In Israel, missile alert apps save lives – and spread anxiety

BY SAM SOKOL

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Four years ago, on the eve of the Israeli military’s Gaza operation known as Protective Edge, a private developer created the Red Alert app providing real-time notification when missiles or rockets were fired into Israel. Since then, Red Alert and smartphone apps like it have become tools for saving lives, social media sites in their own right – a portable source of anxiety for Israelis already living in a state of high alert.

As Hamas and other terrorist groups again fired hundreds of rockets at cities and towns in Israel’s south recently, alert apps were again pinging and buzzing their way into the Israeli psyche. When a reporter asked on Facebook if they made users anxious, Israelis were quick to agree. “I had to turn it off,” Izzy Berkson said.

“It was stressing me out a lot more than it should’ve.”

Aviva Adler said she had turned off notifications because “it was just too nerve-wracking.”

Inside the areas most likely to be targeted, the apps have become essential. But even those living at a distance from Gaza say they want to know when the missiles are incoming, often as a way of showing solidarity with their fellow Israelis.

“I use it, so that each time there is a siren anywhere, I pray for the people there to have strength and be safe,” said Chana Shields Rosenfelder of Beit Shemesh, a central Israeli city located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Barbara Freedman of Jerusalem echoed that feeling. “I put on an app so that I am aware of the suffering of our brothers and sisters in the south, and so my life is not ‘business as usual,’” she said.

That impulsion is felt even thousands of miles away. Shmuel Katz, an American immigrant living in Beit Shemesh, recalled how his son, who had moved back to the United States, had gotten in trouble at work because his phone wouldn’t stop buzzing. The son had to explain to a stunned supervisor that dozens of rockets were being launched at Israeli citizens, and that he had installed Red Alert in order to “keep up and make sure that his family here was safe.”

Paul Frosh, a professor of communications at Hebrew University, says the apps are in a tradition of more humble technologies, including church bells and sirens, that have been used not only to signal specific events, but to “connect people to each other across space and time.” Like the Muslim call to prayer or the Shabbat siren that sounds in Jerusalem, he said they enable people to “feel part of the community at the same time.”

However, unlike those previous methods, users of the modern-day alert apps opt in and are “deliberately making themselves the subject of an emergency broadcast,” Frosh said. “That’s a very powerful opt-in medium of social solidarity and cohesion.”

Asked if he believes that the use of such apps contributes to the spread of anxiety among the population, Frosh replied that it very well might do so. But what he finds even more interesting is why people would choose to subject themselves to that.

“It’s almost as if people are saying ‘I should be anxious, I live in a community with these people, even if they are strangers,’ and it’s almost as if I have a moral [imperative] to experience their anxiety,” he said. “They may not benefit from their anxiety, but my being part of this emergency system is a sign of solidarity and makes me feel closer to them.”

For other users, the apps fill a more practical need, even if the government and military don’t always approve. During the Israel-Hamas conflict in 2014, Daniel Tal-Or, who lives in Eifrat, near Jerusalem, was having issues with Israel’s official air raid notification system. “My wife is hearing impaired, and we had problems with the sirens not reaching everyone” in our town, he recalled. “In situations like this, it’s very important that you have a backup.”

With missiles from Gaza again raining down on Israel, Tal-Or created his own take on Red Alert. Sitting in front of his computer, he cobbled together a bot that would warn members of his family’s chat channel on the communications app Discord when a rocket threatened their location.

See “Alert” on page 5

Smoke rose from a fallen rocket fired from Gaza in a field in southern Israel near the border on November 13. (Hadas Parush/Flash90)
Daredevil, Nick Fury, Doctor Strange the X-Men, the Avengers, the Incredible character Jewish per se, and Jews don’t a novel idea back in 1962, when the character gave American comic books permission in New York City rather than a fictional ensured that his characters came off as squabbled and gave in to petty jealousies, rytelling. He created characters who had literary. He raised the bar for superhero sto- in the comic book industry. Without Lee’s innova- tion, the concept of an orderly queue, so much you earn. These types of jokes are classic cultural differences” different, Trask’s robots, dubbed the Sen- tinels, are clearly a metaphor for real-life hate groups such as the Ku Klux Klan or the SS death squads of Nazi Germany. By rerouting the trajectory of the X-Men with Trask’s offer, Lee and Kirby created a narrative that would be considered rude elsewhere. Those present mostly gathered at the airport, said that here, “people are much stiffer in their conversation you’re not right on top of the cultural norms and expectations that complicate relations between the two groups. “Israelis are no- toriously late; super casual in dress code and speaking,” said Daniel Rosenthal, “and speaking,” said Daniel Rosenthal, a professor at Duke University. “Israelis are straightforward and blunt, with no intermediate behaviors that would seem completely out of place.” And they are “very much a culture of arguing.” Israelis often do not even realize they are perceived as rude by foreigners, said Reuven Ben-Shalom, a former Israeli Air Force officer who runs Cross-Cultural Strategies Ltd., a consulting firm that teaches foreigners how to deal with the culture here. “Most times Americans see Israelis as ‘replacing our civilization with their own.’” We are all in this aggressive attack of our civilization, replacing our civilization with their own.” Israelis have been living in this aggressive attack for decades, said Ben-Shalom. Israel, the X-Men, is like an island in the Middle East, a country very Americanized, but we have developed here a unique culture of our own. Once a culture takes off after we have developed here a unique culture of our own. Once a culture takes off after “Israelis” on page 14
COMMUNITY NEWS

Bais Yaakov of Scranton activities

JFS and SDDS join together to help Lackawanna County residents

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BAIS YAAKOV

The 11th day of Cheshvan was the yahrezeit of Rochel Imenu. The day was commemorated with a video featuring Rabbi Paysach Krohn, Rabbi Zecharya Wallerstein, Rabbi Dovid Ashear, Rebbetzin Tehila Yaeger and more.

According to event organizers, “Rochel, one of our matrarchs, known for her self-sacrifice and chesed (kindness), was engaged to be married to Yaakov. Her father asked her to give up her husband to her older sister, Leah. This she did, not knowing that she, too, would be wed to Yaakov. In the merit of this tremendous act of chesed, Hashem took the Jewish people out of exile and returned them to their land after the destruction of the Second Beis Hamikdash (Holy Temple).”

The featured speaker told different stories of self-sacrifice and what people can do to promote and spread kindness to one another.

ROISH CHODESH KISLEV IS IN THE AIR AT BAIS YAAKOV

On Rosh Chodesh Kislev, students were divided into two teams to have a competition decorating bulletin boards with a Kislev-Chanukah theme. Girls were given a limited time to be creative and display their themed bulletin boards. A soup and pizza lunch was included in honor of Rosh Chodesh.

On the second day of Rosh Chodesh, students heard from Rabbi Avrohom Goldstein, rabbi of the Toras Chessed community in Scranton. He spoke about the importance of not conforming to the ways of the outside world, which often conflict with the ways of the Torah. He also explained the value of living in a smaller city where there aren’t as many distractions as there are in bigger cities. He expressed his appreciation for Scranton Chesed community in Scranton.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bais Yaakov celebration of Chanukah

Chanukah comes early this year, starting on the evening of Sunday, December 2, and lasting until the day of Monday, December 10.

The B’nai Harim Chanukah party and luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 9, at 12:30 pm, at the Lake Naomi Clubhouse, Pocono Pines. A buffet lunch will be served with traditional foods and a group candle lighting is planned. Those attending are asked to bring a menorah. Games for the children and entertainment is planned.

Registration is required. The cost is $27 per adult and $10 for children under 12. Send a check along with the number of guests and a phone number to Congregation B’nai Harim, PO Box 757, Pocono Pines, PA 18350.

For more information, visit the website www.bnai-harimpoconos.org or call the message center at 570-646-0100.

