

2024-2025 Campaign

What is the Campaign? It is our “kuppah,” our community fund to take care of the community’s needs. Once somebody said that a Community Campaign is one Jew asking money from another to help a third. It is the way in which we help the community to perform *tzedakah* (“justice”) in a way that benefits the community the most. It is also the fund that allows us to think forward and build community, provide for Jewish education and social services, as well maintaining spaces in the community for people to come together to learn or just socialize. The Campaign is not about the money for its own sake, but what the money can do for our global Jewish family.

We are proud to announce that we have set a goal of \$1,000,000 for our 2024-2025 UJA Federation

Community Campaign. We will need everybody’s support to get there, and the additional funds will translate into more resources for local Jewish life in the four-county area. When you will be asked for your pledge, consider not just renewing your support, but make an increase. If you did not contribute before, consider joining the Campaign according to your own ability to give. The Campaign affects many lives across the Jewish world – in Israel, in NEPA and wherever Jewish life exists.

The 2024-2025 Campaign will be chaired by Alma Shaffer and Dave Hollander; you can see their bios at right. If you wish to help, please contact Dassy Ganz at 570-961-2300 or dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org.

When we work together, even the sky is not the limit...

Campaign chairs

Alma Shaffer Mullin



Alma Shaffer Mullin

Alma Shaffer Mullin is a life-long resident of Scranton. She is the daughter of Eugene and Florence Shaffer of blessed memory. She is a graduate of Central High School and attended Stern College in New York City. Alma also took courses in public relations and education at Penn State and Marywood. She was employed at Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit for 28 years. Alma worked as a retail analyst and in recipe development for the Philip G. Ball Company and continues in special projects.

Alma has been involved in the Jewish Community Center as a child and teenager. Alma is a member of the JCC board and served as co-chair of the Argus committee for many years. She has been the gifts committee chairperson for the Rosenstein golf tournament for many years. She has served in every Jewish community event, especially the 60th and 75th anniversary of the State of Israel. Alma was the opening event chair for the JCC 100th anniversary. In 2014, Alma received the George Joel Senior Service Award and, in 2018, she was the JCC Woman of the Year. Alma’s love for her Jewish community is matched by a special love for Israel. Her trip to Israel in 2007 with the Jewish Federation was a life highlight. Alma serves on the Jewish Federation Board, as well as on the Board of Trustees of the Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab. Alma resides in Dalton with her husband, Dr. Brian Mullin.

David Hollander



David Hollander

David Hollander has been an active member of the Scranton community since he was a teenager. Currently he is president of Temple Israel of Scranton, and contributes to the Jewish Federation of NEPA by serving on its Board of Trustees, is a Holocaust Symposium facilitator and also a member of the Community Relations Committee. David is also a member of the Scranton Jewish Community Security Council. Further, David is the immediate past president of the St. Francis of Assisi Soup Kitchen and is the chair of its Long-Range Planning Committee.

David is a Scranton native and graduate of the University of Scranton. He is employed by Maid-Rite Specialty Foods as the director of human resources and corporate procurement. David is married with three children and resides in Moscow. Within the last year (in his spare time), David has taken up running – and is now an avid runner.

Happy
Passover
5784

CANDLE LIGHTING

April 5	7:15 pm
April 12	7:22 pm
April 19	7:30 pm
April 22	7:33 pm
April 23	after 8:35 pm
April 26	7:37 pm
April 28	7:40 pm
April 29	after 8:42 pm
May 3	7:45 pm

PLUS

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Passover and the Primary

Passover begins at sundown on **Monday, April 22**, and Pennsylvania’s **primary election** is **Tuesday, April 23**.

If you’d like to vote by mail, request your ballot **NOW** and return it right away.

Apply for a Mail Ballot
 הגש בקשה להצבעה בדואר
vote.pa.gov/MailBallot
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

In Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Biennale showcases Israeli art, while the Old City gets an architectural makeover.

Stories on pages 7 and 13

Passover

Online holiday resources; Passover recipes include tips on getting kids involved in holiday preparations.

Stories on pages 10 and 13

On campuses

Jewish students gathered in DC to demand a national reporting system for campus antisemitism.

Story on page 15

AP and computer programming courses now at Beth Shalom Academy

Beth Shalom Academy announced the additional offering of AP courses to its high school students looking to advance themselves academically. BSA offers many higher-level courses at all grade levels. Math and science are two foci for BSA students. Middle and high school students at the Beth Shalom Academy are using their math skills to write computer programs on laptop computers in

Dr. Stephen Mansour's "Introduction to Programming Class." Although most students will not become computer programmers, it is important for them both to understand what computers are capable of and to obtain a fundamental understanding of how they work.

Dr. Mansour worked at IBM for 12 years as a computer programmer and wanted to share his expertise



and love of programming with students. The students are writing code in APL, a computer language that uses mathematical symbols and evaluates from right to left. But this is no obstacle to Beth Shalom students who are already familiar with another language (Hebrew) which uses a different set of characters and goes from right to left!

Visit us at www.bethshalomacademy.com.

How SparkIL saved Meir and Rachel's counseling business

BY ILH STAFF

(*Israel Hayom* via JNS) – In addition to managing a household for the past 16 years and their five children, Meir and Rachel Sherper, from Moshav Geva Carmel, south of Haifa, have another labor of love – their counseling business.

Four years ago, the Sherpers established their business, which has helped thousands of couples navigate life's challenges and reconnect. They offer personalized

and group support programs that empower individuals and couples to minimize conflicts and arguments. Their focus is on fostering mutual understanding and harmony through close, respectful communication. Together they maintain a Facebook community with 20,000 followers who strive to maintain *shalom bayit* – peace in the home.

On October 7, however, everything changed and home was anything but peaceful. The Sherpers ran into a significant challenge of their own when Meir was called up for IDF reserve duty, most of their group courses were canceled and many of the residents evacuated. Meir, the content mastermind, who was responsible for marketing and strategy for the company, had to pack up and leave to protect his homeland.

With the business frozen in place, Rachel had to face these hardships alone. Within weeks, cash flow issues started piling up and there was no sense of when Meir would return.

The couple turned to SparkIL to take out a loan that offers small businesses exactly what they're looking for during this time: immediate financial relief, at zero interest.

Their loan didn't come from a bank. They received their nearly



Meir and Rachel Sherper (Photo courtesy by @ori_tzilum)

\$14,000 check from dozens of Israelis and Jews around the world who chose to lend money through the SparkIL platform.

With this financial burden no longer plaguing her, Rachel was free mentally and physically to take care of her struggling clients by offering online courses, giving them access to their expertise even as they were evacuated from their homes.

Today, four months on, Meir is still not able to dedicate himself to the family business due to his military obligations, but more clients have turned to Rachel and have been able to benefit from the online programming the two developed together.

As they wait for the war to end and the hostages to come back home, the couple is grateful for everyone who contributed to their loan and took part in this uplifting social experiment.

Many small businesses are feeling the brunt of Israel's economic

crisis in the wake of the Gaza war. As a result, SparkIL provided an emergency 30 million shekel (\$8.275m.) fund to help these struggling enterprises.

As the first peer-to-peer lending platform in Israel, which works in partnership with the Ogen Group and the Jewish Agency for Israel, borrowers can have access to a loan of up to 100,000 shekels (approximately \$27,300) for five years. Once a business meets the criteria, and it's determined they're able to repay the loan, SparkIL launches a campaign for the business on its website, inviting lenders from all over the world to contribute as little as \$25.

Unlike other crowdfunding platforms, SparkIL provides lenders with updates from the business they helped where they can monitor how their contributions are helping the business not only survive but thrive. These regular updates let lenders know how each business is doing and if any additional assistance is needed. This process yields a connection between borrowers and lenders, something that is usually missing in this type of relationship.

Na'ama Ore, CEO of SparkIL, adds: "The war and the challenging time in Israel as of late required SparkIL to mobilize for small businesses and nonprofits. Our team is committed to boosting the Israeli economy, and the people behind the businesses and reinforcing the connection between Israelis and Jewish Diaspora. Our goal is to reach tens of thousands of lenders who can be part of this movement, and even a loan of \$25 can make a difference. Everyone can join this movement of doing good."

