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Light a diya and a candle for justice and honor Sam Woll

Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC), Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

On Tuesday, December 10, the local Hindu and Jewish communities will come together for a Chanukah-Diwali festival at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor at 5:30 p.m. This multicultural celebration will include learning traditional Hindu and Israeli dances, making dreidels and Hindu diya candles, and how to wear traditional clothing. In addition, building on the decade-long tradition of the JCC's annual One Candle for Tzedakah program that has aimed to teach children to give and not just receive during this season, there will be a toy donation drive to benefit UM's Mott Children's Hospital, demonstrating both tzedakah — the Jewish value of charity or righteousness — and the Hindu tradition of seva



The Chanukah-Diwali event is sponsored by the family of Samantha Woll in her memory.

— selfless service and dedication to others. Of course, there will be Hindu and Jewish foods of the season: latkes and vegetarian samosas, sufganiyot (jelly donuts), and a whole host of vegetarian Hindu dishes.

The entire event is sponsored by the family of Samantha Woll, z"l, whose dedication to bringing diverse people and communities together was demonstrated in multiple ways — particularly through her love of the many Chanukah-Diwali celebrations arranged by the American Jewish Committee/Jewish Community Relations Committee of Detroit. This year's Ann Arbor Chanukah-Diwali event is co-sponsored by the Hindu Community Relations Council of Michigan, MI India, the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor, the JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor,

Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, and the Jewish People of Color Network of Greater Ann Arbor.

The Jewish and Hindu communities have had a long-standing relationship with one another. Cochini Jews are the oldest group of Jews in India, with roots dating back to the time of King Solomon. The synagogue in Cochin is one of the oldest still-existing synagogues in the world. Even after the founding of the State of Israel, many thousands of B'nai Israel Jews and Jews of Iraqi origin remained in Mumbai and other cities in India because of how comfortable Jews felt living there. There are still today some excellent Indian-made foods you can buy in America that have kosher supervision from the local Hindu com-

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New series on Jewish-Arab relations in Israeli Society

By Amichay Findling, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor has been committed to promoting Jewish-Arab shared society in Israel for many years. The Federation supports "Hand in Hand Schools," one of Israel's most prominent educational initiatives, which has been bringing Jews and Arabs together to study in the same schools for more than a decade. Recently, Federation added an additional shared-society educational organization to its list of beneficiaries from the Annual Community Campaign: "A New Way."

October 7 brought horrific news, as well as some heartwarming news of unity within Israeli society. After that awful day, more news items followed, including news of growing tensions between Jews and Arabs in Israel. Because the Jewish Federation is invested in projects that promote the opposite of tension, the organization has decided to take a deep dive into the issue of Jews and Arabs in Israel, and to create a unique learning opportunity for the community.

With the generous help of its Israeli partner organizations and personal connections in the field, the Federation has recruited top lecturers to develop a series of Zoom and hybrid engagements from January to April 2025.



Dr. Arik Cheshin

Save the date for the first engagement of the series!
Sunday, January 12, at 10 a.m. (location TBD):

In-person/virtual hybrid brunch and lecture with Dr. Arik Cheshin about Jews and Arabs at the University of Haifa, before and following October 7.

Dr. Cheshin is a visiting Professor in the University of Michigan Department of Psychology. His study focuses on emotions in organizations. Dr. Cheshin's research addresses questions aimed at

harnessing and utilizing the powerful role emotions play in our interactions at work. He is visiting from the University of Haifa, in northern Israel, which is, among Israeli higher education institutions, the university with the largest percentage (41%) of Arab Israeli students. It is also the only university in Israel that elected an Arab Israeli as a rector: Professor Mouna Maroun. The University of Haifa does not actively promote an ideology of shared society, but is an institution in which shared society is a given reality. It will be an intriguing discussion.

Hand in Hand and A New Way

Additional engagements, also on Sunday mornings, by Zoom, will include representatives from Hand in Hand Schools and "A New Way," both promoting shared society within Israel's K-12 education system in different ways: whereas "Hand in Hand" operates special Jewish-Arab schools that put forth shared society as an ideology, and every participant (student or family) chooses to engage with the school, "A New Way" operates within regular Israeli public schools: school principals choose whether to participate, and then 11th grade students from those Jewish and Arabic public schools engage each other in a unique civic studies program that becomes part of their matriculation scores. The students themselves have no choice in participation. The two

Zoom programs for the greater Ann Arbor community will give attendees a fascinating look into the differences between these two approaches, and more generally the strategies within the Israeli education system to promote shared society of Jews and Arabs.

Director of the New Israel Fund

The closing engagement in this series will be a Zoom interview with Mickey Gitzin, the Director of the New Israel Fund in Israel. The New Israel Fund is a major financial supporter and promoter of shared society organizations in Israel. Its work helps Israel live up to its founders' vision of a society that ensures complete equality for all its inhabitants. Its aim is to advance liberal democracy, including freedom of speech and minority rights, and to fight the inequality, injustice, and extremism that diminish Israel. Its director will therefore provide both a broad and deep perspective on current trends and issues in this field. The event is scheduled for April 6 at 10 a.m. Details about how to register will be available at JewishAnnArbor.org/Event.

For more information or to get involved in Israel-related programming at the Federation, contact Israel and Overseas Program Manager Amichay Findling at amichay@jewishannarbor.org. ■

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From the editor



Winter is for reading

Reading a book is a sort of time travel. You are transported not only to the time of the story, the years it is written about, but also to the year the book was published, and to the year(s) it was written. Last week I read a recently published booklet *The Invisible Collection*, by Stefan Zweig (originally published in Germany in 1925, a time of economic desperation); Yael van der Wouten's *The Safe-keep*, which takes place in 1961, and during WWII in the Netherlands (read it twice); and snippets of Muriel Rukeyser (1968), Audre Lorde, and Rachel Maddow's *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism*. Everything I read seems to have messages about how to survive before and during dictatorship and war. Or is it just my own rising need: please, let me find something, a clue, to help

guide me into the immediate future? Everything I read shouts "pay attention!"

Recently, Terry Gross on "Fresh Air" interviewed David Remnick, editor of *The New Yorker*, and Marty Baron, former executive editor of *The Washington Post*, about the media landscape as we head into a second Trump administration. The extremely level-headed Remnick and Baron reported very alarming information because, well, they are very alarmed about the incoming administration's threats against journalists and the media.

Winter is for reading. It was wonderful to read that the new Hebrew Day School library (see page 10) will be available to the Jewish community. I'm sure it will be well used. When I moved to Ann Arbor (summer of 2003) the city was on lists of "most well-read" and "most educated" places, and still is. I can always turn to my Washtenaw friends for interesting answers to "what are you reading now?" Write me. What books, essays, poems, stories are on your list?

You can reach me via this QR code with address changes, requests for receiving or stopping delivery of the WJN, or any other matter. ■



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OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY
GRINCH IN FIGHT WITH RUDOLPH
POLICE CALLED
A world premiere written & directed by JEFF DANIELS

An office Christmas party goes wrong when two employees dressed as The Grinch Who Stole Christmas and Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer disagree over where to clap along on "Silent Night". When a video of this non-brawl goes viral, the Internet offers our two non-violent co-workers \$100,000 to stage a live stream Winner Take All Rematch between these two beloved Christmas characters.

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Coming soon

Graphic novelist Gorf at EMU

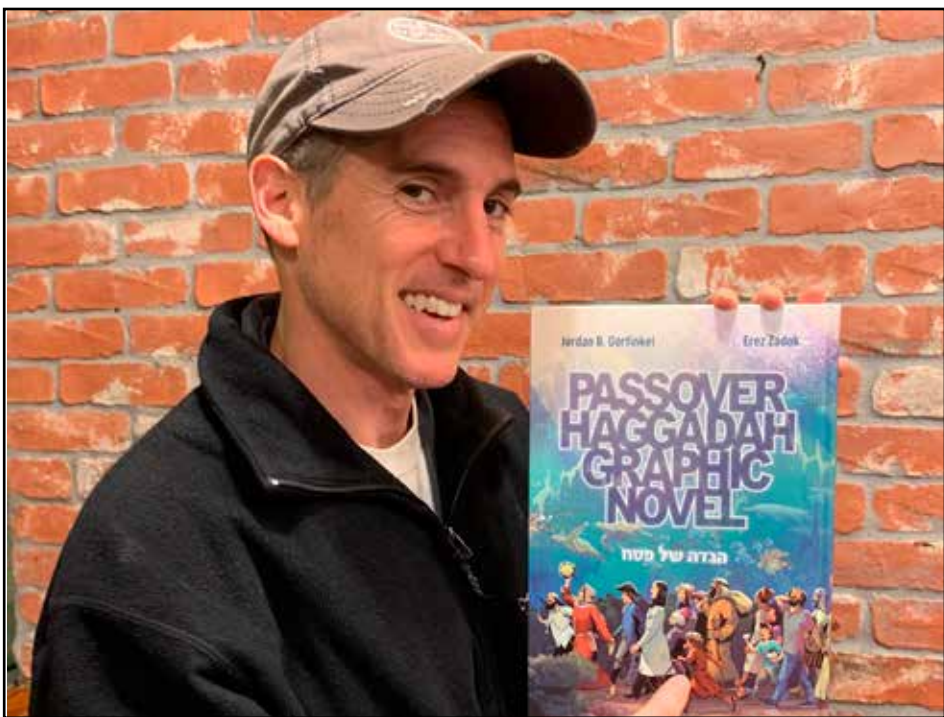
The EMU Center for Jewish Studies is bringing veteran Batman editor Jordan B. Gorfinkel — known as Gorf — for a pre-Hanukkah event. Not only have Gorf's creations (*Batman: No Man's Land*; *Birds Of Prey*) served as the inspiration for television, movies, and games, but his studio, Avalanche Comics Entertainment, produces entertainment and branding content for corporations and multimedia. Beyond all this, however, Gorf works actively on Jewish themes and material.

As a cartoonist, Gorf produces the weekly comic strip @JewishCartoon (Instagram, Facebook). He is the creator/producer of the #1 bestselling *Passover Haggadah Graphic Novel* and *Esther Graphic Novel* (Koren Pub., Jerusalem), and is at the forefront of

Jewish Graphic Novel Initiative. Gorf is also a musician, pioneering professional Jewish a cappella. He participates in vocal groups Kol Zimra & the Y-Studs, which regularly perform.

Gorf will present the Third Annual Martin B. Shichtman Lecture, titled "The Four Children: The Superhero, the Supervillain, the Mentor, and the Sidekick." In this multimedia presentation, using movie clips, popular culture icons, and the *Passover Haggadah Graphic Novel*, Gorf illuminates how graphic novel-style storytelling makes classic texts relevant and new.

This event will take place at 7 p.m. on December 4 in room 330 of the Eastern Michigan University Student Center. It is free and open to the public. ■



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2025 JCC Maccabi Games in Pittsburgh will be different

By Ariella Monson, Director of Development, Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor

The JCC Maccabi Games are back for summer 2025, and Team Ann Arbor is ready to participate! This summer, our teen athletes will compete in the first ever JCC Maccabi Campus Games, held August 3-8, 2025, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. JCC Maccabi is more than a sports competition: it is the premier Jewish engagement program for Jewish teens.

in 2025 will be for 13 to 17 year olds.

The JCC Maccabi Campus Games will have a different feel this year, as there will be no home hospitality built into the program. All athletes, coaches, and delegation heads will be staying in the dorms at the University of Pittsburgh. The athletes will still participate in Opening Ceremonies, JCC Cares



The sports being offered in Pittsburgh are baseball, basketball, ice hockey, soccer, softball, volleyball, 3v3 basketball, dance, swimming, table tennis, tennis, and track. There will also be a “star reporter” track for non-athletes to have the Maccabi experience. Sports are subject to change based on interest. In addition, the age of participation

community service projects, HangTime programming with Israeli shlichim, and evening social events.

We will be hosting an informational meeting on December 3 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. To register for this info session please visit our website or email ariellamonson@jccannarbor.org for more information.

Israeli book lovers gather at AADL

By Amichay Findling, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

As part of the rich and engaging programs of the 2024 Ann Arbor Jewish Book Festival, a unique event took place on Sunday, November 3, at the AADL Downtown Library: an engagement in Hebrew with the Israeli author Maya Arad, a renowned fiction writer. She has focused much of her creation on two situations that relate closely to the small Israeli community of Ann Arbor: the lives of Israeli immigrants in the United States, and a specialty in novels taking place around college campuses. Arad, who herself lives in Stanford, California, is an expert in both.

Thanks to the initiative of the JCC’s Book Festival staff, Nat Bension and Marie Pattipati, Arad engaged the Ann

Arbor Israeli community by Zoom, with the local Israeli community gathering in person for the event. Amichay Findling, the Jewish Federation’s Israel and Overseas Program Manager, arranged for a gathering space at the AADL for around 20 participants, who engaged the author and each other in their native language of Hebrew while enjoying a tasty potluck dinner. The discussion was about both Maya Arad’s books and the realities of living in the United States as Israelis and working in university campuses since October 7.

