

»» L' shana tova!

Jewish Observer

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

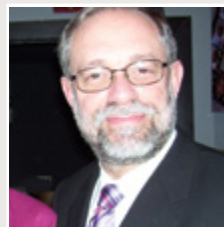
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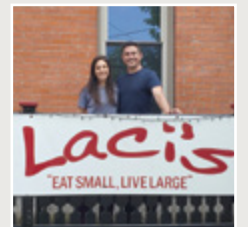
What will be in 5783 ?



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From the Editor

What Do “We Jews” Want in 5783?

Amos Oz and his daughter Fania Oz-Salzberger, in their book *Jews and Words*, write that “We Jews are notoriously unable to agree about anything that begins with the words ‘we Jews.’” And yet, we need to do so.



Barbara Davis

The 21st century is all about connections. We connect via Facetime, Whatsapp, Instagram, Messenger, email, Twitter and text. We connect in ways we are not even aware of, through cookies or even malware. Connections are very important. Throughout the pandemic, the thing we missed most was connection. Most people seek to belong. Very few of us want to be hermits, living alone in the wilderness or atop a mountain.

It used to be that people needed to be literate, to read and write, in order to connect with others. Today, one needs to master digital and visual literacy. But at the same time that we are globally connected, in many ways we are very disconnected. In previous eras, there were certain givens, including defined boundaries of nations and communities. We used to subordinate the individual to the community and the nation. We used to believe in rational, linear progress, in stable bodies of knowledge to be mastered. In short, we believed in a world of self-contained, closed systems.

In 20th century Jewish America, even if Jews did not practice, they established and joined congregations because that’s what Protestant America

did. The informal names of those early synagogues reflected the congregants’ immigrant roots even as they strove to acculturate their children to America. When the modern State of Israel was added to the paradigm of the Jewish community mid-century, it was presented simultaneously and paradoxically both as a fragile entity dependent upon American Jews’ commitment for its survival and as an invincible and heroic country. The federation system and its beneficiary agencies were responsible for the secular welfare of local and global Jewish communities while congregations and related denominational structures tended to their religious and educational needs. All was right with the Jewish world.

A new *zeitgeist* took hold of the American Jewish community in the 21st century. For many Jews today, the beliefs, behaviors and values that animated the Jewish community in the past have lost their relevance. Beliefs don’t hold people. Rather, people hold beliefs – and may discard them when they no longer work for them. Jews today customize “traditions” and design new Jewish rituals drawn from multiple faith traditions. As a result, the Jewish community of the United States can perhaps be described as “Jews Without Borders.”

So who gets to decide what is Jewish in 5783? For Gen X’ers, Millennials and increasingly, Boomers, that privilege no longer resides with Jewish authorities. It can come from anyone and anywhere. People can decide for themselves. But how can you decide without knowledge? Many Jews today, both seniors and younger people, don’t know much about being Jewish. They don’t have immigrant parents or even grandparents. They hear bad things about Israel. Jews in the news include many we don’t want to be associated with (Madoff, Weinstein, Epstein). Antisemitism is on the rise. Jewish education is on the decline.

Can we develop a new paradigm of being Jewish in the 21st century? Can we make being Jewish relevant and meaningful in a changed and highly polarized world? Can we identify what makes Jews, the eternally dying people, worth preserving? What does Judaism stand for? What do “we Jews” have in common with one another? Can there be something Jewish worth holding fast to in an age of artificial intelligence, quantum computing, virtual reality, blockchain and the Internet of Things?

“Rosh Hashanah isn’t just about being new, it’s about change,” said Max Levis, a Jewish innkeeper whose words are widely quoted. But what to change? A Jewish proverb, as is customary, comes to the rescue: “Change what you cannot accept, accept what you cannot change.” Let us also consider also the words of Rainer Maria Rilke, not Jewish but a seeker of meaning, who wrote: “Let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been, full of work that has never been done, full of tasks, claims, and demands” and add to that the words of Israeli Nobelist Shimon Peres who said, “I was given my life, some two and a half billion seconds: I did some reckoning, and I decided to do something with those seconds so that I might make a difference.”

This issue of the *Jewish Observer* has the pleasure of introducing readers to many new faces in our Jewish community. The energy they bring to their positions will infect us all. There are new and exciting programs and projects planned for the new year to fill our community with positive change. We even report on new planets discovered by a spaceship led by Israeli researchers. We hope everyone will come together to support the new leadership and programming with enthusiasm and active participation. May you all have a 5783 that makes a difference, that creates positive change and that is filled with joy, meaning, good health and connections.

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Michael Balanoff

President, Jewish Federation of Central New York



The High Holidays are not only a time to look back and reflect but a time to think about the future that we want to create together. At the Federation, our reflections give us a sense of pride and also a basis for growth. As we begin 5783, we are strengthened in our commitment to sustain and enhance Jewish life in Central New York.

Our goal is to be an engaged community. As we have come to grips with COVID and its ramifications, we have begun to look at new ways not just to get people together in the same room, but to help them build relationships with each other, with Federation and with the Jewish community

at large. We are thinking about how we can engage parts of our community that we have not been reaching, how we can be an incubator of innovation to inspire new groups of people to be a part of our Jewish community, how we can develop programs and initiatives that meet the needs and aspirations of the community and how we can bring a diversity of experiences and perspectives to our volunteer leadership opportunities so that Federation will be a Jewish social space where people can find meaningful ways to realize our Jewish values in practical ways.

We had many successes in 5782: our campaign was strong, we raised \$100,000 and dedicated an ambulance for Israel, we sent significant funding overseas to help the Jews of Ethiopia and the people of Ukraine, we created a committee to address climate change, we subsidized children attending Jewish summer camp and teens going to Israel, we funded innovative programs through the Federation's Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund, and we provided food for those in need through our food pantry and supplies for the new refugees who will be coming to our community. Each month we publish a prize-winning community newspaper, each week we send an e-blast with community happenings and every day we post on social media. We engaged our NexGen young adults in both social and social service activities. We connected our community through music, movies, cooking classes and holiday observances.

Yet even as we engage in a multiplicity of activities, Federation is singular in its purpose. One Jew caring about another is what we're all about. When there are Jews in need, we reach out to help because we are one people, *am Israel, am ehad*. But our primary focus is sustaining and strengthening our local Jewish community so that Central New York remains a strong, pluralistic and diverse Jewish place for years to come.

The new year will again be filled with wonderful events, programs and activities that will bring us closer to one another. I hope it will be a "year of community," marked by cooperation and collaboration, so that together we can make our world a better place. I invite all of you to renew your commitment to Federation's work. As we begin our ten-day period of contemplation, I hope you will give serious thought to how you can help Federation and the Jewish Community Foundation build a strong and vibrant Jewish community, not only now but for the future.

I wish you all a *shanah tovah u'metukah*, a good and sweet year. May it be a year of good health and happiness, of many accomplishments and few disappointments. Remember that together we are better, so reach out and do something new and exciting. Let's not do what we've always done. Step out of your comfort zone. Make a difference. Let's continue to work together to make our Jewish community the best it can possibly be in 5783.

Neil Rosenbaum

Board Chair



Call me an optimist, but as we begin 5783, I clearly see a welcoming, collaborative community that is growing in meaningful ways. Those who think we are a shrinking, dying community are looking in the wrong direction.

We are growing, but differently. Our growth is different because it is both like the past and unlike the past. As Carly Simon sings: "These ARE the good old days," and as Bob Dylan says, "The times they are a-changing." Our growth is meaningful in that our organizations and agencies are working to become more efficient in delivering services and programs. Our youth education programs are streamlining to bring our students together. The number and passion of our NextGen group participants is mushrooming and becoming more than it ever was.

As Chair of the Federation Board, I see a community that is, more and more, living our values.

Torah (*Jewish learning*)

Our community can be proud of the many learning opportunities that are featured each week in *Community Happenings*. There are series run by the synagogues and Chabad, holiday learning sessions sponsored by and featuring *d'verei Torah* by the members of the Rabbinical Council, Hebrew language and Torah reading classes. Our Community Hebrew School has been very successful despite COVID. The Epstein School has enjoyed record enrollments and the Hebrew Day School's classes saw very significant increases in size. Federation's program to offer incentives for families who choose to send their children has also been successful and is an important investment of community resources.

Tzedakah (*charity, respect, and social justice*)

In 2022, in addition to a successful campaign to support local agencies and programs, our community raised over \$200,000 to purchase an ambulance for Israel and to support the people of the Ukraine. The Women's Philanthropy Initiative successfully collected 36 bins of household goods for the refugee resettlement program of InterFaith Works and is now working to raise funds for an incubator for the Magen David Adom Human Milk Bank in Israel. The Jewish Community Foundation continued to grow in size and importance to ensure continuity and consistency of funding for the future.

Tikkun Olam (*repairing the world*)

Federation's work during the height of the pandemic to support local Jewish entities with financial and other support

helped those entities to continue providing essential services. At the same time, everyone learned to communicate more easily, which had the additional advantage of allowing those who have moved or chosen to spend part of the year away to stay involved and participate in programs in Central New York. Federation's newly created Climate Crisis Task Force is looking at ways that our community can become part of the solution to the climate crisis. This initiative is engaging new community members and bringing new interest in the work of the Federation.

Repairing our small part of the world came out of the tragedy of the pandemic with the return to the area of a meaningful number of Jewish young people and families who found the lifestyle and cost of living welcoming.

L'Dor V'Dor (*identity and continuity from generation to generation*)

It was very impressive to see the involvement of the students of the Epstein School in the community's *Yom HaShoah* program this year. Their participation, lighting candles for those lost and speaking beautifully and impressively, made it clear that our future is in good hands. We have worked hard to involve younger people at every level of our work, from our Campaign Cabinet to our Federation committees. Our entrance into the world of social media (we post daily!) is another example of outreach to the next generations.

As a community member fortunate enough to have a child settling in Syracuse, it thrills me that we are focused on investing time and resources to keep the Central New York Jewish Community vibrant. As someone who was fortunate enough to have serendipity bring Debbie and me to Syracuse as a young couple, and then to be able to stay here, it also feels right to work to make sure that others have the same opportunity



Chairing Campaign 5783

by Anick Sinclair

“Although I was born in London, England, my childhood was spent living in different countries in Africa. Some countries had a large Jewish community, like Zimbabwe. Others had none at all, such as Mali and Lesotho. This meant my parents had to invest an awful lot to maintain a Jewish and kosher home. But by driving us three hours away for bat-mitzvah lessons or importing kosher meat from Johannesburg or even becoming pescatarians (in Namibia), they ensured that we all grew up with both a deep knowledge, and a deeper love, of Judaism. It taught me that no matter how diminishing (or even non-existent) a Jewish community is, Judaism within the family can and should always be maintained and nurtured, and all efforts should go to sustain Jewish life in the wider community.

