Relations Committee is continually alert and responsive to issues that affect our community.
- We raised \$100,000 in two weeks for an ambulance for Israel. (And it will be here for us to see in March on its way to Magen David Adom.)
- Our community's rabbis, congregation presidents and synagogue and agency executives meet regularly with Federation leadership to discuss issues of common concern and to make plans for an exciting community future.
- Federation is partnering with our synagogues to open wonderful programs to the entire community at no charge. The beginning Hebrew class that Ruth Stein is teaching through Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevre Shas has doubled in size as a result of this partnership, and we are looking forward to partnering with Temple Concord on a Sunday Cinema Series. More partnerships are in the works.
- We were able to donate over \$75,000 to Menorah Park for COVID-related expenses and \$100,000 to the synagogues and agencies to use at their discretion.
- The assets of our Jewish Community Foundation now exceed \$23 million and the Foundation gave a record-breaking \$320,000 to the Federation campaign this year.

- Cindy Stein has taken over the Shalom Syracuse program and is welcoming newcomers to the area with the charm for which she is renowned. Our community has also gained a Moishe Pod and Federation's own NexGen group is making exciting plans for our community's young adults.
- Despite the challenges of teaching and learning during a pandemic, all three of our community's Jewish schools – the Day School, the Community Hebrew School and the Epstein School – are not only surviving but thriving, thanks to creative and dedicated leadership and innovative and committed teachers.
- The *Jewish Observer* has become a favorite community resource and source of pride, and the *JO* Appeal is reflecting the community's support. Through *JO* stories, we are also learning how many diverse and talented people live in our community.
- Our 2022 campaign will focus not only on fundraising but addressing an issue of monumental importance to all of us: the effects of climate change on our planet. We will kick off the campaign with an evening of magic and mentalism, move to a Zoo-per Sunday, designed to be a delight for kids and people of all ages, and conclude with a very special program of appreciation at our campaign partner, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

As we look ahead to 2022, I am confident that we are moving in the right direction and that with the support and generosity of the members of our community, we will fulfill our mission of building a strong Jewish future in Central New York and Israel and worldwide through philanthropy, engagement, education, and advocacy.

ZOO-PER SUNDAY is for EVERYONE!!!



January 9, 2022 is the date. 12-2 pm is the time.
Come to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo or join us on Zoom!
There will be lots of activities and lots of PRIZES!

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ✓ **GET YOUR ZOO-PER SWAG BAG**
with puzzles, games, toys and animal crackers by emailing bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org.
- ✓ **GET YOUR FREE FAMILY PASS TO THE ZOO FOR JANUARY 9th**
by making a pledge to 2022 Campaign at <https://jewishfederationcny.org/donate/> by January 5th.
- ✓ **ENTER THE PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT**
at the Zoo (instructions in swag bag).
- ✓ **TELL US WHO YOUR FAVORITE WILD ANIMAL IS.**
Send a photo or drawing of your favorite wild animal to jo@jewishfederationcny.org before January 1st for display on Zoo-per Sunday.
- ✓ **ANSWER ZOO TRIVIA QUESTIONS DURING SUPER SUNDAY!**
- ✓ **GUESS WHO OUR SPECIAL ANIMAL MASCOT IS!**

**ZOO-PER SUNDAY
WILL BE A LOT OF FUN!!!!**

» Book Review

People Love Dead Jews by Dara Horn



Reviewed by Alan Goldberg

Dara Horn, a prize-winning novelist and scholar of Hebrew and Yiddish literature, has written a disquieting new book, *People Love Dead Jews: Reports From a Haunted Present*, that

is not simply to be read but to be discussed. I've spent the last 15 years teaching about the Holocaust, have made the requisite pilgrimage tour through Eastern Europe, have visited many major Holocaust museums and memorials in the United States, European cities and Israel and read a fair amount of Holocaust literature. Yet reading each of her twelve thoughtful essays, some of which were previously published in scholarly journals, challenged me to reexamine my understanding and memorializing of Jewish reality. Her writing style is both witty and acerbic as she criticizes contemporary presentations of Holocaust museums and

literature as too often avoiding the main issue, which is that the world has come to know dead Jews more than living ones.

In her first essay, "Everyone's (second) Favorite Jew," Horn relates an incident at the Anne Frank House when, to maintain a goal of neutrality, an employee was told to discard his yarmulka at work or hide it under a baseball cap. Why, Horn asks, did it take four months for the board to relent "which seems like a rather long time...to ponder whether it was a good idea to force a Jew into hiding." Why, I ask, would the museum have to be neutral. After all, the story it tells is about Jews in hiding. It's ironic that in a place where Jews were forced to hide, a Jew was again being asked to conceal his identity.

Horn is even more incisive in her critique of the worldwide popularity of Anne Frank's diary. She suggests it's

required reading because we find inspiration in Anne's last words: "I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart." Horn's interpretation



is biting and sweeping. "It is far more gratifying to believe that an innocent girl has offered us grace than to recognize the obvious: Frank wrote about people being 'truly good at heart' before meeting people who weren't. Three weeks after writing these words, she met people who weren't. Here's how much some people dislike living Jews: they murdered 6 million of them." Horn refuses to let us take the easy way out by clutching onto inspirational and universal lessons and redemptive endings whether found in Anne Frank's Diary, memorial museums or Holocaust literature. Instead, she forces us to confront the reality of evil.

Horn's account of her visit to Harbin in northeastern China where the Chinese government has constructed a Disney-like Jewish Heritage theme park, under the assumption that it would attract hordes of wealthy Jewish tourists, is both comical and mocking. Although writing about Harbin, Horn's real attack is aimed at the tourist-industry for its creation of "Jewish Heritage Sites" which sounds better than "Property Seized from Dead or Expelled Jews." However, as she points out, the tourist industry's language serves its purpose by absolving visitors from asking the obvious question of why Jews no longer live there.

Throughout, Horn refuses to let us escape bringing the past into the present. In her essay, "On Rescuing Jews and Others," she questions why Varian Fry, the first American to be honored by *Yad Vashem* as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations," is generally unknown in the United States. Fry rescued anti-Nazis and Jews including Hannah Arendt, Marc Chagall and Claude Levi-Strauss. Fry's choices of whom to rescue recalls the words of the *Unetnah-Tokef*, "who shall live and who shall die," and we must add, who should make those choices? Perhaps Fry is relatively unknown because, as a nation, we knew and did little. His actions, although laudatory, "reveal U.S. complicity in the Holocaust."

Horn is troubled by the short shelf life of recent events like the shooting of Jews in Pittsburgh, San Diego and New Jersey and arson attacks on synagogues. She asks whether we've established the Holocaust as the bar for judging attacks on Jews. If so, is that bar too high, so that "anything short of the Holocaust is, well, not the Holocaust?"

