

## In this issue...



Interfaith  
Roundtable

page 4



Geislingen  
to  
Ann Arbor

page 11



Looking  
for  
Rose

page 22

Washtenaw Jewish News  
c/o Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor  
2939 Birch Hollow Drive  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Permit No. 85

WASHTENAW

# JEWISH NEWS

October 2021

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5782

Volume XXI Number 2

FREE

## Name that Jewish tune

By Chuck Newman

*Editor's Note: In January, Chuck Newman began hosting a biweekly series of "Conversations," presented by the Jewish Cultural Arts and Education department of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The talk-show format of the Zoom presentations highlight Chuck's easygoing style and deep curiosity about science, politics, and connections between our local environment and the world. You can find this interview and other previous shows at <https://jccannarbor.org/event/conversations>*

If you have been on the University of Michigan's Central Campus at noon on Friday over the past few months, you may have enjoyed a selection of Jewish music emanating from the Baird Carillon at Burton Memorial Tower. For this treat, you can thank University of Michigan Robotics PhD Candidate Kevin Lieberman. A year and half ago he began taking lessons with the University of Michigan carillon studio. Over the semesters, he advanced to per-



Kevin Lieberman

forming regular midday recitals on the carillon, and he frequently includes Jewish music (such as the Shabbat song *Shalom Aleichem*) as part of the concerts.

To play the bells, carillonists like Kevin use loosely-closed fists to push down wooden batons, which are arranged like the keys of a piano keyboard. The lower-pitched, heavier bells may also be played from a pedal keyboard. No electricity is required for the functioning of this system despite the largest bell weighing 12 tons.

At noon on Sunday, October 24th, Kevin and I, in cooperation with the *Washtenaw Jewish News*, will hold an informal contest to see who can correctly identify the most songs he plays that day. Send your entries with the name of the selections to [Chuck@LBA80.com](mailto:Chuck@LBA80.com). Every entry will get the same prize, a free subscription to the *Washtenaw Jewish News*.

Many carillons can be found in churches, but not in synagogues. In 1953, the Central Conference of American Rabbis responded to an inquiry and advised against synagogues

building carillons because bells are so closely affiliated with worshiping in a church. Consequently, there is relatively little Jewish music arranged for carillon. With the support of a grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies' ROI Community initiative, Kevin has been producing his own carillon arrangements of Jewish music. He has played his own arrangement of Debbie Friedman's *Mi Shebeirach* throughout the pandemic, as well as arrangements of songs popularized by Jewish summer camps and pioneering Jewish musicians.

Kevin arranged the song "Tziltzulei Pa'amonim" ("Ringing Bells") by celebrated composer and musician Ahuva Ozeri. Haaretz called Ozeri "the Founding Mother of Israel's Mizrahi Music," and the song remains popular in Israel. While securing the rights to publish the arrangement, Kevin shared a video with the album's record label of him performing the arrangement on the carillon. The record label subsequently shared the video on their social media

*continued to page 19*

## Naomi Adler named CEO of Hadassah

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America (HWZOA), announces that Naomi Adler, a distinguished leader in the nonprofit and Jewish communal sectors, has been named the organization's new CEO. Adler is the niece of Ann Arborite and Temple Beth Emeth member Marianne Aaron and the daughter of Marianne's brother Sam Adler.

Adler will lead the country's largest Jewish women's organization, with nearly 300,000 members, donors, and supporters, and a professional staff of 200. She assumes her new role on September 1, succeeding Janice Weinman, who retired June 30.

A former prosecutor and a community advocate, Adler comes to Hadassah with extensive achievements, including six years as President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and 13 years leading two United Way organizations in New York.

Said Rhoda Smolow, President of Hadassah: "We are thrilled to welcome Naomi Adler as Hadassah's new CEO. A proven nonprofit leader with deep expertise in Jewish communal work and an impressive track record of community engagement, fundraising and advocacy, she is the ideal person to build on Ha-

dassah's past achievements, increase its global impact and take Hadassah into the next phase



of its growth."

Naomi Adler shared: "Hadassah's ability to assemble and engage a diverse membership is

second to none. Whether it's advancing Zionism, fighting antisemitism, fostering Jewish youth development, advocating for improved access to medical care or supporting the exceptional work done by Hadassah Medical Organization, Hadassah's accomplishments are more essential than ever. I am honored to have been chosen to partner with Hadassah's unique network of strong female leaders and other supporters to further the organization's critical work in the United States, Israel, and around the world."

Adler's most recent leadership position was as President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, which serves the sixth-largest Jewish population in the United States. In addition to raising significant funds on behalf of the community, she elevated Federation's reputation on both the national and international stage, created innovative local initiatives that improved the community's security, enhanced services for its most vulnerable, and expanded professional development opportunities for Jewish communal professionals.

Among Adler's accomplishments as President and CEO of two United Way organizations are expanding a 2-1-1 crisis call center,

initiating programs to effectively combat poverty, and leading the non-governmental disaster planning and recovery efforts in the wake of 9/11 and several natural disasters.

Adler has testified as an expert on charitable giving, antisemitism, and global public health in local and national legislative forums, including the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress. She was recognized by President Obama for her efforts during Hurricane Sandy and by FEMA for her service to the community during Hurricanes Irene and Lee.

Hailing from Rochester, New York, Adler graduated from Mount Holyoke College and SUNY Buffalo School of Law before returning to her hometown to work first in private practice and then as Assistant District Attorney for Monroe County.

Her reputation as a successful prosecutor in cases of violence against women and children, and later as a community advocate for families living in poverty, has earned Adler several honors.

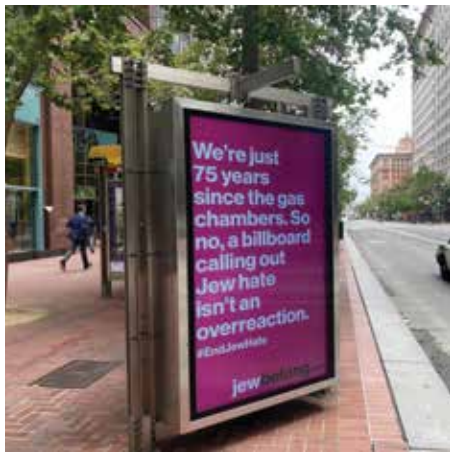
A proud mother of three college-aged sons, she is married to Rabbi Brian Beal, a congregational rabbi and a consultant for mission-driven organizations. ■

## A multi-city ad campaign hopes to fight antisemitism with eye-catching messages. Who is JewBelong for?

Eliyahu Kamisher, originally published in *J. The Jewish News of Northern California*, with additional material from the *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent*. Reprinted with permission from the Jata.

**D**ozens of hot-pink billboards and transit ads have appeared in major American cities beginning in July, referencing the Holocaust and antisemitism, with seven going up in Boston in early September.

"We're just 75 years since the gas chambers. So no, a billboard calling out Jew hate isn't an overreaction," reads one. "Being woke and antisemitic is like being a vegan who eats veal," reads another.



The ads are the brainchild of JewBelong, a New Jersey-based nonprofit whose stated mission is to "rebrand Judaism" with a hip, made-for-social-media bent. But now JewBelong is going through a rebrand of its own. Founded in 2017 primarily as a vehicle for increasing Jewish pride among what it deems "disengaged Jews," the organization has recently shifted its operations to focus specifically on combating antisemitism.

The \$450,000 campaign — which is being branded as "JewBelong or JewBeGone" — first made waves with a massive billboard in New York's Times Square in June. In addition to New York, the group has focused on San Francisco, Philadelphia, Washington D.C. and Miami, and has plans to expand into other markets.

JewBelong founders Stacy Stuart and Archie Gottesman are longtime marketers who made their names with irreverent and often left-leaning advertisements for Manhattan Mini Storage, a company owned by Gottesman's family. They started out focusing on low-barrier Judaism, like a Zoom Passover seder and online explainers on marriage and baby names.

But Gottesman told the *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent* that the pair felt it was inappropriate to continue JewBelong's business as usual — providing rituals,

*continued to page 25*

## As the chill sets in, be gentle

**I**t was harder than usual to put together this issue of WJN. With Yom Kippur falling on the day I would normally have collated all the material for this October issue, I have started off the new year behind schedule. Everyone around me is exhibiting pandemic fatigue in personally unique ways:



Clare Kinberg

forgetfulness, irritability, unpredictability; but also responding to the stresses with extraordinary kindness, thoughtfulness, and creativity. My wife and I and a friend in Oregon are reading a book (Tamar Frankiel, *The Gift of Kabbalah*), out-loud over Zoom, in short sessions twice a week. I'm certain we would not be doing this if it weren't for adjustments do to COVID-19. Would Kevin Lieberman have started playing the carillon, or would our congregations have held so many wonderful services outdoors?

In an orientation for Temple Beth Emeth religious school teachers last night, Ann Arbor educator Rachel Goldberg reminded

us all to be gentle with ourselves and others as we navigate through these fall months. Amen to that.

This issue of WJN has an abundance of local stories about people from many corners of Washtenaw. There are stories about decades long residents like Ypsi Township activist Alex Thomas and State Street business owner Ed Davidson and also stories about the Washtenaw connected Naomi Adler, Ari Axelrod, and Josh Mitnick. Hannah Davis interviews local young adults about their views on Zionism, and second generation child of a Holocaust survivor Michael Simon closes the circle of remembrance with residents of the German town where his mother was enslaved. On another note, Beth Dwoskin reviews "Ann Arbor's oldest and most successful jazz ensemble," Lunar Octet.

As I do every month, I invite Washtenaw community members to submit their news and opinions to the paper. This month I am introducing a more specific request for a new monthly feature, "Two Jews, Three Opinions." Each month I will introduce a topic (you can send me suggestions) and I will solicit opposing, or perhaps just different, takes on the issue. Each of you is invited to submit, or solicit your opinionated friends, to send something in. The topic for November is the JewBelong billboard campaign against antisemitism, described in the article, "A multi-city ad campaign hopes to fight antisemitism with eye-catching messages. Who is JewBelong for?" which begins below and continues on page 25. I have a tangle of reactions to this billboard campaign, and would love to receive your thoughts. ■

## JEWISH NEWS

2935 Birch Hollow Drive  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108  
(734) 395-4438  
[www.washtenawjewishnews.org](http://www.washtenawjewishnews.org)  
[CKinbergeditor@washtenawjewishnews.org](mailto:CKinbergeditor@washtenawjewishnews.org)

Editor and Publisher  
Clare Kinberg

Advertising Manager  
Gordon White

Design and Layout  
Dennis Platte

Staff Writers  
Hannah Davis, Beth Dwoskin, Lonnie Sussman

### Contributing Writers

Emily Eisbruch, Rich Fein, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Hilary Greenberg, Eliyahu Kamisher, Eva Kerner, Shira Klein, Diana Kraft, Lucinda Kurtz, Jillian Luciow, Leslie McGraw, Chuck Newman, Rosemarie Schneider, Margaret Schreiber, Tilly Shemer, Marty Shichtman, Michael Simon, Rachel Wall

©2021 by the Washtenaw Jewish News.  
All rights reserved. No portion of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 4,500  
Subscriptions:  
Free inside Washtenaw County  
\$18 first-class subscription

ANN ARBOR ♦ WESTSIDE

ART HOP!

Sat Oct 16 - Sun Oct 17  
10am-5pm 12pm-5pm

Explore Ann Arbor's quirkiest art fair!

Visit more than 60 artists in Open Studios, on porches, in garages and yards on the leafy Westside. Wide variety of art and craft media, gifts & cards.

Free parking!

See web & social media for maps, artist info, etc.

WESTSIDEARTHOP.COM

## In this issue...

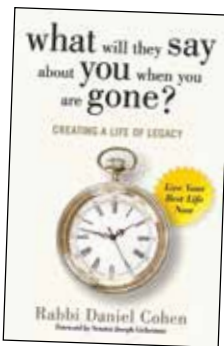
Advertisers .....	27
Calendar .....	10
Kosher Cuisine .....	21
Doykayt Washtenaw .....	7
Looking for Rose .....	22
Obituaries .....	25
Rabbis' Corner .....	24
Simchas and Sorrows .....	27



## Greater Ann Arbor exceeds goals for the LIFE & LEGACY® program

Margaret Schreiber, special to the WJN

**W**ith over 176 participants, Ann Arbor's inaugural year in the LIFE & LEGACY program has been a tremendous success. Each of these members of the Greater Ann Arbor Jewish community has pledged to support the local Jewish organizations they care about most not with a



**"Rabbi Daniel Cohen author of What Will They Say About You When You Are Gone? Creating a Life of Legacy."**

gift now, but with one that will be realized after their lifetime. The LIFE & LEGACY program is a partnership between the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF), and 11 Jewish organizations in Washtenaw County.

When it comes to legacy giving, HGF is a leader in North America, working with communities like ours to help develop a culture of philanthropy that will sustain the next generation of vibrant Jewish life here in Southeast Michigan. The program is designed to get community members thinking more long-term about their tzedakah (charitable giving). As an incentive to secure these vital commitments, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and HGF work together to provide participating organizations up to \$7,000 in grants for securing a certain number of commitments.

Unlike typical fundraising campaigns, LIFE & LEGACY commitments are not meant to meet present-day needs; these gifts are for the future. Donors know that even though they personally won't be alive to see how their money will be used to benefit the community, the loved ones and community members they leave behind will be able to take on whatever challenges arise.

After-lifetime giving is an equitable giving option for members of the Jewish community with a range of financial giving capacity. One need not be wealthy to participate! Ann Arborites can make a significant difference to the Jewish organizations they love without worrying how their gift may affect their livelihood during their lifetimes.

While each of the 11 participating organizations had its own goals for the first year of the program, one of the most compelling aspects of

LIFE & LEGACY is that it is collaborative rather than competitive. The LIFE & LEGACY initiative encourages community members to make a legacy commitment to as many of the 11 organizations as they like, and donors responded enthusiastically to this opportunity. In fact, all 11 organizations met their goals for the first year, with 7 meeting their "stretch" goals and two — Jewish Family Services and Temple Beth Emeth — meeting their goals for the second year before it even began! This resounding success means that all organizations earned at least \$5,000 in grant money from Federation and HGF, to be used however the organizations most need it.

As these legacy gifts are realized, they are put into an endowment fund, with the goal of the Jewish community achieving financial security in the future. Since the program started locally just over a year ago, \$60,000 has already begun growing in endowment funds, and an estimated \$7.3 million is expected in future gifts.

"From the beginning, Ann Arbor has energetically embraced this initiative and never doubted the community could meet the goals of the program," observed Tammy Dollin, advisor from the HGF. "For me, to watch the teams form and come together to bring legacy giving into their organizational culture, is very gratifying."

To honor the generosity of all LIFE & LEGACY donors in the community, a virtual celebration will be held on Sunday, October 24, at 7:30 p.m. The evening will feature Rabbi Daniel Cohen, author of *What Will They Say About You When You Are Gone? Creating a Life of Legacy*. Rabbi Cohen has been in the rabbinate for over 30 years and currently serves as senior Rabbi at Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford, Connecticut, which is the largest modern orthodox synagogue in New England. Having engaged in hundreds of end-of-life conversations and delivered thousands of eulogies, Rabbi Cohen has a unique perspective on the essence of a meaningful life. Invitations to this event were emailed in September to those donors who made a legacy commitment to any of the 11 participating organizations.

There is still time to be part of the Virtual Celebration. If you have not yet had an opportunity to make a legacy gift, please contact LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator Margaret Schreiber at [margaret@jewishannarbor.org](mailto:margaret@jewishannarbor.org) or call 734-773-3538. The 11 organizations taking part in the program include: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Beth Israel Congregation, Chabad House of Ann Arbor, EMU Center for Jewish Studies, Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, Jewish Cultural Society, Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Temple Beth Emeth, and University of Michigan Hillel. ■

## FOR THE HOME YOU LOVE TO LIVE IN.



Use our highly effective expertise to optimize your goal:

- Strategic, targeted marketing
- Highly effective negotiator
- Customized staging
- Compelling photography
- 21 years of leading sales performance

Call Alex at (734) 418-2400 for a dedicated commitment to the success of your next move.



**ALEX MILSHTEYN**, CRS, GRI, ABR  
Associate Broker

**(734) 417-3560**

[alex@alexmi.com](mailto:alex@alexmi.com) • [www.alexmi.com](http://www.alexmi.com)  
2723 S. State St., Ste 130, Ann Arbor

**ALEX MILSHTEYN**  
Real Estate Associates

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
WEIR MANUEL

An exclusive affiliate of  
Coldwell Banker Global Luxury



### #1 IN YOUR TAX BRACKET

TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, OUR OFFICE OFFERS HASSLE-FREE, NO-CONTACT METHODS TO MINIMIZE FACE-TO-FACE APPOINTMENTS. IF IT'S TIME YOU GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE, WE CAN HELP.



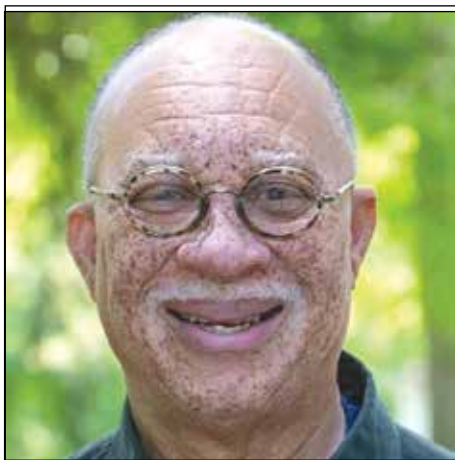
BOOK AN APPOINTMENT ONLINE  
**(734) 999-1040**  
WOLVERINETAX.COM  
213 WEST LIBERTY STREET  
SUITE 110



## The Interfaith Roundtable and the leadership of Dwight Wilson

By Lucinda Kurtz

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, founder of the Jewish Renewal Movement, spoke passionately about the need for “Deep Ecumenism.” He taught that each religion contributes a unique organ and “vitamin” to the whole of humanity and is essential to the health and vitality of the body of the planet. His expansive vision inspires me to contribute our Jewish “megavitamin” to the larger community by serving on the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Roundtable of Washtenaw County, representing Pardes Hannah — the Jewish Renewal Community of Ann Arbor.



Dwight Wilson

The IRT is an alliance of people from across faith traditions who come together to address the deep and divisive issues and concerns we face in our world today. Founded in 1994, it continues to be the primary organization in the community focused on providing spaces for deeper dialogues on current spiritual/religious issues and relationship-building for those both inside and outside traditional faith traditions. Especially during this time of the pandemic, IRT has been present to add care, facilitate a sense of connection in a time of isolation, and provide space to make meaning and reflect on the spiritual values most important to us.

In the six years of my involvement with the IRT, I have found the community members open minded and open hearted, committed to respecting, honoring and understanding all people and groups whose religious outlooks are different from their own. We have discussed knotty issues such as same-sex marriage, LGBTQ issues, and the Middle East conflict, where community members have strongly held beliefs that may seem irreconcilable. Through a commitment to facilitated conversation and dialogue, we have been able to create consensus statements that reflect the underlying common beliefs that bring together widely divergent perspectives.

Two important programs of IRT are Faces of Faith and Places of Faith. Through visiting different sacred spaces and hearing the stories of people from other faith traditions and spiritual perspectives, we are able to promote better understanding. For example, Rabbi Rob Dobrusin, founding member of IRT and long-time Board Member, invited the community to Beth Israel on a number of occasions to see

the Jewish ritual space and hear congregants discuss what it means for them to be Jewish. The community has also visited Hindu and Buddhist, Christian and Bahai, Muslim and Mormon houses of worship, among others.

It is the unique vision and passion of Dwight Wilson, the current Chair of the IRT, that has continued placing the IRT into a position of leadership in our community. Dwight, a member of the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, is uniquely prepared to bring together people of disparate perspectives and unite the community through thoughtful discussion and action. Born in Middleton, Ohio, the oldest of 6 children, he grew up in a strict yet loving Baptist environment. He raised his younger siblings and became a minister before he turned 18, the first African-American to graduate from the Bangor Theological Seminary. During his training, he studied with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and gained a deep appreciation of the Jewish tradition.

At 21 years of age, he was hired by the nearby Quaker community to be their minister and thus started his commitment to the moral, ethical, and spiritual values of the Friends community, all while receiving his B.A. from Bowdoin College, graduating magna cum laude, and a Masters of Divinity from Bangor T.S. By 27, he was elected the General Secretary of the Friends General Conference, the oldest grouping of Quakers in the United States and Canada.

