



**A roundup of the spring offerings in theater, film, music, books, and more**

**Spring Arts 15**



**Our annual no-holds-barred Purim satire**

**New Jersey Jewish Fake News 32**

Our Towns	4
Opinion	13
LifeCycle	37
Agenda	39
Touch of Torah	42
Exit Ramp	43



*Noam Kornsgold of East Windsor is a rabbinical student and delegate on MERCAZ USA, the Conservative movement's slate. PHOTO COURTESY NOAM KORNSGOLD*

## Next generation of leaders steps up for World Zionist Congress

**Jed Weisberger**  
 NJJN Staff Writer

**N**oam Kornsgold, 24, is one of several young members of New Jersey's Jewish community vying to be a delegate to the 38th World Zionist Congress (WZC), which will take place Oct. 20-22 in Jerusalem.

Priorities for Kornsgold, who is a candidate for MERCAZ-The Voice of the Conservative/Masorti Movement, include promoting pluralism in Israel and funding for United Synagogue Youth (USY), the youth movement affiliated with the Conservative movement.

"One of our key goals is to assure

anyone can practice their religion in a pluralistic society in Israel the way they want to, without the Chief Rabbinate of Israel imposing any system," said Kornsgold, who grew up in East Windsor and is the son of Leslie and Rabbi Jay Kornsgold. "We feel that way for Jews and anyone else."

Kornsgold is in his fourth year at The Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary; his father is rabbi of Beth El Synagogue in East Windsor. Both of them are board members of MERCAZ USA.

For Jay Kornsgold, the young people are vital to the future of the Jewish community. "We need to get them involved in as many things as we can and build another strong generation," he said.

The WZC is the policy-making organization of the Zionist movement and is responsible for the allocation of around \$1 billion in support of Israel and global Jewish communities. Kornsgold and the two other students interviewed by NJJN are

*Continued on page 8*

## White supremacy leafletting surges in NJ

Trend mirrors overall rise of anti-Semitism in state, country

**Johanna Ginsberg**  
 NJJN Senior Writer

**I**n early 2019 leaflets promoting a public march for the New Jersey European Heritage Association, a white supremacist group, were hung around the Princeton University campus, causing an uproar and sparking plans for a large counter protest (the Heritage Association claimed that the announced march was actually a hoax).

By contrast, in December the New Jersey European Heritage Association posted flyers around Maplewood and South Orange, urging people to "Reclaim your nation, Reclaim your heritage." The local police and the Department of Public Works were notified, the signs were removed, but there was little uproar. The muted reaction was by design.

The point of leafletting, an increasingly popular tactic of white supremacist groups, is not only to recruit members, but also to portray themselves as bigger than they are, with more capacity, more reach, and more power, according to Alex Rosemberg, the Anti-Defamation League New York/New Jersey's director of community affairs, who spoke to NJJN by telephone. The idea is to have a small cadre of members do a lot of propaganda with an outsize impact on perception. It can also garner publicity, and stir anxiety.

The message is "Anyone not White Anglo-Saxon and European: here we are, we have a lot of power, and you should be afraid of us," Rosemberg said.

In response, while the ADL still reports each incident to the police, it has stopped responding publicly to every

*Continued on page 6*

# SAVE THE DATES

**JWVG** THE JEWISH WEEK MEDIA GROUP  
Publishers of The Jewish Week & New Jersey Jewish News

**NJJN** NEW JERSEY JEWISH NEWS  
1719 Route 10, Suite 307, Parsippany, NJ 07054  
[njewishnews.com](http://njewishnews.com) | T: 973-739-8110

Feb 2020

## 2020 Special Features Calendar | NJ Jewish News | Princeton Mercer Bucks



**April 7**      **Passover Greetings<sup>NA</sup>**

**May 5**      **Education / Senior Living / Retirement Living<sup>\*NA</sup>**

**June 2**      **Real Estate Guide / Israel NOW\***

**July 7**      **Synagogue Connection / Back To School**

**August 4**      **Retirement Living<sup>\*NA</sup> / Rosh Hashanah Foods /  
Real Estate Guide / Synagogue Connection**

**September 8**      **Rosh Hashanah Greetings<sup>NA</sup>**

**October 6**      **Mazel Tov / Fall Arts Guide**

**November 3**      **Healthy Living / Hanukkah Gifts**

**December 1**      **Hanukkah Greetings<sup>NA</sup>**

Unless noted otherwise, special sections include advertorial and advertising deadline is 9 days prior to issue date  
\*Feature pull out & save special issue, early deadline | NA = no advertorial

Questions? Contact Ruth Rothseid at 212-997-2954 or [ruth@jewishweek.org](mailto:ruth@jewishweek.org)

## Spit it out

Israeli company BATM of Hod Hasharon announced that its biomedical division has developed a diagnostics kit to detect coronavirus from saliva samples in less than half an hour.

The test is compatible with the current hospital-based method for diagnosing COVID-19, which uses reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) — a type of gene sequencing that takes about eight hours. COVID-19 is the disease caused by coronavirus infection.

“The kit, which supports all the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, has already received interest from customers in several countries,” said Dr. Zvi Marom, BATM CEO.

On the topic of Israel and the coronavirus, 100 Israeli physicians have volunteered to speak remotely with quarantined COVID-19 patients in countries such as China, Japan, South Korea, Italy, and the U.S. The Israeli doctors are available to answer patients’ questions on topics of concern such as mental health, pregnancy, diet, and dermatology. The video broadcasts are spearheaded by an Israeli company INNONATION, which has hubs in Israel and China. In addition, INNONATION has donated 500,000 pieces of protective gear, including masks, gowns, and gloves.

“This is about connecting people in crisis with doctors and hospitals,” said Amit Gal-Or, one of INNONATION’s founders. “We will continue until we see the virus disappear.” — ISRAEL21c



Coronavirus has spread to more than 65 countries. NELSON ALMEIDA/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## High-flying (kosher) snacks



A new, kosher dinner option in Polaris on the Newark-Tel Aviv route.

United Airlines’ “friendly skies” have become more heimishe with an expanded kosher food and wine selection that has begun on U.S.-Tel Aviv routes from Newark, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

“We at United are committed to ensuring our customer’s experience is exceptional both on the ground and in the air,” said Jill Kaplan, president, New York/New Jersey for United Airlines, in a press release. “Our communities are a mosaic representation of the vast diversity within our region, therefore we are pleased to

announce we have added new and enhanced kosher options.”  
 “An entirely new menu” is promised on the Newark-to-Tel Aviv flight with options such as chicken marsala, kale quinoa burger, fresh bagels, and “traditional bakery items” such as rugelach and black and white cookies. N.J.-based companies Fresko and Royal Wines are partnering with United on the kosher offerings.

Those traveling in Polaris, first- and business-class service, and United Premium Plus may sip a selection of Herzog wines and choose from an expanded selection of packaged kosher snacks.

Hot, kosher meal options are currently being tested in the Polaris Lounge at Newark Liberty International Airport as well as in-flight kosher meals for children, to keep everyone happy travelers.

## Mazal tov Gilad

Gilad Shalit, the Israeli soldier who was held prisoner by the terrorist group Hamas in Gaza for five years, is engaged, JTA reports.

His girlfriend, Nitzan Shabbat, posted a photo of the couple on Instagram in which she is holding up her hand to show a diamond engagement ring. Shalit proposed on Feb. 14.

The couple have been dating for about a year and a half.

Shalit, 33, was captured in June 2006 in a cross-border raid through a Hamas tunnel. He was released in October 2011 in a controversial exchange for 1,027 Palestinian prisoners.



Gilad Shalit, at left, with fiancée Nitzan Shabbat. VIA TWITTER

Find out how our extensive training and care philosophy help us make meaningful connections that lead to better, more engaging care.

Providing hourly and live-in care.

**You know**  
 she loves her morning walk, struggles to take her medicine on time, and is fiercely independent. We'll know that, too.

Start home care today.  
[hwcg.com/princeton](http://hwcg.com/princeton)  
 609.423.1200

**Homewatch CareGivers®**

**NJ JN** SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS

IN STATE mailing address	OUT OF STATE mailing address (within U.S.)
1 year \$52	1 year \$56
2 years \$84	2 years \$92
3 years \$125	3 years \$136

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery of first issue. 52 issues per year.

**Please mail to:**  
 NJ Jewish News - Subscriptions  
 901 Route 10, Whippany, NJ 07981

**Your Name & Address:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose payment method:**

VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed (made payable to JWMW, LLC.)

1 year  2 years  3 years

NJ JN

Vol. XXII No. 10 March 10, 2020 14 Adar 5780

**EDITORIAL**  
 Gabe Kahn, *Editor*  
 Shira Vickar-Fox, *Managing Editor*  
 Lori Silberman Brauner, *Deputy Managing Editor*  
 Johanna Ginsberg, *Senior Staff Writer*  
 Jed Weisberger, *Staff Writer*  
 Abby Meth Kanter, *Editorial Adviser*

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
 Michele Alperin, Jennifer Altmann,  
 Max L. Kleinman, Martin J. Raffel,  
 Merri Ukrainick, Stephen M. Flatow,  
 Jonathan Tobin

**BUSINESS**  
 Nancy Greenblatt, *Manager Sales/ Administration and Circulation*  
 Nancy Karpf, *Senior Account Executive*  
 Steven Weisman, *Account Executive*  
 Lauri Sirois, *Classified Sales Supervisor/ Office Manager*

**GRAPHIC DESIGN/DIGITAL/PRODUCTION**  
 Clarissa Hamilton, Janice Hwang,  
 Charles J. Rosenthal, Dani Shetrit

**EXECUTIVE STAFF**  
 Rich Waloff, *Publisher*  
 Andrew Silow-Carroll, *Editor in Chief*  
 Gary Rosenblatt, *Editor at Large*  
 Rob Goldblum, *Managing Editor*  
 Ruth Rothseid, *Sales Manager*  
 Thea Wieseltier, *Director of Strategic Projects*  
 Dan Bocchino, *Art Director*  
 Arielle Sheinwald, *Print Marketing Operations Manager*  
 Gershon Fastow, *Advertising Coordinator*  
 Miriam Groner, *Web Director*

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT**  
 New Jersey Jewish News, an independent voice, seeks to inform, engage and inspire its readers, covering and helping to build community. The Princeton Mercer Bucks edition of NJ JN (USPS 1227) is published monthly by the JWMW, LLC, at 1501 Broadway, Room 505, New York, NY 10036. © 2016, NJ Jewish News. All rights reserved. • Periodical postage is paid at Whippany, NJ, and additional offices. • Postmaster: Send address changes to New Jersey Jewish News, 1719 Route 10, Suite 307 Parsippany, NJ 07054-4507. NJ JN was founded as The Jewish News on Jan. 3, 1947. Member, New Jersey Press Association and American Jewish Press Association; subscriber to JTA.

**TELEPHONES/E-MAIL:** Main — phone: 973-739-8110, fax: 973-887-4152, e-mail: [editorial@njewishnews.com](mailto:editorial@njewishnews.com), ■ Manuscripts, letters, documents, and photographs sent to New Jersey Jewish News become the physical property of this publication, which is not responsible for the return or loss of such material.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS: ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (INCLUDING POSTAGE):** New Jersey: \$52. Out of State: \$56. Call Nancy Greenblatt, 973-739-8115 or e-mail: [ngreenblatt@njewishnews.com](mailto:ngreenblatt@njewishnews.com). For change of address, call 973-929-3198.

**ADVERTISING:** NJ JN does not endorse the goods or services advertised in its pages and makes no representation as to the kashrut of food products and services in such advertising. The publisher shall not be liable for damages if, for any reason whatsoever, the publisher fails to publish an advertisement or for any error in an advertisement. Acceptance of advertisers and of advertising copy is subject to publisher's approval. NJ JN is not responsible if ads violate applicable laws and the advertiser will indemnify, hold harmless, and defend NJ JN from all claims made by governmental agencies and consumers for any reason based on ads carried in NJ JN.

# Our Towns

## Scholar to explain challenges of biblical translation

Alter conveys technique, then lets readers arrive at religious vision

**Michele Alperin**

*NJJN Contributing Writer*

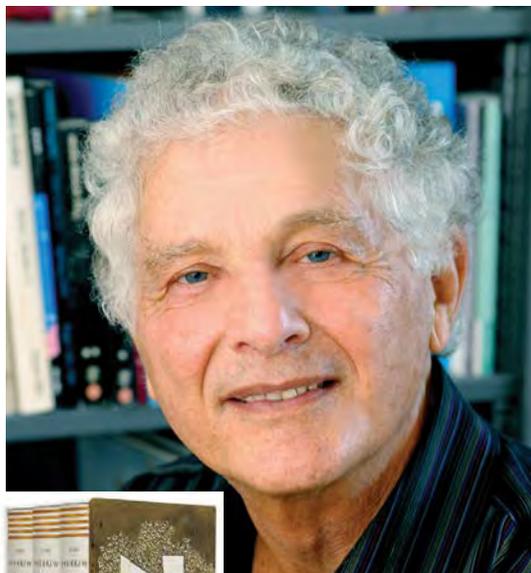
**R**obert Alter didn't plan to translate the entire Tanach. In the 1990s, he received a request from an editor at Norton Critical Editions to edit a volume either on Kafka or the Bible. Alter suggested instead that he translate Genesis, and would apply his own, distinctively literary, vision.

"I'd been reading the Bible in Hebrew since my late teens, and the Hebrew spoke to me in all kinds of ways, including its extraordinary style," said Alter, a professor in the graduate school and emeritus professor of Hebrew and comparative literature at the University of California, Berkeley.

He told NJJN in a mid-February phone interview that he thought a proper translation of the books of the Hebrew Bible should impart more "stylistic subtleties and the power of the Hebrew into English."

Alter continued to translate biblical books in separate volumes for Norton, and four or five years ago he realized he had completed nearly two-thirds of the Tanach. So he decided to finish the job.

The complete work was published — to wide



*Even in his youth, said Robert Alter, "Hebrew spoke to me in all kinds of ways, including its extraordinary style."*

acclaim; it won the PEN Center Literary Award for Translation — in a three-volume set, "The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary," in December 2018.

Alter will present "The Challenge of Translating the Bible" on Thursday evening, March 26, at The Jewish Center of Princeton.

With his literary bent, Alter's translations focus on issues of language, syntax, and stylistic techniques.

"I paid a lot of attention to Hebrew syntax, which is different from modern English syntax, but not that different from certain writers," he said. That meant following "the expressive and eloquent use of the Hebrew word order in English."

The terseness of the Hebrew in biblical narratives, Alter said, means there is "rather more weight to the single word than, say, in a novel of 150,000 words." The Hebrew "generates certain distinctive, compact rhythms," which is why he chose shorter words rather than multisyllabic ones in his translation; for example, he would use "fire" rather than "conflagration."

Alter also recognized the importance of preserving repetition, "a subtle literary instrument in Hebrew writing that modern versions [of the Bible]

## Survivor comes to life in the classroom

NJ college selected for national test run of holographic technology

**Jed Weisberger**

*NJJN Staff Writer*

**P**leasantville High School senior Ernest Howard had a question for Shoah survivor Ed Mosberg. In his Holocaust and genocide class, Ernest learned about Mosberg's torture and imprisonment in multiple concentration camps and how the Morris Plains resident witnessed the murders of friends and relatives.

The question Ernest asked was practical in nature: "What kind of meals were you served in Mauthausen?" And he received an honest answer, albeit not in person, from the 94-year-old survivor. The answer came from a hologram based on Mosberg's likeness and the script came from five hours of interviews with the property developer.

"I always volunteered to serve the coffee in the morning and the soup in the evening," answered the Mosberg hologram on a projection



*Pleasantville High School senior Ernest Howard prepares to ask Ed Mosberg, through an interactive hologram, about food in the concentration camp of Mauthausen.* PHOTOS COURTESY OF STOCKTON UNIVERSITY

screen. "That way, I got the first coffee and the first soup with whatever vegetables were there. I also cleaned the pots and was able to get the coffee grounds to eat and whatever vegetables were left from the soup."

Mosberg's hologram was seated in a chair. He wore dark blue slacks and a blue-and-white-striped polo shirt; his hands moved, amplifying how he expressed himself.

"I felt like he was looking right at

me while he was talking," Ernest said to the 100 people assembled during a demonstration of the Dimensions in Testimony Interactive Biography Program at the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center at Stockton University in Galloway on Feb. 12.

The educational exchange between Ernest and Mosberg is a program of the University of Southern California (USC) Shoah Foundation. The Dimensions in Testimony program, which is already utilized by museums such as the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan, is now being rolled out to the educational sector. Stockton University was the only U.S. college chosen to test and pilot the program in a three-year study.

"It's one thing to read [about the Holocaust] in the history books, but now students get to interact with an eyewitness," said Gail Rosenthal, executive director of the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center.

*Continued on page 11*

strenuously avoid because they think it is boring, and they vary terms all over the place.”

As a primary source, Alter used the “Biblia Hebraica,” published in German in the 1960s, which, he said, is “not perfect, but has the advantage of giving you textual variance.” Alter said he doesn’t trust biblical lexicons because they sometimes miss subtleties. He also consulted modern scholarly commentaries and, from time to time, medieval Hebrew ones.

“My most helpful tool was a concordance to the Hebrew Bible,” he said. “If I wanted to get the particular connotation of a word, the general meaning of which is known, I would look at all the different occurrences of the word and then draw my conclusion.”

In his translation, Alter said, he tried to get back to the worldview of the biblical writers by “scraping away all the accretions of post-biblical Jewish and Christian traditions.”

Nonetheless, he claimed that this work is in many senses a “Jewish” project, “partly because I had always related to Tanach as a Jew, and — especially in doing a commentary alongside the translation — I felt like I was latching on to an age-old Jewish form of expression and [way of] relating to the Bible.” And, of course, the order of

the book and the divisions into Torah, Nevi’im, and Ketuvim follow the Jewish canon.

For one thing, Alter’s approach meant retranslating loaded theological terms according to their meaning in the biblical context. “Yeshua,” usually translated as “salvation,” biblically means “to get someone out of a tight fix.” So Alter translated this pragmatic, worldly term as “rescue.”

The word “nefesh” is often translated as “soul,” but biblical Hebrew, Alter said, had no conception of a split between body and soul, so he rendered it as “life breath” or, by extension, “throat” or “neck.”

Initially Alter envisioned his commentary as translator’s notes, in which he would point out an obscure word or an untranslatable Hebrew pun. But soon he realized that because the biblical world might seem vastly different, even strange, to modern readers, he would need to explain far more: marriage practices, conceptions of society, and the roles of men and women, for example.

He also became aware that the Bible’s literary techniques — its narrative styles and heavy focus on dialogue — needed elucidation as well.

In keeping with Alter’s practice of taking literary technique into account

in his commentary, he talks about a convention of biblical narrative in which the first words spoken “are a way of laying out the character of that particular figure.”

He gave as a prime example the opening words of Jacob and Esau when the latter returns from a hunting expedition. Esau feels he’s on the brink of death and is willing to sell anything, Alter said. “In fact, Esau is so ravenous that he says, ‘Let me gulp down some of that red, red stuff.’ He is totally inarticulate and can’t think of the Hebrew word for porridge or stew. You immediately get a picture of Esau as a man of impatient appetite.”

By moving away from translations that reflect a particular ideology and instead opening the door to the Bible and its worldview, Alter leaves any theological interpretations to his readers.

He said, “I convey narrative tech-

nique, then I let the reader do the work about the conclusions about religious vision.” ■

### If you go

**Who:** Robert Alter

**What:** “The Challenge of Translating the Bible”

**When:** Thursday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$18 (with preregistration by March 24), \$25 at the door, free for Jewish Center members, \$10 for students

**Information:** Visit thejewish-center.org or call 609-921-0100

## Wilf senior campus launches at-home services

THE WILF CAMPUS for Senior Living in Somerset has opened Wilf At Home (WAH), a health-care agency providing compassionate care to those requiring assistance in private homes or assisted-living or long-term-care facilities. WAH’s team of registered and licensed practical nurses and case managers helps families navigate the complex health-care environment, from creating a home-care plan to aiding with transition from hospital to home; certified home health aides provide assistance with bathing and dressing, grooming, and medication reminders; and non-medical staff offer companionship and such services as meal preparation, laundry assistance, and light housekeeping. As a Jewish organization, WAH also offers pastoral care to its patients and families of all faiths.

WAH executive director Jean

Leone said WAH offers plans to meet each individual’s needs, “ensuring that we create an atmosphere of trust, respect, dignity, accountability, integrity, and excellence.”

Wilf Campus president Bob Barry said WAH “provides families with the knowledge and confidence that their loved ones are being taken care of by trained caregivers.” The growth of the the campus’s health, wellness, and educational community programs “ensures that we are able to meet the needs of seniors and disabled populations during every step of their journey.”

The program joins the other Wilf Campus agencies: Stein Assisted Living, Wilentz Senior Residence, Stein Hospice, and Wilf Transport and its Education and Resource Center.

For information, contact 732-649-3502 or athome@wilfcampus.org.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life

Sunday, March 29, 4:00 p.m.

The Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program

## Jerusalem: City of the Book

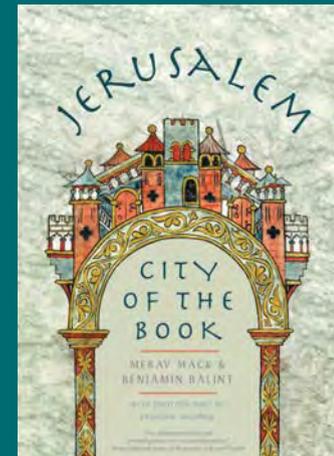
Exploring the extraordinary city through its historic Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Armenian literary treasures

Panel:

Benjamin Balint, Van Leer Institute

Father Columba Stewart, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library

Bedross Der Matossian, University of Nebraska–Lincoln



Douglass Student Center  
100 George Street, New Brunswick

Free and open to the public

Cosponsored by the Rutgers–New Brunswick Libraries  
and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies

RSVP and Parking Information:  
BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu

RUTGERS  
School of Arts and Sciences



Leafletting

Continued from page 1

leaflet. “We are holding back and asking people to do the same,” he said.

According to new data released by the ADL, there was a 250 percent surge in New Jersey of white supremacist propaganda in 2019, marking three years of exponential growth in the Garden State. In addition, across the country distribution of white supremacist propaganda more than doubled in 2019 over the previous year, making it the highest year on record for such activity in the United States.

“White supremacists consider propaganda distribution a convenient and anonymous way to promote their messages of hate and intolerance,” said Evan Bernstein, ADL’s Northeast Division vice president, in a Feb. 12 statement. “While we know extremists and hate groups are emboldened by the current environment, this dramatic surge in white supremacist flyering and propaganda distribution demonstrates how bigots are increasing efforts to spread their message.”

In addition to the leafletting, anti-Semitic incidents also increased in New Jersey in 2019, with 143 incidents documented by the ADL, up from 41 the year before and nearly 11 times higher than in 2017. New Jersey has the fifth-highest number of incidents in the nation. Of these, 15 occurred on college campuses around the state.

Some 70 percent of the propaganda distributed in New Jersey came from the New Jersey European Heritage Association, with the rest coming from the Patriot Front, American Identity Move-



As anti-Semitic incidents in the state and across the country are surging, white supremacist groups like the New Jersey European Heritage Association have used leafletting to make their organizations appear to be larger than they are. PHOTO COURTESY ADL

ment (a successor to the now disbanded Identity Evropa), Feuerkrieg Division, Daily Stormer Book Club, Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and The Base. (See sidebar next page)

The surge in leafletting, however, does not reflect rising affiliation with white supremacy groups. “Card-carrying members of white supremacist groups are not really many,” said Rosenberg. He estimates that there are not more than a thousand members of white supremacist groups in the U.S., and the per-

centage of people nationwide who harbor anti-Semitic views has held steady at 11 percent over the last four decades.

However, those who do hold anti-Semitic beliefs feel more emboldened to speak and act on their ideas, according to Rosenberg. He also warned that “The majority of all extremists in this country are not specifically affiliated with any particular organization. They just believe what they believe.” The perpetrators of the four violent incidents directed at Jews and Jewish institutions in the last 18 months — Pittsburgh; Poway, Calif.; Monsey, N.Y.; and Jersey City — were not official members of these groups, though Rosenberg believes the ideas of white supremacy helped to radicalize them.

Leafletting, Rosenberg said, helps white supremacists advertise something of a softer appeal. To that end, some are selling patriotism and Americana in their symbols and manner of dress in lieu of swastikas and other traditional neo-Nazi gear. “It’s no longer the skinhead with swastika tattoos wearing military boots,” said Rosenberg. “Now they are wearing button-down shirts and crew cuts with khakis and blazers in an effort to be palatable and ... mainstream.”

