

Jewish Observer

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of Central New York

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HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

Happy Sigd!



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November 2022

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

For decades, America prided itself on being a “melting pot,” in which people lost the cultures, languages, ethnicity and traditions of their ancestors and became “American.” In the 21st century, the deficiencies of this approach have become apparent and we have come to realize the value of adopting a multicultural and pluralistic approach of accepting “the other” and treasuring those from different cultural backgrounds in our country. The same is true in Israel, and the addition of the Ethiopian holiday of Sigd to the Israeli holiday docket represents the integration of traditions from different Jewish communities into a more inclusive and enriched Jewish calendar.

This issue of the *Observer* juxtaposes Thanksgiving and Sigd as two holidays which offer opportunities to celebrate Jewish values with renewed purpose.

The American values we celebrate on Thanksgiving – thankfulness and gratitude, family, love and service – are closely connected to Jewish values, as Rabbi Saks pointed out in his *d'var Torah* in last month's issue about *Sukkot*. The Pilgrims who celebrated the first Thanksgiving were Puritans, a branch of Protestants who strongly identified with the Israelites in the Bible, viewing their quest for religious freedom in the New World as analogous to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Thanksgiving is said to be modelled on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, the fall Feast of Booths, when the Israelites were commanded “to rejoice before Adonai your God” at the time of the fall harvest. It has also been noted that the Hebrew word for thanksgiving — *hodaya* — is not too dissimilar from the Hebrew word for turkey, *hodu* (although that is probably nothing more than a coincidence). And while there are some Jews who reject the celebration of Thanksgiving altogether, theirs is a distinctly minority position.

But what is Sigd? An official Israeli holiday since 2008, Sigd is an Ethiopian Jewish holiday held 50 days after Yom Kippur, the 29th of *Chesvan*. It is thought to be the date on which God first revealed himself to Moses, and it celebrates the acceptance of the Torah and the yearning for Israel and the Temple. For centuries, Ethiopian Jews used this holiday to plead to return to Zion. The holiday is still celebrated, because many in the Ethiopian Jewish community feel that the return to Zion has not yet been completed. There are still many Jews all over the world who long to be in Israel. Moreover, since the third Temple has not yet been built, the Jerusalem longed for when “Next Year in the Rebuilt Jerusalem” is sung, is still only a prayer.

Sigd, which means “bowing down,” is celebrated in Ethiopia by going up a large mountain, facing Jerusalem, fasting for half of the day to recall the destruction of the Temple and then ending the second half of the day with singing, dancing and a festive meal to celebrate the Covenant with God. In Israel today, the penitential portion of the ritual takes place

at the Western Wall and the celebration takes place along the Haas and Sherover Promenades, which provide impressive views over the Old City of Jerusalem. These locations reflect Sigd's significance as a “festival of exile and redemption.” Israeli president Isaac Herzog celebrated Sigd with the Ethiopian Jewish community in November 2021 and hailed Sigd as “a holiday of victory,” praising the Ethiopian Jewish community for its proactive efforts to immigrate to Israel.

We live in an age of reassessment and reevaluation. The Thanksgiving story most of us grew up with, about Pilgrims and Indians (as we called them) celebrating the first Thanksgiving with turkey and pie, has been shown to be a myth. There was no turkey (they ate venison), no pie (no flour or butter) and for indigenous people, no celebration. The arrival of Europeans was the beginning of the destruction of the societies of the native peoples and Thanksgiving is commemorated by the Wampanoag and other tribes as a day of mourning.

Similarly, the Jewish community has been reassessing and reevaluating its own myths, particularly that of Ashkenormativity, a big word that refers to a form of Eurocentrism within Jewish culture that confers privilege on Ashkenazi Jews relative to Jews of Sephardi, Mizrahi and other non-Ashkenazi backgrounds, as well as to the assumption that Ashkenazi culture is the default Jewish culture.

So is this bad? Does greater understanding of the truths of the past negate our celebration of the values that underlie our holidays and our history? Thanksgiving has always been Jews' favorite American holiday and Ashkenazi Jews have always been in the forefront of American Jewish society. Do we have to discard what we have loved for so long as it is revealed to be something other than what we thought, or can we incorporate new truths and an expanded understanding of what it means to be American and Jewish to make our faith more meaningful and appealing to all Jews, particularly the younger generations.

The melding of cultures and subsequent enrichment of Jewish life that the incorporation of Sigd into the Jewish calendar represents may be a foreshadowing of the way to reengage those Jews who have moved away from the larger Jewish community. Judaism is first and foremost a religion of gratitude. The very word *Yehudim*, Jews, is rooted in the word *hoda'ah*, which means, “to thank,” and comes from the name Leah, the first person in recorded history to express gratitude to God, gave to her fourth son, *Yehuda* (Judah). As Jews, thanks and thanksgiving are integral parts of everything we do, from the moment we arise and say *Modeh Ani* (“I give thanks”) to the words we recite before and after we eat, and to the 100 blessings we are supposed to say each and every day.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, with new and different perspectives, we can still come together, be grateful and remember our ancestors. We can honor our values while debunking the myths and enrich our lives by learning about and understanding another culture's history and observances. We can honor being Jewish and being American by celebrating new immigrants and adding new traditions, stories and recipes to our holidays. Learning about Sigd teaches us that the traditions of others can enrich our lives and our faith in ways we never anticipated.

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of Central New York

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Michael Balanoff

President, Jewish Federation of Central New York

“Al Tifrosh Min Hatzibur/Do not separate yourself from the community.”

The values we celebrate on Thanksgiving—gratitude, thankfulness (and the enjoyment of food) -- are very much Jewish values. As Jews, we are profoundly aware of how much we have been given and we express our appreciation regularly by reciting *brachot*.

In the above sentence, I used the words “As Jews.” But do those words still have meaning for the many members of what I would consider the Jewish community who do not identify themselves as part of that community or who stand apart from it?

We are told that the tribes of Gad and Reuben (and half of the tribe of Menasseh) parted with Moses and the other tribes and did not enter the land of Canaan, thereby separating themselves from the community. They believed it was in their best economic interest not to cross the Jordan River. Only after they agreed to support militarily the Israelites who did cross the Jordan did Moses approve of their decision (Numbers 32).

So, did they separate themselves, or not? Their choice was to reside on one side of the Jordan while their fellow Israelites crossed over—but they also agreed to support their fellow Israelites in conquering the land promised to them.

Many of our fellow Jews in Central New York have separated themselves from the Jewish community – or perhaps been separated from it by neglect, insult, insensitivity or lack of awareness. But while we think and proclaim that we are one people, we know that we are losing members of “The Tribe,” particularly young members.

How can we address this separation? The Jewish people are a people, not a club, not a clique, not a select group. We support each other when in need. It is part of our DNA, and it feels good. How can we engage Jews today in a meaningful, contemporary and lifelong relationship with our Jewish community? It is fine to say, “Do not separate yourself,” but what do we have to offer that will convince people that staying connected is a good thing?

Many prominent thinkers have tried to answer this question. Amazon lists five books with the title *Why Be Jewish?*, written by authors as diverse as businessman Edgar Bronfman,



Rabbi David Wolpe and ultra-nationalist Meir Kahane. What can we learn from these books? What can we learn from our own personal experiences?

The loss of “Jewish social spaces” was the subject of the editor’s column in the

October *JO*. It is clear that the “Jewish neighborhoods” of old will never return. While antisemitism is on the rise, discrimination against Jews in education and employment is virtually non-existent. It is also clear that Americans in general are less connected to religion. For the first time ever, more than half of all Americans are not members of a house of worship. A Gallup survey in 2020 revealed that while 70% of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque in 1990, that figure dropped to 50% in 1999 and to 47% in 2020.

