

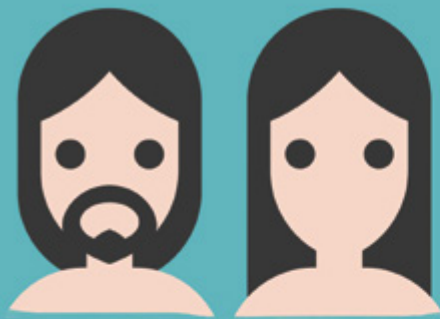
Jewish Observer of Central New York

A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID, SYRACUSE, NY & ADDITIONAL OFFICES

SYRACUSE, ISRAEL & THE JEWISH WORLD | WWW.JEWISHFEDERATIONCNY.ORG

JUNE 2024 | IYAR-SIVAN 5784



Jewish Names & Families



INSIDE:
CHOOSING TO
BE JEWISH
(7)



LOOK:
NOT EVERY
SAM
(8)



DON'T MISS:
JEWISH
FATHER JOKES
(11)

nationalgrid

SYRACUSE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FEST

2024



Kenny G



The O'Jays



The Mavericks



Gino Vannelli



Freda Payne



Catherine Russell



Gunhild Carling



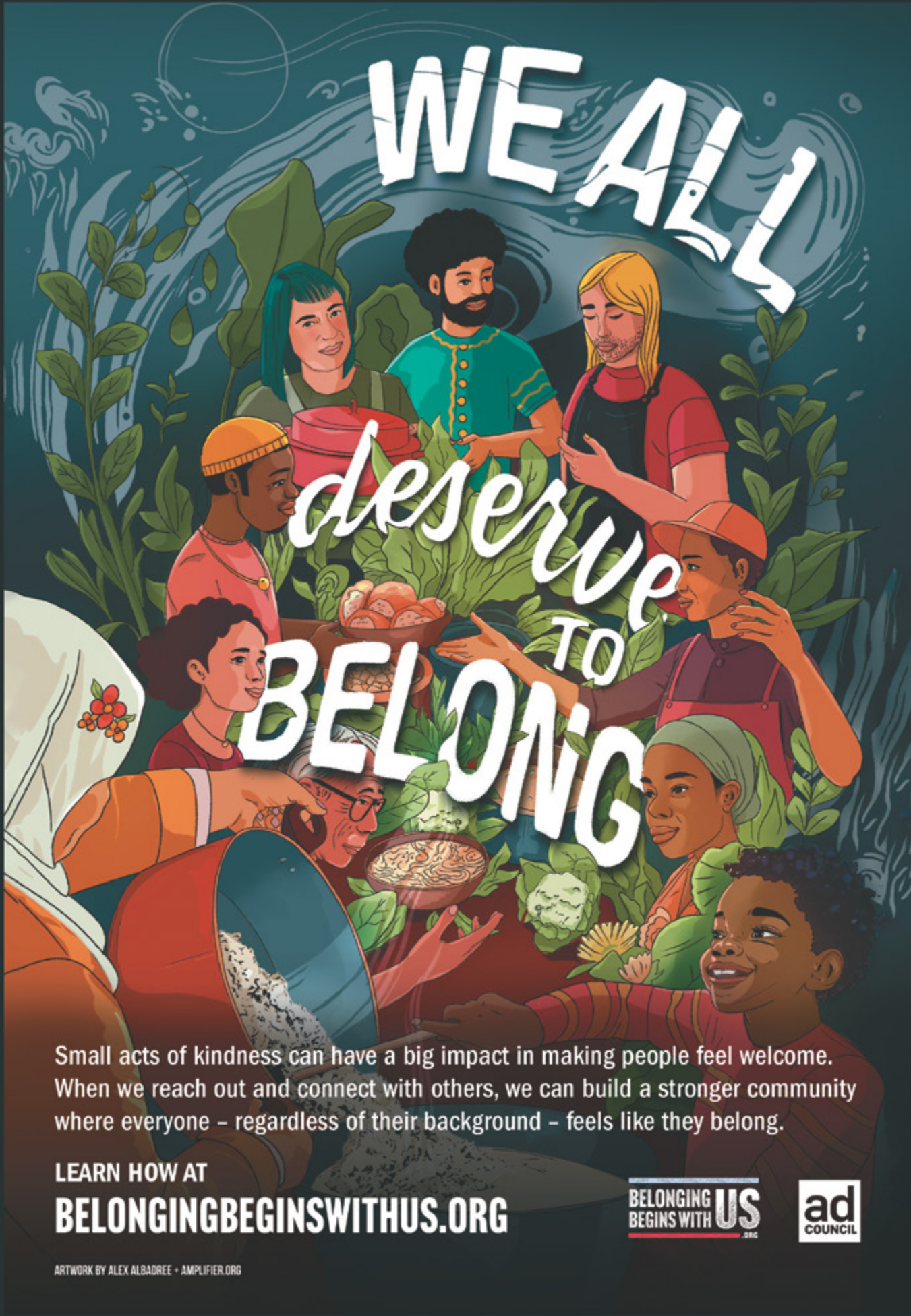
Jane Bunnett & Maqueque

June 26 - 30 | Free Admission | Syracuse, NY | Clinton Square

www.syracusejazzfest.com | www.VisitSyracuse.com

James Carter • Bill O'Connell • Joe Magnarelli • Wayne Tucker • Ralph Lalama • Marissa Mulder
 Brian Scherer • McKinley James • Akiko Tsuruga • Shawn Seals & SMX • Jimmy Johns • Frank Grosso
 The Instigators • ESP • Sam Wynn • David Solazzo & The Bridge • Jeff Martin • Drew Serafini
 Avenue J • Latin Groove Connection w/ Joe Carello • Tish Oney Tribute to Sarah Vaughan • Colleen Prossner





WE ALL

deserve
TO
BELONG

Small acts of kindness can have a big impact in making people feel welcome. When we reach out and connect with others, we can build a stronger community where everyone – regardless of their background – feels like they belong.

LEARN HOW AT
[BELONGINGBEGINSWITHUS.ORG](https://belongingbeginswithus.org)

BELONGING
BEGINS WITH **US**
.ORG

ad
COUNCIL

ARTWORK BY ALEX ALBADREE • AMPLIFIER.ORG

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

There were so many themes crowding this month's issue (*Shavuot*, the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi, choosing to be Jewish and Father's Day, that we decided to put them all together in an issue devoted to Jewish families and names. Let's start with names.

"What's in a name? that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet..."

Well, that's not really the case with Jewish names. Or at least that was the thinking of some Jews who felt that being called Rose was far better than being called Rosenberg. Originally, Jews did not have family names. Patronymics, such as David ben (son of) Yosef or Miriam bat (daughter of) Abram, still used in synagogue and Jewish legal documents, were the norm. Names changed from generation to generation, until secular authorities mandated hereditary surnames to identify, tax and draft Jews.

There are only three true Jewish surnames: Cohen, Levy and Israel. Cohn, Cahn, Kohn, Kahn, Kaplan and Kahan all derive from Cohen. Levin, Levine, Levitt, Lavine, Levitan, Lewinsky, Lewinson come from Levy. Other surnames were formed from a variety of sources: father's, mother's or spouse's name, occupations, descriptions or places of origin. The name of a parent or biblical figure could be turned into a surname by adding "son," "sohn" or "man" in German or Yiddish or "wicz," "witz," "witzer" or "ski" in Polish or Russian. Thus Mendel's son became Mendelsohn; Meyer's son, Meyerson; the son of Abraham, Abramson or Avromovitch; the son of Menashe, Manishewitz. Golda's husband took the surname Goldman and Gitl's spouse became Gittelman. The suffix -ez at the end of Spanish surnames also signified "son of" and can denote Jewish origins: Henriquez, Fernandez, Lopez, Martinez.

Names derived from places of origin include Deutsch, Frank, Franco, Frankel, van Ryn, van Voolen, Berliner, Moskowitz, Birnbaum, Rosenberg, Sommerfeld, Greenberg, Goldberg, Polano and Pollock, as well as Sephardic surnames like Silva, Leon, Navarro, Robles, Lisbona, Porto, Genovese and Montefiore.

Many names reflected the occupation of their possessor: Ackerman: plowman; Fleisher/Fleishman/Katzoff/Metzger: butcher; Drucker: printer; Einstein: mason; Farber: painter/dyer; Feinstein: jeweler; Garber/Gerber: tanner; Glazer/Glass/Sklar: glazier; Goldstein: goldsmith; Graber: engraver; Kramer: storekeeper; Plotnick: carpenter; Sandler/Shuster: shoemaker; Schmidt/Kovalsky: blacksmith; Silverstein: jeweler; Stein/Steiner/Stone: jeweler; Wasserman: water carrier.

Another characteristic of Jewish surnames was the use of specific suffixes. For example, names ending in "-berg" or "-burg" (meaning mountain or hill in German) are common among Ashkenazi Jews, particularly those with Eastern European roots, to wit: "Goldberg" or "Silverberg." Similarly, names ending in "stein" (meaning stone in German) are common; think "Einstein" or "Rubinstein."

Jewish first names were traditionally biblical in origin, but also echoed names popular in the countries in which Jews lived. Ashkenazi Jews name children after a deceased relative, while Sephardim consider it an honor to name a grandchild after a living grandparent. Most Jews living in the Diaspora have two names, one reflective of the society in which they live and their Hebrew name. When praying for someone, we use the person's Jewish matronym, but when a person is called for an *aliyah* to the Torah, we use the patronym or the names of both parents.

The complexities of naming are intriguing as is the whole subject of genealogy. It is said that a nation of immigrants always wants to know where they came from and more about

their origins. The Institute *Am HaZikaron*/People of Memory is a noncommercial research center studying the history and the heritage of the Jewish clans and families. The Institute was founded in 1998 in Tel-Aviv, Israel. One of the main tasks of the Institute is the restoration of the history of certain Jewish families in the context of the history of the whole Jewish people. *Am HaZikaron* is researching the origin of Jewish clans and searching the roots of modern Jews and develops and implements youth, educational and social projects in Israel, the United States and the countries of the former Soviet Union.

Another way to find out is to engage with a Jewish genealogy group, such as the Jewish Genealogical Society of Central New York which recently presented a program entitled "The Fluidity of Names." The *JO* is delighted that the talk's presenter, Susan Weinberg, agreed to write an article for our readers, which appears in this issue, to add even more information to the study of names and families.

June is also the month in which Americans celebrate Fathers Day and Jews celebrate *Shavuot*, both holidays which focus on familial relationships. So we have included a section of Jewish father jokes for your amusement and a serious book review/article about mothers-in-law in appreciation of the wisdom and kindness inherent in the relationship between Naomi and Ruth. The interplay between generations is always multifaceted, particularly in our present generation when technology, artificial intelligence and the internet have created a wide gap between generations in terms of expertise and experience. An article entitled "Emoji Blindness" engagingly addresses this theme.