“As an adult, my husband and I were one of the first 15 families to revive a synagogue in an area of London where Jewish life was dwindling. We had a powerhouse of a Rabbi and



Rebbitzin, and today it is still the fastest growing community in London, with more than 500 members. We introduced a toddler nursery which then went on to be a successful kindergarten. And it was my first foray onto a Jewish board.

“Eight years ago, my family moved to Syracuse for my husband’s job, and we settled happily into the Shaarei Torah congregation. Two of my three

sons attended the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and that was our natural introduction into the local Jewish community. Since then, both my husband and I have been involved in a multitude of Jewish agencies and sat on a wide variety of boards. We believe this is the most effective way to be heard, here in the US. I am currently on the board of the JCC, am the president of the Epstein Board and sit on the board of the Federation.

“Everything about the Jewish Federation speaks to me: The fact that it endorses and funds so many necessities and activities in the Jewish community. The fact that it is immensely involved with all agencies, at every stage of life. The fact that it was a saving grace during the pandemic and came to the aid of so many who were struggling. The list goes on. It is my privilege to sit on the *Yom HaShoah* Committee, where we’ve slowly been changing the traditional format of events to include and engage the teens from the Epstein School and to

co-chair the Strategic Planning Committee, which launched the Federation’s social media initiative.

When I was originally asked to be campaign chair, I was skeptical that I was up to such an enormous role, and Debbie Rosenbaum has left behind some big shoes to fill. But then I realized this was just an extension of my appreciation and deep belief about the good that this Federation brings locally. And so, we’ve put together an extremely talented cabinet, whose members are representatives of every age group, parents of every stage of childhood development and representatives from every Jewish congregation in Syracuse.

I am passionate about how much the Federation is invested in Jewish life, which is made possible by the donations of an extremely dedicated community. I do feel, however, that awareness is as important. The extent to which the Federation supports different agencies and programs here is phenomenal and expansive and shouldn’t be taken for granted. We are lucky, in Syracuse, to have such an accessible Federation, filled with people who care deeply about Jewish continuity and education.

I am honored to chair this campaign, and you shall be hearing from us soon to hear how you might help. Please take our call!

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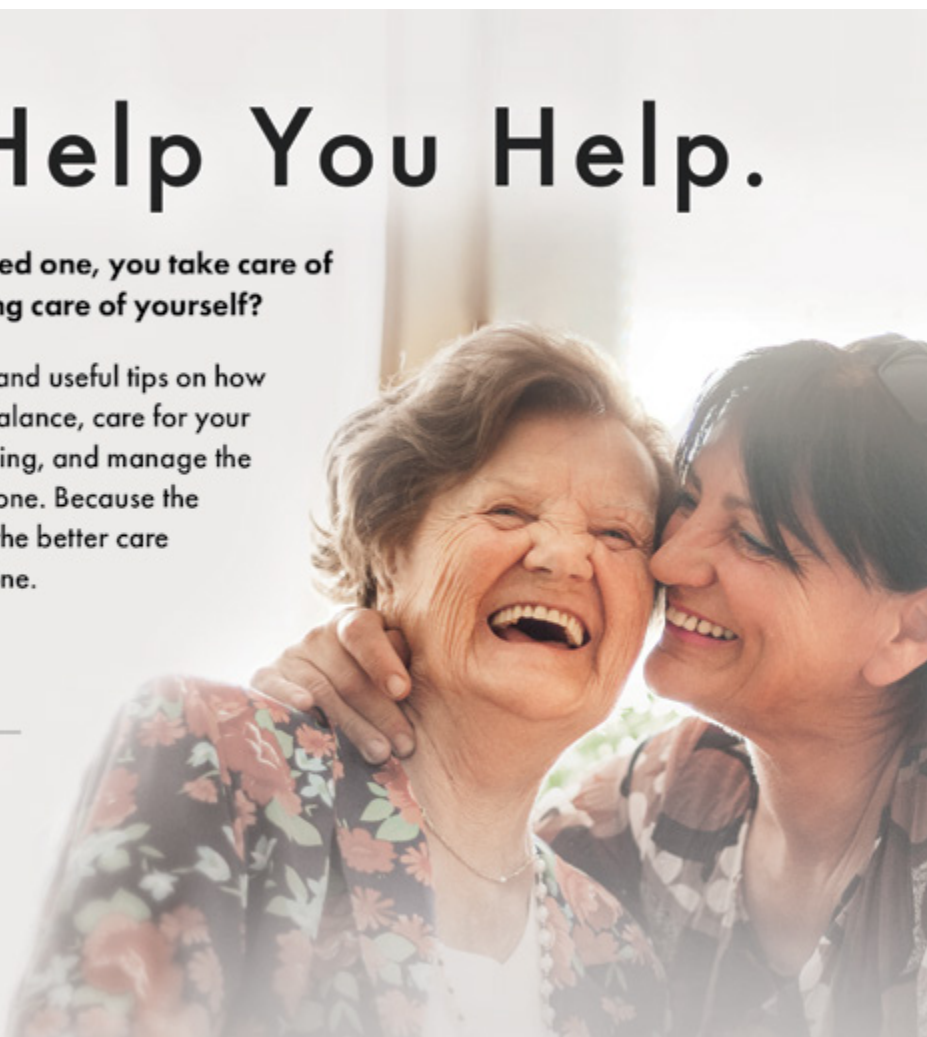
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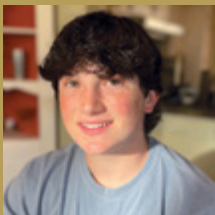


Raising over a million dollars annually is no easy task. Fortunately, our community has leaders who are willing to step up to the challenge. The 2022 campaign chair, Debbie Rosenbaum, completed her term having achieved great success. “I feel honored and fortunate to have been able to chair the Campaign the past two years. It was a community effort lead by an outstanding diverse cabinet which truly represents the Jewish community of Central New York,” she says. She feels confident turning the reins over to her successor, Anick Sinclair, noting that “Anick’s energy and volunteer and professional experiences will help ensure her success as this year’s campaign chair.”

Sinclair is eager to take on this vital role. “I am delighted and awed to serve as the campaign chair for 2023,” she says. “As part of the ever-thriving Jewish community in Central New York, I believe there is nothing more important than our responsibility to build, sustain and support its needs and services and agencies - something the Jewish Federation does daily. I am passionate, not only about raising funds for the Jewish community, but also raising awareness about how invested the Federation is in all local Jewish agencies. Jewish education and Jewish continuity is paramount and I’m certain that this Campaign Cabinet will be successful in raising funds to continue to grow this belief.”

The 5783 Campaign Cabinet reflects the diversity of our community and calls upon the expertise of those who have lived and worked here for decades as well as those who are just entering Jewish adulthood. What unites them is a commitment to make our community better and stronger and a willingness to work hard to put words into action.

The *JO* is proud to introduce the members of the **2023 Campaign Cabinet** to our readers:



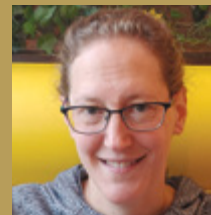
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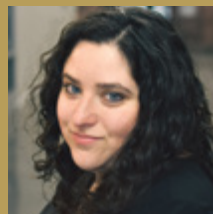
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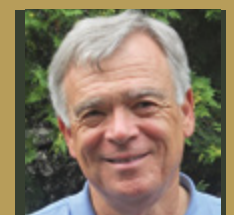
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Retired Chief Financial Officer

» Book Review

Jew-ish: Reinvented Recipes from a Modern Mensch by Jake Cohen

Review by Michael Gordon

What most impresses me about this review copy of *Jew-ish* is that it's a real-live, physical book with a cover, pages and a spine. It's been years since I've opened a cookbook, let alone purchased one. I haven't even consulted one of the many I have on shelves in my kitchen.

Yes, I'm an inveterate on-line recipe explorer. If I have an idea in mind for a meal, I'll let Google be my guide. Those daily emails from Food & Wine or *The New York Times* food app have also inspired me to make countless dishes over the years.

For an overly practical guy like me, virtual meal planning has endless benefits. I can copy and paste the ingredients on my iPhone's Notes app without having to type or scan a page to make a shopping list. If I print out the recipe, I can do so in large font so I can read it easily while I'm cooking.

But what's most important to me is that I can read other people's reviews of those recipes because they often have valuable tips – like how it might be preferable to roast the vegetables rather than sautéing them or how you should reduce the amount of salt. I find it reassuring to know that others have tried a recipe and found it to be good as written or better with tweaks.

Notwithstanding my personal preferences, hard cover cookbooks are selling like hotcakes. According to one



article, sales have increased by 15% over the past few years (apparently spurred on by the pandemic). I assume that many who buy an actual cookbook are the same folks who prefer to hold a newspaper in their hands instead of scrolling on their iPad. They like the pages fluttering through their fingers as they work their way from appetizers to desserts.

They must also like the context cookbooks provide for why the authors created the recipes as they did and their general philosophy toward cooking. That's something hard for me to appreciate. I press the "jump to recipe" button immediately because I'm not terribly interested in the chef's personal experience. To be fair, that's the same reason I've never been a Facebook devotee – I just don't care a

whole lot that my second cousin three times removed had a bad day or might have a migraine coming on. I'm afraid I don't have much patience for digital narcissism.

Aside from the tactile benefits and narrative flow of a cookbook, why would someone purchase one? For me, it would be that the cookbook addressed a topic or provided recipes I couldn't find online. The recipe collection would have to offer a twist on cooking that was unusual and proprietary.

And that brings us (finally) to *Jew-ish: Reinvented Recipes from a Modern Mensch* by Jake Cohen. He's a young celebrity chef who got his start in the publishing world when he worked for *Saveur* magazine. His schtick is to take popular dishes and add a Jewish twist to them – mainly by finding ways to substitute ingredients that are staples of Jewish cuisine.

He's very clever at it. For example, he has a recipe for croque monsieur that uses challah instead of white sandwich bread. You'll also find "Pastrami Biscuits and Gravy," "Date-Roasted Brussels Sprouts," "Crispy Chicken Thighs with Tzimmes," "Tiramatzu (Matzo Tiramisu)," "Challah Panzanella" and several offerings that feature apples and honey.

