

AJC poll: Three-quarters of U.S. Jews feel less safe after Oct. 7

BY ANDREW BERNARD

(JNS)—More than three-quarters of U.S. Jews report feeling less safe as Jews in the United States after Hamas' October 7 terrorist attacks in southern Israel, according to the American Jewish Committee's 2023 survey of antisemitism in America.

The AJC began polling American Jews on October 5, but after October 7, the nonprofit opted to pause its questionnaire. It relaunched on October 17, conducting surveys until November 21.

The AJC released the survey, which it has conducted of Jews since 2019, and of Jews and the general public in parallel since 2020. It released the latest survey of 1,528 Jewish American adults on February 13.

Of those surveyed after October 7, a whopping 98 percent self-reported being aware of the attack. Among those who were aware, some 20 percent feel a "great deal" less safe as Jews because of the attack. Nearly a quarter (23 percent) feel a "fair amount" less safe and 34 percent "a little" less safe, according to the survey.

The poll found sharp increases in the number of Jews who said that in the past year, they have felt less safe or changed their behavior out of fear of Jew-hatred. Nearly two-thirds of American Jews (63 percent) told the AJC that the status of Jews in the United States is less secure than it was a year ago, compared with just 31 percent of Jews who reported that two years prior. (In 2022, 41 percent said the

country was less secure for Jews than the prior year.)

Nearly half of American Jews (46 percent) said they have either avoided identifying themselves as Jews in online posts or by their clothing choices or have forgone places or events out of concern for their safety or comfort as Jews. That's up from 38 percent who said in 2022 that they did at least one of those things.

A quarter of American Jews also reported having been the target of an antisemitic remark, vandalism or physical attack in the past year, which is "virtually identical" to AJC's findings from 2022, the nonprofit said.

Ted Deutch, AJC's CEO, told JNS in a statement that the new

findings should alarm all Americans, as well as spur action from Congress and the White House. "No one should be fearful of being targeted or harassed for being Jewish when walking down the street, going to school or being at work," Deutch stated. "We've seen that antisemitism has been increasing — even before the horrific October 7 Hamas terrorist attack against Israel. This isn't a new problem, but the explosion of antisemitism since October 7 demands that we take collective action now."

The AJC also released a companion poll that it conducted from October 17-24. In the second poll, the AJC surveyed the general public of American adults about

See "Poll" on page 2

SPOTLIGHT

Heart healthy living for seniors

BY DR. KEN SEBASTIANELLI

The Elan Gardens Blog

February was National Heart Month, and keeping your heart healthy is important at any age, but it becomes increasingly important as we get older. Our heart is a powerful muscle that pumps blood throughout our body, supplying oxygen and nutrients to our organs and tissues. When our heart is healthy, it can efficiently perform its job and keep our body running smoothly. It's never too late to start taking care of your heart, why not start today?

- ◆ Stay active: Maintaining an active lifestyle is crucial for our overall health and well-being, and regular exercise is crucial to maintaining a healthy heart. Try to aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise, such as brisk walking, every day. The key to sticking with any exercise routine is to find an activity that you enjoy, whether it's taking a dance class, going for a run or playing pickleball. Even if you

have mobility issues, there are still exercises you can do, such as chair yoga or resistance band workouts.

- ◆ Maintain a healthy weight: Maintaining a healthy weight is an important aspect of living a healthy life and keeping your heart healthy. Being overweight or underweight can lead to a range of health problems, including diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. Carrying excess weight can put unnecessary stress on the heart. Check in with your doctor regularly about how you can keep and maintain a healthy weight.

- ◆ Manage stress: Stress can have a negative impact on your heart and your overall health and well-being. Some people find that different activities help them manage stress, See "Seniors" on page 12

CANDLE LIGHTING

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| March 1 | 5:36 pm |
| March 8 | 5:44 pm |
| March 15 | 6:52 pm |
| March 22 | 7 pm |
| March 29 | 7:07 pm |
| April 5 | 7:15 pm |
| April 12 | 7:22 pm |

PLUS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Executive Director's Column..... | 3 |
| Schedule of Services | 8 |

vote.pa.gov

Passover and the Primary

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

APRIL 2024

| | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

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
or call **1-877-868-3772**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Medical advancements

An algorithm offers effective antibody humanization; preventing Alzheimer's memory deterioration.

Stories on page 4-5

Digging up the past

ArareSecondTemplealimestone box and a 2,800 year old scarab amulet are unearthed in Israel.

Stories on page 6

"Fiddler" at 60

A look at "Fiddler on the Roof" as it celebrates its 60th year of performances.

Story on page 9

National Library of Israel preserving “collective memory” of Oct. 7

BY GIL TANENBAUM

(JNS) – The National Library of Israel has embarked on a project to collect and archive all published materials about the October 7 massacre, both the good and the bad.

While scholars and the curious public explore the new library building in Jerusalem and its Israel, Judaica, Humanities, Islam and Gershon Scholem collections, Chaim Neria is quietly gathering more recent – and sometimes painful – printed and digital items associated with the murder by Hamas of some 1,200 people.

“The significance of this project to Israel and the Jewish people globally stems from its role in preserving and documenting our history, culture and the diverse experiences of Jewish communities. It’s a crucial endeavor for understanding our collective identity and ensuring that future generations have access to our history and heritage,” said Neria, curator of the library’s Haim and Hanna Solomon Judaica Collection, of the Bearing Witness project.

“By contributing to this work, I feel connected to a larger purpose that transcends my individual role,



Dr. Chaim Neria, a curator at the National Library of Israel, is archiving material associated with Hamas’ October 7 attack. (Photo by Elad Zagman/TPS)

contributing to the preservation of our collective memory,” Neria added.

As is almost everyone in Israel, he is personally connected to an October 7 victim. His 31-year-old cousin, David Meir, a member of Israel Defense Forces’ elite General Staff Reconnaissance (Sayeret Matkal) unit, was killed trying to rescue Israelis at Kibbutz Be’eri on October 7, where Hamas terrorists killed 130 Israelis.

This makes the project personal for Neria, which could be sensed as he presented examples of the myriad types of materials the project has collected to date. Four months since that dark day, he is visibly uncomfortable even looking directly at items involving any form of graphically violent content.

“Such materials require a careful approach to ensure they are handled sensitively and ethically,” he said.

“But sometimes one little story captures your imagination.”

The content of these materials is not relevant to the project, Neria noted. They could be news bulletins, advertisements for events, special prayers or religious materials written in the wake of the attack, or political statements of some sort. From a single synagogue located in a remote corner of the world to a major non-Jewish organization or government body – if someone printed any material about what happened on October 7, 2023, the National Library wants it.

