

# Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

## of Central New York

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APRIL 2023 | NISSAN-IYAR 5783

## A Zionist Dayenu for Israel @75

### דיינו

*If we had returned to Israel after two thousand years and had not established the State of Israel Dayenu*

*If we had established the State of Israel and had not founded cities and made the desert bloom Dayenu*

*If we had founded cities and made the desert bloom and had not absorbed millions of olim Dayenu*

*If we had absorbed millions of olim and had not revived the Hebrew language Dayenu*

*If we had revived the Hebrew language and had not developed a unique Israeli culture Dayenu*

*If we had developed a unique Israeli culture and had not established a myriad of social action organizations to improve Israeli society Dayenu*

*If we had established a myriad of social action organizations to improve Israeli society but had not developed innovative technologies which benefit the entire world Dayenu*

*If we had done all of this and even more, but had not returned to Israel – Could we still say Dayenu?*

אילו חזרנו לישראל לאחר אלפיים שנות גלות ולא הקמנו את מדינת ישראל דיינו

אילו הקמנו את מדינת ישראל ולא הקמנו ערים והפרכנו את השממה דיינו

אילו הקמנו ערים והפרכנו את השממה ולא קלטנו מליוני עולים דיינו

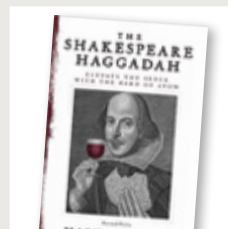
אילו קלטנו מליוני עולים ולא החיינו את השפה העברית דיינו

אילו החיינו את השפה העברית ולא פיתחנו תרבות ישראלית יהודית דיינו

אילו פיתחנו תרבות ישראלית יהודית ולא הקמנו אלפי ארגונים חברתיים לשיפור החברה הישראלית דיינו

אילו הקמנו אלפי ארגונים חברתיים לשיפור החברה הישראלית ולא פיתחנו טכנולוגיות חדשניות לטובת העולם כולו דיינו

אילו עשינו את כל אלו ועוד דברים רבים ולא חזרנו לישראל, דיינו?



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# April 2023

## From the Editor



Barbara Davis

***Yom haShoah* commemorates the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust and the heroism of the survivors and the rescuers.** The word “commemorate” means to keep alive the memory of someone or something with a special ceremony or action or object.

In our community, we perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the *Shoah* at our annual memorial program, at which we light six candles to keep alive the light of their lives. We recite prayers of hope for eternal peace and rest for those who were slaughtered only because they were Jews. And we take to heart the words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks who wrote, “We remember what happens when hate takes hold of the human heart and turns it to stone; what happens when victims cry for help and there

is no one listening; what happens when humanity fails to recognize that those who are not in our image are none the less in God’s image.”

The teens of the Rabbi Jacob Epstein School of Jewish Studies play a very important role in our *Yom haShoah* commemoration. This is a change from the past, when the older members of our community took charge of the observance. But as the years passed and the number of survivors diminished, and as even the children and grandchildren of survivors decreased in number, it became very apparent that if we were to make *Yom haShoah* a meaningful day of remembrance in the future, we had to cede ownership to the young. There were doubters, but it quickly became clear that the teens of our community who have made continued Jewish education beyond becoming b’nai mitzvah a priority were also willing and able to stand up for those who perished and to observe the commandment *Yizkor* – Remember.

These young people have taken it upon themselves to ensure that the memories of those who died live on, that their deaths were not in vain, and that there is a lesson to be learned from the horror. They help us remember the brave and heroic men and women who saved lives, often at risk of their own, and who resisted the forces of evil. We are so proud of the teens who remind us that even in the darkest of times, we can light a candle of hope.

A week and a day after we observe *Yom haShoah*, we light 75 candles to celebrate *Yom haAtzmaut* and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the State of Israel. *Yom haAtzmaut* reminds us to celebrate the victories of the past as we pave a path for tomorrow. It helps to instill gratitude for and recognition of all those who endured great hardship in the fight for freedom and a Jewish homeland. It also reminds us how much



we owe to those who support, sustain, serve and protect *Eretz Israel*.

There is nothing like a visit to Israel to cement a connection between the Jewish past, present and future. Touring Israel allows one to understand the incredible survival of this tiny country, surrounded by a sea of hostile neighbors, and to marvel that it has managed to grow and thrive. That is why 21 teens from the Epstein School flew to Tel Aviv over their February break for a ten- day firsthand exploration of the country they had been taught so much about. A full page of this issue of the *Jewish Observer* is devoted to the Epstein School’s Teen Taste of Israel Trip. This amazing adventure was funded by the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York, the Jewish Federation and several generous and committed private donors. The reason they do this is that all evidence indicates that when you provide positive Israel experiences, teens’ pride in and attachment to Israel increases, as do their connections to all things Jewish. These teens are our community’s future. We want them to love Israel as much as older generations do.

The two “*Yoms*” of April, which closely follow Passover, share with the Festival of Unleavened Bread the twin emotions of bitterness and rejoicing. Just as in Pesach we move from enslavement to redemption, in *Yom haShoah* and *Yom haAtzmaut* we move from unspeakable horror to the uplifting joy of the founding of the State of Israel. The celebration of Israel’s anniversary links us to the promise of redemption that God made to the Israelites in *Exodus*. Despite the *Shoah*, the chain remains unbroken. Golda Meir, Israel’s fourth prime minister, insisted that “Zionism and pessimism are not compatible,” adding that “to be or not to be is not a question of compromise. Either you be or you don’t be.”

We Jews belong to an extraordinary people with a tradition that has sustained us for thousands of years. As each generation writes the next chapter of Jewish history, our community is fortunate that we have young people who are lighting the way toward tomorrow.

# Jewish Observer

of Central New York

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## From the Jewish Federation of CNY President/CEO

# Michael Balanoff



The story is told that in 1954 the U.S. Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, said to David Ben Gurion, “Tell me, Mr.

Prime Minister, who do you and your state represent? Do you represent the Jews of Poland, perhaps Yemen, Romania, Morocco, Iraq, Russia or perhaps Brazil? **After 2,000 years of exile, can you honestly speak about a single nation, a single culture? Can you speak about a single heritage or perhaps a single Jewish tradition?”**

To which Ben-Gurion replied, “Look, Mr. Secretary of State, approximately 300 years ago, the Mayflower set sail from England and on it were the first settlers who settled in what would become the largest democratic superpower known as the United States of America. Now, do me a favor — go out into the streets and find ten American children and ask them the following questions: *What was the name of the captain of the Mayflower? How long did the voyage take? What did the people who were on the ship eat? What were the conditions of sailing during the voyage?* I’m sure you would agree with me that there is a good chance that you won’t get a good answer to these questions.

“Now in contrast, more than 3,000 years ago, the Jews left the land of Egypt. I would kindly request that you, Mr. Secretary, on one of your trips around the world, try to meet ten Jewish children in different countries. And ask them: *What was the name of the leader who took the Jews out of Egypt? How long did it take them before they got to the land of Israel? What did they eat during the period when they were wandering in the desert? And what happened to the sea when they encountered it?* **Once you get the answers to these questions, please carefully reconsider the first question that asked me.”**

The haggadah that we read each Passover, the story that we retell each and every year to teach our children,



directly links the past to the present, Exodus to Israel. This month, in which we celebrate *Pesach*, *Yom haShoah* and *Yom haAtzmaut*, we are particularly conscious of the common thread that binds these holidays together. On *Pesach*, we remember the trauma of slavery and celebrate our liberation from bondage to freedom. On *Yom haShoah*, we remember the trauma of the Holocaust and celebrate our liberation from horror and death to freedom. On *Yom haAtzmaut*, we remember the formation of the State of Israel and celebrate our liberation from a statelessness to freedom in a homeland.