The other benefit of leafletting is anonymity, which lends an air of mystery to the organizations and increases their power, according to Rosenberg, who noted that when individuals are identified, they are not embraced by society: After the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlotte, Va., several participants who appeared in photos lost their jobs and were “named and shamed” on and offline.

The release of information about the groups is therefore a useful exercise, Rosenberg argues. “We’re giving the public a natural and accurate picture of what they’re actually up against ... which is something that they don’t want.” ■

jginsberg@njewishnews.com

FROM A FORMER  
FEDERAL RESERVE  
CHAIRMAN TO YOUR  
OWN PRIVATE RESERVE

*We insure them.*

Family-owned for four generations, Borden Perlman has global reach, community roots. Licensed in 50 states, we work tirelessly to insure what’s important to you.



609.896.3434 | 800.932.4476  
BORDENPERLMAN.COM

250 Phillips Blvd., Suite 280, Ewing, NJ 08618  
120 Albany St., Tower II, Suite 405, New Brunswick, NJ 08901



# The short list: NJ white supremacist groups leafletting in 2019

*All descriptions below have either been taken directly or culled from resources on ADL.org.*

**New Jersey European Heritage Association**  
Small, New Jersey-based white supremacist group created in 2018 espousing racism, anti-Semitism, and intolerance under the guise of saving white Europeans from imminent extinction. Particularly active in and around Princeton.

**Patriot Front**

A white supremacist group whose members maintain that their ancestors conquered America and bequeathed it to them alone. They define themselves as American fascists or nationalists who are focused on preserving the country’s identity as a European-American identity. Split-off from Vanguard America in 2017, they embrace Americana and use the American flag during demonstrations and often wear U.S. flag-themed masks or bandanas.

**American Identity Movement**

An alt-right white supremacist group that be-

gan in 2019 as a rebranding of Identity Evropa, one of the largest groups within the alt-right segment of the white supremacist movement. It’s a brand of white supremacy rife with racism, anti-Semitism, and homophobia, but the group attempts to project an image of Americana. It is focused on the preservation of “white American culture” and promoting white European identity; uses the slogan “You will not replace us.” Campus activism is a priority.

**Feuerkrieg Division**

Small international neo-Nazi group established in 2018 that advocates for a race war and holds some of the white supremacist movement’s most extreme views. It calls for violence against their perceived enemies and destruction of “the system,” or society at large, which they believe is controlled by the Jews.

**Daily Stormer Book Club**

Small, localized crews of young white men who follow and support Andrew Anglin and his neo-Nazi website, The Daily Stormer, launched in 2013. Members present themselves as Amer-

ican nationalists and are part of the alt-right segment of the white supremacist movement.

**Loyal White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (LWK)**

One of largest and most active of the 35-40 groups that make up the organized Klan movement in the United States. Like the rest of the stagnant Klan movement, the LWK currently operates in the shadows of segments of the white supremacist movement that have moved on from the outdated, stigmatized Klan robes and burning crosses. LWK members follow a version of traditional Klan ideology infused with neo-Nazi beliefs. In addition to being anti-black, anti-immigration, anti-Muslim, and homophobic, they are also virulently anti-Semitic.

**The Base**

Small, militant neo-Nazi organization that emerged in 2018. Members portray themselves as vigilante soldiers defending the “European race” against a broken “system” infected by Jewish values. Its mission is to prepare for an impending race war. ■

## WE PAY CASH FOR

Antique Furniture

Modern Furniture

Modern Art

Oil Paintings

Bronzes

Silver

Porcelain

Mens & Ladies Watches

Judaic Art and Silver  
& Chinese Art and Porcelain

Top Dollar for Any Kind of Jewelry  
& Chinese Porcelain

Military Items

Coins – Individual or Entire Collections

Cameras

Entire Home Contents

Property/Real Estate Purchases – Fast Closings



**ANS ANTIQUES**

We come to you • Free Appraisals

**CALL US!**

201-861-7770 • 201-951-6224

Visit us at [www.ANSAntiques.com](http://www.ANSAntiques.com)

[aadsa726@yahoo.com](mailto:aadsa726@yahoo.com)

Shommer Shabbas

# Our Towns

## Leaders

Continued from page 1

hoping to fill one of 152 seats allocated to U.S. Jews in the upcoming Congress, which meets every five years. The Congress has a total of 500 seats and allocates 29 percent of the delegates to U.S. Jewry, 38 percent to Israel, and 33 percent to the remainder of diaspora Jews. One of several requirements for the slates is that 25 percent of their delegates be between the ages of 18 and 35.

The two other candidates interviewed by NJJN are both students at Rutgers University. Freshman Sam Lurie is also a member of MERCAZ USA and senior Yoni Shargian is a part of HATIKVAH, a progressive Israel slate.

Lurie, 19, a Livingston native and graduate of Golda Och Academy in West Orange, became aware of MERCAZ USA's slate through his rabbi, Alan Silverstein of Congregation Agudath Israel of West Essex in Caldwell. Silverstein is president of MERCAZ Olami, the World Council of Conservative/Masorti synagogues.

"Rabbi Silverstein impressed to me that it's really important we assure funding for USY and other important Conservative Masorti programming, and make sure the next generation has this," he said. Lurie is the son of Debbie and David Lurie.

"I'm using all the networks I have, from Golda Och Academy, Camp Ramah, and other spots to get young people I know involved," Lurie added. "It's important because in the United States we don't realize ... how good we have it," regarding Conservative youth programming.

The format for the elections is as follows: U.S. voters choose one out of 15 slates that reflect a diversity of Jewish political opinions, religious affiliations, and ethnic identities. Percentages of the U.S.



Rutgers senior Yoni Shargian, who was born in Israel, is a delegate on the progressive HATIKVAH slate. PHOTO COURTESY YONI SHARGIAN



Rutgers freshman Sam Lurie, a Golda Och Academy graduate, is a delegate on the MERCAZ USA slate. PHOTO COURTESY SAM LURIE

vote determine the number of delegates per slate that attend the WZC in Jerusalem, and each qualifying slate chooses which delegates will attend.

For example, in the 2015 elections ARZA-Representing Reform Judaism won 21,766 out of 56,737 votes, earning 56 delegates to the Congress, followed by MERCAZ USA with 9,980 votes and 25 delegates, and in third place, Vote Torah: Religious Zionists with 9,594 votes and 24 delegates.

Shargian, 22, was born in Kfar Saba, Israel, and moved to Tenafly when he was 3.

"I believe we know what we can do to help Israeli society grow and become more inclusive," he said about his secular slate, HATIKVAH, which promotes a two-state solution, LGBTQ equality, pluralism, and dignity for refugees, asylum seekers, and foreign workers, and more.

"What I really like about the slate is, for the first time, organizations such as Partners for Progressive Israel, Ameinu, Habonim Dror, and Hashomer Hatzair will be joined in the HATIKVAH slate by J Street, T'ruah, and others," said Shargian, the son of Yoel and Odelia Shargian. "Our message is strong."

Shargian's views were shaped by participation in the Hashomer Hatzair youth movement, an organization with socialist and Zionist roots. He attended and worked at its camps and training farms in Tenafly and East Brunswick. He also spent his gap year at a secular yeshiva run by BINA, which promotes social action and pluralism.

Eligible voters in the WZC elections must be Jewish, at least 18, and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Anyone who participates in Knesset elections are ineligible.

Voting, which can be accessed at [azm.org/election](http://azm.org/election) or at any of the slate's sites (an option for paper ballots is also available), began Jan. 21 and concludes March 11. The fee for voting is \$7.50, and \$5 for those 25 and under. At press time, 55,000 votes, or 1 percent of the estimated American-Jewish population of 5.7 million, have been recorded. ■

[jweisberger@njewishnews.com](mailto:jweisberger@njewishnews.com)

# CELEBRATE PASSOVER






Award winning fish, house smoked salmon, homemade gefilte fish, and delicious platters.  
Whole Yellow Pike, Whitefish, and Carp. We fillet and grind to order!  
Mention this ad for a free fresh beet horseradish sauce.

**ORDER ONLINE AT [WWW.NASSAUSTREETSEAFOOD.COM](http://WWW.NASSAUSTREETSEAFOOD.COM)**

256 Nassau St, Princeton NJ • 609.921.0620

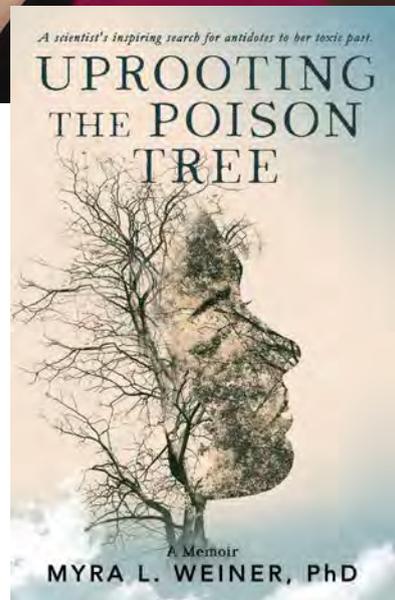
## Scientist on antidotes to life's poisons



**Michele Alperin**  
NJJN Contributing Writer

Every life brings challenges, but Myra L. Weiner's tale of varying tzuris, troubles, and the wisdom she gained in dealing with them "is an interesting and perhaps unique story," she told NJJN. That's what compelled her to write her memoir, "Uprooting the Poison Tree" (2019, Eliezer Tristan Publishing).

"By sharing my story I hope to help other people who go through various challenges that may be similar to the ones that I faced, such as dysfunction in my birth family and being a woman in science in an era when I was a minority and had



to advocate for myself to advance in the corporate world," she said. Weiner is a member of The Jewish Center in Princeton.

Her book intertwines three themes — Jewish identity and spirituality, development of a satisfying career in science, and devotion to family.

Weiner, a toxicologist, structured the book using metaphors from her professional career: She labeled as "toxic" each challenging experience and her efforts to cope as "emotional and spiritual antidotes." Among them are Jewish rituals, chanting, prayer, offering forgiveness, being in nature, and more.

Another antidote for Weiner was writing her memoir. "Writing this book brought me both a cathartic healing and the opportunity to share in a way that I hope will help others," she said. ■

### If you go

**Who:** Author Myra L. Weiner discusses "Uprooting the Poison Tree"

**When:** Sunday, March 22, 4-5:30 p.m.

**Where:** The Jewish Center, Princeton

**Contact:** No RSVP required. For more information, contact Myra Weiner at 908-928-2733 or myraweiner@yahoo.com

## N.J. congressional leaders criticize cuts to federal security funds

**Jed Weisberger**  
NJJN Staff Writer

led by Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-Dist. 9), all 14 members of the New Jersey Congressional delegation last week sent a letter to Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Chad Wolf, criticizing the reduction in federal funding to the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) preparedness grant programs for Fiscal Year 2020.

"... our cities rely on the federal support provided by these programs to strengthen their emergency preparedness and protect the daily threats our communities face," the letter said. It requested "a full and complete explanation of the rationale for lowering New Jersey's funding eligibility."

New Jersey is eligible to receive between \$6,153,600-\$7,692,000 in SHSP funds and between \$15,240,000-\$19,050,000 in UASI funds, the lowest levels in seven fiscal years. The peak amounts occurred in FY2018 when the state received \$7,993,000 in SHSP and \$22,750,000 in UASI allocations.

"We in New Jersey must get our

fair share of federal anti-terrorism funding, particularly because we have the most densely populated state in the nation and are host to many transportation hubs," said Rep. Chris Smith (R-Dist. 4) in a statement.

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Dist.12) called the budget cuts "deeply concerning."

"In a time where we're seeing upticks in anti-Semitism, in racism, and ignorance-fueled hate, and when terrorist attacks in Jersey City have demonstrated just how much is at stake, it's deeply concerning that New Jersey might not have access to resources that would keep our communities safe — particularly if these decisions were politically motivated," she said.

Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-Dist. 11) said the N.J. delegation will continue to "stand together to fight for the full funding that our state needs and deserves."

Sherrill also said, "After the recent attacks in our region, it is clear the federal government should be doing more, not less, to help New Jersey fight the growing tide of hate in our country." ■

[jweisberger@njewishnews.com](mailto:jweisberger@njewishnews.com)

For the Sophisticated Traveler:

### Biblical Archaeology in Israel

Monday, June 1st, to Friday, June 12th, 2020

with



Prof. Rendsburg

**Professor Gary A. Rendsburg**  
Rutgers University

&

**Dr. Dudu Cohen**  
Israeli Archeologist/Guide



Dr. Cohen

Jerusalem, Qumran, Masada, Ein Gedi, Megiddo, Caesarea, Bet She'an, Gamla, Bet Alpha, Sephoris and more.

[jewish-explorations.com](http://jewish-explorations.com)

866-898-0037



## From sacred text to Maxwell House to social justice

Vanessa Ochs examines 'quirky,' 'beloved' Haggadah

**Michele Alperin**

*NJJN Contributing Writer*

Asked why she was the right person to write “The Passover Haggadah: A Biography” for the Princeton University Press series “Lives of Great Religious Books,” Vanessa L. Ochs might simply have given her bona fides. An ordained rabbi, she is a professor in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville and has a doctorate in the anthropology of religion from Drew University in Madison. She has also written, edited, or contributed to numerous Judaism-centered books, including “Inventing Jewish Ritual,” “The Book of Jewish Sacred Practices,” and “The Jewish Dream Book.”

But she feels she was particularly suited to author “The Passover Haggadah,” she said, because, with her background, “I was able to consider the Haggadah as a material object used in ritual and in innovated rituals, as well as a historical text; I could study it as an object as well as a literary, liturgical text.”

Ochs will speak on “The Contemporary Passover Haggadah” at The Jewish Center of Princeton on Thursday evening, March 12. She talked about the topic and her book with NJJN.

**NJJN:** What does a “biography” of a Haggadah mean? Is it the biography of the book or the people who use it?

**Ochs:** As an anthropologist who writes about material culture, I wanted to focus not just on how the words in the text came about; I wanted to do more than account for the history of the generation of a text. . . . I wanted to focus as well on what it means to have a particular book



Vanessa Ochs said she wanted to focus on “a particular book that is incredibly beloved to individuals and to families.”

that is incredibly beloved to individuals and to families.

It’s such a quirky book: Unlike a Torah, which has to be stored in a particular way, the Haggadah is usually wrapped with a bunch of other Haggadot that you’ve used at the table. People haven’t fully shaken out the crumbs, the wine hasn’t dried, and there are brisket stains; they stick it in a box with the Passover mixing bowl and take it down into the basement or up into the attic.

If you think about a Maxwell House Haggadah, it is a sacred book that has an advertisement for coffee on it. Or, last year, in cooperation with Amazon, Maxwell House featured the “Marvelous Mrs. Maisel,” along with a stained index card with Midge’s brisket recipe.

This is a blurring between life and text, and I was curious to try to grasp how is it that one of our Jewish sacred texts would be in 6,000 versions.

**NJJN:** How do homemade Haggadot fit in?

**Ochs:** In the ’60s and ’70s, people were cobbling together Haggadot for their families or for women’s or interracial seders. When it was Passover time, you would see other Jews in Kinko’s, copying seders. Now, with available online tools, anyone can make a Haggadah, drawing on all sorts of resources and themes. People are sending their friends and families texts they’ve made, and they are asked, in the name of environmental concerns, to download the text and bring it on their phones and iPads.

**NJJN:** How did you conduct the research for this book?

**Ochs:** It was the hardest thing I ever did, and I worked on it for 10 years. I felt like I had to learn the scholarship in every single phase: Bible, Mishna, midrash, and Talmud. I had to learn about illuminated manuscripts and the first generation of print, just for starters. Once I learned that information, I needed to ask myself — given my perspective as a scholar of ritual and material culture — what new insights could I bring to areas where there has already been incredibly solid research?

**NJJN:** What kinds of sources did you use to create this biography?

**Ochs:** I did a lot of textual research. I went to Chi-

cago to meet with Stephen Durchslag, who has one of the largest personal collections of printed Haggadot. I looked at the collections at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem, The Israel Museum, and at several beautiful kibbutz Haggadot in the Cotsen Children’s Library at Princeton University. In America and Israel I went into people’s houses and saw where and how they stored and displayed their Haggadot and heard the stories of the Haggadot they had.

**NJJN:** How has the role of a Haggadah, which is primarily designed to educate each generation about the Exodus story, changed?

**Ochs:** The Haggadah as an opportunity for pedagogy is usually a failed opportunity. The text is used by people who are not Jewish educators, by everyday people who may not know the Exodus story themselves. It has also become more complicated these days as people who come to our seder table are sons- and daughters-in-law and best friends who are not Jewish. People are coming to see a rite that is not familiar to them, and as hospitable as a Jewish family might be, it is part of a foreign experience.

**NJJN:** How are new Haggadot being designed to make the seder more meaningful to today’s participants?

**Ochs:** [Some offer interpretations of the text that convey] the human value of caring for the vulnerable; others are created to be more welcoming to interfaith users, or focus on caring for the stranger, “because we were strangers” — recognizing otherness and the need to relieve the pain of otherness. Or [they focus on] social justice; people seize on a problem, like Israel-Palestine peace, the environment, or food justice, and the issue is made analogous somehow to an enslavement, and then the Haggadah demonstrates how one can liberate the world or a segment of the population of that particular oppression and how you can leave the seder and go out into the world and honor the commitments you’ve made.

Even in traditional families, more devices have been brought in. . . . More and more families are introducing activities or props to address the fact that children and adults both have shorter attention spans and require more stimulus. ■

### If you go

**Who:** Rabbi Dr. Vanessa Ochs

**What:** “The Contemporary Passover Haggadah”

**Where:** The Jewish Center, Princeton

**When:** Thursday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$20, free to Jewish Center members

**Information:** Visit thejewishcenter.org or call 609-921-0100

**ACACIA RESTAURANT**

Seasonal Menus Available  
On and Off Premise Catering  
Private Events  
Weddings & Showers

**JOIN US FOR LAWRENCEVILLE RESTAURANT WEEK MARCH 22-MARCH 27! CALL FOR DETAILS!**

<p><b>LUNCH</b> TUE - FRI: 11:30 - 2:30</p> <p><i>Please note: Lunch is not served on weekends. We are closed on Mondays.</i></p>	<p><b>DINNER</b> TUE - THUR: 5:00 - 9:00</p> <p>FRI: 5:00 - 10:00 SAT: 5:00 - 10:00 SUN: 5:00 - 9:00</p>
---	--

2637 Main Street, Lawrenceville, NJ  
Acacianj.com • 609-895-9885

## Survivor

Continued from page 4

“They see the emotion and feel connected with the survivor and their testimony.”

As the population of Holocaust survivors dwindles, and fewer remain to tell their stories, the USC Shoah Foundation, started by film producer Steven Spielberg, has developed 40 other interactive holograms of Holocaust survivors to assure their life stories remain alive in perpetuity.

“This is so important because it’s keeping Holocaust education alive and taking it to the next level,” said Rosenthal. “The worry of having no eyewitness records of survivors is gone.”

Rosenthal said teachers whose classes are participating in the Stockton test run are required to learn about Mosberg in advance, prepare questions, and then hold a post-event lesson on what they learned.

The technology used is a work in progress, according to the foundation. Basically, the system uses common language and picks up on key words to return the most relevant answers.

“We still have a few glitches to work out with some questions,” said Kori Street, the USC foundation’s senior director of programs and operations, who mentioned that some detailed queries about Mosberg’s background and Holocaust experiences fail to generate a response. “It’s like Siri or Alexa, sometimes questions are not answered.... We see what’s going on in the system and train it. The more questions we add, the better the system gets in terms of its accuracy and responding.”

To record the information for the hologram Mosberg spent five days in Los Angeles. “We asked in excess of 1,000 questions,” said Street. “We asked general questions about the Holocaust, his life before and about his life today. We also asked hundreds of questions about his specific experience.”

“What is being done with this will certainly further Holocaust education,” said Karen Small, managing director of Rutgers University’s Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life.

A 2017 documentary, “116 Cameras,” was made about interviewing survivor Eva Schloss for the USC Shoah Foundation’s hologram project. Small, who is also the founding director of the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival, plans to include “116 Candles” in the 2020 festival this fall.

“We can’t let the message of the Holocaust go when all survivors are gone,” said Small. “This program will assure the message stays alive.”

The Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, director and associate professor in the Jewish-Christian Studies Graduate Program at Seton Hall University, praised Stockton’s Holocaust education program.

“Stockton has always been one of the leaders in Holocaust education, and they have always done an excellent job,” said Frizzell, who hosts a weekly radio program “The Kinship of Catholics and Jews” on WSOU (FM 89.5).

Frizzell said new technology could inform students and the public at-large. “Technology is good if we follow guidelines and use it for good.”

The Holocaust center’s goal is to eventually in-



Ed Mosberg in hologram form with, center, Kori Street and Gail Rosenthal.

vite all students in New Jersey, from grades five-12, to learn from the Mosberg hologram.

Ernest’s history teacher, Kelsey Shockley, sees an important value in the interactive pro-

gram. She said, “The ultimate takeaway is why do things like the [Holocaust] keep happening and what can my class do to prevent things like this from happening.” ■

## A Senior Community Providing Exceptional Care



As a not-for-profit senior community, we are committed to ensuring that personal, medical and spiritual needs are recognized and met by providing a home where seniors live active, independent lives with the support of compassionate, professional caregivers.

**Jewish traditions, culture, and Kosher fine dining**  
**Gracious, private accommodations • Nurses on premises 24/7**  
**Social, fitness and educational activities • Beauty salon**  
**Housekeeping services • Transportation**  
**and much more!**

**Call us to find out why Stein Assisted Living is the right fit for you or your aging parent, 732-568-1155.**



**STEIN ASSISTED LIVING**

at The Oscar and Ella Wilf Campus for Senior Living

350 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873 • (732)568-1155 • www.wilfcampus.org

**THE OSCAR AND ELLA WILF CAMPUS FOR SENIOR LIVING**  
 Stein Assisted Living • Wilentz Senior Residence • Stein Hospice • Wilf Transport • The Foundation

# Editorial

## What a Netanyahu victory means for the diaspora



GETTY IMAGES

It took 11 months and three elections, but Israelis have finally handed a candidate, as of press time, an apparent path to create a sustainable government. That the candidate is Benjamin Netanyahu is a testament to the resiliency of Israel's longest-serving premier and a sign that a wary relationship between Israel and much of the diaspora is not going to become stronger anytime soon.

For the Jewish minority in this country that supports annexing the settlements and the Jordan Valley (as envisioned under President Donald Trump's Middle East plan) and that in general sees a two-state solution as folly, the election results are very good news indeed. Over much of his current tenure, which began in 2009, Netanyahu preferred to govern as a pragmatist, leaving the hardcore ideological language to various coalition partners and ministers. This time, he ran as a leader intent on settling the country's borders and winning a culture war against Israel's "elites" in the media, academia, and the courts.

Clearly, this distinct vision proved attractive to more Israeli voters than the vague platform of Blue and White, the rival party of Benny Gantz, which couldn't seem to articulate a message any clearer than "just not Bibi." Netanyahu also capitalized on his close relationship with an ideologically aligned Trump, which bolstered the argument that Netanyahu is the "indispensable man" when it comes to the world stage.

Gantz was no leftist, and the dismal showing of the Labor-Gesher-Meretz alliance showed once again that Israel's left is on life support. Still, the major-

ity of American Jews continue to support the assumptions of the left-wing agenda, especially in supporting a two-state solution. In addition, the majority of American Jews support the Democrats, while Netanyahu and perhaps most Israelis consider Trump a true friend: That is a formula for distancing between the world's two largest Jewish communities. The relationship is being further tested here at home by the surging candidacy of Vermont's Sen. Bernie Sanders. The vociferousness with which he criticizes Netanyahu and his tolerance for anti-Israel surrogates is deeply alienating to Jewish moderates, who may otherwise share his personal views on a secure Israel and a just resolution for the Palestinians.

Some American Jews might have been quietly pulling for Gantz if for no other reason than to forestall the spectacle of Netanyahu beginning his latest term as a defendant in a corruption trial, or undermining the legal system through political machinations. Either possibility is an unhappy prospect for advocates of the Middle East's only real democracy.

The results of Israel's latest election aren't much of a surprise, and only confirm trends that have been in place for years. For many, if not most, American Jews, supporting Israel means loving its land and people even when disappointed with its political leadership; focusing on the everyday miracle of a robust democracy and thriving economy while fretting about the long-term prospects for peace. The election doesn't change that — nor does it offer much hope for a closer alignment of the majorities here and in Israel. ■

# Letters to the Editor

## Spell check

"'Anti-Semitism' by any other name" notes that in the general media the term "anti-Semitism" remains "the preference" of The New York Times (Editorial, Feb. 11). Given the New York paper's notorious history with this issue, both long-term and more recently with the offensive cartoons it callously published last year, I couldn't help but think of the irony of that statement.

