

» Mazal tov!

Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

of Central New York

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June 2022

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

Let's face it. It's been a rough couple of years. Pandemic. War. Inflation. Mental health problems. Climate crisis. Inflation. Instability. Anxiety. Stress. You name it, we've experienced it. Yet, here we are in June, ready to observe Shavuot, the holiday that rejoices in

the giving of the Torah, the guide for our lives. Likewise, we celebrate the processions that accompanied the bringing of the first fruits to the Temple in ancient times as well as the enrichment of our people by the welcoming of converts. These are joyous happenings, and while they do not mitigate suffering, they are reminders that even in the darkest of times, we can find happiness.

In this issue of the JO, we highlight our many blessings, listing our b'nai mitzvah, our Jewish school graduates, our educators whom we will honor at the Federation annual meeting and the accomplishments of two young Jewish adults who are highly talented in the Jewish theatrical arts, one a composer, another a director. On our community pages, we highlight "shuls and pools," and their unique role in Jewish life in Central New York.

We also honor what we have been able to achieve as a community this past year. One has only to scroll through our weekly Community Happenings e-newsletter or visit our social media sites to see the myriad of programs and activities that our Federation, synagogues and agencies have managed to schedule, whether in person or on zoom. We have also been able to celebrate in new and creative ways, even though they are not quite as much fun as they were in person. We have also welcomed a new era of working together, eliminating silos. The Mitzvah Bag Sisterhood project featured in this month's issue is an example. Temple Concord and the Federation also partnered in a successful Sunday Cinema Series featuring thought-provoking Jewish films shown via Zoom. Federation also partnered with Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas to offer virtual Hebrew language classes at no charge to the community, thereby tripling enrollment. Technology allowed congregational Passover seders, as well as services, to go virtual. Our community's Yom HaShoah program, in which the students from the Epstein School participated with solemnity, dignity and beauty, was a cooperative intergenerational event of which we can all be proud.

Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, with a major insert in this issue. The small congregation that began with 12 families has grown and prospered, and the JO is thrilled to offer congratulations to them on their wonderful record of accomplishment. May they continue to grow from strength to strength!

Another exciting event this month is the Federation's community thank you event, to take place at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo on the 26th at 10 am. Federation will be thanking the donors to the fund to purchase an ambulance for Magen David Adom, which will be dedicated that day. It will also be thanking the Campaign Cabinet and solicitors who made our campaign so successful this year and inaugurating a major effort to address the global issue of climate change. There will be a virtual presentation by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore, whose life's work is photographing endangered species, and an introduction of the Federation's ad hoc committee on climate change, which will work to address this future-endangering issue.

I recently read something that struck me as pertinent to our June programming: "A person who compels others to give charity and motivates them to do so receives a greater reward than the person who actually gives." This seemed to me to apply to all those who solicit for our campaign. Solicitation is hard work. Solicitors cannot "compel" anyone to give; they have to convince them of the value of the donation. This requires them to believe wholeheartedly in the cause for which they are requesting support. Our community is indeed fortunate that so many are willing to assume this role, and it is good to know that our tradition recognizes their worth. When Cantor Robert Lieberman flew to Poland and the Ukrainian border as an emissary of our community and the community was asked to provide medications and Passover items for children for him to take, the response was immediate and overwhelming. Now a quartet of philanthropic women have stepped up to ask for additional donations for refugees from the Ukraine who will be coming to our community. Asking isn't easy – although when the community is generous, asking is very rewarding.

June is traditionally a time of change in a community. New boards and new officers are elected; people retire; new people take up new challenges. In Spanish, the word for retirement is jubilacion, which is clearly relation to "jubilation." One rejoices when retirement is well-earned and well-deserved after many years of exemplary service. Thus, the JO notes with great appreciation the retirement of community leaders such as Laura Lavine of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Barbara Simon of Temple Adath Yeshurun, Colleen Cicotta of Syracuse Jewish Family Service, MaryEllen Bloodgood of Menorah Park, Andrea Waldman of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and Andrea Speer of the CBS-CS religious school. All have been dedicated and active participants in the good work of our community and will be deeply missed. We wish them and their successors well.

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Jewish Observer Wins Syracuse Press Club Professional Recognition Awards



In what was described as “one of our most competitive contests in recent memory,” the *Jewish Observer* was named a winner in the Syracuse Press Club’s 44th annual Professional Recognition Award program in two categories: **Best Newsletter or Trade Publication** and **Best Front Page Design**. The Press Club received more than 400 entries across 57 categories. Judges came from partner press clubs in California, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin had the task of reviewing and ranking the top entries for each category. On average, only one-third of the entries submitted in each category earned a spot on the finalists’ list. The winners were announced at the 2022 Syracuse Press Club Awards Dinner on May 7. The JO won second place in the Best Newsletter category and first place in the Best Front Page Design category. Editor Barbara Davis and Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff accepted the awards on behalf of the JO. Kim Miers of Buffalo Spree was also recognized for her design work.

Honoring Jewish Educators at Federation Annual Meeting

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks z”l wrote, “To defend a country, you need an army. But to defend an identity, you need a school. Judaism is the religion of the book, not the sword.” At its annual meeting on June 2, Federation will honor 30 educators who teach in the schools Federation helps to sustain: the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the Rabbi Jacob Epstein School of Jewish Studies and the Syracuse Community Day School. Each will receive a small gift as a token of appreciation for their work, made even more challenging the past two years by the pandemic. Federation chose to do this because it recognizes the truth of other words written by Rabbi Sacks, “Teachers open our eyes to the world. They give us curiosity and confidence. They teach us to ask questions. They connect us to our past and future. They’re the guardians of our social heritage. We have lots of heroes today – sportsmen, supermodels, media personalities. They come, they have their fifteen minutes of fame, and they go. But the influence of good teachers stays with us. They are the people who really shape our life.”

Holstein Community Program Fund Awards Grants to Five Proposals

The Federation’s Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund provides grants for programs that foster Jewish renaissance, continuity, identity and culture. These matters are of such importance that they are a major criteria for decision-making. Programs are funded that increase the connection of Jews to the Jewish community, involve the full spectrum of Jewish affiliations and foster collaboration among the Federation, agencies, organizations and synagogues. The program seeks to enable individuals and families to experience Judaism in active, positive ways to strengthen their core identities as Jews.

This year, the Federation’s Allocations Committee, chaired by board vice-president Todd Pinsky, reviewed seven proposals for its first round of funding. A second round of funding will be made available in the fall. Allocations Committee members Neil Rosenbaum, Nan Fechtner, Cheryl Schotz and Steve Volinsky voted to recommend funding of the proposals listed below, which totaled \$19,995. The full Federation board voted on the allocations at its May 12th meeting.

1. Fuel for Truth: Submitted by community members Orit Antosh and Youchi Holstein, the program will offer two workshops for members of the community (adults and teens) about how to discuss Israel in the real world. The committee recommended that the program be held in conjunction with the Epstein School. Grant: \$1,800.

2. Nice Jewish BBQ: Submitted by Hillel, the “Nice Jewish BBQ” would take place after Rosh Hashanah morning services on the main quad of Syracuse University. This alternative take on Rosh Hashanah lunch will help meet students where they are, build community and offer a high visibility moment for Jewish students/faculty/staff to join. Hillel estimates that at least 200 students, some of whom would not otherwise participate in a High Holiday experience, will attend. Grant: \$5,500

3. Tech Savvy Project: Submitted by the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the program will teach six essential skills for success on Zoom as part of the SHDS

STEM curriculum. The program will be offered to the presidents/executives/rabbis group and students at the Epstein School and the Community Hebrew School. Grant: \$2620.

4. OMA Project: Submitted by Syracuse Jewish Family Service, this is a continuation of a program for adults with dementia working on art projects with students from the Epstein School. Grant: \$7500.

5. Visit to the MOST: Submitted by the Syracuse Community Hebrew School, the program will provide students from all community synagogues an afternoon at The Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year to cement social bonds and to raise awareness of the climate crisis. Grant: \$2575.

The community will have the opportunity to submit proposals for other collaborative projects again in the fall as an RFP for a second round of funding will be issued. The Holstein Program Fund still has \$70,000 available for allocation.

STUDENT DIGITAL ART LOGO CONTEST

The Federation’s Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change needs a logo.



CONTEST RULES:

1. Original digital art
2. incorporating Federation logo
3. Available as a jpg
4. Submitted by June 21, 2022

Winner receives a \$50 Amazon gift card.

The logo will be used regularly in the *Jewish Observer*.

Send entries, as attached jpgs, to jo@jewishfederationcny.org by June 21.

Torah From Heaven but not in Heaven

by Rabbi Irvin S. Beigel, Chaplain, Loretto

When the Torah tells us that Moses ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah and bring it down the mountain as a gift to the Jewish people, it does not tell us much about what happened at the top of the mountain. That leaves much to the imagination. Our Rabbis try to fill in the blanks by telling us what might have taken place. In so doing, they teach us lessons that were important to them and that are critically important to us.

In the Talmudic tractate Shabbat (pages 88b-89a), Rabbi Yehoshua ben Levi relates that the angels in heaven protested Moses' presence in the heavenly realm. "Why is there one born of woman here amongst us?" God answers that Moses had come to accept the Torah. The angels protest again. "The Torah is a treasure that You hid for safekeeping 974 generations before Creation and now You want to give it to flesh and blood? The place of God's Glory is in heaven, not on earth among mortals." We can surmise that the angels feared that the imperfections of human beings, their tendency to err, and their rebelliousness would tarnish this treasure and God's glory. God's Torah belongs in heaven, hidden away and protected.

God tells Moses to answer the angels. After hesitating, Moses asks what is written in the Torah. God says that the Torah says, "I am the Lord your God who took you out of the land of Egypt." Moses challenges the angels: "Were you slaves in Egypt? What meaning could the Torah have for you?" God tells Moses that the Torah says that "You shall have no other gods before Me." Moses challenges the angels: "Do you live among idol worshippers and need this admonition?" God tells Moses that the Torah says, "Remember the Sabbath day to make it holy." Again, Moses challenges the angels: "Do you labor that you need the Sabbath?" Moses goes on telling the angels who have no jealousy, no yetzer hara (inclination to do evil) and no interest in business ventures that the Torah has no relevance to their lives in heaven. In the end, the angels acquiesce and Moses brings the Torah to the people of Israel.

If the Torah had been left in heaven, it would have been an untarnished treasure to be admired but one irrelevant to the inhabitants of heaven and unknown to



human beings on earth. God surely knew that on earth the Torah would not always be obeyed and would not always be honored. Left in heaven, however, the Torah would have no impact on humans who desperately need its guidance and insight. The Torah deals not with the needs of angels, but with the real issues of human beings. In the hands of the Jewish people, it can help us make the world better ethically and morally.

The word *halacha* (Jewish law), the commandments given in the Torah and further explained by the Rabbis, was understood by Professor Saul Lieberman, of blessed memory, to mean "boundary." The Torah sets boundaries to human behavior. It teaches us that there is a penalty for crossing those boundaries. When we cross boundaries, we suffer consequences and the Jewish people suffer consequences. The Torah which Moses brought to earth from heaven is a guidebook for living a good life and a guidebook for meaningful Jewish survival. The Torah was never intended for the angels in heaven. It was always intended for human beings, with all our frailties and weaknesses. *Shavuot* commemorates the giving of the Torah to the Jewish people.

Best wishes for a joyous *Shavuot*.

Shavuot Recipes from Steffi Bergman and Bette Siegel



Bette's Prize-winning Quiche

- 9" pie shell
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup chopped onions or scallions
- 1 clov garlic, crushed
- 1/4 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 10-oz. box chopped, frozen broccoli or spinach, thawed
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup shredded cheddar or Swiss cheese
- 1 cup or small can evaporated milk
- 2 teaspoons Osem parve chicken consommé powder
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 tablespoon Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 red pepper

Bake pie shell about 10 minutes in a 400° oven. (Prick the pastry all over before baking.)

Melt most of butter in a skillet. Sauté onions and garlic. Add mushrooms and thawed broccoli/spinach and stir. Cook over low heat until moisture is absorbed, about 5 minutes. Stir frequently. Set aside.

Beat eggs. Add spices and consommé powder. Beat in evaporated milk. Add mushrooms, broccoli/spinach and cheese. Stir well to combine.

Pour into pie shell. Dot with remaining butter and sprinkle on Parmesan cheese. Decorate with red pepper slivers. Bake in middle of oven at 375° until a knife inserted in center comes out clean, about 30 minutes.

Steffi's Scrumptious Kugel for Shavuot

- 8 Oz. Wide noodles, cooked and drained
- 16 Oz. Sour cream
- 16 Oz. Cottage cheese
- 8 Oz. Cream cheese
- 1/4 Cup sugar
- 1/4 Lb. Butter, melted
- 1/4 Cup milk
- 6 Eggs
- 1 Tbsp vanilla
- 2 Cups crushed corn flakes
- 1/4 Cup melted butter

Cream all ingredients (except noodles). Mix with noodles and place in a greased 9"x13" pan. Top with crushed corn flakes and melted butter.

Bake in 350 degree oven for 60 minutes or until brown. Let sit for 10-15 minutes before serving. Enjoy!!

Celebrating Our Spring B'nai Mitzvah

Becoming *bar*, *bat* or *b'mitzvah* is one of the most exciting and memorable milestones in a young person's Jewish life. The ceremony is a powerful combination of personal, familial and communal celebration representing the symbolic end of childhood and the promise and possibility of Jewish adulthood. The *Jewish Observer* is proud and honored to congratulate our community's most recent *b'nai mitzvah*.



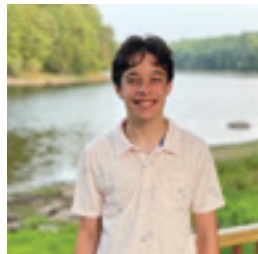
Marian Spitzer became bat mitzvah on January 15. She attends Temple Concord's religious school and the Community Hebrew School and is looking forward to attending the Epstein School next year. To further develop her love of animals, Marian volunteers weekly with an animal rescue and has been raising funds for Friends Forever Animal Rescue for her mitzvah project. Currently, she is very involved in creating digital art.

Benzion (Benzi) Ashkenazi became bar mitzvah on February 28. He is a member of Sha'arei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse, a graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and is attending the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies. Benzi is into history, geography and languages (Spanish, Hebrew and German). His parents, siblings and (only living grandparent) Grandma Becky are so proud of him.



Ian Hendricks became a b'mitzvah on April 2 at Temple Concord where they have attended religious school. Ian is a student at Eagle Hill Middle School and is an avid reader and rock climber with a particular interest in paleontology.

Evangeline Fumarola became bat mitzvah on May 7. She received her religious education at Temple Concord and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Evangeline has many creative interests, including singing, dancing, drawing and writing. She also enjoys lighting Sabbath candles with her family on Friday nights and is excited to now be considered an adult in the Jewish community.



Ari Gnacik became bar mitzvah on May 28. His religious education was through Temple Adath Yeshurun and the Community Hebrew School. Ari plays many instruments and recently had a role in his school musical. He loves computers and is the "go-to" guy for technology help at home and school.

Lilah Temes will become bat mitzvah on July 30. She attends the Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas religious school and the Community Hebrew School. She is an accomplished ski racer who also enjoys soccer, mountain biking and playing piano. Lilah also loves art, reading, traveling to new countries and spending time with her family and friends.



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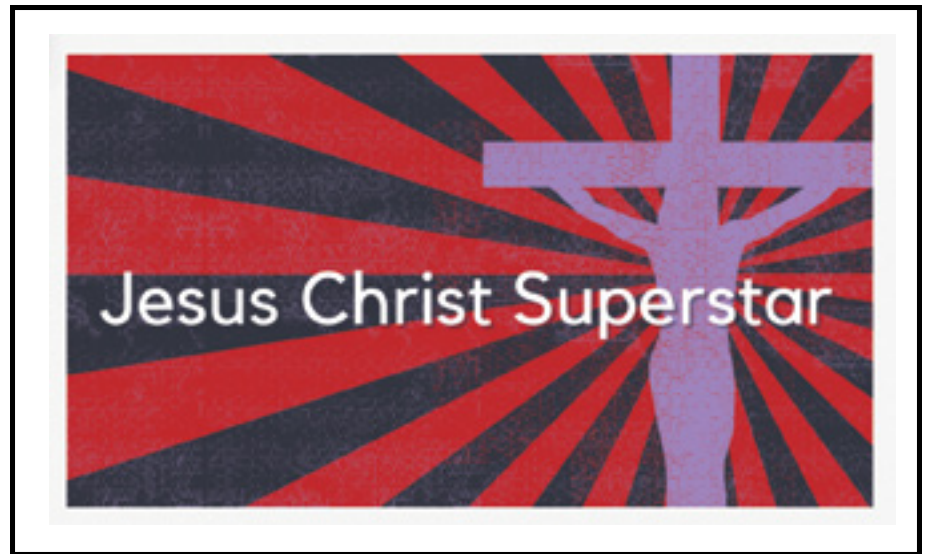
Jesus Christ Superstar from a New Perspective

Jesus Christ Superstar, a rock opera written by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice in 1970, tells the story of the last week of Jesus' life in musical numbers with little dialogue and depicts interpersonal relationships and political struggles among Jesus and his disciples. Radical in its time, 50 years later it has become something of a tradition. But the casting call for a July 2022 production of the work in Syracuse was a little different: "Director seeking Women of Color for principal characters and Women for ensemble roles," it said. "Transgender, non-binary, genderqueer and others are encouraged to audition."

"Why?" the *JO* asked Mookey Van Orden, the director who posted that casting call. "I set the play in 2020, during the George Floyd protests. I see Jesus not as a messiah, but as someone who was persecuted and yet still put



others first. The weight of the fight was on his shoulders. To me, that sounds like Black women. Often Black women are the leaders of this type of movement. They are victimized all the time. The



people leading the movements are Black women." As is obvious from Van Orden's answer, little about this production resembles others that typically fill theater seats at Easter time. In fact, there are many ways this "Jesus Christ Superstar" is unlike any other, starting with the director. Mookey Van Orden, a native Syracusan, is Jewish, a graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and identifies as a Jew of Color.

"The cast is beautiful," Mookey says, "full of gorgeous ladies, wonderfully inclusive, all colors, shapes, sizes and religions. It is probably the most diverse cast that this company has ever had." Jesus is being played by Bianca Hallet, a young woman of color. Judas is acted by Natasia White, also a person of color. The production will be utilizing projections of pictures of protests here in Syracuse, taken by two local photographers, "which will reflect our community," Van Orden says. "The protests inspired me. I don't want people to forget what we as a country experienced then. I felt the movement and the moment. It comes in waves and cycles and for a lot of people it fades into the background, but I wanted to keep it front and center." In this production, Mary Magdalene was deliberately cast as a man to highlight gender dynamics and how that can affect a movement.

Mookey hopes that her production will attract diverse audience but is realistic about what might happen. "People are excited about it. We might lose some of our regular audience, but we might gain a new audience." She emphasizes that "I'm angry at the situation, not at our community. The show is not anti-cop or anti-white. It is a criticism of the system, not of people. I'm asking us to take a look at our roles in the system."

Jesus Christ Superstar will be presented at the theater space at Atonement Lutheran Church on West Glen Avenue beginning on July 8. There will be seven shows. Tickets are available at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cnyplayhouse/620197/>.

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Rise, a Rock Musical About Resistance

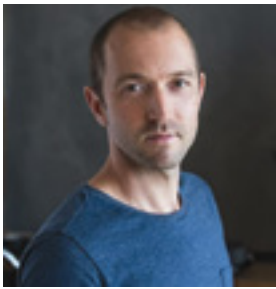
The mission of CenterStage Theatre at the Rochester JCC is to entertain, enlighten and educate its community by providing quality theatre that is relevant to the Jewish experience and has universal appeal. Their focus is on developing new works, presenting world and area premieres of America's hottest new plays and musicals and re-imagining classics. They love plays and musicals that spark conversations, celebrate world-changing people and events and bring the world closer together.

That is why this summer, CenterStage will be presenting *Rise, A New Musical* by Joshua Daniel Hershfield. *Rise* is a rock opera in which the past and the present collide. This world premiere blends the ultimate music of rebellion with the ultimate acts of resistance. Its musical fusion of modern rock and traditional Yiddish melodies serves as the perfect soundtrack for this work inspired by true stories of young women resistance fighters during the Nazi regime.

Hershfield is an American/Canadian/Israeli actor, musician, singer, songwriter, and martial artist from Los Angeles, currently living in Syracuse. He has studied at Antioch College, Berklee College of Music and The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. His music can be heard in numerous TV and film projects. His first song to achieve success was "By My Side" which aired in the US, Canada, the UK, and countries around the world, as well as being utilized in the Music Works dance program. He has achieved international success with other songs, including "You Make Me Go," "In My Arms" and "Shine" and he has written and co-written for other music artists, and performed in the United States and Europe.

