

Enriching Lives

מעשירים חיים

Volume 50, No.8 September 2020 Elul 5780 - Tishri 5781



Shalom09|20

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community published by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

- Your Federation Supports:**
- Jewish Education
 - Food Pantry
 - Friendship Circle
 - Chevra
 - Community Shabbat
 - Reading Jewish Film Series
 - PJ Library
 - Jewish Family Service
 - Jewish Cultural Center
 - Lakin Holocaust Library
 - & Resource Center
 - Israel & Overseas
 - Camp Scholarships
 - Israel Trips
 - Jewish Community
 - High School
 - Emergency Support
 - Lakin Preschool
 - Richard J. Yashek Lecture
 - Transportation
 - Maimonides Society
 - Your Jewish Legacy
 - 92ND ST Y Programs
 - Joint Distribution Committee
 - Meir Panim
 - Annual Campaign
 - Jewish Agency for Israel
 - Yemin Orde
 - School Education Programs
 - Interfaith Unity Council
 - Israel Advocacy
 - Youth Events
 - Great Decisions Series
 - Jewish Community
 - Relations Council
 - Community Holiday Programs
 - Women’s Philanthropy
 - Jewish Federations
 - of North America
 - Counseling Services
 - Leo Camp Lecture
 - Shabbat B’Yachad

Author Joseph Telushkin to speak at Community Campaign Leadership Program

By Richard Nassau

Was the shtetl a forerunner of the Catskills and Broadway? Why are comedians so often Jewish? Why are Jews so often comedians? Why ask questions? These are some of the questions Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, author of “Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews,” likes to think about.

Rabbi Telushkin is a speaker who has the timing of a standup comic. Larry Gelbart, a Tony and Emmy Award-winning writer, said, “I don’t know if Jews are really the chosen people, but Telushkin’s book makes a strong argument that they’re the funniest.”

On Oct. 18 at 11 a.m. Rabbi Telushkin will bring his findings — and lots of jokes — to Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks’ premier fundraising event — the Community Campaign’s Leadership Program.

Because of the pandemic, this

year’s Leadership program will be held virtually. Participants will receive a home-delivered brunch, a copy of Rabbi Telushkin’s book and a few surprises.

A minimum contribution of \$1,200 per person is recommended for those attending the program. Reservations are required.

Rabbi Telushkin is a world class speaker. Bill Franklin Federation President said: “The Leadership event recognizes and thanks our major contributors to Federation’s Community Campaign. It is our foremost fundraiser and most important during this pandemic. We’re pleased Rabbi Telushkin will be joining us on Oct. 18, especially now, when humor is so important.”

Harper Collins reported, “Rabbi Telushkin is as celebrated for his wit as for his scholarship and in this immensely entertaining book, he displays both in equal measure. Stimulating,



something stinging, and always very, very funny, Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews offers a classic portrait of the Jewish collective unconscious.

Rabbi Telushkin has been hailed by *Jewish Week* as

“America’s rabbi.” His reputation extends beyond the Jewish community. He was named by *Talk* magazine as one of the 50 best speakers in the U.S. His book “Jewish Literacy” is the widest-selling work on the topic of Judaism.

PJ Library helps Federation connect Jewish families and celebrate Jewish life

Grants will strengthen social connections and increase opportunities for Jewish experiences and learning across the United States and Canada

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Berks County-area families raising Jewish children will now have more opportunities to participate in Jewish life, thanks to a grant recently awarded by PJ Library®, the flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that provides free books to families raising Jewish children all over the world.

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks received \$6,500 to launch a new program called Find Your Voice, in which tweens will learn about finding their voice to become more self-aware, build confidence and be an example of peace in our community. Find Your Voice will meet five times over the school year with authors of books that will tackle topics such as social justice, being Jewish and young adult life in America in 2020, all while creating action towards social justice through service and learning.

Tracy Newman, director of community engagement for PJ Library, says “these grants reflect incredible creativity and flexibility in how our implementing partners are approaching our work during this unprecedented time. All funded grants showcase PJ Library’s best practices

on engaging families in Jewish life while adapting to the current realities of virtual and social-distancing modalities.”

“Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks is honored to receive this grant and thrilled to be part of the global PJ Library community reaching more than 675,000 children and their families across 23 countries” said Amanda Hornberger. “We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Exeter Community Library in this extension program of Literatour Berks focused exclusively on young readers.”

The 15 winning grant proposals were chosen through a competitive process open to organizations implementing PJ Library across the United States and Canada. A survey of 800 participants in previous grant-funded projects showed:

- 85% of families connected socially during the programs
- 64% of families followed up with the social connections afterward
- 76% of families sought out or attended other Jewish programs
- 99% would recommend the programs to friends

“PJ Library’s impact goes well beyond

the more than 230,000 books we send out each month across the United States and Canada,” said Debbi Cooper, director of engagement for PJ Library. “We have worked closely with our local partners for over a decade to help advance Jewish family engagement, and now we are grateful to be able to add financial support to help ensure the success of great initiatives.”

We are grateful to our PJ Library Alliance partners who have joined the HGF in funding these engagement grants: William Davidson Foundation; The Marcus Foundation, Inc.; The Azreili Foundation; Genesis Philanthropy Group; Jim Joseph Foundation; The Micah Foundation; Sam Berman Charitable Foundation; Carl & Joann Bianco; The Crown Family; Marilyn Einstein & Steven Sim Charitable Fund; Dr. Steven Grinspoon; One8 Foundation; Howard & Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation; Stephen and Bebe Saks Family Foundation; Sherrie R. Savett Family Foundation; Mike & Sofia Segal Family Foundation; Susser Family Trust; Walter, Arnee, Sarah, & Aaron Winshall; Zucker Family Foundation and three anonymous partners.

LIFE & LEGACY has a powerful impact

By Richard Nassau
Development Director

You may be aware that an unprecedented transfer of \$59 trillion in generational wealth has been taking place before our eyes. Charitable organizations are among the recipients of this transfer, including many in the Jewish community — synagogues, agencies, and Federations. These legacy gifts have become an important resource as they increasingly play an important role in sustaining the future of our Jewish communities. Legacies ensure financial stability.

In 2010, five years after they started PJ Library, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation began their LIFE & LEGACY program. Their goal was to build legacy funds that would support our Jewish communities and organizations for the next generation and beyond. The Grinspoon Foundation began by developing partnerships with Jewish Federations and foundations across North



America. The impact on Jewish communal culture has been unprecedented. LIFE & LEGACY enabled all donors to become legacy philanthropists. It changed attitudes and made legacy giving in communities the norm. It also resulted in developing a new camaraderie and respect among Jewish communal organizations as they worked together to help donors create legacies that benefitted programs the donors were passionate about.

LIFE & LEGACY accomplished this by providing communities with structure, training and mentoring. It encouraged donors to have legacy conversations, placing an emphasis on organizational collaborations that would create a united and strong Jewish community for future generations.

In the 10 years since its creation, it has proved to be a success for communities that embraced it. As of March 31, 680 organizations from 63 communities have participated in LIFE & LEGACY. The result is that more than 26,000 legacy commitments have been secured. The total

of these commitments is over \$1 billion that will one day provide and sustain our Jewish future.

In Berks County, the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks has been a participant in LIFE & LEGACY through the Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania. As of the end of 2019, the Central Pennsylvania program with 14 member organizations, including Federation, had secured \$22.7 million in commitments from 680 legacy donors, including 47 donors from Berks County.

Creating your legacy allows you to fulfill your philanthropic goals and still meet the needs of your family. Establishing your Jewish legacy allows you to plan and actively support programs you believe in. It ensures resources, given in your name, will be available for our future community.

Donors who wish to engage in meaningful, confidential legacy conversations for one or multiple organizations can contact the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks at 610-921-0621 or send an email to Richard Nassau RichardN@JFReading.org.

Reading Jewish Youth Programs include Youth Group, Hebrew High

By Adi Shalev

Teens are our future; on this we all agree. They have the power to dream and shape themselves and have an impact on the world and their environment.

As a teen I was part of different groups. I was in the scouts, on the student council, and I initiated and established a project to nurture and empower adolescent girls.

Why am I telling you this? Because I did all of this when I was a teenager. I started in seventh grade and continued through 12th.

I gave of my time and effort, but I got much more back. Without question, all the things I did and experienced as part of a group gave me tools to become a better person, a more effective employee, and a better friend, citizen and Jew.

I believed that I could conquer the world.

I want our Reading teens to have these same feelings. They will feel and realize the power they have as individuals and as a group.

We are planning two programs for this year:

1. A Youth Group where we will meet and connect with cooking classes,

philanthropy projects, events with other youth groups and always have fun.

2. Our Hebrew High — Knowledge is power. Learning things gives us tools to explore and understand our world, our Judaism and ourselves. It is an amazing privilege that we should all take advantage of.

On Wednesday, Sept. 9, at 8 p.m., we plan to meet with you, parents and teens, discuss details and get your thoughts before we finalize. Join us in person or through Zoom. For more information contact me at AdiS@JFReading.org or call 610-921-0624. Shana Tovah!

Development

- Annual Campaign
- Women's Philanthropy
- Maimonides Society
- Your Jewish Legacy
- Chai Circle
- L'Chaim Society
- Book of Life
- Letter of Intent



DONATE NOW
TO OUR
JEWISH
COMMUNITY
CAMPAIGN

Please visit
ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Make your gift
today!

Boscov's Kosher Catering Holiday Menu 2020

Please feel free to order any meal and as many as you want

- _____ Herb roast ½ chicken- \$14.00
- _____ Moroccan stewed chicken- \$14.00 (warm Moroccan spices, preserved lemon and green olives)
- _____ Traditional style brisket and gravy- \$16.00
- _____ Beef stir fry and white rice- \$15.00
- _____ Israeli Style Baked Salmon – Fresh Fish Baked in a traditional tomato & paprika sauce \$14.00
- _____ Pan seared salmon- \$14.00 (finished with tomato, spring onion, artichoke hearts and lemon)
- _____ Israeli Vegetable Cous Cous- Toasted cous cous, olive oil, garlic, lemon, and fresh veggies \$12.00

All entrees include Sweet Kugel, Vegetable, Matza Ball Soup and Apple cake

- _____ Chicken Fingers w BBQ/Honey Mustard And Fries \$8.00 per person

*Payment can be made by cash/personal check at time of delivery or credit card called into our office ahead of time.

*Orders and be placed by phone at (610-370-3718) or by email at

sbonner@boscovs.com By 9-10-20

Series to focus on anti-Semitism

**Starts Tuesday, Sept. 22,
at 7 p.m. on Zoom**

A three-part series on anti-Semitism will begin on Tuesday, Sept 22 at 7 p.m. on Zoom with a talk by Dr. Jennifer Koosed. She will give a historical overview of the origins of anti-Semitism.

Save the dates for Oct 6 for Ira Forman and Oct 27 for the Anti-Defamation League for lessons in modern-day anti-Semitism.

What is the best way to approach American history?

