

Happy Thanksgiving!

Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

of Central New York

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GRANDPARENTS and GRATITUDE



*“Grandchildren
are the crown
of the aged,
while the glory
of children is
their ancestors.”*
- Proverbs 17:5



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From the Editor



Barbara Davis

The November 2023 issue of the Jewish Observer was a true joy to edit. There is something special about grandparents and grandchildren which is also true of Thanksgiving, the one truly unselfish and values-based holiday of the secular calendar year: gratitude for our blessings. Even as we review our understanding of the history of Thanksgiving, we can nonetheless take pleasure in a celebration of family and food – what a combination!

When it comes to grandparenting, I am all in. The old joke is that grandparents and grandchildren have a common enemy, and that’s why the bond is so strong, but it’s really so much more than that. At grandma and grandpa’s house, children can do no wrong, and that is a unique situation. The relationship between a grandparent and grandchild is deeply rooted and based on mutual adoration, and it is impossible to overestimate the value of this unconditional love. The best Jewish grandparents let their grandchildren know how special they are; how much they are loved for themselves, exactly as they are. We know that children’s self-esteem derives from unconditional acceptance, not for what they do, but for who they are. Feeling loved no matter what helps children learn to accept their imperfections and the imperfections of others. A grandparent’s love provides a foundation of support that lasts a lifetime.

One of the most unique features of grandparental love is this freedom to separate it from what a grandchild does. The very best Jewish grandparents do not scrutinize how well a child talks, walks, eats, draws, spells, does in school, plays sports. It does not matter to them if a child has a disability, a horrible day or a bad report card. They still love their grandchildren with all their heart and let them know it. That is not to say that they don’t care. They most certainly do and would go to the ends of the earth to help their grandchildren be successful, but while they might notice, worry or stress – their overriding emotion is still love and acceptance.

They used to say that “to be a Jew means to have Jewish grandchildren.” That platitude, which is hurtful to many, no longer has resonance in 21st century America. The theme of this issue of the JO is “Grandparenting Jewishly.” There is a reason for this wording. One of our readers objected strongly to the use of the term “aging Jewishly” in our August issue but using “Jewishly” as an adverb is very different from saying “aging as a Jew” or “Jewish grandparents.” Judaism is a religion of action; it is composed of things Jews do. Anyone can emulate Jewish actions, whether they are Jewish or not. That is why our theme was chosen. We recognize that today many Jews have grandchildren who are not Jewish, and many grandchildren of Jewish heritage have grandparents who are not Jewish. But the tenets and joys of Jewish grandparenting are available to all. They have served us well for thousands of years and may make a lot of difference in the future.

So what does it mean to “grandparent Jewishly”? First of all, let’s note that “grandparent,” like “parent,” is a noun that recently became a verb. The verb form of “parent” was first used in the United States in the late 1950s, according to The Merriam-Webster Dictionary. It’s doubtful

that our grandparents thought they were “parenting” their offspring; they just thought they were “raising their kids.” But the conversion of the noun to a verb changes its meaning. “Grandparenting” does not imply a biological connection; it means “doing the things done by a grandparent.”

So how does one do the things done by a Jewish grandparent? It’s pretty easy. The first thing is to provide wisdom and connection to the past with an eye to the future. The second is to kvell. The third is to have the loftiest of expectations for the most wonderful child[ren] ever to have been born. And the fourth is to provide unconditional love. Judging by the photos our readers shared with us, they have this down pat.

The month of November also occupies an important place in modern Jewish history. A number of dramatic events took place in Israel during November which have had a significant impact on the course of the history of the state. The first was the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, which called for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. One of the most infamous United Nations resolutions against Israel was adopted 40 years ago on November 10, 1975. Resolution 3379 equated Zionism with racism. One of the few constructive UN resolutions concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict, Security Council Resolution 242, was passed on November 22, 1967, following the Six-Day War. This binding resolution spoke about the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East through negotiations, the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories (not “the” territories) occupied in the conflict to secured and recognized boundaries. On November 19, 1977, Egyptian president Anwar Sadat’s historical visit to Israel at the invitation of prime minister Menachem Begin led to the signing of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and then peace with Jordan.

NOTE: Because the JO goes to layout one month before the month of publication, there is always a danger that it will be out of synch with the news. Such is the case this month, as the horrific and tragic events in Israel were never foreseen at the time the issue was created. There was not enough time to completely rewrite the paper, so we changed what could be done in a matter of two days. We had originally intended to include two articles addressing the Israeli judiciary from two different perspectives, but clearly they were not appropriate at this time.

We urge all of our *Jewish Observer* readers to stand with Israel, stand together and stand with Federation in support (particularly financial) of our beloved homeland. The loss of life in Israel this fall is staggering – the greatest number of deaths since the Shoah. The unprovoked and brutal attack against innocent civilians – children, young people, families, old people – violates all the principles of decency and even of warfare. We must stand together and we must stand for Israel. As we celebrate our grandparents and our holiday of Thanksgiving in this issue, we must also remember that Israel is part of our Jewish family. We celebrate Israel’s achievements even as we mourn Israel’s losses. And we remember, as speaker after speaker told us at our rally, that Am Israel Chai.

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of Central New York

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President/CEO.....Michael Balanoff
Board Chair.....Neil Rosenbaum
Editor.....Barbara Davis



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From the Jewish Federation of CNY President/CEO



Michael Balanoff

I am a Jewish grandparent. I can relate to a lot of what the study found. But I am also a Jewish professional, and what I relate to as it pertains to grandparents in that capacity is ancient wisdom. *The Book of Proverbs*, verse 17.6, says, “Children’s children are a crown to the aged.” That is how I see it. Our grandchildren are our crown, our reward for everything we have done that is good. But we must make an effort to be worthy of that crown. We must strive in all our endeavors to be worthy of that reward.

Psalms 128:5-6 enjoins: “May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you share the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life and live to see your children’s children. May all be well with Israel!” For Jews of a certain age (i.e., elders), the goodness in our lives is directly tied not only to our grandchildren, should we be blessed with them, but with the prosperity and wellbeing of Israel, not the state but the people. We have an obligation to do all that we can to care for our fellow Jews and our Jewish community to assure its

A recent study found that 47% of Jewish grandparents lived within an hour of their grandkids, and 39% lived more than five hours away. Ninety-four percent found grandparenting to be a joyful experience. Sixteen percent struggled to balance grandparenting with their other demands. Jewish grandparents are vibrant, busy people with their own lives. Eleven percent said grandparenting was often stressful, and 19% said their adult children don’t fully appreciate all they do. Nearly half of the grandparents had a child who’d married a non-Jew, but only 20% had grandchildren being raised solely in another faith.

happiness, security and welfare. That is why I am so honored to work for the Federation. Caring about and caring for our community is what Federation is all about.