Choosing to be Jewish is a profound and lifechanging decision and our issue contains a wonderful story about the journey to becoming Jewish. Conversion requires immersion in a *mikvah*, and we have included an in-depth article about our local *mikvah* in this issue. We round out the June *JO* with a beautiful poem about names by a local poet and a RAV Properties profile of a unique local publisher of poetry. We hope readers will find this issue interesting and informative. May your June be filled with many good things.

Published by
Jewish Federation of Central New York
5655 Thompson Road
DeWitt, NY 13214

phone: 315-445-0161
fax: 315-445-1599
jewishfederationcny.org



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



The Jewish Federation of Central New York is a proud member of the Jewish Federations of North America.

PRODUCED BY



BUFFALO SPREE PUBLISHING, INC.

President Sharon C. Levite
Vice President/Chief Revenue Officer Barbara E. Macks

Publisher..... Barbara E. Macks

ART, EDITORIAL & PRODUCTION

Creative Director Jean-Pierre Thimot
Lead Designer Kimberly Miers
Senior Graphic Designers Josh Flanigan, Nicholas Vitello
Graphic Designers Rachel Kaznica, Taramarie Mitravich

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Advertising..... Barbara E. Macks

National Ad Director Terri Downey
Senior Account Executives Mary Beth Holly, Caroline Kunze, Robin Lenhard

Account Executives Keren Green, Rachel Wasserman
Sales Coordinator Robin Lenhard

FINANCE

Finance Manager Elizabeth Harvey

Submissions:

Submit stories and photos no later than the 1st of the preceding month prior to publication to jo@jewishfederationcny.org.

To Advertise:

Ad space & materials are due by the 16th of each month prior to publication. For a rate card and any additional information, please email Barbara Macks at bmacks@buffalospreep.com.

To Subscribe:

To subscribe, email bdavis@jewishfederationcny.org. Free for Central New York area residents and donors to the Federation's annual campaign. Non-resident subscription is \$36 for 12 issues, payable to the *Jewish Observer*.

THE JEWISH OBSERVER OF CENTRAL NEW YORK (USPS 000939) (ISSN 1079-9842) Publications Periodical postage paid at Syracuse, NY and other offices. Published 12 times per year by the Jewish Federation of Central New York Inc., a non-profit corporation, 5655 Thompson Road, DeWitt, NY 13214. Subscriptions \$36/year; student \$10/year. POSTMASTER: Send address change to JEWISH OBSERVER OF CENTRAL NEW YORK, 5655 Thompson Road, DeWitt, NY 13214.

The *Jewish Observer of Central New York* reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time. The Jewish Federation of Central New York and Buffalo Spree Publishing, Inc. are not liable for the content or errors appearing in the advertisements beyond the cost of the space occupied. The *Jewish Observer* does not assume responsibility for the kashrut of any product or service advertised in this paper. Editorials, columns, advertisements, agency reports and other outside articles do not necessarily represent the views of the newspaper or the Jewish Federation of Central New York, but rather express the view of the writer.

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

JFNA Young Leadership Cabinet Mission to South America



by Leah Goldberg

Sometimes when you live in a small community like Syracuse, you forget about the worldwide Jewish community and how resilient we are. In 2019, I joined the JFNA Young Leadership Cabinet, a six-year commitment with Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada. During the program, we learn, connect, engage and are inspired about Jewish philanthropy.

As part of the Cabinet program, I recently went on the mission to Argentina and Uruguay. These missions are meant to teach our cabinet chevres where our federation dollars go and how we help the greater Jewish community. When you donate to the campaign, every community donates 30% to their partner agencies JDC (Joint Distribution Committees), JAFI (The Jewish Agency for Israel) and ORT, the global Jewish education network.

There were 134 of us from different communities on this mission. We started our trip in Buenos Aires with a special dinner with US Ambassador Marc Stanley and visited LeDor VaDor, a state-of-the-art Jewish home. We connected with the elderly residents by singing and dancing together. We then travelled by boat to Uruguay where we spoke to teens in the many different youth organizations in South America. These teens were extremely Zionist and so proud to be Jewish! They visit Israel during their program and return home to teach the younger Jewish generation how to be a Zionist. I also visited a Sephardic synagogue and met with many local Jewish volunteers. We returned to Argentina and visited the ORT school, one of the largest Jewish schools in the world, with over 9,000 students. Their STEM-oriented approach combined with

Jewish cultural and religious education fosters a unique and strong community in the school. In the primary school, the students learn Jewish studies and Hebrew, as well as English which starts at the age of 3. Listening to the students in the primary school sing songs and learn about Pesach reminded me so much of SHDS. Starting in 7th grade, they choose a track to focus on, like construction, technology, music production and more. The school is not only extremely impressive, sophisticated and advanced, but has become one of the leading high schools in Buenos Aires. We also got a tour of the famous River Plate stadium and heard from the famous sports broadcaster, Hernan Feler, who has been a strong advocate for the hostages, as his aunt was kidnapped on October 7th. Hernan starts every football match naming each hostage and hoping one day for their return.

We ended the week at the AMIA building, the site of the 1994 Jewish Center bombing. The beautiful memorial included an incredible Yaacov Agam sculpture and an enormous mural honoring the 85 lives lost and the hundreds injured. We also sat in on a service for Argentinians who are making *aliyah* to Israel. As they stood under the chuppah, the rabbi gave them good wishes, and we all joined in for the

Shehecheyanu. With love and pride in our hearts, we sang *Hatikvah* as their send-off. It was emotional and heartwarming.

This amazing trip reminded me how our Federation dollars not only help our Syracuse community but so many other

Jewish communities around the world. Everywhere we went, the Jewish people of South America were so grateful to us. But also, I was so grateful to them. In a post 10/7 world, the Zionist views of the people of Argentina and Uruguay gave me so much hope that the Jewish people will prevail and are stronger than ever. This was such an amazing opportunity, and it truly inspired me. I was extremely proud that our Central New York dollars are making this happen across the world.



The 106th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Central New York will be held at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas in person and via Zoom on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

A dessert reception will precede the meeting at 7 pm. The entire community is invited to attend. The program appears below as does the link for the meeting.

We hope you will join with us to honor and celebrate the leaders and volunteers who do so much for our community.

WELCOME

Neil Rosenbaum, Board Chair

INVOCATION

Rabbi Oren Steinitz

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Cantor Esa Jaffe, Temple Adath Yeshurun

FEDERATION ANNUAL REPORT

Michael Balanoff, President/CEO

CAMPAIGN REPORT

Nan Fechtner, Campaign Chair

GUEST SPEAKER

Rabbi Irwin Huberman, Congregation Tifereth Israel

ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Adam Fumarola, Nominating Committee Chair

INTRODUCTION OF PIERSON 4 UNDER 40 AWARD WINNERS

Neil Rosenbaum

PRESENTATION OF ROTH AWARD TO NEIL ROSENBAUM

HATIKVAH

Cantor Kari Eglash, Temple Concord

ZOOM LINK: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3201620113?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3201620113?pwd=cUlncK1xTko2Z04wUGkrSHQ1Z3ZKUT09)
pwd=cUlncK1xTko2Z04wUGkrSHQ1Z3ZKUT09
PW: 1948

Thoughts on *Shavuot* 2024

by **Rabbi Oren Steinitz**,

Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas

As you can probably imagine, our move from Israel to North America in the mid-2000s was accompanied by a healthy dose of culture shock. We had to get used to many new customs and sensibilities, not to mention a completely different form of driving. While we expected feeling a little bit like fish out of water in the general community, we somehow assumed that we would feel right at home in the Jewish community. After all, both Adar and I were no strangers to North American Judaism, having spent time in the US and Canada before, having a lot of family on this side of the pond and belonging to a (mostly Anglo) Conservative congregation in Israel. That turned out to not be the case. Very quickly we discovered that while many aspects of American Judaism felt very familiar, others felt incredibly foreign. We were stunned,



for example, at how few families had regular Shabbat dinners – a custom observed almost universally by Israelis, regardless of religiosity. Same goes for driving on Yom Kippur – a day in which Israeli roads are so quiet that many nonobservant children and teens take advantage of the opportunity and go biking on major highways.

Another major difference that I still find puzzling is how many in the non-Orthodox community completely disregard the festivals of *Sukkot* and *Shavu'ot*. While Israeli kids from all groups and sectors look forward to building a *sukkah*, having meals there and even sleeping there (or at least

begging their parents to let them do it), many American Jews view this holiday as a minor holiday, mostly observed by the Orthodox. Those who do observe it focus mostly on the synagogue services and the taking of the *lulav* and *etrog* rather than the outdoorsy aspect of the holiday. (Yes, weather may have something to do with the reason.)

But none of these differences come close to how *Shavu'ot* is celebrated. Even though *Shavu'ot*, and especially *tikkun leil shavu'ot*, the nightly study session observed by many on the eve of the holiday, is experiencing a resurgence in American congregations (and who does not want an excuse to eat cheesecake?), *Shavu'ot* is mainly observed in America in the context of *yom matan torah* – the day in which the Torah was given. It is almost entirely forgotten that this aspect of the festival is a later tradition, not mentioned in the Torah at all. In fact, the Torah tells us to “observe the Feast of Weeks, of the first fruits of

the wheat harvest; and the Feast of Ingathering at the turn of the year” (Exodus 34:22.) Not only does the Torah command a pilgrimage to Jerusalem on *Shavu'ot*, but also to bring the first fruits of the season to the Temple.

Since the beginning of Zionist movement, *Shavu'ot* became a major festival in Israel because of its emphasis on nature, agriculture and cultivating the land. *Kibbutzim*, *moshavim* and other farming communities would celebrate the holiday by presenting the first crops of the year (as well as all the babies born in the past year) in a festive ceremony attended by the entire community.

One of my fondest childhood memories was celebrating *Shavu'ot* at *Kibbutz Magen*, where my uncle and aunt live. We would gather at the large field by the *kibbutz's* dining hall, where all the different agricultural machinery would be proudly displayed. Everyone was dressed in white, and the ceremony included lots of singing and Israeli folk dancing. After the bringing of all the new crops, the new young animals, and the presentation of the new babies, the ceremony would end with a fabulous meal comprised of all the different crops.

