

» HAPPY TU B'AV!

Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

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AUGUST 2023 | AV-ELUL 5783

RISE

THE ROCK MUSICAL



Photo by Lou Schneider



AUGUST 17TH 7:30 PM
@ Temple Adath Yeshurun

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY DO NOT MISS THIS SHOW!



LOOK:
RISE THE ROCK
MUSICAL
(5)



INSIDE:
LITTLE
LOVE STORIES
(6-7)



DON'T MISS:
BRINGING THE FAIR
TO THE PARK
(9)

August 2023

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

This issue of the *Jewish Observer* juxtaposes two strong emotions: love and hate. August 1st is *Tu b'Av* on the Hebrew calendar, a day for love. It follows *Tisha b'Av*, the saddest day of the Hebrew calendar, on which we mourn the destruction of the Temples and many other catastrophes that have befallen our people. But it is instructive and uplifting that love follows hate because Judaism is unfailingly positive, asking us always to ascend, to rise.

I love the word “*besht*.” It’s Yiddish and means “destiny.” It is one of my all-time favorite expressions because things that are *besht* just seem to fall into place the way they should and the results are amazing. Such is the case with the themes of this month’s issue. *RISE* is the title of a powerful and significant rock musical, written by a local Jewish composer, that I fell I love with last summer and vowed to bring

to Syracuse (and, hopefully, to a lot of other places), because not only is the music wonderful but the message is so important, so universal and so contemporary. *RISE* is also the acronym for Refugee & Immigrant Self Empowerment, a local organization that promotes self-sufficiency through employment, education, social and economic independence for members of the refugee and immigrant community. In an age in which immigration is a hot button concern and agency is highly valued, *RISE* is an outstanding example of people who want to make the American dream a reality through their own efforts and hard work.

A conjoining of these two things occurred recently when the Lions of Judah, a group of dedicated and empowered women for whom giving back really matters, held its annual luncheon. They brought the two *RISE*s together, hearing an inspiring salon presentation of songs from the musical and contributing household goods (toasters, blenders, cookware, dishes, tableware, small appliances) to the members of *RISE*. Nan Fechtner, a Lion who serves on the board of *RISE*, described what *RISE* does: “Imagine that you have just moved to a foreign country where you don’t know the language, the culture is completely different, and the technologies available are things you have almost never seen before. You are three months into your new life, and your local support group says to you, “OK you look like you’re on your way now, we’ll see you around.” Now what? It’s only been 3 months, things are still so foreign, where can you turn for help finding work, helping your kids acclimate to public school, and navigating the immigration system? That is where *RISE* steps in. *RISE* focuses on helping refugees and immigrants with all aspects of their life after their first 90 days in the US.”

Then, in another display of *besht*, I received a formidable book review from Sharon Hochstein, a community member who is an avid reader and excellent writer, who kindly shares her literary insights with *JO* readers. The theme of the book she reviewed was the same as that of *RISE* the musical: the *kashariyot* or couriers, the young teenaged women who faced incredible danger in the ghettos of Nazi Europe as they transported messages, medicine and even arms to help their fellow Jews.

Also *besht* are the little love stories which fill several pages of this issue. We are grateful that so many

community members were willing to recount stories of their devotion and delighted to learn how love can be found in so many places, at so many ages and in so many different circumstances. While we Jews don’t celebrate St. Valentine’s Day, we can celebrate love on *Tu b'Av*. *Tu b'Av* was originally a matchmaking day. On *Tu’ b'Av*, at the time of the grape harvest, single women would dress in white and dance in the vineyards under the light of the full moon to signal their eligibility for marriage. It’s been said that *Tu b'Av* was one of the only times a year that the 12 tribes of Israel would intermingle. *Tu b'Av* went unobserved in the Jewish calendar for centuries but recently was revived in Israel as a celebration of love and an auspicious day for weddings. The *JO* is happy to share in the newly restored observance.

Another source of great happiness for the *Observer* was a notice we received last month from the American Jewish Press Association: “**Congratulations! On behalf of the American Jewish Press Association, we are delighted to inform you that The Jewish Observer of Central New York has won a Simon Rockower Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism. We saw record breaking numbers this year and received over 1,180 entries from AJPA members – so your win is much deserved.**” We are very appreciative of the many community members who write for the *JO* and of the many supporters of the *JO* Appeal without whom the *JO* could not be as successful as it is.

Although our people are known to frequently see the glass as half full (does any language have a word that translates all the nuances of the word “*kvetch*”?) and although we know that antisemitism is still a potent force in society, as we review the contents of this month’s issue, we see that there is tremendous reason to be happy and grateful for the good in our world. We need to take the messages of *RISE* – the musical and the organization – and remember that we have the ability to stand up -- for ourselves, for others, for freedom, for democracy, for America, for Israel, for Judaism. President Franklin Roosevelt once said “The value of love will always be stronger than the value of hate. Any nation or group of nations which employs hatred eventually is torn to pieces by hatred.” This issue of the *JO* says “amen” to that.

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of Central New York

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From the Jewish Federation of CNY President/CEO



Michael Balanoff

doing as a member of the Central New York Hate and Bias Prevention Regional Council.

Since February 2011, InterFaith Works has partnered with The Post-Standard and Syracuse.com on the CNY Inspirations column. The column features reflections of faith leaders, followers of more than two dozen denominations and prominent community leaders. The CNY Inspirations column appears in the Living section on Syracuse.com, and in the CNY section of The Post-Standard on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. As a representative of the Jewish community on InterFaith Works Roundtable of Faith Leaders, I was asked to write the column in the month of July. I wanted to share what I wrote with JO readers. These reflections were in part based upon the work I have been

Hate diminishes us all. There is no faith tradition that calls upon us to hate. The Torah of the Jewish people explicitly prohibits hatred in the verse, "Thou shall not hate thy brother in thine heart" (Lev. 19:17). Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:43-45) The prophet Muhammad said, "Hating each other causes uprooting, not of your hair, but of your faith."

People must be taught to hate. No child is born with prejudice. They are born wanting to connect with others. Just as love is learned when children are cherished and nurtured, hate is learned when they are not. Nelson Mandela wrote, "No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

We live in a world where hate is increasingly in evidence and increasingly being expressed on social media and through violence. Antisemitism, the world's oldest hatred, is increasing in American society.

We cannot allow this to continue. History teaches us that we cannot be bystanders to antisemitism and other forms of hate. Antisemitism is a threat to all Americans, as anti-Jewish hate often precedes attacks on other religions, nationalities and ethnicities and imperils human rights for all members of society. As Britain's former chief rabbi Jonathan Sacks explained, "the hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews."

The fight against antisemitism is as much a fight for every member of a community as it is for the Jewish people. Wherever and however it occurs, antisemitism has real and damaging effects on individuals and communities and must not be tolerated or excused.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks defined antisemitism as "the inability of a group to make space for difference" and noted that "because we are all different, the hate that begins with Jews never ends with Jews." He pointed out that it wasn't only Jews who suffered under Hitler. In addition to 6 million Jews who were slaughtered, there were 6 million others who were killed because they were Catholic or Roma or disabled or gay. Antisemitism is "the world's most reliable early warning sign of a major threat to freedom, humanity and the dignity of difference."

Recently, in our own community, in the village of Skaneateles, antisemitic and racist slogans were painted in public spaces. Village leaders responded with courage and admirable forthrightness, saying "Racism and prejudice have no place here, and we emphatically denounce these messages in the strongest possible terms. They are wrong and will not be tolerated by us, or by our residents." Their actions were a model for all of us to emulate. A well-known figure once said, "Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph." Elie Wiesel wrote, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." In speaking out, the leaders of Skaneateles struck a powerful blow against evil and for good.