All the recipes are easy to follow and generally simple to make. He does a good job of anticipating questions the cook might have and offering alternative

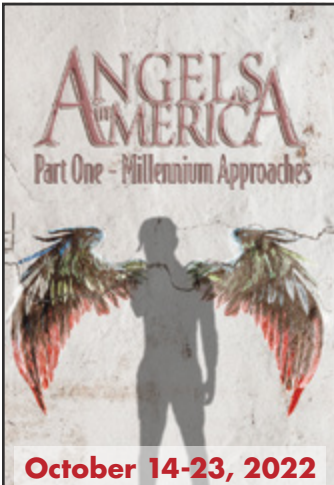
strategies/ingredients, for example parsnips or sweet potatoes for latkes. He has a real talent for writing the recipes in a way that doesn't leave much room for apprehension, guesswork or slavish adherence to the ingredients list.

What I most appreciated about this collection were the detailed descriptions of how to prepare recipes that can often seem daunting: challah (he has 16 photos illustrating each step in the braiding process), rugelach (9 photos and several variations from sweet to savory) and babka (also 9 photos and 4 versions from sweet to savory). For the record, I overcame my skittishness around braiding dough and made the "Chocolate-Tahini Babka" – with good result.

Jew-ish is beautifully illustrated and has a modern, youthful feel to it. It also introduced me to ingredients I either hadn't known about or just never got around to using – like date syrup (excellent on roasted Brussel sprouts) and sumac (perfect on roasted fish or just about anything else that could benefit from some lemony tanginess).

Just be mindful that many of the recipes fall in the "kosher style" (hence the "Jew-ish") arena, mixing milk and meat or using *treif*. However, they all give you options for making the dish strictly kosher – a nice acknowledgment that many of us have our own preferences and practices when we set about to make a recipe.


Will I now start ordering hardcover cookbooks? Probably not. I am too wedded to the convenience of digital recipe hunting. However, this cookbook did motivate me to review some of my Kindle cookbooks, which I also hadn't looked at in years. And *Jew-ish* is available in that format. There might be hope for me yet.



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» SHDS Alumni Profile

Zachary Field, '02



Whether it's water or coffee, SHDS alum Zachary Field, '02, has extremely strong opinions and actions to go along with them. Currently completing a master's degree in the water resources policy program at Oregon State, he is focusing on water conflict, cooperation and diplomacy. His research is coalescing around the question of how workers' exposure to environmental hazards or degradation informs their identities as workers, citizens and environmental actors. His goal is to advance "the body of research related to the intersection of organized

labor and the environment, marrying my experience as a union organizer with my background in environmental studies"

A recent article in *GQ* revealed details of the union side of Field's activism. Entitled "The Fist Meets the Frappuccino: How the Starbucks Union Created Their Pro-Labor Logo," it describes how "the former barista came up with the symbol adopted by the coffee chain's organizing labor force." In the article, Field described the origins of the union logo, which has been adopted nationally by unionized Starbucks branches. "We started to think about what images resonated with workers. The shaker cup! It's the implement we use to make our cold beverages at Starbucks. The tool of our trade. I'd been toying with that graphic, inspired by this idea that when we're making these beverages, we fill the flavor base to a line—and of all the actual subsequent ingredients, about 70 percent of it is ice. That struck me as a really powerful analogy for our experience as workers, right? The workers produce all of the value in the beverage, but we only get this little tiny slice of the profits. Like, 70 percent of all this filler ends up going to the bosses."

Zachary created the Starbucks logo while working at a store last year in Buffalo. He does not lay claim to artistic ability, saying he is "more of a reproducer than an original graphic artist," but he recognizes the power of art. "I think there is something to be said creatively for the way the attention and meaning behind an image is transformed through its reproduction and the way we carry it and propagate it through society as a message. It infuses the art with new meaning, new impact." He is awed by the way the logo developed: "It's a thing that I didn't anticipate, and was overwhelmed by, but has been brilliant—the way local unions have made the logo their own. And there are now incredibly beautiful logos out there that absolutely

exceed anything that I've done. And for workers to be able to express themselves through their art, to identify with their local store to really have a sense of ownership and engagement—that's a kind of empowerment."



Zachary says that his experiences at SHDS nurtured his interest in Israel and Palestinian and also "imparted a major lesson that has significantly impacted my relationship with Judaism." He says that SHDS "taught me the plasticity and mutability of Jewish traditions, and I learned that there are a plurality of valid interpretive frameworks that our tradition supports. I think I learned this mainly through our religious education, where our oral and written traditions were presented without distinction and with equal significance and value. My time at SHDS also helped me define my Jewish identity even when staking political positions outside of our establishment consensus. It also exposed me to a shared generational experience of communal Jewish education at a point in time, and that experience is incredibly informative to me when I'm thinking about the future of Jewish and Israel education."

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Blessings for the New Year

for our community from our community

“May we all clearly see what is needed for a healthy secure future, for the sake of our country, community and future generations.”

Mark and Sue Field

“May you have peace and harmony, happiness and good health in the coming year.”

The Sinclair Family

“May we all be blessed with good health and happiness and shared visions of unity, respect, peace and goodwill toward all.”

Ellen and Howard Weinstein

“May the entire CNY community have a New Year filled with new stories of Shalom.”

Jill and Jim Brulé

“May our Jewish communities, local and overseas, be blessed to always strive to embrace and enact the wisdom of the “Ethics of our Fathers” (and mothers!) to NOT do unto our neighbors that which is hateful to ourselves.”

brent bleier

“May you have a Shana Tova! Happy New Year!”

The Residents of The Oaks



“May inner peace and awakened mind infuse our thoughts, words and deeds, so that our efforts on behalf of Tikkun Olam are filled with compassion and insight.”

Sherry Chayat

“L’shanah tovah! May our Syracuse community enjoy a year of peace and love.”

Nan and Rob Fechtner

“May we support our Jewish community and everyone in need as we can no longer stand alone in this very chaotic time and watch as people suffer; no one should suffer alone.”

Sidney Manes

“May the blessings of Moses for peace with our neighbors shine with us always.”

Lleni Pach

D’var Torah

Rabbi Evan Shore

Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse



We all remember the famous Verizon commercial, “Can you hear me now?” On Rosh Hashanah, Jews need to sensitize their listening skills to properly respond to divine messages. The centerpiece of the New Year is the blowing of the shofar. Yet, the blessing we recite is not “blowing the shofar” but rather “listening to the voice of the shofar.” I do not believe this is a result of the minutiae of halachic discussion, rather it is a reminder to each Jew to double our efforts upon the sense of hearing on the first day of Tishrei.

Rosh Hashanah marks the sixth day of creation. On this day, Hashem created Adam and Eve. This day also marks the sin they committed by eating the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks points out that Adam and Eve shifted from a listening mode to one of seeing. Until that point, their life was based upon listening to the command of God. Upon eating the fruit, they began to see each other in a different light. Prior to this, nakedness was neither lewd nor shameful. After eating from the Tree of Knowledge, all of that changed.

Today, we see a great deal, but our listening skills have been eroded. There is great debate as to how we perceive the significance of the shofar’s sound. King David in the Book of Psalms (89:16) writes: Happy is the people who know the shofar. The Jew must intellectualize the meaning of the sound of the shofar. On the other hand, the famous Rambam (Maimonides) maintains that listening is a crucial element: “Sleeping ones! Awaken from your sleep! Slumbering ones! Awaken from your slumber! Examine your deeds. Remember your Creator and repent.”

Rabbi Yaakov Astor writes, “The physical shofar is nothing more than the hollow horn of a ram. When the breath of a human being is blown through it, however, it undergoes a transformation. It becomes a living embodiment of the heart and emotion of the human being expressing the Divine Self it senses pulsing within, crying out to its Maker.”

To reach this level of spirituality, it is necessary to sharpen our listening skills. The first of Tishrei ushers in a new year, a new beginning. Please God, let the beautiful voice of the shofar sound inspire us to work on a productive, meaningful and ethical year. **To all a happy healthy 5783!**

Rock City Development: Going Green in the Mohawk Valley



Photo by Dave Warner

The Stone Mill in Little Falls is an icon of the Mohawk Valley's manufacturing legacy, built in 1839 on the banks of the Mohawk River in Little Falls. The city's mayor, Mark Blask, described the building's historic significance: "Commerce was really important, and it started right here. During the Revolutionary War, a lot of the people who were significant in freeing our country walked in this very place."

Fast forward more than a century and a half, and today the Stone Mill is a four-story, 38,000-square-foot building mixed-use facility with a hotel, offices, and dining, which just underwent a state-of-the-art energy retrofit to make it one of the cleanest and greenest buildings in the Mohawk Valley. Massive solar panels now cover the top of the building. Lighting, and HVAC are electronically controlled so that when people aren't in the rooms the lights, heating and air conditioning turn off, and there's a charger for electric cars.

The large old stone building was a very significant consumer of energy. Working with ReWire Energy, the building's owners, Rock City Development, undertook a major commercial retrofit

project that resulted in an energy consumption reduction of 85% and cost savings that will pay for the project in less than a year. ReWire's team of experts undertook a thorough analysis of energy usage, heating and solar supply, among other metrics, to provide a comprehensive energy efficiency plan.

Federation President and Rock City COO Neil Rosenbaum noted that "beyond the business and financial impact of this investment, the Stone Mill project will have an incredible environmental impact." It has been estimated that the project will have the same effect on the local community as 1,500 tree seedlings grown for 10 years, 117 acres of U.S. forest preserved, taking 20 cars off the road for one year and saving 10,150 gallons of gas. ReWire's Ken Evans said, "Little Falls represents the best of New York's past and future. We hope this project serves as an example to other building owners, developers, and business leaders that energy efficiency building investments make sense not just for the environment, but also for the bottom line."



Rosh Hashanah, Honey, Bees and *Tikkun Olam*

Honey is a traditional food at *Rosh HaShanah*, symbolizing our hope for a sweet year. Yet as we dip our apples this year, we should also consider the plight of the makers of our honey: the bees. Bees are one of the most important species on our planet. Approximately 75% of the crops we eat are the result of bee pollination. There are some twenty thousand species of bee worldwide, but many of them are in trouble as a result of intensive farming practices, mono-cropping, excessive use of agricultural chemicals and higher temperatures associated with climate change.

The Xerces Society manages the largest pollinator conservation program in the world. From creating bee habitats and planting hundreds of thousands of flower-rich acres, the work they do to conserve these critical contributors to our ecosystem is unmatched. The Society's Bring Back the Pollinators campaign is based on four simple principles: Grow pollinator-friendly flowers, provide nest sites, avoid pesticides and spread the word.

Making resolutions is not a Jewish new year custom, but *tikkun olam*, repairing the world is a core value of which we are all very aware during the Days of Awe. Anyone can adopt the core values of the Xerces Society with regard to bees and other pollinators by following these simple suggestions:

1. **Grow a variety of bee-friendly flowers** that bloom from spring through fall. Examples of these, suitable for Central New York, include bee balm, Canadian anemone, black-eyed Susan, coneflower, creeping phlox, goatsbeard, purple asters, red columbine, swamp milkweed and turtlehead.
2. **Protect and provide bee nests and caterpillar host plants.**
3. **Avoid using pesticides**, especially insecticides.
4. **Talk to neighbors** about the importance of pollinators and their habitat.