Special thanks to the JCC team and the AADL for enabling this meaningful evening to take place. To learn more about future gatherings for the Ann Arbor area Israeli community, contact Amichay Findling at amichay@jewishannarbor.org. ■



JCC ONE LIGHT FOR CHANUKA CONTINUED FROM PG. 1

community. In addition to tzedakah and seva, Judaism and Hinduism share a wide range of values, including family, communal ties, ethics, the concept of a chosen people, and a strong connection to a sacred homeland. Both Judaism and Hinduism also follow a complicated calendar combining solar

and lunar systems.

Both Chanukah and Diwali cast a light that will enable our communities to come together to enjoy learning about each other, to spread kindness, and to connect with the beautiful diversity we live in.

To register for this program, please visit jccannarbor.org. Shalom and Namaste! ■



Month of Miracles: A Kavannah for Kislev

by Devon Spier

Month of miracles
Lead me
Beyond seeing
And believing.

To knowing.

The awareness that
Every moment
I am
Pushing up
Against the seasons
And Time
And that within me lies the capacity
To bring life into the world.
By simply living another day and
Breathing.

For my breath draws out the elements that oxygenate this planet.
By my exhale, everything else inhales.

And my living,
No matter how small is actually
The force of life.

Coffee and clay to honor Evie Lichter

At the end of October, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor held an appreciation event for its “Lions and Poms” group. This group is made up of two giving societies of women, the Lion of Judah (\$5,000+ to the Annual Community Campaign) and the Pomegran-

ate Society (\$1,800+).

This year’s appreciation event gathered the generous women for Coffee & Clay at Yourist Pottery Studio, to honor the memory of Evie Lichter (z”l), an extraordinary leader, friend, and philanthropist who passed away

earlier this year. Participants handcrafted gorgeous clay vases, and Evie’s longtime friend Prue Rosenthal offered a beautiful tribute to Evie’s dedication to the Ann Arbor area Jewish community. Evie was herself an active pottery maker, and Prue shared some of Evie’s masterpieces with the

group. It was a delightful afternoon filled with love and memories.

For more information on how to get involved with women’s activities at the Jewish Federation, contact Marci Sukenic at marci@jewishannarbor.org. ■



A sampling of pottery created by Evie Lichter (z”l).

Federation’s “Lions and Poms” group at Yourist Pottery Studio

Celebrate the Light of Chanukah!

Wishing you eight nights filled with warmth, love, and joy.

JFS Jewish Family Services
of Washtenaw County

Ann Arbor and Nahalal collaborate on “Big Box” project

By Amichay Findling, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

The long-standing partnership between the Jewish community of greater Ann Arbor and Moshav Nahalal in Israel was established more than a decade ago and has enriched both communities. Examples of past collaborations include joint programs for elementary school students at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and Nahalal Elementary, teen student exchange programs, reciprocal visits, and various online programs to share our cultures with one another and deepen the connection between Israel and the diaspora. This partnership is made possible through a collaboration between the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor and the international Jewish Agency for Israel.

During this long war still raging in Israel, the residents of Nahalal have been fortunate to neither be targeted by mis-

siles from Hezbollah up north nor Hamas down south. However, for the last few months, the alarm sirens have still been sounding their alerting howls in Nahalal, sometimes on a daily basis, with rockets and drones aimed at a nearby military base hitting the Moshav’s surroundings.

In these rough times, some of the collaborative programs usually held with our two communities — such as the Student Exchange program that sends Ann Arbor area high school students to Israel for spring break — are not currently possible. But other activities, especially those that can bring light in these dark times, are still possible, and are more important than ever.

School twinning: October 7 lantern project

To commemorate October 7 at Hebrew Day School (HDS), Ann Arbor’s ShinShinim

(Israeli gap year volunteers) created a special activity for students in third—fifth grade. This project aimed to send messages of hope and spread light to their friends in Nahalal. The HDS students created paper lanterns and wrote messages to their peers in Hebrew and in English, then mailed them to Nahalal Elementary. Once they received the lanterns, the Nahalal students assembled and hung them in their classrooms, spreading light through partnership.

Coming soon: A family “Box Project”

The Partnership 2gether committee of the Jewish Federation, which leads activities between our two partner communities, is starting a new “Box Project” for families. The project will connect Ann Arbor families with Nahalal

families by sending surprise boxes to the Israeli families, giving them some joy and light in those difficult days. This project is specially designed to connect families with children and teenagers in the house with one another. Every participating local family will be connected to an Israeli family, and the box will be their creative way to initiate a relationship.

For further details on the Box Project, or to get involved with future Partnership-2gether activities, contact Federation’s Israel and Overseas Program Manager Amichay Findling at amichay@jewishannarbor.org.

More news and projects with our partnership community will be announced later in winter and spring 2025. ■

Rachel Wall begins prestigious leadership program

By Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor staff

The Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor is proud to announce that its Communications and Development Director Rachel Wall has been accepted into the second cohort of the Executive Accelerator program of Jewish Federations of North America. The Executive Accelerator is a year-long selective program designed to equip high-potential professional leaders in the Jewish Federation system with the resources, network, and coaching to competently and confidently grow toward their first or their next executive role.

“I’m honored to be accepted into this program with 25 other very impressive leaders from Federations across North America,” says Wall. “I feel lucky to be able to learn and grow professionally in this Jewish context.”

Thanks to a generous investment from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Foundation, Executive Accelerator participants will grow their leadership presence and capacities. The program combines monthly professional devel-



Rachel Wall

opment opportunities, applied learning within their local Federations, site visits to other Federations to study best practices in their desired areas of focus, Jewish learning, and coaching. Upon completion of the program, participants join the Accelerator Alumni network, affording them access to ongoing resources and continued learning and skill building.

“As a key member of the Federation team, Rachel is a thought partner and leader and has the potential to take on greater levels of responsibility,” says Federation CEO Eileen Freed. “Rachel’s participation in this Fellowship will provide a high-level development opportunity to support her professional growth and facilitate valuable connections with cohort colleagues from across the Federation system. This will surely benefit our team and the community.”

Originally from California, Wall moved to Ann Arbor in 2012. She is an alumna of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the

University of Michigan’s School of Social Work. Before joining Federation’s professional team in 2020, Wall worked at JARC in West Bloomfield, a Jewish organization supporting adults with developmental disabilities. She also previously worked at Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and was the director of the local Keshet Hebrew High School program. Wall currently serves on the board of the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan. She and her husband Logan have three daughters, ages four, two, and one.

“The Jewish community is immensely important to me,” says Wall. “I see this as an exciting opportunity to learn how to serve our Jewish community in the best possible way.”

To learn more about the professional team at the Jewish Federation, visit JewishAnnArbor.org. ■

RFP for community strategic planners is out

By Eileen Freed, CEO Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor

Upon completion and rollout of the omnibus demographic study of the Jewish community in Washtenaw County, the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor convened a diverse group of leaders to join a Jewish Community Strategic Planning Committee to embark on a community planning process and create a community-wide 10-year plan for our joint future. The committee is co-chaired by Robin Pollak and Megan Bernard and includes organization liaisons and individuals representing a range of experiences and connections with many different groups within the broader Jewish community.

Robin Pollak has helmed strategic planning processes for Temple Beth Emeth and the Jewish Community Center and has significant experience with planning and facilitation in her professional career. Megan Bernard is an alumna of and cur-

rently works for the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan School of Social Work. Her experience includes program development and evaluation. Both co-chairs bring energy, enthusiasm, and intentionality to their leadership of this project.

During the summer, the committee outlined the scope and process to “create a strategic plan for the Washtenaw County Area Jewish community that establishes an inspiring, realistic vision for the year 2035 with clear and measurable strategic goals that facilitate tracking success in realizing that vision.”

“We want to be the best possible Jewish community for the future, and that will mean continuing to seek feedback from our community,” says Pollak. “We are focused on the community study’s findings that our organized Jewish community is not currently meeting respondents’ needs

for engagement. We are also looking at research about how patterns of Jewish engagement are changing nationwide. We aim for this next step in the community process to increase engagement and increase the impact of our local Jewish community as a thriving and vibrant hub of Jewish connection into the future.”

The committee is in the process of selecting an expert consulting team with experience in strategic community planning, strong facilitation and collaboration skills, and an understanding of Jewish community dynamics to guide the planning process. The bold project will include broad Jewish community input, strategic goal-setting, and action planning to shepherd our community into the future. A Request for Proposals has been sent to a number of firms active in this kind of work, and the committee aims to select one to begin work in the first quarter of 2025.

In concert with this communal process, many local organizations are digging deeply into the community study data and using it to inform their priorities in the coming year and beyond. The committee will continue to prioritize community involvement, engagement, and alignment throughout this process.

In recognition of the clear findings that teen engagement is an important focus area, the Jewish Federation allocated funds from the 2024 Annual Community Campaign for collaborative teen programming. The Allocations Committee will be providing information about how Federation will distribute Teen Engagement funds in the coming months.

The Community Strategic Planning Committee will continue to inform the community through the WJN and updates via organizations and social networks. To learn more about community strategic planning, contact Eileen Freed (eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org). ■

Shinshinim experience Ann Arbor

By Lahav and Danielle, Ann Arbor ShinShinim

Danielle and Lahav arrived in Ann Arbor in August 2024 as volunteers on a year of service from Israel before their army service through the ShinShinim program of the international Jewish Agency for Israel.

The past month has been a whirlwind of activities, celebrations, and new experiences for us here in Ann Arbor. We're excited to share our journey and the ways we've been connecting with the community.

Israeli Snacks Activity at HDS and TBE

One of the highlights this month was our Israeli snacks activity at Hebrew Day School (HDS) and Temple Beth Emeth (TBE). The children explored popular Israeli snacks, made homemade "Bisli," and took a virtual tour of the iconic "Bamba" factory. In small groups, the kids even came up with their own unique snack concepts in different categories — it was inspiring to see their



creativity!

Holiday Greetings to Family in Israel

With the many Jewish holidays celebrated in October, Lahav and Danielle decided to send special greeting cards to their families back in Israel. They included personal messages and warm wishes to let them know how much they miss and appreciate them, especially as we celebrate these holidays so far from home. Also for Halloween Lahav sent his sister a trick or treat envelope filled with plastic spiders, chocolate, pumpkin spice scent, red leaves, and stickers.

Experiencing Halloween for the First Time

This October marked our first-ever Halloween celebration! After 18 years of hearing about Halloween, we finally got to experience it in full. We dressed up as characters from *Men in Black*, carved pumpkins, and joined a Halloween-themed event hosted by BBYO, complete with a Halloween movie screening and spooky cupcake decorating. On Halloween night, Danielle went trick-or-treating with her host family, Sarah and Rabbi Josh Whinston and their children, down Granger Avenue, marveling at the impressive decorations that lined the entire street.

Launching Israeli Storytime at Public Libraries

In November, we began hosting "Israeli Storytime" sessions at local public libraries, inviting community children to join us for an engaging Israeli experience that includes Hebrew words and interactive elements. We host one session in Hebrew and another in English. We'll continue this project monthly, visiting a new branch of the Ann Arbor District Library each time, with a different story to share.



A little time for fun

In our free time, we've also had memorable moments with ShinShinim who are based in other communities. Locally, we attended a birthday celebration of one of the ShinShinim in Detroit, which included axe-throwing. We also went to the Michigan State football game at the Big House with the Detroit ShinShinim.

During the Simchat Torah break, Danielle traveled to Chicago, where she reconnected with ShinShinim from Louisville, Cincinnati, and Chicago. The trip was packed with fun, from biking along Lake Michigan to enjoying deep-dish pizza and exploring local attractions like Millennium Park and Michigan Avenue's Magnificent Mile.

Meanwhile Lahav has been busy, too! He completed a bridge project near the home of his host family, Scott and Cindy Kellman. He's also been on many challenging bike rides, joking, "If there's no risk of injury, it's not a good route!"

In October, both of us signed up to run the Ann Arbor 5K Marathon (organized by Jewish community member Eva Solomon). While we didn't run the whole course, it was a wonderful experience running through downtown Ann Arbor, surrounded by the supportive energy of other runners on a rainy but lively day in this amazing sport event.

Jewish Agency Seminar in Washington, D.C.

In early November, we attended a meaningful seminar by the Jewish Agency in Washington, D.C., which included the General Assembly (GA) conference of the Jewish Federations of North America. This gathering brought together ShinShinim

from all of the communities across North America, giving us the chance to connect, share experiences, and discuss ideas for community engagement. It was inspiring to meet others on similar paths and to gain insights for our own work here in Ann Arbor.

Rosh Chodesh at HDS

Also at the start of November, we participated in a Hebrew Day School event to celebrate Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan, the beginning of the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, which falls between the High Holidays and

and form a coalition, much like the Israeli Knesset, which turned out to be a lively and enjoyable exercise for everyone involved.

It was a fantastic way to introduce them to the dynamics of Israel's political system while sparking interesting discussions about the differences and similarities between Israel and the U.S.

Hebrew Classes at TBE

The fifth-grade Hebrew class at TBE has been making impressive progress with Lahav on their journey to learn Hebrew! The lessons are engaging and fun, and the students have already mastered five new letters, learned to read words containing them, recognized some key vocabulary, and even played a challenging, fast-paced Israeli game called "Itzik Lost His Chain," using Hebrew numbers and words.