Sadly, many would deem that sentence true even without the quotes around "anti-Semitism."

**Joel Sklar**  
Rockaway

During my tenure as director of the Holocaust Council of Greater MetroWest NJ we did not use the hyphen and uppercase letters (anti-Semitism) in deference to the highest academic standards of Holocaust scholarship. However, despite my rational arguments, I was unable to convince any of the editors to step into the here and now. NJJN was unrelenting in its insistence that antisemitism be spelled the old way for anything we wanted published in its newspaper.

As a former journalist for the The New York Times, I was aware that every publication uses their own set of standards and I acceded to NJJN's rules for articles, flyers, etc. I took it in the spirit of "Every Jew makes his own Shabbes." That said, I made my own Shabbes for correspondence, articles, and academic papers I wrote.

Now that the editors are fully aware that the reasoning behind omitting the hyphen and uppercase is not only sound but actually necessary given the unprecedented antisemitism we face, it is time to listen to the scholars. Or, if they prefer, use the alternative phrase "Jew hatred."

**Barbara Wind**  
Charleston, S.C.

*Editor's Note: NJJN's style is to write anti-Semitism; however, we've left the writer's preferred spelling, antisemitism, in her letter.*

## Let Kobe fans mourn

I am not a sports addict in any form. I doubt I would stutter or stumble had I seen or met Kobe Bryant (Garden State of Mind, "Remembering all of Kobe," Feb. 11). However, I do know that a week after his untimely death in a tragic helicopter crash, out of respect for his accomplishments on and off the court, and in deference to his fans and mourning family, I think (really, I know) that Gabe Kahn's reporting and personal note on Bryant's life should have been shelved.

Because Kahn evokes King David and God we should not allow this brutal personal reporting to pass without a note. We have all read in these pages how we should be better people and learn from our past, etc., but maybe Kahn could give family and fans a moment to mourn and breathe.

**Jonathan Blank**  
West Orange

Gabe Kahn writes that "it feels dirty, even callous" to bring up Kobe Bryant's sexual assault accusations days after his death in a helicopter crash on Jan. 26. I wonder if Kahn received many responses to the effect that he did the right thing.

There were many reminders of the dark side of Kobe in the media. We didn't need Kahn's voice on this issue. Why did he feel the NEED to speak up about this, especially since it clearly pained him to do so?

**Neil Litt**

Send letters to the editor to editorial@njewishnews.com without attachments. Indicate "letter" in the subject line of the e-mail. Include your full name, place of residence, and daytime telephone number. If you are referring to an article in NJJN, please include the headline and edition and date of the paper in which it appeared.

Letters also can be mailed to Letters to the Editor, New Jersey Jewish News, 1719 Route 10, Parsippany, NJ 07054; or faxed to 973-887-5999.

NJJN reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, content, and accuracy.

# The power of Purim to bind families

**Roberta Kwall**  
Special to NJJN

**M**y earliest Jewish memory is going to synagogue on Purim with my mom, along with my dearest childhood friend Sue and her mother. I was probably around 4 at the time and still vividly recall being in the synagogue and eating strawberry ice cream. Although Jewish law mandates hearing every word of the Megillah, the biblical Book of Esther that provides the basis for Purim, the typical synagogue atmosphere on Purim resembles more of a carnival than a prayer service. I did not understand why people were making so much clatter with the little noisemakers that were handed to us, but I had a lot of fun joining in, and acting like a typical kid.

Purim's laws and customs have a unique richness that can provide all Jews with ways to deepen their connection to Jewish tradition and transmit this tradition to the next generation. For Jews seeking a path for developing a transmissible Jewish tradition outside of strict observance of halacha, Jewish law, Purim provides some especially significant opportunities for tapping into authentic tradition that can be infused with personal meaning. When these traditions are observed consistently through the years, they will become a familiar and a memorable part of the fabric of Jewish family life. Children growing up with exposure to these traditions will likely want to recreate these experiences for their own families.

Sadly, despite being a perfect model for family fun, many American Jews do not celebrate Purim or even know when it occurs. In cultural terms, Purim is dwarfed by Chanukah, the other child-oriented holiday in the Jewish calendar. The element of joy — known in Hebrew as simcha — is the hallmark of Purim, given the biblical narrative's focus on threatened destruction of the Jews in fifth-cen-



ture Persia by a villain known as Haman, and ultimately Jewish victory. Four major mitzvot, commandments, are associated with Purim: hearing the Megillah; participating in the Purim seudah, a special meal; preparing Purim gift baskets for friends and family known as mishloach manot; and

giving tzedakah, money to the poor.

Listening to the Megillah typically requires attending a synagogue service, which can be a hard sell for many families, especially those who are unaffiliated. But as my childhood memory illustrates, Purim actually is one of the best times to try a synagogue experience. The evening service at the start of the holiday is super short, and the bulk of the time is spent reading the Megillah. This environment is ideal for squirmy, noisy children. Plus, children and even adults wear costumes to the Megillah reading, a custom that adds yet another fun dimension to Purim's celebration. Many synagogues also serve a traditional seudah following the evening Megillah service, but even those congregations that do not have a full meal provide sweets such as the holiday's signature treat, hamantaschen. From the standpoint of creating positive family memories based around a synagogue service, it really doesn't get much better than this.

But even without attending synagogue, Purim provides special opportunities to bolster a family's Jewish identity through observance of authentic tradition. A celebratory family meal at home in which parents recount a child-friendly version of the Purim story, sing songs, and eat yummy foods will always be a hit. Families also can mark the holiday by dedicating special family time to shopping for, assembling, and delivering the mishloach manot, not to mention baking hamantaschen. Grandparents and other special extended family members also can be included in these preparations,

strengthening intergenerational ties. In fact, grandparents often have the time and energy to devote to organizing these activities and will relish the ability to help plan these events.

Additionally, the obligation to give tzedakah on Purim provides families with ready-made opportunities to develop unique, seasonally based family traditions focused on providing assistance to those who are less fortunate. These traditions can include hands-on activities such as volunteering in a local soup kitchen or packing and delivering groceries through locally sponsored organizational programs. All of these Purim traditions provide wonderful avenues for joy, memory making, and family bonding in a context that emphasizes Jewish tradition.

Transmitting any religious tradition is no easy task these days given the increasingly secular

character of American culture. Still, surveys show that the majority of American Jews are proud to be Jewish and have a strong Jewish identity. Although this identity is not necessarily based on observing Jewish law, many Jews still care about what they perceive as the more cultural aspects of Jewish tradition, and desire to see this tradition perpetuated.

Purim can be a powerful ingredient in a successful recipe for keeping Jewish tradition thriving among the majority of American Jews. ■

**Roberta Rosenthal Kwall is the Raymond P. Niro Professor at DePaul University College of Law. She is the author of "Remix Judaism: Preserving Tradition in Diverse World" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020), "The Myth of the Cultural Jew" (Oxford University Press), and "The Soul of Creativity" (Stanford University Press).**

## Jewish Careers.com

For Those Who Value Community



The preferred career resource  
for the Jewish community.

Isirois@njewishnews.com | 973-739-8113

# Jordan: the U.S. ‘ally’ that protects killers of Americans

Who shelters a murderer and then gives her a TV show?

**Stephen M. Flatow**  
NJIN Contributing  
Writer



At first glance, you might not think there was anything very significant about the recent trial of a little-known Muslim imam in the Czech Republic.

Samer Shehadeh, a Palestinian Arab who is serving as a Muslim religious leader in Prague, was sentenced last week to 10 years in prison

for giving financial assistance to Al-Nusra — the Syrian affiliate of Al-Qaeda — and helping his brother and sister-in-law join that terrorist group.

But the most important part of the story was not the trial, the verdict, nor the sentencing. It was how Shehadeh was captured. Way down near the end of the news accounts of the case we learned: “Shehadeh was arrested in Jordan before being flown back to the

Czech Republic and taken into custody in November 2018.”

Now compare Jordan’s extradition of Shehadeh with its refusal to extradite another Palestinian-Arab terrorist.

On Aug. 9, 2001, terrorists bombed the Sbarro pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem. Fifteen people were killed and 130 wounded. Three of the fatalities were American citizens, including 15-year-old Malki Roth. One of the perpetrators, Ahlam Tamimi, lives in Jordan and used to have her own TV show. The United States has requested her extradition. Jordan’s King Abdullah has refused.

Whenever Malki’s parents have raised this issue with State Department officials or leaders of certain Jewish organizations, they have been told that Abdullah can’t extradite any Palestinian-Arab terrorists because the population of Jordan consists mostly of Palestinian Arabs, and they will overthrow him if he surrenders any terrorists.

“And, after all,” these apologists tell the grieving parents, “if Abdullah is overthrown, Jordan could become radicalized and that would be bad for Israel, and you wouldn’t want to hurt Israel, would you?”

Now we see that such excuses are not only insulting and patronizing, they are also patently disingenuous. The Shehadeh case clearly demonstrates that Abdullah is perfectly capable of extraditing a Palestinian-Arab terrorist without suffering any repercussions.

Abdullah’s decision to harbor Tamimi, a woman who brags about her role in the murders, is a matter of choice. He has no problem extraditing Palestinian-Arab terrorists — it just depends on which ones. A Palestinian Arab involved with Syrian terrorists in the Czech Republic is extraditable. A Palestinian-Arab terrorist who murders Jews, including U.S. citizens, must be shielded from extradition.

I am deeply disappointed at the silence of most American-Jewish and Zionist organizations on this issue, including some groups that were once outspoken on the plight of American victims of Palestinian-Arab terrorism. I realize that it may not be the

most headline-grabbing issue around or the most exciting for fund-raising purposes. But seeking justice is an obligation, not a choice.

I am equally troubled by those organizations that feign interest in the issue, but then bury it. A few months ago, a Jewish think tank, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, held a gala dinner to honor King Abdullah. The Roth family protested that American Jews should not be honoring a king who shelters a murderer of American Jews.

The institute’s executive director, Robert Satloff, responded by heaping praise on the king and proclaiming how “very proud” he was to be honoring the Jordanian dictator. As for Abdullah’s sheltering of mass-murderer Tamimi, Satloff said he has “great sympathy,” but it can only be one item “on a lengthy agenda.” Satloff claimed it is “an important item,” but I have not seen anything in the three months since that dinner to demonstrate that the Washington Institute has done anything concrete about it.

The Jordanian government is currently in the midst of receiving a five-year, \$6.375 billion aid package from the United States. We are constantly told that the aid is justified because Jordan is America’s “ally.” What kind of “ally” shelters a murderer of Americans — and then gives her a television show? The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, and other Jewish and Zionist organizations, should be demanding that the Trump administration make that aid conditional on the extradition of Tamimi.

Those who harbor killers of Americans do not deserve American taxpayers’ dollars. Those who shelter murderers of American Jews do not deserve to be praised and defended by American-Jewish organizations. ■

**Stephen M. Flatow, an attorney in New Jersey, is the father of Alisa Flatow, who was murdered in an Iranian-sponsored Palestinian terrorist attack in 1995. He is the author of “A Father’s Story: My Fight for Justice Against Iranian Terrorism,” now available on Kindle.**



Do you need HELP keeping you or an aging loved one safe in their home?

JFCS is here with...

- Geriatric Care Consultation
- Secure@Home Aging In Place Program
- Friendly Visitors



Are you in need of HOPE for a better tomorrow, with food on the table for your family and bills paid?

JFCS is here with...

- JFCS Mobile Food Pantry
- Sarah Yvette Clayman Kosher Food Pantry - open to the community
- Resource and Referral



Do you seek HEALING for challenges you are facing in your mental health?

JFCS is here with...

- Professional, clinical counseling available in English and Spanish
- Community Support Services: Crisis Case Management, Assessment and Stabilization for teens and young adults



Learn more at: [www.JFCSonline.org](http://www.JFCSonline.org)

Or call us at: 609-987-8100

# Spring Arts

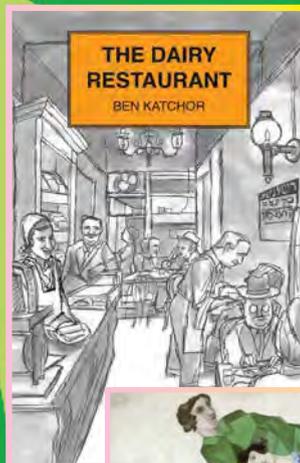
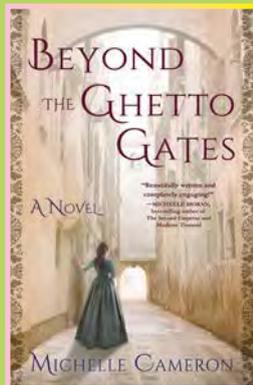
## PREVIEW

The new season in theater, film, music, the visual arts, and books

Edited by  
**Shira Vickar-Fox**  
NJN Managing Editor  
Listings compiled by  
**Elizabeth Zakaim**



Nobody Will Tell You This But Me  
  
A true (as told to me) story  
**Bess Kalb**



## MUSIC

## Concert to explore 'Exile' music in early modern Europe

*Jewish and non-Jewish musicians learned from each other*

A concert at Rutgers University will provide more than a musical interlude; the program will explore

*Michele Alperin*

*NJJN Contributing Writer*

history through period compositions and, in the process, upend some long-held assumptions about Jewish ghettos in early modern Europe.

"Exile: Music of the Early-Modern Jewish Diaspora" will take place Wednesday evening, March 25, at the Mason Gross Performing Arts Center in New Brunswick.

"The idea of the ghetto as a closed

space is misleading and a misunderstanding of what was going on," said music historian Rebecca Cypess, a professor of musicology and associate director of the Music Department at Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Speaking to NJJN in her office on Jan. 31, Cypess said that although some scholars have assumed that ghettoized Jews lived separately from non-Jews, new evidence suggests that Jews did mix with their neighbors — in varying degrees. "In 16th-century Italian cities, ghettos were usually at the center of a city, and the gates were open during daylight hours," she said. "Jews would go



*Rebecca Cypess, a professor at Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts, said there was a lot of musical integration between non-Jews and Jews in 16th- and 17th-century Italy.*

out, and non-Jews would go in, and there was a lot of integration."

The concert will explore Jewish musical culture in early modern Europe, spotlighting its encounters with other traditions. Incantare, a Boston-based period-instrument ensemble, will perform along with Cypess, who is also a historical harpsichordist and fortepianist.

The title of the concert was chosen to reflect what trombonist and teaching artist Liza Malamut, a cofounder of Incantare, said was a "double di-

aspora," referencing the Jews' exile from Israel and then the continual wandering to many other regions. "Jews would be settling in and integrated into their society," said Malamut, "and then exiled from that place where they had made their home."

Cypess said the historic wandering meant that in terms of cultural expression, "there is a cross-fertilization and a rich and robust cultural influence that works both ways...."

The performers will show that

*Continued on page 18*



*The Incantare ensemble will perform music of the early- modern Jewish diaspora at Rutgers University on Wednesday, March 25.*

### If you go

**What:** "Exile: Music of the Early-Modern Jewish Diaspora," a concert with commentary

**When:** Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Robert E. Mortenson Hall, Mason Gross Performing Arts Center, New Brunswick

**Cost:** Free, cosponsored by Rutgers University's Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life

**Contact:** Call 848-932-7511 or visit [masongross.rutgers.edu/event-list/music](http://masongross.rutgers.edu/event-list/music)

*The program will also be presented on Thursday, March 26, at 8 p.m. at the Center for Jewish History in New York City.*

# Concerts to celebrate Israel, and 'soul' of synagogue

**C**ONGREGATION AGU-DATH Israel (CAI) in Caldwell will host two concerts this spring that will do more than provide lively evenings of musical entertainment; they will also honor the memory of Nat Taubenfeld, the beloved "soul" of the congregation.

Taubenfeld was a onetime CAI president and gabbai for over six decades. He was also the "candy man," dispensing lollipops to delighted kids at services; a frequent commentator on the Shabbat sermon who delivered his observations in a booming voice colored by his Old World accent; and a generous purveyor of acts of loving-kindness to untold recipients of his largesse.

After coming to Caldwell in the early '50s, Taubenfeld, a Holocaust survivor, "was passionately determined to rebuild his family life and the life of his synagogue and larger Jewish community," said CAI's Rabbi

Alan Silverstein.

Two years ago, when CAI presented the popular a cappella group The Maccabeats at a community-wide Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebration, Taubenfeld was so moved by the enthusiastic response of the audience that he pledged, along with his wife, Bea, to sponsor an annual concert marking the anniversary of Israel's independence.

Last year's event — featuring Six13, the New York-based a cappella band — was also a tribute to the Taubenfelds, who were honored, said Silverstein, "for their leadership, friendship, and vision," particularly "Nat's vision for these concerts to engage all ages in the celebration of our pride in being Jewish."

This year's Yom Ha'Atzmaut event — the first without Taubenfeld, who died last erev Rosh HaShana at the age of 91 — will spotlight the a cappella group Y-Studs, ap-



Bea and Nat Taubenfeld

pearing Tuesday evening, April 28. Originally from Yeshiva University, the 10-man ensemble's repertoire is at once Jewish in theme and universal in message.

And on Wednesday, June 10, CAI

will present a program, also sponsored by the Taubenfelds, featuring The Shuk, an acclaimed ensemble of musicians and educators performing Jewish fusion, Israeli, traditional, progressive, and world music. 🌱

**SOPAC**  
SOUTH ORANGE  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

REDEFINING A GREAT *Arts* EXPERIENCE



**DAVID BROZA AND TRIO HAVANA**  
SAT, MAR 21 AT 8PM

International multi-platinum Israeli musician David Broza is joined by Cuban "Trio Havana" (Jorge Bringas, Manuel Alejandro Carro, Yuniel Jimenez) and special guest flute virtuoso Itai Kris.

INDEPENDENT VOICES

**BRET STEPHENS**  
THU, MAY 14  
AT 7:30PM

Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* columnist and former editor-in-chief of the *Jerusalem Post*.



**Juilliard @ SOPAC**  
**MACKENZIE MELEMED, PIANO**  
SUN, MAR 15 AT 3PM  
Bach, Beethoven, Bartok and more.

**KT TUNSTALL**  
FRI, MAR 27 AT 8PM  
Singer-songwriter of "Suddenly I See" fame.

**DAMIEN ESCOBAR**  
"Elements of Love Tour"  
SUN, MAR 29 AT 7:30PM  
Billboard chart-topping violinist crossing classical with pop.

**THE MOTH MAINSTAGE**  
SAT, MAY 16 AT 7:30PM  
The story-telling podcast at the top of the charts!

Buy Tickets Today! | Box office (973) 313-2787 | SOPACnow.org

SOUTH ORANGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
ONE SOPAC WAY  
SOUTH ORANGE, NJ 07079

Juilliard @ SOPAC is supported in part by Samuel Convissor.

Independent Voices is sponsored by the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation.

SEASON SPONSOR 

 EST. 1966

Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

# 'Exile'

Continued from page 16

"Jews absorbed elements of musical culture in Italy and across Europe and influenced non-Jewish musical practices and composition and also instrument building."

The ideas behind the concert are developed in a forthcoming book, "Music and Jewish Culture in Early Modern Italy," coedited by Cypess, Malamut, and Lynette Bowring.

By juxtaposing "music by Jews, music that Jews adapted and performed, and music by non-Jews who worked with Jewish music, it will be interesting to see how much overlap there is in those populations of people," Malamut said. "We can see non-Jews influenced by Jews and vice versa."

When Jews were expelled from Spain, for instance, many migrated to Italy, and Jewish instrument builders brought with them Spanish traditions that they fused with the Italian practices in their new home. Many important violin and lute builders were either Jews or Jews who had converted to Christianity — either as crypto-Jews (secretly maintaining their faith) or

practicing Christians, Cypess said.

"It is impossible to know the precise ways in which Jews influenced non-Jews and vice versa." However, she said — citing such cases as Italian-Jewish violinist and composer Salomone Rossi (ca. 1570-1630); his sister, known as Madama Europa, who may have been the first professional Jewish woman opera singer; composer Mutio Effrem; and the Bassanos, a large family of musicians — these "and many others point to Jews, active involvement in musical activities of the wider Italian and European communities."

One particularly striking example of cultural sharing is evident in the work of Rossi, who published the only Hebrew polyphonic music for multiple voices from that period. Rossi served as court musician in the Gonzaga court in Mantua, where he would have interacted professionally with non-Jewish composers like Claudio Monteverdi.

"The Gonzagas would throw huge theatrical events for which they would hire both Jewish and non-Jewish musicians to compose music, perform, and oversee theatrical activities," Malamut said.

To reflect Rossi's involvement in

the ducal court, the concert will include instrumental pieces and Italian madrigals by the composer. The program will also feature excerpts from Rossi's "Hashirim Asher Lishlomo" (the title includes a play on the composer's first name — Solomon is Shlomo in Hebrew — and the biblical "Song of Songs," also known as "Song of Solomon"), including familiar texts like Ein Kelokenu and settings of some Psalms texts.

In a preface that echoes some disagreements today over the use of music in synagogues, Rabbi Leon of Modena, a cantor, scholar, and writer in 16th-17th-century Venice, defends Rossi's musical choices in "Hashirim." Cypess said, "Some people in the Jewish community thought that this went against the Talmudic prohibition on music-making as a sign of mourning for the Temple. Modena argued that music had always been a component of Jewish culture and that it aided in the praise of God and inspiring Jews to prayer."

Modena himself, in the manuscript of one poem, indicates that it is to be sung to the tune of "Tra verdi campi," a secular madrigal by composer Orazio Vecchi.

"He specifically writes the poem

in the exact form of the madrigal; it is clearly meant to be sung to that tune, which has four parts," Malamut said.

And the madrigal, Cypess added, "comes out of the majority culture; it is popular music."

In the concert they will perform the original music of Vecchi's madrigal, but will use Modena's lyrics instead of the original Italian poetry. "That's what Modena indicated that performers could/should do with his poem," Cypess wrote.

Malamut said Incantare concentrates on performing works by composers who don't get enough exposure, including those of members of marginal populations — like the Jews in that time period. "We've also done programs on composers who maybe became refugees in war ... and disappeared into obscurity," she said.

The difference between musicians who are successful and those who vanish, she added, often has more to do with funding and opportunity than talent.

"We find this really relevant today because there is so much displacement and moving around and so much art in danger of being lost, and we want to make sure we preserve the art and that people get to hear it." 🌸

• PRINCETON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
ROSSEN MILANOV, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Order Your  
Tickets Today!