I would like to share with you one of Federation’s most important programs in this regard. The Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund was created in 2016 to honor a man who was adventurous, generous and philanthropic. The goal of the program is to foster innovation, creativity and collaboration in our community. It is designed to ensure that we do not fall into a rut, that we don’t run the same programs year after year, regardless of changing times, not upgrading, not modernizing, not making our programs meaningful and relevant to new generations. Each year the Holstein fund gets an infusion of 5% of unrestricted reserves, averaging \$41,700 in the last three years from the Federation campaign. Last fiscal year, grants in the amount of \$66,820 were awarded. This year \$50,600 was carried over and \$45,000 was added

from 2023 campaign for a total of \$95,600 available for new projects.

Following is a list of the dynamic, exciting and collaborative programs that received Holstein support this year: Hillel’s Greek Unity Shabbat, JCC’s Family Event Series, the SCHS Bring the Fait to the Park program, Temple Concord’s Synagogue of the Future Series, the Community Garden sponsored by Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Concord, the Day School’s Scholar in Residence program with Andre Ivory and its *Tu b’Shevat* seder with Binghamton’s Hillel Academy. And there are many other creative ideas in the pipeline for funding.

The programs show us new ways of being Jewish, new paths we can follow. The way we have always done it in the past is not the way we will do it in the future. We make the future by the choices we make today, but we have to make them mindful of the fact that it is our children and our children’s children who will live in the world we create for them. The study that I cited at the beginning of this article pointed out that “Gone are the days when Jewish grandparents defaulted to the age-old Yiddish standbys of ‘Bubbie’ and

‘Zayde,’ or even the slightly hipper Hebrew versions, ‘Savta’ and ‘Saba.’” Today’s grandparents are Nana, Grammy, Granny, Mimi, Gram, Nanny, Oma, Mamaw, Gran, Papa, Granddad, Gramps, Poppy, Papaw, Pop, Opa Nana, Gaga, Bumpah, Memaw, Pepaw or, as in my case, Pop-Pop. Nor are our grandchildren necessarily Jews the way we were. They might be Hindjews or Cashews or Jewtherans or Jews by choice or none of the above.

But that does not change the ancient wisdom: “Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, while the glory of children is their ancestors.” Jewish Boomer grandparents are currently the largest demographic in the Jewish community. As such, we are at the cutting edge of the changes in Jewish family life and the Jewish community. We have to confront issues and complexities that our ancestors never imagined, much less had to deal with. But what was true in ancient times is still true today: grandparents, the older generation, are the pillars upon which future generations rest. Our challenge, Federation’s challenge, is to make sure that those pillars are strong enough to sustain Jewish life in new and distinctive ways.

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Campaign 2024 Chair Brings Dedication and Experience to the Role

by Anick Sinclair

Nan Fechtner has spent her adult life working to strengthen her community. For the past thirty years, Nan has involved herself as a volunteer in diverse organizations and roles, ranging from volunteer organizer to fundraiser to executive board member. Nan grew up in a family where her mother, who called herself a “professional volunteer,” was her role model. Wherever Nan has lived, she has always given back to her community by volunteering. Volunteerism and giving back to her community are extremely important to her.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Nan partnered with the Lions Club and created a fundraiser to support eye research. She created an organization and committee structure, managed the volunteers and ran successful fundraisers two years in a row. Moving to New Jersey 18 years ago with her husband and two young boys, Nan turned her energies towards the Jewish Community Center where her children were enrolled in preschool. She held many volunteer positions over the years including developing a strategic plan, chairing the budget and finance committee, and serving on the executive board. She completed an initiative with her synagogue to redefine its mission and



vision statements, develop and implement a 5-year strategic plan and launch a novel

funding structure. She chaired various committees in the synagogue including fundraising, budget and finance, and long-range planning.

When Nan, her husband and three mostly grown boys moved to Syracuse in the summer of 2016, she looked forward to contributing to her new community in positive ways through volunteer work. Through her work with the Federation, Nan feels that she can have a greater impact on the Syracuse Jewish community than if she devoted her time to a single issue. She knows that the Federation touches all things Jewish in Syracuse, from birth to old age and everything in between. To Nan, Federation of CNY fundraises to meet its mission of supporting the community and she is honored to be spearheading the 2024 Annual Campaign.

The 2024 Campaign Cabinet

by Anick Sinclair

Federation’s Campaign Cabinet is a group of passionate volunteers who work hard to raise funds so that the Federation can support Jewish communal life in Central New York and around the world. Cabinet members provide leadership, increase awareness and connection and are the worker bees of the campaign.

Campaign Chair, Nan Fechtner, served on the cabinet last year and was eager to put together a group of individuals who are not shy to solicit and, more importantly, are people who care deeply about Jewish development and continuity. They are diverse in age, profession and experience. Some are new to town, some are fourth-generation Syracusans, but all share a common interest in Jewish life, from education to helping the vulnerable.

“Those who left Syracuse and have chosen to return and replant roots for their new families bring with them a sweeping breath of fresh air,” says Fechtner. “New ideas for fundraising, programming and care are uppermost in their minds and we welcome them with open arms. Those who are greatly respected members of the community are imperative to the execution of the same goals, as their knowledge of what works locally and what doesn’t is incomparable.”



Returning to Cabinet are tech guru Melissa Harkavy, who is also the executive director of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas and Steve Volinsky, a retired chief financial officer, Federation board member and very active volunteer at Temple Concord, who is renowned for his skills as a solicitor.



New to the Cabinet are Souper-Dooper Super Sunday co-chairs Adam and Amira Goldberg. Adam is vice president of marking at Raymour & Flanigan and Amira is a family nurse practitioner at Crouse Medical Practice. Both are excited to be heading up the campaign’s signature event, Super Sunday, on January 7th, which is soup-themed and will be collecting cans of soup for the Federation food pantry at Menorah Park as well as serving tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches to participants.



