

Jewish Observer

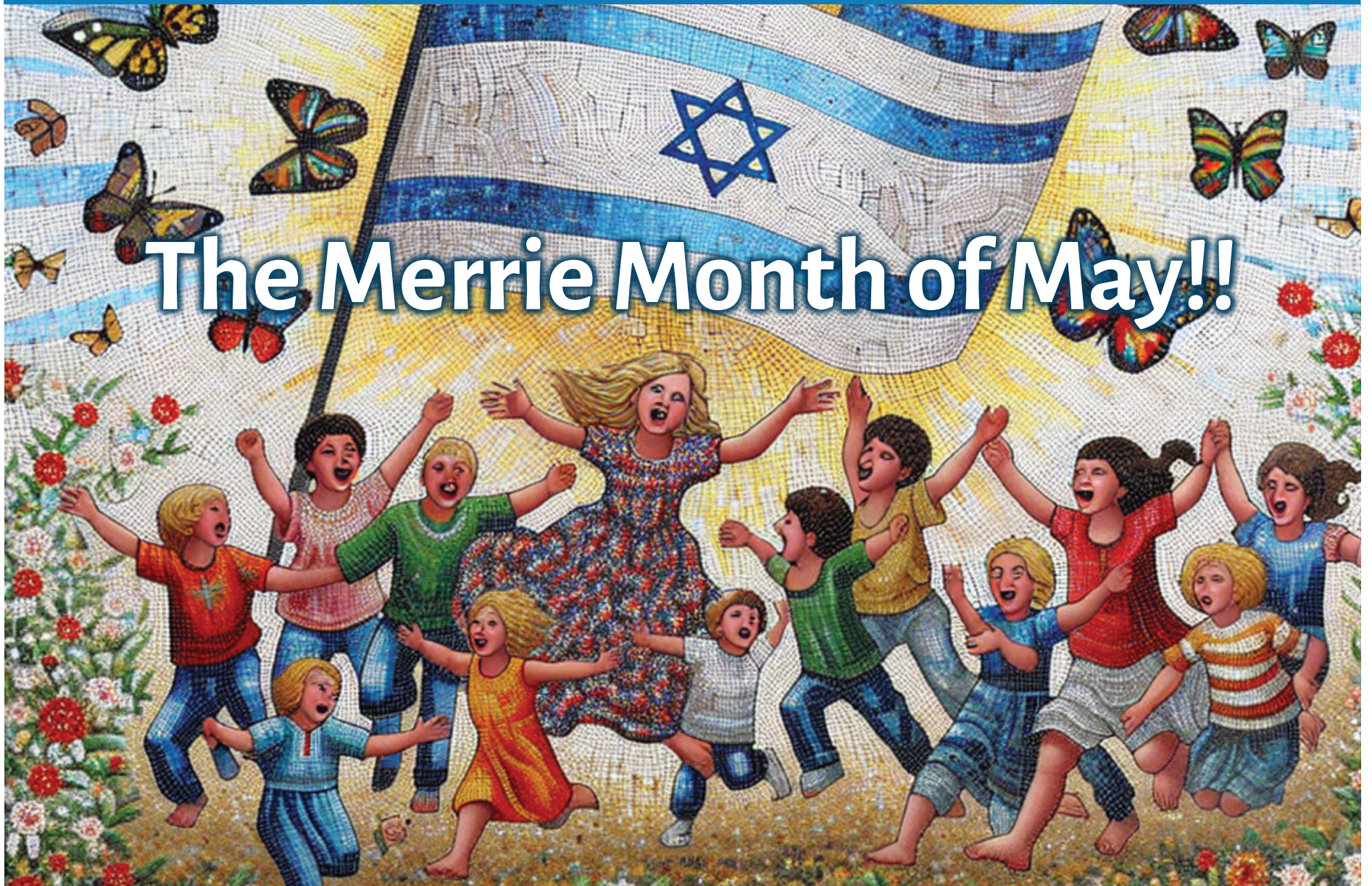
A publication of the Jewish Federation of Central New York

of Central New York

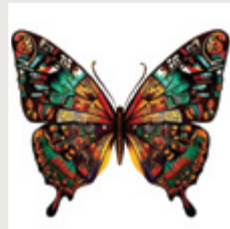
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MAY 2025 | IYAR-SIVAN 5785



The Merrie Month of May!!



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May 2025

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

May has long been celebrated as a “merrie month,” a time of happiness and celebration. In 2025, we begin May with *Yom haAtzmaut* on the 1st, celebrate *Cinco de mayo* on the 5th, honor mothers on the 11th and exult with *Lag b’Omer* on the 16th – four joyous occasions. Hopefully, the cold, snow and flu which characterized our recent winter are distant memories, replaced by flowers in bloom, trees with new leaves, birds, bees and butterflies in our gardens, and sunshine and warmth filling our lengthening daylight hours. For decades, I have watched the daffodils pop up through the snow in March in front of the JCC and hoped that they knew what they were doing. This year was no exception. Those bright flowers represent resilience, hope and determination to me.

Our community observance of Israel’s Independence Day is a day of pride, joy and reflection on Israel’s achievements, challenges, and is also a celebration of resilience, hope and determination. *Yom HaAtzmaut* holds deep historical, cultural and national importance for Israelis and Jewish communities throughout the world. It celebrates the resilience of the Jewish people and the realization of the Jewish dream of freedom, self-determination and a homeland for the Jewish people after centuries of exile and persecution. As we celebrate *Yom haAtzmaut*, we are celebrating identity and unity, bringing together Israelis and diaspora Jews to reinforce our shared connection to Israel. We begin our observance with *Yom HaZikaron*, Israel’s Memorial Day, emphasizing the sacrifices made for Israeli independence. The shift from grief to joy highlights the cost and significance of freedom, something of which we are very cognizant this year.

Mexico’s first Jewish president, Claudia Sheinbaum, has been much in the news lately, so our connection to the relatively minor Mexican holiday of *Cinco de mayo* is stronger than ever. Plus we love the music and love to see how much the residents of Menorah Park enjoy listening to the talented members of the Syracuse Youth Orchestra’s brass ensemble. The butterfly is a symbol of Mexico, so it is very appropriate that this year our *Cinco de mayo* celebration will be followed by the official “unveiling” of our Butterfly Project, a year-long effort to assure that the 1.5million Jewish children killed in the *Shoah* are not forgotten.

This issue of the *JO* also takes a look at Jewish mothers, not as stereotypical objects of humor, but as symbols of hope, determination and strength. Lastly, we celebrate *Lag b’Omer* this month, a day of picnics, barbecues, outdoor activities and bonfires and the lifting of mourning to permit haircuts, weddings and celebrations. May’s *d’var Torah* focuses on this holiday’s deeper significance.

There are other things to celebrate this month. The Syracuse Community Hebrew School is completing a decade of existence, during which time it has successfully introduced hundreds of students to the Hebrew language, the prayers of our people and the joy of being Jewish. This anniversary, coupled with the 65th anniversary of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the 55th anniversary of the Epstein School of Jewish Studies, shows how much our community values Jewish education. This springtime issue also celebrates sports with an article about Jews and golf and another about a talented local pickleball player who is headed to the Maccabi Games in Israel this summer.

Resilience, hope and determination are our themes. Recently, I had the opportunity to attend a beautiful Jewish wedding in Chicago, at which I had the privilege of meeting Rabbi Rachel Isaacs, the rabbi of a small congregation in rural Maine and the director of National Center for Small Town Jewish Life. While Central New York is considered an intermediate-sized community, we have much in common with small communities. Rabbi Isaacs spoke at Shabbat services about resilience. She said that her work is based on the words of the Torah portion *Vayakhel*, which means Gather: “*Vayakhel*. Gather. *Kol Adat Bnei Israel*. Each and every Jew, and those who sojourn with us. Sit. Rest. Learn. Sing. Eat. *Lishbot bo*. Hold back – hold back from working to change the world and your neighbors. Hold back just enough of yourself and your desires to push others in order to make room for a shared world. Hold it back enough to see and bless the beauty of the full diversity of creation around you.”

Rabbi Isaacs went on to say, “In small town America – where you cannot self-sort according to ideology and theology because there is only one shul in town – we’ve learned what is possible and necessary in order to live together. We’ve learned that if you can’t bring yourself to show some self-restraint, at least on Shabbat, there is no living, and there certainly is no building, certainly not anything resilient enough to hold holiness in the wilderness. Or in the case of Maine, if you’ve alienated yourself from everyone who thinks differently from you, you’re going to get stuck in the snow without a plow guy. And then you’re really not getting anywhere.” We in Syracuse can certainly relate to her words. Rabbi Isaacs concluded her *d’var Torah* with the words of her teacher, Rabbi Aaron Panken, z”l, who said, “The world is particularly challenging and painful in a way that transcends anything I have seen in my lifetime. But here’s the thing: the Jewish people, and our religious friends of other faiths, have seen this before, and we have lived through it, and thrived and built again and again and again.”

In 2025, the month of May corresponds to the Hebrew month of *Iyar*. *Iyar* is often referred to as the month of healing. All of us may need a little healing this month, a little rest from disputation, disagreement and distress, a little time to enjoy sunshine and flowers and hope. Those hardy spring daffodils have an important message for us all: be resilient, be determined, be hopeful.

