

Jewish Observer of Central New York

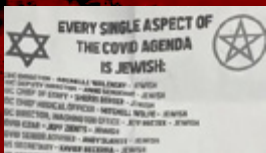
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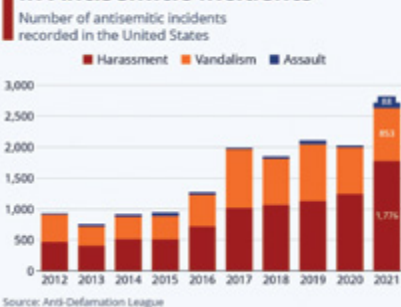
MARCH 2023 | ADAR-NISSAN 5783

PURIM 5783



50%
OF JEWISH STUDENTS
REPORT HIDING THEIR
JEWISH IDENTITY ON
CAMPUS

U.S. Sees Worrying Rise in Antisemitic Incidents

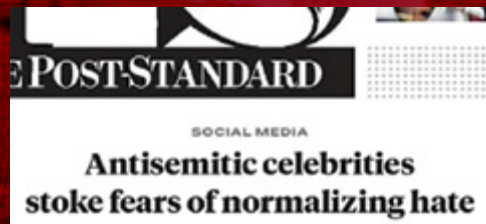


AN ALARMING TREND

Antisemitic incidents, including assaults, harassment and vandalism, reached an all-time high in the U.S. last year. On average, more than seven incidents occurred per day, representing a 34 percent increase year over year.



Are you afraid to be Jewish?



'I Have Stopped Wearing My Magen David': 27 Jews On What It Feels Like To Be Afraid For Their Lives



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March 2023

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

“I’m proud to be Jewish. I am proud to live openly as a Jew. And I’m not afraid. We cannot live in fear. We refuse to be afraid.”

These brave words were spoken by Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff at a White House roundtable on antisemitism. But do most American Jews feel as he does? Do members of our Central New York Jewish community share his sentiments? When the Jewish Observer put photographs of Jewish doctors on the cover of our January issue on “Jews and Medicine,” we were berated by a member of the community who felt it was a dangerous thing to do and put our medical professionals at risk. Are we no longer to take pride in the achievements of our Jewish community lest we be identified by our faith and put at risk of acts of hate?

In a recent article in The New York Times, writer Jordan Salama shared experiences with which

many older people can identify: “Growing up, my brothers and I often teased my mom for having what we thought was an irrational fear of being identified as a Jew. She painted over the Star of David on a duffle bag when we were traveling because she didn’t want people ‘to know.’ She warned my dad not to drive fast to my aunt’s house on Yom Kippur because she thought more speed traps were set during the Jewish holidays. If we said a word like ‘Shabbat’ in a department store, she seemed to hear it from aisles away. We were not to say Jewish things too loudly in public, she taught us. Better to be safe.”

In a recent article in The Tennessean, entitled “Jewish people are afraid as antisemitism rises,” Rabbi Joshua Kullock cites reasons for this fear, including that “1 in 3 Jewish students have experienced antisemitism on college campuses during the last school year.” The media reports on other recent incidents of hate, including college athletes texting antisemitic threats to their Jewish teammates and a professor gunned down because he was believed to be part of a “Jewish conspiracy.” Closer to home, a Chanukah menorah was vandalized at the Chabad House near Colgate University in December.

How do we Jews react to all this? Do we lean in, speak out, stand up or do we hide?

Purim comes in March. Purim is associated with masks and disguises and with hiding our Judaism. Esther is told by Mordechai not to disclose that she is a Jew. “Esther did not reveal her nationality and her descent, for Mordechai had commanded her not to tell.” Presumably concerned for her welfare, Mordechai (who was known to be a Jew), tells her to keep this secret. There are many commentaries about this questionable advice and no real explanation.

The Purim story suggests that disguising or not divulging one’s Judaism has been a characteristic of the Jewish experience for centuries. As is the case for Americans of African descent, “passing” could be a way of life for Jews. “Passing” has been defined as “the concealing of one’s Jewish identity by adopting a non-Jewish, non-persecuted identity in the attempt to function as Gentile, ‘Aryan,’ or as a member of another, more protected group.” For American Jews, this often meant changing one’s name (Lebowitz became LeBeau, Goldmann became Gordon, Moskowitz became Morton) or rhinoplasty (“the Jewish nose job”) or celebrating Christmas with a “Chanukah bush.”

Those customs have faded in the 21st century. Sarah Silverman, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jerry Seinfeld and Adam Sandler have proudly kept their birth names, unlike celebrities of old who changed them: Mel Brooks (Melvyn Kaminsky), Beverly Sills (Belle Silverstein), Gene Wilder (Jerome Silberman), Jackie Mason (Yakov Mosher Maza), Joan Rivers (Joan Molinsky). Cosmetic plastic surgery is normative today and, as we all know, “there’s no such thing as a Chanukah bush.”

But do people today feel safe about being Jewish? A 2020 Anti-Defamation League survey found that nearly two-thirds of American Jews believe that they are less safe today than they were a decade ago. According to the ADL, more than 2,000

anti-Semitic incidents were reported in 2020, the third highest year on record. In recent years. Security is now a top priority for Jewish institutions nationwide and the Jewish Federations of North America has launched LiveSecure, an unprecedented \$54 million security campaign and initiative “to ensure the security and resiliency of our communities.”

But is the fear justified? Are the threats real? Rob Eshman, a senior editor at The Forward, recently wrote a column that made the following point: “The American Jewish community relentlessly focuses on dire statistics, often ignoring the decades of work done to improve legal protections and to change attitudes toward Jews. Tracking antisemitism and hate crimes is vital work. But to arrive at a true measure of our security, we must also understand and quantify the things that make us safe as Jews.” He referenced a 2020 ADL poll that showed that 11% of Americans harbor fears and asked, “Is that a lot or a little?” In response, he quoted David Lehrer, the former Western region director of the Anti-Defamation League, who said “Everybody reads that and starts to worry. But 11% of Americans think Elvis is still alive.”

The JO surveyed our local community. The survey was done informally and cannot be considered scientific in any way, but there was a clear pattern in the results. People were not unaware of antisemitism, but were not cowering because of it. On the contrary, most respondents felt proud of being Jewish and not fearful because of it.

“George Washington liked good roast beef. Haym Solomon liked fish. But when Uncle Sam served liberty, they both enjoyed the dish.” As a child, I heard this ditty repeatedly on children’s programming on our small black and white tv. I didn’t know who Haym Solomon was or why he liked fish. (I certainly didn’t.) But I got the message, especially since the next line was: “I may not know a lot of things, but one thing I can state: both native-born and foreign-born have made our country great.” The jingle was clearly a response to the antisemitism and nativism of the mid-20th century. In some ways, not much has changed from then until now. Jews and immigrants have always been treated with suspicion and hostility. But as Eshman points out in his column, and the writers in this issue note, many leading indicators of Jewish security today are far more positive than they were a century ago, including such things as “government policies on hate and tolerance, public attitudes toward Jews, legal protections against discrimination, the status of Holocaust education, policies toward Israel, freedom of worship, among other measures.”

Being Jewish in 21st century America does not mean being afraid. The fact that the Second Gentleman (the FIRST second gentleman!) who is married to a black female vice president (the FIRST black female vice president) can publicly say, “I’m proud to be Jewish. I am proud to live openly as a Jew,” means that things today are not what they once were and we Jews can be proud and happy about that.

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of Central New York

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



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coppenheimer@buffalospree.com
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From the President/CEO

by **Michael Balanoff**,
Jewish Federation of CNY
President and CEO



One of the most important things that Federation does is represent the interests of our Jewish community in inter-faith matters. Often this work is undertaken quietly and without fanfare, but occasionally it rises to the level of a public pronouncement. This was recently the case when the local paper printed a full-page article on its Sunday religion page advocating for the rehabilitation of the swastika. The following letter was sent to the paper in protest and was printed both immediately and on the following Sunday in response.

TO: Editor of the Post-Standard

Your reprint of the article "Asian faiths try to save swastika symbol corrupted by Hitler" on the Religion page in the December 4 edition of the Post Standard failed to adequately address the intent behind the use of this symbol today in the United States. People who paint swastikas or scratch them on walls intend for them to be symbols of hate. Swastikas stand for the elimination of Jews – six million of them during the Holocaust, as well as six million other people – Catholics, Roma, people with mental and physical disabilities, gay people, Polish people, Jehovah's Witnesses and many others. Whatever the origin of the symbol, it was corrupted and forever changed by its use to kill twelve million innocents. As it is being used today, it is not the message of peace and good fortune which it symbolizes in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

Davis says she understands "the wounds and trauma that Jewish people experience when they see that symbol." She cannot "understand" the slaughter of six million people. It is a horror that cannot be "understood." It must be fought against continually lest the kind of hatred that Hitler harnessed be allowed to surface again. This country went to war to defend the world from Hitler's evil. Through his perverted adoption of the swastika, millions of people were killed.