Also joining the Cabinet are Marty Fine, Samantha Garelick, Dr. Karen Lawitts, Bonnie Leff, Robert Lieberman and Brooke Raphael. Marty is a retired director of Bank of America, Samantha is an art educator, Karen is a dentist, Bonnie is a social worker, Robert is a properties manager and Brooke is vice president for strategy and operations at Promontory Therapeutics. Members of the Cabinet are enthusiastic about their work. Brooke Raphael commented, “After living in New York City for 18 years, my family and I returned to Syracuse and I’m thrilled to be part of the Campaign Cabinet. I hope to bring fresh ideas to the Federation to help in its very important work for the Jewish community.” Dr. Lawitts added, “Being a third generation Syracusan, I am well aware how fundamental the Federation’s annual campaign is to all manner of Jewish life in the area. I was honored to be asked onto the Cabinet for 2024 with such remarkable people and I’m certain we will make it a successful year.”

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On Being A Jewish Grandparent

by Rabbi Moshe Saks,
Temple Adath Yeshurun

I write this just a few days after the birth of our ninth grandchild, a boy, born to our youngest, Eliana, and her husband, Moshe, in Philadelphia. As a rabbi, I often deal with issues of Jewish continuity, both within the community, and especially within the extended family. Perhaps the biggest question we face as Jews in modernity is: "How do we keep Jews Jewish?" Of course, once you are born a Jew, or accept Judaism as a Jew-by-Choice, you are, according to *Halacha* (Jewish Law), Jewish. The question really is how families retain and grow their sense of Jewish identity, which can be measured in so many ways. My own personal benchmark is this: How does being Jewish influence you and your family to live your lives, and how do Jewish Values shape your approach to everything, from raising a family to your world view?

It seems to me, that, after 45 years of marriage, and 42 years in the rabbinate, that the best way to answer these questions is by examining our grandchildren. For those of you who are in this group, we know that our adult children may have very different parenting styles or interests than we had when they were children in our homes. Nonetheless, when we see the personalities of our grandchildren, and their approach to life (especially as they grow and mature), we can get a sense if the values we wanted



our children to have is present in their children, as well.

Certainly, there is no one standard that applies to every family, but the task, nevertheless, remains for us, as grandparents, who must walk a fine line between offering teaching and values to our grandchildren, while at the same time, respecting what their parents are sharing with them. It is in this regard where Jewish tradition is most helpful, since observance and study, two pillars of Jewish life, can bridge the gap between generations and help in creating an extended family structure with a shared value system, all done with love.

I don't have any "magical formula" to share with you; just know that, as long as we are honest with our loved ones and ourselves, Judaism can be a wonderful, helpful value system for those relationships. In fact, I would say that God is present within relationships, and is a source of strength for all of us in that regards.

Here is my hope and blessing to everyone – a long life, filled with the love of children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren, to use our Jewish heritage to make more meaningful connections, and in doing so, stronger families to make this world a better place to live for all.

Grandparenthood

by Michael Gordon

For most of us, becoming a grandparent promotes a state of bliss that rivals the impact of religious fervor and most intoxicants. It's one of the Almighty's finest ways of congratulating you on having endured. You've survived your own childhood, your children's childhood and all those bumps along the way that could have easily derailed the journey.

I have yet to meet someone who fails to smile when mentioning their grandkids. Even my most dour friends, the ones who routinely profess their abhorrence of humankind, grin when they talk about a weekend of roughhousing with the little ones. Stern titans of industry will giddily show pictures of a granddaughter putting colorful ribbons in their thinning gray hair. For these otherwise gloomy people, a dose of time with a grandchild exceeds the benefits of the antidepressant they are (or should be) taking.

Becoming a grandparent can entail all the joys of being a parent but without the ever-present crush of responsibility. Our one goal when we take care of the grandkids is to return them home in relatively good working order. If we don't do anything that causes them grievous injury, mission accomplished.

Beyond keeping them safe, our responsibilities around promoting their success in life are modest and manageable. No one holds a grandparent solely responsible if a grandchild bites someone in preschool, gets bad grades in elementary school or makes some questionable choices around friends over the ensuing years. We know enough not to care all that much if a child's body weight is a few percentile points below the mean. A little weirdness or preoccupation here or there doesn't faze us. We've been through endless worries with our own kids, only to learn that the issues were usually transient and overblown.

We grandparents are off the hook anyhow, because everyone blames the parents for all perturbations and imperfections. Parents are the worst offenders when it comes to faulting themselves for whatever real or imagined problem arises. As far as most moms and dads are concerned, it's all about them. Period.

But it's not all about parental accountability. Not even close. Scientific research has made it plain as day that parents are third in line – behind genetic influences and what are known as "non-shared environmental factors" (that is, non-family experiences outside of the home). It turns out that Mother Nature chose not to trust survival of the species to parents alone. She relied on the passing of genes and the community at large. The only exception is if parents are physically or emotionally abusive. Then parents would be right to shoulder blame.

If we shouldn't even be pointing the finger at parents, we grandparents should forever be



held harmless. We can do with our grandkids what we couldn't with our own offspring – enjoy them freely and without the mass assumption of guilt.

Does that mean we grandparents are no more than a steady source of toys, money and episodic entertainment? No, I believe we offer a host of intangibles that can make a difference in their lives. We can show them that getting old is possible and a good thing. We can give grandkids a sense that they've been born into an extended family that has a long history of sweet customs and endless stories. We can help them see that those traditions serve as the foundation upon which they can build their lives. We can offer up some wisdom now and then that they might store for future use. We can act as a safety valve if the pressures at home become intense. We can be calming by letting them know we're there to support them in any way we can. We can encourage them to pursue their goals and even offer up some tips on how to achieve them. We can present ourselves as examples of people who have lived a decent life. We can show them that aging presents its challenges but not in a way that keeps us from being loving and having fun. And our grandchildren can use us to practice at being respectful, caring and kind.

Count me in as a huge fan of grandparenthood.

The Grandparents in My Tallit

by Francine Berg

My grandmother, Anna Altman, often sat on a park bench crocheting as she watched her daughter Evelyn play on the swings and sing. As Evelyn, my mother, grew older, she was found to have an incredible voice. She also tap danced up a storm. My grandmother took her to auditions to sing and dance, and she won many awards for her talent. When she was fifteen, she began to sing in nightclubs. But she needed dressy gowns, which she was not able to afford. So she and my grandmother walked up and down New York City's 5th Avenue, window shopping. When they got home, Anna recreated those gowns.