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of Central New York

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How Federation Works to Combat Antisemitism



Federation has been working for many years to fight antisemitism, particularly in the school settings. As early as 2021, the Federation sponsored a community panel discussion on the topic with three community experts. This was followed by the dissemination of a document entitled “90 Ways to Combat Antisemitism.” We distributed Anti-Defamation League guidelines to local colleges and universities on combatting antisemitism on campus. We brought in speakers for community presentations and to meet with students in local public and Jewish high schools and to discuss ways to fight antisemitism.

In 2023, the Federation published a 150-page manual of resources for fighting antisemitism for middle and high school administrators, teachers, parents and students that was sent to all 18 local school districts and to local private schools. The document was the work of a panel of Jewish clergy and educators. The September 2024 issue of the *Jewish Observer* was devoted to “Combatting Antisemitism.” We distributed lawn signs calling for an end to antisemitism and hate.

The Federation’s Security Program, now in its 25th year, is devoted exclusively to combatting antisemitism and has an annual budget of \$100,000. We do not protect our community against fraud or theft; we protect it against antisemitic acts. Our focus is to educate, combat and respond to antisemitism, in close partnership with the Secure Community Network, Live Secure and the Anti-Defamation League. We educate our law-enforcement partners to recognize antisemitism and respond to it. We work with school leaders, university leaders and political leaders to respond appropriately when antisemitism is exhibited. Much of this work is done behind the scenes; we do not grandstand, but we are effective. We provide information about, and funding and personnel for community target-hardening, threat assessment and safety and security. We partner with law enforcement locally, regionally and nationally and with organizations such as the NYS Hate/Bias Council and the Jewish Federations of North America Security Committee.

Federation sponsors an annual essay and art contest in all local public middle and high schools on themes that stress combatting antisemitism. We honor local upstanders who speak out against antisemitism. We are working with 3GNY and OCM-BOCES to sponsor a summer workshop for 30 public school teachers on “Purposeful Pedagogy Through Inquiry: Teaching the Holocaust to Grades 7-12” focused on combatting antisemitism.

Community Relations Committee (CRC) Mandate

Federation’s Community Relations Committee is charged with “inform[ing] the Jewish community and the community at large on matters, issues and events which are regarded as significantly affecting the Jewish community and shall mobilize action on such matters when appropriate” and “foster[ing] relationships with and between other religious, ethnic, racial and national groups in the Central New York area. It shall address issues involving overt or potential antisemitism.”

The Community Relations Committee recently developed the following mandate, approved by the Federation Board:

The CRC shall be composed of both Federation Board members and non-Board members. A majority of the committee, including the Chair and ex-officio members, shall be members of the Federation Board. In composing the committee, the Chair shall consult with the Federation President/CEO and the Federation Board Chair. Diversity across a number of criteria (e.g., viewpoint, age, gender, and synagogue affiliation) shall be prioritized in selecting members of the CRC. The committee shall have no less than 5 members. The Federation President/CEO and the Federation Board Chair shall serve as ex-officio members of the CRC.

The CRC shall strive to meet quarterly in-person, in advance of regularly scheduled Federation Board meetings when possible.

The goals of the CRC are to inform, educate, and hear from the local Jewish Community and the larger Syracuse community on local, national, and international issues that are regarded as significantly affecting the local Jewish community. The CRC seeks to address these matters as appropriate, including by organizing events, mobilizing action, and disseminating resources. The CRC seeks to address issues involving overt or potential antisemitism in the central NY area and shall seek to foster Jewish inclusion within the local community.

Federation Board members shall bring their concerns to the CRC. Similarly, members of the Jewish Community shall be invited to share their concerns with the CRC. The CRC shall assess and evaluate the concerns of members of the Jewish Community and will make recommendations to the Federation President/CEO, Federation Board Chair, and the Federation Board. The CRC shall also provide recommendations to the Federation President/CEO, Federation Board Chair, and Federation Board for fostering positive relationships with other community stakeholders, including other minority groups in the Central New York area.

How Federation Works to Support Israel

On May 1, in a juxtaposition of grief and celebration, we observe Israel’s memorial day, *Yom haZikaron*, followed by Israel’s Independence Day, *Yom haAtzmaut*. These events remind us that, as Jews, we are a family, a *mispacha*. Our community’s generosity to our local campaign strengthens our collective future. We want to share with you a list of the organizations in Israel and the Middle East which Federation supports, thanks to your gifts. While there is a limit to what an individual can do, as a unity, a community, a family, we can do an incredible amount.

Israel Action Network: The Israel Action Network, an advocacy initiative of the Jewish Federations of North America, works to counter delegitimization of Israel.

Jewish Council for Public Affairs: Serves as the public affairs and policy coordinating body of the Jewish community, advocating for social justice, civil rights and support for Israel.

American Jewish Committee: A global advocacy organization that promotes human rights, combats antisemitism, and fosters diplomatic and interfaith relationships.

National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry: Advocates for the welfare of Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union and Eurasia, monitoring antisemitism and promoting Jewish culture and religious freedom in the region.

United HIAS Service: A global Jewish nonprofit that provides humanitarian aid and resettlement services to refugees, regardless of their religion or nationality.

Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI): Translates and analyzes content from media in the Middle East, focusing on issues like extremism, antisemitism and interfaith relations.

Jewish Foundation for the Righteous: Provides financial support to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust.

Honest Reporting: Monitors and critiques media coverage of Israel and the Middle East, advocating for accurate and fair reporting.

Facts & Logic About the Middle East (FLAME): Focuses on public education and advocacy regarding Israel and Middle Eastern issues, promoting a pro-Israel perspective.

Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA): A global news service that provides comprehensive coverage of Jewish news and issues affecting Jewish communities worldwide.

Justice for Jews from Arab Countries: Advocates for the rights of Jews who were displaced or forced to flee from Arab countries and Iran.

Daily Alert - Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs: A digest of news and analysis about Israel, the Middle East, and the Jewish world, published by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs.



Thank you Cantor Kari for your amazing first 10 years at Temple Concord!

Cantor Kari on her first ten years

What is the most meaningful part of your work?

It's when I see a true connection to our tradition happening in our Temple family. Whether it's a young child experiencing the wonder of Judaism for the first time, a parent proudly watching their child lead their first Shabbat service with religious school classmates, a conversion student experiencing the warmth of the congregational family, a "regular" who can't get a certain prayer melody out of their mind after hearing it, or someone grieving a loss and is looking for comfort and connection. There are so many ways being an ordained cantor & educator are meaningful.

How do you see your Jewish community evolving in the next decade?

I see all of us working together to reach out and embrace the entire Jewish community with open arms, celebrating our differences, and sharing all our resources. We are already on this road of togetherness, and I see us all continuing to work together to increase Jewish joy and pride.



(315) 475-9952 • templeconcord.org

YOM HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION 5785



Thursday, May 1

450 Kimber Road, Syracuse, NY

Doors open at 5 pm

Yom HaZikaron Service: 5:30 - 6 pm

Yom Ha'Atzmaut Celebration: 6 - 8 pm

No Charge, but Reservations Required



Va'ad Supervised Israeli Food • Israeli Wine Tasting • Interactive Drum Circle Shuk • Photo Booth • Trivia • Face Painting • Crafts • Caricatures & More!



Jewish Federation OF CENTRAL NEW YORK



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The Joy of Lag b'Omer

by Rabbi Evan Shore, Shaarei Torah Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse



Lag b'Omer is a minor Jewish holiday traditionally observed with bonfires and barbecues. However, what is the deeper significance of this day, which falls 33 days after the beginning of Passover?

This day is closely associated with the great Talmudic sage, Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yochai (RASHBI). Lag b'Omer occurs during the Omer period, a time of counting the 49 days between the offering of a special sacrifice, during Holy Temple times, on the 16th of Nissan continuing to the holiday of Shavuot.

According to the Talmud, a devastating plague struck the 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva during the Omer period. The cause of their deaths, as stated in the text, was their failure to uphold their teacher's most fundamental lesson: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Despite having an extraordinary teacher, they did not internalize this core principle, which Rabbi Akiva regarded as the essence of the Torah, with the rest serving as commentary.

Rabbi Akiva's students disregarded their teacher's fundamental principle, believing that the opinions of others held no value. As a result, they failed to show one another proper respect. This mindset directly contradicted a key teaching from *Pirkei Avot*: "Who is wise? One who learns from others."

No one exists in isolation. Elie Wiesel once wrote, "A Jew alone is a Jew in danger." The aftermath of this event reminds us of the vital importance of Jews standing together—walking, working, praying, and observing the Torah as one. According to many opinions, the plague ended, and no students died on Lag b'Omer—the 33rd Day of the Omer.

To me, a bonfire is a mesmerizing sight. Its flame and warmth serve as a powerful

lesson—to keep our love for fellow Jews burning constantly. We must not allow its intensity to fade, lest we risk losing the unity and strength it brings.

The RASHBI, Rabbi Shimon Ben-Yochai died on Lag Bomer. As the main disciple of Rabbi Akiva, he was responsible for carrying on the torch of Torah for future generations. He was a wanted man by the Roman government that controlled Israel after the destruction of the Holy Temple. He and his son Rabbi Elizer went into hiding for thirteen years. The Talmud recounts that they were miraculously nourished by a carob tree and a well of water during this time.