Originally published by *Israel Hayom*.

The Reporter

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Can a Jew be anti-Zionist?

I keep coming across articles in which this or that American politician recruits the opinion of an anti-Zionist Jew to support his/her own position. Can a Jew really be anti-Zionist? Like most Jewish questions, the first answer would be “it depends.”

Let us start by defining the word “Zionist.” The meaning is, literally, he/she who yearns for Zion. But there are different ways of yearning for Zion. The traditional, pre-Enlightenment meaning, referred to the emotional and religious connection of Jews with their ancestral land. In this context, Zion represented the future redemption to come in the context of the Messianic era. For the overwhelming majority of Jews, it involved Divine intervention at a time when “God will be one and his name will be one,” as we recite to this day at the end of the Aleinu prayer.

The Enlightenment fractured the meaning of “Zionism.” For some, who held dear the so-called “National Affirmation” (which stated that Jews were not a nation, but only a religion), the idea of Zionism became identified with the Messianic Era, but divorced from the terrestrial Jerusalem (Zion). Jerusalem (Zion) became for them more a symbol of an idealized future than the city in the Middle East. Yet for others, who held the idea of a National-Religious identity, Zion remained, as in traditional times, a symbol of future redemption associated with Divine intervention. The idea of yearning for Zion in a non-Messianic context was problematic for this group. For another group, which sought to integrate into European life, Zionism did not make sense at all – they saw it as a burden that differentiated them from their fellow citizens

and became an obstacle to integration/assimilation. From this latter group came another group whose members became disillusioned with the European Enlightenment because it did not deliver the promise of integration. It was from members of this latter group that a political movement for the restoration of Jewish sovereignty over Zion came into being. Once

the ultra-nationalist to the Universalists. Like in any other National Liberation Movement, the historical conditions will determine how closely all these groups will align (or not) with each other to defend the national project.

When most people refer these days to “Zionism,” they mean the political National Liberation Movement of the Jewish people. Arab and anti-Israel political propaganda tried, over the last few decades, to establish a firm link between the word “Zionism” and the most extreme right-wing manifestations of it because it suits their own narrative and political aims. Thus, they pushed with an identification of “Zionism” with “Racism,” “Apartheid,” “Nazism” and any other political ideology that may allow them to present Zionism as despicable and beyond the pale. Much like those in the extreme right of American society referred to Israel as “socialist” during the year of Labor-dominated governments.

Personally, I define myself as a Zionist who defends the right of my people to self-determination, because I believe that the independence of the state of Israel represents a watershed event in Jewish history – an event that has transformed Jewish Identity, expanding it to restore the full Biblical covenant involving Torah, the land and the people.

Going back to the original question, can a Jew be anti-Zionist? It depends on how his/her attitude towards Zion connects with his/her Jewish Identity. Those who reject the connection with the land out of a need to be accepted in the wider society or because of a yearning to eliminate it to achieve full integration/assimilation are in fact anti-Zionists. As for the rest, let us remember that dissent is ingrained in the Jewish cultural DNA. Any group claiming to represent “the only real Jewish answer” is in fact wrong. Judaism and Jewish culture evolve in the context of diversity of opinions. The answer to any Jewish question will always start with the words “it depends.” What is important is that we remained together, as a community, seeking to realize the ideals of our culture – first articulated in the Torah.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

the call for political action became a common part of the Jewish conversation, some religious groups also adhered to the idea of restored sovereignty through human intervention as a necessary prelude to the Messianic redemption.

But we all know that, in a Jewish context, ideas and groups adhering to those ideas never vanish, they just transform. Every one of the attitudes towards Zion and Zionism I described above continue to exist to this day. A Jew can see him/herself as a Zionist in the traditional sense, yet be opposed for that very reason to the existence of a politically sovereign Jewish state that came about through human rather than Divine intervention. They can also reject the connection with Israel (even politically opposing it) because they strongly believe in integration/assimilation into the wider society. They can also reject the connection as a price of admission into the larger-society political and social movements with which they identify.

Among those who embraced the idea of Jewish political sovereignty over the land of our ancestors, we can also see differences defined by their particular ideological perspectives, ranging from the extreme left to the extreme right, from the very observant to the completely secular, from

Grants report

The Grants Committee, chaired by Esther Adelman, awarded several grants over the first three months of the year, and disbursed other grants that are part of multi-year commitments to some of our agencies.

As part of our multi-year commitments, we paid \$10,000 to the Jewish Resource Center in Stroudsburg and \$15,000 to the Scranton Hebrew Day School as the second installment of our Capital Grant for the reconstruction of the playground’s retaining wall at the school. We also paid \$12,500 as the final installment of a Capital Grant to the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms for the replacement of their HVAC system, and \$37,500 as the final installment of our multi-year commitment to the Jewish Community Center Capital Building Campaign.

In addition, we provided over the last three months \$1,500 to Congregation B’nai Harim in Pocono Pines to help them replace their pews, which were consider unsafe. We also provided \$18,000 to Congregation Beth Israel in Honesdale to help with building repairs in their historic building. We also provided \$10,000 to the Jewish Fellowship of Hemlock Farms for



security upgrades and \$1,000 as a contribution to the JCC Community Purim Festival.

In addition to the grants provided by the Committee, the Federation Board authorized the distribution of \$5,000 for security to each organization in our region requesting it. The funds for these grants came from the Al Reich Strategic Fund. We distributed a total of \$65,000 to the following organization: Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Hesed, Scranton Hebrew Day School, Beth Shalom Academy, Temple Israel (Stroudsburg), Temple Israel (Scranton), Scranton Jewish Community Center, Jewish Family Services of NEPA, Chabad of the Pocono Mountains, Chabad of the Abingtons, Jewish See “Grants” on page 6

DEADLINES

The following are deadlines for all articles and photos for upcoming Reporter issues.

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Monday, April 8.....	May
Monday, May 13.....	June
Wednesday, June 5.....	July
Monday, July 15.....	August



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

Scranton Hebrew Day School Torah Fair on “Kedushas Eretz Yisroel”

This year is a year that Jews all over the world are concerned with the war in Israel. The SHDS wanted its students to feel their connection to their brothers and sisters who are in danger and so the annual Torah Fair was titled “Kedushas Eretz Yisroel” (The Holiness of Israel). The students, K-eight, made beautiful displays and/or reports depicting different aspects of the Jewish relationship toward our ancestral homeland. Each class highlighted different aspects of this special relationship. Some of the topics included: holy sites, *mitzvot* that can only be kept in Israel, references from Tanach