This year, the holiday would be particularly bittersweet for me. *Kibbutz Magen* is one of the Gaza Envelope *Kibbutzim* that were viciously attacked on October 7th. Only due to the *kibbutz's* security team, and a large dose of luck, the *kibbutz* suffered a minimal number of casualties. My aunt and uncle, both in their early 90s, recently returned home after being evacuated for close to six months following the attack. *Kibbutz Nir Oz*, the neighboring *kibbutz* which my uncle founded, was not as lucky and lost over a quarter of their membership on that day. The *kibbutz* was destroyed almost entirely, with several of its members still being held hostage in Gaza. I do not believe any of the *kibbutzim* in the area will hold their traditional *Shavu'ot* celebrations this year but let us pray that next year celebrations will be able to resume.

crouse.org/ER

SHORTEST WAIT TIMES.

S Exclusive healthcare partner
of Syracuse® Athletics

CROUSE
Emergency Services

» BOOK REVIEW

Making Room for Her: Biblical Wisdom for a Healthier Relationship with Your Mother-in-Law or Daughter-in-Law by Barbara and Stacy Reaoch

Reviewed by Jackie Miron

The mother-in-law, daughter-in-law relationship is one of the most complicated and challenging to manage. It is consistently one with a reputation for causing friction, as two women compete for the love and attention of the same man. But there are just as many wonderful and cohesive MIL/DIL connections built.

The first thing that comes to mind when thinking of a successful way to handle a new marriage is for the MIL to “shut up and wear beige.” Here is a book that attempts to present the relationship in a more manageable light, and give hope for more positive interactions.

Making Room for Her, by Barbara and Stacy Reaoch, is on the right course from the very beginning, written by a MIL/DIL pair with alternating perspectives and chronicles the timeline from their first meeting to further on in the marriage. It is easy for the reader to identify with both participants, and there are other pairs with similar and yet different challenges presented throughout the authors’ tales. Each chapter goes into details regarding different topics and are titled for example, Expectations, Communication, Conflict, Expression, Suffering, Love, and a special chapter for the most famous MIL/DIL story of Ruth and Naomi.

The writing in this book is easy, conversational, to the point and holds your attention with ease. However, if you are not up for bible references on almost every page, this book is not for you. The assumption from a quick synopsis is that the reference for the story of Ruth and Naomi will be the expected biblical citations. The constant bible quotations and references are appropriate, interesting, thought-provoking and fitting. Just more than a reader may prefer.

The writers give ample reasoning for the feelings of both MIL and DIL at every point, and there is always a scenario that matches your situation or others you may know. It is a pleasant read, where advice is not constantly pushed



upon you, but rather evoking your own thoughts of how you can do better, and understand the others’ perspective more and more. It challenges you to think about poor behavior, saying too much, saying too little.

For example, it is stated that God created relationships to help us see what real love looks like. It means sacrifice and service, flexibility and growth. It means asking questions, treating others with respect, discussing conflict points often and in advance. Anticipate struggles and resolve them with clear and calm interaction. The new relationship is a change of family structure, of the family leadership. We must celebrate differences while building up others instead of tearing them down. Show belief in the new person (MIL or DIL). How you handle misfortunes and suffering brings the chance to show love for the other, as bearing burdens creates even greater love.

Love is kind and patient; love shouldn’t envy and doesn’t keep score. Think how you could be a better MIL or DIL, and learn contentment for what is happening now and be open to changes in the future.

And keep in mind the ultimate MIL/DIL story that has stood the test of time, the story of Ruth and Naomi. As a reminder for everyone, or if you do not know the story: A family is driven by hunger to Israel’s enemy land of Moab. The family of two parents and two sons is sadly shaken with the death of the patriarch. The two sons marry Moab women, Ruth and Oprah. The sons both perish, leaving the three women with

nothing. Naomi (the mother) decides to return home, and expects her daughters-in-law to stay behind. Ruth surprises Naomi and leaves with her. Ruth shows true love, honor, devotion and faith to Naomi. God is willing to accept outsiders, as

He did of Ruth, and rewards them by blessing the family with descendants for the community leadership in the future.

The book is easy, quick, digestible, readable in less than a couple hours. We could all use a reminder of the benefits of serving others.



Property Restoration Inc.
Fire & Water Damage Restoration
Emergency 24/7 & Holidays 315.454.0518

Offering Full Restoration and Construction Services



315.454.0518
Art Diamond, owner

Make Your Home Your DREAM Home

Build an addition or renovate!
Need a home equity loan?



GET IT AT GEDDES!

315-468-6281 • GeddesFederal.com
2208 West Genesee Street, Syracuse
240 West Seneca Street, Manlius



My Journey to Judaism

By Sonali McIntyre

Like most people, I've spent my life trying to figure out two things: who I am and where I belong. I grew up in a small, rural town in Upstate New York; a first-generation American to Sri Lankan immigrant parents. My father was Buddhist and my mother Catholic. Their arranged marriage decreed to raise sons as Buddhists and daughters as Catholic. I was baptized as a baby into the Catholic faith, but my mother did not feel welcomed at the Catholic church in our town. She said, "They treated me like a leper because of my dark skin" and left the Church before I was a toddler.

As a teen, I attended the church in our town where I was baptized. I participated in the yearly Passion play and volunteered when I could. I never felt like I fit in, though, as everyone my age was receiving communion and preparing for confirmation – sacraments I never received because my mother had left the church. At age of 22, I completed my Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults and threw myself into becoming a fully participating member of the church, volunteering, attending women's bible study and prayer events and joining the choir. I felt good – helping people, bringing joy and comfort through song – and found a small sense of belonging.

In 2010, I began working at Temple Adath Yeshurun. I was fascinated by the traditions and rituals I experienced there. Five years later, I reconnected with a friend from college and we began dating. We would church hop, attending different Catholic churches for services, trying to find somewhere that felt comfortable for me. Derrick was raised Catholic but is not religious; he was just supporting my journey. But I never found a church that made me feel whole.

After a year, Derrick proposed and we found a house in a tiny town 75 miles east of Syracuse. The day we moved in, I was shocked to see a *mezuzah* on our door frame at the entrance of our home. It was a sign for me; a reminder that God's presence was with me and that I was moving in the direction I was supposed to.

When Derrick and I got married, we had a civil ceremony on my grandparents' anniversary and a religious ceremony on his grandparents' anniversary. Our church ceremony was in the church in which his grandparents had been married; our son Levi was baptized during our wedding ceremony; Levi's baptismal gown was made from Derrick's grandmother's wedding dress. For me, the day was special because of the sense of tradition and family. We connected to the generations before us, who were no longer there but who were missed and



with me. There wasn't a question I couldn't ask. My experiences with Rabbi Drazen and his family, especially during Passover, sparked my interest in Judaism. Learning from him and discussing Judaism with him, I found something I'd always been missing. It began to feel like I was finding my way home. Sadly, Rabbi Drazen passed away three years after we met. The loss shook me and I felt lost again, like I had lost my strongest tie to Judaism.

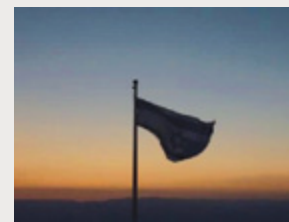
The pandemic brought me back to Judaism. During lockdown, I learned about *pikuach nefesh* - saving a life. I was bombarded with social media posts by Christian and Catholic friends, crying out to be in church to feel closer to God; that a building is where His presence existed. Meanwhile, Jews across the globe put aside centuries-old traditions and practices in order to preserve life.

As the years went on, church never felt like the place where I found comfort. *Pikuach nefesh*, for me, was not only about saving a life, but saving my soul. I began to find my way home. I began to find my path to belonging. It has been my time spent in the temple that made me feel warmth and comfort. It has been the people in the Jewish community who guided me and made me feel at home and at peace. Judaism has helped me find myself and find what makes me feel whole.

With the full support of my husband, I completed my conversion on February 14, 2022, just six weeks before our second child, Lincoln, was born. Lincoln is Jewish by birth. I had my first *aliyah* on *Parashat Ki Tisa*. We left the decision up to our older son to complete his conversion when he felt ready. After six beautiful months at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, he'd found his sense of belonging and sense of self and told us he was ready. Levi's conversion took place on February 25, 2024 and the following Shabbat was *Parashat Ki Tisa*. Once again, we were welcomed to the *bimah* with an *aliyah*, and this time I was able to read Torah. The bond I have with my children, through Judaism, is deep in my soul and shines through the traditions and rituals we share. We are a Jewish family. We found our place in this world. We belong.

felt in spirit. It wasn't religion that tied us all together, it was threads of family and traditions of past generations. *L'dor v'dor*.

In 2015, TAY hired Rabbi Paul Drazen, the most inclusive and welcoming person I'd ever met in my life. He was so open and excited to share Judaism



I Was Named in Israel

by Diana Koester

I was named in Israel

Atop Masada, at sunrise.
I took the name Shaina Miriam
And embraced the legacy of
My birthright,
Which goes back millennia.

I have sung in Israel

In the Negev, under the stars.
My brethren and I sang
Wonderwall and Oseh Shalom,
Save Tonight and
Am Yisrael Chai.

I have prayed in Israel

With my hands pressed against
The Western Wall,
All that remains of the Temple of old.
Riddled with bullet holes
Ancient and modern,
The Old City received my
Prayers for peace.

I have wept in Israel

For the plight of all affected by
Terror,
All who are caught in crossfire
When they would have peace
And safety.
I have spent time with
Palestinian children
And appealed to my Jewish peers
On their behalf.
I have shed tears for us all.

I do not live in Israel.

I cannot fight in their wars
Or vote in their elections.
I have precious little money to offer
In support of their needs.

**But I can sing, and I can pray.
I can weep, and I can speak out.
For I was named in Israel,
And Israel lives in me**

Photo Credit: Diana Koester. "I took this photo of the Israeli flag waving in the breeze as the sun began to rise atop Mount Masada in January 2007, the morning I received my Hebrew name. Each time I am called to the bimah to pray, each time I am called by that name, it brings me back to the Holy Land. By my very name, I carry the Holy Land with me, wherever I may be."

Choosing To Be Jewish and the *Mikvah*

“And Ruth said: ‘Entreat me not to leave thee, and to return from following after thee; for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.’”

What physical act could a person perform to symbolize a radical change of heart, a total commitment to something new and different? Jewish tradition prescribes a profound experience: immersion in a radically different physical environment – in water rather than air. Ritual immersion is the total submersion of the body in a pool of water. This pool and its water are precisely prescribed by Jewish law. Immersion, *tevillah*, takes place in a *mikvah* (Hebrew) or *mikveh* (Yiddish), a ritual bath designed for the Jewish rite of purification. The water of the mikvah is designed to ritually cleanse a person from the past, leaving only the future.