My grandfather Samuel was also talented. He made leather handbags on Madison Avenue. Between my grandmother's crocheting and sewing gowns and my grandfather creating beautiful handbags lined in silk, there was a lot of fabric.

When I became a cantor, I decided to make my own tallit. I wanted it to be special. I found a box full of fabrics deep in my mother's closet. (She never threw anything out!) I decided to use the fabrics and my grandmother's crocheted pieces to design my prayer shawl. It was to become the story of my mother's family.

On my tallit are crocheted gloves, turned upside down, to look like hamsas. Cabbage rose flowers came from a bedspread in my mother's trousseau. Fabric strips were pieces of silk my grandfather used to line pocketbooks. A crocheted collar was sewn on, and on top of that was a collar made from organza flowers. Round sequin circles were hand-sewn individually by my mother, copied from a gown she saw in one of the windows.



Gratitude Journals

Gratitude is a very Jewish value. "Who is rich?" asks *Pirke Avot* and answers, "Those who rejoice in their own portion." *Hakarat HaTov*, the Hebrew term for gratitude, literally means "recognizing the good." It's not just being thankful, it's about being aware of how much we have. There's a Jewish tradition that encourages us to find 100 blessings each day. Even before we get out of bed in the morning, we are to recognize and appreciate what we have: "*Modeh anee lefanecha melech chai vekayam; I offer thanks to You, living and eternal God.*" At our seders, we sing *Dayenu*, the theme of which is that even if the Jewish people had not received all the blessings they did, they would still have been thankful for what they did receive. On Shabbat, husbands recognize and honor their wives by reciting *Eshet Chayil*.

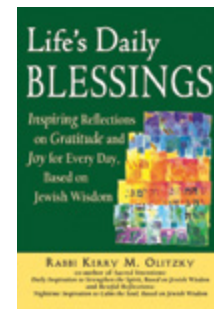
It is said that in 21st century America, we are living in an age of anxiety. Fear plays an increasingly prominent role in our society, on social media and in politics. It affects our thoughts about climate change, COVID-19, and the future. It affects mental health and relationships. But It is also known that expressing gratitude can mitigate anxiety. Studies have shown that feeling thankful can improve sleep, mood and immunity. Gratitude can decrease depression, anxiety, difficulties with chronic pain and risk of disease.

Gratitude journaling is the habit of recording and reflecting on things (typically three) that you are grateful for on a regular basis, in essence, rewiring the brain to focus more on the positive – *hakarat ha tov*. Keeping a gratitude journal is a popular practice in positive psychology – the scientific study of happiness. It's also referred to as "counting your blessings" or "three good things." There are books that specifically address Jewish gratitude, some designed for kids, men, women, teens and seniors. We share some of the titles with JO readers:

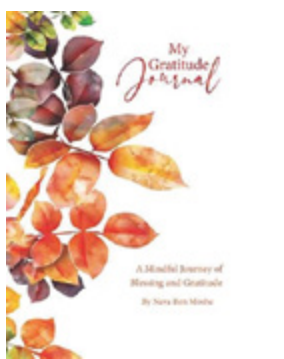
Jewish Gratitude Journal: Hakarat HaTov is a daily journal in which to record things to be grateful for, memories worth keeping, positive attributes, prayers and more.



Thank you Hashem is a 6"x9" lined soft cover notebook for keeping track of gratitude for all the small things.



Life's Daily Blessings: Inspiring Reflections on Gratitude and Joy for Every Day, Based on Jewish Wisdom by Rabbi Kerry M. Olitzky uses both the secular and Jewish calendars as frameworks for daily devotionals to honor the special and holy events of the year as well as identify the sacred in the mundane moments of life.



My Gratitude Journal: A Mindful Journey of Blessing and Gratitude by Nava Ben Moshe is a take-along journal comprised of inspiring stories and quotes designed to encourage the appreciation of every moment in life.

A Bedtime Gratitude and Prayer Journal for Jewish Mothers by Chana Voola is meant to be used after a long, busy day to unwind, decompress, reflect, connect to Hashem and be thankful.





“GRANDPARENTS are the



best kind of grownups.”

The Luminary Society Lights the Way

“We are so lucky to have a Luminary Society in Central New York,” said Neil Rosenbaum, chair of the board of the Jewish Federation. “It is filled with people who care deeply about the Jewish community. They are essential to Jewish continuity. They are luminaries. Could you be a luminary? Would you shine your light on what matters most?”

As the Jewish Federation prepares to launch its 2024 Campaign for Jewish Life in Central New York, the Luminary Society is gearing up for its annual gathering on December 16. “And we are, as always, happy to welcome new members,”



said Campaign Chair Nan Fechtner. Fechtner is sure “that this will be an incredible evening to thank the major donors to the campaign for their support over the last year. It will be a lovely opportunity for dedicated members of the local community to gather in an informal, social capacity. We are working hard to make it an unforgettable and entertaining event. We are excited to present mentalist Brad Henderson and delighted to celebrate such an important cohort in our local society.”

“The Jewish Federation’s campaign represents a collective enterprise of the Jewish community to make sure that we fulfill our obligations to rescue the imperiled, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick and take care of the needs of our people,” explained Anick Sinclair, the chair of the 2023 campaign and now the Federation’s campaign associate. “This includes those who live in Israel and other parts of the world, who are no less precious to us than those who live next door. Participation in the annual campaign is a statement about Jewish values.”

Federation president/CEO Michael Balanoff added, “A donation to the Federation is an investment by the donor in his or her community. It is a statement by the donor that one belongs to the Jewish people. As Jews, we count on individuals to uplift the collective, and we continue our historic aspiration to be full participants in the community’s welfare.”

“There are incredibly generous donors in our community,” Balanoff continued.



“They make up the Luminary Society, named for those who light the way for and inspire others. The Luminaries are fundamental to the campaign’s success because of their unwavering commitment to supporting the needs of a thriving Jewish community.”

Fechtner explained that the Luminary Society recognizes donors whose annual contribution to the Federation is \$6000 or more. Now in its second year, the Society will hold its thank you event on December 16 at the unique and interesting Post building in downtown Syracuse. It will feature delicious food, as well as mentalist Brad Henderson’s ‘Mind Show,’ a highly interactive entertainment experience perfect for intelligent audiences and those who are looking to explore something truly unusual.”