It is said that the reason we eat honey at *Rosh HaShanah* is that it symbolizes the dual role of bees—feared for their sting but prized for the sweetness they provide— which reminds us of the image of a stern but merciful Creator. Let's think about this analogy and strive to make 5783 a sweet year for the bees as well as ourselves.

Community Hebrew School is a Hive of Activity

by Emily Chelnitsky

There's nothing quite like the "buzz" of excitement of a new school year! The SCHS staff have certainly been like bees in a hive over the summer, anticipating the return of our students to in-person learning! Jewish scholars frequently comment on the connection between bees and Judaism. Just as bees surround and depend on their queen, Jewish students surround and depend upon their teachers. SCHS is fortunate to welcome both returning and new teachers to our hive this year as well as welcoming back Ora Jezer, our Educational Director.

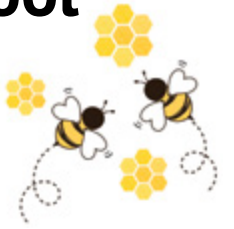
Bees are greatly admired for their teamwork and cooperation. As educators, we rely upon the expertise of each other in order to create meaningful and engaging lessons. Our staff bring in a variety of backgrounds and experiences ranging from service in Israel to special education. Like bees working collectively to create honey, our Hebrew school works collectively to ensure students have access to a meaningful

tefilah-based curriculum for Hebrew studies.

Our community extends far past just our school, and we are incredibly fortunate to partner with Congregation Beth Sholom, Temple Adath Yeshurun, and Temple Concord. Our synagogues put in countless hours to enrich our community, and we are honored to partner with them in the education of our children.

Like humans, bees depend not only on their fellow workers, but also on their environment. As we start the new year, we are mindful in our *tefilot* to care for and protect our environment. With generous funding from the Holstein grant and the Federation, students will have the opportunity next month to visit the MOST and get a firsthand look at how we can better support our environment.

We look forward to welcoming your family into our hive this year and wish everyone a sweet and productive school year!



New Leaders for a New Year

Temple Adath Yeshurun New Co-President



Mark Levy, the new co-president of Temple Adath Yeshurun, is the real estate partner at the law firm of Scolaro, Fetter, Grizanti & McGough, PC. He graduated from the Syracuse University College of Law where he met his wife, Jill, who is also a lawyer. After graduation, they lived and worked in New York City for a number of years, but after having children decided to move back to the Syracuse area to be closer to family. Jill is originally from the area and Mark grew up in Canada, so his family is not too far away. Mark and Jill are blessed with two beautiful daughters who keep them busy, between sports, activities and bat mitzvah lessons.

When they moved back to the Syracuse area, about 10 years ago, Jill met a member of TAY who invited the Levys to a Tot Shabbat service. Mark recalls, “We felt so welcomed and engaged that we joined the TAY family, and we have never looked back – and incidentally the member that invited us to services has become a very close friend.”

Mark is serving as co-president because of his children. “I remember feeling a strong sense of community growing up in my childhood temple – a small but active Jewish community. My parents were involved in temple leadership, participated in services and taught in the Sunday School. Being Jewish was a real sense of pride and brought us together as a family. Both my brother and I have tried to follow in my parent’s footsteps – building close families in a loving Jewish home.” He says that it is his hope “that I can have a positive impact on strengthening the Syracuse Jewish community as a whole and impressing upon my daughters a strong sense of Jewish identity and community.”

Looking toward the future, Mark notes that “these past few years have been extremely difficult for the entire community.” His goal is to “reignite and re-engage the congregation so that members and families can connect more easily with each other and strengthen our sense of community.” He hopes “that we can continue to develop a loving and supportive community for members of all ages – bringing a level of excitement and fun to our children with a Jewish education and connecting them with friends.” He adds, “My expectation is that we will continue to develop strong programming and broadly appeal to members and families of all ages.”

Mark is honored to take on the role as co-president “because it provides me with the opportunity to work with so many dedicated and talented people, from staff, religious leaders, board and committee members, general members and volunteers, who make the temple run smoothly and make it such a special place – a home away from home.” He looks forward to working with everyone “to honor our past, engage with our current traditions and look to the future as we evolve as a congregation for future generations.”

Jarrold Bagatell Becomes Board President of CBS-CS



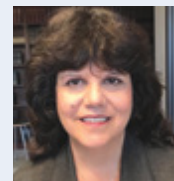
Dr. Jarrod L. Bagatell is the director of Employee/ Student Health at Upstate Medical University. A member of Upstate Medical School’s Class of 1993, he practiced family medicine in Central New York for over 20 years before returning to Upstate in the capacity of director of health services. The Brooklyn native grew up on Long Island and went to SUNY Binghamton as a chemistry major. He loved Binghamton and, realizing that there was so much of New York State beyond the Tappan Zee Bridge, applied to medical school in Syracuse. Jarrod has lived and worked in New York State his whole life, and he is delighted to be able to give back, to serve as a role model of taking care of others in times of need. He now works in his former dorm, coming full circle.

Speaking of his ascension to the presidency of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas, Jarrod says, “I never thought I would be involved in a synagogue board, much less be the president of one.” He grew up in Brooklyn (“a metropolis with Jews a dime a dozen”), became bar mitzvah in an Orthodox shul and attended Reform and Conservative synagogues growing up. When he came to Syracuse, he was looking for a “sense of community.” Introduced to CBS-CS by fellow physicians, he found it to be welcoming, with “no tickets, no sense of pressure, no glitz and glamour, humble.” It was just what he wanted. “I loved the people. It was a beautiful blend of those things I liked about my previous Jewish experiences.”

Jarrold got involved in membership and social activities at the congregation, such as the back to shul barbecue, baseball games, the men’s club, Purim parties, “whatever was happening socially.” Eventually, he says, “the shul became my family. My nuclear family had moved to southeast Florida, but I stayed here and grew my family by choice. CBS-CS is my family of choice.” Especially important for Jarrod is that the congregation welcomed him as a member of an interfaith family. He served as executive vice president of the board for two years and is excited about stepping up to the top position.

“My focus is on healing,” he notes, “about coming out of this COVID zombieism, about recreating a community that’s connected in traditional ways and in newfound ways that we didn’t know existed. We will be moving ahead with strategic planning for the next 60 years, seeking to uphold the values and ideals of the founders 60 years ago. My role is as a temporary steward of the ship. The ship has been through some rocky seas, not necessarily by choice. I want to right the ship the way the community feels it should be righted, and I want congregants to grab an oar and row. I expect people to get involved, because when you get involved, you start learning new things and experiencing other people’s ideas, growing a future, being there for each other and for our kids’ families should they choose to come to a community like CBS-CS. I feel a sense of pride and commitment and obligation to the future of the congregation. I was looking for a family to share my Jewishness, a congregation on the Jewish channel. There’s so much comfort in the culture of Judaism. Wherever you’re from, you have a connection. You understand each other. It’s family beyond walls, a commonality that connects us all and has allowed our faith to survive.”

Meet Fran Ciardullo, New President, Board of Menorah Park



“I was raised in an interfaith home The term “interfaith” is probably a misnomer since we were always Jewish. My mother’s family was from Newport, RI and my great-grandfather was the President of Touro synagogue. My father came from a large Italian Catholic family in Queens, served in the Navy and was a Pearl Harbor survivor. I grew up in Norwalk, CT, graduated from Cornell University and the Syracuse University College of Law, and in 1980 joined a general practice law firm in Syracuse. In 2018, I joined my current firm, Barclay Damon, LLP, where I concentrate in health care law, working with physicians and other providers, hospitals, nursing homes and adult care facilities and medical clinics.

“For a time I lived in Phoenix, NY, and in 1989 I was elected the Town Justice. I served as the town judge until 2011. I was also a senior faculty member for the Office of Court Administration town and village justice education programs, and I was also appointed by the Chief Judge to the Commission on Judicial Conduct, where I served as Vice Chair.

“I married (Timothy) Delos Schueler, whose family owned the Phoenix Flower Farm, and we have one daughter, Michale Bess Schueler (now Calle). Transportation to synagogue religious school was an issue, so we enrolled her in the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the after-school program at the JCC - one of the best decisions of my life. I served on the board of SHDS and also CBS-CS. When Calle reached middle school, we moved to Dewitt. It was a hard decision, because I was required to resign my judicial position. But Calle flourished, serving as an officer in USY, a *madricha* at CBS-CS and at SCHS, working at the JCC after school program, and attending the Epstein School. I was asked to serve on the Epstein School board and served as the board president for the past six years.

“When my father-in-law became ill, he was admitted to the Jewish Home, and he was able to spend his last days in comfort and dignity. I wanted to give back to Menorah Park and hoped that my health law background could be helpful to the organization. In 2017, I was asked to serve on the Menorah Park board. When I was initially approached to be president, I was hesitant, questioning whether I knew enough to serve in that leadership capacity. However, there is a tremendous wealth of knowledge, talent and dedication on the part of the Menorah Park board, past presidents, the executive team and volunteers. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming and wonderfully gracious with their support. I look forward to continuing the mission of Menorah Park, supporting the needs of our residents and the senior community in accordance with Jewish values.”

Joe Gross, New Head of Syracuse Jewish Family Service



Gross will lead the 130-year-old human service agency that is an affiliate of Menorah Park of Central New York. As executive director, he is responsible for the agency's overall administration including staff development, financials and reporting. The Director works closely with the Board of Directors, the CEO of Menorah Park and the community to develop and implement programs that realize the agency's mission and vision, as well as secure its professional and community identity as a go-to expert in issues of individual and family wellbeing and complex later-life issues.

"I have lived in DeWitt for almost 25 years with my wife, Kate, and three daughters. My oldest attends Clark University and my younger daughters are in the Jamesville-DeWitt schools, where I serve as vice president of the Board of Education.

My connection to faith and religious traditions are intertwined with my academic path. I attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through high school and was so naïve that it did not occur to me that there were any other religions besides Catholicism. As I got older, I learned of the connections between Judaism and Christianity and began to look into the broader world for experiences that would help me grow. When I learn about other people, other cultures, I gain a new perspective into my own beliefs. It reinforces the power of looking at a situation from another person's perspective and trying to see it through a different lens.

I attended a Quaker college and met people from all over the world. I credit my college experience for shaping much of the way I think and the way I approach the world. I decided to attend the master's in public administration program at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, and Kate and I moved to Syracuse, her hometown.