The only criterion for adding something to the National Library’s collection is that the item has to do with October 7. And the goal is to save everything.

Such documentation was collected after the Holocaust, but no one thought to collect all such materials while it was happening, and certainly not going back to before the Nazis took power in Germany, Neria explained.

Indeed, the October 7 attack has been compared by many to the Holocaust because, like the Nazis, Hamas intended to murder as many Jews as possible.

Much of this material is available in digital formats. In fact, most of what Neria has collected was found online, from websites and social media outlets. Unfortunately, much of the negative content, including

videos posted by the terrorists, was deleted before it could be copied and saved.

“Different materials, printed materials, at least survived for some time,” he explained. “So even if you don’t act immediately, you can act later, go and collect. Today, if it’s online anywhere, social media, any kind, websites, you can get it. But if it’s already down...”

Neria spoke about how the terrorists themselves provided much of the evidence of their atrocities. This is because they wore body cameras and filmed their attacks. They even live-streamed some of what they did on social media. “We know that the terrorists started by going live on Facebook,” he explained. “Then they realized that it wasn’t good for their image or whatever, so they... tried to take off these materials. It was actually citizens that helped the [Israel military] and the government, via initiatives that came from them as citizens, and they were using many high-tech companies. First to download the videos, then using all kinds of algorithms to understand where each video was taken, identify faces, helping the IDF to get information. And maybe in the future, it will be information that can be used in legal procedures.”

More than 100 organizations around the world are now actively See “Library” on page 4

The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

“The Reporter” (USPS #1550) is published monthly by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510.

President: Eric Weinberg
Executive Director: Daniel Chejfec

Executive Editor: Rabbi Rachel Esserman
Layout Editor: Diana Sochor
Advertising Representative: Kathy Brown
Bookkeeper: Kathy Brown
Production Associate: Julie Weber

OPINIONS The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

LETTERS *The Reporter* welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. The editor may withhold the name upon request.

ADS *The Reporter* does not necessarily endorse any advertised products and services. In addition, the paper is not responsible for the *kashruth* of any advertiser’s product or establishment.

DEADLINE Regular deadline is two weeks prior to the publication date.

FEDERATION WEBSITE:
www.jewishnepa.org

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES:
Mail: 601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510
E-mail: jfnepareporter@jewishnepa.org
Fax: (570) 346-6147
Phone: (570) 961-2300

HOW TO REACH THE ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE:
Phone: (800) 779-7896, ext. 244
E-mail: advertising@thereporter.org

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:
Phone: (570) 961-2300

Poll Continued from page 1

their opinions on antisemitism. Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of respondents reported believing that Jew-hatred is a problem in the United States today, compared with 60 percent who held that view in 2021. That’s in sharp contrast to the 93 percent of American Jews who believe that antisemitism is a problem in the country today. More than half of U.S. Jews (53 percent) said antisemitism today is a “very serious” issue.

Like other recent polling, the AJC general public survey also suggests that younger American adults, aged 18-29, have concerning attitudes toward Jews and antisemitism. Americans under 30 are less likely (65 percent) than older Americans (75 percent) to consider antisemitism to be a problem today. Those aged 18-29 are also considerably less likely (40 percent) than over-30s (60 percent) to believe that antisemitism in the United States has increased in the past five years. Younger Jews are both likelier than their older peers to say that they have experienced antisemitism in the past year (36 percent to 22 percent) and to believe that antisemitism is not a “very serious” problem in the United States (44 percent to 55 percent).

The AJC found differences in which American Jews reported being victims of antisemitism. Those who self-identified as Orthodox were more than twice as likely (39 percent) to have been the target of antisemitism in the past year than those who are secular (19 percent). Those who identified with other Jewish denominations reported being the target of Jew-hatred at a rate of 26 percent.

Deutch said that the findings show the need to implement the Biden administration’s national strategy to combat antisemitism. “Now that we have this road map, we need to be sure to use it,” he stated. “The strategy can no longer be seen as a recommendation, but rather a requirement that will help protect the American Jewish community.”

KOSHER MEALS ON WHEELS

Home delivered meals when you need them the most!

Learn more by calling (570) 344-1186

Meals prepared at the Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, A Jewish Senior Life Community under kosher dietary guidelines.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Israeli government today

It is often very difficult for non-Israelis to fully understand Israeli politics, and there is a good reason: Israeli democracy is, in many ways, unique in its diversity and, of course, its passions. Let's start by looking at the overall picture:

Before October 7, growing segments of the Israeli public were demonstrating against Netanyahu's proposed judicial overhaul. The opposition was rooted in their belief that such an overhaul would weaken the checks and balances in Israeli society, and allow corruption to run rampant. Support for the Netanyahu administration was plummeting across the board. Some religious Zionist groups were starting to abandon their traditional parties (currently in the coalition) in favor of new alignments with positions that were closer to the old traditional National Religious Party. Even traditional Likud (Bibi's party) supporters were questioning the wisdom of the proposed changes.

Then came October 7. The intelligence failure that allowed Hamas to perpetrate what amounted to a bloody pogrom against Israeli citizens in the Gaza envelope was astounding, and most Israelis put the blame squarely at Netanyahu's doorstep, seriously undermining support for the governing coalition. Under these circumstances, however, the old Israeli taboo on changing leadership in the middle of a war kicked in. The feeling was reminiscent of the situation that followed the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War. People were unhappy, but supported government action for the sake of the state.

Two factors complicated the situation: first, the way in which the government communicated (badly) with the families of the hostages, making them feel they did not care for them, and that given a choice between military victory and the hostages, the hostages were to be sacrificed. This gave strength to a growing public opposition to the conduct of the war during the war – something with no precedents in Israeli society. As the war continues – to become the longest Israeli war since 1948 and on the way to top even that – the natural support of many Israelis for the government in time of war began to wane.

Most recent polls put support for the current government coalition below 10 percent, and for Netanyahu personally at about 15 percent. In the kind of politics that we are used to, this would have probably called for the prime minister to resign and call for new elections. This is where

the uniqueness of the Israeli political system kicks in.

When Israel goes to elections, it chooses Knesset members. (The Knesset is comprised of 120 elected legislators.) Based on the distribution of seats, the president charges the leader of the largest faction in the Knesset to form a government that needs to be approved by at least 61 members of the Knesset. As few if any Israeli parties ever obtained 61 seats on their own, the formation of government implies coalition negotiations with other parties to secure

enough seats to get in. The checks on this process built into the system is a minimum threshold for each party. That threshold stands today at 3.25 percent. That means that parties getting less than 3.25 percent (which would entitle them to about four seats) of the vote do not get any seat. This leaves a number of "floating or unassigned seats" in each election, which are generally given to the governing coalition to promote stability.