By William D. Franklin
President

In our last issue I wrote about the dilemma we Jews face working to correct the racial injustices of our country, while dealing with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement’s inclusion of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel protests. This month we face a new dilemma. An outgrowth of weeks of protests over entrenched racism has led to Confederate statues and statues of other historical figures, including slave traders, our national Founding Fathers and Christopher Columbus being toppled throughout the U.S. These attacks on statues are a sign that what’s in question is not just our future but our past. I found an article, ‘Taking a Jewish Approach to U.S. History’ by Natan Sharansky and Gil Troy, Professor of History at McGill University, to be relevant to these revisionist protests in our country and instructive of steps we might take. It



posits that we are viewing our history far too critically. We are questioning beliefs in our country’s ideals themselves and our heritage, because so many of those who shaped the ideals and heritage were flawed. Our Bible is filled with imperfect characters, yet we learn from both their good and bad deeds. Sharansky and Troy write: “In the free world, history cannot be the exclusive property of the leaders; nor should it be subject to the whims of the crowds and the trends of the day. In democracies, history flows from past to present, not vice versa. We cannot exile every bigot or isolate their greatest accomplishments from their worst sins. “Jews are preprogrammed to navigate history, not negate it. We have no choice. Although Western civilization brutalized the Jews, Western values liberated us, too. We’ve learned that the best way to fight racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry is to sift through history, not purge it. We cannot change the past, no matter how ugly. There is too much to learn from its failures and glories. When facing history’s challenges, it is

better to squirm than sanitize.” Other great thinkers have also realized the contradictory nature of human beings. The philosopher Karl Popper said that “each generation has its own troubles and problems, and, therefore, its own interests and its own point of view.” Berl Katznelson, instrumental in the establishment of the modern state of Israel, endorsed forgetting — and remembering, in proportion. “A renewing and creative generation does not throw the cultural heritage of ages into the dustbin. It examines and scrutinizes, accepts and rejects.” Rabbi David Hartman warned — “Remember Auschwitz; rebuild with Sinai.” Rather than lying about some oversimplified past by constantly updating it, we must learn about the imperfect real past to keep improving the future. We too must not forget or revise our history but learn from it to support change and build a better future. It is unfortunate that Jews and Blacks are erasing the fact that less than 100 years ago Black and Jewish leaders were articulating what we had in common — the Black

movement out of the South paralleled the Jews’ escape from Egypt, both Blacks and Jews lived in ghettos, and the anti-Black riots in the South were like the pogroms Jews suffered in Europe. Both communities worked together to move America toward a society of merit, free of religious, ethnic and racial restrictions. To keep our memory strong, we will be having a series of speakers focusing on anti-Semitism; its history, our current environment, and steps to fight it. Later, we will be having speakers on Jewish-Black relations. They will instruct us on actions we can initiate as individuals and as a community to fight social injustice together with our Black community and restore relations to what they once were. In February we will be showing the film “Shared Legacies.” This is the story of the coalition and friendship between the Jewish and African-American communities during the civil rights movement in observance of Black History Month. It’s a challenge, but I trust we will continue to remember, not revise, the past and work for a better future.

Israel Book Club explores Middle East peace plan

By Moisey Schneider and Andi Franklin
One of the problems with putting out a 180-page peace plan is that no one will read it. So, the Israel Book Club decided to do just that!

Reviews and critiques leave out important points because of space limitations and author subjectivity. This review also suffers from that. However, it serves as an important corrective to other views. First, there will be a basic outline of the plan’s details and then a critique. **Plan Details** — The major difference between this plan and the Oslo Plan is that the new plan is holistic. Oslo set up a structure for negotiations but was not successful. This plan goes further, outlining two states. It favors Israel in that it reminds us that the original Palestinian state was supposed to be what is now Jordan. It also favors Israel in prioritizing Israel’s security and insisting on the Jewish character of the state. This is accomplished by granting Israel 30% of the disputed territory: the Jordan Valley, for security; the Israeli Jewish cities nearest the Green Line and a few enclaves in the future Palestinian state so no one is uprooted from his or her home. Control of Jerusalem’s holy sites will remain under Israeli authority. Much of largely Arab East Jerusalem will be ceded to the Palestinian Authority to be, if desired, their capital.

In addition, once an agreement is reached on the peace treaty, the Palestinians will stop strategic efforts to destroy the Jewish State of Israel. There will be no right of return, which would destroy the Jewish character of the state. There will be no further international legal suits, and the new Palestinian state will be demilitarized with respect to external aggression, although fully armed for internal police guardianship. There is direct equity in that both parties will give full recognition to each other. The state of Palestine will be recognized as the state of the Palestinian people, and Israel will be recognized as the state of the Jewish people. There is further evenness in that there will be no forced population transfers of either Israelis or Palestinians. This new plan includes three major territorial advantages for Palestinians. The first involves territory in the Negev

for Palestinian industrial and agricultural research centers. The second involves a trans-Israel corridor linking Gaza with Judea and Samaria (the West Bank). The third part, to be negotiated, mentions Arab cities in the Galilee that self-identify as Palestinian. 97% of Israelis in West Bank will be incorporated into a contiguous Israeli territory and approximately 97% of Palestinians in the West Bank will be incorporated into a contiguous Palestinian territory. This gives a state of Palestine land reasonably comparable to the territory of pre-1967 West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians will be given local, regional and international support to create a viable, thriving, self-sustaining state. Exciting and achievable programs are outlined which would nurture strong and transparent government and court systems. Further programs are outlined for industrial research, agricultural development, and educational structures for pre-school through graduate school. Tourism, recreational, and cultural developments that highlight the Palestinian people’s culture and the area’s many geographic and religious specialties are to be developed. If adopted, the U.S. and other countries will invest \$ 50 billion over the next 10 years to make this happen.

This plan is truly a vision of how peace can lead to dignity, prosperity, autonomy and full incorporation of two unique peoples into the international community of nations. **Critique** — The proposed peace plan looks very promising for Palestinians and Israelis and for the whole Middle East region. For Palestinians it’s a chance of a lifetime to be free and get a decent, prosperous life that will be changed enormously for the better. For Israelis, it will mean peaceful coexistence with its neighbors and the end of constant wars. This plan includes Palestinians building a completely new and fully functional infrastructure — an airport, a seaports, a rail system, bridges, roads, hospitals schools, colleges and museums. The question is, does the plan have a chance of being implemented considering the real situation. The plan will only have a chance if Arab states, the European Union countries and the United Nations

help to pursue it. Unfortunately, neither the Palestinian Authority nor the Islamist group Hamas in Gaza are interested in the plan. It will be very complicated considering the hostile situation and the present real politics and does not look favorable. Further problems are that there is much corruption in the Palestinian Authority. The economies in both the West Bank and Gaza are in tatters and unemployment is 30% or higher. They’re not self-sustaining and survive only with outside help from Israel and other countries. The last Palestinian elections for both Gaza and the West Bank were held in 2006. Those elected are still ruling and still do not agree with each other, which further hinders acceptance of this plan. Both refuse to recognize the Jewish state and demand that millions of Palestinian refugees be returned to Israel. This is, by far, in excess of the 721,000 Arabs who left Israel in 1947 but the plan makes note of the more than 800,000 Jews who were cruelly exiled from Arab lands. This parallel is important to remember. It will also be difficult to gain worldwide support since many politically left groups view Israel as an occupying, undemocratic country unworthy of diplomatic support. Therefore, they refuse to even consider a plan that may favor Israel regardless of how beneficial it might be for the Palestinian people. The international and U.S. press, who disdain President Trump and adviser Jared Kushner, look upon the plan as a bad joke that does not deserve consideration. Therefore, the future of the plan looks dismal. However, unexpectedly, there was announced a huge historical event of the establishment of full diplomatic relationships between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, one of the most advanced Arab countries in the world. This shocked the liberal political establishment in the U.S. and Europe and enraged the Palestinians, Iran and Turkey. Even *The New York Times*, awkwardly mentioned that two other Arab countries may soon make peace with Israel. This new development may force the Palestinians to reconsider. The troubled Middle East region — Palestinians and Israelis — deserve and may yet get prosperous and peaceful lives. *** We will next read selected essays by Ahad Ha’am, the founder of Cultural Zionism.

Shalom

A newspaper serving the Jewish community of Berks County, Pennsylvania, and published monthly, September through June, under the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. Funded by the Annual Jewish Community Campaign.

General Offices:	1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125 Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone:	610-921-0624
Web site:	FAX: 610-929-0886 www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Jewish Federation of Reading

Chair:	Robert M. Caster, CPA
President:	William D. Franklin
Communications Director:	Mark Nemirow, Editor
Proofreaders:	Federation staff



Jewish Federation®
OF READING/BERKS

Literatour Berks to start its second season virtually

By Amanda J. Hornberger
The Literatour Berks committee is thrilled to announce the line-up for our second season of Literatour Berks! Please see the Centerpiece for a complete list of authors and dates.
More than two dozen authors will join us virtually (and hopefully in person in 2021) to discuss a wide variety of topics from addiction to humor to Jewish holidays to historical fiction. There is something for everyone in

this season's lineup, and we look forward to building on the success of last year's inaugural season.
Literatour Berks is proud to continue our partnerships with the Exeter Community Library and Sinking Spring Public Library in our second season. We continue to work with independent bookstore, Reads & Company, for book purchases.
While the start of this season is quite different — all events through the end of the year

will occur virtually — the goal of bringing quality literature on Jewish topics or by Jewish authors to Berks County, remains the same.
Save the date for our first Literatour Berks author event on Monday, Sept. 14, at 7 p.m. with Rachel Beanland, author of "Florence Adler Swims Forever."
Join us for a fun conversation about this popular summer read as we kick off season two of Literatour Berks.
Interested in supporting Literatour? Patrons and



Sponsors from the community are encouraged to help support this amazing new collaborative program! Contact Richard Nassau at richardn@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 to find out more.

Debut author to deliver talk for Literatour Berks

By Amanda J. Hornberger
Many of us were unable to visit the beach this summer. Luckily for us, Rachel Beanland's debut novel, "Florence Adler Swims Forever" "beautifully brings to life Atlantic City in the 1930s, offering the sights, sounds and smells of the beach and the boardwalk, as well as the daily life of Atlantic City's Jewish community," according to Book List.
The Adler family is enjoying a day the beach when tragedy strikes. In order to protect her

pregnant daughter Fannie, mother Esther makes the shocking decision to hide the truth and pulls the family into an elaborate web of secret-keeping and lies, bringing long-buried tensions to the surface that reveal how quickly the act of protecting those we love can turn into betrayal.
This Barnes & Noble Book Club pick is based on a true story and is a "breathtaking portrait of just how far we will go in order to protect our loved ones and an uplifting portrayal of how the human spirit can endure — and

even thrive — after tragedy".
The public is invited to join us for a conversation with Rachel Beanland on Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.
Signed copies of Beanland's book will be available for purchase through the Literatour Berks official book vendor, Reads & Company of Phoenixville.
You are invited to register for this program by emailing amandah@jfreeding.org or visiting our website.
Thank you to the sponsors and patrons of Literatour Berks for making this event possible.



Rachel Beanland

Retired women's group to meet monthly for lunch

By Amanda J. Hornberger
Our retired old men eating out or ROMEO group has been successfully meeting for the past two years. The group has continued to flourish virtually during the past few months.

It is time for the retired women of the community to have their chance for lunch time chatting at our new Juliet group. Juliet stands for Just Us Ladies Into Eating Together and is similar to our ROMEO group.

Retired women are invited to join us on Zoom on Tuesday, September 8 at 12 p.m. Bring your lunch and virtually chat with your friends! If there is interest the goal is to continue this group on the second Tuesday of every

month at noon.
If you are interested please contact Amanda Hornberger at 610-921-0624 or email amandah@jfreeding.org to receive the link to sign up.

Jewish Cultural Center

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevre

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom Offers a Modern Approach to Religious School with ShalomLearning

This fall, RCOS will proudly offer the ShalomLearning program for grades Pre-K to 7.

Values Curriculum

The ShalomLearning's values-based curriculum explores seven Jewish values and their relevance in our everyday lives. Students will learn to use Jewish sources to make responsible decisions and build positive relationships.

Virtual Classroom

Learning together in a virtual classroom, students will interact with each other in a real-time, teacher-led class. By being able to log in from home (or anywhere), students understand that learning and Judaism happen everywhere, not just in the Religious School.

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

CONTACT

Holly Michelson, R.J.E.

610-375-6034

school@ohebsholom.org

www.shalomlearning.org

Addiction panel to be held for National Recovery Month

By Amanda J. Hornberger

According to the most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health (from 2018), an estimated 164.8 million people aged 12 or older in the United States (60.2 percent) were past-month substance users (i.e., tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drugs).

In 2018, an estimated 21.2 million people aged 12 or older needed substance use treatment. This number translates to about 1 in 13 people who needed treatment.

In honor of National Recovery Month, Literatour Berks is presenting a panel discussion on addiction with two authors with personal experiences with addiction. The community is invited to join us on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. on Zoom for this important discussion facilitated by Rabbi Yosef Lipsker representing Caron Treatment Centers.

Joining us will be Dan Peres, author of "As Needed for Pain: A Memoir of Addiction." Peres's career as an editor at *W* magazine and *Details* is well-known, but little is known about his private life as a high-functioning



drug addict.

In "As Needed for Pain," Peres lays bare for the first time the extent of his drug use — at one point a 60-pill-a-day habit.

Our other panelist is Eilene Zimmerman, author of "Smacked: A Story of White-Collar Ambition, Addiction, and Tragedy."