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Let's Play A Game

by Rabbi Daniel Jezer, rabbi emeritus, Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas

Let's play a game. The game is called, "What is the most important phrase you can think of?" I suspect that to many people the phrase would include the word "love." The expression, "I love you," is almost a *sine qua non* for successful intimate relationships, between a husband and wife, parents and children, God, country, etc. It is the apotheosis of a verbal expression of closeness and caring.

The rabbis of the Talmudic era played a variant of the game. They modified it and played, "What is the most important phrase in the Torah?" (Perhaps at home, not in the academy, they also played it the way we do.) The great Rabbi Akiva suggested that "the most important phrase in the Torah is 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Lev. 19:19)

His choice, and the words following the *Shma*, "*V'ahavta et Adonai Elohecha*" - "You shall love the Lord your God..." (Deut. 6:4,5) are, perhaps, among the two most popular ones today in Jewish religious life.



As much as we may venerate these statements and quote them, they are strange. They are both commands, grammatically in the imperative. We can discuss to whether love is an emotion, an instinct, a chemical reaction or something else. Whatever it is, it is not something that can be commanded. I can obey a command to do something;

however I cannot all of a sudden love something, no matter who commands it. That is absurd.

Rabbinic commentators over the centuries took note of this difficulty. Hillel reworded the imperative, love your neighbor as yourself in the following manner. "That which is hateful to you, do not do to another. That is the entire Torah. The rest is commentary." (Shabbat 31a). To Hillel loving a neighbor or loving God comes as a culmination of a process. It is not as a result of being told to love.

Loving your neighbor first and foremost entails a basic respect of their humanity. We hear and read the words that all of us are creations of God and created in the image of God. These words need to be incorporated into our behavior, into our relationships. We truly need to respect the humanity even of those with whom we completely disagree and whose viewpoints we may consider to be an anathema. Only then can we develop to the point where indeed we can: "love our neighbor as yourselves." When we accomplish that task, which is quite difficult and runs

against our desires, can we begin to love our neighbor? Today, with society being so polarized, this task is exceedingly challenging.

The prophet Micah understood the words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being and with all your strength." In a short pithy statement, "What does the Lord require of you, 'Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.'" (Micah 6:8) These are the precursors, the building blocks to be able to love God with all your heart, with all your being and with all your strength. Without these behaviors there can be no love of God.

Let's play the game, "What is the most important phrase you can think of?" Let's not stop there. Let's go to the next step. Let's ask ourselves, "What are the implications of the statement?" What do I need to do, what behavior do I need to change, to bring that statement into reality. You can truly love.

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Thank You.

» Book Review

Review of Judy Batalion's *The Light of Days - The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos*

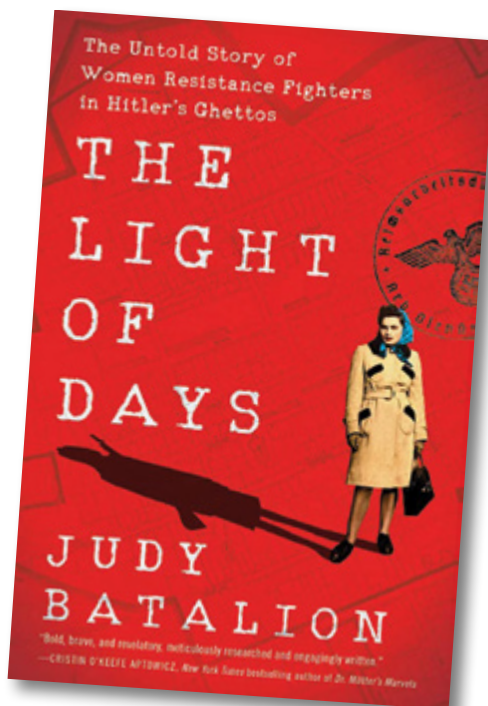
by Sharon Glazier Hochstein

Like many people, I had always assumed that the dearth of information on female resistance fighters during the Holocaust and WWII was because there were so few. Except for standouts who performed typically male maneuvers, like Hannah Senesh, I was under the impression that women served as scaffolding for the male fighters. In the last decade or so, information about female couriers has surfaced, but that term brings to mind females serving as diversions, delivering packages and maybe even serving tea, while the men did the really dangerous work.

Judy Batalion's *The Light of Days - The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos* turns that naive notion completely around and exposes the incredibly perilous, petrifying and often macabre missions that numerous young women undertook during the Holocaust. While Batalion focuses primarily on Poland, as borders were constantly shifting and various underground movements worked throughout Eastern Europe, the book encompasses quite a large territory and numerous organizations.

Warning: this book contains probably the most graphic and brutal scenes that I have ever read in any book, not just those which have a Holocaust theme. Author Batalion doesn't try to hide the horrors and doesn't shrink the magnitude of those scenes. Her writing puts the reader in the front row to witness the evil, and it is breathtakingly jarring and grotesque. This is not pleasant, and it is not easy for the reader, but some books we don't read for entertainment. If these women gave their youth and often their lives to make sure that at least some Jews survived, the least we can do is to read about and acknowledge their sacrifices, pay tribute to them and enter them into our collective memories so that they will finally be remembered as the heroes that they were.

Uncovering the truth and finding these courageous women and their stories was no small feat. The author's footnotes and acknowledgements comprise some 200 pages at the end of the book, and she details years of traveling around the world conducting interviews, perusing libraries and discovering buried sources, translating and fact-checking. Batalion's research is amazingly extensive and



thorough, leading to an overwhelmingly large collection of information.

That very abundance of information becomes a problem for the organization and readability of the book. When the research is finished and the author is faced with a mountain of data and facts, how does she sort through it, reshuffle it and break it into cohesive units for the reader to digest? Seemingly, Judy Batalion had great difficulty doing this, resulting in a giant tome that is constantly shifting from one character to the next (and there are numerous individuals involved), one organization to another, one locality to another, etc. This makes for a large jumble. I imagine that some editor suggested that the author tack on a list of characters as well as a map, which she did, but that isn't terribly helpful to the reader when there is almost no cohesiveness to

the writing itself. Even within the same paragraph, the author jumps from one event and character to another, which proves confusing and overwhelms the reader as well.

Oddly enough, the language used is archaic, almost as if the writer wants to transport the reader back to the 30s and 40s, but maybe because this isn't fiction, it simply doesn't work here. This reader was so perplexed by this convention that she looked to see if this book had been translated from another language. It wasn't. As strange as this is, it is innocuous enough except when Batalion uses terms (repeatedly) such as "the women who looked Aryan." Isn't there another way to describe physical attributes without appropriating Nazi terminology and propaganda?

And yet, the book is riveting because these young women's lives and stories are so compelling. Judy Batalion is a thorough reporter and loyal witness to the horrors, the sheer grit and the ultimate heroism and sacrifice of these young women, and she has made sure that their experiences and exploits are heard. Hopefully this book will be made into a film so that it can be shared with a wider audience, for it is the author's gift to the world that she was able to resurrect these brave women's stories and give them a voice. While *The Light of Days* is not an easy or pleasurable read on any level, it informs, educates and enlightens readers. And with Batalion's contribution, there is a broader picture of the Holocaust era that is indelibly etched in the annals of history.