Josh's background is diverse. He plays guitar, piano, bass, drums, and flute. He is a master martial artist in Soo Bahk Do, a Korean style of martial arts. He was the 2016 US National Moo Duk Kwan bronze medalist. He has been arrested twice at environmental and anti-war demonstrations. He studied permaculture on an ecovillage in Oregon. And he has a master's degree in Holocaust Studies from Haifa University where he was an Azrieli Foundation Scholar.

Hershfield began working on *Rise*, which won the Bela Zarhi Prize from the Ghetto Fighters' House in Israel, while he was in graduate school at Haifa University studying Holocaust Studies.



In his research into Jewish resistance during World War II, "I came across the stories of the *Kashariyot*, or couriers - young Jewish women who disguised themselves as Aryan and traveled through Nazi territory working as spies, smugglers, assassins and leaders of the underground Jewish resistance. When people in the ghettos were starving, the couriers brought them potatoes and bread. When there was no way for the imprisoned Jewish communities to communicate with one another, the



couriers carried letters and messages from ghetto to ghetto. And when it was time for armed resistance, it was the couriers who smuggled weapons through Nazi checkpoints to the Jewish fighters waiting on the other side. Their contribution to Jewish survival during the Holocaust is unparalleled, and they stand today as an example of sheer and stunning courage."

Josh chose to write *Rise* as a rock musical because "I wanted to shout out the story of these women as loudly as I could. I've been a rock musician and songwriter for years, so I'm most comfortable working with that musical vocabulary. I also feel that the ferocity and

defiance inherent in rock music is appropriate to the experience of these young people who were a part of the resistance. Rock is anti-authoritarian. It turns up the volume on voices that are censored. Through *Rise*, I want to amplify the stories of Jewish resistance in general and of the couriers in particular. I also utilize some traditional Yiddish melodies and Hebrew prayers. Judaism is a musical tradition. Even during the Holocaust, there were songwriters and musicians writing and singing and making music. Songs were sung to inspire survival, to help people get through one more day, to comfort, to document, and to motivate. It was a song, '*HaTikvah*,' that was sung in the gas chambers as people prepared to die, and another song, '*S'Brent*,' that was sung in the ghetto basements as people prepared to fight. I hope that *Rise* can call upon this Jewish tradition and serve as a testament to the power of human courage.

Rise will be presented July 9-17 at the JCC Hart Theater in Rochester and tickets are available at <https://jccrochester.org/arts-culture/centerstage/>.





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Celebrating Graduations In The Age Of COVID

As the year 2020 was beginning, a cluster of pneumonia-like infections appeared in Wuhan, China. By March, the novel coronavirus was declared a pandemic. COVID-19 resulted in a broad range of responses, from stay-at-home orders and closed schools and businesses to mask mandates and a wide variety of testing protocols. After more than two years, with coronavirus fatigue and uncertainty still rampant, schools, teachers, students and parents continue to cope with the challenges.

Yet despite the chaos of school closures, isolation, remote learning, staff shortages and mental health issues, students are completing educational cycles and graduating this month. This is cause for celebration. Speaking of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School's Class of 2022, Head of School Laura Lavine notes, "The members of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School Class of 2022 can make the rarest of claims—they have been classmates since kindergarten. At a time when families often move and make changes in their children's education, this year's graduates have grown up together for seven years."

The Day School's graduates (shown above) are Tamara Greenblatt, Samuel Elman, Isaac Bloom, Sydney Kanter and Marissa Spevak. "They have had the distinct pleasure of participating in each other's personal and educational development and celebrating their individual and collective successes," added Lavine. "As if that were not significant in and of itself, they managed to persevere and flourish as a class during the two peak years of



the pandemic. SHDS's class of 2022 can be very proud its accomplishments, their support of each other and their leadership throughout the school. They are extraordinary students who will be missed at SHDS and who are bound for great success in middle school."

Epstein School Director Aaron Spitzer likewise cited unique aspects of the Epstein Class of 2022. "All classes are unique and valued, of course," he remarked, "but I will admit that this class is particularly special to me. They are a group of young people always willing to go above and beyond, always welcoming to new students, and just an all-around fabulous class. I will be eagerly watching to see the amazing



things they accomplish. I believe that each of them will be an agent of change in our world, and I look forward to witnessing their work."

The Class of 2022 includes six students: Max Newman, Max Oppedisano, Asher Rood-Creel, Jack Satterlee, Shaynah Sikora and Milo Sinclair. At the May 31st *siyyum* or completion ceremony for the 51st year of the Rabbi Jacob

H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies, the class presented an original musical composition that highlighted their experiences at the school. Chief among the highlights which composers Max Newman, Max Oppedisano and Milo Sinclair included was the 2019 Teen Taste of Israel Trip, pictured above.

"After graduating from their secular high schools, the Class of 2022 will begin their next adventures at colleges as diverse as the class members themselves," noted Director Spitzer. "From Oberlin to SUNY Cortland and Fredonia, students of the Class of 2022 will take the Jewish values and learning they accumulated and absorbed over their years in Central New York religious schools, at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, as madrichim (teacher aides) at area Sunday schools, in youth groups, at the Epstein School and, most importantly, at home, which will inform all of their choices moving forward."

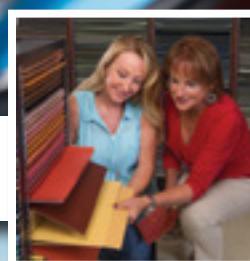
The Syracuse Community Hebrew School is designed as an inclusive setting for students in grades 3-7. Students acquire a quality *t'filah*-based Hebrew education and are challenged to explore a deeper and more personal understanding of prayer. The school fosters a sense of Jewish community throughout the Greater Syracuse area. Graduates are prepared to lead and participate in services in synagogue and at home. Graduating this year from SCHS are Temple Concord students Brandon Blitz, Adeline Costanza, Evangeline Fumarola, Jonah Gadarian, Ian Hendricks, August Mueller, Charlotte Pinsky, Marian Spitzer and Levi Williams, Temple Adath Yeshurun students Ari Gnacik, AJ Hyde and Isabella Weinberg and Lilah Temes from Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. SCHS Education Director Ora Jezer described some of the many talents of the class members: leading services, creating digital art, creating videos to send to Israel, speaking Hebrew, explaining *b'mitzvah* for nonbinary teens and understanding how *t'fillah* fits with today's needs.

The *Observer* joins the Federation and the community in celebrating the hard work and achievement of our young scholars, aware that they are the future of our Jewish community.

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SHDS Head of School Laura Lavine Retires

By Shira Boschan and Ellen Goldberg

In 1978, Laura Lavine embarked on a career in education that would include a wide range of distinguished roles and accomplishments in public education, including speech-language pathologist, principal, superintendent and more.

Following her retirement from public education, Laura taught undergraduate and graduate students and served as interim administrator for area school districts. She retired for a second time, but there was still more for her to do, more children for her to help. In January 2019, Laura Lavine became head of school at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, where she put her decades of experience to use serving her life-long Jewish community.

As the bittersweet moment of Laura's final retirement nears, we asked her to reflect on her experience at SHDS.

Q: What called you to come out of retirement to lead at SHDS?

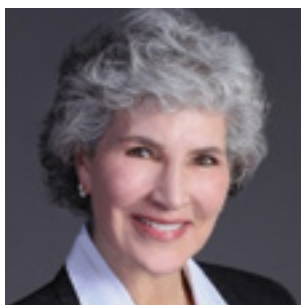
A: After my second retirement, I mentioned to Rabbi and Melissa Fellman that I was considering taking a couple of positions that were being offered to me. I was going to explore a professional life outside of education after forty years, but they said they had hoped that I would become the next Head of School at SHDS. Not being a very formally Jewishly educated person, I did not anticipate that the community would deem it a good fit. After several conversations, I was persuaded to explore the idea with a wider audience, and ultimately, it was clear that I could help.

Q: What did you set out to accomplish as head of school at SHDS?

A: After interviewing nearly every family to learn why they chose SHDS for their children, I presented to the board a one-page strategic plan that would capitalize on and enhance five areas: academic quality, student enrollment, teacher recruitment and development, value to the community and finances. I am pleased that, with the board's feedback and support, we met the goals outlined in that plan.

Q: What do you love about SHDS?

A: As school leaders move into higher positions, they typically have less contact with students. Even in an elementary principalship, it is difficult to get to know several hundred youngsters very well. I love the intimacy of SHDS. It affords every employee, including



the head of school, the opportunity to know every student, to form close bonds with them and their families and share a sense of accountability for each student's success.

The teaching and learning that take place at SHDS are unparalleled. As

a speech-language pathologist, I know how children acquire communication skills--how they learn to speak, understand what they hear, read and write. It was always a marvel to me but I was wholly unprepared for the endless amazement of watching children learn to speak, listen, read and write in two languages simultaneously. It is truly amazing, considering that our students are also learning all of the other standard curricula including mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, physical education and library skills.

It took time for me to fully appreciate the quality, depth and breadth of the Jewish teachings. The joys and challenges of Judaism are so brilliantly and exquisitely woven throughout the seven years at SHDS that our students—Jewish and non-Jewish-- cannot help but be grounded, secure in their identities and proud. I missed that in my own education and love that I have been able to enjoy it vicariously through our students' educational experiences.

I have never before worked with families as dedicated to their school as ours are, with a board that is as invested in the success of their school as ours is, or with supporters and donors like those who back us, but the research is clear about what makes a school successful. The most important predictor of student

success is teacher quality, and SHDS proves that. Our faculty and staff believe in our students and make them feel safe and loved. They set high expectations for student achievement, and they utilize their abundant talent and creativity to make learning rigorous and rewarding. Because of our faculty's tremendous work ethic and warm collegiality, our students graduate from SHDS with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete with students in any other school.

Q: What are your proudest accomplishments as head of school at SHDS?

A: Now in my fourth year at SHDS and reflecting on what has transpired, it is an understatement to say that we've had a few challenges. COVID-19, a continuing national teacher shortage, and our shrinking population might have meant the demise of any other school, but

SHDS not only survived, it is flourishing. Our enrollment increased, our academic quality is excellent, we are in the best financial shape since the inception of the school, and we have hired wonderful new teachers.

These, and the many advancements made during my tenure, are not my accomplishments. Each one represents communication, collaboration and cooperation among countless individuals, all of whom are uniquely dedicated to making SHDS the gem of a school that it is.

Q: What do you hope the children will remember about their time with you?

A: I want them to know and remember that every moment I have spent with them has been pure joy, and that their safety and happiness while they learned were my top priorities.

Laura has been an incredible leader at SHDS as evidenced by her relationships with students, faculty and parents. The comments below reflect the sentiments of the entire SHDS community.

“Laura has made our family's SHDS experience so special. She has gone above and beyond to coordinate the right resources to set Violet up to excel, and she has. Laura sets the tone for the sense of caring that truly makes SHDS unique - from her signature “Hello my loves!,” to hugs goodbye on a Friday afternoon, to an impromptu appearance on the playground at recess. Violet said at the time, “I didn't think principals played with kids at recess!” The reality is, Laura has always exceeded every expectation for a Head of School. She has truly put her heart into the role and made a lasting impact on so many children in our community.”

- Zack Clark, father of 2nd grader Violet

“Together, Laura and I laugh, sing and pour love all over our students every day. She is a source of energy and makes running a school fun! I can always talk to her, whether it is personally or professionally, and I will always look to her for advice. Laura is a determined leader who is optimistic, strong and has a clear vision. I will miss her terribly, but am so thankful for all she has taught me.”

-Melissa Klemperer, executive assistant

“Ms. Lavine truly cares about all of her students. She is someone I can sit and talk to when I need to be comforted, and she always knows how to help me through difficult situations. She is the best head of school, and we are all going to miss her very much.”

- Tammy Greenblatt, Grade 6

We thank you, Laura, for your devoted service to our school, and for dedicating your life to nurturing children and cultivating learning.

A JEWISH OBSERVER – Ukrainian Crisis Fly-In

April 5-7, 2022

by Cantor Robert Lieberman

AN OPENING TALE... A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been washed up during a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up and throw it back into the ocean. People watched her with amusement.

She had been doing this for some time when a man approached her and said, “Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You can’t save all these starfish. You can’t begin to make a difference!”

The girl seemed crushed, suddenly deflated. But after a few moments, she bent down, picked up another starfish, and hurled it as far as she could into the ocean. Then she looked up at the man and replied, “Well, I made a difference for that one!”

The old man looked at the girl inquisitively and thought about what she had done and said. Inspired, he joined the little girl in throwing starfish back into the sea. Soon others joined, and all the starfish were saved.

This story, by Loren Eiseley, resonates with me in light of my recent travel experience to Warsaw, Poland. Saving starfish, saving people. One at a time.

In late March, an email caught my eye. The Jewish Federations of North America was organizing a “Fly-In,” a 54-hour mission, to see Ukrainian refugee saving in action. JFNA was reserving a seat for someone from Central New York. Armed with the necessary information from Federation president/CEO Michael Balanoff and Special Projects Associate Barbara Davis, coupled with supportive discussion with my wife Vicki, I reserved my place and purchased my airplane tickets. Was I nervous? A little. Was I fearful? Not once. Was I overwhelmed? Absolutely!



From the moment I began to share, I received every form of verbal “thank you!” encouragement, unsolicited cash support (\$1,400) plus, on only three days’ notice, our CNY Jewish community delivered over 100 pounds of supplies for me to stuff into two large duffel bags. As an emissary from CNY, joining 22 other Federation leaders from around the United States, we delivered over 150 duffels with over 7,500 pounds of

requested OTC medical supplies, personal hygiene products and Passover toys for the children.

That is how I came to travel to Warsaw as a JEWISH OBSERVER from CNY.

Following the overnight flight on Polish Airline LOT, my group gathered in the Warsaw Marriott lobby to receive a brief orientation and name badges. Within 20 minutes, strangers were connected digitally on WhatsApp and we connected emotionally, as fellow Jews coming to help, see, listen, record and retell today’s stories. About how global brothers and sisters are helping one another, giving and receiving. About how these stories are happening one at a time, yet all of the time.

Our first task was



visiting the small storeroom at the Nozyk Synagogue in Warsaw. Inside were stacks and stacks of OTC supplies and diapers. There we met Karina Sokolowska, the Warsaw director of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). She shared with us how her job drastically changed six weeks ago when the war began. The first JDC mission was to search out and locate bedridden Holocaust survivors in Ukraine who were not eligible for regular rescue transport. Karina said, “We work with other Polish organizations and Jewish organizations to serve the refugees. The numbers of refugees are unbelievable and unimaginable. We never say ‘no’ to any refugee, Jewish or not.” She speaks Polish and a *bissel* Russian and can communicate with more people. To us she repeated, “Thank you for your donations... thank you for your support. We are all working so hard to outstretch our hands and give people help and hope.” Further, she said she “could never have dreamed that we would be relocating bedridden Holocaust survivors seeking safer living conditions to Germany!”

That was a quick visit. We then bused to the FOCUS Hotel in Warsaw. The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) is a lead beneficiary of dollars donated to this unimaginable humanitarian crisis. JAFI rents several floors of this hotel, which happens to be the third such place since the crisis began. For the Ukrainians who are seeking help relocating to Israel, the agency is providing support in these ways: hotel rooms converted into storerooms. Refugees can help themselves to food, clothing, children’s toys, pet food, medical assistance. There were spaces for children’s activities including dancing

and singing, meeting spaces for education and training, social and emotional support services, assistance with vetting documents.

When your neighborhood has sirens blaring and your home is facing imminent danger from bombs, rockets or mortar shells, what do you do? Grab your valise (wheeled or not) and fill it with your most valuable possessions, photos, memorabilia but be quick about it. Did you grab your documents? No? The Jewish Agency has a plan to help you navigate getting to Israel. Pack your chronic condition medications or prescriptions? Did you run out? Don’t worry. Come to the medical room, see a doctor or the nurse (team of four) volunteering from Beilinson Hospital network in Tel Aviv. JAFI will help you!

Every meeting we heard “Thank you! Thank you for coming. Thank you for giving. Thank you for learning as much as you possibly can. When you go home you must retell these stories.”

Jenny Gitkis Vainshtain, the Director of Representation (*Shlichut*) is a terrific, articulate, strong willed yet sweet and adorable leader. She shared with us the following numbers: As of April 4th the Jewish Agency had received 68,955 calls for help, 8,998 *olim* had been relocated to Israel, 1,314 people were waiting to make *aliyah* to Israel. To help people make *aliyah*, JAFI operates in five countries – Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Hungary and Romania. JFNA has allocated \$41,392,939 from received donations. It estimates the need to be \$120,000,000. JFNA supports the Jewish Agency, JDC, HIAS, World ORT, Chabad, Rescuers without Borders, Emergency Volunteers Project, Hadassah Medical, Hillel International, Project Keshet and more.

Not spoken about: 11,046 calls from Russian Jews seeking to make *aliyah* to escape Russia and Byelorussia. Not so easy to accomplish.

The people receiving help? One at a time. Here are three family stories from 80 people planning to be on Thursday’s plane to Israel:

Vika, from Charkhiv, a young woman who would not abandon her sickly uncle. He was not able to withstand regular mass transit to escape Ukraine. Vika found someone with a personal car willing to drive them to the Poland border while her uncle laid prone in the back seat. Upon reaching Poland, he took gravely ill and passed on March 28, just days before his 79th birthday. In consultation with the Chief Rabbi of Warsaw, the Jewish Agency agreed to continue Vika's and her uncle's journey to Israel on April 6th, where he would be buried in the next few days.



The Rumaniuk family, a Ukrainian father and son, are descendants of Ivan and Alexandra, Righteous Gentiles. Under the Law of Return for Righteous Gentiles, they will relocate to Israel. The son, a twenty-something year old, lives with cerebral palsy. The father shared the story that

his mother and her sister, when they were little girls, were trained to make certain noises when any soldiers were coming close. They had a dog that always barked whenever anyone came walking near their home. But if soldiers came, the girls would start yelling to the dog to stop barking and stop making so much noise. This they would yell at the top of their lungs. This disturbance served as an early warning alarm to the Jewish family that the Rumaniuks were hiding in the basement, to warn them of possible danger. In 2001, the Rumaniuk family received a certificate of honor from *Yad Vashem* recognizing their righteous efforts, opening Israel's door of return and welcome. Forward to today, and the descendants, whose family was saved, are helping this father and his son find their way to a new life in Israel.

Family from Mariupol – this one was toughest. A family of four: Svetlana, Sergei, sons aged 19 and 9. We listened to her Sasha, the older son, speak of mortar shells landing 50 meters from their home. Even wearing a *kippah*, he said he is not an orthodox person, but he took out his *tefillin* and prayed for the safety of his family. They left their home and stayed at a music school, sleeping on tables. Food? Not much. The store shelves were empty. Their bellies were empty. The Russians forced them across the Eastern border, out of Ukraine, especially since the Russians did not want the fighting age men to remain in Ukraine, as is their law. At one of several Russian checkpoints, they were forced to give away their dog. The young son is still crying. At another checkpoint they were inspected for tattoos. They made their way north to a relative in St. Petersburg. On a circuitous route through Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, eventually they arrived at the Jewish Agency in Warsaw. The mother, a gourmet chocolatier, sat with sad and exhausted eyes trying to console her younger son. When the leader, Jenny, shared with our group the good news that, in two days, they would be on the next flight with other *olim* relocating to Israel, Svetlana's lips formed a smile, her cheeks flushed pink and her eyes sparkled. It was her moment of hope, of *tikvah*, of saving her family and starting anew.



DAY 2 GOING TO THE BORDER:

After a six plus hour bus ride from Warsaw, we arrived at the southeast border town of Medyka. Upon arrival, we met several more volunteers and staff from the JAFI on the ground. Along the walk to the actual border, we saw tent after tent from various organizations: World Central Kitchen, Humanity First, UNICEF, United Sikh Community and more. Offerings? Food, pizza, drink, charging stations, SIM cards, children's toys, clothing, coats, hats and gloves, medical assistance, buses, cars, transportation assistance, port-a-potties.

I stood inside the steel fence, on the Ukrainian side of the border. The reports are true – that the first nationality represented, the first tents refugees pass, are the tents from Israel. The Israeli flag is flying right outside the tent, “Sauveteurs sans Frontieres” [SSF], which is open to serve any medical need in that moment a refugee passes. There were shelves of supplies and tables with diagnostic equipment. The tent was manned by two people, Arie Levy, president of SSF and Dr. Neil Scheier from Rochester. Dr. Scheier was on his first day, volunteering his skills and compassion as a healer. His eyes welled up when talking about his opportunity to help.