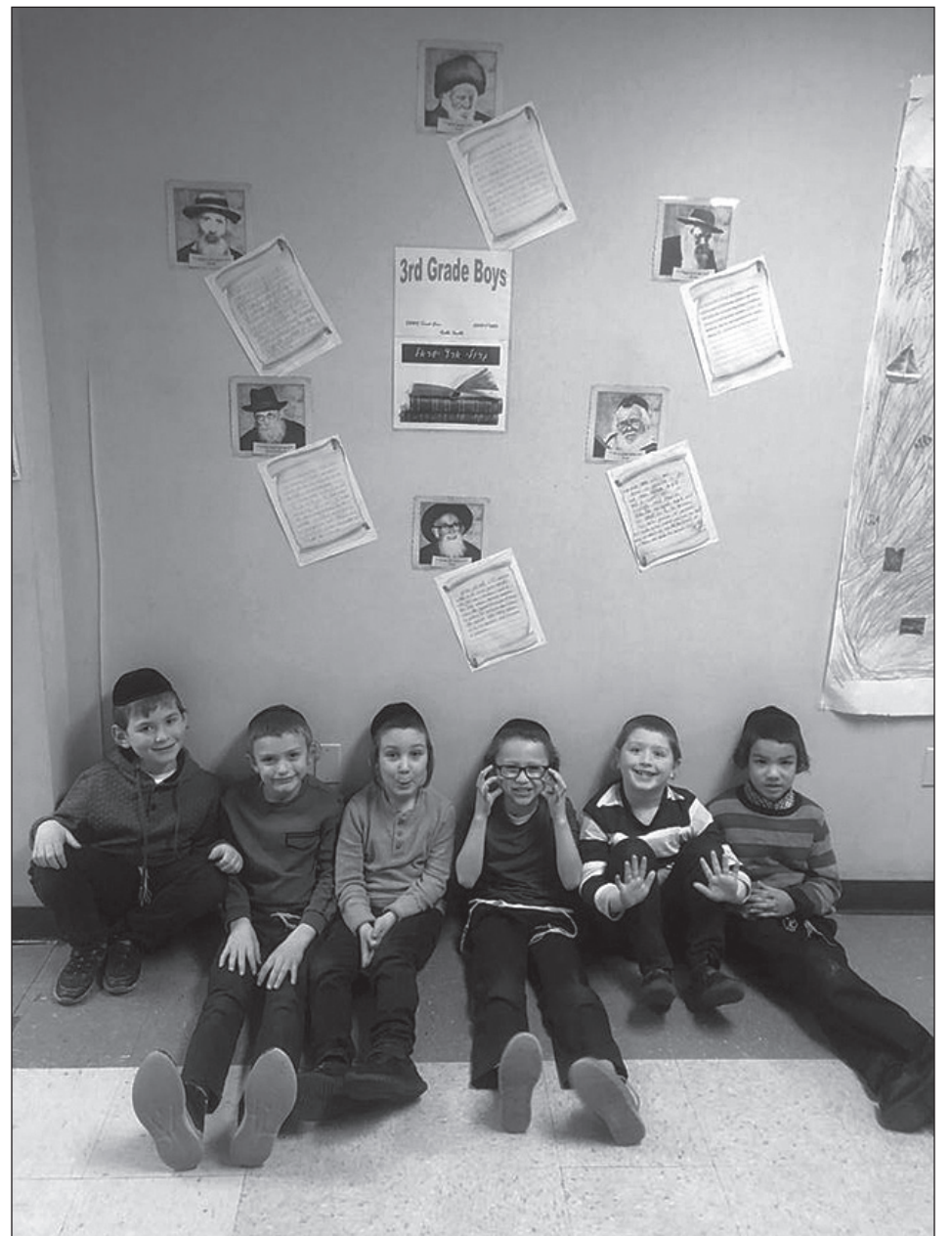
(Bible) and the Talmud about Israel, *tzadikim* and *tzidkonios* (righteous men and women) in Israel, *chesed* (charity) organizations and yeshivas in Israel, a historical timeline of Israel, the emigration of Jews in the past 100 years, various holy cities, Joshua’s capturing of Israel and much, much more.

Many of the local rabbis and roshai yeshiva, including Rabbi Chayim Schnaidman, Rabbi Shraga Berlin and Rabbi Alex Hecht came to preview the displays. Their response was very positive and encouraging. Many of the parents and friends of the school had the

same reaction. Rabbi Rosenberg commented, “We can never take for granted our special relationship to the land of Israel. It is a land that speaks to the heart of every Jew and its’ people and the situation they are

facing is very dear to us.”

The Torah Fair displays were scheduled to remain in the Scranton Hebrew Day School hallway for any and all to view throughout the month of March.





**6TH ANNUAL
COMMUNITY
MATTERS**

**HONORING
DR. MARGARET SHELDON**

JUNE 19, 2024 | 6 - 9 P.M.
SCRANTON CULTURAL CENTER



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OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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EOE

Are you on the Jewish Federation’s email list?

We send updated announcements and special event details weekly to those who wish to receive them.

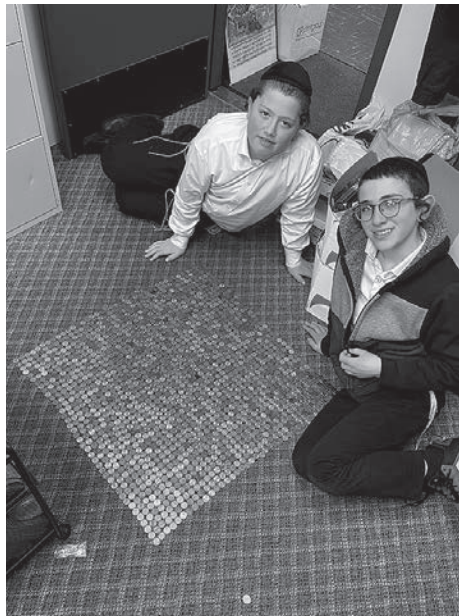
Send Dassy Ganz an email if you would like to join the list.

Dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org



Scranton Hebrew Day School students join Federation's Six Million Penny Initiative

The students of the Scranton Hebrew Day School are participating in the NEPA Jewish Federation's Six Million Penny Initiative. They have been informed of the reasoning behind this project. It is very difficult even for adults to fully grasp the enormity of the victims of the Holocaust. This project will give them and all of us a clearer picture of just how devastating a loss World War II was to the Jewish people. It is very encouraging to know that the proceeds of this initiative (\$60,000!) will be earmarked for Holocaust education to make the general population more well informed. The Scranton Hebrew Day School is happy to



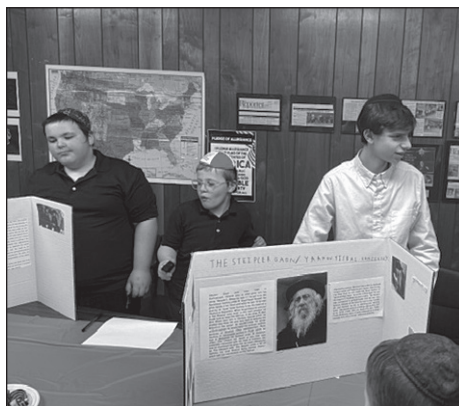
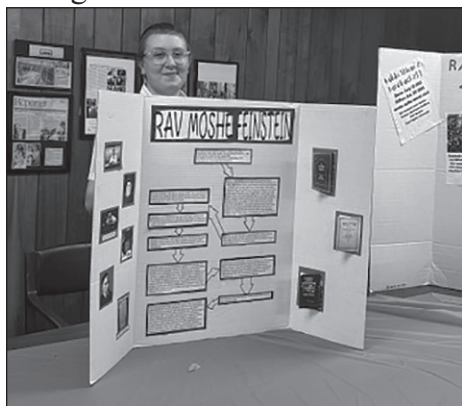
participate in this initiative. We welcome anyone to come to our school to add to our collection of pennies for this project.

Beth Shalom Academy holds "Gedolim Presentation"

On March 13, students, parents and faculty gathered for a "Gedolim Presentation" by the middle school boys' division of Beth Shalom Academy. The boys spent two weeks researching the lives and legacies of different *gedolim* (great rabbis) of the last century, including Rabbi Avraham Yeshaya Karelitz (1878-1953), Rabbi Yaakov Yisrael Kanievsky (1899-1985), Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (1895-1986) and Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach (1910-1995). They created posters displaying their rabbi's key life events, books and pictures, and shared stories that they found particularly meaningful.

Their teacher, Rabbi Alex Hecht, introduced the program by noting that great rabbis become leaders

as a result of the Jewish people's recognition of their wisdom, piety and generosity. He reminded the students that "*gedolim* were not born *gedolim*" and that they achieved greatness as a result of toiling to achieve their potential. "You, too, can become *gedolim*," he said, "if you work to achieve your unique potential."