New Israeli Studies Program

In November, we also launched a new Israeli Studies program at HDS. Every week, we dedicate 30 minutes to a different Israel-related topic in each class. This month, we focused on the significance of November 29 (Kaf Tet b'November) — the day in 1947 on which the United Nations approved the partition resolution for Palestine. This resolution laid the groundwork for Israel's independence the following year. After several sessions with each class, we organized a school-wide assembly to discuss this day's importance. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of this new initiative!

Gratitude and Appreciation

We are incredibly grateful to our supervisor Amichay Findling, HDS teacher and Israel Programs Manager at the Jewish Federation. Amichay has supported us every step of the way, helping bring our project ideas to life within the community. Also, we're grateful for our site supervisors in the different institutions — Susan Horowitz (Director of Education at TBE), Rabbi Will Keller (HDS Head of School), and Peretz Hirshbein (Director of Child and Family Services at the JCC). Our appreciation also goes out to the entire Federation team, who we see regularly at the office and who always offer a helping hand and fresh ideas. We especially want to thank our host families, who have been there for us throughout this journey. Their warmth, flexibility with our varying schedules, and encouragement have provided a sense of comfort and home.

Lastly, our heartfelt thanks to the Mandel-Warner and Eliav families, who graciously hosted us while our host families were away. Their kindness made us feel truly welcomed and cared for. We can't wait to see what 2025 will bring! ■

Chanukah. We put on a short performance to introduce ourselves to the students and their parents. Our skit, which we wrote ourselves, was an introduction to the ShinShinim program, with the characters "Shin from Shana" (Year) and "Shin from Sherut" (Service) joining forces, just like us — bringing Israel to the community through a year of dedicated service.

Witnessing the excitement of U.S. Elections

Being in the U.S. during election season has been an eye-opening experience! It's fascinating to observe how different the political process is here compared to Israel. To share this unique perspective, we took the opportunity to teach our seventh-grade group at Temple Beth Emeth about Israel's elections and political system. To make it fun and engaging, we created mock political parties: Sandals, Flip-Flops, and Crocs. The students presented their party platforms, advocating for what mattered most to them, and were tasked with assembling a government. They then had to negotiate



Musical creativity at AARC

By Emily Eisbruch

Music is an integral part of prayer, worship, and community” says Rav Gavrielle Pescador, spiritual leader of the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregations (AARC). Rav Gavrielle is ordained as both a rabbi and a cantor and plays harp during services. “It’s a joy when we can share our congregants’ musical talents and creativity in our services.”

Here are stories of some of the unique musical elements that added depth and beauty to the recent AARC high holiday services.

Trombone, flute, and voice

At the AARC’s Erev (evening) Rosh Hashanah services, Dan Peisach and Debbie Gombert presented a trombone and flute arrangement of the song Tiki BaChodesh, with singing by Rav Gavrielle and the AARC davening team (choir). Rav Gavrielle arranged the festive melody for flute, trombone, and voice, based on a setting by Rabbi Shir Meira Feit and Renee Finkelstein. The words are

in which we could not move in a circle, as would ordinarily be done in a Dances of Universal Peace setting. It is a favorite of mine, and it is very much in keeping with the spirit of renewal in the Days of Awe.” As the text is about the creation, congregants were invited to form small groups and perform flowing scooping and shaping dance movements.

Flute with Peter Cohn

On Yom Kippur, Peter Cohn, who grew up and was bar mitzvahed in the AARC, shared his flute talents with the congregation. “The two pieces I played were Ana El Na and Ya’aleh,” says Peter. “In both cases they were songs for voice that I played along with, although for Ya’aleh there was some countermelody that I wrote and played as well. I really loved playing at the AARC. It’s a great congregation, and aside from that, it’s a really welcoming atmosphere to play

The davening team

The davening team presented many additional melodies, some new, some old, all in the spirit of uplifting new artists who have lovingly reconstructed some traditional prayers. They provided congregants with a “sound cloud” of melodies so that they would feel more familiar to everyone. The davening team is a collaboration that offers inspiring music for the AARC throughout the year and benefits from the thoughtful leadership of Deb Kraus and Etta Heisler. “As Rav Gavrielle reminds us before every service, we are not up there to sing but as a part of leading prayers,” says Deb Kraus. “This fits with our name, since davening actually means praying, at least colloquially. It helps us to elevate our voices in a completely different way and to view our efforts spiritually rather than as a performance.”

The AARC is a caring, inclusive and music-loving community of people who want to practice and study Judaism — or simply be around people who share a commitment to Judaism’s values. The AARC’s spiritual leader, Rav Gavrielle Pescador, is known for her warmth, her collaborative spirit, and her incredible voice and harp playing. You are invited to visit <https://aarecon.org/> or email Emily Ohl at emily@aarecon.org to learn more about the Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation.

AARC Events for December

AARC book group Sunday December 8

We will begin with a lunch from 12:15–12:45 p.m., followed by a hybrid in-person/Zoom book discussion from 12:45–2 p.m. We will discuss Rebecca Clarren’s *The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota, and an American Inheritance* (2023), a nonfiction account of how a woman’s Jewish great-great-grandparents immigrated to the U.S. and established a homestead on land in South Dakota that the U.S. government took away from the Lakota.

December 14

Second Saturday Morning Shabbat Service. This is a hybrid Shabbat Service led by our rabbi, Gabrielle Pescador at the JCC and on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent out the week before the event. 10:30 a.m.–12 noon.

December 18

Pop-in Kiselev Teaching on Zoom. This is an hour led by our rabbi. 7–8 p.m.

December 27

AARC. Fourth Friday Kabbalat Shabbat. This is a hybrid service led by Rav Gavrielle Pescador in person at the JCC and on Zoom. Everyone is welcome! 6:30 p.m.

December 31

AARC. Rosh Chodesh Tevet Minyan with Rav Gavrielle. On Zoom. 10 a.m. ■



from Psalm 81 (“Blow the horn on the new moon, on the full moon for our feast day”), and they create enthusiasm for blowing the shofar. “I tried to emulate a shofar (strong and percussive) on my trombone and Debbie emulated the human voice (smooth and legato) with her flute,” comments Dan. Debbie ended the evening services with the meditative sound of the alto flute as she played Achat Sha’alti. The music from these AARC members, who are also accomplished musicians, transported the congregation into readiness for the high holidays. Trombonist Dan Peisach, a nephrologist, leads the band “Twas Brillig and the Mazal Toves.” Flutist Debbie Gobert is Professor of Music Therapy at Eastern Michigan University.

Singing, zither, and dance

For Rosh Hashanah day services, Drake Meadow played the barred zither (sometimes called an autoharp) and shared his sonorous voice to lead the congregation in singing and moving to the song Naaseh Adam. This song is based on text from Genesis 1:26, about the creation of the first human. “I learned the piece Naaseh Adam from a former leader of Dances of Universal Peace in Ann Arbor,” explains Drake. “I adapted it for a setting

in. I’m in music school and being in such a competitive and hyper-focused environment, it’s nice to play where the focus is more on the spirituality and less on whether or not I’m playing in tune and how my tone is.” Peter is working towards joint degrees in Music Composition and Judaic Studies at University of Michigan, and he plays in the U-M School of Music’s concert band.

And more

In addition to Dan, Debbie, Drake, and Peter, other congregants also contributed their musical talents to high holiday services talents. On the viola, Margo Schlanger played Kol Nidrei, Max Helfman’s setting of Sh’ma Koleinu, and other high holy day nusach (traditional synagogue music) to help people sink more deeply into the Amidah (standing prayer). Laurie White led popular melodies on the guitar, including the moving song titled “Today,” with lyrics starting “Today while the blossoms still cling to the vine.” This was sung as an alternative to the traditional Hayom T’amtzeinu (Strengthen Us Today). Seth Kopald created a meditative heartbeat throughout the services with his drumming.

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TBE Events in December

Events and services are both in person and/or virtual. Please see www.templebethemeth.org for full details, location information, and links.

Tot Shabbat Service and Dinner

Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
Join the Clergy to celebrate Shabbat with fun activities, stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning for children ages 0–5. Registration requested

Elementary Shabbat Service & Dinner (every second Friday of the month)

Fridays at 5:45 p.m.
A short service, song session, and community building! Most appropriate for children ages 5–10 and their parents, grandparents, and other adults. Everyone is welcome! Registration requested

Wine and Cheese Shabbat Reception

Fridays at 6 p.m. (except the second Friday of each month)

Shabbat Service

Fridays at 6:30 p.m.
Every 2nd Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Shabbat service

Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Weekday morning blessings

Weekdays at 9:15 a.m.
Join Rabbi Whinston each weekday morning for a short service of song, poetry, and meditation.

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.

Queer Torah Study

Tuesdays at 7 p.m.
Join us in person or via Zoom for a discussion of queer themes in the weekly Torah portion! Led by Ari Marcotte & Ari Smith. Guest leaders welcome! Contact Ari M (ari.j.marcotte@gmail.com) for more information.

Back Door Food Pantry

Thursdays, 4 to 7 p.m.

Meditation with Claire Weiner

Thursdays at 5 p.m.
Join Claire Weiner for a 40-minute meditation session.

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Whinston

Fridays at 12 p.m.
Bring your lunch and learn with Rabbi Whinston during this informal and social gathering. We explore different ideas throughout the year with participants guiding our subjects.

Shabbat morning Torah study

Saturdays at 8:50 a.m.
Join us for this weekly discussion of the Torah portion.

Weekly Mahj

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

WTBE Gift Shop Open

Washtenaw County's only Judaica Shop!
Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Second Friday of every month open at 6:30 p.m.

WTBE Hanukkah Bazaar

Fridays, December 13 and 20, 11 a.m.
Sundays, December 15 and 22, 3 p.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh Circle

Monday, December 2, 6 p.m.

Jewish Book Club

Thursdays, December 5, 12, 19, and 26, 11 a.m.

Sacred Aging Institute (SAI) is a series of programs and opportunities for shared study, meaningful discussion, and creative exploration. SAI is meant to foster connection, growth, and mutual support for older adults as we create a sacred community within our larger TBE family.

SAI: Poetry as Solace

Thursday, December 5, 7 p.m.

Introduction to Judaism with Rabbi Whinston

Thursdays, December 5, 12, and 19, 7 p.m.

Women in Tanach

Mondays, December 9 and 16, 12 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

WTBE Historical Novel Reading Group

Monday, December 9, 12:30 p.m.

WTBE Fiber Arts

Mondays, December 9 and 23, 12:30 p.m.

Brotherhood: Guys Night Out

Thursdays, December 12, 6 p.m.

Family Camp

Friday, December 13, 6:45 p.m.
Family Camp provides an opportunity for families to play and learn together, for students to reinforce and share some of what they are learning in the classroom, and most importantly, to strengthen ties among students and parents/caretakers.

Bereavement Group

Tuesday, December 17, 4 p.m.
The group will have opportunities to share openly about their process of grieving and will also have topic-based readings to spark discussion.

Brotherhood Latke Dinner

Friday, December 20, 6 p.m.

LGBTQ Shabbat Potluck

Friday, December 20, 5:30 p.m.
Join us for a Shabbat dinner and candle lighting with members of the local queer community! Bring a dish to share with others, make new friends, and let us know what you'd like to see in future queer programming!

Renaissance Group Hanukkah Party

Sunday, December 29, 4 p.m. ■

The Zekelman Holocaust Center celebrates 40th anniversary

The Zekelman Holocaust Center (the HC) proudly hosted its 40th Anniversary Benefit Dinner on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at Huntington Place in Detroit.

The evening brought together more than 1,400 attendees, including community leaders, corporate supporters, educators, Holocaust survivors, veterans, and members of the Jewish community. The 40th anniversary attendance marked the largest turnout in dinner history, reflecting a growing commitment to the HC's mission to educate the public about the Holocaust to combat contemporary antisemitism.

This year's event honored Marcie and Rob Orley for their exceptional dedication to Detroit's Jewish community, prioritizing the education of the public to counteract the rising threat of antisemitism.

Rob Orley, a founding partner of O2 Investment Partners, has actively supported Jewish education and religious life as a board member of the Jewish Federation of Detroit and as a passionate advocate for programs like OneTable, which engages young Jewish adults in Shabbat dinners. Together, the Orleys exemplify a commitment to community and to preserving Jewish identity and values.

"Marcie and Rob lend their name to many important causes. They accepted this honor because they feel so deeply that with the passage of time, and the loss of the survivor generation, that we must all become advocates for Holocaust education," said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of the Zekelman Holocaust Center. "Antisemitic acts are reaching

unprecedented levels in American society, and the Orleys' leadership helps further our work. Beyond school age students, we are increasingly engaging with universities and adult populations so that emerging leaders and today's changemakers can behave ethically today. Antisemitism simply cannot become normalized in society. Marcie and Rob see the urgency of our work and bring along others to the cause."

Celebrated international bestselling author, *Detroit Free Press* columnist, and broadcaster Mitch Albom served as keynote speaker. Albom read excerpts from his latest novel, *The Little Liar*, and reflected on themes of institutional mistrust, the importance of truth, and the necessity of the HC, "where history is not allowed to die," to prevent future genocides.