BAIS YAAKOV LIFELINE TOY DRIVE

Bais Yaakov’s annual Chanukah Toy Drive for Chai Lifeline is underway. New toys and games can be dropped off at the school office located downstairs in Beth Shalom Congregation, 1025 Vine St., Scranton.

“The games and toys will be distributed to hospitalized children and their families to lighten up their Chanukah while often undergoing grueling treatments,” said organizers of the toy drive.

First Fund-Raising Pizza and Soup Sale

On November 7, Bais Yaakov baked and sold home-made pizza and soup to the community. The sale was chaired by Suzanne Sever and Leah Laury, assisted by Nancy Ben-Dov, Rozi Ben-Dov, Sandy Mittelman, Gilda Franzen, Vera Epstein and the Bais Yaakov students.

YAHREZIT OF ROCHEL IMENU AT BAIS YAAKOV

first roasted chicken, which was a common dish at weddings. In the Cheshvan dinner, the community was treated to a meal prepared by the Bais Yaakov students and teachers, including Rabbi Dovid Rosenberg, Director of Development, and Rabbi Dovid Ashear, Director of Development.

On November 7, Bais Yaakov baked and sold home-made pizza and soup to the community. The sale was chaired by Suzanne Sever and Leah Laury, assisted by Nancy Ben-Dov, Rozi Ben-Dov, Sandy Mittelman, Gilda Franzen, Vera Epstein and the Bais Yaakov students.

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For more information, visit the website www.bnai-harimpoconos.org or call the message center at 570-646-0100.
The tragic tale of Superman’s Jewish creators, told in graphic novel form

BY GABE FRIEDMAN

(JTA) – When Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel created the Superman character in the early 1930s, they were still living at their parents’ homes. Of course, the character and his story – the arrival from another planet, his dual identities as mild-mannered reporter and flying, bulletproof crime fighter – would go on to change popular culture.

Shuster and Siegel have been involved in Jewish education for the past 10 years, most recently at the Yeshiva Orchos Chaim of Lakewood, N.J. She earned her master’s of science degree in education and special education, and is continuing to pursue her professional development.

Schnurmann has been called adept in relating to her students, so much so that her previous principal said, “Tamar has always had a unique relationship with her students. She relates to them in a caring way and they in turn reciprocate with love.”

Schnurmann moved to Scranton with her family from Jackson, N.J. Her husband, Rabbi Raphael Schnurmann, grew up in Montevideo, Uruguay, and attended Yeshiva Bais Moshe here in Scranton. He is currently employed at Yeshiva Bais Moshe as a student consultant. He also gives a Talmud class in Spanish for the growing Spanish speaking community at Congregation Machzikei Hadas several days a week.

“The Scranton Hebrew Day School welcomes Rabbi and Mrs. Schnurmann and their family to Scranton, and wishes them much success,” school representative Moshe as a student consultant. He also gives a Talmud class in Spanish for the growing Spanish speaking community at Congregation Machzikei Hadas several days a week.

“The Scranton Hebrew Day School welcomes Rabbi and Mrs. Schnurmann and their family to Scranton, and wishes them much success,” school representative.

The tragic tale of Superman’s Jewish creators, told in graphic novel form

“Tamar Schnurmann joins Scranton Hebrew Day School faculty

Joe Shuster’s Jewish heritage is referenced throughout the book. (Photo by Super Genius)
alert

Continued from page 1

Sisters,” is about four women who aren’t “Sobibor, October 14, 1943, 4 p.m.” such as “A Visitor From the Living” and July at 92 – released a series of ancillary “Shoah,” Lanzmann – who passed away in to ignore. Like politics, genocide is local. of one person at a time are more difficult million dead is unimaginable, but the words that didn’t believe – or didn’t want to. Six films opened recently in New York and Los Angeles, and was to be followed by a national release. All four films will be available in theaters, and moviegoers can see two of them per ticket. Lanzmann’s approach here is different in format from the original. In “Shoah,” he used many voices to tell the larger story, siping in interviews with survivors and perpetrators. With this project, he has related by blood, just by their wartime experiences. The series of four separate films opened recently in New York and Los Angeles, and was to be followed by a national release. All four films will be available in theaters, and moviegoers can see two of them per ticket. Lanzmann’s approach here is different in format from the original. In “Shoah,” he used many voices to tell the larger story, siping in interviews with survivors and perpetrators. With this project, he has given each “sister” her own film – her own opportunity to tell her “horrifying and powerful story.” They vary in length from 52 to 89 minutes.

Another difference: “Four Sisters” involves female perspectives, which were largely missing from the original “Shoah.” But like “Shoah,” the “Four Sisters” films are difficult to watch. In “Balathy,” Paula Biren, originally of Lodz, Poland, tells Lanzmann that she hoped England Lee...Continued from page 2

group of soldiers known as the Howling Commandos. But Cohen is a mere supporting character in someone else’s story. It would take another decade for Jewish characters to become more prominent in comics, and even then it would be under someone else’s direction. But it took Stan Lee to carve the path that his successors would follow. Author and public speaker Arie Kaplan interviewed Stan Lee for his award-winning nonfiction book “From Krakow to Krypton: Jews and Comic Books.” He has written scores of comic book stories and graphic novels featuring everyone from Superman to Speed Racer. Follow Kaplan on Twitter @ariekaplan.

The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of JTA or its parent company, 70 Faces Media.

Project Joy 2018

Dear Friend:

PROJECT JOY, through the Scranton Jewish Community Center, was the “twinkle” of a very special woman, Rozehd Leventhal. Although Rozehd passed on, the project continues in her memory. The mission come solely from private donations. The goal is a simple one: We want every child to experience a special Holiday season. Through your generosity, we can do this.

This year in our area the economic situation has worsened. Our gift might be the only one a child receives.

Last year, over 100 children benefited with wonderful gifts we purchased from wish lists that we received from Jewish Family Services, the Catherine McAuley Center and Saint Joseph’s Center. In this northeast Pennsylvania region, one in every three children lives at or below the poverty level.

In 2009 we added Children and Youth Services and Children’s Advocacy to our list of needy children and we were thrilled to be able to help even more kids. And, as always, we still visited the pediatric departments of our two local Scranton hospitals to give their patients gifts of cheer over the holidays. Once we were made aware of specific needy families in the area, we work to ensure that the funds are available for our friends to enjoy two.

This year, due to your generous giving, we were able to add United Neighborhood to our list.

Wishing Everyone a Happy Chanukah

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please note!

Martha

Lee.

And that’s exactly what happened. After floundering during the late 1960s, the X-Men title was rebooted in the mid-1970s under the stewardship of writers like Len Wein and Chris Claremont, who teamed with artists like Dave Cockrum. For the first time, people of color, such as Storm (who hailed from Kenya), were a part of the group. So were Jewish characters, like Chicago teenager Kitty Pryde. The backstory of the X-Men’s archfoil Magneto was even tweaked, revealing that he was a Jewish Holocaust survivor.

Whereas Stan Lee’s X-Men was a Rod Serling-style allegory for antisemitism, the later incarnation of the group featured actual Jews as superheroes. This was unthinkable when Lee was the primary scripter on the title. In the 1960s, he did co-create a Jewish character: Izzy Cohen, one of Nick Fury’s multicultural or France would have stepped in to help after the German invasion. “Poland had pacts with both countries,” she notes.