Advocacy for the State of Israel is one of Federation’s guiding principles. At the moment, there are many who are concerned about actions the current

government is proposing or taking. Federation supports the State of Israel. We always have and we always will. The funding that Federation provides to Israel, both directly and through the Jewish Federations of North America does not go to the Israeli government. It goes to support people and their needs.

During the month of April, when we see the alignment of so many critical moments in our people’s history, it is incumbent upon us to recognize the centrality of Israel to the Jewish people, to recognize the significance of Israel as the triumph of *tikvah*, hope, over despair. This tiny country is the only place on earth where Jews are sovereign and can govern themselves. Israel, like all nations, is not perfect, but it is a progressive, democratic state in a region with few counterparts.

For thousands of years, Jews have been praying for a return to Israel. For the last 75 years, Israel has been a place of refuge, hope and freedom for Jews longing to return to their ancestral homeland and for those fleeing persecution and oppression around the world. This is cause for celebration.

I recently read a unique suggestion for Israel’s birthday, in addition to the big event that Federation has planned for April 26. In every Jewish home, school and religious institution, everyone should eat ice cream for breakfast on *Yom haAtzmaut* morning, making the day sweet and memorable. I think this is a tradition worth starting.

We don’t all live in Israel, but Israel lives in all of us.



# Yom haShoah and Yom haAtzmaut

by Rabbi Moshe Saks, Temple Adath Yeshurun

I sat in the Toronto airport in 2005, waiting for the El Al charter flight to Krakow, Poland where I was to take part in the March of the Living. I was a rabbi who had served the Jewish community for almost 25 years, who had an undergraduate degree in Holocaust studies and who had sent two sons on the March. Yet I felt uneasy about what would happen. How would I feel? Would I become as emotionally involved as others had? Or would I simply associate the places I was about to visit with all of the facts and figures that were in my head?

We arrived in Krakow on a rainy, dreary morning. In fact, it rained almost the entire time we were in Poland, which seemed appropriate for the circumstances of the Jewish experience in Poland. We went to visit the many famous synagogues in the city, and right away, I was struck by the powerful image of the effect of the Holocaust. Polish Jewry was decimated – just about all of the Jewish institutions were now essentially museums. It was easy to see the beauty and grandeur of the Jewish community of the past and its almost lifeless form now.

We then headed to Auschwitz. After all that I had learned about this hellish place, after what I had heard from my congregants who had survived their internment there, the experience of being physically present in the camp, walking through the buildings, seeing the mounds of shoes, suitcases, hair, even tallitot, lighting yahrzeit candles in the crematorium and davening *Mincha* just outside, left such a deep impression upon me that even now I can picture in my mind how everything looked. This was a different experience, a different state of being from the book knowledge I

had gathered over the years. It hit me right “in the kishkes,” as we say. There was no thought of intellectualizing this, of treating this experience in any other way than it really was – a close encounter with the Angel of Death.

As powerful as that was, the next day proved to be even more staggering. The actual March of the Living, which involved a record 20,000 people, mostly Jews, was something that I will never again experience. To be with so many of my people, speaking so many different languages – Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Spanish, Russian – and to march in solidarity with them all gave me a sense of Jewish community that was and will always be unique. Jews of all ages, of all types, marched through the gates of Birkenau for hours.

Our group was just ahead of a group of survivors, led by Elie Wiesel. Wiesel looked tired and haggard. I could see the sadness in his eyes at revisiting a place that he called “a place like no other in the universe.” We could see the immense size of the camp. And yet, with all of the tragedy that cried out to us, I felt a sense of pride that so many of our brothers and sisters were here, in this place, together, to remember and to remind the world of what happened there.

Our next day’s stop was the Majdanek concentration and extermination camp. My sons had warned me about this place. They said that the visual imagery was even more powerful than at Auschwitz. They were right. The huge pile of ashes in the middle of the camp, set up as a memorial by the Poles, moved us all to tears. As a rabbi, I deal with words. They are the tools of my profession. Yet no words can describe what we saw there. You must actually see it to understand the depths of emotion that we felt at that moment.

As we made our way to Warsaw for Shabbat, we felt drained, as if the life-force, our *neschama*, had been sapped



from us. If I ever needed Shabbat to restore my soul, it was then. Shabbat was everything I had hoped it would be. Friday night, I davened at the one shul still operating from before the Shoah. What a sight! Instead of the usual 20-30 participants, the shul was packed to the rafters with 500 Marchers, mostly young people. With tunes of Sholomo Carlebach as the background for the Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv, we not only sang, we danced. I felt as if we were singing so loudly that our voices were going up to heaven, to console the souls of all those who had perished in the Shoah, and to console God Himself. This scene was repeated on Shabbat morning.

I would be remiss if I did not try to speak about this trip from a perspective that goes beyond my sharing the deep emotional impact that the March of the Living had upon me. I have always held the belief that one cannot be fully Jewish, in a spiritual sense, unless you have been to our Jewish homeland, the State of Israel. It is in Israel that one senses the length and breadth of Jewish history as well as the notion of being God’s Chosen People. However, after this trip to Poland, I have come to believe that the Israel experience is not enough. Let me explain.

In the Ten Commandments, we find that the rule for observing Shabbat actually contains two verbs, one in Exodus, and one in Deuteronomy. One version says “*shamor*” – “guard” (or observe) the Shabbat, and the other text says “*zachor*” – “remember” the Shabbat. Why do we need both, ask the rabbis. Wouldn’t either one suffice? And of course, they answer that each verb represents a unique and ultimately complimentary aspect of Shabbat. Shabbat is a day of rest, and the “*zachor*” (remember) verb tells us to remember the purpose of Shabbat – to be with our families, to eat meals together, to rest and enjoy the beauty of the day. But that can only be done if we “*shamor*” –

observe the Shabbat, by following all of the prohibitions (don’t write, shop, travel, etc.) that enable us to shut out all of the worldly distractions that would interfere with remembering the Shabbat in all of its beauty.

Using this model, I came to the conclusion that Israel is not enough. Israel is the positive, the wonderful affirmation of the potential of the Jewish people and the vibrant culture and life that Israel provides, not only for itself but for all of world Jewry. And yet, it’s not enough. After what I saw, I now believe that we still need the negative – the *shamor*. I never REALLY appreciated Israel until I arrived there from Poland. When I saw what our people had to endure, how they suffered, I realized that both aspects of Jewish life, the negative (the suffering of our people) and the positive (the revitalization of the Holy Land of Israel) are necessary.

I want to tell you, as we approach *Yom haShoah* and *Yom haAtzmaut*, that we are a unique, holy, special people, chosen by God to be a light unto the nations **because** we are a people that embodies both aspects of life, the positive and the negative, in a unique way that offers hope to the world. We have suffered as much or even more than any other people on this planet, and yet, we constantly speak of the coming redemption of the world in Messianic terms. But it is more than speaking, it is more than hoping for the coming of the Messiah. We know we have to work very hard to fix the world – we call it “*Tikkun Olam*” – for it to be redeemed. But this can only happen with the perspective of where we’ve come from – the depths of hell known as the Holocaust, to where we need to go – our ongoing effort, as Jews, to fix society for all of the human family.

If you believe this, if you can identify with what I’ve just said, that we are a special, unique, holy, chosen people, then it is only natural that you will do everything in your power to be as Jewish as you can, to make sure your children and grandchildren are Jewish, to live by Jewish values, to make sure that your Judaism colors EVERYTHING that touches your life. *Shamor V’Zachor*. Let us remember what was done to us; let us guard our heritage with great care.

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# Zionist Thoughts for Discussion at the Seder

As we approach the celebration of Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> year, here are some quotations that might be used for conversations at our sedarim this year.

“We shall live at last as free people on our own soil and die peacefully in our own homes. The world will be liberated by our freedom, enriched by our wealth, magnified by our greatness. And whatever we attempt there to accomplish for our own welfare, will react powerfully and beneficially for the good of humanity.”