Zimmerman noticed that her ex-husband, Peter, looked thin, seemed distracted and was frequently absent from activities with their children. Yet in many ways, Peter seemed to have it all: a beautiful house by

the beach, expensive cars, and other luxuries that came with an affluent life.

One day Eilene makes a shocking discovery, one that sets her on a journey to find out how a man she knew for nearly thirty years became a drug addict, hiding it so well that neither she nor anyone else in his life suspected what was happening. Eilene discovers that Peter led a secret life, one that started with pills and ended with opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

This important conversation touches all of us and is more important to have during this time than ever. We invite you to join us on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. on Zoom to learn more about these real stories, that could easily be your neighbor, your spouse or you.

Signed copies of the books will be available for purchase through the Literatour Berks official book vendor, Reads & Company of Phoenixville.

You can register by emailing amandah@jfreeding.org or visiting our website.

Thank you to the sponsors and patrons of Literatour Berks for making this event possible.

Socially distanced story walk to mark Rosh Hashana

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Who wouldn't want to journey by train through Israel? Thanks to the beauty of the PJ Library picture book "Engineer Ari and the Rosh Hashanah Train" and technology, you can!

Families with young children are invited to the campus of Keshar Zion Synagogue/Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon for a socially distanced

outdoor PJ Library story walk. The story of Engineer Ari will be posted on large boards around the campus and families will be able to walk around and read or listen to the story read aloud via their smartphones.

Thanks to Adi, there will also be special pictures, facts and games about each of the Israeli stops mentioned in the book. Everything can be accessed via your smart phone as you journey

along with the book. Kids who make it to the end of the book will receive a goody bag of related items to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

Please note there will be no large gathering as part of this event. Come anytime and explore on your own with your family.

Social distance should be maintained, and masks are encouraged. We hope this provides families with a unique

opportunity to celebrate Rosh Hashana and read a great PJ Library book while staying safe!

Timing for this event is in conjunction with the first day of RCOS Religious School, so we encourage families to combine both events and join the fun!

Questions or concerns? Please reach out to Amanda at 610-921-0624 or amandah@jfreeding.org

Check out a special Tech Tuesday on Zoom

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Join us for a special socially distanced Tech Tuesday class on

how to use Zoom. The program is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m.

We will cover the basics of downloading the Zoom app, joining a meeting, and settings including mute, chat and video.

We encourage you to bring your laptop or tablet to class so we can better assist you.

Sign-ups are limited to 20 people, and we will be spread out in the JCC to maintain the required social distance.

Please remember that masks are required to be worn the entire time you are at the JCC.

The class will be held on Tuesday, September 15 at 4 p.m. just in time to get familiar with Zoom before the High Holidays.

If you are interested, please call 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreeding.org to sign up or to get additional information.

Palestinian professor slams PA overreaction to Israel-UAE deal

From online news sources

Prominent Palestinian professor of political science and peace activist Mohammed Dajani criticized the Palestinian Authority leadership for rejecting the agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates to normalize their relations.

Asked if he saw any benefits for the Palestinians from the agreement, Dajani told *The Jerusalem Post*: "Definitely, I think that here we have to understand the nature of things, that this peace will go through two processes; the first process

will be the government-to-government, and the second will be people-to-people."

Dajani, known for his work to raise Palestinian awareness of the Holocaust, said that what we are witnessing now is government-to-government peace between the UAE and Israel.

"I strongly support this initiative by Abu Dhabi because I feel it is a step forward towards reconciliation," he said. "It is important to have more Arab countries involved in the peace process."

Born to one of east Jerusalem's historic families, Dajani said that the Palestinians

should look at the long-term benefits they stand to gain from the Israel-UAE deal.

"If the Palestinians can build good relations and bridges with the Arab countries, instead of criticizing and demonizing the United Arab Emirates, they can, for example, use the United Arab Emirates to pressure Israel regarding the peace process. This is the role that Jordan and Egypt have played by using their relations with Israel in order to achieve peace for the Palestinians. Those countries that have relations with Israel are much more possibilities to be able to involve themselves in trying to seek the Israeli government's recognition for a Palestinian state and Palestinian rights.

"It is more useful to have more Arab countries with good relations with Israel so that they could pressure Israel into moving in that direction, rather than to have enmity relations where they have no input on Israeli policies."

Dajani said the PA's strong condemnation of the deal was a mistake. "I believe they should not have overreacted in this way," he said. "Even if you are giving a lemon-maker lemonade, even if you don't like it, try to see how you could benefit from it rather than close all doors in your face. The Palestinian leadership is losing. They have to understand one thing — that the United Arab Emirates did not do this out of the blue, they did not just suddenly do it. There are other countries involved, such as Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and other Gulf countries. In addition, there are other countries such as Sudan, Morocco and Lebanon that are thinking along these lines. By being anti and aggressive and criticizing the

government and leadership of the United Arab Emirates, the Palestinian leadership is damaging its relations with that country."

Dajani told the *Post* that he has no doubt that the Palestinian leadership's harsh criticism of the UAE will harm the Palestinians. "There are 400,000 Palestinians living in the United Arab Emirates," he said. "It is all about how you are rejecting [the deal]. You can reject it, but it has to be in a diplomatic way. I think the way it is being rejected is bad. The Palestinian leadership is inciting the Palestinians against the United Arab Emirates and its leadership. You see demonstrations where pictures of the UAE leader are being crossed out and people trampling the flags of the United Arab Emirates. This is not the right way to criticize, even if you are opposed to the agreement."

Dajani advised the PA leadership to calm down and try to open channels with the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other Arab governments that may reach normalization agreements with Israel. "

Dajani dismissed allegations by many Arabs and Palestinians that normalization of ties with Israel is a form of treason.

"I don't believe that normalization with Israel is treason," he remarked. "I think it is part of the reconciliation process. If you have taken a strategic decision that you want peace, then peace cannot happen without reconciliation, and reconciliation cannot happen without normalization. Since a decision has been taken to seek peace with Israel through diplomatic ways and negotiations, then normalization should be a pillar in that reconciliation process. Without that, there will be no negotiations and no peace. "

All Around the Town

. Mazel Tov to parents **Sheina & Paul Missan** on the birth of their son Issac Arthur and siblings Seth, Brandon and Marissa.

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com or calling the JCC office at 610-921-0624.

SHANAH TOVAH!

Join PJ Library for a journey through Israel to celebrate Rosh Hashanah!



Socially distanced outdoor storywalk on the campus of KZ/RCOS.

Stop by anytime to read the story and gather holiday items to enjoy at home! There will be no large gathering as each family will complete story walk on their own.

Bring your smartphone for added interactive experiences to the story walk!

Sunday, Sept. 13
10 am - 12 pm *
555 Warwick Dr. Wyomissing

*Event timing in conjunction with the first day of RCOS religious school.






Jewish Federation
OF READING/BERKS

Questions? Email Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org



PJ Library
in Reading

Free Mask Distribution

Tuesday, September 15
11-11:30 a.m.

JCC Parking Lot
1100 Berkshire Blvd. Wyomissing

Please call the JCC at 610-921-0624 to reserve your masks.
5 per individual/10 per family.



THANK YOU TO MARC GOLDSTEIN AND BLANKETS OF HOPE FOR THE GENEROUS DONATION OF FACE MASKS



SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION




Awarded Medicare's Highest Ranking – 5 STARS

Highest Quality Care | Private Suites | Resort-Like Surroundings

Our team of skilled therapists promote functional independence and wellness in a holistic, personalized way – we aspire to restore your health as quickly and safely as possible. Our beautiful new rehabilitation center includes 18 private suites and is complemented by services and amenities.

Safely Welcoming Rehabilitation Patients!

To speak to our Clinical Liaison:

610.775.2300 THEHIGHLANDS.ORG



THE HIGHLANDS
AT WYOMISSING

2000 Cambridge Avenue | Wyomissing, PA 19610






**Kauffman's
BBQ Chicken**

**Wednesday, September 16th
2:30pm - 6:30pm
Drive-Thru Pick-Up at
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive Parking Lot**

**\$10 Online or Event Day Cash Only
Half BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato
Dinner Roll, Applesauce, Water Bottle**

**Pre-Orders Recommended at
www.ohebsholom.org**

Some basics on using Zoom to take part in virtual events

AARP and Federation staff

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events are being offered via the online meeting program known as Zoom, enabling people to participate without the potential risks of having a large group in a room together.

Here are trips from the AARP on how to use Zoom.

Zoom works on many devices: Windows PCs, Macs, smartphones and tablets, with some interface and feature distinctions among devices. You can download desktop software for Zoom on a computer at zoom.us. Or get the iOS and Android app versions in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

You can also participate in a Zoom call through your web browser, albeit with more limited functionality (for example, you can't schedule onetime or recurring meetings.)

Usually, you won't need an account to join a Zoom meeting, but one is required to host your own conference.

You may have to register to participate in webinars or other sessions. And some hosts may restrict access to people who have created an authorized profile under a Zoom account. To sign up, visit zoom.us/signup.

Keep in mind that you'll need decent connectivity for the program to work properly.

How do I join a Zoom session?

An invitation typically arrives via email or text. Click the Join link in the body of the message. You'll be prompted to download Zoom or to launch the app if you already have it. You then just choose to join a meeting with or without video.

If the host hasn't started the meeting yet, you'll have to wait on hold. Use the time to test your computer audio and video settings (typically through the internal microphone and speaker on your system). As part of a test, Zoom will play an audio tone and record your voice — you will know something is off if you can't hear the tone or your voice. A video preview window lets you see how you'll look

to others. Tip: If you plan on using video, make sure light is shining on you, rather than coming from behind.

You may reach the platform in other ways, too. If you're attending a Zoom webinar, click the link for the meeting that has likely been provided on the sponsor's website. You can also join directly from the Zoom application. Click the Meetings tab to check out any scheduled events and select Join at the appointed time.

Certain meetings can be joined by telephone using the teleconferencing number and meeting ID supplied by the host. Some also require a password, which the host will share.

How will I see other people?

There are two common layouts: speaker view, in which the active speaker takes up the majority of the screen, and gallery view, with thumbnails of participants laid out as a grid. On a laptop or desktop computer, the control to toggle between these views is toward the top right corner of the Zoom window. On a tablet the control is on the upper left — you may have to gently tap the screen to see it. You'll see all participants' live video feeds if they've enabled their camera. In the absence of video, you'll see a dark rectangle with the person's name or initial.

Should I mute my microphone?

If you're not about to speak, yes, especially if you are with other people. Screaming teenagers and barking dogs are a distraction.

"I think that the mute button is everybody's friend," says Marisa Giorgi, director of curriculum development at Senior Planet, which offers free Zoom training for older adults. You'll know that the mic is muted when a red slash appears on top of the microphone icon. Remember to tap or click the icon to unmute when it's time for you to pipe up. Worth noting: Hosts have the power to mute all the participants.

To be recognized by the host to speak in a webinar, you may be able to tap or click a "raise hand" icon, but the host can disable this feature.

Email info@jfreeding.org with specific questions and we will try to help.

ISRAELI COOKING CLASS

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FOOD FROM ADI'S FAMILY

Join Adi for a special Israeli cooking class, where we will make 2 different dishes for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 15th at 8pm

For the Zoom registration email AdiS@JFreeding.org

To confront cancel culture, take a page from the Talmud

By **Andres Spokoiny**
eJewishphilanthropy.com

The Talmud, the Jewish people's greatest work of collective genius, is the direct consequence of the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple that we commemorate on Tisha B'av.

When the surviving, shell-shocked Jewish sages recreated the Sanhedrin in the aftermath of the disaster, they reflected on what had brought that unspeakable destruction upon the Jewish people. They realized that the Temple's destruction, wasn't a discrete event in time but the culmination of a process of Jewish infighting. For close to 100 years, Jews had been divided in sects; Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes and others. Vitriol was commonplace, and violence emerged regularly.

Moreover, internal divisions had been the direct cause of the loss of Jewish sovereignty over Israel. The two sons of Yannai, who represented different factions, started a bitter fight for the throne, and both had the brilliant idea of calling the Roman general Pompei Magnus to intervene in their favor. Intervene he did, determining that Jews couldn't rule themselves. The Roman occupation didn't end Jewish sectarian violence, which was verbal at first and physical later, because extreme words invariably lead, sooner or later, to murder.