From there, we followed the path the refugees followed to a town called Przemysl. There was an empty mall which the town's mayor declared be converted into a humanitarian aid center. There was ample police presence and a bit more activity than we had witnessed at the border. Inside the mall, photos were forbidden. My visuals? Rooms with hundreds of adults resting on green cots, miserable, mourning their losses, huddled with their children and what belongings they still had. The mall can accommodate up to 1,500 guests per night. Every day those numbers changed. Every day volunteers cleaned for the next night. We toured the back area warehouse storing pallets and pallets of food, canned goods, fresh foods, bottled waters and drinks, paper products, walking canes, wheelchairs, cots, pillows and blankets.

Israel again was leading by example. Hadassah Medical had a triage center for patients operated by volunteer physicians. Europe has a Jewish youth group called Active Jewish Teens. The JDC enlisted Jewish teenagers from Ukraine and Israel to help entertain children in a kindergarten room. The room was decorated with happy, inspiring hand drawn pictures from the children themselves.



Two other observations captured my attention. At the border and at the aid center, volunteers and staff all wore bright colored vests: reflective yellow, safety orange, fluorescent green and Walmart blue. The multilinguals would write their languages on both sides of the vest: I SPEAK English, Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, French and German. The other palpable memory is seeing hollowness, emptiness and profound sadness in the eyes of many. Although many Ukrainians expect and want to go home, I wonder how many truly believe they will still have a home to which to return.

Psalm 133 – *Hineh Mah Tov Umanaim, shevet achim gam yachad*. “Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters, relatives and neighbors, countries can live together in harmony.” This was a recurring theme on this trip: with heads bowed, we asked ourselves, “How can we be witnessing such atrocities and horror stories today, in our lifetime?” Today, eighty years later.

When can we begin to rebuild? How long will it take to rebuild? Structural. Physical. Psychological.

I witnessed the goodness of tents welcoming the stranger, hugging the forlorn, feeding the hungry. I witnessed the beginning steps of the long difficult pathway to healing the broken and the downtrodden.

Last question – what can you do? Find yourself a charity and give. As a JEWISH OBSERVER, I have seen and can trust that JFNA is the prime vehicle for allocating the funds that will support all these efforts of saving Ukrainians and Ukrainian Jews.

One person at a time.

Jewish Observer Appeal Thank You

When the *Jewish Observer* revised its format in March 2020, there were skeptics and critics who decried the change. Even though a 2018 community-wide survey showed that most people felt that the *JO* needed a “facelift,” many people still had reservations about shifting the paper’s focus from wire service coverage to local news and becoming a monthly rather than a bi-weekly publication.

Two years later, most of the skeptics have been convinced of the benefits of the change. *JO* readers now report looking forward to receiving the paper each month in its new colorful format and to reading it “cover to cover.” The *JO* has been recognized in the larger community for its overall excellence as well as the excellence of its front pages. Reader support, as measured by voluntary donations to the *JO* Appeal, is at an all-time high. And in the “Imitation Is The Sincerest Form Of Flattery” category, we note that *The Reporter*, published by the *JO*’s former publisher, announced last month that they had decided to follow our example and were “going monthly, instead of biweekly,” were planning to “augment our local content” and “permanently incorporate color to our issues.”

We are proud of the fact that the *Jewish Observer*, in response to our community’s wishes, has become a model Jewish community newspaper, embraced by its subscribers, honored by the general community and supported by the Jewish community. In this issue of the *JO*, we again wish to recognize and thank the recent Appeal donors who make the *JO* possible. We couldn’t do it without you, and we thank you most sincerely.

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CBS-CS Turns 60!



IN THE BEGINNING...

BY HECKY AND ETTARAE ALPERT

We can trace our roots back to July 15, 1962, when nine families gathered at our home in Syracuse to talk about forming a new synagogue. We wanted to create a congregation where we could participate in our own Judaism. We were young and not so young; we came from different cities and even different states; our professional lives were different; our Jewish backgrounds were varied. But we had at least one thing in common: we were

desperately eager to build “a congregation that encouraged and expected participation in all phases, [a congregation] that should not be dominated by those of means or even the hardest workers. It should embrace people of limited means who wanted to be part of our synagogue. No individual could serve more than two one-year terms in the same office.” Within two weeks, 13 more families had joined us, all seeking a congregation small enough to

allow and encourage younger members to participate.

On October 3, 1962, in the Fayetteville Municipal Building, we held our first night service. A year later, we held High Holiday services at the Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, at that time an old house on Jamesville Road in DeWitt. (That was the beginning of an ecumenical relationship that still endures.) More than 100 people came for services, many perhaps drawn by the availability of babysitting, an innovation among temples at that time.

By 1964 we were established as a viable group of young Jews who worshipped together on Friday nights. The DeWitt Community Church allowed us to use space in their building for services and even graciously removed Christian symbols for our services, another relationship that endured for many, many years.

Among the student rabbis from the Jewish Theological Seminary who came once a month to lead our services was Daniel Jezer, the very same Rabbi Jezer who later served as our spiritual leader for 25 years.

In 1965 we erected our first building, the “house” at the bottom of the hill. Comprising two levels, it boasted a sanctuary and tiny kitchen on the upper floor and classrooms on the lower. In 1967 we hired our first full-time rabbi, Harvey Goldscheider.

By 1971, we had outgrown our little house. We journeyed up the hill to build Phase I of our current structure. The lower building was repurposed as our Hebrew school. In 1995 we expanded the “upper” building, adding a school wing, Rabbi’s study, offices, library and a much larger kitchen.

Many of us would never have chanted a haftarah or served as *ba’al t’filah* anywhere else. Our officers and workers might not have had the opportunity to serve and lead in CBS-CS fashion anywhere else. Indeed, our congregation has become the steppingstone for entrance into community leadership. The basic principles articulated by our founding members, the ethos of our congregational community, still prevail.

We have carefully retained our original philosophy of equality and participation. But perhaps most important are the friendships that have been and continue to be forged here at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

Celebrating Our 60th Anniversary

GWEN KAY AND ROBIN YOUNG

We are delighted to help celebrate the 60th anniversary of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. We are honored to help organize and coordinate the events throughout this year to help celebrate the 60th anniversary. We are humbled to have had the opportunity to work with so many people, including many of our founding and early members and to continue their legacy.

From the beginning, CBS-CS has been about creating community, collaborating, and volunteering. Friendships are formed, nurtured, and family is created through CBS-CS. New cohorts, kehillot and extended families are continually created. This has been true since our founding and is one of the many strengths of CBS-CS.

The events of this year highlight both the strengths and unique characteristics that make CBS-CS the special place that it is. Each event is volunteer-led, with support from our amazing staff. Volunteers range from our founding members to our newest members, from our board members to congregants. We hope that CBS-CS, and this year’s events, have provided multiple entry points for us to get together, see each other (again), and celebrate. We are proud to be a part of the CBS-CS community.

Every event this year was planned to reflect on who we are as a community, both our past and our future. We have highlighted founders and new families, lay leaders and staff, everyone who has made us what and who we are.

Our year began with the October installation of Rabbi David Kunin. When CBS-CS began, a fulltime rabbi was a dream; we began with a student rabbi for the holidays, and as we grew, so did



Robin Young and Gwen Kay

our pulpit. Organized by Mark Field and Bruce Nelson, the installation reflected on community building, welcoming the stranger, and how we might continue to foster, and embrace, these strengths.

As we lit our hannukiot in November and December, founding and early members of CBS-CS spoke about different values each night. Joan Bordett and Melissa Harkavy coordinated eight nights. We re-dedicated ourselves, as a community, to our founding values, as articulated by these early and involved families: full participation and volunteerism; being inclusive and welcoming; a congregation as an extended family, not a building; education for all ages; participating in the communities in which we live; and Jewish values.

In the cold of January, we celebrated the families who joined in our first thirteen years, from 1962-1975. Many honors and daveners were from those early families; our rabbi emeritus, Rabbi Daniel Jezer, shared a d’var Torah reflecting on our growth from zero to 13, and now to 60.

In early April, we celebrated our multi-generational families, from those who grew up in the congregation and chose to continue to affiliate to those who moved to Syracuse and joined us because their children were members. From readers to daveners, we will celebrate the many families within our congregational family. Long-time members Howard Weinberger and Bernie and Ona Bregman co-chaired these shabbatot.

We also celebrated and embraced our musical talents. In January, Sisterhood sponsored musical bingo, featuring music of the 1960s. In March, we hosted a sing-along to the movie “Fiddler on the Roof,” with refreshments, song sheets, and much merriment, coordinated by Robin Young and Gwen Kay.

Finally, in early June, our year of celebrating will culminate in an afternoon of music by the Seneca String Quartet. Chaired by Jonathan Adler, this event offers an occasion for old and new friends to listen to music, get together and schmooze.

Through all of our celebration, we have worked to continue to be a family, not a building, offering programming on Zoom whenever possible. We have also worked to prepare the next generations, with a renewed effort to add to our Fund for the Future, housed at the Jewish Community Foundation.

On the 60th Anniversary of
Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas

I am so grateful for the vision,
wisdom, values and hard work of
our founding members,
presidents,
other lay leaders, volunteers,
staff and Rabbis over the years
who have made CBS-CS a very
special community.
May we continue along this path
from strength to strength.

Joan G. Bordett and family

Temple Adath Yeshurun

To our friends at CBS-CS,
Mazel Tov on your 60th Anniversary.
To 120!



450 Kimber Road | Syracuse, New York
www.adath.org | 315.445.0002 | info@adath.org

Thank you for
being so
welcoming!

LAWRENCE AND
ARLENE SPIZMAN



OUR MISSION AND VISION

An inclusive egalitarian congregation, Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas (CBS-CS) strives to promote Jewish values - encouraging the religious, educational, and social growth of our members by offering a variety of interactive religious services, educational opportunities, and social events with the aim of strengthening the entire community and enriching the life of each member. CBS-CS works to engage and support people from all walks of Jewish life, regardless of knowledge or background. Members of the larger community are welcome to attend services and participate in the many educational, holiday and social events offered.

Mission Statement

CBS-CS is an egalitarian Conservative congregation affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. CBS-CS is dedicated to the active participation of its members in all areas of synagogue life. As an inclusive congregational family, we strive to promote Jewish values – encouraging the religious, educational, and social growth of our members.

Vision Statement

- We meet people where they are - *Ba'asher hu sham.*
- We value collaboration - *Shutafut.*
- We see Jewish life as a blend of tradition and innovation - *Masoret/Hidush.*
- We see a Sacred Covenant at the heart of the congregation's life - *Brit.*
- We cultivate a multiplicity of paths in Jewish life - *Kol Netivoteha Shalom.*

The value of membership in CBS-CS is the value of belonging to a Jewish community that provides its members with the level of engagement and support that each individual wants and needs. For many members, it is about friendship and activities with friends. For others, it is about access to religious services and a rabbi. Still, others value the Religious School programs and a place for their children to have enriched Jewish experiences with children their own age. Whatever your need, we strive to find a place for you.

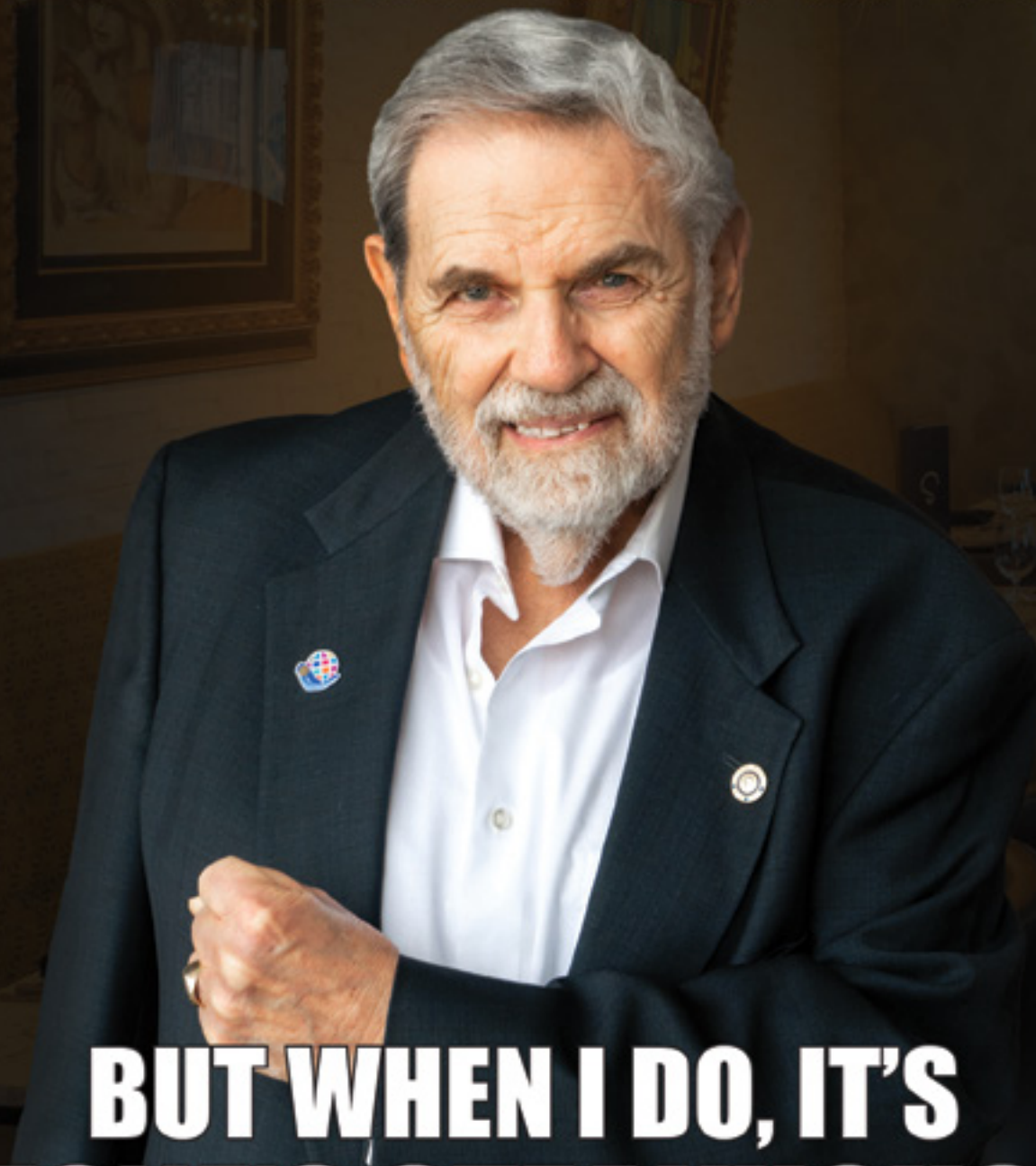
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Rabbi David Kunin



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- Bernie Bregman



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HOW WE GREW

The Merger of Congregation Beth Sholom with Chevra Shas

Congregation Beth Sholom was 15 years old and Chevra Shas was 77 when the two merged in 1977. Chevra Shas, then located in the 700 block of Irving Avenue, was formed at the very beginning of the 20th century. The merger marked many months of planning by both groups; each congregation had somewhat different goals for the eventual merger. Chevra Shas sought to perpetuate its name and memories, and Beth Sholom needed an older generation of men and women to serve as models of Judaism for its young members. One way the newly merged synagogues helped to preserve and honor Chevra Shas' history was to install a new *yahrzeit* plaque which, while separate with only Chevra Shas names, coordinated with the existing plaques of Beth Sholom.

When the newest synagogue in the area joined with the oldest, Alan Goldberg was the Beth Sholom president and Rabbi Eliot Marrus was the spiritual leader. Principals in the merger from Chevra Shas were David

and Irving Hammer, Eli and Lilian Chase, Harold Gordon, Charles Bodow and Hyman Khan. They assumed positions on the board of trustees of the newly-merged entity, helping to ensure a smooth transition. Beth Sholom members who paved the way for the new Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas were Gus Pearlman, David Yaffee, Alan Goldberg, Howard Weinberger and Henry Lehman.

On the 25th anniversary of the merger, Cheryl Gordon Wolfe published, "Congregation Chevra Shas: A History," which also helped to preserve the name and memories of Chevra Shas.

The Temple Beth El Partnership

Temple Beth El was created from three congregations: Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Poiley Tzedek and Congregation Anshe Sfard in 1963. It lasted for 44 years. The following words were authored by its last president, Mark Field:

"Once our congregation made the difficult and painful decision to close our doors, two challenges emerged: How do



we go forward and keep as much of our community intact as possible, and how do we respect the legacy of Temple Beth El and fulfill the obligations entrusted to us?

From the initial conversations I had with then current President Norma Feldman and future President Gwen Kay, an honest, trusting and caring relationship developed, helping me see how our needs could be addressed. Time after time the response was creative and understanding, helping to make the transition as easy as possible.

Many people helped, but Alan Goldberg, who acted as liaison from CBS-CS, could not have been a better person to work with. He consistently assured us our needs could be met and that the congregation we would join sincerely cared about us.

We came with our siddurim, our Torahs, windows and memorial plaques, but most of all with the hope we would find a new spiritual home to be a part of. Those hopes, thanks to everyone at CBS-CS, have been realized."

Ner Tamid

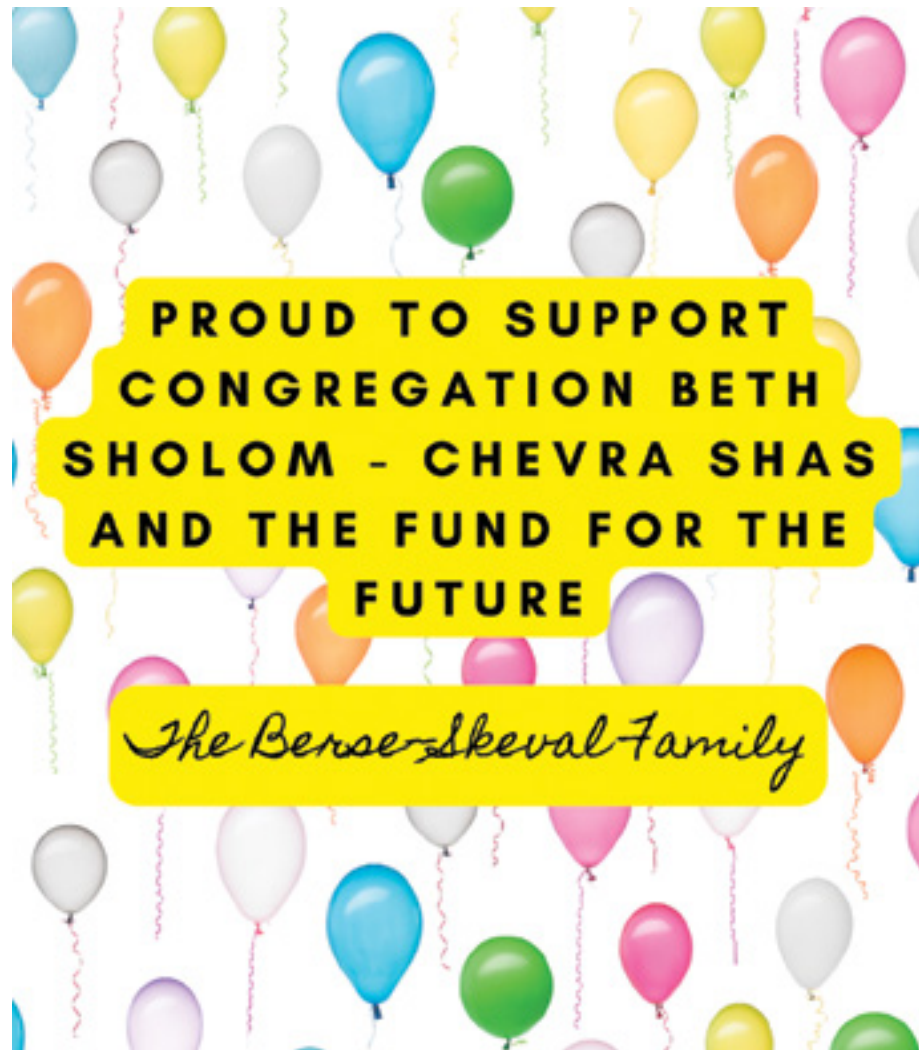
Ner Tamid was a strong congregation which originated in 1960 as the Suburban Jewish Center. In 1963, it built and dedicated a synagogue and chose a new name: Congregation Ner Tamid. Elihu Cohen served as its religious director. By the beginning of the 21st century, however, demographic decline impacted the congregation so severely that it could

no longer get a minyan or have children enrolled in its religious school. It was not a sustainable situation and Ner Tamid looked for another Conservative congregation with which to partner for the future. CBS-CS was a happy choice and a merger was effectuated.