The Mind Show is designed to appeal to sophisticated adult audiences who want to be mystified, entertained and perhaps even inspired. Guests will be astonished at what their amazing minds can do, as Henderson leads them on a journey exploring the depth and breadth of what is possible. The show begins with a fully interactive introduction to mind reading. *The Mind Show* explores reading people—the signals and clues that everyone gives off as a part of communication. Unlike other mentalists, Brad is comfortable sharing the psychological principles on which his demonstrations are based. *The Mind Show* also explores the power of hypnotism and mental illusions. It climaxes with a stunt where Brad literally places his entire future on the line.

For more information about becoming a member of the Luminary Society, please contact Anick Sinclair at the Federation office, 315-445-0161 or email luminarysociety@jewishfederationcny.org.

Am Israel Chai, the people of Israel live, was the theme repeatedly expressed at a rally for Israel on October 9 attended by several hundred Central New Yorkers.

“Israel is now under attack – not just in the media, not just with words and protests, but with rockets and bombs and guns and the killing of hundreds of innocent civilians and the injuring of thousands. This vile attack was unprovoked and was vicious and deadly,” said Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff, opening the rally. “Israel exists for Jews both as a physical, historical homeland and as a shared identity,” he went on. “The Jewish nation, whether metaphorical or literal, provides Jews with a shared history, culture and religion. Peoplehood is not a biological or racial concept, but a symbolic one, emphasizing the mutual responsibility implicit in familial relationships, a basic value that has infused Jewish life through the ages. All Jews are responsible, one for the other. We Jews are a family, whether we live in Israel or in the diaspora. Today, when our brothers and sisters in Israel are under attack, we must rally like a family – putting family first, defending, supporting and protecting those family members who are in danger. Your presence here tonight is a first step in demonstrating solidarity and love. But it cannot be all you do. Israel will need more support in the months ahead – moral support, emotional support, political support and financial support.”

Balanoff’s introduction was followed by stirring remarks by Rabbi Oren Steinitz of Congregation Beh Sholom-Chevre Shas, Rabbi Ilan Emanuel of Temple Concord, Rabbi Evan Shore of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse and Rabbi Yaacov Rapoport of Chabad Syracuse. The program was brought to a close by Cantors Kari Eglash of Temple Concord and Esa Jaffe of Temple Adath Yeshurun who led the attendees in song, concluding with *HaTikvah*.



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Teen Funders Program Now at Epstein School

by Aaron Spitzer

The Linda Alexander Teen Funders Program, which develops youth philanthropy efforts in our community, will now be hosted at the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies. “We are thrilled to host the Linda Alexander Teen Funders program at the Epstein School,” President Anick Sinclair reported. “As the gathering place for our community’s teens from all four congregations, it will be an excellent addition to our already robust programming. Helping teens prioritize tzedakah in their lives ties directly into our mission of preparing them to make Jewish choices in adulthood through educational programs.” Through the Teen Funders program, teens learn the importance of charitable giving and the critical role played by the Jewish Federation in the community. Equally importantly, teens fund organizations and causes they find compelling.

At the Epstein School, teen funders will continue to be recruited from throughout the community as part of b’nai mitzvah celebrations at each community congregation. The program will be vertically integrated into the Epstein School, beginning in the 7th and 8th grades and continuing through graduation in 12th grade. Jewish values of tzedakah (justice) and tikun olam (repairing the world) are woven throughout the fabric of the Epstein curriculum. Opportunities for gemilut chasadim (acts of lovingkindness) are created throughout the year as part of special events at the school.

Formal philanthropic learning will be focused within the 9th grade year. Taught by Maura Koenig, the class will utilize the “ChangeMakers: A Journey through Jewish Teen Philanthropy” curriculum from HoneyComb, the leading resource for Jewish youth philanthropy. In this class, students will learn how to make decisions by consensus, create and refine mission statements, analyze nonprofit financial documents and develop requests for proposals (RFPs). More critically, students will grapple with Jewish values and mitzvot before identifying the issues and problems they want to address through charitable giving. After engaging in consensus-based decision-making to identify the social justice issues they find most worthy, students will choose Jewish or Israeli organizations working to fix those problems from which to solicit RFPs. After reviewing the RFPs, teen funders will then make grants to organizations they select at the end of the school year.

This work — learning about the processes of Jewish teen philanthropy and the Jewish values and mitzvot that undergird it — will form the basis for the entire 9th grade curriculum at Epstein. In the upper grades, students will continue to have opportunities to continue their charitable giving through gemilut chasadim through Epstein special events. Seniors will make an end-of-year grant to an organization of their selection as their legacy as they graduate.


Reversing *Tashlich*

Ley Creek is a polluted urban stream located in the Town of DeWitt. Over time, the water quality of Ley Creek has been impaired by pathogens, ammonia, nutrients and cyanide. The Creek is listed on the NYS 303(d) List of Impaired Waters which has led to the impairment of public bathing, aquatic life and recreation in the creek and has stressed the aesthetics and fish consumption for the entire watershed.

Erev Yom Kippur, members of the Federation’s Board of Directors and members of the Jewish community engaged in a Reverse *Tashlich* project to restore Ley Creek to its natural condition as well as remediate damage done by urban runoff. *Tashlich* means “casting off” and traditionally involves throwing bread, symbolizing sin, into a body of running water. Reverse *Tashlich* is an innovation, through which waters are cleansed of “sin” by removing pollutants.

On a gray, rainy afternoon, dozens of hardy workers from both the Jewish and general communities joined with Onondaga Earth Core members under the direction of Amy Samuels, education and outreach coordinator for the Onondaga Environmental Institute and self-described “tree nerd. They dug, hammered, protected and planted almost 100 sycamore and black walnut saplings which will ultimately result in improvements to the water temperature, dissolved oxygen content, natural flow-patterns and turbidity of Ley Creek. Participants agreed that it was a wonderful way to begin 5784. Reverse *Tashlich* is a project of the Federation’s Climate Committee, created and chaired by Mark Field, which has several other tree-planting projects in the works this fall.

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CBS-CS Chesed Committee Shows Kindness in Times of Need

by Joanne Villegas

From its beginning in 1962, Congregation Beth Sholom (and since 1977, Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas) has considered itself a congregation, a sacred community, not a building or temple. As such, a foundational value has been *chesed*, loving kindness, treating each of the members as part of the congregational family and being there for each other during times of joy and times of need. *Chesed* is one of the thirteen attributes of God that should be exhibited by all.



The CBS-CS *Chesed* Committee is a formal provider of services and works closely with CBS-CS' rabbi, although many acts of kindness and support are extended informally from congregant to congregant.