Finally, in 66 CE, the "zealots," a populist extremist religious party launched the "big rebellion," which wasn't just a revolt against Roman rule but mostly a civil war, in which extremist Jews fought and killed one another. The historian Josephus talks about Jews "locked in perpetual slaughter of each other," each faction trying to be more extreme than the other. In the meantime, Rome closed in on Jerusalem. The city fell, and the temple burned.

Horried by the intolerance that had brought about the destruction, the rabbis then set out to rebuild Judaism on a different foundation: a culture of pluralism and respectful dissent. It was going to be the exact opposite of the intolerance that had led to the loss of the commonwealth.

Sanhedrin leaders referred to each other as rabbis rather than Pharisees or Sadducees. Recognizing that the Jewish people included many views and opinions, they consciously determined that nobody in particular would have the truth; rather, Talmudic discussions would be a never-ending process of getting a step closer to truth but never achieving it.

Thus, the Talmud grew as a stylized collection of debates and arguments among sages, in which respect for the adversary was a central value. But how did the Talmud not become a free-for-all? How did the rabbis prevent outlandish opinions from reaching its pages? The method did it for them. The genius of the Talmud was not to judge the validity of people's opinions but the method by which they were attained. In other words, as long as one follows the right way of analyzing texts and extracting interpretations (for example, using biblical precedent and earlier rabbinical opinions), the resulting opinion was considered worthy of discussion.

When decisions had to be made, like in matters of Halacha (Jewish law), they were based on a majority vote, and the minority opinion was always recorded, and in some cases, could be used a precedent in future discussions. Sectarian exclusiveness was replaced by rabbinic pluralism

In that way, as Yehuda Kurtzer recently wrote in Tablet citing Shaye Cohen, the Talmud represents the "domestication of Jewish disagreement," transforming it from a source of violence

to a fountain of richness.

To be sure, the Talmud contains examples of people being chastised and even excommunicated, but there's a crucial detail: Barring extreme cases, like denying the existence of God, those excommunicated were done so not for their opinions but for their failure to respect the standards and the method of debate.

This is particularly poignant today, when we try to find our bearings between a toxic porridge of dogmatism, echo chambers and cancel culture on both the political left and right. Today, opinions are judged or silenced, never debated. Self-appointed inquisitors determine the limits of acceptable discussions; Twitter mobs terrify people into silence and lives are destroyed for any little violation of the dogma.

Simultaneously, however, the excuse of "free speech" is being used to justify the spreading of hate, racism, lies and conspiracy theories. And of course, those who demand "free speech" most vociferously are often the first to call for the "cancellation" of others.

So how do we solve this conundrum? On the one hand, we want free speech, but that important value has become a fig leaf for defamation and incitement to

violence; on the other, the cancel culture is constantly making honest debate impossible. Could the Talmud offer us a way out? The idea of the Talmud is simple: any opinion is valid, but it has to be substantiated with the same "standard of proof"; it has to acknowledge and respect dissent and it has to be submitted to a "peer review" process.

If we used this principle, much of the extreme discourse of today would be unacceptable because it's based purely on hatred and demonizing the opponent. In other words, our community would be saying that you can say whatever you want, but you need to live up to certain standards: You can't demonize others, you can't throw accusations without proof, you need to ground your positions following certain standards, and you must acknowledge and document the existence of other views. And, of course, if you rile against the "cancel culture," you can't be a "canceller" yourself.

In other words, it's not that white supremacists, don't belong in academia because their views are abhorrent, though they are, but because they violate every step of the scientific method. It's not just that those who demonize Israel are vicious, though they are, but that they base their

ideology on the idea that Jews are not indigenous to Israel, and that claim meets no standard of historical proof whatsoever.

Maybe solving the problems of the cancel culture is beyond us, but can we at least try to model civil discourse inside the Jewish community? The level of viciousness in our internal debate may well be worse than in the secular society; we have a rich cancel culture of our own and, in fact, we have organizations whose sole purpose seems to be policing the opinions of others. Organizations with only a handful of members that would otherwise be irrelevant, manage to terrorize others into silence.

A Talmudic approach to debate and dissent could solve all that. Unhinged arguments would fall of their own incapacity to be substantiated, demonizing others would be off-limits and the community could be united, not in its opinions but in its adherence to norms of civil discourse and standards of debate.

It'll be a tall order to swim against the current of intolerance, but being countercultural is part of our identity. Time to do it again: We need it, and so does the world.

Andrés Spokoiny is President and CEO of Jewish Funders Network.

Youth programs

MEETING



TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

How to develop youth programs, what are the parents & youth needs, what programs the teens in the community want

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 9@8PM**

8-12 grades

AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF READING

1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125 Wyomissing, PA 19610

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP PLEASE EMAIL ADIS@JFREADING.ORG

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Summer fun at Chabad



Chabad's Camp Gan Izzy, left, featured everything from slime making to tie dyeing, baking, sushi making, decorating mezuzah covers and Tzedakah boxes, duct tape projects, magic shows, making sushi, amazing carnival, to challa and babka baking and more. Chabad also sent out a week's worth of supplies from oil to cornstarch and even dish soap all packaged and marked by the day of the week to several community kids for "Camp outta the box". The kids could then click on the link sent to them at their convenience to log in to the prerecorded camp activities.

Repairing
the World

Dear 5781 ,

Last year wasn't easy — and I want this year to be different.

I want seniors who feel isolated to feel connected. I want parents who can't put food on their tables to be able to feed their families. I want to stand up to antisemitism and racism. And I want to nurture Jewish education.

I want to help families affected by this pandemic.

I want our Jewish community to continue thriving here and throughout the world.

Sincerely,
me

If all of this sounds ambitious, it doesn't have to be...you can make the New Year one of healing and prosperity for all with your gift to the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.

The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks works to bring about the change you want. Your gift makes it happen.

Tikkun Olam - make a difference now with your contribution to our Community Campaign at ReadingJewishCommunity.org.

Every new or increased gift will be matched one-to-one.

Huge biblical storage center unearthed in Jerusalem

From online news sources

One of the largest and most important collections of seal impressions ever uncovered in Israel was recently unearthed in a Jerusalem neighborhood in what appears to have been a biblical storage center. The digs, carried out in

the Arnona neighborhood in southern Jerusalem by the Israel Antiquities Authority, revealed a large structure built of concentric ashlar walls. Inside were 120 jar handles bearing seal impressions in ancient Hebrew script.

Many of the handles are inscribed

“LMLK,” or “belonging to the King,” as well as the names of three ancient cities in Judea, as well as one yet-unidentified city.

Other handles feature names of senior officials or wealthy individuals from the First Temple period.

The compound was dated to the times of the biblical Kings Hezekiah and Menashe (8th century to the middle of the 7th century BCE).

“At the site we excavated, there are signs that governmental activity managed and distributed food supplies not only for shortage but administered agricultural surplus amassing commodities and wealth,” explain Neria Sapir and Nathan Ben-Ari, directors of the excavations on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority. “Evidence shows that at this site, taxes were collected in an orderly manner for agricultural produce such as wine and olive oil. The site once dominated large agricultural plots and orchards of olive trees and grapevines, which included agricultural industrial facilities such as winepresses for winemaking.”

The site is dated to a period documented in the Bible by upheavals such as that of the Assyrian conquest campaign under the command of King Sennacherib in the days of King



A jar handle bearing the inscription ‘To the King’ and a two-winged seal impression.

Hezekiah. Government economic provisions indicated by the stamp seals may be related to these events. The archaeologists also uncovered a collection of clay statuettes in the form of women, horse riders or animals. “These figurines are usually interpreted as objects used in pagan worship and idolatry – a phenomenon which according to the Bible was prevalent in the Kingdom of Judah,” Sapir and Ben-Ari said.

Poetry: ‘Shelling Peas’

For thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, And thou hast not been mindful of the Rock of thy stronghold — Isaiah 17:10

From things I’ve been reading lately
I perceive
prayers are a lot like
peeling potatoes or
shelling peas —
and these are things
we don’t do much of
anymore

Note: This poem was actually prompted by reading “Washing the Dishes” in Lawrence Kushner’s “God Was In This Place” (pp. 86-87).
“My most important job,” said Rabbi Abraham, “is to make sure the dishes are cleaned properly.”
“That’s it?” asked the student incredulously.
“That’s it,” replied the innkeeper

—Nancy J. Knoblauch

Do you remember?

By Tootie Moyer

- All clocks had twelve numbers on it- now the are digital or only have 4 numbers 3-6-9-12.
- We used a dictionary not a smart phone.
- Shorthand was a class in every high school.
- Reading Senior High School was called “Castle on the Hill”.
- Mail deliverers were all men, no

- women and they walked to each house – no mail trucks.
- The JCC was on Reed Street in Reading.
 - Charter members of Shomrei Habrith sat next to the bimah.
 - All women wore a hat in Schul for every occasion.
 - We were given Green Stamps at stores for groceries and anything else you could ever want.

- Candy bars cost 5 cents each.
- All drug stores had a soda fountain.
- You would buy film at the store, now all you need is a smart phone to take pictures.
- We would write letters, no texting, stamps were 7 cents.
- You were content sitting at your kitchen table playing cards and board games.
- You would get dishes when you

- went to the movies.
- Do you remember these names: Claudette Colbert, W.C. Fields, Harold Lloyd, Peter Lorre, Fibber McGee and Molly, Barbara Stanwyck?
 - Television was only on until 10:00 every night.
 - We had an “ice box” – the ice man came every day to put ice in the ice box.
 - Only parents had a key to the front door of our home.
 - We used to leave our front doors unlocked, now we lock them.
 - Buses went to Indian Town Gap for dances every week.
 - Sunny Brook had big bands such as Glen Miller or Tommy Dorsey.
 - Cars had rumble seats.
 - A sign was put on your front door if you had measles, mumps, or other diseases.
- We all should be thankful for all the good things in our lives. I am very thankful for all you “youngsters” that read my column. Stay well and happy. Hope to see you soon.

Work in unison

By Ethel Engel

The world has been put into a whirlwind of disastrous and turbulent situations, too many to enumerate. Many people worldwide have infused themselves with hatred and demonstrative behavior, and anarchy that leads them to death and destruction. We’ve now arrived at a new millennium, one of the worst in history. We are all in a chaotic state of affairs which will take many years to arrive at a solution; to repair it must be done in unison!!

The corona virus pandemic is here to stay – till such time as the scientists come across some miracle drug to eradicate all this painful and highly demonstrative plight that suddenly came our way. It’s here for a very long visit!!

Let’s meanwhile follow rules and regulations to help stave off so many unnecessary deaths. We’re now on a battlefield of the bigger than life Pandemic. Let’s pray and try bonding and form ties to give each other strength to move on. Learn to adapt to this insidious disease. We must be patient!!

Join us for

YJR PICNIC

YOUNG JEWISH READING

MUSIC • BEER • HUMMUS & PITA

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH AT 1PM

for more information and to RSVP: AdiS@JFReading.org
The location will be sent upon RSVP

Meet Yemin Orde graduate Endalor Takele

American Friends of Yemin Orde

Fortuitous opportunities have enabled Yemin Orde graduate Endalow Takele to achieve his dreams.

As a 13-year-old, Endalow and his family took the opportunity to leave Ethiopia and move to Israel for a better life. They lived in an absorption center in Beersheva and, two years later, another opportunity opened for Endalow at Yemin Orde Youth Village, which operates with support from local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading.

While at Yemin Orde he learned Hebrew and how to navigate life in his new homeland.

“At Yemin Orde, everyone really cared about me. I learned to study hard and even stayed in school during our breaks. I understood that my teachers were willing to do whatever was needed to help me,” Endalow said.

Along with his studies, Endalow participated in volunteer activities in the nearby communities and joined Yemin

Orde’s running club, where he learned teamwork, discipline and worked on his running and track skills such as speed, endurance and agility. Endalow’s successful achievements as a runner at Israel-wide competitions earned him a ranking as a national champion.

After graduating from Yemin Orde’s high school, Endalow served in Israel’s military as a paratrooper. Following military service, Western Kentucky University offered him the outstanding opportunity of a full scholarship to attend their school and join their track team.

“I just took a risk, packed my bag and went to Kentucky,” he said. “I didn’t know anyone and was still struggling a bit with my English. I was faced with adjusting to a new culture all over again.”