Congregation Adath Israel

Adath Israel was organized in 1902 when some 40 families created an Orthodox community. In the early 1940s, the synagogue responded to wishes of members and changed from traditional Orthodoxy to Conservatism. Separate seating for men and women was abandoned and a Conservative rabbi was hired.

In 1959, the congregation held a 50th Anniversary dinner attended by over 100 people. In 1970, it held the dedication of a building on East Third and Oneida Street, purchased from the First Baptist Church of Oswego. The congregation was inactive for a while and then in the 1980s David Cravitz revived and led the shul until he retired to Florida. For the next 20 years, Lawrence and Arlene Spizman kept the synagogue going with services and social events. Eventually, the congregation no longer had the population to continue with services or other celebrations. The final business of the shul was the same as the first official business, purchasing additional burial plots at the Riverside Cemetery.



Congregation Beth Sholom – Chevra Shas

We started small and then we grew....
But the values that guided us then are the values we live by today....

We meet people where they are.

We value collaboration.

We see Jewish life as a blend of tradition and innovation.

We see a Sacred Covenant at the heart of the congregation's life.

We cultivate a multiplicity of paths in Jewish life.

We invite others to join us at CBS-CS,
no matter where you are on your Jewish path.

Joining a synagogue is more than becoming a member. It is truly joining in a shared journey with a community. Our community embraces the Jewish value of honoring every person made in the divine image. We are a warm and inclusive congregation and welcome all: Jews by heritage, Jews by choice, secular Jews, interfaith families, couples, singles and LGBTQI+ members.

Whether your needs are spiritual, intellectual, social or pastoral —
Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas is here for you.

Please come and see why we are celebrating six decades of being a
congregation – and then decide to join us!

RABBINIC LEADERSHIP

Rabbi Harvey Goldscheider was our first full-time rabbi and we were his first pulpit. He came to us fresh out of military service in 1967 with his wife Judy and two children. Together with a group of young people who were striving to create a new synagogue, Rabbi Goldscheider built the foundation of Congregation Beth Sholom and developed it into a full-fledged religious institution. Much of what he accomplished has continued to the present. He instituted a complete schedule of Shabbat and holiday services and set up shiva home *minyans* and a Sunday *minyan*. He created our religious school for children and an adult education program. He loved to teach in a classroom setting and from the pulpit. He encouraged the tradition of posing questions to the congregation during the *d'var Torah*.

He encouraged the congregation to construct a new building at the top of the hill to have more space for services and celebrations, a large kitchen and library. Anyone who was there will never forget the Torah scrolls being carried from our first building on Jamesville Road up the hill under a *chuppah* with Rabbi Goldscheider in the lead. An issue he was not in favor of was egalitarian services.

In the community, Rabbi Goldscheider is most remembered for the establishment of the Hebrew High School with Rabbi Jacob Epstein of Temple Beth El. When Rabbi Epstein passed away, Rabbi Goldscheider insisted that the school be named in his honor and memory. The Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Rabbi Goldscheider was also involved with the fledgling Hebrew Day School and helped develop its original curriculum.

Rabbi Goldscheider was our rabbi for nine years, during which time he and Judy added two more children to their family. He left to accept a pulpit in Brooklyn. He unexpectedly passed away in 2006 at the age of 67.



Rabbi Eliot Marrus was the second full time spiritual leader at Congregation Beth Sholom after Rabbi Goldscheider. He served from 1976 to 1979. He helped guide us through our merger with Chevra Shas and at that time we added their name to ours. During the time that Rabbi Marrus was here the congregation was considering equality for women in the area of ritual participation. He researched the question, but the issue was not resolved until several years later.

Rabbi Daniel A. Jezer was Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas' third rabbi, serving from 1979 to 2004. Born and raised in the Bronx, Rabbi Jezer's father was a cardiologist and everyone assumed he would follow in his father's footsteps. Instead, he earned a bachelors of arts degree from Columbia University and immediately entered the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

In 1964, when he was a senior at JTS, Rabbi Jezer came to Beth Sholom as a student rabbi for the high holy days. The congregation was then only two years old. For the remainder of that year, he came to Syracuse on a monthly basis. When the rabbi came to Beth Sholom, he recalled, "The congregation had been tearing itself apart for five years over the issue of women's participation. When I was asked during my interviews what my position was on the issue, I said that if I came, there would be egalitarianism and if the congregation wasn't ready for that, it didn't want me. The majority was ready, but a vocal minority was not. I wanted to build a sense of community with the participation in the congregation by people with a wide divergence of Judaic knowledge and practice."

Rabbi Jezer has served on the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Central New York and as a chairperson of the Federation's Public Affairs Committee. He has also served as chair of the Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center, a member and chair of the Interreligious Council, chaplain of the Jewish Health and Rehabilitation Center at Menorah Park, and as a panelist on the WCNY-TV show, "Religion Matters." He is an emeritus member of the Round Table of Faith Leaders of Interfaith Works.



Jewish Federation
OF CENTRAL NEW YORK



The Jewish Community
Foundation OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

**Congratulations to
Congregation Beth Sholom Chevra-Shas
on 60 successful years of service to its
members and the Jewish community.**

Rabbi Rachel Ain was the congregation's fourth and first female rabbi. She led the congregation from her ordination in 2004 until 2011. During her tenure, the congregation welcomed the members of Temple Beth El, who chose to join CBS-CS, when they had to make the difficult decision to dissolve their congregation. Rabbi Ain celebrated "the hours schmoozing at Wegman's, the intense sessions of learning at Hillel at Syracuse University, the heated debates at Green & Seifter, the places we went as we celebrated metaphorically making over our Jewish homes, and the times we spent building houses for Home Headquarters, Inc. or partnering with our fellow community members at ACTS." She said that she "was always proud to be a rabbi of a synagogue that didn't only look internally, but externally as well. We traveled to Israel together and we slept at sleep-away camps together. We brought the PJ Library into the Central New York Community and sent our younger congregants to Jewish summer camps locally and in other states. All of us understood that we have to think broadly, nationally, and globally, for that is our world today. And we will be influenced by it and we can be influencers as well." She recalled her tenure at CBS-CS in the following words: "Choosing to enter the rabbinate in college was obvious to me. Studying to be a rabbi at JTS was exhilarating. Actually becoming a rabbi here at CBS-CS with your help, was life changing. I learned very quickly that ordination was only the first step. It was the interactions, the stories, the time together that helped each of us on our journey as we grow. For at the end of the day, the walls might tell the stories, but it was the people who made them happen."

Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone arrived at CBS-CS with his wife, Cantor Paula Pepperstone and their three children, as the congregation was celebrating its 50th anniversary. He found CBS-CS to be "a congregation that welcomes people in and accepts them for who they are. This Big Tent synagogue is the spiritual home for Jewish families of all kinds, including same sex and intermarried families." He added an additional comment: "When you come into our building, you will be hard-pressed to find plaques up around the building identifying who donated what. Over the life of the congregation, countless people have generously donated their time, energy and financial resources. If you look in the lobby, you will see a beautiful piece of wood art, which contains the list of people who contributed to the building and furnishing, and that is it."

He further praised "the demand for learning at CBS-CS" pointing out that "every class, discussion and lecture has drawn a crowd of people who are actively listening. Asking questions and thinking about the ideas being presented. People ask me about our upcoming classes, what we are offering, when they are being taught. I have met many people at CBS-CS who tell me about courses offered years ago and the insight they gleaned from them. I have heard about teachers who have challenged and expanded the minds of the congregation."

Rabbi David Kunin, the congregation's fifth rabbi, arrived as the COVID pandemic struck the community. In describing his time at CBS-CS, he made note of this coincidence. "COVID has been the defining feature of my (nearly) two years here in Syracuse. For a year, my home was my office and in a way the synagogue (via Zoom). Instead of getting to know people face to face, all of us were small pictures on the screen, though I have to admit having the names on each was a great help. Much of this time was even more difficult as Shelley also was also only a small picture on the screen. Despite these challenges, both Shelley and I have felt embraced and welcomed by the CBS-CS community."

During these two COVID years, the CBS-CS community has more than met the challenge of connectivity and inclusivity in unique ways. Together we created a Zoom (and later hybrid) environment where everyone was and is welcome and fully included. I am very proud that even today some aliyot, torah readings and davening are done in the shul, while others may be virtual. We have fully embraced the idea that all our members are important, and that all voices must be heard. COVID has pointed us to new ways that our synagogue can be there for the spiritual journeys of all our members. CBS-CS is a vibrant, welcoming and wonderful community. Shelley and I have been awed by the depth of knowledge and commitment by so many members. Volunteerism is alive and well."

Our Family has changed along with the CBS-CS Family



The Weinberger Family in 1976
20th Anniversary



The Weinberger Family in 2016
60th Anniversary

May We Continue to Grow And Develop
Anita & Howard

**Congratulations Congregation
Beth Sholom - Chevra Shas on
60 years of supporting a
vibrant and unique
Conservative Jewish
congregation in
Central New York!**



Jef Sneider and Gwen Kay

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

BY JEFF STANTON

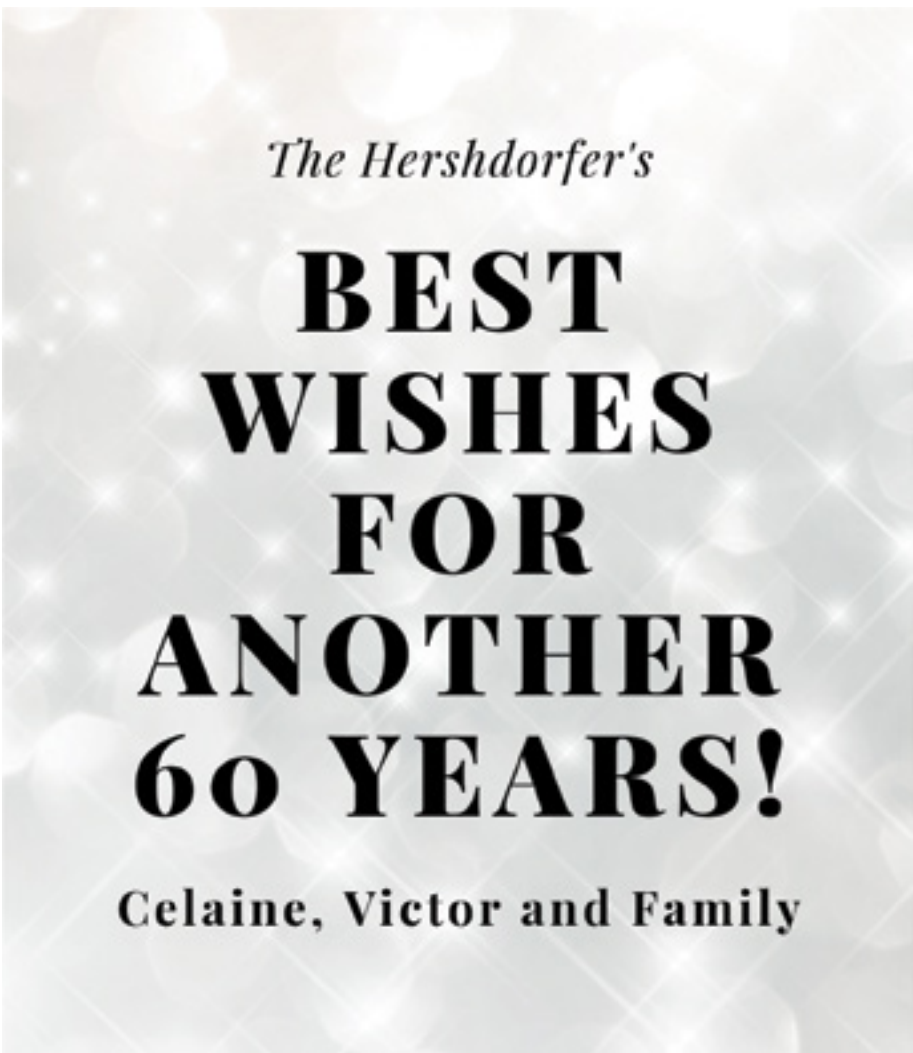


Both CBS-CS and I turned 60 this year. I suppose it’s just a coincidence that, as president, I am almost exactly the same age as the congregation. After all, I was born near Boston, but ended up here in Syracuse after about 40 years of wandering. A non-Jew for most of my life, and for much of my time as a member of CBS-CS (so far), I somehow became a president of this congregation. Of course, the congregation itself was also born of many coincidences. A unique situation led to Hecky and Ettarae Alpert’s decision to try to establish their own congregation. They happened to have many like-minded friends in the area. The 1960s were a dynamic time for Jewish life in Syracuse, not to mention the rest of the country, ripe for the establishment of an egalitarian congregation with a do-it-yourself approach.

But once a congregation starts to build momentum, as CBS-CS has done over recent decades, the coincidences matter less and the culture and values of the congregation matter more. I’ve not seen a set of congregational values that I appreciate more than those written a few years ago for our vision statement: *We meet people where they are. We value collaboration. We see Jewish life as a blend of tradition and innovation. We see a Sacred Covenant at the heart of the congregation’s life. We cultivate a multiplicity of paths in Jewish life.* Without these values and a real commitment to enacting them by our members, I might not be a Jew, I probably would not be part of this congregation and I certainly would not be president. And without these values and the people who believe in them and enact them, CBS-CS would probably not be the place it is today.

I hope that someone at the 70th anniversary celebration reads these words and appreciates all the happy accidents and intentional hard work that have gone into creating the beautiful institution that is CBS-CS. We’ve lived through a lot. Just over the past two years, we’ve been out of the building several times — for months at a time — trying to prevent our most vulnerable members from being infected with any one of the many variants of the COVID-19 virus. In the building we wear surgical masks to protect each other and we sit far apart. We’ve said goodbye with love and grief to several of our founding members. We’ve hardened our building in response to repugnant acts of anti-Semitism worldwide. We’ve learned to live with Zoom and even gotten pretty good at creating a fulfilling ritual experience in a fully online format. We’ve cultivated a new crop of Torah readers. We’ve held B’nai Mitzvah celebrations in hybrid mode, allowing friends and family members from far away to participate. We’ve begun to fulfill the vision of previous generations of lay leaders to build the Fund for the Future into a resource that capably sustains the operations of the congregation.

So, if you’re reading this on the eve of the 70th anniversary of CBS-CS, know that we have all worked hard to steward a Jewish institution that we can be proud to hand off to you, the next generation of leaders. We have been lucky to be able to meet, and work, and pray together, sometimes virtually, through the worst pandemic in a century. And we are grateful for the people, all the people, that have chosen to affiliate themselves with this amazing congregation.



LAY LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

BY BOB TORNBERG

When we think about the leaders of our people, our minds most often turn to historical figures like Moses, King David, Judah Maccabee, Ruth, Esther, Hillel, Akiba, Maimonides, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir and so on. The Jewish lives we live today are, in a very real sense, the direct result of the contributions of those and other famous leaders you may add to the list.

However, that is not the whole story. Our lives as Jews today have also been shaped by many thousands (dare we say millions) more who were not recorded in the history books, but who nevertheless worked tirelessly—sometimes for their whole lives—to create and maintain Jewish life in the communities in which they lived. These are the volunteers, committee members, and board members who have given their time and talent to organizations like Landsmanshaftn (19th and 20th century mutual aid societies), Jewish Federations, Jewish Free Loan Societies, Cemetery Associations, Jewish Family Services, Jewish Community Centers, various organizations supporting Israel, national organizations like Hadassah and B'nai B'rith, and of course synagogues. These are organizations of “regular people” who stepped up and continue to step up to leadership positions to ensure the continuity of the amazing benefits these groups offer the Jewish and the larger community.

Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas is no exception. Over our 60 years, beginning with Hecky Alpert, our first President, we have had 32 men and women stand up and say “*Hineni*” (Here I am, like Abraham to God). I am willing to put many things in my life on hold and spend my evenings, Sundays, and even some of my work time, to help build CBS-CS into the kind of community it has become over 60 years. Of course, they didn’t do this alone! Each of them was backed up by around 10-25 board members (depending on the period of time), committee members, volunteers — both older and younger, including children, and our members. It is actually mind-boggling to think about how many people and how much passion, vision, and effort has gone into letting us reach this moment to celebrate a big anniversary. It is really a *Shehecheyanu Moment*.

And leading in the Jewish community is never easy. It wasn’t for Moses or



David, not for Esther or Golda, and it hasn’t been for Hecky, the presidents and the many volunteers at CBS-CS. We even read in the Jerusalem Talmud (*B’rachot* 1:6) that “Even though Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah [a first century rabbi and Talmudic Sage] assumed a position of distinguished leadership in the community — nevertheless, he lived a long life.”

So why do they do it? Well, because the stakes are high and the work they do for the synagogue changes lives. Just a few examples:

- In our congregation, there are many weeks when there is an adult learning opportunity every day, not to mention those on Shabbat every week.
- The *Chesed* Committee at CBS-CS provides meals of condolence and *shiva* meals to mourners after the death of a loved one.
- On *Shabbat HaDorot*, we are led in worship by our children as young as 5 and into their teens. We know they are our future, and we celebrate it!
- Before COVID, one of the year’s highlights has always been the Labor Day Back-to-Shul BBQ which attracts between 200-300 members, who love to spend time together. People are already talking about when we can do this again now that COVID may be winding down.
- For the past few years (again pre-COVID), we have cooked and hosted an *Iftar* (a break the fast meal) for the



Muslim community during *Ramadan*.

- We have a long history of engaging in social justice activities whether it is feeding the hungry, resettling refugees (Russian Jews, Afghanis, and others), providing for the needs of the homeless, and struggling for racial justice in a variety of ways.

What most people don’t know is what goes on behind the scenes to make all these important and good things happen. The answer is (in no particular order) meetings, thinking, planning, paperwork, discussions (even arguments), purchases, shlepping, rethinking, replanning, publicizing, getting approval, getting input congregants, collaborating with the staff who are critical to everything that goes on at CBS-CS. The list is endless, but you get the idea.

What is interesting is that what you have just read was not the original idea for this column. The “assignment” was actually to talk about the governance of the synagogue. But governance is such a formal word that it doesn’t really capture the spirit of CBS-CS.

That is not to say that we don’t pay attention to governance. In fact, during the past year, there has been a board member who was responsible for Board Development. This job has three parts:

- Conduct an Orientation for the Board in the summer so board members can begin the year with a vision of what is really important in their work.
- Present a brief training piece at each Board meeting to help Board members actually focus on the “important” (as well as some needed board skills like reading financial statements).
- Create a Leadership Development Course for members who have not been at the center of congregational leadership. It is meant to help them understand the history and culture of the congregation, a bit about the Jewish roots of leadership, and how CBS-CS operates.

As we think about the next 60 years, there are several issues that those in leadership will have to confront to ensure the future of our congregation and the Jewish community.

- It is exponentially more difficult to today to get volunteers than it was 10 or even five years ago.
- Our commitment to a Fair Share Dues

approach — one of the bedrock values of CBS-CS from the beginning — has not over the past few years provided sufficient income to support the level of our programming at CBS-CS.

- The amount of work required of the Staff to keep our programming going is unrealistic and unsustainable.

To that end, the Congregation, under the leadership of the Board, and with extensive involvement of the members, will embark on a Strategic Planning Process beginning next year. We will revisit our Mission and Vision, look at what we are doing well, and what needs “fixing/changing.” Hopefully, in collaboration we will come up with a plan that takes us on the next steps toward celebrating the 120th anniversary.

CBS-CS PRESIDENTS

1963-64 Herbert Albert z”l
1964-66 Arthur Stockman;
1966-67 Myron Shaffer
1967-69 Bernard Bregman;
1969-71 David Yaffe z”l
1971-73 Victor Hershdorfer
1973-75 Stanford LeVine
1975-77 Henry Lehmann z”l;
1977-79 Alan Goldberg
1979-81 Edward Mofson z”l;
1981-83 Ralph Weisberg z”l;
1983-84 Sheldon Schwartz
1985-86 Howard Weinberger;
1986-88 Robert Zucker
1988-90 Linda Alexander z”l;
1989-90 Jeff Finck-Rothman;
1992-94 Betty Siegel
1994-96 Herbert Freeman z”l
1996-97 Sheila Mofson z”l
1997-99 Larry Wallace
1999-01 Howard Alexander;
2001-03 Ruth Stein
2003-05 Steven Kepnes
2005-07 Norma Feldman
2007-09 Gwen Kay
2009-11 Stephen Bittner
2011-12 Ronny Goeler
2012-13 Stephen Bittner
2013-15 Mickey Lebowitz
2015-17 Samuel Young
2017-18 Norma Feldman
2018-20 Jeffrey Sneider
2020-22 Jeffrey Stanton.