- Theodore Herzl, 1896

“It is necessary that we take up the yoke of war and show a greater will to win than those others. We shall do it, precisely because for us war is not a goal in itself, and we see war as a terrible accursed misfortune, and resort to war only from lack of choice—war and peace are nothing more than means to something else—that “something” will give us the advantage that our enemies do not have and that is denied to the followers of violence: a vision of life, a vision of national rebirth, of independence, equality and peace—for the Jewish nation and for all peoples of the world.”

- David Ben Gurion, 1948

“Israel has restored to Jews not merely their personal dignity and status as human beings, but what is vastly more important, their right to choose as individuals how they shall live—the basic freedom of choice, the right to live or perish, go to the good or the bad in one's own way, without which life is a form of slavery, as it has been, indeed, for the Jewish community for almost two thousand years.”

- Sir Isaiah Berlin, 1953

“Our purposes since the establishment of our state have remained unaltered: to rebuild a poor, barren land, to enable the return of an ancient people to its source, to regain our independence and national self-expression, to live in peace with all peoples near and far, and to take our place in the community of free nations.”

- Golda Meir, 1958



“For nineteen hundred years, as the role of Jewish suffering unfolded, the Jewish calendar expanded with days of sadness. In Israel's War of Independence an aroused Jewry beat back the invaders by the narrowest of margins. The victory upheld the state, and the celebration of that redemption added Yom Ha'Atzmaut—a happy day—to the calendar. Since Independence Day fell during the sefirah period, the modern Exodus reclaimed one day from the ranks of the days of sorrow and added it to the days of joy. Step by step, victory by victory, the Jewish people are reversing the tide of Jewish history from mourning to celebration, from death to life.”

- Rabbi Yitz Greenberg, 1988

“Our feelings are mixed. We swore never to return to the Europe of the Holocaust; yet we refuse to lose that Jewish sense of identifying with victims. We, perhaps, are the ultimate contrast to the ghetto Jew, who witnessed the slaughter, felt utterly helpless, heard the cries, yet could only rebel at heart while dreaming about gaining the strength to react, to strike back, to fight. We actually do react, strike back, fight, for we have no choice—while dreaming of being able to stop one day and live in peace.”

- Muki Tsur, 1968

“The Israel of continuity must become Jewry's classroom, the Diaspora's ongoing seminar in Jewish identity. Once, Israel saved Jews. In the future, it will save Judaism. The immediate question is less whether Jews are at home in London or Jerusalem than whether they are at home in their Jewishness.”

- Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



# Holocaust Library Established at JCC

“Memory without action does not honor those who perished,” says Dr. Alan Goldberg, professor emeritus of Syracuse University’s School of Education and director of the Holocaust and Genocide Initiative and the Spector/Warren Fellowship for Future Educators. “We owe them a commitment to stand up against intolerance and injustice everywhere, always cherishing the dignity of every human being.”

This is the impetus behind the library dedicated to Holocaust history and literature that Goldberg is establishing at the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center with support from the Jerome and Phyllis Charney Foundation and the Joseph Elman Family Endowment Fund for Holocaust Studies. The collection will be housed in the Jerome and Phyllis Charney Holocaust Information Resource Center. The Charney and Kruth family is delighted that the room will be used for this purpose. “We are deeply grateful to Alan for all that he has done to make the Holocaust Library a reality,” Sarah Charney said. “We must pass the history of the Holocaust on to our children, our grandchildren and our community in order to keep our promise of ‘Never Again!’”

The collection is mainly history, biography and essays, but there is also some fiction and poetry. Marci Erlebacher, JCC executive director, said, “We are beyond thrilled and honored that Alan has chosen the JCC to house this incredible library of books. We hope that this can be a resource to many across the Central New York community.”

Alan’s collection of several hundred volumes includes many recently published books not available in the Onondaga County Public Library. The collection is

now being catalogued by a library science graduate student, who is creating an on-line catalog so that the information will be available to the community and schools. The library will accept appropriate book donations in good condition which do not duplicate existing holdings.

Alan chairs the Federation’s *Yom HaShoah* Commemoration committee and annually organizes a solemn and meaningful program. His work reaches out into the general community as well as the Jewish community as he spreads the universal messages of the *Shoah* to all, regardless of ethnicity or faith. “It’s become a passion,” he admits, enabling him to combine his skills and experience as a teacher, scholar, counselor, administrator and Jewish leader in an area with which he never expected to engage. He believes that while we have come a long way toward preventing history from repeating, there is still much work to be done to increase tolerance, respect and understanding. He quotes Elie Wiesel, who said, “I believe in the necessity to restore Jewish pride even in relation to the Holocaust. I do not like to think of the Jew as suffering. I prefer thinking of him as someone who can defeat suffering - his own and others.” The new library is a big step in that direction.

# “Statistics Are Human Beings With The Tears Dried Off”

by Dave Reckess

Whenever I hear “Lay Down Sally” by Eric Clapton, I think of my Bubi Sarah.

I picture her dancing to that song at my wedding, 85-year-old hips swishing side to side, sequined dress glimmering in the light. She grabs hold of me, or my bride, or whichever of our friends she happens to have coaxed onto the dance floor, and swings us around to the beat, blissful smile across her face as she soaks in the joy and love of the moment. My grandmother loved a stiff drink, a good party, and seeing her family thrive. On that night, she had all three.

I’ve heard it said that “statistics are human beings with the tears dried off.” On *Yom HaShoah*, we recall the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust and the bravery and heroism of those who resisted in so many ways. Through commemoration and education, we aim to pass the responsibility to “Never Forget” to the next generations. But six million is an incomprehensible statistic; to transmit the lessons and pledge of “Never Again,” we must help younger audiences see the human beings behind the numbers.

Through my work with 3GNY, I visit schools to tell students about Bubi Sarah. She was 16 when World War II broke out, her teenage years cut short by Nazi soldiers marching through her hometown of Lublin, Poland. I share stories of her escape from the Majdanek concentration camp. Of hiding in a closet-sized room for over three years. Of her cousins, her brothers, her boyfriend and so many others who did not survive.

But I always make sure to tell them how she would sneak out at night in the Lublin Ghetto, risking her life and that of her parents, to meet up with friends for secret parties. At the end of my presentations, I want students to remember that Bubi Sarah loved to dance.

Dave Reckess is Executive Director of 3GNY – Descendants of Holocaust Survivors. 3GNY trains and sends grandchildren of Holocaust survivors to share their family stories with school and community groups. Visit [www.3gny.org](http://www.3gny.org) to schedule a presentation for your school or group.



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## » Book Review

# My Second-Favorite Country: How American Jewish Children Think About Israel

## by Sivan Zakai

Reviewed by Jessie Kerr-Whitt

Who should read this book? Teachers, parents, grandparents and all adults who have the privilege of guiding the Jewish children they love in learning about Israel.

My initial reaction when asked if I'd like to review this book was a positive one. The title, *My Second-Favorite Country*, made me smile as I thought about the amazing and wonderful Syracuse Hebrew Day School kindergartners I'd taught for decades. Learning about Israel was an important component of our curriculum, and it was easy to integrate it into math, science and literature lessons. Of course, we learned about both Jewish and American holidays and history, as well as Hebrew letters, words, songs and prayers. I also taught Jewish history in Grades 1-6 over the years, and, while I'm quite proud of the curriculum I developed for the kindergarten, I was not so confident about teaching those upper grades. Despite the strong and engaging curricula provided by experienced and generous mentors, I always felt something was being left out.

Sivan Zakai's book shares the results of the first longitudinal study of how American Jewish children, from kindergarten through fifth grade, grow in their thoughts and feelings about Israel. The carefully crafted study followed 35 children through those grades, focusing on children's conceptions of home and homeland, children's narrations of Israel's history, children's understanding of the Israel-Arab/Palestinian conflict, and children's righteous anger about deficits in their studies of civics and Israel's politics.

