

»» THANKFULNESS

# Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

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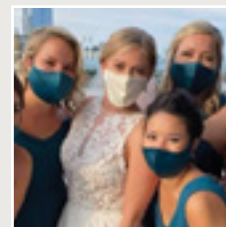
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NOVEMBER 2020 | CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5781

# Gratitude



**LOOK:**  
THE *SHEMA*  
ROOM  
(3)



**DON'T MISS:**  
JEWISH LIFE TRIUMPHS  
OVER PANDEMIC  
(7)



**INSIDE:**  
OUR  
SCHOLARS  
(9)

## From the Editor



Barbara Davis

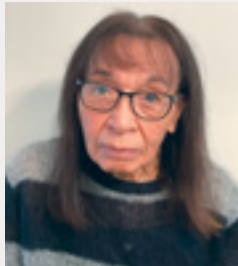
The theme of this issue is **gratitude**. Despite all of the things that are going on in our world, there is still much for which we should be thankful. Not least is the generosity of spirit and action of so many members of our community, who stand up to be counted and who work for the betterment of our society and our

world. The *JO* is proud to be able to honor many of them in our pages.

I would like to share my column this month with a renowned teacher, Thelie Trotty-Selzer. Her words at the Federation's *Shema* Room deserve a wide readership and it is my honor to turn this space over to her.

## Is an inclusive community possible?

by Thelie Trotty-Selzer



The Civil Rights Movement occurred over half a century ago. In its earliest beginnings, Rabbis Herschel and Eisendrath aligned with Dr. Martin Luther King and joined future congressman John Lewis in Selma, Alabama in the march across Edmund Pettus Bridge. Since that time, little has changed the nature of the systemic institutionalized racism that permeates American life, regardless of class or ethnic group.

As a Native American [Oglala-Lakota], the cruelty of racial prejudice has not been absent from my experience. I am a Jew by choice. I chose to marry a Jew. My daughter was raised as a Jew. I understand fully two reminders for the Jew by choice: no one has the power to make me feel non-Jewish without my consent, and it is my responsibility to continue, with my husband, to develop a set of Jewish values and a lifestyle that are meaningful for our family.

If our commandments have any meaning, we must be seriously committed to *tikun olam*. It is as important as any other obligation or commandment. We must confront our own racism and begin to emerge dedicated to improving the world, not just a Jewish world. Jews of Color and Jews of Many Hues have advanced this conversation. As we Jews have suffered the plight of being a minority community, so have most communities of color. We must return to the alliance that once existed to collaboratively become the agents of change. Then, as a future of great diversity evolves, we can demonstrate leadership in how to seek a pathway toward social justice, righteousness and a single community sharing this land.

We must change the paradigm of our own socialization. Let us embrace the wisdom from this quote: **Equal rights for others does not mean less rights for you. It is not pie.**

*Thelie Trotty-Selzer is a former teacher of social science at Nottingham High School, who also co-taught Introduction to Judaism at Temple Concord and served as co-president of the National Council of Jewish Women.*

## D'var Torah

by Rabbi Joel Goldstein

There is a tradition that when a Jew wakes up in the morning, the first words out of their mouth is "modeh/modah ani," meaning, "I am thankful." This tradition at least dates to the 16th century work, *Seder HaYom*. The entire phrase is, "יב תרוחה סיקו יח רלמ, רינפל ינא הדומ, הלהאר יתמשע." "I am thankful before You, a living and existing King, for You returned my soul to me with compassion." An expectation to thank God as our first action in the morning might feel normal for Judaism, but it is also surprising. It is surprising because the first thing Jews traditionally do in the morning is not talk to God, but prepare to talk to God, especially by ritually washing our hands. One does not roll out of bed and talk with God without preparation. In fact, in *Seder HaYom*, the author - Moshe ben Makhir - explains it is permissible to say this because God's name is never directly or indirectly mentioned. This explanation is nice, but I think there is a better explanation which is that there are (at least) two different types of thanksgiving and that this prayer represents the lesser of them. The higher one is an acknowledgement of appreciation to another for who they are. The second, under which this prayer falls, is giving thanks for the particular way another has served or benefited you.

In the Torah, when Leah gives birth to her fourth son, she names him Judah (יהודה) because, "This time I shall give thanks (הודא) to Hashem," (Genesis 29:35). The Babylonian Talmud (B'rachot 7b) relates a tradition from Rabbi Yochanan in the name of Rabbi Shimon son of Yochai that until Leah said, "This time I shall give thanks to Hashem," no one had ever given thanks to God. Can we really believe that no one, not Noah, not Abraham had ever given thanks to God until Leah came along?

The idea that Leah was the first person to thank God contradicts another tradition that Psalm 92, which begins, "It is good to give thanks to Hashem," was written by Adam (Genesis Rabbah 22). Adam writes the Psalms in response to learning about the possibility of repentance after committing a sin. If Adam did so, how can it be that Leah was the first? Adam's thankfulness of God is due to the creation of repentance. He thanks God for that, for what he perceives as God doing something for Adam. When Leah thanks God, we might expect it is because God has given her four sons. However, she does not say that. In the verse she actually gives thanks without including a particular reason, without mentioning something God did for her. Instead, she is merely thanking God just for being God.

Rabbi Joshua Falk (18th Century Cracow) explains that before Leah, people might have thought that giving thanks to God was inappropriate. He reasons that thanks implies God did something good beyond what we deserve, but that cannot be, because God is a fair judge Who gives people exactly what they deserve. If Rabbi Falk is correct, Leah might not be the first person to thank God, but she is the first to do so in a more elevated manner of giving thanks free of a feeling like God treats her in a special way, even though she has reason to do so. Rather, she merely acknowledges God in her joy and shares that joy with God. This is unlike Adam, who thanks God for what he sees as the reward of repentance.

This explains why it is permissible to wake up in the morning and thank God for returning our souls before we wash our hands. That level of thankfulness is nice, but it is conditional thankfulness. It is not the true thankfulness that Leah gave to God. It is not the highest level of thankfulness that other prayers may invoke.

Which leads me to a challenge for all of us. Have you ever, in your joy, acknowledged someone without doing so because they did something special for you but rather just being thankful for them being who they are? Have you ever thanked God in that way? May we, in this new year, find ways to thank one another and our Creator more like Leah and less like Adam.



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## Michael Balanoff

*President/CEO*

### The Shema Room

Before the end of the 21st century, the United States will have undergone a demographic shift such that people of color will comprise a majority of the country's population. This reality underpins much of what is happening in our nation today. Jewish Americans will, of course, be part of this transition.

The Jewish people are more diverse than many American Jews may realize. There are African Jews, Latino/Hispanic Jews, Asian Jews, Indian Jews, Middle Eastern Jews, Sephardic Jews, Mizrahi Jews, and many multiracial and multiethnic Jews. But in the United States, the dominant Jewish ethnicity has long been considered to be both European and white, with the result that many in the Jewish community may lack of understanding of the true ethnic and racial diversity that is the community's heritage.

On September 21, Federation convened a small group of local community members to weigh in on the subject of diversity and intentional and unintentional racism in our local Jewish community. It was purposefully called the *Shema* Room, echoing Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks statement that shema "is fundamentally untranslatable into English since it means so many things: to hear, to listen, to pay attention, to understand, to internalize, to respond, to obey." Rabbi Sacks asserts that "Judaism is a religion of listening." Federation believes that today it is more important than ever that Jews listen — to one another, to diverse voices, to voices that perhaps have not spoken out before or perhaps have not been listened to before.