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RISE the Rock Musical Comes to Syracuse on August 17

Joshua Daniel Hershfield's *RISE* is a modern rock musical that utilizes the music of rebellion to showcase brave acts of resistance. Set in Eastern Europe at the height of the Holocaust, *RISE* tells a story of courage, loyalty, sacrifice, and love, focusing on the *karashiyot* or couriers, a group of young Jewish women who worked as spies, smugglers and leaders of the underground Jewish resistance. *RISE* was the winner of the 2021 Bela Zarhi Prize awarded by The Ghetto Fighters House in collaboration with Genesis Philanthropy Group to honor artistic projects that explore the Holocaust and its commemoration.

A review by NPR said, "Just as the Broadway hit 'Hamilton' used hip-hop to tell the story of a Founding Father, a new modern rock musical conveys the true stories of young Jewish women who risked their lives to fight the Nazis during the Holocaust." *RISE* had its world premiere at the JCC CenterStage Theatre in Rochester last summer. The composer, Joshua Daniel Hershfield, was compelled to bring the history to life in response to the rise of antisemitism across the world and to address Holocaust denial and lack of awareness. "I think there's a very real sense of complacency that we have in the United States and Europe," said Hershfield. "We take democracy for granted." He notes that "Germany was a progressive republic before it collapsed into Nazism and that descent is not an impossibility for our modern world."

Hershfield was unaware of the couriers until he was in a graduate program for Holocaust Studies in Israel. "It just seemed crazy to me," he said. "These are some of the most courageous women that I've ever heard about. They did unbelievable things, and who knows their names?" The word the women used for themselves was *kashariyot*, a Hebrew word that has been translated to



Photo by Lou Schneider

"couriers" in English, though Hershfield feels that the term is weak when one considers their brave acts, citing examples such as a 17-year-old Jewish girl moving through a Nazi checkpoint with revolvers and grenades under her dress to deliver to the resistance. "I can't even imagine the level of courage it would take to do that,"

Hershfield said.

Broadway World's review raves that "Hershfield's score for *RISE* is superb, fluctuating from somber acoustic guitar ballads to catchy rock anthems evocative of The White Stripes. The edgy punk rock vibe of these songs is the perfect backdrop

for a story about resistance and fighting back against the forces of evil, and the show bounces with ease between these heavier upbeat songs to the soaring vocal numbers. *RISE* is a daring and important new musical... May we all take inspiration and courage from the women portrayed in *RISE*."

The Syracuse community will have one opportunity to see this inspiring production when the Rochester cast reprises it on Thursday, August 17 at 7:30 pm at Temple Adath Yeshurun. The program is being sponsored by the Joseph Elman Fund for Holocaust Studies. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$10 for students and may be purchased at www.jewishfederationcny.org/donate. Though the show contains difficult and mature content, it is appropriate for students in grades 5 and up.

"The rock score really speaks to the sense of revolt and resistance that the couriers and all of the Jews in the ghetto brought to these uprisings," said Madeline Snow, the show's director. "We can take some of that spirit and bring it to our contemporary society to fight for what we believe is just." **More information about the show can be found at www.risetherockmusical.com.**

Tickets for *RISE* are \$18 for adults, \$10 for students.

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Little Love Stories



PAUL AND ELAINE BEYER

I was 17; she was 16. We attended different high schools but both of us failed World History in our junior year and we wound up together in summer school. I had the only car in the class, so I would deliver four or five girls to their homes and saved Elaine for last. We would sit in her driveway talking, and after about half an hour, the front porch light would flash on and off. This meant her time was up and she was to come in the house. Four years later, we were married and raised a family. We had a wonderful marriage that lasted 60 years.

CAROLEE AND ROBERT SMITH

We met on a blind date. He was supposed to look like John Cassavetes, and I was supposed to look like Elizabeth Taylor. He didn't, and I didn't, but we got along well, and after that night we were a couple. The friends who introduced us never saw each other again. We dated for about five years, and we finally got engaged after my Bubbie declared us engaged during a visit to her home in Monticello, NY. Our first daughter was named for my Bubbie, and she was born on my Bubbie's yahrzeit. It's been a wonderful 55 years!



ROBERT AND VICKI LIEBERMAN

May 1983. From Michigan, first day, in NYC, I'm looking at tall buildings. Entered JTS's summer Hebrew prep class, then spotted her. She was Brooklyn bold. Teacher divided the class into levels based on prior college Hebrew studies. I went to beginners. She went to intermediate. I needed to be there. On my first subway ride, we textbook shopped in the Lower East Side. Then we split our first pastrami sandwich. To advance quickly, I studied hard to earn a seat in her class. Sat next to her. We studied together. I got a better grade. We wed. 38 years ago.



DIANA AND YURI KOESTER

The day before our first date, he told me a building fell on his car. I said, "Dude, if you don't want to go out with me, you can just say so, no need for a ludicrous excuse!" Then he emailed me the video footage. A building really did fall on his car! Well, thankfully, he got a rental, and we met for the most awkward lunch date in history. Almost nine years, one wedding, one kid, numerous pets and countless dates later, things have gotten a little bit less awkward. Just a little bit.



MICHAEL AND WENDY EVERS GORDON



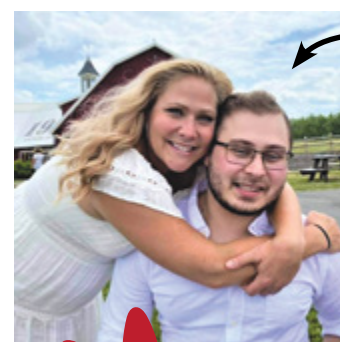
We first met at a seminar on handwashing compulsion. She was likely admiring that people would take cleanliness that seriously. I was appreciative of what was enticingly visible beneath her gauzy blouse. We talked, talked some more, married, raised our family and now have lost our hearts to grandchildren. While we sometimes agree, we more often see the same scene in divergent colors (hers toward darker shades, mine sunnier). All these decades later, though, she hasn't lost her passion for a world that's neat and clean, and I haven't lost my passion for her.

AMY ZAMKOFF AND SID MANES

Our love story is the *Reader's Digest* version. Everything condensed because the Fates waited until the last minute to intervene and allow our paths to cross. Think the geriatric version of star-crossed lovers. Passion, family drama and the hoof beats of mortality closing in. But oh, the laughter, the companionship, the arguing over Israeli policy. The handholding and embarrassing our children with public displays of affection. It's an old love story and so much the sweeter for it.



LORI TENENBAUM



When I was 25, I had it all figured out. I was eagerly awaiting the birth of my first child and I had plans for how my baby would sleep, eat, develop.... Everything was going to be just like in the books I pored through during pregnancy. When Isaac arrived on April 10th of 1999, he immediately turned everything I thought I knew upside down. His name means one who laughs, and although he is no longer on this earth, I will forever rejoice in the humorous lessons I learned from being his mama. To me, that is true love.



MIMI WEINER

I was quite young when I first saw him. He was alone. I picked him up in the park. He was reluctant, but I brought him home. I gave him some food and he seemed happy to hang around and meet my mom. I was 8 years old. He was my first cat. He was black and beautiful, and I was hooked for life.

JODI AND EVAN BLOOM

He was the first guy to compliment me on the dimples in my cheeks. Our first-time meeting in person was at the arrivals lounge at Heathrow Airport. Until that point, we spoke almost daily for as long as our work schedules allowed; me, from my office on Madison Avenue and him, from his office in Johannesburg. We got to know each other the old school way and, after getting engaged, realized we had only spent six weeks in each other's presence before getting engaged. It was no accident, but rather *hashgacha pratis* [divine providence], that brought us together.