A *mikvah* is not merely a pool of water. It must be composed of stationary, not flowing, water and must contain a certain percentage of water derived from a natural source, such as a rain, an ocean or a lake. The water must be deep enough to allow



a person to submerge completely. Ritual purification in a *mikvah* is used for a wide range of purposes, including but not limited to conversion, before a wedding and before Shabbat or Yom Kippur. Both men and women can use the *mikvah*. Cooking utensils and dishes may also be immersed in the *mikvah* to render them kosher; this is called *keilim*.

In the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, the *mikvah* was used by all Jews who wanted to enter the precincts of the sanctuary. The law required every person

inside the Temple grounds to be in a spiritually pure state appropriate to the pristine spirituality of the sanctuary itself. Today, a major function of immersion in the *mikvah* is for conversion to Judaism. The sages declare that a gentile who wishes to become a Jew must undergo the identical process by which Jewish ancestors converted. As Jews performed immersion at Mt. Sinai to complete the conversion process they had begun with circumcision as they left Egypt, so converts in every age must immerse in a *mikvah*. “As soon as the convert immerses and emerges, he is a Jew in every respect,” says *Yevamot 47b*.

Europe’s oldest surviving *mikvah* is located in Siracusa in Sicily. It is 2000 years old. Central New York’s Ahavath Achim Mikvah is much more recent and is located on the grounds of Menorah Park at 4101 East Genesee Street. It is not the oldest *mikvah* in Syracuse. That distinction

belongs to the *mikvah* of Kneset Shalom or Temple Society of Concord. When the synagogue building was constructed in 1851, “a (modern) ritual bath (*mikvah*), with hot and cold water, was built in the basement.” Congregation Ahavath Achim, established in 1913 and known as Beth Hamedrash Hagodel or the “New Shule,” was located on Almond Street. It too had a *mikvah*, but the building was razed in 1969. Young Israel, established in 1945 and located on East Genesee and Allen streets also had a *mikvah* but in 1984, the congregation merged with Shaarei Torah and its building was sold. The Ahavath Achim Mikvah was built on the grounds of Menorah Park several decades ago and has been in continual use since that time.

At present, however, the *mikvah* is in poor condition due to mold and deterioration. Estimates of the costs for renovation and repair are \$80,000 to \$100,000. While close to half of that has been raised to date, a community campaign to raise the balance will soon be undertaken, spearheaded by Rabbi Evan Shore. More information will be made available as plans are firmed up, but anyone who is interested in contributing should contact Rabbi Shore.

The Jewish Golf Event *of the* Season!



The Menorah Park Open Wednesday, August 14 at Drumlins East

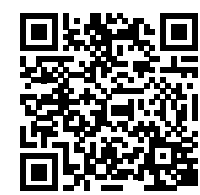
Join us! In our 41st year, the Menorah Park Open and Silent Auction is a CNY Jewish legacy. Proceeds benefit programs and facilities for our continuum-of-care campus. Enjoy a great day on the course or come for dinner and bid at the Silent Auction, all for a great cause.

Lunch - Noon
Tee Off - 1 PM - Reception - 5 PM
Dinner/Awards - 6 PM

See you there!



Visit MenorahParkofCNY.com OR Scan the Code today for more information, to register your foursome (singles welcome) or your dinner reservation, and to support us with a sponsorship or donation.



Not Every Sam was a Schloime or a Shmuel

by Susan Weinberg

In Jewish genealogy, the fluidity of given names is often a brick wall. You can't find the record if you don't know the name.

Jewish traditions have unique features, presenting both challenges and clues. Typically, a Jewish child receives a secular name and a Hebrew name. For Ashkenazic Jews, that name is usually after a deceased grandparent or great-grandparent. When several cousins bear the same name, you can assume that a grandparent of similar name probably died shortly before.

Our ancestors came from another country where they had a secular name, a Hebrew name and often a nickname. They Americanized their name, selecting a new name that may or may not resemble their former name. Having made that leap into a new life, they often continued to modify their name, trying on new identities.

To work your way back, you will want to learn their Hebrew and Yiddish names. To follow their trail in the United States, you will need to trace name changes. So how do we do that?



A unique feature in Jewish tradition, the tombstone, provides the Hebrew name. If you are fortunate, there will be Hebrew on your family tombstones that will reveal both the decedent's Hebrew name and their father's. You may be able to work from Hebrew name to the secular Yiddish name found on the immigration manifest. Often the Yiddish name is shortened from the Hebrew. Yisrael becomes Srul, Ishaya becomes Shaja, Eliazar becomes Lazar.

Certain names may be calques. A calque has the same meaning in a different language and is often associated with animals. Aryeh means lion in Hebrew, Leib means lion in Yiddish. If the tombstone reads Aryeh, their secular name was likely Leib. In the US, they often became Louis. Dov means bear in Hebrew, Ber in Yiddish. Sometimes the two names are combined as Dov Ber, but there are often unrelated double names. And don't forget those nicknames. Dov often became Berek or Berel because of the Yiddish form.

After 1906, the naturalization record will show the name they went by in the US and if different, the given name and surname when they entered the country. You can work back from that document to the immigration manifest. One thing you will discover is that not every Sam was a Schloime or a Shmuel. They may have been given another name with an "S", such as Shimon or Shaja.

When our ancestors arrived, they discovered the popular names of the day and quickly assumed those that resembled their Yiddish name. Batya became Bessie, Chaim become Hyman, and Chana, Anna. But not always! Some names hardly changed at all. Binyamin became Benjamin 94% of the time. You may be surprised to know that in 97% of cases Ze'ev became William. Ze'ev is a calque meaning Wolf. Wolf to William makes more sense but is puzzling if you didn't know about calques.

There were no rules governing which name they took, and names often evolved. The best way to trace them is to review city directories and census records, tracing them in family groupings so you can continue to track them as names change. You may find small changes where Bertha becomes Bessie, Betsy and Betty. Conversely, I've seen a Chaim become Elmer and Norman.

Never assume a name was static. Knowing a person's name at a particular time will allow you to locate records from that period. If you have a gap with no records, consider the possibility that records are hiding in plain sight, just by a different name.

Camp Zeke Offers Jewish Family-Friendly Fun in June

The Jewish Federation of Central New York is again pleased to offer young families from our community the opportunity to spend a relaxing, fun-filled and joyous weekend at Camp Zeke. The program is offered June 28-30 and the cost is only \$250 per family. Participating families must have one child under the age of 8, but extended families, including grandparents, are welcome.

Here's what last year's campers said about the experience:

- "The staff is extremely friendly and very helpful."
- "We had a fantastic time!"
- "We thought the programming was varied and interesting. Our youngest daughter really liked learning to make sushi."
- "I think the most important thing was that we were able to connect with a couple of families that we know and wanted to know better."
- "Our kids had a blast and really loved being at camp, especially hanging out and playing with their friends."
- "The activity options were impressively wide-ranging and well-resourced (great sport facilities, and it was really great to be able to be so active and incorporate health and fitness into the weekend)."
- "We particularly enjoyed the nighttime childcare so parents could get together, circus activities, boating, Jewish singing, availability of vegetarian food - but most of all we appreciated the opportunity to connect with other Jewish families and play with other Jewish children from the area."
- "We can't wait to go back!"

The cost of the Shabbat weekend family camp is normally \$750, but Federation is subsidizing the cost for CNY families so it is only \$250. The family camp



allows families to relax, have fun and spend quality time together and meet new friends while building community in a beautiful setting that's deeply rooted in Jewish values.

The camp is a 2-hour drive from Syracuse, straight down 81 South. It 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 can 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. All family structures are welcome, including 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 special needs.

To apply for Camp Zeke, email bdavis@jewishfederationcny.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.

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

Bitter Oleander Press

The Bitter Oleander Press has been providing the poetry reading public with a deep-image driven poetry since 1974. They publish works which open readers' eyes to a world they mistakenly thought they knew, but to which, in fact, they were blinded by habits, education, routines, and beliefs.

For twenty-seven years, editor and publisher Paul B. Roth, himself a poet, published a celebrated biannual journal, *The Bitter Oleander*, along with a focus on The Bitter Oleander books program. The press now publishes books of poetry in translation, particularly of "contemporary international poets whose work is either still unknown to an English-speaking audience or has hardly been published in translation" because Roth has "always wanted to present how our distinctive likenesses as humans mirror each other through the complexities of different languages."

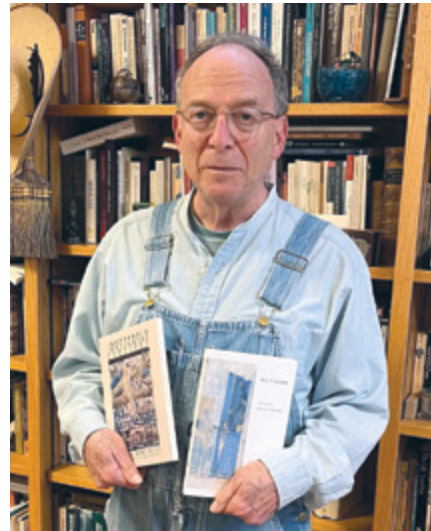
English translations appear beside their originals. Bitter Oleander Press demands "a serious poetry devoid of clichés and predictable twists of ill-worn or entrenched truths," preferring "a heightened music driven by a profound linguistic rhythm." It strives to preclude "the conventional issues and sentiments on which mainstream poetry thrives, with a poetry not only rich in its imagination but one that treats words as sacred rather than vehicles to the same intersections and experiences over and over again."

The press places a special emphasis on contemporary poets to give readers access to poets whose work, though honored and significant in their own cultures and countries, has yet to emerge in ours. Their book list includes such international poets as Benjamin Perèt (France), Joyce Mansour (France), Nicomedes Suárez-Araúz (Bolivia), Alberto Blanco (Mexico), Philippe Rahmy (Switzerland), Jacques Dupin (France), Kristiina Ehin (Estonia), Ana Minga (Ecuador), José-Flore Tappy (Switzerland), Karl Krolow (Germany), Hai Zi (China), Salvador Novo (Mexico), Eunice Odio (Costa Rica), Nora Iuga (Romania), Pierre Voélin (Switzerland), Christine Lavant (Austria), Franca Mancinelli (Italy), Carsten René Nielsen (Denmark), Marie Lundquist (Sweden), André du Bouchet (France), Salgado Maranhão (Brazil), and Riad Saleh Hussein (Syria).

Because it is open to submissions from all cultures, people and languages, Bitter Oleander's editor prides himself on answering every request, every order,

every submission, every letter of gratitude and annoyance personally because he feels there's absolutely no substitute for the one-to-one exchange which can and should take place between editor and writer. The press publishes four to six books of poetry a year. Roth explains that he likes to consider "more imaginative texts from translators whose poets take chances, who open doors that have previously had no keys."