Federation's *Shema* Room was a virtual meeting with no predetermined agenda, no preset goals, no fixed ideas or boundaries. We wanted to listen to and learn about and from one another. Our topic was Jewish diversity, by which we did not mean the differences among the branches of Judaism, but rather the differences among Jewish people that are often obscured when we talk about being *Am Israel*, the Jewish nation.

We had all just listened to the *shofar*. Now we listened to one another. Seven members of the Jewish community, convened by Federation, met via Zoom to listen to one another and learn about one another's experiences. The result was, in the words of one participant, "an awesomely informative and inspiring evening." The hour-long session was fascinating, moving, meaningful

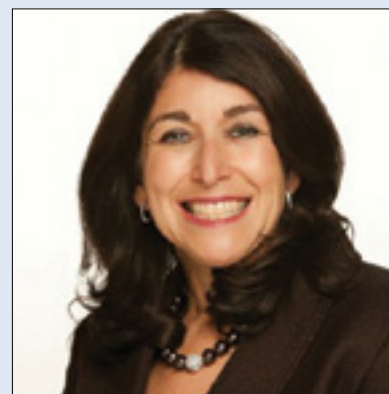


and educational. Our participants came from diverse backgrounds: African American, Jamaican, Chinese, Indian, Oglala/Lakotan, Southeast Asian. They were adults of many ages, young adults and a teen. They described their experiences as Jews of color, of being "othered" and of being looked at and questioned. And there were moments of humor, emotion and shared experience. The prevailing feeling was that what one "looked like" was frequently the occasion for misunderstanding, misguided efforts at "help," or just general cluelessness about what being Jewish meant, as distinct from "looking Jewish." But there was also the feeling of being valued, of being accepted and of not wanting to waste time dwelling on the lack of understanding or knowledge that other people sometimes displayed. As one participant put it, "I don't need someone's permission to be Jewish, and I don't need someone's approval to live a Jewish life style."

The predominant feeling seemed to be that education was the best way to combat racism, discrimination and antisemitism. As one participant, a professor of mathematics, explained it: "When I am asked how to fight antisemitism, I respond that I have students who don't like math, but I don't fight them. I teach them." Teaching is the modality of choice for another participant, whose words appear on our Masthead page. But perhaps the most important point she stressed is that to say "I am not racist" is not to change anything for the better. As Jews, we must do more than that.

## A message from Debbie Rosenbaum

*2021 Campaign Chair*



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# Micah Fialka-Feldman



**“A community that excludes even one of its members is not a community at all.”**

Micah Fialka-Feldman is a self-advocate, teaching assistant, outreach coordinator, national speaker and pioneer who fights for disability-pride, justice and inclusion. He is also a new member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. Micah belongs to the first wave of adults with intellectual disabilities who have attended college and been fully included in school and community. Micah earned a certificate in disability studies from the Syracuse University School of Education where he co-teaches classes in inclusive education and disability studies and serves as an outreach coordinator at the Lawrence B. Taishoff Center for Inclusive Higher Education.

In 2014, Micah was appointed by President Obama to the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. He is featured in the upcoming documentary by Dan Habib, “Intelligent Lives.”

In 2009, Micah won a landmark federal lawsuit, *Fialka-Feldman v. Oakland University*

Board of Trustees, to live in the dorms at Oakland University. After Micah had been accepted to live in the dorms in 2007, he received notification from the university that he could not live in the dorm because of “university policy.” The administration argued that he was not considered a “degree-seeking” student. Micah sued Oakland University for violating his rights. After over two years of court proceedings, the U.S. 6th District Court ruled that Oakland University had denied Micah housing based on “prejudice, stereotypes and/or unfounded fear of persons with disabilities.” Micah moved into the dorms in January of 2010.

Micah’s story is featured in the book *Widening the Circle: The Power of Inclusive Classrooms* by SU professor Mara Sapon-Shevin as well as in the award winning documentary, “Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College.” Micah’s favorite quote is by Dan Wilkens, “A community that excludes even one of its members is no community at all.” Micah is committed to building community for himself and for others.

# Arlene S. Kanter



**Arlene S. Kanter is the Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence, Professor of Law, Director of the Disability Law and Policy Program and Director of International Programs at Syracuse University College of Law. She also has an appointment at the School of Education. But even these many titles do not do justice to all that she has accomplished and the cause she continues to champion.**

The SU College of Law’s Disability Law and Policy Program is the nation’s most extensive disability law program. This year it celebrates its 15th year, bringing together SU students and practicing lawyers from all over the world who want to specialize in international human rights and comparative disability law. Professor Kanter lectures worldwide and writes extensively. Her most recent book, *The Development of Disability Rights Under International Law: From Charity to Human Rights* traces the development of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, a treaty which she helped to draft with a committee of the United Nations. Her articles and opinion pieces on US disability laws, international human rights

law, special education law, mental health law and violence against women with disabilities have been published in leading law journals, and she has been quoted in such publications as the *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, the *Jerusalem Post*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the *Jurist* and the *Hill*.

Kanter has worked with governments and disability organizations on implementing disability laws in more than a dozen countries. She has been invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the UN Committee on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. She was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School, a Fulbright Scholar at Tel Aviv University and a Lady Davis Fellow at Hebrew University.

Most recently, Arlene wrote about the July Supreme Court decision in *St. James School v. Biel*, which held that a person with a disability who works for a religious organization can be fired because of their disability. “Upon signing the Americans with Disabilities Act, President Bush called on Americans to ‘remove the physical barriers we have created and the social barriers that we have accepted. For ours will never be a truly prosperous nation until all within it prosper,’” she wrote. With this ruling, “the Supreme Court just slammed the door shut on people with disabilities, including those who wish to follow their faith and teach in religious schools. That sounds less like the Court’s upholding of religious freedom and more like a free pass for religious institutions to discriminate.”

Arlene’s Judaism inspires and sustains her in her work. She cites the Jewish concept of *Lifnei iver* deriving from the commandment “Before the blind, do not put a stumbling block” and the obligation to pursue justice which appears in *parashat Shoftim*, “Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue” as pillars of her work. “Why do we cast aside people with disabilities,” she asks, “when they could live and work in the community, with proper supports?” She regrets that Israel, like the United States, has not yet fully committed to inclusive education. “Judaism teaches us to do justice,” she notes, adding “not just for ourselves but for others. We have an obligation to ease the way for all and to ensure that people who may walk, talk, hear or see differently from the ‘norm’ also enjoy their right to live with dignity.”

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# L'Chaim! Jewish Life Triumphs Over Pandemic

Our traditions, so meaningful at any time in a life cycle, are especially so during a pandemic. Keeping the faith may require new technologies, masks and social-distancing, but the joy of celebrating new marriages, new births and new milestones is even greater when magnified by the challenges overcome.



It is possible to safely blow shofar in a pandemic, as Rabbi Rapoport demonstrated at The Oaks.