Living in the area, I was well aware of the Jewish Home and to a lesser extent, familiar with The Oaks. I have a number of friends who have made use of the services offered here, mostly for short term rehab after an injury, but also a few who are or were residents at the apartments or the nursing home.

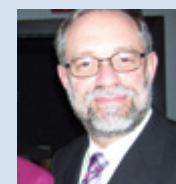
I had been working for another local nonprofit agency, focused on services for children and adults with disabilities. There is a good deal of crossover between services for people with disabilities and service for older adults. Our focus at SJFS is on older adults, but we take a holistic approach, engaging with all members of the family. The reality is that many people experience some

sort of limitation or impairment as they age, and keeping people living as independently as possible, as active as possible, for as long as possible, is what I like to do.

Syracuse Jewish Family Service is full of talented, skilled and passionate people. There have been many challenges over the past few years in trying to adjust to a world with COVID. In upstate New York we live in communities with an aging population. People are living longer and living healthier much later in life than in the past. As we age, we all deserve to be treated with respect and to make choices for ourselves. If we can offer various levels of support to individuals, to keep them safe, that is work that I want to be involved in. Being a part of the campus at Menorah Park puts Jewish Family Service in a unique position. There are many services that we offer that are of great benefit to residents in the nursing home, as well as individuals who are living more independently, including those living at The Inn or The Oaks apartments.

The Jewish community has been wonderfully supportive of SJFS and all of Menorah Park. It is always humbling to know that community members believe in the work we do and are willing to support us through donations and volunteering. I think there is a lot of room for growth of Syracuse Jewish Family Service. I would like to increase the community's awareness of the great resource that is SJFS. I would like our agency to be known throughout the community as their first choice. Essentially, I want us to get the secret out of how great an organization SJFS is, and what it can do for you!

Rabbi Saks, New Spiritual Leader of Temple Adath Yeshurun



Rabbi Moshe Saks assumed the spiritual leadership of Temple Adath Yeshurun on August 1. He was born and raised in Philadelphia and was active in his Conservative synagogue, president of USY and was a staff member at Camp Ramah in the Poconos for 25 years. He attended Yeshiva University and, after spending his junior year abroad in Israel, he decided "to invest my life professionally in the Jewish community." He was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbinical School in 1981, and his career took him to smaller pulpits in Benton Harbor, MI, Middletown, CT, Toledo, OH, and Scranton, PA.

The rabbi elaborates: "My wife Meira (whom I met in my last year of college and who is the daughter of a rabbi) and I also lived in Philadelphia for 10 years and Calgary, Alberta, Canada for 10 years. We are blessed to have five children; Ari (who is a Conservative rabbi, and married to Rachel, whom he met at Camp Ramah; Rachel, who is married to Dan, a Reform rabbi; Dani, who is married to Naomi, (whom he met at Camp Ramah); Reena, who is married to Oren, whom she met in Israel on the USY Nativ gap-year program and Eliana, who will be married to Moshe Nwafor, of Nigeria, in September. *(Their story is an interesting one. You can read it at <https://www.hadassahmagazine.org/2021/07/07/finding-love-judaism-nigeria>).* We are blessed to have eight grandchildren."

Rabbi Saks likes sports and is a big fan of opera. What he likes about being a rabbi is "getting to meet people, getting to know them and being with them at important times in their lives." His skill set includes teaching, preaching and pastoral counseling. "I am well-known in both the Jewish and general communities and serve my congregations in representing both them and the Jewish people within various venues," he says. "I relate well to all age groups and use my abilities in programming to enhance and expand those relationships." He is excited to serve at TAY, "especially since the shul is now growing again with young families who are returning home to a better lifestyle than that of the Big City. In my short time meeting the congregation, I have found them warm, caring and incredibly enthusiastic about TAY. I look forward to helping to lead them into the future, as well as becoming involved with the Jewish community of Syracuse, as well as the general community."

Rabbi Saks is a well-known expert in the dietary laws of the Conservative movement. He was the *Rav Ha-Machshir*, or director of kosher certification for the Philadelphia region of the Rabbinical Assembly. He was also very involved in Interfaith work with the Alberta chapter of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and in teaching courses in Judaism for the community, most notably for the Diocese of Calgary. Rabbi Saks received the Alberta Centennial Medal for outstanding service to the people and province of Alberta.

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New Leaders for a New Year (cont'd)

New President of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse

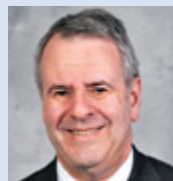
Dr. David Feiglin, the president of the board of Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse, was born in Melbourne, Australia. The city of four million has a very active Jewish community of nearly 60,000 Jews with multiple Jewish day schools and centers of higher Jewish learning. David says that “both my parents were teachers, and my father was the founding principal of the largest Jewish day school in Melbourne, which now numbers around 2000 students, as well as holding posts of being president of at least one local Orthodox synagogue. My interests in teaching were fostered by my parents. I went to medical school in Melbourne, Australia and did specialty training in endocrinology and nuclear medicine.”

He then emigrated with his first wife and three children to Toronto to serve as director of nuclear medicine at the Toronto General Hospital. After seven years, he and his family migrated to Ohio to work as a nuclear medicine physician at the Cleveland Clinic and finally to SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse in 1995, where he later became director of nuclear medicine, then chair of the Department of Radiology. After stepping down from his chairmanship, he continues to work full time at University Hospital. Dr. Feiglin remarried in 1994, and his second wife, Lauren, who had directed the OASIS (Older Adult Service and Information System) program for the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, followed and joined Dr. Feiglin in Syracuse. Lauren enabled a similar program under Upstate Medical University and became the director and served for 19 years before retiring.

David was brought up in an Orthodox Jewish environment, and his grandparents were originators of the Chabad movement in Melbourne. He continues to maintain an Orthodox life style and was attracted to join STOCS when he moved to Syracuse.

At STOCS, David is a frequent Torah reader and service leader, providing regular but infrequent sermons in conjunction with Rabbi Shore. He took on the presidency when Norm Poltenson was unable to continue in the position due to illness. David says, “Norm was, in my mind, a highly respected and major asset to the synagogue having a superb background in commerce and industry and was looked up to by members of STOCS. Filling his shoes is next to impossible, but the help of the current synagogue board and senior leadership, in addition to the Rabbi, makes matters easier to fulfill and complete.”

As he begins his tenure, David hopes that STOCS will “continue to attract members, not only those who wish to maintain an Orthodox Jewish life style, but anyone with authentic Jewish aspirations. The synagogue plays a role with other Jewish synagogues in the area to provide facilities and learning experiences for all who might be interested. Much of this is due to the incessant working of Rabbi Shore as a community leader.” He is proud that “STOCS itself provides an array of various learning opportunities to anyone interested in partaking, from Sunday morning Talmud classes to various classes during the week. It is the plan to try and expand on these opportunities as our membership continues to grow.” Finally, and most importantly, he says “is to be able to provide resources for children so that they may be able to attend services and partake of appropriate learning opportunities at STOCS.”



Hillel's New Campus Rabbi

Rabbi Ethan Bair brings over 10 years of experience to Syracuse with a commitment to building interfaith partnerships to create an empowered spiritual Jewish community. “I am thrilled to be joining Syracuse Hillel and the Syracuse University community as campus rabbi,” Rabbi Bair said. “Hillel was instrumental in my own Jewish journey as an undergraduate at Oberlin College, and I am here to be a point of connection, mentor and resource to Jewish students, as they grapple with questions of meaning, purpose, true self and Jewish community throughout their time at Syracuse and beyond.”

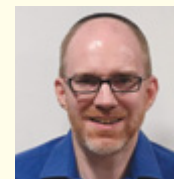
For the past year, Rabbi Bair served as College Rabbi and Hillel Director at Hamilton College, and prior to that he spent eight years as a congregational rabbi, most recently at Temple Beth Shalom in Miami Beach. He was ordained as a Reform rabbi at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles in 2011, after which he served as the campus rabbi at USC Hillel and helped establish the Los Angeles office of American Jewish World Service. Rabbi Bair will work to support the students at Syracuse and provide them with the tools they need to enhance their Jewish experience in the coming years.

Originally from Boston, Rabbi Bair is a trained singer and graduate of Oberlin College where he triple-majored in Religion, Jewish Studies and German Studies. After graduation, he went on to study at Humboldt Universität in Berlin as a Fulbright Fellow.

“We are thrilled to welcome Rabbi Ethan Bair as our new Campus Rabbi. At Syracuse Hillel, we pride ourselves on supporting all our students. I am confident that Rabbi Bair will be a wonderful resource for our community, helping us in our mission-driven work here on campus,” said Jillian Juni, Executive Director of Syracuse Hillel.



New president of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School



Phil Spevak is a native Syracusan, a graduate of Nottingham High School and Cornell University. He lives in DeWitt with his wife Alicia (nee Kalin, also local) and daughters Marissa, a recent SHDS gradate, and Lucy, an SHDS 4th grader and son Shay, an SHDS 1st grader.

In 2020, Phil became co-owner of National Weather Forecasting, Inc., which provides weather forecasting, planning and alert services to radio stations, schools, highway departments, ski resorts and other businesses across the country. He also does some fill-in on Sunny 102 radio. In his spare time, he enjoys cooking, especially when a grill is involved, baking, bowling and playing tennis.

This year, Phil will serve as president of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. He explains how he got to this position:

“Growing up, my family belonged to Temple Beth El. We are currently dual members of TAY and STOCS. I joined the Syracuse Community Hebrew School board as an at-large member to represent TAY in 2020. My kids did not attend the school, but after being outside of it for a long time, I wanted to be more involved in the local Jewish community. And what is more community-oriented than a school that brings together so many kids and families from three often distinct communities?”

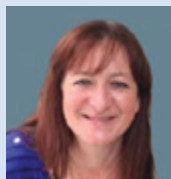
“I am the accidental president. Micki Cooper had been involved with the school for years and was prepared to assume the role of president; over the summer, we had a few conversations and were kicking around ideas – but having no leadership experience, my goal was to help her to implement her ideas and plan. Then she contracted a serious case of COVID and spent months in the ICU, which left me as interim president, which we sort of muddled through without much of a plan. Fortunately Ora Jezer and Andrea Waldman had the school running like a well-oiled machine, which certainly kept everything manageable. As Micki started to recover, she was able to start getting involved in meetings, but didn’t feel she would be able to assume the presidency.

“Like pretty much everyone else right now, the school is short-staffed, lacking a few teachers and an administrator. Throughout the pandemic, Ora and the teaching staff were able to not only adapt the school to meet online, but thoroughly optimize online instruction with standard large group instruction mixed with flexible small group and individualized instruction to keep students learning at their pace. Through a return to an in-person and hybrid setting, they’ve been able to keep as much of this model as possible, while also doing more activity-based learning, including integrating art and writing through a pen-pal exchange with students in Israel. The two environments have such different needs and planning requirements, and to thrive through both and the transition shows the commitment the staff has. I’m confident that we will continue those efforts.