In the current situation, while the support for Netanyahu and his government stands at best at 15 percent among the Israeli public, they still control 64 out of 120 seats in the Knesset, which ensures them to defeat any non-confidence vote. We have, therefore, the paradox of a government with a legislative majority, but very low popular support. Coalition members have their own vested interest in remaining in power, so they are not leaving the coalition. For a legal government change by non-confidence vote, five legislators currently supporting the coalition would have to switch their vote to oppose it – but that means jeopardizing their own political future.

See "Today" on page 11



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

the necessary 61 votes or more. Each government is a delicate balance of the needs and expectations of several parties. If at any point a non-confidence vote is brought in front of the Knesset, and 61 or more legislators support it, the Knesset dissolves itself and they call for new elections. Until the new government is elected and in place, the existing government continues as a caretaker government. And here comes another twist in the uniqueness of Israel's system:

When elections for the Knesset happen, each party competing for seats must present a list of 120 candidates to be elected by popular vote in a single-district national election. Each party is then apportioned a number of seats, based on their number of votes. If a party gets 10 percent of the vote, for example, they will receive 12 seats. The seats are distributed in each party based on how high on the list people are. Following the same example, the 12 top names in that party list will enter the new Knesset. This way of getting votes makes legislators loyal to their party leadership that compiles the party list as a way to ensure their name goes as high as possible. The closer they are to the top, the more likely they are to be elected. Knesset members respond more to the party than to the public that elected them.

An additional problem derived from the political system is that when there is a fight among the leadership of a party and one side loses, they tend to leave the party and start a party of their own in the conviction that they will get at least

SAVE THE DATE

Salute to Israel Parade in NYC

Celebrating Israel's

76TH Independence Day

"One People – One Heart"

עם אחד – לב אחד

DEADLINES

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

| DEADLINE | ISSUE |
|------------------------|-------|
| Monday, March 11..... | April |
| Monday, April 8..... | May |
| Monday, May 13..... | June |
| Wednesday, June 5..... | July |

To advertise, email
Kathy Brown at
advertising@
thereportergroup.org

The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Elan Gardens Senior Living
A Jewish Senior Life Community

Personal Care and Memory Care in Beautiful Northeastern PA

Call Us Today to Schedule a Tour!

465 Venard Road, Clarks Summit, PA 18411 • 570-585-4400 • www.elangardens.org

All Inclusive Pricing Covers...

- Private apartments
- Assistance with daily tasks
- Three delicious homestyle meals per day
- Clinical oversight and care coordination
- Weekly housekeeping with daily bedmaking and touch-ups
- Linen and personal laundry
- Full range of stimulating activities
- Scheduled transportation
- Television, long-distance phone, and internet services

Invest in YOUR Community, Help support the
2023/2024 JFS Annual Campaign!
Donate online today at www.jfsnepa.org or call (570) 344-1186.

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

Israeli algorithm offers effective antibody humanization

BY PESACH BENSON

(JNS) – Israeli researchers have developed a revolutionary algorithm that promises to speed up the process of adapting animal antibodies for human use. Developed by a team of researchers from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, the study introduces CUMAb, an algorithm designed to streamline the humanization of antibodies, potentially revolutionizing the development of antibody-based drugs. The Weizmann findings were recently published in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Biomedical Engineering.

Historically, the use of animal antibodies for human disease treatment has been marred by disastrous immunological responses. Attempts to “humanize” animal antibodies – by modifying or engineering them – were time-consuming and costly, often yielding less effective or entirely useless results.

Professor Sarel Fleishman, who led the research team, explained that the standard approach was to select a human antibody that most closely resembles the animal version and then replace the animal segments with human ones, while retaining the animal aspects that acted against

disease. But the interconnectedness of the different parts of the antibody made the replacement unstable and ineffective, he said.

The breakthrough came when graduate student and lead author Ariel Tennenhouse hypothesized that prioritizing stability over structural similarity might offer a more reliable criterion for humanization. To test the hypothesis, the team developed CUMAb, an algorithm for computational humanization of antibodies.

CUMAb proved to be a game-changer, generating 20,000 humanized variants of a single mouse antibody. The algorithm predicted the structural stability of each variant, selecting the most promising ones for experimental testing. Five different antibodies, including one targeting the growth and spread of cancer cells, were synthesized and tested, demonstrating outstanding results.

“The results were extraordinary,” said Fleishman. “Without any additional adjustments to the proposed designs, the humanized antibodies functioned just as effectively as the mouse’s original.”

Tests of four other antibodies, all designed with CUMAb, were



The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot on September 9, 2023. (Photo by Yossi Zeliger/TPS)

just as impressive, and sometimes even surpassed the original animal antibody’s activity or stability.

The CUMAb breakthrough has the potential to significantly accelerate the design of antibody-based drugs while reducing development costs. The algorithm can also facilitate the selection of antibodies with properties that enhance patient outcomes, such as reducing the need for dilution or improving ease of administration.

The researchers have since transformed CUMAb into a web server, making it accessible to any academic researcher.

“We hope that CUMAb, now accessible online, will empower researchers and professionals to develop antibodies more swiftly and accurately,” said Tennenhouse.

Library..... Continued from page 2

searching for materials to provide to the project, such as the Shoah Foundation of the University of Southern California, which is also collecting the testimonies of Israeli survivors of Hamas’s October 7 massacres. The foundation is best known for its videos recording the testimonies of more than 3,000 Holocaust survivors and its association with Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg.

“We will be the house not just for the oral testimonies, but for all

other materials. So eventually we will create here an archive that will include oral testimonies, videos, printed materials, prayers, pictures” and more, said Neria.

The library estimates the project will last at least five years, a time frame which Neria said “reflects the depth and breadth of the work required to comprehensively document and analyze the relevant events and their impact on Israel and Jewish communities globally.”

GIFTING STOCK FORM

Gift of stock to a charitable 501(c)(3) organization is a great way to make a donation.

By gifting stock in which you have a large capital gain, you not only receive the benefit of making a sizable donation, but you also save the capital gains tax.

Example:
Gift: \$2,000
(Stock: ABC @ \$20 per share - Gift: 100 shares)

If you were to sell “Stock ABC” that you originally purchased at \$10.00 a share, you would have a \$1,000 capital gain and you would be required to pay at least \$150.00 in federal taxes, etc.