After completing his own education, he focused his attention on helping low-income children receive a good education and increasing the number of teachers of color in schools as President of the Independent Teaching Project. This focus brought him back to the Midwest where he took on the position of Headmaster at the Friends School in Detroit. It is in Detroit where he met his beloved wife, Diane, a member of Beth Israel Congregation, who shares his commitment to teaching and nurturing children in need of support.

Dwight Wilson brings this remarkable background and commitment to the leadership of the IRT where his very being exudes open-hearted love and respect for differences. In fact, one of his volunteer activities is to hold new-born infants in Mott's Children's Hospital Pediatric Cardiac Ward, radiating to these delicate new beings the love that is in his heart.

I feel deeply grateful to serve on the IRT Board of Directors and have the opportunity to learn from Dwight how to negotiate challenging conversations among people holding different perspectives. His sensitivity and nuanced understanding help me see new possibilities for dialogue in the larger community. It is my hope and the vision of the IRT that we can move beyond just tolerance of other religious and spiritual perspectives to a place where we genuinely value what others contribute to our lives. ■

## Jewish@edu: What we'll keep

By Tilly Shemer, reprinted with permission of the Detroit Jewish Week

This past year, I took the time to “Marie Kondo” various parts of our home — drawers, closets, our entire basement. Utilizing Kondo’s renowned practice, we put it all on the floor and decided what

selves approaching Fall 2021 with the same creativity, laying it all out — programming during the pandemic and pre-pandemic — and deciding which model really works that will drive us forward, or if we could possibly



we truly needed, what brought us joy, what could bring more joy to someone else, and what was ready to be tossed for good. For those of you who have done this before, you know how challenging it can be to have to let go or to reimagine how to make all the pieces fit.

So, too, did our Hillel have to let go of so many things and reimagine how to make our offerings fit into more limited spaces and restrictions due to COVID. Like many other Hillels, all our programming and services had to be laid out and decisions had to be made about what was essential, what we could make fit, what we could adapt and what we would simply need to let go of.

This exercise invited tremendous creativity around how we ran our programs, often leading to surprising results. For example, we adjusted to limited gathering sizes by running the same program multiple times, allowing us to welcome as many people as we could. What we discovered was by capping the numbers and replicating the program, we actually created a more intimate environment that was more conducive to fostering relationships and encouraging group conversation.

We also got creative about space. Rather than hosting one large Shabbat meal in our Hillel space, we supported dozens of meals every week in students’ homes to make the experience more accessible and safer. As a result, Shabbat and holiday meal participation increased last year rather than decreased because students could bring this Jewish practice into their homes, among friends, and fit Shabbat more seamlessly into their lives.

Last year’s restrictions made indoor High Holiday services impossible for our Hillel. As a result, we got creative, even bold, and brought shofar blowing out to public locations around campus. Bringing this Jewish ritual into the public was a moment of pride for so many students, and a safe, accessible way to experience the holidays.

As we look to this year, we are not rushing to put everything from our pre-pandemic time back in place. Rather, we find our-

experiment further with a new hybrid approach.

So while we are so excited to return to offering in-person Shabbat dinners in tents outside of Hillel, we will continue to support meals in students’ homes and smaller gatherings around campus, catered by Hillel or cooked by our students themselves. This is a particularly perfect fit for our upperclassmen students who are in their own homes and benefit long term from gaining experience and confidence hosting Shabbat for their peers.

While this year we will return to multiple, in-person services (Reform, Conservative, Orthodox), we will keep the outdoor shofar blowing around campus to make the High Holidays more accessible and flexible to fit into our students’ busy class schedules.

The other adaptations from last year that we plan to keep moving forward include utilizing Zoom to increase access to speakers directly from Israel and around the country rather than waiting for speaker tours to bring experts to Ann Arbor. Our new online platform powered by OneTable empowers students to host their own programs, design content for themselves and invite their peers. We will offer cooking classes online so that students can join with their roommates and use their own kitchens. And we will be inviting local food trucks to our Hillel parking lot to bring Ann Arbor directly to our students.

As an organization that positions itself as the primary Jewish community builder on campus, this past year’s limitations were challenging. However, the disruption of COVID encouraged us to lean even further into innovation and experimentation, allowing us to reimagine how our Hillel builds community. We know that we’ll be keeping not only these new approaches but also the spirit of innovation that helped us remain successful all year. ■

Tilly Shemer is the executive director of University of Michigan Hillel.

---

# Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival returns

Shira Klein, special to the WJN

Fall is here and with fall comes the 34th annual Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival under the leadership of Noemi Herzig, the Jewish Cultural Arts and Education Director of the Ann Arbor JCC. The book festival committee has worked since May to select authors that will be featured this year. As in years past, the Ann Arbor JCC joined the National Jewish Book Council, which connects Jewish authors with Jewish book festivals. Beginning November 21 and running thru December 14, the JCC of Ann Arbor will host 24 authors talking about 20 books, mostly online via Zoom. Most events are free and no registration will be necessary. Visit [book.jccannarbor.org](http://book.jccannarbor.org) for individual events and zoom links. Featured books can be purchased from Literati Bookstore and online through [bookshop.org](http://bookshop.org), a separate organization.

Opening our festival on Sunday, November 21, is Corey Rosen, author of *Your Story Well Told: Creative Strategies to Develop and Perform Stories That Wow an Audience*. He is well known as the host of The Moth Story Slam series in the Bay Area. Corey will be an entertaining opening night followed by more serious matters and controversial subjects as the festival progresses.

Presentations continue with Ami Ayalon, author of *Friendly Fire: How Israel Became its Own Worst Enemy and its Hope for the Future*. Ami

Ayalon has an extremely knowledge-based vitae that makes him a credible presence for this subject. Heather Cabot will follow with her book *The New Chardonnay*, informing her audience of the presence of cannabis in mainstream living.

Two well-known novelists will showcase their latest works: Naomi Ragen with *An Observant Wife: A Novel* and Pam Jenoff with *The Women with the Blue Star*. The Sponsor Event, for those who support the book festival, will be December 5th. Plans are still in the works but it is sure to be a memorable event.

Local authors Ruth Behar and Jeffrey Veidlinger will be featured as well, perhaps in an in-person forum. Behar's *Letters from Cuba* is geared toward young adults. Veidlinger's *In the Midst of Civilized Europe: The Pogroms of 1918–1921 and the Onset of the Holocaust* is historical in context. He is a professor of history and Judaic studies at the University of Michigan.

On December 7 in the afternoon, parents of young children will want to listen to Einat Nathan, author of *My Everything: The Parent I Want to Be, The Children I Hope to Raise*. That evening will be a fun-filled sweet cooking event featuring the four Australian women who wrote *Now for Something Sweet — Monday Morning Cooking Club*.

New fiction writer Rachel Beanland will introduce her novel *Florence Adler Swims Forever*.

Beanland's novel has been noted in *Hadassah Magazine* as well as in *USA Today*. Author Ian Kerner is sure to draw an audience with his book *So Tell Me About the Last Time You Had Sex: Laying Bare and Learning to Repair Our Lives*, scheduled for the evening of December 9.

The following week the festival continues with Daniel Sketch, author of *Can We Talk About Israel?: A Guide for the Curious, Confused, and Conflicted*. James McAuley, a European affairs columnist for the Washington Post, will join us with a presentation of his book, *The House of Fragile Things: Jewish Art Collectors and the Fall of France*.

The timing seems appropriate in these tumultuous times to hear from Abbe Greenberg and Maggie Sarachek with their book, *The Anxiety Sisters' Guide: How You Can Become More Hopeful, Connected and Happy*. The next two authors focus on the Holocaust in their moving books, one fiction and one nonfiction.

Heather Dune Macadem's book, *999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz* tells the story of 999 young, unmarried women who were tricked into boarding a train that became the first official transport to Auschwitz. Jonathan Dunsky brings us the sixth in his series of Adam Livery mysteries, *The Auschwitz Detective*.

On Wednesday December 15 we are treated

to hearing from a past woman CIA and FBI agent, and a Nobel Prize winner! Tracy Walder takes us on her journey in *The Unexpected Spy: From CIA to the FBI, My Secret Life Taking Down Some of the World's Most Notorious Terrorists*. That evening Robert Lefkowitz will have us chuckling and in awe of his journey from cardiologist to legendary scientist and winner of the Nobel Prize. He will present his book, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Stockholm: The Adrenaline-Fueled Adventures of an Accidental Scientist*.

Our last day, December 16 will start in the afternoon with Louie Kemp, author of *Dylan & Me: 50 Years of Adventures*. Not only will he share Bob Dylan stories, but he is also part of the creation of the Louis Kemp Seafood Company that helped create the market for imitation King Crab. That evening Ira Rosen will close our book festival with the story of the show *60 Minutes* with his book *Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes*.

Support for the festival comes from the Fred and Ned Shure Endowment. Individual sponsors and donors are welcome. The full schedule of author events can be found at [book.jccannarbor.org](http://book.jccannarbor.org). Author bios, book titles and descriptions, how to become a festival sponsor, and other information is included. For additional questions, Noemi Herzig can be reached via email at [noemiherzig@jccannarbor.org](mailto:noemiherzig@jccannarbor.org). ■

---

## TBE events in October

Events and services are both in-person and virtual. Please see [www.templebeth-hemeth.org](http://www.templebeth-hemeth.org) for full details and links.

**Families with Young Children Tot Shabbat**  
Fridays at 5:45 p.m.

**Shabbat Service**  
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday Shabbat service**  
Saturdays at 10 a.m.

**Daily morning blessings**  
Daily at 9:15 a.m.  
Join Rabbi Whinston each morning via Zoom for a short morning blessing.

**Daily afternoon blessings**  
Mondays through Thursdays at 3 p.m.  
Join Cantor Hayut each afternoon via Zoom for a short afternoon service.

**Adult B'nai-mitzvah classes**  
Mondays at 6 p.m.  
Join Cantor Regina Hayut for an hour for either an afternoon session or an evening session. To join the class, or for more information, contact Cantor Hayut.

**Women's Torah study**  
Mondays at 7:30 p.m.  
Join Cantor Hayut in an in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion. This year, the group will focus on exploring passages that have informed rituals of modern Jewish life.

**Twenty-five-minute mindfulness with Jewish spiritual director Linda Greene**  
Tuesdays at 8:30 a.m.  
Zoom room opens at 8:15 a.m. for optional check-in. Blessing and intention setting 8:30–8:35 a.m. Meditate 8:35–9 a.m. Start your day centered and connected.

**Talmud Tuesdays with Rabbi Alter**  
Tuesdays at 11 a.m. or 8 p.m.  
Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Alter to discover the Talmud, the formative collection of stories and discussions that defined the post-Temple Judaism that continues today! Together, explore the foundations of our contemporary Jewish ethics, beliefs, and practices, as well as some tremendous tales about our ancient rabbis!

**Weekly Mahj**  
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

**Meditation with Claire Weiner**  
Wednesdays at 5 p.m.  
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session

**Jewish Prayer: Finding Our Way into the History, Meaning, and Spirituality of our Worship Service**  
Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.  
Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days.

**Biblical Book Club with Cantor Hayut**  
Thursdays at 11 a.m.  
Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors. For more information or

questions, please contact Cantor Hayut.

**Back Door Food Pantry**  
Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

**Weekly Lunch and Learn**  
Fridays at noon  
Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Sessions are open to the entire community. Feel free to bring your lunch.

**Shabbat morning Torah study**  
Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.  
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston.

**Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose**  
Tuesday, October 5 or Thursday, October 7 at Noon  
Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Cantor Emerita Annie Rose in an exploration of spirituality through discussions of four fascinating books throughout the year. Contact Annie Rose at [cantorannie@gmail.com](mailto:cantorannie@gmail.com) to join and for more details. ■

---

## Beth Israel October events

Register online on the Beth Israel website ([www.bethisrael-aa.org](http://www.bethisrael-aa.org))

**Living Room Lectures: Criminal Justice Reform in Ann Arbor, Presented by Eli Savit**  
Sunday, October 10, 1 p.m.  
America incarcerates more people per capita than any country on the face of the planet — and communities of color are disproportionately likely to be affected. Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit ran for office to build a fairer and more equitable justice system. He'll be discussing the reforms his office has already put into place, what's on the horizon, and how criminal-justice reform locally fits in the broader national movement. Living Room Lectures is a partnership of Beth

Israel Congregation and the Ann Arbor JCC.

**Gender in Jewish Text Study**  
Sunday, October 17, 2 p.m.  
BIC welcomes you to join this text study, led by Rabbi Ariana Katz of Keshet, which will explore selections from the Torah and Rabbinic literature that push us to think differently about the presence and power of gender diversity in Jewish communities and history.

**Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin**  
Mondays at 4 p.m.  
Rabbi Dobrusin facilitates a Talmud class online via Zoom on Monday afternoons from 3:30–4:30. While we will read the Hebrew/Aramaic text, translations are available and all

discussions will be in English. All are welcome to join regardless of the level of your familiarity with Hebrew.

**Theology Book Club – Online**  
Wednesdays at 8 p.m.  
Beth Israel Congregation's Theology Book Club welcomes you to join them to read together and discuss books on Jewish thought and beliefs. The books are in English. Contact Paul Shifrin at (248) 514-7276 for more information.

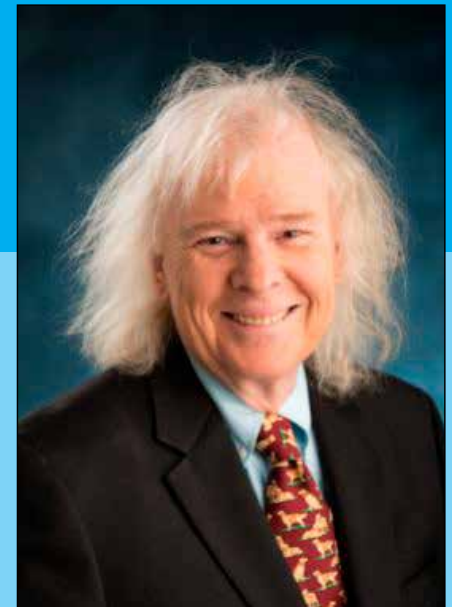
**In Person and Online Services**  
Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes and events. Services are being held in person and virtually. Below is a list of the links

to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is now live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links will also be available on the Beth Israel homepage ([www.bethisrael-aa.org](http://www.bethisrael-aa.org)). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at [office@bethisrael-aa.org](mailto:office@bethisrael-aa.org).

**Evening Minyan. – virtual only**  
Sunday–Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
**Friday Evening Services – In person and virtual**  
Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6 p.m.  
**Shabbat Morning Services – In person and virtual.** Saturdays at 9:30 a. m. ■



# THE PASSPORT AS HOME: COMFORT IN ROOTLESSNESS, a new book by Andrei Markovits



**BOOK LAUNCH**  
hosted by the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 @ 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

A free Zoom presentation with Andrei Markovits and moderator David Karen professor in the Department of Sociology at Bryn Mawr College as they discuss Markovits's new book *The Passport as Home: Comfort in Rootlessness*

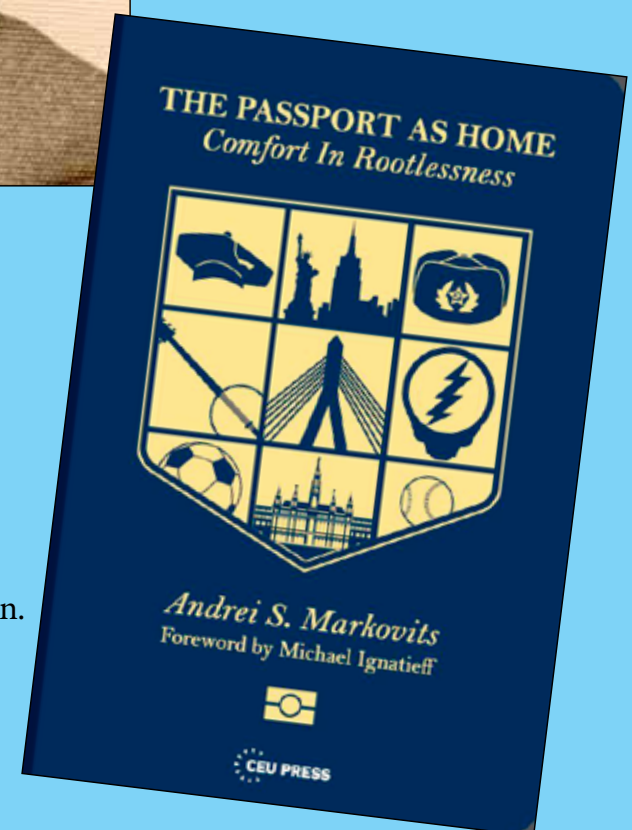
## From the Foreword by Michael Ignatieff:

"[The book's] subtitle — 'comfort in rootlessness' — is a challenge to an entire tradition. Here is a Jew, born in Timișoara, after the Holocaust which claimed so many members of his family, who emigrated first to Vienna, then to the United States and who does not look back in anger, nostalgia or longing for his lost roots. On the contrary, rootlessness, he says, was a 'source of joy not a source of anguish.'"

This is the story of an illustrious Romanian-born, Hungarian-speaking, Vienna-schooled, Columbia educated and Harvard-formed middle-class Jewish professor of politics and other subjects. Markovits revels in a rootlessness that offers him comfort, succor, and the inspiration for his life's work. As we follow his quest to find a home, we encounter his engagement with the important political, social and cultural developments of five decades on two continents. Above all, the book analyzes the travails of emigration the author experienced twice, moving from Romania to Vienna and then from Vienna to New York.

"This evocative memoir takes us from boyhood in a multicultural neighborhood in Communist Timișoara and adolescence in Vienna to the tumult of '1968' at Columbia and thence to the magical margins of Harvard and finally the leafy streets of Ann Arbor, with many more transatlantic crossings and serendipitous chance encounters in between. A comparativist political sociologist unique in his attunement to cultural dynamics both high and low, Andrei Markovits lays unabashed claim to the identity of 'rootless cosmopolitan.' The book pays moving tribute to remarkable mentors, and captures with special sensitivity the distinctive perspectives of those extraordinary interlinked cohorts of intellectuals hailing from Central Europe who were either survivors themselves or had lost — as Markovits has — entire branches of family trees to the maws of Auschwitz. Ultimately most powerful, however, is Markovits' emphatic, infectious joyous argument for the values of open-heartedness, empathy, curiosity, and compassion."

Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, Graduate Center, City University of New York



## Parents reporting teachers for talking about racism and equity

An anonymous teacher, special to the WJN

It's not about the masks. I mean, it is about the masks but it's about something larger.

Clarkston is a city in Oakland County, maybe best known as the home of the DTE Energy (Pine Knob) Music Theater. At only 0.44 square miles, it's not the largest city in the area. The 2010 census reports that it is 97.7% white. The school district has seven elementary schools, a middle school, a junior high, and a high school. It stretches beyond the city of Clarkston into Springfield Township, White Lake Township, and Independent Township. Its diversity score on a scale of 0–10, with the higher the number being the more diverse population, is 0.25. By car, it's about an hour from Ann Arbor.

Recently a "Woke Incident Report" form was circulated by a group of concerned parents from this school district that's not very far from my home in Washtenaw County. The Google form asked parents to report teachers and classrooms where certain words were used or lessons were taught about racism and

equity. The report form stated that the objective of "CRT/DEI (critical race theory/diversity, equity, and inclusion) curriculum [is] to segregate or divide students into labeled subgroups in an effort to weaken the student body in order to better control them."

The Google form then listed things for community members to look for and to report, including:

**Pronouns** that "exploit personal boundaries ... more than 2 genders, [that] eliminate trust of parents and Christian values ..."

**Signs of equity** (programs/curriculum that were eliminated to "balance funding")

**Social justice curriculum materials** (including those discussing racism or stating that white people are the dominant group)

**Extremist/Anti-American ideology & activist group propaganda** (examples of such groups are Black Lives Matter, Gay Pride, Antifa, Islamic Extremists, White Supremacy)

**Cultural awareness materials**

**Teaching of unconscious bias** (example unsupported judgment)

**Grooming students "with the intent of converting them into Gestapo Agents ... any grooming ... that is used to inflict physical, mental, emotional or academic harm ..."**

**Separation of trust from parents & family/faith values** (examples include teaching students to question "parents, education, knowledge, intent, authority, etc.")