Torah Reading at CBS-CS

BY PAMELA DAVIS WELLS

If I told you ten years ago: “One day, we will be chanting the Torah on Zoom,” you’d have looked at me funny, and (once I’d explained what Zoom is) you might have said: “No way.” And yet, the decade between the 50th and 60th anniversaries of CBS-CS has seen just this kind of growth and change in our ritual tradition of learning and chanting Torah for the community.

In the past ten years, we mourned the loss of Marty Miller, a dedicated Torah reader, and one of the “heavy hitters” who took on the responsibility of reading an entire parashah at least once a month. He was also a frequent leader of services, and taught cantillation to many b’nai mitzvah students.

Marty’s absence triggered new growth, as several other individuals stepped forward to meet the demand of weekly commitments to complete triennial Torah readings. Thanks to the efforts of congregants Ben Greenblatt, Lisa Levens, and Jonathan Levine, who read entire portions on a regular basis, as well as many others who regularly accept the invitation to read, we’ve never been stuck without a Torah reader.

We are lucky. Many congregations of our size are experiencing what Rabbi Andy Pepperstone calls a “liturgical brain drain,” as longtime leaders with Torah reading skills retire, move away, or die. The Torah needs to be read every week and on holidays, and there are not always enough skilled and willing people available to a community. It takes a person with a special set of life circumstances to be able to make that commitment.

Our original Ba’al Koreh, Dr. Gustave Pearlman, learned to read Torah at yeshiva. He began his 27 years of weekly Torah readings at CBS-CS in the early 1970s, while he was still practicing dentistry full-time. When I asked his wife Alice how Gus could possibly read Torah every week while he



was still working, she said, “He didn’t leave one moment unproductive. He would work during the day; in the evening he would sit with the Tikkun. He would often keep learning until the last minute.” (I can relate.)

Preparing to read Torah takes many, many hours. One must become familiar with the biblical (read: archaic) Hebrew vocabulary of a given portion; one must memorize the patterns of the assigned trope; and once you’ve learned to chant the verses with the vowels you need to “drop a ski” (waterskiing reference, meaning to increase the degree of difficulty) and chant from the scroll with neither vowels nor trope notes available to remind you what you should be saying or singing.

Frankly, for a human to be able to take on the time-sucking responsibility of Torah reading, it makes a lot more sense for them to be either retired from full-time work, or have adult, need-free children, or both.

It is becoming more true that when congregations look to hire new clergy, the skill set of weekly Torah reading ability is rising higher on the priority list. Looking ahead to

the next decade, Rabbi Pepperstone observes that this ongoing trend will put pressure on rabbinical and cantorial schools to make sure that their graduates can chant Torah to the level that a congregation needs.

As if we needed more growth and change during this decade, the pandemic hit — and suddenly, we were reading Torah on Zoom. This new normal forced us to violate rules that we used to abide, such as “not using computers on the Sabbath,” and Torah reading changed. Frankly, it became less demanding and more accessible — one could sight-read, almost.

It is certainly easier to recruit a volunteer to read Torah when a) they won’t have to work as hard, because they can use the vowels and trope, and don’t have to memorize anything, and b) they can stay in the comfort of their homes and even be wearing pajama bottoms, who would know?

And yet, while we may have gained in ease and accessibility, we also lost: for those who once read from the scroll on a regular basis, the pandemic caused a softening of those Torah reading muscles, of the time-management and self-discipline skills one needs to be able to carve out the daily practice time to chant Torah at peak level. I can personally attest to the truth that switching back to in-person services and the sacred no-vowels, no-trope scroll was tough. My saving grace was my 19 years of cantillation muscle-memory to call upon.

Which leads to another troubling thought — what about all the young people who made the best of things with online b-nai mitzvot during the pandemic? Did they actually learn to read Torah? Could they, would they, come into the sanctuary now to read? In the past two years, how many

opportunities to create ongoing Torah readers did we lose to COVID?


Between our 50th and 60th anniversaries, from a Torah-reading perspective, CBS-CS has been challenged. As we look ahead to the next decade, we should think about how to strengthen and repair the weak spots we’ve developed. Halachically speaking, there is no obligation to read Torah in public; rather, it’s a service we provide. Knowing that people’s lives change, and the needs of the community will change and evolve, is the congregation prepared for whatever comes next?


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CBS-CS - May
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THE DAVIS FAMILY

Expanding the Tent: Ritual Changes at CBS-CS

BY JOAN BORDETT

From its very beginning 60 years ago, CBS-CS has prioritized the values of welcome, inclusivity and participation. Changes in our ritual life and practices have reflected a growing understanding over the years of what that requires, consistent with the guidance of the Conservative movement.



Gender Equalitarianism

Right from the start of Rabbi Jezer's 25 years as CBS-CS's spiritual leader in 1979, he was clear that the congregation would move to fully include women in its Ritual life. In fact, only one month into his tenure, in August 1979, Cindi Goldberg, daughter of Alan and Dorothy z'l Goldberg was the first bat mitzvah at CBS-CS to be called to the Torah and say the *Brachot*. Prior to that girls would chant the haftarah with their fathers offering the *Brachot* before and after. From then on, women were called to the Torah on a regular basis.

They were required to wear kippot and tallitot when having an Aliyah, reading from the Torah and chanting the haftarah, and were encouraged to do so whenever attending Services. In the mid 1990s, Sisterhood members under the guidance of Marcia Cohen sewed feminine tallitot to be available to any Jewish women entering the sanctuary.

In an effort to increase the ritual comfort level and education of more congregational women, an adult bat mitzvah program was begun. In 1983, CBS-CS held the first adult b'nai mitzvah in Syracuse, calling five women to the

Torah after studying with Rabbi Jezer for a year. It was the first of seven adult b'nai mitzvah classes that included a total of 59 men and women, enriching their lives and creating future leaders of the congregation.

Around the year 2000, CBS-CS added the imohut (Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah) to our Shabbat, Yom Tov and weekday recitation of the Amidah, reminding us that they, as well as our forefathers, were foundational to the early beginnings of the Jewish people, remain inspirations and that women are and have always been an integral part of our community throughout the ages.

CBS-CS's inclusion of women as equals in our ritual life seemed to culminated with the hiring of Rabbi Rachel Ain in July 2004 as our spiritual leader and the first female rabbi in Syracuse.

But we were not done. Under the leadership of Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone, in 2017 with the adoption of Siddur Lev Shalem, we added the word "v'imoteinu" (and our mothers) after each occurrence of "avoteinu," (our fathers) in particular because of the Me Too movement and the desire to make the inclusion of women in our traditions even more explicit and equitable. At the same time we added "v'khol yoshvei tevel" (and all who dwell on earth) to each Kaddish's prayer for peace in order to include the widest possible circle of humanity.

A Gay Wedding

In 2003, Rabbi Jezer performed the first Jewish gay wedding in Syracuse at CBS-CS, reflecting the Conservative movement's and the congregation's growing embrace of gay people. Rabbi Joan Friedman, part of the couple, had been a member of CBS-CS and our High Holiday cantor for several years.

Inclusion of Non-Jews

CBS-CS from its founding has welcomed non-Jews as members, most frequently as the spouse of a Jewish member. As the number of Jews who have married non-Jews

has increased, many such couples have found a welcoming environment at CBS-CS. In the 1990's in a rare occurrence, a non-Jewish parent of a bat mitzvah give the d'var Torah that day. Since then the involvement of the non-Jewish parent at life cycle events has evolved. Initially the non-Jewish parent could come up to the shulchan after the Torah blessings to receive the parental blessing for raising a Jewish child. It later involved to allowing that parent to come up and stand next to the Jewish parent as he/she recited the Torah blessings. The non-Jewish parent has for many years been invited up to the bimah to participate in the parental words of blessing to their child.

Most recently under Rabbi David Kunin we have expanded the English prayers that a non-Jew could recite during services from the Prayer for Peace to any English prayer.

In 2012, under Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone, CBS-CS created a mixed burial section of the Congregation Beth Sholom cemetery where non-Jewish partners or children of a Jewish member may be buried together. This was in recognition of a future need with our growing number of such families; where the non-Jewish family member was active in the CBS-CS community and had no other spiritual community.

Including Those Not in the Sanctuary In Our Prayer Community

COVID has forced all religious congregations to examine how they provide worship services to their members and beyond. CBS-CS, too, faced the necessity of expanding our prayer community beyond the physical walls of our building. Only through the use of technology, which we would have previously considered off limits on Shabbat and Yom Tov, were we able to continue to offer Services in a safe way.

We chose to use Zoom rather than streaming to allow for participation by all, an important value since our founding, no matter from where they join us, Started under Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone and expanded by current rabbi, David Kunin, this has allowed those at home to have an Aliyah, read a prayer, read Torah from a chumash, or chant the haftarah. As many return to the sanctuary for services we recognize that some of our members will continue to rely on remote access due to immobility, transportation or health issues, or distance from Syracuse and we are dedicated to continuing their full participation.

From the challenges of COVID, we have learned yet another way to expand those we serve and ensure they are included.

CBS-CS will continue to respond to opportunities that ensure that we practice our founding values of welcome, inclusivity, and participation as we embark on the next 60 years.

"The Kellmans want to wish Congregation Beth Sholom — Chevra Shas a Hearty Mazel Tov on our 60th Anniversary!"



Youth Education and Activities at CBS-CS

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

This sentence from Proverbs lies at the heart of Jewish education. When Congregation Beth Sholom was established, so was a school. In its earliest years, the school met in the community room of the Lincoln Bank in Dewitt under the leadership of Sue Yaffee. The children were all preschoolers because the congregation was so young and the members of Sisterhood served as teachers. After a few years, Chana Elefant was hired as the first principal and the school’s enrollment had grown to 25. Congregants often served as teachers, but in time Syracuse University students and community religious educators were hired. Six decades saw many school heads: Maryse Wilkins, Ron Raymer, Chaya Friedman, Barbara and Pamela Davis, Jill Schaal, Ruth Kurandsky, Erica Eskenazi and Andrea Speer. When the building on Jamesville Road was constructed, classes were held there. When the Combined School of Congregation Beth Sholom and Temple Beth El was created, classes were



held in both the Jamesville Road and Beth El buildings. When CBS-CS built a new building, classes moved into the new school wing. Eventually the Combined School returned to being just the CBS-CS religious school as there were no students from Temple Beth El, which merged with CBS-CS in 2007. The CBS-CS Religious School meets on Sunday mornings from 9 am-noon to provide educational experiences that

are warm, inviting, thought-provoking, creative, flexible and interactive, and help connect students to their Jewish heritage, culture and community. Each Sunday morning ends with an interactive multimedia prayer service. Children attend the CBS-CS Religious School beginning in PreK and continue through 7th grade. Students in 3rd through 7th grades also attend the Syracuse Community Hebrew School which meets on Wednesday afternoons and focuses on Hebrew language and prayer. Many students in the congregation attend the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and many students in 8th through 12th grades choose to attend the Epstein School of Jewish Studies. CBS-CS also strives to transmit a love of Judaism to its children through enjoyable and meaningful activities, and to establish a sense of community among their families. The Oys and Joys group for families with children under five meets monthly to play and joyfully explore Judaism. Award-winning youth groups, Kadima (5th - 8th grade) and Achla USY (9th-12th grade) engage pre-teens and teens in peer-led social and educational activities, including overnights, regional conventions, and community service projects. Both our Kadima and Achla USY chapters are part of United Synagogue Youth (USY), the youth group arm of the Conservative movement. After high school, CBS-CS keeps post-high school young adults connected to Jewish life with holiday mailings throughout the year.



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60 Years Of Sisterhood

BY MARCIA COHEN

In 1965, three years after the synagogue was founded, Sisterhood formed and simultaneously joined the national organization, Women's League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ). Sisterhood's mission was, and continues to be focused on supporting the welfare of the synagogue as well as promoting programs relating to women, sponsoring and encouraging youth activities, promoting cultural activities and religious education. Furthermore, although it is affiliated with the synagogue and shares its non-profit status, Sisterhood is a self-sustaining affiliate with its own income and expenses. In that regard, Sisterhood is supported by its own fundraising initiatives. In the early years, extensive in-house catering for B'Nai Mitzvah, special events, holidays and individual celebrations was an integral, widely supported and almost weekly effort that Sisterhood funded and carried out. It was through funds raised through catering that the professional kitchen was designed and installed. Sisterhood still maintains the appliances and keeps the kitchen in working order. Saturday Kiddushim and the Asefat Shabbat program are still supported and maintained and Sisterhood supplies all foods and staples for these programs.

A perusal of clippings and documents in newspaper articles from 1963-1968 yielded the following accomplishments of Sisterhood in those years: a Gala Chanukah party at Dewitt Community Church, meetings at the homes of Sisterhood presidents which featured book reviews and presentations by S.U. professors, a luncheon to raise money to purchase china for the kitchen and a Craft and Knishes bazaar fundraiser. In 1968, an article appeared in the newspaper which cited the following credits to the Sisterhood: completed furnishing the kitchen, supplied funds and materials for the religious school, provided baby sitting for the High Holy Days, organized and staffed the temple library and raised funds for the congregation. Additionally, it was Sisterhood members who taught religious school, organized and carried out Kadima and USY events, planned adult education programs and hosted Oneg Shabbaton and inter-faith luncheons.

Some funds for Sisterhood programs have come through yearly rummage sales and the Judaica gift shop. A recent development has been the successful launch of the website featuring the gift



shop, thus making it more accessible and easier to purchase items. The money raised from these programs supports camperships for children attending overnight camp in the summer. Baking hamantaschen for Purim baskets is another example of a fundraiser started by Sisterhood and carried out with the involvement of USYers; it has been very successful to this day and now involves the volunteer efforts of the entire congregation although Sisterhood members still organize and lead the project. This year, 2,180 hamantaschen were made with three Sisterhood organizers, 34 volunteers (ages 12-81) and 8-9 hours of labor (excluding the shopping and set-up)!

Over the years, Sisterhood's catering program produced the funds for a variety of projects. Although the kitchen and all that went into it (e.g. appliances, equipment for cooking, catering supplies et. al.) was the largest focus of those funds, there were many other projects such as the purchase of Torah and Shulchan covers, re-decorating the rabbi's office, the installation of lighting in the sanctuary, equipment for the school wing, gardening projects and

many of the efforts focused on upgrading various areas of the building.

Raising money to support Torah Fund, which supports programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary, is something Sisterhood has engaged in for many years. Dinners, brunches, wine tastings are some of the events presented in order to achieve that goal. Last year, money for Torah Fund was raised in memory of a former Sisterhood president who had worked tirelessly and enthusiastically in support of its programs. In 2016, another charitable project involved making blankets for the Golisano Children's Hospital.

To attain the goal of promoting programs related to women, Sisterhood organized women's seders and in 2017 one was held at the JCC and open to women from all synagogues as well as two community organizations (Women Transcending Borders and InterFaith Works). Other programs related to women's needs focused on trips to the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, monthly hiking, schmoozing at a local restaurant, as well as trips to Glimmerglass and other places of interest. A trip for this coming spring

is being planned for the museum "Safe Haven" in Oswego.

To reach an even broader audience and fulfill the goal of promoting cultural activities, Sisterhood sponsored the annually held Symposia which occurred between 2010-2019 and were ably supported by the JCC through its meal catering service and auditorium space. These widely anticipated and attended dinner/lectures/discussion featured topics such as women's health issues, Jewish views of the Afterlife, Kabbalah, Assimilation, Intermarriage and Anti-Semitism. When COVID restrictions are lifted, we hope to bring this program back to life.

Many of the endeavors of Sisterhood that were cited at the beginning of this article remain to this day although most are carried out differently. Sisterhood meetings do not occur on a weekly basis, professional staff have taken over the tasks of teaching in the religious school, a kitchen manager now prepares the weekly Kiddush, and members only rarely work in the kitchen to gather, socialize and do the cooking. One thing that has remained constant has been Sisterhood's commitment to the future and to its support of Jewish values; one example is of course, Sisterhood's substantial donation to the Fund for the Future. Supporting programs and initiatives that help further the Jewish education of both adults and children is another example.

Through all the activities Sisterhood members have participated in, being involved in Sisterhood helped many members develop the skills and confidence needed for community leadership and helped prepare some for learning to read Torah, chant Haftarah and to lead parts of the service throughout the year. As women have entered the fields of law, medicine, the physical sciences and are in many of the professions once closed to them, their needs have also changed. As a result, their busy lives of having a career, raising children, and caring for elder family members, have left them with the challenge of trying to find time for themselves. Sisterhood, and most likely everyone else, is now looking forward to the lessening of restrictions we have had to face with the pandemic and hoping to get back to some of the simpler activities that Sisterhood organizes; the Potluck supper, the game nights, and the purely social activities that give us the sense of community and friendship that are still at the heart of women's needs.



SISTERHOOD PRESIDENTS

1963 – PRESENT

1963.....	Lois Schaffer (z'l)
1964-1965.....	Ettarae Alpert
1965-1967.....	Mickie Rumaner
1967-1968.....	Hannah Dushay (z'l)
1968-1969.....	Norma Weitman
1969-1970.....	Roberta Wladis
1970-1971.....	Sandy Stogel
1971-1972.....	Joanne Miller
1972-1974.....	Ralpha Weisberg (z'l)
1974-1975.....	Susan Miller (z'l)
1975-1977.....	Linda Alexander (z'l)
1977-1978.....	Celaine Hershdorfer
1978-1980.....	Wendy Bartos
1980-1982.....	Ronnie Kasowitz (z'l)
1982-1983.....	Linda Smernoff
1983-1984.....	Jane Goldberg; Gloria Novak (z'l)
1984-1986.....	Lois Weiner
1986-1987.....	Bonnie Sukert; Marilyn Frankel
1987-1988.....	Gloria Novak (z'l); Norma Feldman
1988-1990.....	Bette Siegel
1990-1991.....	Dottie Goldberg (z'l); Gloria Novak (z'l)
1991-1992.....	Dottie Goldberg (z'l)
1992-1995.....	Zelda Freeman
1995-1996.....	Alice Pearlman(z'l)
1996-1997.....	Alice Pearlman (z'l) Carolee Smith
1997-1998.....	Carolee Smith
1998-1999.....	Debbie Freeman; Carolee Smith
1999-2000.....	Celaine Hershdorfer
2000-2002.....	Tricia Burkett; Marlene Sallerson
2002-2005.....	Bette Siegel
2006-2007.....	Ruth Stein
2007-2010.....	Ellen Greenfield
2010-2012.....	Gwen Kay
2013-2015.....	Nancy Belkowitz
2015-2016.....	Pam Morris; Norma Feldman
2016-2018.....	Pam Morris
2018-2019.....	Pam Morris; Marcia Cohen
2019-2021.....	Marcia Cohen; Nance Wilson
2021-2022.....	Marcia Cohen

Mazal Tov, CBS-CS!

As we celebrate 60 years of community
and plan for the future, may we honor
those that came before.

PHIL, JEN, ELISE, SIDNEY, ILIANNA, AND FINN
IN MEMORY OF IRENE, MARTIN, PAUL, ZELDA, SIDNEY AND SUSAN



We are confident
CBS-CS will always
be a force for
inclusiveness,
equality and
learning.

MARK & SUSAN FIELD

Congratulations
on 60 years!

ALAN BRAVERMAN
& SUSAN HODGE



BEST WISHES FOR
GROWTH,
ENGAGEMENT AND
SERVICE IN THE
YEARS TO COME.

Marcia Cohen

Food at CBS-CS

BY BETTE SIEGEL

When Don and Bette Siegel joined CBS-CS in 1985, Don's mother, Vivian Siegel, z"l told Bette that her friends would come from the Sisterhood. She couldn't have been more on point, as Bette entered a coterie of women who cooked together, played together and experienced life events together.

In 1962 when CBS-CS was created, the women realized the importance of food in synagogue life and undertook the responsibility of filling that void. A commercial kitchen was furnished from Sisterhood funds; the labor, ideas, and recipes were used to make the food its members provided as menus were created. The organizers knew that where there was food, there was camaraderie. Making meals collectively brought new and old members together across the generations. At the time, most of the participants were women, with only a few men participating now and then. Eventually, the shul food became the women's responsibility as we became known in the region.