The two powers did declare war on Germany, but there were no large-scale military actions for months. All the city’s Jews were transferred to the infamous Lodz Ghetto. However, the Nazi-appointed head of the Jewish community, Chaim Rumkowski, made a deal with the See “Lanzmann” on page 15

Continued from page 2

Paula Biren shown in “Balathy.” Claude Lanzmann’s original “Shoah” film largely involved male testimonies. (Photo by Cohen Media Group)
Menorahs, memories, magic: Hanukkah conjures up some startling senior moments

BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM

(JNS) — The menorah’s candles illuminate the night outside never truly burn out. The latkes sizzling in the pan still give off their heavenly perfume, and the dreidel of youth spins on and on, preserving forever the wonder of long-ago Hanukkahs. So even the sound of the Hanukkah blessings and “I Had a Little Dreidel,” or if you even the sound of the Hanukkah blessings, can awaken the memories from their slumber, suddenly as clear as those starry December nights more than half a century ago. Here are nine seniors’ memories to savor, one for each candle:

First Candle: For Sarah Devorah Henning, the holiday’s sights, smells and flavors are set against the backdrop of her grandparents’ apartment in Washington, DC, populated by endless aunts, uncles and cousins. There are dancing candles in the menorah, a mountainous platter of latkes topped with cinnamon applesauce, a brisket, chocolate coins and little gifts for all of the children. Also locked in her memory are the smells and sounds of “the men folk smoking cigars and playing pinocchio, and the ladies cooking and chatting.” And, since the highlight of the evening was the lively dreidel game, the kids went straight to the special drawer in the buffet, where their grandparents stashed their dreidels, and took over the coffee table in the living room for a game that lasted hours. While Henning has traveled far over the years — now 67, she makes her home in Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel — “there are so many warm memories,” she says — six decades after the last latke was eaten and the last dreidel put back in the drawer. “Hanukkah was always a special time.”

Second Candle: Besides the traditional spinning of the dreidel, the Goldstein family of Brooklyn, NY, developed its own Hanukkah version of the game “Hide-and-Go-Seek.” Jacob (“Jack”) Goldstein, 85, of East Northport, NV, relates that “we’d find Judaic items throughout the house: tallis, mezuzah, a Star of David on a chain and, of course, the menorah.” Because money was tight for his dad, a tailor, the holiday was an opportunity to stock up on matches because the evening begins with lighting the Hanukkah candles. “I remember when we began keeping the holidays in 1979,” recalls Kitrossky, a refusenik granted permission to leave the former Soviet Union eight years later with their three children, destination Israel. But before they were released, they would attend an underground Jewish school in Moscow, where Hanukkah meant performances, celebrations and menorah-lighting. “We weren’t allowed to have Jewish schools at the time, so if you were found attending one, you were called in for interrogation, or you’d find your house had been searched.” One friend who was printing Jewish holiday books for children in his home received a warning from the government: “If you continue doing this, there will be trouble.” Another school organizer was imprisoned. “But we still went. In Russia, Hanukkah was powerful for people needing Judaism, but not yet able to keep Shabbat or kosher,” says Kitrossky, who at 60 now lives with her husband in the Jerusalem suburb of Ma’ale Adumim, and is the mother of seven and a grandmother many times over. “Here in Israel, our grandchildren celebrate Hanukkah in school, but in a way, it was more special in Moscow. In Moscow, you had to really want it, and it was something great.”

Fourth Candle: For Esther Hasser, Hanukkah will always be remembered as a mountain of dirt aloft with dozens of candles. Each of the children in the neighborhood would bring a candle, and her parents would stick them in the ground. “We’d each get to light one, and we’d sing songs and dance around them,” says Hasser who was born in 1949, the first of 12 siblings to be a native Israeli, when the country was a mere year old. Her parents and three older siblings were part of the tidal wave of immigration from Yemen and other Arab lands in the 1950s, and were given a plot of land in Pardes Hanna and told to build a home on it. The home her father built, stone by stone, consisting of a kitchen and a second room, housed the family of 14 for years. “This was a small village then with more clementine orchards [parades] than houses,” she recalls. Now each Hanukkah, Hasser gathers her six children, 15 grandchildren and her little great-granddaughter for a boisterous celebration. “My son sings the blessings with the old Yemenite melody,” says Hasser who still lives on the same block she was born on. “It’s a happy time.”

Sixth Candle: Growing up in Ethiopia, Bracha Emees recalls a special kind of sufganiyot as the treat for Hanukkah. But unlike in other locales, the traditional holiday doughnuts contained no filling, she insists through her daughter, who translates. Instead, the miracle of this Hanukkah was in the dough — so yeasty that it exploded in the bowl to heights that amazed the children. Then she’d watch fascinated as, while the candles burned in the menorah, her mother boiled the sufganiyot in a huge pot. Now that Emees, 60, and her children and grandchildren are among the influx of Ethiopian Jews during the 1980s and early ’90s, Hanukkah is a more lively, communal holiday, enjoyed keenly by her seven grandchildren. “It is good to be here because there are Jews here,” she says with a smile. “In Ethiopia, Hanukkah was a day for work. We had to do many chores before chanukah, and didn’t have money to get sufganiyot.”

Seventh Candle: Shlomo Berlinger can still recall every detail of the Hanukkah ceremony in Sweden. It was the only childhood home he remembers since his family escaped Germany in 1931 when he was just 3 years old. “Hanukkah was a magical time that my two sisters and I looked forward to for weeks,” he recalls. On the first night, his rabbis father would collect the family and ceremoniously light the candles and intone the blessings. “Then my father would open the door to the next door to see Moments” on page 13
What’s new for kids to read at Hanukkah?

BY PENNY SCHWARTZ

JTA – Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte and Gertie. The names of the five fictional sisters bring a smile to generations of Jewish Americans who grew up reading “All-of-a-Kind Family,” the classic mid-century chapter book series by Sydney Taylor that followed the day-to-day doings and adventures of a Jewish-American immigrant family on New York’s Lower East Side.

The trailblazing series marked the first time that a children’s book about a Jewish-American family found an audience in both Jewish and non-Jewish American homes. Now the beloved family comes to life in “All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah,” the first fully illustrated picture book based on the series, by Emily Jenkins and Paul O. Zelinsky. The dynamic writer-illustrator team will charm young readers with this delightful story that reflects the warmth and spirited character of the original and creates a new chapter for this generation.

It’s among eight new outstanding and engaging children’s books for Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival of Light that begins this year on Sunday evening, December 2.

“All-of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah” by Emily Jenkins and Paul O. Zelinsky (Schwartz and Wade Books; ages 3 to 8)

Emily Jenkins, an award-winning author, grew up reading the “All-of-a-Kind” classics – over and over, she told JTA. “As an only child, I adored books such as the ginger snaps hidden in the bed, Ella’s favorite hymn and a special library Adult familiar with the chapter books will spot various references to the original – such as the ginger snaps hidden in the bed, Ella’s favorite hymn and a special library book, Jenkins revealed.

Zelinsky said illustrating the Taylor classic was a chance to reconnect with the books his daughters adored. In a phone conversation, the Brooklynite, whose recognition for excellence includes the Caldecott Award for “Rapunzel,” said he immersed himself in the “All-of-a-Kind” world, down to the details of what the storybook family’s New York apartment looked like.

Zelinsky stepped away from his well-known finer, more detailed style and embraced bolder, less polished illustrations that he said matched Gertie’s passion and reflect the soul of the stories.

For this illustrated book, set on the eve of Hanukkah in 1912, Jenkins focused on Gertie, the spunky 4-year-old, as the family gets ready to celebrate the holiday. Adults familiar with the chapter books will fill in details about Taylor and the original kitchen joyfully preparing potato latkes. The back pages include notes from Jenkins and Zelinsky that clear the creation of this new book.

“All of-a-Kind Family Hanukkah” (Photo courtesy of Schwartz and Wade Books)

“Dreidel Day” by Amalia Hoffman (Kar-Ben; ages 1-4)

Young kids will spin, bounce and humble their way through Hanukkah along with a lively kitty in this delightful board book that glows like the colors of a box of holiday candles. Little ones can count out loud with each double-page spread that features one word and one number and discover the corresponding number of colorful dreidels.

“My Family Celebrates Hanukkah” by Lissa Bollard; illustrated by Constanza Basaluzzo (Lerner Publications; ages 4-8)

This easy-to-follow illustrated story is perfect for families and classrooms. Kids learn about the Hanukkah tale and the miracle of how a small amount of oil lasted eight days. Families celebrate, light candles, play dreidel, and receive chocolate and coins as gifts. The book’s end pages explain the holiday and pose reading-based questions helpful for educators.