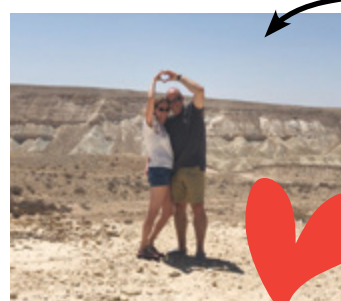


JON SELZER AND THELIE TROTTY-SELZER

We were an unlikely couple. There were many differences, laws preventing marriage, people expressing their belief that our marriage would not last. What most people failed to realize was that Jon was smitten the moment he saw Thelie. He can meticulously recall what she was wearing that day. Jon asked Thelie to marry him every day for six years (not missing a one). Despite their differences, now more than a half a century later, their love endures, with mutual support and passion for life, without egos. In the face of life-ending challenges, they still hold hands, cuddle and love without regrets.

KELLY BERNHARDT KLAPPER AND LOUIS KLAPPER

For our first date, he took me to Disney World. We ate pizza in Epcot, went "Soarin'" over California and spent eight hours laughing and talking together. That night, I called my best friend and told her "I just met the man I'm going to marry." It took him slightly longer to come to the same conclusion. Seven and a half years after that first date, he got on one knee and asked, "Are you ready for an adventure?" It's been twelve years since that first date, and now we're a family of three. Every day is a wonderful adventure.



PHYLLIS AND MARK ZAMES

Twenty years old, sitting by a pool at a kibbutz. I was reading, relaxing after hours dripping sweat, planting tomatoes. He asked if he could sit with me. I wanted to read, but I said yes. Then he didn't stop talking. He still hasn't. There have been days that I have wanted him to be quiet, but not anymore. We have grown up together, seen each other through joy and loss. I still want to be the one he talks to. I treasure his jokes and his presence. He sometimes lets me read now, and I still let him talk.



HENRY AND ROSE GORDON

(Cheryl Wolf's parents)

Henry and Rose grew up as neighbors in the old 15th Ward of Syracuse. Henry said it was the "hot dog" incident that cinched it for him. He bought a brand-new suit to impress Rose and wore it for the first time when he took her on a date to Syracuse's famous hot dog stand, Heid's. Rose certainly made an impression on him, too. She lost her grip on her hot dog, which was covered in mustard, and it ended up in Henry's lap -- ruining the new suit. She was mortified. He fell in love.

ROBIN AND NEIL GOLDBERG

We met in Syracuse airport in August 1979, leaving on the same plane. He came back to sit with me and took my number. I was casually dressed, with no makeup. It must have been the red hair! We got engaged in November and married in August. I fell in love with his determination and conviction of what he wanted in life. He fell in love with my red hair and the fact that I was committed to being a dentist and a mother. Our love grew through three years of commuting between Syracuse and New York City. Four children later, their four marriages, 13 grandchildren, almost 43 years of marriage and lots of good communication...our love continues to grow.





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Long Lake Art & Antiques

Love to watch “Antiques Roadshow”? Wonder if that picture in the attic is valuable? Are you certain that the vase your grandmother gave to you is really worth a lot of money? Now you can find out for sure without even leaving the comfort of your home.

Philippe Roth Schwimmer recently opened Long Lake Art & Antiques, an online company. Philippe has a BA from George Washington University and an MFA from Mills College in Oakland, CA. She has been in the business of educating about and selling art for two decades. She ran a gallery of emerging artists in Syracuse and taught art to adults and children at many prestigious private schools. Her most recent venture has been online art sales, begun during COVID, when the world of art sales moved online. Philippe has learned the value of thousands of art objects which she researches and places in online auctions.

Philippe has deep roots in Central New York. Her grandfather, Philip Roth, emigrated from Lithuania to Syracuse in 1902 and became, as did many Jews of the time, a peddler. He worked tirelessly to enable his entire family to join him in the United States, ultimately founding two companies: Roth Steel and Roth Brothers Smelting. Philippe and her brother Jeremy created The Peddler Foundation at the Community Foundation of Central New York in her grandfather's memory.

To help others who have a fascination



with the past, especially things that are one hundred years old or older, Philippe recently held two informational sessions in Skaneateles, at the library and at the downtown Skaneateles Curbstone Festival “Value Your Vintage,” is Philippe's motto and she invites people to send her photos of their treasures for evaluation and to set up a Zoom call to learn what they would be worth in an online auction. ***She also offers private appointments and can be reached at pippa@longlake.art.***

Lions of Judah Spread Love in the Community

The Lions of Judah is an organization of 18,000 women around the world who donate at least \$5,000 to Federation each year. Forty-one women are in the CNY Pride. According to the Jewish Federations of North America, “The Lions of Judah set an exemplary standard of leadership and giving.” In addition to their campaign contributions, local Lions have undertaken several projects in recent years to help others, including providing cleaning supplies during COVID to residents of several subsidized housing units in Syracuse and packing 36 bins with bedroom supplies for new immigrants at InterFaith Works.

This year, for Mother's Day, the Lions of Judah provided gift bags for students at the West Side Learning Center. The students come from many different countries: Ukraine, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Burma, Taiwan, South Korea, Viet Nam, France, Russia, Sudan, South Sudan, Congo, Eritrea, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan. Mother's Day can be difficult for the students, as some had to leave their mothers when they left their homeland and others are themselves young mothers without a lot of support. The project's organizers reported that “The day was absolutely beautiful! The students were delighted with the bags – touched, surprised, had so much FUN opening them! There were so many happy tears and thanks! The Lions of Judah really made a LOT of women very happy!”

On June 8, the Lions held a luncheon, which served also to support immigrants to Central New York. The Lions donated funds to purchase kitchen appliances for the hundreds of immigrants expected to arrive in our community in the coming year. The organization that will distribute the toasters, coffee pots, silverware, dishes and microwaves is RISE, which



stands for Refugee & Immigrant Self Empowerment. Nan Fechtner, a Lion who serves on the board of RISE, described the work of the organization: “RISE offers services for everyone in the family – after school and summer programs for kids of all ages, pathways to college at OCC, employment services, citizenship classes, health navigators, case management, women's groups, English language classes, financial literacy courses and a farm program for families that want to grow their own food. What sets RISE apart from other agencies in Syracuse is that it is run by immigrants and former refugees. Most RISE employees have walked this path themselves and can offer services in a culturally appropriate way and in the client's home language. This immediately helps our new neighbors to feel at ease and feel more in control of their new lives.” The Lions also heard a salon performance of three songs from RISE, the rock musical, performed by composer Josh Hershfield and two of the singers from the original cast.



RISE the Rock Musical

One Night Only August 17

**Tickets for RISE are \$18 for adults,
\$10 for students.**

General Admission.
Doors open @ 7PM.
Temple Adath.

Order tickets by using the QR code
or go to jewishfederationcny.org/donate/



Bringing State Fair Fun to Menorah Park

“You’ll have a great time, every time!” proclaims the New York State Fair, noting that “people from across New York State come together to experience an affordable, 13-day celebration of delicious food, eye-opening exhibits, captivating entertainment and great fun. Each year’s New York State Fair showcases numerous animals, hundreds of commercial attractions, scores of exciting midway rides, and dozens of big-name entertainers.”

But for the folks at Menorah Park and for those who consider themselves elder citizens, the hubbub, noise, heat, crowds and grime may be just a little too much. Or a lot too much.

That’s why the Syracuse Community Hebrew School decided to bring the Fair to Menorah Park. “We wanted to bring all the joy and excitement, games and entertainment, food and fun of the Fair experience to the seniors without the hassle and the stress. It is a great way for families to enjoy being at the fair and having time to interact with members of our community who often are left out,” said Ora Jezer, the school’s director. “We have been working all year on intergenerational projects with our local seniors, and this program just felt like a natural continuation of the work we



have been doing and the relationships we have established.”