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<p>2/\$5 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Streit's or Yehuda Matzos</p> <p>16 oz.</p>	<p>9⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>SAVE \$4 WITH 5⁹⁹ eCoupons</p> <p>Final Price</p> <p>LIMIT ONE COUPON PER OFFER PER CUSTOMER</p> <p>Streit's or Yehuda Passover Matzos</p> <p>5 Lb.</p>		
<p>2⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>LaBonne Chocolate Covered Rice Cakes</p> <p>3.1 oz. •Milk or Dark Chocolate Varieties</p>	<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Lipton Matzo Ball & Soup Mix</p> <p>4.3-4.5 oz. Select Varieties</p>	<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Streit's Macaroons</p> <p>10 oz. •Select Varieties or Streit's Egg Matzos 12 oz.</p>	<p>4⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Manischewitz or Streit's Chocolate Covered Matzos</p> <p>7-8 oz.</p>
<p>5⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Heinz Ketchup</p> <p>24.7 oz. Kosher For Passover</p>	<p>2⁷⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Streit's Potato Starch</p> <p>12 oz.</p>	<p>2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Terra Chips</p> <p>5 oz. Veggie or Mediterranean</p>	<p>2/\$7 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Savion Fruit Slices</p> <p>6 oz.</p>
<p>5⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Yehuda Gefilte Fish</p> <p>24 oz. Original or Sweet</p>	<p>4⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Dr. Brown's Six Pack Soda</p> <p>12 oz. Cans •Select Varieties Plus Deposit Where Required</p>	<p>4⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Joyva Jell Rings</p> <p>9 oz. Select Varieties</p>	<p>2/\$6 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Granny's Old Fashioned Marshmallows</p> <p>10 oz. •White or Mini</p>
<p>6⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Vita Herring In Sour Cream</p> <p>12 oz. or in Wine Sauce</p>	<p>2/\$4 with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Silver Spring Horseradish</p> <p>5 oz. Select Varieties</p>	<p>3⁴⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Breakstone's Whipped Butter</p> <p>8 oz. 8 oz. or 16 oz. Butter Quarters \$5.99</p>	<p>10⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Ungar's Gefilte Fish</p> <p>20 oz.</p>
<p>3⁹⁹ lb. with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Empire Kosher Frozen Turkey</p>	<p>15⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Empire Kosher Frozen Boneless Chicken Breasts</p> <p>2 Lb.</p>	<p>12⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Meal Mart Passover Chicken & Turkey Nuggets</p> <p>21 oz.</p>	<p>8⁹⁹ with AdvantEdge Card</p> <p>Meal Mart Kosher Ground Beef</p> <p>16 oz.</p>



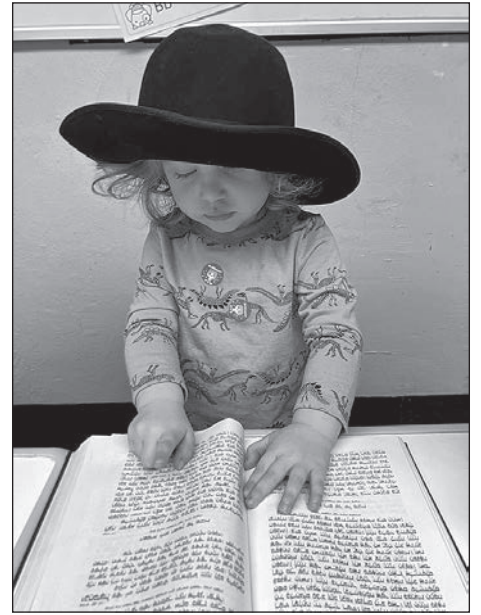
Plus, we have all of your fresh produce needs for your Seder!

Offers effective Sunday, March 17 thru Saturday, May 4, 2024 in all Price Chopper, Market 32 and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.

Purim fun at BSA

Purim fun was doubled this year at Beth Shalom Academy due to two months of Adar! *Morah Devorah's* toddler class enjoyed their dramatic play time by dressing up as Esther and Mordachai!

Learning the story of Purim came to life in the toddler class as students dressed up and acted out the story of Esther and Mordachai saving the Jewish people from Haman.



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Grants. Continued from page 3 Fellowship of Hemlock Farms, Machzikei Hadas Congregation and Jewish Resource Center. All this is possible because of the generosity of our community. Thank you.

All said, the Federation distributed so far \$173,500 for local

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The Reporter
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Jerusalem Biennale showcases Israel's resilience amid Gaza war

BY JUDY LASH BALINT

(JNS) – Israel's war against Hamas grinds on, and Israelis struggle to come to terms with the number of dead and wounded soldiers and the heartbreak of the hostages, yet every week brings evidence of extraordinary efforts to revive and preserve the country's vibrant cultural life.

Over the past decade, the Jerusalem Biennale established itself as the largest platform in the world for contemporary Jewish art and a much-anticipated event in Jerusalem's cultural calendar. However, the sixth Jerusalem Biennale, which was supposed to take place last November, was canceled due to the war. In a display of solidarity, several of the exhibitions did get shown over the past few months in North and South America and Europe.

Now, the Jerusalem Spring Biennale is holding 12 openings between March 10-22 to showcase more than 30 art installations in "some of the most interesting" venues around the capital, including the historic Sha'arei Tzedek building on Jaffa Road, Heichal Shlomo Museum, the Bible Lands Museum, The U. Nahon Museum of Italian Jewish Art, Museum On The Seam, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem Theater, The Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, HaMiffal, Beita Gallery, the Black Box Street Gallery and others.

All exhibits will run through April 29 and, despite Israeli's preoccupation with the war, are expected to attract thousands of visitors. While most of the works were prepared before the war,

some artists created new content after October 7.

At a preview held at one of the sites, the U. Nahon Museum of Italian Jewish Art, Jerusalem Biennale founder and creative director Rami Ozeri told JNS, "The importance of staging the Biennale, bringing people together around art, was only reinforced by the current situation that affects the global Jewish world in different ways."

Art, said Ozeri, "carries a social message that is both open to interpretation and dependent on the context. Now that context is war and even growing antisemitism. For me, the message of the art underscores our strength, which is far greater than what we may have thought – especially the strength of women. We see this in the Spring Biennale's art, curated and created by women from Israel and overseas."

The challenge of establishing and maintaining channels of collaboration in the international art world is now greater than ever, and more important than ever, he added. "We are absolutely committed to keeping Jerusalem on the international map of contemporary art."

The theme of the 2024 Biennale is Iron Flock, a literal translation of the Hebrew phrase Tzon Barzel – a term used idiomatically in contemporary Hebrew to describe shared cultural assets.

The Threading Exhibit at the Museum of



Jerusalem Biennale founder and director Rami Ozeri (Photo by Judy Lash Balint)

Italian Jewish Art explores the cultural assets created by Jewish women, particularly in the textile arts. The curator of the exhibit, Emily Bilski, told visitors that she was presiding over "a conversation between the contemporary women artists and the works of textile art in the permanent collection that were all made and dedicated by women."

Heddy Breuer Abramowitz, a Jerusalem artist exhibiting a piece in the textile exhibit based on an heirloom fabric that was part of her grandmother's trousseau, told JNS, "We cannot escape the presence of the war, yet we are also starved for what elevates us in life: literature, art for the spirit and soul. The Jerusalem Biennale belongs here in this difficult place. It is important that we turn the spotlight toward Jerusalem, flaws, fissures, and yet the foundation stone of Jewish thought."

See "Biennale" on page 12

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Seed from biblical home of Goliath sheds light on Philistine rituals

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A team of Israeli archaeologists and archaeobotanists have overseen the reconstruction of plants used in 3,000-year-old Philistine rituals at the central Israel site identified as the home of the biblical Goliath, providing a unique window into this ancient civilization. The study which follows more than a quarter century of excavations at Tell es-Safi, named as the biblical Gath of the Philistines and the home of Goliath, “challenges previous understanding of Philistine ritual practices and offers a fresh perspective on their cultural practices and the connections between Philistine culture and broader Mediterranean religious traditions,” said Professor Ehud Weiss, director of the Archaeobotany Laboratory at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan.

Philistine culture, which flourished during the Iron Age (ca. 1200-604 B.C.E.), profoundly

affected the southern Levant’s cultural history, agronomy and dietary customs. The study revealed that the Philistine religion relied on the magic and power of nature, such as running water and seasonality, aspects that influence human health and life.

“By examining the plants they used in ritual contexts, we better understand how the Philistines perceived and interacted with the world around them,” Weiss said.

The study also proposes parallels between Philistine and Aegean ceremonial practices. The discovery of loom weights (an apparatus used for fabric production) within Philistine temples, a common feature in Aegean cult locations, further strengthens the hypothesis of cultural exchange and influence between the two regions.

Dr. Suembikya Frumin, manager of the Archaeobotany Laboratory and the study’s lead researcher, noted, “One of the most significant findings is the identification

of earliest known ritual uses of several Mediterranean plants, such as the lilac chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*), crown daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*), and silvery scabious (*Lomelosia argentea*). These widespread Mediterranean plants connect Philistines with cultic rituals, mythology and paraphernalia related to early Greek deities, such as Hera, Artemis, Demeter and Asclepios. In addition, plants with psychoactive and medicinal properties in the Philistine temples reveal their use for cultic activities.”