“Light the Menorah!: A Hanukkah Handbook” by Jacqueline Jules; illustrated by Kristina Swarner (Kar-Ben; ages 4-10)

In this contemporary guide to Hanukkah, families discover unique ways to celebrate Hanukkah that give deeper meaning to the holiday and pose reading-based questions helpful for educators.

See “Kids” on page 15

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November 29, 2018 • The Reporter

7

Check out the Federation’s new, updated website at www.jewishnepa.org or find it on Facebook
Joseph's plan

BY RABBI PEG KERSHENBAUM, CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM, POCONO PINES


Let me start with a story. If you’ve heard it before, well, you’ll hear it again. But to shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off, to the shock and astonishment of all the neighbors. The farmer peered down into the well, and was astounded. So it just wasn’t worth it to try to retrieve the donkey. The animal brayed piteously for hours as the farmer tried to get it out. But, like the donkey, he still took this in stride on his way to the top. There are no merge lanes, no yield signs, nothing! We jump in and go. Until we don’t.

Joseph's garment and then uses it to deceive. Potiphar was left with no choice but to throw Joseph in another pit – this time the dungeon that held Pharaoh's prisoners. What was Joseph's plan? As far as we know, he didn’t have one. But, like the donkey, he still took this in stride on his way to the top. The dungeon master in turn took a shine to Joseph and put him in charge of the other prisoners. Among them he acknowledged the Divine presence working for him directly, the divine presence is strongly felt in the many interpretations of God's actions. Unlike Joseph, Pharaoh when the chief butler's dream came true. But, the Torah goes on to tell us, the butler forgot him for a good long while. However, God didn’t forget Joseph. Although Joseph is the only one of the major characters in Genesis with whom God does nor speak directly, the divine presence is strongly felt in the many interpretations of God's actions. Every step up that he takes, he acknowledges this supportive presence. He doesn’t need his own plan. God seems to be taking care of all that. For information, please contact Das sy. ganz@je wishnepa.org

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on the donkey, he'd shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off, to the shock and astonishment of all the neighbors. Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The donkey shook off and took a step up on the new layer of dirt. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he’d shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off, to the shock and astonishment of all the neighbors.

In our continuing efforts to update our Jewish Film Lending Library, The Jewish Federation will be selling the following DVDs for $6 each or 3/$15

Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation

Denial

Dough

Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story

Hava Nagila (the Movie)

Nicky's Family

Remember

The Impassible Spy

The Zookeper’s Wife

For information, please contact Dassy at 570-941-2300 x2 or dassy.gonz@jewishnepa.org

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For information, please contact Dassy at 570-941-2300 x2 or dassy.gonz@jewishnepa.org

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DONATE YOUR VEHICLE
Schedule a free pick up today. Plus, you may receive a tax deduction!
BY DEBORAH FINEBLUM

(JNS) – For generations, lighting the Hanukkah candles together has been the stuff lifelong memories are made of. But today’s far-flung families are increasingly challenged to share the sight of the candles aglow, the sound of the blessings and traditional songs sung by old and young alike, the feel of a perfect dreidel spin, and the smell and taste of latkes fresh from the pan.

Long-distance spring may be away at college, on a gap-year program, studying in a seminary or yeshivah, a lone soldier serving in the Israel Defense Forces, or working and living in another town, with or without kids of their own. Leaving today’s parents (and grandparents, too) called upon to apply ingenuity, creativity, flexibility and some basic technical know-how to successfully span the miles with Hanukkah spirit.

In fact, says “The Red Tent” author Anita Diamant, who’s also generated a library of guidebooks on modern Jewish life, including “How to Raise a Jewish Child: A Practical Handbook for Family Life,” “my family enjoys Hanukkah kitsch so much we keep it going over the miles.”

When her daughter was a college student, Diamant would send a box of “Hanukkah stuff as counterweight to the Christmas decorations.” The “stuff” — menorah, gelt, candles (flame-free ones for those in dorms) can include modest (think: socks) gifts for each of the eight nights, she says, including notice that a donation was made in their name to a nonprofit organization that’s meaningful to them.

Indeed, many find that Hanukkah invites us to shelve the tackier, the better, according to some. “There’s no such thing as bad taste when it comes to Hanukkah – the more the merrier,” says Ruth Diamant, who’s also generated a library of guidebooks on modern Jewish life, including “How to Raise a Jewish Child: A Practical Handbook for Family Life,” “my family enjoys Hanukkah kitsch so much we keep it going over the miles.”

Whatever form it takes, college students receiving Hanukkah love from home is never more appreciated than in these days of anti-Israel and other, outright anti-Semitic influences on many North American campuses.

“Even celebrating a happy Jewish holiday like Hanukkah can get tricky on campuses today,” says Tammi Rossman-Benjamin of AMCHA Initiative, a watchdog organization monitoring North American campuses.

“And yet, the Hanukkah story – about the few against the many – has so much to say about the threats that Jewish students face today. We know what happened thousands of years ago on this small piece of land, which the anti-Israel forces are telling us we have no historical right to. It reminds students that, even more basic than the latkes and sufganiot, that is this awesome story and this ancient land truly belong to them.”

Lone soldiers are reliving that story daily as they protect the land and its citizens. But it’s not always easy on their parents multiple zones away. “Hanukkah is when I miss them the absolute most and, when we light, I usually cry,” says Hadassah Sabo Milner, a mom of three IDF lone soldiers (one of whom just completed his service) who lives with her youngest son and husband in New York. “On Hanukkah, we were always singing ‘Maoz Tzur’ (‘Rock of Ages’) really badly together. And even though I’m not the kind of mom who needs to talk to my kids every day – they need to live their lives without having to check in at all the time — when we light here, it’s the middle of the night in Israel, and I can’t just pick up the phone and call. But at least college students and IDF soldiers have built-in communities to celebrate Hanukkah with. For young adults working and living far from their families, it can be a lonely existence. That’s why Rabbi Rachael Klein Miller makes it a point to host events designed just for young adults at Temple Emanu-El, a Reform congregation in Atlanta.

“It might be tough to be away from home because they haven’t quite mastered the latke recipe, they’re putting together a makeshift menorah, or they simply miss the sounds of parents telling them to ‘Be careful! Watch the flame! Don’t let the wax drip!’” says Miller. “But being away from home also means it’s nice to be part of that own path; it’s a chance to share traditions from home and begin new traditions all their own.”

And when they pose for a group-candle-lighting photo to post on Facebook or Instagram, “there’s a glimpse of peoplehood – of feeling connected to the Jewish community and loving the chance to share that pride with the digital world.”

Whereas young adults are celebrating beloved traditions from childhood, young children are busy forming their own identities, and grandparents want to be part of that happy process. Even when she can’t be with them on the holiday, Ann Wanetik, who lives in the Detroit area, takes advantage of her visits to her eight grandchildren, all of whom happen to live in one small country in the Middle East. “Whenever I’m in Israel in the fall, I take each one out separately and let them choose what they want for Hanukkah,” she says. “It’s an opportunity to have some time alone with each one, focus on what that child enjoys most and buy them something special they pick out themselves.”

For Boston-area grandmother Ruth Nemzoff, technological shortcomings the miles between her and her long-distance grandkids. “You’ve got to get with the program,” she says. So Nemzoff, author of “Don’t Roll Your Eyes: Making In-Laws Into Family,” and known as “Mama Ruth” to her 11 grands ages 8 months to 18 years, has developed a full program of Hanukkah connections with those on the West Coast and in Washington, DC.

“No matter what, when you live at a distance you have to be resourceful in creating Hanukkah with your grandchildren, but with interfaith ones, it’s even more important,” says Nemzoff, who serves as a board member at InterfaithFamily.