That leads her to a thought-provoking analysis of the upsurge in antisemitism. She speculates that the last few generations of American non-Jews were so horrified by the Holocaust that antisemitism became unacceptable and shameful. Now that there are fewer who remember the shock of the Holocaust and no survivors to remind them, the shame associated with expressing antisemitism may have dissipated and "normal was coming back."

There is a delightful parental educational exchange between Horn and her 10-year-old son, whom she loves "but is not always an easy person to love," when they spend commuting time listening to a podcast of *The Merchant of Venice*. On hearing Shylock's famous questions about whether Jews bleed or die, her son interprets Shylock not as sympathetic but rather as similar to a Batman villain who uses being vilified as an excuse for being evil. Horn, with her doctorate in literature, wants her son to see the many layers in the play. She concludes, "but unlike me, my son insists on integrity, demands it. He is not afraid to be unpleasant; he knows evil when he hears it."

Horn ends her book by combining past with present through engaging in the *Daf Yomi* cycle of Talmud study. She responds to hate and finds comfort by interacting with our ancient sages who she finds argumentative and funny while connecting with live Jews who challenge one another with questions and interpretations. For Horn, Jewishness is not a visit to a heritage site, a museum, or a cemetery but engaging in a continuing conversation that began in the past, continues in the present and, hopefully, will endure into the future.

Dr. Alan Goldberg is professor emeritus in the Department of Counseling and Human Services at Syracuse University and inaugural director of Holocaust and Genocide Education at the School of Education.

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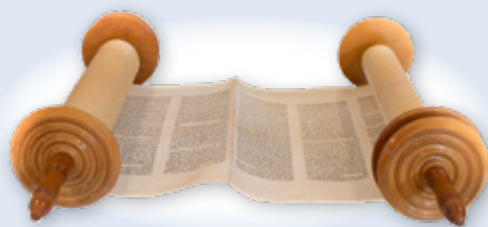


Dr. Laura Davis

D'var Torah

Jewish Prayer Is at a Crossroad

by Rabbi David Katz, Temple Society of Concord



The world has experienced a time of sickness, danger and death and though we may now be seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, it is unclear where the tunnel leads. One thing is certain: how we Jews conduct our prayer services is at an inflection point.

Throughout our history, cohesiveness as a prayer community has depended on and been defined by our physical proximity to one another. This is evidenced by religious laws designed to keep us together in shared spaces. First there was the *eruv*, the spatial boundary within which Jews were permitted to carry and travel on Shabbat. Then came the *minyan* which required the attendance of 10 adult Jewish men to allow the recitation of key prayers and reading from the Torah scroll. Along with these laws have been teachings which explicitly emphasized the importance of gathering in person. Listen to *Midrash Tehillim*: “When you pray, pray in the synagogue of your city; if you are unable to pray in the synagogue, pray in your field; if you are unable to pray in your field, pray in your home; if you are unable to pray in your home, pray on your couch; and, if you are unable to pray on your couch, meditate in your heart.”

In the pandemic, Zoom has many of us praying on our couches, and as we can see from the midrash, doing so is not near the top of the list. We understand why. We lose so much when do not gather in the same place. We lose the *oneg* where we can nosh, kibbitz and catch up with one another. We lose the shaking of hands, kissing on cheeks and the ability to pick up on subtle signs that a friend is sad and needs reassurance. We lose being able to acknowledge a *yahrzeit* observed at the service and the pleasure seeing children playing in the corner of the social hall. Zoom limits us.

Will we keep Zoom as an option after the pandemic is over, offering a hybrid service

where we can choose to come in person or pray in our living rooms? Many have gotten used to this new technology. It is so very convenient. We can already hear the arguments for offering a technology option. What if our elderly cannot drive in the dark, shouldn't we have an *ongoing* alternative for them? If there's a blizzard, should we cancel services and do nothing in its stead when we could meet online? And what about our relatives in California who are asking if they can “attend” the *bar mitzvah* service on YouTube because they can't make the trip? Rabbi, isn't it better to be connected through technology than not at all? We should be thankful that there is an alternative.

These arguments carry weight, but we need to be careful. Offering Zoom and/or livestreaming as an alternative to in-house prayer for every service may have unintended, negative consequences. Attendance in the sanctuary might fall short of a minyan because so many decide to stay at home, or those in attendance in the synagogue may be demoralized when they see empty seats where their friends used to sit. Most concerning is the possibility that the value of physically gathering for the wedding or the funeral may itself diminish.

It is clear that parameters will need to be established and creative solutions developed when considering how to pray as Jews. “It's a new world, Golde,” as Tevye said.

That it is, a brave, new world, and there is no turning back. We must move forward thoughtfully and be guided by our tradition

A Wonderful Chanukah Gift to Our Community and Its Future

Marjorie Pierson donated Mordechai Rosenstein's beautiful rendering of “Zachor” [Remember] to the Jewish Federation in memory of her grandparents, Moses and Sarah Oberdorfer. That gift, proudly displayed in the Federation office, reminds all who see it that for Jews, memory is not just individual, but also communal.

The Pierson family has a long and distinguished history with the Syracuse Jewish community. Theodore and Marjorie Pierson were key founders and supporters of many Jewish organizations in Syracuse, including the Federation, Temple Concord, the Jewish campus ministry and Hendricks Chapel at Syracuse University.

Ted Pierson, a successful businessman and engineer, was active in the Federation for many years. He served on the board of directors and chaired the 1981 campaign. He was also a trustee of Temple Society of Concord and founded the Jewish Student Fellowship at Syracuse University, the predecessor of Hillel. Marjorie Oberdorfer Bronner Pierson served as president of the Syracuse section of the National Council of Jewish Women and was an active volunteer for the Federation. She was honored with the NCJW Hannah G. Solomon Award and the Jewish Family Service Humanitarian Award. Her ancestors, the Oberdorfer and Bronner families, likewise were prominent members of the local Jewish community.

The Piersons' son Edward, with his wife Elaine and their son Alan, wish to perpetuate the Pierson family's legacy of commitment to and support of the Syracuse Jewish community. They have established an endowment that will support initiatives not for just one year, or even one generation, but in perpetuity. In this way, they can extend Pierson family values for future generations. “Every year my father brought home a pile of letters,” said Edward. “We then had a family party stuffing thousands of envelopes to raise money for the Jewish organization at Syracuse University. The family's history of supporting the Syracuse Jewish community started in the 1840s, when our ancestors helped found the Temple Society of Concord. Although we no longer live in Syracuse, we continue to support a strong Jewish community in central New York for future generations.”

The Marjorie Oberdorfer Bronner Pierson and Theodore Pierson Family Endowment for the Jewish Future is started with a \$100,000 gift in 2021, with the expectation that significant additional funds will be committed in the future. Five percent of the endowment will be used each year to fund programs or projects that exemplify



the Endowment's values.