“These findings open up new avenues for research into the cultural and religious interactions between the Philistines and neighboring regions,” added study co-author Professor Aren Maeir, of Bar-Ilan University’s Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology, who has directed the excavations at Tell es-Safi/Gath for more than



A flowering lilac chaste tree (*Vitex agnus-castus*), one of several Mediterranean plants used in Philistine rituals (Photo by Sofia Frumin)

25 years. “We have deepened our understanding of ancient cultic practices and their significance in the broader Mediterranean world.”

Jerusalem planned first Purim parade since 1982

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Jerusalem planned to host its first Purim parade in more than four decades under the shadow of the five-month-old war with Hamas in Gaza, the municipality announced. The parade was to include 30 floats and seven musical stages along the kilometer-long downtown route on March 25 when the ancient walled city celebrates the holiday – Shushan Purim – a day after other places in the world. The event came even as 130 hostages remain in Gazan captivity, five months after the October 7 massacre, including 70 to 100 people believed to be alive.

“The parade this year is more

than a Purim event, but a victory of spirit and standing strong,” said Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion, who was elected in February to a second five-year term.


The last Purim parade in the capital was held in 1982.

The traditional colorful Purim processions held across Israel are called “Adloyadas,” shorthand for the rabbinic Aramaic phrase in the Talmud describing the commandment to drink and make merry as part of the holiday celebration. Stages were to be set up at sites in central Jerusalem with musical events including orchestras, DJs and other performance groups.



Children from the Asa Chayil School took part in the Adloyada Purim parade in Efrat, south of Jerusalem, on March 5. (Photo by Gershon Elinson/Flash90)

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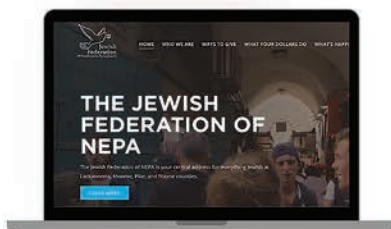
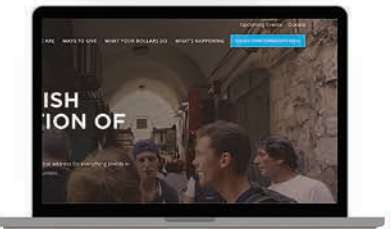


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Include your event details and submit the form. Events will be published once approved.

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Wisdom from the Passover kitchen: Getting the kids involved

BY NAOMI ROSS

(JNS) – Folding chairs lined the hallway wall like dutiful soldiers in expectation of arriving guests. Unfamiliar, dusty boxes of pots and china were stacked high, their contents waiting to make their annual appearance on the dining room table. As a child, the anticipation during those momentous days leading up to Passover was palpable. I couldn't help but sense the urgency – something big was imminent and I wanted to be a part of it. Fortunately for me, my mother was adept at putting me to work, getting me involved in the preparations and effectively igniting a spark in her daughter to experience the excitement of the holiday.

As a parent, I've realized the mitzvah ("commandment") of educating your children about the story of the Exodus from Egypt begins earlier – not at the seder, but before, in the kitchen.

Kids learn experientially (so do adults). They need to engage all of their senses to internalize a concept or lesson. That's why we hold up the shank bone, the matzah and the bitter herbs; our seders come complete with props and visual aids.

So, how do we pass on our traditions in a way that is meaningfully relevant to the next generation? It happens first by inviting them to take part in the preparations and the cooking, fostering a feeling of being invested in the holiday experience. That is what makes Passover real for them. The door to meaningful conversations is opened there in the kitchen while peeling apples or rolling matzah balls.

Many jobs are perfect for this purpose and appropriate for a wide range of ages. Here are a few suggestions:

◆ **Making charoset:** As a child, I thought that making charoset was an all-day process. Peeling, coring and chopping the apples took forever. Chopping nuts in our little manual glass-jar chopper was such hard work for a little one that by the time I finished, I felt as though I were enslaved in Egypt, too! Truth be told, it was the perfect job; it kept me busy for a long time and I felt very accomplished afterward. Come seder night, I was incredibly proud to pass around the charoset I made myself. (Safety tip: For younger children for whom sharp knives are inappropriate,

ate, an old-fashioned hand-held chopper and a large chopping bowl are the way to go.)

◆ **Peeling hard-boiled eggs:** All kids think this is fun. I have no idea why, but they do. So teach them how and let them at it.

◆ **Setting the table:** There are many more things to prepare on the seder table than for a regular meal: assembling haggadahs, pillows for reclining, salt water and preparing the seder plate all take time. If your children are creative, they can create pretty folded napkins or handmade place cards. Both are fantastic craft projects for artistic kids.

◆ **Cooking and baking:** For older kids who are able to follow a recipe (or interested in learning), this is a great opportunity to teach your kids basic lessons in cooking and baking. I still remember being called over to help taste and season a simmering dish. And it was in my mother's kitchen that I learned how to beat egg whites into "stiff peaks" for baking Passover sponge cakes.

No matter how you enlist your children, the real secret to getting them involved is by showing your own interest and excitement. When your kids see you enjoying yourself and getting into the spirit, then they will follow suit and reflect that joy into your home.

Both recipes included here are gluten-free and Passover-friendly.

HASH BROWN CUPS (DAIRY OR PAREVE)

Makes 10-12 cups

Prep time: 15-25 minutes

Cook time: 35-40 minutes

These are the perfect do-ahead hash browns for a brunch, and they

can be filled and baked

with several variations

below. They're also

good as an alternative

to fried potato latkes

(no frying mess with Hash Brown Cups

these) and are perfect (Photo from "The

for topping. Get Giving Table" by Naomi

creative and vary your

Ross)

toppings – sautéed

peppers, smoked salmon, sour cream, etc.

These can be made a day ahead. Refresh

uncovered in a hot oven to re-crisp the cups.

3 medium potatoes (about 1½ lbs.), scrubbed

3 Tbsp. butter or margarine, melted

1 tsp. kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 450°F. Grease a 12-cup muffin

pan liberally with cooking spray.

Bake or microwave potatoes (pierce with a

fork first) until mostly cooked through, but still

somewhat firm with a bite (about 45 minutes in a

350°F oven, or 5 to 6 minutes in the microwave).

They should not be mushy.

Peel the skin off the potatoes. Working over

a large mixing bowl, coarsely grate potatoes (a

box grater is fine for this). Toss with butter, salt

and pepper.

Carefully line each muffin cup with about 3 to

4 tablespoons of the potatoes, pressing against

and up the sides of each cup into an even layer.

Bake for about 20 to 25 minutes, until the

potatoes are golden and the edges are crisped.

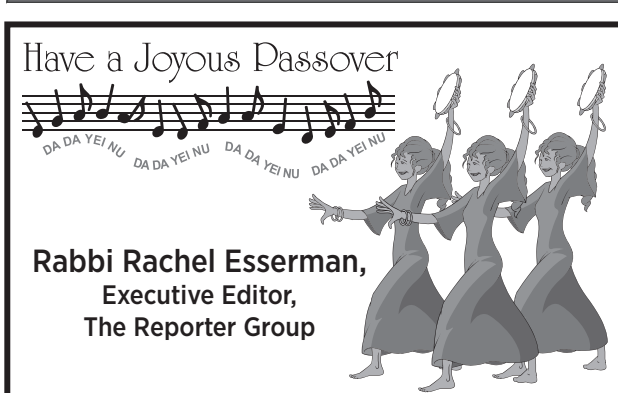
Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

If making one of the variations, continue with

See "Kids" on page 11

PASSOVER GREETINGS

Have a Joyous Passover



Rabbi Rachel Esserman,
Executive Editor,
The Reporter Group

May the dove of peace
descend on Israel.

Happy Passover

Kathy Brown,
Advertising
Representative



Kids. Continued from page 10

the directions below; otherwise, use an offset spatula to carefully remove cups from pan, fill with desired toppings and serve.

Egg-in-a-Nest Variation:

½ cup packed grated cheddar cheese

1 dozen eggs

Reduce oven temperature to 425°F.