Rabbi Pinchas Stolper writes: "Yet, on that very Lag b'Omer day two thousand years ago, a new hidden light of hope emerged. The great sage, Rabbi Shimon Bar-Yochai revealed to a small number of students the secrets of the mystical Zohar. In the Zohar, in its formulas, disciplines and spirituality, lie the secrets whose seed will bring about the coming of the Messiah."

Though Lag b'Omer arose from great sorrow, it holds immense potential waiting to be unlocked. Let us keep the fire of Judaism, Torah and love for our fellow Jews burning brightly as we work together for brighter and happier days.



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Books About Jewish Mothers

Pity the poor Jewish mother, so often depicted as domineering and overly involved in her children's lives, constantly giving them unsolicited advice, excessively anxious about their well-being, their clothes, marital, financial and social status. The stereotypical Jewish mother is accused of instilling guilt through passive aggression, martyrdom, self-sacrifice and the ultimate Jewish mother sin: nurturing through food.

According to a very academic tome, *Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination: Jewish Cultural Studies, Volume 5*, “the ‘Jewish mother’ figure is a hallmark of Jewish culture, one which appears in the works of rabbis, artists, poets, and activists across time and place. While depictions of mothers and motherhood abound in Jewish writings, they vary significantly according to social context. These representations therefore offer important insights into the Jewish cultural imagination, and the ways in which writers resort to the figure of the Jewish mother to comprehend and construct their world.” Contributors to the book “highlight the complex network of symbols and images associated with Jewish mothers and motherhood as well as the vast array of social, historical, and cultural patterns that characterizations of mothers reflect,” and “present a provocative examination of the ways mothers shape and problematize Jewish identity.”

But the stereotype of the Jewish mother has evolved over time and today the image of the Jewish mother is more likely to be portrayed as strong, independent and emotionally aware rather than just a source of overbearing love. Two books, not new but still reflective of this more nuanced 21st century Jewish motherhood, are *Jewish Mothers*, published in 2000 and *You Never Call! You Never Write!: A History of the Jewish Mother* by Joyce Antler published in 2007.

Jewish Mothers is a collaborative work by photographer Lloyd Wolf and writer Paula Wolfson, subtitled “Strength, wisdom, compassion,” which celebrates the lives and experiences of fifty Jewish mothers through black-and-white duotone photography coupled with intimate profiles. The women selected for the book, which took four years to compile, represent a broad range of motherhood: “A teacher. A Holocaust survivor. An African American convert. The mother of a slain civil rights worker. A Girl Scout troop



leader. A children's TV star. A veteran. A marathon runner. A social worker. A professor. A surgeon. A wig stylist. A rebbetzin. A rabbi. A single mom. A choreographer. A midwife. A blind attorney. A Russian immigrant.” The author notes that “these women have much in common. A strong spirit. A love

of children. A passion for learning. A commitment to *tikkun olam*, to healing the world. A deep grounding in their Jewish heritage. And a sense of humor.” She cites an old Jewish proverb that says, “God could not be everywhere, so God invented Jewish mothers.”

A very different view of Jewish motherhood is presented in *You Never Call! You Never Write!*. Joyce Antler, a professor at Brandeis University, traces the evolution of the Jewish mother archetype in American culture from the nurturing “Yiddishe Mama” of the early 20th century to more contemporary portrayals in media and literature. She highlights the roles of Jewish mothers in film, television and stand-up comedy, noting how the portrayals shifted over time, reflecting

broader societal changes and the complexities of Jewish identity. She also addresses the stereotypes associated with Jewish mothers. Despite its comic title, the book has been described as “a careful and meticulously researched study” which combines cultural analysis with historical context.

Antler writes that “excessive, overprotective, neurotically anxious, and ever present, the Jewish mother became a scapegoat for ambivalent and hostile sentiments regarding assimilation in a new society, changing family dynamics, and shifting gender roles.” However she goes on to note that today “real life Jewish mothers...are a much more diverse group in terms of their racial, religious, educational, occupational, and marital backgrounds than their predecessors only a generation ago.” Furthermore, she points out, “in the culture at large, a new model of ‘intensive’ or ‘anxious’ mothering has come to dominate middle class parenting. With contemporary parenthood increasingly ‘colored by apprehension,’ all parents are Jewish mothers now.”

Fifty-Seven Fridays by Myra Sacks

Reviewed by Rabbi Vicki Lieberman

Myra Sack's book, *Fifty-Seven Fridays*, transcends genres as she offers an intimate, honest and beautiful memoir of losing their daughter. It breaks barriers by generously sharing insights on how to love and support each other while living with the pain and heartbreak of incurable illness.

When new parents Mira Sacks and Dr. Matthew Goldstein saw their daughter Havi missing milestones, they started asking questions. Could it be Tay Sachs? They had gone through genetic testing that showed that Myra was a carrier but Matthew is not. However, as Havi missed more milestones, they sought out medical advice and eventually Havi was tested for Tay Sachs. She was positive. It was a death sentence. Matthew was retested and it was discovered that he was a carrier. Turns out the wrong test was done when he first went for genetic counseling.

How do you live when your child is dying? Myra takes this diagnosis that plummets her into grief and anger and fear and doubles down on prioritizing love, faith and family. And then Covid hits. With extended family moving in nearby, they create their own bubble of love and support. Myra offers us insights in what they found helpful – like deciding to “celebrate the **** out of her. We'll squeeze every ounce of beauty and love into her for as long as we



can.” Every Shabbat will be Havi's birthday. A Shabbirthday!

Myra shows us through her and Matthew's journal entries and memories, how to live alongside grief. She shows us how to listen to Havi and not listen to professionals who do not say helpful things, do not use Havi's name and discourage her from celebrating Havi's Shabbirthday.

It can be difficult to pick up a book when we know it ends with the death of a child. It is not a beach-read book. It is not meant to be. It is a book that can be powerful, insightful and meaningful for anyone going through or knowing someone living with the fatal diagnosis of a child. It might help the supporting family and

friends and the medical community be helpful and not inadvertently hurtful in their words to the parents. It might help the parents gain strength from taking cues from their child.

Myra teaches that all of us in support roles can also learn that “life isn't about chasing the extraordinary moments—but recognizing seemingly mundane moments as extraordinary.” Myra's book and Matthew's work are examples of *Pekuach Nefesh*, saving a life, one of the most important *mitzvot*. In sharing their painful journey from new parents who were “hopeful, blind to the possibility of such devastation,” to Havi welcoming her baby sister, to navigating life after Havi's death, Myra ensures that Havi will not be “erase[d] from the future.” She suggests that we see “grieving people as beautiful, sacred, and strong.” When we grieve, it is our opportunity to express “love and devotion.”

Matthew has dedicated his professional life to Tay Sachs screening and prevention. He is the CEO of jscreen Genetic Screening and was honored at the 2025 Mathew Forbes Romer Foundation as the See the Light Award Honoree.

Myra and Matthew are raising a family, raising awareness about correct Tay-Sachs screening, and helping raise the next generation absent the Tay Sachs mutation. They are living their lives in the pursuit of *Pekuach Nefesh*.

Purim 5785 Celebrations Galore

The Jewish community celebrated Purim 5785 with activities ranging from hamantaschen baking to theatrical and musical productions to carnivals, megillah readings and the delivery of *mishloach manot* to members of the Israeli Defense Forces. Celebrants of all ages (even the Jewish members of the travelling band Eggy), joined in local festivities at schools, synagogues, the JCC, Chabad House and even “Purim at the Bar” at Laci’s Tapas Bar.





ADL and AEN Partner to Confront Rising Antisemitism

The Academic Engagement Network (AEN), an organization that mobilizes university faculty and administrators to combat antisemitism, and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the world's leading anti-hate organization, announced a new partnership to strengthen efforts against antisemitism on US campuses and within the broader academic community. "We are thrilled to partner with the Academic Engagement Network in the fight against antisemitism on college campuses," said ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt. "This collaboration underscores our shared commitment to empowering faculty and staff who are confronting rising levels of hate and discrimination. Our goal is to equip the academic community with the tools to stand against anti-Jewish and anti-Israel bias while fostering an inclusive campus culture that respects all identities and faiths." Miriam Elman, Executive Director of AEN, noted that "Jewish and Zionist faculty, scholars and staff are experiencing unprecedented hostility and bias on campuses and in academia. This partnership will enable us to develop and share new resources while implementing joint strategies to cultivate inclusive, tolerant learning and working environments for all."



The initiative will expand outreach to Jewish and Zionist faculty and staff, facilitate joint research and programming, and introduce targeted strategies to create safer and more inclusive campus environments. Key priorities include strengthening faculty leadership, addressing antisemitism and anti-Israel bias in academic settings, and developing a robust support network for Jewish and Zionist staff, complementing AEN's existing faculty network.

2025 Shining Stars Celebration May 22 at Menorah Park

by Susie Drazen

The sixteenth Shining Stars celebration is set for Thursday, May 22, from 5:30-8 pm under the tent at Menorah Park, 4101 East Genesee Street, Dewitt. The celebration coincides with Older Americans Month.