Slowly, Endalow made friends, adjusted to this new environment and volunteered his time organizing track events at the university.

“I remember what I was taught by Chaim Peri. He said that with more

education, the more you learn. If you know other languages, then you can travel. If you understand math, you can have money in a bank account,” Endalow said. “I came to the U.S. and struggled with my English. So, in order to talk to people, I learned to speak English.”

In 2017, Endalow graduated from WKU with a BS in Finance. He recalls the lessons taught to him at Yemin Orde – to aim high, believe in your dreams, and have faith in yourself and your future. “I am the first generation in my family to be a college graduate,” he said.

Today, Endalow is a graduate student at Brandeis University near Boston, where he has the opportunity to earn a Master’s in International Economics and Finance as a Fellow of the Laurel and Orrie Friedman Fellowship for Alumni of Yemin Orde program. The fellowship program covers 100 percent funding for tuition, fees, health insurance, travel to the United States and a living stipend for the duration of the program, up to two years. Endalow’s family lives in Bat Yam, Israel. He returns to Israel to visit twice



a year to visit them. Endalow hopes for the opportunity to work in Israel’s business sector after his graduation from Brandeis.

Meir Panim reopens centers for survivors of Holocaust

Friends of Meir Panim

Dimona is home to hundreds of Holocaust Survivors. Unfortunately, many of them live below the poverty line and are unable to afford basic expenses like food. Therefore, Meir Panim made it their priority to set up a Day Center specifically for Holocaust Survivors where not only do they receive daily meals, they also have the opportunity to socialize with friends and participate in fun activities. The Dimona Holocaust Survivor Day Center has become a second home!

Sadly, due to COVID-19 and the danger it presents to the elderly, all operations at the Holocaust Survivor Day Center were suspended.

As restrictions eased up throughout Israel, Meir Panim has reopened the Day Center and our clients couldn’t be happier!

There were many precautionary measures put into place, but as soon as Meir Panim got the green light to open, they knew how important it was for each participant to have the Day Center back up and running. To maintain social distancing,

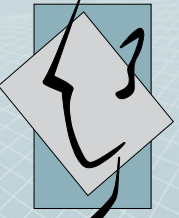
the members were split into different groups with their own designated time and day to attend the Day Center. The members were so excited to be back, as many of them live alone and could not wait to finally spend time together!

Every day is a new adventure at The Holocaust Survivor Day Center. There are always fun activities planned for our members. Last week, Ilanit, our Holocaust Survivor Day Center manager, organized pedicure stations for our clients to enjoy. There was also a birthday party celebration for one of the members that included a birthday cake, music, dancing and games!

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, but because of the coronavirus, the commemoration ceremony was rescheduled and just took place at our Center last week. Each Holocaust Survivor received a Medal of Honor for their courage and bravery in the war. The Survivors and staff were so touched to witness this incredible moment.

September	Elul-Tishrei
 Shabbat Candle Lightings	 Torah Portions
September 4 7:12 p.m.	September 5/16 Elul Ki Tavo (Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8)
September 11 7:01 p.m.	September 12/23 Elul Nitzavim/Vayelech (Deuteronomy 29:9-31:30)
September 18 6:44 p.m.	September 19/1 Tishrei Rosh Hashanah (Genesis 21)
September 25 6:37 p.m.	September 26/8 Tishrei Ha’azinu (Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52)

Pediatric and Adult Patients
Treating Ear, Nose, Throat Problems
Thyroid Nodules, Neck Masses & Sinusitis



ENT
Ear • Nose • Throat
HEAD & NECK
Specialists, P.C.

Physicians:
James P. Restrepo, M.D., FACS, ECNU
Charles K. Lutz, M.D., FACS
Jeffrey S. Driben, M.D., FACS, ECNU
Scott J. Cronin, M.D.
Adam P. Vasconcellos, M.D.

Nurse Practitioner:
Rosemarie Montgomery
MS, CRNP, FNP-C

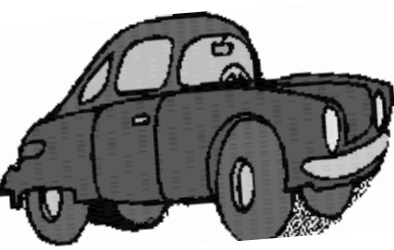
THE AUDIOLOGY CENTER
Diagnostic Audiology & Hearing Aid Services
Audiologists:
Kathleen D. Vivaldi, AuD, FAAA
Melanie A. Appller, AuD, FAAA
Matthew R. Bonsall, AuD, FAAA



Providing diagnostic and rehabilitative services for all types of hearing loss, for any age group.
Hearing and Balance Disorders
State of the Art Hearing Aid Fittings
In House Hearing Aid Repairs

ENT Head & Neck Specialists, PC
985 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing
610-374-5599 • www.ent-hns.net

Enjoy Tax Benefits While Contributing to
Jewish Family Service Vehicle Donation Program



Call Sari at 610-921-0624,
e-mail sarii@jfreeding.org
or go to
www.charitableautoresources.com

Ehrlich
Your Local Pest Control Experts



Trust the pest experts
With over 80 years of experience, we’ve seen and solved just about every pest problem imaginable.

- Termite Control
- Bird & Bat Control
- Bed Bug Control
- Ant & Spider Control

- General Pest Control
- Mosquito & Tick Control
- Weed Control
- Year Round Protection

Call Ehrlich at (855) 226-0075 or visit jcehrlich.com

It’s time for us to focus on atonement and forgiveness

By Rabbi Brian Michelson
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

I don’t know about the rest of you, but I am ready to put 5780 behind me. It has been a year of division and upheaval. It has been filled with challenges that no one could have imagined and solutions for which I was not prepared: Zoom funerals and minyans, services in empty rooms, and the question of redefining community in ways that would have made our ancestors heads spin.

It has not been easy for anyone, and I am sure that as we all tried to deal with the unexpected challenges and issues that we faced, that we all made mistakes and got things wrong. Thus, the idea of atonement and forgiveness has been on my mind.

Jewish tradition teaches that atonement is a three-part process. First, we must acknowledge that we have failed that we have done something wrong. Part of this is mastering our egos and accepting that we have gone astray, sometimes in big ways and sometimes in small ways. We cannot be forgiven for what we do not take responsibility. How many of us have had those moments of

self-righteousness and claimed we did no wrong only to know in our hearts that we were, but we just were not willing to admit it? It is so easy to find someone else to blame rather than to truly live up to our potential and own what we got wrong. With all the challenges of this year, I believe we all have more reasons than ever to use these High Holy Days to search and examine our lives.

The second part of the atonement process is to try to undo any of the damage we may have done. It reminds us that we cannot ask God for forgiveness until we have truly and meaningfully attempted to make amends with anyone, we may have wronged. In the stress and strain of this past year, who do should you speak to and seek forgiveness?

The third and final step in the atonement process is the heartfelt and meaningful attempt to not repeat the mistake, the sin, again. In the Mishnah (Yoma 8:9) it teaches: “One who says: I shall sin and repent, sin and repent, they do not afford him the opportunity to repent. [If one says]: I shall sin and Yom Kippur will atone for me, Yom Kippur does not effect atonement.” It is a reminder that it is not just about going through the motions or saying the prayers. Our intention matters. Prayers that are not followed up by action, are empty, meaningless words. A fast that

does not remind us to feed the hungry and care for those on the outskirts of society has not achieved its purpose.

As we head into this New Year, may we be honest with ourselves and with those around us. May we be strong enough to admit our faults and see ourselves for both who we are and the

people we could be. If we can do this, then in the face of many of the challenges and stress we will face, we can begin to make sure that 5781 can be a better year for us, for our community, and our world.

May 5781 be filled with health and happiness for us and may we have a sweet New Year.



Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County invites the entire community to join us for High Holiday Services. No membership required.

ROSH HASHANAH:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Light candles at 6:49 PM
Mincha Service.....7:00 PM
Ma'ariv Service.....7:30 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Shacharit Service 9:00 AM
Individually boxed Kiddush following Services.....approx 12:30 PM
Mincha Service.....7:00 PM
Ma'ariv Service.....7:30 PM
Light candles after 7:45 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Shacharit Service 9:00 AM
Torah Reading 10:30 AM
Shofar Service.....11:00 AM
Individually boxed Kiddush following Services.....approx 12:30 PM
Mincha Service.....1:45 PM
Tashlich Service.....2:00 PM
Mincha Service.....6:45 PM
Ma'ariv Service.....7:00 PM
Yom Tov Ends.....7:27 PM

YOM KIPPUR:
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Mincha Service..... 6:15 PM
Light candles at*..... 6:34 PM
Kol Nidrei 6:45 PM
*Candles may be lit at the synagogue for your convenience.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Shacharit Service 9:00 AM
Yizkor..... 11:30 AM
Mincha Service.....5:15 PM
Neilah 6:15 PM
Yom Kippur Ends. Individually boxed break-fasts..... 7:30 PM

**SERVICES WILL BE HELD OUTDOORS
AT THE REAR OF THE CHABAD CENTER
2320 Hampden Boulevard - Reading, PA 19604**

Suggested contribution for a seat is \$100.
Please call 610-334-3218, email Office@ChabadofBerks.org,
or visit www.chabadofberks.org/highholiday to reserve a seat
This program is sponsored by Dr. Jerry Marcus

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Schedule of High Holiday & Festival Services, 2020 (5781)
All in person attendance is by registration only and subject to change and limited numbers.

Selichot (Official start of the Holidays) ♦ Family Havdalah & Selichot Ritual Date: Saturday, September 11, 2020 Time: 7:00 pm--Zoom ♦ Selichot Service Time: 10:00 pm	Yom Kippur Day Services Date: Monday, September 28, 2020 ♦ Morning Service at 10:00 am ♦ Family Service pre-recorded ♦ Afternoon Service at 3:00 pm Drive-in & Zoom ♦ Yizkor/Memorial Service at 4:30 pm Virtual service only ♦ Closing Service at 5:30 pm Drive-in & Zoom
Rosh Hashanah Erev Rosh Hashanah Service Date: Friday, September 18, 2020 Time: 8:00 pm	Sukkot ♦ Erev Sukkot Service-Drive-in Date: Friday, October 2, 2020 Time: 7:00 pm ♦ Meal in the Sukkah (immediate household) Date: Week of October 4-8 By reservation only & weather permitting
Rosh Hashanah Day Services Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020 ♦ RH Morning Service at 10:00 am ♦ Drive-in Shofar Service 1:00 pm or 3:00 pm ♦ Family Service to be pre-recorded ♦ Tashlich Service to be pre-recorded	Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah ♦ Service-Drive-in Date: Friday, October 9, 2020 Time: 7:00 pm
Rosh Hashanah Torah Study Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 ♦ Torah Study 10:00 am—Zoom ♦ Children’s Activity 10:00 am—Zoom	
Reflection time in Sanctuary Dates: Week of September 21-25 Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm (30-minute intervals) By reservation only (immediate household)	
Annual Cemetery Service—In Cars Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 Time: 1:00 pm at Mt. Sinai Cemetery	
Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Service Date: Sunday, September 27, 2020 Time: 8:00 pm	

555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING, PA 19610
PHONE: 610.375.6034 FAX: 610.375.6036
E-MAIL: temple.office@ohebsholom.org WEB SITE: www.ohebsholom.org

Kesher Zion Synagogue

High Holiday Schedule & Services 2020/5781
Reservations are required for all in-person services. Limited space available and subject to change.
PLEASE NOTE LOCATIONS AND ONLINE AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES
Reservations must be received on or before Wednesday, September 9, 2020

S’lichot with KZ and RCOS Saturday, September 12 at 10:00pm Kesher Zion Synagogue	Yom Kippur Yizkor/Neila Monday, September 28 at 5:45pm Jewish Federation of Reading & Livestreamed
Erev Rosh Hashanah Friday, September 18 at 7:00pm Via Zoom	Sukkot First Day Saturday, October 3 at 9:30am Kesher Zion Synagogue
Rosh Hashanah First Day Saturday, September 19 at 9:30am Jewish Federation of Reading & Livestreamed	Sukkot Second Day (Bring Lulav and Etrog) Sunday, October 4 at 9:30am Kesher Zion Synagogue
Rosh Hashanah Second Day Sunday, September 20 at 9:30am Jewish Federation of Reading & Livestreamed	Shmini Atzeret/Yizkor Saturday, October 10 at 9:30am Kesher Zion Synagogue
Rosh Hashanah Drive-in Shofar Service Sunday, September 20 at 2:00pm KZ Parking Lot	Erev Simchat Torah Saturday, October 10 at 7:30pm Kesher Zion Synagogue
Kol Nidre Services Sunday, September 27 at 6:15pm Jewish Federation of Reading & Livestreamed	Simchat Torah Sunday, October 11 at 9:30am Kesher Zion Synagogue
Yom Kippur Morning Services Monday, September 28 at 9:30am Jewish Federation of Reading & Livestreamed	

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610
Office: (610) 374-1763 Fax: (610) 927-6248
Email: kzsecretary@entermail.net www.kesherzion.org



ZOOM WITH US!
September 26th at 10:00am

Tot Shabbat

Join Rabbi Michelson for a musical, story-filled interactive hour for children through grade 2. Members & non-members welcome. No registration required. Zoom link available at ohebsholom.org. Future Tot Shabbat dates: 10/17, 11/14, 12/19, 1/9, 2/20, 3/20, 4/17, 5/15, & 6/12.