In the first year of the program, the fund initiated a “Six Under 36 Program,” through which six young Jewish leaders, chosen by a panel of community leaders from nominations made by the community, will each be awarded a donor advised fund of \$1,000 at the Jewish Community Foundation of CNY to be used to support an organization with which they have worked or a cause they have supported. The “Six Under 36 Program” will be run under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of Central New York.

As the Endowment grows, the annual donor advised funds will grow and new programs will be established to recognize and support the work of young people who are the community's future and to support other educational activities and programs. In this way, the core values, deep commitment and activism that the Piersons demonstrated during their lifetime can be perpetuated by supporting the work of those who today recognize the importance of a Jewish community and work to keep it strong and vital.

MIRACLES STILL HAPPEN



Each year at Chanukah, we celebrate the story of the Maccabees and the tiny jar of oil that burned for eight nights as the Temple was rededicated. It was a miracle.
Each year at Chanukah, we also celebrate the miracles that occur each and every day in our Jewish community thanks to the generosity of the donors to the Jewish Federation of Central New York.

Miracles large and small, communal and individual, are made possible by the gifts of hundreds of donors. The needs of our community – for childcare and eldercare, Jewish education, interest-free financial assistance, scholarships and camperships, counseling, food, culture and connection – are met thanks to your support.

One kind of dreidel says, “A great miracle happened there.”
Another kind says, “A great miracle happened here.”
This listing of Federation donors celebrates the miracles that happen here at home.
Thank you.



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Sunday Cinema Circle Kick Off Event Was a Big Hit



The Sunday Cinema Circle, a partnership of the Federation and Temple Concord, with funding from M&T Bank, kicked off with an award-winning comedy from Joel Zwick, director of “My Big Fat Greek Wedding.”

The film recounts the story of Moshe Yehuda, a Hasidic rabbi and amateur hora dancer, who enters a televised tango competition to save his Hebrew school from bankruptcy. There is only one problem: due to his religious beliefs, he is not allowed to touch a woman. At odds with his wife and five kids, his rabbi and his entire Hasidic community in Brooklyn, Moshe is forced to ask a Catholic priest, a Muslim imam and a Sikh holy man for advice. The result is what was described by one reviewer as “a cohesive, delightful film about a man who loves his family and his life.”

The Sunday Cinema Circle provided free links to the movie to the first fifty people who responded to the announcement. There will be other movies offered in 2022. Watch for them on Community Happenings and the Federation Facebook and Instagram posts.

Can you match the Chanukah Greeting with its Homeland???

1. Bon Hanukkah	Iceland
2. Happy Xavouká	Russia
3. Hamingjusamur Hanukkah	Hawaii
4. Hanukkah Shona	Viet Nam
5. Felice Hanukkah	Indonesia
6. Chúc mừng lễ Hanukkah	Germany
7. Selamat Hanukkah	Greece
8. Gelukkige Hanukkah	France
9. Fröhliches Hanukkah	Ireland
10. Glad Hanukkah	Italy
11. Szczęśliwego święta Chanuka	Scandinavia
12. Feliz Jánuca	Poland
13. Счастливой Хануки [Schastlivoi Khanuki]	Spain
14. Hau’oli Hanukkah	Netherlands

Answers on Pg. 17

Colleen Cicotta to Head Syracuse Jewish Family Service

Colleen Cicotta, an experienced and dedicated community engagement professional, will lead the 130-year-old Syracuse Jewish Family Service, affiliated with Menorah Park. As the agency’s chief executive, she will be responsible for the agency’s overall administration. Cicotta has a master’s degree in public administration from the Maxwell School and a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Potsdam. She served most recently as associate director of the Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service at Syracuse University and is a recent graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse.



“Colleen is the right person to take SJFS forward into a new chapter of effectiveness and community engagement,” said Menorah Park CEO Mary Ellen Bloodgood. “She combines administrative know-how, experience and regional connections with a big heart. I know Menorah Park’s human services arm will grow and flourish under her guidance. Colleen is committed to prioritizing Jewish tradition and principles of family, community, diversity, respect and autonomy as guiding values for SJFS.”

Syracuse Jewish Family Service is the human services arm of the Jewish community, dedicated to holistic, preventive, wellness-oriented integration of social and human services, offered without regard to race or creed to all residents of Central New York. Its services fall into four interactive areas, with a special emphasis on issues

of aging: planning and navigating the journey, promoting and restoring mental health, supporting brain health and living well with dementia and catalyzing families, professionals and ancillary services.

Cicotta served two years in AmeriCorps VISTA and has served on the boards of the Brady Faith Center, Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse, and the Parent Advisory Committee at Rothschild Early Child Center at Temple Adath Yeshurun. As she takes the helm of SJFS, she says, “I am humbled to serve as champion for Syracuse Jewish Family Service. For 130 years, the agency has consistently been guided by the needs of the communities we serve. I look forward to continuing this practice in serving an ever-diversifying population of Central New York seniors and families.”

NexGen’s Next Moves

by Emma Spector

NexGen Syracuse is a social group for young adults 21+ who want to connect with a network of Jewish peers with shared values and find opportunities for community service and leadership development. Chaired by Elyssa Rosenbaum, the group’s steering committee consists of Amira Kipnis, Matt Harvey, Emma Spector, Kendall Malkin, Jon Zella and Arel Moodie.

NexGen is in the process of creating a space on the Federation website with a calendar of events. The group plans to use social media, Community Happenings and the *Jewish Observer* to make the community aware of their upcoming activities and programs. NexGen’s goal is to be a true community organization, bringing together like-minded people to create deeper engagement within Syracuse’s Jewish community.

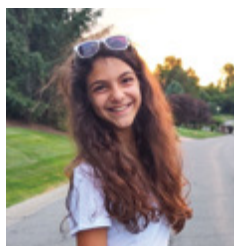
Currently, the group is in the planning stages of a monthly Shabbat or havdallah experience, a volunteer activity and a social event. “We’re gearing up for a great year,” said Elyssa. “We plan to make NexGen Syracuse the place for all things young and Jewish in Central New York.”

Fall B'nai Mitzvah

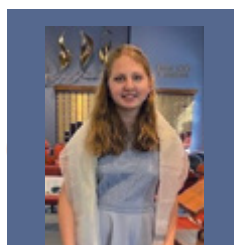
When a child becomes bar or bat mitzvah and has a ceremony in the synagogue to mark the milestone, it is a gift to the community. At Chanukah, we are proud to recognize the ten young men and women pictured below who became Jewish adults this fall. It is particularly suitable that we do this in the Chanukah issue, because their dedication to Judaism is exemplified in the hard work they do in preparation for this rite of passage. We congratulate them and their parents and thank them for strengthening the link in an unbroken chain of thousands of years of Jewish tradition.