Can our Jewish community reverse these trends? Can we, like Moses, find a way to reconcile competing interests for the betterment of the whole community?

Let’s find out by convening groups of unaffiliated, uninterested and alienated Jews and asking them: Why did you separate yourself from the community? What would it take to bring you back? Maybe you know Jews who appear to be disconnected and can engage them in such a conversation, listening without judging and hearing with the intention of learning.

Perhaps you can share the message: We want you to be a part of us. We want to be there for you when you need us.

Perhaps 5783 is the year to start asking these questions, listening to the answers and seeking solutions. *Baalei teshuva*, those who leave but then return, have a special place in Judaism. As a community, as parents and grandparents, as clergy and lay leaders, let us redouble our efforts to bring more of our people back to the community.

And I would go one step further and suggest that *Al tifrosh min hatzibur* can have yet another meaning when applied to all of us, suggesting a responsibility that each of us has to remain actively involved in communal affairs. We all need to be active, contributing, supportive members of our Jewish community so that our energy, enthusiasm and commitment will show others why it is worth belonging.





» Book Review

Pumpkin Pie for Sigd: A Holiday Tale

by Jennifer Tzivia MacLeod,
illustrated by Denise Damanti



Reviewed by
Diana Koester

Pumpkin Pie for Sigd is a heartwarming story about strangers in a strange land who come together to celebrate their common threads.

Maddie is a girl who's

just moved to Israel from America, and she's feeling homesick and sad about missing her Thanksgiving traditions. She and her new friend Orly, an Ethiopian Jewish girl who invites her to a Sigd celebration, decide to make a pumpkin pie to bring to the festivities. There's just one problem - they don't have any of the traditional ingredients.

In the process of making this pie, Maddie visits some of her neighbors to collect substitute ingredients, and we as the readers get introduced to other immigrants to Israel - people from Ukraine, India, and Mexico - whose contributions result in a "pumpkin pie" made from butternut squash, coconut cream and tortillas. Maddie brings the pie to the celebration, where she learns all about Sigd, an Ethiopian Jewish holiday which celebrates the day G-d first spoke to Moses at the burning bush. Per the author's note, communities who

observe Sigd honor this day by fasting, reciting Psalms and reading from the Torah, and later, there is a festive meal with singing and dancing. On the calendar, Sigd often falls very close to our American Thanksgiving. *Pumpkin Pie for Sigd* is a charming and very accessible introduction to the traditions of Sigd,

which is recognized as a national holiday in Israel with its large Ethiopian Jewish community, but which outside of Israel, we may not know much about yet. In the story, the *kes*, or rabbi, explains that when they were in Ethiopia, they used to pray to return to Jerusalem on Sigd, and now, "Jews from all over the world are here together. Giving thanks."

The best part of this story is its celebration of diversity, showing flawlessly how we can honor each other's different backgrounds and unite as a beautiful community at the same time. In recent years, in efforts to properly support and value people in minority groups, there has been careful consideration of wanting to avoid cultural appropriation, to the point where some topics may not be discussed or taught at all. Cultural appropriation

and demanding emotional labor of people from diverse backgrounds to continually bear the mantle of teaching others about themselves are things we definitely want to avoid. However, we should not allow education about diversity as a whole to become collateral damage in deference to such caution. *Pumpkin Pie for Sigd* is an excellent book in this regard; it teaches about a specific cultural tradition without presumption, without overstepping, in a way that readers can find relatable, because the characters find ways to relate to each other. We all need more of that kind of connection in our lives. For every instance of that respectful embrace of diversity in our community, I give thanks. *Melkam bahal*. Happy Holiday. "Friendsgiving" at its finest!

» Book Review

The Big Buna Bash

by Sara C. Arnold,
illustrated By Roberta Malasomma



Reviewed
by Asher Moodie

The Big Buna Bash, written by Sara C. Arnold, is about a girl named Almaz who is from Ethiopia. She moved to the U.S. and is trying to fit in at school. One day, when her teacher asks for a word with the 'oo' sound in it, she accidentally says "buna" which means "coffee" in her language.

Everyone is making fun of her because they think it is a silly word. Her friend Eleanor tries to calm her, but she is too embarrassed. She goes home, and her big sister says that her friends think of it as a big party. That gives Almaz an idea: she would throw a big party. She invited her classmates but none of them showed up. She didn't give up though. Instead, Almaz she tried a different approach to get her classmates to understand the meaning of buna.

I liked *The Big Buna Bash* because I

usually like books about new kids trying to fit in at school and then they make friends and don't feel so nervous about their new school. I relate to these books because when I went to a new school for the first time, I was very nervous. But I became used to the school and didn't feel so new. And I like how Almaz is determined to share her culture with her classmates.

I recommend this book for seven- to eight-year-olds. As a nine-year-old, I think it is a good book, but I think the level for this book is for younger readers. If you were to go to a library or store, I would highly recommend this book if you are looking for a good book about Ethiopian culture or a good book about a new kid at school trying to fit in. I would rate this book four out of five stars.

Operation *Tzur Israel* Brings Ethiopian Jews to their New Home in Israel

Tzur Israel is a prayer recited during *Shacharit*. It means “Rock of Israel, redeem those who are oppressed and deliver those who are persecuted.” Operation *Tzur Israel*, supported by *Keren Hayesod*, the United Jewish Appeal, aims to bring a total of 5,000 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel. The first phase of the operation, which started in December 2020 and ended in March 2021, brought about 2,000 people to Israel. The second phase was launched in June 2022 and another 3,000 Ethiopian Jews will arrive, reuniting 2,000 of them with their families already in Israel. The Jewish Federation of Central New York is one of the sponsors of the program, working in consort with the Jewish Federations of North America.

Just before *Rosh HaShanah*, a flight carrying 209 *olim* (new immigrants) from Ethiopia, including 41 children and toddlers, landed at Ben Gurion Airport. The new arrivals, many of whom had been living for some 20 years in difficult conditions in transit camps in Gondar and Addis Ababa, fulfilled their dream of immigrating to Israel. Minister of *Aliyah* and Absorption Pnina Tamano Sheta welcomed them, saying that “it is exciting to welcome the hundreds of immigrants who have waited many years to arrive in the Holy Land.” One of those arriving said, “This is a very great privilege. We have been waiting for many years to make *aliyah* and do not believe that this is happening. The first place I would like to see is Jerusalem.”

Over 95,000 Ethiopian Jews have immigrated to Israel since the mid-1980s when approximately 8,000 immigrants arrived through Operation Moses through Sudan. In 1991, 14,000 immigrants arrived as part of Operation Solomon. In the summer of 2013, the Jewish Agency launched Operation Dove’s Wings, which brought 7,000 immigrants



from Ethiopia. Along with their offspring, the Ethiopian community in Israel today numbers over 140,000. The remnant of Jews still left in Ethiopia was previously prevented from coming because they were considered Falash Mura, Jews forced to convert to Christianity several generations ago. They continued to practice Judaism and had relatives in Israel, so the Israeli government approved the resumption of their *aliyah* in 2015 on humanitarian grounds.

The new immigrants have to cope with incredible change in their lives. They are leaving behind the poverty and difficult conditions of Ethiopia’s waiting camps. Their immigration brings them into a new world – a new language, a new culture and a new home. They have to learn new social norms and new technologies used in every day modern life. *Keren Hayesod* is committed to ensuring

that all Jews who wish to are able to make *aliyah*. They provide absorption centers and programs to give the *olim* the assistance they need to adapt and thrive in Israel.