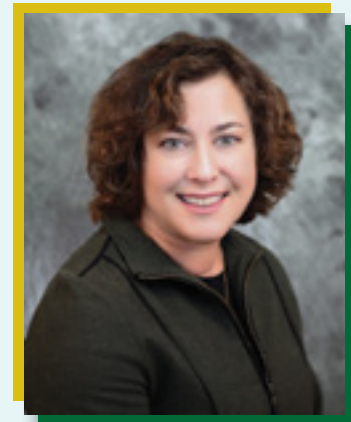


The bride and her attendants looked beautiful in masks that matched their gowns, and the Wolhandler wedding was perfect in every way.



The *bar mitzvah* and his family were quarantined in their house for the ceremony, but the hundreds of guests, the rabbi and the cantor Zoomed in and were thrilled as Zachary Fellman read Torah, chanted his *haftarah* and led Shabbat services.

The rabbi was in Michigan, the 150 guests were around the world, but the *mohel* was in Syracuse and the Goldbergs' son's *bris* was a moving and joyous celebration of tradition.



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# Jewish Cook of the Month Michael Gordon

Michael Gordon is an Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Upstate Medical Center, a co-founder (with his SHDS graduate son, Joshua) of a company that develops and markets software for electronic medical records and a singer-songwriter who has performed at restaurants and bars just about everywhere over many years. He lives his wife, Wendy, and her soul mate (Claire, the dog).

**Where did you learn to cook?**

At home, as a child.

**Why do you like to cook?**

I'm a Jewish grandmother at heart and so I like to see friends and family nearby and well-fed. I also love problem-solving and having to be resourceful.

**What is your favorite dish to prepare?**

That changes about weekly. Now I especially enjoy making Japanese dishes, like *okonomiyaki*.



**What is your favorite cooking secret/trick/hack/shortcut?**

I'm a huge fan of *sous vide* – cooking food that's been sealed and then placed in a water bath that's set to the exact temperature

required for flawless preparation each time. At this point I cook almost everything by this method because it's so reliable, easy, and destined to create a perfect result.

**Could you please share a favorite kosher recipe that isn't terribly complicated?**

I always have a *sous vide* turkey breast on hand for friends and family who might need me to bring a good meal over. It's just plain delicious.



## Sous Vide Turkey Breast

Set the *sous vide* bath to 145 degrees.

Season a turkey breast and vacuum seal it (or put it in a resealable plastic bag you can lower into the *sous vide* bath so it creates a vacuum).

Cook the turkey breast for 4-6 hours—it really doesn't make all that much difference exactly how long you leave it in the cooker. You can't overcook anything by this method.

Save the liquid in the bag for gravy. Dry turkey breast with paper towel, season again, and finish it by placing it under the broiler, baking it for a few minutes at high heat, throwing it on a grill, putting in a smoker, or using a blow torch.

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# SKYTOP COFFEE

119 W. Seneca Street

Whether you call yourself a cafophile, a coffee lover and just admit to being a coffee snob, SkyTop Coffee is a place you will love. Born in the middle of the pandemic, this lovely little café at 119 W. Seneca Street in the Tops Plaza in Manlius is a true big city gem with a small-town vibe. Owners Serena and Aaron Lerner source only organic single-origin and ethically fair-traded coffees with fully traceable supply lines. They believe that being an environmentally-conscious coffee company means doing the right thing for their customers and their farmer partners. They work with green coffee importers to identify coffees that are aligned not only with their flavor profiles, but also their values.

For their customers, this translates into eight different coffees – from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru – which are described in exacting detail on their website, noting source, producer, altitude of growth (high on mountain tops, hence “SkyTop” coffees), variety, process, fermentation and drying. Beans are roasted fresh on site daily. SkyTop’s process allows for the natural sugars within the coffee to caramelize to

bring out complex flavors and aromas. All of their coffees are available for pick up in their shop or may be shipped throughout the week for maximum quality retention.

For a coffee lover, SkyTop is paradise. Spotlessly clean, staffed by knowledgeable friendly people and open every day but Monday from 7 am to 4 pm, it has socially distanced seating inside on long banquettes and small tables outside. Customers can enjoy a wide variety of organic espresso-based beverages



such as cappuccinos, cortados and lattes or iced coffee, nitro cold brew and a nice selection of organic hot and iced teas.

Some sixty percent of Americans drink coffee daily, but while 40% of them are satisfied with supermarket blends or instant coffee, fully 60% drink gourmet coffee seeking out the complex flavors, aromas and characteristics of different coffees. These are SkyTop’s target customers: coffee lovers who appreciate fine coffee in the same way as oenophiles appreciate fine wines.

To go with your coffee selection, SkyTop offers outstanding pairings such as house-

made wild caught salmon gravlax smørrebrød with fresh mascarpone, pickled carrot, cucumber and charred onion on toasted marble rye or a salad of organic local heirloom and cherry tomatoes, fresh garden basil, shallots and garlic lemon olive oil with Maldon sea salt and shaved parmigiano reggiano. The selections change regularly and seasonally. For those who just want something sweet to go with their coffee, there are a variety of fresh pastries, such as vegan orange zest scones, lemon tarts, chocolate croissants, lots of fun macaron flavors, creme brûlée donuts and custard-filled brioche donuts with strawberry glaze, all from local suppliers Fatcat Baking and Toast Canastota.

Finally, all of the products SkyTop uses for their products – disposable take away cups, lids, cutlery – are organic and recyclable, compatible with their eco-friendly planet-friendly ethos. So even when you take their delicious coffees and pairings to go, you can do so without guilt. Everything here is designed to be enjoyed to the fullest.

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## Federation and Foundation Leaders Pay Tribute to Alex Holstein

“My good friend Alexander E. Holstein was my partner in philanthropy. He was truly the ‘wind beneath my wings,’” wrote Linda Alexander, former Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York executive director and president/CEO of the Jewish Federation of Central New York. “It was the spring of 2001. I was finishing my service as president of the Federation. I called Alex and said I’d like to come by his home to discuss an idea. We sat together in his living room and I presented my idea: that what we needed desperately was a Jewish Community Foundation, an organization that would be dedicated to encourage permanent endowments to each and every Jewish organization, synagogue, and agency in Central New York. The Foundation would invest these dollars so that the interest could benefit our Jewish community yearly and, at the same time, grow the principal so that these endowments would last forever. Having just finished my stint at Federation, I appreciated the annual campaign dollars that were the life blood for the community. But each year that we raised the million dollars, we also distributed it... so that we were back to square one starting all over again.”

“Alex immediately understood my idea and encouraged it,” Linda recalls. “He would help me. We would be a team. Over the next few years, we went together to meet with donors, financial advisors, organizations, just about anyone who would give us 15 minutes to hear our proposal. It was a labor of love for our community. Skip ahead 19 years and now our Foundation has endowments and other funds worth 18 million dollars.”

“My friend and philanthropic partner Alex was a soft-spoken fine gentleman. Everyone loved Alex and that was a great door opener for the two of us. But his quiet manner belied his determination to succeed. He did not easily take no for an answer. Over the years he never tired or slowed down. I had to be on my toes to keep up with him. I treasure those years working side by side together with Alex. He was generous, kind, determined and a forward thinker. I will miss him.”