While those who consider the swastika to be a symbol of good may certainly continue to display it in that context, but it is completely wrong to promote it as innocent in the context of Western society. The Holocaust did not start with ghettos, deportations and concentration camps. It started with symbols and words of hate. We cannot let this happen again.

Michael Balanoff
President and CEO
Jewish Federation of Central New York

Federation frequently needs to speak out, sometimes publicly, sometimes in private, against any and all manifestations of anti-Jewish feeling. Our job is to protect the Jewish community. We are invested in its safety so that we can live full and meaningful Jewish lives. We take actions that will have an impact in communicating our concerns and effecting a positive outcome. We also work to build bridges of greater understanding with our neighbors so we can stand united against hate. Federation has established relationships with key institutions in the general community to foster mutual understanding, cooperation and good will. We were pleased to note that a member

of the non-Jewish community also wrote in solidarity with our position.

There may be people who think that the only thing Federation does is raise money. While that is indeed a primary task, it is neither our only nor arguably our most important role. Federation's major priority is to build, strengthen and sustain Jewish Central New York. We want our community to know that the Federation does, and always will, forcefully act to defend and support our community, no matter how large or small the issue.

Super Star Super Sunday Was A Super Success

Super Stars of all kinds – philanthropic, historical, familial, professional – were much in evidence on Sunday, January 8, as 20 wonderful solicitors gathered via zoom to reach out to community members for their financial support of our community. Campaign Chair Anick Sinclair and Super Sunday co-chairs Phyllis Zames and Abby Scheer had organized a wonderful phonathan that featured Jewish Super Star Trivia (compiled by Nan Fechtner), pictures by the students of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School of their very own Jewish Superstars.



The Board of the Federation wanted to share with members of the community the following letter from the Jewish Agency for Israel, endorsed by the Jewish Federations of North America.

Dear Mr. Netanyahu,

It gives us great pleasure to extend our congratulations to you on your election to head the 37th Government of the State of Israel. The leadership of the Jewish people are committed to assist you as much as necessary.

We know that the unity of the Jewish people is as important to you as it is to us. It is this unity that explains the miracle of our survival as a people and as a nation for over three thousand years. It allowed us, despite all the difficult differences that arose between us over the years, to maintain a strong and cohesive sense of belonging to each other and to our common national home.

It is our duty to share with you our deep concern regarding voices in the government on issues that could undermine the long-standing status quo on religious affairs that could affect the Diaspora. Any change in the delicate and sensitive status quo on issues such as the Law of Return or conversion, could threaten to unravel the ties between us and keep us away from each other.

We look forward to meeting with you as soon as possible to voice our concerns and we expect to be part of any future discussions or dialogues regarding possible changes to the status quo.

We are determined to work together with you and your government to ensure the continued prosperity of the entire Jewish people, and we are sure that together we can find respectful, inclusive, and constructive solutions to every challenge at hand without harming the delicate fabric that holds us together as one united people.

Purim – The Diaspora Holiday

by Rabbi David A. Kunin, Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas

Purim is unlike any other time in the Jewish year. Traditionally it is a time of wild abandon and a chance to let go of some needed steam. Drinking to excess, frowned upon during the rest of the year, is a mitzvah on Purim, as are masks and costumes. These traditions allow us, at least for a short time, to forget our troubles and to give way to our imaginations. On Purim, we can be kings and emperors or sports stars or heroes. It cannot be doubted that Purim allowed our ancestors to escape from the troubles during times of persecution, at least for one day. The joy of Purim was so crucial that our rabbis suggest that it will be the only holiday celebrated in the Messianic era. Indeed, in that idyllic future, every day will be like Purim.

Purim is the quintessential diaspora holiday, describing a time when Jews were a minority community within a pervasive culture. In the Megillah, Jews are seen as dangerous because they are unwilling to assimilate. Though living throughout the Persian Empire, they still follow their own traditions. Minority communities are easy scapegoats, and difference is often seen as dangerous (attitudes we sadly find concerning Jews and other minorities even here). The othering of the Persian Jewish community allows

them to be targeted for persecution and annihilation. Jews, through time, have recognized the reality of the Megillah in their own lives. Indeed, they could easily find Haman in their own times, be it a czar, king or inquisitor. Purim was real to them because too well they knew the dangers (as do we) facing a minority within pervasive xenophobic societies.

Facing a dangerous world, people often ask difficult questions. Where was God during all the persecutions of our history? Why do people then and now die because of bigotry, hatred, poverty,



famine and war? Why did God not save them and us? These questions have been asked across history. They are valid on Purim, where God is absent from the entire Megillah. The ancient rabbis saw this absence as expressing an age-old truth. Sometimes when we need God most, God seems absent from the world. This absence is hinted at by the very name of Esther. Hester panim, God's very face, they teach, is hidden from the world.

While God seems to hide, it is up to the human actors to do the work of redemption. We, as partners with God, lay the groundwork for redemption. Esther and Mordecai step up to face

Haman and the feckless king, risking everything to save their people. Without human action, the miracle of survival told in the Purim story would be impossible. Their courage and tenaciousness reveal God's presence. They (and we) are God's partners in creation and redemption. God urges us, but we must choose to act and make God a reality in the world. In the Megillah, when Esther fears approaching the king, Mordechai reminds her that it was perhaps for this very purpose that she entered the Palace. Esther takes up the challenge, and the rest is "history."

Antisemitism, bigotry and hatred are still realities in our world. Sadly, it remains a dangerous place. Difference is still seen as dangerous, and sometimes God appears hidden. Yet, God remains the still small voice impelling us to work to make a difference. We are still challenged to work for redemption, whatever the risks. It will only be through our actions that the world will be transformed and the Purim promise becomes a reality.

OLAM SHELANU

Message From the Syracuse Rabbinical Council



The Syracuse Rabbinical Council applauds Federation's new focus addressing climate change. Preservation of the world and all that is within it is a Jewish issue. Our tradition continually reminds us of God's creative power, bringing the universe into full form. We are but one part of a world created by God. This should engender a feeling of responsibility, rather than our ongoing propensity for destruction.

Genesis describes the creation of the world by the Divine not as a haphazard event but as carefully planned. Every step leads to the next; all are necessary for the next. Plants need land, fish need the sea, and animals and humans need sustenance. The importance of the divine plan is also highlighted by the constant refrain, "and it was good." With the use of these words, each element of creation is confirmed as essential and created as God intended.

The rabbis understood the human responsibility to care for the earth and the repercussions if we fail in that responsibility. The Midrash teaches, "When God created the first human, God took him and led him around the Garden of Eden and said to him: "Look at My

works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! All that I have created was for you. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you." This Midrash stresses divine concern for creation, reminding Adam (and all of us) that it is far easier to destroy than create. It is also a reminder that God will not be there, if we destroy our environment, to pick up the pieces.

Currently, we are in the midst of the sixth mass extinction of species. The first five were natural. The sixth is caused largely by human activity. In the last 100 years, this mass extinction has increased to 100 to 1000 times the natural rate. Through overhunting, deforestation, environmental degradation and global

warming, we seem bent on destruction. As the Midrash noted, while it is quite easy to destroy God's creation, when a species becomes extinct "there is no one to repair it after you."

Climate change and degradation are also an existential Jewish issue. Our tradition emphasizes values that stress the importance of energy policies that are environmentally responsible and that pay attention to the health and safety of present and future generations. Addressing climate change requires us to learn how to live within the ecological limits of the earth. Our Torah emphasizes our responsibility to protect the integrity of the environment so that its diverse species, including humans, can thrive. The concept *bal tashchit*, "do not destroy," is understood as a universal doctrine that dramatically asserted God's ownership of the land.

The greatest idolatry of humanity is our propensity to see ourselves as separate from the rest of creation, and as absolute masters of the world, utilizing our short-term political necessities and

economic benefits as rationalizations not to take action. Yet, the same threats with which we are quickly destroying the animal kingdom threaten our future as well. Two thousand years ago the Midrash addressed this issue, "Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai taught: Men were on a ship. One of them took a drill and started drilling underneath him. The others said to him: What are you doing?! He replied: What do you care. Is this not underneath my area that I am drilling?! They said to him: But the water will rise and flood us all on this ship." When we fail to take up the obligation of "repair," and instead continue to destroy the earth through degradation of the environment and climate change, all will suffer, not only those who actively destroy.

Are You Afraid To Be Jewish?

The wave of antisemitic attacks over the past year or two is instilling fear in many American Jews, arguably for the very first time. According to the 2021 State of Antisemitism in America Report released by the American Jewish Committee, about 25% of Jews in America have experienced some form of antisemitism and nearly 40% have changed their behavior out of fear of being targeted. The Jewish Observer asked members of our community of different ages if they were afraid to be Jewish.

At the Rabbi Jacob Epstein School of Jewish Studies, the response of the teens was, on the whole, “no.” One student said that they don’t personally feel afraid, that they tell people they are Jewish and that they don’t feel uncomfortable doing so. Another student also said “no,” noting that being Jewish is just

one part of their identity. None of the students said “yes.” Most quietly pondered the question and replied, “No, not really.”