Among the evening's distinguished attendees was U.S. Senator-Elect Elisa Slotkin. "Since 1984, the Zekelman Holocaust Center has guided countless individuals through the history of the Holocaust," Slotkin said. "The Center's commitment to preserving the memories of Holocaust victims and survivors, while instilling tolerance, empathy, and the importance of standing against hatred and antisemitism, is a mission of profound significance — one that will resonate for generations to come. As we reflect on its four decades of work and look towards the decades to come, all Michiganders should acknowledge the Center's essential role in educating our communities, shaping compassionate leaders, and fostering a more just world." ■

Take a survey on Jewish family programming

By Rachael Dawson-Baglien

Loneliness is a topic that's often been discussed post-COVID. A recent survey by Ohio State University found that most parents in the U.S. are experiencing burnout, while also reporting feelings of

more isolated than their older peers; a report by Cigna Health reported that 79% of Gen-Zers and 71% of Millennials reported feeling lonely versus 50% of Baby Boomers. Parents are looking for places to make connections. While there are groups and programs for families, many are held during the work day when working parents are unable to attend.

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor and Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor are partnering to create stronger programming for Jewish families in Washtenaw County. The first step in this process is a survey to get a pulse check on parents' opinions on current family program offerings and what they would like to see in the future. Survey responses will be used to enhance and expand the family programs available in our community.

The survey will take no more than 10 minutes to complete. All answers will be kept completely anonymous. Please complete the online survey by January 31, 2025. Contact communityprograms@jccannarbor.org with questions. ■



isolation, loneliness, and lack of support. This is exacerbated by younger generations feeling

HDS joyously dedicates new library

By Tamar Jacobson, HDS of Ann Arbor Director of Development

Over 200 people gathered from near and far at Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor to dedicate the school's new library and renovated spaces. Guests enjoyed a presentation and interview with children's author Leslie Kimmelman, who shared her love of books and encouraged writers to pursue their dream. This year at Hebrew Day School, the theme students are exploring year-round is qualities of a mensch. Fittingly, Ms. Kimmelman read her book, *How to Be a Mensch, by A. Monster*. Hebrew Day School alum and Assistant Director of Cultural Arts at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor, Nat (Lewis Bernstein) Bension, interviewed Ms. Kimmelman about her career writing original books and editing for Sesame Street, Disney, and Nickelodeon. Ms. Kimmelman created the character Julia on Sesame Street. Guests had the opportunity to have their books signed by Ms. Kimmelman, buy 50th anniversary shirts, and dedicate bookplates for the new library.

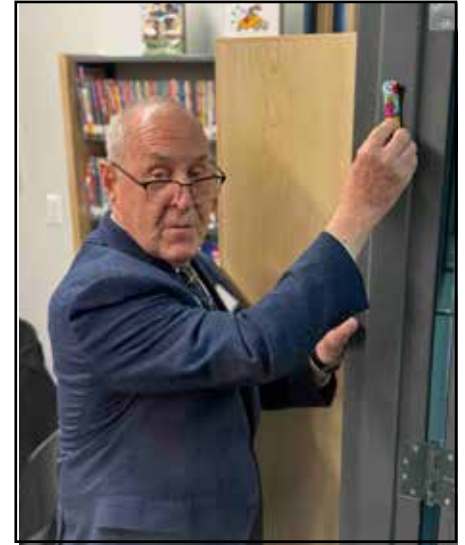
After delicious refreshments and tours of the school's beautiful new spaces, the group regathered to hear from Head of School, Rav Will Keller, who spoke of the renovation project's journey and its meaning for the school. President of the Board of Trustees, Monica Woll Rosen, dedicated the Torah ark in memory of her sister, Samantha Woll (z"l). This ark was made from the same

materials as the ark Sam had designed for her own congregation with her friend and Hebrew Day School alum, Eytan Sussman. In addition, Michael Tait dedicated the Chuck and Sunnie Tait Learning Center in memory of his parents. Sunnie Tait (z"l) was the school's first librarian and a dear friend of the school. Next, Samantha Hendren and Jason Schwalb dedicated the new library to Anna Schwalb's memory. They spoke of giving back to the Day School community that had been there for them in their time of need. They are pleased that Anna will be remembered, and people will learn about her as they enjoy this beautiful and bright new space. The program concluded with Anna's grandfather, Rabbi Fred Schwalb, hanging the Schwalb family's mezuzah at the door of the new library and reciting the blessing over that mezuzah.

This day was momentous, loving, and meaningful for the school community — a reminder of the power of legacy in the Ann Arbor Jewish community. The school also announced that they are pleased to share this new library with their partner, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, and the broader Jewish Community. If you would like to support this project or schedule a tour of the new space, please contact Tamar Jacobson at Tjacobson@hdsaa.org, 734-971-4633, or visit www.HDSAA.org. ■



Kimmelman and HDA teacher Janice Lieberman



Rabbi Fred Schwalb



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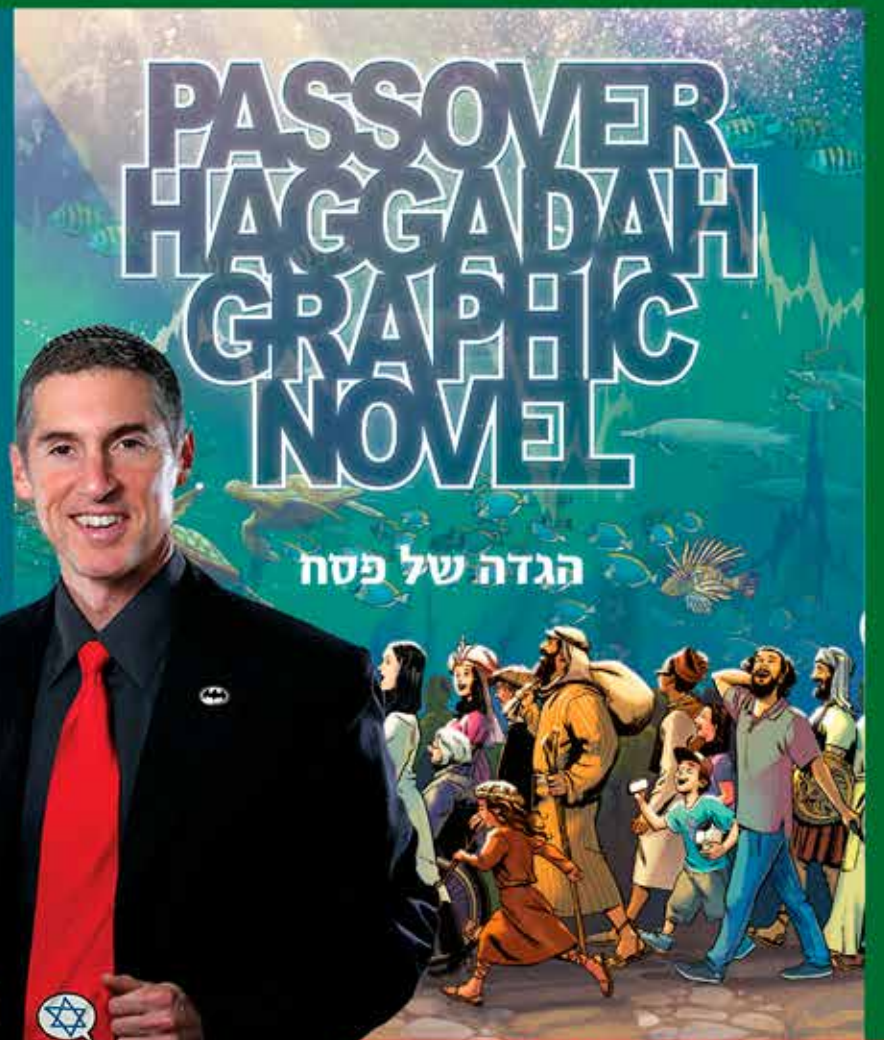
PRESENTS

The 3rd Annual Martin B. Shichtman Lecture

The Four Children: The Superhero, The Supervillain, The Mentor, and The Sidekick

In this multimedia presentation, using "Marvel-ous" movie clips, popular culture icons, and the Passover Haggadah Graphic Novel, Batman Manager Jordan "Gorf" Gorfinkel illuminates how graphic novel style storytelling makes classic texts relevant and new.

**Wednesday, December 4,
7:00 pm. Student Center 330**



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Wishing you a Chanukah full of joy and light.

Learn more at JewishAnnArbor.org.



To Make Holy

by Megan Lael

One hand reaching outward holds only a single urgent question—
Two hands reaching hold both blessing & curse.
Each palm a potential psalm. Each finger a potential trigger.
Every palm is a fist waiting to strike
 & a jubilant high five.
Every finger is an accusation
 & an invitation beckoning.
With the work of our hands, we destroy worlds,
 or we rebuild them brick by brick.
With the work of our hands, we hold others down / back / at a distance,
 or we lift up / we carry / we elevate.
We sow seeds or sow salt;
open doors for a stranger or slam down the phone;
embrace a friend, lover, brother, teacher
 or hurl stones.
A hand is not a promise, but it can be a pact.
A hand is not a blessing, but it can be a beginning.
One hand reaching outward holds only a single urgent question—
How to make holy the work of our hands.



Always, we return
to the gift of blessing-
the work of our hold hands

A blessing in time-
the hands of our ancestors
remember our own



Together, the work
of our hands makes holy vessels
to store our light



This too is prayer:
To scream silently in your heart
To rage, to break, to love



To shake with joy & agony-
To celebrate even as we weep-
To sing a broken song-
This too

Grateful for the sharing of food

By Lonnie Sussman

Apparently, we are racing to the end of another secular year. Honestly, there has been a change in the natural order of things to speed up time, at least that's how I perceive the world. You know what I mean. The children go from babies to grownups so quickly. The gardens we just planted in May are gone until next year. The plans we made to cook or bake new recipes are still waiting to be made. On the other hand, the Jewish holidays of September turned into the holidays of October and Hannukah starts December 25 for lighting the first candle. Let's try and keep the real meanings of celebration in perspective and concentrate on what is important. Family, friends, community, peace, love, and inspirations. Here are some recipes that are meant to be shared with others and to enjoy as we celebrate as well as be grateful for all that we have.

will use it again to baste the chicken when they finish cooking. Bake for about 15–20 minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 160–165 degrees and the bacon is browned and crisp. I'm not sure that the kosher bacon crisps up in the way that non-kosher does. Allow the chicken to rest for about 10 minutes but loosely cover it with foil. Then brush with the remaining sauce and serve.

Mushroom, Cashew, and Apricot Burgers

The Middle Eastern Vegetarian Cookbook by Salma Hage

Serves 8.

I bought this cookbook a few years ago after seeing some of the recipes, especially this one. I've made many vegetarian "burgers,"

other 10 minutes, then allow to cool. In a separate bowl mix the cashew nuts with the breadcrumbs and season with salt and pepper. Add the cooled onions and mushrooms to the bowl and mix everything together. Mash the drained lentils and add them to the mushrooms along with the chopped apricots and season again with salt and pepper if you think they need it. Mold the mixture into 8 patties and then refrigerate for about 30 minutes. Add the oil to a pan over low to medium heat and cook the burgers for 3–4 minutes, then gently flip them and cook an additional 3–4 minutes.

If you are missing ketchup or mustard, try this instead: mix some yogurt or labneh with diced cucumbers and a sprinkle of the cayenne pepper and put that on top of the burger. We used miniature challah buns with lettuce on top.

Heat the oil and add the chopped vegetables including the collards. Add water to cover and then add in all the seasonings. Cover and cook on medium heat until tender.

Grits and Lox Casserole

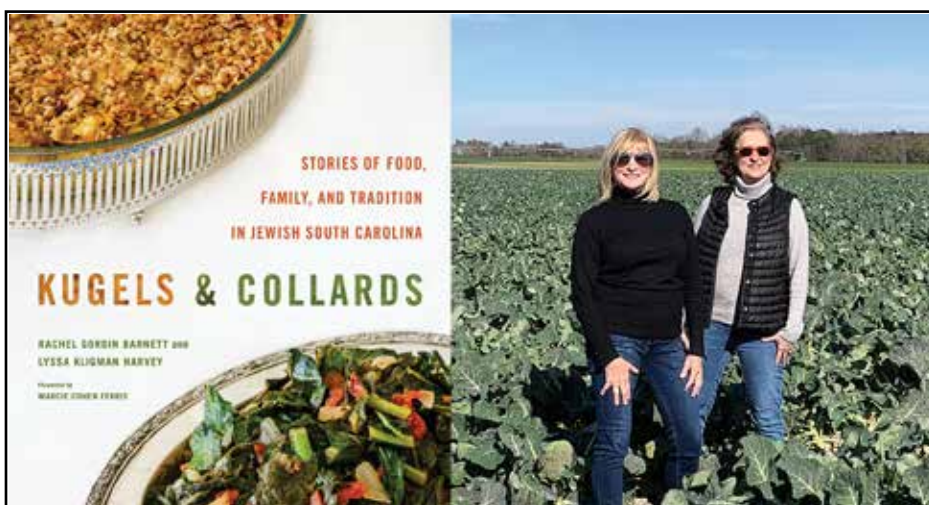
Kugels and Collards, see above

Serves 6–8.