"This celebration recognizes those members of the Menorah Park community that are known to 'shine brightly' on our campus," said Steven Sisskind, event co-chair. "My wife Robin and I are honored to recognize special individuals, and one long-time community partner, who bring their vitality, their generosity and their compassion to all of us affiliated with Menorah Park."

Tickets for the event, which include dinner, range from \$36 to \$144. Reservations are required no later than May 1. For more information, contact Susie Drazen at 315-748-2151.



MENORAH
P A R K

Kids Ruled the Shul at CBS-CS

by Yolanda Febles

On December 14, 2024, CBS-CS let the kids of the congregation take over the Shabbat service. Kids of all ages davened, participated and took leadership roles with Rabbi Steinitz, Kelly Klapper, Joan Bordett, Melissa Harkavy and many helpful adults and parents providing support. It was noisy, fun and heartwarming. Perhaps there were times when the noise level was more than congregants are accustomed to, but it was genuinely exciting to see so many kids eager to have agency during the service.

Penelope Pooler Eisenbies commented, "From a parent's perspective, I watched kids want to daven repeatedly. My kids, and others I spoke with, enjoyed the service and gained from the experience. I know there were times when we had to ask for quiet, but when I watched how full of life and joy the service was, I see that the future of Judaism and of CBS-CS is very bright. My own son, who is crowd-averse, davened much



more than I expected, came to sit with me during the service, and asked some insightful questions about the prayers. Kids Rule the Shul will happen again and since this was the first time, this event will evolve and we welcome constructive ideas for future events."

Stephanie Shirilan said, "Kids Rule the Shul was a happy experiment in welcoming our congregation's kids to take a much more active part in leading services. While this program is likely only to run in this fashion twice a year, it was illuminating and inspiring to see what this might look and feel like. The energy was vibrant as children played and parents, normally required to separate to pray in the sanctuary, were able to be present for both the service and their children. It was a special treat to have the kids flock to the *bima* when called to lead. The pride and joy on their faces was delightful, especially as we concluded *Musaf* and service together in a rousing chorus."

Kelly Klapper added an educator's perspective: "Kids Rule the Shul was an extraordinary success, achieving everything we had hoped for and more. The objective of this program was to give students the opportunity to experience the joy of Shabbat in an authentic, meaningful way and to provide them with a platform to showcase what they've learned. This format allows them to truly embrace the spirit of Shabbat, to learn the melodies, prayers and structure of the service and to support one another by cheering on their friends and peers. What warmed my heart the most was witnessing the enthusiasm and eagerness of students as they volunteered for parts of the service, often going far beyond what they had been assigned or practiced. Child after child ran up to participate, filled with excitement and confidence. Our student shamash rose to the occasion, efficiently finding replacements for anyone who was absent, and the room was alive with the energy of kids eager to contribute in any way they could."

She added, "The program was, at its core, an experiment—a way to explore how our children might embrace leadership and engagement in a real-world synagogue setting. The results were inspiring. Kids Rule the Shul proved that CBS-CS is blessed with the most talented, generous and helpful group of children one could ever hope for. Their willingness to step forward, their ability to support one another, and their joy in celebrating Shabbat together remind us all why we do what we do."



Cinco de mayo and the Butterfly Project

In Mexican culture, butterflies symbolize transformation, renewal and the connection between the living and the dead. Monarch butterflies are especially significant because their arrival in Mexico coincides with the Day of the Dead. In an illustration of how different cultures can share the same values, the Jewish Federation and the students of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School will observe a Mexican holiday, memorialize children killed in the Holocaust and celebrate a garden designed to save Monarch butterflies from extinction.

One and a half million children were killed in the Holocaust, their lives and their futures cruelly destroyed. To keep the memory of these innocents alive, The Butterfly Project was created in 2006 by two California educators, Cheryl Rattner Price and Jan Landau. Inspired by the poignant Holocaust poem, "The Last Butterfly" by Pavel Friedmann, a Jewish child who perished in Auschwitz, the initiative uses ceramic butterflies as a symbol of remembrance, education and hope.



Each butterfly commemorates a child and creates a striking visual reminder of the individual lives lost and an emotional and personal connection to history. The five hundred unique butterflies, hand-painted by members of our community – school children, parents, adults, seniors – evoke a sense of loss but also convey hope, demonstrating that the world has not forgotten these children.

The Butterfly Project is more than an art installation; it is a call to action. In an era where Holocaust denial and antisemitism persist, it is essential to educate the world about the consequences of hatred and discrimination. By participating in this project, individuals not only honor the past but also contribute to a more compassionate and just future.

On May 5, Federation will officially "unveil" the word "SHALOM," spelled out by colorful butterflies, at Menorah Park, the result of a year-long artistic effort led by Diana Koester, a teacher at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. The display is adjacent to the Butterfly Garden, planted by the SHDS students, to provide food for Monarch butterflies as they journey south each year, an effort generously assisted by Dr. Joby Swerdlow. Through this community project, Federation hopes to ensure that the children of the Holocaust are never just numbers in history books, but rather are remembered, celebrated and never forgotten.



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RAV PROPERTIES



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2025 Syracuse International Jazz Fest

The 2025 Syracuse International Jazz Fest – “The largest free jazz festival in the Northeast” – will enliven the city with big name talent and outstanding programming for five days in late June. The festival will include performances at Clinton Square and a club night with local musicians. This iconic festival has been a cornerstone of Syracuse’s cultural scene for decades, drawing jazz enthusiasts from near and far to experience a diverse array of performances.

More than a million jazz fans and music lovers have come to Syracuse over the course of Jazz Fest’s history. The festival, which is celebrating its 39th anniversary, has received four international awards and 30 national and regional awards and was named both “The Largest Free Jazz Festival In The Northeast” and “One of the World’s Longest Running Jazz Festivals” as well as “Syracuse’s Best Music Festival.”

While specific dates and artist lineups for the 2025 festival are yet to be finalized, organizers are diligently working to curate an event that honors the rich history of jazz while introducing fresh and innovative talents to the stage. The festival’s official website, Syracusejazzfest.com, currently provides information on the 2024 event, with updates for 2025 expected to be released in the coming months. Last year’s festival featured over 30 bands across more than 20 venues, including two outdoor stages and a historic chapel. Highlights included performances by renowned artists such as The Mavericks, Kenny G, and The O’Jays, with iconic venues like historic



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Clinton Square and Hendricks Chapel serving as focal points for the festivities.

Jazz Fest has solid financial support from Onondaga County, New York State, Visit Syracuse and Syracuse University (but not, surprisingly, from the City of Syracuse). It would like to add others to that prestigious list of supporters to keep the Festival going and growing as it heads toward its 40th anniversary. Jazz Fest’s goal is to continue presenting world class entertainment free of charge to Syracuse-area residents and visitors, while maintaining its longstanding free admission policy and its track record of artistic and programming excellence. To that end, it is seeking individuals, businesses, corporations and foundations interested in becoming sponsors and strategic partners. **Anyone who is interested should reach out to festival founder, executive producer and organizer, Frank Malfitano at fmalfitano@syracusejazzfest.com.**

As anticipation grows for the 2025 festival, jazz aficionados are encouraged to stay connected through the festival’s official channels for the latest updates on schedules, performers and venue information. If the past is prologue – and with artists scheduled to appear this June hailing from the USA, Cuba, England, Italy and Sweden – the 2025 Syracuse International Jazz Fest will again be a testament to Central New York’s longstanding dedication to celebrating and preserving the rich global legacy, history and heritage of jazz music.

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Syracuse Community Hebrew School Celebrates a Decade of Success

Pictured in the JO article about the opening of SCHS are the presidents of the three congregations that founded the Syracuse Community Hebrew School: Mickey Lebowitz of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, Howard Weinstein of Temple Adath Yeshurun and Irv Bodofsky of Temple Concord.

For years, members of the local community had been advocating for the creation of a community Hebrew school. In 2014, their call was answered. Linda Alexander, former President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of CNY, along with a dedicated group of rabbis, educators and community members, came together to turn this dream into a reality.

From the outset, it was decided that children in grades 3 through 7 who would attend the community Hebrew school would continue their religious education at their home synagogue, preserving their identity and connection to their own congregation. The Syracuse Community Hebrew School (SCHS), in turn, would take on the responsibility of providing community-wide Hebrew and *tefillah* (prayer) education. This plan was developed and implemented through the collaboration of three synagogues – Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas, Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Concord – who reached an agreement to move forward with the initiative. On September 16, 2015, SCHS officially welcomed students to their first day of class.

SCHS is an inclusive school that warmly welcomes children of all backgrounds, regardless of their level of knowledge about Hebrew or Judaism. Since its inception, SCHS has been rooted in the belief that learning is most effective when students actively engage with Judaism in meaningful, real-life scenarios. Experiential learning, which emphasizes learning through firsthand experiences, has been at the core of the school's educational philosophy. Going beyond the focus of Hebrew, SCHS immerses students in a curriculum that nurtures and focuses on Jewish values and traditions, Jewish pride, and community engagement. A central part of the community school's success is teaching the children in a way that makes them enjoy being Jewish. As Ora Jezer, director of SCHS explained, "Our school embodies the spirit of mishpacha – where students and staff, inspired by Jewish values and pride, come together to collaborate, learn, and grow as one united family."