So on August 27, from 1 to 4 pm, the students and staff of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School and lots of volunteers are filling three tents

with food, fun and friendship. The entertainment tent will feature Boichik, a magician, Rhea Jezer and Cantor Lieberman, a balloon artist and others, all emceed by the talented Arel Moodie. There will be a photographer wandering

around to capture the fun and a selfie station for families and friends to take pictures. SCHS staff and students will be there to interact with guests. The food tent will feature fair type food, while sno-cones, popcorn, cotton candy and a concession stand will be free-standing. The game tent will include a 30-foot inflatable obstacle course, electronic hoop game, skeeball, shooting gallery and coin toss along with other fair favorites, with prizes for all ages.

Families from SCHS, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, the Epstein High School of Jewish Studies and all synagogue youth groups are invited to attend, as are the residents of Menorah Park, the Inn and The Oaks, Beit Tikvah, the Jewish War Veterans, the JCC Senior Lunch program and all synagogue senior adult programs. There is no admission charge, but there is a charge for tickets for food, games and a raffle, for which the prize is an iPad. There will be silent auctions for goods and services from local businesses.

The Fair will take place, rain or shine, on the lawn at Menorah Park from 1-4 pm, August 27. There is ample parking, and everything is accessible for those with mobility impairments.

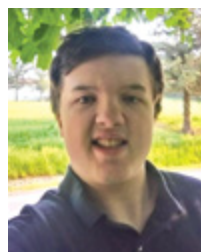
CBS-CS Pearlman Award

by Karen Morton and Sam Young

Each year, Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas receives applications from members between high school completion and college entry who seek consideration for the prestigious Dr. Gustave and Alice Pearlman Award from the congregation. The award represents Jewish values exemplified by CBS-CS’ beloved *Ba’al Koreh* and teacher, Dr. Gustave Pearlman, z”l, and his wife, Alice, z”l: love of Torah, living by the ethics of Judaism, participating actively in services and volunteering. Applicants must meet significant criteria—active participation in religious services, performance of mitzvot in the community, assisting in Jewish teaching, affiliation with USY or other Jewish youth organizations and the ability to read Torah. The honor was created by Alice to perpetuate Dr. Pearlman’s influence on future generations to continue their Judaic studies after bar and bat mitzvah. After Alice passed away, the congregation added her name to the award to recognize the supportive role she played with the families of Dr. Pearlman’s students.

This year’s two awardees were each outstanding in their own way. An active participant in and leader of religious services, Eliazar “Eli” Goldstein graduated from the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of

Jewish Studies, later becoming the teen representative to its board in 2022-2023. His community involvement includes membership on the Jewish Federation of Central New York Campaign Cabinet, work on local and national political



Eliazar “Eli” Goldstein



Shir Juran

campaigns and volunteering for several agencies in his local area of Earlville, NY. He recently traveled to Israel and plans to affiliate with Hillel when he starts at American University next semester. Eli read Torah during the service on Saturday, June 10 when he was honored with this award.

While Shir Juran started high school at Fayetteville-Manlius, her junior and senior years were completed in Modi’in, Israel, where she was living with her family. Shir was a member of Kadima and USY while living in the US and a *madricha* at CBS-CS’ Shul School. She often took part in or led services. After moving to Israel in 2017, she joined her local USY,

Telem. Shir then completed an advanced Jewish studies program and became a volunteer—she worked with underserved children and in agriculture at the start of COVID to try to rescue crops that lacked their usual workers to pick them. During her required post-high school service in the Israel Defense Force, Shir worked as both an epidemiological investigator and a human resources NCO. Upon her return to the United States, Shir began teaching at the Syracuse Community Hebrew School, the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies and the JCC’s Early Childhood Development Program. She read Torah during the service on Saturday, June 3 when she was honored with this award. Shir will begin her collegiate career at Brandeis University this fall,

Eli and Shir have joined an elite group of prior award recipients who carry on Dr. Pearlman’s and Alice’s legacy and serve as role models for all the CBS-CS children who come after them. May they continue to blossom and thrive, in good health, during their next stage of learning.

Three New Exhibits Celebrate Safe Haven Museum's Seven Day a Week Schedule

by Judy Coe Rapoport

The Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum of Oswego celebrates the Museum's seasonal seven day a week schedule, which began on Memorial Day, with the mounting of three remarkable new exhibits. The artifacts that frame each of the exhibits were donated by individuals and families who particularly selected the Oswego Museum because of its mission to preserve and protect the stories of Holocaust refugees' courage, faith and resilience.

The most recent exhibit in the collection is the **Lia Bates Poesy Autograph Album** that includes an entry by her classmate and friend, Anne Frank. She and Anne are pictured in an elementary class photograph, along with some memorabilia in Anne's own handwriting. The artifacts were donated by the Bates children in memory of their mother, Lia.



The second new exhibit of the **Max Sipser German Camera and Case** has an incredible back story. A Russian gentleman contacted the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum with an inquiry about its interest in a camera he wished to donate to the museum. Edited and excerpted from his email, he wrote: "Let me share with you my little interesting story. My name is Dmitry, and I live in Russia in the city of Yekaterinburg. Four years ago, I visited the glorious city of St. Petersburg, and I had free time to walk and see something for the soul. Such an interesting place for me was a 'flea market,' because I love antiques, old household items, artifacts and everything that is connected with it. The idea to buy a vintage camera came from an American TV show about the restoration of vintage RVs. I searched for a long time in the market, and I was lucky. The German manufactured camera was in pristine condition. Searching the internet, I found out that the camera was manufactured in Germany by Balda circa 1938. Inside the leather case, I found a well-preserved ink stamp. It had the name of the owner of this camera, Max Sipser. I was very interested in who this Max Sipser was and whether someone else was interested in it before me. Fortunately, on the internet, I found an article from 1998, where there was quite detailed interesting information about him and his wife Frieda Löwy Sipser, (both of whom were former Holocaust refugees who lived at the Fort Ontario Refugee Shelter in Oswego from 1944-1946). I also looked at the information about him on the site of the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum. I really appreciate the history of my family and our culture and understand that this marvelous find is a family value, a family heirloom that needs to be preserved because this is our story that we honor and store, otherwise it should not be. This camera, no matter how valuable it is to me, should take its



rightful place in your museum after 79 years. I think it's going to be right on my part. Sincerely, Dmitry." Needless to say, the Museum is now the grateful recipient of this precious archive that has been preserved as a new extension of the Max Sipser exhibit.

And finally, the Museum is honored to invite the public to view a third new exhibit, which is both the cast and the bronze sculpted bust of the beloved Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter Site Director, Joseph Smart. The bust was originally presented to Joseph Smart in

1945 and was created by the renowned German sculptress and painter Miriam Sommerburg. She, herself, was a resident at the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter, having fled from her home in Hamburg, Germany. Sommerburg has well known works that are also among the holdings at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and around the country and world. Joseph Smart acted as the Director of the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter before resigning in 1945 to head the Friends of Fort Ontario Guest Refugees organization. It was a crucial decision that would influence the fate of almost 1,000 refugees who were at risk of being returned to a home devastated by the ravages of World War II. And it was Joseph Smart's strategic advocacy for the Fort Ontario refugees that enabled American citizenship opportunities to be granted to those refugees who elected to remain in the United States. Most decided to make their home as citizens of the country that saved them. The bust and cast were a gift to our Museum by son Donald Smart and family. While quite spectacular as an artistic work, the bust represents a compelling backstory that enhances its aesthetic and historic value to the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum.