This recipe comes from Ali Rosen Gourvitch. One parent was Jewish and the other Christian, and they attended the oldest Reform synagogue in America, the Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim in Charleston, South Carolina. Her story includes her move to New York City and marrying the son of an Israeli couple. The recipe reminds her of a dish one would bring to a family brunch and adds the lox that reminds her she now lives in New York.

- 5 cups water
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 stick salted butter, cut into 1-inch pieces and divided
- 2 cups stone-ground grits
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 16 oz lox, cut into small pieces
- 3 large eggs, beaten

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Bring the water, milk, and half of the butter to boil in a heavy pot on medium-high heat. Add the grits and stir continuously until the mixture returns to a boil. Reduce the heat, cover, and stir frequently for 10–15 minutes, until the grits have thickened but are still a little al dente to taste. When the grits are done, remove the pot from the heat, add the remaining butter, salt, and 1-1/2 cups of the cheese to the mixture until well mixed. Add in the lox and eggs and stir quickly and vigorously so the eggs don't cook before they are incorporated. Pour into a 9x13 inch baking dish and sprinkle the remaining cheese over the top. Bake 45 minutes to one hour, until the top is golden.



Kosher Bacon Wrapped Chicken Breast

From Healthyrecipesblogs.com, 2015

Serves 4

Kosher bacon, you wonder? The original recipe does not include the word "kosher" but there is such a product. It's basically a kosher meat that is smoked. I have been writing about not cooking or eating meat for the past few years, but when my dear brother-in-law and sister-in-law invited us for a meal in the sukkah a few months ago, we said "of course." This was the main dish, and it was delicious. I brought the black-eyed peas recipe with honey and thyme, also delicious.

- Olive oil spray
- 2 tbs Dijon mustard
- 2 tbs honey or another sweetener
- 4 small boneless skinless chicken breasts, about 6–7 oz each
- ½ tsp kosher salt
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 8 strips of "bacon"

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Line a roasting pan with foil and fit it with a roasting rack, which I don't own. I just use one of the oven trays. Spray with the olive oil. Use a small bowl and whisk the mustard and honey together, but divide into 2 portions by putting half in another little bowl. Sprinkle both sides of the chicken breasts with the salt, pepper, and garlic powder and then wrap 2 strips of the "bacon" around the breasts. Place on the roasting pan and use a brush to baste the top of the breasts. Wash the brush with warm soapy water and let dry. You

and this is quite a tasty one due to the spices. It is also kind of mushy, like so many of the veggie burgers are. When I make it again, I will refrigerate the mixture before cooking, and/or use flax seed soaked in water for 5–10 minutes and add that to the mixture. Both methods will help make the patties firmer. Also, mix all the spices well rather than adding them one at a time. One more hint: use the food processor to mix all the ingredients rather than occupy your time "finely chopping" ingredients.

- ¾ cup dried green lentils, rinsed and cooked until they are soft
- 5 cloves garlic, 1 whole and 4 chopped.
- Add the whole garlic to the lentils while they cook
- 1–2 tsp olive oil
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- ½ tsp Baharat spice blend (found in Arab market or make your own)
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- ½ tsp cayenne pepper (I left it out)
- 1 tsp za'atar (I forgot to add it)
- 4 cups finely chopped cremini mushrooms
- 2 tbs chopped parsley (I also left this out)
- ¾ cup cashew nuts, finely chopped
- 4 tbs breadcrumbs (can be gluten free)
- 10 dried apricots, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- Neutral oil for frying

Heat the oil in a skillet and sauté the onions until they are soft and slightly colored. Add the crushed garlic and all the spices and cook for about 5 minutes. Next, add the mushrooms and parsley and sauté for an-

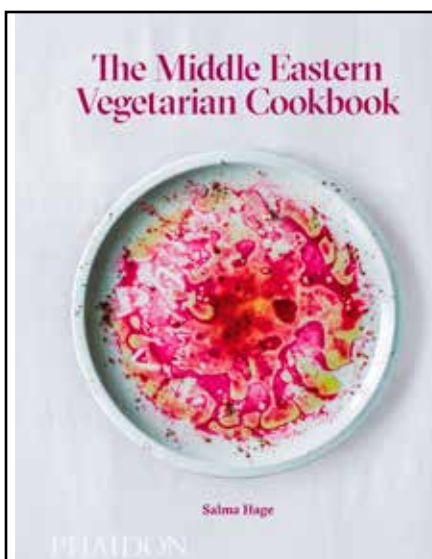
Ezella's Kosher Collards

Kugels and Collards by Rachel Gordin Barnett and Lyssa Kligman Harvey

Serves 12–16.

This recipe is from a new cookbook that was featured in the Jewish Book Fair. Many families were interviewed for this book and shared their recipes. The stories of families and how they arrived in South Carolina, Georgia, and other southern states, are the most interesting as are the recipes learned from Black cooks. This is one of those recipes.

- 2 large bundles of collard greens (the weight is not specified but I would guess 1–2 pounds) Remove them from the stems, wash very well, stack the leaves, 5–7 at a time, and roll them like a wrap. Cut through the leaves every ½ inch until they are all cut. Set aside until it is time to add to the pot.
- 1 large sweet onion, chopped
- 2 bunches green onions, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- Olive oil, enough to cover the bottom of a large stock pot or Dutch oven
- Water to cover
- 1 tbs hickory smoked salt (usually collards were cooked with a smoked meat that wasn't kosher)



- 1 cube chicken or vegetable bouillon
- ½ tsp crushed hot red pepper
- ½ tsp seasoned salt

Eggplant Caponata

From LoveAndLemons.com and many other sources

Serves 3–4

Did you know that eggplant originated in China and India, or Southeast Asia, or was it Africa, or somewhere else? Its origins are a subject of speculation. What is true is that eggplants are featured in many world cuisines. What is also true is using sweet and tart flavors with eggplants became known as Jewish food. This dish is one of those. The eggplant may have reached Spain via Arab communities in the Middle East, but the Jews of Spain added raisins and vinegar, and recipes spread all over as the Spanish Jews also moved to North Africa and the New World. My husband and I recently had a lovely and delicious lunch with Rita Gelman. She got this recipe through a friend who got it from a friend who may have used the recipe from LoveAndLemons.com. What a wonderful example of friendship, community, and a tasty dish that can be a dip, a salad, a side dish, or a main dish. Enjoy.

Continued on page 16

Restaurant review

A Journey to Eastern Europe, right here in Ann Arbor

By Candace Bulkley and Trina Fuller

Candace and Trina became friends in the Temple Beth Emeth adult b-mitzvah class that graduated in 2022. They will be honing their palates, visiting, and writing about a variety of independent, locally owned Washtenaw County restaurants, catering to a variety of dietary preferences.



was once banned from the U.S. market. The verdict? It must be an acquired taste.

We started our meal with a plate of pierogies, choosing mushroom, sauerkraut and potato/farmer's cheese fillings. All of the pillowy dumplings were stuffed with their filling, beautifully prepared with tender yet toothsome dough.

While all were delicious, we concluded that the potato and cheese was our favorite. The pierogi plate was composed as a painting, served with a curl of green cucumber, bright red radish and carrot, artfully piped sour cream, and topped with a flourish of toasted breadcrumbs that added a bit of crunch. Everything on the plate could be and was eaten. If you have never had the pleasure of eating Zuppa Ogorkowa (Dill Pickle Soup), you owe it to yourself to give it a try. The creamy yet light broth is studded with potato, onion, shredded carrot, and brightly flavored dill pickles. It is a comforting and lively combination of flavors and textures that just feels good to eat.

slow down and enjoy it.

At the end of the evening, while we shared a slice of delicious chocolate cake, which was a special that evening and recommended by our server, we had a lovely chat with owner Pawel Stro-

zynski. He regaled us with stories of leaving his homeland Poland, his sailing adventures, and how he ended up in the kitchen (hint: it wasn't part of his life plan). As we got ready to depart, we took a look at the many wooden klezmer figurines (which tradition says, bring good luck) on display and painted portraits of rabbis along with other Judaica on the walls, which Pawel told us had been brought from Poland by his father to remind him of home.

Open only for dinner, and closed on Sunday and Monday, Amadeus sticks to an old-fashioned phone reservation system. The menu does not include allergen information, but it is readily available by asking the server. There are also limited vegetarian and vegan options. We were delighted to learn that they use rice flour as a thickener to keep some of the dishes gluten free.

Amadeus Restaurant

122 E. Washington, Ann Arbor 734.665.8767

Amadeusrestaurant.com ■



Perhaps you're having a bit of wanderlust, wishing you could be in a romantic cafe in Vienna instead of a dreary coffee shop in Michigan. You are in luck, and can escape for an evening in Ann Arbor, to Amadeus. We often report on relatively new additions to the scene, but this month we chose to revisit this long-time member of the Ann Arbor restaurant community which has quietly stayed true to itself year after year. Housed in a building dating to 1876, and lovingly restored by owner Pawel Sterozynski, Amadeus has been open since 1988.

From the sidewalk, you can tell you're in for something out of the ordinary. Rather than the clean lines and stark decor of many newer restaurants, Amadeus is homey and romantic. Heavy red velvet draperies hang on the windows and front door keeping the chill out, and lots of interesting artwork fills the walls. It might remind you of your grandmother's house — or a neighborhood bistro from a bygone era. The order-at-the-counter system that has become so popular since COVID is nowhere to be found. If you're looking for a traditional sit-down experience, served by an attentive waiter, this is the place.

To get things started and for "research purposes" we treated ourselves to a taste of traditional Polish rye vodka called Zubrowka, which is infused with buffalo grass. The grass, which is unique to the woods of Poland and eaten by the country's endangered bison population, lent an herbaceous medicinal taste to the typically neutral tasting spirit. Not surprisingly, this type of vodka

We struggled a bit with the entree menu because, as part of the culture, Amadeus serves pork in several of its dishes. After letting our diet be known, our server graciously steered us to the classics on the menu. Prior to our entrees being served, a very fresh green salad with a house-made buttermilk dressing arrived along with an elegant basket of dinner rolls and butter, which were quickly consumed. Thankfully, the service here is at a relaxed pace. No one seemed to be in a rush, and the dining room was hushed enough to hear the classical music being played. Our Budapest pancakes arrived, with two potato pancakes topped with paprikash (chicken stew in a white-wine cream sauce), layered with another two potato pancakes, served with a side of Roma artichoke salad and sour cream. We wondered about the choice of Roma artichoke salad served on the plate and theorized the function of vinegary punch in the salad may cut some of the richness of the dish. When we asked the owner Pawel, he told us no, that wasn't the reason, he just likes to eat it. Mystery solved! This delicious entree was one to share on a cold winter night. It was tasty, comforting, and had familiar flavors of our youth and family dinners. It would have been enough, as we like to say, but we carried on! The goulash, a classic hearty Hungarian beef, pepper, red wine, and tomato stew served over egg noodles, could have benefitted from some salt during preparation, but the meat was tender and you could taste the red wine in the understated sauce. It seems these days, restaurant meals are full of big flavors and the latest trendy vegetable or spice. There is a quiet elegance in the food at Amadeus that is worthy of rediscovery and taking an evening to

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When masked Nazis parade in Howell

By Kadi Swerdlow

My husband and I moved to Howell about a year ago. We could imagine affording the space to add children to our family, and it was half-way between work and family. Everyone said it was such a nice place to live. They said everyone they know who lives here loves it, and that it is so beautiful!

“But what about its past?” I’d ask. I knew Howell’s history: racism, antisemitism, KKK leaders living here.

“That’s in the past.” “Things have changed.” “People aren’t like that anymore.”

This November, I began to wonder.

On November 5, our country elected a man whose platform, it feels like, is weaponized hate against anyone who isn’t like him. He worked in fear and hate, and he won. Two days later, Black female citizens across the country (including Detroit) received anonymous texts letting them know they’ve been picked as a “slave for the plantation” and they will be picked up on a certain day and time. Then just three days after that, Nazis paraded their flag and shouted hate speech slurs at veterans and attendees outside the Howell American Legion Post 141 during a production by the Fowlerville Theatre of *The Diary of Ann Frank*.

All these things scare me, and as my husband puts it “well it isn’t great.” I grew up thinking I wanted and needed to “be the change that I wish to see in the world.” If I donate enough of my time, learn enough about and advocate for those around me, and give back to my community and country, then everything will be OK. Now I question if it is worth the risk to my family and

safety to be that change.

We don’t have kids yet, but I am not sure anymore if I feel safe having kids in this community. I know we aren’t the only Jewish people in Howell, but it is incredibly hard to find the rest of us. We are halfway between two Jewish communities with multiple synagogues, but neither Ann Arbor nor Lansing are quite close enough to embrace us. We miss our Ann Arbor home and can see ourselves moving back someday if things don’t change.

We moved to Howell with hope and an open heart to try and embrace a community that historically hasn’t done the same to those who are other. Now I worry that, with the shifts in our country, it may be too late. Are Howell and communities with histories like them going to backslide and repeat the past?

One thing I do hold onto about the unfortunate scene at the American Legion is that these people were not quite bold enough to show their faces — a small part of them was scared of the social and public repercussions if they were identified holding the Nazi flags and shouting antisemitism. I hope they continue to be scared to show their faces, and I hope that those without hateful views in our city and all over America continue to make them scared of that reality. We can’t completely stomp out hate, but we can repress it and force it to hide in the shadows.