“I’m not big on materialism, and the goal is not to compete with the gifts under the tree, but I do want to share this special tradition with them,” she adds.

See “Family” on page 13
Dear Friends,

At the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, we believe that no child should go to bed hungry, that every senior has the right to live with dignity, and that all Jews should be able to live—anywhere in the world—without fear of persecution. That’s why our UJA work focuses on helping people in need here in Northeast Pennsylvania and around the world, rescuing those in danger and keeping Jewish life strong.

Together, we feed the body and nourish the soul.

With economic woes continuing all over, food banks everywhere are struggling to keep up with the growing demand. In Israel, more than 200,000 families don’t have enough to eat. In Russia and other Eastern European countries, home to the world’s poorest Jews, thousands of families and elderly people are forced to choose between paying rent and buying food.

So we’ve made fighting hunger a priority abroad…and here at home as well.

Together, we will help seniors age gracefully and safely.

Seniors are among the most vulnerable during an economic crisis, so we support local programs that help older adults maximize their benefits, receive vital services and participate in social and educational programs.

In Israel, where 100,000 Holocaust survivors live below the poverty line, our UJA dollars fund more than 200 supportive communities for the elderly, offering an array of essential services.

And in Russia and Eastern Europe, Federation’s UJA-funded Hesed Centers (through the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee – the JDC) provide life-saving medical care, home care and winter relief to 168,000 impoverished older Jews.

Yet, tragically, the need is so great that over 60,000 others have been turned away due to a lack of funds. We’re determined to change that.

Together, we respond in times of crisis.

When natural disasters and humanitarian crises strike, IsraAID and the JDC are often the first on the ground with aid, comfort and support. Israel can respond so quickly because it works closely with local and overseas partners to raise funds and coordinate relief. This year alone, they sent response teams to the south Indian state of Kerala on August 21, 2018 following the deaths of at least 220 people due to floods. IsraAID and the JDC are also providing massive services in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence and Hurricane Michael, and IsraAID in particular currently operates humanitarian programs in 17 countries and has responded to crises in 47 locations around the world. Over the past few years, our UJA donations to Israel and overseas needs have also assisted victims of tornadoes and hurricanes around the world and the massive earthquakes in Mexico, Haiti, Japan, Nepal and Ecuador.

And we’ll always be there to help in emergencies anywhere in the world whenever Israel, the Jewish people, or any nation on earth is threatened by natural disasters.

Together, we will build Jewish identity and invest in our future.

In our own communities here in NEPA, our UJA Campaign funds are allocated for our Jewish educational, recreational, religious and social service agencies as well as our Hebrew schools, Chabad, and the Jewish Resource Center of the Poconos - all representing centers for Jewish life and learning in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Plus, more than 425,000 young adults from 54 countries around the world have been to Israel on life-changing Birthright Israel trips—including many from our own communities here in Northeast PA. And over 20,000 have studied or volunteered in Israel as well.

And since 2001, more than 250 members of our own Jewish communities in Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne Counties have participated in Federation-sponsored Israel Missions and returned with a better understanding of who we are and why our ancient homeland is so much a part of our everyday lives…and we expect our forthcoming November 2019 Israel Mission to be no different.

P.S. We believe that helping people in need and nurturing the Jewish community is both our privilege and our historic responsibility. Please join us today and take a stand for what you believe and together, we can continue to do extraordinary things!

2019 UJA CAMPAIGN

Together, we can do extraordinary things!
What will be your Jewish Legacy?

For more information about leaving your legacy, legacy gifts or bequests contact:

Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania
TEL: 570.961.2300 (ext. 1)
E-Mail: Mark.Silverberg@Jewishnepa.org

With the true spirit of kehilla and our commitment to tikkun olam, the Jewish Federation’s CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY Initiative is a community-wide partnership established between the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania and its many UJA-funded educational, social service, cultural and recreational agencies and institutions including the State of Israel and the needs of world Jewry – all with a shared vision of ensuring a strong and sustainable Jewish future.

TODAY. TOMORROW. TOGETHER

These include funding programs and projects in Israel and serving the needs of imperiled Jewish communities around the world – all of which are funded by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). Our UJA gifts also provide critical funding for local and regional Jewish needs and services provided by our educational, religious, recreational and cultural agencies and institutions including the Scranton Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Scranton Hebrew Day School, the Scranton Mikvah, Temple Hesed Religious School, Yeshiva Beth Moshe, Bais Yaakov of Scranton, the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms Religious School, Chabad of the Abingtons/Jewish Discovery Center, Bnos Yisroel of Scranton, the Jewish Resource Center of the Poconos, Temple Israel of the Poconos Hebrew School, the Jewish Heritage Connection and, of course, the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania. And this does not include capital grants, grants for creative and innovative programs designed to attract unaffiliated Jewish families in our area and emergency grants awarded annually to many of the above institutions (in addition to Temple Israel of Scranton and Congregation Beth Israel in Honesdale) which are funded from the income of our Unrestricted Endowment Funds.
ĩ31 Family ............... Continued from page 9
3ibboo Belle Libber with a sigh. Be it to the grandkids in Milwaukee, Atlanta or Israel (one daughter and family live nearby), Libber and her husband Jonathan have racked up the frequent-flyer miles. “There’s nothing like being right there with them,” she says.

When that is not possible, love itself can travel at speed of light – namely, the light of the Hanukkah menorah, says Rabbi Yisroel Gordon, principal of Machon Los Angeles, a high school for girls. “One reason Hanukkah makes a lot of people really homesick is the power of the menorah light itself, the only remnant we still have of the priests’ service in the holy temple,” he says. “Hanukkah reminds us of the importance of family since it was conversion,” recalls Golan. And suddenly, since there were few Jews in their town, they were now outsiders. “Gone was the shade of a Magen David, my dad picked up a menorah at the closest Judaica shop, and pretty soon, our relatives stopped visiting.

Sometimes, even with the best of distance-spanners, it’s hard to beat the appeal of a sloppy sufganiyot-flavored kiss. “We usually just get on a plane,” says Baltimore

moments ............... Continued from page 6
room where there were three small tables, each holding a gift for one of us – toys and other things that would make us happy – with one standout: an elaborate carved chess set with a clock in it. They were also given “treats we had at no other time,” says Berlinger, who now lives with his wife, Rut, in a senior home in Jerusalem not far from their daughter and four grandchildren. “It was a very great moment.”

Eighth Candle: Growing up in a small town in Michigan, Leah Golan knew next to nothing about Hanukkah, or for that matter, Judaism, until she was 14. Soon after the Six-Day War, their father called them up the frequent-flyer miles. “There’s nothing like being right there with them,” she says.

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In Holland, one of the world’s most expensive Hanukkah menorahs hides in plain sight

BY CNAAN LIPHSHIZ

AMSTERDAM (JTA) – Nothing about the appearance of object MB02280 at this city’s Jewish Historical Museum suggests it is the capital’s priciest Hanukkah menorah, worth more than the average local price of a duplex home. Shaped like the body of a violin, it is only 16 inches tall. Its base cradles eight detachable oil cups intended to function as candles on Hanukkah, when Jews light candles to commemorate a 167 B.C.E. revolt against the Greeks. They are set against the menorah’s smooth, reflective surface, whose edges boast elaborate rococo reliefs.

But for all its charms, the Nieuwenhuys menorah – its creator was the non-Jewish silversmith Harmans Nieuwenhuys – doesn’t stand out from the other menorahs on display next to it at the museum. Far from the oldest one there, the menorah certainly doesn’t look like it’s worth its estimated price of $450,000.

The Nieuwenhuys menorah can hide in plain sight because its worth owes “more to its story than to its physical characteristics,” said Irene Faber, the museum’s collections curator. Made in 1751 for an unidentified Jewish patron, the Nieuwenhuys menorah’s story encapsulates the checkered history of Dutch Jewry. And it is tied to the country’s royal family, as well as a Jewish princess.