He began the journal and the press out of a desire "to seek out the most imaginative poetry possible. Poetry written by poets who did not just write poems but lived the lives of serious, thoughtful poets. The human condition



was very important to me. I sought it through poetry and through my own life. I mostly found it among those whose work was not necessarily accepted in the regular marketplace nor had any connection to the academic community where acceptance and notoriety are bred and bargained. These poets needed to

have as formidable a venue for their work as possible."

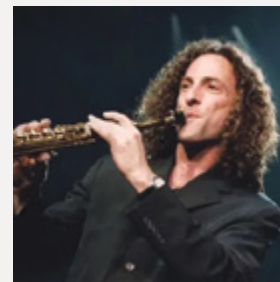
Roth's intent is "to have a place where highly imaginative poetry could express itself. It's important to understand that we're not talking about fantasy when we say imaginative. What we mean by imaginative is the ability of an individual to express his or her own uniqueness through a very specialized language." The poets he prizes are those from whom there comes "a constant flow of poems opening places in my perception that otherwise would have been left in cold storage. These particular poems come from the deepest of human conditions, dwell on what's ultimately important in life by either expressing the suffering and injustices that abound our civilization or the rapture of seeing, hearing or feeling something one never knew existed." (*For more information about Bitter Oleander Press, go to <https://www.bitteroleander.com/>*)

What's In A Name: Kenny G.

Kenneth Bruce Gorelick is a Jewish American jazz saxophonist, composer and producer with global record sales totaling more than 75 million. You've probably never heard of him. But by another name, Kenny G., you will probably recognize him as one of the most successful pop music instrumentalists of all time.

Born in Seattle, Washington to Jewish parents, Kenneth grew up in the city's Seward Park neighborhood, which is a center of the city's Jewish community. As Kenny G., he will be the featured performer at the 38th Annual Syracuse International Jazz Fest, to be held June 26-30 in Clinton Square in downtown Syracuse.

Frank Malfitano, founder and executive producer of the festival, explained why Kenny G. is headlining the event: "Kenny is a global super star. He's iconic. And he's beloved. He's one of the top-selling artists in the history of jazz, but he's also a pop star and a rock star and a phenomenal entertainer." He adds, "I've worked with Kenny twice previously at Syracuse Jazz Fest and it's been an amazing experience for our festival audiences and for me, personally. Kenny is an artist who never fails to deliver. His entrances are spectacular and always exciting and he works an audience like no one else in the business. He's a major crowd pleaser and an entertainer who puts on a great show. He's everything that's great about the American show business tradition, a craft I greatly admire. He's a showman. He works the crowd. And he delivers hit after hit and pulls in huge crowds to the festival. His enormous reach and drawing power with a variety of audiences also plays heavily into the philosophy of



the festival. At Jazz Fest we want to bring people together and we want to entertain the entire community with top name entertainers, free of charge, at a time when ticket prices are out of reach for many members of our community. Kenny brings people together in a way few artists can match. His universal appeal in the entertainment industry is a rare commodity and something we seldom

see these days. We saw it with Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Barbra Streisand, Michael Jackson, but we haven't seen that kind of broad-based appeal from an artist in a very long time. But Kenny still has that. Everyone loves him. He's also a wonderful guy who's a joy to be around."

Kenny G. will appear alongside R&B and Soul legends The O'Jays, Montreal Jazz vocalist Gino Vannelli, and Americana stars, the Florida-based Mavericks, who hail from Cuban roots and feature the award-winning vocals of the great Raul Malo. The free admission festival, which returned to downtown Syracuse in 2022, features 24 Syracuse-based regional jazz groups in 21 club venues on the festival's opening night of Wednesday.

On Friday, June 28th, Kenny G. will headline the festival's third evening at Clinton Square and will be preceded by the SU Student Jazz Combo Orange Juice, vocalist Freda "Band of Gold" Payne, and Swedish multi-instrumentalist, entertainer and vocalist Gunhild Carling who plays eleven different instruments and has recorded and toured worldwide with Postmodern Jukebox.

Emoji Blindness



By Michael Gordon

I seem to have developed a neurological problem that has impaired my ability to communicate effectively. How I succumbed to this disorder I do not know. Maybe forever chemicals are at fault, or the stresses engendered by the stark political divide we are experiencing as a nation, or my rapidly advancing age or the late-emerging consequences of some youthful indiscretions. It could be any number of interacting factors that have left me diminished.

Because I don't believe my condition has a formal label, I will assume that taxonomic responsibility. Borrowing from the field of learning disabilities and riffing on the concept of "word blindness," my suggestion would be "emoji blindness."

That's right, I am profoundly unable to accurately interpret all but the most obvious of icons. I get that the smiley face emoji is unambiguously intended to communicate happiness. And the sad face emoji reflects unhappiness. The thumbs up icon is straightforward enough, as is the poop emoji my grandson includes in almost every single message he transmits.

But beyond those unmistakable expressions of stark emotions or poop,

I'm lost. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but that's about how many I need to clarify what a particular emoji might be broadcasting.

Here's one I got the other day in a message a friend sent me about some recordings I had engineered for her: 🙏

I am unclear what she wanted to communicate with those hands pressed together (and, no, the mail server did not offer a clarifying mouseover). Was she telling me I should pray? That she's praying for me? That she was fervently beseeching me to send more recordings? That she wanted to thank me? That she was humbled before me? That she revered me? That she was joining a monastery? That she was high fiving me?

And why did she need a pictogram when, with a few simple words, she could have unambiguously expressed whatever she was intending to express?

I confronted this icon in a chat after I had meekly offered an opinion for my wife to consider: 😊

Is it clear to you how I was to interpret this response? Was she perplexed? Sad? Angry? Surprised? Confused? Disappointed? Frustrated? Experiencing some gastrointestinal distress?

She eventually clarified that it was

(nearly) all the above. She is a woman of broad and variegated emotions.

I do believe it a blessing that our forefathers relied solely on inked text. Could you take the Torah seriously if you looked down at the scrolls and saw something like 🍆, instead of "Be strong and courageous"? Or how about if the New Testament put ❤️ instead of "Love thy neighbor as thyself"? It just wouldn't be the same, right?

I was almost completely turned off to the use of emojis until I got a text message from a stranger named Desiree who, for some reason, wanted to know if I was up for a chat. The SMS included emojis that clued even me into the nature of the interactions she was soliciting. Suffice it to say that my view of eggplants and peaches will never be the same.

I feel about the overuse of emojis the way I do about exclamation points. They seem to have replaced periods as the preferred way to end almost every phrase or sentence. Yesterday I got this message: "We are going next week to visit my mother!!! I hope you and I can have lunch on Tuesday before we leave! It's supposed to rain so you won't be able to golf anyhow!!!"

My understanding of exclamation points is that they are intended to

express excitement or surprise. I reserve them for truly exhilarating instances, like "I hit the ball from the fairway to within four feet of the hole, and I actually made the putt!" That's an event that deserves a punctuation mark celebrating the elation that envelops such a rare occurrence.

But my friend needed not one but three exclamation points to convey the idea that it might rain or that she was visiting her mother?

I can't accept that over-users of exclamation points are consistently thrilled about every thought that comes into their minds. Are all events, even the most mundane, electrifying to some degree? Are these people forever pumped or surprised? Do their personal volume knobs only turn from enthusiastic (!) to excited (!!) to thrilled (!!!) — all the way up maybe to a bona fide manic phase (!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)?

To my mind, if you're always that elated, you're either on some really good medication, taking full advantage of the new cannabis laws or you doth protest too much. Regardless, you are trivializing what makes that punctuation point special.

So how do I feel about the overuse of emojis and exclamation points?

🙄!!!!

Happy
Passover
from

ACE
Village
Hardware

The most important part of any painting project starts with choosing the correct color. Gloria will come to your house for an in home consultation.

315-637-7696 | 204 South Manlius Street | Fayetteville



MAKE
SURE
THEY'RE
IN THE
RIGHT
CAR SEAT



[NHTSA.gov/TheRightSeat](https://www.nhtsa.gov/TheRightSeat)

NHTSA

Jewish Father Jokes

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve.

He told them: "DON'T EAT THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT!"

"We got forbidden fruit? Hey, Eve...we got forbidden fruit!"

"No way!"

"DON'T EAT THAT FRUIT!" said God.

"Why?"

"BECAUSE I AM YOUR FATHER AND I SAID SO!" said God.

A few minutes later God saw his kids having an apple break. "DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO EAT THE FRUIT!?"

"Uh huh," Adam replied.

"THEN WHY DID YOU?"

"I dunno," Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

Schwartz went to meet his daughter's fiancé, Sol, who was very religious.

"So tell me, Sol, what do you do?"

"I study Torah," Sol replied.

"Admirable, but how are you going to house and feed my daughter?"

"No problem. I study Torah and it says God will provide," Sol answered.

"But you'll have children. How will you clothe them?"

Sol responded, "Not a problem. God will provide."

Schwartz returned home to his wife who anxiously asked what Sol was like.

"Well," said Schwartz, "He's a nice boy. I only just met him, and already he thinks I'm God."

Morris Cohen knows the end is near. He calls his wife, his daughter and his two sons to his bedside.

"Bernie, I want you to take the Beverly Hills house."

His wife objects: "Bernie? He needs Beverly Hills with his arrogance? Better leave it to Rachel."

Morris says: "And to my daughter Rachel, I leave half my stocks and bonds."

His wife pipes up: "Rachel?! She knows from business? The girl can't add two and two. Better to leave them to Bernie."

Morris continues. And to my youngest son, Jeremy, I leave my fleet of vintage cars."

"What?" yells his wife. "Jeremy got three speeding tickets just last month!"

Finally Morris turns to his wife. "Sylvia ... who's dying here ... me or you?"

Levine is dying, and his family is gathered around his bed.

Eyes closed, he murmurs weakly, "Are you there, Becky?"

"I'm here, Jake," says Mrs. Levine, weeping.

"And Sammy, you're there?"

"I'm here, Papa," says the oldest son.

"And my Rachel?"

"I'm here, Papa," says his daughter.

One by one, Levine went through the list of his children down to the youngest, and each assures him or his or her presence.

Levine's eyes open wide, he raises himself on his elbows and says, "So who's minding the store?"