Divide the shredded cheese and place it in each hash brown cup.

Crack each egg and pour it carefully into each cup. Season with salt and pepper.

Bake for about 12 to 15 minutes or until the eggs are just set. Remove from oven.

Cool slightly; use an offset spatula to carefully remove from the pan.

Broccoli Quiche Variation:

½ cup packed grated cheddar cheese

1 cup frozen chopped broccoli, defrosted and drained

3 eggs

⅓ cup milk

Reduce oven temperature to 425°F. Divide the shredded cheese among the hash brown cups.

Place a few teaspoons of broccoli in each cup (over the cheese).

Beat eggs and milk together; season with salt and pepper. Pour slowly into each cup, being careful to not overfill.

Bake for about 15 minutes or until set. Remove from oven. Cool slightly; use an offset spatula to carefully remove cups from the pan.

Short on time? While I like to use real potatoes for the freshest taste, frozen hash browns can be used instead for a quick shortcut. Simply thaw

and press them into the muffin cups.

ESPRESSO MERINGUE COOKIES (PAREVE)

Makes 18-24 cookies

Prep time: 10-15 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour, plus 1 hour cooling time

The perfect meringue is crispy on the outside, slightly chewy on the inside. For best results, use fresh, room-temperature egg whites. The proteins in old egg whites may not dry out properly in the oven. To protect the integrity of the meringue, make sure your bowl and beaters are clean and dry. Use a star tip to pipe decoratively into mounds.

4 large egg whites

¼ tsp. salt

1 cup sugar

1 ½ Tbsp. instant espresso powder or instant coffee

1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

Coffee beans (optional)

Cocoa for dusting

Preheat oven to 250°F.

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside.

In a large, clean, dry mixing bowl, beat the egg whites and salt with an electric mixer (fitted with the balloon whisk attachment) on medium speed until the whites are foamy. Increase speed to high, beating until soft peaks form.

Slowly add in the sugar, adding about 2 table-



Espresso Meringue Cookies (Photo from "The Giving Table" by Naomi Ross)

spoons at a time, beating for 15 to 30 seconds after each addition. Add the espresso and vanilla, and continue to beat until the meringue forms very stiff, pillowy, glossy peaks (the mixture should be able to hold a peak up when the beaters are raised).

Working quickly, drop the mixture by large spoonfuls onto the prepared baking sheets, spacing them 1 to 2 inches apart. Top each meringue with an optional coffee bean and dust with cocoa.

Bake for 1 hour or until the surfaces of the meringues feel dry and you can pick one off the parchment without any sticking.

Turn off the oven, prop the door open slightly with the handle of a wooden spoon and allow meringues to cool gently in the oven for 1 hour. Transfer to a serving platter.

Chef's touch: Use a star tip to pipe decoratively into mounds.

Variations and Ideas:

◆ **Vanilla Meringue Cookies:** Omit espresso powder and replace with 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract.

◆ **Tie-Dye:** Transfer meringue into a piping bag. Before sealing, add a few drops of food coloring to the side of the piping bag; do not mix. Colors will spread and swirl as the meringue is piped.

◆ **Mini Pavlovas:** Make oversized meringue mounds, making a well in the center (with the back of a spoon). Bake for an additional 15 to 20 minutes. Fill with sweetened whipped cream and top with berries or compote.

Recipes from "The Giving Table" by Naomi Ross.

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Jewish online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

- ◆ Drew University will hold the virtual The George and Alicia Karpati Lectureship lecture “World War II and the Holocaust: What the Vatican Did – and Didn’t Do” with Pulitzer Prize winning author David Kertzer on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:30 pm. Kertzer will discuss his latest book, “The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini, and Hitler.” For more information or to register, visit drew.edu/kertzer.
- ◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the virtual program “Traces of a Jewish Artist: The Lost Life and Work of Rahel Szalit” with Kerry Wallach on Thursday, May 30, from 7-8 pm. The program will look at the work of graphic artist, illustrator, painter and cartoonist Rahel Szalit (1888-1942) who was among the best-known Jewish women artists in Weimar Berlin, but who died in the Holocaust. For more information or to register, visit https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=10601&s_src=Event&s_subsrc=szalit.
- ◆ The Jewish Book Council will hold the virtual conversation “The Heart of the Matter: Two Rabbis Discuss Love in the Jewish Tradition” on Thursday, May 16, from 6-7 pm. Rabbi Sharon Brous and Rabbi Shai Held will discuss “love as the core of the Jewish tradition: how to show up for each other in times of joy and struggle, and how we can use Judaism as a lens to help us

- approach life’s great matters.” For more information or to register, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/events/the-heart-of-the-matter-two-rabbis-discuss-love-in-the-jewish-tradition.
- ◆ The American Jewish University will hold there classes in the series “Planning for Peace of Mind”: “Embracing End-of-Life Conversations” on Tuesday, April 16, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://open.aju.edu/event/planning-for-peace-of-mind-embracing-end-of-life-conversations-2/>); “Feel Empowered with Advance Directives” on Wednesday, May 22, from 3-3:45 pm (<https://open.aju.edu/event/planning-for-peace-of-mind-feel-empowered-with-advance-directives/>); and “The Mitzvah of Crafting Your Ethical Will” on Tuesday, June 4, from 3:35 pm (<https://open.aju.edu/event/planning-for-peace-of-mind-the-mitzvah-of-crafting-your-ethical-will-2/>).
- ◆ Siegal Lifelong Learning will hold the virtual lecture “Jews and the American Labor Movement: The Leaders” on Wednesday April 10, from 10-11:30 am. The cost to attend is \$5. The lecture will look at how the waves of Jewish immigration around the turn of the 20th century affected the American labor movement and influenced the growth of Social Unionism and New Deal reformism. For more information or to register, visit <https://case.edu/lifelonglearning/lectures/jews-and-american-labor-movement-leaders-remote>.
- ◆ Melton will offer the class “Peace Process: Bringing Calm Home” on Wednesday, May 1, from 1-2:30 pm. Lynne Lieberman will “discuss several Jewish values ranging from honor/respect (*kavod*) to forgiveness (*slichah*) that provide us guidance to generate and nurture peaceful interactions in our home and within our family.” For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?id=4560c84d-8f3f-421f-88fb-47aae7be80c9>.
- ◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the hybrid 2024 Melinda Rosenblatt Lecture, “Rohkl Auerbach’s Warsaw Testament,” with Samuel Kassow on Sunday, May 5, from 2-3 pm. Kassow will deliver his speech to coincide with the publication of his translation of Rohkl Auerbach’s “Warsaw Testament” (White Goat Press). For more information or to register, visit https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=10582&s_src=Event&s_subsrc=2024MRLSK.
- ◆ Uri L’Tzedek will hold a panel “Celebrating 15 of uplifting Kashrut and Worker rights with the Tav Hayosher” on Thursday, May 2, at 6 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. Uri L’Tzedek’s founder and president Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz, Uri L’Tzedek board member Rosh Kehilah Dina Najman and Campaign Director Eddie Chavez Calderon will discuss the organizations work. To register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_JBaUCtWSQNGRUy-jM-4d3RA#/registration.
- ◆ The Institute for Jewish Policy Research offers the podcast “Jews Do Count” with Raymond Simonson, the CEO of JW3 London; and Dr Jonathan Boyd, executive director of the institute. For more information about the podcast, visit www.jpr.org.uk/insights.
- ◆ Tikvah offers the limited series podcast “Menachem Begin: His Life, Legacy, & Uniquely Jewish Statesmanship” with Rabbi Dr. Meir Soloveichik. For more information, visit <https://tikvahfund.org/begin-podcast/>.
- ◆ The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will hold the hybrid event “The Guiding Hand: The BARR Foundation Collection of Torah Pointers Exhibition Opening” on Thursday, April 11, from 5:30-8 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/event/the-guiding-hand-the-barr-foundation-collection-of-torah-pointers-exhibition-opening/>.
- ◆ Roundtable by the 92nd Street Y will hold the virtual four-part class “Translating the Jewish Freud” on Thursdays, April 25-May 16, from 7-8 pm. See “Online” on page 14



Quick Reference Guide to Planned Giving

Use this planned giving quick reference guide to help determine the best strategy for achieving your philanthropic and financial goals.