Those who are “other” will not hide; we will be proud of who we are, but we will continue to practice caution as we navigate these new times, lean on, and grow the love and support in our communities. ■

Kosher Cuisine continued from pg 14

1 ½ to 2 pounds eggplant, washed and cut into small pieces or peeled and chopped into small pieces. (Not teeny tiny but about ½ inch)
 3 tbs golden raisins (I didn’t have any golden raisins, but I used the black ones. I almost used dried cherries)
 3 tbs sherry vinegar (I used champagne vinegar, but you could use white vinegar)
 2 tbs capers
 2 tbs olive oil
 ½ medium yellow onion, chopped (I used the half of red onion I had)
 1 celery stalk, diced
 1 red bell pepper, stemmed, seeded, and diced
 ½ tsp salt
 1 tbs tomato paste
 3 garlic cloves, grated
 1 pound tomatoes, about 4 medium-sized, cored and diced
 ½ tsp sugar
 ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
 Pepper to taste
 Fresh basil crostini or toasted bread

Roast the eggplant in a 400-degree oven until it is soft. In a small bowl, mix the raisins, vinegar, and capers and set aside to soften the raisins while the eggplant roasts. Heat the oil in a pan over medium heat. Add the onion and celery and cook for about 8 minutes until the vegetables are soft. Add the red

pepper and salt and cook another 8 minutes or so. Add in the tomato paste, garlic, tomatoes, and sugar, and cook, stirring often, for about another 8 minutes or until the tomatoes have cooked down and become saucy. Add the eggplant, raisins, vinegar, capers, and several grinds of pepper and cook another 5 minutes or more. Stir in the parsley and check the seasonings. Serve at room temperature or refrigerate in an air-tight container for up to 8 days. Add some basil when served.

Date, Tahini, and Cinnamon Smoothie

The Vegetarian Middle Eastern Cookbook by Salma Hage

Serves 2

My husband makes smoothies all the time with yogurt, milk, and fruit. He eats them all year long. What if I switch it out and try this one? Just put everything into the blender and puree until smooth.

2 bananas, peeled
 2 dates, pitted
 1 ¼ cups milk, whichever you drink, almond, cow, or light coconut
 2 tbs tahini
 ¼ cup whole blanched almonds
 1 tsp cinnamon ■

Both these and those

By Max Richardson, Jewish Communal Leadership Program student

As I read the incoming text messages and turned on the news, it still took some time part because nearly every student present was wearing a keffiyeh (which I have had mixed



Max Richardson

for me to realize the impact that October 7 would have on Jews in America and on university campuses.

As a Jew in America, I was taught that Israel was an important aspect of my identity. So naturally, when I heard about the atrocities of the Hamas incursion, I was appalled. I was fortunate to quickly find support from family and most of my friends.

It didn’t take long, however, before we began to see and hear about celebrations of these atrocities on our own University of Michigan campus. The following year saw actions ranging from calls for the death of Jews and Israelis to the delivery of fake corpses by masked individuals to the doorsteps of the families of university regents in the middle of the night. Hate, fear, and divisive rhetoric were deliberately spread to Michiganders in Ann Arbor and the Metro Detroit area. Many people, myself included, found no time to even process our grief, before our sense of security within the community we call home began to crumble.

When I returned to campus this fall, I was hopeful that life in Ann Arbor would not offer a repeat of last year’s hate and fearmongering. A number of criminal acts targeting Jews, however, brought fear creeping back into my brain.

I am determined to focus on my more hopeful goals as a student in the U-M School of Social Work. On the anniversary of October 7, the Southwest Asia and North Africa Social Work Association (SWANA) hosted an interfaith candlelight vigil. In their open invitation, they asked attendees to consider sharing a reflection at the vigil. So I did. Before I went to the vigil, I told my friends and family that I planned to attend. Many of them, focused on recent and ongoing anti-Zionist/anti-Jewish protests dominant in their minds, advised me not to attend. I received many comments expressing concern for my safety, both physical and mental. Not really worried that I would be unsafe, I still felt nervous and brought some friends with me for my own peace of mind.

Arriving at the vigil, I felt anxious, in

feelings about since its resurgence last year), but also because I had volunteered to share my reflection. As I collected my electric tealight candle, the vigil began.

It was so unlike every other social work and student gathering I had experienced over the last year in that it was calm, respectful, and peaceful. I ended up sharing some of my experiences over the last year, but more importantly, I spoke about the concept of Eilu v’Eilu, Hebrew for, “both these and those can be true” (thanking Haley Schreier of Hillel for this inspiration), and I made a call for a more unified, more empathetic campus.

A major component of my experience in Michigan’s School of Social Work program is the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP). I have had so many amazing opportunities within JCLP, but the one that sticks out today are the conversations with other social work student groups we held during the holiday of Sukkot. We facilitated conversations at our sukkah regarding the holiday, which essentially expresses the need to feel joy. In our conversations at the sukkah, we discussed the essence of this holiday and what implementing joy in such difficult times could look like. The JCLP spoke with a few student groups, but the one I attended was with SWANA. Throughout the dialogue, we shared opportunities to express curiosity about the holiday of Sukkot, cultural foods, and the difficulties this last year have brought each of us and the importance of experiencing joy while also feeling loss and pain. This dialogue felt like a start to the bridging of interfaith communities, and I hope this type of work may continue. I’ll be honest, last year was hard. And life on an American university campus didn’t make it easier. But this year feels different. I feel more hopeful. Through the work I have done to connect across differences, I feel more seen, and at the same time, I see so many similarities in those I had previously thought I couldn’t be any more different from. This shared humanity must be prioritized for us to move forward. ■



Rebuilding a fashion business

By Steven Merritt

It's not every day that purchasing a stylish gift can make a big difference to a refugee family, but that's the case with purchases from Kondra Bags.

Alla and Maksym Kondratenko have been working to rebuild the thriving business they left behind in Ukraine with help from Jewish Family Services (JFS). Under the name Kondra Bags, their stylish, high-quality handbags, purses, slings, fanny packs, and duffels are now available in local stores just in time to provide "holiday gifts with a story."

A harrowing escape

Alla and Maksym Kondratenko's lives changed forever when the Russians invaded Ukraine. It was the start of a journey that eventually would bring them to the Ann Arbor area.

The couple lived in Kharkiv near the Russian border. They awakened early on February 24, 2022, to red skies and the sound of explosions. They spent the next few days crowded in the basement of their apartment building, without heat, electricity, food, or medicine. Those who left to collect food or firewood risked being shot by snipers.

The Kondratenkos had been in business since 2015 and had over

10,000 items on their website. Soon, the warehouse containing their merchandise was bombed and destroyed.

If that weren't enough, Alla was 37 weeks pregnant with complications. Suddenly in severe pain, she was driven to the hospital in the dark without headlights, which would have made the ambulance a target. After her daughter Daiana was born by cesarean, the couple was told they must leave because there was no space for them.

Shortly after, Maksym made a perilous trip alone by car. He passed through almost 60 Ukrainian and Russian checkpoints to retrieve his three-year-old son Davyd, who was staying with his grandparents in a Russian-occupied town.

After fleeing the fighting several times, the couple made the difficult decision to leave Ukraine to protect their family. Like so many immigrants before them, they left everything they knew behind. Alla and Maksym, his mother Olha, and their two children arrived in Michigan in September 2022.

Rebuilding their business

The Kondratenkos are one of about

125 refugee families that JFS in Washtenaw helps resettle every year. The agency is supporting the couple's entrepreneurial efforts through its Microenterprise Development program.

Alla and Maksym have "a real determination and passion for their business," according to JFS's Mibrak Tewolde, who works with the program's entrepreneurs.

"Our first love has always been for fashion accessories," said Maksym, "so we reached out to our suppliers back in Ukraine to restart our business."

Many of those suppliers had fled to the central and western part of the country to restart their own businesses. "Now as we regrow our business in the U.S., we can also help support some of those displaced Ukrainian families and businesses," he said.

While Maksym works up to 10 hours a day as an engineer at Liebherr, Alla focuses on rebuilding the business. They often work on it together late into the night.

The couple has not wasted time. They got their start appearing at JFS's tables in the Ypsilanti and Dixboro Farmers Markets. They have also sold at many community events, including the Ann Arbor Art Fair this past summer.

They have appeared in pop-up stores in Kerrytown's FOUND Gallery and the suburban Detroit store Leon & Lulu's. Their products are currently available in retail stores in Ann Arbor, Detroit, and the Traverse City area.

Online, they have their own website, an Amazon store, and are on Faire.com, a whole-

sale site.

Through their suppliers' craftsmanship and attention to detail, "we believe a little bit of the soul of Ukraine is in each of our products," said Alla.

Showing the courage and resilience of many immigrants before them, the couple is not alone in starting a business. An academic study appearing in the spring 2022 issue of *American Economic Review: Insights* shows that "per capita, immigrants are about 80% more likely to found a firm when compared to U.S.-born citizens." In addition, these businesses hire more employees on average. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show that immigrants start more than 25% of all new businesses.

The Kondra line was recently picked up by Helen Newman Ltd., a women's fashion showroom in Chicago that markets to retailers. Ms. Newman's parents were Holocaust survivors. "When I heard the word Ukraine, it touched my heart, and if I could help the family in any way, I wanted to do that."

For those interested in purchasing items, the couple's products can be found locally at the FOUND Gallery, Bivouac, and Ferne Boutique. They are also online at www.kondrabags.com. ■



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Events at Beth Israel in December

Everyone is welcome to join Beth Israel for services, classes, and events. Services are being held in person and virtually, unless otherwise noted on the calendar. Below is a list of the links to participate virtually in services at Beth Israel. Beth Israel is live streaming services on the Beth Israel YouTube channel (Beth Israel Congregation AA MI). All links are also available on the Beth Israel homepage (www.bethisrael-aa.org). Please note that passwords are used. Contact the office to get the passwords at office@bethisrael-aa.org.

Our Response to Antisemitism Post 10/7

ISRAEL360 welcomes Carolyn Normandin, Regional Director, ADL Michigan Sunday, December 8, 5 p.m.

Carolyn Grant Normandin is the Regional Director of ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Michigan. Normandin is responsible for leading ADL's Michigan Regional Office, which focuses on combatting antisemitism and bigotry of all kinds through advocacy, incident response, community service, and education. Please register for this event on the BIC website.



Carolyn Normandin

Talmud Study with Rabbi Dobrusin (via Zoom)

Monday, December 2, 4 p.m.
The class meets on Zoom on Monday afternoons from 4–5:15. We read the text in the

original Hebrew or Aramaic with an accompanying English translation and discuss the text in English. No familiarity with Hebrew or prior experience studying Talmud is required. This summer and fall, we will study the fourth chapter of tractate Rosh Hashanah, which deals with laws and traditions relating to the blowing of the shofar and the liturgy of Rosh Hashanah. Check the Beth Israel website for the Zoom link.

Gesher Spill the Tea (sixth–eighth grade)

Wednesday, December 4, 2 p.m.
Gesher is meeting to “Spill the Tea.” With a tea bar and snacks, we will have a meaningful discussion about the power of language. Judaism's take on language is extremely profound, both in terms of our own use of language and also how to deal with hateful words used against us. Due to the AAPS early release day, we've moved this event to before BIRS instead of after, meaning pickup will just be after BIRS (if your child attends).

Camp Style Shabbat Dinner and Service

Friday, December 6, 5:45 p.m.
Join us as we welcome our new members at this special Camp Style Shabbat. Led by Rav Nadav with Rachel Lawrence-Lupton on guitar, this family-friendly dinner and service for all will begin at 5:45 p.m. Register on the BIC website (www.bethisrael-aa.org).

Youth Services (Tot Shabbat & Mini Minyan)

Saturday, December 14 & 28, 11 a.m.
Preschoolers begin to learn and love Judaism through storytelling, singing, and hands-on activities. Families join for songs, stories, and more in an interactive service for tots.

Tot Shabbats are led by either Katie Shelef or John McLaughlin. Mini Minyan is a slower learner's service for elementary school-age children. The service will include Shabbat prayers and a “D'var and Discussion” in place of the Torah service. Mini Minyan is led by the Youth and Family Director Ben Brent.

USY Volunteering Outing (ninth–12th grade)

Thursday, December 12, 4 p.m.
Join BIC USY as we spend our afternoon volunteering in Washtenaw County. Contact Ben at benb@bethisrael-aa.org for complete details.

Gesher Mall Scavenger Hunt (sixth–eighth grade)

Sunday, December 15, 12:30 p.m.
Join for an exciting scavenger hunt around Briarwood mall. A carpool and chaperone list will be sent out shortly. Hope to see you there.

Family Fun Raiser @ Revel and Roll

Thursday, December 19, 5:30 p.m.
We're going back to Revel n Roll! Registration will open soon. As a reminder, payments are donation-based and everyone gets unlimited pizza, soft drinks, and bowling, with private lanes, arcade cards, shoes — a recipe for a great night of bowling!