After a detailed introduction of participant demographic information and the researchers' commitment to "illuminate children's 'fancy abstractions' and to trace how children's ideas and feelings change and develop over time," Zakai elucidates the development of children's perspectives in their evolving understanding of their personal connection and affiliation with the United States and Israel. Over the years, all the children maintain American identity as well as their connection to Israel and feel strongly that both are indeed 'their' countries.

Who made Israel, when and why? The second chapter in Zakai's book follows the



changing responses to this question. The study found that the historical narratives told by students in all grades began with a theological foundation and slowly expanded over the years to include Biblical, Jewish heritage and Zionist interpretations. One observation/discussion I found intriguing was that of older students modifying their narratives for their listeners, relating Biblical and rabbinic tales to young children, while focusing on the modern Zionist story for adults.

Zakai's next chapters talk about how children understand the Israel-Arab/Palestinian conflict and their strong commitment to knowing more, and this is where my feelings that something is missing were clarified. Zakai expounds on the children's frustration with the omissions in their instruction, and he points out that older students (as young as second grade) turn to the internet for those details. Often what they discover in these online searches upsets and even traumatizes them. He elucidates how they need adult guides who are willing and able to help them learn about and process civic and political questions, including contested ones. His final chapter recommends ways teachers and parents can be more developmentally sensitive in the investigation of the civic and political questions of American Jewish children.

What a wonderful resource this book is for everyone, but particularly for those of us who teach about Israel. It answers my frustrations and questions about curriculum, and it inspires a better way of teaching, of taking children's ideas seriously and helping to empower them in a world full of disagreements.

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# A Haggadah for Every One

"It is the fact that we have a Haggadah, and a Seder, that is responsible for Jewish identity being handed on from generation to generation," noted Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former chief rabbi of Britain, "Without that ritual, we wouldn't do it."

Haggadot take many forms. The first haggadah is thought to have been created in 170 CE. (For a full history of the development of the haggadah, see the informative article "A Brief History of the Haggadah" by Martin Bodek at [jewishbookcouncil.org](http://jewishbookcouncil.org).) Since then, the Haggadah, which means "telling," has evolved to reflect the religious, artistic, political, linguistic and culinary preferences of a broad swath of the Jewish community.

While there are those who grew up with and still cling to the wonderful free Maxwell House haggadot which appear in the Passover aisles of our local supermarkets, of which 55 million have been printed since 1932, there are others who seek a more personally relevant retelling of the Pesach story. Thus we find a current plethora of haggadot.



**The Rebirth of Israel Passover Haggadah**, issued in a bilingual edition in 2020, is a wonderful haggadah to use as we celebrate Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a state this year. This striking and unique haggadah draws an analogy between the idea of freedom and exodus inherent in the Passover festival and the national liberation and rebirth of the Jewish people in the modern era. The traditional text is accompanied by illustrations and historical overviews that illuminate watershed events along the modern history of the Land of Israel, from the first aliyah immigration and the inception of the modern Zionist movement through the establishment of the State of Israel.

**The Hitler Haggadah** – This unique haggadah, subtitled "A Moroccan Jew's Wartime Retelling of the Passover Story," was first printed in 1947. It serves as a witness to the experience inside a war which had not yet been won, the devastation of which could not yet even be fully comprehended, from the often-neglected perspective of North African Jewry.



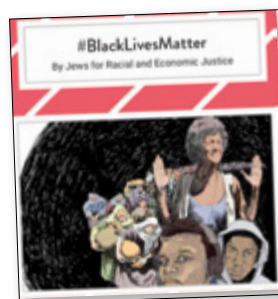
**The Vegetarian Haggadah** – This haggadah focuses on the issue of food justice. According to the Brooklyn Food Coalition, there are three pillars of food justice: Healthy Food for All People, Sustainable Food Systems and Justice for Food Workers. Certain sections of the haggadah connect the traditional symbols of the seder with one or more of these food justice pillars.



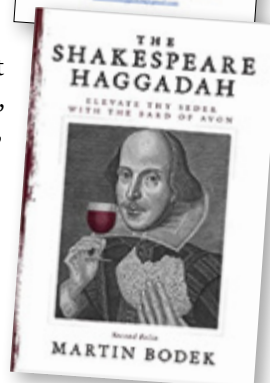
**The (unofficial) Hogwarts Haggadah** – What could a School of Witchcraft and Wizardry possibly have in common with the most published book in Jewish history and the most celebrated holiday of the Jewish calendar? As it turns out, from the concepts of slavery and freedom, to the focus on education, to the number four, Harry Potter and Passover share almost everything.



**The Biden-Harris Haggadah** and **The Trump Haggadah** – Political parodies certain to liven up the second seder. In the same vein as Dave Barry's haggadah *For This We Left Egypt?*




New to the pantheon of haggadot are the **Black Lives Matter Haggadah**, the **Israeli Black Panthers Haggadah** and the **Hamilton Haggadah**. 2023 saw the publication of **The Shakespeare Haggadah** which invites you to "Elevate Thy Seder with the Bard of Avon (Second Folio)." Haggadot.com offers a **Schitt's Creek Haggadah**, a **Golden Girls Haggadah** and a **MoHoLo Reverse Seder Haggadah**. It also provides a supplement to honor the people of Ukraine at your seder.



So whether you use haggadot handed down for generations, download them from the web, create and print your own, order them from Amazon or pick them up at Wegman's, there is sure to be a way you can make the retelling of the Exodus personally relevant and meaningful for all participants at your Feast of Unleavened Bread.

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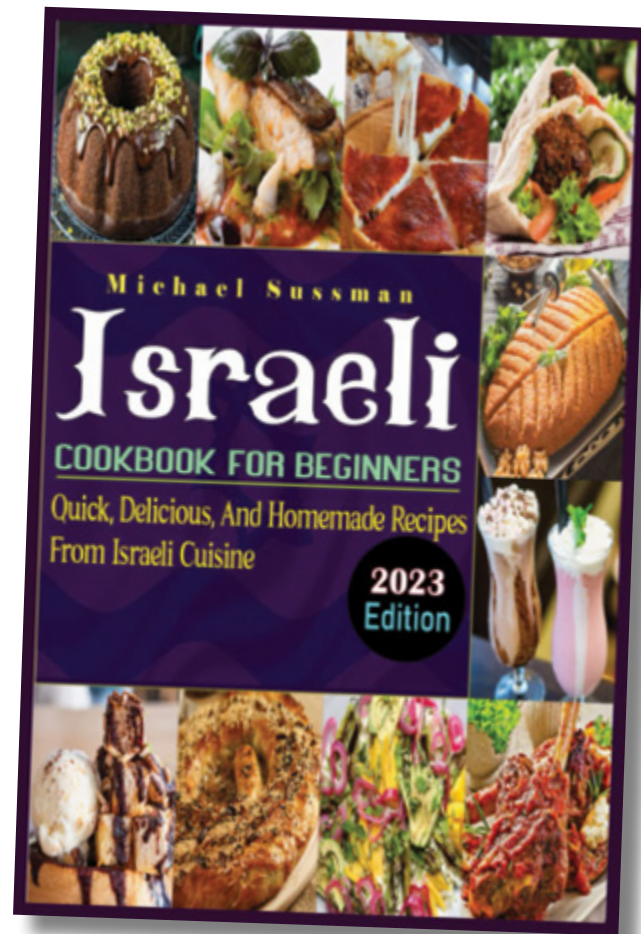
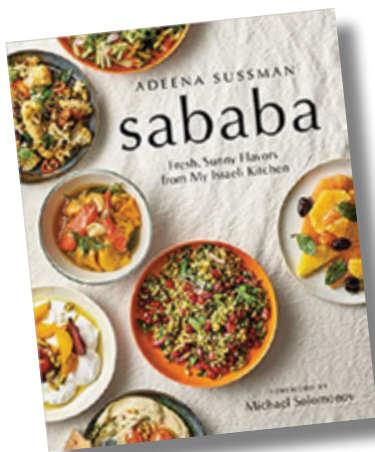
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# Israeli Cookbooks

Israeli cuisine includes both local dishes and dishes brought to Israel by Jews from the Diaspora. Of late, an Israeli Jewish fusion cuisine has developed. Fortunately for those of us who live in the United States, there are several cookbooks in English that can reveal to us the secrets of the sophisticated food culture of Israel. Several of the more recent ones are Einat Admony and Janna Gur's *Shuk*, Adeena Sussman's *Sababa*, Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook's *Israeli Soul* and *The Ultimate Israeli Cookbook* by Slavka Bodic.