Jewish Community Foundation president Neil Bronstein said, “Our community has lost a consummate leader with the passing of Alexander Holstein. Alex was the founding chair of our foundation. He had the foresight to understand that endowments would be the vehicle to

secure our community’s future. He was a gentleman who always exuded grace and warmth. Alex will be greatly missed by those of us who had the good fortune to know and be inspired by him.”

His words were echoed by the chair of the Federation Board, Neil Rosenbaum, who said, “Our community has lost one of its most outstanding leaders with the death of Alexander Holstein. Alex followed in the footsteps of his grandfather and father in playing major roles in Federation, serving on our board, as president and as campaign chair, because of his passionate commitment to our Jewish community. He was the founder, with Linda Alexander, of our Jewish Community Foundation. We are grateful for his life and his many accomplishments and mourn his passing.”

Michael Balanoff, who heads both Federation and Foundation, said, “It is said that great leaders don’t set out to be leaders; they set out to make a difference. It’s never about the role; it’s always about the goal. That was the way Alex Holstein led our community. He was always generous, kind, effective and honorable. His impact, influence and inspiration enriched our community forever.”

## Temple Adath Yeshurun Emphasizes Flu Protection

**Maimonides taught “When keeping the body in health and vigor, one walks in the way of God.” (Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Deot 4:1) The Temple Adath Yeshurun community put this teaching into action when they held two flu shot clinics this fall, one for staff and another for families and children over the age of two.**

The Rothschild Early Childhood Center at TAY has worked tirelessly to create a safe, healthy environment for its children, families, and staff. With the help of RECC parent and pharmacist Lauren Brown and the Wegmans James Street pharmacy, thirty staff members and almost eighty families received a flu shot in the TAY parking lot. Alicia Gross, RECC director, said, “We are so grateful for this partnership with Wegmans Pharmacy to provide the flu shot so early to over 100 staff, children, and families.”

Stacy Cairns, coordinator of Wegmans pharmacy clinical and wellness services, noted, “This year, getting a flu shot is more important than ever. According to the CDC, flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

## Palestinian Peace Advocate Speaks at Temple Concord

by Carol Radin

**In a compelling online program for Temple Concord congregants, Palestinian peace advocate Yousef Bashir presented the story of his transformation from adversary to activist for peace and understanding among Palestinians and Israeli Jews, highlighting events from his memoir, *The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine*. The title refers to the convictions of his father, Khalid, a respected educator in his Gaza community, who believed that Palestinians and Israeli Jews can find a path of peaceful co-existence by turning away from anger and violence. The program was part of Temple Concord’s Selichot observance.**

For Bashir, his father’s beliefs were put to the test when the teenaged Bashir suffered a life-changing gunshot injury caused by Israeli soldiers. Retracing events that occurred when his family’s home was occupied by Israeli military, Bashir described the day when United Nations officials visited his father and the family and ordered the family to leave. As Bashir and his father accompanied the officials to their car, a shot from an M-16 was fired by Israeli soldiers from the watchtower. Fifteen-year-old Bashir was struck, the bullet going through his spine and paralyzing him from the waist down.

Bashir recalled the intensity of his hatred and his unwillingness to listen to his father, who even then held on to hope for Bashir and for Israel. It was during Bashir’s struggle through months of recovery at a Tel Aviv hospital, that he underwent a profound transformation. With the help of Israeli doctors, nurses, fellow patients and visiting volunteers, Bashir experienced the humanity in the very people he had mistrusted. Commented Rabbi Daniel Fellman, who arranged for this powerful presentation, “Israel is so important and so complex. I thought that by narrowing to one person’s experience we could hear the pain, the beauty and the hope so central to our relationship with Israel.”

Yousef Bashir went on to college in the United States, earned his graduate degree at Brandeis University, and worked on congressional assignments in Washington D.C., where he now lives. In Rabbi Fellman’s words, Bashir’s story “is one of *teshuvah*. He saw and experienced strife and made a decision to turn and seek a better path.”

## The Genius of Women Author to Present at Temple Concord

**Janice Kaplan, author of *The Genius of Women – From Overlooked to Changing the World*, will speak live via Zoom on Monday, November 16, at 7:30 pm, as part of Temple Concord’s Regina F. Goldenberg Series.**

Janice Kaplan, bestselling author, journalist and podcaster, interviewed dozens of women geniuses, including Nobel Prize winner Frances Arnold and AI expert Fei-Fei Li, to determine why so many women and their extraordinary efforts are brushed aside. She believes that “genius isn’t just about talent. It is about having that talent recognized, nurtured, and celebrated.” Her book explores the powerful forces that have rigged the system—and celebrates the women geniuses, past and present, who have triumphed anyway.

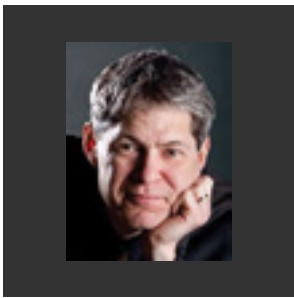
**For more information, please call Temple Concord at (315) 475-9952, or email [office@templeconcord.org](mailto:office@templeconcord.org).**

# We Are Grateful for Local Jewish Scholars

A Yiddish proverb states that “A nation’s treasure is its scholars.” In that sense, our Central New York Community is rich, indeed affluent, because we have a wealth of Judaic scholars, six of whom we profile below.



**Dr. Barbara Applebaum** is a professor of Cultural Foundations of Education in the Syracuse University School of Education. Trained in the philosophy of education, her scholarly interests focus on the point where ethics, education and commitments to diversity converge. Her research is heavily informed by feminist ethics and philosophy and critical race theory. Her writings have appeared in such journals as *Educational Theory*, *Philosophy of Education*, *Educational Foundations*, and the *Journal of Moral Education*. Barbara’s current research focuses on the ethical and epistemological shifts that are required for white students to engage in genuine cross-racial dialogue. A member of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse, Barbara has a special interest in teachers’ self-reflections on their teaching process and has also written articles on caring and building trust in the classroom.

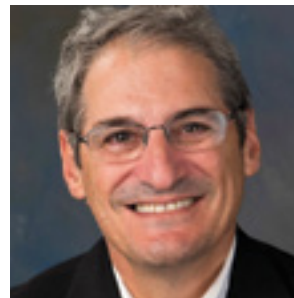


**Dr. Ken Frieden** is the B.G. Rudolph Professor of Judaic Studies at Syracuse University and a renowned expert in the study of European and American Judaic literature. Most recently, his research has focused on the cultural impact of Yiddish and Hebrew narratives through the lens of emerging modern literature and travel narratives in the eighteenth century. His book, *Travels in Translation: Sea Tales at the Source of Jewish Fiction*, was the recipient of the Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award. Other

writings include *Classic Yiddish Fiction: Abramovitsh, Sholem Aleichem, and Peretz*, *Freud’s Dream of Interpretation* and *Genius and Monologue*. Ken is also active as a Klezmer clarinetist, performing with The Wandering Klezmerim and Klezmercuse. He recently created a Jewish Humor and Satire course with a corresponding website, [www.Jewishhumorandsatire.com](http://www.Jewishhumorandsatire.com). “Knowing about stuff is less important than knowing how to do things,” he says. “And if life is a series of interactions between people, then what is more valuable than knowing how to make people laugh? So everyone needs to work on their humorous routines — bits (or, in Yiddish, *shtiklekh*).”