Israeli gargle COVID test shows promise

From online news sources

Israeli scientists are testing a new ultra-fast gargle-and-spit test for coronavirus on hundreds of patients, and report that so far it is proving 95% accurate.

The developers have built a USB-powered machine the size of an ashtray, which takes just one second to conduct light analysis of mouthwash that a patient has gargled.

They are about halfway through a trial of 400 people at Israel's largest hospital, Sheba Medical Center, and say that if accuracy levels continue to impress, they expect it to become available internationally by the end of the year.

The innovation team, drawn from Sheba and the Newsight imaging company, says that the technology has the potential to replace PCR testing, which includes an unpleasant swabbing process and requires lengthy lab analysis, as the main screening method used worldwide.

PCR tests are believed to be around 80% accurate. Accelerated PCR testing, the fastest current method, is not widely available and with a 15-minute turnaround at its best, comes at a financial cost and with a reduction in accuracy levels.

"This system is very rapid, cheap, and is looking reliable," Prof. Eli Schwartz, head of the trial and of Sheba's Center for Geographic Medicine, told *The Times of Israel*. "It's suitable for mass screening, as well as airport screening, screening at nursing homes, and even screening at home."

He added: "The idea is to mostly replace PCR tests, especially in places where you need mass screening." Schwartz said that the system will

give highly accurate positive-negative results, and PCR testing will only be needed if results are borderline or if medical professionals need detailed information on the viral load, which his test will not provide.

Patients rinse with 10 milliliters of a special mouthwash, and then spit into a tube. The sample is placed in a machine that analyzes it, and reports whether it matches the profile of a sample infected with COVID-19.

The machine, called the SpectraLIT, does not require any chemicals, and no medical skills are required to operate it. Eli Assoolin, CEO of Newsight, told *The Times of Israel* that the machine shines light through the sample and onto a special chip.

"A light source goes through it, and part of the light is absorbed, and the rest is captured by the sensors," he said.

The process is known as determining the sample's "spectral signature": matter reflects different light signatures, depending on its composition. Artificial intelligence tools have made it possible for the developers to determine what the signature for mouthwash from a coronavirus-positive person looks like, as opposed to mouthwash from anyone else.

In the weeks before the current trial, staff fed spectral signature data into the chip from numerous people whose positivity/negativity state was already known. Data gathered by the sensors for each person's spectral signature was entered into an algorithm, which used it to build a profile of infected and non-infected people. If the new screening method becomes widespread and makes



testing more accessible, as he hopes, Schwartz said it will prove lifesaving by alerting people to self-isolate before they would otherwise know

Assoolin said it will also solve a major problem of PCR supply shortage.

"There's a big shortage of PCR test kits, and we're getting rid of the need for these costly kits and chemicals needed for processing," he commented.

Assoolin said that patents have been filed for the technology, internationally. Virusight Diagnostics,

a company jointly established by Sheba and Newsight, can quickly start mass production of the machines and materials for tests, he stated.

He added: "We hope that by the end of this year the system will be commercially available to everyone, and before then we hope it will be used in large pilots, including in airports."

The tube and specially formulated mouthwash that are given to patients will cost 25 cents. Developers say they are hoping that once the machines are in mass production, they will be available from \$200.



Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks Campaign Leadership a Virtual Event with



Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews

**Sunday, October 18, 2020
11:00 a.m.
Brunch & Book Included**

Minimum recommended gift \$1,200 per person

Please RSVP by October 9th

Phone: 610-921-0624 / e-mail: info@JFReading.org / online: ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Rabbi Telushkin is a penetrating speaker with the timing of a stand up comic—his Jewish Humor book was hailed by Larry Gelbart (author of Mash): “I don’t know if Jews are really the chosen people, but Telushkin’s book makes a strong argument that they’re the funniest”—so that his talks challenge even as they entertain. One thing is certain: you will walk out of Telushkin’s speech different than when you walked in.

Lifelong love of horses leads to Equine-Assisted Therapy for Stef Brok

By Carole Robinson.

In this time of global uncertainty, many people are struggling with mental health issues as well as monitoring physical well-being. Mental health is an important component of overall well-being. Finding ways to cope with stress in a healthy manner will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger. During recent research, I learned about an innovative alternative to traditional therapy, Equine-Assisted Therapy.



According to Wikipedia, “Equine-Assisted Therapy is a form of experiential therapy that includes horses and a therapist working together with a client to create positive change.” I reached out to retired teacher and JFS volunteer Stef Brok to learn more. I asked Stef to tell me about herself and how she and her horses became involved in Equine-Assisted Therapy.

Stef and her brother Glenn became horse-crazy as youngsters, riding the Pepsi ponies at their birthday parties and going to the Lazy A Ranch for pony rides. Their parents, Doris and Bob Brok, encouraged this passion and regularly drove them to the barn and horse shows. Glenn went on to become the leading breeder of thoroughbreds in Pennsylvania. Stef selected her college according to where she could bring her horse and brought him to Baltimore for her first teaching job. After marriage, Stef and her husband, Phil, and their horses moved to a farm in Exeter. During a chance encounter on the trails of Blue Marsh, Stef met David Rosenker, a mental health specialist and licensed therapist.

David was starting a new business, Herd by a Horse, and invited Stef, an equine expert, to become his partner. David and Stef completed courses in the EAGALA program (Equine-Assisted Growth and Learning Association). Then David

and Stef began to work directly with clients and horses in a non-riding session. With the assistance of David’s horse and Stef’s four horses, Stef and David were able to help hundreds of people through Equine-Assisted Therapy. Though their clients were mainly from the Caron Foundation, they also helped veterans with PTSD and offered couples counseling and drug and alcohol counseling.

Clients were asked to perform tasks involving the horses, working alone or with others in a group. Their reactions to the horses and the horse’s reactions to them revealed the behavior, feelings and relationships that have caused pain. This allowed David to help clients deal with trauma related issues, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying, anxiety, and relationship issues.

A big benefit of Equine-Assisted Therapy is no words are required for communication. People often allow themselves to be more vulnerable around a horse because they are communicating on an emotional level. People can feel free to express themselves because horses are nonjudgmental. Stef told me, “One unique aspect about equine therapy is the way that these animals intuitively mirror feelings that a patient may be experiencing — whether or not they are aware of it. Horses are very empathetic, and they may reflect sadness, angst, or discomfort back towards the patient. This

can help to promote self-awareness and open-mindedness.”

Stef and her horses found the experience so powerful that they wrote a book about it — “The Therapy Boys, The Compelling Life Stories of Four Equine-Assisted Therapy Horses: Tornado, Willy Jones, Cody, & Frankie.” The book was written from the horses’ perspective and describes their lives, leaving behind a stressful past and becoming the Therapy Boys. Stef explained, “These are their stories. I think that if horses could speak, they would do so precisely through these words. Their life stories have the power to help those in need.”

Stef begins the book with this note: “To assure those who have been through a life of abuse, or have suffered from substance abuse, trauma, or post-traumatic stress, that there is a reason to hope, to know that it won’t always be a terrible situation... If these horses can go through trauma and abuse and not only endure but thrive, then others can too.” She concludes with this afterword, “Equine-Assisted Therapy is a powerful tool. Thanks to the sensitivity of the horses and their willingness to assist those afflicted with the unfortunate feelings of helplessness, more and more people are being helped and are now on the road to recovery.”

If you would like to schedule an event to “Meet a Therapy Boy” or learn more about Stef’s book, contact her at 610-698-2933 or TheTherapyBoys@gmail.com.

A busy summer at Jewish Family Service



Clockwise from left, Eileen Kope gets a Friendship Circle lunch delivery. the August JFS food pantry and Julian and Sharon Syret visit the JFS Mask Distribution.

Jewish Family Service

- Food Pantry
- Friendship Circle
- Counseling Services
- Transportation
- Financial Assistance
- Hospital and
- Home Visitations
- Living with Loss
- Information and
- Referral
- Case Management
- Holiday Programs

Jews are indigenous to Israel, scholar says

From online news sources

A junior rabbi at leading Reform congregation Temple Emanu-El in New York recently sparked a storm on social media after stating that Jews are not indigenous to the land of Israel.

“Let me say this as plainly as possible: Jews are not an indigenous people,” Rabbi Andy Khan wrote on Twitter. “It is appropriative to make use of this word when referring to our relationship to the land of Israel, and it undermines the difficult work being done to fix the ongoing oppression of indigenous peoples.”

The post received more than 10,000 likes and 1,800 retweets and a considerable amount of reactions on and beyond social media. Among others, the senior rabbi of Emanu-El, Rabbi Joshua M. Davidson, disassociated from Khan’s statement both himself and the synagogue, which has been a flagship of the Reform movement in the U.S. since its establishment in 1845.

“Beyond the Bible, numerous historians argue the Jewish people’s national identity was forged in the land of Israel,” he wrote in a letter to the New York-based *The Forward*. “Archaeology

suggests an ancient Jewish presence there 3,000 years ago corresponding to the period of the Davidic monarchy. And Mizrahi communities today bear living witness to a Jewish link to the land — for some, a sustained presence there; for more, one interrupted by conquest and exile.”

“Tomorrow, Jews will start three weeks of commemoration of the breach of the walls of their Capital by an Empire, the destruction of the city, the subjugation of their country and the forced exile of its population, their ancestors. Tell me more about not being indigenous,” Consul-General of Israel in New York Dani Dayan tweeted on the eve of the fast of Shiva-Asar Betamuz.

Indeed, statements denying Jewish roots to Israel are a phenomenon directly related to undermine the legitimacy of Israel as the Jewish homeland, as explained by Ilan Troen, emeritus professor of Modern History at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and of Israel Studies at Brandeis University in Waltham/Boston in Massachusetts.

“The issue is both historical and political,” Troen said. “For a long time there was very little doubt on whether the Jews were indigenous

here. The concept started to be questioned by the Arab anti-Zionist community.”

Troen pointed out that in the past few decades several efforts have been made to disconnect the Jews of the past from those of the present, including the attempt to identify Ashkenazi Jews as descendants of the Caucasian population of the Khazars but also the claims by the so-called Danish School that the Bible does not provide any historical content.

“A rabbi should know better,” he said.

In the meantime, since the 1960s, new attention has been devoted to the rights of indigenous peoples from the pre-Colombian world. However, as the professor pointed out, the difference between the European conquest of their lands and the Jewish return to Israel has been conspicuous.

“Europeans entered into territories where they never belonged to and implanted Europe there, as proven by names such as New England, Louisiana, Oxford and Cambridge, that a rabbi in New York is certainly familiar with,” Troen said. “When Jews returned here, they did not give any European names to the places and they spoke Hebrew. There is no other example of people rejuvenating a language they spoke thousands of years ago.”

Troen also highlighted the importance of the Bible as a fundamental proof of the connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

“What is fascinating is that Palestinian Arabs began calling themselves indigenous after 1967 and

the fall of Nasser and Pan-Arabism,” he further said. “Palestinians needed to demonstrate that they were here before the Jews and they did so by inventing that they are descendants of the Jebusites, which would mean that they were here before Joshua conquered the Holy Land as described in the Bible.