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» D'VAR TORAH

Abraham and Cheshvan

by Rabbi Ethan Bair, Syracuse Hillel

November coincides with Cheshvan and the beginning of Kislev, before Hanukkah. The month of Cheshvan is the only month in the Hebrew calendar without holidays, and so it is often referred to as Marcheshvan or “bitter Cheshvan.”

As I write this, it is the *Yamim Nora'im*, the Days of Awe, and on Rosh Hashanah we learned about Abraham's trials, with his oldest son and concubine and then with his beloved son, Isaac. Now, in our Torah, we read the full narrative of Abraham's story and journeys in the cycles of our weekly Torah portions, a fuller review of the stories we heard on Rosh Hashanah. This first Shabbat of November, we read *Lech l'cha*, when God tells Abraham to “go forth,” to leave all that is familiar and to step into the fullness of who he truly is. Genesis 12:1 reads: “Now Adonai said unto Abram: ‘*Lech l'cha* - Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto the land that I will show thee.’”

There is a midrash on this first verse of *Lech l'cha*:

Rabbi Yitzchak said: this may be compared to a man who was traveling from place to place when he saw a burning castle. He said, “Is it possible that this castle lacks a person to look after it? The owner of the building looked out and said, “I am the owner of the castle.” Similarly, because Abraham our father said, “Is it possible that this castle has no master, no one



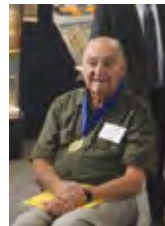
to look after it?” the Holy Blessed One looked out and said to him, “I am the Master of the Universe.” Hence, God said to Avraham, *Lech l'cha*. (Genesis Rabbah 39:1-2)

In this midrash, Abram intuitively the existence of God by seeing that the world is on fire. With all the injustices and inequities that man creates, it can look like God doesn't care. But these are the results of human actions, and it is the duty of human beings to repair that which is burning in our society. Abraham is the first to establish a covenant of mutual responsibility with God, and it is upon us as descendants of Abraham and Sarah to carry that responsibility forward.

Rather than seeing the ills of society as proof of God's absence, we can see them as the purpose for our being in the world – to create healing and justice as God's partners. According to the *Sfat Emet*, Abraham's love of righteousness is how God justifies having created the world. How will we, as Abraham's descendants, love righteousness and act on that love to create a more compassionate society for all? What do we need to change in our own circumstances in order to embody our own purpose and more readily contribute to societal healing? *Marcheshvan* is the month that gives way to *Kislev* on November 25, the month of Hanukkah and miracles. If we do this work now, there can be miracles to come.

Mel Besdin Elected to Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame

Founded in 1987, the Greater Syracuse Sports Hall of Fame pays tribute to the men and women whose achievements in the world of sports have made Syracuse synonymous with athletic success and have brought special honor to our community. On June 22, at its 35th annual dinner and induction ceremony, the Hall of Fame paid tribute to men and women whose achievements in the world of sports have made Syracuse proud. At that event, Mel Besdin was inducted into the Class of 2022.



Besdin came to Syracuse University on a full scholarship in the fall of 1951, a graduate of the Manlius Military Academy, where he was the basketball team's high scorer and MVP. Previously, he had played for Central High, which was the City champion in his sophomore year. Mel led area scorers and was a two-time All-City selection. He scored a City-record 56 points against Smith Tech in 1949 and more than 20 points a game during his scholastic career. College freshmen could not play varsity ball in the early '50s, but as a sophomore he came off the bench to average 6.5 points for SU. His last two seasons, Mel averaged a combined 15.5, capped by a senior year in which he was the team captain and top scorer (16.1). He tallied 305 points as a senior, 741 overall (12.3

average), at a time when SU played 19 or 20 games each winter rather than the 30 and more today. In 1953, he was selected to play for the U.S. team in the Maccabiah Games in Israel. He and the team took home gold in those games.

Besdin was drafted in the eighth round of the 1954 NBA draft by the Syracuse Nationals, but decided instead to serve in the U.S. Army, stationed in Puerto Rico, where he was player-coach of a championship team. He then became the program director and physical education director for the Syracuse Jewish Community Center and later the physical education director for the Jewish Community Center in Rochester. He founded Camp Walden in Lake George in 1959 and was the camp director for 17 years, partnering with Hall of Famer Dolph Schayes and hiring young Jim Boeheim as a counselor. He was elected to the Rochester Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

Now 90 years young, Mel has been married for 68 years to his college sweetheart, Phyllis. He is the patriarch of a family of three daughters, eight grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. With his induction into the Hall of Fame, Besdin joins 260 athletes, coaches and administrators who have been similarly honored for their accomplishments.

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Inaugural Community Reverse Tashlich at Onondaga Creek Walk



The sun shone brightly and the temperature was perfect for working. A team of two dozen community members, from teens to seniors, came to clean out the rain gardens at the Onondaga Creek Walk in a celebration of Reverse *Tashlich* on October 2. Mark Field, chair of the Federation's Climate Crisis Committee, explained that Reverse *Tashlich* was an application of the biblical commandment *Ba'al Tashchit* ("Do Not Destroy"), a fundamental ethical principle in Judaism, based on the statement in Deuteronomy that it is forbidden to cut

down fruit trees. The Talmud expanded the concept of *Ba'al Tashchit* to include all forms of senseless damage or waste. He noted that In the fall *Tashlich* service, we symbolically cast our personal sins into the water. In Reverse *Tashlich* we go one step further and work to remove other "sins" that make their way into the water, in order to fulfill the mitzvah prohibiting needless waste and destruction. Under the guidance of City of Syracuse Forestry Technician Kim Phan, two very overgrown rain gardens were cleared out and replanted with flowers which will enable clean rainwater to drain into Onondaga Creek. There were families from the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and the Epstein High School of Jewish Studies participating along with members of the NexGen group and others.



Climate Crisis Committee Supports Environmental Bond Proposal

This November, New York voters will vote on New York Proposal 1 for New York State to issue a \$4.2 billion dollar bond. The revenue from the bond will help protect us and the environment and reduce the emission of greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. The Jewish Federation's Climate Crisis committee is supportive of this proposal so that New Yorkers have the resources to safeguard our lands and climate for today and for future generations.

This is the first environmental bond proposal in 26 years. In brief, the bond will provide funding for air and water pollution reduction projects and wetland protections to address storm surge and flooding, urban forest programs, zero emission school buses, solar arrays and heat pumps. \$650 million will be for projects related to wastewater, sewage, septic infrastructure, lead service line replacement and agricultural nutrient runoff reduction to help reduce harmful algal blooms that pose risks to drinking water. Nearly 35% of the bond revenue will benefit disadvantaged communities.

Mark Field, committee chair, says, "We believe that the quality of life for all New Yorkers will be improved by the projects this bond will help fund. We also believe we have an obligation to safeguard our precious lands, water and air for now and for our children and grandchildren."

Climate Crisis Committee member Rhea Jezer, a long-time environmental activist, notes that "this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect clean water, update infrastructure, build parks, and improve quality of life in every county of the state. The Bond Act will protect clean drinking water, a priceless resource, support nearly 100,000 good jobs and will clean the air we breathe, plant street trees, increase energy efficiency and purchase clean school buses. It will conserve wildlife habitats and increase access to parks, nature centers, campgrounds, and public waterfronts."

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PROFILES IN COMMITMENT: Robert Weisenthal, M.D.

Robert Weisenthal is Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology at Upstate Medical University and has a practice at CNY Eye Care. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison for undergraduate and medical school. He served his residency in ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania and a fellowship in corneal and external disease at the University of Iowa. He returned to the University of Pennsylvania as a faculty member prior to moving to Syracuse.