As our congregation grew, our needs changed and more intricate meals evolved. We needed someone who knew about kashrut and who managed our larger

affairs efficiently. From then on, Carolee Smith, a CBS-CS member and professional caterer, graciously became our in-house kosher caterer. She, as well as other Sisterhood volunteers, offered full sit-down and stand-up meals in the social hall for up to two hundred people at bar and bat mitzvah celebrations, weddings, fundraisers and holiday parties. When, after many years, Carolee could no longer serve, Bette Siegel volunteered to run the kitchen and continued the tradition. Bette, a baker who won ribbons annually at the NY State Fair and included car wheel-sized challahs at many a table at shul affairs, also welcomed other women to help with CBS-CS catering.

She also encouraged other sisterhood women to compete at the State Fair. Among them was Steffi Bergman, who not only won a blue ribbon for her kugel; but



that very same kugel became a staple at CBS-CS functions.

As time went on, CBS-CS hosted other food-centered events, including an annual authentic Chinese dinner fundraiser created by Don Siegel and Rabbi Jezer's Tu b'Shevat seder. Local caterers marveled at our commercial kitchen and team effort; and guests coming from elsewhere for Syracuse affairs would frequently comment that CBS-CS catering was the best they had seen anywhere – not just in any synagogue – and it was.

Volunteers became the lifeblood for our catering. As time moved on and the pressures of dealing with work, family, and other life events intruded, there was less time for people to volunteer and our catering sadly came to an end after fifty years of service bringing people in our congregation together. I don't know who was involved at the beginning or who did

what or how the food part evolved Many women in the congregation participated in the process.

As of February 2008, Sisterhood had paid for: new sanctuary lighting, security, shul curtains (before the 1993 \$50,000 renovation/expansion), gardening around the building (for many years), funds for the High Holiday shuttle, the (expensive) room dividers for the cloak room, the three office renovations for the three rabbis during that time, including one office in the lower building, the white boards in the school wing, storage bins, all the kitchen shelving, all the kitchen equipment, installation of additional electrical in kitchen. In addition, Sisterhood gives thousands of dollars to the synagogue annually. It is a budget line and we give above and beyond the stipulated amount to the synagogue and (Sisterhood has given more than that over the past few years). Sisterhood pays for all the food for kiddushim, the wine and juice, Passover kiddushim, and High Holiday/Yom Kippur breakfast.

Linda Herman, Judy Rubinstein, Jean Bloom, Dottie Pearl, Celaine Hershdorfer, Shauna Reichel, and other congregational women who were very active. Roberta Wladis would create Oneg Shabbat with gorgeous arrangements of cakes and food. Judy Birnbaum was also active. She and Jeanne Bloom worked together as a team. As longtime member Roberta Wladis said, "I think this (article) is an excellent compilation of Sisterhood catering, which was certainly a major part of CBS-CS. I am sure many people do not realize how much was accomplished because of it! Furthermore, many people made good friendships because of catering. You deserve much praise for this endeavor! It was your shlepping, cooking, recipes, encouragement and so forth made it what it was!

The other thing is the old saying, "Feed them and they will come!" And wasn't it true?!



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Mazel Tov

to CBS-CS on the
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anniversary!

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celebrating
simchas together
as we support
each other in the
years to come.





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Funding the Past, Present and Future

While a fair share dues model is not unique today, when it was implemented at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas (CBS-CS) decades ago, it was revolutionary. Back in the 1960s, it was common practice for synagogues to conduct financial reviews of potential members. This could include requesting checkbooks or tax returns. The founding members of CBS-CS rejected this practice and, in the process, revolutionized congregational life in Syracuse.

Since its beginning, CBS-CS has stressed equality for all members; hence, no names or plaques on items in the synagogue. The founding members felt strongly that there be no emphasis on a person's worth by the money he or she gives, but instead by their volunteerism, work on committees, and participation during religious services. So even today, CBS-CS members are not told what to give but choose their own dues. In addition, no one in the shul knows the amount anyone else gives, except the



bookkeeper and the Finance VP.

"The best example of this commitment to equality and 'financial fairness' was when we were adding the school wing to the building. A member family wanted to give \$10,000 so that we would put their name on the new wing. We turned it down – no names," said Ettarae Alpert.

Every member at CBS-CS is

encouraged to participate fully through volunteerism and collaboration with the larger community as they see fit. To CBS-CS members and founders, the practice of fair share dues promotes Jewish values and education for all children and adults when they join.

The dues model worked very well for most of CBS-CS's first six decades, but

as it looks to the future, the synagogue's leadership notes that, as is true for most American synagogues, changing demographics and different priorities are making dues collection a less sustainable model for the future.

Once again, CBS-CS was ahead of the curve. The Fund for the Future was begun at the beginning of the 21st century, with the goal of creating an endowment which would provide long-term income for the congregation. Jef Sneider, Joe Bearman and Linda Alexander were the driving forces behind the effort, as were Ruth Stein, Lou Glasier, Howard Alexander, Hecky Alpert, Etta Rae Alpert, Mickey Rumaner and Norma Feldman. Fast forward to 2022. On the occasion of the 60th anniversary, a generous congregant issued a \$100,000 challenge to the congregation to bring the fund to the one-million-dollar mark envisioned by its founders. As of June, the match had been met and the million-dollar endowment achieved.

Five Generations - Six Decades By Mark Bregman

The Bregman family has been connected to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas since its earliest days. Ona and Bernie Bregman were the 16th members to join Congregation Beth Sholom. Their children, Mark and Randi, have been members since 1963, with the exception of a few years between childhood and starting their own families. Ona's mother, Sylvia Cohn, was a member from the time she moved to Syracuse, from Albany, in 1983 until her death at 99 in 2009. Mark married Carla in the synagogue in 1984. Randi met her future husband, Ted Gottbrecht (who also happens to be Carla's brother), during the festivities of Mark and Carla's wedding weekend. Rabbi Jeter married Ted and Randi in Ona & Bernie's backyard only 357 days later. Mark and Carla's daughter, Brook, and Ted and Randi's children, Sonja and Carl, continued the tradition by spending their entire lives connected to CBS-CS. The family's fifth generation, Sonja and her husband Corey's children, Sorin and Bryce now attend CBS-CS Hebrew School.

Bernie is a past president of the Congregation and past member of both the synagogue's Executive Board and the Board of Trustees. He also served on the 50th anniversary committee and was the driving force behind the 50th anniversary publication. Ten years have not slowed him down at all, and he is now serving on the 60th anniversary committee and is the driving force behind the 60th anniversary publication you are currently reading. Ona has served as both Education & Adult Education Vice-President, and also as a member of the synagogue's Executive Board. Mark has served as House Vice-President, and as a member of the synagogue's Executive Board. For the past 15 years, he has served as the semi-permanent co-chair of the Yizkor Book. Randi has served as Financial Vice-President and she & Carla have each served terms on the Congregation's Board of Trustees. Brook and Sonja have both taught at the CBS-CS Combined School.

Three generations of Bregmans have been bat-mitzvahed at CBS-CS. Randi was the first in the family, being bat-mitzvahed in 1975. She was one of the first bat-mitzvahs at the now egalitarian CBS-CS to be allowed to recite her own Haftarah blessings. In June of 1998, Brook became the second generation to be bat-mitzvahed at CBS-CS. Ona and Carla made it three generations when they completed two years of study and became adult bat-mitzvahs in 1999. Brook then had the honor of tutoring her cousin Sonja, who celebrated her bat-mitzvah in 2001. Carl became the family's first bar-mitzvah at CBS-CS in 2004. The family is excitedly looking forward to continuing the tradition when Sorin is bat-mitzvahed in 2026.

Bernie is retired from the Central New York Business Journal and currently is the president of his own marketing and consulting firm, DEB Marketing, Inc. He is still incredibly active in the synagogue and the community at large. Ona has retired from clinical social work and from her Associate Professorship at Syracuse University. She is a published author. She served as the President of ACTS (Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse) and continues to remain very active in the synagogue and working for social justice.

Mark was the founder and owner-operator of Bregman's Paint N Paper Palace and Bregman's Up Your Walls stores locally from 1976 until 1999. He now enjoys retirement, still playing as much basketball as his 62 year old body will allow, and traveling to places he never imagined he'd see. Carla is retired from her position as Director of Pathology at Bristol-Myers Squibb's East Syracuse research facility. She enjoys traveling to see the world, and watching birds, wherever they are. Brook is a graduate of Cornell University and formerly served as President of Belltower Books. She currently serves on the board for CNY Pickleball and co-ordinates the pickleball program at Elevate Fitness.

Ted Gottbrecht is the senior network engineer for Crouse Hospital. Randi is the Co-Executive Director of Vera House, a comprehensive domestic and sexual violence service agency. Sonja Gottbrecht graduated with an M.S.W. from Syracuse University and is currently the Chief Performance Officer for Catholic Charities. Sonja is married to Corey Johns, the Finance Director for the Reading League. Sonja and Corey are the parents of the fifth generation, Sorin and Bryce Johns. Carl Gottbrecht is Associate Director of Student Awards at Stanford University.

The entire family enjoys coming together for Jewish Holidays, Family Dinners, Celebrations and Vacations.



A Brief History and Update on Social Action at CBS-CS

BY ONA COHN BREGMAN

Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas has always had members who engage in issues of the day at levels locally, nationally, and internationally. There have been a variety of forms this has taken. Initially it was housed under the Adult Learning committee with several iterations. For a short time, we worked together with Temple Adath and Temple Concord. The early committee welcomed refugees from Central America and later not only welcomed but adopted Jewish families from Russia. More recently, our primary activity has been active participation in the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse (ACTS). ACTS is a grassroots, interfaith network advocating for social justice and a member organization of nationally known Faith in Action. Some issues that have been worked on are antiracism, equity in public education, violence prevention and several criminal justice issues.

Since the beginning of these efforts, Rabbis Daniel Jezer, Rachel Ain, Andrew Pepperstone and currently David Kunin (who is on the ACTS board) have provided strong support for the work. Many of our members provide support for ACTS as well, both financially and through active participation.

Recently ACTS moved from its home in Adult Learning to being part of a

new Social Justice Tikkun Olam (SATO) committee. This committee will have its own vice-president, to be elected at the 2022 annual meeting and is in process of being developed. In addition to ACTS, other areas to focus on will be selected from a survey of the congregation. Recently the SATO committee took part in the welcoming of Afghan refugees with goods and support.

SATO will have two tracks: a response to local timely issues that need a prompt response and long-



term issues that focus on social change. If areas being chosen already have forces at work in the community, we will ally with them. Education will be provided to other synagogue committees about areas to be focused on,

in order to create consistency within CBS-CS.

Anyone interested in learning more or joining SATO can contact Ona Cohn Bregman (bregman@twcny.rr.com) or Robert Tornberg (btornberg@gmail.com).



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Adult Learning: We do it for the *hwyl*

BY JONATHAN LEVINE

A movie has kept me awake at night lately, but not for the typical reasons.

The scariest thing to happen in *Dream Horse*, the 2020 film by Euros Lyn, is that the title character tears a tendon. It's not exactly the Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Instead, my mind keeps returning to a scene around a dimly-lit billiards table, when the motley crew of hard-on-their-luck neighbors in a Welsh village decide to go all-in on a racehorse. Some of the more fanciful ones have dreams of striking gold with a horse that hasn't yet been conceived. But one character in particular reminds the others that they can't be in it for the money alone. Rather, he says, we do it "for the *hwyl*."

At this point, English readers would be forgiven for reaching for their wallets to buy a vowel. The Welsh word is pronounced something like the surname Hoyle, and it evidently means a stirring feeling of excitement, passion, and spirit. Embedded as the Welsh are in a milieu of English culture, the very fact of the word's being in Welsh has added to it a connotation of group belonging, of chest-filling pride.

"Yes", I say to myself as I drift off to sleep. "We do it for the *hwyl*." Only here, by "we" I mean the members of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

Dream Horse was the fourth installment of the Congregation's annual film series, skillfully curated and moderated by Diana Biro and Eric Rogers. Biro and Rogers selected films this year that highlight the power of community, and so as we watched, the other audience members and I each kept one eye on the Welsh villagers, and the other on ourselves. What is it that makes our own community strong and resilient? Do we share some animating spirit, excitement, and chest-filling belonging?

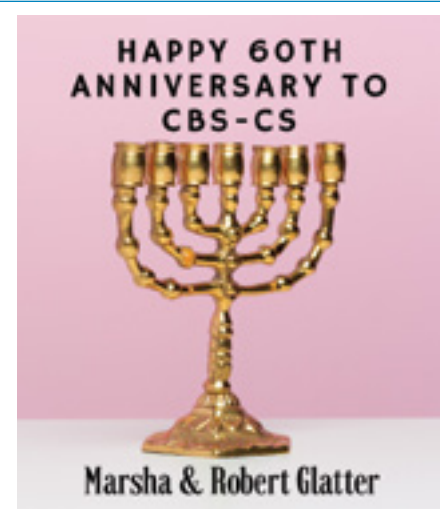
Of course we do. We've been doing it for the *hwyl* for sixty years. We recognize in one another that when we team up and get together, special things happen. We feel this when we pray together, celebrate together, and weep together. We feel this when we cook together, eat together, and – yes – even when we wash dishes together. This is no mere hyperbole: I have felt it myself in the shiver of giddy exhaustion, as a team of us wipe dry the last serving bowls from *iftar* dinners we served with our

neighbors from the CNY RISE Center. It's a mixture of pride in having transformed pounds of raw ingredients into dozens full bellies, delight in having made new friends and learned new recipes, and comfort in knowing that a half dozen members are staying around to help until the very end.

Sure, CBS-CS members are the kind of people who won't leave you with the dishes at the end of a long evening. But they are much more than that! CBS-CS members show up by their dozens when, on one day's notice, the opportunity arises to hear Professor Shoshana Keller of Hamilton College contextualize the Ukraine conflict with a millennium of history. CBS-CS members come down from the Torah after learning to chant for the first time, and immediately sign up to do it a second time. CBS-CS members teamed up when they confessed to feeling "lost in synagogue", and years later they're still lost together, but in ever-deeper layers of our collective Jewish heritage. At the end of each of these activities, in addition to the immediate intellectual and social benefits, I believe we also feel the *hwyl*.

In the days since Biro, Rogers, and *Dream Horse* introduced me to *hwyl*, I have learned that the original, literal meaning of the word is the sail of a ship. Evidently, all the figurative meanings stem from the sail's catching the wind and propelling the vessel gallantly onward. The Hebrew language also recognizes the propulsive figurative power in the interaction between sail and wind, but Hebrew sites most of the vitality in the wind, the *ruach*. The same word also means breath – and spirit. Thus, for example, it is the *ruach* of God, hovering over the waters at the beginning of Creation, that represents the potentiality of the entire Universe.

Hebrew speakers and Welsh speakers needn't quibble about whether to invest more meaning in the wind or the sail; when wind fills our sails (as the English idiom has it), we all feel our hearts stir with pride. And on this 60th anniversary of the founding of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, I am proud to see the Congregation's *hwyl* billowing, as *ruach* propels us forward into the next sixty years.



Multi-Generation Families at CBS-CS

L'dor v'dor means from generation to generation and in Jewish tradition, it refers to the transmission of Judaism's values, rituals, traditions and history to the next generation. As we celebrate the 60th anniversary of CBS-CS, we also celebrate the many families whose memberships have spanned generations.

- **Adam Alweis** - son of Mary and Edward Alweiss
- **Nicole Bell** (and children) - granddaughter of Eli and Iris z'l Cohen
- **Wayne Bodow (and Lillian Steinmann)** - son of our last surviving former member of Chevra Shas, Rosalind Bodow
- **Ona Cohn and Bernard Bregman** (early members) **Mark & Carla Bregman;** **Ted Gottbrecht and Randi Bregman;** **Sonja Gottbrecht & Cory Johns and their children** (four generations!)
- **Alan Braverman (and Susan Hodge)** - son of Charter members Helen z'l and Saul Braverman z'l)
- **Jan (and Neil) Bronstein** - daughter of Judy Franklin; former members of Temple Beth El
- **Ronald Brown, and son Joshua, and daughter Rachel (and her daughter)** - former members of Adath Israel
- **Marlund Chottiner** - son of Carol and Sherman z'l Chottiner
- **Jennifer (and Phil and their children) Cohen** – daughter OF Martin z'l and Susan Miller z'l
- **Robert Dushay and Linda Radin and their children** - son of Hannah z'l and Seymour z'l Dushay - charter members
- **Hanah Ehrenreich and her children** - daughter of Ron Ehrenreich and Sondra Roth
- **Andrea Pearl Frank (and Joel Frank and their children)** - daughter of Dorothy and Harvey Pearl
- **Gary (and Debbie) Freeman** - son of Zelda and Herbie z'l - charter members
- **Adam Goldstein** - son of Yetta and Alvin Lipton
- **Jared (and Bella and their children) Graber** - son of Robin Graber
- **Sharon (and Yonaton) Hochstein** - daughter of Beverly z'l and Louis z'l Glazier - charter members
- **Karen Lawitts (and Howard Wolhandler)** - daughter of Leona z'l and Melvin z'l Lawitts



- **Ora Jezer and Leah Eve Jezer-Nelson** - daughter and granddaughter of Rhea and Rabbi Daniel Jezer
- **Harriet (and Craig) Mead** - daughter of Gloria z'l and Sid z'l Novak
- **Linda (and Michael and daughter) Nellis** - daughter of Melvin and Mady z'l Rubenstein
- **Joely (and Vincent Kuss and children)** - daughter of Robert and Ferne Nelkin
- **Bruce & Candi Nelson** - parents of Josh (and Jennifer Nelson and children) and Peri Nelson -Sukert and Adam Sukert, son of Bonnie and Alan Sukert
- **Myron z'l and Claire z'l Novak** - parents of Larry (and Shirley) Novak and Terri Novak
- **Judy Parsons (and son)** - daughter of Marilyn z'l and Arnold z'l Schwartz
- **Penelope Pooler (and Mark Eisenbies and children)** - daughter of Rosemary and William z'l Pooler
- **Justin Pettersen** - son of Laurence and Linda Pettersen, former members of Ner Tamid
- **Amy (and Jason and children) Pierce** - daughter of Lenore and Robert z'l Ralph
- **Dale and Joseph Roth** - daughter of Harold and Sarah Gordan from Chevra Shas
- **Phil Rubenstein (Cami Riley and children)** - son of Libby and Arnold Rubenstein
- **Donald (and Bette Siegel)** - son of Samuel z'l and Vivian z'l Siegel

- **Jessie Shayewitz Kellman (and Robert Kellman)** - daughter of Myra and Bert z'l Shayewitz
- **Seth (and Samantha and children) Shapess** - son of Mel Shapess z'l and Linda Shapess
- **Deb Sikora (and Tom and children)** - daughter of Phyllis Biasuck
- **Andrea (and Stan) Speer** - daughter of Richard z'l & Abby z'l Eggert
- **Andrea (and Lawrence and children) Koss** - daughter of Esther and Alan z'l Strauss
- **Dina (and Jim and children) Pettiford** - daughter of Bob and Julie Tornberg
- **Larry (and Lynn) Wallace** - son of Sheldon z'l and Diane z'l Wallace
- **Barbara Walzer** - daughter of Michael z'l and Eleanor z'l Walzer
- **Pamela (and Steven and children) Wells and Phyllis (and Mark and children) Zames** - daughters of Barbara and Leslie z'l Davis
- **Kate Werner** - daughter of Ken and Shelley Werner
- **Cheryl (and Mark) Wolfe** - daughter of Henry and Rose Gordon z'l
- **Steven (and Lexi and daughter) Wladis** - son of Roberta and George z'l Wladis
- **Samuel (and Robin and daughter Sarah)** - son and granddaughter of Rosalie and Larry Young

Art and Music at CBS-CS

BY MIMI WEINER

There is a long tradition of diverse secular and religion music at CBS-CS. The first cantor, Sidney Novak, a jovial, experienced baritone, movingly led high holiday services. The regular weekly services were chanted by members of the congregation. In the secular arena, the synagogue put on talent shows every year. One memorable event was Lois and Mimi Weiner singing a duet titled “Cats” which consisted of a lot of screeching and yowling. The audience and performers laughed a lot, but that may have been the last talent show.

Cantor Novak and his wife, Gloria, formed a chorus which lasted many years with Rhea Jezer, Sheila Mofson and Mimi Weiner directing it. It did a short concert every year and participated at Kol Nidrei. The chorus performed original words by congregant Beverly Glazier, an S.U. graduate in advanced composition.

Rhea Jezer was a frequent participant in the musical gatherings, at Simchat Torah and with visiting cantors and musicians. She can accompany anyone on the keyboard and is proficient in participating in all aspects of the service as well. She performed in secular concerts on the harpsichord.