There was only cookbook published so far in 2023, but it looks like a good one. The *Israeli Cookbook For Beginners: Quick, Delicious, And Homemade Recipes From Israeli Cuisine* by Michael Sussman features recipes for shakshuka, sabich, bourekas, matbucha, shawarma and many other dishes familiar to those who have visited or lived in Israel.



OLAM SHELANU

# Climate Change and Social Justice



by Alise Gemmell

Earth Day 2023 is April 22. Most people think of Earth Day and climate change as environmental issues. But climate change is also a human rights issue. There are plenty of examples of minority communities being the most severely impacted by polluted air and water, increasing temperatures as well as the lack of healthful trees and green spaces. Climate-related natural disasters are also more likely to have a greater impact on the low-income residents of major cities. Places like Flint, Michigan and the severe water pollution the residents were exposed to are examples of this. The city chose to use the polluted Flint River as a water source for its residents instead of digging a new pipeline to supply water from the much cleaner Lake Huron. Flint houses a large population of people of color and the impacts of this pollution are still evident.

Additionally, lower-income neighborhoods housing minority communities have been found to be significantly warmer compared to higher-income neighborhoods in major cities. According to the Climate School at Columbia University, many low-income neighborhoods within major cities have been found to range from 5 to 12 degrees hotter than wealthier neighborhoods in the same city. This is due in part to the lack of parks and trees that absorb and dissipate heat and the

increase in asphalt and buildings that retain heat. Studies have also shown that poorer communities often have more cases of asthma and other chronic conditions due to lack of appropriate health care access. When this is coupled with air pollution, the inhabitants are increasingly more vulnerable.

These impacts of climate change have a very direct and harmful impact on the community's inhabitants. An individual with poor health living one mile from the bus stop has to walk there and back



regularly. The increased temperatures make the possibility of heat stroke more likely, and the lack of trees on their street provide no protection. Additionally, breathing is a challenge due to the polluted air. A person with a vehicle in a wealthier neighborhood does not experience the same impact of climate change.

What can we do about this? One of the most important things when considering climate change as a social justice issue is understanding the needs of low-income communities or minority communities. The basic needs of the inhabitants are top priority. The communities cannot address climate change until they have appropriate and

affordable housing, clean water and adequate amounts of healthy food. How we approach these communities to be of assistance is also important. Concerned groups cannot go into these communities and assume we know the problem. Instead, others interested in offering help to these communities can listen to the residents' concerns, collaborate on solutions and educate in order to empower the individuals that live and work in these communities. Additionally, increasing diversity in the conversation on climate change will only benefit all involved.

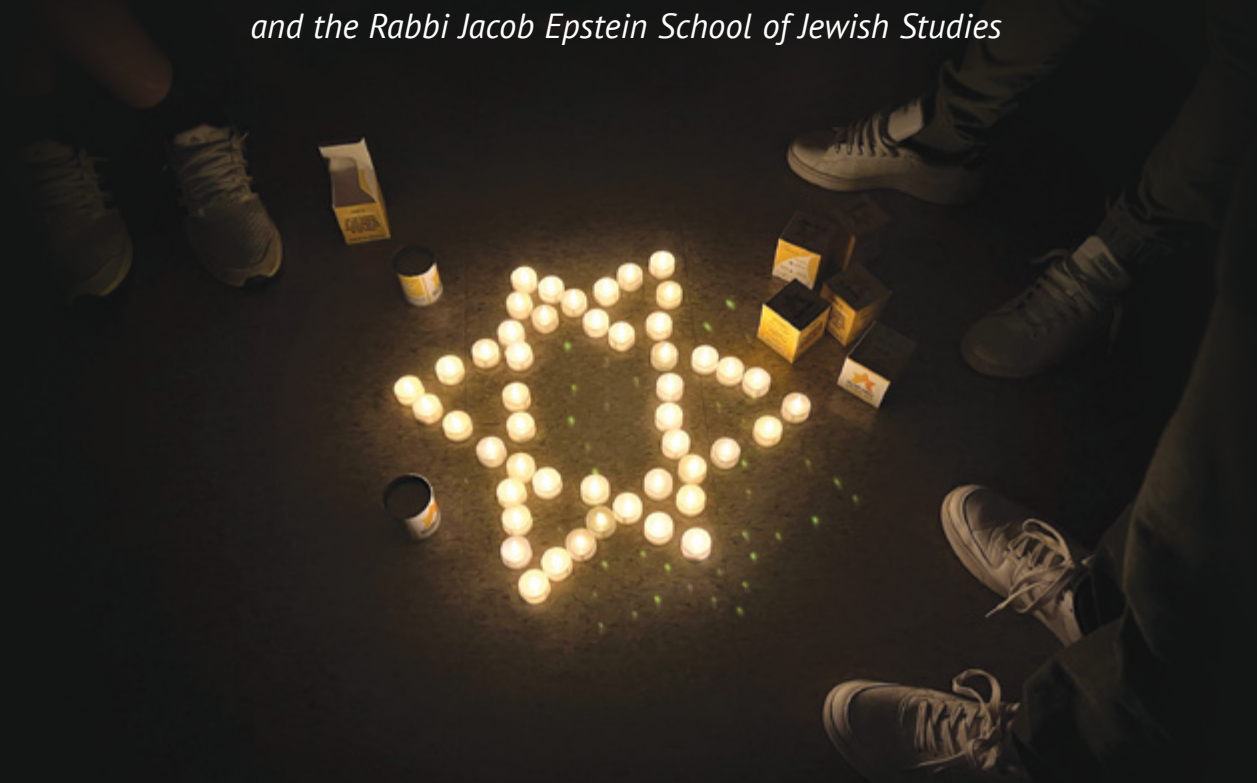
This Earth Day, promote diversity and also educate yourself about the needs of your neighbor. Until basic needs are met, we cannot tackle climate change as a community. To help in assisting basic needs, you can participate in clean-up days and also donate to your local food pantries or diaper banks. Education can empower people to take action and help fight the impacts of climate change in their own communities.



*YOM HASHOAH 5783*  
**COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST  
COMMEMORATION**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 7:00 pm hybrid**

*Presented by the Jewish Federation of Central New York, the Syracuse Rabbinical Council,  
and the Rabbi Jacob Epstein School of Jewish Studies*



**WELCOME** Michael Balanoff, Federation President/CEO

**ANI MAAMIN** Cantor Esa Jaffe, Temple Adath Yeshurun

**CANDLE LIGHTING** Students from the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies

**READING OF NAMES** Rabbi Shore, Rabbi Kunin, Rabbi Jezer, Rabbi Katz, Rabbi Saks,  
Rabbi Bair, Rabbi Beigel and Epstein School Students

**“Salvaged Pages: Young Writers’ Diaries of the Holocaust”**

Alexandra Zapruder, introduced by Dr. Alan Goldberg

**EL MALEI RACHAMIM** Cantor Kari Eglash, Temple Concord

**CONCLUSION** Neil Rosenbaum, Federation Board Chair

**To join the program via Zoom,  
click on the link that will be sent out on Community Happenings.**



# Yom Hashoah 5783 Commemoration to be Held on April 18

The Federation's annual *Yom haShoah* commemoration will take place at 7 pm at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas and will also be accessible via Zoom. A program notice and the link will be sent to the community via Constant Contact.

In addition to the reading the names of those who perished in the Shoah and are relatives of members of our community, the program will feature students from the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies who will read selections from *Salvaged Papers: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*. The book's author, Alexandra Zapruder, will be the program's featured speaker.