"I am the physician that I am today because of my father," says Weisenthal. "He inspired me to become a doctor. What I learned from him was that the patient was always the most important consideration. I strive to be as professional, ethical and caring for my patients during my career as he was in over 50 years of his practice as a Urologist."

But Weisenthal's practice is not limited to his Central New York patients. Since 1990, he has been traveling to LaCeiba, Honduras, leading a group of ophthalmic surgeons,



nurses, technicians and volunteers for some 23 week-long trips. They only take care of the poorest patients who would have no access to care. Working with local ophthalmologists to screen patients, they perform cataract surgery, corneal transplantations and oculoplastic surgery and provide follow-up care. On their most



recent trip, in September, they took care of 75 patients with a staff of ten, including three doctors. Prior to COVID, which caused them to limit the number of doctors and patients, they typically cared for 150 patients. Over 32 years, they have cared for thousands of patients. "The criterion for surgery is blindness," Weisenthal explains. "The patients we care for have the worst cataracts I care for, much worse than what I see in the United States."

Weisenthal's trips are completely self-funded. He established a not for profit organiza-

tion called HELP (Honduran Eye and Life Program) to which "we contribute the money necessary to pay for our travel, our accommodations in Honduras and daily needs. We bring down the instruments necessary to perform the surgery. The supplies for the surgery are donated from SEE (Surgical Eye Expeditions). We pay for all our staff to go."

Weisenthal has many stories associated with the missions. He particularly recalls operating on a blind five-year-old named Melvin and another time having Hillary Hahn accompany them and play the violin throughout the trip. "The trips are also family projects," he notes. "All of my children have gone on the trip once or twice as well as my wife a number of times." More importantly, he explains, "while the impact on our patients cannot be overstated, I have gotten back so much more than I have given. It is a privilege to use my training to practice medicine in the way it was intended, providing care to those in most need without the restraints of dealing with insurance, administration or other hoops, just being able to help a fellow human being without regard to money or circumstances."

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» NOVEMBER 1

Fuel For Truth Workshops for Teens and Adults



Orit Antosh and Youchi Holstein are two Central New Yorkers who are passionate supporters of Israel and who want to prepare teens and adults for discussions and conversations with others who do not share their views. Their proposal to the Federation's Holstein Community Program Fund was approved to present a program with the leaders of an organization called Fuel For Truth. Fuel For Truth's founders developed a revolutionary model of Israel education and Jewish engagement for young adults, combining a deep love of Jewish history and Israeli redemption with proven methods of engagement and communication. Nothing like this has been presented to our community before.

On November 1, Fuel For Truth [FFT] will provide two workshops for members of the Syracuse Jewish community -- one for 11th and 12th graders at the Epstein School and one for the community. Both programs will take place at Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevre Shas and will be made available on Zoom. They will feature the core tenets of FFT's communication methodology and an interactive display of how these principles can be applied when discussing Israel in the real world.

The presentation will be made by Ronnie Wasserman, head of the board of FFT and a native Central New Yorker.

Wasserman grew up here and graduated from F-M High School. Ron is a SVP Group Director with Signature Bank and serves as FFT's current chairman. In his role over the years, he has built up FFT's flagship bootcamp program from a once-a-year class in New York City to a national program. He also regularly meets with congressman and senators from across the country in order to discuss and strengthen the importance of the US-Israel relationship. He knows our community and is eager to share what his organization does. Many people in our community have noted with distress

that our young people, particularly those heading off to college, are not well-informed about issues of antisemitism, the BDS movement and anti-Zionism. The same could be said for most adults, because what is taught about Israel is generally framed positively, and we are not taught ways to combat those who oppose us or Israel. Finding the balance between inculcating a love for Israel and Zionism with a realistic appraisal of its complicated story is necessary to reduce the backlash experienced upon first exposure in a less supportive environment.

Fuel For Truth offers "Israel Education For A New Generation" and declares that "We break down the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so you can feel confident discussing it in the real world." They do not offer propaganda, but rather "the knowledge, tools and confidence to have civil and productive conversations about Israel." They believe that this pragmatic approach will be successful in educating and activating participants. As

Rabbi David Wolpe said of FFT: "Fuel For Truth teaches advocates to deal in facts, not myths, and to clarify issues rather than muddy them. It enables people to present Israel as it is to those who have a distorted and cruel view — its service is urgent and invaluable."

Fuel For Truth is an innovative organization that directly addresses the difficult topics that too many organizations attempt to avoid and inspires participants to see themselves as characters in Israel's story. They created a new movement to educate young Jews about Israel, the Middle East and how to effectively combat misinformation surrounding the Jewish state.

The program will be open to all high school juniors and seniors in the community and to all adults, regardless of affiliation or lack thereof. Students from Hillel are also welcome to participate. Although preregistration is not required, everyone attending must be masked and must sign in.

» NOVEMBER 1

The City Without Jews at LeMoyne College

The City Without Jews is a 1924 Austrian Expressionist film by Hans Karl Breslauer, based on the novel of the same title by Hugo Bettauer. The story is set in the mythical Republic of Utopia, a troubled land that belies its name: Unemployed workers clog the streets demanding jobs, rampant speculation and hyperinflation roil the economy, and the wastrel superrich drink and debauch while the proles suffer and starve. "I'm telling you the Jews are responsible for our misery," a demagogue predictably concludes. "The only solution is to expel the Jews."

Composers Donald Sosin and Alicia Svigals have written a new score for the film, which they'll be performing at the screening. The event is free and open to the public (people should just arrive early since seats are first come, first served).

Join us for a Film Screening of
THE CITY WITHOUT JEWS
This precious 1924 expressionist Austrian film by Hans Karl Breslauer will be screened with an original score composed and performed by pianist Donald Sosin and violinist Alicia Svigals.
Tuesday, Nov. 1 | 7 p.m.
W. Carroll Coyne Center for the Performing Arts

Join composer Donald Sosin and singer/pianist Alicia Svigals for a screening. They will lead on composing music for film.
Wednesday, Nov. 2
2:30-3:45 p.m.
Rutty Hall, Room 244
Co-sponsored by the Film Studies and Music programs

LE MOYNE
College of the Holy Cross

Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Film Studies and Music programs. The screening is part of the Syracuse Jewish Community's annual Festival and the Society for New Music. The event is free and open to the public. The event is free and open to the public.

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COMMUNITY

» **NOVEMBER 2**

**Eco-Thriller Strange Fire
Author at Temple Concord**

by Chana Meir

Temple Concord's Regina F. Goldenberg Series and Social Action Committee will present a Zoom talk by Joel Burcat, the author of *Strange Fire*, on November 2 at 7:00 pm.

Described by the author as "a romantically-charged environmental legal thriller," *Strange Fire* centers on Mike Jacobs, a 29-year-old Jewish environmental lawyer, who is investigating a number of deaths in Bradford County, PA. The deaths seem to be connected to Yukon Oil and Gas, a company that fracks for gas. The story combines an engaging mystery with a look at the damage fracking does to the environment and the way in which Jacobs fulfills the Jewish mandate to protect the earth.

NY Times best-selling author William Landay described "Strange Fire" as "a dark, suspenseful read that ranges from the gas fields to the courtroom, all handled with gritty style." Burcat, a novelist and environmental lawyer, is the recipient of the 2020 PennWriters Annual Writing Award.

The event is free and open to the public. To receive the Zoom link, register by clicking on the link on the Events Calendar at templeconcord.org. For more information, email info@templeconcord.org.