“I attended the TBE/CBS-CS Combined School in the 80s. I can’t say that after a full day of school, I ever got home and said ‘Wow, I can’t wait to go do several more hours of Hebrew school!’ As an adult, it’s easy to see how many things Judaism has to explore, but it’s hard to get kids passionate about learning when there are so many other things to take their time. So when our board met, and we had the chance to hear about and see the projects the students were working on, and the excitement they had for learning and interacting with other students in school and across the world, it made me happy to be able to a part of it. I hope we can continue to foster that excitement and strong community that the school provides.”

Temple Concord's New Temple Administrator

One can perhaps be forgiven for thinking Temple Concord's new Administrator is British if one is not adept at recognizing accents. In fact, she was born and raised in Johannesburg's large Jewish community in South Africa. **Diane Sacks** was recently promoted from clergy assistant to Temple Administrator of Central New York's oldest synagogue and she is looking forward to the new challenge.



Diane worked in many capacities in her native country, including in office management, organizational management, event management and executive administration. Her two daughters, Ariella and Mandi, were born in South Africa but followed Diane and her husband David first to Lagos, Nigeria for a year and then to the United States. Diane is a woman of multiple talents and skills: the ability to learn quickly and take initiative, to maintain a high level of confidentiality and professionalism working with sensitive information or situations, excellent customer service and interpersonal skills, attention to detail, follow-up skills and ability to meet hard deadlines, and good language and writing skills. All of which stood her in good stead when she worked in both Jewish and secular settings in South Africa and then the downstate area. When her husband took an assignment in Central New York, Temple Concord was delighted to hire her right away.

In her new position, Diane will play a greater role in the overall administration of the temple. She is excited by the learning experience and the challenge of ascertaining what the membership and the community want and playing a role in making it happen. She feels that the ups and downs of COVID have impacted the community. One of her goals is to make sure that people are aware that Temple Concord "remains on the map" and to get people involved and reinvolved with the synagogue.

In addition to her administrative expertise, Diane has a secret passion. When not wife, mother or Temple Administrator, Diane is a dedicated dessert maker/baker/eater. She loves to "dabble" in pastry-making, primarily sweets although savories do make an appearance. Someday in the long distant future, she has dreams of opening a coffee shop where she can exercise her culinary skills to the delight of customers.

Jeff Lefkowitz, Temple Concord's president, is very enthusiastic about Diane's taking this new position. "We are so pleased to have Diane move into the role as our new temple administrator," he says. "Her past experiences at Temple Concord, intimate knowledge of our congregation, and commitment to Temple make her the obvious best choice as we navigate these times of significant change."

Diane's motto in her new role is a pragmatically positive one: "Always look ahead. If you look down, that's where you'll go."

Syracuse Community Hebrew School's New Administrative Director

Emily Chelnitsky is the Syracuse Community Hebrew School's administrative director for the upcoming school year. A Pacific Northwest native, Emily is excited to explore the East Coast with her husband, Alan, and their cat, Tovah. Professionally, Emily has practiced as a speech-language pathologist for the past three years, specializing in school-based services and early childhood special education. She is passionate about education and working with children and previously served as a Hebrew school teacher for Chabad on Campus during her undergraduate years.



"Jewish education is incredibly important to me," says Emily. "As a college and then graduate student, I sought out opportunities to learn with others for the first time. Then, during the summer of 2016, I was fortunate to learn at the Mayanot Women's Yeshiva in Jerusalem. My chavrusa and I would spend upwards of an hour on just a few sentences of text. Reflecting on that summer now, I think about how fortunate our kids are to have the ability to get a solid Hebrew foundation early on." She believes that her work at the SCHS will be "a great opportunity to combine my passions and interests and get to know the Jewish community here." She will be working both on site initially and then remotely, partnering closely with SCHS leadership. She notes that "It is important, now more than ever, to have strong leadership after the uncertainties of COVID-19. My hope is that SCHS leadership and families will work together to provide safe, effective, and meaningful in-person education for our children and strengthen the connection to Hebrew and *tefilla*."

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Come and enjoy PJ Library®'s Mr. G and Yale Strom and Hot Pstrami and our very own Keyna Hora Klezmer Band. There will be corned beef sandwiches and knishes, activities for the kids, puppets, community booths, artists and artisans and lots of fun for all ages!



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Jewish News From Israel, Around The World and Outer Space



For the first time ever, spaceship Gaia identifies two new planets. The two giant planets, similar in size to the planet Jupiter in our solar system, are located so close to their suns that they complete an orbit in less than four days. Led by researchers from Tel Aviv University, the spaceship Gaia from the European Space Agency recently identified the two new planets in remote solar systems. Since this is the first time that Gaia

has successfully located new planets, the planets were given the names Gaia-1b and Gaia-2b. <https://www.aanda.org/articles/aa/pdf/forth/aa43497-22.pdf>

Biden's first trip to Israel as United States president.

President Joe Biden made his 10th trip to Israel in July. Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said Biden's visit was both "historic" and "deeply personal." Biden recalled his first visit, in 1973, meeting with then-Prime Minister Golda Meir and with a young Yitzhak Rabin: "I look back on it all now, and I realize that I had the great honor of living part of the great history of this great country — and I did say and I say again, you need not be a Jew to be a Zionist."



Jews and Arabs bring baby formula to US. Israel's Jonathan Feldstein personally transported 119 containers of Israeli baby formula to churches in the US for distribution to needy families. He enlisted help from his own Genesis 123 Foundation and the Palestinian Arab branch manager of his local Rami Levy supermarket. <https://www.jns.org/opinion/helping-american-parents-get-the-formula-they-need-from-israel/>

Summer camps in Israel for Ukrainian children. Their lives have been uprooted by war and they've fled to a new country more than 1,000 miles from home. But more than 4,500 Ukrainian children refugees in Israel will at least have day camps to attend this summer. The six camps opened at the beginning of July and serve Ukrainian children ages 2 to 18. In total, more than 30,000 refugees have come to Israel since the beginning of the Russian invasion in late February. <https://m.knesset.gov.il/EN/News/PressReleases/Pages/press8622t.aspx>

Israeli TV shows have gone global. Israel sells more scripted TV shows around

the world than any other country besides the United Kingdom. Even more than the US. According to Dafna Prenner's of Israel's Artza Productions and producer of *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, it's because Jews have much to tell. <https://www.israel21c.org/look-at-all-the-stories-we-have-in-israel/>

A solar water pump for Ethiopian farmers. Scientists from Israel's Technion Institute have developed a unique water pump powered solely by solar energy. It can deliver water from wells to crops to give farmers a second annual harvest and increased yields in Ethiopia and remote areas across Africa. <https://www.technion.ac.il/en/2022/05/solar-water-pump/>

Fighting locust infestation in Sardinia. President of Sardinia, Christian Salinas, asked for help to eradicate the locust infestation plaguing his country for the last 3 years. Israeli agro-tech companies in the field were quick to respond with advice. Israel's last plague of locusts in the Arava region was dealt with in under two weeks. <https://unitedwithisrael.org/israel-helps-fight-locust-infestation-on-this-island/>

Peace tree for Abraham Accords. Representatives of the Abraham Accords countries Israel, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco planted a "Peace Tree" at the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, AL. <https://israelinsightmagazine.com/2022/07/14/world-games-birmingham-honors-abraham-accords-with-peace-tree-ceremony-during-world-games/>

History-making in Morocco. Lieutenant General Aviv Kochavi was made very welcome on the first-ever official trip by an IDF Chief of Staff to Morocco. Meanwhile, Israel and Morocco have signed an agreement on intellectual property to encourage joint innovation and promote cooperation on patents. <https://worldisraelnews.com/watch-a-first-idf-chief-welcomed-in-morocco/>

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New Initiatives for the New Year: Fall 2022



To kick off 5783 on the SU campus, Hillel is sponsoring a **Nice Jewish BBQ** after Rosh Hashanah morning services on the main quad. With support from the Federation’s Philip L. Holstein Community Program Fund, this alternative take on Rosh Hashanah lunch will help meet students where they are, build community and offer a high visibility moment for Jewish students/faculty/staff to join. Hillel estimates that at least 200 students, some of whom would not otherwise participate in a High Holiday experience, will attend. Jewish students from LeMoyne and OCC will also be invited to participate.



Fuel For Truth provides meaningful and effective Israel education to combat antiquated models of Hasbara and shallow engagement which have driven away people seeking a deeper way to understand Israel and their relationship to it. Fuel for Truth directly addresses the difficult topics that many organizations avoid and inspires participants to see themselves as characters in Israel’s story. Fuel for Truth will offer two workshops for members of the Central New York Jewish community, one for adults and one for teens at the Epstein School about how to discuss Israel in the real world. Federation’s Holstein Fund is supporting this programming also.



Hebrew Language classes will again be offered to all members the community at no charge through a cooperative program between Federation and Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas. Classes are offered in Beginning Hebrew and in Hebrew for Torah Reading by expert teachers Ruth Stein and Jessie Kerr-Whitt.



Let’s Celebrate Sigd Together. Jews from Ethiopia celebrate the holiday of Sigd as the day God first spoke to Moses at the burning bush. Israel adopted Sigd as a national holiday in 2008. In Israel, members of the Ethiopian community honor the day by fasting, reciting psalms and reading from the Torah, followed by a festive meal with singing and dancing. Sigd will be celebrated for the first time in Central New York the week before Thanksgiving. Stay tuned for details!

Tech Savvy The Syracuse Hebrew Day School’s **Tech Savvy Project** will teach six essential skills for success on Zoom as part of the SHDS STEM curriculum. The program will also be offered to the presidents/executives/rabbis group and students at the Epstein School and the Community Hebrew School thanks to support from the Federation’s Holstein Program Fund.



The Luminary Society. Major donors to the Federation’s Annual Campaign are fundamental to its success. Major donors are unwavering in their commitment to supporting the needs of a thriving Jewish community and recognize that the demographics of the Central New York Jewish community require that those who can, must increase their pledges to assure continued financial stability. This year, the Campaign Cabinet is proud to introduce The Luminary Society, named for those who inspire others, is a new category of giving which will recognize donors whose annual contribution is \$6000 or more. A very special event will be held in December in their honor and to kick off the 5783/2023 campaign season.



The Sunday Cinema Circle returns in a new (legal) format in cooperation with Chai Flicks. A joint venture of Federation and our community’s synagogues will allow multiple individuals or families to subscribe to the hundreds of Israeli films that Chai Flicks offers and once a month, we will watch a selected film either in person or virtually and have a fascinating discussion afterwards.