Others reported different experiences. Eli G., a high school senior, sent the following response: “As a Jewish kid who has always been vocal about his Jewish faith, I have never experienced much antisemitism. While I am not afraid of being attacked physically, the emotional attacks have increased in the last couple of years as we have had political leaders espouse antisemitic beliefs and other political leaders do not condemn these people. Shortly after the comments by YE (Kanye West), my local community’s

Chabad’s menorah was destroyed by college students. Sadly, this behavior has become more prevalent over the years.”

Responses from other community members, however, were stronger. One respondent wrote, “Afraid? Definitely not!!! When I was drafted into the Army during Vietnam, I proudly put ‘Jewish’ on my dog tags as did my family members who served in WWII. Many Jewish soldiers drafted during Vietnam put ‘no preference’ when asked their religion, because they WERE afraid of antisemitism. However, I still think that, as a group, we need to be cautious. There are crazy people out there.”

Judy O. wrote, “As a child of survivors, I am not at all afraid of being Jewish. I’m quite proud and I not only fly an American flag daily but I also fly an Israeli flag too. I

put out a Hanukkah flag as well as putting up a sukkah. I’m very visibly a Jew and am so very proud to be one. By being afraid, we allow antisemitism to flourish. By being vocal, hopefully we can stop hatred. Also, I’m not ashamed of being a German Jew.”

The final word goes to Rebekah T., who wrote, “On the one hand, I have always feared that persons of ill-will might target me on account of having a Jewish mother. That was a sentiment she instilled in me as she had lived through WWII as a first-generation person born to Ukrainian immigrant parents. On the other hand, I am less willing to be fearful in these days. I feel strongly that the only way to battle hate—be it antisemitism, homophobia, racism or other ethnicity-based hate, ableism, ageism or other manifestations—is for persons of good conscience to stand tall, speak out and create peace.”

ANTISEMITISM: 7 WAYS YOU CAN RESPOND

Antisemitism, along with stereotypes, demonizing, prejudice and hate, is exploding.

Here are some things you can do to confront and combat it.

1. Engage Jewish friends and friends of different faiths in conversations about their experiences and thinking regarding antisemitism and hate. Ask community organizations, civic groups and professional associations of which you are a member to sponsor a speaker or program on antisemitism.
2. Avoid using anti-Jewish language or making references to Jewish stereotypes—even in jest. Diplomatically bring such stereotypes to the attention of others when they engage in such behavior. Speak out against antisemitic jokes and slurs. Silence can send the message that such humor and derogatory remarks are acceptable.
3. If you encounter an antisemitic website, contact the Anti-Defamation League and/or the site’s host carrier to complain and request that the site be taken down.
4. Encourage teachers and other school personnel to conduct discussions regarding antisemitism and other forms of prejudice. Arrange for teachers and other school personnel to participate in a workshop on antisemitism that includes devising strategies for responding to acts of antisemitism.
5. Urge spiritual and lay leaders to condemn antisemitism and other forms of hatred from the pulpit and elsewhere. Encourage such leaders to keep informed about social justice issues and to participate vocally in local, regional, national and international organizations to speak out against antisemitism and help to curtail it. Plan community events at your house of worship that address antisemitism. Encourage both those of your faith and other faiths to attend.
6. Enlist the members of your congregation and other congregations in campaigns to write elected officials and letters-to-the-editor of local newspapers and to sign petitions and newspaper ads that condemn acts of antisemitism and hate.
7. Invite representatives of groups that have expressed insensitive antisemitic views to hold a discussion with members from your congregation so you can educate them about the consequences of such remarks. Attend events where you have reason to believe that speakers might make antisemitic statements. If the speaker does make such comments, take action, e.g., challenge the antisemitism during the question-and-answer period, ask the sponsoring organization to present a rebuttal speaker and encourage local newspapers to publish a critique.



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Federation Sponsors JFAM Family Camp Weekend for the Community



Camp Zeke in Lakewood, PA is one of seven Jewish overnight camps across North America selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of JFAM, the Foundation for Jewish Camp's new Family Camp initiative.

JFAM is a Jewish family Shabbat weekend family camp that provides a chance to be together as a family, enjoy activities planned just for you and meet new friends. JFAM family camps specialize in helping families relax, have fun and spend quality

time together while building community in a beautiful mountain setting that's deeply rooted in Jewish values.

JFAM believes that every Jewish family belongs at camp and seeks to warmly welcome all family structures, families with members who do not identify as Jewish, families of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and gender identities and families with children and/or adults with disabilities. JFAM weekends are proudly hosted in conjunction with partner organizations such as the Federation from the Tri-State area.

Federation is partnering with Camp Zeke to offer families with at least one child aged 8 and under an immersive Jewish family weekend at the camp June 23-25. The goal is to help families build ties with each other and the greater Jewish community. The camp is a 2-hour drive from Syracuse, straight down 81 South. The cost for a family of four for the weekend is \$250 and is all inclusive. Twenty families with one child under the age of 8 are welcome to apply. Places are reserved for three families from each of our community's synagogues with an additional eight slots open to all.

Camp Zeke offers comfortable rooms including linen and towel service. All have private bathrooms with stall showers and can be set up in a combination of ways to accommodate family sizes. All feature individually controlled air conditioning and central heating.

Throughout the weekend families participate in a variety of programs geared towards toddlers, older kids and adults. There is boating and swimming in Camp Zeke's heated pool and 60-acre spring-fed lake. Joyful musical services are held lakeside and fitness and strength training are offered in a full gym. There are nature walks, circus arts, theater games, lakeside campfires and more. Following is a sample schedule:

FRIDAY

2:40 pm – Arrival/Welcome– Enjoy healthy snacks, cold drinks and hot coffee

4:00 pm – Introductory Fun and Games

5:00 pm – Welcome Reception lakeside

5:30 pm – Kabbalat Shabbat – Welcome Shabbat through joyful song and reflection.

6:00 pm – Candle Lighting, Prayer for Wine and Challah

6:15 pm – Enjoy a festive Shabbat meal with a traditional chicken and matzo ball soup, fresh roast chicken, chicken fingers for the kids, tri-color roast fingerling potatoes, a fresh vegetable medley and warm fruit pies for dessert. Join in our festive song session.

7:15 pm – Learn to create bedtime rituals with our Jewish life leader.

7:45 pm – Bedtime for the younger kids. Kids ages 6 and older join counselors in the theater for a fun-filled Shabbat Game Oneg.

8:15 pm – Adult shmooze, snacks and adult beverages at an Oneg Shabbat. Babysitters are available to watch the little ones.

SATURDAY

7:30 am –Enjoy coffee or hot cocoa on the dining room porch. We invite you to join morning yoga on the lakeside pavilion.

8:15-9:15 am –Enjoy a selection of fresh fruit salad, assorted yogurts, muffins, pastries, hard boiled eggs, fresh bagels and spreads, and assorted cold cereals.



9:30-10:30 am – Shabboptions:

select one:

- Traditional Shabbat Service full of joyful singing and prayer led by our clergy on the lakeside pavilion.
- Shabbat Theater –Create mini plays using scenes from Jewish history.
- Reflective Nature Walk –Take a gentle walk around the lake as we reflect on the meaning of Shabbat and the Torah portion of the week.
- Torah Yoga – Stretch your bodies and spirits as we contemplate the Torah portion of the week.

10:45 am-12:30 pm – Separate child and adult programming. Babysitting is available for children under 2. Children 2+ years are divided into groups by age under the supervision of Camp Zeke's wonderful counselors to enjoy nature arts and crafts, gaga, sports, lawn games, or a song session with our song leaders. Adults can choose from a circus workshop, working out in a well-equipped gym, a lively zumba or spin class or a chance to relax and enjoy nature.

11:45 am – Adults gather at the lakeside pavilion for a discussion of Jewish values (tikkun middot).

12:30 pm – Lunch – Enjoy a healthy lunch of fresh salads, fruits and tasty fresh options.

1:30 pm – Rest hour – Recuperate and relax with your family. Take time for a nap or explore Zeke's beautiful property on your own.

2:30-5:30 pm – A variety of activities for the family to enjoy including fitness classes, music, healthy cooking, Shabbat crafts, swimming in the pool, arts and crafts, kickball, basketball, tennis, circus arts, ping pong, nature exploration, hiking and more. Enjoy healthy and refreshing snacks served from our canteen located on the theater porch.

5:30 pm – Free time before dinner

6:00 pm – Dinner

7:00 pm – Say farewell to Shabbat and welcome the new week with Havdalah on the lawn deck.

7:15 pm – Evening campfire and s'mores. Learn songs to sing all year long at a Shira/Jewish song session. Staff are available to watch little ones.

8:30 pm – Camp Zeke JFAM All Family Talent Show

9:30 pm – Lilah tov for the rest of the kids. Practice bedtime rituals. Staff are available to watch little ones.

10:00 pm – Adults Only chat and shmooze. Examine ways to create Jewish family rituals and traditions that will last a lifetime. Adult beverages and snacks.

SUNDAY

7:30 am –Enjoy coffee or a hot cocoa on the dining room porch. Morning yoga on the lakeside pavilion.