The price tag of the Nieuwenhuys menorah, which does not have an official name, is tied to the country’s royal family, as well as a Jewish princess. Wilhelmina, the youngest daughter of Queen Wilhelmina, gave it to her mother the year she was born. Wilhelmina was named after her great-grandmother, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, who died when she was born.

Faber is aware of at least 40 Hanukkah menorahs from different eras on display at the museum. “Nothing is more inconspicuous than finding the menorah in this case,” she said. “We are human beings. We can’t stand the thought of someone coming into his private space, “she said. “We are human beings. We can’t stand the thought of someone coming into his private space.”

The monogram was one of several techniques that speak to the work of the artist. “The monogram was possibly a family mark, a way to identify the artist,” Faber said. “It is a way to identify the artist.”

The object MB02280 is a 4-foot Rintel Menorah, priced at an estimated $563,000. The museum bought it last year for a whopping $563,000. It was initially expected to fetch no more than $15,000.

Nieuwenhuys was a silversmith who worked in the Netherlands in the 18th century, and he was known for his work in the 18th century. His work often features intricate designs and fine detail work. The Nieuwenhuys menorah is one of the museum’s most prized possessions.

Wilhelmina’s gifting of a menorah to her mother “isn’t strange for her,” Faber said. “I imagine she found it fun, something to talk about with her mother, to see together how it works.”

But this was gradually healed in the postwar years. The fact that King Willem-Alexander, Wilhelmina’s great-grandson, in 2012 gave the Nieuwenhuys menorah on an open-ended loan to the Jewish museum on its 90th anniversary “symbolizes the healing of the rupture,” Faber said.

Despite its humble appearance, the Amsterdam Jewish Historical Museum’s Nieuwenhuys menorah costs more than many of the city’s houses. (Photo courtesy of the Amsterdam Jewish Historical Museum.)
Lanzmann.

Germans—to forestall deportation to the camps, Jews would engage in hard slave labor. It was a Faustian bargain: Some 45,000 Jews died of starvation or other causes in the ghettos.

When the Nazis said they were going to send every child younger than 9 to a special camp, Paula describes how one mother pulled her daughter back. An SS officer grabbed the mother by the neck, turned her around and shot her in front of her daughter. But because of the deal, Paula attended a special high school and later was recruited to become a police officer. Upon realizing that she had unwittingly become complicit in sending black market merchants she had arrested to their deaths, Birken shut. But her guilt lingered.

Over the years, the guilt has transformed to anger. “I felt then I had no choice,” she says. The world “should feel guilty for what was done to me.”

Ruth Elias, given the spotlight in “The Hippocratic Oath,” was 19 when the Nazis invaded the small town where her family lived for generations. Soon afterward, her father was barred from the sausage factory where her family lived for generations. He wanted her to work at Sobibor from among an estimated 250,000 Jews gassed there. Their job was to clean and refurbish the dolls stolen from Jewish children before they were sent to Germany. Dolls became constant reminders of what she went through.

In an essay from 1981, Lanzmann wrote, “Like the indestructible phoenix, antisemitism is arising virtually everywhere from its own ashes.” He probably could have written the same essay today.

In an ironic twist, “Four Sisters” was released in Europe on July 4 and Lanzmann died the next day. It was as if he recognized his job was done, or that he had done all he could. The job continues.

Kids.

meaning to the ritual of lighting the menorah, as well as easy to understand explanations of the holiday. Jules, an award-winning author, offers a short verse for each of the eight nights that can be read after lighting the menorah.

They reflect the holiday’s themes of religious freedom, courage and miracles.

Swarner’s illustrations and border designs add warmth and glow. Songs, rules for playing dreidel and instructions for simple crafts such as a homemade coupon gift book make this a book a welcome resource.

“Hannah’s Hanukkah Hiccups” by Shanna Silva; illustrated by Bob McMahon (Apples and Honey Press; ages 4-8)

Uh, oh. Or make that Uh-hic-o-h! Hannah Hope Hartman, a spunky young girl who lives in a brownstone on Hester Street, is practicing for her religious school’s Hanukkah program when she suddenly gets a case of the hiccups—and they just won’t go away! Her brother Henry tries to cure her by making funny faces. The building’s diverse neighbors offer their own customs: drinking pickle juice backwards; a Mexican red string cure and cardboard coins. Kids will relate to Hannah, who doesn’t want to be in the school program with the hiccups and finds a creative solution.

Silva’s heartwarming story — and the play on words that begin with the letter “h” — is perfectly paired with McMahon’s cartoon-like illustrations in this lively, laugh-out-loud yarn that shines with the light of a family’s love.

“How It’s Made: Hanukkah Menorah” by Allison Ofanansky; Photographs by Eliyahu Alpern (Apples and Honey Press; ages 7-12)

Family members of all ages will gather round this engaging book, which shines a light on all things menorah. The 32 pages of Ofanansky’s text, brought to life by Alpern’s vibrant photographs, explain the holiday and explore the many types of menorahs—from antiques to creative whimsical versions. Kids go behind the scenes with menorah-making artists.

A fun fact reveals that one Israeli bakery fries and bakes 2,000 doughnuts for each day of Hanukkah. Gifts, songs and blessings in Hebrew, English and transliterated from Hebrew are also included along with instructions for making candles, olive oil and lates.

“The Story of Hanukkah” by David A. Adler, illustrated by Jill Weber (Holiday House; Board book, ages 2-4)

In this vibrantly illustrated board book, the award-winning David Adler retells the story of Hanukkah in simple, straightforward prose for young readers, paired with richly colored bold illustrations by Weber, the team that wrote the original (2011) version for older kids. The end depicts a modern family celebrating Hanukkah.

“Light the Menorah: A Playful Action Rhyme” by Tova Gitty Broida; illustrated by Patti Argoff (Hachai Publishing; ages 1-4)

This lively rhyming book features two young brothers and a sister from a haredi Orthodox family joyfully celebrating Hanukkah, with lates hopping in the frying pan and the sister spinning a dreidel.

Continued from page 5

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Hanna Martin in “Noah’s Ark,” one of the four films that make up Claude Lanzmann’s “Four Sisters.” (Photo by Cohen Media Group)

Continued from page 7

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“If we don't take care of our future, who will?”

NOW IS THE TIME FOR WISDOM

When you create a Jewish legacy, you take an important step toward strengthening Jewish life for generations to come. Planning your gift now will help ensure your grandchildren can enjoy the same rich traditions and closeness of community that have given your life so much meaning and purpose.

The future starts with you.

For information about Legacy Giving, please contact Mark Silverberg at the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Mark.Silverberg@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300 (ext. 1).
idea of how Jewish the comic book industry was throughout those early decades and why that might have been?

Vojo: It’s a history with many parallels to the beginning of the American film industry. Jews were discriminated against on the job market. If you were a writer or illustrator, not many jobs were available if you could be identified as Jewish. Some Jews changed their name and hid their identity in order to seek employment. Jewish artists such as Jakob Kurtzberg or Stanley Lieber became Jack Kirby and Stan Lee, respectively, even if they often claimed that their name change had nothing to do with them trying to hide their Jewish background.

When, thanks to Superman, comics became a lucrative industry, job recruitment in this new market happened by word-of-mouth. Friends and family were hired. That’s why, for instance, many comic book pioneers came from even the same high school, such as DeWitt Clinton in the Bronx, where pioneers such as Will Eisner, Stan Lee or Bill Finger, to name but a few, had been students.

Given that also the publishers were Jewish – I think Siegel and Shuster didn’t imagine that they would, as fellow Jews, screw them over. Here, by the way, is an interesting parallel to the garment industry, where factory owners exploited workers even though both came from the same shtetl backgrounds.

JTA: Was it an easy decision to tell the story from Joe’s perspective? Was it solely because he’s just a more likable character than Jerry was?