Aura of Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, December 27, 6 p.m.
A Jewish Renewal-inspired singing service led by Rabbi Aura Ahuvia. The choir, dubbed the “Holy Levites,” will be holding a

rehearsal at 5:30 p.m. leading right up to and seamlessly into services. All are welcome to attend.

USY Hanukkah and New Year's Party (ninth–12th Grade)

Saturday, December 28, 7 p.m.
USY is throwing a party! Join us in the Youth Lounge from 7–9 pm as we celebrate Hanukkah, the end of 2024, and the year to come!

Theology Book Club — Online

Wednesdays at 7 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

Minyan
Sundays at 9:30 a.m., in the M&M Chapel and online
Sundays at 7:30 p.m., online only
Mondays at 7:30 p.m., online only
Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., online only
Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m., in the M&M Chapel and online
Thursdays 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. ■

Jews do jazz for JCOR

By Deborah Meyers Greene

JCOR's (Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement) third annual fundraising concert, “Jews do Jazz for JCOR,” will feature the Cliff Monear Trio playing music by Jewish composers and lyricists. Save the date: March 16, 2025, 4 to 6 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor. The afternoon promises to be at least as exciting and joyful as prior JCOR concerts. And as always, net proceeds are dedicated to advance the work of JCOR, an all-volunteer effort established by six Ann Arbor congregations who work in collaboration with Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County to help refugee families reestablish their independence, orient to local culture, and develop a firm footing in their new home through their first year of resettlement.

JCOR volunteers work in action teams to aid families in education, employment, move-in, health, transportation, and adjustment to American culture. But sometimes, the family's needs occur outside those predetermined areas, such as a situation that arose recently.

While little people were scampering through Ann Arbor's neighborhoods in search of Halloween treats, JCOR's current family sat in mourning. One of the grandmothers back home in Syria had succumbed to a lingering illness. Sorrow lay over the home and its inhabitants like a blinding fog. Their flight from harm occurred so long ago that the eldest son, now a teenager, is the only one of the three boys who remembers the grandmother. He somberly consoled his younger brothers with his memories.

A couple of mornings later, two JCOR volunteers visited the family to offer condolences and deliver a tray of fruits and sweets. “Why have you done this?” asked one parent, “Why have you brought all of this?”

“It is our Jewish custom to bring food to grieving families,” one of the volunteers replied.

“This is the first time my [spouse] smiled since we learned the news. Thank you for this wonderful gift and for visiting us!”

A second food gift, including special treats for each of the boys, was delivered by JCOR volunteers a few days after that. The mood in the meticulously kept home was still somber but recovering.

Only two months from the completion of the JCOR part of their journey, which continues through January 2025, this hard-

working, resilient, and loving family is well on the road to independence.

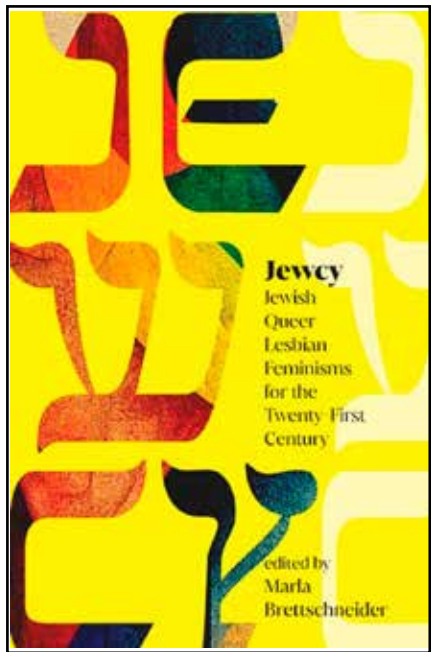
Simultaneously, as these next few weeks pass, JCOR is developing plans for its next refugee family. Information is available at jcorannarbor.org for anyone who is interested in volunteering or contributing funds or goods toward the new family's needs. JCOR is a wonderful and inspiring expression of tikkun olam and everyone is welcome!

Jewish Congregations Organized for Resettlement (JCOR) is an all-volunteer community collaboration founded by six Ann Arbor area congregations: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan, Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation, Beth Israel Congregation, Jewish Cultural Society, Pardes Hannah, and Temple Beth Emeth, who work in partnership with Jewish Family Services and welcome others to join our effort. ■

We have to live

Jewcy: Jewish Queer Lesbian Feminisms for the Twenty-First Century, edited by Marla Brettschneider, reviewed by PF Anderson

I'm writing this book review the night of Election Day, and just now, I very much appreciate the opportunity to turn my attention elsewhere. That the "elsewhere" is a book with the delightfully punny title of "Jewcy" (pronounced "Jew-



see" as in "juicy, get it?) just makes it better. I confess, my sense of humor is tickled by puns. I agreed to review the book sight unseen, knowing nothing about it, based solely on that first word. *Jewcy's* subtitle, "Jewish Queer Lesbian Feminisms for the Twenty-First Century," carries a rather academic tone, fitting for a book published by a university press but a tad jarring. Between the flaming hilarity of the

title's beginning (it still makes me giggle) and the stuffiness of its ending, I wasn't sure what to expect. For tonight, though, it feels like the perfect choice. You see, for me, reading *Jewcy* was all about diversity and differences, questioning and surprise, and community.

Jewcy is a bit of a chaotic ensemble of creators and ideas that do and don't fit in a unified framework. I don't know how you approach books or reading, but I'm always trying to predict what comes next, while at the same time I'm scurrying off to do a deeper dive into something that raised a question, caught my attention, or otherwise triggered curiosity. I can assure you, in reading *Jewcy* there was never a point where I started the next chapter and thought, "Aha, that's what I expected." It was never what I expected, but it was always sparking my curiosity.

I expected that a book focusing on Jewish lesbian feminisms would be written by women. That was a superficial assumption on my part, and I should have known better, but I still felt surprised, over and over. It's written by and about people of a whole range of genders and sexual identities (asexual, intersex, transgender, anonymous, I-don't-know-and-it's-not-my-business, and naturally also lesbian), with a perhaps even more diverse range of topics and styles: from Leslie Feinberg to Chelly Wilson to a "Henna Night Dyke"; prose memoirs to autobiographical poetry to a "palimpsestuous queer reading"; and, oh, the flavors of community represented — Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi, and more! There are heroines and villains, midrash and politics, Jewish and Muslim, Black and white. Persons lionized in popular media are questioned and held to task for flaws, while folk dehydrated by history are plumped up and presented as rich with nuance.

I'm a huge fan of Joy Ladin, the first openly transgender faculty at an Orthodox Jewish university, so I was delighted to see some of her poetry included, a series of anniversary poems

ripe with tenderness and intimacies such as "waiting ... for sleep to spread from your leg to mine." I had no idea that the ancient rabbis had stated that the androgynos could be alone with neither men nor women, that in some ways privacy was forbidden them. I did not know that Emma Lazarus, famed poet of the Statue of Liberty, had Sephardi heritage! Sephardi heritage is the largest portion of my family's Jewish heritage, so that caught my attention. I also was caught by surprise to hear that she wrote richly about homoeroticism. Oh, my! I went spinning down the ramps of the Internet Archive to find a copy of her 1882 *Song of a Semite*, which includes a play in verse, dedicated to George Eliot, about the burning of Jews in Nordhausen during the Black Death.

There were a few places where something in the book jarred uncomfortably rather than as a pleasant surprise. The first time was in the introduction when the editor, Marla Brettschneider, discussed Leslie Feinberg, appearing to use alternating male and female pronouns. In any case I found it confusing, and hard to follow. Pre-pandemic, I'd met Feinberg's life partner, Minnie Bruce Pratt, and the subject of Leslie's preferred pronouns had come up, which had me paying closer attention to this. Off to Feinberg's website, which has the authorized version approved by Pratt before her death in 2023, with Feinberg's pronouns as she/xie/hir. Further digging led me to a National Archives post saying to use zie/hir for Feinberg, citing a 2006 interview. More confusion. I found nothing in the "Introduction" to clarify, so I checked chapter 11 about Leslie Feinberg, where Brettschneider used exclusively female pronouns, she/her, with a footnote explaining the use of pronouns was sourced to the same 2006 interview, cited as being from a discontinued

website. I found an archived version of that interview in which Feinberg is transcribed as saying, "I like the gender neutral pronoun 'ze/hir.'" None of these match. It is excellent that Brettschneider did research about Feinberg's preferred pronouns prior to making the editorial decision about what pronouns to use, and there's clearly precedent for ambiguity here. Brettschneider even goes to the next level by contextualizing the shifts in pronoun choices over time, explaining that the use in this book is intended to adhere to the preferences stated publicly during life by the person to whom the pronouns refer.

I read this in the e-book version, and as I'm going through my highlights and notes, I'm noticing much of what I highlighted were works that were cited which I want to find later. I don't want to end this without sharing some of my favorite lines in the book:

"The pandemic won't start for a couple of years, so it's easy to feel life has triumphed over death ..."

"I was sick of being told they weren't Jewish."

"My first Pride event was an all-LGBTQ Sefaradi-Mizrahi Shabbat dinner."

"[W]e are all forced to conform to specific, binarized, heteronormative gender roles."

"What does it mean to live outside of a sex/gender system that governs every aspect of life?"

"And yet, somehow, I wasn't Jewish."

"I am so much more than my labels."

"To ask me to prove who I am cheapens our relationship."

"I want to believe we existed."

"All I know is that I have to live."

Tonight, it's healing to review this. I find myself repeating, paraphrasing, "All I know is that we have to live." ■

Wild burning rage in song

By Beth Dwoskin

Students of 20th century American history know about the Scottsboro boys, the nine young black men who were accused of rape in Alabama in 1931. However, fewer know about the intersection of the Scottsboro case with communism, Yiddish poetry, American music, and Depression-era racial and economic politics. Scholar Amelia Glaser addressed this intersection in her book *Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine*.

The book caught the attention of three Yiddishist musicians — composer/vocalists Heather Klein and Anthony Russell, and composer/pianist Uri Schreter. During the pandemic, these musicians met with Amelia Glaser on Zoom and together they crafted "Wild Burning Rage and Song: Replies to Scottsboro," a "concert lecture" narrated by Glaser, with poetry on the Scottsboro case by Yiddish and African-American writers, set to music. As part of their lecture tour, they appeared at

The Ark in Ann Arbor last month. The concert was on Wednesday, November 6, the day after the election. There was a good turnout for their academic presentation on a dark and difficult subject.

Communism was at the height of its popularity in Europe and America in the interwar period. The International Labor Defense (ILD), a legal advocacy organization established as the American section of the Comintern's International Red Aid network, undertook the defense of the Scottsboro boys. They hired attorney Samuel Leibowitz, a Romanian-born Jew who had no ties to Communism. Leibowitz endured threats to his life from the local white community as he worked to defend the accused teenagers.

Many Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants were communist true believers. They embraced the cause of the Scottsboro boys, and it was covered in Yiddish communist newspapers, both in the news and in poetry. The performers of "Wild Burning Rage and Song" set some of these poems to music and sang them in Yid-

dish and English, with transliterations and translations displayed on a screen. Among the main poems featured were "The Negro Dies" by Berish Vaynshteyn and "God's Black Lamb" by Malka Lee, along with "I Have Seen Black Hands" by African-American writer Richard Wright.

The performers who wrote the music for "Wild Burning Rage" were influenced by a critical musical development from this era, the Composers Collective. This group of classically trained composers, which included immigrant and American-born Jews, wrote music that they hoped would promote communism to the working-class. Uri Schreter used some of their ideas for the accompaniments he wrote and played in "Wild Burning Rage." Schreter calls the music "modern and angular." Its jarring, dissonant quality is in keeping with the difficult, painful subject of the concert. One prominent member of the Composers Collective, Elie Siegmeister, wrote the song,

"The Scottsboro Boys Shall Not Die."

In our time, the Scottsboro case is well-documented and studied, yet "Wild Burning Rage" breaks new ground. It reminds Jews of their historical involvement with communism as a response to the oppression of other groups and of Jews themselves. It examines the mixed Christian and Jewish images that the Yiddish poets used as they wrote about the Scottsboro case. It reveals the complication of the two white women accusers, who were "hoboing" on a train along with the Scottsboro boys and a white gang, a situation of extreme danger and desperation for these women. It introduces the left-wing musicians who influenced the music of "Wild Burning Rage" and who were critically important to the collection and promotion of American folk music later in the twentieth century. "Wild Burning Rage" presents the concert lecture as an innovative and valuable technique for using music to explore nuanced elements of a major historical event. ■

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December Calendar

Always check websites or call for updates before planning to attend anything listed here.

Sunday 1 Rosh Chodesh Kislev

Monday 2 Rosh Chodesh

Tuesday 3

Food Gatherers 35th annual Rockin' for the Hungry. This is the largest annual fundraiser for Food Gatherers, the food bank and food rescue program serving Washtenaw County. Broadcast live from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 107one from the Westgate Kroger.

Wednesday 4

Yiddish 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 email Elliot H. Gertel at egertel@umich.edu at least one day before scheduled meeting day every Wednesday (except major Jewish holidays). 2 p.m.

Gourmet Dinner Cooking Presentation with Vera Newman. Author of *The Marblespoon* cookbooks. Chabad 6:30 p.m.