STEFAN JACKIW  
Plays MENDELSSOHN

Saturday **March 21** 8pm Sunday **March 22** 4pm

Richardson Auditorium, Princeton University

Rossen Milanov, conductor Stefan Jackiw, violin

Julian GRANT / 五代同堂 (Five Generations, One House) US PREMIERE

MENDELSSOHN / Violin Concerto in E Minor

BEETHOVEN / Symphony No. 2

TICKETS [princetonsymphony.org](http://princetonsymphony.org) 609/497-0020

Programs, artists, dates, and times subject to change



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



The Y-Studs

If you go

**Who:** The Y-Studs

**What:** Annual Yom Ha'Atzmaut concert

**When:** Tuesday, April 28, 8 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$15, \$10 for CAI congregants, free for 18 and under; \$20 at the door for all



**Who:** The Shuk: Jewish Roots, World Music

**What:** Spring concert

**When:** Wednesday, June 10, 8 p.m..

**Tickets:** \$20, \$10 for CAI congregants, free for 18 and under; \$25 at the door for all

**Information:**  
Contact 973-226-3600  
or visit [agudath.org](http://agudath.org)



The Shuk

## The Music List

**Sonia Kurland Memorial Purim Concert: Voce Nova.** Voce Nova is a musical experience that fuses opera with contemporary and classic pop music. March 12, 12:30 p.m. \$15; \$8 members. *JCC MetroWest, West Orange, jccmetrowest.org, 973-530-3474*

**Alan Goodis.** The musician and singer will perform a concert for families with young children. March 13, 5:30 p.m., Shabbat services follow at 7:15. *Temple B'nai Or, Morristown, templebnaior.org, 973-539-4539*

**Deborah Sacks Mintz.** Mintz, a prayer leader, songwriter, and teacher will lead an afternoon of inspiring Jewish music. March 15, 2-3:45 p.m. Free; \$10 suggested donation. *Kehilat Hanahar, The Little Shul by the River, New Hope, Pa., kehilathanahar.org, 215-862-1912*



Alexander MacDonald

**"Exploring From Gottschalk to Gershwin."** Trace the important role Jewish composers played in the history of American music. The show features pianist Alex Pryodny, mezzo-soprano Leslie Valentine, and tap dancer Alexander MacDonald. March 15, 2:30 p.m. Light refreshments served. \$20. *Temple B'nai Abraham, Livingston, tbanj.org, 973-994-2290*

**"Annelies."** The words of Anne Frank's diary set to music for chorus, soprano, and chamber ensemble. March 15, 4 p.m. *Princeton Pro Musica, Princeton, princetonpromusica.org, 609-683-5122*

**David Broza & Trio Havana.** Israeli musician and humanitarian David Broza, with special guest Itai Kriss, perform hit songs. March 21, 8 p.m. \$30-\$48. *South Orange Performing Arts Center, South Orange, sopacnow.org, 973-313-2787*

**"Broadway Revue."** Synagogue members perform solos, duets, and ensemble pieces from some of Broadway's most popular shows. March 21, 8:30 p.m. \$15, \$10 children 5-12, children under 4 free. *East Brunswick Jewish Center, East Brunswick, ebjc.org, 732-252-7070, ext. 5*

**The Hester Street Troupe.** The group will perform songs from Yiddish vaudeville and Second Avenue theater, as well as classic and contemporary Jewish melodies. March 27, April 24, and June 5, 7:30 p.m. *Temple Har Shalom, Warren, templeharshalom.org, 732-356-8777*

**"Bruce Off Broadway."** Jim Boggia's loving tribute to the Bruce Springsteen songbook performed on ukulele. March 28, 8 p.m. \$25. Beer and wine available for purchase. *JCC of Central New Jersey, Scotch Plains, jccnj.org, 908-889-8800, ext. 253*

**"Decades of Jewish Divas."** Lisa Sherman and Bob Egan will perform works by female songwriters and entertainers such as Barbra Streisand, Carole King, and more. March 29, 2 p.m. Free; pre-registration requested. *Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, Edison, jccmc.org, 732-494-3232*

**Handel Festival Orchestra Concert.** An all-Mozart program featuring violinist and concertmaster Jieming Tang, playing Violin Concerto No. 4 and Symphony No. 36 ("Linz"). March 31, 5:30-10 p.m. \$55, \$50 members. Transportation provided. *JCC of Central New Jersey, Scotch Plains, jccnj.org, 908-889-8800, ext. 260*

**"Mostly Music."** Musicians will be performing selections from Bach, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Herman. April 5, 3:30 p.m. \$40; free for students. *Temple Emanu-El, Westfield, mostly-music.org, 908-789-8578*

**"An Evening with Itzhak Perlman."** This musical celebration will honor the 75th birthday of the reigning virtuoso of the violin and will feature a solo recital with Perlman and his longtime pianist Rohan De Silva. April 25, 8 p.m. *State Theatre New Jersey, New Brunswick, strnj.org, 732-246-7469*

**"A Lecture in Song"** Fred Miller will present a program about composers Hammerstein and Sondheim, both Bucks County natives. April 26, 2-4 p.m. \$20. *Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, adathisraelnj.org, 609-896-4977*

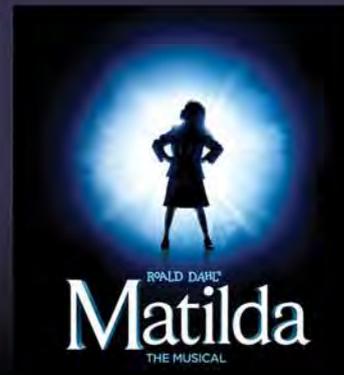
**"A World of Jewish Music Plus American Favorites."** This performance will celebrate a diverse array of music from communities in Uganda, Yemen, Eastern Europe, Spain, and more. April 26, 3 p.m. Free; pre-registration requested. *Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, Edison, jccmc.org, 732-494-3232*

**Lisa Lipkin.** The songstress plays piano and sings. May 8, 7 p.m. Free. Bring a potluck vegetarian dinner. RSVP to office@kolemet.org. *Congregation Kol Emet, Yardley, kolemet.org, 215-493-8522, ext. 113*

# AXELROD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PROFESSIONAL THEATER AT THE JERSEY SHORE

—PRESENTS—



BOOK BY **Dennis Kelly**  
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **Tim Minchin**

DIRECTED AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
**Luis Salgado**

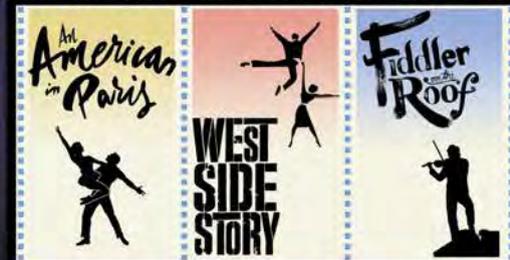
ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY  
**James Rushin**

**MARCH 6–22**

COMING...SOMETHING'S COMING...SOMETHING'S COMING

AXELROD CONTEMPORARY BALLET THEATER PRESENTS

DANCES FROM AMERICAN IN PARIS, WEST SIDE STORY & FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



**APRIL 17–19**

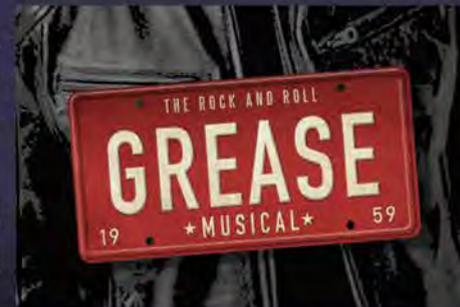


Satchmo & Friends in New Orleans... with **DR. ART TOPILOW**

**APRIL 5**

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **JIM JACOBS** AND **WARREN CASEY**

STARRING **REMEMBER JONES** AS **TEEN ANGEL**



**MAY 29–JUNE 14**

100 Grant Avenue, Deal Park, NJ 07723  
[www.axelrodartscenter.com](http://www.axelrodartscenter.com)  
(732) 531-9106

## MUSIC

## Celebrating 25 years of Israeli music broadcast from Central Jersey

**J**osh Shron and wife Mairov Dubrovsky have co-hosted Israel Hour Radio — 60 minutes of Israeli folk and rock music — since 1994 when they were both students at Rutgers University. Little did they know when they first volunteered to host the Sunday morning radio show that aired on the school's FM station, WRSU, that they would end up committed to each other, and to 25 years of the program.

"It was a humble beginning," said Shron, of East Brunswick, who is also the founder and president of Stampless Marketing, an email marketing agency. Dubrovsky is a realtor at the Leora Dubrovsky Realty Group in Howell. "The show had run since 1976, and had some listeners in Central Jersey, but that was it. I really got interested in both radio and Israeli music when I was at Rutgers and, in a

big way, I'm glad Mairov and I are still involved."

The show airs live on 88.7 FM at 11 a.m. on Sundays, and listeners can also tune in at [myisraelimusic.com](http://myisraelimusic.com) or subscribe to the Israel Hour Radio podcast.

*Jed Weisberger*  
NJJN Staff Writer

"What has happened in radio and how people can listen is exciting," said Shron. "We can be heard all over the world at any time a listener wants ... We have podcasts. We're on apps like TuneIn. We hear from listeners in Europe, in Israel."

In addition to listeners now being able to access the program through modern technology, the WRSU studios were renovated in 2019 and upgraded to state-of-the-art production facilities. "It's not just



Top: East Brunswick's Josh Shron, at left, and wife Mairov Dubrovsky have hosted Israel Hour Radio since 1994. PHOTO COURTESY JOSH SHRON

**AUGUST WILSON'S  
RADIO GOLF**

DIRECTED BY **BRANDON J. DIRDEN**

Photo by and of the August Wilson House.

**"Surprising,  
suspenseful, and  
crowd-rousing."**

— *The New York Times*

**FEB 29 –  
MAR 22**

TICKETS AT 732.345.1400  
[TWORIVERTHEATER.ORG](http://TWORIVERTHEATER.ORG)  
21 BRIDGE AVENUE,  
RED BANK

**TWO—  
—RIVER  
THEATER**

the old board with dials anymore," Shron said.

The show's mission is to introduce listeners to the joy and complexities of Israeli music. "You don't have to be fluent in Hebrew to become an Israeli music fan," Shron said. "You just need to close your eyes, soak in the sounds, and imagine you're sitting in a café in Tel Aviv. Next thing you know, you'll be hooked."

On the show's website Shron blogs about Israel's top artists and how they affect the mood of the country. For instance, he praised "Shevet Achim Ve'achayot," Israel's top song of 2019, for "uniting the country in song on the eve of its 71st birthday."

Shron told NJJN, "Perhaps what I enjoy the most about present Israeli music is how it gives you the feeling of being there and identifying with the nation of Israel and the blending of secular and religious."

In celebration of 25 years on the air, the couple, who have five children, is planning "My Israeli Music Experience" — a musical tour of Israel to take place Aug. 4-14. The itinerary includes attending live concerts; meeting with celebrities in the Israeli music world, such as the Shalva Band and Hadar Marks, a DJ at Israel's music radio station Galgalatz; and recording a live broadcast of Israel Hour Radio. Information on the tour may be obtained at [myisraelimusic.com/tour](http://myisraelimusic.com/tour).

"Summer is an amazing time for concerts in Israel," Shron said. "You sit under the stars, singing at the top of your lungs with thousands of Israelis. It's magic." 🌸

[jweisberger@njewishnews.com](mailto:jweisberger@njewishnews.com)

# Homegrown NJ film aims to ‘celebrate complexities of people’

Rachel Harrison Gordon explores ‘mosaic of identities’ in first film

Among the works being screened as part of the New Jersey Jewish Film Festival’s first-ever Afternoon of

*Abby Meth Kanter*

NJJN Editorial Adviser

Shorts on Sunday, March 22, is a true homegrown offering. “Broken Bird” is a narrative about Birdie, a biracial suburban Jersey girl, and her struggles with her dual identities as she prepares to become bat mitzvah. The filmmaker, Rachel Harrison Gordon, set and shot virtually all of her semi-autobiographical first film on her home turf, including at Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange.

*Filmmaker Rachel Harrison Gordon: Her film explores “ideas of race expectations and self-discovery.” At the time of her bat mitzvah, in 2002, top right: Rachel Harrison Gordon stands with her mother at the bimah in Oheb Shalom Congregation in South Orange. Right: “Birdie” prepares for her bat mitzvah at Oheb Shalom, from “Broken Bird.”*

Now living in Brooklyn, Gordon grew up in Millburn with her mother, who still lives there, and was the third generation of her family to belong to Oheb Shalom, where she became bat mitzvah in 2002. Gordon is biracial — her father is African-American — and, she said in an emailed conversation with NJJN, the synagogue was “a place where I didn’t always feel comfortable”; she credits “Cantor Riki” — Erica Lippitz — as her “biggest ally,” providing “guidance and love” as Gordon made her way through her studies, her bat mitzvah, and beyond and who, she said,



## If you go

**What:** “Broken Bird,” part of New Jersey Jewish Film Festival’s Afternoon of Shorts

**When:** Sunday, March 22, 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** JCC MetroWest, West Orange

**Tickets:** \$12

**Information:** [jccmetrowest.org/njjff](http://jccmetrowest.org/njjff)

*Filmmaker Rachel Harrison Gordon will address the audience following the Afternoon of Shorts screenings.*

continues “to be a supporter of my passions, including this relatively new one of filmmaking.”

Gordon attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned her B.S.E. in mechanical engineering in 2012 and where she met Alon Gur, who is originally from Israel and whom she married in 2018. Her resume is teeming with achievements in the field of data analytics garnered through journalism and government service, including an award-winning stint as manager of Mobile Analytics at The New York Times and as a Presidential Innovation Fellow under the Obama administration, where she explored the experiences of veterans

# FILM

Continued from previous page

upon their return to civilian life.

It was her husband, said Gordon, “who convinced me to see myself as an artist ... and kept encouraging me to put myself in places where I could learn a new part of myself. While I was good at learning about people and systems through quantitative data, I realized I was most interested in the stories I heard between those information points.”

Gordon is now a dual M.B.A./M.F.A. candidate at New York University’s Stern School of Business and Tisch School of the Arts. She has also worked as a producer of student films and in post-production on documentaries.

With “Broken Bird,” she said, she aimed to explore “ideas of race expectations and self-discovery, including the distance we can feel to our heritage and family.” She is grateful to both her mother, Terri Harrison, and father, Anthony Gordon, “for letting me incorporate aspects of memories into this film. It was important to try to depict both Birdie’s love for her mom and curiosity about the other components of the mosaic that make up her identity.”

One important component is Birdie’s relationship with her father. As for Gordon’s own father, she said they weren’t always close, “but the small moments — similar to the day Birdie spends with her father — over the course of my early life, grew into the beautiful and deep re-

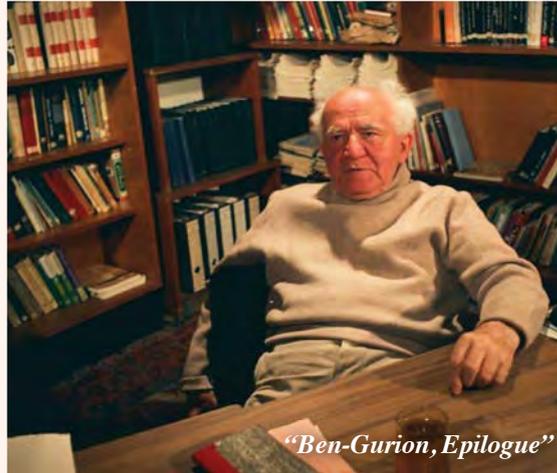
lationship we have now.”

Regarding portrayals of black Jews, Gordon said it seems to her they are “tokenized and fetishized as something strange or for comedy.” In her personal interactions, she said, she has “learned to re-interpret this ‘strangeness’ as uniqueness,” leading to a key lesson of the film: “to embrace each part of your identity, as well as the beautiful whole the parts create.” 🌸

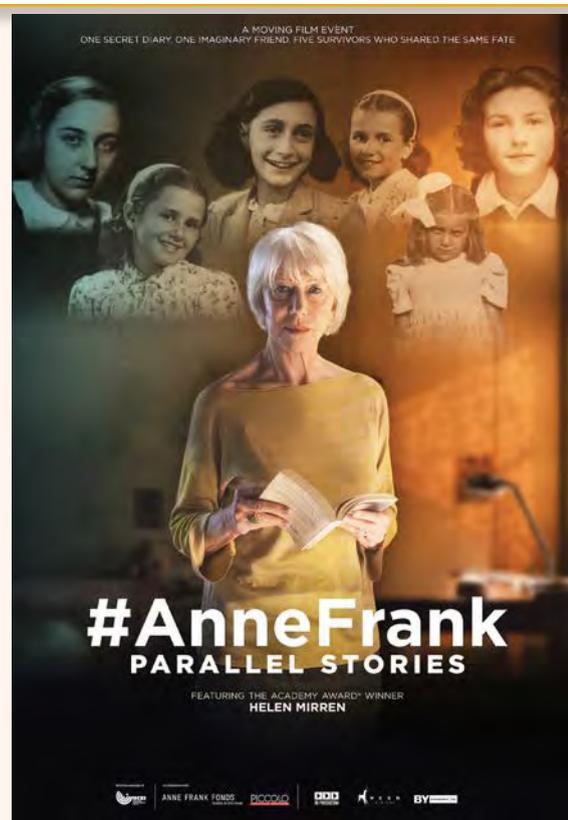
## The Film List

**“#AnneFrank. Parallel Stories.”** This documentary — narrated by Helen Mirren — retells the story of Anne Frank’s life via her diary and through the lives of five women who as young girls were also deported to concentration camps but survived. March 12, 7:30 p.m. \$23. Pollak Theatre, West Long Branch, monmouth.edu, 732-263-6889

**“In Our Own Hands — The Hidden Story of the Jewish Brigade in World War II.”** Veterans of the Jewish Brigade, a regiment of the British Army, describe their experiences as young soldiers during the war. April 21, 1:30 p.m. Free. Snacks will be provided. Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, Edison, jccmc.org, 732-494-3232



“Ben-Gurion, Epilogue”



**“Ben-Gurion, Epilogue.”** Former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion’s introspective soul-searching at age 82 is the focus of this film, and his voice provides a surprising vision for today’s crucial decisions and the future of Israel. April 29, 12:30 p.m. Free. JCC MetroWest, West Orange, jccmetrowest.org, 973-530-3474

## Jewish Film Festival of Central NJ kicks off April 13

**T**HE 15TH ANNUAL Jewish Film Festival of Central NJ will screen five films from Monday, April 13-Monday, May 18.

“Each season it’s rewarding and challenging to choose five films that demonstrate the excellent breadth of choices out there,” said Randi Zucker, director of arts, culture and Jewish programming at the JCC of Central New Jersey in Scotch Plains. “It’s also important to us that we choose films that will provide an opportunity among our diverse audience for deep discussion and thought.”



“The Song of Names”

The spring festival opens with “Aulcie,” a documentary about Aulcie Perry, an athlete who put Israeli basketball on the map. From basketball courts in Harlem to playing on Maccabi Tel Aviv ’76, Perry helped Israel win its first European Championship. But fame led to a dramatic downfall, then ultimate redemption for this superstar.

The closing film, “The Crossing,” will be screened on Monday, May 18. “The Crossing” is about the confidence, uncompromising loyalty, and great courage to be found among children.

Other films include “Standing Up, Falling Down,” starring Billy Crystal and Ben Schwartz; “The Song of Names”; and the documentary “Latter Day Jew.”

All films screen at 7:30 p.m. at AMC Theater in Mountainside. Tickets available for purchase at the JCC of Central New Jersey in Scotch Plains or at jccnj.org. 🌸



“Standing Up, Falling Down”

**SUGARLOAF CRAFTS FESTIVAL**  
Est. 1975

**MAR 6, 7, 8**

**NEW JERSEY CONVENTION & EXPO CTR**  
**EDISON, NEW JERSEY**  
I-95 EXIT 10 or RT 287 TO 514W “RARITAN CTR”

**3 DAYS ONLY!**

**SHOP 250+ ARTISTS**  
ART, FASHION, DECOR, LIVE ART DEMOS, KIDS’ SHOW & MORE!

**FRI & SAT 10-6, SUN 10-5**

**BUY TICKETS!**

**www.SugarloafCrafts.com**

**\$8 ONLINE • \$10 AT DOOR • KIDS 12 & UNDER FREE**

# THEATER

## ‘Wiesenthal’

*Play recounts Nazi hunter's dedication to justice*

In the play, Simon Wiesenthal walks out of his office for the last time. The final days of his career are reimagined through the conceit of sharing his story with one last group of visitors. He leaves behind his desk, still strewn with decades of papers and notes he constantly scribbled in his painstaking search for Nazi war criminals.

“Wiesenthal” is the award-winning 2014 Off-Broadway play written by Tom Dugan, an actor and playwright of critically acclaimed one-person

*Sherry S. Kirschenbaum*

*Special to NJJN*

shows. Set in 2003, two years before Wiesenthal's death, the play is an intimate, emotional recounting of a handful of his hundreds of investigations, including the 16-year hunt for Adolph Eichmann and the pursuit of Karl Silberbauer, the Gestapo officer who arrested Anne Frank. Wiesenthal's persistence and hard-won humor are conveyed throughout the show's 80-minute running time.

Wiesenthal survived five concentration camps and a death march before arriving in Mauthausen in February 1945. Weighing less than 100 pounds, he was barely alive when the camp was liberated by the U.S. Army in May.

After regaining his health, Wiesenthal began gathering and preparing evidence on Nazi atrocities for the War Crimes Section of the U.S. Army. He ultimately opened the Jewish Documentation Center, based in Vienna, in the early 1960s. It was from this office that he dedicated the rest of his life to documenting the crimes of the Holocaust and hunting down the perpetrators so that they could be brought to trial.

Directed by Mark Liebert of Verona, and starring Christopher Gibbs of Fanwood, “Wiesenthal” will be performed at Studio Playhouse in Montclair on April 17, followed by a show at Temple Sinai in Summit on April 18.

As an actor and director, Liebert has always been compelled by theater that is thought provoking and emotional.

The fact that it speaks to him as a Jew with a personal connection to survivors made “Wiesenthal” a play that he said he was eager to direct.

A former child actor, in his adult years Liebert became a physical therapist. In addition to his private practice



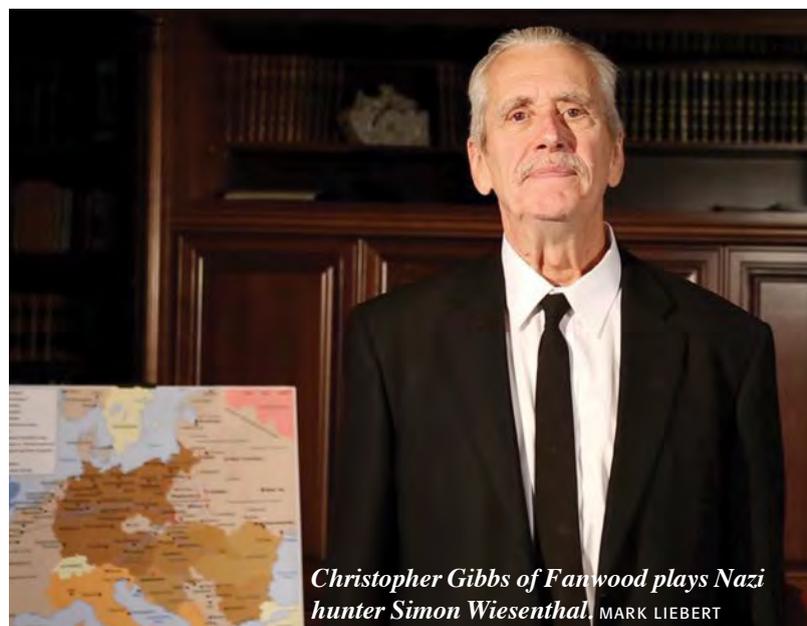
he worked at Daughters of Miriam in Clifton for 12 years. “I had 100 Jewish grandmothers, many of whom were survivors,” he said. Liebert is a member of Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield.

After a 15-year hiatus, he returned to theater. He has directed dozens of productions, designed the sets for 70 shows, and has written several full-length plays. He has also written or adapted 13 musicals to be performed by and for children with special needs. Currently, he is managing producer on the board of managers of Studio Players in Montclair.

Liebert said an experience with a family member had a profound impact on his life.

In the 1960s a relative in Germany was seeking family members and she found Liebert's father. “Her mother died and her sister committed suicide after the war,” Liebert said. “I will never forget the look in my relative's eyes — it was like nothing I had ever seen.”

“With ‘Wiesenthal,’” he said, “I hope to keep the history of the Holocaust and its lessons alive by bringing the play to a diverse range of audiences.” The play is suitable for high school age and above.



*Christopher Gibbs of Fanwood plays Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal.* MARK LIEBERT



*Mark Liebert of Verona directs ‘Wiesenthal.’*

Gibbs, who plays Wiesenthal, is a seasoned actor and retired history teacher. He has appeared in over 80 plays and musicals with New Jersey's Chester Theatre Group and Studio Players and in venues such as the George Street Playhouse, Barn Theatre, Kelsey Theatre, and Mondo.

He taught history at Rutgers University and Middlesex and Union County colleges. His last teaching gig was at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, where for many years he taught in its adult education program. One of his topics was the rise of Hitler and the Final Solution “from the point of view of people in the United States: the people working to keep Jews out, the people demanding the government ‘do something.’”

Eager to do more acting, Gibbs retired from teaching in 2015. After one of his former students at Emanu-El saw Dugan perform “Wiesenthal,” he contacted Gibbs, urging him to see the play. Gibbs then reached out to Liebert, with whom he had worked a number of times, and the two agreed that the play powerfully illuminates Wiesenthal's dedication to achieving justice for the

victims and survivors of the Holocaust.

“Our goal is to create an impactful evening that leaves people energized and talking,” said Liebert. “This is why we have decided to do a talk back after each performance. We are hopeful that people will leave the theater with more knowledge than they entered and driven to find out even more.”

It's no coincidence that the performances of “Wiesenthal” coincide with the observance of Yom HaShoah on April 21. Liebert is deeply concerned that knowledge of, and interest in, the Holocaust is rapidly fading in both the Jewish community and larger world.