These reportable "offenses" made this writer question whether this was satire (it is not) or if the world had turned upside down (don't think so). This group literally wanted people to report teachers for saying these things in class.

And yes, you read that penultimate statement correctly — they used the word "Gestapo." Do they mean that concerned parents must be on the lookout for students being encouraged to report on other students as the Gestapo did ... when they are themselves are asking people to report on teachers?

In their Facebook group, at least one parent offered a reward to anyone who got a teacher fired. The bidding started at \$100 but

quickly increased to \$150. The same group posted arguments against the mask mandate too, of course, encouraging students to go into class without masks. In other words, encouraging them to question the authorities that say masks must be worn ("separation of trust" above).

This group of parents are not a one-off. A similar group launched in Northeast Ohio, constructing a website called "protect Ohio children" that is "Putting daylight on the darkness of Critical Race Theory (CRT), Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE), and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)."

It's not about the masks. It's stopping new ideas, keeping kids "close," restricting free ideas, preventing honest teaching, forestalling the desire to try something new. It's about forbidding the teaching of sex education, gender identity, race theory, social emotional learning. It's about prohibiting honest discussions about who we are as students and teachers, as people, as a country.

It's not about the masks. It never was. ■

## Now is the time for serious climate action

Rich Fein, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Ann Arbor Chapter

The shockingly extreme weather conditions this summer should not have surprised anyone: wildfires forcing evacuations from Lake Tahoe, the deadly devastation of Hurricane Ida spanning from Louisiana to New York City, and deadly inland floods in Tennessee. Michigan had severe flooding in both June and July, and a

proved by the Senate and awaiting passage in the House are a start to CO2 reduction. But these are not enough to get us to a goal of 50% CO2 emissions reductions by 2030. On a local level, Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County have goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. These are promising local initiatives, but we absolutely must address

the problem both nationally and internationally.

Congress is now discussing an economy-wide, high-impact climate policy that has already been implemented or is being considered by several other nations, including Canada and the European Union: putting a price on carbon. This proposal is also referred to it as a carbon fee and dividend, meaning a fee will be applied on fossil fuels, paid by the oil, coal, and gas companies. The price for each ton of carbon emissions emitted from those fuels starts modestly, and gradually increases each year to encourage a shift to cleaner energy and energy efficiency. The expectation is that these costs will be passed on to utilities, businesses, and consumers, who will then look for more cost-effective sources. All living former Federal Reserve chairs and over 3,500 additional U.S. economists say that carbon pricing is "the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions at the scale and speed that is necessary."

While some may assume that carbon pricing is just a carbon tax, it's different; it

doesn't fit the usual form of a tax. That's because the fees collected for CO2 emissions go right back to households in equal shares in the form of dividend payments. Most consumers will rapidly recover the increased cost of fossil fuel energy.

There are several advantages to properly-crafted carbon pricing, especially when the fees are paid back as dividends:

**Highly Effective:** Economists at Resources for the Future, a non-partisan research organization, calculate that by 2030 this policy can reduce U.S. emissions by 50% below 2005 levels, and put the country on track to net zero by 2050.

**Economy-wide:** It touches all sectors of the economy to encourage a shift to cleaner energy and greater energy efficiency.

**Protects middle- and lower-income families:** Economic analyses consistently show that the great majority of these families will receive more back in dividend payments than their increase in energy costs.

**Deficit-neutral:** The program creates its own revenue stream and returns those funds back to households.

**Grows jobs and encourages innovation:** By charging fossil fuels for their impact on the climate, the demand for clean energy and efficiency will increase, incentivizing innovation and new jobs.

**Protects U.S. trade:** A border adjustment would be charged on high-carbon imports from nations that do not have an equivalent

price on carbon.

Plus, keep in mind that if the U.S. does not have a carbon fee, expect Canada and the E.U. to apply a border adjustment on goods imported from the U.S.

### What can you do to help fight climate change?

Right now, the Senate is considering the addition of carbon pricing to the Budget Reconciliation package (due to be wrapped up in early October). This provides a unique opportunity to pass climate legislation, because it requires only a simple majority in the Senate, rather than the 60 votes of a filibuster.

You can help! An easy, impactful step is to just call the offices of Senators Peters and Stabenow, along with Representative Dingell, to support a price on carbon as part of the budget reconciliation package. A simple phone call to their D.C. offices will connect you to an answering machine where you can leave a short message expressing your support. When so many of us do the same thing, it really does make a difference. Let's be heard! Now is the time to act to protect the climate, with bold, economically-effective action.

If you want to get even more involved, contact the Ann Arbor Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby. [annarbor@citizensclimatelobby.org](mailto:annarbor@citizensclimatelobby.org) ■



major power outage in August.

"These extremes are something we knew were coming," climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe recently told the Washington Post. "The suffering that is here and now is because we have not heeded the warnings sufficiently." Those warnings are that burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) create CO2. And as more CO2 accumulates, more heat is trapped in the atmosphere. The cumulative effect of these weather-related disasters sends a clear message: Time is up to just talk about climate change. We have to take serious action now.

We are seeing Congress begin to take action. Current infrastructure projects ap-

## THE DORFMAN CHAPEL

*Serving with Dignity, Sanctity, and Compassion*

Directors: Alan Dorfman & Jonathan Dorfman

*Providing professional and personal Funeral arrangements to the Jewish Community  
Now serving Ann Arbor and the surrounding communities*

**30440 W. 12 Mile Rd. • Farmington Hills  
248-406-6000 • [www.thedorfmanchapel.com](http://www.thedorfmanchapel.com)**



# Community

## Ari Axelrod, 27, artist turned Jewish activist

Coordinated and Edited by Ben Harris, originally for *The New York Jewish Week*, reprinted with permission from JTA.

Each year *The New York Jewish Week* celebrates 36 noteworthy New Yorkers, all 36 years old or younger, who make New York — and its many Jewish communities — better. Nominated by their peers and colleagues, these changemakers bring remarkable energy and new ideas to religion, philanthropy, the arts, Jewish learning, campus life, social action, inclusion and justice. For the full list of this year's "36ers" go to [jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/issue/36-under-36-2021/](http://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/issue/36-under-36-2021/).

Ari Axelrod grew up in Ann Arbor and was interviewed by the *New York Jewish Week*.

### What do you do?

I am an actor, director, singer and Jewish activist seeking to make Judaism in all its forms accessible to everyone. My solo show, "A Celebration of Jewish Broadway," has had three sold-out performances at the historic Birdland Jazz Club in New York, the most recent of which featured six-time Emmy and Tony nominee Tovah Feldshuh. In 2020, I received a Manhattan Association of Cabaret Award nomination for Best Male Vocalist and won the Broadway World Award for Best Live Zoom Performance. I am also the founder of Bridging the Gap, a multi-week course focusing on bridging the gap between musical theater performance and the intimate art of cabaret.

### How did the pandemic affect your work?

During the pandemic I shifted from full-time

performer to part-time performer and full-time Jewish activist. The theater industry

focus my attention elsewhere. I began to spend more time using social media to inform and



Dr. Adi Saleem Bharat

shutting down put my work as an actor, teacher, and director on hold and forced me to

educate others about the rise in antisemitic hate crimes and the importance of including

Judaism in your activism. On Yom Hashoah, I posted one fact every hour to raise awareness and make Holocaust education accessible for Jews and non-Jews alike. I would light the Shabbat candles every Friday night to create a space for Jews who were quarantining to celebrate Shabbat, as well as providing a space for non-Jews to experience the beauty of Jewish traditions.

### How does your Jewish identity influence your work?

The American musical is an art form that was created by and is sustained by Jews. Broadway was created by Jewish immigrants, or descendants of Jewish immigrants, who came from places where they didn't belong and came to a place where they felt they didn't belong. To continue that legacy and shed light on that legacy by educating others fuels everything I do as an actor, singer, director, and teacher. My Jewish identity can be summed up in one sentence: to give voice to the voiceless. By teaching, singing, and acting, I am stepping into the spotlight for all of the people who, for whatever reason, feel as though they cannot.

### In one sentence, what was your best experience as a Jewish New Yorker?

Going to synagogue after the Pittsburgh shooting and feeling a ruach and a sense of community I had never felt before. ■

## The Frankel Center continues series with the Jewish Muslim Research Network

Jillian Luciow, special to the WJN

As students and faculty return to the University of Michigan's campus this fall for a hybrid semester, the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is excited to continue offering virtual programming throughout the term.

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies began the academic year events schedule on September 30 by joining the Enoch Seminar for a virtual book review of Gabriele Boccaccini's *Paul's Three Paths to Salvation*. We will continue to host events related to the Institute theme year, "Second Temple Judaism: The Challenge of Diversity" in the coming months, including the upcoming conference, "Was Paul an Apocalyptic Jew? A Case in Jewish Diversity in the Second Temple Period" which will take place virtually October 25–27. Watch the Frankel Center website for details.

The Frankel Center has two additional virtual symposia in October. On October 19 at 4



Dr. Adi Saleem Bharat

p.m., guest speakers Efrat Yerday and Adane Zawdu will present on the subject "Ethiopian Jews: The Politics of Difference in Israeli Historiography." This will be followed on October 11 at 12–3 p.m. with a symposium that is a part of the Abrahamic Vernaculars Lecture Series, titled "Black Abrahams: Recent Research on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Black Communities."

The Frankel Center will also continue their relationship with the Jewish Muslim Research Network this year. The JMRN is an interdisciplinary and international network of scholars of Jewish and Muslim studies whose innovative programming has enriched our online event offerings in the last year. The research network was co-founded by Dr. Adi Saleem Bharat who is an LSA Collegiate Fellow in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan, where he will be an Assistant Professor of French and Franco-

phone Studies beginning in Fall 2022. Bharat is also affiliated with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, the Global Islamic Studies Center, and the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.

While completing his PhD at the University of Manchester, Bharat co-founded the Jewish Muslim Research Network (JMRN) with his friend and colleague Katharine Halls. Last year, JMRN formed a relationship with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies that allowed the two networks of Judaic scholars to create and benefit from a host of academic events. The Frankel Center and JMRN plan on working together again the coming academic year to continue facilitating important conversations around Jewish and Muslim studies. A list of topics, participants, and dates will be available soon. ■

## Rep Elissa Slotkin at EMU



Martin B. Shichtman, special to the WJN

The Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies presents "A Conversation With Representative Elissa Slotkin," Thursday, October 14, 7:30 p.m. in the Eastern Michigan Student Center Auditorium (face masks are required in all EMU buildings).

Representative Slotkin will discuss, among other things, growing up Jewish on a farm in Holly, Michigan; working as a CIA analyst who did three tours in Iraq alongside the United States military; and serving in the

U.S. House. Representative Slotkin is a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security where she chairs the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence as well as the House Committee on Armed Services. She will consider such matters as the resurgence of antisemitism in the twenty-first century (both in the U.S. and abroad), America's involvement in the Middle East, and the importance of Israel to U.S. foreign policy.

This presentation is the first on-campus Center for Jewish Studies event since the beginning of COVID-19. There will be social

distancing, and all audience members will be required to wear masks. There is no cost to attend this program.

You can also watch the conversation in real-time, online, but registration is required at: [tinyurl.com/RepSlotkin](https://tinyurl.com/RepSlotkin)

This presentation is co-sponsored by Hillel at Eastern Michigan University, The EMU College Democrats, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

If you have any questions, please contact Marty Shichtman at [jewish.studies@emich.edu](mailto:jewish.studies@emich.edu). ■



The Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies Presents

# A Conversation With **Rep. Elissa Slotkin**

Thurs., Oct. 14 — 7:30 p.m.

**In person** — Student Center Auditorium

**Live broadcast** — Register for Zoom at  
[tinyurl.com/RepSlotkin](https://tinyurl.com/RepSlotkin)



The Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies is delighted to host Rep. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan's 8th Congressional District for our first on-campus event since the start of the pandemic.

Rep. Slotkin will discuss, among other things, growing up Jewish on a farm in Holly, Mich.; working as a CIA analyst who did three tours in Iraq alongside the U.S. military; and serving in Congress. Rep. Slotkin is a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security—where she chairs the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence—and the House Committee on Armed Services. She will consider such matters as the resurgence of antisemitism in the twenty-first century, America's involvement in the Middle East, and the importance of Israel to U.S. foreign policy.

There will be social distancing and all audience members will be required to wear masks. There is no cost to attend this program.

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Marty Shichtman at [jewish.studies@emich.edu](mailto:jewish.studies@emich.edu)

Presentation  
Sponsors: **Hillel**  
at Eastern Michigan  
University, the EMU  
College Democrats, and the  
Harold Grinspoon Foundation





# Calendar

## October 2021

As our community eases into in-person events with sensitivity to changing pandemic safety, always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here and for prayer services.

### Friday 1

#### **Candle Lighting 6:58 p.m. Bereshit**

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Zoom. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Noon–1 p.m.

First Friday Shabbat: JCS. 6:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat: Pardes Hannah. 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday 2

#### **Havdallah 7:56 p.m.**

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50-9:50 a.m.

### Sunday 3

Bagel Brunch: AAOM. Explore the Jewish approach to gratitude and consider a daily gratitude practice for the month. 10 a.m.

Walk A Mile In My Shoes: JFS. <https://jfswc.akaraisin.com/ui/walkamile>. 9 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

### Monday 4

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin: BIC. 4 p.m. Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. 6 p.m.

Women’s Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at [cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org](mailto:cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org). 7 p.m.

### Tuesday 5

Twenty-five minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11a.m. and 8 p.m.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. Contact [cantorannie@gmail.com](mailto:cantorannie@gmail.com) for details and to join. 7:30 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday–for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

### Wednesday 6

#### **Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan**

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Online Minyan: Pardes Hannah. 9 a.m.

Yidish tish (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. About 45 minutes each of conversation and reading. Free and open to all those interested in Yiddish language, literature, and culture, no matter what level of proficiency. For more information, to get the link, and to make certain that we are meeting on a specific day, please e-mail Elliot H. Gertel at [egertel@umich.edu](mailto:egertel@umich.edu) at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

There is No “Them,” There is Only “Us”: A Community Conversation about Addiction and Mental Health in our Jewish Community Webinar: JFS. <https://jfsannarbor.org/event/there-is-no-them-there-is-only-us-a-community-conversation-about-addiction-and-mental-health-in-our-jewish-community-webinar/>. 7 p.m.

Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Circle: Pardes Hannah. 7 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

### Thursday 7

#### **Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan**

Jewish Prayer: Finding Our Way in the History, Meaning, and Spirituality of our Worship Service: TBE. Rabbi Whinston leads discussion. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Biblical Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose: TBE. Contact [cantorannie@gmail.com](mailto:cantorannie@gmail.com) for details and to join. 12:00 p.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4-7 p.m.

Women’s Rosh Chodesh Group (in person): AAOM. 8 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m..

### Friday 8

#### **Candle Lighting 6:46 p.m. Noach**

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Zoom. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Noon–1 p.m.

### Saturday 9

#### **Havdallah 7:44 p.m.**

Bivouac 50th anniversary. All day.

Shabbat service. Pardes Hannah. 10 a.m.

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50-9:50 a.m.

Second Saturday Shabbat Morning Service: AARC. Ta’Shma at 10 a.m. Service 10:30 a.m. to noon

### Sunday 10

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Living Room Lectures: Criminal Justice Reform in Ann Arbor, Presented by Eli Savit: BIC. 1 p.m. Passport as Home by Andrei Markovits Book Launch: JCC. On Zoom. 7 p.m.

### Monday 11

Black Abrahamics: Recent Research on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Black Communities: Abrahamic Vernaculars Lecture Series: Frankel Center. Dr. Richard Newton, Dr. Kayla Renée Wheeler, and Dr. Bryan Roby. Webinar Registration Link <https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/news-events/>. 12 noon.

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin: BIC. 4 p.m.

Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. 6 p.m.

Women’s Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at [cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org](mailto:cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org). 7 p.m.

### Tuesday 12

Twenty-five minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11a.m. and 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday–for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

### Wednesday 13

Lunch and Learn - Personalities of our Forefathers and Foremothers: AAOM. In this four part class we will explore the forefathers and mothers personalities and think about the implications in our own lives. 12:30 p.m.

Yidish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

### Thursday 14

Jewish Prayer: Finding Our Way in the History, Meaning, and Spirituality of our Worship Service: TBE. Rabbi Whinston leads discussion. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Biblical Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4-7 p.m.

Representative Elissa Slotkin speaks on campus and on Zoom. EMU. 7:30 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m..

### Friday 15

#### **Candle Lighting 6:35 p.m. Lech Lecha**

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Zoom. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Noon–1 p.m.

### Saturday 16

#### **Havdallah 7:33 p.m.**

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50-9:50 a.m.

### Sunday 17

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Gender in Jewish Text Study: BIC. 2 p.m.

### Monday 18

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin: BIC. 4 p.m.

Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. 6 p.m.

Women’s Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at [cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org](mailto:cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org). 7 p.m.

### Tuesday 19

Twenty-five minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11a.m. and 8 p.m.

Ethiopian Jews: The Politics of Difference in Israeli Historiography: Frankel Center. Efrat Yerdai and Adane Zawdu. Webinar Registration Link <https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/news-events/>. 4 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday–for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

### Wednesday 20

Lunch and Learn - Personalities of our Forefathers and Foremothers: AAOM. 12:30 p.m.

Yidish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Wellness Wednesday: JFS A short introduction to mindfulness background and practice. Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/202955068730155>. 4 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Theology Club: BIC 8 p.m.

### Thursday 21

Jewish Prayer: Finding Our Way in the History, Meaning, and Spirituality of our Worship Service: TBE. Rabbi Whinston leads discussion. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Biblical Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4-7 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m..

### Friday 22

#### **Candle Lighting 6:24 p.m. Vayeira**

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Zoom. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Noon–1 p.m.

Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. AARC. Hybrid, outside at the JCC and online. 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday 23

#### **Havdallah 7:23 p.m.**

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50-9:50 a.m.

### Sunday 24

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

Shema: Study and Practice: Pardes hannah. 11 a.m. Carillon Concert with Kevin Lieberman. Burton Memorial Tower UMich. Noon.

ORT Ann Arbor Annual Event: ORT. 2 p.m.

Life and Legacy Donor Celebration: Fed. 7:30 p.m.

### Monday 25

Was Paul an Apocalyptic Jew? A Case in Jewish Diversity in the Second Temple Period: Frankel Center. Conference Chair: Gabriele Boccacini; Lisa Bowens; Emma Wasserman; Loren Stuckenbruck. Register for this virtual event here. <https://tinyurl.com/p6kr29j5>. \*Participation is limited to members of academia. Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin: BIC. 4 p.m.

Adult B’nai Mitzvah Class: TBE. 6 p.m.

Women’s Torah Study: TBE. For questions, contact Cantor Regina Hayut at [cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org](mailto:cantorhayut@templebethemeth.org). 7 p.m.

Torah on Tap (in person and zoom options): AAOM. 8 p.m.

### Tuesday 26

Twenty-five minute Mindfulness with Jewish Spiritual Director Linda Greene: TBE and Pardes Hannah. 8:30 a.m.

Talmud Tuesdays w/ Rabbi Alter: TBE. 11a.m. and 8 p.m.

Tea and Torah on Tuesday–for Women: Chabad. 8 p.m.

### Wednesday 27

Lunch and Learn - Personalities of our Forefathers and Foremothers: AAOM. 12:30 p.m.

Yidish tish Conversation & Reading Group: Every Wednesday, see above. 2 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner: TBE. 5 p.m.

Theology Book Club: BIC 8 p.m.

### Thursday 28

Jewish Prayer: Finding Our Way in the History, Meaning, and Spirituality of our Worship Service: TBE. Rabbi Whinston leads discussion. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Biblical Book Club: TBE. Cantor Hayut leads discussion. 11 a.m.

Backdoor Food Pantry Open: TBE. 4-7 p.m.

Talmud–Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. 8 p.m..

### Friday 29

#### **Candle Lighting 6:14 p.m. Chayei Sarah**

Lunch and Learn: TBE. Zoom. Rabbi Whinston meets on Fridays for an informal discussion about religion. Noon–1 p.m.

### Saturday 30

#### **Havdallah 7:13 p.m.**

Torah Study: TBE. Zoom. Weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston 8:50-9:50 a.m.