But by gifting the stock, you save the entire \$150.00 and you’ve found a way to help the Federation accomplish its mission:

“... .. to rescue the imperiled, care for the vulnerable, support Israel and world Jewry and perpetuate Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Your gift will not only assist our local and regional organizations and agencies, but you will have the satisfaction of helping those in need.



The Jewish Federation OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

You will be able to look back and say: “I’m just doing what my People have always done for each other.”

For further information on gifting stocks in payment of your pledge to our Annual UJA Campaign, please contact the Federation at 570-961-2300 (ext. 3) for details.

Israeli team prevents memory deterioration in Alzheimer’s animal model

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Tel Aviv University researchers have found a method of preventing memory deterioration in the animal model of Alzheimer’s disease, the university announced recently. The study, conducted in collaboration with the Hebrew University and published in Nature Communications, builds on the discovery by TAU Professor Inna Slutsky’s lab in 2022 of a brain pathology in the animal model that long precedes the onset of Alzheimer’s symptoms.

According to Shiri Shoob, the doctoral student who led the current study, these physiological changes, which include an accumulation of amyloid-beta deposits and abnormal accumulations of tau protein, as well as a decrease in the volume of the hippocampus, can show up 10 to 20 years before the onset of the cognitive decline and memory impairment more commonly associated with the disease.

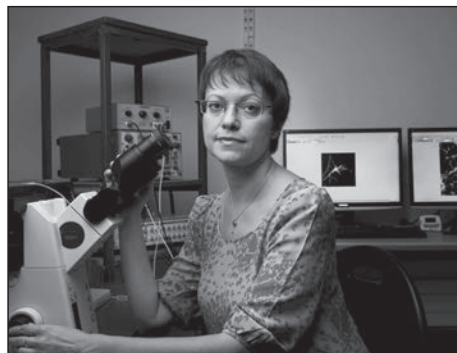
During sleep, and especially during sleep induced by general anesthesia, the pathology causes “silent seizures,” which look like an epileptic seizure in terms of brain activity. Normally, activity in the hippocampus decreases during

sleep and under anesthesia. Believing that there are mechanisms compensating for this pathology during wakefulness, thus prolonging the pre-symptomatic period of the disease, in the current study the team mainly focused on deep brain stimulation using electrical signals to the nucleus reuniens.

The nucleus reuniens is located in the thalamus, which is responsible for sleep regulation, and is a key component of a network of structures in the hippocampus and cortex, playing a vital role in cognition.

“When we tried to stimulate the nucleus reuniens at high frequencies, as is done in the treatment of Parkinson’s, for example, we found that it worsened the damage to the hippocampus and the silent epileptic seizures,” said Shoob. “Only after changing the stimulation pattern to a lower frequency were we able to suppress the seizures and prevent cognitive impairment. We showed that the nucleus reuniens had the ability to completely control these seizures. We could increase or decrease the seizures by stimulating it.”

According to Slutsky, epidemiological studies have provided



Professor Inna Slutsky (Photo by Jonathan Bloom)

evidence for a link between aging and a phenomenon called postoperative cognitive dysfunction, in which cognitive problems arise following surgery under general anesthesia.

“In young people, the symptoms usually pass very quickly, but in older people, the chance of cognitive impairment increases, and it may last a long time. Our research indicates a potential mechanism underlying the phenomenon,” she said.

“We found that suppressing

the thalamic nucleus reuniens – by pharmacological or electrical means – successfully prevented both pathological activity in the hippocampus during anesthesia and cognitive impairment following anesthesia,” she added. “In addition, we identified a relationship between certain pathological activity in the hippocampus during anesthesia in the presymptomatic phase of Alzheimer’s to memory problems in a more advanced stage of the disease. This indicates a potential [method] for predicting the disease in the dormant state, before the onset of cognitive decline.”

The researchers hope that their findings will speed the start of clinical trials in humans, potentially leading to advancements in early detection of Alzheimer’s, prevention of dementia symptoms associated with the disease, and progress in treating POCD.

Beth Shalom Academy

1025 Vine Street,
Scranton, PA 18510

BOOK YOUR VISIT TODAY!

ABOUT US

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Warm and welcoming atmosphere with individualized learning

Providing high quality Jewish and Secular education to all children regardless of background and observance!

- Small classes, PreK-8.
- Involvement in the local community.
- Financial assistance available.

CONTACT US:

info@bethshalomacademy.com

To learn more, visit us at www.bethshalomacademy.com.

Medical Scheduling & Billing Specialist

Jewish Family Service, an established non-profit, is seeking an individual with a certificate in medical billing or relevant experience.

Qualifications

- Proficiency in billing software and knowledge of ICD-10 and CPT codes required.
- Provider credentialing experience required.
- Experience with governmental and commercial insurances.
- Knowledge of compliance requirements and billing guidelines.
- Experience in determining insurance eligibility and benefit packages for clients.
- Experience with explanation of benefits, electronic remittances and fund transfers.
- Compiling outcome data and preparing monthly reports required.
- Must be organized with attention to detail.
- Strong computer skills to include Microsoft Word and Excel.

Compensation and Benefits

- 403 (b) Tax Deferred Annuity Plan for employee voluntary contributions
- 401 (a) Employee Pension Plan employer contributions, no match required
- Employee covered Medical, dental, vision and prescription drug plan
- Long Term Disability, Life Insurance
- Generous PTO to include up to 4 weeks vacation, holiday and sick time
- Competitive salary package based on experience
- Employee Sam’s Club membership

Send Resume and Cover Letter to info@jfsnepa.org
EOE

Introduction to Judaism

Join Rabbi Miriam Spitzer of Temple Israel

1st, 3rd & 5th Thursdays @ 7:00 pm via ZOOM

January 4th thru June 6th

The class is an introduction to the basic premises, practices and belief systems of the Jewish people. The classes are for anyone, Jewish or otherwise, who would like to know more about Judaism.

For more information or to register for the class

Email: office@templeisraelscranton.org

\$75.00 fee for non-members

Israeli hiker finds 2,800-year-old scarab amulet

BY PESACH BENSON

(JNS) – An Israeli army reservist stumbled upon an ancient Assyrian scarab amulet while hiking in northern Israel’s Nahal Tabor Nature Reserve during a day off, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on February 7.