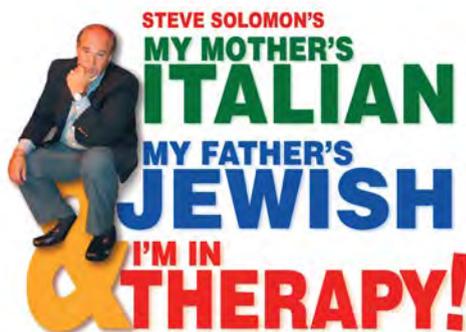
“It doesn't feel like ‘just history’ anymore,” he said. “It's especially relevant today as I see what I can only call the dehumanization of immigrants, and people of different races, religions, and gender. For me, it is frightfully reminiscent of Germany in the 1930s.” ❀

*For information on upcoming shows or to schedule a performance, contact Mliebert.giblie@gmail.com.*

## The Theater List

**"An Evening with Groucho."** Award-winning actor Frank Ferrante's acclaimed portrayal of legendary comedian Groucho Marx features classic one-liners, anecdotes, and songs. March 27, 8 p.m. \$29-\$59. *Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morristown, mayoarts.org, 973-539-8008*

**"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy!"** Broadway actor Steve Solomon will perform his one-man comedy show that highlights the different dynamics at a family dinner. March 28, 8 p.m. \$35-\$60. *Pollak Theatre, West Long Branch, monmouth.edu, 732-263-6889*



Frank Ferrante as  
Groucho Marx  
PHOTO BY  
MICHAEL DOUCETT



**"Florenz Ziegfeld: The Man Who Redefined Broadway."** John Kenrick, author, teacher, and theater historian, will present the story of Ziegfeld, a Chicago promoter and Broadway impresario. April 14, 1:30 p.m. \$11, \$8 members. *Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, Edison, jccmc.org, 732-494-3232*

**"Through the Darkness."** A staged reading of a play, written by Alan Breindel of Short Hills, about four people who outran the Holocaust. April 20, 7:30 p.m. *Temple Shalom of West Essex, Cedar Grove, shalom.net, 973-239-1321*

**"The Diary of Anne Frank."** While in hiding in Amsterdam Anne Frank finds solace writing in her diary, capturing the daily lives of the secret annex's inhabitants. April 27, 7 p.m. \$25. *Mayo Performing Arts Center, Morristown, mayoarts.org, 973-539-8008*

**"Capitol Steps."** The political satire group performs skits and parodies of contemporary songs. May 3, 6 p.m. Dinner served. \$36, patron \$72, benefactor \$136. RSVP by April 24. *Ohev Shalom, Bucks County, ohev.org, 215-322-9595*



Temple Emanu-El, Westfield, NJ  
Sundays at 3:30



**March 1, 2020**

Haydn, Trio for Strings in G Major  
Kodály, Intermezzo for String Trio  
Beethoven, Trio in G Major for Strings  
Penderecki, Trio for Strings  
Dohnányi, Serenade for String Trio in C Major

Featuring

Amaud Sussmann, *Violin* Nicholas Canellakis, *Cello*  
Paul Neubauer, *Viola*



**April 5, 2020**

Bach, Fugues for String Quartet  
Mozart, Adagio and Fugue in C Minor  
Mendelssohn, Capriccio in E Minor  
Herrmann, Souvenirs de Voyage  
Mozart, Clarinet Quintet in A Major

Featuring

David Shifrin, *Clarinet* Kerry McDermott, *Violin*  
Ani Kavafian, *Violin* Paul Neubauer, *Viola*  
Fred Sherry, *Cello*



**May 31, 2020**

Scott, Startin' Sumthin'  
Rimsky-Korsakov, Scheherazade  
Shifrin, La Nouvelle Orleans  
Ravel, Le Tombeau de Couperin  
Esmail, The Light is the Same  
Coleman, Tzigane

Featuring IMANI WINDS:

Brandon Patrick George, *Flute* Mark Dover, *Clarinet*  
Toyin Spellman-Diaz, *Oboe* Jeff Scott, *French Horn*  
Monica Ellis, *Bassoon*

MostlyMusic.org • (908) 789-8578  
Tickets \$40 at the door, students free.

## Jewish artists series at Caldwell synagogue

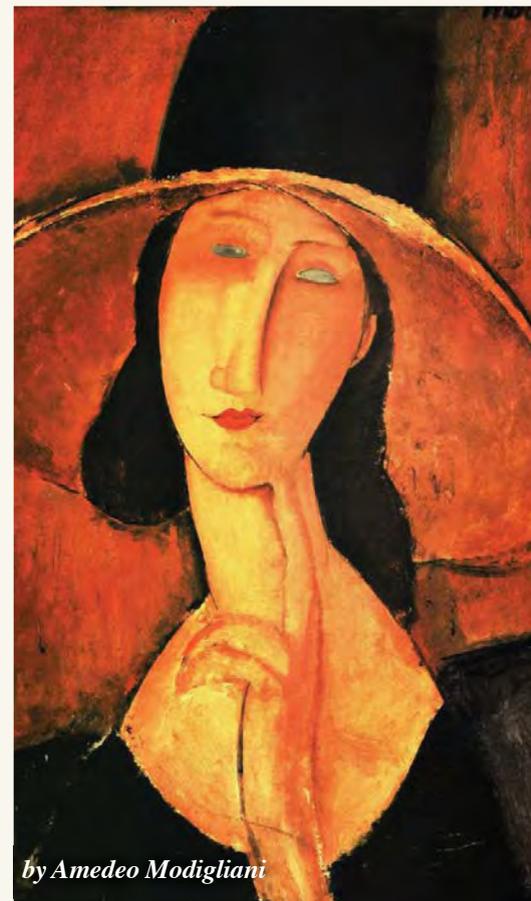


by Marc Chagall

**ARTIST AND INSTRUCTOR** Margie Samuels of West Caldwell will teach a series of four two-hour classes, each dedicated to one artist, Mondays, 12:30-2:30 p.m., at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell. Sessions will include a discussion about the artist's work and art projects in that painter's style, inspired by the artwork under discussion.

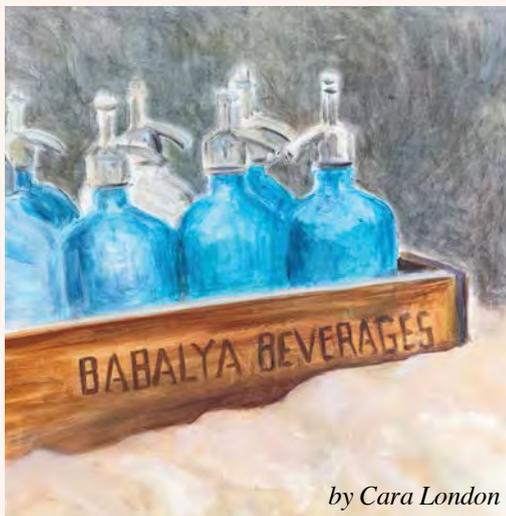
The series will include — March 30: Marc Chagall, April 6: Wassily Kandinsky, April 13: Amedeo Modigliani, and April 20: Yaacov Agam.

No experience is required; participants may register for the entire series or for individual classes. The fee per class is \$50, free for Agudath Israel members; materials will be supplied. Register at [agudath.org/events](http://agudath.org/events).



by Amedeo Modigliani

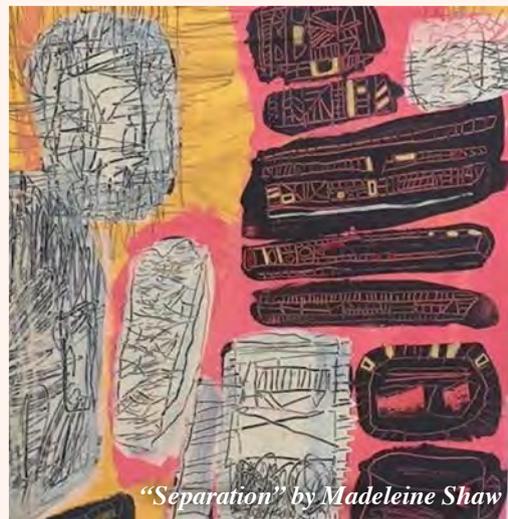
# The Visual Arts List



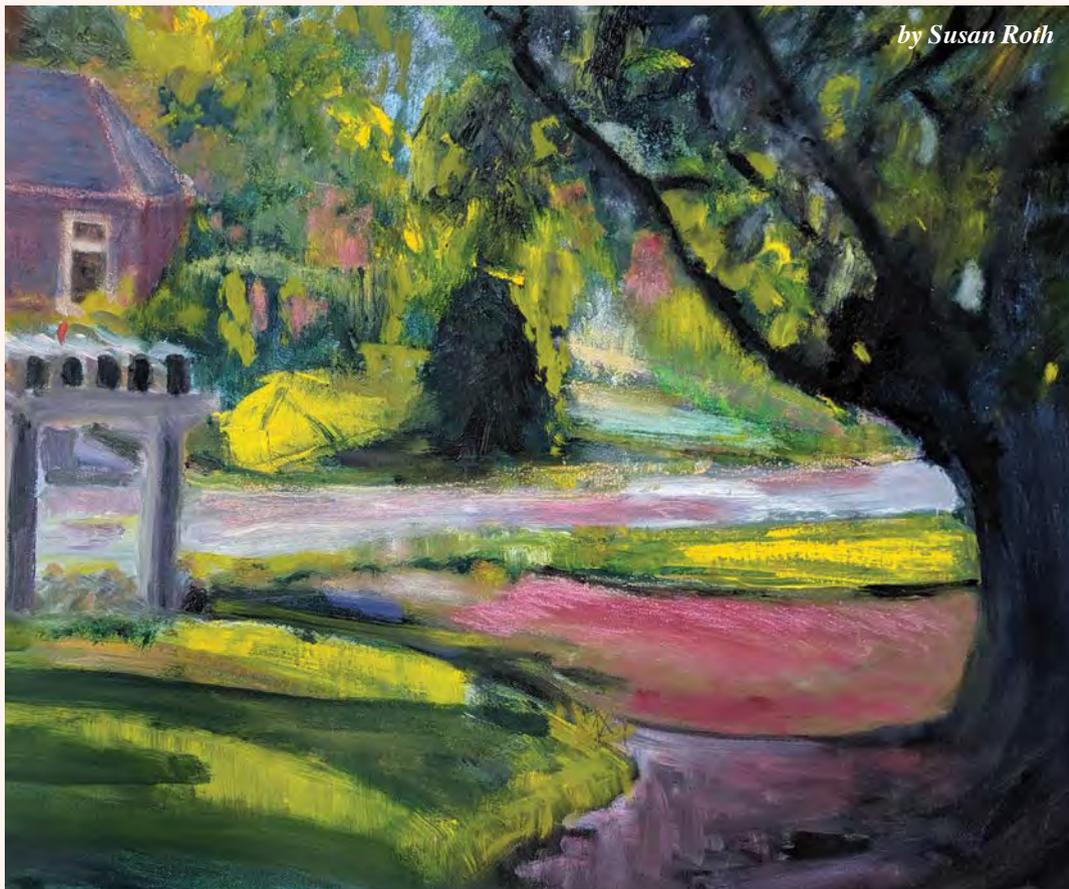
by Cara London



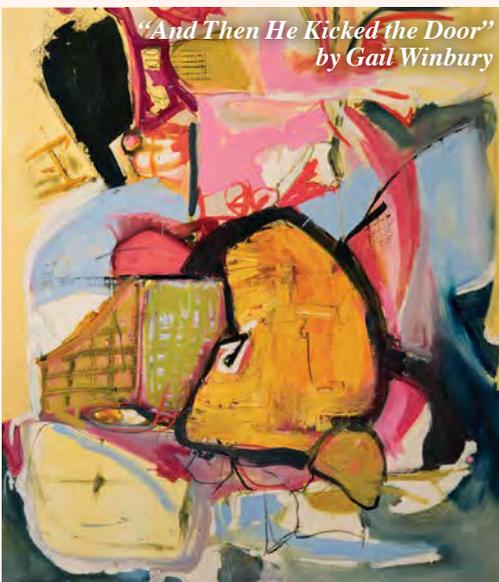
"All the Places She has Been" by Judy Beck



"Separation" by Madeleine Shaw



by Susan Roth



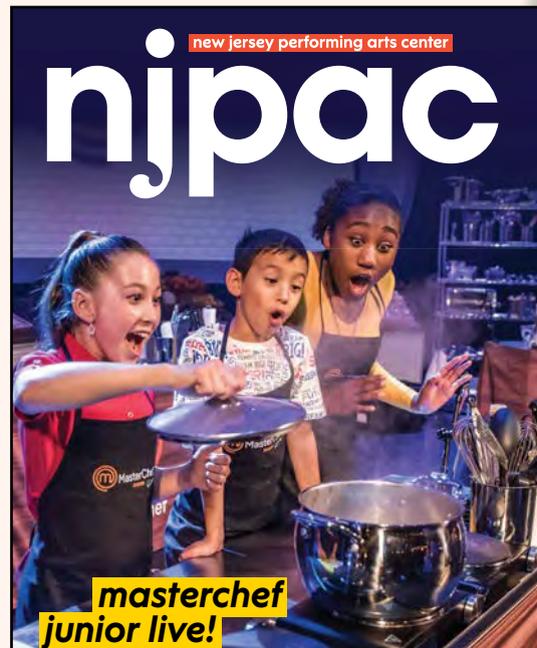
"And Then He Kicked the Door" by Gail Winbury

**Paintings by Cara London.** The artist will be showcasing her work at the newly renovated art gallery through May 10. *Gallery at the Park, Park Theatre, Union City, parktheatreNJ.org, 201-430-5067*

**"Reinventing Eve."** Works by 10 Jewish female artists will be exhibited in an exploration of identities and diversity. March 29-May 24. Sundays, 1-5 p.m. and by appointment. *Jewish Museum of New Jersey, Newark, jewishmuseumnj.org, 973-207-3095*

**"Hineni: Here I am."** An exhibition of recent works by local artist and psychologist Susan Roth. Runs through April 12. *Temple B'nai Or, Morristown, templebnaior.org, 973-539-4539*

**21st Annual Gaelen Juried Art Show & Sale.** Local artists submit works in multiple categories to be judged by jurors. Opening reception June 14, 2-4 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through July 26. *JCC MetroWest, West Orange, jccmetrowest.org, 973-530-3400*



**Tue, Mar 10 @ 7PM**  
Bring the family for a night of delicious excitement from the TV competition show, live on stage!



**johnny mathis**

*The Voice of Romance Tour*  
**Fri, Mar 20 @ 8PM**  
Greatest hits and personal favorites from a music legend.



**Fri, Apr 3 @ 8PM**  
The Beach Boys bring "Good Vibrations" on their 12 Sides of Summer tour!  
In association with John Scher/Metropolitan Entertainment



**rob reiner live**

*& This Is Spinal Tap*  
**Fri, Apr 17 @ 8PM**  
Celebrate the 35th anniversary of *This Is Spinal Tap* with a screening and conversation with director Rob Reiner.



For tickets & full schedule visit [njpac.org](http://njpac.org) or call 1.888.GO.NJPAC  
One Center Street • Newark, NJ

## BOOKS

## Gate crasher

*In Chatham author's new work of fiction, the Enlightenment brings freedom to a ghetto Jew*

**S**unlight barely penetrates the ghetto where Mirelle d'Ancona lives with her parents and brother, and where her family runs a renowned ketubah shop in late 18th-century Italy. The heroine of "Beyond the Ghetto Gates" (She Writes Press, 2020), d'Ancona must navigate sometimes violent anti-Semitism

*Johanna Ginsberg*  
NJJN Senior Writer

as she yearns for adventure beyond the Jewish ghetto and for a future outside the expectations of her traditional upbringing — she'd rather run the shop's finances than marry.

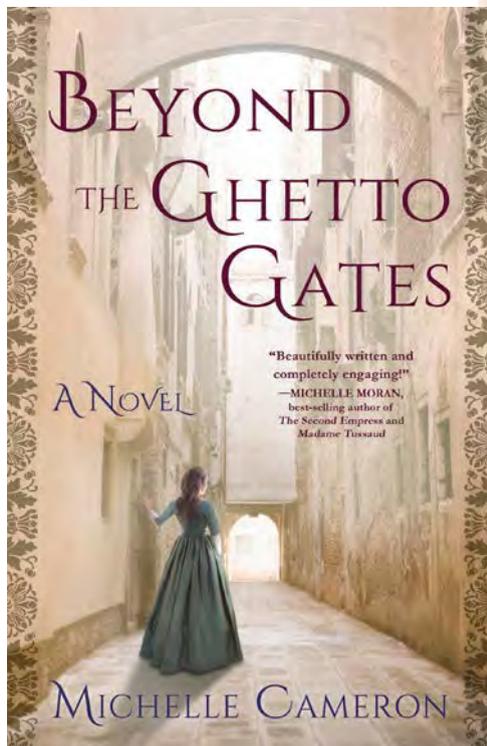
The community rabbi has other ideas and considers her presence among the ketubah scribes as placing them "in danger of sinful impulses." Despite her protestations, he continues, "This is man's work — holy work — a world in which you do not belong."

In Michelle Cameron's third historical novel, Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of Italy provides the perfect opportunity for d'Ancona; it brings the values of enlightenment, but also raises questions about assimilation, piety, hatred, and the complexities surrounding changing norms.

Cameron is fascinated by choices of assimilation. "It's hard to decide where you draw the line," she said over blueberry tea in her Chatham kitchen on a recent Thursday morning, surrounded by her husband's trivet collection. A secular Jew who spent 14 years living in Israel, she observed the sharp divide between secular and religious Jews there, pointing out, "They did not always live comfortably together."

In "Beyond the Ghetto Gates," she takes the time to examine the questions and issues that arise when people living behind bars are suddenly free — not only the people who no longer have to live in the ghetto, but also their non-Jewish countrymen.

"When I was younger and more



optimistic, I felt like the problem [of hatred] could go away if we just educate people," she said. "But I also feel like so much of it is bred in the bone. It's what you hear from parents. It's what you hear from your peers. And of course, we're seeing it today."

She feels more pressure writing about anti-Semitism now than she did while writing her previous novel, "The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz" (Pocket Books, 2009).

"There's a new urgency to my wanting to get my writing out in the world, with the hope that it will reach people who don't, currently, understand the stakes and the danger that we Jews have lived with for centuries," she said.

She set the novel at the end of the 18th century because the time period forces her characters to confront difficult choices. "It was one of the first times when the Jews of France and Italy had really the opportunity — unless they converted to Catholicism — to decide how much of the rules they were going to keep and how much of the rules they were going to break," she said.

Among the cast of Jewish characters is Daniel, d'Ancona's cousin



*Michelle Cameron*

PHOTOS COURTESY MICHELLE CAMERON

and a soldier in Bonaparte's army, who has felt the impact of France's Reign of Terror and its rules against religion in his own family. Although he daydreams about his mother's Shabbat dinners, compares his hunger as a soldier to that of fasting on Yom Kippur, and recites a blessing before he eats bread, he also eats plenty of treif. And he blushes when his childhood friend and fellow soldier, Christophe, discusses his interactions with women. "Despite his shorn hair and clean-shaven chin, his Or-

thodox Jewish upbringing still clung to him. He was accustomed to girls who were modest and covered their chests, not these lighthearted, light-skirted women who tossed roses and called bold invitations to the Frenchmen they thought most handsome."

Cameron spent three months researching this book before writing a single word and continued throughout the writing and editing process. "Research is something I love, but I always warn historical novelists: it can be a pit — you can dive in and never want to come out."

Research matters for getting the details right, from the clothing her characters wear to the battle scenes

### *If you go*

**Michelle Cameron has numerous local appearances in the coming months, including the following:**

**April 16:** Bernardsville Library, Bernardsville, 7 p.m.

**April 22:** Conversation with Short Hills author Dara Horn at The Book House, Millburn, 6:30 p.m.

**May 3:** Kahal Chaverim: NJ Congregation for Humanistic Judaism, Mt. Freedom, 9:30 a.m.

**May 7:** Morristown Jewish Center Beit Yisrael, Morristown, 7:30 p.m.

**May 17:** White Meadow Temple, Rockaway, 2 p.m.

**May 20:** Bnai Keshet, Montclair, 7:30 p.m.

**May 31:** Congregation Beth Ohr, Old Bridge, 1 p.m.

**June 17:** Caldwell Public Library, Caldwell, 6:30 p.m.

# Ghetto

Continued

she describes. (She worries about experts pointing out errors.) But the research also produces gifts that can provide the right setting and details for the plot.

Cameron set the novel in the town of Ancona because it was actually the first town in Italy where Napoleon's army broke down the gates of the ghetto. And it didn't hurt when she learned the town was a center for decorative illuminated ketubot, providing d'Ancona's family with their livelihood.

Of course, in the novel, a single shop replaced the many that actually existed. Cameron's research also led her to a "miracle" portrait of the Virgin Mary who would "look" at viewers, sometimes crying, sometimes with a glare, and she knew she would incorporate it into the plot. Other historical figures dot the tale, including David Morpurgo, a wealthy Jew who foiled an attempt to melt the town's church bell into a cannon in a riot that pitted the Italian Catholics against the Jews and the French.

Beyond the details, Cameron describes the chal-

lenges facing writers of historical fiction, especially when a woman is the main character. "I call it the 'feisty heroine' struggle," she said. "You are writing about people in one time for people reading in the 21st century," she said.

People don't want to read about passive women, even if it's questionable whether someone like d'Ancona would really have been able to hold some of the ideas and attitudes she does, living in the 18th-century ghetto. But as Cameron pointed out, one of her own favorite heroines is Fanny Price from Jane Austen's "Mansfield Park." "If you wrote a Fanny today, no one would read it," she said.