“For Muslims to find a connection with a pagan past is highly unusual, an act of political imagination, clearly a decision for rhetorical purposes.”

In a later tweet, Khan also clarified that his statements were not to be intended to extend indigenosity in Israel to Palestinians.

“The same argument I’m making about Jews can be made about Palestinians too. I don’t think indigeneity plays a role in this conflict at all, and in fact I think including it in the discourse obscures the plight of Palestinians by including a category that clearly doesn’t fit,” he wrote.

However, the historian Troen stated that when it comes to the imagination of the past, pragmatism and empathy are necessary to avoid conflict.

“Even though I believe that the Palestinian argument that they are descendants of the Jebusites makes no sense whatsoever, I think I understand why they say it,” he concluded. “This understanding helps create some empathy towards it which enables a conversation.

“I would hope that they can return this sympathy towards the reasons why Jews feel connected to this place. Without empathy, there is no conversation and only conflict.”

WYOMISSING OPTOMETRIC CENTER

The Best Care In Sight!

Comprehensive Vision & Medical Eye Care

Glenn S. Corbin, OD

Karen L. Heaney, OD

Perry C. Umlauf, OD

Heidi L. Sensenig, OD, MS

Kerry J. Burrell, OD

Amanda S. Legge, OD

Jeffrey Stefanick, OD

Find us on Facebook

wyo-opto.com

MYERSTOWN
717-866-1400

DOUGLASSVILLE
610-385-4333

WYOMISSING
610-374-3134

ZOOM SEMINAR SERIES

How To Find Joy and Happiness In The Midst Of Chaos

PART 3

Using mindfulness to overcome fear & worry

Wednesday, September 23
2:00pm
on Zoom

Presented by
LISA LORAH
Life Coach Specialist

RSVP TO JILL BY
CALLING 610-624-1299.

MANOR AT
MARKET SQUARE

Independent Living • Personal Care • Memory Care

Reading's Hidden Gem

2020 BEST OF
SENIOR LIVING

LEARN MORE AT
803 Penn St., Reading, PA 19601 • www.manoratms.com

Challahs
by Chana

ENHANCE YOUR SHABBAT EACH WEEK
WITH DELICIOUS, FRESH, HOME BAKED
CHALLAH - PLAIN OR WITH TOPPINGS.



\$5 EACH CHALLAH

Toppings include sesame, everything or crumb.

Please specify when you order

Orders must be in by Tuesday each week

Text Chana Lipsker @610-334-1577

All proceeds go to support Camp Gan Izzy of Berks



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Glenn & Gaye Corbin



New Year blessings to all.
**Arthur Fischman and
Phyllis, Ilene, Sheryl**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Harriet Baskin



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Cynthia & George Balchunas



New Year blessings to all.
**Joanie & Itz Friedman
and Family**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Ethel Engel



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

The Farber Family



New Year blessings to all.
**Fran & Larry Gross
and Family**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Barbara & Bernie Fromm



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Marc & Marcia Filstein



New Year blessings to all.
Ruth Isenberg



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

The Levine Family



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Flamholz Family



New Year blessings to all.
**Annette & Sean
Peppard**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

**Bernard Mendelsohn
Toby K. Mendelsohn**



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Julie Gabriel & Don Fox



New Year blessings to all.
**Carolyn M. Vella
John J. McGonagle**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Jeffrey D. & Karen Miller



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Susan & Richard
D'Angelo**



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

The Jacobson Family
Marty, Karen, Lisa, Kate, Travis,
Ella, Seth and Jake



New Year blessings to all.
**Alan & Susan Weisberg
and Family**



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Debbie Goodman &
John Moyer**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Linda & Mickey Roeberg



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Nancy Knoblauch



New Year blessings to all.
George Weiss



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Jill & Michael Haas



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Judy & Jim Schwank



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

**Judith Kraines
Neil Hoffman**



New Year blessings to all.
**Missy & Allen
Zimmerman**

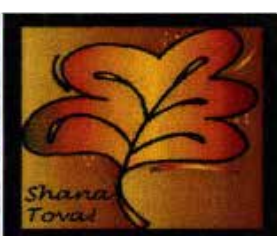


May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Mariette Jacobson and
Family**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Ingrid Soltysik



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

**Meir & Haia Mazuz
and family**



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Sandee & Neal Nevitt



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Myron & Karen
Kabakoff**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Sue Wachs



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Richard & Elizabeth Nassau



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Sileski Family



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Bernie & Janett
Kaplan**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Andy & Corinne Wernick



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Gordon & Carol Perlmutter



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Andi Watkins &
Jeff Sternlieb**



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
**Betsy & Alvin Katz
and Family**



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

**Rosalye L. Yashek
and Family**



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Larry, Dave, Jon & Leah
Rotenberg



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Andy & Laurie Waxler



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

The Viener Families



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

The Schlanger Family



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Manny & Yvonne
Wittels



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Radene Gordon-Beck



Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy &
Peaceful New Year

Cindy & Tim Schuchart



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Louise Zeidman
and Family



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Jane E. Goodman



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Carrie & Stephen
Latman



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Phyllis Jacoby



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Rochelle Mann



May you have a
sweet & prosperous
New Year.
Norman & Rita
Wilikofsky



May this be a year of
peace, progress and
prosperity for our
community, Israel
and the entire world.

Andi & Bill Franklin



EXPLORE THE SIDDUR AT KESHER ZION

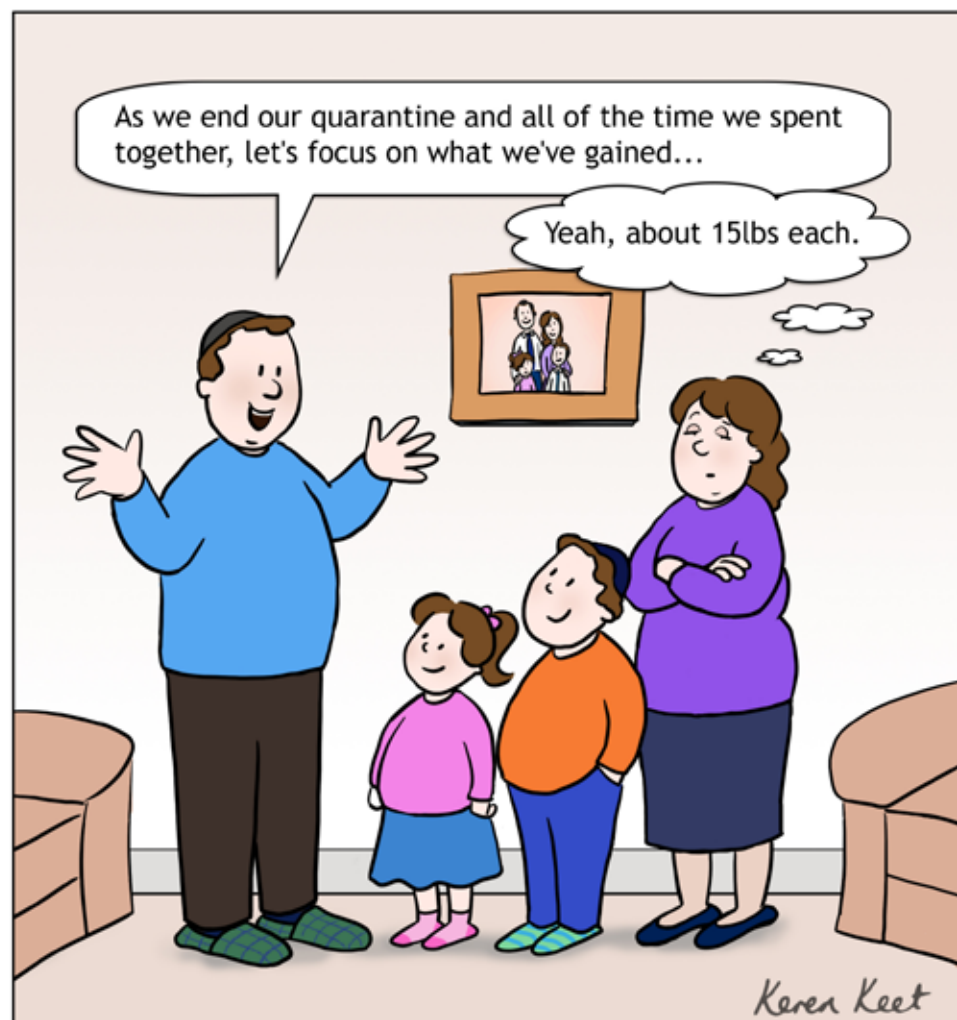
Learn the history of our prayers, the structure of our services, experience the beauty of the poetry, and the wisdom of our tradition in a monthly class taught by Rav/Hazzan David Sislen. Texts are often suggested by students, and your requests are welcomed.

The second year of this popular class will be held online on the second Thursday of the month: 6:30-7:15 pm, so that those who wish to attend minyan will have adequate travel time to come to the shul. If you wish to attend in person, please contact the Rabbi/Hazzan at the address below.

September 10	March 11
November 12	April 8
December 10	May 13
January 14	June 10
February 11	

You must register for the course or for an individual class in order to receive the Zoom link. You can contact us at: kzsecretary@entermail.net or keshertzionrav@gmail.com

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610



Essential West Bank land registry is handwritten

From online news sources

The Israeli property registry for the West Bank is handwritten with no complete back-up copy, even though land ownership is one of the key points of conflict between Israeli and Palestinians.

This includes both recent land transactions and those from the Jordanian and British Mandate periods.

At present, the Civil Administration registers only that property, Israeli and Palestinian, that is in Area C of the West Bank, but it has information that predates that division.

The status of the registry was brought to light in Monday's report by Comptroller Matanyahu Englman, which dealt among other things with the Civil Administration's process of registering property. "Land

registration is done by hand in physical books," the report stated. "If these books are harmed, it is possible that there would not be any remaining documents that testified to the real estate transactions."

Aside from wear and tear over time, that book could also be damaged by fire or water, the report speculated, noting that a scanning process had begun, but that there were still over 40,000 pages that have not yet been copied.

With regard to the Beit-El and Ramallah registry, some 33,000 pages from Jordanian books have yet to be scanned. Similarly, with regard to the Tul Karem and Kalkliya registry, there are 5,600 pages with no scans.

The IDF said that hundreds of thousands of shekels had been

spent to advance the scanning project and that it was working on completing it. The comptroller said that the process must go at a much faster pace, before "information is lost that cannot be retrieved."

The comptroller blamed the lack of coordination between the governmental ministries and the judiciary branch for delaying the computerization program for land registry.

It similarly noted that the registration process was very slow, with only a fraction of the registration cases moving beyond the first state in any year.

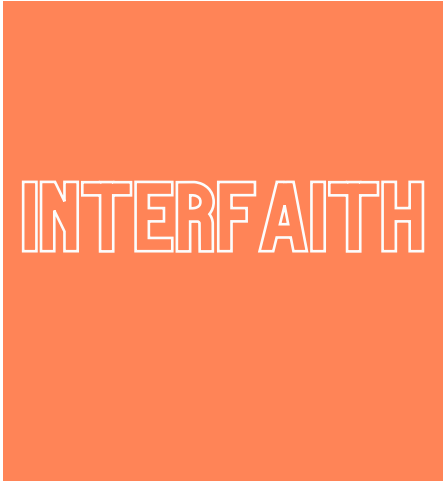
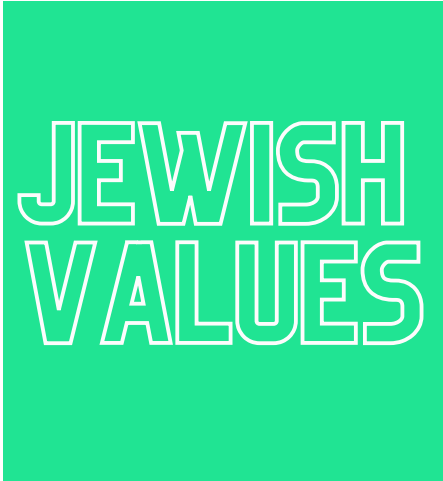
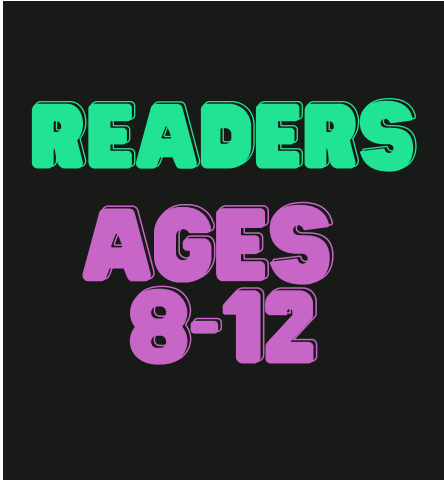
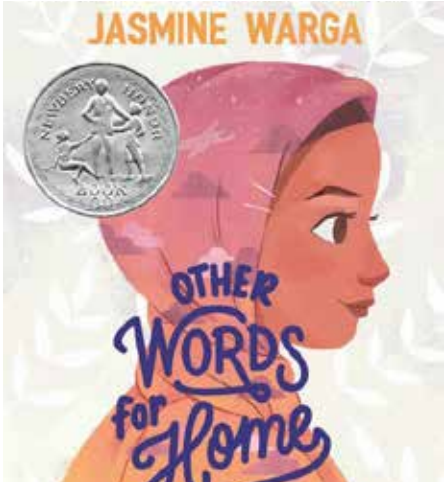
Out of 506 registration attempts in 2018, the comptroller noted, only 25 were advance beyond the first stage. The right-wing NGO Regavim said that Civil Administration's failure

to properly achieve and record land transactions, couple by the secrecy in which such document are held, had enabled the Palestinian Authority to seize control of land in Area C.