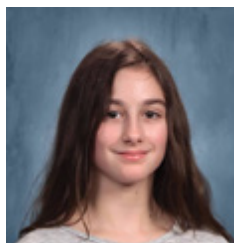
Remy Sinclair became Bar mitzvah at Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse on August 7. He is the third son of Jay and Anick Sinclair. Remy is a graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and is a current student at Eagle Hill Middle School as well as The Epstein School of Jewish Studies. Remy adores his dog, playing soccer and football, the trumpet and strategic video games.



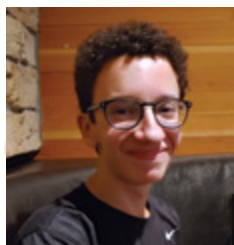
Maytal Downie finally celebrated her bat mitzvah on August 7 with family and friends. She attended Temple Adath Yeshurun religious school and enjoyed learning the tropes with Hanita Blair. Maytal plays the violin and loves to longboard but most of all she loves spending time with her friends and family.



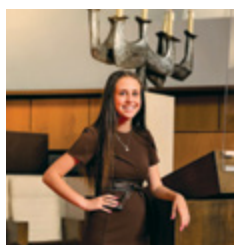
Shayna Nellis became a bat mitzvah on August 28 at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. She is currently attending the Epstein School and tutoring at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Shayna enjoys dance and horseback riding and volunteers at the Matilda Jocelyn Gage house.



Lillian Engel became bat mitzvah on September 25 at Temple Society of Concord. She received her religious education at Temple Society of Concord and is currently attending the Epstein School. Lillian is a talented competitive gymnast. In her free time, Lilly enjoys practicing gymnastics, drawing, and reading.



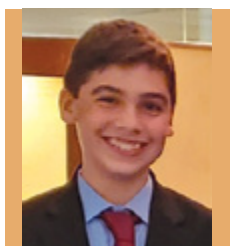
Alex Ovadia became bar mitzvah on October 2 at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. He attended the CBS-CS religious school. He enjoys playing soccer, running, music, and hanging out with his friends, sometimes all at once.



Olivia Kaufman Clark became a bat mitzvah on October 2. She is a freshman at Jamesville DeWitt High School. She received her religious education at Temple Adath Yeshurun, the Community Hebrew School and attended JCC Day Camp, as well as Camp Pembroke in Pembroke, Massachusetts during her summers. Olivia has several diverse talents and interests. She enjoys participating in band, tennis, lacrosse and jewelry making. Olivia is passionate about current events and politics and aspires to one day have a career in law. She is a kindhearted and empathetic young woman who is loved beyond words by her friends and family.



Noah Mower's bar mitzvah was on October 9 at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Noah attended religious school at Temple Adath Yeshurun and at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and is currently attending the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies. He is very committed to his religious education and spends time outside of his formal religious studies learning about all aspects of Judaism. He is also a *madrich* at Temple Adath Yeshurun's religious school. He loves to learn and enjoys his academic studies as much as his religious education. He has an interest in all things history, but not as much as his love for animals. He is a volunteer at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.



Eric Kozlowski became bar mitzvah on October 16. He received his religious education at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Eric is an energetic, smart and funny teen who is really good at making people laugh. He is an excellent baseball player and was a New York State wrestling champ. In his spare time, Eric likes to ski, golf, play with his friends on the X-box and spend time with Lucy (his dog).



Sayde Gitner became a bat mitzvah on October 23 at Temple Concord. She is a student at Eagle Hill Middle School in Manlius where she is in the eighth grade and attended Temple Concord religious school. Sayde is an avid figure skater. Her hobbies include both interior and graphic design. She hopes to return to Long Lake Camp next summer.



Rose Scheer became a bat mitzvah on November 27 at Temple Adath Yeshurun. She is a graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and attends the Epstein School. She spends her summers at Camp Ramah in New England. She dances on the performance team at her dance studio. She also loves baking and spending time with her friends.

JCC Beginners Computer Class Starts December 5

Do you know how to "Google" something, set up your email or keep track of appointments using an online calendar? If you'd like to become more proficient with these skills and many more computer, tablet or smartphone tools, then the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center of Syracuse wants to help.

The JCC of Syracuse will hold a "Digital Basics" computer class on Sunday, December 5 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Center on 5655 Thompson Rd., DeWitt. The class will focus on using Google's free software as an introduction to the digital world and teach simple tricks and workflows to help save time and frustration. The cost is \$25, and registration is required by calling the JCC at 315-445-2360.

A limited number of laptop computers will be available to borrow. However, attendees are encouraged to bring their own laptops to the class.

Additional "Digital Basics" classes will be offered in the future to help adults and seniors of any age become more proficient and confident in their use of technology. Future classes will focus on different aspects of your digital life—from Web browsing, email and contacts to calendars and saving files in the "cloud." The "Digital Basics" instructor is Alec Erlebacher, founder and owner of the local technology and media company Smart Alec Support.

Look for future announcements and information on the JCC website www.jccsyr.org about upcoming classes. For more information and suggestions on classes and content, contact Cindy at 315-445-2040, ext. 104, or cstein@jccsyr.org.

Jewish News From Around The World



Bnei Menashe group from India lands at Ben-Gurion on Yom HaAliyah. A total of 235 new immigrants from the Bnei Menashe community in India landed at Ben-Gurion International Airport on Wednesday as part of the Yom HaAliyah national celebration. Hailing from Manipur in northeast India, they have preserved Jewish traditions across generations. Their move to Israel is the result of a government decision promoted by the Minister of Aliyah and Integration Pnina Tamano-Shata and the Jerusalem-based Shavei Israel organization.

High-level officials from Israel and the six Arab countries with which it has normalized relations met in the United Arab Emirates for the first-ever multilateral meeting between senior representatives of the seven countries. The two-day conference named N7 — N for

normalization and 7 for the number of participating countries — was the culmination of six months of planning. Officials from the UAE, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Israel participated.

Helping Jordan tackle COVID. Mohammed Al-Hadid, president of the Jordanian Red Crescent, praised Israel for training his paramedics to face the COVID pandemic. He said Magen David Adom was “a fantastic organization,” and the staff they trained “were instrumental in the COVID crisis.” <https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/jordanian-red-crescent-chief-mda-training-prepared-our-medics-for-covid/>

Bedouin host Jews for Sukkot. Bedouin Arabs from the Jahalin tribe in Judea and Samaria turned one of their tents in Khan al-Ahmar into a sukkah and invited Jews to enjoy Bedouin hospitality during the Sukkot holiday. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEQ4i9HiqY>

Help for Afghans. Israel’s SmartAID is helping give mental health support to at risk women in Afghanistan. They are also providing cell phones, data packages and solar battery packs. <https://www.israel21c.org/israeli-aid-agency-connects-afghani-women-to-counseling/>

Exports rise 24%. Israeli exports of goods and services rose 24% in the first half of 2021 to \$67.6 billion compared to the same period in 2020. Exports rose an unprecedented 38% in the second quarter. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/israeli-exports-rise-24-percent-after-unprecedented-recovery-680422>

Space Jew. “Star Trek” actor William Shatner became the oldest human to reach space, taking the short, 11-minute trip aboard the Blue Origin spacecraft “New Horizons.”

Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. Israel’s Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai met with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to discuss the first-ever European Union Commission strategy on antisemitism and how best to serve the Swedish Jewish community. Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Blinken addressed the forum virtually. “When criticism of a particular Israeli policy mutates into questioning Israel’s very right to exist — this is not diplomacy, this is demonization and antisemitism, because Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish People,” Herzog said, calling for international cooperation to fight antisemitism and stressing the need to remove antisemitic content from social media.

OAS confronts antisemitism. For the first time in its more than 70-year history, the Organization of American States has designated a point person to tackle antisemitism in the Western Hemisphere. Fernando Lottenberg, a Brazilian constitutional attorney, who previously served as the leader of the country’s Jewish community, is serving as the OAS commissioner to monitor and combat antisemitism.

First 7-Eleven convenience store to open in Tel Aviv. Although the franchise operates seven days a week worldwide, in Israel the shops will be closed on Shabbat. Electra Consumer Products signed a 20-year franchise agreement with U.S.-based convenience store chain 7-Eleven to operate the brand in Israel with an option to extend the agreement for 50 years.

Out of this world. Astronauts from Austria, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain are spending one month at the Ramon crater in Israel’s Negev desert. Organized by the Israel Space Agency and the Austrian Space Forum, the astronauts are simulating life on the planet Mars. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TKsoKTtLQVI>

Israeli elected head of CERN. Israeli physicist Professor Eliezer Rabinovici was elected President of the council of CERN - the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Prof Rabinovici specializes in theoretical high-energy physics, particularly quantum field theory and string theory. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-elected-president-of-europes-nuclear-research-organization-cern/>

Heads up for the sea horse. Seahorses swim slowly but prey on small, quick-moving animals. Tel Aviv University researchers have discovered that seahorses can move their head up in an incredible 0.002 seconds. This causes a powerful flow of water that snags their prey right into the seahorse’s mouth. <https://english.tau.ac.il/news/seahorses>



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 Always There For You 

What's the Risk? A Look into Breast Cancer Risk and Prevention

by Sonali McIntyre

"...take utmost care and watch yourselves scrupulously, so that you do not forget the things that you saw with your own eyes and so that they do not fade from your mind as long as you live. And make them known to your children and to your children's children." Deuteronomy 4:9.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and in honor of such, the Temple Adath Yeshurun Sisterhood hosted a program led by Dr. Jayne Charlamb entitled *Breast Cancer Risk: What Every (Jewish) Family Should Know*.

Dr. Charlamb serves as the Director of the Division of Breast Health and Breastfeeding Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at SUNY Upstate Medical University. She is also an associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Her clinical



practice focuses on breastfeeding medicine and screening and prevention of breast cancer in women with high-risk benign breast disease.

Her presentation at TAY offered clear and concise information regarding predicting risk, fixed risk factors, modifiable risk factors, genetics and testing and additional risk factors associated with Ashkenazi Jews.

One in eight women in the United

States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, but Dr. Charlamb added that one in eight (or roughly 13%) is over a lifetime. The majority of risk is in the later years of a woman's life. It is very rare for a woman to get breast cancer when she is young. The rate of risk increases around age 50 and continues upward from there. However, from ages 50 to 70, there is only a 6% risk of developing breast cancer. Dr. Charlamb said, "Hopefully it takes some of the fear of the numbers out of it."

Fixed risk factors include: female, current age, race, height, country of birth, age of first menses, age at menopause, breast density, breast biopsy history, radiation exposure, family history and genetic mutations.

Breast cancer cases with known mutations are 10-15% of the total and include the most commonly known

genetic mutations BRCA1 and BRCA2. BRCA stands for **breast cancer** gene. Dr. Charlamb noted that BRCA gene mutations affect the risk of other cancers too, including ovarian, pancreatic and prostate cancer and melanoma. One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews carries a BRCA gene mutation, making them 10 times more likely to carry a BRCA mutation than the general population. This includes both males and females, and every parent with a BRCA mutation has a 50% chance of passing the mutation to each child.

Modifiable risk factors include: age at first birth, number of births, time since last pregnancy, breastfeeding, activity level, weight, weight gain after menopause, alcohol intake, heavy smoking, some menopausal hormones, hormonal contraception, night shift work, diet, vitamin D level and chemical exposure.

Dr. Charlamb stressed the importance of prevention and screening and how that will ultimately save lives. For more details about Dr. Charlamb's presentation and resources for prevention and screening, please visit www.adath.org or email Sonali McIntyre at sonali@adath.org.

"Late Show with Colbert" Writer to Speak at Temple Concord's Goldenberg Series

by Chana Meir

Jen Spyra, *New Yorker* contributor and former "Late Show with Stephen Colbert" writer, will discuss her book *Big Time* on December 13 at 7:30 pm as part of Temple Concord's Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series. *Big Time* is a collection of strange, dark and humorous stories that *Booklist* called "the perfect blend of stinging satire and salacious mirth."

In addition to having her work published in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Daily Beast* and elsewhere, Spyra has performed improv with teams in Chicago and Los Angeles and is currently performing in New York. She also voices Hillary Clinton and Jill Biden on *Showtime's* animated series, "Our Cartoon President."

The event is virtual and open to the public at no charge. To receive the Zoom link, register by clicking on the link on the Events Calendar at templeconcord.org.

CBS-CS and Chanukah: A Rededication to Values - 60 Years Later

by Joanne Villegas

As Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas begins its 60th year anniversary celebration, it plans to build on the Chanukah theme of rededication. While celebrating the restoration of the Second Temple following the Maccabean revolt, CBS-CS members will rededicate themselves to the values of its founders.

"Along with lighting candles, congregants will explore one of the original values of CBS-CS and how that value continues today and guides us into the future," explains Rabbi David Kunin.

Weekday celebrations will begin at 6 pm on Friday, December 3. The program will begin at 4 pm before Shabbat. On December 4, candles will be lit following Havdalah at 7 pm and on December 5, candle lighting will take place during the congregation's Intergenerational Celebration.

The theme of rededication will infuse the hybrid Intergenerational Celebration on the afternoon of December 5. The Chanukah festivities will include singing outside with a Klezmer band, hot chocolate, hot cider, sparklers and glow sticks. Candle lighting will be outside if it is not too windy, followed by an educational program highlighting the role of the Onondaga Nation as the firekeepers of the Haudenosaunee. CBS-CS invites the community to join in the Chanukah celebration as they rededicate themselves to CBS-CS's values.

To learn more or to attend events, please contact the CBS-CS office by phone at 315-446-9570 or email at admin@cbscs.org.