### Sunday 31

Cooking with Rabba Yael: AAOM. All children are invited to join Rabba Yael to decorate pancakes to learn about the phases of the moon in honor of Rosh Chodesh, the new lunar month. 9:30 a.m.

Tanya–Jewish Mysticism: Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidim and discover the beauty and depth of Judaism. 11 a.m.

### Phone numbers, websites and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM): 1429 Hill Street, 248-408-3269, [annarborminyan.org](http://annarborminyan.org)

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734.445.1910, [aarecon.org](http://aarecon.org)

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC): 2000 Washtenaw Ave, 734-665-9897, [bethisrael-aa.org](http://bethisrael-aa.org)

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, [jewmich.com](http://jewmich.com)

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., [lsa.umich.edu/judaic/](http://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/)

Jewish Community Center (JCC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 745-971-0990, [jccannarbor.org](http://jccannarbor.org)

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-975-9872, [jewishculturalsociety.org](http://jewishculturalsociety.org)

Jewish Family Services (JFS): 2245 South State Street, 734-769-0209, [jfsannarbor.org](http://jfsannarbor.org)

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, [jewishannarbor.org](http://jewishannarbor.org)

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, [pardeshannah.org](http://pardeshannah.org)

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE): 2309 Packard Road, 734-665-4744, [templebethemeth.org](http://templebethemeth.org)

UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, [michiganhillel.org](http://michiganhillel.org)



## Closing the circle

By Michael S. Simon, Eva Kerner, and Rosemarie Schneider

**M**y name is Michael S. Simon, son of Hildegard L. Simon (z"l), a survivor of the Holocaust. Growing up as a second generation child of a survivor, I was left with many questions, and a sense of emptiness about the past. Throughout my life I struggled to better understand what actually happened to my mother, and after she died, I traveled with my son through Germany, Austria, and Hungary in order to walk in her footsteps. As a result of our travels, I became acquainted with Eva Kerner and Rosemarie Schneider, who are part of the Christian community in Geislingen/Steige, the town in Germany where my mother was enslaved. Here is our story of memory and reconciliation.

### Chicago, Illinois

One day, I woke up from the deep slumber of childhood dreams, to realize that as a young girl, my mother had spent almost one year in a slave labor camp. I had already grown up with rumblings of tumultuous events from the past. A stray word, strict admonitions not to waste a morsel of food, tears during old war movies, an old injury to a finger. At some point, as I moved into adolescence, I came to the realization that my mother's history was in fact serious. I understood that not only could she have starved to death, but if she had died as a young woman, there would be no mother, and no me.

As time passed, my mother spoke more openly. I knew that she was transported to Auschwitz from her family's home in Hungary, and that she was later sent to a town in Germany where she worked at a factory guarded by soldiers and ex-convicts. She didn't say much about Auschwitz, maybe in part because of the sheer horror of her experience, or because she was transported out after two months. I knew that Auschwitz was a place where almost two million people were gassed, and I came to realize how lucky she was.

I also knew that there was a younger brother who would have been 15 on May 24, 1944, when the family arrived in Auschwitz. I heard that her brother was already thin and weak from illness. He must also have been traumatized after being crammed for a month before deportation in the temporary ghetto created out of the synagogue courtyard, and the trip by cattle car. My mother also remembered her last breakfast with her grandmother, in the house in which the family lived for some 100 years. Her grandmother crying over orange marmalade, something which my mother could never stomach again. I knew that her brother did not survive Auschwitz, and her father, still heartbroken from the death of his wife years earlier, also perished, only days or weeks before the Russian liberation. Her grandmother and the rest, only memories.

Many questions lingered. I wondered how my mother was so lucky to end up in Germany. I knew nothing about the work camp, except that it was in a town called Geislingen, and that my mother worked in a factory making guns. On her first shift, starting in the middle of the night, she nearly lost her finger. Other questions lingered. Who are the people that still live in Geislingen? What do they do, and what if anything do they think about the past? The lapse of time, the remaining questions, the unknown, and the inability to reach out and touch what happened left a sense of emptiness.

### Geislingen/Steige

Our names are Rosemarie Schneider and Eva Kerner. We live in a small town in the southern part of Germany, in a beautiful valley known as Geislingen an der Steige, surrounded by the heights of the Swabian Alb and embedded in five beautiful valleys. We grew

We used to sit with our circle of friends and close confidants and pray for Israel and the Jews. We trust in Elohim, the G-d of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the G-d of Israel. One day, a friend visited a Jewish museum at the site of the former synagogue in Goeppingen-Jebenhausen, which is the next town over, and discovered



German Students Reading the Names of Geislingen Camp Inmates



Descendants Looking for their Mother's Names, May 2015

up in other parts of Germany, and have lived in Geislingen for 20 to 30 years. We also woke up from a deep slumber, oblivious to the atrocities of the Nazi period that occurred in our own town, possibly perpetrated by family, friends, and former neighbors. We were shocked to find out about prior events that occurred in the town factory, WMF, and at the site of the former concentration camp, down the road, about two kilometers away from the factory, now filled with old warehouses. WMF is and was, for so many generations of families, a lifeline providing work and sustenance. We wondered how this could have happened in the place that we lived, worked, and played with our children.

that there was actually a concentration camp in our town. We were all surprised and shocked. Geislingen did not have any sizable Jewish community before the war. WMF was established in 1853 and during both world wars was retrofitted to produce arms. Between the wars, the factory excelled in making quality kitchenware. After WWII was declared, the factory was again forced to make weapons, and from August 1944 to April 1945 employed more than 1,000 mostly female Hungarian and some Polish Jewish slave laborers who came to the camp from Auschwitz.

How did our town go from slumber and forgetting to creating memorials both at the factory and at the site of the camp, and the development of a Jewish-German youth exchange? How the people of the town dealt with past events is a long and complicated story. In the 1980s attempts were made to establish a memorial for the camp which was confronted with a number of barriers — including even death threats — from town members who were not ready to face the past. Finally, a small memorial to the inmates was created in the cemetery outside of town in 1984.

After our discovery of the existence of the camp in 2010, and many hours of prayer, the desire grew to organize a memorial march. This was to follow the route the victims took every day from their camp to WMF. We wanted to celebrate the liberation of the more than 800 Jewish women. During our preparations, we miraculously got to personally know survivors of the camp in Israel. We were happy to invite them to join us for the march in 2015. The desire of our hearts was to be the motto for the march, and has since become the name for our

initiative and other events that we organized: "remember — honor — reconcile" (Erinnern — Ehren — Versöhnen).

We were overwhelmed when on May 8, 2015, more than 600 people from Geislingen marched together with former inmates and their families as well as various dignitaries. The city hall was overcrowded. The senior mayor humbled himself in the name of the town before the survivors who represented all the other victims. The citizens of Geislingen joined in and welcomed and honored the survivors and their families with standing ovations. This was a most moving moment for all of us that we will never forget.

Since then, we have visited our Israeli friends many times, and have developed close friendships with survivors and families in Israel, Canada, and the U.S. At the instigation of WMF in 2015, showing a new attitude to that part of its history, there is now standing a plaque with the names of each of the 800 Jewish girls who provided slave labor at the factory including Hildegard Simon (Lustig), Michael's mother. In 2018 we dedicated a memorial at the site of the former concentration camp, again in the presence of several descendants of survivors. This serves as a perpetual reminder to the Geislingen public of what happened and a warning to guard against such atrocities in the future.

### Ann Arbor, Michigan

Michael: In January 2013, before the creation of the memorial in Geislingen, I traveled to Europe with my son Jeremy, under the auspices of the Oberlin College Winter Term Project. We were privileged to have support from the Jewish Welcome service in Vienna who directed us to Barbara Timmerman who has become a friend, leading us on tours of Jewish Vienna, helping with translations and searches for documents. We actually visited Geislingen and walked the path my mother took from the camp to the factory. One day, many years later, out of the blue, Barbara sent me a news clip about a memorial march in Geislingen.

After a short time, I became acquainted with Rosemarie and Eva and in May 2020 I was invited to speak at a planned memorial on the 75th anniversary of the liberation. Unfortunately, COVID put a halt to this venture. However, on January 27, 2021, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, I wrote a letter reaching out to the people of Geislingen from the son of a survivor which was published in Geislingen and Ann Arbor. Last May we convened a Zoom meeting including members of the organizing group, the factory, the Geislingen city administration, survivors, and families. Getting to know and developing connections with people from Geislingen has been both moving and healing. It has been for me a way to fill in the gaps of history, and to close the circle around my mother's experiences.

Dealing with sad history is difficult on its own, and even more so when it stands alone in a void. I feel fortunate that I was able to meet people from Geislingen, albeit some descendants of Nazis, others not, but good people, dedicated to getting to know me, and to embrace Jewish people as fellow human beings. What better way is there for us to move forward with our lives than to remember, honor, and reconcile together. ■



## Jewish Young Professionals kick-off the year

Hilary Greenberg, special to the WJN

**A**fter a year of COVID-19 putting a damper on everyone's plans, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Jewish Young Professionals (JYP) group has continued to find ways to build community among young adults in the Ann Arbor area and will do so as much as possible through the fall and beyond.

### New Leadership

This summer, JYP marked the excitement that comes with new beginnings with a community-wide celebration to launch the 2021–2022 JYP Board and get pumped up for the year ahead. Temple Beth Emeth graciously donated the space in their outdoor tent for the event to be held on August 15. Twenty-five community members joined together to install the new board and celebrate the accomplishments of the last year, even more worth celebrating this year than in the past. Attendees enjoyed appetizers, desserts, and a champagne toast, in addition to reflections from outgoing Board President Joelle Abramowitz, as she passed the torch to incoming President Sheira Cohen.

### Meet the JYP Board

Joelle Abramowitz, Immediate Past President, is a New Jersey native who made her way to Ann Arbor in 2016 via Washington, D.C., Brussels, Hong Kong, Chicago, and Seattle. She is a PhD economist and works at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Jo-



Community members toast to the new year at the Community Celebration on August 15.

elle is currently secretary of the executive board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor. Sheira Cohen, President, is a PhD student in classical archaeology at the University of Michigan. She is originally from New Zealand but has been in Ann Arbor for the past six years. Sydney Fine, Programming Co-Chair, is a Master of Public Health student studying Global Health Epidemiology and conducting research on respiratory viruses. Before moving to Michigan, Sydney lived in Seattle doing re-

search on HIV, teaching religious school, and singing in the Seattle Jewish chorale.

Evan Frenklak, Programming Co-Chair, moved to Michigan for an engineering job in 2019. He joined JYP that summer for a bike ride to Ypsi, and has enjoyed attending outdoors events ever since.

Ariella Hoffman-Peterson, Member-At-Large, is originally from Chicago and recently moved to Ann Arbor to start a PhD at University of

Michigan's School of Public Health. Since graduating from Northwestern University, she has lived in New York and Chicago, working in clinical research and biotech.

Robert Stern, Campaign Co-Chair, grew up in Oak Park, Michigan. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan. He is an entrepreneur and is the founder of KTR DENTAL, importing and distributing dental instruments from Israel, Switzerland, and Lichtenstein. Rob is also a founder and is the CEO of Fusion Digital Solutions, a metal 3D printing facility specializing in dental prosthetics and devices. Rob moved to Ann Arbor in 2015, taking the long route from Oak Park via New York. Rob has been on the Ann Arbor Federation board for the last year and on various Federation committees.

Joshua Weiss, Campaign Co-Chair, has a longstanding devotion to the Jewish communities of Metro Detroit and more recently to the Greater Ann Arbor area. He is an Imports Compliance Analyst for a global freight forwarding organization which has a reputable presence in the Metro Detroit/Ann Arbor areas. He recently completed his MBA concentrating in Supply Chain and Information Systems Management from Wayne State University.



## INCLUDE A GUEST LECTURER IN YOUR NEXT CLASS **FREE**

**POSEN LIBRARY TEACHING CLIPS** are 3–5 MINUTE VIDEO CLIPS  
available **FREE** to use in your lectures and classes

© Alter-Sholem Kacyzne



Zvi Gitelman



**View FREE  
short videos HERE:**

[bit.ly/PosenClipsWJ](https://bit.ly/PosenClipsWJ)



on  
**GENDER STUDIES**

**SECULAR JEWS**

**MODERN JEWISH HISTORY**

**RELIGIOUS & SPIRITUAL  
CULTURE**

**by esteemed Jewish Studies scholars**

[bit.ly/PosenParticipantWJ](https://bit.ly/PosenParticipantWJ)







### Region Comes Together

Just days after JYP installed its new Board, the group joined the Achdut Detroit Council for a spectacular region-wide event. The Council is made up of ten Jewish organizations throughout Metro Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Windsor. The staff and lay leaders of these organizations are committed to collaboration, with the goal of building the Jewish community and bringing it closer together across the region. The Achdut Detroit Council planned a creatively titled community Event on August 25 at which over 200 Jewish young adults gathered outside at a private residence in Bloomfield Township. Twenty-five Ann Arborites participated, aided by a carpool organized by JYP to make the event more accessible. This end-of-summer soiree featured passed appetizers, live music, s'mores, a photo booth, and more!

### Kicking off Fall Activities

An annual must-attend event from JYP is called "New-ish and Jewish." Every fall, JYP welcomes young professionals who are new to the Ann Arbor area to come meet one another, and to connect with individuals who have been around for a while. This year's gathering took place outdoors on an extremely pleasant evening, September 9, at Dominick's, a popular spot for graduate students and young adults alike. Nearly 30 new and established community members came out to get to know one another and to get 5782 started right.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting involved with JYP or have any questions, please contact Federation's Engagement & Community Relations Manager Hilary Greenberg at [hilary@jewishannarbor.org](mailto:hilary@jewishannarbor.org) or 734-585-5405. ■



Sydney Fine



Evan Frenklak



Sheira Cohen



Joshua Weiss



Joelle Abramowitz



Ariella Hoffman-Peterson



Robert Stern

## A READER'S GUIDE SURE TO STIMULATE LIVELY CONVERSATIONS

With texts and artwork from North Africa, Mexico, the US, and Europe, this READER'S GUIDE highlights notable and everyday awakenings of Jewish women of all ages, from the last two centuries.

Reflect on your own experiences as a woman or the women in your life as you engage with themes related to expanding gender roles, risk and discovery, and feelings of belonging or outsidership in relation to oneself, to other women, and to other Jews.

DOWNLOAD THIS **FREE**  
READER'S GUIDE HERE:  
[bit.ly/posenrgwj](https://bit.ly/posenrgwj)



Register for **FREE** here to enjoy all the  
reading selections in the  
WOMEN Reader's Guide:

[bit.ly/posenregwj](https://bit.ly/posenregwj)

## THE Posen Library OF JEWISH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION WOMEN

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A JEWISH WOMAN TODAY?



A Guide for Readers



## Holocaust Memorial Center announces new exhibit “The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto”

“The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Łódź Ghetto,” an exhibition at the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in cooperation with the Galicia Jewish Museum, Kraków, Poland, will be on display from July 29 through December 30.

In 1945, a Soviet doctor found a school notebook in the liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp. It was a diary written by Rywka Lipszyc, a teenager in the Łódź Ghetto, between October 1943 and April 1944. The contents were the testament of a Jewish girl who lost her siblings and parents, but never lost hope despite moments of doubt. More than 60 years after its discovery, the diary traveled to the United States, where it was translated from Polish, supplemented with commentaries and published in book form.

Rywka Lipszyc’s diary, a moving memoir of life and adolescence in the Łódź Ghetto, is the starting point for this exhibition. Selected excerpts of the diary are supplemented by expert commentary from historians, doctors, psychologists, and rabbis. These commentaries help to understand the context of the times and events Rywka refers to in her diary.

“Rywka’s Holocaust experience is a compelling story because it gives us insight into the individual experiences of so many others. Her daily struggles, interests, and fears allow us to get to know Rywka as a person, not a statistic. We are very fortunate to have



this exhibit on display at our museum,” said Holocaust Memorial Center Education Director Ruth Bergman.

The exhibition also includes unique historical artifacts and documents from museums in Poland, the United States, Israel, Germany, and Belgium. Historical objects from the Łódź Ghetto and Chełmno (Kulmhof) Death Camp are on loan from the Unit-

ed States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland. These provide a moving testament documenting the personal dimensions of the Holocaust.

“Objects like these are especially important as the years continue to pass,” said Derek Hastings, an associate professor of history at Oakland University. “They remind us once again that despite the massive scope of the Holocaust, the individual victims were anything but faceless.

Rywka’s deeply personal reflections — especially regarding her faith — are poignant and moving.”

The story presented in the exhibition is mainly, but not exclusively, the story of women. Traditionally, most of the wartime narratives and memories of the German occupation concentrate on the fate of men — soldiers, politicians, leaders. In Rywka’s

world, the perspective is the opposite. Men appear in the diary, but remain in the shadows, in the background. They are present, but not dominant.

The world we get to know from Rywka’s diary is populated by women and its structure is created by relations between them. It is filled with their pain and longing, courage, daily battles, and their fear.

“Told from a woman’s perspective, we gain insight into the daily horrors Rywka and other women faced in the Łódź Ghetto, while at the same time showed their unwavering religious faith and hope for the future,” said Bergman.

In order to not interfere with this unique narrative, all of the commentaries used to supplement the text of the diary were also prepared by women. The design of commentaries complementing the diary is adapted from the traditional Jewish method of explaining and interpreting sacred texts. In this symbolic way, the exhibition also refers to Rywka’s devotion to the tradition in which she grew up, to her unwavering faith in God and God’s care.

Presenting Sponsors for the exhibit are Judy and Sam Jassenoff. Lead sponsors are Robin & Leo Eisenberg, The Karp Family, Jackie & Larry Kraft, Michael Liebowitz, In Memory of Nancy & James McLernon, and Brianna Yuille. ■

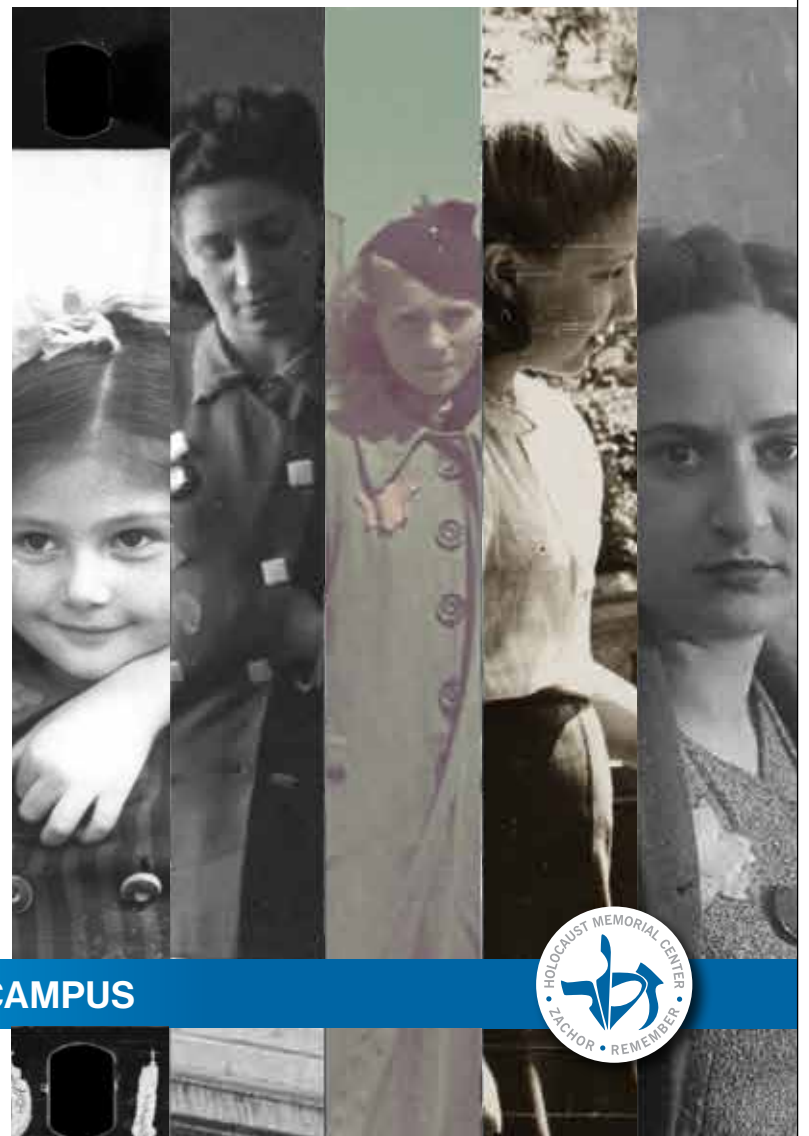
## An Unearthed Diary. An Unforgettable Story.