Regavim Director-General Meir Deutch said, "The painstaking, glacial pace of handwritten record keeping is fertile ground for forgery, and leads to further violation of property rights, making it nearly impossible to conduct property transactions in a normal fashion," Deutch said.

"The failure to carry out the necessary registration and regulation of land in these areas has enabled the Palestinian Authority to carry out a well-planned, carefully-timed and well-funded land-seizure program," he added.

ANNOUNCING A NEW PROGRAM!



INTERESTED? EMAIL AMANDA
AMANDAH@JFREADING.ORG

Thanks to our sponsors:

This program made possible through a grant from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation



Jewish Federation®
OF READING/BERKS



Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information

Please mail your payment with complete information to the Jewish Federation, PO Box 14925, Reading, PA 19612-4925 or bring to the Jewish Cultural Center, 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing. You may set up a “**savings account**” for the purpose of sending cards. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 610-921-0624 for further information.

Contributions as of Aug. 14

Edwin & Alma N.’51 Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center
In memory of:
Jim Gilbert (Jennifer Goss’ father) – Andy and Corinne Wernick, Jay and Evelyn Lipschutz
Robert Brok – Rosalye Yashek
Barbara Nazimov – Rosalye Yashek
Sharyn Cohen – Rosalye Yashek

Federation Community Campaign

In honor of:
Birth of Eleanor and Peter Reyner’s twin grandchildren – Judy and Bob Pollack
Birth of Carole and Mike Robinson’s new granddaughter – Rosalye Yashek
Madeline Pollack Atkins 95th birthday while recovering from COVID-19 – Susan Weiser

In memory of:
Stan Ramati – Debbie and David Goldberg, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Dick Gordon’s brother – Terri Hafetz
Robert Brok – Carol and Bernie Gerber
Barbara Nazimov – Carol and Bernie Gerber

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:
Sari Incledon’s semi-retirement – Mariette Jacobson
Carole Robinson’s new position as JFS Director – Mariette Jacobson

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:
Federation Jewish Community Campaign
Jewish Family Service
Leo Camp Lecture Fund
JFS Food Bank
JFS Taxi Transportation Program
Holocaust Library & Resource Center
Doris Levin Fund
PJ Library Fund
Harry & Rose Sack Fund
Evelyn Thompson Fund

In memory of:
Stan Ramati – Al and Betsy Katz
Dorothy Jacobson (Martin Jacobson’s mother) – Yvonne and Manny Wittels
Barbara Nazimov – Sylvia Wenger

JFS Food Pantry

In honor of:
Birth of Sylvia Wenger’s great-granddaughter – Rosalye Yashek
Birth of Carole and Mike Robinson’s new granddaughter – Sue Schlanger
Birth of Jackye and Jim Barrer’s new grandson – Sue Schlanger
Edith Mendelsohn’s 103rd birthday – Sue Schlanger
Sari Incledon’s semi-retirement – Rosalye Yashek

In memory of:
Jeri Kozloff – Rosalye Yashek
Dennis Hermann (Ellen Azrael’s brother) – Sue Schlanger

Arthur & Beatrice Hammel Jewish Music Series

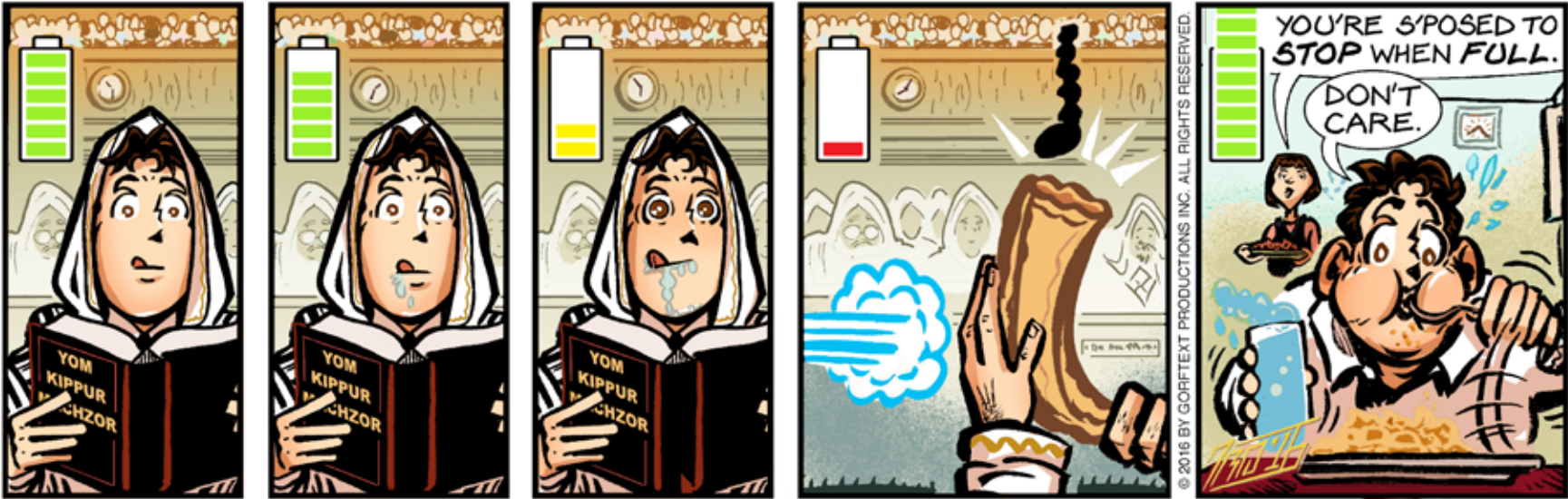
In memory of:
Fran Mendelsohn – Meir and Haia Mazuz

2020 Shalom Contributors

We wish to thank the following members of our community for their generous support of Shalom:

PATRON \$154 & OVER				
Julie Gabriel and Don Fox		Albert and Nancy Sack		Rosalye Yashek
SPONSOR \$118 - \$153				
The Driben Family	Nancy Knoblauch	Meir and Haia Mazuz	Laurie and Andy Waxler	Radene Gordon-Beck
DONOR \$72 - \$117				
Wendy Babitt and Todd Straub	Robert M. and Beth C. Caster	Kalmen and Margaret Feinberg	Marc and Marcia Filstein	
Karen and Marty Jacobson	Debbie Goodman and John Moyer	Victoria and Howard Hafetz	Doris and Elliott Leisawitz	
Barbara and Seth Rosenzweig	Boris and Tatiana Schneider	Richard and Mindy Small	Ingrid Soltysik	
Michael and Phyllis Warshaw		Susan Weiser	Missy and Allen Zimmerman	
SUPPORTER \$36 - \$71				
Cynthia and George Balchunas	Jackye and Jim Barrer	Harriet Baskin	Anneliese Bateman	Robert and Beth Bruck
Alan and Margie Leisawitz	Michael Schein and Robin Kline	Michael Charnoff	Robert and Mindy Coopersmith	Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Susan and Richard D'Angelo	Oleg and Tatyana Erlikh	Cheryl and Eric Farber	Arthur Fischman	Samuel and Sarah Flamholz
Joanie and Itz Friedman	Claire M. Fruchter	Naum and Lyudmila Ger	Jack Gernsheimer and Nancy Wolff	
Anzie and Edward Golden	Jane Goodman	Fran and Larry Gross	Jill and Michael Haas	Phyllis Jacoby
Alvin and Betsy Katz	Eileen Kope	Judith Kraines and Neil Hoffman	Carrie and Stephen Latman	Sheila and Gary Lattin
Roberta Lawit	Alan and Margie Leisawitz	Lisa and Alan Levine	Bernard and Toby K. Mendelsohn	Paul and Solange Mintz
Sandee and Neal Nevitt	Gordon and Carol Perlmutter	Annette and Sean Peppard	Jesse Pleet	Larry Rotenberg
Michael Schein and Robin Kline	Roger Schein	Moisey Schneider	Cindy and Tim Schuchart	
Judy and Jim Schwank	Sandy and Andrew Sigal	Irene Sileski	Jill Skaist	Cheryl Spillerman
Sue Wachs	Alan and Susan Weisberg	George Weiss	Andy and Corinne Wernick	Robert and Patricia Wool
				Louise Zeidman

EVERYTHING’S RELATIVE
by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



weis
markets

L'Shana Tova!

Weis Markets extends to you and your family a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



\$2.49
Fresh Kosher Whole Chicken
per pound



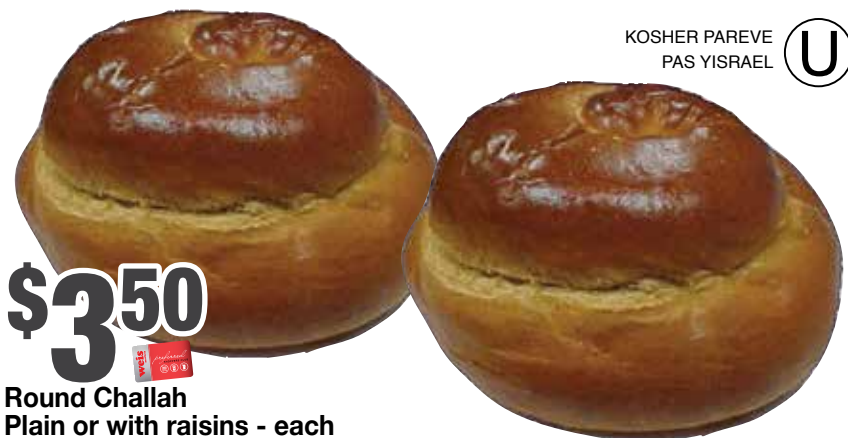
\$2.49
Fresh Kosher Cut-up Chicken
per pound



\$2.49
Fresh Kosher Chicken Leg
Quarters - per pound



\$1.99
Fresh Leeks or Bunches of
Spinach - each



\$3.50
Round Challah
Plain or with raisins - each



\$2.99
Kedem Sparkling Grape Juice
25.4 ounce



2/\$6
Kedem Concord Grape Juice
64 ounce



\$3.99
Osem Consomme Soup Mix
14.1 ounce



\$2.99
Selected Gunter's Honey
12 ounce



2/\$4
Manischewitz Matzo Ball or Matzo
Ball Soup Mix - 4.5 or 5 ounce



2/\$3
Lipton Onion soup Mix - 1.9 ounce;
Manischewitz Medium Noodles - 12 ounce



\$4.99
Rokeach Shabbos Candles
72 count



2/\$1
Rokeach Memorial Candles
each



2/\$1
Kedem Tea Biscuits
4.2 ounce



\$5.99
Selected Manischewitz Gefilte
24 ounce

visit us at www.weismarkets.com or connect with us on     

Prices through September 24, 2020.

*We also carry many of your favorite Kosher deli,
dairy, frozen and grocery products.*

We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not responsible for typographical or pictorial errors.

weis
markets