“I received a two-day leave from the reserves and decided to take advantage of the two sunny days for a trip,” said Erez Abrahamov, 45, a resident of Paduel. “During the trip, I saw something shimmering in the ground. At first, I thought it

was a bead or an orange stone. After I picked it up, I noticed that it had engravings that resembled a beetle. I called and reported the amazing find to the [Israel] Antiquities Authority.”

The area of the nature reserve has been inhabited for thousands of years and there are numerous archaeological sites scattered around the park, including ancient ruins and burial caves.

Analysis by Professor Emeritus Othmer Kiel from the University of Friborg revealed that the scarab – 2,800 years old and crafted from carnelian – depicted a griffon or winged horse at a gallop, consistent with similar artifacts dating back to the eighth century B.C.E.

According to the IAA, the scarab was found at the foot of Tel Rekhes, one of the most important mounds in northern Israel. Researchers have

identified the site as Anaharath, a city referred to in the book of Joshua as lying within the territory of the tribe of Issachar.

According to Itzik Paz, an IAA archaeologist who excavated at Tel Rekhes, the amulet “may belong to the period of Assyrian rule and may indicate the presence of Assyrian, or perhaps Babylonian, officials at Tel Rekhes during this period.”

Paz explained that “the griffon is a well-known artistic motif in the art of the Ancient Near East, and it is common on seals from the Iron Age. In light of the paucity of findings that have been discovered, so far, within the citadel, and if the seal can indeed be dated – based on artistic aspects, to the Late Iron Age, it may be possible to link the seal and an Assyrian presence in the citadel of Tel Rekhes, which



Erez Abrahamov holds an ancient Assyrian amulet he found in the Nahal Tabor Nature Reserve. (Photo by Erez Abrahamov)



A 2,800-year-old carnelian scarab featuring a griffon – a mythical winged horse – was discovered by a hiker in Israel’s Nahal Tabor Nature Reserve. (Photo by Anastasia Shapiro, Israel Antiquities Authority)

would be a discovery of great significance.”

Scarab seals, widely utilized across ancient civilizations, featured symbols of various cultural and religious beliefs. Fashioned from materials like carnelian, these artifacts served as both decorative ornaments and functional seals.

Rare limestone box from Second Temple era uncovered in Jerusalem

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A rare multi-compartment stone container dating back

around 2,000 years has been revealed to the public for the first time at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The box, carved from soft limestone, measures 30 x 30 cm (about 12 x 12 inches) and is divided into nine equal-sized interior compartments. The box was discovered in a destruction layer inside an ancient store dated to the end of the Second Temple period that once stood alongside the Pilgrimage Road



The box on display at the Israel Museum archaeology gallery (Photo by Zohar Shemesh/Israel Museum)

in the City of David. The sides of the box are blackened, indicating that it was burned, perhaps during events of the Great Jewish Revolt, which ultimately led to the destruction of Jerusalem.

Researchers assume that the box was used for commercial purposes such as displaying premeasured goods. “During the excavations of the Pilgrimage Road, where the box was discovered, many objects have been found [giving] testament to the flourishing commercial activity that took place alongside the road during the Second Temple period,” explained Yuval Baruch and Ari

Levy, excavation directors on behalf of the Israel Antiquities Authority.

“During the excavations we have uncovered ceramic and glass vessels, production and cooking facilities, various measuring tools, stone weights and coins. Together, these objects suggest that the road was connected to commercial activities such as a lively urban market. The Pilgrimage Road connecting the Pool of Siloam to the Temple Mount was the main thoroughfare of the city 2,000 years ago. It seems that the newly discovered box was

See “Box” on page 10

The Jewish Federation of NEPA is excited to offer local, community organizations the opportunity to post events to our Community Calendar. Published events will be included in our weekly Ma Nishma NEPA email.

How to Submit a Community Event

Step 1

Visit www.jewishnepa.org

Step 2

Click the button (top right)

SUBMIT YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Step 3

Register or log-in

Step 4

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

We reserve the right to edit the content of the event submissions and approve or deny publication of events.

jewishnepa.org

570.961.2300

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



Fresh Kosher Whole or Cut-up Fryer Chickens
lb



3⁹⁹



Hamantaschen
10 oz

6⁹⁹



U
Gunter's Honey Bear
12 oz

2 for \$5



U
Streit's Fruit Slices
8 oz

2⁹⁹



U
Kedem Tea Biscuits
4.2 oz

3 for \$2



U
Kedem Juice
8 oz
LIMIT 4

4 for \$5



U
Joyva Jell Rings and Marshmallow Twists
9 oz

2 for \$6



U
Bosco Chocolate Syrup
22 oz

3⁹⁹

Eat better, Spend less.™

We also carry many of your favorite Kosher deli, dairy, frozen and grocery products.

We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not responsible for typographical or pictorial errors.

Prices Effective through Mar 28, 2024

• Regular Schedule of Services •

ABINGTON TORAH CENTER

Rabbi Dovid Saks
President: Richard Rutta
Jewish Heritage Connection
601 Jefferson Ave., Scranton, PA 18510
570-346-1321 • website: www.jewishheritageconnection.org
Sunday morning minyan 8:15 am at Elan Gardens,
465 Vernard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA

BETH SHALOM CONGREGATION

Rabbi Alex Hecht
President: Asher Grossman
1025 Vine St., Scranton, PA 18510 (corner of Vine & Clay Ave.)
570-346-0502 • fax: 570-346-8800
Weekday - *Shacharit*: Sun. 8am; Mon., Thurs. & Rosh Chodesh 6:30 am; Tue., Wed. & Fri. 6:45 am; Sat. & holidays 8:45 am.
Mincha during the week is approx. 10 minutes before sunset, following by *Maariv*.

CHABAD OF THE ABINGTONS/ JEWISH DISCOVERY CENTER

Rabbi Benny Rapoport
216 Miller, Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570-587-3300 • JewishNEPA.com/minyan
Weekly service for Shabbat and all Jewish holidays
Kabbalat Shabbat at sundown (summer at 7 pm)
Saturday mornings: 9:30 am, *Kiddush* 11:30 am
Call for more information.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF THE POCONOS

Rabbi Mendel Bendet
570-420-8655 • website: www.chabadpoconos.com
Please contact us for schedules and locations.

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi Elliott Kleinman
President: Liza Roos Lucy
Contact person: Cheryl Badner, Congregation Administrator
615 Court St., Honesdale, PA 18431
570-253-2222 • fax: 570-226-1105

CONGREGATION B'NAI HARIM

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum
President: Lisa Spector
P.O. Box 757, Sullivan Rd., Pocono Pines, PA 18350 (located at Rt. 940 and Pocono Crest Road at Sullivan Trail)
570-646-0100 • website: www.bnaiharimpoconos.org
Shabbat morning services 10 am-noon; every other Saturday, Potluck Shabbat Dinner with blessings and program of varying topics, one Friday every month - call for schedule.