***The Girl in the Diary: Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto*** is a special exhibit based on a diary discovered in Auschwitz-Birkenau after WWII. It offers a moving glimpse into lives interrupted by the Holocaust. Created by the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland in cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Open now through December.

**GALICIA**  
JEWISH MUSEUM

**KORET**  
FOUNDATION

ידיד שער  
היסטורי  
אינסטיטוט  
ŻYDOWSKI  
INSTYTUT  
HISTORYCZNY



**HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER • ZEKELMAN FAMILY CAMPUS**

248.553.2400 • [www.holocaustcenter.org](http://www.holocaustcenter.org)







# ADULT EDUCATION 2021

## Morning Blessings

Monday - Friday @ 9:15 a.m.

Join Rabbi Whinston each morning via Zoom for a short morning blessing.

## Talmud Tuesdays

Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m. or 8:00 p.m.

Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Alter to discover the Talmud, the formative collection of stories and discussions that defined the post-Temple Judaism that continues today! Together, explore the foundations of our contemporary Jewish ethics, beliefs, and practices, as well as some tremendous tales about our ancient rabbis!

## Biblical Book Club with Cantor Hayut

Thursdays @ 11:00 a.m.

Join Cantor Hayut to read and discuss books of Jewish interest a few chapters at a time. This year, the book group will be reading primarily, although not exclusively, works by Israeli authors.

## And more to come!

Keep an eye out for even more Adult Education programs to start up during the winter of 2021/2022!

## Afternoon Blessings

Monday - Thursday @ 3:00 p.m.

Join Cantor Hayut each afternoon via Zoom for a short afternoon service.

## Spirituality Book Club with Cantor Emerita Annie Rose

First Tuesdays @ 7:30 p.m. or

First Thursdays @ 12:00 p.m. (Monthly)

Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Cantor Emerita Annie Rose in an exploration of spirituality through discussions of four fascinating books throughout the year.

## Shabbat Morning Torah Study

Saturdays @ 8:50 a.m.

Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion led by Rabbi Whinston.

## TBE Retreat @ Camp Tamarack

Friday, April 29 - Sunday, May 1, 2022

Featuring Alden Solovy, Liturgist, and

Elena Weisman, Artist in Residence.

Full details to come!

## Women's Torah Study

Mondays @ 7:30 p.m.

Join Cantor Hayut in an in-depth study and lively discussion of the week's Torah portion. This year, the group will focus on exploring passages that have informed rituals of modern Jewish life.

## Jewish Prayer: Finding Your Way Into The History, Meaning, And Spirituality

Thursdays @ 10:30 a.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Both meetings discuss the same material. Join Rabbi Whinston for an ongoing exploration of the individual prayers that constitute the majority of our worship, from Shabbat to High Holy Days.

Please visit

**[www.templebethemeth.org](http://www.templebethemeth.org)**

for Zoom links, locations, contact information and other details.

Questions? Contact the TBE office:

[tbe@templebethemeth.org](mailto:tbe@templebethemeth.org) or  
734-665-4744

We can't help  
complete your  
to-do list.

But we can help you  
plan for retirement.

bank of  
ann arbor

Member FDIC



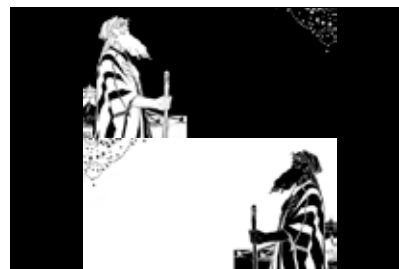
LSA

JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL  
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## FRANKEL EVENTS

October 2021

All events will be held live via zoom. Go to [lsa.umich.edu/judaic](https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic) for more information.



**Black Abrahams: Recent Research on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Black Communities**

**Abrahamic Vernaculars Lecture Series, Fall**

**Dr. Richard Newton and Dr. Kayla Renée Wheeler in conversation with Dr. Bryan Roby**

October 11, 12 pm

Register at: <https://myumi.ch/Yyd9x>



**Ethiopian Jews: The Politics of Difference in Israeli Historiography**  
**Efrat Yerday and Adane Zawdu Gebyanesh**

October 19, 4 pm

Register at: <https://myumi.ch/xmYNE>



**Was Paul an Apocalyptic Jew? A Case in Jewish Diversity in the Second Temple Period**

**Conference Chairs: Gabriele Boccaccini, Lisa Bowens, Emma Wasserman, Loren Stuckenbruck**

October 25-27

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/p6kr29j5> \*

\*conference limited to members of academia

All events are free. If you have a disability that requires a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Frankel Center office.

[LSA.UMICH.EDU/JUDAIC](mailto:LSA.UMICH.EDU/JUDAIC) • [JUDAICSTUDIES@UMICH.EDU](mailto:JUDAICSTUDIES@UMICH.EDU) • 734.763.9047

## Bivouac, 50 years keeping Ann Arbor dressed for the weather

Hannah Davis, special to the WJN

**B**ivouac, the clothing and outdoor gear store in Nickels Arcade in downtown Ann Arbor, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Ed Davidson, the owner, founded the store in 1970 while a senior at the University of Iowa as an army surplus store. He moved to Ann Arbor the following



year. The arcade's management company was reluctant to rent space to him — saying he looked like “a bum off the street,” and citing his brief credit history — but Ed appealed to Dora Herbert, one of the arcade's owners, and she was on board, and made sure to come to the opening.

The store itself has moved a few times. Ed started selling army surplus out of his apartment above Campus Bike and Toy on

William Street, sleeping on a mattress in his closet. The store's current location used to be a bank — indeed, the original vault for Farmers and Mechanics Bank is still in the basement, and is used as a stock room. Another architectural highlight is the marble staircase leading to the basement where the safety deposit boxes used to be. It seems every store in Nickels Arcade is like this: each new tenant inhabits the spaces and stories of those who came before.

At the time, all the fashionable college kids in the 70s wore army surplus — a fact Ed found ironic given the strength of the protests against the Vietnam War at the time. In a 1984 interview in the *Ann Arbor News*, he reminisced about these early days. “I had hair down to my shoulders and didn't wear anything but army surplus ... I was a product of the Revolution. I opened the store with surplus and camping equipment. As the mood of campus changed, I changed with it. It was easier for me than for some merchants because I was going through the same changes as my customers. I have 15 times the inventory I had when I first started.” Now the store has expanded to fashionable outdoor brands like Canada Goose and Patagonia, but its core market is still the same: some 60–70% of Bivouac's customers are students.

Ed recalls fondly that a highlight of work-

ing move-in week is when a customer comes up to him, says they used to work at the store, and introduces him to their children who are just starting school. He says, “I enjoy working with customers, we've had wonderful support from the Ann Arbor community. We have customers we've known for almost 50 years.” He was looking forward to the start of football season: there are customers “whose last names I don't know” who come in to town for the games and make a point to come into the store.

Fifty years after its founding, Bivouac is still going strong. Ed is semi-retired now, doing desk work remotely and coming in on weekends to see customers. His son AJ has taken over day-to-day management: AJ implemented an online shop, which has been critical to the store's survival during the pandemic. Ed emphasized that they are still primarily a brick-and-mortar store, though:

“they support us, the community is one of the main reasons I'm still around.”

In a press release, Ed said, “I have learned in the past fifty years to pivot with the times. I have been through recessions, warm winters (we sell a lot of winter coats when it's cold or snowy) ... But the toughest year of all was last year. Luckily, my son had developed an online store presence and we were able to offer curbside pickup and delivery. The best advice I was given when I started was ‘the best fertilizer is a farmer's feet.’ I spent a lot of time at the store. I did my best for the community and my customers. I am very thankful for their support.”

Bivouac will be holding a 50th anniversary celebration on October 9th and invites everyone to come celebrate with them. There will be free raffle prizes all day long, and they will donate 10% of their sales to the Huron River Watershed Council. ■

**THIS OCTOBER:**  
**MUSIC FROM**  
**HARRY POTTER**

October 29, 2021, 8pm  
Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor

*Unleash your inner wizard with this concert of Harry Potter hits for the whole family. Enjoy familiar themes from the beloved franchise as the music of John Williams & Co. takes us off on a journey of discovery!*

**ALSO THIS MONTH:**  
**HAYDN & BRUCKNER**

October 23, 2021, 8pm  
The Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor

*Enjoy works by two classical music titans with conductor Perry So!*

tickets.a2so.com | 734.994.4801

COME IN AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW

**WINTER COATS**

ARC'TERYX Therme Parka

patagonia Tres 3-in-1 Parka

ARC'TERYX Patera Parka

Notched Brim Rossclair Parka

patagonia Jackson Glacier Parka

**BIVOUC**  
BIVOUCANNARBOR.COM

336 S. STATE STREET  
ANN ARBOR, MI 48104  
734.761.6207

MON.-SAT.: 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.  
SUN.: 11:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.



## Review

### Lunar Octet at the Blue Llama

Performance review by Beth Dwoskin

Jazz is America's music, and music lovers and musicians from all backgrounds embrace it, including musicians who are Jewish. In Ann Arbor, the most thriving Jewish jazz musician is the award-winning full-time Hebrew teacher Aron Kaufman, who is a member of the jazz combo, Lunar Octet.

Lunar Octet is Ann Arbor's oldest and most successful jazz ensemble. The group formed in 1984 and in its original incarnation as the Lunar Glee Club, it actually released a recording on Ann Arbor's Schoolkids Records label. The band went through a number of transitions as musicians came and went over the years. But Aron Kaufman, who plays congas, and Jon Krosnick, the band's other percussionist, who also happens to be Jewish, have been in the group from the beginning.

Krosnick earned his PhD at U-M in social psychology and is now a professor of political science on the faculty at Stanford. He remains a vital member of Lunar Octet through Zoom, email, and old-fashioned telephone. Since almost all of the group's gigs are local, Krosnick flies in before a gig so that the group can rehearse and learn new material.

Lunar Octet is a collective effort — there is no band leader. Members of the group contribute original compositions, and their latest initiatives have been Latin-flavored pieces. They observe the jazz tradition of giving solo breaks to all the players. The ensemble features a pianist and a guitarist, but most of the melodies are carried by the

saxophones and trumpet, punctuated by the fiery solos of Aron Kaufman.

Among Lunar Octet's recordings, their latest effort is their most successful. Titled *Convergence*, this CD contains 14 tracks of originals by band members that are polished examples of jazz that blends winds and reeds with Latin and Caribbean rhythms. There is one surprise track that diverges a bit from the aesthetic of the other cuts by having more of a tango feeling. *Convergence* represents the best of modern Latin jazz fusion.

Thanks to its tight, professional production and its freshness and originality, *Convergence* has earned glowing reviews from jazz media nationwide and internationally. It topped jazz charts everywhere in the weeks after its release in May. Locally, the CD has gotten essential promotion from disc jockeys at jazz radio station WEMU, led by Michael Jewett, a tireless advocate for local jazz. Jewett introduced Lunar Octet at their August gig at the Blue Llama, Ann Arbor's newest live jazz venue.

Jazz concerts occur every season in Ann Arbor, but the traditional home of jazz is in a club setting. After more than a decade with no jazz club in town, the Blue Llama opened in 2019. It's a superior venue, with just the right amount of intimacy, comfort, and superior acoustics, the result of conscious sound engineering that duplicated the design at Dizzy's, a club in New York. Located on Main Street, the Blue Llama includes

a restaurant with a full dinner menu. It was open less than a year when the pandemic struck, but it weathered the musical hiatus and has flourished

this summer. Whatever happens in the coming year, hopefully the Blue Llama will continue to be a space where local jazz can prosper. ■



## A Unique Sleepaway Camp in Three Rivers, MI

Social Justice, Environmental Stewardship, Jewish Culture & Community

**New campers could be eligible for up to \$2500 off tuition for summer 2022!**

**With a guarantee of up to \$1500 for summer 2023**



boating \* arts & crafts \* sports \* low ropes course \* swimming \* kayaks \* paddle boards \* and more



[www.camptavor.org](http://www.camptavor.org)

269-215-1399 | [Info@camptavor.org](mailto:Info@camptavor.org)





## Young adults talk about Zionism

Hannah Davis, special to the WJN

The magazine and news site *Jewish Currents* recently published the article “Revising the Dream” (Spring 2021), written by Mari Cohen, who grew up in Ann Arbor. “Revising the Dream” referred to the Labor Zionist youth organization Habonim Dror’s recent struggles to reconcile its left-leaning Zionist politics with the views of some of its young members who are reconsidering or even rejecting Zionism as a philosophy and a political goal.

WJN interviewed several young adults in the Ann Arbor area to hear their views on this topic. While all the people interviewed for this article identified as left-leaning or liberal, and expressed mixed feelings about Zionism, this shouldn’t be taken as a representative sample. This is a complicated issue and young people are by no means a monolith. WJN welcomes additional voices on this topic, particularly from the perspective of young Jews.

A common thread among interviewees was having grown up understanding Zionism as a concept that was only relevant until the formation of Israel: it was a political view that isn’t needed today. Simon is a 28-year-old young professional who grew up in a Conservative household and went to Jewish day school. His maternal grandparents are Holocaust survivors and his paternal grandparents left Ukraine before World War II due to the pogroms. He said his “kneejerk reaction” to questions about Zionism was thinking back to Theodore Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism. He said that his view growing up was that, “Zionism’s

ultimate goal was achieved when the state of Israel was established, and therefore the movement became obsolete.” Several interviewees related that they had little to no concept of Zionism when they were younger, outside of this very simplified view, and that they had been surprised to find out it was an active political force today.

Interviewees frequently described having to hold competing definitions of Zionism in their heads: one which is idealistic, an idea of Israel as a home and place of safety away from antisemitism, a cultural homeland, an emotional connection to the land of Israel; and another which is political, supporting a specifically Jewish majority state which belongs to Jews. There is a tension between these definitions, where idealism meets political practice. June is a 19-year-old undergraduate student with one Christian and one Jewish parent, who came to a recognition of her Jewish heritage in high school. She brought up the idea that Jews have an ancestral claim to the land, a belief that is “integral to Jewish identity ... That being said, we’re not the only group that has a claim to that land. So if your definition of Zionism is that Jews are the only people entitled to live in that space, it’s not healthy or conducive, and it’s morally and objectively wrong.” Simon talked about his surprise when he visited Israel for the second time at age 18 and found out there were other cultures in the state: Palestinians, Druze, and others: “Being Jewish is far from the only thing that makes you a citizen of Israel.”

Several interviewees described feelings

of attachment to their identities as Zionists, and a reluctance to abandon that identity despite disagreeing with some of its political actions and objectives. Hazel is a 22-year-old junior at NYU studying Social and Cultural Analysis and History, who grew up in Ann Arbor. She is the president of NYU Jewish Voice for Peace and a member of Habonim Dror North America. She described the tension between these different definitions of Zionism, and her disillusionment with the concept as a whole: “At this point, I don’t see Zionism as a relevant tool for creating a more just and beautiful society in Israel. I think to some extent it can depend on how an individual defines it, but for the most part, I see Zionism defined in practice as the creation of a Jewish majority in Palestine by any means necessary. I think this aim is in direct opposition to the creation of a more just society in Israel, so I have a hard time seeing it as a relevant tool. It’s hard, I used to be really attached to Zionism as a concept and identity. I was a Zionist for two years, now no longer.”

Interviewees expressed their complicated relationship to their Jewish identity and the way it intersected with their social and political lives. Even in very different settings, these young Jews find that people around them expect them to be Zionist — and a specific anti-Palestinian definition of Zionism — regardless of their personal views on the topic. Mari, a writer and editor who wrote the *Jewish Currents* article mentioned above, talked about feeling connected to the Jewish community in Ann Arbor and the comfort of ritual and tradition in their family, but contrasted this with their discomfort with a lot of mainstream Jewish community activities, because their personal politics conflicted with the Israel focus of the community. June expressed her frustration at being the “token Jew” in her social spheres, and feeling pressure to have opinions or solutions to the Israel-Palestine conflict, “as if my existence is detrimental to Palestine, or my pride in my heritage and faith is an affront to human rights.”

A tension between culture and politics was a common theme. While several interviewees had been to Israel, either visiting family or on Birthright trips, several expressed ambivalence over visiting or having ties to the country. June felt she could not morally make the trip, even though she would like to, because she is reluctant to support the Israeli government. Simon, who has family in Israel, clarified that he “identifies slightly more as a Jewish American than an American Jew.” Mari said “I feel strongly about being a diasporist,” defining their identity specifically as being a Jew who lives outside of Israel and is not going to return.

Several people expressed frustration with the conflation of the Israeli government and Zionist policies with the opinions and actions of all Jews worldwide (a conflation they felt was being encouraged by Israel’s government). According to June, people tended to assume that because she was Jewish she must support all of the Israeli government’s actions, and to judge her harshly as a result: “It hurts ... I have no connection to the country of Israel! I wish they didn’t encourage that connection. It’s making it unsafe for me.” Ha-

zel felt that the experiences of diaspora Jews were being left out of the conversation, saying, “not every Jew lives in Israel or is going to go there. Zionism doesn’t exist to protect Jews in the diaspora and it doesn’t try to.” The interviewees largely felt that the non-Jewish world has a very monolithic perspective of Jewishness, which current Israeli politics exacerbates, and that every space they are in expects them to state their opinion on Zionism as a condition for entry: neutrality or ambivalence on the topic never seems to be an option.

For several of the interviewees, “Zionist” is a stigmatized identity. For some, this comes from their own lack of support for Zionist policies. The stigma also comes from perceived misunderstanding of the issues involved. June stated, “Unless you have an in-depth understanding of Judaism, Jewish beliefs and history, when someone says Zionism, your mind immediately goes to the current political definition. I don’t use the word ‘Zionism’ when I talk about Israel.” Simon said he is a Zionist ideologically, but can’t condone the actions being taken recently in the name of Zionism: “If Zionism could be achieved without any conflict, I’d be all in favor. The reality is, that’s impossible.” This nuance, though, of remembering the ideal while acknowledging the reality, is hard to communicate.

One observation that stood out was the fact that Jewish communities and identities are often built on supporting or opposing Zionism — always in relation to it, never independent. But Mari expressed hope for alternatives in the future: “There’s a younger generation that’s more and more awake to some of the issues of Zionism and to the occupation and issues in the mainstream Jewish American world.” The interviewees hope a movement for Jewish community outside of a relationship to Zionism builds and adds more opportunities to engage American Jewish life in synagogues, social groups, and political groups in new, positive ways. Hazel echoed those thoughts, saying that in the future, “We could have Jewish community and spaces without Zionism at the center. Zionism should not be a condition for being a Jew.”

These are young people struggling to hold an optimistic vision for the future of Jewish spaces, of Israel/Palestine, and of Zionism, and struggling with the clash between the ideal and reality. Hazel said, “We have to be able to dream, but we also need to be able to meaningfully engage with reality as it currently is. The last year or so has proven beyond a doubt to me that creating a Jewish majority state in Palestine cannot happen without horrific violence against Palestinians. To me, a Jewish majority is not more important than democracy, the right to vote, and the right to move freely for Palestinians. The good doesn’t outweigh the violence.” But the overarching thread among everyone interviewed was that of dissatisfaction with the status quo and a keen understanding of the nuances and complications around Zionism and Israel. They did not see Zionism as a necessary political force to determine the future of the Jewish world, and they hoped for a future that made room for their views as well. ■

## Flourishing outdoors at the AARC Reconstructionist Congregation

By Emily Eisbruch

A cousin recently shared with me that her alienation from synagogue participation stems from rote and stuffy services. In recent months, as the need to

community, friendship, and Jewish learning are wrapped into these experiences. Outdoor services, a congregational picnic, a family trip to an apple orchard, and a Rosh Hashanah afternoon Tashlich walk from the JCC to Malletts Creek are a few examples.

Tashlich is a ceremony observed on the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah, in which sins are symbolically cast away into a natural body of water. The AARC Tashlich walk from the JCC to Malletts Creek kicked off with an outdoor discussion, led by Rabbi Ora Nitkin-Kaner, of what water represents in Jewish tradition, including the power of healing; the process of transforming the body, identity, and community; and the possibility of cleansing and purifying.