For more information or to discuss these planned giving options, please contact Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of NEPA, 570-961-2300 (x1) or daniel.chejfec@jewishnepa.org.

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Avoid tax on capital gains	Contribute long-term appreciated stock or other securities	A charitable deduction plus no capital gains tax
Defer a gift until after your lifetime	Put a bequest in your will (gifts of cash, specific property, or a share or the residue of your estate)	Exemption from federal estate tax on donations
Receive guaranteed fixed income that is partially tax-free	Create a charitable gift annuity	Current & future savings on income taxes, plus fixed, stable payments
Avoid capital gains tax on the sale of a home or other real estate	Donate the real estate or sell it to a charity at a bargain price	An income tax reduction plus reduction or elimination of capital gains tax
Avoid the two-fold taxation on IRA or other employee benefit plans	Name a charity as the beneficiary of the remainder of the retirement assets after your lifetime	Tax relief to your family on inherited assets
Give your personal residence or farm, but retain life use	Create a charitable gift of future interest, called a retained life estate	Tax advantages plus use of the property
Make a large gift with little cost to you	Contribute a life insurance policy you no longer need or purchase a new one & designate a charity as the owner	Current & possible future income tax deductions
Receive secure, fixed income for life while avoiding market risks	Purchase a charitable gift annuity or create a charitable remainder annuity trust	Tax advantages & possible increased rate of return
Give income from an asset for a period of years but retain the asset for yourself or your heirs	Create a charitable lead trust	Federal estate tax savings on asset & income tax deductions for deductions for donated income
Create a hedge against inflation over the long term	Create a charitable remainder unitrust	Variable payments for life plus tax advantages
Make a revocable gift during your lifetime	Name a charity as the beneficiary of assets in a living trust	Full control of the trust terms during your lifetime

Biennale. . . Continued from page 7

She added, “I am not sure whether the artists creating here would have the same rich material to pull from were they in any other place. I am also not sure seeing these art works in another place would bring the same reaction. The war has sharpened each of us who live here to being hyperaware of what is important and appreciating each patch of the crazy quilt that is our society.”

Have a safe & happy Passover from all of us at



Jerusalem's Old City gets architectural makeover

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A walk around the Tower of David is a one-stop shop for architecture in Jerusalem from the times of the kings of Judea in the First Temple period 2,800 years ago until today. There are walls from the Hasmoneans, towers from King Herod, a banquet room from the Crusaders and arched walls from the Ottomans to name just a few. Now the Tower of David Jerusalem Museum welcomes the latest layer in the Old City's architecture with the addition of the Angelina Drahi Entrance Pavilion, which is set to open its doors in March.

After more than a decade of planning and three years of construction, the final part of the \$50 million renewal of the Tower of David Jerusalem Museum is complete with the opening of the new multi-level sunken entrance pavilion. The 1,000 square meter (10,763 square feet) building nestled between the walls of Jerusalem's Old City and the ancient citadel walls is barely noticeable from the Jaffa Gate Plaza.

Building regulations forbid building above the height of the Old City walls, so the architects and engineers needed to plan for excavating the site 17 meters/18.6 yards down to build the pavilion that now houses



The Angelina Drahi Entrance Pavilion at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem's Old City (Photo by Dor Pazuelo)

the ticket office of the museum, a changing exhibition gallery, and a labyrinth of offices for the Education Department underground and a shaded seating area outside. In May, the coffee shop will open.

The ancient citadel was transformed into a welcoming and accessible environment under the direction of Kimmel Eshkolot Architects, Professor Etan Kimmel and lead architect Yotam Cohen-Sagi. "The opportunity to bring the 21st century to this ancient iconic site is both a duty and an honor," says Kimmel. "We were set the task of renovating one of the earliest

and most important architectural treasures of Jerusalem. Our challenge boiled down to our ability to find solutions to preserve the ancient stones that represent Jerusalem's past without compromising their historic value or their beauty while planning new architectural structures and introducing modern infrastructure using modern materials to create a fruitful, interesting meeting between the new and the old.

The first people to go on site were the archaeologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority. "You only need to use a teaspoon to dig up antiquities in the Old City of Jerusalem, and this is even more true when you are building a structure underground next to a citadel thousands of years old," says Cohen-Sagi.

No great treasures from Jerusalem's past were found during construction and the building of the pavilion could go ahead as planned. The renewal and conservation of the museum was led by the Clore Israel Foundation.

"No other museum can tell Jerusalem's story in such a distinctive setting, within this citadel that has witnessed so many eventful periods in the city's past," says Eilat Lieber, director and chief curator of the museum.

See "Jerusalem" on page 14

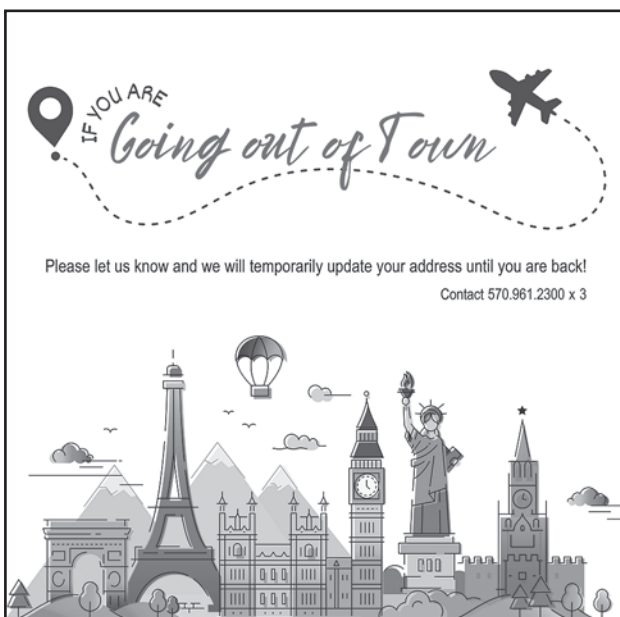
Passover online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

◆ Melton will offer "A Taste of Passover from Baghdad to the Balkans," featuring award-winning journalist Rahel Musleah, on Wednesday, April 17, from 1-2 pm. Musleah will teach about global Passover traditions. For more information or to register, visit <https://events.org/events/calendarcourse?tid=375797b8-889c-4886-a692-f1cf9f100164>.

◆ The JBI Library offers free *haggadot* for visually impaired, blind or print disabled in various editions. Orders are due by Thursday, April 11. To order a book, visit www.jbilibrary.org or contact JBI at 800-999-6476 or haggadah@jbilibrary.org.

◆ The PJ Library's Passover Hub, <https://pjlibrary.org/passover>, offers kid-friendly ways to tell the Passover story along with downloadable activities to help keep children engaged during their family's seder. It also offers recipes, book lists, and a step-by-step video playlist that teaches seder skills.



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Using appreciated property, such as securities or real estate, affords you the opportunity to eliminate the income tax on the long-term capital gain, will in some instances generate a full income tax charitable deduction and will remove those assets from your estate for estate tax purposes.

For more information contact Daniel Chejfec at
Daniel.Chejfec@jewishnepa.org or call 570-961-2300, ext. 1.)

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

BBYO survey: 71 percent of Jewish teens have experienced antisemitism

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS)—BBYO has released the results of a new survey of 1,989 Jewish students conducted from January 23 to February 5. The researchers found that 71 percent had experienced antisemitic hate or discrimination. Those who have faced it in person numbered 61 percent while 46 percent saw it online, and 36 percent had experienced both forms. Of those who had experienced in-person hate, 46 percent said it occurred at school and 45 percent chose not to report the incident. For the teens who encountered online anti-Jewish hate, they reported that the most common platforms were Instagram (33 percent), TikTok (23 percent) and Snapchat (17 percent).

Matt Grossman, CEO of BBYO, called the survey “a critical wake-up call, revealing the stark reality that Jewish teens are enduring.”

The Jewish youth organization said in a statement that “the data indicates that the October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas and the subsequent spread of misinformation and antisemitic rheto-



Thousands of Jews attended BBYO’s International Convention in Orlando, FL, from February 15-19. (Photo courtesy of BBYO)

ric and violence have had a traumatic impact on Jewish high school students’ safety, well-being, and mental health.”