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Jewish Cook of the Month



Ellen Weinstein

Ellen Weinstein is a retired attorney and educator, originally from Brooklyn, a proud mother, mother-in-law and grandmother of seven, who lives in Dewitt with her incredible husband Howard and their dog, Larry.

Where did you learn to cook?

From my mother, mother-in-law and an array of cooking shows.

Why do you like to cook?

To me it is an expression of love and a means of bringing people together. In addition to being very relaxing, I take great pleasure seeing my family and friends enjoying the food I've prepared.

What is your favorite dish to prepare?

Anything with chicken.

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

When making chicken soup, I put the



cut-up chicken and soup greens (dill, parsley) in separate "soup socks" to keep the bones from splintering into the stock, and that also makes it easy to remove the soup greens.

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



Baked Chicken with Potatoes, Cherry Tomatoes and Herbs (4 servings)

1 chicken (cut in eighths) or 8 chicken thighs
4 tablespoons extra- virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon rosemary
2 small dried red chiles or 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
2 tablespoons kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
3 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, quartered
12 ounces cherry tomatoes
12 ounces sliced mushrooms
1 large yellow onion, sliced
1/4 cup dry white wine
4-6 sprigs of basil plus 2 tablespoons chopped for garnish (can substitute with tarragon or other herbs)

Make marinade: 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1/2 teaspoon rosemary (fresh or ground), 2 teaspoons salt, 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes or crumbled dried red chiles, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper.

Marinate chicken for 30 minutes at room temperature (or in refrigerator overnight).

Heat oven to 425 degrees. In a large plastic bag, combine the remaining olive oil, 1/2 tablespoon rosemary, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, mushrooms, generous sprinkling of salt and pepper and toss. Take contents of bag and spread out evenly in a baking dish. Arrange chicken pieces on top, skin side up. Add the wine, pouring along the edges of the pan and place basil sprigs (or substitute herbs, fresh or ground sprinkle) on top. Cover tightly and bake for 45 minutes.

Uncover, raise oven temperature to 450 degrees and continue baking for 45 more minutes or until skin is golden brown, basting occasionally. Discard basil sprigs and serve.

The *Jewish Observer* is presenting columns featuring businesses owned by members of our community. The column is generously sponsored by RAV Properties.

Jeff Volinsky Offers Tech Help for Seniors

Is this you?

SENIOR TRYING TO RESET PASSWORD

Windows: Please enter your new password.

User: cabbage

Windows: Sorry, the password must be more than eight characters.

User: boiled cabbage

Windows: Sorry, the password must contain one numerical character.

User: 1 boiled cabbage

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces.

User: 50damnboiledcabbages

Windows: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

User: 50DAMNboiledcabbages

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively.

User: 50DamnBoiledCabbagesAndGiveMeAccessNow!

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

User: 50DamnBoiledCabbagesAndGiveMeAccessNow

Windows: Sorry, that password is already in use.

Enter Jeff Volinsky, computer teacher and consultant. Jeff has opened a business to address this very issue. "Recently, my aunt was visiting from out of town and had trouble with her smart phone. As I was helping to fix the problem, both my aunt and my father began asking me questions regarding their phones. I got the idea for the business, because I was able to quickly solve whatever issues they were having, and it made all of us quite happy."

In 2000, 14% of those ages 65 and older were internet users; now 73% are. And while smartphone ownership was uncommon then, today more than half of people 65 and older



are smartphone owners. But the problem isn't owning technology, it's using it. Many of the devices on the market today come with instructions that are of little help to a person who doesn't understand the terminology. Some of the devices, designed to be intuitive to digital natives (i.e., kids), are incomprehensible to digital immigrants (i.e., seniors).

Some of the things Jeff is able to assist with are resetting passwords, setting up a new phone or computer, backing up a computer or smart phone and file management. Jeff is patient and has many years of experience helping people with their computers and phones. He spent eight years at the Apple stores in Los Angeles and Nashville and also worked

for Enjoy, a company which does delivery and setup of new phones for people. "I realize that in a pandemic, many people may not want to enter a crowded store to get their questions answered. I can come to a customer's home, a relaxed environment, to help them with their technology questions. I go at the pace that the clients are comfortable with, and I am fully vaccinated and wear a mask at all times when I am with a customer," he says.

Jeff is particularly fond of working with seniors. "When I was at Apple," he notes, "I would often get asked to work with seniors because I am patient, and they appreciate that. Seniors didn't grow up with computers, so many of them struggle to understand the basic concepts. It is just a different way of thinking that people of an older generation didn't have to learn until later in life. Many develop anxiety around the computer. I hope I can show seniors that the computer isn't scary and solve some of the problems they are having. The computer, phone or tablet are tools that people use to communicate with their families, so they are important."

Jeff can be reached at 310-365-2221 or at jeffmichael78@gmail.com. For Chanukah, Jeff is offering gift certificates. He looks forward to working with community members.

Developing A Jewish Sense of Place

by Aaron Spitzer

On a particularly dark and stormy recent Tuesday evening, the energy inside Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas seemed especially dazzling. At the Epstein School of Jewish Studies, Maggid Jim Brule, Moshe Alfasi and seventh and eighth grade students explored the ethics of vaccination, while Ora Jezer's ninth graders researched *shmita* and how it might relate to *tikkun olam*. Rabbi Zehavi asked the tenth grade to consider the intricacies of *lashon hara* through examples from their own experiences, and in the library, Rabbi Kunin challenged 11th and 12th grade students with Midrash and Mysticism.



Later, small groups of teens roamed the halls, counting doors, examining the architecture of the sanctuary, and photographing dreidels and seder plates as part of Scott Miller's "Jewish Trivia & Games" class, where 23 students in grades 9-12 had been tasked with creating their own Jewish games. At the same



time, pairs of students photographed the building from interesting angles — looking up at stained glass windows; zooming in on the flower petals on the table in the foyer, spotlighting a *chumash* in an otherwise darkened space — to articulate Jewish values through still images as part of Ora Jezer's "The Jewish Lens" class. Down the hall, students worked in pairs with Moshe Alfasi to translate Hebrew passages, while Diana Koester's art class finished the detail work on their acrylic paintings.



Over the last decade, a growing body of work across disciplines has explored the important role that everyday physical environments play in the development of self-identity. This sense of place can have both positive and negative impacts on an individual and community.

Before this fall, many Epstein students had not spent much time at CBS-CS. Some Epstein teens belong to CBS-CS, but many belong to Sha'arei Torah, Temple Adath Yeshurun or Temple Concord. A few are not affiliated with a local congregation. By the end of this school year, however, each Epstein student will add Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas to their developing Jewish sense of place. The school rotates among congregational hosts. Over the course of their time at Epstein, students therefore develop a unique Jewish sense of place that includes many different spaces in our community. Deepening connections begun at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Syracuse Community Hebrew School and religious schools, Epstein roots teens in our CNY Jewish community before they graduate from high school.