8:15-9:15 am – Enjoy a selection of fresh fruit salad, yogurts, muffins, pastries, blueberry pancakes, scrambled eggs, bagels and spreads, oatmeal with fresh berries.

9:30-11:30 am – Spend time as a family and try some of Zeke's favorites: circus arts, family Zumba dance party, challah baking time, Judaic art, boating on the lake or family basketball.

11:30-12:00 noon – Farewell and closing gathering on the main lawn

12:00 noon – Farewell lunch

To apply for Camp Zeke, please email bdavis@jewishfederationny.org and include your name, address and the names and ages of people in your family. You must have one child under the age of 8 to be eligible.



Federation Funds for Jewish Overnight Summer Campers

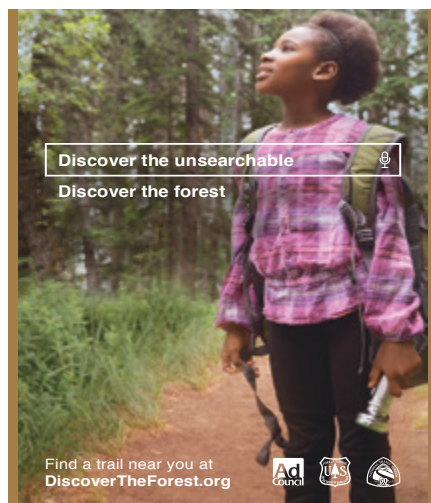


Jewish overnight summer camp is a place where being Jewish is easy and fun, offering opportunities to create and experience a joyful Jewish life that is personal and intense, regardless of observance or affiliation. The Jewish Federation of Central New York believes in the value of a Jewish overnight summer camp experience, which helps to strengthen Jewish identity and build a strong and thriving Jewish community for our future. Federation further recognizes that the costs of Jewish camping can be significant and provides subsidies to help.

Federation partners with the One Happy Camper Program to offer incentive grants to first-time overnight campers. Funding is available for Jewish children who reside in Central New York. Children must be first-time enrollees in an approved Jewish overnight summer camp. Children who do not attend day school are eligible for awards of \$700 for a 12-day session and \$1,000 for a 19-day session. Local day school campers are eligible to apply for 50% of the 19-day or 12-day incentive. The grants are NOT based on financial need. Details are available at <https://www.jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/>. The deadline for submitting applications is early April. A camper must be enrolled in a Jewish

overnight summer camp sponsored by the Conservative, Reform, Orthodox or Reconstructionist movements or by Jewish organizations such as the JCCA, BBYO, NFTY, USY or Young Judea/Hadassah prior to applying. Application forms and more information can be found on the Federation's website: <https://jewishfederationcny.org/jewish-summer-camperships/>.

In addition, Federation provides subsidies of \$1000/camper, not based on financial need, to enrollees at accredited Jewish camps. To apply, send a letter of request to bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org.



The April issue of the *Jewish Observer* features a **PASSOVER SPECIAL SECTION!**

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**WE ARE
NOT
ALONE**

Throughout history, attitudes towards the Jews have ranged from indifference to hostility. During the Holocaust, Germans and others watched as their former neighbors were rounded up and killed. Some collaborated with the perpetrators and many benefited from the expropriation of the Jews' property. Few stood up to protest, much less to help.

Our Jewish tradition says that the world exists because of 36 righteous people whom we do not necessarily know. One of the books reviewed in this month's People of the Book page introduces us to some of those people. Ari Mittleman's *Paths of the Righteous* features eight non-Jewish individuals who have gone above and beyond for the Jewish people during challenging times. Temple Concord's presentation of Melissa Stoller, whose book *Building Bridges: Peace, Salaam, Shalom* is about connecting with and supporting those of differing faiths, echoes this theme.

March is also Jewish Women's History Month, fittingly observed this year as we celebrate Purim. Women's History Month was created to challenge stereotypes about women's roles in history. The second of the books reviewed in our People of the Book section, *RBG's Brave & Brilliant Women: 33 Jewish Women to Inspire Everyone*, is our tribute to this important effort and another example of our interconnectedness.



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» Book Review

Paths of the Righteous: Stories of Heroism, Humanity, and Hope by Ari Mittleman

Reviewed by Diana Koester

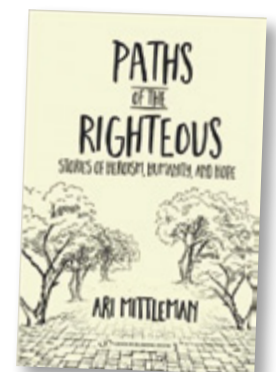
In *Paths of the Righteous: Stories of Heroism, Humanity, and Hope*, Ari Mittleman showcases tales of humanitarianism and bravery on the part of non-Jews who endeavor to help Jewish people. Before he dives into those tales, he provides a foreword that gives some much-needed context about why we need such allies.

Antisemitism arguably boils down to prejudice against Jews because of our perceived “otherness.” For as long as we’ve existed, we’ve been noticed as a group of people that differs from those around us.

I’ve been teaching middle and high school students about antisemitism and the Holocaust for years now. It is an assignment I take quite seriously. The Anti-Defamation League noted in April 2022 that antisemitic incidents in the U.S. reached an all-time high in 2021. Something that helps me feel a bit better whenever I get too caught up in the material I teach, or distraught over the uptick in antisemitic violence or commentary (or the lack of outrage against it), hails from Mr. Fred Rogers, of “Neighborhood” fame. Rogers has been quoted as saying that whenever something bad would happen in the world, his mother would tell him to look for the helpers. I make a point of teaching explicitly about righteous gentiles who took great personal risk to help Jews and others in need during World War II.

In *Paths of the Righteous*, Mittleman shines a very important light on some modern-day helpers.

Mittleman shares a collection of eight remarkable stories of non-Jewish people who actively work to support the Jewish people in various ways. He bears witness to many



accounts of selfless compassion for others in need — for others who, though different from oneself, have common ground to stand on simply by nature of their shared humanity. From a firefighter in Florida who travels to Israel to fight wildfires in the desert, to a lawyer in Germany helping Holocaust victims and their families regain property and belongings lost during the war, to an attorney and church leader from South Africa who advocates for Israel education and fights misconceptions about apartheid, “Paths of the Righteous” underscores that even in times when there is undeniable hate, there is also undeniable love and compassion. That was true in the years leading up to and during World War II, and it is true today. At a time when Antisemitism in this country is starting to feel like the rule rather than the exception, stories of tzaddikim, of individuals who fight for the betterment of humankind, provide invaluable hope.

Mittleman's book beautifully testifies to the fact that we as Jews are not alone, and if nothing else, isn't that an encouraging thought?

» Book Review

RBG's Brave & Brilliant Women: 33 Jewish Women to Inspire Everyone

by Nadine Epstein, illustrated by Bee Johnson, introduction and selection by Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Reviewed by Phyllis R.D. Zames

I was skeptical when I picked up this book; why is the book called RBG's Brave & Brilliant Women if the book is by Nadine Epstein? I opened the book feeling very suspicious, and my concerns were addressed right in the prologue (written by Ms. Epstein) and introduction (by RBG herself). Ms. Epstein and Justice Ginsburg were good friends, and in 2019, they had a conversation about the importance of female Jewish role models. According to Ms. Epstein, Justice Ginsburg said that the "humanity and bravery of Jewish women...had always sustained and encouraged her when her spirits needed lifting." Together, the two friends decided that a book of inspirational Jewish women could do this exact same thing for others.

The book is divided into sections of time, so the table of contents is a timeline that runs from biblical times to modern history. The one exception is an out-of-



time-order biography of Justice Ginsburg herself, who makes her appearance as the very first brave and brilliant woman in the book. I wondered if RBG had approved that or if she would have preferred to see herself in the section with her contemporaries (which would have made more sense to me).

I read the book as if it were a series of short stories, devouring each biography and shaking my head at the sheer resolve of these women. So many of them pursued their dreams even as their families (who loved them), societies and enemies

discouraged and plotted against them. Many of the women had been familiar to me, but many more were not, and I am grateful to have gotten to meet them through this book. Ms. Epstein provides details about the lives of women in so many areas of life and culture, from the biblical Yocheved to businesswomen in the sixteenth and seventeenth century, to musicians, teachers and scientists throughout history—she and Justice Ginsburg researched women from many backgrounds and with many different talents.

The illustrations are evocative, giving readers a glimpse of each woman's personality. Deborah, the biblical prophet and judge, holds her hand up with a serious expression, as if wordlessly commanding her court to be silent so that she may present a ruling. Nadine Gordimer, a South African Nobel Prize-winning human

rights activist, holds a black cat in her profile portrait; perhaps she is listening to a story that she will later write and share with the world, to move others to work for justice and equality. The full-color pages with designs like fancy wrapping paper in between each section made me feel as though I were receiving a new gift each time I turned the pages.

This book certainly belongs in our children's libraries to be used as a reference, but I'm glad I have a copy to keep in my home to refer to whenever I choose. Students in later elementary school years may read it independently, or it could be shared with younger children as a read-aloud. Of course, as RBG pointed out, adults need their spirits lifted from time to time, and reading this collection about Jewish women overcoming challenges in order to achieve their goals will do that for readers of all ages.