Happy Father's Day

LAURIE KUSHNER
LICENSED REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON

(315) 420-2668
realestatebylauriekushner.com

HUNT Since 1911 **ERA** REAL ESTATE

7650 Highbridge Rd. Manlius, NY 13104

TUCKER EYE CARE

DR WILLIAM TUCKER

DRY EYE SPECIALIST
NEW PATIENTS WELCOME • FREE PARKING

NORTHEAST MEDICAL CENTER
SUITE 207
4000 MEDICAL CENTER DRIVE
FAYETTEVILLE, NY 13066

315.637.1010

#Dadication

fatherhood.gov

ACF National Parental Involvement Cooperative ad COUNCIL

Honorees at Yom HaShoah Commemoration

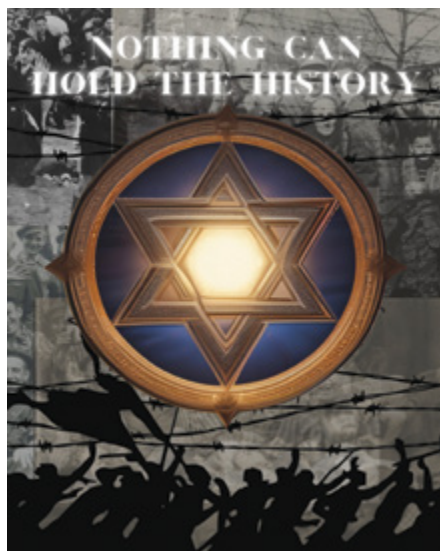
At the Federation's annual Yom HaShoah commemoration, several members of the Central New York community were recognized for speaking out in support of their Jewish neighbors at a time of rising antisemitism. Those honored were the Reverend Anna Gheen, Skaneateles Mayor Mary Sennett and Trustees Kathleen Zapata and Gregg Eriksen, Frank Malfitano, Jamesville-DeWitt school board member Rami al-Mudamgha and Jamesville-DeWitt teacher Mike Klemperer.

Federation President/CEO Michael Balanoff expressed the community's appreciation of their actions, saying, "America is slowly waking up to the poison of antisemitism. The shocking failure of major university presidents to stand up against hate can be balanced against the positions of other leaders, academic and political, who showed moral courage in taking strong positions against hate speech. Central New York is fortunate to count many of these leaders and others as allies. Here are some examples:

When antisemitic statements were scrawled last year in Skaneateles, the mayor issued the following declaration: "I hear a lot of messages about the divisiveness in our country but we as a board and as a community are united in our stand against anti-Semitism and any other acts of hate. This is an inclusive community and the actions of a few will not change that." The town's trustees issued the following statement: "Racism and prejudice have no place here and we emphatically denounce these messages in the strongest possible terms. They are wrong and will not be tolerated by us or by our residents."

Last Chanukah, Reverend Anna Gheen of The First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia announced that she was displaying a menorah in the window of the Presbyterian Manse. She asked others to join her. Her reason: "Earlier this year, antisemitic literature was distributed throughout our village community. While local law enforcement acted quickly in the matter, this combined with the spike in antisemitism since the October 7th Hamas attack in Israel has left many of the Jewish members of our community on edge. While I celebrate Christmas freely without fear of becoming the target of violence, they simply don't. By displaying a menorah, I want to send a clear and poignant message: Hate has no home here. I want my Jewish friends and neighbors to know that they are safe with me and, more importantly that they are safe in the community they call home.... Let's let our Jewish neighbors know that they are loved and wanted here, that they aren't in this by themselves."

Balanoff concluded, "We Jews are only 2% of the American population. We cannot fight antisemitism alone. We need allies and support from all fair-minded and compassionate people. Eradicating antisemitism is a necessary step



to the achievement of the pluralistic and inclusive society envisioned by the founders both of America and of Israel. We are exceedingly grateful to those who have the moral rectitude and courage to stand up for others and to speak out against antisemitism. We need more people to join them. Federation is reaching out to the community at large, to engage with them, educate them and encourage them to work with us to combat hate in all its forms. Only in this way can we assure that our country will be the land envisioned in our Pledge of Allegiance: one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Anick Sinclair, president of the board of the Epstein School, presented the honorees with tzedakah boxes as expressions of appreciation and gratitude.

Ilene Mendel, a member of the *Yom haShoah* program planning committee, introduced the winners of this year's art and writing contest. First place winners were Sion Willis (art) for his digital image "Nothing Can Hold the History" and Carson Kim for her free verse poem, "My Window." Both Sion and Carson are 9th graders at Jamesville-DeWitt High School. Second place winners were J-D 9th graders Carsyn Geisler Price for "Nameless" and Enes Damkaci for his poem "Hope in Chaos." Ballston Spa Middle School 8th graders Madisyn Williams won honorable mention for their essays.

My Window

From my window, I view my family and friends as being diverse, but with an atmosphere of harmony and acceptance. Together, we blend by respecting others' beliefs and views.

Why should it be any different?

Playing football and basketball, however, I find angry, racist words hurled at me, being half Korean and half Italian. I have heard taunts from the stands and slurs on the field. My coaches tell me to ignore these ignorant, bigoted people but I have scars unseen.

What have I done?

Viewing television and online spaces, I see masses of poor, fatigued immigrants attempting to come into America, but I hear commentators wanting to build walls to stop them. My father and grandparents were immigrants who came to this country, the land of the free. Our country has always been known as a "melting pot."

Why do we want to change this?

Watching social media, I see appalling videos filled with antisemitism. Tik Tok memes to Instagram comments, in this virtual world, spread hatred. The power of connectivity is a dangerous double-edged sword. It creates a platform for racial hate.

Why can't we all be nice?

Seeing news media coverage of famine, destruction, and death in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine is devastating. Living in fear of impending airstrikes, chaos and conflict would leave anyone in despair.

Why can't there be peace?

Listening to the words of love, hope, and faith while in the church, but outside, antisemitic discrimination and violence prevails. When people don't have the fear of God, they lose sight of their own moral compass.

What happened to people's consciences?

Hearing about guns being used to attack synagogues, night clubs, theaters, and festivals causing the deaths of many is incomprehensible to me.

Why do we have to live in fear?

Living in our present, dangerous world takes courage and bravery to overcome various forms of bigotry and racism. Being humble and kind seems to have vanished.

What happened to us?

From my window view, this dangerous world displays many social injustices. Together, hand in hand, we need to reclaim our voices, and reclaim our light. We need to find the strength to rise and evolve. If we see something, say something.

We can be brave!

We cannot be tolerant of inequality and social injustice. That is not the solution. We need to be unselfish and fight all forms of discrimination. With courage as our moral compass, we need to spread love and peace.

We can be courageous!

From my window view, I hear our young voices strengthening our democracy for all genders and races. Stressing and adapting to equal rights and equal opportunities throughout the world will make us courageous. We can beat the drum of peace and justice for all. Our world's future lies in the hands of our youth!

We can make our world less dangerous!

Music at Menorah Park: Syracuse Orchestra's Healing Harmonies



Linda Carmona (violin) and George Macero (cello), the “Healing Harmonies” duo of The Syracuse Orchestra, visited residents of The Jewish Home of Menorah Park in April. Through its Healing Harmonies Program, The Syracuse Orchestra has teamed up with several healthcare institutions in the area to bring live music with therapeutic benefits directly to patients undergoing treatment or who might otherwise not be able to attend a symphony concert.

Celebrating Cinco de mayo

The fiesta was *fenomenal!* Menorah Park residents and community visitors enjoyed the wonderful *musica* played by the Syracuse Orchestra's Youth Orchestra Brass Ensemble as well as kosher tacos and Mexican ice cream. (It is interesting that the Spanish word for ice cream, *helado*, derived from the Latin *gelātus*, (frozen) sounds a lot like the Hebrew word for ice cream, *glida*, which comes from the Aramaic word for “frost.”) No matter the language, *helado/glida* was a big hit, enjoyed by young and old.



Rabbi Oren Steinitz to be Installed at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas

by Yolanda Febles

Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas invites the community to celebrate Rabbi Dr. Oren Steinitz's installation on Friday, June 14. The celebration will begin with a Shabbat dinner at 6 pm followed by the installation ceremony during a special Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7 pm.

Installation is a sacred occasion where the rabbi and the congregation meet to express their commitment to the future of their synagogue and the Jewish people. It is a *brit* - a covenant - a time when G-d's presence can fill the sanctuary and is indeed a celebration for the entire community. Installation ceremonies often take place sometime after a new rabbi joins a congregation. This allows the rabbi and the congregation to have already begun the process of building their relationship, thereby imbuing the installation with even more meaning and significance.

Rabbi Steinitz joined CBS-CS in July 2023, moving to the area with his wife, Adar, and their two children, Eytan and Eliana. Before CBS-CS, Rabbi Steinitz served as the rabbi at Congregation Kol Ami in Elmira, NY. He says he is “continually amazed by the speed and warmth” with which the CBS-CS community has welcomed his family. He expresses gratitude and thanks his congregants for the “privilege of being their rabbi” and looks forward to “many more years of shared blessings and joy.”

Rabbi Steinitz, the seventh rabbi of CBS-CS since its 1962 inception, was ordained



in 2014 at the Mesifita Adas Wolkowisk Rabbinical Academy. He is an active member of the OHALAH Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal. Through his down-to-earth leadership, musicality and commitment to learning, he enriches the CBS-CS congregation and community with compassion and understanding. Rabbi Steinitz says his role as a rabbi includes “helping people see that Jewish tradition has so much more to offer than we were led to believe. If I could expose the community to even a fraction of the richness of Jewish ethics, culture and spirituality, I would feel like I made a real difference.”

Embracing the theme of *L'dor v'dor* to highlight transition and continuity, former CBS-CS Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone will be the special guest to guide Rabbi Steinitz's installation as CBS-CS's new spiritual leader. The celebration is open to all in the community, with RSVPs requested by June 7. **For more information and to RSVP, please visit cbcs.shulcloud.com/event/steinitz-installation.**



A TRADITION OF
BEAUTIFUL SMILES

315-446-3360 | BracesandMore.com
7000 E. Genesee St., Fayetteville



Child and Adult Treatment
Teen and Adult Invisalign®
Teeth Whitening
Certified Orthodontic Assistants
Reduced-Radiation X-Rays
Reduced Treatment Times
Early Morning Appointments
Major Credit Cards Accepted
Payment Plans Available



Temple Concord Moves to Interim Location

by Chana Meir

With the sale of its building at 910 Madison Street and move to its interim location, Temple Concord has begun to write the next chapter of its 185-year history. The move, in May, was marked by a Celebration Shabbat and Torah Parade, bringing the Temple's scrolls to its worship space at Kimber Road, where Temple Concord's congregation will be sharing space with Temple Adath Yeshurun, while envisioning and planning its future Temple home.