» **NOVEMBER 6**

**Jewish Cavaliers in Blue
at the JCC**

On Sunday, November 6, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, local playwright Robert Brophy's play "Jewish Cavaliers in Blue" will be presented at the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center. The play is taken from Brophy's work, *Love (and War) Letters between Syracuse Jewish, Irish and African American Soldiers and their Sweethearts in the Civil War.*

The show is free and open to the public but reservations are needed. Light refreshments will be provided. The play is a dramatization of Civil War letters between Syracuse and Central New York soldiers and their wives, fiancées and sweethearts, including African Americans like Frederick Douglass's sons, and Jewish and Irish Americans in the 149th NY Regiment. The 149th regimental flag, embroidered in gold, was "Presented to the Regiment by the Jewish Ladies of Syracuse." Their sons are the Jewish cavaliers in blue of the play's title.

On Sunday, November 20, Brophy's play "Tears of the Onion" will be presented at the American Legion Dunbar Post 1642 at the corner of Dell Street and Columbus Ave in the Westcott neighborhood. The performance is a benefit for the African American Vietnam Veterans Post Preservation Fund. The Post, which is celebrating its 72nd anniversary, was formed by and for African American veterans initially excluded from other posts by segregation.

This play tells the story of two boxing champions, Carmen Basilio and Isiah "Ike" Williams, first-year honorees of the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota. The two champions, one white and one Black, were both veterans and champs who fought each other, but were friends. Both men were sharecroppers' sons, and both testified against the Mob in boxing. Both speak highly of Central New York boxing promoter Norm Rothschild, whose widow Ada Rothschild is a key character in the play.

» NOVEMBER 12 AND 13

“Golden Cage” Operetta at Oswego’s Waterman Theater

982 refugees from the Holocaust were brought from Europe to the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter in Oswego and stayed there from August 1944 to February 1946. All the refugees had agreed to return to their homelands after the war ended, but by 1945, there was nothing to go home to. They wished to remain in the United States. They used various means to petition authorities to stay, and one was to write an opera that told their story – life in Europe, the journey across the Atlantic and their experiences at the Shelter in Oswego, which they referred to as the “Golden Cage,” because while all their physical needs were met, they lacked freedom. Charles Abeles, an Austrian musician, composed the music, and Miriam Sommerburg, a German artist and author, wrote the text.

“The Golden Cage” was first performed on New Year’s Eve 1945 and an abbreviated version in January 1946. By this time, President Truman had signed a document allowing them to stay. “The Golden Cage” was presumed to be lost, but then the music was found in a trunk in the composer’s nephew’s home in Germany, and the libretto was discovered in the National Archives in Washington, DC. Music and words were reunited, and this month, Oswego Opera Theater will present the first performance of “The Golden Cage” since its debut in 1945. The issues the operetta raises about immigration and antisemitism are still relevant. The production will be part of the 75th anniversary celebration of the arrival of the refugees to Oswego in August 1944, which was postponed due to COVID. There will be performances at Oswego’s Waterman Theater in Tyler Hall on the SUNY Oswego campus on Saturday evening, November 12 at 7:30 pm and on Sunday, November 13 at 3:00 pm. Juan Francisco LaManna, artistic director of Oswego Opera Theater, edited the score and will direct the performance along with Benjamin Spierman of the Bronx Opera Company. Singers in principal roles will come from New York City, while others, along with the chorus, will come from a local pool of talented Oswego musicians.

Because the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter was the only such shelter in the United States during World War II, Oswegonians are justifiably proud of their role. But the importance of the Shelter and the significance of this operetta go well beyond the history of Oswego and Central New York and have national and even international implications.



Tickets will be available at the SUNY Oswego box office in the Marano Campus Center and online at tickets.oswego.edu. The phone number is 315 312-3073. Prices are \$30 for general admission, \$25 for senior citizens and \$10 for students.

» NOVEMBER 20

CNY Jazz Orchestra with NEA Jazzmaster David Liebman

By Larry Luttinger

Good things come to those who wait, as the saying goes. In the case of the Central New York Jazz Orchestra, the region’s premiere not-for-profit “big band,” the wait has been eleven years since NEA Jazzmaster David Liebman offered to record an album with them after they accompanied his world premiere solo performance of “If a White Horse from Jerusalem,” a multi-movement work for soprano saxophone, wooden flute and jazz orchestra.

That offer was not forgotten.

On November 20, Liebman will return to perform the work again in concert at Temple Adath Yeshurun, followed by a recording session the next day for international release in 2023. The

» NOVEMBER 13

Nefesh Mountain Concert at TAY for the Kids and Teens

Temple Adath Yeshurun received a Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund grant from the Jewish Federation of Central New York for a special community-wide concert for children and teens on November 13, 2022.

Temple Adath is hosting the musical group Nefesh Mountain, a renowned Jewish blue grass band, for a concert on Saturday, November 12 as part of a synagogue celebration. Tickets to the concert will be available to the community at large.

The Sunday, November 13 concert will be for all the children and teens in the community, in partnership with Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevre Shas, Temple Concord, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse, the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and the Epstein School. The concert will take place during religious school time.

Nefesh Mountain is the place where Bluegrass, Old-Time and American Roots music meet with Jewish heritage



and tradition. Creators, band leaders and husband and wife team Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg are the heart of this eclectic offering, pioneering a new world of American culture which seamlessly blends their deep love for American and Western musical forms with their own cultural backgrounds as Jewish Americans. Nefesh Mountain’s bluegrass music forges new paths in a world all their own, combining elements of everything from Americana and Appalachian bluegrass to Celtic folk and Eastern European melodies with messages of inclusivity, diversity and hope for our ever-changing world today.

The four-movement work was originally commissioned by the SU Humanities Center on their 2011 theme of “Conflict: Peace and War” and performed that year in the Carrier Theater, with additional support by the Jewish Federation of Central New York and Hillel. Both the Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York will lend their support for the reprise production in November.

The concert will be held in a cabaret setting at Temple Adath Yeshurun, with cash bar and food stations available. Doors open at 4 pm and showtime is at 5 pm. Parking is free. The CNYJO will also perform works including Quincy Jones’ arrangement of the theme from “Exodus” and works penned by orchestra members to be recorded on the full-length album along with the suite. Tickets are \$35 at the door and \$30 in advance at www.tix.com or www.cnyjazz.org. Food and drink are additional.



orchestra will be conducted by Music Director Bret Zvacek, the commissioned composer.

150th Anniversary Kickoff Celebration and Concert at Temple Adath Yeshurun

On Saturday evening, November 12, Temple Adath Yeshurun will host an in-person kickoff event to the year-long celebration marking its 150th anniversary. The evening will celebrate Barbara Simon's recent retirement as Executive Director of Temple Adath Yeshurun and officially welcome Rabbi and Meira Saks. The popular, boundary-pushing Americana Bluegrass band, Nefesh Mountain, will give a 90-minute performance.

Nefesh Mountain is led by creators, band leaders and husband-and-wife team Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg. They are joined by Alan Grubner on the fiddle, David Goldenberg on mandolin and Max Johnson on bass. Their latest studio album release, *Songs For the Sparrows*, is a testament to the unbridled imagination and extraordinary grace of their musicianship and creativity. True to the album's spirit of loving



inclusivity, Lindberg and Zasloff have created an elegantly wayward sound by melding elements of everything from Americana and Appalachian bluegrass to Celtic folk and Eastern European music.

The eclectic quintet fuses Roots music with Jewish heritage and tradition, with the end result inspiring all of their work with arrangements of modern Folk/Bluegrass. The juxtaposition of traditional and modern is the perfect embodiment of TAY's theme for this



monumental anniversary - *Honoring Traditions and Embracing New Beginnings*.

This event is open to the public - both Syracuse Jewish Community and the general CNY Community. Presale tickets, priced at \$18, \$36 and \$72 are available at www.adath.org until noon on Friday, November 11. Tickets will be \$36 at the door. More information regarding the event is also available on the TAY website.