One thing is for certain. Cameron, director of the Writer's Circle, a New Jersey writing community offering workshops for children and adults, is no passive Fanny. When it comes to writing about Jew hatred from centuries ago in an age of rising anti-Semitism, she said, she won't be changing anything she's doing. "I'm refusing to do anything differently. [It's] the Israeli in me, unwilling to alter my approach as a result of these very real threats." ✨

[jginsberg@njewishnews.com](mailto:jginsberg@njewishnews.com)

## The Books List

**"The Man Who Solved the Market: How Jim Simons Launched the Quant Revolution."** Gregory Zuckerman will discuss his book about mathematician Jon Simons, who pioneered the era of the algorithm. March 19, 7:30 p.m. [words] Bookstore, Maplewood, [wordsbookstore.com](http://wordsbookstore.com), 973-763-9500

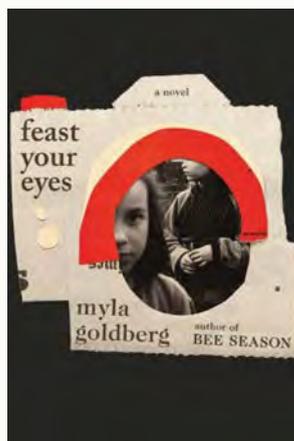
**Donald & Ruth Kahn Book and Author Event.** The three authors appearing include Talia Carner, author of "The Third Daughter," fiction inspired by the true

story of young Jewish girls from Russia who become victims of sex trafficking in Buenos Aires. Eileen Pollack is the author of "The Professor of Immortality," a crime thriller and family drama inspired by the Unabomber. Cherise Wolas' novel "The Family Tabor" explores the price paid for second

chances when family members are forced to confront the falsehoods upon which their lives are built. March 22, 10 a.m. Free. Refreshments available at 9:30 a.m. Congregation Neve Shalom, Metuchen, [neveshalom.net](http://neveshalom.net), 732-548-2238

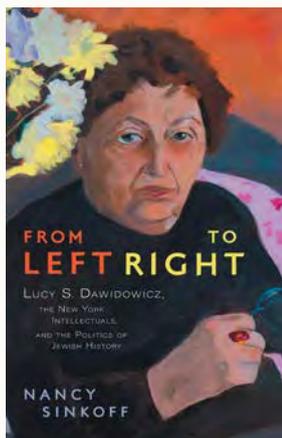
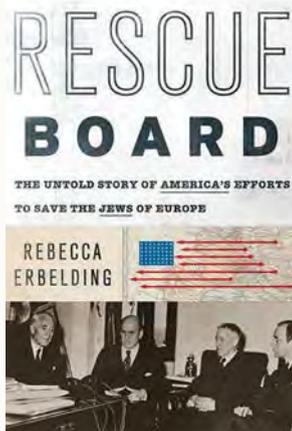
**"Uprooting the Poison Tree."** Myra Weiner, a toxicologist and member of The Jewish Center, will discuss her recently published memoir. March 22, 4-5:30 p.m. Free. The Jewish Center, Princeton, [thejewishcenter.org](http://thejewishcenter.org), 609-921-0100, ext. 200

**"Rescue Board."** Holocaust historian Rebecca Erbeling pieces together years of research and newly uncov-



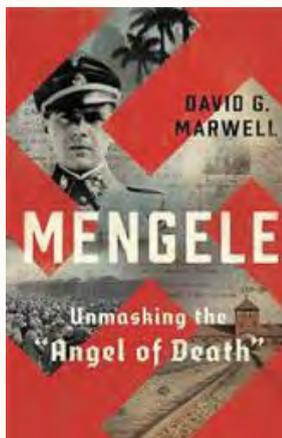
ered archival materials to tell the dramatic story of America's little-known efforts to save the Jews of Europe. April 21, 12:30 p.m. Free. JCC MetroWest, West Orange, [jcc-metrowest.org](http://jcc-metrowest.org), 973-530-3915

**"Feast Your Eyes."** A compelling and original story about a female photographer grappling with ambition and motherhood, a balancing act familiar to women of every generation. May 1, 1 p.m. \$10 for guests; members free. JCC MetroWest, West Orange, [jcc-metrowest.org](http://jcc-metrowest.org), 973-530-3915



**"Mengele: Unmasking the Angel of Death."** David G. Marwell discusses his book that details the search for Mengele's remains. June 1, 6 p.m. Labyrinth Books, Princeton, [labyrinthbooks.com](http://labyrinthbooks.com), 609-497-1600

**"From Left To Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, The New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History."** Nancy Sinkoff and Esther Schor discuss the life and work of Lucy Dawidowicz and the politics of Jewish history in the post-war years. June 28, 6 p.m. Labyrinth Books, Princeton, [labyrinthbooks.com](http://labyrinthbooks.com), 609-497-1600



## WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT ...



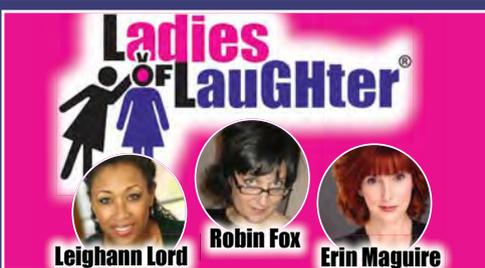
MARCH 7 • 8 PM



MARCH 28 • 8 PM



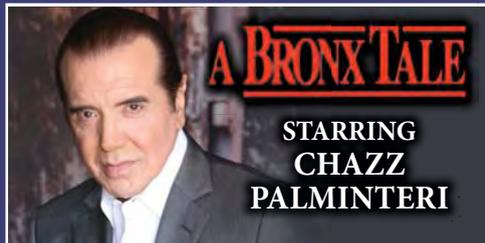
APRIL 2 • 8 PM



APRIL 4 • 8 PM



APRIL 30 • 8 PM



MAY 16 • 8 PM

AND MORE!! CHECK OUT ALL OUR EVENTS ONLINE! ALL SHOWS AT THE POLLAK THEATRE

FOR TICKETS CALL 732.263.6889 OR VISIT [MONMOUTH.EDU/MCA](http://MONMOUTH.EDU/MCA)



## BOOKS

# New releases blooming this spring

## Nonfiction:

**“A Delayed Life: The True Story of the Librarian of Auschwitz”** by Dita Kraus (Feiwel and Friends) describes how the author risked her life, as a young girl imprisoned in Auschwitz, to care for the books smuggled in by other prisoners, and details her life after the war. Kraus is the subject of Antonio Iturbe’s bestselling book, “The Librarian of Auschwitz” (2017).

*Sandee Brawarsky*  
Special to NJJN

A wide-ranging anthology of contemporary and historical voices, **“How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish,”** edited by Ilan Stavans and Josh Lambert (Restless Books), chronicles the ongoing vitality of Yiddish.

In **“The Escape Artist”** (Gallery Books), a follow-up to **“After Long Silence,”** Helen Fremont, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, tries to make sense of the deep secrets underlying her family’s experience and, in light of her last book, their dismissal of her.

Based on brief snippets shared on WINS Radio, **“Just Give Me a Minute: Insights from the Radio Rabbi”** by Joseph Potasnik (Wordsmithy) includes anecdotes and Torah learning, along with some biographical details. A long-time radio regular, the author heads the New York Board of Rabbis and serves as chaplain of the FDNY.

**“Hakibbutz Ha’artzi, Mapam, and the Demise of the Israeli Labor Movement”** by Tal Elmaliach, translated by Haim Watzman (Syracuse), is a history of Israel’s political transformation.

An English edition of an Israeli bestseller, **“Prepare My Prayer: Recipes to Awaken the Soul”** by Dov Singer (Koren) is a poetic guide, a book about words and how words are heard. Singer, who heads Yeshivat Makor Chaim in Israel, is an innovative educator and a leader of the modern Israeli revival of chasidut (chasidic philosophy).

Taking a literary and spiritual approach, Elliot Rabin, in **“The Biblical Hero: Portraits in Nobility and Fallibility”** (JPS), compares six biblical heroes with heroes of world literature, exploring the complexity, flaws, and power of these figures; he also includes a chapter on the heroic stature of God.

**“Faster: How a Jewish Driver, an American Heiress, and a Legendary Car Beat Hitler’s Best”** by Neal Bascomb (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) is a fast-paced true story from the golden age of auto racing.

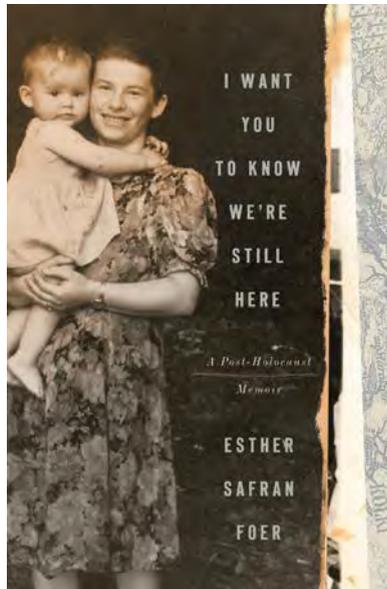
Esther Safran Foer, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, writes in **“I Want You to Know We’re Still Here: A Post-Holocaust Memoir”** (Tim Dugan Books) that she grew up as if surrounded by ghosts, relatives who were rarely spoken of, their stories secret. The book is her journey to uncover her family’s history. She is the mother of prominent writers Jonathan Safran Foer and Franklin Foer.

Published 50 years after it was written, **“Franci’s War: A Woman’s Story of Survival”** (Penguin) is a Holocaust memoir by Franci Rabiner Epstein, a fashion designer and mother of writer Helen Epstein (“Children of the Holocaust”). She writes candidly about the experience of women during the war.

In the illustrated work, **“The Dairy Restaurant”** (Schocken), cartoonist Ben Katchor (who has been described as “a poet of the gone world”) tells the history of a restaurant culture that has all but faded. He includes a directory of all the dairy places once present in New York City, their menus, and their distinctive practices.

In her debut, **“Nobody Will Tell You This But Me”** (Knopf), comedian Bess Kalb pays tribute to her family and her powerful, loving connection to her grandmother — as told by her grandmother from beyond the grave.

**“From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History”** by Nancy Sinkoff (Wayne State) is the first comprehensive biography of the pioneering historian; her life experiences provide a lens into the major



issues of 20th-century Jewish life.

A biography of a charismatic trailblazer, **“Rebel Cinderella: From Rags to Riches to Radical, the Epic Journey of Rose Pastor Stokes”** by Adam Hochschild (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) chronicles the life of a Jewish refugee from Russia; she was a factory worker, a journalist, and eventually the wife of the son of a very wealthy gentile family. Together they campaigned for labor equality and women’s rights. Once among the most famous women in America, Pastor Stokes is now largely forgotten.

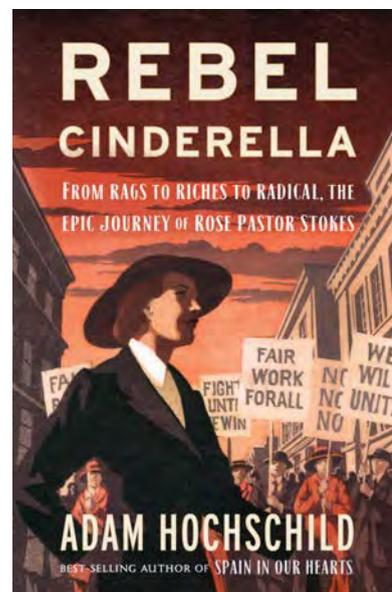
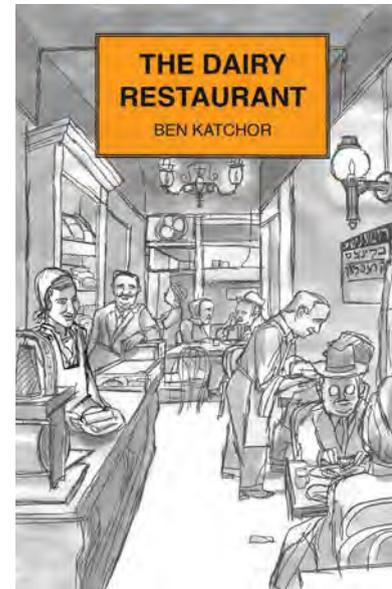
**“Houdini: The Elusive American”** by Adam Begley (Yale) is the latest in the Jewish Lives series.

In the illustrated volume, **“Jewish Identity in American Art: A Golden Age since the 1970s”** (Syracuse), art historian Matthew Baigell explores the work of artists born between 1930 and 1960 who infuse their work with Jewish themes.

Journalist Svenja O’Donnell, the daughter of a German mother and Irish father, grew up in Paris, and only later in life learned about her family’s experiences during World War II; she unveils rarely seen aspects of the war in **“Inge’s War: A German Woman’s Story of Family, Secrets, and Survival Under Hitler”** (Viking).

**“Concealed: Memoir of a Jewish-Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America”** (Greenpoint) is Esther Amini’s debut. She writes of her family’s journey from Mashhad in Iran to Queens and her own coming of age in a new and very different world, making her own choices, like Barnard College over a prearranged marriage.

**“Invisible Years: A Family’s Collected Account of Separation and Survival during the Holocaust in the Netherlands”** by Daphne Geismar (Godine), published to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands, is an unusual second-generation Holocaust memoir. Geismar’s parents



had a “Holocaust drawer” in their Connecticut home, where they kept documents relating to both sides of her family. The author, a book designer and teacher, pieced together the letters, diaries, and other papers plus additional research to rewind their stories into a single narrative. The illustrated book has the feel of a museum catalog; images of the drawer liner serve as endpapers.

**“Yes To Life: In Spite of Everything”** by Victor E. Frankel (Beacon) is the first English-language edition of a collection of lectures published by the acclaimed psychologist and Holocaust survivor in 1946. For him, every crisis also includes an opportunity.

**“Saving Free Speech ... From Itself”** by Thane Rosenbaum (Fig Tree) explores the meaning of the First Amendment and sparks a timely conversation about whether some regulation of free speech is warranted. Even some of the strongest advocates of free speech are second-guessing whether neo-Nazis should have been allowed to march in Skokie in 1977 or alt-righters to march in Charlottesville in 2017.

## Fiction:

An impressive debut by a New York City high school student, **“The Lie in**

*Our Hearts*” by Evelyn Landy (Sky) is a coming-of-age story about a teenager finding her own voice amidst the dramas of high school romance, studies, friendship, and the wide-open future ahead.

*“Villa of Delirium”* by Adrien Goetz (New Vessel Press) is set along the French Riviera in the early 1900s, when a Jewish family builds a grand villa, replicating a Greek palace. The narrator, the son of a servant from a nearby estate owned by the designer of the Eiffel Tower, is adopted by the family and survives the Nazi confiscation of the house and deportation to death camps of the family.

A first novel that draws on Jewish folklore, Latin American oral literary traditions, and stories of exile, *“The*

From Turkish bestselling author, composer, and film director Zulfu Livaneli, *“Serenade for Nadia”* (Other Press) is a novel based on the actual episode of the sinking of the Jewish refugee ship, the *Sturma*, in 1942. Set in 2001 Istanbul, an elderly German-born Harvard professor visits the city where he taught years earlier and last saw his wife, still haunted by the circumstances. The narrator is the woman who hosts him at Istanbul University, 60 years after the sinking.

*“The Body Politic”* by Brian Platzer (Atria) follows the lives of four friends who meet in New York City in the aftermath of 9/11. Fifteen years later, finding their lives and their city very different in the wake of the 2016 elections, they face a betrayal. As in his earlier novel, *“Bed Stuy is Burning,”* Platzer captures the many dimensions of life in the city.

Inspired by the story and genius of Lise Meitner, the Jewish woman who discovered nuclear fission, screenwriter and film director Jan Eliasberg reimagines the race to build the atomic bomb in her debut novel, *“Hannah’s War”* (Little Brown).

*“The King of Warsaw”* by Szczezan Twardoch (Amazon Publishing) fictionalizes the very real tensions felt within the Jewish community in Poland in the late 1930s, focusing on one boxer’s interests in power, both inside and outside the ring.

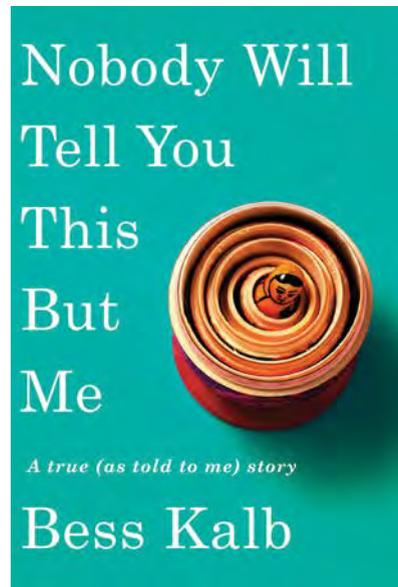
*“The Drive”* by Yair Assulin, translated by Jessica Cohen (New Vessel Press), is the story of a young Israeli soldier at a critical moment, deciding whether to leave the army, a decision discussed during a car ride with his father. His soul searching reflects the complexities of Israeli society.

A mix of fact and fiction, *“Keep Saying Their Names”* by Simon Stranger (Knopf) was published to much acclaim in Norway. The author first heard the story of Henry Rinnan, a secret agent for the Nazis, while visiting his Jewish mother-in-law, who grew up above a basement that had been his secret headquarters. The novel, formed like an encyclopedia, is shaped as a letter to the author’s children’s grandfather, who was killed.

*“The Book of V.”* by Anna Solomon (Henry Holt and Co.) intertwines the lives of women across centuries: a Brooklyn mom in 2016, a senator’s wife in 1970s Washington, D.C., and the biblical Queen Esther. ✨

**Sandee Brawarsky is culture editor at The New York Jewish Week, NJJN’s sister publication.**

**With additional reporting by Aderet Fishbane.**



*Lost Book of Adana Moreau”* by Michael Zapata (Hanover Square) tells of a Latin American science fiction writer whose lost manuscript turns up decades later, connecting lives in New Orleans.

Inspired by a true story found in manuscript fragments in the Cairo Genizah, *“The Convert”* by Stefan Hertmans (Pantheon) reimagines a young woman from a wealthy family in 11th-century France who falls in love with a rabbi’s son, facing dangerous anti-Semitism; the author weaves in his own story of tracking the woman’s history.

*“Apeiogon”* by Colum McCann (Random House) is rooted in the real friendship between an Israeli and a Palestinian, both of whom lost children to the conflict in their land. The story is told in 1,001 small numbered sections, with two passages in the middle in which the real-life men speak in their own words. The short episodes, set across the world and through time, link to form this novel, named for a shape with a countably infinite number of sides.

Jennifer Rosner interviewed a number of Jewish child survivors for her debut novel, *“The Yellow Bird Sings”* (Flatiron), about a mother and her young daughter, a musical prodigy, hiding in Poland during the Holocaust.



MARCH 19TH



STEADY ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR  
**SHAWN COLVIN**  
MAY 3RD



For upcoming performances and to purchase tickets, visit  
**grunincenter.org**

Box Office Hours: Mon - Fri · 10am - 5pm  
732.255.0500 · College Drive · Toms River · NJ  
Group Rates Available

## Point: Achashverosh must go

**Gabe Kahn**  
NJJN Editor



**Garden State Of Mind**

There's no use ignoring it anymore, so let's face the facts: Achashverosh is the worst king in Shushan's storied history. Yet a significant portion of the population believes that this boastful, disgusting man is a benign ruler, interested in the welfare of his people more than his own. To everyone who has dug their heels into the rich Persian soil, allow me to explain why your logic is faulty, your conclusions absurd.

The biggest defense for supporters of our would-be dictator is that he is a friend to the Jews. Let me state unequivocally that he is not. At best he's ambivalent toward the chosen people, and there's a wealth of evidence demonstrating that his intentions are far more unseemly. For one, it's undeniable that he appointed an unapologetic Jew-hater as his first in command, a man who wrote propaganda and whispered lies about our people to him, lies the king was all-too-willing to believe.

This is the part where Achashverosh's base screams, "The king can't be anti-Semitic — members of his own family are Jewish!" Wake up and smell the fesenjan. He didn't have any idea that Queen Esther was Jewish when he married her. And why didn't she tell him? Because she was afraid he'd kill her! Besides, it's not as if they have a real relationship. Sources inside the palace said that no less than Esther herself was overheard telling her uncle Mordechai that on at least one occasion the king hadn't even called to see her in more than 30 days.

To Achashverosh, Esther was just a pretty thing that he discarded once he grew bored of her, placating his wife by acceding to her wishes to host parties, throw her enemy out of the administration, and appoint her uncle in his place — just so she would leave him alone. Besides, there's an established pattern of how Achashverosh treats women, ogling them at his own beauty contests. And that's to say nothing of the unconfirmed reports about the sordid act he allegedly demanded of his former wife at a party some years ago. Just imagine if a foreign government were to get ahold of such incriminating evidence and use it to blackmail him!

There's a similar notion to his acolytes that, late in his administration, the king's top adviser was Jewish. Such a weak defense. Mordechai's appointment was either a favor to the queen or a ploy to have a fall guy for the ill-conceived tax reform plan that lined the king's pockets but put small businesses, like Shushan's beloved triangle hat shop, out of business, and left

people in the streets wearing sackcloth and ash.

What's that you say — he saved the Jews? Only when it became politically expedient for him to do so. Before then Achashverosh was either complicit in planning our destruction, or such a blustering fool that he didn't realize his top lieutenant was inviting outside forces to settle personal scores that would have undermined his own city. Whether he's a co-conspirator or just a moron, the man is clearly unfit to be king.

On that point, our despot should not be so impulsive that makes monumental, life-or-death decisions on a whim. I mean, he literally made a life-or-death decision to have former Queen Vashti killed — a decision he acknowledged, once he calmed down, that he regretted. A notorious insomniac, he is known to come to conclusions in the middle of the night, wildly changing course on state policy — without consulting with his advisers — on the basis of something he read seconds before. (Then again, there's little evidence that the king even knows how to read; in one well-documented instance, Achashverosh, a grown man, ordered his servants to read him a bedtime story.)

In the end, the best case against the king was made by the confidence, or lack thereof, he instills in his own staff, two of whom felt so strongly about his incompetence that they conspired to bring the kingdom down from within. Were it not for a speaker of many tongues lingering close to the officers, our long regional nightmare would have been over years ago.

So let's do something special to celebrate Purim this year: Namely, kick Achashverosh's royal backside over Shushan's walls that he so desperately wanted to build. ■

Contact Gabe Kahn via email: [gkahn@njewishnews.com](mailto:gkahn@njewishnews.com), or Twitter: [sgabekahn](https://twitter.com/sgabekahn).

## Counterpoint: Keep Shushan great again

**Abe Hahn**  
Special to NJJN



**Toxic Waste of Time**

It's almost funny: Here we are in the negative 300s and Shushan is once again the greatest city in the world. The economy is thriving as

evidenced by our ability to throw numerous parties — one lasting 180 days! — and hold national beauty contests. Upward mobility is such that even paupers are wearing the king's crown and royal clothes and riding his horse in the streets.

Don't take my word for it. The Megillah itself declared, "The city of Shushan shouted and rejoiced!"

Even so, the scholarly elites are so bitter about coming out on the losing end of Achashverosh's ascendance that they want to relitigate the Babylonian exile instead of waiting for the Temple to be rebuilt in just a few short years. At that point the Jews can elect to remain in the thriving province of Shushan or return to Zion if their lives in this city of wealth and happiness are too miserable to bear.

The king's ill will against the Jewish people is nothing but fake news. Members of the royal family are Jewish, as is Achashverosh's second in command. And who can argue that it was the king who saved the Jews when they faced certain death? Such chutzpah to criticize our king when we've never had a better friend in the kingdom.

It's true, the king tangentially played a key role in a plot to kill us all, but that was a result of his getting bad counsel from one of the more extreme voices in his administration. The moment he realized the betrayal of the adviser in question he threw him out of his palace and

literally hung him out to dry for all to see.

You can't blame him for not knowing who to trust. The deep state inside the government has been plotting to derail Achashverosh's

reign from the very beginning — two officers in his own police force were revealed to have conspired against him! Thank goodness for the good people of Shushan who uncovered the plot and exposed these very bad hombres for what they are. Or were.

Sure, he's not what the elites would consider politically correct, as he is known to shoot from the hip and tell it like it is from time to time when he'd be better off keeping his thoughts to himself — we all remember his "The silver is given to you, and the people to do to them as it pleases you" gaffe — but what has PC ever gotten us other than a fallen Temple and a ravaged Promised Land?

The king's personal life is complicated, but how many monarchs have been angels? King David had a dalliance with a woman he spied bathing on a rooftop and Solomon, the son born from that union, had hundreds of wives and concubines. Solomon even used one of his marriages to negotiate a deal to purchase horses from Egypt, which was at best unethical and at worse illegal.

Achashverosh is better than all of them put together, probably the best ancient king in history. And no one knows more about ancient kings than he does.

*Chag Purim Sameach!* ■

**Abe Hahn's byline is unlikely to appear in the pages of NJJN again.**

# NJ JEWISH NEWS

# NEW JERSEY JEWISH FAKE NEWS

[NJJEWSHNEWS.COM](http://NJJEWSHNEWS.COM)

Vol. LXXIV No. 10 | March 10, 2020 | 9 ADAR 5780  
[njjewishnews.com](http://njjewishnews.com)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### KNESSET OPTS FOR 'COIN TOSS' ELECTIONS

*Cheaper and quicker, experts agree. Heads, Bibi loses; Tails, he wins and goes to jail.*

### VEEP JOE BIDIN' HIS TIME

*Former Democratic front-runner says he's 'a slow starter, but warming up now' for 2024 election.*

### DAY SCHOOL'S HONOR PROGRAM BEGUN LAST YEAR SHUTS DOWN

*Organizers of 'Kavod-19' don't understand what went wrong.*

### SANDERS ADMITS HE'S LARRY DAVID'S IDENTICAL TWIN

*Democratic front-runner/outlier insists he's 'the funny one, just look at my economic plans.'*

### SCHUMER, PELOSI RUEFUL OVER DEMS' TROUBLES

*'Where's Marianne Williamson when we need her?'*

### BLOOMBERG BUYS TRUMP TOWER, SEEKS REVENGE

*Former NYC mayor evicts Trump from home, calls for new stop-and-frisk policy aimed at large white men with orange hair.*

### BELGIANS SAY CARNIVAL COSTUMES DEPICTING JEWS WITH BIG NOSES WEREN'T ANTI-SEMITIC

*This really happened. Like, last week. Honest to God.*

### AL SHARPTON RELEASES RACIAL FITNESS VIDEO

*Slimmed-down reverend describes reverse-bias techniques, including Walking Back the Rhetoric, Verbal Contortion, and Leaps of Bad Faith.*

### JEW-HATERS PLAN UNITY MARCH ON BROOKLYN BRIDGE

*'Who else could bring the far left and the far right together in common cause but us?' proclaim leaders of Anti-Semites in Solidarity.*

### BIBI AND TRUMP TO CO-AUTHOR BOOK ON POLITICAL POWER

*President says new work 'based on ideas from this 16th-century guy, sounds like Mack E. Velli, I think. Not sure. I'm the main author, Bibi's just writing the words.'*

### MEDICAL DISCOVERY CHANGES UNDERSTANDING OF PURIM STORY

*Persian Jews were nearly wiped out by 'Achesh-virus.'*

## Trump acknowledges 'fake Pence'; body sought



*The Donald's No. 2 Doll: A staple from Nancy Pelosi's ripped State of the Union speech pierced what appeared to be the real Veep. GETTY IMAGES*

**W**ashington, D.C. — In a two-hour-and-37-minute impromptu press conference on the White House lawn, President Trump confirmed for the first time that Vice President Mike Pence “disappeared, sort of” more than a year ago and has not been heard from since.