The Madison Street building was sold to Landmark Properties, developers who will build much-needed student housing on the site. The congregation voted to sell because, like most houses of worship in the state and indeed the country, Temple Concord's congregation is smaller than in years past, and it was no longer sustainable to maintain a large synagogue. Due to its history and architecture, Temple Concord is listed on the state and national registers of historic places and the developer has committed to preserve the sanctuary and integrate it, as a gathering space, into the design of the new building.

While sharing space at Kimber Road, Temple Concord and Temple Adath Yeshurun will honor each other's different practices and traditions, maintaining their separate identities.

"As we leave our home of the past 114 years, there are certainly many mixed emotions," said Jeff Lefkowitz, president of Temple Concord's Board of Trustees. "We will always remember the wonderful memories, holidays celebrated and life-cycle events shared. Change is always hard yet inevitable, so we are excited for the future and the new opportunities the future holds for the Temple Concord community and for Reform Judaism in Central New York."

Shavuot at Temple Adath Yeshurun

by Sonali McIntyre

Temple Adath Yeshurun will host a *Tikkun Leil Shavuot* with Congregation Beth Shalom-Chebra Shas on Tuesday night, June 11. Services will begin at 9:00 pm, followed by refreshments and learning. The late-night study session will be led by Rabbis Moshe Saks (TAY) and Oren Steinitz (CBS-CS).

Rabbi Saks said, "*Shavuot* is the holiday which commemorates the Revelation of Torah at Mt. Sinai with the custom of studying all night as preparation for receiving the Torah, like the Israelites who stayed up all night."

Shavuot, celebrated fifty days after Passover, commemorates the giving and receiving of the Torah at Sinai. Many communities, especially Sephardic and Hassidic, have long had the tradition of an all-night study session known as "*Tikkun Leil Shavuot*."

"While there are many explanations for the origin of this custom, my favorite one has to do with the Aramaic meaning of the word *tikkun*, which means 'ornament,'" said Rabbi Steinitz. "The rabbis compared the covenant signed at Sinai between God and the People Israel to a wedding. By studying Torah all night, we are essentially providing 'ornaments' for the reenactment of the ceremony that happens on *Shavuot* morning with the reading of the Ten Commandments." He added, "Even though the original custom included a preconceived set of texts, including Tanakh, Mishnah, Zohar and other mystical texts, it has become customary in many communities to offer a variety of study sessions, all appealing to different tastes and sensibilities."

The Syracuse Jewish community is welcome to participate. There is no charge to attend. Register at www.adath.org. There will be hybrid services on *Shavuot* Day 1, Wednesday, June 12 and *Shavuot* Day 2, Thursday, June 13 at 9:15 am, with *Yizkor* during services on Thursday morning. **For more information, email info@adath.org.**

JCC Welcomes New Director of Community Programming



The Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center of Syracuse is pleased to welcome Raven DiSalvo-Hess as the head of their new Community Programming department. Previously the Arts & Culture manager at the Mandel JCC of the Palm Beaches for three years, DiSalvo-Hess has conceived and run dozens of book, educational and film events. With an academic background in literature and fine arts and a personal interest in pop culture, music, theater and dance, DiSalvo-Hess said she is "looking forward to bringing community members of all different ages and demographics together by offering a variety of programs and events."

Summer programming includes movie screenings, book events and game nights. Game events will initially feature board games and deck building games, but DiSalvo-Hess says, "As we build our community programming, we hope to bring mahjong, bridge and chess lessons to the JCC, offering opportunities for regular play, and eventually hosting tournaments." In August the JCC will welcome Alan Shore for a presentation and Q&A on his forthcoming non-fiction book, *Uncommon Allies: American Jews and Christians Uniting against Hitler, 1933-1945*.

The Community Programming department will offer a range of events that appeal to the Jewish community as well as the overall Syracuse-area community, creating a space where individuals can make friends, learn something new or engage in an educational lecture.

For a schedule of upcoming events, visit jccsyr.org or contact Raven directly at rdisalvo-hess@jccsyr.org.

Seniors Mingle and Dine at the JCC's Monday Night Dinners

by Carlett Spike

The Sam Pomeranz JCC invites seniors to dinner every Monday night. The highly successful Monday Night Dinner program is back, Mondays at 5 pm from June 17 to August 26. Seniors can enjoy a kosher meal made with high quality ingredients prepared by Chef Donna Carullo. Live entertainment, from singers to pianists and more, will also be on the menu.



"It's a great way for seniors to enjoy the summer with good company and a hearty meal," said Marci Erlebacher, JCC executive director. "It allows our community to switch up their routines, get out and socialize with new and old friends."



Seniors must make reservations at least one week in advance to participate in Monday Night Dinner and the fee is \$6. **Call the JCC at 315-445-2360 to reserve seats now.**

Kickstart Summer with a Trip to the JCC Pool

by Carlett Spike

JCC members can celebrate the sizzle of summer with a trip to the JCC pool. The JCC has two heated pools for members to enjoy in a family fun atmosphere.

The 2024 pool season begins on Saturday, May 25 and ends on Monday, September 2. Pool hours will vary throughout the season to adjust for the camp schedule, holidays, swim team and swim lessons.



“We look forward to the start of the summer each year,” said Amy Bisnett, associate director of children’s programming at the JCC. “We love to see kids participating in swim lessons and seeing their growth throughout the summer. It’s a great family and social activity to meet with friends and bask in the nice weather.”

At the heart of the JCC’s summer offerings, the pool also serves campers, swim team members and those taking lessons. All children 18 months and older who participate in the summer camp take Red Cross-certified swim lessons. These lessons are tailored to encourage comfort and confidence in the water.



Semi-private and private swim lessons are also available. The 30-minute lessons are offered each day from July 1 to August 23 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm on weekdays and 8 am to 11 am on weekends. “Our lessons are for all levels of ability,” said Pam Ranieri, director of children’s programming. “The lifeguards



are in the water with the class, so they are very hands-on.”

Additionally, any lifeguards looking to join the JCC team can reach out to learn more about available jobs. **To join the pool and sign up for lessons, or for more information, email aquatics@jccsy.org.**

Another opportunity at the pool is the swim team. Strong swimmers are encouraged to join the J-Rays swim team. The team practices from July 1 to August 23 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays before the camp day begins. Children work on stroke development, endurance and teamwork while they train to participate in a mini inner squad team meet. **For more information and to join the team, contact abisnett@jccsy.org.**



The fun is not only reserved for children. Adults can sign up for Aqua Fit to add a fun exercise class to their routine. Set to music, Aqua Fit offers a low impact workout to improve both cardiovascular health and strength. Members can take classes for free and nonmembers can join for a fee of \$10. Classes are led by a certified Aqua Fit trainer and all fitness levels are welcome to get a good outdoor workout in the heated pool. **For more information, reach out to Paula Pacini at ppacini@jccsy.org.**

Make a splash at the JCC pool all summer long.

Pool Hours

MAY 25 - JUNE 30

Mon - Fri: 9 am to 7 pm

Sat - Sun: 11 am to 7 pm

Lap Swim (Mon - Fri): Ends at 12 pm

JULY 1 - AUG. 23 (MON - FRI)

Lap Swim: 7:15 am to 8 am

Swim Lessons: (Mon - Fri) 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm / (Sat & Sun) 8 am to 11 am

Open Swim: (Mon - Fri) 4:30 pm to 8 pm / (Sat & Sun) 11 am to 7 pm

AUG. 24 - SEPT. 2

Sun - Fri: 9 am to 7 pm

Sat: 10 am to 7 pm

Lap Swim (Mon - Fri): Ends at 12 pm

HOLIDAY HOURS

(May 27, July 4, and Sept. 2):

11 am to 7 pm

AQUA FIT HOURS

Tuesdays: 8 am to 8:45 am

Thursdays (June 6, 13, 20, and 27):

10:15 am to 11 am

Thursdays (July 11 - Aug. 29):

8 am to 8:45 am

Advertise
in the

Jewish Observer
of Central New York

Contact Rachel Wasserman
rwasserman@buffalospree.com
716-725-1173

Or Keren Green
kgreen@buffalospree.com
347-400-9939

NO ONE GETS A DIPLOMA ALONE.

If you're thinking of finishing your high school diploma, you have more support than you realize. Find teachers and free adult education classes near you at FinishYourDiploma.org.

ad **DOLLAR GENERAL**
LITERACY FOUNDATION

Central New Yorker Attends 2024 Anti-Defamation League Conference

by Angela Locke

The Anti-Defamation League is the leading anti-hate organization in the world. Founded in 1913, its mission is “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” A global leader in combating antisemitism, countering extremism and battling bigotry wherever and whenever it happens, the ADL works “to protect democracy and ensure a just and inclusive society for all.”

The ADL’s scope of influence is wide. From local police to the FBI, from students to major press outlets, from libraries to tech giants, from national to international leaders, the ADL educates, clarifies and proposes and examines policy. To read *Mission and History* on their website is to take a trip through some of the most salient events of domestic and international history. They have earned the authority they hold through a combination of in-depth research and reportage, collaboration, advocacy and activism.

I attended the ADL’s annual conference, “the world’s largest summit on antisemitism and hate,” in New York City in March. ABC Nightline news co-anchor Juju Chang and author/journalist Abigail Pogrebin served as emcees throughout the weekend. CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt’s opening remarks touched all of us and got us ready for the two-day blast of information, emotions and inspiration. He promised that ADL

will never stop calling out and fighting antisemitism, whether it comes “from the violent white nationalists or hardened anti-Zionists.”

Greenblatt warned us about the “whole new playbook” embraced by groups like Students for Justice for Palestine (SJP) and other Hamas apologists of the left. While the horror of October 7th was still playing out, SJP openly celebrated Hamas and began engaging in a new tactic of confrontation designed to, in their words, “dismantle Zionism.” This is not new information to many of us. We have seen acts of terror and intimidation all over the country, against businesses, synagogues, Jewish families and Jewish students. But I somehow missed the anti-Israel zealots camped outside Antony Blinken’s home calling it *Kibbutz Blinken* to both dishonor the actual, real victims of the deadly Hamas raid on Kibbutz Be’eri, K’far Aza, Sderot, and other *kibbutzim*, while also promising the threat of violence against Blinken, his wife and his children. Yet despite the grief and fear that we feel, anti-Jewish actions have galvanized the greater Jewish community behind the knowledge that, as Greenblatt stated, “the time for complacency is over.” In this October 8th world, he promised, “we will not be silenced.”