Zapruder began her career as a member of the founding staff

of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Smith College, she served on the curatorial team for the museum's exhibition for young visitors. She earned her Ed.M. in Education at Harvard University.

Alexandra Zapruder's book, *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, was published by Yale University Press and won the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category. She wrote and co-produced *I'm Still Here*, a documentary film for young audiences based on the book, which aired on MTV and was nominated for two Emmy awards. She published her second book, *Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film*, which tells the story of her grandfather's home movie of President Kennedy's assassination. She curated a permanent

exhibition entitled *And Still I Write: Young Diarists on War and Genocide* at the Holocaust Museum Houston. In 2020, she launched a project called "Dispatches from Quarantine" which provided a platform for young people to document their real-time experiences of life during the COVID-19 Pandemic and published an online gallery to showcase these teenagers' contributions in prose, poetry, photography, art and song.

The program will be hybrid, broadcast from Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, with participation by students of the Rabbi Jacob Epstein School of Jewish Studies. **The full program appears on the previous page 11 of the Jewish Observer.**

## Reading the Names of Those Lost in The Holocaust

The memory of the Holocaust grows more distant for each new generation. Only by remembering can the repetition of history be prevented. At our community Yom haShoah commemoration on April 26, the names of those who were lost during the *Shoah*, submitted by their families and friends in Central New York, will be read by our community's rabbis and students from the Epstein School.

**If anyone in the Central New York Jewish community wants the names of family members who were lost during the Holocaust recorded in the Federation's Book of Remembrance and read each year, please send them to [bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org](mailto:bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org).**



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## The Yellow Candle Project

The Yellow Candle Project is designed to help young people remember Jewish Holocaust victims on *Yom haShoah* and broaden their understanding of the Holocaust in the safe space of their homes.

Central New York children and teens enrolled in the Day School, Community Hebrew School and Epstein School will be able to join with others around the world this year in participating in the Yellow Candle Project, a project of Maccabi GB. Federation will distribute yellow remembrance candles to the students and teachers in each of the schools it sponsors.

Each Yellow Candle comes with a card with the name, age, date and place of death of someone who perished in the Holocaust. Participants are invited to light their candles on the eve of *Yom haShoah* on April 25<sup>th</sup> and to post an image of their lit candle at #YellowCandle, thereby creating a world-wide collective communal memorial. **If they prefer, they may light their candles during the Central New York virtual community commemoration on April 18th at 7 pm and post their pictures at #jewishfederationcny.**

There will be a limited number of candles available for purchase locally. The candles cost \$5 apiece and pickup will be at the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center, 5655 Thompson Road, on Sunday, April 16 from 10-12 am. **To reserve and purchase a candle, please email [yellowcandleproject@jewishfederationcny.org](mailto:yellowcandleproject@jewishfederationcny.org).**





This column featuring businesses owned by members of our community is generously sponsored by RAV Properties.

## Lee Kalin & Associates to become Osher Tax & Wealth

April is tax season, and it's a busy time of the year for Lee Kalin & Associates, located at 7207 East Genesee Street in Fayetteville, soon to be rebranded as Osher Tax & Wealth. The company has been doing retirement planning and tax preparation since 1985.

Lee Kalin & Associates specializes in helping clients prepare for a comfortable retirement, often in an alternate location from where they spent their career. They coach individuals and their families preparing for retirement on how to get the most from their portfolio and benefits and minimize tax. They have coached hundreds of clients, particularly educators in New York State, and have deep expertise in taxes and retirement planning, the New York State teachers retirement system and how to relocate to another state after you retire. For those within five years of retirement, they offer a free downloadable report on their website, [Kalinfinancial.com](http://Kalinfinancial.com), and are continually adding new content.

**Kalin recommends that those approaching retirement consider five questions:**

- Do I have enough to retire?
- How much can I get from my pension?
- Is my portfolio set up the right way for retirement?
- What's the best way to take income from different accounts?
- How do I reduce the taxes on that income?

"Successful transitions require a plan, and retirement is a big transition. We factor in the variables to help plan for how much it will take to have an income for life," says Lee Kalin, the company's founder. The "Kalin Process" is tailored to the needs of clients preparing to transition into retirement. "From checking to see whether you have time you can 'buy back' from the state to boost your retirement benefits to getting on the phone with your employer to confirm you are getting all you deserve, we will make sure nothing is overlooked in finding your retirement resources.



From there, we will create retirement income scenarios to help you develop the plan that is right for you," he explains. "Saving for retirement takes one kind of portfolio; being retired takes a different kind. We tailor your portfolio to your stage of life," notes company president Alicia Spevak.

Lee got his start advising clients by preparing tax returns in 1977 and offering financial planning as early as 1985. He has degrees from Syracuse University in accounting and a Master of Hospital Administration degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He has been getting a head start on following his own advice, pursuing his love of travel with his wife. His favorite destination so far is New Zealand. Alicia (Lee's daughter) leads the financial planning activities for the firm. She has over 20 years' experience with Lee Kalin & Associates. During that time she has gained expertise in operations, investment management, tax preparation and financial planning. That comprehensive background informs how she advises clients, finds opportunities and solves problems. She took over as president in 2017. She is now helping the business enter into its next phase and transition to Osher Tax & Wealth. Alicia and her husband are pursuing the goal of visiting every city in America with a population over one million.

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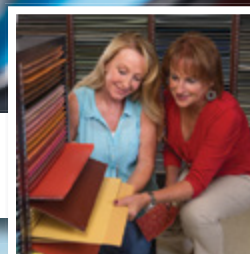
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# Teen Taste of Israel 2023

by Aaron Spitzer

**“IT WAS AMAZING !!!!”** That is how one of the students of the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein High School of Jewish Studies’ fourth Teen Taste of Israel trip described their ten-day adventure. “I learned so much about myself, about Israel and about Judaism,” said junior Judah Spitzer, reflecting the views of his companions on the trip, which was sponsored and funded by the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York. **“I have a much stronger connection to Jewish culture and to Israel now. I can’t wait to go back!”**

On Thursday, February 16 at 5:30 am, 21 students in grades 10-12 and four adult chaperones boarded a bus to Newark International Airport. The Israel trip had been postponed twice due to COVID-19, which made it that much more special for some of the students. Senior Steph Lynne remarked that “after the trip was delayed for so long, going to Israel and experiencing the culture firsthand was an incredible experience I will never forget.” Her thoughts were echoed by junior Abe Salomon, who said, “The fact that the trip got canceled twice before it succeeded made it that much more meaningful.”

Students began their journey with three days, including Shabbat, in Jerusalem. They experienced the busyness of *Machane Yehudah* on early Friday afternoon, and the majesty of the choir at the Great Synagogue, along with the intimacy of praying with Beni Summers, a charismatic rabbinical student at Pardes. They walked the silent streets of Jerusalem on Shabbat and explored the Israel Museum where the Dead Sea Scrolls are kept. They toured the City of David, had free time in the Old City, prayed at the *Kotel* and crouched through the tunnels beneath it. On their last day in Jerusalem, the students experienced Yad Vashem and Mount Herzl. The students were grateful that Rabbi Evan Shore, who had been their teacher at Epstein, was able to meet them at Yad Vashem for the tour.

After Jerusalem, students explored the desert, enjoying traditional Bedouin hospitality and riding camels — a highlight of the trip for a number of students. They then climbed Masada via the Roman Ramp. Before descending Masada via the steeper snake trail, students explored the ruins of the Northern and Southern Palaces. Then it was time to visit the Dead Sea, where everyone quickly learned if they had hidden scrapes or cuts. Next they traveled to Sde Boker, to Ben Gurion’s tomb, where they watched baby ibex play-fighting as the sun set.