Museums inform, but they can also transport, because: **History** is the story of what happened before. **Artifacts** are tangible evidence of that history. They help connect us to that story and to stand as physical remnants of a time that has passed. This is why museums are home to so many historical artifacts. They are solid reminders of what is solid no more!

The public is invited to include a visit to the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum in their vacation and travel plans this year. It stands as a monument to the only refugee shelter in the United States that was created to save nearly 1000 European Holocaust victims during WWII. The museum resides on the picturesque shores of Lake Ontario and is conveniently located near many area hotels, restaurants, and other historical and recreational sites that the City of Oswego offers its visitors. Please visit the City of Oswego, Office of Tourism for additional area offerings.

MUSEUM HOURS OF OPERATION:

Daily 11 am-4pm

LOCATION:

22 Barbara Donahue Drive, Oswego, NY 13126

CONTACT INFORMATION:

315-342-3003

EMAIL:

safehavenmuseum@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

safehavenmuseum.com

CBS-CS Torah Fund Honors Lois Schaffer

by Joanne Villegas

The Sisterhood of CBS-CS brought together 45 women and men to honor the memory of its first president, Lois Schaffer, ז"ל, at a potluck brunch on Sunday, June 11. The event raised more than \$2,700 for Women's League for Conservative Judaism's (WLCJ) Torah Fund scholarship programs, exceeding expectations. The monies raised help WLCJ support the education of rabbis, cantors, teachers, synagogue and lay leaders and other Jewish community principals.

Sisterhood Board of Governance member Marsha Glatter coordinated the event, with support from Marcia Cohen, Karen Morton, Rosalie Spitzer and Julie Tornberg. Following CBS-CS' kosher potluck policy, attendees enjoyed a variety of traditional dairy and pareve brunch dishes. Although all the food was prepared offsite, it was presented with as much flourish as a catered affair.

Lois and Mike Schaffer were among



CBS-CS' founding families. At the potluck, Mike spoke about Lois' many accomplishments and awards, her resilient, "can-do" approach to life, her positive perspective and her immense pride in having been part of CBS-CS' formation and growth over the years. Lois' volunteerism was recognized and lauded. She turned adversity into advocacy. Most of those in attendance

knew Lois because of their connection to CBS-CS. Also among those present were Lois' bridge partners, all friends of many years. Everyone was moved by Mike's stories of Lois' strength and bravery in the face of challenges.

Arel Moodie, long-time CBS-CS member and professional speaker, provided the event's entertainment. The theme of his engaging, interactive

presentation was community. He described how CBS-CS had found ways to keep its members connected when COVID made it impossible to be together in person and cited studies that showed "a feeling of belonging" was essential to healthy development and even to survival. He shared how his own present mindful approach keeps him aware of his goal of sharing community with others. He offered the example of his family's experience being welcomed to the congregation, making them feel "part of" and "belonging" to the community right away. Attendees affirmed that this special feeling of belonging and community connectedness is a key element of what makes CBS-CS special. Several attendees took the microphone to share their own unique experiences of the CBS-CS community's support, acceptance and caring toward them. Sisterhood's Torah Fund event this year was a fitting tribute to Lois Schaffer, who left a legacy of connectedness.

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Annual JCC Gala and Meeting

by Carlett Spike

Food, fun, and fundraising for a good cause were the hallmarks of the JCC's Annual Meeting and Gala. More than 200 community members gathered at the beautiful Ower Vineyards in Cazenovia for the Sunday, June 4 event, to enjoy cocktails and a kosher meal catered by Essen New York Deli of Brooklyn.

"Phenomenal" was the word Marci Erlebacher, executive director of the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center, used to describe the ceremony. "Everyone had a great time. The feedback I'm getting is what a successful event we had."

In its 160th year, The Annual Meeting and Gala is a community event that supports various JCC scholarships for the Early Childhood Development Program (ECDP), Summer Camp including support for children with special needs, the After School Program and more. During the event, outgoing board members were recognized, new officers were sworn in and three community members — Shai Jaffe, Steven Wladis and outgoing board president Steven Siskind — were honored for their service, dedication and contributions to the JCC. This year a video highlighting the honorees' reflections on receiving these awards was also shown during the ceremony.

Jaffe received the Kovod award, which signifies honor and importance, and is given to a community member who has taken an active and outstanding role in events and programs. Jaffe, a graduate of Syracuse Hebrew Day School, works with the Afterschool and Camp programs as well as the ECDP.

Wladis received the Kovod Gadol award, which means great honor, and is given to a community member who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment, energy and loyalty to the JCC and greater community. Wladis is managing principal at OneDigital, the VP of finance for Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas (CBS-CS), is actively involved with The Wladis Hats & Gloves Foundation and has served as a JCC board member for nearly 20 years. "It's extremely humbling to receive the Kovod Gadol Award, but also very meaningful, given that my father is in the JCC's Hall of Fame," Wladis said.

Siskind received the Hall of Fame award, which is given to an individual



who has dedicated themselves to the Syracuse Jewish community and to the advancement of the JCC. Siskind is the owner of Siskind Funeral Service, LLC and has served as president of the JCC's board of directors for the last decade. "This year's gala was everything I could have hoped for and more," Siskind said. "The video was spectacular, the food was delicious, the room was full, but not crowded and everyone was just so happy to be there."

After serving as president for an unprecedented ten years, Siskind passed the gavel to Phil Rubenstein, president of Syracuse's United Radio and VP of the JCC board.

The Annual Meeting and Gala is the JCC's biggest fundraiser, and Erlebacher was happy to report that the goal for this year's event was met. "Without this event, and without the generosity of our community, we wouldn't be able to give out as much in scholarships." She added, "The event also means a lot to us because we're honoring people who have been of service."



JCC ECDP Class of 2023 Graduates

by Carlett Spike



The JCC's latest scholars graduated from preschool on Friday, June 16. The celebration included a formal ceremony, songs and a reception. The 42 members of the Early Childhood Development Program's pre-k class of 2023 were each recognized for their achievements during the moving up ceremony. The children donned their graduation caps and tassels as family members cheered them on from the audience.

The program began with a musical performance by the graduates followed by a special read aloud from the directors called *Celebrate You*. It took the group on a walk down memory lane, beginning as babies and turning into young, capable and kindergarten-ready children. Each graduate's name was called as

they walked across the stage of the gymnasium to receive a "diploma" and gift. The ECDP celebration concluded with refreshments for all guests.

"We look forward to graduation each year as it culminates their time in the JCC's Early Childhood Development Program and sends them on the way for kindergarten," said Amy Bisnett, associate director of children's programming at the JCC. "It is truly special to see the children's love of learning begin with us."

Pam Ranieri, director of children's programming at the JCC, added, "We are so thankful to the families for trusting us to love, care for and teach their children. We look forward to seeing them at the JCC for After School and camps."