**Dr. Samuel Gruber** is a researcher, author, curator and cultural heritage consultant. He writes and lectures extensively on Jewish art and architecture as well as medieval and modern art. For 30 years he has been a leader in the documentation, protection, and preservation of Jewish sites worldwide, and he has worked on synagogue and cemetery restoration projects in more than a dozen countries. Recently, he has been leading efforts to document American synagogues. Sam has taught at Syracuse University since 1994 and at Cornell, Colgate and Binghamton Universities and LeMoyne College. He is presently curating online exhibitions for the College of Charleston and Queens College in New York. Sam is active in local affairs, serving on boards and committees, including the Preservation Association of Central New York and the Arts and Crafts Society of Central New York, of which he is now president. He writes blogs about both Jewish art and monuments and Central New York history and architecture and has written National Register of Historic Places nominations for many local buildings and historic districts. He is a longtime member of Temple Concord.



**Dr. Steven Kepnes** is Professor of the Study of World Religions, Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies; Director of Chapel House and Director of the Fund for the Study of the Great Religions at Colgate University. He specializes in Jewish theology, philosophy and ethics, German Jewish thought, comparative scripture, hermeneutics, medieval Jewish philosophy and Western traditions in religion and philosophy. He has taught in Europe and Israel and is the author of seven books including *The Future of Jewish Theology*, *Jewish Liturgical Reasoning* and co-author of *Scripture, Reason, and the Contemporary Islam–West Encounter*. A consummate academic and member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, Steve explains that the idea that “God gave Torah is one of the axioms of Jewish theology and central propositions of Judaism. But along with this principle we also have the notion of Talmud Torah as a central, if not, the central mitzvah of Torah. Thus, Torah itself commands Jews: ‘Study Me!’ What ‘study me’ means is to inquire of me, search in me, as the *Mishna Avot* says, ‘turn, turn, turn, me, for all is in me.’”



**Dr. Shira Schwartz** is the newly appointed Phyllis Backer Professor of Jewish Studies at Syracuse University. She received her PhD in comparative literature, and graduate certificate in Judaic studies from the University of Michigan. She works with rabbinic literature, the ethnographic study of American Orthodox Jews and queer/trans religious studies. A comparatist, her training enables her to integrate different methods, sources, periods and languages to explore questions

and subject positions that lie between disciplines, like Orthodox female yeshiva students and queer/trans ex-Orthodox Jews. Her research looks at education as a mode of reproduction and focuses on the construction of bodies in learning spaces in both antiquity and modernity. She is deeply curious about institutions and is invested in their betterment, both as a scholar and on the ground. She is also committed to placing learning more accessibly beyond the academy. To those ends, she has been active in a number of learning-space design initiatives, public scholarship projects and educational leadership roles, noting “I am passionate about this kind of boundary-crossing educational vision, which traverses disciplines and spaces in order to develop new ways of interacting with ideas and with each other.”



**Dr. Robert Tornberg** is currently an evaluation consultant at the Office of Professional Research and Development at the Syracuse University School of Education. He earned his doctorate in educational leadership with a minor in program evaluation from the University of Minnesota. Prior to moving to Syracuse, he had a four-decade-long career as a Jewish educator, working in synagogue schools and heading Jewish day schools. Bob also served as a mentor in the Day School Leadership Training Program at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and was the Education Director of the Day School Leadership through Teaching program at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. He has published numerous articles in the area of Jewish education, was the editor of *The Jewish Educator’s Handbook* and wrote several other books. A member of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, Bob is serving his third year as Vice-President of Adult Learning. He has greatly expanded and enriched the adult learning program and teaches highly valued courses such as “The Question is the Answer” and “Lost in the Jewish Home.” For that reason, he is known as “Hillel” to his fellow congregants.

# “Hebrew High” in 1980: A Young School with Long-Term Impact

by Aaron Spitzer

By 1980, more than 350 area teens had taken classes at Syracuse’s “Hebrew High,” the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School for Jewish Studies, and 56 had graduated. Under the leadership of principal Ron Ramer, the school grew enormously during its first decade, from 25 students at its inception in 1970 to 104 students in 1980. In “Notes from the 10th Anniversary of the Rabbi Epstein School of Jewish Studies,” the projected student body for 1981 was 140.

By 1980, more than half of 56 Epstein graduates were in college and five had graduated college. Twenty-nine graduates had spent a summer in Israel, or toured the Jewish homeland with their families, while 12 had spent a year studying in Israel. Many Epstein graduates were leaders of youth groups within our community and beyond, with 11 serving in leadership roles on a regional level and three on the national level.

Asked what impact their studies at Epstein had on them, alumni responded in a variety of ways. “Hebrew language knowledge helps in Israel,” noted one. Another graduate reflected that “Epstein never interfered with my sports activities or my school work.” For some, Epstein provided, “more knowledge to talk to people here and in Israel and great confidence because you can defend your viewpoint.” Other alumni reflected on Epstein’s long-term impact. “I was already heading in the direction of greater studies, and this helped me along,” noted one respondent. Epstein’s learning environment also featured in responses: “It is a more open situation, a mature atmosphere for discussion.”

Inevitably, some responses compared Epstein’s curriculum to that of earlier religious and Hebrew instruction. One graduate noted that “it is a second level beyond Hebrew school. It goes into philosophy of religion, not just holidays and language.” Another reflected on the impact that Epstein faculty had on students, commenting that “you absorb more than in Hebrew school, because you’re older, and instructors influence you more.”

Several graduates reflected on how their experiences at Epstein had helped them deepen their connection to Judaism and the larger Jewish community. “I feel better prepared, more responsible about my religion,” responded one graduate. Another noted that “I was able to develop an approach to Jewish observance at Epstein.” Still another graduate commented that, “Epstein



In addition to the news article about the Epstein School, the photos show principal Ron Ramer with Epstein School faculty and students. We can identify some of the teachers (Dr. Gus Pearlman, Mrs. Chaya Friedman), but need help with others and with the students. Are you in these pictures, or do you recognize anyone in them? Please email [jo@jewishfederationcny.org](mailto:jo@jewishfederationcny.org) and let us know.]

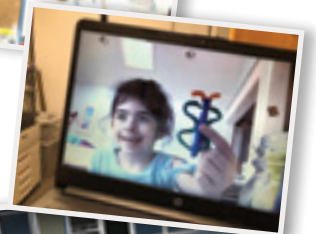
served to reinforce my beliefs; there was much more depth to the studies.”

The success of that first decade helped the Epstein School grow into our community’s gathering space for Jewish teens of all backgrounds, a role it continues to fill today. Thanks to the dedication of faculty, board members and volunteers and the generosity of

the Syracuse Jewish community, Epstein persisted. For five decades, Epstein has offered CNY’s Jewish teens a safe space to explore what it means to be Jewish in an increasingly pluralistic world; we look forward to the next 50 years.

Note: the Epstein School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo was designed by Andrea Pearl.

## You Can’t Keep A Good School Down!



There are as many ways to learn as there are learners at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. COVID-19 has not changed the school’s focus on individual needs and on letting each child experience the joy of learning, whether remotely or in person. Most students attend in person every day. They love their “offices,” are very responsible about using their masks and enjoy learning outdoors as often as possible.