Author of Building Bridges, a Tale of Multifaith Teamwork, to Speak at Temple Concord

by Chana Meir

On March 12 at 10 am, author Melissa Stoller will discuss her children's book *Building Bridges: Peace, Salaam, Shalom* as part of Temple Concord's Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series in conjunction with Temple Concord's Religious School.

Building Bridges, a book Stoller says is intended to "bring more kindness to the world," was co-authored by Stoller (who is Jewish), Muslim author Shirin Rachman, and Christian author Callie V. Lovvorn. In it, three girls of the same faiths as the authors work together to help their town save a bridge that leads to Peace Park. Their efforts involve teamwork, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) problem-solving and friendship and demonstrate that community connections can bridge differences to lead to understanding and peace.

Building Bridges is a companion book to



Planting Friendship, by the same three authors. Stoller writes children's stories on themes of family history and connections, Jewish and interfaith relationships and creativity and kindness. She has also worked as an attorney and an early childhood educator.

The event is virtual and open to the public. There is no cost. To receive the Zoom link, register by clicking the link on the Events Calendar at templeconcord.org.



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We Do Not Need to Be Afraid

by Susan Case DeMari

We do need not be afraid to be Jewish today, because in Central New York we have developed an incredible relationship and understanding with our partners in law enforcement. Much of what we do to create a local safety net is admittedly behind-the-scenes. However, our security footprint is easily recognizable to every law enforcement agency responsible for assuring our safety. The Jewish community is seen by the Secure Community Network (SCN), the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, as a “model community” for our enhanced infrastructure related to safety and security.

This past summer, together with the Department of Homeland Security, the Jewish Federation of Central New York sponsored an exercise that included all stakeholders within the Jewish community. Held at the Jewish Community Center, more than 40 first responders were in attendance to work with Jewish leadership and staff in preparation for “an incident” (intentionally not being described). We prepared, we learned and we interfaced with each other reaffirming the collaboration and coordination among participants. Training did not begin or end this summer and does not stop here. The more we practice what we learn, the stronger our infrastructure becomes.

It also holds true that the more we understand and take a stance to combat antisemitism, the stronger we become. Earlier this winter, we offered local

training over a 5-week period on hate crimes, addressing physical, verbal, phone, electronic and written/visual threats. While I am the first to advocate for the protection of our constitutional rights, what we all learned was that the First Amendment does not protect incitement, defamation, fighting words and threats to violence that are both imminent and likely. Knowing this, and knowing what an outstanding partnership we have here in Central New York with law enforcement, I am not afraid to report any type of activity that is suspicious or offensive that could impinge upon my freedom to be Jewish. So I am not afraid to be Jewish today, and neither should any other community member feel fear. On the contrary, we will not allow hate to keep us from being proud of our heritage or displaying our Jewish identity.

Should We Be Afraid?

by Miriam Elman

On American campuses today, many Jewish students are not emotionally, psychologically or spiritually safe. There are over 4,000 accredited universities and colleges in the United States, and most of them are, thankfully, not hotbeds of antisemitism. But on far too many campuses, including those where a majority of Jewish young people enroll, there’s a new pernicious reality.

Anti-Israel activism has taken an insidious turn toward unrelenting attacks on Jewish identity, hostile rhetoric that often traffics in antisemitic tropes and canards about Jewish power, privilege and undue influence, and efforts to drive a wedge between Jewish and other minority communities.

On campus, it ranges from attempts to exclude Jewish students from participating in progressive coalitions and causes to campaigns that discredit Hillel, the leading organization promoting Jewish student life, seeking to prevent and limit its activities.

On some campuses, the fitness of Jewish students to serve in leadership positions has been questioned on account of their perceived Zionist beliefs and identification with Israel. On others, student groups have adopted ‘no Zionist speaker’ pledges and bylaws or have called for the boycott of ‘sh*tty Zionist classes’ and for the purging of the professors who teach them.

Some Humanities disciplines, such as Women and Gender Studies and Ethnic Studies, are now essentially baking anti-Zionism and a virulently anti-Israel narrative into their pedagogical missions. How can Jewish students feel like they belong if academic departments and centers so thoroughly demean and denigrate their core values and callously disregard their lived experiences?

At a time when university and college leaders are commendably prioritizing initiatives that reinforce a sense of belonging and inclusion, Jewish students on campus are being demoralized as racists and white supremacists and as threats

to social justice. In such a climate, how can they possibly bring their full selves onto campus? If they want to be socially accepted, then the only option is to redefine their Jewishness and be less fully Jewish—keeping kosher and observing Shabbat would probably be fine but embracing a love of Zion most definitely would not be.

Today, according to recent polls and surveys conducted by the ADL, Hillel, the American Jewish Committee, the Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and other watchdog groups, we know that many Jewish college students are keeping their identities a secret. They are worried that they will be harassed, bullied, shamed or socially stigmatized and ostracized if they are outed as Zionists. As Ambassador Deborah E. Lipstadt, US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, has recently remarked: “[Jewish students on American campuses] feel they have something to lose if they openly identify as Jews...They are not abandoning their Jewish identity; they are hiding it. They have become marranos.”

Miriam F. Elman, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of the Academic Engagement Network, a national educational nonprofit that educates and empowers faculty and university leaders to address and combat antisemitism on campus. From 2009-2022 she was an Associate Professor of Political Science at Syracuse University where she held the title of Robert D. McClure Professor of Teaching Excellence at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

Fort Ontario Conference March 25-26, 2023

Edward Heinrichs - *“What People Said - The Good, the Bad & the Ugly:*

Oswego and the Fort Ontario Refugees”

Rebecca Erbelding, Ph.D. - *“The Fort Ontario Refugees - Should they stay or should they go?” (commentator on the Ken Burns PBS special)*

Paul Lear - *“Fort Ontario is My Camp” -*

TR, FDR, Montcalm, & the Fort Ontario Emergency Refugee Shelter.

René Chartrand - *“German-Jewish Alien Detainees in Fort Lennox, Canada, 1940 - 1944”*

More Lectures on Saturday & Sunday

Sunday: Tour of the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum

Visit: historicfortontario.com or call 315-343-4711 for details & registration.

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PURIM IN 3-ACTS

Congregation Beth Shalom - Chevra Shas' 2023 Purim Celebration will be a special three-part event that is perfect for attendees of all ages. Participants will gather at **7:00 pm on Monday, March 6**, beginning with a Purim shpiel, presented by CBS-CS' religious-school-aged students.

"Our madrichim (teaching assistants) have taken over Purim preparations, with "Shushanian Nights," which is a Disney's Aladdin-style twist on the story of Esther for this year's Purim play. Eden Shirilan-Howlett is the director, Shayna Nellis is the dance director, and Owen Reckess is the stage manager. We have cast members from every grade, from kindergarten on up! It will be a fun play with music, dance, and lots of laughs," said principal, Kelly Bernhardt-Klapper.

Next, attendees will share in the mitzvah of hearing the megillah read. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own groggers, or use one provided so we can drown out Haman's name!

Finally, the evening will end with the CBS-CS coffeehouse. The coffeehouse will include some adult beverages (we're not encouraging that mitzvah, however!). Attendees are invited to come to play music or read/create poetry.

Come one, come all, and help us celebrate Purim together! For more information please contact the CBS-CS office @ 315. 446.9570 or @ admin@cbscs.org.

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MONDAY, MARCH 6 • 5:30 PM

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Fill your own hamantaschen which will be baked during the Megillah reading and ready for you to take home and enjoy!
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You might have a small rock to throw or a big boulder, but it's up to you to decide how far the ripples will travel.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York can help you create the legacy you want. Contact Michael Balanoff at 315-445-0270 or mbalanoff@jewishfoundationcny.org.



The Inn at Menorah Park: A Home for Jewish Seniors

“I’m very content,” says Mrs. H. “I’ve come to the part of my life where I cannot live alone. Here I’m taken care of, and I have activities to do and companionship with other people. I feel comfortable because my children, who are now in their sixties, don’t have to be concerned about me, so they have time to do some things for themselves.”

The Jewish Home of Central New York is over 110 years old. It was created in 1912 when an elderly Jewish man was found abandoned in the basement of a local synagogue. The Jewish community, under the guidance of Rabbi Moses Braude, realized the need to protect the Jewish elderly and built the first Jewish senior home on Irving Avenue, which was later moved to East Genesee Street. From that beginning, the Jewish Home, now known as Menorah Park of Central New York, has grown to become the premier Jewish senior facility in upstate New York. Its 36-acre campus is home to independent senior living, assisted living, skilled nursing, and short-term rehabilitation facilities, as well as homecare and adult day care.

Menorah Park’s continuum of care offers a broad range of high-quality, affordable health, housing, and community services and programs, providing a more comprehensive, cohesive, and holistic approach to healthy aging. The U.S. population is aging and there has been a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking assisted living. This has spurred the emergence of a variety of housing options for seniors to bridge between independent living and skilled living.