RISE the Rock Musical

One Night Only August 17

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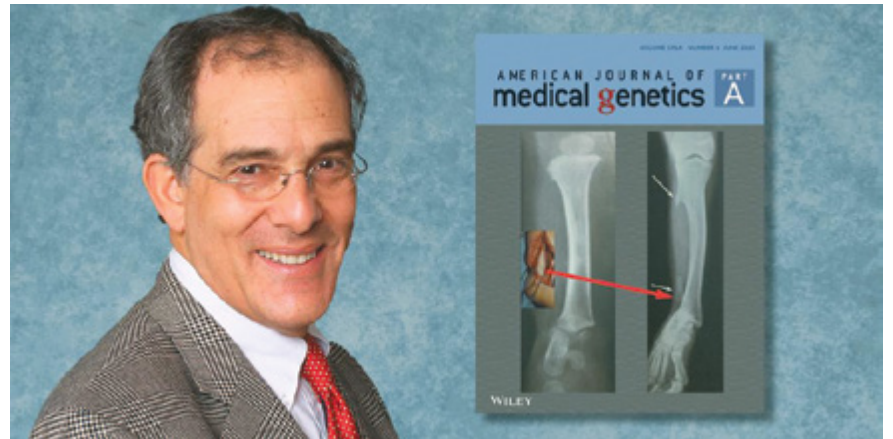
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Hootnick Challenges Understanding of Congenital Limb Deficiency



Dr. David R. Hootnick's bold new analysis of congenital limb deficiency is a cover story of the *American Journal of Medical Genetics*. Hootnick's revolutionary new approach to the topic of congenital birth defects was published in Vol. 19, Issue 6, June 2023.

Hootnick is a member of the departments of Orthopedic Surgery, Pediatrics and Cell and Developmental Biology at SUNY Upstate Medical University. His study revealed extensive clinical evidence that most human congenital long bone deficiencies of the lower limbs are the result of downstream effects of embryonic arterial dysgenesis. Asked to explain this in simpler terms, Hootnick said, "Missing blood vessels cause missing bones."

According to Hootnick, over the past century, researchers have been misled because of an almost exclusive reliance

on X-ray analysis of malformed limbs, while anatomy of the soft tissues, including arteries, has been neglected. Also, despite the completion of the Genome Project over 20 years ago, few causes of congenital limb deficiencies have been identified. He says that terms such as "absent fibula" are inaccurate and have contributed to a misunderstanding of the congenital deficiency. According to Hootnick, "The most commonly encountered long bone deficiency, 'absent' fibula, is a radiologic misnomer. An accurate appraisal of congenital deficiencies, one based on the pathologic anatomy of such affected limbs, demands revision of the currently employed terminologies."

Hootnick notes that the deficient skeletal structures follow the ingrowth pattern of new blood vessels in the sixth- and seventh-week embryonic limb. The missing blood vessels precede the missing bones and explains why techniques for lengthening congenitally shortened bones are difficult, as the shortened bones are diminished due to reduced blood supply.

This article was based on reporting by Darryl Geddes and Upstate Medical University.



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JEWISH NEWS



Israel is arguably the first country to go to for solutions to the world's biggest problems. In medical matters, its first aid is second to none. In the latest positive Israel news, Israeli doctors performed the first ever operation to deliver gene therapy direct to someone's brain. Israeli scientists discovered where red blood cells are first produced in the human body. And Israeli startups won international first prize awards for successful pain relief and skin therapy products.

Following the 100% success of Israel's Alpha TAU's last clinical trial of Alpha DaRT on recurring skin cancer, medical institutes around the world are clamoring to participate in the upcoming pivotal trials. Alpha TAU has also begun clinical trials for pancreatic cancer.

Researchers at Israel's Weizmann Institute have analyzed the build-up of ammonia that impairs immune cells in 50% of cancer patients. It blocks the protein regulator HNF4-alpha, causing weight loss and tumor growth. In lab tests, restoring HNF4-alpha production stops weight loss and shrinks the tumors.

Israel's Clearmind Medicine has been granted permission to begin trials at Sheba Medical Center of MEAI (5-methoxy-2-aminoindane) - a synthetic compound developed in Canada to treat alcoholics. Clearmind spent years making the MEAI-based oral capsules conform to medical standards.

Hebrew University researchers have discovered in lab tests that autism indicators increase as Nitric Oxide increases in the brain. Conversely, inhibiting production of NO increased "social" behavior and interest in new objects while reducing repetitiveness and anxiety.

Israel opened its first hydrogen refueling station. It launched the first medical incubator for startups in an Arab city. An Israeli-founded

startup was responsible for creating the first capital city to go 100% solar powered during the daytime in Burundi. One Israeli startup won an international Business Intelligence award and another won the Data Security Breakthrough award. Other business firsts were achieved when foreign airlines began new routes to Israel and French supermarket giant Carrefour opened its first stores in Israel.

A young Israeli Druze woman became the first of her community to be in Israel's winning female basketball championship team. And although Israel only came third in the Eurovision Song Contest, an Israeli woman triumphed in the World Judo Championships, resulting in the Israeli national anthem being played in Doha, the capital of Qatar.

Travel to Israel has increased significantly following the start of Delta Airlines' Atlanta to Tel Aviv route (3 times a week). El Al has begun twice-weekly flights from Tokyo and from Porto Portugal, plus thrice-weekly from Dublin and from Istanbul.

A group of 111 new immigrants from Ethiopia has arrived in Israel, joining more than 95,000 Ethiopian olim including previous operations: 8,000 (Moses 1984), 14,000 (Solomon 1991), 7,000 (Doves Wings 2013) and so far 2,250 (Zur 2020-23).

The first Israeli mission to the Moon ended in a crash landing. But the new generation of Moon landers for SpaceIL's Beresheet 2 is inspiring a new generation of Israelis.

Tel Aviv University scientists have made a technical breakthrough that can massively improve the yields of crops and their resistance to drought, disease and pests. Their research promises to reveal the previously hidden role of families of genes that make up 80% of the genome of plants.

Israel's Sightful has revealed its revolutionary new Spacetop laptop with no physical screen. It comes with augmented reality (AR) glasses, almost the size of regular eyeglasses. For spectacle wearers, they are manufactured with lenses tailored to the user's prescription.

Israel's cabinet has approved a new 65km pipeline between Ramat Hovav and the border with Egypt that will allow an extra 6 billion cubic meters of natural gas to be exported to

Egypt annually. It will increase annual revenues from royalties and taxes by hundreds of millions of shekels.

Brian Kemp, the governor of Georgia, is making an economic development trip to Israel. Israeli companies employ more than 1,000 Georgians. Georgia exported \$280 million to and imported \$650 million in goods and services from Israel last year.

Orthodox singer Ishay Ribo will be the first Israeli to star solo at Madison Square Garden. The concert is scheduled for the middle of the Hebrew month of Elul, when Selichot, special penitential prayers, are said in anticipation of the High Holy Days.

Alfred Moses purchased the Codex Sassoon at Sotheby's in New York for \$38 million. It was the most ever paid for a book at auction. He then generously donated it to Tel Aviv's ANU Museum of the Jewish People where it will be displayed as part of the permanent collection.

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ARTHUR M. STOCKMAN
May 31, 2023


A memorial service honoring Arthur M. Stockman's life will be held September 10, 2023 at 10 am at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, 18 Patsy Lane in DeWitt, to which all are welcome. Dr. Stockman, longtime Syracuse pediatrician and hospital medical director, died on May 31 after a long illness. He was 91.

After completing his residency at Upstate Medical Center, Dr. Stockman was recruited by legendary Syracuse pediatrician Fred Roberts to join what became Roberts, Charles, Stockman and Starr, one of the top pediatric practices in Syracuse from 1962 into the 1990s. This began his long career as a leader, teacher and lifelong student of medicine. While practicing, Dr. Stockman served as Medical Staff President at Crouse-Irving Memorial Hospital, Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Community-General Hospital and Associate Dean and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at SUNY Health Science Center. He established local allergy and pediatric clinics and co-authored peer-reviewed studies for Nature and Pediatrics with other Syracuse-area physicians.