» SHDS Alumna Profile

Terry Netusil, SHDS '07



Terry Netusil graduated from the Syracuse Hebrew Day School in 2007. Her parents chose to send her to the Day School because of its outstanding educational program, even though they were not Jewish and had to drive Terry to and from school every day from their home in Pulaski. She then went to MPH and, applying to college, had to write an essay about someone who was a big influence on her life. She wrote about Rabbi Shore.

Terry attended the United States Coast Guard Academy. The Coast Guard has a sailing ship called the Barque Eagle on which Coast Guard cadets spend six weeks in their freshman and senior years. During her senior year, Terry taught celestial navigation to the first year cadets. She graduated and was commissioned a Coast Guard ensign.

The United States Navy is always looking for navigation officers and in 2019 Lt. JG Netusil was offered the navigation officer job on a Navy destroyer home ported in Hawaii. Terry was the only Coast Guard person assigned to that destroyer.

In 2021, it was time to change jobs again, and Terry was asked to consider applying for a command of one of the ten Coast Guard 110-foot, 25-person crew patrol boats that the United States deploys in the Persian Gulf. Lt. Netusil went to Bahrain to begin a one year deployment.

Terry's parents recently wrote to SHDS to thank the school for "laying the foundation Terry has today. We believe that SHDS was a key choice in our daughter's education."

L'Dor V'Dor at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School

The Syracuse Community Hebrew School has six decades of teachers on its staff. From madrichim [aides] experiencing their first employment to instructors who have taught for decades, SCHS benefits from having teachers who share a love for their faith and a commitment to passing on the skill of reading Hebrew.

Leah Bella Zinder is such a teacher. An artist who creates chromatic objects with which people can engage, Leah received her BFA in metals from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently working towards her MFA at Syracuse University. She also enjoys teaching Hebrew to third graders at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. "As an adult, I know how special it is to be a part of the Jewish community," says Leah, "and I find so much joy in sharing this with the next generation."

Leah was recently interviewed by the school's education director, Ora Jezer.

Ora: I greatly admire how your lessons focus both on curriculum and on the socio-emotional needs of the students. Would you tell us about your educational philosophy and the preparation of your lessons?

Leah: One of my most important goals is making sure students want to attend. Usually this means fostering moments for the students to chat with each other and develop friendships. This also gives me an opportunity to learn the students' likes and dislikes, so I can tailor the lessons to the specific group. From Pokémon and Roblox, to movies and music, I try to weave in pop culture references to stir up excitement. Once the students are captivated and eager to attend, they usually are more receptive to the content of the lesson and open up to more thoughtful questions.

Ora: Your talents are many. Can you describe how you incorporate your varied gifts into activities.

Leah: As an artist myself, I tend to lean on craft and visual processes to convey information. Over the years, however, I've learned how to pick up on when students need more action and oral lessons. I like taking games they already know and play with friends and tweaking them to the theme of the lesson. With the switch to online teaching, I have discovered a few online



games that have become class favorites. I try to remain candid with my class if we're trying a new game, to make sure they know that if it's fun we'll play again, but if not, we can move right along.

Ora: You have become a teacher of teachers. The two madrichim who work with you, Emmet Kobasa, a high school senior and Shayna Nellis, an eighth grader, look up to you beyond compare. What insights can you give to others about teaching our future teachers?

Leah: Since a significant hurdle of teaching is to actually go for it, when it comes to my madrichim I try to create various opportunities for them to teach and lead. I value working as a team with others in the classroom because it really helps fill all the students' needs, and it's always great to have others to bounce around ideas with. The biggest aspect I tend to reinforce is to be present in the classroom. Sometimes this can be as specific as entering the classroom with a positive mindset, so we can model a presence that is receptive to learning and spending time with peers.

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CORINNE ROTH SMITH
November 2, 2021



Corinne Roth Smith, PhD, 76, passed away on November 2 at Upstate Medical Hospital. Born in Reading, PA on May 22, 1945 to Zoltan and Elizabeth Roth, she had been a resident of Syracuse since 1963 when she attended Syracuse University. She earned her master's degree in psychology at Temple University and then returned to Syracuse for her doctoral studies in school psychology. She married her husband Lynn in 1968 and settled in Syracuse where they raised their two daughters and had a good life.

During her professional career, she was the author of the leading textbook on learning disabilities which was one of the first textbooks in the field. It was translated into several languages and used in hundreds of schools of education. She went on to publish many books on the subject, served as dean of the School of Education at SU, was the founder of

the psycho-educational teaching laboratory at SU and designed and consulted on special education governmental programs in several foreign countries.

Dr. Smith was the director of the Himan Brown Grant Program at SU which supports SU School of Education students studying abroad. She was a member of the Chancellor's Campus Planning Committee and a tenured professor of special education. She was especially proud of re-invigorating the Hillel chapter at SU.

Corinne was the recipient of numerous awards for her service and volunteerism to the Jewish and greater community of Syracuse. She received the Syracuse Post Standard Woman of Achievement Award and served on The New York State Governor's Council for Youth.

Corinne will forever be remembered for her fierce advocacy of inclusion of children with challenges.

Her family includes her husband Lynn of 53 years, their daughters Juli (Justin Brasch) Smith and Rachael (Brian) Schwartz, grandchildren Ariel, Leora, Jed, Caleb and Lincoln, her sister Debrah (Barry) Shulman, her brothers-in-law Joseph Jacobs and Malcolm (Sandra) Smith and a large and loving extended family.

Contributions to perpetuate her memory may be made to Hillel of SU, The Jewish Community Foundation of CNY or Make a Wish of CNY at cny.wish.org.

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SONIA BUCK
November 3, 2021



Sonia O. Buck, 91, of Fayetteville, known as Sunni to friends and family, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2021 at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, NY. Born in Philadelphia and raised in Brooklyn, she was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who lived life with gusto. Sonia got her professional start at Random House in New York City before pursuing a career as an elementary school teacher at Edward Smith and other Syracuse schools. A lifelong learner, traveler and theater lover, Sonia acted in multiple community theatre groups and was known for her ability to shake the rafters with a piercing Brooklyn accent on demand. She honored both Jewish and Unitarian traditions and was an active May Memorial UU member. An ardent amateur tennis player, Sonia won multiple championships at Sundown, where she earned a reputation for placing killer shots without ever leaving the baseline. In her later years she became an avid bridge player and lover of Korean soap operas.

Sonia was predeceased by her parents, Morris and Fannie Orloff, brother Jack Orloff and sister Marian "Billie" Bales. Sonia is survived by husband, Robert, her children, Tandy (Dan) Camilli, Robyn (Brett Peruzzi) Gold, Neil Buck, Edwin (Catherine) Buck and grandchildren Michela Peruzzi Rosenblum, Angela Buck and Andrew Buck.