Ora explains, "The program is constantly being reinvented, with new and innovative approaches designed to keep the kids excited. The engaging, interactive nature



of the classes keeps the children energized and actively interested. Creative activities like Hebrew reading marathons, Shabbat dinners, and Jews Around the World Festivals actively involve students in the learning process. SCHS is a place where being Jewish feels meaningful and filled with pride, offering a space to continue exploring and growing on your lifelong Jewish journey."



What Does a SCHS Day look like?

SCHS meets on Wednesday evenings for 2.5 hours, holding approximately twenty-nine learning sessions each year. Sessions begin with a 30-minute age-appropriate *tefillah* session, led by a clergy member from one of the affiliated synagogues, providing students with the chance to learn Hebrew through song and prayer.

Following *tefillah*, students proceed to their respective classes. Students take part



with other Jews and Jewish observances, deepening their understanding of Judaism and community.

SCHS has formed a meaningful partnership with Menorah Park, where students and seniors come together once a month to engage in activities focused on Jewish values and traditions. In addition, twice a month the school invites community members to join in various multi-generational programs. These collaborations provide a unique opportunity for students to connect with older generations and gain insight into their lived experiences. Students are able to hear firsthand stories, share perspectives and see how Jewish traditions have influenced the lives of those in the community.

SCHS's interactive programs offer students the opportunity to actively engage in authentic Jewish traditions. Recently, students celebrated Shabbat with a Kabbalat Shabbat service and a Shabbat dinner, using handmade candlesticks and singing Shabbat songs. It was a fun way to bring the Shabbat rituals to life, helping them better understand and appreciate the weekly tradition while learning to recite Shabbat prayers in Hebrew. These activities not only make learning Hebrew more engaging but also offer a meaningful way to celebrate and nurture Jewish pride.

While SCHS is dedicated to staying ahead of educational trends, its 10-year anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of how community involvement can truly transform the learning experience. The strong connections between families, the Jewish community, and SCHS educators foster a sense of belonging, responsibility and shared values that play a vital role in shaping children into the future leaders of the Jewish community.

As SCHS celebrates its 10th anniversary, it's time to reflect on its remarkable achievements achieved and the deep impact turning a dream into reality can make. **The community is invited to join the celebration, "Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future," dessert reception and awards ceremony on May 28, from 7 to 9 pm at 450 Kimber Road. For more information, email schs.syracuse@gmail.com.**



Experiential Learning through Real World Experiences

Whether through interactive projects or community engagement, experiential learning at SCHS provides students with invaluable opportunities to step beyond the classroom and immerse themselves in real-world environments and experiences. These experiences allow them to connect directly

Local Candidate Running for the World Zionist Congress

Melissa Harkavy is one of the candidates on the slate of MERCAZ USA, the Zionist Organization of the American Conservative/Masorti Movement running for a seat at the 39th World Zionist Congress, “the parliament of the Jewish people,” which will convene in Jerusalem in October 2025. Voting in the election is the most powerful opportunity Diaspora Jews have to have their voices heard in Israel, make an impact in Jewish communities worldwide, and stand up for Zionism. The representatives who are elected – one-third of them coming from the United States – will make key decisions on allocating over \$1 billion annually to support the most pressing needs across Israeli society and the Diaspora.



Ballots are cast for one of 22 slates submitted by Zionist groups. Voting is done primarily online and via mobile devices. A \$5 fee covers the costs of the election, administered by The American Zionist Movement (AZM), which is comprised of 46 national Jewish Zionist organizations and works across a broad ideological, political and religious spectrum linking the American Jewish community together in support of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people.

Those eligible to vote must be Jewish (and not subscribe to another religion), 18 years or older by June 30, 2025, a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident with primary residence in the U.S., accept the Jerusalem Program (the Zionist movement platform) and not have voted in the November 2022 Knesset election. Voting opened on March 10 and will close on May 4.

MERCAZ USA, sponsor of the slate on which Harkavy is running, advocates for a strong and secure Israel rooted in the moral and spiritual vision of the Hebrew prophets, a society that celebrates democratic principles, embraces diverse Jewish traditions, and safeguards the rights, dignity and inclusion of all its citizens. MERCAZ USA espouses rebuilding Israel in the aftermath of October 7 and supporting the hostages; combating antisemitism; an equitable and inclusive democracy in Israel; educating on Zionism and addressing misinformation; preserving a pluralistic Jewish society; strengthening the bond between American Jews and Israel; funding, resources, and support for the Conservative/Masorti movement’s values; achieving peace and stability in the region.

HADASHOT TOVOT



SHDS Students Sweep Science Fair

100% of the 5th and 6th graders from the Syracuse Hebrew Day School received Honors or High Honor for their projects at the CNY Science & Engineering Fair and Ava C won the ASCE Syracuse Section Awards in Civil Engineering.

Federation Receives Award from Town of DeWitt Police Department

Town of DeWitt Police Chief Shane Spencer presented the 2024 Kenneth C. Andrews Police Commission Award to the Jewish Federation of Central New York at a recent Board meeting. The Chief stated: “The DeWitt Police Commission as well as our department members commend



the Jewish Federation of Central New York for continually providing our agency with unwavering support and tremendous collaboration.”



RISE sells out its first appearance in London

RISE the Rock Musical, by local composer Josh Hershfield, sold out its first appearance in London and is headed for a New York City opening later this year.



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JCC 162nd Annual Meeting and Gala

by Erin Hart

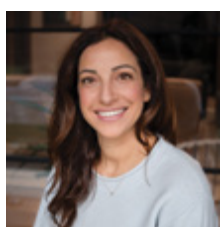
It's spring in Central New York and as we all prepare for the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center of Syracuse plans its upcoming Annual Meeting and Gala. The 162nd Annual Meeting and Gala will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2025, presented by naming sponsor, The Wladis Family.

The Annual Meeting and Gala is the JCC's largest fundraiser of the year and provides significant funding for scholarships to individuals in the JCC's Early Childhood, After School, Summer Camp and Senior programs. The proceeds also help support the Yachad program at the JCC, which helps to mainstream children with special needs within those programs. This past year alone, the JCC awarded over \$46,000 in scholarships, served over 7,000 meals to seniors and offered fitness classes at a discount to those in need.

"I have been involved with the Jewish Community Center of Syracuse for over 38 years and each year I am amazed at the outstanding group of honorees that have been selected," says JCC Executive Director Marci Erlebacher. "I have witnessed the JCC grow over the years, and we wouldn't be where we are today without the tireless efforts of our membership and community. This year's honorees have been instrumental in our growth over the years, and I look forward to honoring them at this year's event."

The annual celebration will make its much-anticipated return to Palladian Hall at the Treasury. The breathtaking venue once again promises to add sophistication to this year's program. The afternoon will begin with a cocktail hour in the upper mezzanine. Guests will move to the main floor of Palladian Hall for brunch served by none other than Essen New York Deli.

This year's program will include the installation of new officers and members of the JCC Board of Directors for the upcoming year as well as recognition of the outgoing board members and committee chairs for their tireless work. The JCC will unveil the renovations to the main entrance and present four awards to this year's outstanding group of honorees. The honoree presentations will once again feature a video presentation to highlight their involvement in the JCC and greater Jewish community.



The Kovod Award, which signifies honor and importance, will be presented to **Jessica Malzman**. Jessica was raised in Bedford Hills, NY where she was an active member of Temple Shaaray Tefila. She graduated from the Human Ecology School at Cornell University in 2006 with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development. She is the Chief Operating Officer of Whitney Partners, a New York-based executive search firm that specializes in the financial services industry. She has immersed herself in the Jewish Community since moving here in 2011. She joined the JCC Board of Directors in 2017 and currently serves as a Vice President. She is a past member of the Jewish Federation of CNY Young Leadership Committee, currently serves on the JCC Annual Meeting & Gala Committee and Co-Chairs the ECDP Parent Committee. Jessica and her husband, Ari, are strong supporters of Temple Adath Yeshurun where their children attend religious school. They reside in Fayetteville, NY with their three children, all of whom have proudly attended the Jerome and Phyllis Charney Early Childhood Development Program at the JCC.

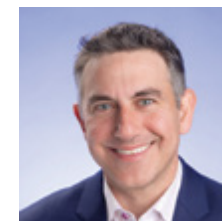


Sara Temes, JCC Board member and Board Vice President, will receive this year's Kovod Gadol Award, which in Hebrew translates to Highest Importance. This award is presented annually to honor an individual or couple who has demonstrated, usually over a period of years, an extraordinary degree of commitment, energy and loyalty to the JCC and greater community. Sara is a partner at Bond, Schoeneck and King where she specializes in business restructuring and bankruptcy. She isn't a stranger when it comes to the Annual Meeting and Gala having received the very first Leslie Award in 2016. She has played an instrumental role at the JCC serving on the Board of Directors since 2010 and as both treasurer and vice president. In addition to her time with the JCC, Sara has also served on the advisory board for the American Bankruptcy Institute, Mid-Atlantic Division, Local Rules Committee for the US Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of NY and on the Board of Directors of Menorah Park.