Vojo: When starting my research, the plan was to write about both of them from a third-person perspective, but then Joe became the protagonist by chance. In 2014, I learned that Columbia University had just received a donation of letters and documents that were either written or once belonged to Joe Shuster. I contacted Karen Green, who oversees Columbia’s comic collection, and even before the documents were cataloged, I got access to these letters, legal papers, bills, etc.

It was fascinating to read about Joe’s problems in his own words. Most of the documents were from the late 1960s, during a time when he was under threat of eviction, had doctor bills piling up, etc. – while at the same time preparations were made for a multimillion-dollar Superman movie.

It also became apparent how Jewish he was. For instance, he wrote about the tszukah he gave during the good years and how ashamed he felt that now he needed help from the Jewish community to pay his own bills. Jerry had always been the dominant figure of the creative duo, with Joe being the silent partner following his lead. Making him the narrator puts, for the first time, the spotlight on him, a late recognition of his role in creating Superman.

JTA: Were there other Jewish comic book artists and writers who dealt with similar losses of rights to their creations? Batman co-creator Bill Finger [who was Jewish], subject of a future graphic novel project I’m currently working on with the Israeli artist Erez Zadok, is another tragic story that only recently had a posthumous happy ending thanks to the efforts of comic historian Marc Tyler Nobleman.

And unfortunately, these stories are not necessary stories of the past. Earlier this year, I read about Bill Messner-Loebs, who once worked for DC Comics and was even credited in the “Wonder Woman” movie, but now was homeless in Detroit.

JTA: People have called Superman’s origin story an allegory to the Kindertransport, but this is, of course, a post-Holocaust analysis.

Both their parents escaped poverty and pogroms in Eastern Europe, so this could have influenced the story, which some see as a kind of modernized Moses tale.

I’m neutral when it comes to these interpretations. Superman’s origin story, which we see developing throughout the graphic novel, had many roots for sure, as did the plot. The double identity came from Zorro.

What made Superman a success was that Siegel and Shuster understood the zeitgeist, took elements from contemporary pop culture and created something totally new, something that even today, 80 years after its debut, remains a global success.

Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh
FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TERROR

Our hearts are broken. We join in mourning the victims of the tragedy in Pittsburgh’s Jewish community. We also pray for healing for those who were injured and for all those whose pain is beyond measure. We all face tough times in the days, weeks and months ahead, but we know that the Pittsburgh Jewish community will come together to comfort people in need of healing and to stay strong.

Those who perished included:

Joyce Fienberg (75), Richard Gottfried (65), Rose Malingar (97), Jerry Rabinowitz (66), Cecil Rosenthal (59), David Rosenthal (54), Bernice Simon (84), Sylvan Simon (86), David Stein (71), Melvin Wax (88) and Irving Younger (69).

Those who were wounded included Officer Daniel Mead, Officer Michael Smigda, Officer Anthony Burke, Officer Timothy Matson, Officer John Persin, Officer Tyler Pashel and Congregant Paul Leger.

Funds collected for the Fund for Victims of Terror [which, as of November 18th exceeded $4M from world-wide donations] are earmarked for the psychological services, support for families, general services, reconstruction, additional security throughout the community, medical bills, as well as counseling and other services that may prove necessary for victims and first responders during their recovery. Pittsburgh’s religious and day schools will also require additional resources to help their youth process this tragic episode. This Fund will help both the Jewish community members and the first responders affected.

https://jewishpgh.org/our-victims-of-terror-fund/

If you prefer, you may mail a check payable to the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh – Fund for Victims of Terror: Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, 234 McKee Place Pittsburgh, PA 15213

May the memories of those who died forever be a blessing and may those who lost loved ones find peace in knowing that their pain, suffering and hardship are shared by Americans of all faiths.

Thank you for support of the victims of terror.
**Feature Films**

**A Tale of Love and Darkness** - Academy Award-winning actress Natalie Portman directs and stars in the emotional and thought-provoking story about Fania, a young wife and mother in war-torn Jerusalem, during the early years of the State of Israel. Stifled in her relationship and weary from the treadium of her new life, Fania creates fantastical stories for Amos, her 10-year-old son, amazing him with tales of adventure and beauty—stories that would influence the boy to become a writer himself. Based on the international best-selling memoir by Amos Oz.

**Denial** - Based on the acclaimed book Denial: Holocaust History on Trial, Denial recounts Deborah E. Lipstadt's legal battle for historical truth against David Irving (BAFTA nominee Timothy Spall), who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier. In the English legal system, in cases of libel, the burden of proof is on the defendant, therefore it was up to Lipstadt and her legal team, led by Richard Rampton, to prove the essential truth that the Holocaust occurred.

**Fanny's Journey** - In 1943, 13-year old Fanny and her younger sisters were sent from their home in France to an Italian foster home for Jewish children. When Nazis came to Italy, their caretakers organized the departure of the children to Switzerland. Based on a true story.

**Hidden in Silence** - During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Catholic teenage Stefania Podgorska chooses the role of a savior and sneaks 13 Jewish into her attic.

**Loving Leah: A Hallmark Hall of Fame Classic** - A handsome Washington, D.C. doctor and a young New York woman fall in love at an unusual time...after they get married. Leah Lever is married to an Orthodox rabbi, Benjamin Lever, whose brother, Jake, is a successful cardiologist and a non-practicing Jew. Jake is stunned when Benjamin dies suddenly, but not as stunned as when he is told that, under an ancient Jewish Law, he is expected to marry the childless Leah to carry on Benjamin's name. The only alternative is to go through a ceremony where Jake must deny his brother's existence. For Jake, that's unthinkable, so impulsively he suggests to Leah that they get married and maintain a secretly platonic relationship. Eager to pursue her own dreams, Leah gladly accepts. Their oversimplified plan to live separate lives under the same roof proves challenging when Leah's suspicious mother shows up unexpectedly. The harder they try to disguise their "pretend" marriage, the more their appreciation for each other's worlds grows - and out of understanding, a real love develops. Loving Leah is a heart-warming story.

**Munich** - Inspired by real events, Munich reveals the intense story of the secret Israeli squad assign to track down and assassinate the 121 Palestinians believed to have planned the 1972 Munich massacre of 11 Israeli athletes. (The Jewish Film Library also owns the movie "Twenty One Hours in Munich" about the massacre at the Olympics).

**Music Box** - In this intense, courtroom thriller, Chicago attorney Ann Talbot agrees to defend her Hungarian immigrant father Mike Laszlo against accusations of heinous war crimes committed 30 years earlier.

**Norman** - Norman Oppenheimer (Richard Gere) lives a lonely life in the margins of New York City power and money, and strives to be everyone's friend. His incessant networking leads him nowhere until he ends up befriending a young but charismatic politician, Micha Eschel at a low point in his life. Three years later, the politician becomes the Prime Minister of Israel. Norman uses Eschel's name to leverage his biggest deal ever: a series of quid pro quo transactions linking the Prime Minister to Norman's nephew, a rabbi, a mogul, his assistant and a treasury official from the Ivory Coast. Norman's plans soon go awry, creating the potential for an international catastrophe he must struggle to prevent. Norman: The Moderate Rise and Tragic Fall of a New York Fixer is a comedic and compassionate drama of a man whose downfall is rooted in a human frailty all too easy to forgive—a need to matter.

**Remember** - Remember is the suspense-filled story of Zev, an Auschwitz survivor who discovers that the Nazi guard who murdered his family some seventy years ago is living in America under an assumed name.

**The Devil's Arithmetic** - Sixteen year old Hanna Stern was a typical American teenager who ignores her family's heritage until a mystical Passover seder takes her back in time to German-occupied Poland on an emotional journey of life, death and survival.