In the last several years, CBS-CS has had several cantors leading in innovative, and sometimes original services. Cantor Pepperstone, wife of the rabbi and high holiday cantor, taught Torah and was principal of the Epstein School. Her moving

soprano voice was a high point in the holiday service. She also participated in secular concerts in the community. Cantor Robert Lieberman, a leader with charisma and a beautiful voice, did Friday night services with Jonathan Dinkin and Mark Wolfe accompanying him. Most recently Lisa Levens chants an exciting Friday night service with many originally composed melodies to the traditional prayers. Mark Wolfe accompanies her on the bongos.

Congratulations
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Temple Concord extends congratulations to
Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas
for 60 years of serving and enriching
the Syracuse Jewish Community
“from Generation to Generation-
L'Dor Va Dor”.

Rabbi David Katz, Canter Kari Eglash,
President Jeff Lefkowitz, Board of Trustees and Staff.



CONGRATULATIONS
TO CBS-CS ON 60
YEARS!

Rabbi David and Shelley Kunin



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TO THE
CONGREGATION OF
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CBS-CS in the Jewish Community of Central New York

CBS-CS members have always played a role in the larger Jewish community. In a professional capacity, Linda Alexander was a co-founder of the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York and headed both the Foundation and the Federation. Michael Balanoff currently holds those positions. Barbara Davis was principal of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School for 27 years and also headed the Epstein School for ten years, sharing the position for half the time with Tamara David. Barbara and Pamela Davis also headed the Combined School of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas and Temple Beth El. Ora Jezer is education director of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Bette Siegel was the editor of the *Jewish Observer* for twenty years and was succeeded in that position by Barbara Davis.

The volunteerism that characterizes CBS-CS is not limited to the synagogues. Many CBS-CS members served as presidents of the Jewish Federation including Phil Pinsky, David Yaffee, Linda Alexander, Gershon Vincow, Michael Balanoff, Sara Alexander and Ruth Stein. Currently serving on the Federation board are Mark Field, Nan Fechtner and Alan Goldberg, who also chairs the annual community *Yom HaShoah* commemoration committee.

Neil Bronstein currently serves as chair of the board of the Jewish Community Foundation. Fran Ciardullo chairs the board of the Epstein School. Sid Lipton and Mimi Weiner co-founded KlezFest, also known as the Jewish Music and Cultural Festival. Dave Reckess is executive director of 3GNY, an organization for grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.

As a result of their involvement in the larger community, the Federation's

Roth Award for Community Service has been presented to many congregational members: Victor Hershdorfer, Helen Marcum, Phil Pinsky, Linda Alexander, George Wladis, David Yaffee, Rabbi Jezer, Barbara Davis, Michael Balanoff, Sara Alexander, Mark Field, Susan DeMari, Ruth Stein, Marc Beckman, Alan Goldberg and Neil Bronstein. Several congregants were heads of the Jewish Community Center and others serve on the Board of Menorah Park, and the schools and other Jewish entities.

Still other congregants head major community organizations. Randi Bregman is Executive Director of Vera House, Inc and Steve Karon Steve Karon is the founding executive director of the MOST. Other congregants hold leadership positions at Syracuse University, other institutions of higher education as well as at local hospitals.

We gratefully acknowledge the enormous commitment of our founding members. We recognize the contributions, enthusiasm, and diligence of our fellow members in collaboration with our lay leaders and clergy during our first 60 years.

We look forward with optimism to the rededication and continued strength for our collective future.

Marc, Karen, Ian, Rachel and Elise Beckman



**Mazel tov to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas
on reaching this major milestone.**

**This vibrant community was an integral part of our
family's life since the beginning, creating many
treasured friendships and lasting memories
throughout our lives.**

From generation to generation.

**Linda, Laurie and Amy Moses
Carol and Arnold Moses, of blessed memory**





Message from the Syracuse Rabbinical Council to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas

For sixty years Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas has played a vital role in our Syracuse Jewish community. The synagogue was founded in the spirit of inclusivity and egalitarianism, and it has continued to uphold these values since then. The synagogue has been a warm and welcoming home, where both earlier and newer members feel embraced. We applaud CBS-CS's continuing commitment to value all its members, and to encourage and enable them to play leadership roles, both in the administration and ritual life of the synagogue.

Though a relative newcomer to the Syracuse synagogue scene, CBS-CS has played a positive role as a leader within the Syracuse Jewish community. It was instrumental in the creation of the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Judaic Studies, and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. The rabbis of CBS-CS have also played a vital role in our Syracuse Rabbinical Council. We look forward to continued leadership by CBS-CS over the next sixty years.

The Syracuse Rabbinical Council offers our heartfelt congratulations to all the members of CBS-CS. You are greatly valued, and we look forward with excitement to the next 60 years. ***Hazak Hazak V'nithazek.***

Congratulations from the Jewish Federation of Central New York to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas on its 60th anniversary

The founders had a vision of a congregation egalitarian in spirit and deed. They wanted a Jewish organization that reflected and embodied their ideals and values. The synagogue they established became the center of their Jewish journey. They were warm and welcoming to all who would participate whether spiritually, as volunteers or as educators.

Their success is reflected in the loyalty of their members and their family-oriented philosophy. From an initial handful of members, they have grown to over 300. They are there for each other during all life cycle events—celebrating in the good times and grieving in the bad.

Their success is a tribute not only to their founders and members, but also to the culture of a community that allows such a congregation to exist and flourish.

We wish them continued success into the next 60th. ***Yasher koach.***

Michael Balanoff, President/CEO

MAZEL TOV TO CBS-CS ON OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The Juran Family
The Kuss Family
The Pettiford Family
The Pierce Family
The Reckess Family
The Sikora Family

FEMALE FIRSTS AT CBS-CS

The first female congregation president was **Ralpha Weisberg**.

The first female congregational rabbi was **Rabbi Rachel Ain**.

The first female executive director was **Melissa Harkavy**.

Melissa A. Harkavy, the first Executive Director of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, filled a newly-created position to which she was promoted after 22 months as CBS-CS program director. But to congregants and staff Melissa is more than just her title. Asked about what she likes most about her job, she replies, "It is a privilege to be welcomed into people's lives and assist with their spiritual and communal needs."

Melissa's creative problem-solving and "let's find a way to make that work" attitude was quickly put to the test when faced with managing (along with lay leaders) the congregation's rapid and on-going response to Covid, a rabbinic transition, new staff positions and staff members, transfer to a new database, and ongoing security upgrades. Her quick learning,

training skills and determination allowed CBS-CS to maintain strong connections with membership during COVID through the use of Zoom and other technologies.

Melissa overcame a synagogue self-perception of "do it ourselves" culture, winning the hearts and minds of the staff she supervises and the volunteers with whom she works. Her "hard" management and communication skills are accompanied by her passion, compassion, and exuberant personality. She relates to and cares about people of all ages and backgrounds.

Melissa obtained a Scientists and Synagogues grant for CBS-CS, linking professional scientists as mentors to students in partnership with Syracuse



UniversityHillel. When no one else was doing so, Melissa worked to connect members of the Syracuse Jewish young adult community through engaging activities. She reached across congregational boundaries to create one Syracuse area United Synagogue Youth chapter to better serve local teens. Melissa has supported a volunteer committee which is now at work on its third Learning Together with Our Neighbors program (funded by the Jewish federation of CNY) that brings together Muslims, Jews and Christians to better understand their own and each other's faith.

Melissa has received recognitions from LEEP Fellow (Leadership for Emerging Education Professionals), USCJ Rising Leaders Summit (Nominated & Accepted), Gender Equity Advocate (Gender Equity In Hiring Project), and USCJ Eleanor Bloom Memorial Award – Youth Director of the Year (Tzafon) and was named a "Pierson Six Under 36" award winner.

The larger Jewish community soon discovered Melissa, electing her to the Jewish Federation of Central New York's Board and seeking her help with Zoom and other technology. She is a valued member of the community's Pres/Ex committee. As seen by the long list of Jewish organizations to which she belongs, Melissa long has sought out opportunities to engage with and contribute to the Jewish community; to continually learn and improve herself, and is frequently identified as a leader in these settings.

She sees the big picture, be it within the congregation or the entire Syracuse area Jewish community and devotes herself to the betterment of both. As the Syracuse Jewish community envisions and shapes that future, Melissa will be a valuable asset in that process. She brings her strong Jewish ethos, master's in geography, work on gender equality, and multi-cultural experiences in Africa to everything she does. When asked about her legacy, she says, "I would like to be remembered as an innovator and connector."



Congratulations to CBSCS on 60 Years as our Supportive and Spiritual Community. We thank all the rabbis who served us and those who've led us in prayer, education and community...and for all the friends we've made. We are proud to be a member of our CBSCS family and grateful to our original members who had vision and fortitude to begin something so wonderful. Kol Hakavod. Mazel Tov.

ANNE RUFFER AND MICKEY LEBOWITZ



From the start of CBS 60 years ago

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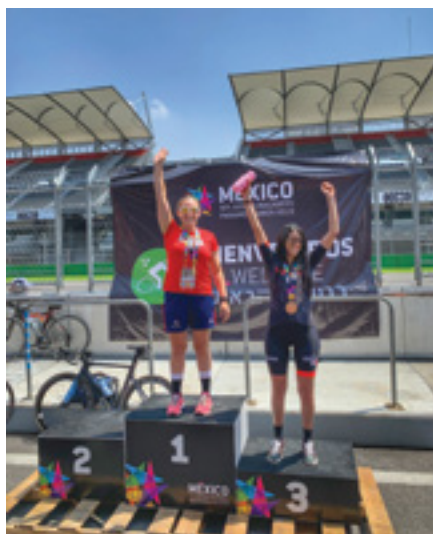
Hecky ז'L and Ettarae ז'L Alpert

NexGen Leader Heads to Maccabiah in Israel

NexGen co-chair Elyssa Rosenbaum competed in the Pan American Games in Mexico City in 2019. She raced the triathlon, open water swim, 1/2 marathon and cycling time trial and won two gold medals and two silver medals. This year, Elyssa will be helping to manage the experience for other athletes. She's not sure yet which teams she will be responsible for but will be helping them get to all of their games and practices, supervising/acting as a counselor for the Israel Connect program and generally troubleshooting to make the experience as successful as possible.

Maccabi World Union (MWU) is the largest and longest running Jewish sports organization spanning over five continents, more than 60 countries, 450 clubs and 400,000 members. Maccabi's unique international signature activity in Jewish sports, the Maccabiah Games in Israel, takes place every four years. MWU is a Zionist organization that utilizes sports as a means to bring Jewish people of all ages closer to Judaism and Israel in addition to various informal educational activities in a manner that surpasses politics and sectarianism.

The Maccabiah is the world's largest Jewish athletic competition in the tradition and values of Maccabi, emphasizing the centrality of the State of Israel in the life of the Jewish people. The "Jewish Olympics" as they are often called, are Maccabi World Union's largest and most famous enterprise. The principal mission of the Maccabiah is to facilitate a worldwide gathering of young Jewish athletes in Israel, staging the highest possible levels of sports competitions, and strengthening their connection to the State of Israel and the Jewish people. Thousands of volunteers like Elyssa make MWU one of the largest



global Jewish organizations with the message of unity and continuity.

All Maccabiah participants have opportunities to tour Israel and integrate with Israeli society, thereby initiating and creating unforgettable experiences comprised of competitive sports, cultural events and lifetime memorable experiences. In addition to being competitive, the sports competitions are also dedicated to the values of fair play, mutual respect, victory of body, intellect, and the pursuit of excellence.

NexGen Contact Information

NexGen is a social group for Jewish 20-40 somethings in the Central New York area that does things Jew'ish'ly. Events range from happy hours to community service activities, all focused around the purpose of building an inclusive Jewish community for young adults.



The NexGen group devoured the pizzas at their Post-Pesach Pizza Party and moved on to enjoy dessert, lovely weather and each other's company. They also held a Pre-Passover Happy Hour and are looking forward to two events in May: a Shabbat dinner, co-hosted/sponsored by OneTable, and a hike at Green Lakes State Park. For more information or to join a NexGen event, send an email to emmadsector@gmail.com.

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A Fitness Community

Syracuse Sweat Club is more than a gym; it is “an inclusive fitness community,” say owners Dan and Ellen Goldberg. The Goldbergs opened their gym in September 2012 with the dream of offering the community a premium fitness and social experience. “We put everything we had into this endeavor,” they recall, “investing heavily in the best possible facility and equipment. We recruited the most experienced and educated coaches in Central New York to join our team. We designed a wide schedule with class offerings at all convenient hours of the day. We believed that if we built it, they would come.”

A decade later, their belief has proven true. “We grew quickly and strongly, and within one year, our membership was among the largest in the world for CrossFit affiliates,” they report with pride. “SSC is an incredibly vibrant, supportive and diverse community comprised of athletes of all ages, fitness levels and walks of life. We are far more than a gym, we are a tight-knit pack of friends who train together, socialize and inspire one another to be better in every way.”

Originally branded CrossFit Syracuse, the Goldbergs renamed their facility SyracuseSweatClub in 2020 to encompass the growing variety of programs offered. Their cornerstone program continues to be CrossFit Syracuse, which is heavily coached group training that blends cardio, gymnastics and weightlifting. Its programming and gym atmosphere are designed to help everyday people safely build athleticism in adulthood. Their inviting promise: “At CFS, you will discover a welcoming community,



expert coaches and your own strength.” Along with CrossFit classes, members have access to a dedicated open gym space during all operating hours and a suite of specialty classes including barbell club, gymnastics, conditioning, competitors class, recovery and yoga.

Syracuse Sweat Club also offers personal training for a large and diverse client base in their semiprivate PT studio. Senior personal trainers at Sweat Club are among the most experienced and sought-after fitness pros in our city. Dan Goldberg shares, “Clients often come to us with a specific short-term goal – eliminating pain, losing weight or training for an upcoming event. We pride ourselves on thoroughly assessing clients, precisely programming what they need and consistently delivering efficient, sustainable progress. It’s incredibly rewarding to watch our clients reap the benefits of properly tailored training.”

An expansion of the Sweat Club space is underway to allow for the addition of a premium bootcamp program that will simply be known as “Camp.” Think body weight movements, dumbbells, medicine balls, kettlebells, TRX, cardio. Camp will be less technical and less loaded than CrossFit, making it more approachable for the average person. Sweat Club members will have unlimited access to CrossFit, Camp, and specialty classes, and the expert staff will guide members to partake in the right blend of classes to suit their goals. The expansion will take the gym from 5,640 to 8,591 square feet and is expected to be completed by the fall of 2022.

“Whether you are a seasoned athlete looking to improve or a beginner looking for a place to get started,” says Ellen Goldberg, “you owe it to yourself to experience Syracuse Sweat Club. We will welcome you warmly, accept you just as you are and help you become the best you can be.”

An Evening of Klezmer featuring the highly acclaimed BIG GALUT(E)

June 18, 2022, 7 p.m.

Social hour 6 p.m.

Center for the Arts of Homer
72 S. Main Street, Homer, NY

Produced by
**Temple Brith Sholom
of Cortland**

Supported with a grant
from CNY Arts



Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-galute-tickets-328227767087>



FEDERATION THANK YOU EVENT AND AMBULANCE DEDICATION



at The Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Featuring NatGeo photographer Joel Sartore

Sunday, June 26, 2022 10 am to 12n

Tikkun olam, the repair of the world, guides both the Jewish community and all who love animals. The Jewish Federation of Central New York will present a celebration of the creatures with which we share the Earth in a unique collaboration with *National Geographic* photographer Joel Sartore and the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. The program will take place in the Zoo's Welch Allyn Room. Sartore's Photo Ark project is a multiyear effort to document every animal in captivity, with a focus on the growing list of endangered species and those facing extinction. With the accelerating pace of climate change and its devastating effect on wildlife habitat, his work offers an urgent argument for saving all the species of our planet. Federation held Zoo-per Sunday at the Zoo this year. To thank volunteers, supporters and the community, Federation will host a free virtual presentation of Sartore's work, spotlighting animals of Israel and of the Bible. The goal is to raise awareness of the need to repair the world by saving endangered animals and combating climate changes threatening the Earth.

In addition, the ambulance for Israel by the Jewish be dedicated. Donors can be ambulance if they wish. Light



Magen David Adom, purchased for community, will be at the Zoo to photographed with the refreshments will be provided.

Please let us know if you will come by emailing RSVP@jewishfederationcny.org.

Three Synagogues Join to Create Mitzvah Bags for Rescue Mission

by Chana Meir

The Sisterhoods of three area synagogues joined forces on April 24 to assemble one hundred “mitzvah bags” for female residents of the Syracuse Rescue Mission. This is the first time that members of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas and Temple Adath have collaborated on the project with members of Temple Concord, who have been assembling and donating the bags every year since 2016 except for a pandemic pause in 2021. A dozen volunteers worked, assembly-line style, in the kitchen of Temple Concord, placing the toiletries into large Ziploc bags which were then packed in bins for their trip to the Mission on April 28.

Ellyn Roloff of Temple Concord, who coordinated the project, recalled hearing on NPR about “blessing bags” – hygiene kits containing such items as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and shampoo, for people who are unhoused or living in shelters. She brought the idea to the group, who recognized the need in the Syracuse community. “After that,” Roloff said, “we just ran with it.”

In another first this year, the project received a generous grant, provided by the Pomeranz, Shankman and Martin Charitable Foundation. Toiletries were donated by congregants, Dr. Gregory Sohrweide, DDS and staff and Patterson Dental Supply. Marcia Cohen, of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, sewed brightly patterned drawstring bags that were rolled up and included in the kits for recipients to use for their personal belongings.

The Mission places one of the bags on a resident’s bed when she’s admitted, Roloff said, so they serve as both a



source of needed supplies and as a welcome. “The Rescue Mission is always very grateful to get them,” she said.

Big Galut(e) Klezmer Concert in Homer

On Saturday, June 18 at 7 pm, the Big Galut(e) Klezmer ensemble will be performing at the Center for the Arts in Homer. Big Galut(e) is an award-winning group comprised of five outstanding musicians representing the best of the Klezmer music tradition. Big Galut(e) has been described as “soulful and unselfconsciously poignant,” “jubilant,” “a real treat for open minds” and “a serious band with lousy American humor.”

Performers are Robin Seletsky, a clarinetist steeped in classical as well as folk and avant-garde music, Michael Leopold, who holds degrees in historical plucked instruments and in lute and the oboe, Sasha Margolis, a violinist, author, composer,



arranger and vocalist, Mark Rubinstein, a pianist who also plays drums in punk bands, electric bass in salsa groups and accordion in settings ranging from symphony orchestras to avant-garde theatre pieces and Richard Sosinsky, double bass player, who is active as a chamber musician, orchestral bass player and with cutting-edge jazz and new music groups.

The concert is a fundraising event for Temple Brith Sholom and is supported by a grant from CNYArts. Tickets are \$25 and are available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-galute-tickets-328227767087>.

Helping Others and the Planet

Laurence Segal is helping to organize community blood drives on June 23 and August 18. Appointments can be booked by calling 1-800 RED CROSS, downloading the Red Cross blood app or going to REDCROSSBLOOD.org. The sponsor code is DEWITTCC. All blood donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies, and people can get the results through the Red Cross blood app.

Laurence also raises money for research into a cure for cancer through the collection of recyclables. He will be working with the Syracuse Hebrew Day School student council to recycle their water bottles with a purpose. Laurence’s signature big pink Bottles For A Cure recycling bin will be placed in the hallway at the school. Community members can also drop off bottles and cans at the Express Bottle Return at 2312 Erie Boulevard, and Andrea Knoller also accepts bottles and cans at Bodow Recycling. *If people need to have cans and bottles picked up, they can contact Laurence at tvanchor1@aol.com.*



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TAY “Adopts” Fort Drum Soldiers

by Barbara Simon



Temple Adath Yeshurun has “adopted” Jewish soldiers stationed at Fort Drum. This relationship was formed out of the connection TAY has with Patricia Feinberg-Haggerty, a teacher in its religious school. Feinberg-Haggerty is a second lieutenant in the Army Reserve, and her husband is on active duty, stationed at Fort Drum. For Hanukkah and Purim, Feinberg-Haggerty asked classes in the religious school to make cards for the soldiers. For Passover, bags of sweets were assembled for them by a small group of TAY teens. Second Lieutenant Feinberg-Haggerty explained that the Army provides matza and the basics, but to have Passover chocolate, cookies and cakes is very special.

Feinberg-Haggerty leads services on Friday evenings at Fort Drum, a 6:15 pm family service and a 7 pm *Kabbalat Shabbat* service as well as holiday services. Those attending are generally enlisted infantry, between 19 and 23 years old, coming from a range of affiliations. Feinberg-Haggerty provides several dinners per month, and there’s always an *oneg* after services. Like in every Jewish community, food plays an important role in establishing and maintaining relationships.