Israel’s President Isaac Herzog and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton sent recorded messages to the conference attendees. In-person speakers included Rabbi David Wolpe, author Dara Horn, and Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Deborah Lipstadt. Attorney General Merrick Garland delivered a moving and emotional speech and Carole Nuriel, Senior Regional Director of ADL interviewed October 7th survivors Daniel Lifshitz, grandson of Yocheved and Oded Lifshitz, and Inor Kagno, the main photographer at the Nova Fest. Controversially and surprisingly, Jared Kushner was honored for his ground-breaking work bringing the Abraham Accords to fruition. The Daniel Pearl Award was bestowed on Israeli-Palestinian Nuseir Nassin, CEO and Founder of Nas Daily, a videoblog preaching peace and togetherness with millions of followers. Alex Edelman and Zarna Garg, both extraordinary

comedians, provided welcome comic relief and social media influencer and activist Montana Tucker thrilled the thousand high school and college students in the audience while spreading a little hope to the older generations.

Numerous breakout sessions were held between the mainstage speakers. There were many concerning antisemitism on college campuses and in social media and AI. As plentiful were the sessions addressing antisemitism in the workplace, antisemitic actions, swatting, vandalism and outright attacks against synagogues and Jewish businesses. I attended a session on *Sexual Assault as a Weapon of War and Antisemitism: October 7th and Beyond*, which discussed the flabbergasting silence from feminist groups, domestic violence groups, the #MeToo movement and the UN about the violence against women on October 7th. How depressing to see the hypocrisy and the antisemitism as feminists changed “Believe women!” to “Show us the evidence!” when concerning Israeli and Jewish women. The session acknowledged that the United Nations did—finally—release a statement confirming what the rest of us knew: rape and sexual assault was perpetrated by Hamas upon Israeli women, both alive and murdered.

At the conference close, Rabbi David Wolpe exhorted us to remember that, even in the face of political differences, “we have certain crucial interests in common and...we are all Jews.” Then he said that though Jews don’t often speak of the afterlife, Gehenna is our word for Hell. It’s an actual place in Israel, the Valley of Hinnom outside of Jerusalem, where in ancient times atrocities were committed. Archaeologists found there what are thought to be the oldest pieces of Torah from the destruction of the first Temple. Rabbi Wolpe recited the famous blessing: *May G-d bless you and keep you. May G-d’s countenance shine upon you and be gracious to you. May G-d be with you and give you Peace.* In other words, the Rabbi pointed out, this is a “blessing of Peace snatched from Hell.” He added, “This is what Jews have done for thousands of years. May we and Israel continue to do so forevermore.”

Good News From Israel



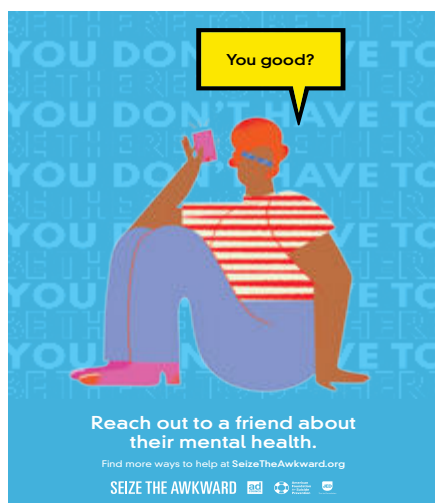
Residents of Shlomit return. 500 residents have returned to the Israeli village of Shlomit, just a few kilometers from Gaza, five months after having been evacuated following October 7. They are building a daycare center, funded by JNF-USA, to show that life has restarted and to give strength to all the families in the region.

Massive land purchase discounts to IDF veterans. IDF soldiers leaving the war can qualify for a discount on land in the Galilee or Negev regions to build a home. A soldier who does not own an apartment will receive a 90% discount, and a combat veteran will receive a 95% discount, making it almost free.

Israeli hospitals rank high. *Newsweek* magazine and global data company Statista has again ranked Israel’s Sheba Medical Center as the ninth best hospital in the world. Key factors were the 98% survival rate for battlefield injuries plus Sheba’s leading role in integrated physical and mental rehabilitation. Jerusalem’s Hadassah Medical Center was also named one of the world’s leading hospitals in oncology, cardiology and smart technologies. It is the sixth consecutive year that Hadassah has been recognized.

Israel raised \$8 billion in overseas bonds. In a staggering show of support for its economy, Israel raised \$8 billion in its first sale of bonds since October 7. Demand was so high that the issue was oversubscribed by 4.75 times. Israel could have sold \$38 billion. 400 investors took part from 36 countries.

A record avocado harvest. Despite the war in Gaza and the difficulties in farming in certain areas, Israel’s avocado yield is expected to reach 250,000 tons this season compared to about 150,000 tons in 2023, according to the Agriculture Ministry. The previous record was about 210,000 tons in 2022.



ALFRED "AL" WEISS

April 9, 2024

Alfred "Al" Weiss, 80, died on April 9 at Community Hospital. Born in The Bronx, he and his late wife Gail moved to Syracuse in 2009 to be closer to family. Most recently, Al had been a resident of the Inn at Menorah Park. During his career, Al was an instructor with the New York State Division for Youth. He loved baseball, especially the Brooklyn Dodgers and the Mets. He and Gail loved to dance and spend time with their family who will miss them terribly. Al was a talented drummer and played with many bands at weddings and celebrations. As the owner of Alben Music Instruction, he taught countless students to play the drums.

He is survived by his sons Frank and Mitchell (Sandy), grandchildren Elijah (fiancée LeeAnn), Sam, Hannah, Max and Hayden and his brother Jerry (MJ). He was recently predeceased by his sisters Elaine Ginsburg and Helen Spector.

www.sisskindfuneralservice.com

DOTTIE POUSHTER

April 28, 2024



Dottie Poushter, 95, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on April 28 in Danbury, CT. Born to Louis and Annie (Goren) Freeman on May 10, 1928 in Boston, MA, she had been a resident of Syracuse since 1947 when she and her late husband Harry were married. They met while Harry was serving in the Navy and stationed in Boston. They raised their three sons Bruce, Alan and Ron in Syracuse and enjoyed a good life. She was a loving and caring mother.

Dottie was a strong supporter of Israel and Jewish traditions. She was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and a former member of Lafayette Country Club and Wycliffe Country Club of Wellington, Fl. She enjoyed

playing golf and bridge with her friends. For many years, she pursued an active and successful career in real estate as an agent for Burlingame Real Estate. Dottie worked with her husband in their family business, Harry Poushter Contractors.

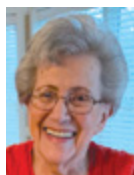
Her family includes her children Bruce (Ianne), Alan (Marsha), Ron (Tracy); grandchildren Jessica (David) Wilson, Rachel (Justin) Emmer, Jeffrey, Jacob (Michael Hoffman), Andrew (Danielle), Pamela, and Leah (David Lawrence), great-grandchildren Landon Poushter, Harrison Wilson, Benjamin Emmer, Deric Wilson, Samantha Emmer and Talia Wilson and many loving nieces and nephews.

Contributions to perpetuate Dottie's memory may be made to the building fund at Temple Adath Yeshurun.

www.sisskindfuneralservice.com

TRUDY SPECTOR

April 14, 2024



Trudy Spector, 93, passed away peacefully on April 14 with family at her bedside.

Born at Ithaca Hospital on April 2, 1931, she was the daughter of Harold and Sarah Perelmut. She was both a lifelong resident of Syracuse and member of Temple Adath Yeshurun.

As a young girl and teenager, Trudy excelled both in school and in the arts. She sang, played piano, painted and danced. She met Joseph Spector when she was 14, marrying him on July 1, 1951 when she was 20. The two raised four children, first on Springfield Road in Syracuse and then on Brookhill Drive in Manlius. They were married nearly 54 years, until Joe's passing in 2005. Trudy spent her final decade living independently at The Oaks. Trudy's home was filled with hand-sewn clothes and delicious foods. Jewish holidays were her specialty with her family feasting on her chicken soup, strudel and rugelach over the years.

A graduate of Central High School, Trudy worked as an executive secretary for much of her working life, taking time off to raise her family. She started her career working for Hy Miller in his insurance business and ended it at Moore Business Forms, a job she loved until she retired at age 65. Upon retirement, Trudy renewed her enthusiasm for painting, studying with Carolyn Berry at Skylark Studios in Manlius. Her apartment and her children's

houses are filled with paintings created by Trudy. One of her latest creations, featuring a teddy bear and child's blanket, is hanging in the nursery of her great-granddaughter, Amelia Ann Tatar.

Trudy is survived by her children Steve Spector, Pam (Mark) Tatar, Gail (Dan Richards) Spector and Lisa Spector. She leaves seven grandchildren: David Spector, Sarah (Justin Herbert) Spector, Joshua (Sarina Chaiken) Richards, Justin (Ryen Conley) Tatar and their daughter Amelia, Abbie Richards, Adam Tatar and Andrew Tatar. She is also survived by her sister Jeanne Glick and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband Joseph Spector, her brother Lester Perelmut and sister Bette Levine.

Donations in her memory can be made to stories.bringthemhomenow.net.

www.sisskindfuneralservice.com



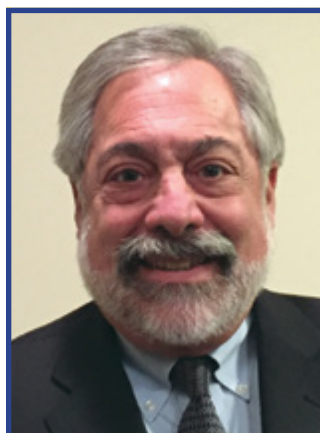
Steven L. Sisskind

Sisskind

Funeral Service LLC

*Wishing You
a Zissen Pesach!*

**3175 E. Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13224
315-663-4200
sisskindfs@aol.com
www.sisskindfuneralservice.com**



Joel M. Friedman

Continuing a tradition of providing excellent service with integrity and compassion, while exceeding your expectations.

PRE-PLANNING & MONUMENT CONSULTATIONS ARRANGED AT YOUR CONVENIENCE

birnbaum

funeral service, inc.

Martin J. Birnbaum, Elaine R. Birnbaum (Ret.) & Joel M. Friedman
1909 East Fayette Street | Syracuse, New York 13210 | birnbaumfs@cnyemail.com

birnbaumfuneralserviceinc.com | 315-472-5291



WHAT KIND OF LEGACY ARE YOU LEAVING THE WORLD?

The rise of antisemitism around the world and recent events in the Middle East may have you pondering some important questions.

What do I care most about and why?

What will I do to improve the status of that which I care most about?

Who can I trust enough to form a philanthropic partnership in order to achieve my goals?

How will my giving bring meaning and fulfillment to my life?

The Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York can help you answer these questions and create a personal philanthropic mission statement.



If you would like to engage in this meaningful conversation, please feel free to call Michael Balanoff, Executive Director, at 315-445-0270 or email mbalanoff@jewishfoundationcny.org