The JCC's Hall of Fame Award, which recognizes and celebrates individuals who have dedicated themselves to the Syracuse Jewish community and to the advancement of the JCC, will be given to **Neil Bronstein**. Neil has strong ties to Syracuse and the local Jewish community. He served as president of the JCC Board of Directors, Menorah Park board and the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York board. He also chaired and served on numerous boards and committees throughout the Jewish community in Syracuse. In 2021, Neil received the prestigious Roth Award from

the Jewish Federation for his service to the community. He retired in 2016 after devoting over 40 years as the owner and operator of Interim Healthcare. He is an avid golfer and both he and his wife, Jan, split their time between Syracuse and Arizona where they have a large group of friends whom they met through their many volunteer activities over the years.



Syracuse native **Brian Raphael** will receive this year's Leslie Award. "The Leslie" recognizes a younger up-and-coming professional within the local Jewish community for their outstanding commitment and service to the JCC and the local community, qualities which the award's namesake, Leslie London Neulander, personified through her many volunteer pursuits. Brian grew up in the halls of the JCC, having attended the Early Childhood Development Program and the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. He received his bachelor's degree in economics and went on to the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania where he later graduated with his medical degree. In 2016 he moved back to Syracuse and started his dermatology practice, Empire Dermatology. Brian and his wife; Michal, own Laci's Tapas Bar in the Hawley Green district and donate their restaurant to provide food and drinks for many Jewish events in Syracuse. After the October 7th attacks on Israel, he increased his involvement in the Jewish community and founded the non-profit organization, End Antisemitism Now, focusing on addressing antisemitism in our community. Brian and Michal live in Fayetteville with their three children.

Invitations for the 2025 Annual Meeting and Gala were mailed at the beginning of May. There are still affordable corporate and individual sponsorships available, as well as program advertising spots should you wish to place a congratulatory message to one of the well-deserved honorees. For more information on sponsorship, advertising and tickets, visit jccsyr.org/gala or contact JCC Assistant Director, Erin Hart 315-445-2360 x112.

Jews and Golf



Golf, with a history of exclusivity and tradition, was not a welcoming sport for Jews. Golf clubs, particularly the most prestigious and well-established ones, generally maintained unwritten but strictly enforced policies of exclusion based on religion, ethnicity and race. Jews were denied membership and entry into tournaments. The “No Jews Allowed” policies of top clubs such as Augusta National and Pine Valley led to Groucho Marx’s famous quip: “I refuse to join any club that would have me as a member.” In response to the restrictions, Jewish communities established their own country clubs, which also served as social hubs for Jewish families. Locally, the Lafayette Country Club was such a place.

Jews playing golf was also the subject of a famous Jewish joke: *The rabbi was so addicted to golf that he snuck out to play between the morning and afternoon services on Yom Kippur. Up in heaven, Moses said, “What a disgrace! A Jew playing golf on Yom Kippur. And a rabbi to boot!” The Almighty responded, “I’m going to teach him a lesson.” Out on the course, the rabbi stepped up to the first tee and bombed his drive down the fairway. His ball bounced off a sprinkler head, cart path and bunker rake, hit the green and rolled into the cup. “This is how you teach him a lesson, Lord? He got a hole in one!” exclaimed Moses. God replied: “Sure, but who’s he going to tell?”*

In that spirit of levity, here is Michael Gordon’s glossary of **Yiddish for Golfers**.



Yiddish for Golfers

By Michael Gordon

Yiddish, with its manifold and nuanced expressions of irony, sarcasm, and misery, should be declared the official language of golf. While other languages certainly have robust vocabularies, few can match Yiddish for conveying the agony, frustration, and futility that so many of us experience on the course. They also don’t have words that are quite as biting when you’re fully engaged in friendly banter/character assassination.

Here’s a brief listing of Yiddishisms that can come in handy from tee to green:

KEY Term
Meaning
Golf Context

Alta kaka
Literally “old defecator”
Everyone in senior league

Bashert
Fate
Used to blame the golf gods instead of your own incompetence

Bisl
A little bit
“Missed holing that putt by just a bisl!”

Bupkes
Absolutely nothing (originally goat turds)
“I put all that money in the betting pool, and you know what I won?
Bubkes!”

Hokn a chaynik
To nag incessantly
“He just won’t stop hockn a chaynik about playing a reciprocal”

Chochem
A brilliant person (or a total fool who thinks he’s brilliant).
That guy who offers up endless swing advice, most of which is ridiculous

Chutzpah
Audacity/balls
“Can you believe the chutzpah of that idiot jumping ahead of us?”

Cockamamie
Far-fetched/absurd
“He’s got this cockamamie scheme for scoring I just don’t get”

Dreykop
Confused guy
Looks for his ball in the left rough when it’s in the right pond

Farblunjet
Wandering because you’re lost
“I wish the course was better marked because we’re farblunjet right now”

Farklemt
Choked up emotionally
“I was farklemt when ol’ Ernie finally won”

Farshtunkene/Feh
Rotten/Stinks
Used for truly bad shots, as in, “What a farshtunkene putt that was”

Fres
To wolf down food
When you grab a burger at the turn, even though you should be on the tee

Ganif
A crooked person/thief
The cheater who welches on golf bets

Gantseh megillah
Make a big deal or a major issue out of nothing
When your partner goes into endless detail about all the many imagined factors that caused his bad shot

Gornisht helfen
Hopeless, nothing could help
If I asked the pro to fix my swing, I’m sure he’d think, “gornisht helfen”

Geshray
A scream
Often accompanies a shank

Halevai
G-d willing/May it be so
A good response to your partner suggesting you hit a high fade over water onto the green 160 yards away

Kanipshin
A fit or a tantrum
“He had one bad shot, threw his club, and had a kanipshin”

Kvell
To glow with pride
What you say when someone you’re instructing hits a great shot: “I’m kvelling”

Kvetch
Complain
When a good golfer whines about his shot, even though you couldn’t hit one as good in your dreams

Loch im Kopf*Hole in the head*

What you say when it starts raining:
“I need that like a loch im kopf.”

Maven*An expert*

“He’s the club’s chipping maven”

Mazel Tov*Congratulations*

What you shout when someone scores
an eagle

Mechayeh*Delight, pleasure*

“That breeze on this hot day is a
mechayeh”

Mensch*Decent, honorable person*

Someone who doesn’t kick the ball
out from under a tree even though no
one is looking

Mishuga*Crazy**(Mishuganah is a crazy person)*

“It’s meshuga how long he stands
over the ball before he swings”

Mumzer*Bastard*

“That little mumzer chipped in to
beat me”

Narishkayt*Silliness*

When someone tells you that a
certain club or technology makes a
huge difference

Nicht gefährlich*Not dangerous/terrible*

Weak shot, but could have been a lot
worse

Oy Gevalt/ Oy Veh/ Oy Veh is mir*Expressions of suffering, as in “Oh, no!”*

Used in desperate situations, like
when your ball lands behind a tree
and between two roots.

Patshki*Experiment, play around with*

When we obsessively try tips from
YouTube videos (usually to find out
they cause more harm than good)

Plotz*Collapse/faint*

“If I play any worse, I’m gonna plotz”

Putz*Jerk*

“Nobody will play with that guy
because he’s such a putz”

Rakhmonis*Mercy*

When you give someone a 3-foot putt
for a triple bogey

Schlep*To carry or drag*

“I can’t believe I have to schlep this
golf bag up that hill”

Schmatta*Rag, old clothing*

“Did you see that schmatta Abe is
wearing? You’d think he could put on
a nice golf shirt for once”

Schneid (Off the)*End a losing streak*

When you finally win a skin (or get a
point in a game like Wolf)

Schnorrer*Beggar/sponger*

“I’ve hosted him at our club five
times. Do you think that schnorrer
hasever hosted me?”

Schvitz*Sweat*

“I’m taking a cart so I don’t schvitz in
this heat”

Shanda*Shame, disgrace*

You hit the longest drive of your life
and then duff the next shot

Sheyne*Beautiful*

What you say when someone hits a
good- looking shot

Shikker*A drunk*

“If he wasn’t such a shikker, he
wouldn’t have driven the cart into the
pond”

Shlemiel*Clumsy person*

“That schlemiel just ran
over his partner’s foot!”

Shlimazel*Unlucky person*

The partner whose
foot got run over

Shmooze*Gossip, chat*

The superficial
chatter men have
while playing golf
(and at most other times)

Shmutsik*Dirty*

Why g-d made “lift, clean, and
place” rules – schmutz on the ball

Shpilkes*Impatience*

When you tee up your ball on a par
3 even though the group in front
hasn’t even made it to the green

Shtarker*Strong man*

“You hit that like a shtarker”
(similar to “You hit that like a goy”)

Tsuris*Trouble, aggravation*

“Why do I subject myself to all this
golf tsuris?”

Vershimmelt*Shook up, rattled*

“Suddenly I started slicing the ball
and became vershimmelt”

Zei gezond*Be healthy, be well*

What you tell your buddies as you’re
about to head home

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The Challah Prince Coming from Israel

by Miriam Goldberg Klaben

The JCC is thrilled to announce that The Challah Prince will be traveling from Israel to the JCC for an exciting two-hour challah braiding workshop on Wednesday, May 7. This fun, meaningful experience will give participants the unique opportunity to learn the art of challah braiding with an expert.