In his place, the president confirmed, an inflatable rubber “VP Pence” doll has accompanied the president at cabinet meetings, campaign stops, and all other public appearances.

Observers had long commented that Pence was expressionless in public — Republican officials preferred the term “stoic.” But sharp-eyed Twitter users noted that Pence had started to look surprisingly life-like, raising suspicions it couldn't be the real him.

The dramatic revelation first came to light at the end of the president's most recent State of the Union speech. While most eyes were on Nancy Pelosi tearing up a copy of the president's talk, a congressional aide heard a sharp “pop” and noticed “VP Pence” slowly deflating in its chair next to the House Speaker. One of the staples from Pelosi's copy of the speech had apparently pierced the vice-presidential doll.

It also explains a Jan. 28 tweet by the president declaring, “There is no inflation!”

Reporters immediately peppered the president with questions about what happened to the uncannily stiff but apparently sentient for-

mer governor and congressman from Indiana.

Trump, insisting that he now be called “His Royal Donald,” and speaking without the benefit of a script, notes, coherent sentences, or adoring admirers, blurted: “Look. Annoying guy. Too religious. Wife's not my type. Never left his side. Jeez. Said my red ties are too long. Big mistake. Huge.”

The president continued: “I've got no comment on that tape of the call from my office telling the Secret Service to ‘get rid of Mostly Mute Mikey.’ Wasn't me. Sounded like me, yeah. Go check out Alec Baldwin. Lousy actor. Maybe it was him. Call was fine. It was perfect.”

Sen. Lindsey Graham, the Trumplican from South Carolina, said that if foul play was involved in Pence's disappearance, “the Senate will make it a priority to look into this matter in the years to come.”

As the president was about to board a helicopter for his residence in Florida, he turned to the press and asserted: “And even if, say, I assigned the guy to head up a commission on voter fraud and he was never heard from again, what's it to you? Wanna impeach me again?”

He added: “By the way, since you guys think you're so smart, I got the ‘VP Pence’ doll from the same place that made my ‘First Lady Melania’ doll three years ago, and you guys never even noticed.”

## Study: College-age Jews say they're pro-Israel, but please don't tell our parents

The overwhelming majority of college-age Jews say they are pro-Israel, but are afraid to tell their parents because they don't want to be pressured to attend Hillel events and go on trips to Israel sponsored by campus Jewish organizations.

"Look, Israel is a great country, but I planned to chill this semester and the last thing I need is to stand at a table at the student center and hand out iPhone cases printed with the Israeli flag," said Scott L., a Penn State student contacted for the survey. "I tell my dad I'm with Students for Justice in Palestine just so he stops nudging me to go the campus AIPAC meetings."

The survey, conducted by Musk Mellman for the campus group HandStandsforIsrael, found that many students hide their yarmulkes and other visible signs of Jewishness not because of anti-Semitism, but out of fear that any of a dozen pro-Israel groups on campus will ask them to volunteer at the Yom Ha'Atzmaut rally.

"I'm trying to graduate on time, and my mom wants me to take a leadership seminar with Students in Sup-



Sophia K., a sophomore at Syracuse University, said she would be happy to sign a pro-Israel petition but is afraid she will be late for class. JANICE HWANG/JW

port of Israel. Of course I lie and tell her I am an anti-Zionist!" said Sarah H. The Wesleyan junior also said she really wants to spend spring break with her Jewish sorority in Cartagena, Colombia, while her parents are insisting she go to Israel for the seventh time.

In response to the survey, a shadowy group known as the Ostrich Mission has begun posting the names of college students who are secretly Zionist.

## Television news: Show about Reform Jews is a surprise hit among the Ultra-Orthodox

Who knew that a half-hour comedy/drama about the loves and lives of a Reform Jewish family would be such a runaway hit in Israel's ultra-Orthodox community? That's exactly what's happening with "Shtickl," the new series from Ori Kumi and Elchanan Duranduransky, now showing on Netflix.

The series stars Jeff Goldblum as Arthur Shtickl, the patriarch of a loving but complicated Reform Jewish family living in Syosset, N.Y. Arthur, a psychiatrist, goes to synagogue three times a year and feels bad about it, but feels even worse that his daughter Lindsey is becoming a rabbi and will probably be dependent on him until she pays off her student debt. His wife, Shelly (Fran Drescher), a real estate broker, has opened a boutique selling scented candles and has been feuding with Linda (Christine Baranski), the synagogue administrator, who refuses to carry her products in the Beth Elohim Judaica shop.

Rounding out the cast is Zack Schor as Evan Shtickl, who is living at home after graduating Brandeis with a degree in philosophy, and Grandpa Harvey (Billy Crystal), whose MSNBC habit and loosely tied bathrobe is driving the rest of the family crazy.

Despite an emphasis on the strict Reform customs of a suburban Long Island family (Shelley Shtickl, for example, chairs her temple's social action committee; Evan met his on-again, off-again boyfriend at a NFTY convention), the show is wildly popular in charedi neighborhoods like Mea Shearim and Bnei Brak, where people are secretly downloading the show



Charedi Orthodox Jews enjoy an episode of "Shtickl," a Netflix series about a Reform Jewish family. JANICE HWANG/JW

to their cellphones and laptops.

Orthodox viewers say they appreciate the precise attention to detail, from the late model Prius that Arthur drives to the Marc Chagall print that hangs in the Shtickls' living room. Baruch Fruman, of Har Nof, said the program reminds him of his ancestors. "I was born Barry Fruman in Newton, Mass. 'Shtickl' makes me nostalgic for my summers at URJ Eisner Camp, before I enrolled at Yeesh Hatorah seminary, met my bashert, and raised eight children."

Ultimately, says Duranduransky, himself the grandson of Reform Jews, "the show is about how much we have in common. Whether we spend Sunday mornings over bagels and The New York Times before heading to the gym, or whether we devote most of our waking hours to studying Torah and protesting Saturday bus service, it turns out we are all one people."

## At The Movies

**JoJo Rabbi** — Pharaoh gives his Jewish adviser an endearing nickname

**Pair o' Sites** — Israeli guide offers tours of Masada and Ein Gedi

**Kittel Women** — Orthodox feminists demand right to lead High Holiday services

**Vahntz Upon a Time...in Hollywood** — An annoying little guy tries to break into the movies

**Fur v Fedora** — Chasidic sects end a 50-year fashion feud

**The Amishman** — Pennsylvania Dutch hitman is mistaken for a Chasid

**Jewker** — A failed Catskills comedian goes crazy

**Remarriage Story** — Even their family is so over the on-again, off-again couple

**\$19.17** — A \$20 value, but for you...

**Chrain and Glory** — Grandmother's horseradish recipe wins cooking contest

**The Two Pupas** — Brothers vie for the leadership of chasidic sect

**A Beautiful Day for the Neighbor Hood** — Meyer Lansky gains control of Las Vegas

**Three-Star Wars: The Rise of Skywatchers** — Rabbis debate when Shabbos is over

**Hairy Yet** — Woman wears same sheitel for 25 years

**Judyism** — Renee Zellweger converts

## In Theaters

**Ain't Too Loud** — Bride's father warns the band before the wedding

**Bottlejews** — Shul has a popular kiddush club

**Come Away Frum** — High school grads spend gap year in Israel

**Who's Afraid of Virgin Wool?** — Shatnez discovered at an Italian suit factory

**Flying Past Sunset** — Delayed air travelers violate the Sabbath

**Ladiestown** — Women's tefillah groups multiply

**Jagged Little Pillow** — Zayde hides the afikoman

**Mean Curls** — Yeshiva boy seeks approval of payos-wearing clique

**Moo Long Route** — After the sin of the Golden Calf, God extends the Jews' trek in the desert

**Mrs. Debt Fire** — Building owner's widow commits arson to avoid bankruptcy

**The Music Mun** — Fantasy about singing hamantaschen

**To Kill an Early Bird** — Murder trial at a Florida condo community

**West Side Store** — Fairway Market threatens to close

**Wick It** — Family lights an oil menorah

## President Trump says, 'I could shoot a Jew on Fifth Avenue, and you'd still vote for me'

Washington — Supporters of President Trump said he was only joking when he told them that “I could shoot a Jew on Fifth Avenue, and you’d still vote for me.”

Members of Republican Jews for Trump said the president’s words were meant in jest, and were received with laughter by those attending Sunday’s event at the Polo, Fox Hunt and Mah Jongg Club of West Palm Beach, Fla.

“You have to appreciate the

president’s sense of humor,” said Lawrence Imglick, a longtime Trump supporter since Nov. 8, 2016. “I think what he meant was that he was grateful for our support, and that even though we are Jewish he respected our judgment.”

“C’mon, I don’t think someone who has Jewish grandchildren meant any harm when, for example, he said we are vicious sharks who really drive a hard bargain,” said Danya Hitziger, who wore a red “Make Israel Great Again”

hat. “Or when he told the joke about the greedy Jewish banker who conspires with Macron to control the Federal Reserve: We knew he was gently ribbing us and our French ally.”

The president used his appearance at the Jewish condo community to boast about moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, to remind supporters that he cut off aid to the Palestinians, and to praise Alan Dershowitz as “a tough, tough guy — people say he’s my Shylock.”

## Jewish Federations blame their decline on bicycling fundraisers

The Jewish federation movement said it would suspend nearly all traditional fundraising activities, including gala dinners and Israel missions, and focus instead on sponsored bicycle rides.

The news comes in response to a report that bike rides accounted for nearly 90 percent of all Jewish charitable giving in 2019.

Last year Facebook users were asked to sponsor as many as 2 million people taking part in 3 million bike rides. Sponsors included Hazon, ALYN Children’s Hospital, Bike4Chai, Ramah Camps, The Arava Institute, the JCC Krakow, NY’s Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, Chai Lifeline, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, World Jewish Relief, and every single Jewish genetic disease, including some you never heard of.

“We have seen the future, and it has two wheels,” said Elvis Fingerpull, CEO of the North American Jewish Federation of North American Jewish Federations. “No one comes to our dinners or golf



Members of the Council of Presidents of American Jewish Organizations have ditched meetings with Israeli leaders for fundraising bicycle rides in the Negev Desert. FLICKR COMMONS

outings anymore because they are either on bicycles or on Facebook sponsoring other riders.”

Armstrong Lanzman, an accountant in Merion Station, Pa., has personally logged 60,000 miles and raised \$2.1 billion for various Jewish causes, including a playground for his synagogue. “I am constantly asking friends to sponsor me when I go on a

bike ride,” he said. “I think they were really glad when I broke my leg playing pickup basketball last year.”

The trend is not without controversy, however. In 2016, hundreds were injured when the JNF “Sore Knees for More Trees” ride crashed into Chabad’s “Rollin’ for the Rebbe” ride at an intersection near Bet Shemesh, Israel.



## Addition-tray! ‘Fiddler’ to perform in Pig Latin

New York — Following the sold-out success of its Yiddish production of “Fiddler on the Roof,” the Folksbinderundat Theater announced that a new production of the hit musical will be performed in Pig Latin.

“‘Fiddler’ will have a special sentimental appeal in Pig Latin,” explained the company’s artistic director, Smokked Salmon. “After all, it’s the language the characters would have spo-

### NEW KOSHER SYMBOLS Confused by the proliferation of kosher supervision agencies? Here’s a quick guide:

**K-Pasa** — Under the supervision of the Latin-American Jewish Federation

**K-O** – Hashgacha of the World Boxing Federation

**Yud K Vav K** – Under divine supervision (but consult your local rabbi)

**Danny K** – Supervised by the Va’ad of Late Comedians

## From the middle: The new new anti-Semitism

By Nathan Joe Blattgreen

CEO, Executive Director, and Commissioner  
The Anti-Denigration League

We all know how deadly anti-Semitism from the right can be, and we have learned that left-wing anti-Semitism, often disguised as anti-Zionism, is also a threat. But what about anti-Semitism from the middle?

Anti-Semitism from the middle can be difficult to detect because it is the most subtle of all anti-

Semitisms. We here at the Anti-Denigration League are offering these important examples to help you call out anti-Semitism even when it barely exists:

☛ You are at work with your gentile friend who has voted for Republicans and Democrats. She says she’s been watching “Curb Your Enthusiasm” and says, “I bet you’re a fan.”

☛ Your non-Jewish coworker is a fiscal conservative and liberal on social issues. He says he likes Mike Bloomberg’s policies, but can’t stand his speaking voice.

☛ You are on a date with a swing voter. You say

that you’ll be visiting your family on Passover, and she says, “Is that the one with the huts?”

☛ At an interfaith meeting with the local United Methodist church, the pastor greets you by saying “Shalom!”

☛ It’s a humid day, and a woman wearing a “Klobuchar 2020” button says, “I love your hair! You’re so lucky to have natural curls!”

☛ An independent voter from a purple state is watching the Democratic debate with you and says, “Why does Bernie Sanders always seem angry?”



## Jerusalem's cultural diversity revealed through manuscripts

WHAT MIGHT IT look like to imagine Jerusalem — known as a city of peoples with diverse faiths and cultures — as a city of the book? On March 29, a panel will tell the story of this extraordinary place, where some of the Western world's most enduring ideas were developed through its Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Armenian literary treasures.

Panelists include Benjamin Balint, coauthor of "Jerusalem: City of the Book," who will discuss unusual caretakers of Jewish library collections; Father Columba Stewart, executive director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, will talk about rare early Christian and Islamic manuscripts; and Bedross Der Matossian, associate director of the Harris Center for Judaic Studies

at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and president of the Society for Armenian Studies, will explore literary treasures of Armenian Jerusalem. Also to be discussed is the digitization and preservation of endangered documents.

The program, presented by Rutgers University's Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, is free. It will take place at 4 p.m. at the Douglass Student Center, New Brunswick. The event is the Toby and Herbert Stolzer Endowed Program and is cosponsored by the Rutgers-New Brunswick Libraries and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Advance registration is required. Email [rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu) or register online at [BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu).

## Interest-free loans offered for health-care students

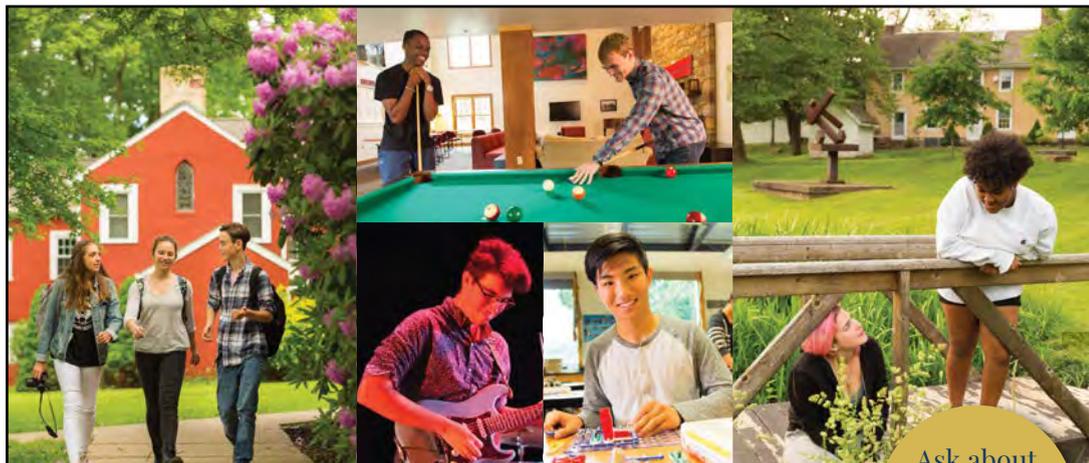
APPLICATIONS ARE being accepted for the Blum Trust's interest-free educational loans for Jewish students who are pursuing degrees in the health-care professions.

Established in 1952, the Blum Trust provides need-based financial aid up to \$7,500 per year for each of four years, interest free for 10 years.

Eligible applicants are Jewish students pursuing careers in the fields of medicine, dentistry, podiatry, pharmacy, chiropractic, nursing, and other allied health professions. The loans are available to residents of Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset, Hunterdon, Monmouth, and Burlington counties in New Jersey and Bucks County in Pennsylvania.

Students must provide documentation of their Jewish heritage and/or affiliation(s), a copy of their most recent FAFSA form, a transcript of their most recent college grades, and a current tuition bill or announcement of tuition charges.

The Blum Trust was established in 1952 under the will of Dr. Joseph M. Blum, a prominent Trenton physician. To apply and for information, go to [BlumTrust.com](http://BlumTrust.com).



## SUMMER TEEN ENRICHMENT

July 20-24 ♦ July 26-August 7

Rising 7th-11th graders ♦ Boarding & Day

**One- & two-week classes: STEM, Music, Humanities**

[Solebury.org/summerprograms](http://Solebury.org/summerprograms) ♦ [summerprograms@solebury.org](mailto:summerprograms@solebury.org)

Ask about our "Rising 8th Grader" special



# Solebury School

6832 Phillips Mill Road, New Hope, PA 18938 ♦ 215.862.5261

## Camp Guide MARKETPLACE

### Summer enrichment program appeals to wide range of interests

Interested in Robotics? Music? Debate? At Solebury School Summer Teen Enrichment you can explore all that and more in our one- and two-week summer sessions! There are a wide range of offerings for rising 7th-12th graders.

One-week classes allow for you to dive deep into a topic of interest.

In two-week classes, you have the option to sign up for three different classes based on your interests along with students from around the world! Small class sizes offer personal attention and support. For those interested in photo or rock climbing, take a two-week immersion class.

Boarding students extend their day with fun and interesting activities both on and off campus.

Check out all that the Solebury School is offering this summer at [solebury.org/summerprograms](http://solebury.org/summerprograms). Ask about our "Rising 8th Grader" special offer at [summerprograms@solebury.org](mailto:summerprograms@solebury.org).

## Obituaries Philip Savage

Philip Savage, 93, of Middletown died Feb. 9, 2020. Born in Newark, he was a former resident of North Arlington.

Mr. Savage was the proprietor of Savage Hardware in Kearny before retiring.

He was a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology.

He served in the U.S. Navy and the Korean War. He was an avid golfer.

Predeceased by his wife, Charlotte, he is survived by two sons, Paul (Debra) and Scott (Marlyn); his daughter, Susan (Kevin) Gallagher; nine grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 11 with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing.

## Laurence Gould

Laurence Gould, 65, of Bordentown died Feb. 15, 2020.

Mr. Gould is survived by his children, Zachary Gould and Alexandra Gould.

Private services were held with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing.

## Susan Loew

Susan Loew, 84, of Skillman died Feb. 15, 2020. Born in Freiberg, Germany, she was a Princeton resident for many years and a resident of Skillman for the past 10 years.

Mrs. Loew was a freelance writer at Princeton University Press.

She was a congregant of The Jewish Center of Princeton.

She is survived by her husband of over 60 years, Harold; her children, Michael Loew and Karen Brew; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 18 with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing.

## Howard Berger

Howard M. Berger, 77, of Boca Raton, Fla., died Jan. 17, 2020. Born in Jersey City, he was a former resident of Yardley, Pa.

Mr. Berger was the proprietor of Building Maintenance Systems in Hamilton Township before retiring.

He was a graduate of Rutgers University and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned an M.B.A.

He was involved in and led many organizations in the Trenton area throughout his life. He was the former president of Har Sinai Temple, Trenton Rotary Club, George Washington Council of Boy Scouts, the Better Business Bureau, Children's Home Society, and Greenwood House. He was a longtime member of Greenacres Country Club.

He continued to stay active well into his retirement, serving on the board of his condominium

association in Boca Raton. He enjoyed golf, tennis, pickleball, sailing, and motor boating.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janice Jay Berger; his son, Phillip; his daughter, Alison Saifer; a brother, Bruce; a sister, Karen Levin; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 19 with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing. Memorial contributions may be made to Greenwood House, Ewing, or American Heart Association.

## Richard Pearl

Richard A. Pearl, 82, of Hamilton Township died Feb. 20, 2020. He was born and raised in Brooklyn.

Mr. Pearl worked in the New York City public school system in a career spanning over 30 years, beginning as a teacher and ultimately retiring as a principal of James Reynolds Junior High School in Brooklyn.

He was a graduate of Brooklyn College and also earned two master's degrees.

As a child and adult, he spent 63 summers at Trail's End Camp in Beach Lake, Pa., beginning in 1947. He started as a camper and later became

an administrator before his retirement in 2012. The Richard Pearl Pavilion was named after him at the camp.

His family members were longtime members of Temple Beth El of Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn. He later became a member of Congregation Beth Chaim in Princeton Junction.

He enjoyed woodworking, photography, traveling, and spending time with his family.

Predeceased by his first wife, Beth, he is survived by his wife, Arlene; three stepchildren, Michael (Nicole) Mulry, Hillary Mulry, and Rebekah (Joel) Schiller; a brother, Martin; and six grandchildren.

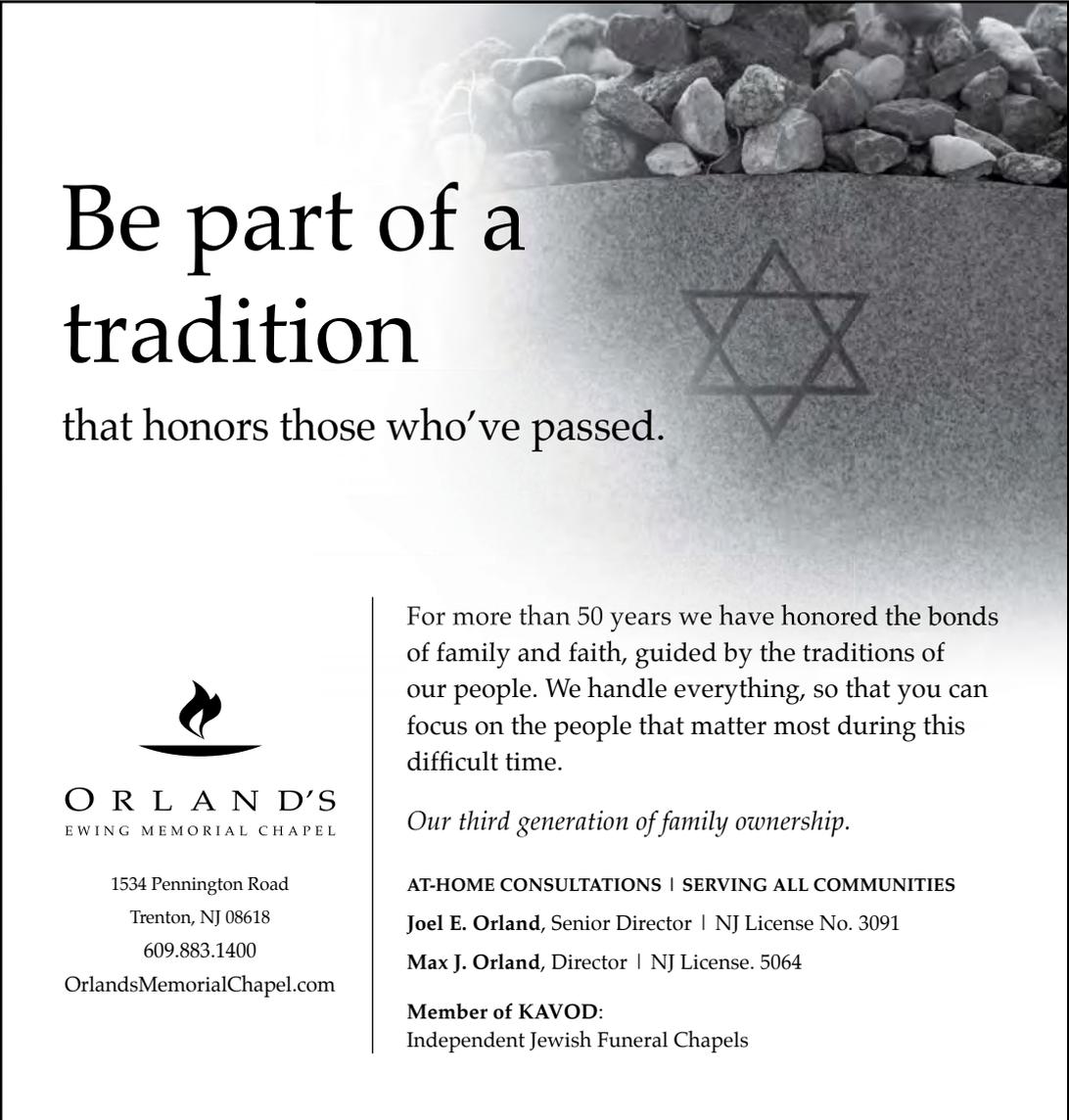
Services were held Feb. 24 with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing. Memorial contributions may be made to Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research.