JEWISH FELLOWSHIP OF HEMLOCK FARMS

Rav Shoshana Mitrani Knapp, ravshoshi@gmail.com
President: Jean Seltzer
1516 Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428 (located at 540 Forest Dr., Hemlock Farms, Lords Valley, PA 18428)
570-775-7497 • e-mail: jfhf1516@gmail.com
Friday evening Shabbat service 7:30 pm
Saturday morning Shabbat service 10 am

MACHZIKEH HADAS SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi Mordechai Fine
President: Meshulem Epstein
600 Monroe Ave., Scranton, PA 18510
570-342-6271

OHEV ZEDEK CONGREGATION

Rabbi Mordechai Fine
1432 Mulberry St., Scranton, PA 18510

TEMPLE HESED

Affiliation: Union for Reform Judaism
Rabbi Daniel J. Swartz
President: Cheryl Friedman
1 Knox St., Scranton, PA 18505 (Off Lake Scranton Rd.)
570-344-7201 • website: www.TempleHesed.org
E-mail: templehesed@comcast.net
First Friday Shabbat 6pm, other Fridays 7 pm; Chanting Circle Saturdays at 11:30 am

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE POCONOS

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi Daniel M. Zucker • President: Debbie Smith
711 Wallace St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(one block off Rt. 191 (5th Street) at Avenue A)
570-421-8781 • website: www.templepoconos.org
E-mail: tipoc@ptd.net
Friday evening Shabbat 6 pm; Saturday morning Shabbat 10:30 am

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SCRANTON

Affiliation: United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Rabbi Miriam Spitzer
Cantor: Vladimir Aronzon
President: David Hollander, Hollanderx@aol.com
918 East Gibson St., Scranton, PA 18510 (located at the corner of Gibson & Monroe Sts.)
570-342-0350 • e-mail: office@templeisraelscranton.org
Mon. & Thurs. 7:15 am; Tues., Wed. & Fri. 7:25 am; Rosh Chodesh & *Chagim* weekdays, 7 am; Shabbat morning service 9:30 am

Jewish online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

◆ The American Jewish University will hold the virtual program “Teaching the Holocaust on Fortnite and Through Gaming Platforms” on Wednesday, March 13, at noon. Luc Bernard, a game designer, will talk about the opportunities the virtual world has to offer for Holocaust education. For more information or to register, visit www.aju.edu/events/teaching-holocaust-fortnite-and-through-gaming-platforms.

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold the virtual series “Why the Jews? Understanding Antisemitism” on Wednesdays, March 27 and April 3, 7-8 pm. The fee to attend both sessions is \$50 per family. Educator and historian Brendan Murphy will offer a multimedia introduction to the roots of antisemitism from the development of Christian anti-Judaism to modern antisemitism. The program is appropriate for children over the age of 15. For more information or to register, visit https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/_ZiAUM3YoRdj7wweEdZnKA.

◆ The Jewish Theological Seminary will hold the four-part virtual course “On the Blood Libel (and Other Lies about Jews)” on Wednesdays, March 27-April 17, from 7-8:15 pm. The cost to attend is \$120. The cost will explore the history of anti-Jewish conspiracies over the centuries. For more information or to register, visit www.jtsa.edu/event/on-the-blood-libel-and-other-lies-about-jews/.

◆ JewBelong will hold a virtual JewBelong Briefing on Monday, March 11, at noon. The organization will discuss its response to the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel. To register for the event, visit https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kzqGE9CKSwO1f1DXk4lxQg#/registration.

◆ The Jewish Telegraphic Agency is offering “The Nightingale of Iran,” a documentary podcast series by Danielle Dardashti and Galeet Dardashti. The sisters look at the mystery of why their family had to leave Iran. For more information or to listen to the podcast, visit www.nightingaleofiran.com/.

◆ Uri L'Tzedek will hold the virtual program “Preparing for Pesach: On Liberation & Justice!” with Rabbi Dr. Yitz Greenberg on Sunday, April 7, at 1 pm. The cost to attend is \$18. To register for the event, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XwolGSQwRoKIRTJX-vWdUNw#/registration.

◆ The Roundtable by the 92nd Street Y will hold the virtual class “The Remarkable Story of the Venice Ghetto” on Tuesdays, March 26-April 9, from 2-3 pm. The cost to attend is \$132. “Based on Harry Freedman’s new book, ‘Shylock’s Venice,’ this course will look at the origins of the ghetto and its stories.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/the-remarkable-story-of-the-venice-ghetto>.

◆ Uri L'Tzedek will hold the virtual program “Bearing Witness and the Cost of Indifference” with Rabba Sara Hurwitz on Wednesday, March 13, at noon. The cost to attend is \$18. The class will look at whether “we have a religious

obligation to witness tragedy, and if so, what is our obligation once we see and know?” For information or to register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KAuctAjwT-fu6iiI6I9HKtg#/registration.

◆ Roundtable at the 92nd Street Y will hold the virtual class “The Russian-Ukrainian War and the Jews of Ukraine” on Thursday, March 14, from 6-7:20 pm. The cost to attend is \$44. The class will offer “an examination of the history of Jews in Ukraine, their influence on the nation over the last millennium, and how Ukrainian Jews have contributed to Ukrainian military, social, and cultural resistance.” For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/the-russian-ukrainian-war-and-the-jews-of-ukraine>.

◆ JIMENA is offering a “A Sephardi and Mizrahi Education Toolkit” that offers “a compendium of recommendations, strategies, and resources to help educators learn about Sephardi and Mizrahi heritage and shape inclusive school environments.” For more information or access the material, visit <https://sepharditoolkit.org/>.

◆ The Qesher Book Club will offer two discussions in March: “Stranger in the Desert – A Family Story” on Tuesday, March 12, at 4 pm, with Jordan Salama discussing his quest to learn about his family history (www.qesher.com/stranger-in-the-desert/); and “Across So Many Seas” on Tuesday, March 26, at 4 pm, with Ruth Behar discussing her novel about four girls from different generations of a Jewish family (www.qesher.com/across-so-many-seas/).

◆ Hadassah Magazine will hold a book discussion of “Henrietta Szold’s Zionist Dream” by Francine Klagsbrun on Thursday, March 21, at 7 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein interviews Klagsbrun about her new biography. For more information or to register, visit www.hadassahmagazine.org/2024/01/07/magazine-discussion-henrietta-szolds-zionist-dream/.