Challah has always been more than just bread; it's a symbol of tradition, community, and, for many, a creative outlet. In recent years, one particular Instagram account has been captivating audiences worldwide with stunning challah artistry, while also bringing mindfulness into the kitchen. That account belongs to Idan Chabasov, known as The Challah Prince. Since launching his Instagram in 2020, Idan has built a loyal following, teaching not just how to braid challah, but how to feel the dough and experience joy in every step of the process.

Originally from Tel Aviv, Idan comes from an artistic background that includes professional dancing, video production, animation and PR. The creation of The Challah Prince Instagram account was spontaneous, born from a desire for artistic expression and a way to connect with others. Little did Idan know that two months after starting his feed, the world would go into lockdown and baking, including challah, would become a staple for people seeking comfort and creativity during difficult times. The Challah Prince Instagram evolved into an ever-growing community centered around art, positivity, creativity and, of course, delicious challah.

While the challah braiding workshop is open to the whole community, it is geared toward older children and adults. It should be noted, if purchasing tickets for younger children, that Idan's presentation will include content about October 7th.

Standard admission tickets are \$36 and a limited number of tickets including a Meet-and-Greet are available for \$72. The workshop will begin at 6:45pm with the Meet and Greet taking place at 5:45pm. Everyone who attends will leave with a beautifully braided challah to enjoy at home.

For more information on the event or to purchase tickets, visit jccsy.org/challah-prince-event. For questions, email pjcnj@jccsy.org or call 315-445-2360.

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My Israel Quest

Theodor Herzl's powerful and inspiring quote, 'If you will it, it is no dream,' encapsulates his unwavering vision and determination to establish a Jewish homeland, symbolizing the perseverance and hope that ultimately led to the creation of Israel in 1948. The establishment of Israel marked a pivotal moment in Jewish history and global geopolitics. After centuries of persecution, including the atrocities of the Holocaust, Jews sought a safe haven and the right to self-determination. The United Nations' 1947 partition plan was rejected by Arab states. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence, which was immediately met with military aggression and war initiated by neighboring Arab countries. Nevertheless, the creation of Israel was a profound achievement, providing a homeland for Jews worldwide and symbolizing resilience. Beyond its religious, cultural and historical significance, Israel also holds strategic value in the Middle East, acting as a democratic ally to the West while contributing to advancements in technology, agriculture, and science. Today, Israel continues to shape global affairs and serves as a testament to the strength of human will in the face of adversity. To dive deeper into Israel's history, visit www.myisraelquest.com, where you will embark on a dynamic journey through Israel's historic key events that shaped a nation.

Former Fayetteville-Manlius High School Tennis Star to Represent USA in 2025 Maccabi Games

Danny Miron, a former Fayetteville-Manlius High School tennis star and a rising force in the professional pickleball scene, has been invited to represent the United States in the 2025 Maccabi Games in Israel. This marks a significant milestone in his athletic career, as he will compete in the Open Division of the Games, which features the nation's top Jewish athletes without age restrictions.

Outside of competition, Miron balances a career as a senior manager in the Strategic Insights & Analytics group at The Coca-Cola Company while staying deeply involved in the sport he loves. On weekends, he teaches and trains players at Lifetime Pickleball, helping others develop their skills in the fast-growing sport. Coca-Cola is a proud sponsor of the JCC Maccabi Games, further emphasizing its commitment to supporting youth athletics and community engagement.

Miron made his mark as a tennis player in high school, graduating in 2014 as the winningest doubles player in Fayetteville-Manlius history. A six-year varsity athlete, he started playing on the team as a seventh grader at just 4 feet 9 inches tall. By the end of his high school career, he had amassed 88 doubles wins—24 more than the next closest player. His senior season was especially memorable, as he and his partner, Nicholai Westergaard (who later played at the University of Pennsylvania), finished the regular season and city championship undefeated. The duo capped off their season by competing for the state title at the U.S. Open Facility in New York City, finishing fourth—the best result in FM men's doubles history.

After high school, Miron attended the University of Michigan, where he studied Business Administration and Statistics at the Ross School of Business. While there, he competed in club table tennis, reaching an ELO rating of 1800, and played on the club tennis team during his final year. In the summers, he ran a successful tennis coaching business, helping junior players improve their skills and achieve USTA success.

Miron's journey into pickleball began in the summer of 2022 when his uncle, Neal Bergman, a top adult player in Syracuse, introduced him to the sport. Just two months later, Miron entered his first amateur tournament

(4.0+) and won gold in both singles and doubles. By early 2024, he had earned his first Professional Pickleball Association (PPA) points and reached a career-high ranking of #81 in singles on the PPA tour. He has since defeated contracted PPA professionals, including James Delgado and Max Freeman, and in March 2025, won the \$1,000 Prize Money PPA Cape Coral Tournament in Florida with his doubles partner Luke Cartenuto.

The Maccabi Games, also known as the "Jewish Olympics," debuted in 1932 and have since become one of the largest international sporting events, with over 11,000 athletes from 60+ countries competing in 42 sports. The 2025 Games, set to take place from July 8 to July 22 in Israel, will mark the first time pickleball is included as an official sport.

Miron's invitation to compete in the Open Division is a testament to his rapid rise in the pickleball world. "Getting the opportunity to represent Team USA in the first-ever pickleball competition at the Maccabi Games is an incredible honor," Miron said. "It's not just about competing; it's about being part of something bigger, connecting with my heritage, and sharing this experience with athletes from around the world."

While the Maccabi Games are known for their high-level competition, they are also about fostering community and

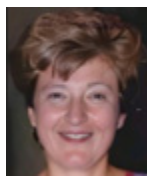


Jewish identity. Athletes not only compete but also participate in cultural and educational programs, deepening their connection to Israel and the global Jewish community.

Beyond his athletic and professional endeavors, Miron married his wife, Shay, in

2024. The couple met in Chicago after he graduated from the University of Michigan, and in 2021, they relocated to Atlanta when he accepted a position at Coca-Cola. As he continues to balance career, competition and family life, Miron remains dedicated to his training and upcoming tournaments. He has his sights set on several upcoming professional tournaments and is focused on preparing for the Maccabi Games, where he hopes to make history as one of the first pickleball medalists in the competition's history. For Miron, this opportunity is about more than just sports. It represents a culmination of years of dedication, a chance to showcase his skills on an international stage, and a meaningful way to celebrate his Jewish heritage through athletic excellence. As he takes this next step in his career, he remains deeply connected to his roots in Syracuse, where his journey first began.

ELINOR (ELLIE) JERRY
OCTOBER 12, 2024



Elinor (Ellie) Jerry passed away peacefully on October 12, 2024 at the age of 90 years young. Ellie met her future husband William (Bill) Jerry at Green Lakes State Park in Fayetteville, NY 75 years ago at the age of 15. They married in 1957 and celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary in April of 2024.

Ellie graduated from Syracuse University, earning her degree in education. She went on to teach Head-start, nursery school and first and second grade in the Syracuse City School system, retiring in 1989. As a busy working mom of three, she always made time to be at all of her kids' extracurricular events and was their biggest fan. In 1992 Ellie and Bill left Syracuse's snowy winters behind and moved to Southern California where they resided for over 30 years, enjoying the warmer weather and making many lasting friendships. Ellie was a lifelong fan of Syracuse University football and basketball, attending the games with Bill when they lived in Syracuse. Ellie loved playing mahjong with her girlfriends, especially her best friend Phyllis. She was an avid reader and word puzzler. Ellie also enjoyed traveling with Bill through his family-owned travel agency and they had many adventures together over the years.

Ellie was predeceased by her mother and father, Muriel and Jack, her in-laws Gertrude and Max, her sister Leatrice and her brother-in-law Norman. She is survived by her husband, William, her three children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Her family is profoundly grateful to her Hospice Care nurse, Angelica, and to her caregivers Camille, Annie, Chris and Audell, who treated her with compassion, kindness and love.

RITA FOX ESPOSITO
MARCH 6, 2025

Rita Fox Esposito, 82, passed away on March 6, 2025 at St. Joseph's Hospital. Born on September 7, 1942 to Milton and Annette Oromaner Fox in Brooklyn, she had been a resident of Syracuse for the past 23 years.

Rita loved genealogy, shopping and spending time with her family. She was a good cook and enjoyed preparing meals.

Her family includes her daughter Sara (Robert) Sims, and David (Robin) Miller, grandchildren Britta, Jake, Nico (Allysa), Matthew (fiancé Megan) and Jemma and great-grandchildren Gunner and Amaya.

Contributions to perpetuate her memory may be made to the Syracuse Hebrew Day School.
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CELIA "CECE" SILVERBUSH
MARCH 10, 2025



CeCe Silverbush passed away on March 10, 2025. CeCe grew up in Pioneer Public Housing on South McBride Street in Syracuse. She attended Central High School where she was a drum majorette. Shortly after graduating, she married Abraham Silverbush, eventually moving to Westcott Street. Living in the same house for over four decades, they raised six children. The oldest child was born in 1956, their youngest in 1977.