## Max Gross

Max Sidney Gross, 91, of Newtown, Pa., died Feb. 21, 2020. Born in Trenton, he lived in the Washington, D.C., area and Ewing Township before moving to Newtown in 2005.

Following his high school graduation at 17,

*Continued on next page*



Be part of a  
tradition  
that honors those who've passed.



ORLAND'S  
EWING MEMORIAL CHAPEL

1534 Pennington Road  
Trenton, NJ 08618  
609.883.1400

OrlandsMemorialChapel.com

For more than 50 years we have honored the bonds of family and faith, guided by the traditions of our people. We handle everything, so that you can focus on the people that matter most during this difficult time.

*Our third generation of family ownership.*

AT-HOME CONSULTATIONS | SERVING ALL COMMUNITIES

Joel E. Orland, Senior Director | NJ License No. 3091

Max J. Orland, Director | NJ License. 5064

Member of KAVOD:

Independent Jewish Funeral Chapels

Mr. Gross was employed by his family's hat business, Reed Millinery, traveling continually throughout the southern United States into his 20s. In the late 1950s, he became a stockbroker, joining Bache & Co. and rising to the level of first vice president, where he oversaw more than 500 branch locations in the U.S., was periodically quoted in The Wall Street Journal, and at times had seats on the Midwest and Canadian stock exchanges. He continued in his career well into his 70s.

He was a member of the board of managers of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, and the Metropolitan Board of Trade, and served on other committees throughout the years. He joined the Bucks County Youth Aid Panel, volunteered with SCORE for many years, participated on the finance committee of Pennswood Village in Newtown (where he resided), and frequently gave seminars on financial planning.

He married his first wife, Cora Lee Kaufmann, in 1955 and had four children, Caren, James, Gary, and Steven, who survive him. His second wife of over 40 years, Josephine (Jo) Tuemmler, predeceased him last year, and he is also survived by her children, Jan, Sue, and Dave; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 23 with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing. Memorial contributions may be made to The Hildred E. and I. Irving Gross Fund of the Jewish Braille Institute International or Alzheimer's Association.

### Peter Heisen

Peter Roger Heisen, 76, of Washington Crossing, Pa., died Feb. 23, 2020. Born in Neptune, he was raised in Imlaystown, a farming community, where he and his sister Perijane attended a one-room schoolhouse. He raised his family in Yardley, Pa., before moving to Washington Crossing.

An infectious disease specialist, Dr. Heisen took over his father's medical practice based at Mercer Hospital in Trenton. For the last 12 years, he worked in the education software business with his son.

He attended Peddie School in Hightstown and Swarthmore College, where he majored in math-

ematics. He attended Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce (Salsburg); his son, Christopher; his daughter, Jessica; daughter-in-law, Laura Diamond; and two grandsons.

Arrangements were handled by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing. A celebration of his life will be held in the spring.

### Shirley Rubman

Shirley Weiss Rubman, 91, of Princeton died Feb. 26, 2020. She resided in the Bronx for most of her life.

Predeceased by her husband, Carl, she is survived by her daughter, Beverly (Mark Goldfus) of Lawrenceville; her son, David (Gail Grossman) of Evanston, Ill.; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Private services were held Feb. 28 with arrangements by Orland's Ewing Memorial Chapel, Ewing. Memorial contributions may be made to HIAS or the PKD Foundation.

### Suzanne Hyman

Suzanne Hyman (Katz), 82, of Princeton died Feb. 20, 2020. She was born in New York City and moved to the New Brunswick area in 1966.

Mrs. Hyman was the founding managing editor of *Raritan Review*, a literary and cultural magazine based at Rutgers University. She served as managing editor for nearly two decades in the 1980s and 1990s, working with Professor Richard Poirier, the magazine's editor, to publish some of the literary world's most renowned essayists, poets, and critics.

She was a graduate of Douglass College at Rutgers, and held a master's degree from Rutgers in English literature.

She played the piano throughout her lifetime.

She is survived by her husband, Prof. Ronald T. Hyman; her son, Jonathan C. Hyman (Gail Rubinfeld) of Bethel, N.Y.; two daughters, Elana (Juha) Hollo of Cheltenham, Pa., and Rachel Hyman of Brooklyn; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Feb. 23 with arrangements by Crabiell Parkwest Funeral Chapel, New Brunswick. Memorial contributions may be made to Southern Poverty Law Center or PEN America.

# Gallery



**TREES' BIRTHDAY** — Children in the Tot Funday Sunday program at Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, celebrated Tu b'Shvat by creating edible art projects illustrating the four seasons.



PHOTO BY KORBMAN AND COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHY

**TEEN PHILANTHROPY** — The Jewish Community Youth Foundation (JCYF) — a project of Jewish Family & Children's Service of Greater Mercer County and funded by the Ricky and Andrew J. Shechtel Philanthropic Fund and Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks — celebrated its 17th year of giving at its annual check-presentation ceremony on Feb. 9 at Robbinsville High School. More than \$46,000 was distributed to 20 non-profit organizations by 163 teens representing 11 synagogues and 36 area schools. Students Jason Licht and Ariella Livstone are shown with Cynthia Groomes Katz, center, supervising attorney at HIAS.



**GROWING GARDENS** — The JCC Princeton Mercer Bucks and Hadassah held a Ladies Night Out on Feb. 6 at the JCC in East Windsor. The women created individual succulent gardens.

# Agenda

## Kosher Café

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County offers a Kosher Café lunch program Tuesdays-Fridays at 11:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville. RSVP to Debi Henritzky at debih@jfcsonline.org or 609-987-8100, ext. 236.

## Holidays and grief

"Handling the Holidays: Programs for those Grieving the Loss of a Family Member," a series of sessions facilitated by Chaplain Beverly Rubman, will continue with "Passover: The Empty Chair," Wednesday, March 18, 10:30-11:45 a.m. at Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County, Princeton.

Each session costs \$10; light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to 609-987-8100, ext. 139, or beverlyr@jfcsonline.org.

## Haggadah exploration

"The Haggadah in Depth" will be presented by Rabbi Ben Adler at Adath Israel Congregation, Lawrenceville, on Thursday, March 12, 7:30-9 p.m. Call 609-896-4977 or go to adathisraelnj.org.

## Jewish concert

Sharim v' Sharot: People of Song, and their conductor, Dr. Elayne Robinson Grossman, will be featured in "Sing Hallelujah, Broadway: A Jewish Legacy" on Tuesday, March 17, at Philadelphia's Kimmel Center.

Over 160 singers, including stars from the Yiddish-language Broadway production of "Fiddler on the Roof," will be conducted by music director Cantor David Tilman.

Go to Kimmelcenter.org for ticket details and group sales. Save 15 percent with code SVS15.

## Model seder

Beth El Seniors and Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County will hold their annual model seder led by Rabbi Matt Nover at Beth El Synagogue, East Windsor, on Thursday, March 19, at noon.

Cost is \$10. RSVP by March 13 to Beth Englezos at bethe@jfcsonline.org or the temple at 609-443-4454.

## Torah's structure

Nosh & Knowledge: The Structure of Torah will be offered on Thursday, March 19, at 12:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Chaim, West Windsor.

A kosher lunch will be provided by Greenwood

House, which is cosponsoring the program along with Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County; there is a requested \$5 donation per person. Participants may also bring their own kosher-style lunch. RSVP by March 13 to Beth Englezos at bethe@jfcsonline.org.

## The multifaceted King David

"The Many Faces of King David" will be presented at The Jewish Center in Princeton on Thursday, March 19, at noon.

Instructors are Beverly Rubman, a Jewish chaplain and adult education teacher; and Roslyn Vanderbilt, a retired reading specialist and former children's librarian at The Jewish Center.

Contact info@thejewishcenter.org or 609-921-0100, ext. 200.

## Rabbinic martyrs

Great Minds Salon: "Collective Sin and Vicarious Atonement in Rabbinic Martyrology" will be presented by Ra'an Boustan on Thursday, March 19, at 8 p.m. at The Jewish Center, Princeton.

Boustan is a research scholar in the Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University and author of "From Martyr to Mystic" (2005).

Dessert will be served. There is a \$5 fee for non-members. Contact info@thejewishcenter.org or 609-921-0100, ext. 200.

## Refugee Shabbat

Refugee Shabbat: Celebrating Transitions will be held on Friday, March 20, at 6:30 p.m. at The Jewish Center, Princeton, with services followed by a potluck dinner in which refugee families will participate.

Bring a vegetarian dish; a hot entrée, salad, and beverages will be provided by the synagogue. Contact info@thejewishcenter.org or 609-921-0100, ext. 200.

## Family trees

"Where Do You Plant Your Tree?" will be presented by Susan Kobrin, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of North Jersey, at a meeting of the Mercer County Genealogy Society on Sunday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. at Beth El Synagogue of East Windsor.

Kobrin will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of creating and maintaining digital and paper family trees as well as the features of commercial family tree programs.

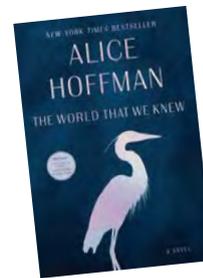
Call 609-443-4454 or go to bethel.net.

## Springtime Shabbat

Spring Into Shabbat will be held at Beth El Synagogue, East Windsor, on Friday, March 27, at 6 p.m. Participants may choose between family or regular Friday night services, followed by a congregational Shabbat dinner.

The cost is \$14 adults/\$10 children before March 16; \$16/\$12 up to March 19. RSVP to admin@bethel.net or 609-443-4454.

## Book discussion



609-896-4977 or go to adathisraelnj.org.

Beverly Rubman will lead a discussion on Alice Hoffman's "The World That We Knew" on Sunday, March 29, 3-5 p.m.

Guest speaker is Maud Dahme, who will discuss her experiences as a hidden child during World War II. Light refreshments will be served. Call

## Passover stories

Passover Storytime, sponsored by Beth El Synagogue in East Windsor, will be held Thursday, April 2, at 4:45 p.m. at the Robbinsville Branch of the Mercer County Library. Pre-register beginning March 19 at mcl.org.

## Composer review

A lecture-in-song by Fred Miller on "Composers of Bucks County: Hammerstein and Sondheim" will be presented on Sunday, April 26, at 2 p.m. at Adath Shalom Congregation, Lawrenceville.

RSVP to 609-896-4977 or adathisraelnj.org.

## Business Briefs

**Princeton Symphony Orchestra (PSO)** will continue its 2019-20 chamber season with a performance of "Duo Borealis," a chamber concert with soprano Mary Bonhag and double bassist Evan Premo, founders of Scrag Mountain Music in Marshfield, Vt., on Sunday, April 5, at 4:30 p.m. at Wolfensohn Hall, located on the campus of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

For information on the PSO's 2019-2020 chamber concerts, go to the PSO calendar or chamber series links under "Tickets & Events" at princetonsymphony.org.



Mary Bonhag and Evan Premo of Scrag Mountain Music



## THIS IS FEDERATION

THESE PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED *Because of you!*



Federation feeds people in need locally and around the world by supporting Jewish Family & Children's Services and with JDC, the global Jewish humanitarian organization.

Federation connects children and teens to their Jewishness at school and summer camp with scholarships and subsidies.



*With your support,*



Federation supports JCYF, the Jewish youth philanthropy program for local teens in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades, in partnership with the Ricky and Andrew Shechtel Philanthropic Fund.

Federation addresses the issues of anti-Semitism and security and ensures the future of a connected, committed, global Jewish people with a strong Israel at its center.



*we can do even more!*



Federation provides free Jewish books to families each month through the PJ Library program, in partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Federation supports Jewish seniors and helps them engage in our community.



## DONATE TODAY!

[WWW.JEWISHPMB.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.JEWISHPMB.ORG/DONATE)



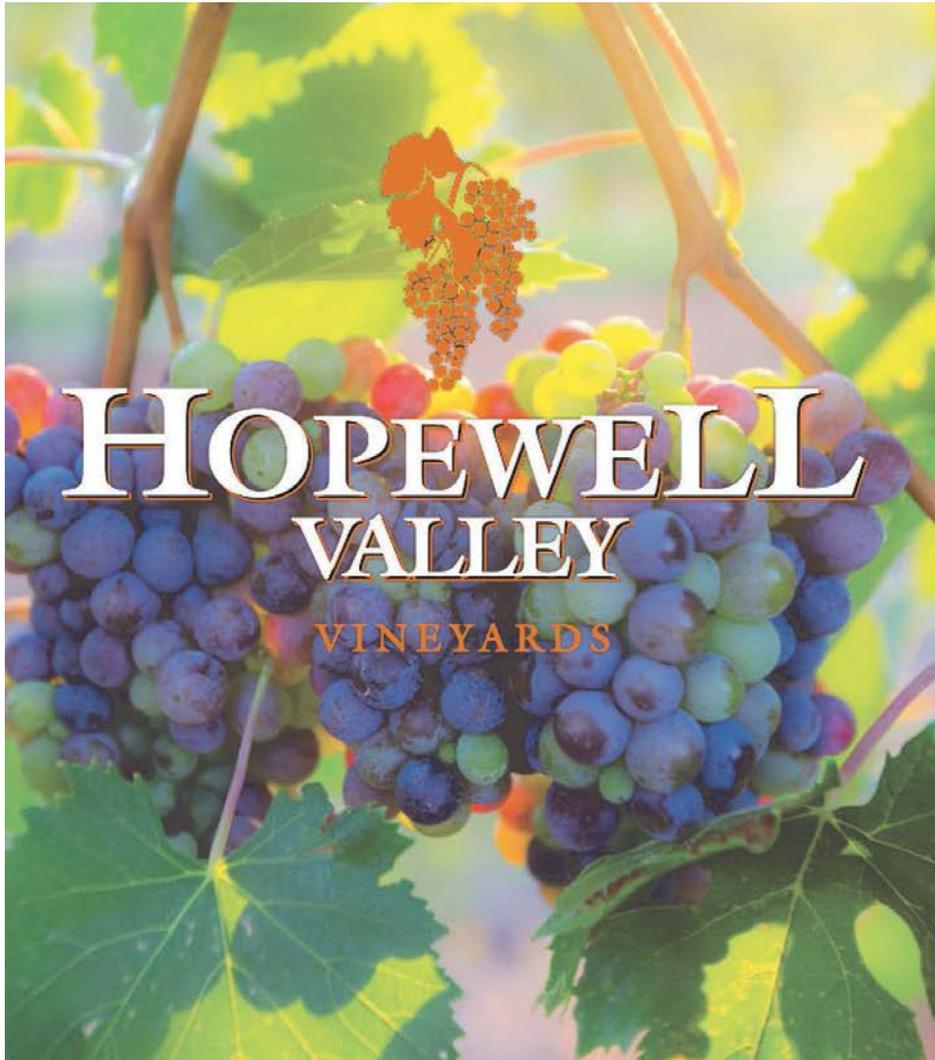
The Jewish Federation  
OF PRINCETON MERCER BUCKS

WWW.JEWISHPMB.ORG 609.219.0555

*The mission of the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks is to preserve, secure, and strengthen Jewish life and values in our community, the State of Israel, and throughout the world.*



## WP Spring Luncheon has Blossomed into ...



SAVE THE DATE

Spring  
Fling

HOSTED BY WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY  
OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF  
PRINCETON MERCER BUCKS

May 16, 2020

8:30 - 10:30 pm

\* DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED



The Jewish Federation  
OF PRINCETON MERCER BUCKS

Women's  
Philanthropy



Let's Stay In Touch

Have you moved recently, or changed your primary home address or email address?  
Please let us know! We want to be sure you are receiving Federation invitations to  
cultural and social opportunities as well as holiday greetings and more.



The mission of the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks is to preserve, secure, and strengthen  
Jewish life and values in our community, the State of Israel, and throughout the world.

## How a biblical mistranslation led to anti-Semitism

### Ki Tisa

*Exodus 30:11-34:35*

### Rabbi Joyce Newmark

Most of parashat Ki Tisa deals with the episode of the egel hazahav, the golden calf — the sin, its aftermath, and Moses' plea that God forgive His people. God agrees, and after Moses spends another 40-day period on Mount Sinai, he comes down with a second set of luchot, the tablets inscribed with the Ten Statements.

The parasha ends this way:

So Moses came down from Mount Sinai. And as Moses came down from the mountain bearing the two tablets of the Pact, Moses was not aware that the skin of his face was radiant, since he had spoken with Him. Aaron and all the Israelites saw that the skin of Moses' face was radiant; and they shrank from coming near him. But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the chieftains in the assembly returned to him, and Moses spoke to them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he instructed them concerning all that the LORD had imparted to him on Mount Si-

nai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face.

Clearly the time he had spent in the immediate presence of God had changed Moses, not just spiritually but physically — his face glowed with light.

One midrash explains that this happened when Moses asked to see God's face and God told him that what he wanted was impossible, but "I will put you in a cleft of the rock and shield you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take My hand away and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen." As God shielded Moses, God's hand touched Moses' face and transferred just the tiniest fraction of divine radiance to him.

Another explanation is found in the Yerushalmi Shekalim. As Moses sat on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights writing down the Torah as God dictated it, his quill would sometimes become clogged with ink. So Moses would wipe the quill in his hair to clean it. Over time this holy ink (which the rabbis call black fire) ran down Moses' face and caused it to glow with holy light.

But something curious happened to this passage in translation. The verb translated as "was radiant" — "karan" — appears no-

where else in the Tanach. However, the noun "keren" (same consonants, different vowels) is common. Keren means ray or beam, but also horn. As the Torah was translated from Hebrew into Greek (the Septuagint) and from Greek into Latin (the Vulgate), the text no longer said that Moses' face was radiant, but that it had horns.

If you have seen Michelangelo's statue of Moses (or a picture of it), you surely noticed that it portrays Moses with small horns above his forehead. And, of course, you can imagine how this image played out in medieval Europe, where the Church often demonized the Jews. In fact, I once heard someone explain quite seriously that the reason Jews never removed their hats was to hide their horns (and, obviously, their connection to Satan).

Fortunately, the Catholic Church has, for the past 55 years, taught that God has never abandoned His covenant with the Jews and that anti-Semitism is a sin. The Christian Bible no longer reports that Moses had horns. It's too bad that not everyone has gotten the message.

**Rabbi Joyce Newmark, a resident of River Vale, is a former religious leader of congregations in Leonia and Lancaster, Pa.**

## Our Towns

### Chabad to celebrate 41 years at Rutgers University

Chabad House Jewish Student Center at Rutgers University and its 10 Chabad Houses, all affiliated with Chabad of Central NJ, will celebrate their National Founders 41st Anniversary Dinner on Monday, March 16, at 6 p.m. at the Chabad House in New Brunswick.

More than 600 people are expected to attend the dinner, which will honor N.J. Attorney General Gurbir Grewal and Ed Mosberg, Holocaust survivor and real estate developer. Shai Abramson, chief cantor (ret.) of Israel Defense Forces, will perform.

Grewal will be honored for his role in combatting anti-Semitism in the state and for his leadership following the mass murders at a kosher grocery store in Jersey City on Dec. 10. Mosberg,



*Ed and the late Cecile Mosberg*

and his late wife Cecile, will be honored for their Holocaust edu-



*NJ Attorney General Gurbir Grewal*

cation efforts lasting several decades and spanning the globe.

The gala dinner marks the seventh year of operation of the Les Turchin Chabad House, a 90,000-square foot complex on College Avenue in New Brunswick which includes women's and men's dormitories, two synagogues, a kosher dining hall, gym, counseling center, and more.

Chabad House is available to serve the 7,000 Jewish students at Rutgers University, among the largest Jewish student populations at colleges in the U.S.

Dinner attendees will receive a commemorative "41st Anniversary Album" which covers the history of Rutgers Chabad, which began in 1978.

For reservations or to place a journal ad, call 732-296-1800 or email dinner@chabadnj.org.

# ExitRamp

## When our cleaning woman (finally) invited us to her home

**Merri Ukraincik**  
NJJN Contributing  
Writer



Close to Home

**W**e said good-bye to our cleaning woman on a frigid evening back in November.

She had been coming to us for more than 20 years, yet she never once invited us to her home. I didn't think about it often, but I suspected the reasons had nothing to do with the fact that we kept kosher and she did not. Rather, I chalked it up to that invisible divide between employers and employees, no matter their bond or the length of their relationship. Even the night we dropped by to see her before she left the country, it was we who had asked to come.

For months, I noticed her catching her breath. "I'm OK!" she insisted. Only later, when she found out her kidneys were failing, would she finally admit she was not.

She started dialysis in a whirlwind, quickly losing her strength, and her hands their cunning. We cried together over the phone as she told me she'd already bought a return ticket to her native Serbia, where she would continue her treatment. But she missed knitting, driving, and working in the meantime.

She could have retired there years ago. Yet even after her husband died, she remained in America, cleaning other people's homes and sending most of her earnings back to her family. I often felt ashamed that she saw the intimate details of our day-to-day existence reflected in our mess. She, however, loved her work and was proud of it.

"Good cleaning help is hard to find," many said when I told them she stopped coming to us. For a long time, our connection with her was about more than housekeeping anyway.

She had been with us through so much — the births of two of our sons, the passing of my grandmother and in-laws, a big move, and two decades of cleaning our refrigerator in preparation for Passover. After my surger-

ies, she tucked me in as if I were her child. And she gave each of our boys a bar mitzvah gift — a little gelt in a Serbian Orthodox Christmas card. To her, we shared one God. Little else mattered.

She read the story of our lives in our detritus like tea leaves. I, on the other hand, had none of the clues her home would have given me, speaking volumes in the way she decorated and the scents coming from her kitchen. I learned only what she told me, all of it pointing to an essential way of being: work hard, eat simply, love fiercely. I wanted to know more. She would shrug, saying that's all there was to tell.

When we first met, she had already lived in the U.S. for some time, having left the former Yugoslavia years before it deconstructed into a bloody civil war. She didn't care much for politics, and it was never a discussion, let alone a point of contention, that she and my Croatian husband hailed from opposing former Yugoslav republics or that their immigrant stories were unrecognizable from one another. She even called me, a born "Amerikanka," one of her own.

Though I lived in Zagreb in the early 1990s, I finally learned to prepare proper Balkan coffee when she taught me in my New Jersey kitchen. She cherished the fact that I baked challah and crocheted in a world where so much comes ready-made in plastic packaging. On the other hand, she admonished me for refusing to iron, and I her for never vacuuming beneath the bed.

Our circumstances changed when I stopped commuting to a full-time job in Manhattan and began freelancing. I was home to shoulder most of the cleaning and could no longer justify the expense of regular help. But my husband and I agreed. We would keep her on until she retired. We owed her that after all this time.

On the evening we went to say goodbye, we had a lump in our throats. Her house, set off a dimly lit road, was hard to find in the dark, though we soon realized we had passed it countless times on the way to Target. Touched to see us, she talked about her health and her plans to enjoy being near her

family. She was grateful for her years in the States. Still, she knew she could never afford to retire here.

I glanced around, hoping in vain to find the missing pieces of her story. Most of her belongings were on a lift already at sea. She smiled when I spotted the pretty coffee jar I once gave her, telling me that everything she owned was either from the people she cleaned for or a yard sale. Only the television was bought new, and she planned to leave it for the person taking over the lease.

With that, she shifted in her chair. We presented her with a gift, and she gave us her address — just her name and the city with a post office nearest her village. Then finally, after ages of waiting, she invited us to visit her should we ever find ourselves in Serbia. "Nothing would make me happier," she said, though the tears, hers and ours, would come as we stood to go.

In a final embrace, she told us how much she loved us. The proof? She said she ironed only for me, confessing that her assistant liked cleaning our house least of all.

And then, as if she'd been with us always, as if we'd continue to see her every other Thursday, we stepped out into the night.

We already missed her fiercely. ■

**Merri Ukraincik of Edison is a regular contributor to NJJN. Follow her at merriukraincik.com.**

### Professional Directory

**WE PAY CASH FOR**

Modern Art • Oil Paintings • Bronzes  
Silver • Porcelain • China  
Mens & Ladies watches  
Judaic Art and Silver  
Top Dollar for Any Kind of Jewelry  
& Chinese Art & Porcelain  
Antique furniture • Modern furniture

**A N S ANTIQUES**

We come to you • Free Appraisals  
**CALL US!**  
201-861-7770  
201-951-6224  
Email: aadsa726@yahoo.com  
Shommer Shabbas

### MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE

Call  
**1-800-KADDISH**  
Colel Chabad

### KADDISH

KADDISH & YAHRTZEITSERVICES

718 953-1000 Ext. 113

**SayKaddish.com**