'CBS-CS' *Chesed* Committee provides meals of consolation following the burial of a loved one, meals during *shiva* if desired, support for *shiva minyanim*, meals for those who are ill, transportation to doctors' appointments, visits and holiday gift bags to those who are isolated, ill or recently suffered a loss. Each *Chesed* Committee action provides an opportunity to connect to the more isolated members of the congregation and spend time hearing stories and listening to struggles while demonstrating that members belong to a loving community.

Recipients often express their appreciation for these acts of loving kindness. A recent distribution of gift bags for Rosh Hashanah elicited this comment from a recipient, "So appreciative of the delivery of my holiday gift bag, it adds to the feeling of community." Members of the CBS-CS *Chesed* Committee's response to anyone expressing thanks is always, "This is what we are here for."

The CBS-CS Chesed Committee is committed to ensuring that members

know they are here for them and think of them even if they do not see them often. To learn more about the Chesed Committee, contact the CBS-CS office via phone at 315-446-9570 or email at admin@cbcs.org.

TAY 150th Anniversary Celebration



Goldberg, a photo booth sponsored by Cannon Pools, and music and entertainment by The Great Music Company.

A short film will be shown, featuring a digital archive of the treasure trove of artifacts - photos, videos, and documents from TAY. A digital ad book will be running throughout the event, with *Mazel Tov* messages and well-wishes from congregants and local businesses.

During the evening, there will be silent auctions and basket raffles with amazing prizes to be won; including a custom suit from Mr. Shop, orchestra section tickets for *Hairspray*, courtside New York Knicks tickets, and so much more. Proceeds from the digital ad book and auction/raffles will allow TAY to fulfill its mission as a place of worship, study, and community gathering.

Temple Adath Yeshurun appreciates the continued support of the congregation and area organizations/businesses. The TAY Clergy, Administrative Team, and 150th Committee are looking forward to celebrating with the congregation.

Tickets to attend are \$36 for adults and \$18 for children age 12 and younger. To purchase tickets, please visit www.adath.org or contact the Temple Office at 315.445.0002 or info@adath.org. For additional information, please contact Sonali McIntyre at sonali@adath.org.

Rabbi Backs Governor's Measures For Combating Antisemitism



Rabbi Yaakov Rapoport was interviewed on Spectrum Cable News discussing ways to combat antisemitism. The program noted that recently, 49 synagogues across the country have received calls threatening violence, according to the Anti-Defamation League. Rapoport said he believes the key to reducing antisemitism is teaching children at a young age that we are all equal. "No one person is better than another," Rapoport explained, "and if that would be focused on children from the time they're little, I think that would change their outlook on life."

Gov. Kathy Hochul was shown saying, "No child is born with hate in their heart. It's learned. And I believe it can be unlearned. That's what education is. That's the power of education." Hochul wants to establish a New York State Anti-Hate in Education Center. "Looks good to me," said Rapoport. The center would be a hub that brings together experts in academia and government to find solutions to hate and discrimination issues.

"We have the power to make change here and now," Hochul said. "I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't think we did, I wouldn't be wasting your time. I truly believe in my heart we can change people's attitudes one person at a time." Rapoport added, "Antisemitism based on ignorance can be gotten rid of. Antisemitism based on hatred, and sort of a form of jealousy, I don't know how to get rid of that."

Getting in the Holiday Spirit with the JCC

by Carlett Spike

Colder weather and the approaching end of the calendar year mean the celebrations of Thanksgiving and Chanukah are almost here. The community is invited to give thanks and put on their festive attire as they visit the JCC to light the menorah, eat traditional foods and participate in games.

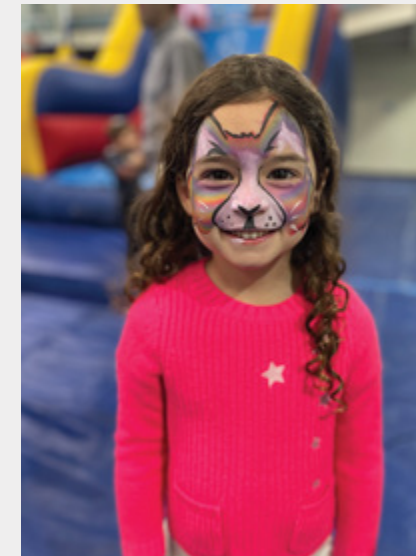
The holiday season kicks off with the Early Childhood Development Program's Preschool and Pre-K Friendsgiving celebrations on November 21. The children will enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal in their classrooms with their friends and teachers. Each child will get the chance to show his or her creativity by creating decorations for the occasion to place on their tables and chairs. Classes will discuss the importance of kindness and thankfulness to reflect on the meaning of the holiday as well as to celebrate the friendships they have made in ECDP.

For a third year, the JCC will host a Holiday Shopping Soiree on November 6 in the JCC gymnasium. This is a wonderful fundraiser for the Early Childhood Development Program as all vendors donate a portion of their

earnings back to the program. There will be a wide assortment of vendors and light refreshments will be served. Those interested in being a vendor at this year's event should contact Amy Bisnett, abisnett@jccsyr.org



As we transition to Chanukah, seniors who attend the JCC Senior Lunch Program will have their own celebration at noon on December 8. With help from Syracuse Hillel, the festivities will include a



klezmer band and traditional Chanukah foods. *Sufganiyot* (jelly doughnuts), orange glazed chicken, green beans, fresh fruit and potato latkes are on the menu. "There's a lot of love and a lot of festivity," says Cindy Stein, director of adult and senior programming. Seniors must register in order to participate.



The highlight of the season is the annual Chanukah Party, which will happen on December 10 from 12:30 – 3 pm in the JCC gymnasium. Families and community members are welcomed to embody the spirit of "dedication" through play and feast. The gymnasium will be transformed with traditional decorations and lots of fun activities for the kids including a bounce house, strolling magic show and artists to paint their faces. Latkes and other traditional snacks and refreshments will also be provided. **For more information on any of these celebrations, visit the JCC's website: jccsyr.org.**

The JCC's New Bus #36



The JCC is excited to have a brand new bus for the start of its Before and After School Program. Bus #36 allows the Center to continue to serve the community by transporting children to three schools: Moses DeWitt, Tecumseh and Holy Cross. The bus also picks up children daily from Ed Smith School in the Syracuse City School District and all three F-M elementary schools. Not only is the bus used for the Before and After School programs, but it is also be used throughout the year for field trips and all of summer camp. If you see the bus around town, be sure to wave to the driver, Ms. Sandy.