# Mitzvote at Syracuse Hillel

by Colby Yablon

What is on students' minds this fall semester? Are they thinking about the coronavirus, schoolwork, socializing (distantly), finding a job or the upcoming presidential election?



Well, election season is in full swing and the conversation regarding voting is on the forefront. Hillel International's program, **Mitzvote**, aims to encourage college students to vote, activate their peers and celebrate their civic engagement.

For many students at Syracuse University this upcoming election will be their first time voting. So, Syracuse Hillel is participating in Mitzvote to help guide students through the election process. Mitzvote is a non-partisan "get-out-to-vote" campaign that educates students on the election process, while providing them with the resources to ensure their vote will be counted in the 2020 presidential election. Mitzvote is encouraging students to embrace Jewish wisdom and tradition as they become active citizens.

Why Mitzvote? "We chose to bring Mitzvote to campus this fall to ensure that Jewish students were able to voice their vote in the 2020 Presidential election. In the age of COVID-19, it is more important

than ever before that students have a safe and accessible way to vote," says Rebecca Sereboff, Syracuse Hillel campus ambassador.

Syracuse Hillel has adopted Mitzvote's three-step program. The first initiative is to encourage students to register to vote, primarily through information on social media. Next, Hillel is providing students with the materials, like stamps and instructions needed to send in their absentee ballots. And lastly, Hillel is hosting special election programming to further educate students and empower them to vote and be participatory citizens in the future.

Syracuse Hillel has reminded its students of important dates and deadlines through their social media and email. Important dates included National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, National Early Vote Day and, of course, November 3rd, Election Day!

## Chanukah shopping dilemma?



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## JCC's Senior Lunch Pickup Location Changes November 2

The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's Senior Kosher Lunch Program has been doing great since it started curbside pickup in June in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Things have been going so well (the number of participants has steadily increased since it started) that the JCC has decided to continue curbside pickup into the winter months. However, with the change of seasons comes a change in pickup location.

Effective Monday, November 2, the Senior Kosher Lunch Program's curbside pickup will take place in the JCC Fitness Center parking lot in the back of the building. Take Thompson Road and turn on to Ridgecrest Road, then take the second left into the Fitness parking lot.



The JCC's Yaisa Bates (left) closes the trunk after placing a senior lunch in it while Cindy Stein (right) handles the money part last summer.

The JCC Senior Kosher Lunch Program's curbside pickup is open to seniors age 60+ and runs Monday-Friday from 12-12:30 pm. There is a \$4.25 suggested contribution per meal. Cash or JCC Senior Meal Coupon only are accepted.

**Reservations are required by noon at least one business day before the meal date by calling 315-445-2360.**

## JCC Offering Author Talk Virtual Events This Fall

Can anything good come from a pandemic? While most people would surely answer "no," for the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center the answer is a resounding "yes." That's because the current coronavirus pandemic has allowed the JCC to expand its adult programming offerings.

The JCC of Syracuse, in partnership with the Atlanta JCC and the National JCC Literary Consortium, is holding the Book Fest in Your Living Room series this fall. The live author talk plus Q&A webinars are held virtually via Zoom, allowing you to attend in the comfort of your own home. The events started in September and will run through early December.

A total of 19 author talks are scheduled for November through December 2. Some notable upcoming authors to be featured include Joan Lunden on November 8, Dale Berra on November 10, John Grisham on November 11 and David Baldacci on November 22. The price of each event includes a Zoom link and a book shipped directly to you. Some events do not require a book purchase. Ticket prices start as low as \$6 (book not included) and can go up to \$45 or more (book included). There is a free attendance option for two of the events (book not included). For the full list of upcoming author talk webinars, visit [www.jccsy.org/bookfest-2020.html](http://www.jccsy.org/bookfest-2020.html).

"We are extremely pleased to be a part of this wonderful series,"



said Marci Erlebacher, JCC executive director. "The quality and quantity of authors being featured is fabulous. The timing also couldn't be better as more people are spending more time indoors due to the colder weather and ongoing coronavirus pandemic."

**For questions about the Book Fest in Your Living Room series, visit [www.jccsy.org](http://www.jccsy.org), call 315-445-2360 or email [info@jccsy.org](mailto:info@jccsy.org).**

## JCC's "Soup Is On" Fundraiser Coming November 18

What better way to ease into the winter season than with a nice hot bowl of soup? The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center couldn't agree more. The JCC will hold a "Soup is On" fundraiser on Wednesday, November 18 from 11 am to 12:30 pm. This one-day only event will feature three varieties of soup—corn chowder, beef barley and chicken noodle—available for purchase in quart containers for \$5 each. Soup must be preordered and prepaid by Friday, November 13 by calling 315-445-2360.

All soups for this fundraiser will be fully cooked and refrigerated prior to pick up. The soup may then be frozen once brought home. (Do not microwave or reheat the soups in their original plastic containers.)

Soup pickup will be at the JCC, 5655 Thompson Road, DeWitt, in the JCC's Fitness Center parking lot in the back of the building. Take Thompson Road and turn on to Ridgecrest Road, then take the second left into the Fitness parking lot.

**The proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the JCC's Senior Adult Programming department. For more information, contact the JCC at 315-445-2360 or visit [www.jccsy.org](http://www.jccsy.org).**

# CHANUKAH VIRTUAL COOKING DEMONSTRATION

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Wednesday, December 2nd  
8pm EST

Menus and registration  
information will be  
available soon.



**ALEXANDER HOLSTEIN**

Alexander Holstein died peacefully at his home on Saturday, October 3, 2020 in his 96th year.

A former industrialist in Syracuse, NY, Alex was at the forefront of the civic, cultural, educational, and religious affairs of Central New York, our state, and our nation. He was vice president of operations at SYROCO, a company founded by his grandfather in 1890. He graduated from the College of Engineering at Syracuse University and received his master's degree from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Alex met his wife, Chuckie, on a blind date in 1941. They married in 1946 and were together for 79 years.

Alex came from a family of civic entrepreneurs. He was a third-generation philanthropist in the Syracuse community. His grandfather, Adolph Holstein, was one of the founders of the Central New York Community Foundation, the United Way of Central New York (formerly the Community Chest), Bradley Brook Camp for children, and the Syracuse Jewish Federation. His father carried on the family tradition of involvement in the civic, cultural, and religious affairs of our community, and Alex continued the family tradition.

As a strong supporter of quality health care for all, Alex served on the board of Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital for 25 years and later the Crouse Health Foundation. He was a director of the Hospital Association of New York State and chair of the NYS Hospital Trustees Advisory Board and the National Congress of Hospital Governing Boards.

His involvements in the religious community have been many. He is the founder and first chair of the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York, created in 2001 to serve local Jewish agencies and synagogues. He was a member of the Syracuse Jewish Federation Board of Directors and its campaign chair. He served on the board of the Interreligious Council of Central New York (InterFaith Works) where he helped to create its foundation. He, along with Chuckie, received the 2001 Interreligious Council's Leadership Award for Devotion to Diversity, Distinction in Service, and Dedication to Community. He was a member of Temple Concord and served on the Board of Trustees, where four generations of the Holstein family have been involved in leadership positions. He was active in the American Jewish Committee and served as president of its local chapter and on its national board for several years.