The Inn at Menorah Park provides exactly this bridge. The Inn offers residents a comfortable, homelike environment with the reassurance of knowing that residents can get individualized assistance day or night. The Inn offers a variety of different floor plans that provides residents with choices in affordable living options. Menorah Park CEO Russ D’Amico is proud of the special services that The Inn offers. “With a host of amenities, residential activities and flexible dining services for all of our patrons, our dedicated team goes the extra mile to ensure all residents achieve an excellent quality of life,” he says.

“There are a lot of things to consider when making a move to an assisted living program,” says Thomas Carlson, director of The Inn. “Independence, choice, privacy with personalized and supportive care are essentials. The assisted living philosophy is grounded

in promoting quality of life and the ability of each resident to make his or her own choices, while holding basic health and safety paramount.”

Residents of The Inn receive three nutritionally well-balanced meals and one snack each day included in their basic monthly rental rate. Menu options, based on individual dining preferences, are designed to fit individual tastes.

The activities director of The Inn creates monthly calendars that include scheduled outings, musical entertainment, guest speakers, worship services and ongoing physical activities, all to stimulate the body, mind, and spirit of residents. “There’s a lot to do,” said one resident. “Even if I don’t like every activity, I still maintain interest.”



Weekly housekeeping at The Inn includes vacuuming, surface and bathroom cleaning and furnishing of toilet tissue. Daily “neat and tidy service” is also provided and includes bedmaking, trash removal and tidying of the apartment. Linen and towel service and laundry service are provided weekly or as needed.

The Inn has 24/7 supervision by dedicated and caring resident aide staff and case management teams and coordination of services is provided by the case manager or the director of The Inn. An Individualized Service Plan (ISP) is created for each resident

and maintained collaboratively with each resident’s physician. Personal care, based on assessed need, is modified over time as care needs change.

The Inn is a cost-effective option for those who need a 24-hour supportive living environment. The Inn’s most basic option includes assisted living residence services for \$3,925 per month in a small studio apartment with no additional fees for support. Large studios, small one bedroom and large one-bedroom apartments are also available.

Assisted living is the entry-level segment of New York’s long-term care and health care structure and is considered a vital element of these systems. “We can serve and support residents on a campus that can meet the needs of the community throughout the aging process,” says Russ D’Amico. “We invite seniors and their families to visit The Inn to see how very special it is.”

Day School Students Excel on New York State Tests

“Which private schools in Central NY scored the best on ELA, math tests?” queried the headline on Syracuse.com. The answer, provided by New York State in response to a request from the media, showed that the Syracuse Hebrew Day School was one of ten private schools in a five-county region of Central New York

that had at least 80% of their students score proficient on at least one statewide assessment test in English Language Arts or math last year. In the case of SHDS, the proficiencies were demonstrated in ELA and Math for grades 3 and 6.

“Not only do SHDS’s state assessment results further validate its reputation



In New York State, nonpublic schools are not required to administer the state assessments. After a hiatus from participating in state testing, and upon consideration of the potential valuable data derived from the testing, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School announced a return to utilizing the assessments in 2020, but the tests were cancelled due to the pandemic. Coinciding with upgrades in SHDS’s English Language Arts and mathematics curricula, and intensive professional development in ELA, math and formative assessment, reinstatement of the tests began in the spring of 2021 and continued last spring. “The investment of time and effort clearly paid off,” noted Lavine. “SHDS performed so well that only one other private school in a five-county region appeared more times on the reporting list.”

as a premier Central New York educational institution,” said Laura Lavine, former SHDS head of school, “they also help prospective families with their decision-making when searching for alternatives to their local public schools. SHDS’s dual curricula meet NYS Next Generation Learning Standards and encompass Jewish values, practices and Hebrew. Its small class sizes, advanced technology and individual instrumental music lessons in addition to general music, Jewish music, art, library and physical education should position it at the top of any family’s list of schools being considered for their children’s education.”

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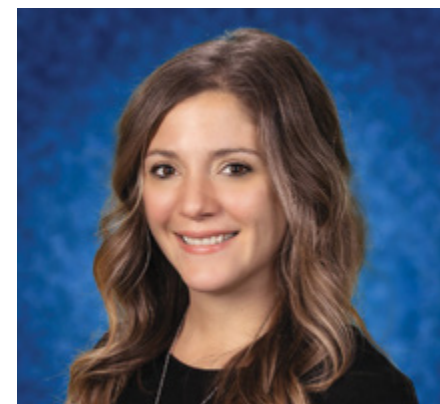
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Melissa Klemperer named SHDS Director of School Affairs

Melissa Klemperer has been promoted to the new role of Director of School Affairs at Syracuse Hebrew Day School, announced Michael Ferman, Head of School. “I am elated that Mel is a member of our leadership team and that she will continue to bring her many talents to our school community,” he said. “Over the years, Mel has served in various capacities at the school, including as a teacher, associate director of admissions and, most recently, as executive assistant. Mel’s elevated title reflects the significant position she plays at our school.”

In January 2023, Melissa celebrated her 10-year anniversary at SHDS, which was recognized during a recent gathering with a moving video tribute in appreciation for her many years of dedicated service to the school community. Shira Boschan, Co-Chair of the SHDS Parent Advisory Committee, remarked that “Mel is truly such an incredible person. SHDS is so fortunate to have her as part of the school community. Thank you, Mel, for everything you do.”



Melissa has a bachelor’s degree in management from Syracuse University. While earning her master’s degree in elementary and special education K-6 from LeMoyne College, she student-taught at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School.

She is grateful that her days start with smiles and “good mornings” from students who love coming to school and are excited to learn each day. In reflecting on her ten years at SHDS, Melissa shared that “I absolutely love this school and feel that I am the lucky one.”

Temple Concord to Welcome New Rabbi

by Chana Meir

On July 1, 2023, Rabbi Ilan Emanuel will join Temple Concord as only its seventh rabbi in the temple's 184-year history. "Rabbi Emanuel has the knowledge, experience, insight, and vision to guide Temple Concord into the future," said TC President Jeff Lefkowitz. "We're delighted and honored that he is joining us."



Rabbi Emanuel was born in the United States and lived in Huntsville, Alabama, where his father was the Reform congregation's rabbi. At age five, he and his family moved to the United Kingdom, where he studied and practiced law before realizing his true passion was Judaism. He then returned to the US to study at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati.

Rabbi Emanuel comes to Syracuse from Corpus Christi, Texas, where he served as rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel. Before that, he served as associate rabbi at Toronto's Temple Sinai and as rabbi at Lincoln, Nebraska's South Street Temple.

On a recent visit to Syracuse, Rabbi Emanuel noted that in Pirke Avot the rabbis say we should "make Torah study a habit...and greet every person cheerfully." He added, "I know that this community lives up to that and so much more," and expressed his and his wife Randi's excitement about coming to Syracuse, joining the Temple Concord family, and "greeting everyone cheerfully!" The rabbi's family includes daughter Mira, attending college at the University of

Texas in Dallas, and their dog, Indiana Jones.

Temple Concord is the ninth oldest Reform Congregation in the United States. Reflecting on this, Sally Cutler, Chair of TC's strategic-planning initiative, noted, "Rabbi Emanuel's appointment signals not only Temple Concord's sustainability but also its vibrant future and its vital role in the Jewish community."

Plans are underway to welcome Rabbi Emanuel and his family to Temple Concord, to the Syracuse Jewish community and to the wider Central New York community.

When is a Jew and Why is a Synagogue

"We wish to change the conversation about meaningful Jewish life in our time."

The tale is told of a revered teacher who was about to die. Her students gathered round her with a final request, "Before you die, tell us, 'What is the answer?'" She replied, "That depends. What is the question?" Sometimes old questions just stop working; they become tired and get us nowhere. Synagogues can still matter more than ever, but only by asking new questions that rethink Judaism and redefine the synagogue mission for our time.

The above words were written by Dr. Lawrence Hoffman, a world-famous expert on Jewish liturgy, professor emeritus at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion and the co-founder, with his Conservative colleague Dr. Ron Wolfson, of Synagogue 2000, since renamed Synagogue 3000.

Synagogue 3000 is intended to be "a catalyst for excellence, empowering congregations and communities to create synagogues that are sacred and vital centers of Jewish life. We seek to make synagogues compelling moral and spiritual centers – sacred communities – for the twenty-first century. Sacred communities are those where relationships with God and with each other define everything the synagogue does; where ritual is engaging; where Torah suffuses all we do; where social justice is a moral imperative; and where membership is about welcoming and engaging both the committed and the unaffiliated."

On Sunday, March 26 at 10:30 am, Rabbi Hoffman will speak to the community on the topic, "When is a Jew and Why is a Synagogue - Redefining Judaism for Our Time." His talk is part of Temple Concord's Symposium on the Synagogue of the Future, funded in part by a grant from the Philip A. Holstein Community Program Fund of the Jewish Federation of Central New York. The community is invited to attend the lecture and the luncheon that will follow. Registration is required through the Temple Concord website.

The Passover Center

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Offers effective Sunday, February 26 thru Saturday, April 15, 2023 in all Price Chopper, Market 32 and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.