A Word of Thanks

by Emily Chelnitsky

With the whirlwind of the *yomim tovim* not too far behind us, many of us are gearing up for yet another holiday, Thanksgiving. The Syracuse Community Hebrew School is grateful for many positive influences and experiences over the past couple of months. We have been fortunate to welcome additional staff, invite guest speakers and partner with the clergy for *tefilah* practice. Gratitude, inclusion and stewardship tie these experiences together to enrich our students' curriculum.



Over the past month, our older students were lucky to have a guest visit from Alise Gemmell, LMSW, the BeWell educator and social worker at Syracuse Jewish Family Service. Students participated in a lesson about active listening and then explored barriers that many older adults face as they engage in meaningful activities. Through Alise's guidance, students engaged in role play exercises, using the active listening techniques they previously learned. We are so grateful for Alise's insights, especially as families begin to gather for Thanksgiving and strive to make sure everyone is included and valued.

Outside the classroom, SCHS students expressed gratitude and stewardship through their participation in Reverse *Tashlich*. Students and their families joined community members to clean up Syracuse's Rain Gardens. This month, students are learning even more about how to best care for the environment through a field trip to the MOST. While students are inspired to care for their environment during *tefilah*, our field trip gives us actions we can take today.

Participation in *tefilah* has been a highlight for many students, greatly due to the influence of our clergy. We are so grateful for the time they have taken to prepare insightful lessons and engage our students. When students feel a greater connection to *tefilah*, the environment and community members, we have no doubt our students will accomplish great things in their futures.

CBS-CS Introduces New Youth Director and Shul School Principal

by Joanne Villegas

Meet Maura Koenig, the new youth director at Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas. Originally from Syracuse, Maura comes back to the area with an exorbitant amount of education, work experience, innovation and enthusiasm. She started her studies at SUNY Oswego and most recently graduated with an MS in organizational leadership and innovation from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion. Her experience includes roles as director of youth engagement, Israel programs admissions director, community manager for Birthright Israel and director of student engagement at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Hillel. Maura brings an infectious passion for Judaism, Israel and building Jewish community and is looking forward to meeting and getting to know the community at CBS-CS.



Meet Kelly Bernhardt Klapper, the new Shul School principal at CBS-CS. Kelly moved to this area in 2018 and has been a CBS-CS member ever since. She graduated from Wake Forest University with honors in English and religion. She brings many years of experience as a teacher of students from the pre-k level to 12th grade. She has a passion for building relationships and learning about each unique student. Kelly also has experience in leadership and supervisory positions in which she was in charge of staff, budgets and event planning. Kelly has taught in the CBS-CS Shul School and served on the board of trustees. Her creativity and passion for learning and faith will greatly enhance the CBS-CS students. Kelly is looking forward to being able to give back to CBS-CS as she feels it has given so much to her and her family.



Exploring Israel at Epstein



by Aaron Spitzer

Tenth through twelfth grade students at the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies are learning all about the history and culture of Israel in “Exploring Israel,” a course taught by *morim* Ora Jezer and Scott Miller, with assistance from Shir Juran. Twenty of those students and four chaperones, including Jezer and Miller, will travel on the fourth Teen Taste of Israel trip in February 2023. This will be the first trip to Israel the school has taken since 2019 — the trip was postponed twice due to COVID-19 — and it will be the largest to date. A Teen Taste of Israel, generously supported by the Jewish Community Foundation of CNY and other donors, is a ten-day exploration in which students encounter the diversity of Israeli geography and culture. Students spend time in locations from the north to south, including Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, climb Mount Masada, experience Bedouin hospitality, including a camel ride, and learn about the technological and environmental innovations accomplished by the “Start Up Nation.”



During the fall semester, students meet each week to explore an aspect of Israeli history and culture. The semester began with an examination of Israel’s global humanitarian work, with students competing to match the most number of outreach efforts on a world map in the shortest time. The team comprised of seniors Mae Cohen, JoJo Cooper, Sasha Dailey, Eli Goldstein, Steph Lynne, and Nathan Warren-Faricy, took an early and sustained lead. The following week saw students competing in small groups to research and identify similarities and differences in American and Israeli contemporary culture. It’s great to see students from across Central New York, who attend different schools and different synagogues, team up and work together each week on different projects. The class is both engaging and educational for students. It is also an exercise in

community-building for the future, as is the Teen Taste of Israel trip.

A highlight for the class is the presentation by the Israel education and advocacy organization, Fuel for Truth, on November 1. Community members Orit Antosh and Youchi Holstein conceived of this workshop, which will be followed by a second session for the community, on how to talk about Israel in the real world. (Both programs are supported by a grant from the Federation’s Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund.)



The Epstein School and Hillel are also working together on a program bringing Epstein juniors and seniors to area college Hillels to explore ways of being Jewish on campus. Enjoying the planning at a recent meeting of the Presidents/Executive Directors and Rabbis were Epstein director Aaron Spitzer, teacher Ora Jezer and Hillel’s director Jillian Juni and Rabbi Ethan Bair.

Happy Thanksgiving



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What I Am Thankful For



SHDS Third Graders

"I am thankful for my family, friends, food, water, sharks, toys, the ocean, Israel, school, movies, shows, HaShem, Hebrew, animals and teachers." - Abe

"I am thankful for my family, friends, food, water, shelter, school, books, a bed, clothes, teachers, nature, art, animals, learning and library." - Izzy

"I am thankful for family, food, water, chocolate, my house, school, my life, trees, air, Israel, animals and the sun. I am thankful for all of this stuff because I am very lucky to have all of it." - Danya

"I am thankful for my friends and family. I'm thankful for water and food. I'm thankful for my teachers." - Eliana

"I am thankful for friends, family and bodies." - Lielle

"I am thankful for all of my family and friends and that I am going to SHDS." - Violet

"I am thankful for food and my family and shelter and God and my friends and school and a bed and clothes and teachers and nature and paper and pen and art and reading and animals and jokes and math and police and emergency exits and plays and air and walls and rugs and Hebrew and bones and hair and earrings and jewelry and coats and hair ties and EVERYTHING." - Grace

"I am thankful for water and family and food. I am thankful for school. I am thankful for my friends." - Ava

"I am thankful for God, family and friends and food and water." - Lyra

"I am thankful for weekends." - Ruby

JCC Fall Fitness Spotlight

by Paul Michie-Derrick

As autumn morphs into winter, there's plenty to look forward to during the fall at the JCC.



JCC's 4 for 40 Deal

As the colder weather approaches, finding an indoor facility to remain active is on a lot of people's minds. Committing to a gym can be very stressful. Many gyms offer monthly deals, but familiarity and comfortability with a facility can take longer than a handful of weeks. We are offering a terrific deal that will let you dip your toes at the facility without emptying your pockets. You'll have four months to see results and enjoy the fruits of your labor before deciding how much you're willing to spend to be a part of a fantastic community and facility.



New Spin Bikes

Take our new bikes for a spin. Our new Keiser M3i bikes will change the way you work out. The console is Bluetooth compatible, so you can track, record and keep records of your rides on a wide variety of smartphone apps. The console can also connect to select fitness wearables such as Apple Watch and Polar Bluetooth HR monitors. We currently have spin classes Tuesday at 9:55 am and Thursday at 9:30 am.

Pickleball

Pickleball is taking over the courts at the JCC and fall is the perfect time to start before the gust of winter steers people away from the outdoors. If

you're looking for a sport that's easy on the joints, pickleball might be the perfect sport for you. It is a great game for small groups and can be enjoyed without heavy equipment. The JCC has two indoor courts and two outdoor courts. Indoor pickup games take place Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. There are a limited number of paddles available for use on a first come first served basis.