CeCe loved Syracuse and enjoyed watching SU basketball. She was an active member of Temple Beth El and Temple Adath Yeshurun, singing in the choir and participating in weekly bingo nights. She was an avid bowler, mahjong player, and enjoyed cooking. CeCe was once named the Herald-Journal's Cook of the Week for her pierogi and pecan pie. An animal aficionado, squirrels and deer travelled miles for her white bread with peanut butter.

But most of all, CeCe loved children. As an inaugural educator in the innovative 1980s preschool program called Head Start, she enjoyed having children in her home. Many students, who hailed from a wide variety of backgrounds, went on to accomplish great things. Thirty years after finishing high school she enrolled in college, earning degrees from OCC and Empire State College and a master's from SUNY Oswego, leading to her permanent teacher certification. Because Syracuse University was out of her financial reach, she drove through many quintessentially Central New York winter storms to attend class.

For 32 years, CeCe was a teacher in the city schools, earning the trust and admiration of children and colleagues alike. Few things made her smile more than running into former students around the city. Retiring from a full-time role in 2011, CeCe continued as a substitute until the pandemic. Over the years, she wrote many newspaper editorials about education, her last one regarding the controversial use of Common Core for Mathematics. In her little spare time, CeCe served as an Onondaga County inspector for primary and general elections

CeCe was predeceased by her parents, William (Ret. Sgt.) and Mildred Seigle, her younger sister Barbara-Ann and her beloved husband of over 60 years, Abe. She is survived by her children Bradley, Paula, Mark (Kelly), Jeffrey (Simone), Bnai and E.R. (Sandy), 12 grandchildren: Robert, Jacob, Joshua, Seth, Michael, Melissa, Livia, Samuel, Maya, Jonah, Talia and Gabriel, and five great-grandkids.

Contributions may be made to your local SPCA or Temple Adath Yeshurun, 450 Kimber Road, Syracuse, NY 13224.
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HENRY "HANK" WELLS
MARCH 15, 2025



Henry "Hank" Wells, 92 of Boca Raton, Florida and Fayetteville, New York passed peacefully at his home surrounded by his family after suffering a stroke. Henry was born and raised in Ithaca, New York.

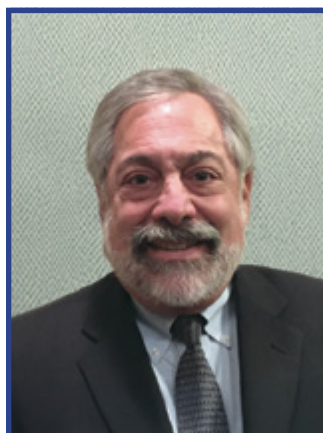
Henry was a trained and skilled boxer. He was on the boxing team at The Manlius Military Academy and continued his career training under legendary boxing coach Roy Simmons while attending Syracuse University. Henry was incredibly patriotic and it was no surprise that while at SU, Henry joined the US Air Force ROTC and was commissioned as a second lieutenant later serving in the Air Police. After returning from service, Hank attended Syracuse University Law School, graduating in 1956. This is where, on the last day of school, he saw his future wife Rita Lee. He turned to his fraternity brother and said, "I'm going to marry that girl". And so he did!

Their forever love story began and lasted for sixty-five years, eternally devoted to each other and raising four children.

After a short time practicing law, he started the Syracuse Vending Company with his brother and life-long partner Richard "Dick" Wells. They grew the business into one of the largest of its kind in the country. He was also intimately involved in the founding and running of American Food & Vending Corporation.

Henry volunteered during the 1960's and 1970's coaching and refereeing boxing all over NYS.

Henry had a great passion for politics and served for decades on the finance committee of the Onondaga County Republican Party. Henry helped start the first professional lacrosse league organized in the USA and with Dick



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owned the Syracuse Stingers (1974). A tremendous admirer of Winston Churchill, Henry was also an avid reader and had a huge library.

He was a member of The Masonic Temple Philo-Mount Sinai, Shriners International, Temple Adath Yeshurun, Temple Society of Concord, The Century Club, Cavalry Club, and the Palm Beach Yacht Club. Henry and Rita were members of Congregation Beth Israel in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and Temple Anshei Shalom of Palm Beach, Florida. Rita and Henry were proud supporters of Israel, having donated two ambulances to Magen David Adom, and also supported Chabad of Syracuse and AIPAC.

Hank was predeceased by his father, Martin, his mother, Mildred and wife Rita Lee. He is survived by his brother, Richard (Valerie) and his children Martin (Michele) Wells, Steven (Pamela) Wells, Victoria Wells (Jon Guisbond) and Alison Wells Cowen (Danny Travers), and his grandchildren Ted and Greg Wells, Ethan and Rachel Habib-Wells, Madelyn ("Happy") Cowen, Jack Wells, Sam Wells, and Abbie, Sammie, and Will Guisbond.

Services will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at the Birnbaum Funeral Chapel, 1909 E. Fayette St., Syracuse, NY. Friends may visit with the family from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the chapel prior to the service. Burial for the family will follow. Shiva will be held at the home of Victoria and Jon Tuesday 7-9 pm. In lieu of flowers donations in Henry's memory may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun at www.adath.org. Please leave Memories and Condolences on syracuse.com/obits.

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PHYLLIS RAND MARCH 22, 2025

Phyllis Rand, 96, passed away on March 22 in Dover, NH where she had been a resident for the past several years. Born in Brooklyn to Max and Leah Braker on February 9, 1929, she had been a resident of Syracuse for 60 years before moving to Dover.

Phyllis was a homemaker, having raised five children. She also was the business manager of her husband Milton's optometric practice. She was an active member of Hadassah, having served in many leadership roles over the years. She loved to play Mah Jongg and continued playing right up until her death. She was a long-time member of Temple Adath Yeshurun.

She was pre-deceased by her husband Dr. Milton and daughters Ellen Rand and Deborah Umbro. She is survived by her daughter Carolyn Berke, her sons Lawrence and Steven, five grandchildren (Matthew, Jeffrey, Daniel, Nicole and Lauren), two great-grandchildren (Benjamin and Henry) and her brother David Braker.

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EDWARD BOYD "BUNKY" ALDERMAN MARCH 19, 2025



Edward Boyd "Bunky" Alderman of Fayetteville died in Syracuse on March 19, 2025 at 92 years of age. Ed was born in Syracuse on March 15, 1933 to Saul H. Alderman and Elvira (Mosheim) Alderman.

Ed graduated from Nottingham High School, Syracuse University and Syracuse University College of Law. He practiced law for more than 60 years in Syracuse with his father Saul H. Alderman, his brother Richard B. Alderman, his cousin Eric M. Alderman and his son Steven B. Alderman. Ed was chairman of the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association and the Onondaga Bar.

Ed was an avid skier, writer, gourmet cook, collector of antique art glass, teacher, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He loved to learn and spent much of his free time traveling, reading and exploring house sales. Ed enjoyed sharing his interest in Gilbert and Sullivan, bagpipes and Scottish games. His kindness, generosity and caring nature touched the lives of many. He was truly a remarkable man who made a difference in the world around him. Ed's devotion to his family was unparalleled.

He was predeceased by his parents, Saul H. Alderman and Elvira (Mosheim) Alderman, his brother Robert B. Alderman, his sister Sandra Alderman Swartz and his ex-wife Judith Levy Alderman. He is survived by his children Steven (Lori Saperstein), James (Pamela), Tracy (Karen Marshall), brother Richard (Maxene), grandchildren Julie Alderman Boudreau (Alex) and Samuel (Rachel), and two step-grandchildren Brian (Jess) and Kelly.

Contributions may be made to the Syracuse University College of Law or the Onondaga County Bar Foundation.

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RICHARD GINGOLD MARCH 24, 2025



Richard Gingold, 83, passed away peacefully at home on March 24, 2025. Born on February 8, 1942 to Eli and Sarle Greenhouse Gingold, he was a life resident of Syracuse. He was a graduate of the Manlius Military Academy and served in the Coast Guard in the early 1960's. During his professional career Richard worked to promote small businesses. He established RSG Communications in the early 1970s.

Richard was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and also served on its board of directors. He was a trustee for the Village of Manlius and former president of Dewitt Rotary and an active member in their fundraising activities. He volunteered as a Little League baseball umpire for the village of Manlius for many years. He was passionate about golf and fishing. He never let one get away.

He was devoted to his family. His wife Elaine passed away in August of 2021. His family includes his sons Dr. Brett and Peter (Aileen); grandchildren

Tiger, Sequoia, Jackson and Hudson, his brothers Neil (Susan) and Harlan (Diane); his brothers-in-law Dr. Jerry (Judy) Laffer and Stephen (Pam) Laffer and his sisters-in-law Marilyn Masell and Renee (Nick) Diakow as well as a large and loving extended family. The family especially thanks his doctor and friend, Dr. Ruth Weinstock, for her years of caring for him.

Contributions may be made to the Richard and Elaine Gingold Joslin Diabetes Fund # 18105 at The Upstate Foundation, 750 E. Adams Street, Syracuse, NY 13210. (Please note the fund number in the memo line or donate online at <https://www.upstatefoundation.org/page.aspx?pid=298>.)

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