Summer Camp Registration Now Open at the JCC

Summer is right around the corner, and summer camp registration is now open at the JCC. Camp begins June 26 through August 18, Mondays-Fridays from 9am to 4pm. Camps are open to both members and non-members of the JCC, and registration is ongoing until all spots are filled. Early registration is encouraged.

“The whole camp is transformed for a huge summer camp experience,” said Amy Bisnett, associate director of Children’s Programming at the JCC. “We see kids who come year after year, and watch them grow. It’s a really special place and rewarding time for the kids, the staff, and everyone.”



Camp groups are split into three different age groups:

Early Childhood Camp (for kids 6 weeks to 5-year old), which runs for eight weeks and offers both indoor and outdoor activities as well as daily Red Cross swim lessons. School-Aged Camp (for children in grades 1-6) which also runs for eight weeks. For this age group families can choose between traditional Nitzanim Day Camp which follows a weekly theme of activities, and weekly field trips, or Specialty Camps to explore a particular area of interest. Some of this year’s Specialty Camps include various sports camps (CrossFit, circus, horseback riding, pickleball, lacrosse, fencing, etc.), art camps, and science camps. The SyraCruisin’ Teen Travel Camp (for children in grades 7-10) runs for five weeks beginning July 5. Teens go on daily field trips including going fishing, apple picking, visiting amusement parks, and more.

Last summer was a record-breaking year of attendance, and JCC staff is hopeful for similar success this year. “It’s always wonderful to see the kids interact with each other on a social level where they can have fun, gain skills, and new experiences in a variety of different interest areas,” said Pam Ranieri, director of Children’s Programming at the JCC.

Children in grades 1-6 who are intermediate and advanced swimmers can also join the J-Rays Swim Club for the summer. The team practices three mornings each week before summer camp, and participates in an inner squad meet at the end of the season. Swim lessons are also available outside of camp hours.

The JCC is also hiring for a handful of summer positions. Teens who are ages 14 and 15 can apply for Teen Camp Aid and Counselors in Training (CIT) positions. Camp counselors and lifeguards are also needed. Lifeguard training/certification can be provided.

To register and learn more about the JCC’s camp offerings, visit jccsy.org/summer-camp/ or reach out to Amy Bisnett at 315-445-2360 or abisnett@jccsy.org.



Real Deal Purim Carnival Returns to the JCC

The JCC’s Purim Carnival is the highlight of the Central New York Jewish community’s celebration of the most fun Jewish holiday. For more than half a century, the excitement, food and games of the JCC Carnival have delighted children, parents and grandparents and have brought people together in a festive mood to celebrate Jewish unity.



The Purim Carnival will be held on Sunday, March 5 from 12-4 pm. The J will be transformed with balloons and colorful decorations. The entire community is invited to come in costume to enjoy carnival games, bounce houses, face painting, magic shows and story time. Tickets for winning participants can be exchanged for cool prizes. Esther’s café will be open in the auditorium and will feature a kosher menu including corned beef, knishes and hamantaschen.

After a two-year socially-distanced carnival caused by COVID, the JCC is very excited to bring back the spirit and closeness of the real thing. “It’s always happy to see families coming together to enjoy a holiday with the community,” said Cindy Stein, director of Senior and Adult Programs at the JCC. “The kids need this. They need to come back to be able to have special times with their families and to enjoy Jewish traditions.”

Community organizations are invited to host information tables at the event. Anyone interested should reach out to Amy Bisnett at 315-445-2360 or abisnett@jccsy.org to learn more.

In the week leading up to the



Carnival, everyone at the J gets into the mood. The Early Childhood Development Program hosts a parade and party. Children dress up in a variety of costumes from Esther and Haman to superheroes and princesses. They have a chance to show off their creativity to parents as they parade around the gym. The festivities continue in their classrooms where the story of Purim is read and hamentashen are served. Children who participate in the After School Program also snack on hamentashen. The fun continues with a “paper chain” race to see who can construct the longest chain. The winner gets tickets to the Carnival. Seniors partake of a special holiday lunch as well.

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

Harrison Bakery

In October 1949, 30-year-old German immigrant Arthur Rothfeld opened Harrison Bakery on Harrison Street in Syracuse. In 1961, the bakery moved to 1306 West Genesee Street, retaining its name of origin, and it has been a successful enterprise there for more than six decades, last year being voted Best Bakery in the CNY Readers' Choice contest.

Arthur Rothfeld wanted to supply baked good at fair prices, a vision that was shared and continued by his son, James, whom everyone called Jimmy. Jimmy was born into the bakery business and learned all its aspects, from sales to production, as he was growing up. When Jimmy was 18, Arthur suffered a heart attack and his son, then a freshman at Syracuse University, postponed his college education to take over the bakery.

Today Harrison Bakery is run by a member of the third generation of Rothfelds, Mike, who had been mentored from an early age by both his father and



grandfather. When Jimmy took early retirement in 2008 for health reasons, Mike was ready and able to take over. He is dedicated and hands-on in the production department seven days a week.

Harrison's is a full-scale retail and wholesale bakery serving donuts, cakes, cookies, breads and more. "We'll never stop being here for you, Syracuse," they proudly declare. The Harrison menu is extensive, with over 200 items. They offer Italian,

French, rye and pumpernickel breads. Donuts are glazed, peanut or headlights. Cakes are made for birthdays and baby showers. Other specialties include brownies, raspberry tarts, cheesecakes with blueberries or strawberries, eclairs and cream puffs. And they are famous for their half-moons.

"We also have over 100 wholesale accounts throughout the city that receive fresh bread delivered daily," notes Mike Rothfeld with pride, adding, "We are proudly represented on the menu of Hafner's, Varsity, Strong Hearts, Scotch N' Sirloin, Nichols Grocery, Green Hills, Coleman's, Nibsy's Pub, Barbagallo's, Blue Canoe, Change of Pace, Dave's Diner in Cazenovia, Gracie's Kitchen, T K Tavern. The JCC receives our freshly baked challah on Fridays. Both Modern Malt locations, NY Style Diner, Pasquales, The Retreat, Syracuse Stage has some of our treats at their concessions. We also deliver to many neighborhood delis and markets, like Sabbatino's, Midway Express, Family Food, Middle East Market, Solvay Super Saver and the new Deli @ 700 on Geddes." In fact, he points out, "people have been enjoying our products all over the city and probably didn't even realize it!"

In addition, Harrison's offers the following mouthwatering items: apple, cherry, or blueberry tortes and pies with either crumble topping or full crust. Cheesecakes have several toppings including lemon, raspberry, peach, cherry, strawberry and plain. Donuts include apple crumb pie, apple fritter, cinnamon bun, glazed, headlight, custard, powdered sugar, raspberry-filled, peanut butter w/ strawberry jelly, chocolate or vanilla unfilled, lemon or raspberry taillight, peanut butter chocolate headlight, plain, cinnamon sugar and peanut free.

Harrison makes challah with special varieties for the Jewish holidays, as well as taiglach, honey cake, kichel and mandelbread in an assortment of flavors. All of their products are kosher and under the supervision of the Va'ad Ha'ir of Syracuse. All are packaged in Harrison's iconic white bakery boxes.

Harrison's was recently voted #1 out of ten local bakeries for Italian bread and Oprah included Harrison's half-moons in a list of "The Best Thing to Eat In Every State." The bakery is open daily from 7:30 am until 6 pm. It closes only on Christmas and Easter.



JEWISH NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Jewish News from Israel

Despite the Israel-bashing that takes place in many quarters, the good news that comes from Israel trumps the negativity. Israeli technology makes it possible for Africa to shrink its deserts, to make coral reefs resistant to rising temperatures, to store energy underwater, to make environmentally friendly dyes and fabrics and to fast-charge electric vehicles. Israeli Arabs can take the opportunities that Israel offers to rise to the top of Israeli society, and a major UN report shows that even in today's troubled world, Israel's Jews, Muslims and Christians prove that it is possible to be happy.

Global initiatives at COP27.