Second Lieutenant Feinberg-Haggerty has a lifelong love of Jewish learning, although

her formal education did not begin until her teens. She grew up in an Army family, and they were often stationed at bases which were far from any Jewish community. When they were stationed at Fort Bragg, there was a synagogue nearby, and that is when Feinberg-Haggerty began her Jewish education. She received a master’s in Jewish studies from Gratz College, has completed two years of rabbinical school and was most recently accepted as a candidate in the Army chaplaincy program. Her career goal is to become an active-duty chaplain and to continue to provide for Jews serving in the military.

Both Second Lieutenant Feinberg-Haggerty and Temple Adath Yeshurun are looking for ways to expand the relationship between the two communities and will do so in the coming months.

Syracuse Jewish Family Service Program Wins Award at 2022 AJAS Annual Meeting



Karen Flam, chair of Awards Committee, Mary Ellen Bloodgood, and Don Shulman, CEO and President of Association of Jewish Aging Services

“Emerging into the Light”, an art program of Syracuse Jewish Family Service (SJFS) at Menorah Park, was awarded the 2022 award for Jewish programming from the Association of Jewish Aging Services (AJAS). The program is a weekly class through the SJFS Arts and Minds Community of M-Power U: A Learning Community for Early Memory Loss.

“It’s immensely uplifting for participants and staff alike,” said Mary Ellen Bloodgood, Menorah Park CEO. “Meaningful expression has emerged from the participants in a variety of media including painting, collage,

poetry, photography, mixed media, and sculpture. Seniors in the program have found that the art they’ve created has resulted in healthy self-expression, no matter their age or cognitive status.”

The art has been displayed at several senior centers and apartment complexes around the Syracuse area.

In addition to the Arts and Minds Community, M-Power U includes a brain power group and a Parkinson’s community. Additional group, family and individualized programming is also available in the Creative Aging Initiative such as Opening Minds Through Art – an intervention that uses art to bridge age and cognitive barriers and offers it in conjunction with nursing homes, faith communities, senior centers, and housing sites, as well as one on one in people’s homes.



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Different Kinds Of Pools

Whatsa Mikvah?

What physical act could a person perform in order to epitomize a radical change of heart, a total commitment to something new? Jewish tradition offers such a profound experience. It instructs the person to place him or herself in a radically different physical environment, water rather than air, floating, suspended without breathing, weightless, detached from the former environment and fully submerged in a metamorphosis from the former state of being to a new existence.



Ritual immersion, the total submersion of the body in a pool of water, is known as tevillah. A mikvah (Hebrew) or mikveh (Yiddish) is a ritual bath designed for the Jewish rite of purification. The mikvah is not merely a pool of water; it must be composed of stationary, not flowing, waters and must contain a certain percentage of water derived from a natural source, such as a lake, an ocean or rain. The water must be deep enough to allow a person to submerge completely. Ritual purification in a mikvah is used for a wide range of purposes, including conversion, before a wedding, to mark the passing of potential life that comes with each menstrual cycle and before Shabbat or Yom Kippur. Cooking utensils and dishes may also be immersed in the mikvah to render them kosher; this is called keilim.

Central New York's Ahavath Achim Mikvah is located on the grounds of Menorah Park at 4101 East Genesee Street. It is available by appointment. Supported by the Federation, the community and by user fees, it is currently undergoing extensive renovations which will restore it to a pristine state after years of harsh Central New York winters.

There is no doubt that fundraising will be needed in the months ahead, as the repairs are structural and expensive.

The existence of a mikvah is considered so important, that a Jewish community is required to construct a mikvah even before building a synagogue and must go to the extreme of selling Torah scrolls, or even a synagogue, if necessary to provide funding for its construction. In the days of the Temple, the mikvah was used by those who wanted to enter the sanctuary. The law required every person inside the Temple grounds to be in a spiritually pure state appropriate to the pristine spirituality of the sanctuary itself. Today, in Central New York, a major function of immersion in the mikvah is for conversion to Judaism. Rabbi David Katz of Temple Concord noted that "There are classical Reform Jews, Reform Jews who are traditionalists and Reform Jews who are spiritual explorers. Beyond its use for conversions, the presence of a mikvah offers both traditionalist Reform Jews and Reform Jews who are experimenting with ancient rituals the widest array of Jewish customs to experience and utilize. The presence of a mikvah is important for our community."

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING A TEENAGER



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The JCC Pools of Summer

by Paul Michie-Derrick



Summer is a time for sunshine, smiles, lemonade and the smell of sunscreen tickling your nostrils as the sounds of splashing water and laughs work in harmony. There is no summer without access to a pool, and JCC's outdoor heated pools are a great gathering place for members and their guests to cool off, relax and exercise.



warm up. Incorporating the pool into your personal fitness training will add a new dimension to your exercise routine. A low impact workout would be a perfect addition to the fitness regimen of anyone with sore joints.

When school is out, the pool is a safe space for kids to play during the day. Lifeguards oversee the pool to ensure that the kids are conducting themselves in the most responsible manner possible. If the member's child is over 15, they are welcome to jump in the pool and come and go as they please. If the member's child is under 15, an accompanying

supervisor is required in order to swim.

Because the JCC pool is a members-only benefit, it is necessary to bring a membership card to the pool and check-in at the lifeguard desk upon entering the pool area. Guests are welcome when accompanied by a member with guest passes. Guest passes are available at the front desk and on the pool deck.

One does not have to be Jewish to become a member of the JCC of Syracuse. JCC membership is a one-year commitment and automatically renews each year unless cancellation notice is given in writing. Annual membership is non-refundable. Members have the option to pay monthly.

The JCC will again be offering semi-private and private swimming lessons for both children and adults seven days a week outside of member swim time. Taught

by Red Cross certified instructors in the JCC's outdoor heated pool, swimmers of all skill levels are welcome. Infants as young as 6 months, older children and adults can get started on learning to swim. Lessons for advanced swimmers are also offered. There are six different swim levels to choose from.

With summer right around the corner, now is the right time to dive in.



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[No payment is due until 12/22.]

Our ability to support others depends on the campaign's success. Can we count on your generosity this year?

Thank you!



Jewish News From Israel and Around (and Out of) The World



Israeli medical clowns aid Ukrainian refugees. The huge numbers of Israeli volunteers aiding refugees from Ukraine in Moldova include the medical clowns of Dream Doctors. Their costumes, big red noses and funny antics light up the faces of exhausted Ukrainian women, children and elderly men. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israeli-medical-clowns-bring-smiles-relieve-stress-for-ukraine-refugees-in-moldova/>

Ukraine field hospital treats thousands. Israel's "Shining Star" field hospital has been established by the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Sheba Medical Centre, assisted by Israel's healthcare system. In its first week it treated more than 1,100 adults and children. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/324428>

Second booster reduced deaths by 78%. Israeli HMO Clalit, Sapir College and Ben-Gurion University studied 563,465 Israelis aged 60-100 who were eligible for the fourth coronavirus vaccine. They reported a 78% decrease in COVID deaths. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/study-indicates-4th-shots-were-key-to-saving-lives-among-over-60s-in-omicron-wave/>

No more blood shortages. Israel's RedC Biotech is developing a process for mass-production of red blood cells for transfusions. Working with Accellta, a spin-off startup from Israel's Technion

Institute, they use stem cells from O-negative donors to mass-produce red blood cells for most humans, even without testing. <https://www.israel21c.org/the-startup-aiming-to-make-blood-donations-a-thing-of-the-past/>

Field hospital uses VR to treat refugees. Medics at Israel's Kohav Meir field hospital brought Virtual Reality goggles and telehealth devices when they visited a refugee camp for Ukrainians. They used the VR goggles to diagnose patients remotely and the goggles also provided relief for the trauma-affected refugee children.

<https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/skbbgulgnc>

Upgrading properties to house refugees. The Israeli government is offering cities and regional councils grant money to upgrade housing projects for immigrants from Ukraine, Russia and other countries in the region. Some 10,000 new immigrants have arrived in Israel in recent weeks, of which two-thirds are from Ukraine. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/cities-offered-money-for-renovating-buildings-to-house-ukrainian-migrants/>

Israelis host Iftar meals for Muslim Arabs. Some 200 guests attended Israel's President Herzog's annual Iftar dinner, the traditional meal to break the Ramadan fast, at his official residence. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ramadan-meal-brings-together-unlikely-group-of-jewish-settlers-and-palestinians/>

Abraham Accords brings global benefits. An international delegation visited the UAE, Bahrain and Israel to see how the Abraham Accords model can spread economic benefits far and wide. They include new ties between the UAE and both Paraguay and Liberia, and between Bahrain and the Central African Republic. <https://www.jns.org/international-delegation-visits-israel-to-take-abraham-accords-to-next-level/>

Mission to aid Ethiopia. Although most of the world has forgotten the humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia, Israel has not. It recently sent a medical team to Gondar and Addis Ababa to create a program where Israeli hospitals will adopt, train, equip and support hospitals near the two-year ongoing Ethiopian civil war

zone. <https://www.israel21c.org/israelis-fly-to-ethiopia-to-alleviate-humanitarian-crisis/>

Magen David Adom responds. Israel's Magen David Adom has responded to the Ukrainian crisis with six more ambulances to add to the four it had already donated. MDA has also set up an emergency field clinic in Moldova. <https://mdauk.org/mda-responds-to-humanitarian-crisis-in-ukraine/>

Alzheimer's breakthrough. Tel Aviv University scientists have identified pathological activity in the brain that precedes initial Alzheimer's symptoms by many years. A systemic failure causes high activity in the hippocampus even during sleep. They also found that an existing MS treatment suppresses this activity. <https://www.jpost.com/health-and-wellness/article-695244>

The future of cancer therapy. Israel's ImmPACT Bio is developing transformative logic-gate-based CAR-T cell therapies for cancer patients who have exhausted their treatment options. The technology is designed to distinguish cancerous cells from normal cells, thereby eliminating tumors without damaging normal tissues. <https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-cancer-therapy-co-impact-bio-raises-111m-1001399387>

Can you light Shabbat candles in space? Israeli astronaut Eytan Stibbe gave fourth graders a lesson called "Lighting Shabbat Candles in Space – the Halacha and Science Challenge." Scientists are still learning how fire behaves in zero-gravity and may use the knowledge to develop more efficient combustion engines. <https://unitedwithisrael.org/israeli-kids-test-shabbat-in-space-with-candle-experiment/>

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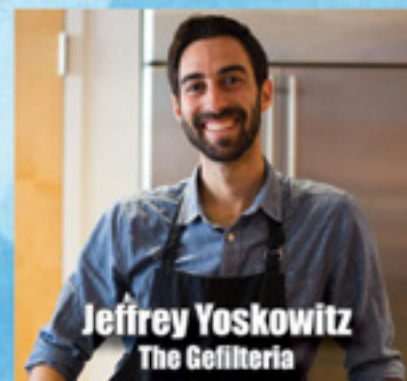
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**SYLVIA PHYLLIS
GILMAN**
April 8, 2022



Sylvia Phyllis Gilman (Ozinsky) passed away peacefully April 8 at Menorah Park. Sylvia was born on March 27, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY. She was the daughter of Harry and Esther Ozinsky, the youngest of four children, Anita, Ros and Freddie.

Sylvia met her future husband, Murray Gilman of Boston, at Banner Lodge, CT in 1953. While Sylvia was dancing on the dance floor, Murray gave her the eye and the rest is history. Sylvia and Murray became engaged on Sylvia's birthday in 1954 and were married on January 1, 1955.

They moved to Syracuse and lived with Sylvia's sister Ros and Chuck Bodow until their first house was built on Mountainview Ave. Sylvia worked as a teller at First Bank in Syracuse. Once Sylvia became pregnant with Robert, she became a stay-at-home mom. Soon to follow were Michael, Lori and Randi who completed the Gilman family.

In 1988, Sylvia started her own candy business called Specialty Candies by Sylvia. She was an artist and loved making her beautiful chocolate creations.

Sylvia was a long-time member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and enjoyed making breakfast for the minyanaires, singing and writing a play for Hadassah. Sylvia loved to host Friday night dinners and play mahjong with her friends. She loved hosting religious holidays, parties, cooking and baking at her long-time residence in DeWitt.

In 2013, Sylvia and Murray moved to The Oaks of Dewitt where they were voted Shining Stars and enjoyed an independent lifestyle with other seniors. Eventually they moved to The Inn at Menorah Park where she spent six years.

Sylvia was predeceased by her parents, her siblings, Freddie and Anita, and beloved husband Murray. Surviving are her sister Ros Bodow, sons Robert (Christine, Leah) and Michael Gilman, daughters Lori (Terry) Croad and Randi (Matt) Snell, grandchildren Heather, Rachael, Tiffany, Matthew, Alyssa, Aaron (Michelle), Michelle (Casper), Casey (Shannon), Jacob, Lexi, Nathan, Jim (Colleen), great-grandchildren Alyiah, Daniel, Angelyna, Jett, Stevie and Wesley and several nephews, nieces and cousins.

Contribution to perpetuate Sylvia's memory may be made to Cantor Esa Jaffe's Music Fund.

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**GEORGE
PELTZMACHER**
April 15, 2022



George Peltzmacher passed away peacefully on April 15, surrounded by his loving family. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 61 years, Leah. Originally from The Bronx, George had a successful career as an electrical engineer at General Electric in Syracuse for more than 30 years

STANLEY E. SERLIN
April 16, 2022

Stanley E. Serlin passed quietly and comfortably on April 16. He treasured the company of his close friends and family members. All will miss his wit and kindness. He is survived by his son, Gerard D. Serlin (Therese Opedisano), his cherished grandsons Nathan Serlin and John "Jack" Serlin, his devoted companion Carol Morgan, his sister Anne and many loyal friends. He was predeceased by his parents, Nate and Isabelle Serlin, and his wives, Roberta Serlin and Mary Serlin.

Born and raised in Syracuse, Stan graduated from Nottingham High School in 1959 and Syracuse University in 1963, earning a BS and eventually an MSW. After a brief time as a county DSS worker and probation officer, he spent his career working with struggling youth, and he saved every card and note of thanks he received from them. He continued that same service to his community into retirement with Meals on Wheels and quiet generosity to several charities in the area, as well as the involvement, care and attention that he gave to those who passed before us in his work as cemetery chairman for Congregation Beth Sholom section of Oakwood Cemetery.

Stan did not shy away from offering his opinion and advice to those he loved, nor did he hold back in sharing genuine compassion in the face of their losses or struggles. His authentic and humorous nature earned Stan several lifelong friends, and he could often be found at the All-Night Eggplant restaurant sharing meals, stories and laughs. He will be sincerely missed. The family wishes to extend a special and sincere thank you to Nolita who both provided him with the excellent care that allowed him to stay independent for as long as possible and brightened his life.

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RENA CANTOR
April 16, 2022

Rena Cantor, 79, passed away peacefully on April 16 at The Bishop. Born on May 22, 1942 in Oneida to Martin and Gertrude Finkelstein, she had been a resident of Syracuse for most of her life. She was the granddaughter of Kaufman and Esther Fineberg.

After graduating from Nottingham High School in 1960, she earned her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and her master's degree in education from there as well. She began her teaching career in the Fayetteville-Manlius schools and remained with the F-M schools until retiring. Before retirement she was a part of the Enders Road teaching staff.

Rena and Allan were married in 1968 and settled in Syracuse where they raised their son Jeffrey and enjoyed a full life. Rena was a life member of Temple Adath Yeshurun, the sisterhood of the Temple, Hazak, the National Council of Jewish Women and several book clubs including The Novel Divas, a book club of retired F-M staff. Rena was an avid reader and was an active member of OASIS. She was a skilled crafter who created personalized cards for all occasions which were very special to everyone that received one.

Her family includes her son Jeffrey (Nancy), grandchildren Alexis, Samantha and Veronica, her sister Norene Lavine, niece Hava, nephews Matt and Aaron (Ashley), great-nieces Elliot and Elena and great-nephews Isaac and Benjamin.

Contributions to perpetuate her memory may be made to Hazak at Temple Adath Yeshurun, The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund or The National Kidney Foundation.

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and played an important role in the Apollo Space Program.

He was a proud Army veteran and active in the Jewish War Veterans in Syracuse and in Florida where he was commander of his local post. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends, helping his neighbors, playing cards, gardening and cooking. He was very active in local politics, was president of his Homeowner's Association and president of the Crestwood Performing Arts League.

He is survived by his son David (Deb), daughters Beth (David) Rhea and Elyn (Steven) Small, daughter-in-law Tammy Peltzmacher and eight wonderful grandchildren.

George will always be remembered for his kindness, generosity and loving spirit. Donations in his memory can be made to Trustbridge Hospice of Palm Beach County.

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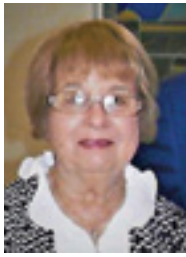
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Jewish Observer
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ETTARAE ALPERT
May 2, 2022



Ettarae Alpert, 89, passed away on May 2 at Menorah Park surrounded by her loving family. Born on September 15, 1932 to Myron and Belle Lipsy, she had been a life resident of Syracuse. Ettarae was a graduate of Nottingham High School at 16 years of age and then received her bachelor's degree magna cum laude from Syracuse University. She was the first female advertising director at Flah's and Co., and then the first female advertising director at Dey Brothers. She then was the production and advertising coordinator for Podiatry Today magazine.

The Alpert family was one of the original founding families of Congregation Beth Sholom in 1962. Ettarae was honored to have served as the second president of the sisterhood of the congregation and as an active member of the board of directors. She also served as the chairperson of Frumah Packard Cemetery. She was a member of Hadassah, the auxiliary of Menorah Park and Na'Amat, which named her the Woman of Achievement in 2013.

Her beloved husband Hecky passed away on March 25, 2021. Ettarae passed away on their 68th anniversary. Her family includes their children Mark, Susan (Dr. James) Litynski, Carol (Greg) Dyson, and Robert (Amanda) and grandchildren Aleksander, Gillian (Harry), Sara, Jacqueline and Hannah, and her brother Bernard (Karen) Lipsy.

Graveside services in the Beth Sholom section of Oakwood Cemetery will be at 11 am on Thursday May 5. All are welcome. Masks are required. Contributions in Ettarae's memory may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

SHEILA FREUNDLICH MOFSON
May 8, 2022

Sheila Freundlich Mofson, 83, passed away on May 8 in Virginia. Born in Brooklyn on March 25, 1939 to Samuel and Ruth Freundlich, she had been a resident of Syracuse for nearly 40 years. She was a graduate of Brooklyn College with a degree in math. For most of her professional career, Sheila was a piano teacher specializing in teaching the early stages of music to young children. She taught hundreds of children the beauty and appreciation of music. When she was in her late 30s, she commuted to Ithaca College to earn her master's degree in music education.

Sheila was an active member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas and was a former president of the board of directors of the congregation. She served as the lay cantor for the High Holy Day services for many years and was always active in different music groups and choirs. She and her late husband Ed, of blessed memory, were avid SU basketball fans.

Shelia was predeceased by her husband Ed, their daughter Phyllis, and her brother David Freundlich. Her family includes her daughter, Marcia (Jeff Dannick) Mofson, her son-in-law Terry Sullivan, grandchildren Samantha, Eli, Rachel and Jonas and a close-knit circle of friends who were like family.

Contributions to perpetuate Sheila's memory may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, St. Jude's Hospital, The Nature Conservancy or the Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

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HOWARD AND ANITA WEINBERGER RECENTLY ESTABLISHED A PACE FUND WITH THE JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF CENTRAL NEW YORK.



Howard explained the reason they did so:

"Anita and I met when we were students (she at SU and I at Upstate Medical University. She was from Brooklyn and I grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey. We married in 1956 and spent our first five years of married life here, as I completed my training as a pediatrician. I had been told by classmates who grew up in Syracuse that one's family had to live here for three generations to be called 'natives.' When we left Syracuse for my military service in 1961, we never expected to return. That plan was upended when I was offered a position on the faculty at Upstate and we returned in 1964 with our two girls (our third child, a son was born in 1965).

We joined a congregation when we returned and pursued our respective careers - Anita as a teacher and principal of a prekindergarten program and I served in a number of roles on the faculty at Upstate for 55+ years. Our children grew up, went to college and married. Sadly for us, they raised their families in other communities. But we consider ourselves Syracuse natives, despite the earlier definition.

Over the years, we have supported our congregation, the Jewish Federation of CNY and many of its programs, in addition to cultural and education programs in the greater community. We see this as a way to thank those who developed those institutions and programs before we arrived and hope that our contributions will help ensure that these programs and services are viable for those who come after us."

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