Donations in her memory may be made to PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) or The Nature Conservancy.

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NORMAN POLTENSON
October 10, 2021

Norman Poltenson, 82, passed away at his home on October 10. Born in Syracuse on November 23, 1938 to Hyman and Lillian Pinchuck Poltenson, he had been a life resident of Syracuse.

He was a graduate of St. Lawrence University and earned his master's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin. He served in the US Army in Germany. In 1964 he married Joan Katz, and together they raised their family in Syracuse. Norman and his brother Arnold worked with their father in the family business, Salina Press. In 1986, Norman founded the CNY Business Journal and BizEventz.

Norm was always an active volunteer in the community. He served on the boards of Menorah Park, The Foundation of Menorah Park, the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York and Junior Achievement. He was a past president, active member and volunteer of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse.

He had an insatiable love of learning, especially Jewish texts and history. Norm will always be remembered for his beautiful tenor voice that everyone enjoyed hearing at services and holidays.

His family includes Joan, his wife of 57 years, their daughter Marny (Raviv) Nesher, their sons Meir (Nechama) Paltiel and Rav Yehoshua (Batammi) Paltiel, grandchildren Tomer Nesher, Shannie Nesher, Nadav Nesher, Re'ayah (Avishav) Paltiel-Engel, Uzziel (Erga) Paltiel, Yitzhar Yaakov Paltiel, Tifferet Paltiel, Hadiyah Paltiel, Beneyahu Paltiel, Eliana Paltiel, Rachel Paltiel, Ayelet (Elayakim) Peretz, Leora Paltiel, Nava Paltiel, Yosef Maor Paltiel and Meital Paltiel, his brother Arnold (Judith) Poltenson, his sister Fran Farina and a loving extended family.

Contributions to perpetuate his memory may be made to Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse www.stocsyracuse.org, The Syracuse Hebrew Day School www.shds.org or Yeshivat Lev Ha Torah www.levhatorah.org. The levaya took place in Israel.

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Due to postal regulations, the *Jewish Observer* will no longer be forwarded to temporary change addresses.

If you plan to be away from your permanent address and are having your first class mail forwarded to your temporary address and would like to continue to receive the *JO* while you are out of town, please call Amy Bates at 315-445-0161 to give us your temporary address. Thank you!



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STEVEN R. HELLER
October 21, 2021

Steven R. Heller, 75, passed away on October 21 at University Hospital. Born in Queens, NY on September 28, 1946 to Louis and Sylvia Heller, he had been a resident of Syracuse since 1978.

Steve was a graduate of C.W. Post College. Following graduation, he and Barbara moved to Greenwich, NY where he worked for the Boy Scouts of America as an organizer of troops in the Albany area. In 1978 he was transferred to Syracuse.

Shortly thereafter, he took a career change and became an independent sales representative of women's apparel. He and Barbara enjoyed a close circle of friends who became family and with the birth of their daughter, Rebecca, enjoyed a good life in Syracuse.

Retirement brought a new career change for Steve as he became the primary caregiver of his grandson Ethan and then Norah as well. Being "Gaga" to his grandchildren meant the world to him.

Steve's family includes his wife Barbara of 50 years, their daughter Rebecca (Chris) Koch, adored grandchildren Ethan and Norah, brother Bruce (Linda), cousins Arlen Carr, Merryl Goldman and Jeff Carr and brother-in-law James Sorkin.

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MICHAEL H. KLEIN, MD
October 30, 2021



Michael H. Klein, MD, 78, passed away on October 30 at Crouse Hospital with his beloved daughters by his side.

Born on August 6, 1943 to Sigmund and Marion Klein in The Bronx, NY he was a graduate of Colgate University, where he had a strong bond with Chapel House to this day, and then graduated from SUNY Buffalo School of Medicine. He served his residency in OB-GYN at SUNY Upstate and then established his practice in Syracuse.

"Doc" was a longtime and fervent supporter of the YMCA. He was truly a "champion of the Y". He promoted the Y with the hope that everyone would have the same experience there that he had. He thoroughly enjoyed travelling and experiencing new cultures. In spite of life's challenges, he persevered and thrived.

His family includes his daughters Heather Klein, Rachel Klein, and Sarah (Michael) Weidner, his grandsons Jackson and William, his brother Lawrence Klein and his sister Norma (Stephen) Baker.

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FRANCES "FRAN" MERRILL
October 31, 2021

Frances "Fran" Merrill, 79, passed away on October 31 at Crouse Hospital, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on June 24, 1942 to Irving and Henrietta Garr in Jamaica, NY, she had been a resident of Syracuse since 1968 when she and her husband, Dr. Stephen Merrill, moved here for his residency.

She earned her BA from NYU; and was also a graduate of the Parsons School of Design with a degree in fashion illustration. She was a nationally noted miniaturist and antiques connoisseur.

Her family includes her husband of 56 years, Dr. Stephen Merrill, their daughter Beth Dailey, their son Andrew (Karen) Merrill and granddaughter Sasha Dailey.

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CHANUKAH GREETING ANSWERS (from pg. 8):

1. Bon Hanukkah	France
2. Happy Χανουκά	Greece
3. Hamingjusamur Hanukkah	Iceland
4. Hanukkah Shona	Ireland
5. Felice Hanukkah	Italy
6. Chúc mừng Lễ Hanukkah	Viet Nam
7. Selamat Hanukkah	Indonesia
8. Gelukkige Hanukkah	Netherlands
9. Fröhliches Hanukkah	Germany
10. Glad Hanukkah	Scandinavia
11. Szczęśliwego święta Chanuka	Poland
12. Feliz Jánuca	Spain
13. Счастливого Хануки [Schastlivoi Khanuki]	Russia
14. Hau'oli Hanukkah	Hawaii



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LET US HELP YOU LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

Charitable giving can be a powerful part of estate planning. But with all the possible vehicles for ensuring your philanthropic legacy, it can be difficult to know where to start.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your financial advisors to assess various vehicles for giving that can provide tax benefits to achieve your charitable goals.

One option for gift-giving is for you to include a charitable bequest, in your will, that creates a new fund, or adds to an existing fund, at the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York. Another is to make the Community Foundation the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or pension account.

Charitable bequests are simple to execute, yet they potentially enable more generous gift-giving than you might consider or feel comfortable with during your lifetime.

Do you already have a will? Adding a charitable bequest to an existing will does not require rewriting your entire will. Rather, it may be done simply by adding an amendment, known as a codicil, to your existing will.

If you would like to consider including the Jewish Community Foundation as part of your charitable legacy, we invite you to contact the Foundation's Executive Director, Michael Balanoff, to set up a confidential meeting. He can be reached at 315-445-0270 or mbalanoff@jewishfoundationcny.org.