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Say “YES!” To Aging

Syracuse Jewish Family Service at Menorah Park invites the community to attend “OMA-thon” on November 12 from 2-4 pm and experience Opening Minds Through Art, or OMA, the agency’s signature arts-in-aging/arts-in-dementia program. “Come see for yourself how saying “yes!” to aging works,” SJFS Interim Director Judith Huober urged, “by playing the role of an ‘elder artist,’ by training and participating as a ‘volunteer facilitator’ or just observing at this fun, upbeat taste of how SJFS is using the arts to help us, young and old alike, to re-wire our relationships to the idea of aging and to people who are old – including, in many cases, ourselves.”

OMA is an award-winning, evidence-backed intergenerational art-making program for older people, often those living with dementia. Elders (artists) are paired with volunteers who facilitate the creation of a piece of art. Relying on imagination rather than memory, and strengths instead of lost skills, elders experience the joy of creative expression while engaging with others across the generations. Volunteers gain ease and satisfaction interacting with older people, particularly those with dementia, along with affection, enthusiasm and a sense of kinship toward them.

The event is a part of SJFS’s “Say ‘YES!’ to Aging!” campaign to help community members of all ages and stages to really engage with the Jewish values of *l’dor v’dor*, putting a positive spin on aging and combatting societal and internalized ageism. Tying in with Ageism Awareness

Day on October 7 and national Ageism Awareness month, Huober said the campaign, which launched at the High Holidays, aims to illustrate and offer multiple entry points into achieving what experts on aging see as a key factor in aging well and feeling good in later life: a positive belief that aging is a good thing, not primarily a stage of life that is feared (if not dreaded) and largely coped with through denial and avoidance.

Oma-thon is made possible by a Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund grant from the Jewish Federation of Central New York, which has also supported OMA courses at the Epstein School, as well as other generous donors. Individual donations are always welcome.

For more information and to register, visit www.menorahparkofcny.com/oma-thon/ or call 315-446-9111 x234 or email info@sjfs.org.

SCHS Hosts Thanks-giving Better Together Program

by Ora Jezer

Thanksgiving of 2023 will bring fresh opportunities from ancient culture for SCHS students when the school hosts a multigenerational Mizrahi Thanks-giving to celebrate the diversity and culture of Jews around the globe.

SCHS offers its students a chance to experience Jewish heritage as it applies to their lives and now plans on taking it a step further in bringing in new voices to the majority-Ashkenazi community. The event will kick off with *tefillah*, led by SCHS clergy. Then Meira Saks will lead a discussion about Nigerian Jewry. She will help emphasize for students the necessity of diverse multicultural education and the responsibilities of fostering unity within the world. Meira will speak about what it is to live as a Jew and to understand and appreciate the world around us.



The afternoon will conclude with both a feast and a diverse range of cultural presentations. Each one is carefully designed and selected to offer attendees a glimpse into the customs, history and traditions of Jewish and Middle Eastern cultures. Both students and guests will work to create the presentations, which will allow them to be fully immersed in the meaning behind the entire event.

Thou Shalt Ride Hits the Road



Thou Shalt Ride is the local affiliate of the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance, which consists of Jewish biker clubs around the world. The Alliance’s philosophy is that “as individuals, we share the fundamental passion to ride motorcycles, but we are drawn to each of our own clubs by our common faith and heritage as members of the Jewish faith.” Thou Shalt Ride members raise significant funding for projects dedicated to Holocaust education. Shown in the photo above are Ken Bell, Dave Feldman, Joel Stein and Dave Channin, who enjoyed a late season motorcycle ride to the Dairy Bar at Cornell University.

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Helping Magen David Adom



Our CNY community Magen David Adom ambulance in Israel is safe. Sadly, two other MDA ambulances were destroyed and two were stolen and taken to Gaza. Two Magen David Adom EMTs have been killed and another four injured. In addition, there are several medics with whom MDA has lost contact, whose whereabouts are unknown.

for ambulances and blood services, flak jackets and helmets and more ambulances and medicycles. Following is a list of the most pressing needs:

All MDA vehicles – ambulances, MICUs, medicycles, mass-casualty vehicles, bullet-proof ambulances, helicopters – have teams that respond 24/7 to provide medical assistance and hospital transport for patients across Israel. The MDA Blood Service is responsible for Israel's blood supply and remains the sole provider of blood to the IDF. The Blood Services are already operating emergency blood drives in order to provide supplies to all hospitals across the country. Hundreds of Israelis are waiting in hours-long lines to donate.

Magen David Adom is operating at full capacity at

Magen David Adom Urgent Needs	
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Ambulances - Basic Life Support	\$115,000
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Medical bags	
Oxygen masks	
Gloves	
Syringes	
Blood Services	
Blood testing kits	
Blood bags	

If you would like to help Federation raise funds for Magen David Adom, please go to the Federation website and select MDA on the donation drop-down menu.

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HARVEY STRAUSS July 10, 2023



Harvey Strauss, a mensch in every sense of the word, passed away on July 10 in Maple Glen, PA. He was 74.

Harvey dedicated his life to helping others. He worked almost his entire career for Montgomery County Legal Aid, where he served as director for 20 years, and Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, where he served as co-director for another 12 years. Harvey knew everyone, and everyone knew and liked Harvey. When he wasn't tirelessly serving Legal Aid's clients and fighting to maintain the program's funding, he was a visible presence at every sporting event of his two kids, Lisa (Jon) and Daniel (Erica). Harvey was selfless with his time – whether it was volunteering at an Upper Dublin library fundraiser, assembling a desk for his daughter's college roommate in 100-degree heat or picking up his son's friend when his car broke down. Harvey could and would talk to anyone. He was inquisitive and remembered even the smallest detail of a person's life.

Born in Chicago and raised in Syracuse, Harvey was the oldest of three boys. His birth father died young and his mother, Betty, remarried Henry Levinstein, a physics professor at Syracuse University who adored and adopted Harvey and his brothers, Richard (Pam) and Robert (Nina). When the boys were kids, Harvey was the primary gift-buyer for their parents' birthdays and anniversaries. When asked what they wanted, they would request good behavior and that the three boys be friends when they were grown up. The second wish came true.