◆ Lilith magazine and Savor: A Sephardic Music and Food Experience will host two holiday events: “Savor Sundays: Purim” on Sunday, March 10, at 1 pm (www.eventbrite.com/e/savor-sundays-purim-tickets-830503216477?aff=oddtcreator); and “Savor Sundays: Passover” on Sunday, April 7, at 1 pm (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/savor-sundays-passover-tickets-830705872627?aff=oddtcreator>). The cost to attend either program is \$18.

◆ Roundtable at the 92nd Street Y will hold the five-session virtual class “Jewish American Writers of the 1960s” on Thursdays, March 14-April 11, from 11 am-12:15 pm. The cost to attend is \$220. The class will look at works by Isaac Bashevis Singer, Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud, Arthur Miller and Philip Roth. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/jewish-american-writers-of-the-1960s>.

◆ Tablet is offering the podcast “Covering Their Tracks” at www.tabletmag.com/podcasts/covering-their-tracks. Documentarian Matthew See “Online” on page 11



Support JFS of Northeastern Pennsylvania

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE

Schedule a free pick up today. Plus, you may receive a tax deduction!

877-JFS-4CAR

“Fiddler on the Roof” turns 60

BY DAVE GORDON

(JNS) – As the Good Book says...

The musical “Fiddler on the Roof” first proclaimed Shalom Aleichem to Broadway audiences in 1964, with Zero Mostel belting out the iconic “If I Were a Rich Man” song as Tevye the Dairyman, the father of seven daughters (five of whom have roles in the play). Bea Arthur played Yenta in the production, whose Boris Aronson-designed sets evoked Marc Chagall’s shtetl paintings.

Sixty years later, Tevye’s misquotations muddying the Torah, coupled with his witty megalomania, have reverberated through the halls of American theaters in countless productions. The play is said to be performed daily somewhere around the world since it first opened on September 22, 1964, according to the 2019 documentary “Fiddler: Miracle of Miracles.”

Samantha Massell, who played Tevye’s second daughter Hodel in the 2015 Broadway production, told JNS the play “is a flawless musical.” The play is “one of the most recognizable titles in the musical theater canon” and “one of the few that has made an indelible mark on American culture,” she said.

The original Broadway version, with Jerry Bock’s music, Sheldon Harnick’s lyrics and Jerome Robbins’s choreography, ran for eight years, winning nine Tony Awards in 1965, including best musical, score, direction and choreography.

Alfred Molina, Theodore Bikel and Harvey Fierstein have performed Tevye over the years in the play based on Sholem Aleichem’s “Tevye and His Daughters.”

As the play approaches the age at which it is entitled to a senior discount, it has lost three key figures in the past year.

Norman Jewison, who directed the 1971 film version, died on January 20 at the age of 97. Harnick, the songwriter, died at 99 on June 23, 2023, and Chaim Topol, who played Tevye in the film, died at 87 on March 8, 2023.

Tevye jokes in the play, after inventing an appearance in his dream of Grandmother Tzeitel, that she looks very good for a woman who had been dead 30 years. What the next 60 years might look like for “Fiddler,” as it approaches the rabbinically endorsed, ripe old age of 120, is an open question.

Ruth Wisse, professor emerita of Yiddish literature and comparative literature at Harvard University and distinguished senior fellow at the Tikvah Fund, is bearish on the future of “Fiddler.” Wisse, who created an eight-part se-



Sam Massell as Hodel in the 2015 Broadway version of “Fiddler on the Roof.” (Photo courtesy of Michael Kushner)

ries of online Tikvah classes about “Tevye the Dairyman,” told JNS that the tales were personal to Sholem Aleichem.

The writer described his “responsibility to care for children who go their different ways, writing it at a time of great generational conflict,” Wisse said. “There are many such periods in history, but some are more acute than others. This is a recurring subject.”

The show addresses “the idea of a minority that is under siege,” in this case Jews. It has a timeless aspect to it, save perhaps as antisemitism surges after Hamas’ October 7 terror attack on Israel.

“You tell me what’s happening in America,”

Wisse told JNS, noting that she is sure that many university theater departments wouldn’t dare stage the play today. “Will it play to the next generation? In the current political atmosphere?” she asked. “I don’t think so.”

Set in the fictional shtetl of Anatevka in the early 1900s, “Fiddler” revolves around the poor milkman Tevye and his struggles to maintain Jewish tradition in changing times, culminating in his older daughters’ decisions to seek love outside of arranged marriages and, in one case, outside of the Jewish community.

Scholars have said that the play reflects American struggles with tradition and modernity. Massell, the actress, told JNS that “Fiddler” is iconic Americana, while it has also found universal appeal. She noted that Joe Stein, who wrote the original play’s book, was talking with the producer of the first “Fiddler” production in Japan. The latter asked Stein if Americans truly understand the play, given how Japanese it is.

“This story is so timeless. Yes, it is an intrinsically Jewish story, but the themes of tradition, family and assimilation are relevant across so many cultures,” Massell said. “Everyone can relate.”

Sholem Aleichem appears to have created the Tevye character in 1894, which means the dairyman See “Fiddler” on page 12

P A C E Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment

**Your gift to the Annual Campaign
DOES A WORLD OF GOOD.**

*Endowing your gift allows you to be there for the
Jewish community of NEPA forever.*

A Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) is a permanent fund that endows your Jewish community Annual Campaign gift as a lasting legacy. A PACE fund will continue to make an annual gift in perpetuity on your behalf.

To determine the amount you need to endow your entire campaign gift, multiply your current annual gift by 20.

You can fund your PACE by adding the JEWISH FEDERATION OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA to your will, or by making the Federation a beneficiary of your IRA. All contributions to establish a PACE are tax deductible.

Let your name be remembered as a blessing.

Endowments can be created through a variety of vehicles, some of which do not necessitate funding during your lifetime yet still provide your estate with considerable tax benefits.