Adult Tap Classes

Tap into your dancing skills. The JCC offers adult tap dancing classes for beginners and advanced students. The Advanced Tap Dance class is offered on Tuesdays from 6:30-8 pm. It is taught by longtime JCC tap instructor Barry Shulman. On Wednesdays, Angela Saturno teaches a Beginner Tap Dance class from 6:30-8 pm followed by an Intermediate Tap Dance class from 8-9 p.m. A limited number of tap shoes are available on a first come first served basis. The JCC's tap classes are open to anyone age 12 and older.

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The Local Business column is generously sponsored by RAV Properties.

Property Restoration



Property Restoration, Inc. is a second-generation family-owned fire and water damage restoration business, experienced and equipped to handle water or fire damage problems in residential, commercial, industrial and institutional settings. They are experts at fire and water damage restoration, mold removal, smoke odor counteracting, glass board up service and drying service as well as trauma and bio clean-up,

storm and flood damage restoration and construction cleanup.

Property Restoration has been in business for 25 years and has an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. Owner Arthur Diamond followed his father Sheldon into the field. Damage from fire, water or smoke is a costly and traumatic event for both businesses and homeowners and Property Restoration is sensitive to the situation. "We take every loss very seriously and understand the inconveniences associated with this emergency," says Diamond, adding, "Our most important assets are our people who work for us in the office and in the field, such as project managers and technicians," Diamond says. "They are trained and certified to handle any and all losses. We work closely with our clients and the insurance company. Our team in Central New York and surrounding areas provides a seamless process from start to finish."

With the largest inventory of drying equipment in Central New York, Property Restoration gets the job done right the first time. They take pride in their 24/7/365 availability to dispatch technicians and equipment immediately. "We are the reputable restoration services that you can rely on," says Arthur, who is an active member of the Jewish community, most



recently completing a term as president of Menorah Park. "When you have a flooded basement, burst pipes or toilet overflow, we are here to respond quickly to sump pump failures or hot water tank overflow. We handle small floods/fires to the multi-level commercial large losses with expertise."

AML Property Maintenance

AML Property Maintenance provides lawn care, snow removal, paving and landscaping services for residential and commercial properties in Syracuse and Central New York. Their motto is "With Us the Grass is Greener." AML is a locally owned and fully insured service provider. Since 2010, they have set out to exceed clients' expectations and grow their base of satisfied customers. We reinvest in our equipment and employees to offer the most professional and comprehensive property services in the area.



Aaron Levey, AML's president and a Central New York native, says that AML is "CNYs fastest growing commercial facility maintenance company." With over 15 years' experience with landscape design and installation, property maintenance, large and small snow removal, paving, and asphalt repair, AML can create an overall landscaping paradise for clients' property. They pride themselves on building friendly and professional relationships with clients.

Among their satisfied customers are Milton Cat, Walmart, Davidson Ford, Agrana Fruits, Texas Roadhouse, 5 Guys Burgers and Fries, America's Best, Well Now, Fluid Power Sales, Applied Industrial Technologies, Ace Hardware, Auto Zone, Speedway, Fast Trac, Solvay Bank, DeStefano Development, Fleet Pride, River Valley Foods, Cavallaro Foods, Duke Companies, Fisher Plows, Liberty Fuel and large and small homeowners' associations.

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Ethiopian Jewish Cuisine

The cuisine of the Ethiopian Jews is similar but not identical to the cuisine of other Ethiopians. Because treyf foods such as pork and shellfish are not traditionally eaten by Ethiopians, keeping kosher is not an obvious practice, except when it comes to two popular national dishes, *kitfo* and *gored gored* which are made with raw meat.

Ethiopian Jewish dietary laws are based on the permissions and prohibitions in *Breishit*, *Dvarim* and *Vayikra*. Ethiopian Jews were forbidden to eat the food of non-Jews. A cleric, known as a *kes*, only eats meat he has slaughtered himself, which his hosts then prepare both for him and themselves. Those who broke dietary taboos were ostracized and had to undergo a purification process, which included fasting for one or more days, eating only uncooked chickpeas provided by the *kes* and ritual purification before entering the village.

Ghee and niter kibbeh, types of clarified butter, are popular components of Ethiopian cuisine, including Ethiopian-Jewish cuisine. Because excess moisture is removed from ghee through heat treatment, the heating equipment must be verified as kosher as well, which adds an extra step to the kashering process. To avoid mixing meat and dairy, oil is often used as a substitute for the butters.

Camel meat, traditionally eaten by Ethiopian Muslims, is not consumed by Ethiopian Jews. Likewise, camel's milk, commonly consumed in Ethiopia, is not consumed by Ethiopian Jews because it is not kosher. (Kosher milk must come from kosher animals.)

Shabbat is known as *Sanbat* in the Amharic and Tigrinya languages. Sanbat Wat is a traditional Ethiopian-Jewish wat (stew) that is prepared for Shabbat. Sanbat Wat is a spicy stew of chicken and hard-boiled eggs, seasoned with berebere, cloves, onions, tomato sauce and other savory ingredients and served with injera.

Since meat is scarce in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Jews usually only eat meat-based stews once a week for Shabbat and for holidays. Because they observe halakic prohibitions against cooking on Shabbat, all foods are prepared erev Shabbat and served at room temperature. Ethiopian Jews cannot perform *buna*, the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony,



during Shabbat. *Buna* requires lighting a fire and thus the ceremony must be performed before or after Shabbat.

Rosh Hashanah, known in Amharic as *Brenha Serkan* ("the rising of the dawn") is only observed in Ethiopia for one day. Lamb, the most expensive meat available in Ethiopia, is served for the holiday. It is customary for affluent members of the community to hold a communal feast and invite other members of the community to join.

Injera is a sour fermented pancake-like flatbread with a slightly spongy texture, traditionally made of teff flour. In Ethiopia, injera is central to the dining process, like bread or rice elsewhere. Students at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School learned to make injera and baked this unique flatbread in the JCC ovens as part of their learning about Sigd and Ethiopian Jewry.



A New Era in Addiction Treatment

Addiction affects all, regardless of background, race, ethnicity, gender, religion or socio-economic status.

In recent years, communities across our nation — including Central New York — have experienced alarming increases in the number of people needing addiction treatment services.

As the longest running treatment program in the region, Crouse Health's Addiction Treatment Services remains committed to our mission to expand access to care and ensure delivery of high-quality addiction and mental health treatment in our community.

We are proud of our facility that matches the caliber of our staff and provides a nurturing, safe and uplifting environment that is already greatly enhancing our focus on holistic patient care: The Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center at Crouse Health.



If you, a loved one, friend or colleague is in need of treatment for substance use disorder, please contact us at **315-470-8304** or visit crouse.org/addiction.

 **CROUSE HEALTH**

Bill & Sandra Pomeroy Treatment Center in Syracuse. The two-story, 42,000 square-foot facility at 2775 Erie Blvd., East, replaces the 100-year-old former location of Crouse's outpatient treatment services at 410 South Crouse Avenue.

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Turning cancer into a chronic disease. Ofer Shalev, Founder and CEO at Israel's New Phase spoke at CTech's Mind the Tech NY Conference. New Phase's hyperthermic therapy reduces cancer from Stage 4 to Stage 2 so patients can have a better quality of life. Clinical trials have started. <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/bjux3bn11j> <https://newphase.co.il/clinical-trials/>

Aliyah increased by 128% in 5782. The Jewish state absorbed 60,000 new citizens during the Jewish year 5782 - a 128% increase compared with 2021, when 28,500 Jews came on Aliyah. The majority went to the cities of Tel Aviv, Haifa, Netanya and Jerusalem. <https://www.jpost.com/aliyah/article-717539>

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS!