According to the report, 74 percent of BBYO members have seen more discrimination since October 7.

Grossman emphasized that “every Jewish teen deserves to feel safe and supported, and it

is incumbent upon us to ensure they have those safe spaces, as well as the tools and assistance they need, to navigate these turbulent times with strength and pride. We are so proud and grateful that involvement with BBYO has played such a significant role in helping teens cope with elevated levels of stress and anxiety.”

The uptick in antisemitic incidents and even hate crimes on college campuses has also come to play an important role this year for 64 percent of respondents in deciding which school to attend.

Jerusalem Continued from page 14

“Alongside the physical conservation of the walls and towers of this ancient site, we have developed a completely new permanent exhibition and creative programming that tells Jerusalem’s long, complex and colorful history in respectful, innovative and engaging ways.”

The museum now boasts 10 galleries spread throughout the ancient citadel that bring the story of Jerusalem to life through ancient artifacts mixed with the latest in immersive and interactive technology.

The new pavilion allows for a change in the flow of visitors. Jerusalem Mayor Moshe Lion says, “The new Tower of David Jerusalem Museum at the Jaffa Gate will serve as the new gateway to Jerusalem for the millions of visitors, tourists and pilgrims who want to explore the city’s rich and complex history before visiting the religious sites and ancient

alleyways of the Old City.”

The entrance should have been opened on November 3, but the Hamas war changed these plans. The museum opened on October 9, the third day of the war, and has been running activities and guided tours for evacuated families, arts and crafts fairs for artists from the north and south as well as education programming for school children, all free of charge.

“When we opened the museum, we didn’t know who would come,” admits Lieber.

It quickly became clear that for the thousands of visitors who arrived, the museum offered a reprieve from the shadows of the war, she says. One visitor, who had been evacuated from Moshav Kfar Maimon, near the northern Gaza Strip, says that standing surrounded by the ancient Jerusalem stones gave a historical perspective and some hope.

Online Continued from page 12

7-8 pm. The cost to attend is \$176. The class will look at Hebrew and Yiddish translations of Freud’s work and explore “the place of Jewish languages in Freud’s thought and in the international reception of psychoanalysis during his lifetime.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/translating-the-jewish-freud>.

◆ The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has launched the virtual self-paced course “Is Anything Okay? The History of Jews and Comedy in America.” The course looks at the history of Jewish comedy and its development in the United States. For more information or to register, visit <https://yivo.org/comedy>.

◆ Roundtable will hold the three-part course “The First Jews in the Americas” on Wednesdays, April 10-May 1, from 10-11 am. The cost to attend is \$132. Wim Klooster, chairman in History and International Relations at Clark University, will discuss these traders and planters, and the economic, legal and social dimensions of their lives. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/jews-in-the-atlantic-world>.

◆ The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will hold the virtual event “All Things Large and Small: The Child and the (Children’s) Story in ‘The Kerchief’ and Other Stories for Children by S.Y. Agnon” on Tuesday, April 9, at 12:30 pm. For more information or to register, visit <https://huc.edu/event/all-things-large-and-small-the-child-and-the-childrens-story-in-the-kerchief-and-other-stories-for-children-by-s-y-agnon/>.

◆ The Institute for Jewish Spirituality will hold the virtual program “An Evening with IJS President & CEO, Rabbi Josh Feigelson, in conversation with Rabbi Shai Held” on Monday, April 15, from 8-9 pm. Held will talk about his new book “Judaism is About Love.” For more information or to register, visit <https://ijs.regfox.com/josh-in-conversation-with-shai-held>.

◆ The Jewish Women’s Archive will hold the virtual program “Let’s Talk: Gen-Z Jewish Feminism” on Tuesday, April 16, at 8 pm. Four alums of JWA’s teen Rising Voices Fellowship will talk about their feminist Jewish journeys and the issues that are important to them today. For more information or to register for the event, visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/Gt4sGfY/JWALetsTalk>.

◆ Sefaria has added Rabbi Adin Even-Israel Steinsaltz’s commentaries on the Tanach and Mishneh Torah to its digital library. This includes some translations in English and Hebrew. For more information or to access the commentaries, visit www.sefaria.org/topics/adin-steinsaltz.



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Jewish students gather in DC to demand national reporting system for campus antisemitism

BY ANDREW BERNARD

(JNS) – Jewish students and leaders met with members of Congress on March 19 to demand new civil-rights regulations that would require universities to report antisemitic incidents to the U.S. Department of Education. Rabbi David Markowitz, executive vice president of the Olami campus organization, told JNS that there’s a disconnect between the ways that universities and the department handle complaints of antisemitism under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of “race, color or national origin.”

“The universities are obligated to uphold Title VI, but actually have no accountability or transparency to the Office of Civil Rights,” Markowitz said. “When somebody experiences antisemitism, the university is responsible to go make that change, but when they receive a complaint about it, nobody knows if they received that complaint or if they dealt with it.”

Under current regulations, universities are not required to report complaints of antisemitism to the Office of Civil Rights. Students can submit a complaint directly to the office and will receive a transparent response, but the office’s investigation process can take years.

Joshua Jenkelow, a senior at Stanford



Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) and Rabbi David Markowitz, executive vice president of the Olami campus organization at a press conference about new regulation on reporting antisemitic incidents on campus outside the U.S. Capitol on March 19. (Photo courtesy of Olami)

University, explained at a press conference that after an incident on campus, his university’s administration cycled him between different safety offices without addressing his complaint. “It became abundantly clear that the whole system was dedicated to moving students from department to department until exhaustion eventually outweighed their fear,” he said.

Markowitz said that the Office of Civil Rights’ lack of jurisdiction over complaints submitted to universities was part of a “broken system.”

“All we’re doing is trying to connect the dots and thereby opening up the box about what’s happening,” he said.

The power to implement a new regulation on reporting antisemitic incidents on campus lies with the Department of Education, but students get support from members of Congress, including Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), who organized the press conference outside the Capitol and who has written to Miguel Cardona, the education secretary, urging him to adopt new regulations.

“In the face of a surge in antisemitic bias and discrimination – we believe it is critical we provide unqualified support for Jewish students to live free from fear,” Mace wrote. “We do not seek to dictate policies for handling these incidents, but rather allow for transparency and accountability of universities’ actions in mitigating antisemitic bias and discrimination.”

Mace said that universities that fail to comply with the new reporting standard should have their federal funding stripped. “These reporting requirements would supplement, not replace, existing reporting systems within the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights,” she added, “and ensure post-secondary educational institutions document and take seriously any and all instances of antisemitic bias and discrimination.”

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



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The Federation is asking members of its communities to support its “Friends of *The Reporter*” Campaign which seeks to raise \$5,000 to assist in funding the newspaper.

The newspaper is delivered monthly to each and every identifiable Jewish home in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Reporter is the primary intercommunal newspaper of the Jewish communities of Lackawanna, Monroe, Pike and Wayne counties. Supplementing synagogue newsletters, bulletins and e-mails, *The Reporter* is issued to hundreds of Jewish households throughout our region. Over the past several years, the publishing cost of the newspaper has increased dramatically although the newspaper continues to be provided at no charge to members of our Jewish communities in northeastern Pennsylvania. The Federation has assumed the financial responsibility of funding the newspaper at a cost of \$23,990 per year and asks only that its readers assist it in raising \$5,000 as part of its “Friends of *The Reporter*” Campaign to offset a small share of these expenses.

Your gift to fund our regional Jewish newspaper matters a great deal to our readers and we would be very grateful for your financial support.

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With best wishes,
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Why do we have to
wait so long to eat?

Why do I have to sing?

Why do we have to
have **matzah**
the whole week?

Why do I have to sit
at the kids' table?

Why am I always
the youngest?

Why can't we
help people?



On Passover, kids rarely stick to asking just the four questions. This year we're asking an extra question, too. Will you help us make a difference in the lives of Jewish children, here at home and around the world?

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So this Passover, our fifth question is, "Will you help make a difference in the lives of Jewish children?" Please answer "yes" and give as generously as you can. **Visit JewishNEPA.org and donate today.**