Alex's community activities have been broadly based. For his dedicated service to his community in 2003 he received the distinguished Syracuse Post Standard Achievement Award. He was an active member of the Central New York Community Foundation where he was one



of the founders of the Neighborhood Leadership Program. At the Everson Museum he served as chairperson of the Board shortly after the I. M. Pei facility was built. He hosted Yoko Ono and John Lennon when they spent time in Syracuse for Yoko's art show. For several years he was a member of the boards of the Urban League and Dunbar Center. During his chairmanship of the Dunbar Center board, he was instrumental in the fundraising, design, and construction of the current facility. He was very honored when an African American youth athletic organization, the Salt City Classics, presented him with their Humanitarian Award.

Education of his children and grandchildren was very important to Alex, who also served on the board of trustees of Manlius Pebble Hill School and chaired the board for three years.

As a citizen trustee, he helped better the place where we live by participation and leadership on civic boards. He was the first chair of the Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency, a commissioner of the City of Syracuse Charter Revision Commission, City of Syracuse Community Renewal Policy Committee and chair of the Economic Base Committee, and vice-chair of the Syracuse Urban Arts Commission. In support of economic development, Alex was vice-president of the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, director of the Marine Midland Bank (HSBC), and director of the investment firm, Alliance Capital Management Corporation.

His personal philosophy that peace among peoples and nations is possible through dialogue motivated him to be one of the founders of an early interfaith dialogue group seeking peace in the Middle East. Later, he became an active participant in SAMED (Syracuse Area Middle East Dialogue), a unique group that includes Muslims, Jews, and Christians who for many years

have worked together to identify paths towards peace. He also participated in the Interreligious Council's Dialogue on Racism.

Alex was a caring, loving and all-around great guy. He adored his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Precious to him were the international trips that he and Chuckie treated their grandchildren to for their bar and bat mitzvahs.

Alex is survived by his wife, Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein, their children, Carol Killian (Ron), David Holstein (Jeanne), Elizabeth Holstein, his daughter-in-law Alyse Holstein, and his eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Alex was predeceased by his son, Philip Holstein (Alyse) and his daughter-in-law, Barbara Holstein (David).

Contributions in Alex's memory may be made to Temple Concord, the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York, the Everson Museum and Manlius Pebble Hill School.

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**LOIS EPSTEIN**

September 18, 2020

Lois Epstein, 79, died at Crouse hospital after a brief illness. Born on June 30, 1941 in Syracuse to Jacob and Shirley Epstein, she was a life resident of Syracuse. She was a graduate of Nottingham High School and the University of Oklahoma.

Lois was an accomplished artist, and had many exhibits of art at the University Of Oklahoma Arts Center. She was a biochemist at Upstate Medical Center until retiring. Her family includes her cousins Mike (Lois) Schaffer and Irwin Davis. Private graveside services for the immediate family were in Temple Adath Yeshurun Cemetery, where she was buried beside her parents.

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## EZKERA / REMEMBERING

### BARBARA LEE BUCK

September 19, 2020

Barbara Lee Buck, 84 of Dewitt, NY passed away peacefully on September 19, 2020.

Barbara was born and raised in Syracuse. Other than a few brief years in Buffalo and Rochester, Syracuse was where she proudly called home. She attended Nottingham High School. Following high school, she earned a degree from Powelson Business Institute. In 1957, she married her loving husband Elliott Buck. They were together and inseparable for over 60 years.

Barbara was a daughter, a granddaughter, a niece, a sister, a cousin, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, an aunt, a neighbor, and a friend. She was strong, opinionated, caring, witty, feisty, funny, loving, smart, generous, creative, classy, artistic, righteous, and so much more. She loved her family more than anything. She was all about taking care of everyone before herself.

Jewish teaching says those who die just before the Jewish new year are the ones G-d has held back until the last moment because they were needed most and were the most righteous. This is even more significant when it happens on both Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah. Barbara died at peace and with grace as the sun set into both. In Jewish tradition, this would make her a Tzaddeket, a person of great righteousness. She was predeceased by her husband Elliott in 2018.

Barbara was survived by her three children, Rick (Monica), Michelle (Andy) Shaer, and Alan; her six grandchildren, Melissa, Samantha, Mike, Jamie, Rachel and Shoshana; her brother Len Keilin, and his children Corry Keilin, and Staci Keilin Gerber. Private graveside services and burial for the immediate family were conducted in Beth El Cemetery.

Contributions can be made in her honor to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 401 N. Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13203 or the Ronald McDonald House, 1100 E Genesee St., Syracuse, New York 13210.

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### HELEN JEANETTE (SCHUDT) POWELL

September 22, 2020

Helen Jeanette (Schudt) Powell, 82, died Tuesday at Francis House, in Syracuse, after a valiant effort to survive cancer. Her brilliant spirit and positive outlook on life were true inspirations to anyone who knew her.

Jeanette was born November 12, 1937, in Milwaukee, WI, to Harold and Julia Ebelt Schudt. She earned a B.A. from McGill University and M.A. from Canisius College. She began



a career of service in Erie County with a chaplaincy as a staff counselor at Buffalo Children's Hospital and then developed an adult daycare and ambulatory program at Brothers of Mercy, in Clarence, NY. This was followed by work at Monroe Community Hospital and Genesee County DDSO. She continued on in Dutchess County DDSO, as director for MR/DSO. She ultimately earned the position of Executive Director of the Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center in Syracuse, where she was also a devoted and proud member of Congregation Beth Sholom Chevra Shas. The congregation came to represent a steadfast and integral part of her family.

Jeanette was passionately concerned about the current state of the world. Acting locally and thinking globally was reflected by her participation in groups like Women Transcending Boundaries and the local Rahma Clinic. Acts of service and civic participation (as safely able), or supporting those on the front lines of inclusive change, would be great honors to her memory.

Jeanette was the proud mother of Leslie (David) Shaw, Fred, Katie and predeceased by Donna (Richard Heiser); grandmother of Alice, Emma, Mary, Francis, Fred (Brittany), Jeanette and Leanna, and delighted great-grandmother of Lucas, Everly, Inara, Enzo and Emilia. She is predeceased by her sister, Judith Theresa, and was the proud aunt of Julie and Richard Theresa; proud great-aunt of Daniel and Austin.

The family is grateful for the tender and loving end-of-life care provided by Hospice CNY and FLX, the Zen Center of Syracuse and Francis House. Graveside services were limited to the immediate family. Contributions in her memory may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom Chevra Shas, Hospice CNY and FLX, Zen Center of Syracuse, the Rahma Clinic or Francis House.

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**BEVERLY ZEAMON SHAPERO**

September 17, 2020

Beverly Zeamon Shapero, 96, died on September 17 at Crouse Hospital.

Beverly was born on November 14, 1923 in Syracuse to Jack and Fannie Kamp Zeamon. She lived her entire life as a proud Syracusan.

She was graduate of Nottingham High School, received a BS degree from Syracuse University and a master's degree in Business Administration from SU, and a partial master's in social work from SU as well. She worked for the Onondaga County Department of Social Services in the children's division for over 55 years until retiring. Beverly was a former member of Lafayette Country Club where she was an avid golfer, and was proud to serve on the board of the Consortium for Children's Advocacy. Beverly was a life member of Temple Adath Yeshurun, the Sisterhood of the temple, and Hadassah.