The Jewish Book Council author series, presented by Temple Concord will be co-sponsored by Federation and will be open to the entire community. The latest and best new Jewish books and their authors will be featured throughout the year and participation will be hybrid so everyone can take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.



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What's Happening in Our Community

Alethea Shirilan-Howlett is a young playwright, actor, and puppeteer. She is a three-time winner of The Blank Theatre's Young Playwrights Festival, which has produced her plays VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED (2020), THE FANTASTIC ADVENTURES OF BONNIE AND FRAN (2021) and, this summer, LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT AND OTHER WILD FROG FACTS. Her full-length play NO EXODUS was also honored as a winner of the Growing Stage's Young Playwrights' Festival in 2021, after being produced and self-directed for as her local high school's play in 2020. She has been recognized by the national Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for her play PEELING ORANGES (2019) and Princeton University for VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISED (2019). She is passionate about social justice and hopes to make art that inspires social and political change. Alethea considers Jim Henson and Sufjan Stevens to be her biggest artistic influences. When she's not writing, you can find her researching topics ranging from unique methods of nitrate film preservation to vaporwave pedagogy. Alethea just returned from a year of study in Israel and is continuing her studies at Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, with a concentration in theatre management.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT AND OTHER WILD FROG FACTS

Alethea Shirilan-Howlett
 When Alethea Shirilan-Howlett was in kindergarten, she put on one-person stage play adaptations of her favorite visual texts, the 2007 cult classic *Enchanted*, *Top Chef Miami*, and the more gruesome episodes of *Doctor Who* for Alethea's classmates. These were so highly revered among her peers, that all of them avoided playing with Shirilan-Howlett at recess. Now, Alethea is a theater student, playwright, and puppeteer. She is passionate about social justice and hopes to make art that inspires social and political change. Alethea considers Jim Henson and Sufjan Stevens to be her biggest artistic influences. When Alethea is not writing, you can find her researching topics ranging from unique methods of nitrate film preservation to vaporwave pedagogy.

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Temple Concord Author Series spans Genres of Jewish writing. Temple Concord's 2022-23 Author Series features eight authors of recently published, Jewish-themed books. They include a cookbook, an environmental thriller, novels of magical realism, social justice and intergenerational revelations, a call for Jewish transformation, a children's book exploring interfaith relations and a Holocaust memoir. The series is under the auspices of Temple Concord's Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series, and the authors are made available through the Jewish Book Council Network, of which Temple Concord is a member.

All of the talks are free and open to all. Most of the talks are virtual and links will be available in upcoming Temple Concord and community publications.

Up first is a September 19 hybrid (in-person and virtual) event at 7 pm with Cathy Barrow, author of *Bagels, Schmears, and a Nice Piece of Fish*. Barrow



will join virtually from her kitchen in Maryland and will demonstrate techniques for making bagels, along with innovative ways to take the humble

bagel beyond the schmear. Attendees are invited to come an hour early to schmooze and share some bagels. In-person attendees for this event should RSVP using the link that will be provided in upcoming publications.

The rest of the 2022 talks are virtual, featuring Joel Burcat, author of *Strange Fire*, an environmental thriller with a Jewish twist on November 2 at 7 pm and GennaRose Nethercott, author of *Thistlefoot*, a magical-realism novel of legacy and Jewish myth on December 12 at 7 pm. The series will continue January through April 2023. **The entire schedule is available at www.TempleConcord.org. Diane Sacks at Diane@TempleConcord.org can provide additional information.**



Over the past four decades, artist **Helene Starr** has built a significant body of work around the act of draping clay slabs into soft crenelated forms that evoke fiber, flesh, and the natural world. Organic Unfolding marks a return to her work that utilizes curving steel forms that let her array her forms in lyrical three-dimensional compositions. Starr is one of the artists selected as part of the CNY Artist Initiative, a competitive program that highlights the multi-faceted talents of CNY artists. The Everson Museum will feature Starr's work in an exhibit entitled "Organic Unfolding" through September 25.

Syracuse native Nathaniel David "**Nate**" **Federman** is a screenwriter and storyboard artist, who is well known for his work on the sitcoms "The Office," "Legendary Dudas" and "Ugly Americans." He has worked as a screenwriter and storyboard artist for the Disney Channel/Disney XD animated series "Wander Over Yonder," "Star vs. the Forces of Evil," and the 2017 "DuckTales" reboot. He also played the man who replaced Jack Black as Cloris Leachman's love-interest at the end of "Stress Relief." He continues to be successful as a screenwriter, noting that "I've been incredibly fortunate to write on Big City Greens for the past two years." The first two episodes he scripted aired recently on the Disney Channel. Nate says, "If you like robot dogs, conspiracy theories, grown men making friends, insect violence, or Rosie Perez, check 'em out!"



Thou Shalt Ride hosted a Meet & Greet for 50 out-of-town bikers July 21-24 in Canandaigua. The group toured Canandaigua, Honeoye and Keuka Lakes on the first day and Seneca, Cayuga, Skaneateles and Owasco Lakes on the second day. The motorcyclists came from Canada to Florida and from Boston to St. Louis. They are members of clubs affiliated with the Jewish Motorcyclists Alliance, which supports Holocaust education. The annual Ride to Remember will be held this September in San Diego.



Syracuse Jewish Family Service received funding to support Holocaust survivors. Syracuse Jewish Family Service (SJFS) at Menorah Park is the recipient of a \$20,000 grant from the New York State Office of Aging to support Holocaust survivors. Funds will be used to provide no-cost care management and mental health services to Holocaust survivors, which includes both individuals who were impacted by the Holocaust and their adult children. Services will be provided by SJFS staff and funds from this grant are available through January 2023. Care management services may include (but are not limited to) providing assistance with tasks such as bill paying, organizing financial affairs, arranging transportation, coordinating home aides and companions, securing good nutrition through delivered meals or grocery shopping and addressing immediate housing needs. Mental health services are provided by or supervised by licensed clinicians with expertise working with older adults. **Eligible individuals who wish to receive care management or mental health services should contact Ellen Somers, SJFS Assistant Director at 315-446-9111, ext. 225, or via email at somerse@sjfs.org.**

The Local Community column is generously sponsored by RAV Properties.

A New Restaurant for the New Year

Brian Raphael is a dermatologist. Michal Raphael is a physician assistant. They have a one-year-old son. They are the new owners of Laci's Tapas at 304 Hawley Street. The first question the *JO* asked (after "Do you ever *sleep*?") was "WHY?" "I'm crazy," replied Dr. Raphael. "I married crazy," replied Michal.



The fact is that while reopening this Syracuse fan-favorite restaurant may be quixotic, it is very welcome. Laci's was always unique and much-loved. *Tapas*, or small plates, are ubiquitous in Spain but were little known in the US outside of New York City, California and a few other metropolitan areas. When Laura Serway and her partner opened Laci's in 2011, it signaled a new era in culinary sophistication in Syracuse. But Laci's was never stuffy. On the contrary, it was cool, modern, cozy, friendly, warm, welcoming and above all, served delicious food in shareable sizes. "Eat Small, Live Large" was its motto.

Brian and Michal loved Laci's. "Whenever we had a celebration or a big event, it was a given that we were going to Laci's. We loved the atmosphere and the great food, and it was always dependable," Brian says. "This restaurant has a special energy," added Michal. "It's just fun. All your friends and family together, talking, sharing food, enjoying each other's company."

The restaurant inhabits a 19th century house in the historic Hawley Green neighborhood. This makes it very picturesque (but regrettably, not wheelchair accessible.) The Hawley-Green has been described as a "historic

neighborhood of growth and change that opens its arms to good neighbors." Laci's has played an important role in this arena. Over the past decade, it has given away over \$135,000 to nine different non-profits in Onondaga County including Helping Hounds Dog Rescue, Cuse Pit Crew, The Q Center at ACR Health, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Vera House, Purpose Farm and David's Refuge. The Raphaels plan to continue that tradition of philanthropy. Their first fundraiser, Laci's 10th Annual Giveback, will donate all proceeds from their celebration to benefit the Kara Fund, a local charity nominated and selected by the community. Everyone was invited to come and enjoy their favorite tapas, bar drinks and more. "It's all about giving back to the community," said Brian. "That's how I was raised."

The staff at Laci's is a melding of old and new. Laura Serway serves as consultant. Fallon Moen, who worked at Laci's for 4 years, will be assistant manager. Head Chef, Lenell Collins, is a new member of the team. Born in the Bronx and raised in Flushing Queens, Chef Collins grew up with a passion for good food. He honed his skills over a 15-year career in Syracuse, working at Dinosaur Bar-b-que, Nick & Angelo's,

Greenwood Winery and the Grotto in North Syracuse. A creative fusion chef with a large following, Laci's is excited to welcome him to their kitchen where he will add some of his creative ideas to the menu.

Many of Laci's favorites will be on the menu: beef wellingtons, pan seared salmon, mac 'n' cheese eggrolls. And there will be some exciting new additions: apple and brie salad, grilled Caesar salad, sesame crusted ahi tuna, black bean sliders and *pisto*, a Spanish vegetable stew. Laci's Luscious Sauce will also be featured.

Laci's will initially be open four days a week from Wednesday through Saturday for dinner. The restaurant can seat 100 patrons total on two floors, with several small rooms available for private parties of up to 40 people. A full-service bar offers a long list of specialty cocktails and particular expertise in bourbon.



There is ample on-site parking. Walk-ins are welcome, although reservations are recommended. **Reservations may be made online at the restaurant's website, <https://lacistapas.com/> and to-go orders are available.**



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JCC Offers Before and After School Care

by Paul Michie-Derrick

With summer ending, parents are left with the dreaded question of what to do with their children after school. Children need to be able to have fun and let off some steam after school while engaged and under supervision. Parents need to finish their workday and get prepared for their evening at home. There has always been a need for after school care and that is what the JCC strives to fill.



The JCC is proud to be able to offer our After School Program again this year. Children entering K – 6th grade are welcome to attend our After School Program for help with their homework, socialization and fun. Children from Jamesville-DeWitt, Fayetteville-Manlius and the Syracuse Hebrew Day School are invited to register. Children will have a choice of activities to suit their interests with use of our gymnasium, playground, art room and more. The program consists of both children choosing their activities and staff lead activities. There is also an option to enroll in one of the JCC's HYPR classes such as dance, gymnastics, and karate while in the program.



The After School program is needed for many reasons but one of the most important is the need for children to be able to be with their peers and to continue growing their social skills. The past few years have been extremely difficult, and all children can benefit from working on their social skills, emotional skills and learning how to be a vital member of the community. Children in our program get a chance to interact with children from different schools and grades. Friendships made from previous years and over the summer can continue to grow.