After 30 years of pediatric practice, Dr. Stockman began a second career as the Medical Director of Rome Hospital and Murphy Memorial Hospital in Rome, NY, then returned to Syracuse and Community-General to serve as Medical Director and VP/Medical Affairs. Still not quite ready to retire, he then transitioned into career number three, crisscrossing the country as a Physician Surveyor for The Joint Commission,

where—for another 13 years—he applied his experience both in medical practice and management to teaching hospitals how to better serve patients. Health concerns forced his retirement from The Joint Commission at age 80, but he continued to mentor medical students and advocate in the courtroom for under-served youth in Florida. He kept up on his medical education through the end of his life.

He was actively involved in the Syracuse community as well. His was one of 12 founding families of what is now Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas in DeWitt, and he served as its second president. A closet musician, Dr. Stockman was an all-state trombonist in his school years and later sang bass with the Syracuse University Oratorio Society.

Dr. Stockman was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and also “father” to many rescued cats and dogs adopted by him and his children along the way. Dr. Stockman's wife, Joan, passed away in 2015. He is survived by his sister, Carol Goldsmith; his children, Steve Stockman, Gary Stockman, Linda Stockman-Vines and Mike Stockman, step-children Susan Eiswerth, Rob Salesman, Jana Timchack and Kerri Athanas and over a dozen grandchildren and great-grandchildren, the most recent of whom was born three days after his passing.

A memorial service honoring Dr. Stockman's life is planned for Syracuse early this fall.

Contributions in his memory can be made to the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA.

ROSALIND BODOW
June 11, 2023


Rosalind Bodow, 102 1/2, passed away on June 11 at Menorah Park. Born in Brooklyn, NY on December 3, 1920 to Harry and Esther Ozinsky, she was raised in Brooklyn with her three siblings. On a chance visit to Syracuse in 1936, Ros met her future husband Chuck, and the rest is history.

They were married in 1941, and Chuck went off to war. Ros lived with her parents in Brooklyn while Chuck was serving his country. Their first child, Wayne, was born in Brooklyn. When Chuck was discharged, they returned to Syracuse as they welcomed Marc and Andrea to their growing family.

Ros was a homemaker, but also was a dental assistant to Dr. Henry Cramer. In 1976 Ros decided that she would now work side by side with her beloved husband in their family business, Bodow Recycling. Sadly, Chuck passed away in 1992.

She was a lifetime member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and was especially active in the sisterhood of the Temple. In retirement in Boynton Beach, FL, she was the chair of the social committee for her community. Ros's home was always the place to be for friends and family to gather and enjoy great food and company. She loved to entertain.

Her family includes her children Wayne (Lillian Steinmann), Dr. Marc (Debby), and Andrea (Stan) Knoller, grandchildren Amy (Dean), and Elana (fiancé Chris), Eric, Danielle, and Amanda, Eric (Dr. Ting) and Bari, and great-grandchildren Major, Joshua, Jeremy, Samuel, Mia and Hannah. There is also a large and loving extended family.

Contributions in Ros's memory may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun. www.sisskindfuneralservice.com

RUTH (DEL NERO, WOOD) SCHWARTZ
June 17, 2023


Ruth (Del Nero, Wood) Schwartz passed away on June 17 in the comfort of her home.

Ruth enjoyed a successful career for 35 years as a financial advisor with Amerprise Financial and then was recruited by Upstate Medical University Foundation as a charitable giving planner where she used her skills to encourage people to make donations to the hospital. Ruth worked at this endeavor for ten years. A person who always found worthwhile uses for her boundless energy, she delivered Meals on Wheels for years, served as treasurer for The Manlius Historical Society and became a deputy sheriff so she could ticket cars parked in handicap spots illegally.

Ruth was a generous giving person who saw a need and did something about it. She purchased equipment for the physical therapy department at Upstate Medical University Hospital and, when the Fayetteville Senior Citizens Memory Tree was lost to a Labor Day storm in 1998, purchased a tree to replace it for the benefit of the senior citizen center. She was proud of the philanthropic service award given to her in 2001 by Dr. Gregory Eastwood. She has donated money for 26 consecutive years to Upstate Medical University. When she wasn't doing those things, she was traveling. She had the good fortune to make many trips. She and Stuart would go to Aruba, Africa or take a cruise to many interesting countries.

She is survived by her loving husband Stuart, the love of her life. She was a devoted mother to her children Debra Del Nero, David Del Nero and Phillip Del Nero, loving grandmother to Stephanie Del Nero Vallejos, Dr. Christina Del Nero-Johnson and Nichole Del Nero and great-grandmother of Antoin and Scarlett Johnson and Kai and Koa Vallejos. She is also survived by Stuart's children Kenneth Schwartz and Debra Lipson and Stuart's grandchildren Basia, Jonah and Zachary Schwartz and Kayla Lipson.

If you would like to honor Ruth, please make a donation to Spinal Cord Society, 19051 County Highway #1, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 or www.scsus.org.
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ROBERT PIERSON ROTHMAN June 19, 2023

Robert Pierson Rothman, 77, passed away June 19 in Maplewood, NJ. Born on May 2, 1946 to Raymond and Arlene Pierson Rothman, he had been a life resident of Syracuse until moving to New Jersey a few years ago to be closer to family.

Rob was a practicing attorney in Syracuse for all of his professional career. He was a lifelong member of Temple Concord and served as a vice president of the board of directors of the Temple. He was a graduate of Penn State University and Syracuse University School of Law. He was a member and past president of Syracuse Rotary. He was especially proud to have been a season ticket holder of Syracuse football and basketball from day one.

His family includes his wife Tovah of 51 years, their children, Rachel (Adam) Rothman Cohen, Aaron (Arian) Rothman and Sarah (Sam Schaffzin) Rothman, grandchildren Ellie, Avery, Eleanor, Solomon, Reuben and Laynie, his brothers Mark and Mitchell and his brother-in-law Samuel Guttenplan. He was pre-deceased by his sister Sandra Klein.

Contributions in his memory may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, michaeljfox.org.

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HARLENE KANTHOR GILELS July 2, 2023



Harlene Kanthor Gilels, 91, passed away July 2 after a courageous battle with congestive heart failure. She attended Syracuse University and was a lifetime resident of Syracuse until 1995 when she moved to Lake Worth, FL.

Harlene was an accomplished woman with many talents. She worked with her husband Victor at his optical company, HG Optical in downtown Syracuse. Harlene was passionate about golfing and played District Golf for many years as a member of Lafayette Country Club in Syracuse and then at The Fountains in Lake Worth.

Among her other interests was travel. She traveled extensively with her daughter Lisa. She was a life master of bridge and an avid player of mahjong. Her gardens were always a delight to her friends and family. In Florida, she formed an extensive social group that shared lunches, theater and shopping. She also became a realtor. Harlene made traditional family dinners to mark every holiday. She was predeceased by her husband Victor and her brother Hilbert Kanthor.

She is survived by her children, Michael, Lisa, and Deborah and their respective spouses. Harlene had two granddaughters, Julia and Lily; two great grandchildren Henry and Reese; and many nieces and nephews.

Contributions may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun, the SPCA or any charity of your choice.

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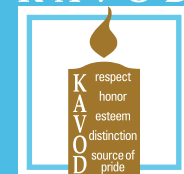
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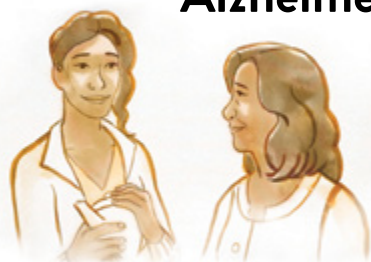
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