Harvey attended Charles Andrews Elementary School, H.W. Smith Junior High School and Nottingham High School in Syracuse. He attended NYU as an undergraduate and Boston University for law school, where he met his wife, Suanne. One time, as a resident adviser at NYU, he answered a dormitory phone only to hear Bill Russell on the other end, asking Harvey to get Mal Graham on the phone to let Mal know he'd been drafted by the Celtics. Harvey loved telling this story and also claiming that he had invented the word "groovy." (Jury's still out on that one.)

After retiring from Legal Aid in 2013, Harvey and Suanne sailed the world as avid cruisers, often with Richard and Pam, taking the opportunity to meet up with Robert and Nina, now living in Spain. If you named a city in Europe, Harvey

likely would tell you he'd been there for "8 hours." While his children were never fond of Harvey's quirky obsession with cruising, they adored his other eccentricities. He almost exclusively watched old cowboy movies on TV, even if he'd seen them 100 times before; he collected free calendars and bought everyone he knew a flashlight (or 6), plus rolls of toilet paper; and he couldn't bear to throw out a note or receipt.

The Harvester, as he was affectionately known, loved nothing more than spending time with his three grandchildren, Daniel's daughters Noa (6) and Maya (4) and Lisa's son Benjamin (3), each of whom called their grandfather GP. Harvey was the best GP and his family is grateful for the many years of joy his grandkids gave him.

The family asks that donations in Harvey's memory be made to Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/LASP>.

SALLY ANNE ULLMAN September 9, 2023

Sally Anne Ullman, 81, passed away on September 9 at Menorah Park. Born on May 10, 1942 to Melville and Dorothy Waltzer, she had been a resident of Syracuse for most of her life.

Sally worked part time for Johnson and Johnson for more than 20 years, but her greatest accomplishment was being responsible for getting the certification of Tikva House, a group home for Jewish women. Without her assistance and perseverance, Tikva house would never have existed. Beit Tikvah was created by a very determined cohort of women who saw a need and did not stop until they met it. Sally was one of those women. She believed that religious traditions go hand-in-hand with helping disabled adults connect to society and remember their roots. "The object was to give them a chance to grow into a community where they could lead as normal a life as possible, culturally, socially and emotionally," she said. The Jewish community stepped up to help, and the only Jewish group home in Central New York, and the only kosher group home in the upstate area, was established. It has thrived for more than 15 years.

Her family includes her husband Harvey of 63 years, their son Stephan, daughter Ellen (Lawrence Tillem) Ullman, granddaughter Maya, her sister Cyrelle Enders and her brother Donald (Debbie) Waltzer. She was predeceased by her parents and her sister Ronni Abramovitz.

Contributions in Sally's memory may be made to Tikva House.
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MACKY (MARILYN) GOLDSTEIN September 13, 2023



Macky (Marilyn) Goldstein of West Palm Beach, FL died on September 13. She was 96 years old. Born on January 27, 1927, she was the daughter of Julius and Bertha Freeman. Besides her parents, Macky was predeceased by her sisters Ruth Moloff and Phyllis Poushter and her brother Cyril Freeman. She is survived by her sister Ethel Black and her sister-in-law Ellie Freeman.

Macky was a graduate of Nottingham High School and attended Syracuse University. She was married to the late Erwin Goldstein for over 60 years, and although they were lifetime residents of Syracuse, they moved to West Palm Beach nearly 40 years ago. Macky had a wonderful life filled with many hobbies such as golf, tennis, bridge, bowling, maj jong, cooking and china painting. She traveled extensively with Erwin throughout the U.S., Europe, Asia and South America. An accomplished bridge player, she was awarded Life Master status. Along with her husband, she was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and Lafayette Country Club.

Macky is survived by her three daughters, Joyce (Joel) Cohen of West Palm Beach, Cindy Lombardi of Summit, NJ and Barbara (Peter) Shapiro of New York, NY. She had four grandchildren (Jeffrey Shapiro, Sydney Shapiro, Elisabeth Goldstein and John Levene) as well as nine great-grandchildren.

Donations may be made to MorseLife Foundation online at morselifefoundation.org or can be mailed to 4847 David S. Mack Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33417, Attention: the MorseLife Foundation.
www.sisskindfuneralservice.com

ALVIN IRWIN LIPTON September 22, 2023

Alvin Irwin Lipton, 86, passed away on September 22 at St. Joseph's Hospital. Born on September 12, 1937 to Nathan and Lea Lipton in Boston, he had been a resident of Syracuse for more than 50 years. After graduating from the Boston Latin School, he graduated from Brandeis University. During his professional career, he had been an independent sales representative of plumbing supplies. Alvin was an active member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. He enrolled in many OASIS courses and was a life-long learner. He and Yetta were great supporters of the arts and culture in the Syracuse community. He was passionate about gardening and his indoor and outdoor fish. In retirement, he especially enjoyed his coffee club with his friends.

His family includes his beloved wife Yetta of more than 40 years; children Andrew (Mary) Lipton, Esther (Martin) Anthony, Adam Kenneth (Karen) Lipton and Adam Arthur Goldstein, grandchildren Alycia (Tyler) Anthony, Jessica Lipton, Rachel (Josh) Demoski, Anna Lipton, Nathan Lipton and Katelyn Lipton, his sister Anna Nitkin and nephews Mark and Matthew Klein.

Contributions in Alvin's memory may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

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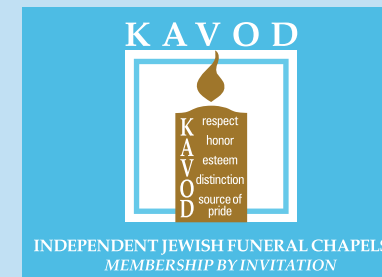
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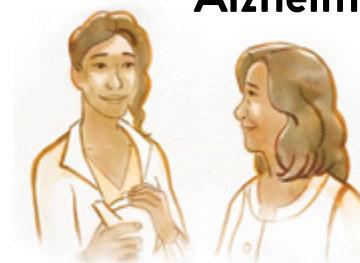


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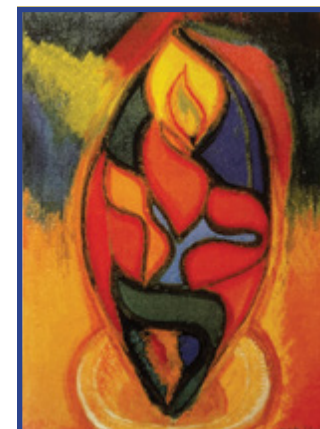
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