**Due to postal regulations,
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be forwarded to temporary change addresses.**

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

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Arab Israeli scouts march through Jaffa. Jaffa was the venue for the largest-ever Arab Israeli scout march. The Israel Arab Scouts Association was founded in 1956 and is based on values of community service and volunteering. It also promotes coexistence and integration into Israeli society. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaRBvxxvUhdU>

Arab women's beehives on Jerusalem roofs. Arab Israeli Tareq Nassar and Jewish Israeli Liel Maghen have founded the Sinsila Center for Urban Sustainability. It has empowered 115 Arab women to each maintain two beehives on Eastern Jerusalem roofs. An additional 200 Arab women have joined the program for 2023. <https://www.israel21c.org/empty-rooftops-bring-sweet-employment-to-east-jerusalem/>

Switzerland's fleet of Israeli UAVs. The Swiss Air Force is to counter threats using its new fleet of Hermes Starliner unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) manufactured by Israel's Elbit Systems. The systems will be mainly used for intelligence gathering, including dealing with illegal infiltrations into the country. <https://www.jpost.com/international/article-716649>

Law and Order. Judges from 71 countries came to Tel Aviv for the 64th conference of the International Association of Judges. It gave the Israeli representatives the opportunity to emphasize that the State of Israel is a unique beacon of democracy in the Middle East. <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-717477>

Delegations from Indonesia and Pakistan. Recent visitors to Israel included officials from Indonesia and Pakistan – two countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. The arrival of a top official from Indonesia was being kept relatively secret. Annual bilateral trade with Indonesia totals some \$500 million. <https://worldisraelnews.com/watch-top-indonesian-official-on-secret-visit-to-israel/>

Defending the world. For the first time in history, Inspector General of the Moroccan Armed Forces, Lt.-Gen. Belkhir El Farouk arrived in Israel to participate in the IDF's International Operational

Innovation Conference. He joined the commanders of some 25 armies around the world. <https://worldisraelnews.com/morocco-military-chief-visits-israel-with-commanders-from-25-armies-around-world/> / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5YcEQ6lRXs>

The most US patents. With 63 approved US patents, Israel's Technion Institute is 40th in the world and number one in Europe. It ranks higher than the University of Oxford, Princeton University and other well-established and well-known universities. Tel Aviv University was ranked at number 68. <https://www.technion.ac.il/en/2022/09/patents-top100-nai-ipo/>

Turning polluted water into fertilizer. Researchers at Israel's Ben-Gurion University have developed an industrial wastewater cleaning process for water polluted with phosphoric acid. Following selective electrodialysis, reverse osmosis and neutralization, the extracted phosphates are used by the fertilizer industry. <https://nocamels.com/2022/09/researchers-turn-industrial-wastewater-into-fertilizer/>

The inside view. Some 20% of food is wasted between harvesting and distribution. The hyperspectral-powered AI scanning technology from Israel's Neolithics can reduce that wastage by at least one third. Neolithics inspects fruits and vegetables from the inside out, in the orchard, in the packing house and in the store. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/spotlight/rooting-out-the-bad-apples/>

Distance learning for Ukrainian teachers. Israeli-founded Viber, owned by Japan's Rakuten, has developed "Teach the Teachers, a chatbot to support remote education of Ukrainian teachers and students. The free 10-module course includes organizing homework, motivation and monitoring attendance. <https://nocamels.com/2022/09/israeli-app-ukrainian-teachers-free-course%ef%bf%bc/>

**SEYMOUR
FLEISHER**
August 27, 2022



Seymour Fleisher, 96, of Boca Raton, FL, formerly of Syracuse, passed away peacefully on August 27, 2022, surrounded by his wife and daughters. Seymour lived life to the fullest, filled with happiness and the love of his family and friends.

Seymour was born on March 28, 1926. In 1942, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the US Navy during WWII. He served aboard the USS Pasadena, where he fought in the battles of Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Tokyo Plain, Philippine Campaign, Leyte Gulf, Palau and the Japanese Occupation. He was in Tokyo Bay and saw the signing of the Japanese surrender in 1945.

After graduating from Syracuse University, he joined his father at the family grocery business and then purchased Hoffman Wholesale Confectionery. After moving to Florida, Seymour ran Barcone Marine and then purchased A1A Small Engines.

In 1953, Seymour married the former Libby Cohen. They were happily married for 68 years, enjoyed extensive world travel and lived in Florida for 51 years. Seymour also enjoyed golf, fishing and a good cigar. Following his retirement, Seymour spent 10 years as a volunteer deputy for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department and also volunteered for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Louis and Rae Fleisher and his brother Earl. He is survived by his loving wife Libby, daughters Marla (Allan London) and Leslie (Josie Beazley), grandchildren Logan and Skyler Fleisher, "brother" Barry Cohen, several nieces, nephews, cousins and his dog Ziva.

His favorite saying: "I never thought I'd live long enough to have a daughter who's a senior citizen, and now I have two."

Seymour's interment included military honors conducted by the United States Navy.

Memorial contributions or donations may be made to the following:

Congregation Kol Tikvah, 6750 N. Drive Coral Springs, FL 33067, Temple Adath Yeshurun, 450 Kimber Rd. Syracuse, NY 13224, Humane Society of Broward County, 2070 Griffin Rd. Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312.

**MURRAY
DAITCHMAN**
September 30, 2022



Murray Daitchman, 90, passed away on September 30 at Menorah Park. Murray was born in Montreal on May 17, 1932 to Bernard and Jennie Daitchman of blessed memory. In 1990 Murray joined Bonwit Teller, in Syracuse as the CEO. He was an active and devoted member of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse. He was very instrumental in the success of the JECNY Kollel.

He was a true mensch who lived a meaningful Jewish life, and left this earth with a good name. His family, sharing his passion for Jewish customs, traditions, and his love of Israel guided him throughout his well lived life. He was a gentle soul.

Murray was predeceased by his daughter Laure.

He is survived by his loving wife Roberta, his children Diane (Rabbi Yehosuha) Liff, Jay (Karen) Daitchman, and Shoshana (Rabbi Jeff) Wohlgelenter; his brothers and sisters; his many beloved grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Graveside services and burial will be at 2 pm, Sunday, October 2nd in The United Hebrew Cemetery, Congregation Shomrie Emunah section of Baltimore.

Contributions to perpetuate his memory may be made to Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse or a Jewish charity of one's choice.

HUGH ROBERT SALKOW

Hugh Robert Salkow, 72, passed away at Central Park Nursing Home. Hugh was born to Jessie and Irving Salkow on May 13, 1950. He was a life resident of Syracuse, most recently as a resident of Brighton Towers. Hugh was a graduate of Manlius-Pebble Hill and Case Western Reserve University. Earlier in his professional career, he worked with his father in their family business, S & H Wholesale, a toy distributor located in

East Syracuse. His happiest times were when he was working part time with children as a school aide.

He was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his sister, Dr. Susan Rosenthal of Ithaca, his nephew, Richard Rosenthal, and niece, Jill Kaufman.

Contributions in Hugh's memory may be made to the ECDP children's programming at the Jewish Community Center.

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Regardless of age, wealth or affiliation, all of us have the ability to help sustain a vibrant Central New York Jewish community now and in the future.

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There are many ways to leave a Jewish legacy and as many reasons to make it a priority.

When you leave a legacy, you touch the lives of generations.

At the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York,
we work with you to transform your values, your causes and your commitment
to making a difference into a lasting legacy.

Contact Michael Balanoff at
mbalanoff@jewishfederationcny.org
or (315) 445-2070