She is survived by her cousins Gail Shulman, Valerie Post, Sherie Melman and Loren Ben. Graveside services for the immediate family were in Adath Yeshurun Cemetery.

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**BARBARA GOLDSMITH GROSSMAN**

September 18, 2020

Barbara Goldsmith Grossman, loving wife, mother of two sons, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren passed away at age 94 on September 18, 2020. Barbara was born on January 30, 1926 in Syracuse New York to Frances and Joseph Goldsmith. She graduated from Nottingham High School in 1944 and Syracuse University in 1948 where she met her husband Daniel Grossman.

Barbara was a beloved friend, wife and mother whose optimism and zest for living was admired by many. She was an active member of her community serving as president of the Council of Jewish Women and the Jewish Home (Menorah Park) Auxiliary, where she volunteered for over 40 years. Barbara was a member of Temple Society of Concord, the former Lafayette Country Club and the Cavalry Club.

She was predeceased by her husband Daniel Grossman, siblings Shirley Raymond, Miriam Lipstein and Charles Goldsmith and daughter-in-law Bonnie W. Grossman. She is survived by her sons Steven Grossman (Patricia Boyd), Gary Grossman (Bonnie D. Grossman); grandchildren Joshua Grossman (Gina Ruebensaal), Jeffrey Grossman (Melissa), Abby Grossman, and Jenna Grossman; great-grandchildren Aaron, Oliver and Blake; and nephews Gerald Raymond (Lori) and Richard Raymond (Iris).

Services were private. Contributions may be made to the Barbara and Daniel Grossman fund at Menorah Park or your favorite charity.

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**ROBERT HURWITZ**

September 15, 2020

Robert Hurwitz, 77, died on September 15 in East Lansing, MI where he had lived since graduating from Michigan State University. He was a native of Syracuse, and a graduate of Nottingham High School. During his professional career he was a teaching assistant at Michigan State University on the East Lansing campus.

He is survived by his sister, Elaine Ehrlich, of Boca Raton, FL, his nieces and a nephew. Graveside funeral services in Adath Yeshurun Cemetery were for the immediate family.

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**PHYLLIS LAVELANET ROHRLICH**

September 16, 2020

Phyllis Lavelanet Rohrlich, 91, passed away peacefully at Menorah Park after a slow decline due to a longstanding heart condition. The daughter of Philip (Pinney) and Freda Klein, Phyllis was born March 18, 1929 in West Hartford, CT and grew up there with other members of a large, close-knit family nearby. She attended Wheaton College (MA) and graduated from Syracuse University. She later earned an MSW from S.U.

Phyllis was married young to Philip Ferro, M.D., then later married Raymond Lavelanet. After his death, she met Fritz Rohrlich, Ph.D., with whom she shared 25 years of marriage until his death in 2018. Their marriage was filled with international travel, classical music, art, loving family and many friends.

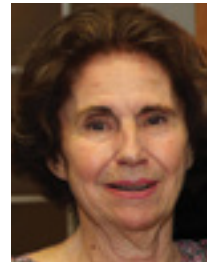
Phyllis is survived by her brother Michael Klein, her 4 children: David (Janie) Ferro, Beth (David) Ferro Mitchell, Daniel (Kathy) Ferro, and Alain (Kelly) Lavelanet; her step-children: Richard (Daniela) Lavelanet, Emily (Alan) Rohrlich Graham; her 6 grandchildren: Ben (Katy) Mitchell, Rebecca Mitchell, Tim and Megan Ferro, and Paige and Colby Lavelanet; and her beloved nieces: Johanna, Martha and Emily Klein and their mother Karen. She was predeceased by her stepson Paul (Susan; Noah and Jordan) Rohrlich.

Phyllis practiced as a geriatric social worker for many years in the Boston area. After retiring, she moved back to Syracuse "to be a full-time grandmother" for her first four grandchildren. She also pursued her love of antiques, selling them in a group shop in Skaneateles.

Phyllis was first and foremost a believer in the importance of family. Part of an extended family that considers itself a 'tribe', Phyllis was an extraordinarily loving mother and grandmother, proud of everyone's accomplishments and fiercely defensive of anyone's criticism. Her children and grandchildren fondly recall helping her to bake cookies. Phyllis was a wonderful cook and loved entertaining. A generous and loving person and an amazing conversationalist, Phyllis always remembered everyone's family and interests.

A memorial service will be held in the future, once the threat of COVID has receded.

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**RUTH COHEN**

September 13, 2020

Ruth Cohen died peacefully on September 13, 2020. She was predeceased by her husband, Abraham Cohen, her sister Anne Wolfish (Jerry), and her brother William Gold, all of blessed memory. Beloved mother of: David (Sara Levitt-Cohen) of St. Louis, MO, Judith (Dr. Jeffrey) Stanton of Syracuse, NY, and Justin (Wendy Baker) Cohen of Ann Arbor, MI. Also survived by her grandchildren: Abraham Stanton, Sarah (Roger) Lounsbury, Cleo and Marc Cohen, her great-granddaughter Mila Lounsbury, and many nieces and nephews.

Ruth was born on October 31, 1928 in Buffalo, NY to Paul and Merle Gold, who had fled Russia in 1919 to escape the ongoing persecution of Jews. She had a brilliant mind and was always at the top of her class. A graduate of Bennett High School, she received a special New York State scholarship to Cornell University (class of 1950), where she met her future husband and earned her B.A. in Economics.

After graduation Ruth and Abe moved to New York City, and she worked in the Actuarial Department of the New York Life Insurance Company. They later returned to Buffalo and worked at Bell Aircraft until they started their family. In her mid-40's, Ruth earned her teaching certification from SUNY Buffalo and taught K-12 math in the Buffalo Public Schools. She was a gifted, creative educator.

Ruth was a fantastic cook and took great pleasure in creating delicious meals for family and friends. Her culinary skills made every Jewish holiday memorable. She loved her family, art, music, Broadway shows, concerts, opera, gardening, attending synagogue, singing, swimming, and riding her bike. She was a lifelong member of Hadassah. Ruth and Abe actively assisted her Russian relatives to emigrate to the U.S. in the 1980's and '90's and helped them to make new lives in Buffalo.

The family would like to thank the staff at Menorah Park Home Care, Keepsake Village, St. Joseph's Hospital, and The Iroquois Skilled Nursing Home. Private burial was in Buffalo, NY. Memorials may be made to a charity of your choice.

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**FRANK A. SCHULMAN**

October 1, 2020

Frank A. Schulman, 92, died peacefully on October 1, at The Nottingham where he had been a resident for the past 3 years. Born in Philadelphia on August 11, 1928 to William and Sarah Bezrod Schulman, Frank had been a resident of Philadelphia for most of his life.

During his professional career he was the general manager of The Alfred Angelo Bridal manufacturing company of Philadelphia. Frank loved being on, or near the water: boating, fishing and being the past Commodore of the Tom's River Yacht Club. He was also a gifted artist who painted throughout his life.

His family includes his daughter Andrea (Shelden) Sacks; grandchildren Samantha (Lukasz) Ziemianski, Rachel (fiance Cameron Adams) Sacks, and Dylan (fiancé Jessica Gaboriault) Sacks; and his great-granddaughter Emilia.

Graveside services and burial were in Mount Sharon Cemetery in Springfield, PA.

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