Learning about the realities of living on the border of the Gaza Strip at the Salad

Trail, students heard about the dangers, as well as the community, and picked citrus fruit, cucumbers, hot peppers, tomatoes and strawberries, enjoying the sweetness and heat of freshly picked produce. Some students purchased souvenir artwork made from recovered Gazan rockets that had landed nearby. They then traveled to the border town of Sderot, where they learned about animal-assisted trauma therapy and got to play with snakes, birds and bunnies.

The last stop of the tour was Tel Aviv, where students experienced all that modern Israel has to offer. They learned about the founding of the State on the Independence Tour, explored the city’s artistic history through a graffiti tour and

visited the Peres Center for Peace and Innovation. After celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat at a Masorti congregation in Neve Tzedek, they enjoyed a walking tour of Old Jaffa and spent time at the Mediterranean Sea.

“The students’ responses to the trip reflected its importance to them.” Senior Mae Cohen said, “It was a very special trip. It was so meaningful being in a beautiful and cultural place with some of my closest friends.” This sentiment was echoed by junior Guy Juran, whose family lived in Israel in recent years. “Going back to

Israel and experiencing the culture with a group of other Jewish teens was one of the greatest experiences of my life. It gave me the opportunity to see Israel through the eyes of kids that were experiencing the culture for the first time.” Senior Eli Goldstein remarked, “It was a lot of fun to be able to not only have an amazing Jewish experience but also to restart old friendships and make new ones at the same time.” “The trip to Israel was life-changing for me,” said senior Sasha Dailey. “It gave me the opportunity to experience a unique culture and to further explore my Jewish identity and how to continue my life as a Jewish adult. Every experience was very distinct, and it helped me see how beautiful the country is and how Israel is where I can truly call home no matter where I am.”







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# The Longest Hatred – Focus On Contemporary Antisemitism

by Joanne Villegas

The final session of *The Longest Hatred – Focus On Contemporary Antisemitism*, a four-part series facilitated by Lois Weiner, a long-time member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas will take place on Sunday, April 30. The series has focused on the widespread Judeophobia that has slipped into so many facets of our society, from college campuses to vandalism of Jewish entities, to violent street attacks, to murder in synagogues and much more. Each discussion session included advanced reading materials and a video to prompt a free-flowing conversation in which everyone could participate.

“The opportunity to learn about the current status of antisemitism occurred during COVID, when I spent a great deal of time listening to webinars and reading about the subject,” says Weiner. “It became apparent that this phenomenon was spreading wildly and I wanted to

share my thoughts. There didn’t seem to be any arena in which to do this, so under the auspices of Adult Learning in my synagogue, I began a discussion series that has gone quite well.”

Before each meeting, articles are emailed to attendees, as well as video links from prior sessions. The series has drawn a diverse group of knowledgeable participants, including some from out-of-state. “At our first meeting, we watched the video, *Why Antisemitism Makes ‘Sense’: Reflections on the Psychology of the Antisemite*, by Rabbi David Wolpe, which summarized the root causes of antisemitism. At our next session, we saw the powerful, destructive forces that face many of our college students. Indeed, the college campus has become a fertile base for the rapid spread of this plague,” Lois Weiner adds.

Attendees have been engaged, and some excellent suggestions for further action have already been forthcoming. Weiner continues, “My hope is that, when the

sessions end, interested attendees will form a group to consider what might be done to deal more effectively with antisemitism in Central New York. For example, we need to keep track of antisemitic incidents. Also, students need to get training in how to respond to antisemitic behavior that occurs from elementary school to high school to college. And adults want to learn how to respond to antisemitism in the workplace.”

The final session of *The Longest Hatred – Focus On Contemporary Antisemitism* will meet on Sunday, April 30 onsite at CBS-CS, as well as via Zoom and will cover antisemitism in many areas of our society, including the media, big tech companies, social media, government and academia and also the Human Rights Council at the United Nations. New attendees are welcome. For more information or to sign up for *The Longest Hatred – Focus On Contemporary Antisemitism* contact the CBS-CS office via phone at 315-446-9570 or by email at [admin@cbscs.org](mailto:admin@cbscs.org).

## Author Reissa to Discuss Holocaust Memoir at Temple Concord

by Chana Meir

On April 17 at 7 pm Eleanor Reissa will discuss her book, *The Letters Project: A Daughter’s Journey*, as part of Temple Concord’s Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series.

*The Letters Project* began in 1986 upon the death of Reissa’s mother. The author was stunned to discover a stash of 56 letters, written in German, from her father to her mother. Reissa has described the correspondence as a “proverbial Pandora’s box” that launched her on a quest spanning continents and decades. The journey brought her not only to a deeper understanding of the father she had known only as an ailing, broken man, but also to a number of personal painful revelations.

“*The Letters Project* is fast-paced and mysterious and reads like a great detective story,” according to *The Rogov Report*, a weekly email digest linking to news, features, and the arts. “Reissa is a master storyteller.”

Reissa is a Tony-nominated director, Broadway and television actress, prize-winning playwright and former artistic director of the Folksbiene Theater, the world’s oldest Yiddish theater. She is an internationally known Yiddish singer and host of the Yale University/Fortunoff Video Archive podcast “Those Who Were There: Voices of the Holocaust.”

This event is free and will be available as a Community Zoom in the social hall at Temple Concord, or a private Zoom for you to participate at home. For the Community Zoom, a large screen will be set up for the group to watch together and snacks and beverages will be available. To register for either, go to the events calendar at [templeconcord.org](http://templeconcord.org) and click either on the link that says Community Zoom, if you’ll be attending in person, or Private Zoom, if you want to be sent the link to watch on your own.

# Temple Adath Yeshurun Welcomes Scholar-in-Residence, Rahel Musleah

by Sonali McIntyre

Temple Adath Yeshurun is pleased to welcome award-winning journalist, author, tour leader, educator and singer Rahel Musleah as Scholar-in-Residence from Friday, April 28 through Sunday, April 30. TAY will host several educational and cultural events for the congregation and greater Syracuse Jewish community.

Rahel Musleah was born in Calcutta, India and is the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family, tracing its roots back to 17th-century Baghdad. Musleah leads tour groups through India to unveil the captivating history and culture of India’s distinctive Jewish communities: Bombay, Cochin, Calcutta and Delhi. Travelers discover the extraordinary fusion of Jewish and Indian cultures from synagogues and architecture to vegetarian and kosher cuisine, to incredible sites and experiences. She



infuses each tour with her personal, spiritual and musical insights as well as her knowledge of India’s Jewish history.

Musleah’s articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Hadassah* magazine and numerous other publications. Her publications include *Apples and Pomegranates: A Family Seder for Rosh Hashanah* and a CD of Shabbat and holiday melodies, *Hodu: Jewish Rhythms from Baghdad to India*.

In December 2021, Musleah led a program

for TAY entitled *Namaste & Shalom: A Virtual Tour of Jewish India* at which she shared India’s rich cultural and historical Jewish heritage, stretching from biblical times to today, and led participants on an exploration of sites and synagogues of Bombay, Calcutta and Cochin.

Rabbi Moshe Saks stated, “Rahel is a wonderful storyteller and authority on the Jews of India. This is a speaker you won’t want to miss!”

The weekend will feature a Friday night service followed by an Indian dinner, Shabbat morning services with Musleah sharing her unique trope, a Saturday evening patrons event and a Sunday morning program and brunch. **Details and registration for these programs are available at [www.adath.org](http://www.adath.org).**



# Passover at the JCC

“As one of the most important Jewish holidays, Passover is a special time at the J,” says Marci Erlebacher, executive director of the JCC. “The essential message of Passover is one of freedom and the will to persevere with faith against all odds. The story of the Exodus is a metaphor that is appreciated by Jews and all people of faith. The holiday takes place in the spring and signifies rebirth and revival.”



This year the week-long observance of Passover is April 5-13 and the JCC's schedule will be adjusted in accordance. The JCC will kick off its Passover observance on Friday, March 31 with a noontime seder for seniors and later celebrations for children through the Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP).