Third Annual Martin B. Shichtman Lecture, Jordan B. Gorfinkel (Gorf) "The Four Children: The Superhero, the Supervillain, the Mentor and the Sidekick." EMU. 7 p.m.

Thursday 5

Friday 6
Candle Lighting 4:45 p.m.

Saturday 7 Vayeitzei
Havdallah 5:49 p.m.

Sunday 8

Monday 9

Tuesday 10

Hanukah-Diwali festival at the JCC of Greater Ann Arbor at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 11

Yiddish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. 2 p.m.

Thursday 12

Friday 13
Candle Lighting 4:45 p.m.

Saturday 14 Vayishlach
Havdallah 5:50 p.m.

Sunday 15

Jewish Storytime at AADL. Traverwood. Various times for different age groups.

Monday 16

Tuesday 17

Wednesday 18

Yiddish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. 2 p.m.

Thursday 19

Friday 20

Candle Lighting 4:47 p.m.

Saturday 21 Vayeishev

Havdallah 5:53 p.m.

Wednesday 25 Hanukah First Candle Tonight

Yiddish tish: (Virtual) (Yiddish Conversation & Reading Group): Zoom. 2 p.m.

Thursday 26 Hanukah day 1

Friday 27 Hanukah day 2

Candle Lighting 4:52 p.m.

Saturday 28 Mikeitz. Hanukah day 3

Havdallah 5:57 p.m.

Sunday 29 Hanukah day 4

Monday 30 Hanukah day 5

Tuesday 31 Hanukah day 6. Rosh Hodesh Tevet

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

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Congregation (AARC): 2935 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-445-1910, aarecon.org

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

Chabad House: 715 Hill Street, 734-995-3276, jewmich.com

Eastern Michigan University Center for Jewish Studies (EMU): www.emich.edu/jewish-studies/

Frankel Center: 202 S. Thayer St., Isa.umich.edu/judaic/

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

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

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

Jewish Federation: 2939 Birch Hollow Drive, 734-677-0100, jewishannarbor.org

Pardes Hannah: 2010 Washtenaw Ave, 734-761-5324, pardeshannah.org

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

UM Hillel: 1429 Hill Street 734-769-0500, michiganhillel.org. ■

Lessons from our forefathers Abraham and Issac

By Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Chabad of Ann Arbor



In Vayeira, we are introduced to the second of our forefathers, Isaac. It also relates that Isaac was occupied with digging wells.

Abraham and Isaac achieved greatness by paving two distinct paths to spirituality. Abraham traveled from place to place, both within the borders of Israel and in other lands, and caused G-d's name to be known everywhere he went. Through his boundless hospitality, as well as through other means, he caused countless wayfarers to thank G-d for His bounty and goodness. Abraham's basic nature was kindness — giving and favorably influencing his fellow man.

Isaac, on the other hand, had a totally different approach. He never left the Holy Land and his basic nature was the personification of gevura (strength). Isaac's way of bringing holiness into the world involved elevating the lowly and bringing it closer to G-dliness; Abraham's method was to bring G-dliness down into the lower realms.

This path to spirituality is even apparent in Isaac's preoccupation with digging wells. A well is made when one digs and uncovers the water that was always there, albeit in an unrevealed state. Isaac did not bring the water to the well from an outside source; he merely removed the soil and rocks so that the water could flow forth on its

own.

Whereas his father Abraham was primarily occupied with bringing holiness down into this world, Isaac spent his life uncovering the inherent holiness that already existed in the world. Isaac taught others that through their own efforts they could uncover the good and arrive at Divine truth.

From Abraham we learn how to elevate the physical world through studying Torah and performing mitzvot, causing the Divine light to descend and illuminate our surroundings. We also learn from him the obligation to spread the knowledge and

appreciation of G-d through our own example and influence on others.

But this in itself is not enough. We must also learn from Isaac how to "dig wells" — how to uncover and reveal that spark of goodness and spirituality which exists within ourselves and every Jew. It is not sufficient to merely teach others about G-dliness; we must also know how to dig under the surface and reveal the "pintele Yid" — the inherent faith in G-d and spark of holiness — which is our birthright.

Even if a Jew seems to be nothing but "dust, clay, and stones," that is, his Jewish spark seems to be dormant and hidden underground, we can learn from Isaac to not be discouraged — this appearance is merely a camouflage. Under the lifeless surface lies a rich source of running water, of goodness, faith, and love of G-d. All we have to do is remove the superficial layer of "clay" to reveal the pure Jewish soul within.

And what can we answer a Jew who cries, "But I've tried! I've dug and I've dug, and I can't seem to uncover my Jewish spark!" We must direct him to the example of Isaac, who persevered in his digging and was not discouraged, even when his wells were deliberately stopped up by his enemies, time and time again. For we are promised success if we, too, persevere and are relentless in our quest for G-dliness. ■

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Obituaries

The WJN prints obituaries, memories, and eulogies free of charge for family members of Washtenaw Jewish community members as a service to the community and to honor the lives of those who have passed away. When local congregations send condolence notices to the WJN, the editor searches for obituaries online. Also, community members are invited to send obituaries to the editor.



Joan Scobey (née Joan Moisseiff), a travel journalist, memoirist, and co-author of many books on crafts and cooking, died on October 14 from congestive heart failure at her home in Manhattan. She was 97.

Ms. Scobey had the cosmopolitanism of a native New Yorker. After graduating from Smith College in 1948, she spent two years in Paris as a stringer for the *International Herald Tribune*, the start of a lifelong career as a freelance writer and journalist. It was over a business lunch at the Russian Tea Room, pitching an idea about radio plays for children, that she met Raphael Scobey, an entertainment lawyer; they married a year later. While raising their sons David and Richard in Westchester County, she co-authored *Creative Careers for Women: A Handbook of Sources and Ideas for Part-time Jobs* and a series of craft and cookbooks. She published two humorous memoirs: *Short Rations: Confessions of a Cranky Calorie-Counter* and *I'm a Stranger Here Myself: The Panic (and Pleasures) of Middle Age*.

After her husband's death in 1989, Ms. Scobey returned to Manhattan and began a long career as a freelance travel and food writer. There was hardly a corner of the earth — Greenland, China, Cape Town, Peru — that she didn't visit on assignment. She was active in the Society of American Travel Writers, co-chairing its international convention in 1998. "Her writing was punchy, witty, incisive, spare," her SATW colleague Geoffrey Weil commented. "She was able to describe places with perfect clarity and vision."

Joan Scobey is survived by her son Richard and son-in-law Bruce Ragsdale of Cambridge, United Kingdom; her son David and daughter-in-law Denise Thal of Ann Arbor, Michigan; her grandson Jake Scobey-Thal, granddaughter-in-law Al Page, and great-granddaughter Frieda Page of New Orleans; her grandson Rafe Scobey-Thal of Paris, France; and her grandson Isaac Scobey-Thal of Brooklyn. A private memorial service is being planned.



Dr. Eliot Sorel, MD — husband, father, grandfather, friend, healer, teacher, coach, mentor, innovator, internationalist, photographer — passed peacefully on October 13, 2024, at the age of 84. He is survived by his wife, Christiane E. Sorel, his son, Marc A. Sorel (Maura), his daughter, Marie-Adele Sorel Kress, MD (Jeremy), and his six wonderful grandchildren, Benjamin, Davina, Elias, Olympia, Theodore, and Zeke.

A first-generation American, Dr. Sorel lived the American dream. Born in the village of Falticeni, Romania, in October 1940, in 1958 his freedom from the Communist regime was purchased for nearly \$50,000 (in 2024 currency) by a New York-based uncle, Marcel Halpern, working through a London-based intermediary. Dr. Sorel went to Paris, where he lived with family and studied medicine, initially stateless (the Romanian regime had stripped him of his citizenship as a condition of permitting his emigration). In 1961, at the invitation of the same uncle, Dr. Sorel immigrated to the United States, electing to come by boat, becoming a proud naturalized citizen. Working his way through school, Dr. Sorel studied at NYU, the State University of New York-Binghamton, the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and Yale, where he would meet his future wife. After a pioneering two-year stint establishing mental health services in the U.S. Virgin Islands, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he established a successful psychiatric practice and became a long-serving professor at the George Washington University. Under the democratic government of Romania, Dr. Sorel's Romanian citizenship was restored in a ceremony at the Romanian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

A thoughtful, intentional, original servant-leader, Dr. Sorel deeply treasured his family, friends, work, soccer, photography, and a life of the mind lived through the creation, refinement, and exchange of ideas with others. For years, Dr. Sorel would spend weekend mornings on the phone for hours with family, friends, and colleagues worldwide in the languages he spoke (English, French, Romanian, some Yiddish and Hebrew). He made time to coach his son's soccer team for five years, across nearly 10 seasons, relishing the post-match debriefs with his son on the drive home. He did not hesitate to change transcontinental business travel plans to arrive in time for his daughter's ballet recital. He declined professional advancement opportunities that would

have required his family to move so that his children could stay close to the friends they had made in the D.C. area. He frequently embarrassed his children at soccer matches attended at RFK Stadium, where he would regale the home team with cries of "danger!" when the opposition brought the ball into the final third of the field. Whether stopping to photograph meadow flowers or the moment when a butterfly rests on an apple blossom, Dr. Sorel deeply appreciated natural beauty. A political independent who would proudly remind others that he voted for the best candidate regardless of party, Dr. Sorel would engage passionately on any topic, at any time, with anyone. He would regularly and genuinely press the taxi driver in whichever country he was visiting for their take on local politics, and report back to his family on what he learned. He deeply believed in the power of democracy, and of the United States to be a force for good in the world, belief he lived through his tour in the U.S. public health service, and his work to deepen ties between the United States and Europe, NATO, and, in particular, Romania, including through his behind-the-scenes work to arrange for Romania to be a featured country at the 1999 Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Dr. Sorel was an innovative global health leader, health systems performance expert, practicing physician, and Clinical Professor of Global Health, Health Policy, and Management at the George Washington University, where he was also a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

His honors and initiatives were diverse and extensive. Dr. Sorel organized countless panel discussions on events integrating cultural and practical perspectives. Whether arranging to have a West African drumming troupe perform at the Cosmos Club or curating a publication and panel to celebrate the Marshall Plan, Dr. Sorel was most at home when making often overlooked but no less critical connections between people and cultures to unlock new insights, relationships, and impact.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, please make donations to Hebrew International Aid Society (HIAS), which helped Dr. Sorel during his stateless years in Paris, or National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).



Andrea (Andy) Ludwig passed away peacefully on October 29 after a long battle with cancer. She is survived by her sister Dr. Merle Varon and brother Mark Mayerstein, four children, Steve Arrieta (Jinnes), Pandy Arrieta Baumiller, Bill Arrieta (Nancy), Bruce Arrieta (Jennifer), as well as her 10 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Her family was the foundation of a truly loving

life.

Andy was one of the kindest, most loving, and gentle souls this world has ever known. Her capacity for empathy and genuine caring for others was beyond measure. She valued family and friendship more than buckets of gold. These are the things which her dear ones valued most about her and why she was loved so very much. Proud to be Jewish, but embracing people of all faiths, Andy always loved a spirited conversation about spirituality and religion. She was always eager to learn and to teach. Travel was a passion as she was able to learn about different cultures and of course eat some amazing food.

Primary among many organizations in which she was involved was Temple Beth Emeth, where she served as long-term President of Sisterhood and was a devoted member of the Morning Blessings Minyan. Andy also served on the National Board of Women for Reformed Judaism.

After all the years of being a mom and wife to her beloved husband, Bob Ludwig, Andy moved into independent living at Glacier Hills in Ann Arbor. Here she was able to find her own individuality and flourished. The ability she had to make instant friends was astounding, and she used that gift to make a difference in many lives with her love, dignity, and grace. We are all grateful that she got to live her best life ever in the Glacier Hills community. Andy's life was amazing. ■

Simchas and Sorrows

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends condolences to the families of:

Dr. Eliot Sorel, father of Marie-Adele Kress, October 13.

Mindy Merdinger Blackstock, partner of Andrew Lambert, brother of Cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut (Avishay Hayut). October 14, 2024.

Joan Moisseiff Scobey, mother of David Scobey, October 14.

Ronald Aaron, husband of Marianne Aaron, father of Richard (Yuni) Aaron, Rabbi David (Marjorie) Aaron, Rabbi Jonathan (Michelle) Aaron, and grandfather of Noah & Sofie, Joshua & Elisha, and Adina & Sela. October 20, 2024.

Andrea Ludwig, mother of Pandy Baumiller, Bruce, Steven, and Billy Arrieta. October 29, 2024.

The Washtenaw Jewish community sends mazel tovs to:

David and Helaine Reid on the birth of their granddaughter, Siena Lucia Mershimer, born September 9, 2024. Proud parents are Stephanie Reid and Jon Mershimer.

Nessa Gafni-Pappas on her bat mitzvah, December 14.

Anabelle Gal on her bat mitzvah, December 21.

Marc Zimmerman on being elected to the National Academy of Medicine, one of the highest honors in medical research.

Beth Dwoskin and Bob Blumenthal on the birth of their granddaughter, Ayala Gissie Levy, daughter of Sophia Blumenthal and Dan Levy. ■



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