At the COP27 climate conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Israelis launched Climatech MEA, a digital platform to pool all climate-related developments. Israel's DeserTech has also partnered with the UN to help African nations build the "Great Green Wall" to counter desertification. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/new-digital-platform-seeks-to-connect-regions-business-with-climate-opportunities/> <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-desertech-partners-with-un-to-help-african-nations-build-great-green-wall/>



Shaping the future of science and society. Ben Gurion University Professor Benyamin Rosental has won a Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year 2022 Award. He has applied his research into stem cell transplantation to that of coral reefs to allow them to resist changes in temperature. He also has a personal "falling wall" link. https://in.bgu.ac.il/en/pages/news/fallingwalls_award.aspx

Algae to make bio-friendly dyes and fibers. Traditional dyes are made of coal tar and petroleum in polluting processes. Israel's Algaeing, however, creates fully biodegradable formulations for dyeing, using algae, that produce zero waste. Combined with cellulose, or plant fibers, the formulation can create algae-based textiles. <https://nocamels.com/2022/11/algae-the-natural-alternative-to-dyeing-clothes-with-chemicals/>

Storing energy underwater. Israel's BaroMar has developed an underwater solution for storing wind and solar power in the form of compressed air at depths of 200 – 700 meters. It claims to be the most sustainable energy storage solution, with a neutral carbon footprint, no hazardous materials and minimal impact on surroundings. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israels-economy-is-setting-sail-into-the-deep-blue-tech-sea/>

Fast EV charging at the airport. Israel's Zooz Power is piloting its system for fast-charging electric vehicles at New York's La Guardia airport. The 12-month pilot should expand into a full-blown partnership. Zooz ran a pilot with Wien Energy at Vienna's international airport and is establishing five charging points in Germany. <https://www.israel21c.org/fast-ev-charging-coming-to-new-yorks-la-guardia-airport/>

Qatar invests in Israeli cyber company. The recent \$196.5 million funding round in US-Israeli cyber startup Snyk was led by the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund of a Gulf country with which Israel has no diplomatic relations. <https://www.israel21c.org/qatar-fund-leads-investment-in-israeli-us-cyber-unicorn/>

You don't have to be Jewish to be successful in Israel. Professor Samer Haj Yahya is Chairman of Leumi Bank; Professor Masad Barhum is Director of the Galilee Medical Center; Khaled Kabub is a Supreme Court justice; Julia Zaher is CEO of Al Arez Tehina and Arab sporting stars include Israel's soccer captain. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MmMJA0yaaPk>

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LILA "LEE" HAFTER

January 10, 2023

Lila "Lee" Hafter died January 10. Born on June 27, 1934 in Utica to Irving and Genevieve Steinberg, she had been a resident of Syracuse since she and her husband Marty were married in 1959.

She was a graduate of The University of Miami School of Education and then began her teaching career. Lee taught at the Jamesville-Dewitt Schools for many years. She was a life member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and the Sisterhood of the Temple. She loved to knit, was an avid reader, mah jongg player and was a great cook who loved to prepare meals for her family and friends. Most important to her were her family and friends who were like family. Her home was always warm and welcoming. Everyone lingered at the kitchen table enjoying great food and company.

She was pre-deceased by her brother Barry Steinberg.

Her family includes her husband Marty of 63 years, their children Nancy (Michael) Gross, Andrew (Mary) and Jeff (Liz), grandchildren Heidi (Lee), Adam (Erin), Liam, Kyle, Sophie and Genevieve, four great-grandchildren, her sister-in-law Barb Steinberg and nieces, nephews and cousins.

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

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SCOTT WALTZER

January 15, 2023

Scott Waltzer, 62, died on January 15 at Van Duyn Rehabilitation Center. Born on December 14, 1960 in New York to E. Leonard and Barbara Waltzer, he had been a resident of Syracuse for more than 20 years. He most recently was the security guard at The Regency Towers of Syracuse.

His family includes his companion Annette Bailey of 20 years, his mother Barbara, his brothers Mark and David and his sister Danielle.

Contributions in his memory may be made to Chabad Lubavitch of Central New York, 825 Ostrom Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13210.

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ROBERT RAICHLIN

January 12, 2023

Robert Raichlin, 84, died January 12 in Florida. Born in Syracuse on February 1, 1938 to Nathan and Jennie Raichlin, he had been a resident of Florida for the past 15 years. After retiring, he had moved from Marina Del Ray, CA to Boynton Beach, FL.

He was a graduate of the Syracuse University School of Engineering. During his professional career he worked for Raytheon, IBM and Hughes Aircraft. He worked on developing the battery and charging system for electric vehicles and also on spacecraft development.

He was a member of the electrical engineering honorary fraternity at SU. He won awards for ski racing at Mammoth Mountain and loved being on the water, especially boating on the Pacific.

His family includes his sister and brother-in-law Judy and Dr. Bruce Seidberg, his niece Allison Seidberg-Pinsky, nephews Dr. Neal Seidberg and his wife Jenee; great-nephews Ethan and Cody Pinsky and great-nieces Jennie Seidberg, Hali Seidberg, Meghan Seidberg and Ashley Seidberg, as well as numerous cousins.

Contributions may be made to the Pediatric ICU Fund at Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital, Syracuse, NY.

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RENAE ALLISON (CAUGER) KOCHER

January 17, 2023

Renae Allison (Cauger) Kocher passed away peacefully on January 17 at the age of 39. Renae's final days were spent surrounded by family and friends as they shared fond memories of her life.

Renae will be remembered for her beautiful singing voice, incredible work ethic and love for travel, wine and delicious food.

After graduating from Fayetteville-Manlius High School in 2002, Renae attended Penn State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree and became a PSU football super fan. She then began an exciting and successful career in public relations in New York City, where she moved up the ranks primarily serving clients in the health and beauty industry.

Renae met her husband Travis, a fellow Nittany Lion, shortly after arriving in New York. The two were married on Penn State's main campus in 2011 and, after spending a few years in Hoboken, NJ, made a cross-country move to Seattle, where Renae took on leadership roles in public relations and marketing at Chateau Ste. Michelle Winery and, most recently, Sono Bello.

It was also in Washington that she and Travis welcomed the joy of their lives, Mason, into the world in 2015. As a family, they enjoyed spending time outdoors, having nerf battles in the living room, relaxing with their dog, Mochi and cat, Chloe and visiting their lake home in Chelan. Friends and family will miss her infectious laugh, Asian cooking and eclectic taste in music.

Renae was predeceased by her maternal grandparents, June and Carl Lustig and paternal grandparents, Ted and Melba Cauger.

In addition to her husband and son, Renae is survived by her mother, Susan Bodley and stepfather John Bodley, her father A. Scott Cauger and stepmother, Mina Bradley Cauger, her brother Adam Cauger and her sister Olivia Bradley, as well as uncles, aunts and many cousins.

A memorial service will be held Memorial Day weekend at Temple Concord in Syracuse, NY. Details will be published prior to the service.

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MARILYN R. BERKMAN
January 18, 2023

Marilyn R. Berkman (née Marilyn Lorraine Rosenberg), 93, passed away on January 18 in Orleans, MA.

She was born April 5, 1929, to Morris and Dora (Saremsky) Rosenberg in Borough Park, Brooklyn, NY. When Marilyn was four years old, her family moved to West Hartford, CT, where she would spend the remainder of her childhood. She graduated from William Hall High School in 1947. She then went on to attend Syracuse University, from which she graduated with a degree in sociology in 1951.

It was at Syracuse University where she met her husband, Bernard “Bernie” Berkman. Marilyn and Bernie met in April of 1951 and were married by September. After college, the couple remained in Syracuse where they raised their two children, Cynthia (“Cindy”) and Mark.

In 1964, Marilyn was employed as a caseworker for Onondaga County. Later she became a geriatric social worker for Hutchings Psychiatric Center and a social worker for Upstate Medical Center. In the late 1970s, she earned her Master of Social Work from Syracuse University. During her retirement, she volunteered with an adult literacy program.

Marilyn and Bernie shared a love of travel. Over the years, the two of them visited many places, including Puerto Rico, Cape Cod, New Orleans, San Diego, Acapulco, Mexico City, San Francisco, Paris and Israel – which Marilyn described as “the trip of a lifetime.” She loved the theater and was an avid Syracuse Orangemen basketball fan. She and Bernie were longtime members of the Lakeshore Yacht and Country Club in Cicero. The couple enjoyed a vibrant social life and Marilyn’s greatest joys in life were her friends, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

After Bernie’s passing in 2010, Marilyn relocated from Syracuse to Cape Cod to be closer to her daughter and her son-in-law, Frank Salamone. Marilyn is survived by her children, her grandchildren Michael Salamone of Pullman, WA and Rachel Salamone of Santa Fe, NM and by her great-grandchildren, Rita and Lydia Salamone. She was preceded in death by her husband Bernie and by her sister, Rhoda Abel.

Contributions in Marilyn’s memory may be directed to Mazon.org.

Birnbaum Funeral Service

EVELYN WALLACE
January 22, 2023

Evelyn Wallace, 100, died on January 22 at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Born on the family farm in Pompey, NY on May 4, 1922 to Eli and Chana Rosenfeld, she had been a resident of Syracuse for most of her life. She married Robert “Mutsy” Wallace in 1941 and raised their family in Walton, NY until 1960 when they settled in Syracuse.

Evelyn was a graduate of Central High School. At 15, she played softball on the all-star team that went on to win the national championship in Chicago. She played on the first all-women’s football team in the country and was a swimmer extraordinaire who taught swimming as a teenager. She started a youth bowling league in Walton and continued to bowl until she was 91. She was an avid fan of SU sports. The Dodgers held a special place in her heart.

She always had a smile on her face and made everyone around her feel comfortable. She had a kind word for everyone and never complained.

Her husband “Mutsy” died in 2006. Her family includes her daughter Judy, her son Larry, grandsons Daniel and Aaron and great-grandchildren Patrick Jr. and Cori.

Contributions in her memory may be made to Boy’s Town, PO Box 8000, Boys Town, NE 68010.

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The obituary for Ida Mescon published in February should have been attributed to BIRNBAUM FUNERAL SERVICES.

The JO sincerely regrets the error.



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