The Senior Lunch Program's seder will be conducted by Rabbi Evan Shore. It will feature a traditional Passover meal. All community members 60 and older are welcome to attend. Reservations are required and a \$5 donation (cash or JCC Senior Meal Coupon) is suggested. Reservations may be made by calling 315-445-2360 by noon on March 30.

Children in the ECDP preschool and pre-K classrooms will have their own seder on Tuesday, April 4. To get the celebration going, the classes will make haroset — a mixture of honey, nuts, apples and cinnamon — to symbolize the clay Jews used to build the pyramids.



They will also decorate their table placemats, seder plates and Elijah's cups, and each will be served a complete Seder plate so they are able to learn and enjoy more about the special holiday.

The festivities will conclude with a lesson on the 10 Plagues of Passover — blood, frogs, bugs, wild animals, pestilence, boils, hail, locust, darkness and death of the first-born. Each child will get bags that represent all the plagues and discuss their meanings as a class.

In acquiescence with the Vaad Ha'ir, the Senior Lunch Program will be closed April 5-13 while the kitchen undergoes a deep cleaning. The main office will close early on April 5 (5pm) and April 11 (6pm) and be closed April 6, 7, 12, and 13. The ECDP will close early on April 5 (5pm) and be closed April 6-7. The Fitness Center will close early on April 5 (5pm) but will maintain regular hours the remainder of Passover.

# Temple Concord Welcomes Passover



by Diane Sacks

On Wednesday, April 5, Temple Concord's annual Congregational Seder, led by Rabbi David Katz and Cantor Kari Siegel Eglash, will be held at Traditions at the Links. Traditional Passover foods will be served, with vegetarian options available. All are welcome to join an interactive seder with plenty of songs. **For more information, contact the Temple Concord office at 315-475-9952 or go to the Temple's website.**

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# Jewish News from Israel and Around the World



**Saving lives in Turkey.** Israel's IDF "Operation Olive Branches" has hundreds of medics and Search & Rescue experts in Turkey. They have pulled dozens of survivors from the rubble of the massive earthquakes. Israel's United Hatzalah, Magen David Adom and Zaka have also sent relief missions.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/great-privilege-to-reach-out-to-our-neighbor-idf-aid-delegation-heads-to-turkey/>

Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, chief rabbi of the United Kingdom, cited the verse *Olam Chesed Yibaneh* and how the House is a symbol of how God will build the world with kindness. Earlier in the day, Mirvis attached a mezuzah to the door of the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue. Rabbi Yehuda Sarna remarked that he believes this is the first synagogue inaugurated in the Gulf since the Bahrain Synagogue was built in Manama in 1931.

Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, the UAE's minister of tolerance and coexistence, said that "we hope to work with our brothers and sisters around the globe... and together we hope to help our communities to move away from suspicion and fear to mutual trust and acceptance... Our goal is to encourage, empower and enable people from different religious backgrounds to work together for the benefit of us all."

**Wild Walks Project.** "Wild Walks" Israel is a Jerusalem-based project to help war-weary teenagers from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus adapt to a new life in Israel. It provides a safe space for these young men and women to use art, play and conversation to build their own world with their own places, friends and activities. <https://www.dikieprogulki.org/wild-walks-project/>

**Young guardians** – Jewish and Bedouin New Guardians/HaShomer HaChadash safeguard Israel's lands by agriculture and education. The 25,000 strong youth movement includes some 3,000 Bedouin children, mostly meeting at the charity's Zarzir educational farm. <https://www.israel21c.org/youth-group-instills-love-of-the-land-in-bedouins-and-jews/>

**Innovation to improve ties with New Zealand.** The New Zealand Israel Innovation Hub (NZIIH) recently opened in Tel Aviv. Founder Josh Brown and startup advisor Elinor Swery are promoting 23 initiatives to foster business ventures including foodtech, agtech, climatetech and spacetech. <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/rj7zesani>

**Hospital equipment for Moldovan babies.** Israel has donated \$250,000 worth of perinatal equipment to nine hospitals in Moldova. It includes incubators and resuscitation tables, replacing equipment over two decades old. <https://www.moldpres.md/en/news/2023/01/27/23000648>

**120 more Ethiopians make Aliyah.** The first 2023 flight of "Operation Zur Yisrael" has just brought 120 new immigrants from Ethiopia to Israel. They had spent a long time in Addis Ababa and Gondar, but after Ethiopia agreed to issue exit visas, they can now reunite with their Israeli families. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wTR523oZak>

**90 more Ukrainian Jews come home.** Ninety Ukrainian Jewish refugees have just arrived in Israel on a chartered flight made possible by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ). The refugees originally chose to stay behind in Ukraine but have since been forced out of their former homes by the fighting. <https://www.jns.org/90-ukrainian-jewish-refugees-come-home-to-israel/>

**The Abrahamic Family House, a new multifaith center in the United Arab Emirates that comprises a mosque, church and synagogue, officially opened in mid-February in Abu Dhabi.** The ceremony featured leaders and children of the three Abrahamic faiths.

Mohamed Khalifa Al Mubarak, chairman of the Department of Culture and Tourism in Abu Dhabi and president of the Abrahamic Family House, said, "We hope that the Abrahamic Family House will inspire youth everywhere, as we highlight our common humanity and work towards the creation of a more peaceful world for generations to come."

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## HARVEY ALBERT

February 9, 2023

Harvey Albert, 95, died in the comfort of his home in Boynton Beach on February 9. Born in Syracuse on September 6, 1927 to Harry and Beatrice Michaels Albert, he was a life resident of Syracuse.

Harvey served his country during WWII in the Coast Guard. He was a graduate of Syracuse University, where he also ran track.

He and Frann were married in 1963 and raised their three children in Syracuse. They were long time members of Temple Concord and supported many local Jewish organizations.

Harvey was the founder and owner of several companies: Albert Home Products, a window and screen business; Albert Homes of Elmira, a builder of homes and apartments; and Harvey Albert of Syracuse, a builder of homes in Fayetteville, Manlius and the city of Syracuse. He had the strongest work ethic and never retired.

His family includes his wife Frann of 59 1/2 years; their son Marc (former wife Meredith), daughters Nikki (Walter) Goodman and Alisa (Nelson) Figuero; and grandchildren Renee, Seth, Jeremy and Daniel.

Contributions in his memory may be made to NCJW.org, or The Autism Association of CNY: cnyasa.org.

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## RONALD JAY SIEGEL

February 24, 2023

Ronald Jay Siegel, 71, passed away in the comfort of his home on February 24. Born on February 16, 1952 in Queens, NY to Lester and Gertrude "Trudy" Siegel, he had been a resident of Syracuse for more than 42 years. After graduating from SUNY at Stony Brook, he attended and graduated from the NYU School of Dentistry. Ron served as a captain in the United States Army from 1977 to 1981 at Fort Benning, GA.

A practicing dentist, he was a partner in Fulton Dental Health Associates until retiring in 2019. Ron was a member of the American Dental Association and the 5th District Dental Society. He was a longtime member of Temple Adath Yeshurun, a former board member of the board of directors of the Temple, an avid sports fan and a season ticketholder to SU sports for more than 40 years.

Ron loved to travel with Joan and enjoyed cruising to countless cities across the globe. He proudly displayed a map in his home tracking every place that they had visited. Ron will always be remembered as a fun, creative man who loved nothing more than playing with his grandchildren; he adored them.

His family includes his wife Joan of 46 years, their daughter Carolyn (Dr. Andrew) Weinberg and children Isabella, Gabriel and Aiden; their son Aaron (Nicole) Siegel and children Isaac and Theodore, and their daughter Jennifer (Reece) Fischer and children Emmett, Ronan and Teagan; his twin brother Fred (Cheryl) Siegel, sisters-in-law Michele (Mark) Ehrlich, and Ellen (Steven) Klig and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun.

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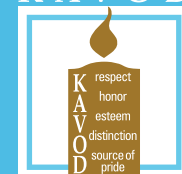
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