Children can attend anywhere from one day to all five days a week. Tuition is billed monthly, and the program is available to all JCC Members.

The JCC also offers a Before School program to those in the Jamesville-DeWitt school district and the Syracuse Hebrew Day school beginning at 7:00am.

For more information on the program and what the Children's Programming Department has to offer please visit our website at www.jccsy.org.



Steven Siskind to Be Honored by InterFaith Works



Steven Siskind, owner of Siskind Funeral Service, is to be honored by InterFaith Works at its annual InterFaith Leadership Awards Dinner as one who has proven to be a Resilient Leader in times of great disruption and challenge. In describing the 2022 awards, InterFaith Works wrote, "The past two years have found the world, the nation and the Central New York community challenged in ways we never expected. Through it all, there have been outstanding men and women in our community who have walked into the storm and emerged as Resilient Leaders by assuming responsibility and employing strategic thinking, collaboration, creativity, flexibility and excellent communication skills." The dinner will be held on September 8 at 5:30 pm. For tickets or more information, see www.interfaithworkscny.org/ilad.



Dear friends of InterFaith Works CNY

WOW! 36 totally **FILLED WITH LOVE** Welcome Kits were picked up on July 1 at the Syracuse Jewish Federation, off loaded at our warehouse, and already shared with some of our new arrivals. How do we say thank you to our amazing, kind, generous Jewish Community? We start with saying thank you by sharing stories of new arrivals. During the past 10 months we have welcomed 343 new neighbors and friends. From Afghanistan, Syria, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.

InterFaith Works Center for New Americans helps with employment, housing (both finding appropriate and fully furnishing our newcomers new homes) medical and mental health support, intensive case management, community integration, and literacy and naturalization preparation. With a staff of 36 and growing, we all THANK YOU.

Young Afghan women, 9 in total, are going to Cornell University in Ithaca, all fully paid for. Our kiddos are thriving in school, elder Newcomers are going on field trips, Cultural Orientation Classes are being added, and citizenship classes are FULL. Over 200 young ones received bicycles last week.

Our newcomers are so blessed to have each of you contribute to their new lives in our greater Syracuse Community. May we all stay healthy.

From our homes to each of yours, THANK YOU.

Daryl Suzanne Files
 Front Office Coordinator
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 1010 James Street
 Syracuse, New York, 13203
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 Phone: 315-449-3552, x-208 Fax: 315-449-3103

www.interfaithworkscny.org

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Women's Philanthropy Initiative Successfully Completes Second Project

Several years ago, Federation surveyed women in our community, who were philanthropically inclined, to ascertain their feelings about "women's philanthropy." There were many strong responses. One woman wrote, "I believe that women have the opportunity to make change in our community. Historically, Central New York has had a strong group of Jewish women passionate about making a difference and giving back. It is crucial that we continue this legacy and show the next generation the importance of philanthropic work." Another said, "Women over time have proven to be agents for change. With our ability to focus on the issues and having the vision to see what can be, we are able to transform the lives of others. Through hands on philanthropy and involvement in the causes most meaningful, we can positively impact the lives of those within our community and beyond, thereby insuring Jewish identity and continuity." Another respondent asserted that "It is crucial that our women leaders are committed to connecting with one another but also give back financially to our community. As leaders, they need to set an example for other women who want to be involved. I think it is a wonderful idea for women in CNY to generate and support local philanthropic projects."

A positive outgrowth of this survey was the Women's Philanthropic Initiative, a grassroots effort by four women, Robin Goldberg, Deborah Rosenbaum, Ellen Weinstein and Nan Fechtner, to make change, make a difference, give back and generate and support projects which positively impact the lives of others. The group has sponsored two projects this year: the collection of bins of household items for refugees who are helped by InterFaith Works and the purchase of an \$10,000 incubator for the Magen David Adom Human Milk Bank in Israel.

The WPI will go on hiatus for a few months so as not to interfere with the all-important Federation campaign but will be back in the spring with more projects that will help connect the community and demonstrate the importance of philanthropic work and shared purpose. The WPI founders note that their successful projects were accomplished only through the generosity and support of the members of the entire Central New York Jewish community. They express their sincerest appreciation to everyone who participated in these meaningful and successful projects.

DYLAN M. URSINO

July 21, 2022

Dylan M. Ursino of Dewitt passed away on July 21, peacefully and unexpectedly, nine days after his 28th birthday. It is impossible to express how sorely he will be missed.

Born on the Army base at Fort Campbell, KY, he was raised by adoptive parents in DeWitt, NY. He was a graduate of Jamesville-DeWitt High School and attended Onondaga Community College.

Dylan was intelligent, charismatic, warm and generous. People from all walks of life were drawn to him, and he formed long-lasting friendships. His attachments to the people he cared about most were deep. Although he was brought up in a middle-class environment, Dylan had remarkable insight into the effects of economic and cultural disparities on achievement. He was a very open-minded person with unique perspectives and interest in what he called “sociology.” This was no doubt influenced by life-threatening challenges that he had to cope with. Also, thanks to the instruction of his Grandpa Eli, he was a very good chess player. For a time, he was thinking of finding a career in law enforcement, but his interests evolved, and he was planning to start classes in counseling. Dylan had a broad range of tastes in music, especially rap and country, as well as a tremendous sense of humor.

Surviving are his parents Janet Jaffe and Andrew Ursino, his brother Alexander Ursino, his aunts and uncles Terry and Pat Castellano, Jerry Jaffe, Jill Jaffe, and Isabelle Thiele, many cousins and many friends. All loved him, and he loved them.

Contributions may be made to honor his memory at AXYS, an organization that promotes research, education and support for people with certain genetic variations. AXYS, PO Box 659, Paoli, PA 19301-0659 or <https://axysgenetic.networkforgood.com/projects/66968-support-axys>.

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MIRIAM “MICKEY” ROTH BLADEN

July 27, 2022

Miriam (Mickey) Roth Bladen passed away on July 27 at the age of 101 ½, in Tampa, FL. Mickey was born on December 7, 1920 in Toledo, OH. She was predeceased by her parents, Nellye Zimmerman Roth and William Roth and her brother, Hillel Mark Roth.

After graduating from Scott High School, she moved with her family to Syracuse. Mickey met the love of her life, Dr. George Bladen, who predeceased her in 1990, when they both worked at Bradley Brook Camp. They had a busy, and happy life raising three children. Always active, Mickey was an avid golfer, and bowler, and loved following Syracuse University sports. She belonged to Lafayette Country Club and The Cavalry Club. She was a member of Temple Society of Concord and their Sisterhood. Mickey was president of the Onondaga Council of Camp Fire Girls, president of Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and was active in Fayetteville Manlius Sports Boosters.

After moving to Boynton Beach, FL, Mickey continued being active in golf leagues and doing volunteer work. Mickey moved to Tampa at the age of 96. When she became a great grandmother, Mickey gave herself the nickname “The Great One” and she certainly was. Mickey is survived by her three children, Lee (Cecilia Gracia), Ann (Ronald) Rudolph, Marty (Dawn), five grandchildren, Randi (Peter) Shaw, Nell (Chris) Davis, P.J. (Kelly) Rudolph, Jared (Kristen) Bladen, and Gabriela Gracia. The Great One’s six great grandchildren are Eli Shaw, Parker Shaw, Sadie Shaw, George Davis, James Davis and Brantley Bladen.

A memorial and shiva will be at a later date. Contributions can be made to The George Bladen Clinic, Elmcrest Children’s Center, 960 Salt Springs Road, Syracuse, New York 13224, www.elmcrest.org/donate, or the charity of your choice.



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ROSALIE RUBENSTEIN
July 27, 2022

Rosalie Rubenstein, 88, passed away on July 27 at Menorah Park. Rosalie was born in Syracuse on August 2, 1933 to Sam and Frieda Fox. Rosalie graduated from Nottingham High School in 1954. Her first job was with Woolworth's at the age of 15. She was let go when they finally found out how old she was. After several other short places of employment, she went to work for Friendly Finance Co.



She met her future husband, Stanley Rubenstein, at age of 15 when he came to her sweet 16 birthday party. She married him on May 30, 1953, while he was in the military service. They settled in Providence, RI while he served in the Navy at Quonset Point during the Korean War.

In 1955, they returned to Syracuse, and both found jobs at Jacob's Office Equipment Co. After a period of time, they purchased the company and renamed it Jacob's Business Interiors which they owned for 25 years. Rosalie was a gifted salesperson and became sales manager.

Both Rosalie and her husband enjoyed giving their time to Rotary International through the Rotary Club of Eastwood and did community work for many years. They volunteered at the Carrier Dome concessions stand for 36 years with their share of the profit going to Eastwood Rotary. Rosalie was president of Eastwood Rotary from 1998-1999. She was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow twice. It is the highest medal awarded by Rotary International in recognition of giving to Rotary International \$1,000.00 each time.

The couple enjoyed traveling and visited many countries in Europe, Japan, Hawaii and Argentina. (Yes, there is a big dump of plastic and other materials in the Atlantic Ocean.) After many years of going abroad, they spent part of 18 winters in Florida visiting relatives and friends.

Rosalie enjoyed basketball and baseball. She had season tickets for a few years for the SU basketball team and for many years with the Syracuse Chiefs.

Surviving are her husband Stanley, sons Mark (companion Cheryl Tremper) and Hal, grandchildren Sarah, Jessie and Jacob and her sister Arlene Kellogg.

Contributions to perpetuate her memory may be made to Eastwood Rotary Foundation, 2363 James Street, Suite 150, Syracuse, NY 13206 or your favorite charity.

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Memorial Service and Reception in Memory of HECKY and ETTARAE ALPERT

Please join the Alpert family on Sunday, September 11 at 1 pm at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas to honor the memory of Ettarae and Hecky Alpert. A short hybrid memorial service will be followed by noshes and schmoozing. RSVPs for onsite attendance to admin@cbscs.org would be appreciated. If you wish to join by Zoom, please contact the synagogue for the link. Friends from the community are welcome to join us.

Hecky passed away March 25, 2021 with Ettarae following a year later on May 2, 2022 on what would have been the couple's 68th anniversary. Due to COVID, the traditional shiva with in person visitation was not observed. Please check with the congregation for the latest COVID precautions in place.

Ettarae and Hecky were both native Syracusans and were founding members of Congregation Beth Sholom. Hecky was the congregation's first president, and Ettarae served as the second Sisterhood president. Their vision and determination to build a synagogue community unlike any other they found in Syracuse and their ability to attract other like-minded couples in their 20s and 30s to their cause still echo 60 years later and remain the guiding force of the congregation.

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We believe establishing a PACE fund allows us to join others to ensure that our Jewish community will be able to provide future generations with the same wonderful, enriching and valuable opportunities."

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