The apple orchard excursion for Beit Sefer (religious school) families included blessing the fruit of the trees, among the trees!

Looking forward, The Farm on Jennings, a beautiful space owned and operated by AARC member Carole Caplan, will be the base for monthly activities of the AARC Beit Sefer all year long.

To learn more, please visit the AARC website at <https://aarecon.org/> or reach out to Gillian Jackson at [aarcgillian@gmail.com](mailto:aarcgillian@gmail.com). ■



limit indoor risk combined with the desire to enjoy nature have inspired an increasing number of outdoor Jewish activities, I thought my cousin might want to give organized Judaism another try.

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation has been joyfully focusing on the outdoors this fall, and creating special memories in the process. An emphasis on com-



## Alex Thomas: A fresh look at Ypsi Township

Leslie McGraw, special to the WJN

**A**lex Thomas, 52 years old, is an Ypsilanti area resident and West Willow community advocate. West Willow, he likes to tell interviewers, is the largest neighborhood in Ypsilanti Township, which is a separate municipality from the city of Ypsilanti. Thomas, who has lived in the area most of his life, has experienced Ypsilanti Township from multiple perspectives. He grew up here, moved about the country, lived in China for eight years, then returned to his home community more engaged than ever.

my formative years ... I had great Christmases, birthdays and all that stuff. I was never any kind of a gangster or a thug, or anything like that. But between the ages of 16 and 30, I was pulled over at least 30 times [by law enforcement]."

Between the ages of 16 and 24, Thomas went to jail eight times for traffic warrants or tickets. He knows his Fourth Amendment rights [to personal privacy and to be free from unreasonable government intrusion into their persons, homes, businesses, and property, or searches of homes and businesses] were regularly disre-

more concrete thing than "obstruction of justice." Obstruction of justice is, in cases of failure to pay traffic fines or show up in court, a crime of poverty," says Thomas. What makes this issue so big is that fees and fines are how "Court 14B" in Ypsilanti Township makes money. According to an MLive article last year, 86% of Court 14B revenue is from costs, fines, and fees, more than twice the percentage from surrounding areas.

In 2007, at the age of 38, Thomas' life began to transform after eavesdropping on a conversation of a girl who was going to France to teach English. Feeling stuck at his job as a financial aid counselor, along with a lifelong curiosity about world cultures, Thomas decided to go to China to teach.

"There's a much greater demand in China. And I'm really fascinated with history. I took a 60-hour teaching course. Then I volunteered for a semester of English as a Second Language. In January of 2008, I just hopped on a plane to China."

Thomas taught at a university for a couple of years before freelancing for six years in Shanghai. When he returned to Ypsilanti Township, his new experiences shaped his perspective of the community and its potential. After working with young professionals in a dynamic economy in Shanghai, the largest city in the world, he learned how quickly a place could excel with a healthy economy and commitment to growth and change.

"One of my Chinese students worked for the government of a small town, about an hour away from Shanghai, and they were trying to attract foreign business. She had never heard of a 'chamber of commerce.' In Shanghai, there's an international chamber of commerce, and every country has their own chamber of commerce. I connected her with the American chamber of commerce there and we used to go there and do a lot."

When Thomas returned to Michigan, he wondered what the Washtenaw or Ypsilanti chamber of commerce was like. He found new appreciation for how small Washtenaw County is, relatively.

"That experience in Shanghai was the first time, in my adult life, I was able to support myself and thrive just being myself."

Over the last few years, Thomas has become a community advocate who has helped to share vital information with fellow residents about

ways to become engaged, informed, and empowered as residents.

Law enforcement, which he sees as a big issue, could be reformed through transparency and "unwinding all those steps from before an arrest, addressing everything even when the police got called." Reforming public safety, Thomas says, includes addressing childhood trauma, mental health in adults, and finding supports for the minors in the family. The criminal justice system needs to recognize that adolescents under 25 have brains that are still developing, they need to treat addiction as a behavior health issue, and they need to put mental health first.

Thomas has also used the opportunities that have been presented during the COVID pandemic. He wants Ypsilanti Township to get its fair share of the \$70 million federal relief funds. He has also been instrumental in delivering COVID-related resources to the most challenged areas and making new connections beyond local politicians. Thomas applied to the United Way for COVID relief through the West Willow Neighborhood Association. "We had about three different grants, two from United Way, one from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, including rent and utility relief."

Thomas would be a beloved addition to any community. However, he has no intentions of leaving anytime soon.

When asked why he stays in West Willow, he responded, "A love for this community, this area. When I say this community, it starts in my neighborhood, then greater Ypsi Township, that's really like the passion and everything coming from the heart, the care, and the potential. The incredible potential I see, understanding history and why things are the way they are, and being confident about the future. So, resignation and cynicism, you know ... those things aren't real to me. It's understandable, the way people feel, what they say ... And it's understandable the way I feel from my experience. I didn't know what I was doing when I started advocating and doing videos and coming to the neighborhood center; I was just doing something. Through that, I feel like I've developed a platform where I could see it's only going to help and I wasn't expecting that. I was just doing my thing."

You can catch up with Alex Thomas on the "What's Left Ypsi" podcasts and print and online quarterly issues, and on his Facebook page. ■



"We're the second largest municipality [in Washtenaw County] right behind Ann Arbor's 120,000. Ypsi Township is 56,000 strong, but no one knows ... we are like the Rodney Dangerfield of municipalities," laughs Thomas. "Democracy is about the rule of the people, not property owners or property value, so when you think about the county and the 56,000 people that the Ypsilanti Township government represents, there's this invisibility that's in the political discussions."

With more than 40 years as a resident of Ypsilanti Township, Thomas has first-hand knowledge of some of the issues that his community faces, as well as the political blind spots.

"I came from like a Black 'Leave It to Beaver' family — both my parents were married for all

garded and violated with car searches. Until recently, Thomas just chalked it up as a part of the life experience for someone in his Black, male, demographic. To get out of the cycle [of being pulled over], he stopped allowing friends to ride with him and he stopped driving at night.

"Over the last five years, looking at the data, I [now] know that the number one arrest for African-Americans in Washtenaw County is obstruction of justice. Meaning, if you have a speeding ticket and you can't pay it or you fail to appear in court for a ticket, a judge can issue a bench warrant charging you with 'obstructing justice.' Then you can be arrested for that. Here's the big disparity between Blacks and whites in Washtenaw County. For whites, the number one arrest is DUI, which is a much

### continuation of page 1 Chuck Newman

channels to commemorate the life of Ozeri on the 4th anniversary of her passing.

While Kevin enjoys studying carillon in his free time, most of his day is spent doing research in the Human-automation Interaction and Cognition Lab at the university. As a Robotics PhD Candidate in the Center for Ergonomics, Kevin studies human-robot interaction in aerospace, defense, and other complex environments. In cases when a person like a pilot or operator needs to "supervise" a robot or machine, they might need to determine when to rely on the robot and when to intervene by correcting a robot. Kevin researches how people trust and monitor robots when they have many demands on their attention, and he conducts experiments to evaluate how different training and display design techniques might be used to help people better trust, monitor, and operate robots.

Kevin received a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship from the Department of Defense, and he was a featured speaker at the Science, Technology, and Innovation Exchange sponsored by the Basic Research Office of the U.S. Department of Defense where he spoke on "Supporting Trust, Transparency, and Joint Performance in Human-Robot Teams." While he primarily conducts research for a project funded by the Air Force, findings from his studies are intended to inform the design of robots that people use in a variety of non-military applications.

Kevin has combined the insights he acquired in the course of his research with his interests and knowledge of Jewish laws, traditions, and ethics. His presentations include "Aeroplane accidents, complex system failures, and teshuva" where he compared concepts of human error in Jewish texts at the Limmud Festival in Bir-

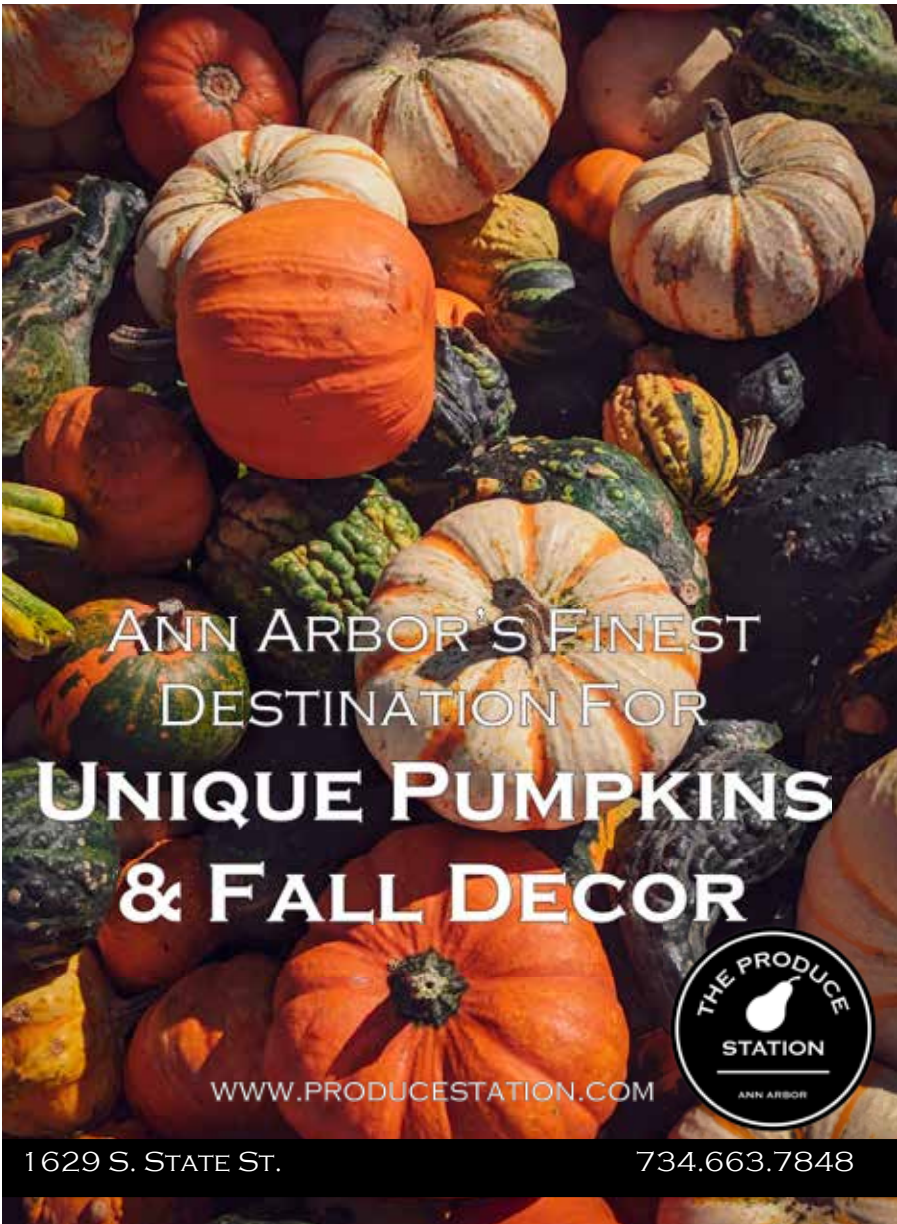
mingham, England. He has also presented "Robo-Ethics and Rabbis: Being Jewish During the Robot Apocalypse," chaired a panel on "Jewish ethics in the context of emerging robotic technology," and gave presentations that use insights from human factors research to inform strategies for building Jewish communities that are intentional, resilient, and effective.

Kevin's many awards and achievements include being awarded a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship from the Department of Defense, a Lawrence C. Fortier Memorial Scholarship from the Air Traffic Control Association, and winning the "Jewish Guy of the Year" contest held by the young adult organization GatherDC. He served as the president of Duke Hillel's undergraduate student board, the founder/president of U-M's Jewish grad student organization, and a member of the Hillel International Board. Kevin

initiated, planned, and led an annual trip to Israel for Michigan engineering students of all faiths and backgrounds, and received the University of Michigan's "Graduate Student of the Year" Student Leadership Award, the College of Engineering's Harry B. Benford Award for Entrepreneurial Leadership, and the College of Engineer's Distinguished Leadership Award.

You can see Kevin being interviewed on Conversations at <https://jccannarbor.org/event/conversations>. The show will include a short video of the Charles Baird Carillon and Kevin playing the bells. It will also have a link to Kevin playing "The Ringing of the Bells" and another of Ahuva Ozeri's renditions. ■






ANN ARBOR'S FINEST  
DESTINATION FOR  
**UNIQUE PUMPKINS  
& FALL DECOR**

WWW.PRODUCESTATION.COM


1629 S. STATE ST. 734.663.7848



# SAVE THE DATE

2021

ANN ARBOR  
**Jewish  
BOOK FESTIVAL**




Sunday, November 21 - Thursday, December 16


- 24 authors, 20 books
- Most programs online

**BECOME A SPONSOR**


For more information go to  
[book.jccann Arbor.org](http://book.jccann Arbor.org)



Jewish Community Center  
of Greater Ann Arbor




*Your  
Ann Arbor  
Area  
Agent*



**Ariel Hurwitz-Greene**

*Neighbor to Neighbor, Personalized Service.  
The most knowledgeable advocacy.*

Cell 734-646-5333  
 Business 734-930-0200  
[ahurwitzgreene@cbwm.com](mailto:ahurwitzgreene@cbwm.com)  
[www.hurwitzgreengroup.cbwm.com](http://www.hurwitzgreengroup.cbwm.com)



**COLDWELL BANKER  
WEIR MANUEL**

2723 S. State St, Ste. 130 Ann Arbor, MI 48104



# WE ALL KNOW SOMEONE AFFECTED BY ANXIETY

IT HAPPENS EVERYWHERE.  
IT HAPPENS HERE.

For more information,  
please visit:

[JFSANNARBOR.ORG/LIOR](http://JFSANNARBOR.ORG/LIOR)





## Fresh ideas for the post-Tishrei staycation

Lonnie Sussman, special to the WJN

**H**ow is everyone doing? We've asked that question frequently over the past year and a half, but it is a sincere and heartfelt question. I'm currently wondering how the students, parents, teachers, school support staff, and medical professionals and staffs are doing. September was a giant leap into the unknown, but we are hoping for the best. It was also a month of Jewish holy days, a month of reflection, memories, and hope for the new year to be one of health and joy.

I choose to stay positive that all will be well in body and mind.

There are two times during the year when I feel the need for a vacation from preparing meals. One is following Pesach and the second is now, after the holidays of Tishrei.

Shabbat, of course, continues to help focus me on traditions for making foods that serve the spiritual needs of our family (even if they don't realize that is what I'm trying to do) as well as appealing to their individual tastes (and why one of the grandchildren gets Tilapia when the rest of us are eating salmon or why there are noodles on most Friday nights).

But, when it is cooking just for two, I'm prone to make what I used to call "side dishes," not "main courses." Now a typical dinner looks like 2 baked sweet potatoes, either plain or topped with feta cheese or some chopped green onions, or leftovers from the previous Shabbat like rice or potato salad. I know, I know, this is not super exciting. In short, I've gone from the Rachel Ray version of 30-minute meals to plates put together in about three and a half minutes. This is uninspired cooking at its worst.

However, I am still interested in looking at cookbooks for new ideas, especially vegetarian and even vegan options which aren't anywhere close to the traditions we are used to. My newest cookbook purchases include *The Middle Eastern Vegetarian Cookbook* by Salma Hage and *Oh She Glows Every Day*, by Angela Liddon. This is Liddon's first cookbook, but she has a second that I also highly recommend.

I also bought *Sephardi: Cooking the History*, by Helene Jawhara Piner. She was featured on a Zoom program about Jewish food over a year ago. She shared the history and recipe for Simchat Torah called "The Bread of the Seven Heavens." I wrote about that last year but if you are interested either contact me or look it up [ed: this recipe can be found in the July 2020 issue of the WJN]. Both the history and the bread are amazing. Leah Koenig, a well-known Jewish food writer, also featured in the Zoom program, on Tablet Magazine, and elsewhere, wrote a small book aptly titled *Little Book of Jewish Sweets* that is now part of my collection. I made the "Apple and Honey Cake for Rosh Hashanah." There are only about 25 recipes in the book, so it feels "doable."

Finally, I bought a book because the title was great. It is *Cool Beans* by Joe Yonan. We are trying to incorporate more whole grains and non-meat or fish proteins in our diets. I'll

let you all know how this goes.

So here are some of the fresh ideas I've been cooking that go beyond leftovers. The first three recipes are from the *Middle Eastern Vegetarian Cookbook* by Salma Hage.



### Sweet Potato Patties

Serves 4 and takes about 30 minutes or less  
The *Middle Eastern Vegetarian Cookbook* is amazing! I took it out of the library, read it, made some cookies from a recipe in the book

and now am waiting for it to be delivered because I bought it. I have lots of other Middle Eastern cookbooks that all have similar recipes but there are some terrific new ones in this book. These patties are delicious!!! You could use dried lentils and cook them yourself, but the can of cooked lentils are a nice short cut.

- 3 sweet potatoes (I only had the red skin variety that have a white flesh. They are outstanding.) Peel and chop into coarse chunks
- 6 tbs olive oil (but I used only about 3)
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 6 garlic cloves (not for this family so I used 2)
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp chili powder (optional)
- 1 can (14 oz) lentils, drained (the can I used also had rice, but it worked well)
- ¼ to ½ cup sun dried tomatoes in oil, coarsely chopped (these were a wonderful addition, and made the patties more colorful)
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- Chopped parsley — use how much you want
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Preheat the oven to 400, mix the sweet potato chunks and olive oil, salt, and pepper, and roast on a baking sheet until the insides are soft, about 20 minutes.

While you are waiting, heat a pan with a little more of the olive oil to sauté the onions and garlic with the spices until they are soft. Use a mixing bowl and combine the lentils, sun-dried tomatoes, and the green onions, then add the roasted sweet potatoes and mash it up like a chunky mashed potato mix. You may need more salt and pepper. Shape the mixture into patties and add more olive oil to the sauté pan, then cook the patties for about 2–3 minutes per side. They will get golden and a little crisp. Drain on paper towels

### Almond Hummus

Here's a different take on hummus that will be ready in about 5 minutes.

- 2 (14 oz) cans of chickpeas but save about ½ cup of the liquid
- 2 cloves of garlic, roughly chopped
- 4 tbs tahini
- Fresh lemon juice from about 2 lemons, or to taste
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 cup almond meal

Put all the ingredients into a food processor and process until the mixture is smooth. Add extra lemon juice or salt and pepper if you need to. Serve with a drizzle of olive oil on top and a handful of slivered almonds if you like.

### Quinoa Stuffed Peppers

serves 4

I made these for Sukkot. Of course, you could switch out the quinoa for rice or any other grain. I used to make stuffed peppers with ground beef, but we are really trying to not eat red meat.



- ½ cup red or white or mixed quinoa, rinsed
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and diced (this adds color to the dish)
- 1 (14 oz) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 4 red bell peppers, cut in half and seeded
- The Sauce
- 1 large can of tomato puree and ⅓ cup of tomato paste
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tsp Baharat seasoning (this is called "7 spice" seasoning and is found in many markets or you can make your own)
- Salt and pepper

Cook the quinoa in 1 cup of water for about 12 minutes or until all the water is absorbed. Drain, rinse, and squeeze out any excess water. Place in a large bowl. Heat the olive oil

in a pan and sauté the onions and the yellow pepper for a few minutes. Then add the chickpeas and the cumin and continue sautéing for about 5 more minutes. Season well with salt and pepper and add to the bowl with the quinoa. Mix everything together. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees and start the sauce. Put some more olive oil in the pan and start cooking the onions. Then add the tomato paste and puree and bring it to a boil. Add the Baharat and salt and pepper. Cook for about 5 minutes. Then pour the sauce into an oven-proof dish. Fill the red pepper halves with the stuffing and sink them into the sauce. If you have leftover stuffing put it in the sauce and it will help thicken it. Bake for 30–35 minutes. Chopped parsley is a nice addition to top the peppers.