**The Impossible Spy** - The story of the life and death of Israel's most celebrated spy, Elie Cohen.

**The Last Butterfly** - This World War II drama stars Tom Courtenay as the famous French Mime Antoine Moreau. Ordered by the Nazis to provide 'the greatest show of his life' for use as propaganda showing the kinder side of the Nazis at the war draws to a close, Moreau decides to risk everything to tell the world the real truth behind this monumental lie, and although as a mime he is pledged to keep his lips sealed, his voice must be heard.

**The Women's Balcony** - Discover Israel's #1 film of the year! An accident during a Bar Mitzvah celebration leads to a gender rift in a devout community in Jerusalem.

**The Wedding Plan** - A poignant and funny romantic comedy about love, marriage and faith in life's infinite possibilities.

**The Zookeeper's Wife** - In 1939 Poland, Antonina Zabinska (two-time Academy Award nominee Jessica Chastain) and her husband successfully ran the Warsaw Zoo and raise their family in an idyllic existence. Their world is overturned, however, when the country is invaded by the Nazis and they are forced to report to the Reich's newly appointed zoologist (Daniel Bruhl). To fight back on their own terms, the Zabinski's risk everything by covertly working with the Resistance and using the zoo's hidden tunnels and cages to save families from Nazi brutality.

**Non-Fiction Film**

Above and Beyond - In 1948, just three years after the liberation of Nazi death camps, a group of Jewish-American pilots answered a call for help. As members of Machal-"volunteers from abroad"- this ragtag band of brothers not only turned the tide of the war; they also embarked on personal journeys of discovery and renewed Jewish pride.

**Body and Soul: The State of the Jewish Nation** - A powerful documentary sets the record straight eloquently and comprehensively. It not only shows the undeniable historical connection between the Jewish People and the Land of Israel, but also succeeds in debunking propaganda, myths and misinformation that have become accepted as truth by many people.

**Follow Me** - The story of the fantastic rescue at Entebbe and the loss of Yonatan Netanyahu (brother of the Prime Minister). The Jewish Film Library also owns an Israeli film about the rescue at Entebbe entitled "Operation Thunderbolt."

**Hava Nagila (the Movie)** - Hava Nagila is a documentary romp through the history, mystery and meaning of the great Jewish standard.

**I'm Still Here** - Real Diaries of young people who lived during the Holocaust.

**Jews and Baseball** - The amazing story of Sir Nicholas Winton who created, on his own, a Kinder-transport in Czechoslovakia saving 669 children believed to have planned the 1972 Munich massacre of 11 Israeli athletes. (The Jewish Film Library also owns the movie "Twenty One Hours in Munich" about the massacre at the Olympics).

**The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg**

**The Prime Ministers: The Pioneers and Soldiers and Peacemakers** - A two disc-set based on the international best-seller by Ambassador Yehuda Avner
A new collaborative venture between Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, and Tel Aviv University brings together researchers and students in the field of nanotechnology through joint research and development projects, student-exchange programs and research grants. Under the new partnership, two researchers from each university will receive post-doctoral fellowships supported by two years of research vital partner institution. The fellowships, which cover approximately 75 percent of the total cost of the research, were paid for with funding provided by philanthropist and business-mann Roman Abramovich, who just this year made aliya. The respective hosting laboratories will provide for remaining expenses. The new joint Northwestern-TAU venture also includes a student-exchange program, which will allow three graduate students from each institution to study at the partner university, as well as attend an annual nanotechnology workshop and international conference on cutting-edge breakthroughs in the field. The nanotech collaboration is also slated to offer up to two research grants a year to support pilot projects that bear commercial potential. TAU’s Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology and Northwestern’s International Institute for Nanotechnology will select the winning projects, which will receive funding to cover the costs involved with completing proof of concept. In 2020, TAU and Northwestern exchange students will have all the opportunity to study at TAU’s new Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology building. The center, made possible through a $30 million gift by Abramovich to Tel Aviv University, is expected to be the leading facility of its kind in the Middle East. French architect Michel Remon is responsible for the design of the new building, which will span more than 75,300 square feet (7,000 square meters) and house core research labs, quantum effects labs, medical nanosystems labs and smart biotechnologies labs, as well as a visitor’s center that will be open to the general public.

Canadian billionaire joins initiative to land first Israeli spacecraft on the moon

Israeli-Canadian Jewish billionaire and businessman Sylvan Adams has joined the drive to land first Israeli spacecraft on the moon as he contributed $5 million to Spacell, the company announced on Nov. 19. “This contribution to strengthening the Israeli space program and increasing educational opportunities and innovation among the younger generation in Israel, is the best gift I could have asked for,” Adams said while celebrating his 60th birthday on Nov. 19. “I believe that sending the first Israeli spacecraft to the moon will inspire Israeli school children to take up STEM studies and think about space exploration, and especially to believe that everything is possible,” he added. Spacell, president Morris Kahn, who donated $27 million toward the project, expressed his appreciation towards Adams. “I want to thank Sylvan Adams for his generous contributions to the mission and its success,” he said. “Joining an array of donors with a common vision: to land the first Israeli spacecraft on the moon. We are in the final stretch, and I believe that his joining will help us raise the remaining money to complete our ambitious mission.” “We are in the final stretch before the launch preparations and are at full power,” said SpaceIL CEO Ido Anteby. “The teams of Spacell and IAI [Israel Aerospace Industries] are making great progress in a series of tests and trials being carried out at IAI’s space facility.” He added, “At the same time, we are stepping up activities to promote scientific and technological education in the State of Israel, ahead of launch. We thank Mr. Sylvan Adams for his contribution.”

Israelis discover promising new treatment for aggressive brain tumors

(Israel21c via JNS) – A new treatment for aggressive brain tumors (glioblastoma) shows great promise, according to a report by Israeli scientists that was published recently in the Journal Nucleic Acids Research. Glioblastoma is a serious and incurable brain cancer. Patients receiving this diagnosis typically have 11 to 20 months to live. One of the main difficulties in treating this cancer is that its cells quickly build up a resistance to chemotherapy. A team headed by Professor Rotem Karni and Ph.D. student Maxim Mogilevsky at Hebrew University’s Institute for Medical Research-Israel Canada designed a molecule that inhibits glioblastoma tumor growth by regulating the proteins it produces. Karni explained that the MNK2 gene produces two different protein products through a process called “RNA alternative splicing.” These proteins have the opposing properties: MNK2a inhibits cancer growth, whereas MNK2b supports cancer growth. Karni’s new molecule shifts the splicing of MNK2 so that production of the tumor-stimulating protein decreases, while production of the tumor-suppressing protein increases. As a result, cancerous tumors decrease or die. “Not only can this breakthrough molecule kill tumor cells on its own, it has the power to help former chemotherapy-resistant cells become chemotherapy-sensitive once again,” said Karni. In the study, lab mice were injected with human glioblastomas tumor cells and developed tumors. In those mice that were treated with the new molecule, tumors shrank or died off completely, as opposed to the control mice treated with an inactive molecule. “Our research presents a novel approach for glioblastoma treatment. In the future, we’ll be able to tailor treatments for patients based on the amount of cancer-inhibiting proteins that their tumors produce,” said Karni. A patent for this technology has been registered and granted in the United States and Europe through Yissum, Hebrew University’s technology-transfer company. Also participating in the “Modulation of MNK2 alternative splicing by splice-switching oligonucleotides as a novel approach for glioblastoma treatment” research were Adi Mogilevsky of IMRIC; Odelia Shamshon and Eylon Yavin of the Hebrew University Pharmacy School’s Institute for Drug Research; Sarah Kamar and Eli Keshet of the university’s Department of Developmental Biology and Cancer Research; and Florian Heyd of the Institute of Chemistry and Biochemistry’s Laboratory of RNA Biochemistry at Freie Universität Berlin. Funding came from the German-Israel Foundation, Israel Innovation Authority, Israel Science Foundation, Israel Cancer Research Fund, Israel Cancer Association, Henry and Merilyn Taub Foundation and the Carol Epstein Foundation.
Weis wishes you a Happy Chanukkah!

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