### Maimonides Cake

serves 6

At the top of this column, I wrote about hoping for health in mind and body. In the cookbook *Sephardi*, written by Helene Jawhara Piner, she includes several recipes of Maimonides! Aside from his fame as a commentator on the Torah, his day job was a doctor for royalty in Egypt. He wrote a medical treatise with the name *Regimen of Health* in 1198. It includes a meal plan for a prince to help with his physical and mental health! The meal plan starts with a green vegetable, then a soup course with an egg and lemon broth, then a dessert followed by fruit for digestion.

Here is the recipe for Maimonides Cake, a specialty of the Spanish cities of Salamanca and Zamora. It's not included in Maimonides' *Regimen of Health*, but is included in a book from the Middle Ages written in Arabic that Ms. Jawhara Piner quotes.

- 12 egg whites, beaten until stiff
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 lemon, juice and zest
- 1 ½ cups flour
- Sprinkle confectioners' sugar on the baked cake

Preheat the oven to 330 degrees and butter an angel cake pan or a loaf pan

Whip the eggs and gradually add the sugar. Then add the salt and lemon juice and continue beating the eggs until soft peaks form. Gently fold in the flour and the lemon zest and pour the batter into the pan. Bake for 30–40 minutes. Remove from oven, turn the cake upside down on a rack to cool. Serve sprinkled with the confectioner's sugar. This was also served with a small bowl of hot honey in which to dip the cake ■





## Looking for Rose: Concealed

Clare Kinberg, 22nd installment in a series

This is a story about my own life as well as my Aunt Rose. I searched for Rose for forty years, but did Rose want to be found? Do the people in this story want their story to be told?

A legal notice published in the *St. Louis Daily Record*, December 31, 1938, declared: "... appearing to the satisfaction of the Court from the verified petition for the adoption this day filed herein, that Rose, mother of Joseph Irwin, a minor, who Hyman Polinsky and Gertrude Polinsky, desire to adopt, has concealed herself so that the ordinary process of law cannot be served upon her within the State of Missouri ..." In other words, Joey was legally adopted, but without consent of his birth mother, Rose.

My Aunt Rose did not want to be found to consent to her son Joey's adoption. Joey's birth father, Eddie, had remarried by the time Joey's adoption was completed. In his obituary, I found that he was married to his second wife for 55 years, had two more sons with her, Maurice and Joe, five grandchildren, and was a warm and pleasant man. His first son was scrubbed along with his first marriage. Did his second family know about Rose? Do they want to know?

As I write this story, I am dogged by thoughts that I am forcing myself into other people's business. This uncomfortable feeling manifested one sunny afternoon at the conclusion of my tour of Vandalia's African American cemeteries with Marshall and Sharon, my dear friends who have opened doors for me into the Cass County community.

Marshall had taken me to visit the historic Chain Lake and Mount Zion cemeteries. Our final stop on the cemetery tour was Calvin Community Chapel Cemetery where Aunt Rose and Marshall's parents are buried. After Marshall placed flowers on his parents' gravestones, he turned to me and said, "Well, what would you like to do?"

Marshall knew I wanted to drive to Brownsville Street and introduce myself to Vincent McGee, the man I believe lives in the house where Rose had lived. I had anticipated meeting and talking with Vincent for over a year. Because my meeting Vincent meant so much to me, I had hoped to tread carefully in my approach. He lives in the same house that my Aunt Rose had once lived in, he is in daily contact with the proofs of her existence, the material things I long to see and touch. The house has been Vincent's practically his whole life, maybe his entire life. I am only just discovering my aunt and her life.

I had spent almost two years praying and begging for clues that would lead me to know my Aunt Rose. Maybe because her place in my family constellation is a gaping hole, I want to know more about her than can be known about another person: I want to know her thoughts. What did she think about as she fell asleep at night? What kept her hands busy during the long Michigan winter nights? What occupied her mind as she looked out her window at the trees along the shores of Paradise Lake?

Now, looking out those same windows is Vincent McGee, a man who doesn't know that he may know what I long to know. For me, Vincent is the proscenium before a curtain that refuses to rise on my Aunt Rose's life.

But for Vincent, who am I? A slightly annoying person "researching" his family because they are somehow connected to an aunt I'd never met.

I had found Vincent's name by internet searching on the Brownsville Street address typed on Rose's death certificate, while at the same time searching and cross checking for more information about Margaret Davis and Ann McGee, the two women whose names were on Aunt Rose's "Final Account and



Assigning Residue" papers, the women to whom she'd left her house and all remaining personal property.

There are dozens of internet businesses built for the purpose of finding people: findpeoplesearch.com, publicrecordsearcher.com, truthfinder.com, checkmate.com, seekverify.com, intellius.com, spokeo.com. I could fill this page with publicly available ways to find people, and there must be millions of people doing it along with me. Still, I feel very uncomfortable about searching for people on the internet.

Don't journalists do this all the time? Didn't I want to be a journalist when I grew up?

Spokeo.com offers up the last name of all of the people who have ever lived at a particular address. By checking my own name, I find it is not completely accurate. But it's a start. After a lot of trial and error, I found contact information for the people living at Rose's address on Brownsville Street.

Yet, once I found the information for them, I had trouble finding the nerve to use it. The ethical problem is, how does it feel to the person I am looking for? Do they want to be found? Why do I feel that the McGees might not want to talk to me? Why do I feel so cautious about just approaching them with my desire to know more about my Aunt Rose's life?

Months went by. And now, here are Marshall and Sharon, ready to accompany me to knock on the door of Aunt Rose's last home, to meet Vincent. They know how much I want to talk to Vincent, how reluctant I am to actually do it. But now is my chance.

Yes, Marshall, I'm ready to go try to meet Vincent.

On the lake side of Brownsville Street you can't see any houses, just the beginnings of

the dirt driveways. I've driven down Brownsville Street several times, trying to gaze down the drives to determine which might lead to the house Rose lived in. I've looked at Google's satellite views, and I've searched the address on Zillow. I'm not positive, but I'm pretty sure I know which dirt road leads to what I believe was Rose's last address. I tell Marshall and Sharon I'll lead the way with them following in their car.

Just as I go to get into my Honda Odyssey, I see that the car doors are locked and my keys are sitting on the front passenger seat. I mumble, "oh darn," and Sharon walks over, sees the situation, reaches in the open window and unlocks the door. This immediately sets off the car alarm. An excruciatingly loud honking, which continues even after I open all the doors and start the car, turn the car off, start it again.

The cemetery we are parked in is on a rural, residential street. There are homes nearby. Out of the corner of my eye, I see window shades rise out as I struggle to figure out how to turn the alarm off. I fish in the glove compartment for the car's manual, which is no help. Even though this is not the first time this has happened to me, I can't remember — for my life — how to get the alarm to stop blaring. We are all beginning to get agitated and annoyed, and I'm embarrassed on top of that. But finally after about 10 minutes, it stops.

With a huge sigh of relief, we begin the short drive to Brownsville Street. I am too flustered to lead the way, so Marshall pulls his car ahead of mine. When we get to the right drive, I signal him to turn in and I follow. Even though the house is hidden from the road, the drive is not long. Marshall and Sharon get out of their car to approach Vincent's house, but when I open my car door to hop out to join them, the alarm begins to blare again.

After waiting so long, endlessly replaying the words I want to use to introduce myself to Vincent, I cannot believe this is happening. I dive back into the car and back out of the drive at breakneck speed. I see Marshall back out too and we drive up the road about a quarter mile. I find a bulge in the road to pull over. I am overwhelmed with exasperation, embarrassment, confusion.

The horn stops again, finally. Marshall says someone came out of the house as we were backing out of the drive. I want to try to go back, so I decide that this time I'll leave the car running when I get out so that the alarm won't go off again. Making a U turn, we try again, this time I lead and Marshall follows. I pull in, almost to the house, and there is Vincent and his 15 year old son, Vinny (I've seen him on Facebook) with very guarded, surprised looks. I leave the engine running and open the door. The deafening, blaring honk starts up again. Marshall has stopped his car behind me on the narrow drive. There is no going back. I have to go introduce myself to Vincent McGee.

Vincent and Vinny have walked several yards down the drive to the car and are waiting warily to find out what this is all about. My car horn is blaring so loudly I have to scream just to say hello. The longer I stand there trying to say something, the more I feel I've completely blown — destroyed — this

opportunity to find out what they know of Aunt Rose.

Thank God, Marshall and Sharon are not as flustered. Sharon introduces us and asks enough questions to get a conversation going. Vincent and his teenage son live in the house on Brownsville Street that was Aunt Rose's last address, the home I believed she lived in for many years. The house she left to Margaret Davis and Ann McGee, who are, Vincent confirms, his grandmother and mother. Four generations of his family have now lived in the Brownsville house that Rose had lived in for many years.

This is the confirmation I have been waiting for. I am standing with Rose's Vandalia family. Her closest friends could be known and I could speak to them about her. If it weren't for the car alarm screaming behind me.

While the horn blows, I find that Vincent was eight when Aunt Rose died; he barely remembers her. "I believe she was a friend of my grandmother, Margaret Davis," Vincent says. He gestures to the west from where he is standing in the driveway and continues, "I believe she owned everything from here up to the next road, where the horses are." Old Mr. Bell owned the lakefront property going the other way. He died last year at age 91; his wife Martha Bell died in 2000. They had been Aunt Rose's neighbors for many years.

Finally, the horn quiets and we can speak in normal voices. We tell Vincent that we'd just come from visiting the cemeteries. I say that I noticed my Aunt Rose was buried next to Yaffee McGee. "My grandfather," Vincent fills in. Which leads into a question that Marshall's had on his mind, "Vincent, do you know Bill Vaughn?" Bill Vaughn, the sexton of the cemeteries, the man who knew where Aunt Rose was buried because he had dug her grave, is, we learn, Vincent's father. In fact, Bill had passed on the care of the cemeteries to Vincent, and Vincent had passed the mowing on to Vinny. All the freshly mown cemeteries we'd just visited had been cared for by this 15-year-old standing in front of us. Vincent tells us that his mother has been ill, but he had just spoken to her that morning. She lives a couple of hours away. He will contact her and ask her to contact me. We share cell phone numbers.

There are so many more questions to ask, but we are all exhausted from the shock and annoyance of the horn blasts. After not more than fifteen minutes we say goodbye. When I open the car door to leave, the alarm goes off again and I drive down Brownsville Street in mortifying embarrassment, laughing to keep away the crying shame I've made of my first encounter with Vincent McGee, the grandson of Aunt Rose's good friend, Margaret.

I received one very brief email from Vincent's mother in which she confirms she has photos, somewhere, of Aunt Rose. After that, neither Vincent nor his mother have responded to any of my attempts to contact them. ■





SCHOOL OF  
MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2021/22  
Production Season

September 30 - October 10 in the Arthur Miller Theatre

## NORA: A DOLL'S HOUSE

A radical new interpretation of  
"A Doll's House" by Henrik Ibsen  
written by Olivier Award-winning  
playwright **Stef Smith**



Department of Theatre & Drama

Department of Musical Theatre

October 7 - October 17 in the Mendelssohn Theatre



You're invited.\*

## Andrew Lipka's WILD PARTY

\*adults only, please

League Ticket Office • 734-764-2538 • [tickets.smt.d.umich.edu](https://tickets.smt.d.umich.edu)

## AADL ONLINE HALLOWEEN CONTESTS

★ prizes for costumes,  
pumpkins, and more!

★ tons of categories,  
lots of prizes!



all the details:  
**AADL.ORG/HALLOWEEN**

ANN ARBOR  
DISTRICT LIBRARY



## Your Eyes Matter Now More Than Ever! We Are Your Ann Arbor Eyelid Experts



Sara Turner, PA-C



Alon Kahana, MD, PhD

### Consultants in Ophthalmic & Facial Plastic Surgery, PC

Specializing in surgery for droopy eyelids, lower eyelid "bags," brow lift, eyelid and orbital tumors, and thyroid eye disease. Also providing expert treatment for wrinkles around the eyes (Botox), excess tearing, dry eyes, blepharitis, and eyelid styes/chalazia.

2350 East Stadium Blvd.  
Suite 10  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

[www.TheEyelidExperts.com/WJN](https://www.TheEyelidExperts.com/WJN)  
248-357-5100

Your Team in Ann Arbor for Eyelid, Orbit and Lacrimal Surgery  
Intense Pulsed Light • Botox • Tearing • Cosmetic Eyelid Surgery • Dry Eyes



## The earth belongs to God

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

On Saturday, October 2, we will begin reading the Torah anew. From the book of Genesis we'll start the Torah once again. One would assume that since the Torah is given to us as a guide to living our lives, that it would begin with the first mitzvah! Nevertheless we see that the Torah starts with the story of creation — not the first mitzvah. Rashi (the noted biblical commentator) takes note of this and in his first commentary on the Torah addresses this question.



Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

He brings an explanation from the commentator Reb Yitzchok (hinting to his father's name) who asks this same question. Why did the Torah start out with the story of creation and not tell us the laws for living before

telling us the stories? Reb Yitzchok answers, because God wants to show the power of His actions to tell the Jewish people, and the nations of the world, that the Land of Israel belongs to the Jewish people. If the nations will come and make a claim to the Jews saying, "You are robbers, you are stealing the Land of Israel from us, you went ahead and conquered the seven nations of Israel." So what is the response to the claim that the Jewish people are stealing the land from the natives? The response is that the earth belongs to God. God created the world and gave it to whom He found fit to own it. So therefore, speaking about the land of Israel, God is the one that gave Israel to the nations. Then, at the time when the Jewish people were supposed to inherit the land, He took it away from the Gentile nations and gave it to the

Jewish people. This is the answer we give to the nations of the world when they accuse us of stealing the land of Israel. The land really belongs to God and God decides who and when they should possess it.

So, it is self-understood that having the Torah start with the story of creation wasn't only to answer this question to the nations of the world, that they might have this claim about the land of Israel, but we have to say this is a general lesson that the Torah is teaching us about the manner in which we are expected to serve God. That is, many times, the Jewish people are faced with these claims from the nations of the world in which they call us robbers, and we answer to them with the story of creation and how God is the one that created the world and therefore has the right to decide who gets it. That will translate into one's service to God. This teaches us that a Jew should not be fazed by those that are opposing and preventing the Jewish people from learning Torah and performing mitzvahs. So don't be fazed by them — because many times the Jewish people are challenged with their Torah and are questioned regarding their philosophy of Judaism. So here we say that a Jew has to remember that the earth was created by God and therefore He is the one to determine what's considered right and what is correct. So therefore, one should not be fazed and affected by the nations of the world when they challenge them because they are supposed to know that this is God's world.

Getting into more details, there is another lesson that we can learn from this story about why the Torah begins with the creation. Israel, from the very beginning, was actually in the area of Noah's son Shem. (When Noah, after the flood, divided up the earth because they were the only people around, God designated Shem to have the area of Israel.) Shem is the ancestor of the Jewish

people. Subsequently, the Canaanites inherited the land from the Jewish people. And subsequent to that, at the time designated by God, the job for the Jewish people is to take it out of the hands of the Canaanites and make it into the Land of Israel. That is referring to the conquering of the seven nations of Canaan — taking it from them and making it into a Holy Land.

The life of a Jew has to deal with their spiritual well-being like prayer and Torah study, and then they have to deal with their physical well-being such as eating and sleeping. One might think that there is a gulf or separation between learning Torah, doing mitzvahs and eating, sleeping. So here the Torah comes to tell us that everything that a Jew does — not only the spiritual rituals but also the physical activities such as eating and sleeping, etc., is all a part of serving God. This is what Rashi is saying regarding the nations of the world accusing the Jewish people of being robbers by taking the land of Israel away from them. By that they mean taking away the physicality of the land and making it spiritual and holy — making it into the land of Israel. This is the lesson that we can learn from Bereishis and the Creation story — to view the world as a Godly world — not only the spiritual dimension but also the physical dimension: both parts are parts of our service to God. If anything, the purpose of why God put us down here in this physical world, in order to make from the physical — spiritual — in order to make a dwelling place for God here in this lowest of realms.

The Chabad rebbes have a famous saying that our job is to make the mundane, physical, land of Israel and make it into Eretz Yisrael — the Holy Land of Israel and make a place to put God into this world. This is accomplished through connecting the physical and the spiritual. ■

## Course in Ann Arbor explores underpinnings of hate and how to respond to rising antisemitism

This fall, Rabbi Aharon Goldstein of Chabad House will offer a new four-session course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), titled "Outsmarting Antisemitism."

Using history, Talmudic sources, Jewish mysticism, and contemporary expert analysis, the course addresses some of the nagging questions we grapple with as individuals and as a community. Why does antisemitism persist? How can we make hate go away? How can we counter Israel-focused antisemitism and prevent our own youth from unwittingly lending their voices to antisemitic agendas?

"Many Jews are anxious about rising antisemitism today and worry about how to respond to it," says Rabbi Goldstein. "By exploring the mechanics of antisemitism and probing historical strategies for reducing it, this course offers a framework for confronting it head-on with purpose, positivity, and pride."

Informative, interesting, and empowering, "Outsmarting Antisemitism" is well suited for community leaders and laypersons alike. "All those who care about religious freedom, for both Jews and others, confront a disturbing increase in antisemitism worldwide," said Cary Nelson, past president of the American Association of University Professors. "It is no longer enough just to be opposed to antisemitism. We all have to be knowledgeable about its history and current manifestations if we are to be equipped to combat its spread. That is why this course matters."

"What distinguishes the present moment is the rise of antisemitism simultaneously on all fronts," said Natan Sharansky, former refusenik and chairman at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. "To succeed in the struggle against these dangerous phenomena, we have to confront antisemitism on all fronts simultaneously.

Therefore, this course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute is very important."

The four-week course begins Wednesday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. Like all JLI programs, it is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

The course will be offered in-person as well as over Zoom. Sign-in information will be provided upon enrollment. Interested students may call 734-995-3276 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for registration and for other course-related information. ■

## AA Orthodox Minyan October Events

For all events, please contact rabbayael@annarborminyan.org for location or with any questions.

### Lunch and Learn: Personalities of our Forefathers and Foremothers

Wednesdays 12:30–1:30 p.m.

October 13, 20, 27 and November 3

In the book of Breishit/Genesis, we meet our forefathers and mothers. Through their actions, each one demonstrates their own unique characteristics. The Ramban teaches ma'aseh avot siman l'banim — the actions of our forefathers has bearing on our own. In this four part class we will explore the forefathers and mothers personalities and think about the implications in our own lives.

### Bagel Brunch

Sunday, October 3, 10 a.m.

Cheshvan, the month beginning on October 7th, has no Biblical or Rabbinic Holidays. We can take this space to bring our consciousness to the positive things, big and small, that make our days joyful. We will explore the Jewish approach to gratitude and consider a daily gratitude practice for the month.

### Women's Rosh Chodesh Group (in person)

Thursday, October 7, 8 p.m.

### Torah on Tap (in person and zoom options)

Monday, October 25, 8 p.m.

### Cooking with Rabba Yael

Sunday, October 31, 9:30 a.m.

All children are invited to join Rabba Yael to decorate pancakes to learn about the phases of the moon in honor of Rosh Chodesh, the new lunar month. ■

## Pardes Hannah events in October

All events are in Zoom unless otherwise noted. Please check our website (<https://pardeshannah.org/>) for the latest information, including Zoom links, on these or any of our ongoing services, rituals, circles, and teachings or call Renee Robbins at 734-904-5459.

### Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, October 1, 6:30–8 p.m.

### Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Online Minyan

Wednesday, October 6, 9–10:15 a.m.

### Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan Circle

Wednesday, October 6, 7–8:30 p.m.

### Shabbat Services

Saturday, October 9, 10 a.m.–12:30 pm

### The Shema: Study and Practice

Sunday, October 24, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

### Twenty-five Minute Mindfulness w/ Linda Greene, Jewish Spiritual Director (Co-sponsored with Temple Beth Emeth)

Weekly on Tuesday, 8:30–9 a.m. ■



# Joshua Mitnick, a compassionate Israel reporter in a harsh region, dies at 50

Dina Kraft, originally for the JTA

On a blistering summer day a few years ago, journalist Joshua Mitnick and his Palestinian translator, Nuha Musleh, were out reporting a story about an East Jerusalem village. The Palestinian residents were protesting the Israeli security barrier that was being built there, cutting them off from the rest of the city.

The two marched for several kilometers alongside the villagers. Musleh, refraining from both food and water because it was the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, urged Mitnick to drink water, but he demurred, saying, “No, you are fasting and we are working together so I’ll do the same as you.”

“I’ll never forget that,” Musleh said.

Mitnick, a journalist who covered the Israeli-Palestinian story for over two decades with the deep insight, knowledge and empathy of someone who knew and lived its intricacies, died August 28 in Tel Aviv. He was 50.

The cause was a rare and aggressive form of lymphoma.

What set Josh apart, according to colleagues and friends (including this writer) was his kind, unassuming nature — he was there to listen, to understand what was happening on the ground and then translate it to

the outside world, not to bolster his own ego or be abrasive.

He also had a keen eye not just for report-



Josh Mitnick

ing but for analysis, rooted in his thoughtful study of the societies covered. Mitnick grew up in Highland Park, New Jersey, and developed his journalism skills as managing editor of The Michigan Daily when he was a student at the University of Michigan. He moved to Israel in 1997. Mitnick began his journalism career in Israel writing for Bloomberg News, covering financial stories. But itching to tell the broader political story, he became a cor-

respondent for a series of top-tier American publications including The Christian Science Monitor, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times and Foreign Policy.

For many years he also wrote for *The New York Jewish Week*.

Daniel Estrin, NPR’s Jerusalem correspondent, considers himself a student of Josh’s work, which ranged from stories on the politics of Israeli soccer and Palestinian power struggles to the battle for Israeli democracy and the lives of haredi Orthodox Jews.

One of the people Mitnick worked with most closely over the years was Musleh, a Palestinian “fixer” who helped arrange interviews and translate for him during his many reporting trips in the West Bank.

Musleh says she was always struck by Mitnick’s empathy to those he interviewed, from grieving families to those who had just lost their homes to a house demolition.

“It was very easy for me to bring him to any setting because I know he’s a man of values,” she said.

Musleh described their relationship as one where they both taught and mentored one another on the inner workings of their respective societies.

“He was also my guide inside Israel. He was my eyes and ears if I ever needed any help in Jaffa or Tel Aviv,” said Musleh.

Their professional relationship became a friendship. Mitnick would sometimes bring his wife Lesley Benedikt and their three children for festive meals at Musleh’s home. She was taken by how he encouraged his children to learn about Muslim and Arab tradition and culture.

Mitnick’s love of the land is evident in a scroll through his Instagram feed, a visual Trip-Tik of the region that ranged from views of the Sea of Galilee to the starting line in Bethlehem of the first marathon in the West Bank.

Weekends were for exploring with his family and friends, often on hikes in Israel’s verdant northern forests.

Mitnick was buried in the hills of Tivon, a town in the foothills of the Lower Galilee. It’s the place where he first fell in love with Israel as a recent college graduate.

Mitnick is survived by Benedikt and their three children, Tal, Maayan and Eli; his parents Joan and Stuart Mitnick; and sisters Carrie Mitnick and Julie Leber. He is also survived by his grandmother, Florence Thaler. ■

Continued From page 2

Shabbat songs and recipes — during a time “when people are hating you.”

“If the house is on fire, I don’t want to talk about redesigning the staircase,” said Gottesman.

Stuart said the group is looking to mimic the Black Lives Matter movement for racial justice and the Stop Asian Hate campaign. The latest Israel-Hamas armed conflict, she said, uncovered deep-seated antisemitism that is not getting enough attention.

“We kind of want to take a page from [the Black Lives Matter] playbook. It’s insane they did such a great job of, like, rallying the troops, of just gaining so much attention and so much love,” Stuart said in an interview with *J., The Jewish News of Northern California*. “And so we’re not doing, like, Jewish Lives Matter ... But yes, we are.”

As evidence that the issue of antisemitism needs wider representation, Stuart cited a lackluster showing at a July 11 rally outside the U.S. Capitol; around 2,000 people showed up to protest against rising antisemitism.

Stuart said she is “heartbroken” that Jews are not seeing more support for combating antisemitism.

“Black Lives Matter, we all had the posters on our lawns — like we are there,” she said. “That’s kind of what we do, right, as a people. And we just feel there’s been very little of that for the Jewish community.”

“We’re just trying to ring the alarm bells. Where is everyone?”

In San Francisco, where Jewish spaces such as Chabad of Noe Valley and the Jewish-owned Manny’s Cafe were recent targets of anti-Zionist vandalism, the JewBelong billboards carry a special resonance. Stuart said the decision to target the Bay Area was “a no-brainer.”

JewBelong identifies as nonpartisan, but the group has inserted itself into political spaces before. During the 2020 presidential primaries,

a group of JewBelong activists in Los Angeles stood outside a Democratic debate site holding placards with a fake quote mockingly attributed to “the alt-right”: “Two Jews running for President? It’s like Charlottesville never happened.”

And when it comes to Israel, JewBelong’s views are unequivocal. The organization has aligned itself with staunchly pro-Israel Twitter personalities, including writers Noa Tishby, Eve Barlow and Hen Mazzig, on the front lines of Internet skirmishes over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and antisemitism. Echoing a common pro-Israel talking point about the right of Israel to defend itself, one of JewBelong’s signs reads, “You didn’t like it when we didn’t defend ourselves. And you don’t like it when we do. Doesn’t leave much wiggle room.”

Co-founder Gottesman is a prominent pro-Israel figure who sits on the board of Democratic Majority for Israel, a lobbying group that pushes Democratic lawmakers to support pro-Israel policies. In a 2018 Twitter post, she wrote, “Gaza is full of monsters. Time to burn the whole place.” She has since apologized for the statement.

JewBelong also awards “Partisan Prizes,” monetary rewards to people who post regularly about antisemitism on social media, inspired by Jewish partisans who resisted the Nazis during World War II. Partisan Prize recipients tend to be vocally pro-Israel, and many advertise Zionism in their bios. Some Partisan Prize recipients have asked not to be publicly recognized by JewBelong because they said the extra attention has also brought them death threats.

A recent Instagram post from one Partisan Prize winner, who has since deleted their account, shared an image that repurposed a quote from the movie “Mean Girls”: “Stop trying to make Palestine happen.”

Both Gottesman and Stuart said they had, at some point in their adult lives, experienced a disconnect from Judaism, apathy about their Judaism or embarrassment about being Jewish. After Gottesman’s Methodist husband convert-

ed to Judaism, she had trouble finding Jewish events that resonated with her, while Stuart felt uneducated about Jewish wedding rituals while preparing for her wedding.

“Judaism is a great product, but the marketing sucks,” Gottesman told the New York Jewish Week in 2020, explaining why she felt compelled to launch JewBelong.

The organization told the Exponent it has 150,000 followers online, but its combined presence on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube amounts to fewer than 43,000 followers.

Stuart said Schusterman Family Philanthropies is a significant donor to the JewBelong campaign, but she declined to disclose other funders. (Schusterman also provides funding to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency’s parent organization, 70 Faces Media.)

Joshua Leifer, a contributing editor to the left-wing Jewish Currents magazine, criticized JewBelong’s campaign as having little influence beyond assuaging concerns of donors behind the effort.

“Having a huge billboard in Times Square is a very good way to sell donors that you’re making an impact without necessarily having to prove anything tangible,” he said.

Older American Jews may take comfort in seeing a public affirmation of Jewish identity, Leifer said, and that includes his parents, who he said appreciated JewBelong’s billboard when they saw it in New York. But Stuart’s attempt to lump antisemitism into other racial justice movements is likely to fall flat with young American Jews, Leifer added.

“If they look at this they say, ‘well, we’ve just been in the street maybe protesting, maybe getting tear-gassed, maybe getting beat up by police for Black Lives Matter,’” he said. “The relationship that we’ve observed between Black people, the state and structural discrimination and inequality has no resemblance, essentially, to what American Jews experience.”

Some criticisms of JewBelong’s campaigns have come from observant Jews who believe the

organization’s irreverence is insulting to those who follow Jewish tradition. “There is meaning in [t]his religion beyond potato kugel and shlishkes,” Hadara Zemel, a Jewish resident of New Rochelle, New York, wrote in response to the 2020 New York Jewish Week story about the organization. “[The billboards] serve no purpose other than to make us a laughingstock once again... Do [JewBelong’s founders] even know what [they’re] proud of?”

But pro-Israel groups have given high marks to the group’s current antisemitism awareness campaign. Roz Rothstein, co-founder of StandWithUs, which has sponsored national pro-Israel advertising campaigns, praised the JewBelong initiative as a “one of many steps that can help fight the virus of hate.” This is the goal that JewBelong’s founders hope will resonate with supporters.

“We’re trying to be a voice out there for a community of Jewish people [that] doesn’t necessarily feel seen or supported,” Stuart said. ■



**Pam Sjo**  
Sounds like “so”

**Ready to make a move?**  
Get the Results You Want with  
Service Tailored to Your Needs!

**PAM SJO**  
REALTOR®  
734-417-9199  
psjo@reinhardtrealtors.com

**Reinhart**  
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors  
734-665-0300





## 2020-2021 GREATER ANN ARBOR LEGACY SOCIETY

Thank you to those who committed to sustain our local Jewish community with an after-lifetime gift through the LIFE & LEGACY® program. Your generosity will support our vital communal organizations for generations to come.

Listing as of August 31, 2021

Joelle Abramowitz  
Ellen & David (z"l) Abramson  
Carol Amster  
Rav Jared & Sarit Anstandig  
Harlene & Henry Appelman  
Brad & Robin Axelrod  
Linda Bennett & Robert Bagramian  
Richard & Deborah Ball  
Bernie & Barb Banet  
Dr. Adam & Tali Baruch  
Leslie Bash  
Irene Bayer  
Yehuda Benet  
Mark & Fran Levy Berg  
Jesse Bernstein  
Lisa & Jeffrey Bernstein  
Fraya Hirschberg Black  
Corry Buckwalter  
Marjorie & Barry Checkoway  
Ronald & Stephanie Chervin  
Joshua & Marla Chinsky  
Deborah Keller-Cohen & Evan Cohen  
Carl Cohen  
Roger & Midge Cone  
Arnold & Susan Coran  
Alan & Bette Cotzin  
Matthew & Kiara Culberson  
Marc & Wendy Dabrusin  
Mark Daskin & Babette Levy Daskin  
Amy & Mike Davidoff  
Moshe Dubov  
Donna Winkelman & Thomas (z"l) Easthope  
Beulah Elving (z"l)\*  
Ann S. Epstein  
Toni Greenberg & Family  
Lou (z"l) & Happy Feigelson  
Sidney (z"l) & Jean (z"l) Fine\*  
Carol Finerman  
Annette Frank Fisch  
Susan R. Fisher  
Bob Zucker & Kris Freeark  
Eileen & Gary Freed  
Judith & Paul Freedman  
Ruth P. Freedman  
Mike & Liz Fried  
Hillary Murt & Bruce Friedman  
James & Trina Fuller  
Sylvia Funk  
Gregory & Osnat Gafni-Pappas  
Julie Gales  
Marilyn Gallatin (z"l)\*  
Enid Galler\*  
Charles Garvin  
Steve & Joyce Gerber  
Nanette Gill  
Zvi & Marlene Gitelman

David & Susan Lockett Gitterman  
Susan Sefansky & David Goldstein  
Richard Goldszer  
Peter & Hanna Goodstein  
Alexander Gotz (z"l)\*  
Shelley & Robert Greebel  
Jayson & Laurie Greenberg  
Iosif Guberman  
Jeff Halter & Ellen Halter  
Steven & Joyce Hamel  
Hillary (z"l) & Ken Handwerger  
Susan Harris  
Cantor Regina & Mr. Avishay Hayut  
Bobbi & David Heivel  
Jason M. Schwalb, MD & Samantha K. Hendren, MD, MPH  
Phyllis & David Herzig  
Jack Billi & Sheryl Hirsch  
Carol & Gideon Hoffer  
Jill Hunsberger  
Alon Yaffe & Lisa Inoue  
Jacob Itkin  
Leslie H. Kamil  
Ralph Katz & Deborah Scott Katz  
Igor & Angela Keselman  
Marc L. Kessler  
Beth Kirschner  
Steve & Shira Klein  
Jeremy & Marie-Adele Kress  
Phillip & Syma Kroll\*  
Jessica 'Decky' Alexander & Bruce Kutinsky  
Pamela & Stephen Landau  
Wendy & Ted Lawrence  
Judie & Jerry Lax  
Evan Caminker & Stacey Lee  
Laurie Levenson  
Donald & Julia Levitt  
Marc Bernstein & Jennifer Lewis  
Evie & Allen Lichter  
Evie S. Lichter  
Arthur & Karen Lindenberg  
Robin & Rod Little  
Ellen & Phillip Lorang  
Beth & Jonathan Lowe  
Marty & Kathy Ludington  
Donna & Michael Maddin  
Nancy & Phil (z"l) Margolis  
Betsy Yvonne Mark  
Jack & Cathy Marshall  
Irwin and Fran Martin  
Ed Stein & Pat McCune  
Steve Merritt\*  
Paul Metler  
Tamara Meyerovich  
Randy Milgrom  
Bruce & Gayle Moyer

Sharon & Chuck Newman  
Marylen S. Oberman, Ph.D.  
Martha Olenick\*  
Stephen & Elizabeth Palms  
Vicki Patraka  
Donald C. (z"l) & Edith B. (z"l) Peltz\*  
Karra Greenberg & Joshua Pincus  
Robin & Joe Pollak  
Mali Resnik  
Steve & Kathy Rhodes  
Dr. & Mrs. Shmuel Rohde  
Ruth Bardenstein & Jim Roll  
Drs. Monica & Ben Rosen  
Howard M. Rosen  
Jennifer & Eric Rosenberg  
Prue Rosenthal  
Michelle Stern-Samberg & Warren Samberg  
Robert & Kathleen Savit  
Brian & Margot Schapiro  
Dvora Schulman  
Art & Mary Schuman  
David Schuman  
Debra Chopp & Gil Seinfeld  
Ronnie L. Shapiro  
Martin B. & Maryann T. Shichtman  
Rhonda & Stuart Simon  
Elaine & Bob Sims  
Brandy Sinco  
Susan & Larry Slabotsky  
Carol Smokler\*  
Arthur & Elizabeth Solomon  
Shmuel Solovyev  
Tamar Springer and Steve Stancroff  
Bob Stone  
Dave & Tara Stone  
Joshua & Marci Sukenic  
Larry & Roberta Tankanow  
Eva E. Taylor  
Harriet Bakalar & Ed Tobes  
Joan Lowenstein & Jonathan Trobe  
Ilene & Norman Tyler  
Fredda Unangst  
Diane Kaplan Vinokur  
Cady Vishniac  
Rachel & Logan Wall  
Samuel Hirsch & Marti Walsh  
Avi Wasserman  
Marshall Weinberg  
Elise I. Weisbach  
Harvey (z"l) & Lucille (z"l) Weisberg  
Zelma H. Weisfeld (z"l)\*  
Rabbi Josh & Sarah Whinston  
Martha & Eric Young  
David Zimet  
Reytsman  
Anonymous Donors

\*Thank you to those who had the foresight to make a legacy gift before LIFE & LEGACY was launched in January 2020.

For more information on how to create your own Jewish legacy, contact  
Ann Arbor LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator Margaret Schreiber at [margaret@jewishannarbor.org](mailto:margaret@jewishannarbor.org) or (734) 773-3538.

Participating  
LIFE & LEGACY®  
Organizations





## Advertisers

Alex Milshteyn, Real Estate.....3	Hurwitz-Greene Real Estate...20
Andrei Markovits, author.....6	Jewish Community Center.....20
Ann Arbor District Library.....23	Jewish Family Services.....20
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.....16	Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.....26
Bank of Ann Arbor.....15	Modern Mechanical.....27
Bivouac.....16	Pam Sjo, The Reinhart Company..... 25
Camp Tavor.....17	Posen Library.....12, 13
Consultants in Ophthalmic & Facial Plastic Surgery.....23	Produce Station.....20
Dorfman Funeral Home.....7	Temple Beth Emeth.....15
EMU Jewish Studies.....9	University Productions.....23
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.....5	West Side Art Hop.....2
Giraffe Design Build.....28	Wolverine Tax & Financial.....3
Holocaust Memorial Center...14	Zemyck Pottery.....27

## Simchas and Sorrows

### *The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to:*

Bob Stoler on the death of his mother, Elaine Stoler, August 30.  
Barry Nemon on the death of his sister, Ruth Nemon Grey, August 23  
Lorraine Shapiro on the death of her husband, Brahm Shapiro, August 19.  
Kayla Mandel on the death of her grandfather, Jules Galanter, beloved family of Shoshana and Jan Mandel, August 17.  
Melissa Dorfman (Adam Dorfman) on the death of her father, Howard Richard Moskof, grandfather of Sam and Josh Dorfman, August 21.

### *The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:*

Sonia Freddolino on her bat mitzvah, October 30.  
Martha & Eric Young on the wedding of their daughter, Julia Beth (Yael Batya) to Alexander Jordan Smelson (Shmuel).  
Michelle Silver, daughter of Dorit Adler and Terry Silver, on her marriage to Stephen Levine, son of Leslie & Ken Levine.  
Ruth Moscow-Cohen and Robert Cohen on the marriage of their daughter, Anna Sophia, to Michael Keefer, September 6, 2020, with a wedding celebration on August 8 2021.  
Mark Kolins and Maria Abrahamsen on the marriage of their son, Samuel Kolins, to Yelena Kushleyeva on August 28, 2021 in Philadelphia.

## ORT Ann Arbor opening event: student to startup

Joan Levitt, special to the WJN

**O**n Sunday, October 24, at 2 p.m., ORT Ann Arbor will host its Fall Opening Event. Members and potential members are invited to hear Rodrigo Aronas' talk, "ORT Start to Startup: How my experience as an ORT student prepared me for the evolving world of Tech." The October 24 event, via Zoom, will be in lieu of the traditional (delicious) ORT Fall Brunch. To register and receive a Zoom invitation, rsvp to [jflevitt2@gmail.com](mailto:jflevitt2@gmail.com) by October 15.



Aronas is

Rodrigo Aronas, an alumnus of ORT Argentina High School, will speak to ORT Ann Arbor via Zoom on October 24, at 2:00 p.m. His talk, "ORT Start to Startup: How my experience as an ORT student prepared me for the evolving world of Tech," will emphasize the preparation an ORT education provides for a career in technology-related fields.

an ORT Argentina 2005 High School Alumnus living in Oakland, California. He leads Mentor Strategy and Operations at Springboard, an online learning platform that prepares students for the tech industry's most in-demand careers. He also works as a Personal Development Coach through his company, Stoa Coaching. His work at Springboard and Stoa allow him to stay true to his passion of mentoring and teaching. His talk will emphasize the preparation an ORT education provides for a career in technology-related fields.

The Fall event provides an opportunity to learn about ORT America's important work supporting World ORT's schools and high-tech training programs. Although the event will be virtual this year, participants will still have the opportunity to meet old and new friends and to learn about the Ann Arbor chapter's activities, including the popular book and movie groups. For more information about ORT Ann Arbor, please check the website, [www.ortannarbor.org](http://www.ortannarbor.org). The website [www.ortamerica.org](http://www.ortamerica.org) provides more details about ORT's many schools in over 30 countries around the world.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, ORT continues to help students in Israel, the former Soviet Union, Europe, Latin America, and beyond. World ORT programs offer students the means to thrive through high-quality teaching and training. ORT teaches the skills needed to gain and maintain expertise for employment in sought-after fields, with an emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Over more than 140 years, ORT has confronted every challenge and will continue to operate in the most difficult circumstances whenever required ■

**Heating and Cooling Specialists**  
A/C • Furnaces • Humidifiers • Air Cleaners

**MODERN MECHANICAL**

Turn to the Experts

**Alan Friedman**  
Serving our community since 1985

734-662-6644  
[www.modernmechanical.net](http://www.modernmechanical.net)

## Zemyck Stoneware and Porcelain Pottery Pat Cowan Free Shipping



[www.etsy.com/shop/zemyck](http://www.etsy.com/shop/zemyck)





# Giraffe



DESIGN BUILD

Join us for the 2021  
Remodeled Homes Virtual Tour  
October 16-17  
[www.bragannarbor.net](http://www.bragannarbor.net)

[giraffedesignbuild.com](http://giraffedesignbuild.com)  [info@giraffedesignbuild.com](mailto:info@giraffedesignbuild.com)  734.489.1924