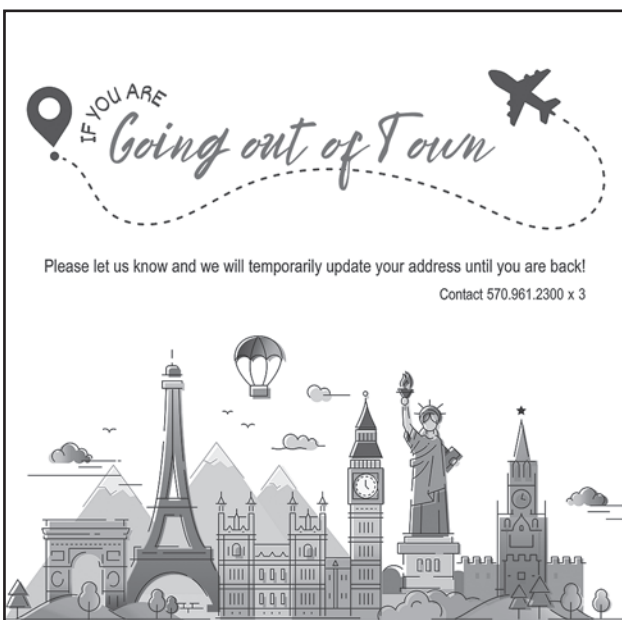
They also enable you to perpetuate your commitment to the Annual Campaign in a way that best achieves your own personal financial and estate planning goals.

Examples Of Ways To Fund Your Pace Gift Are:

- * outright contribution of cash, appreciated securities
- * capital gain property such as real estate
- * charitable remainder trust
- * gift of life insurance
- * charitable lead trust
- * gift of IRA or pension plan assets
- * grant from your foundation
- * reserved life estate in your residence
- * bequest

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

Centenarian Holocaust survivors meet in London

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – In what was called an emotional encounter, two 100-year-old Holocaust survivors met in late January in London, retracing their “harrowing” journeys through life. Germany-born Kindertransport survivor Walter Bingham, who holds the Guinness Book of World Records title for the world’s oldest working journalist, met 100-year-old Hungarian-born Auschwitz survivor Lily Ebert at her London home, on the heels of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The Kindertransport was a British program in 1938-39 that saved the lives of more than 10,000 mostly Jewish children from German-occupied Europe.

“The past is gone. We mustn’t dwell on it,” the Jerusalem-based Bingham said. “But if you don’t know the past you can’t make the future any better.”

He noted that one major difference between the Nazis and the Hamas-led massacre of October 7 in which some 1,200 people, most of them civilians, were killed was that the Nazis tried to hide the systematic extermination of six million Jews, whereas the Islamist terrorist group openly filmed and distributed their murderous attack.

The centenarian journalist was visiting London



Lily Ebert and Walter Bingham at her home in London. (Photo by Adam Lawrence/March of the Living UK)

to speak at the March of the Living UK premiere of the film “MOTL – Journey of Hope: Retracing the Kindertransport After 85 Years,” which tells the story of three child survivors of the Shoah.

“We have to live, every day, with the pain of what we went through,” said Ebert. “We share that understanding, and it is for that reason that meeting the inspirational Walter was so special.”

Scott Saunders, CEO of the International March of the Living, said, “Lily and Walter not only bring together 200 years of life, but decades of Holocaust education that has ensured future generations will be witnesses to the atrocities of the Holocaust, too.”

Box. Continued from page 6 related to this commercial activity,” they added. made clay or metal, cannot become impure.

The economic and commercial systems of Second Temple Jerusalem were similar to those in other large cities in the Roman world and boasted large markets featuring local and imported goods, some even exotic. As a temple city and pilgrimage center, ancient Jerusalem’s markets likely had specialized items, uncommon in other areas.

Daily life and trade in Second Temple Jerusalem must have been conducted with strict adherence to Jewish purity laws. Evidence of this can be seen by a number of distinct archaeological finds such as thousands of limestone vessel fragments discovered in excavations throughout the ancient city and its surroundings. The widespread use of stone vessels can be explained by Jewish law, which designates that stone, unlike

Therefore, it is possible that stone vessels were re-used for long periods.

“It seems that the multi-compartment stone box from the City of David was related to the unique Jerusalem economy conducted in the shadow of the Temple, maintaining strict observance and in accordance with purity laws. Therefore, we can consider this box a distinctly Jerusalem find,” said Levy and Baruch.

Pieces of a similar box were discovered about 50 years ago by the archaeologist Nachman Avigad during excavations in the Jewish Quarter. Avigad humorously called the object a “nuts and seeds bowl,” a name which has stuck. All similar boxes have been discovered in Jerusalem, mostly in the City of David; the newly discovered box is the only complete example.

Your ad could be here!
For more information, call Kathy Brown at 800-779-7896, ext. 244, or e-mail advertising@thereportergroup.org
The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

thanks for your support!

Friends of *The Reporter* make big news!

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.

As always, your comments, opinions & suggestions are always welcome.

With best wishes,
Daniel Chejfec, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of NE Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Avenue
Scranton, PA 18510

I will support continuation of our expanded Federation Reporter by contributing:

..... \$36\$54 \$100 other amt. \$ _____

Name(s) (as you wish to appear on our list of “Friends”)

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check here if you prefer your name not to be published

Please write and send tax deductible checks to:
Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Ave. Scranton, PA 18510



For Purim, what goes hand in hand with cherries? Chocolate!

BY NAOMI ROSS

(JNS)—As a kid in my mother’s house, I’d use a drinking glass to cut out my rounds of dough for hamantashen, those triangular Jewish cookies made for the holiday of Purim. Dipping the rim in flour, it was a careful practice of cutting as close together as possible, leaving the least amount of scraps behind (the fewer scraps to re-roll, the better; the dough tends to get tougher with each redo).

The tradition to give *mishloach manot* (festive food gifts to neighbors and friends) on Purim spurred my desire for fun after-school projects in the days leading up to the holiday. For a young person, taking ownership of preparing a package to give to others was a momentous experience. It required me to think about someone else and how to make it special for them.

We kept it simple—traditional apricot- or prune-filled. No frills but delicious all the same. Now, as an adult with my own family, I have fun playing with different versions and more sophisticated flavors. One year, I used guava paste and lime. Each year, my family prepares and gives several packages to friends and neighbors, but lately, I also try to think of someone who in particular needs a lift or smile and make sure they get one, too. That extra attention and loving touch make a difference, especially when cooking for others. Those pesky, sealed edges of the hamantashen can reopen when baking, so always pinch twice!

As per the recipe below: No, it’s not alcoholic. Yes, the alcohol cooks out, leaving a lusciously decadent filling. Yes, cherries and chocolate need to be together. And yes, give some to your

friends – if there are any left.

The dough can be prepared up to three days in advance. The filling can be made up to a week in advance.

DRUNKEN CHERRY-CHOCOLATE HAMANTASHEN (PAREVE)

(From “The Giving Table” by Naomi Ross, November 2022)

Makes about 5 dozen hamantashen

For the dough:

- ¾ cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup milk or soy or oat milk
- 1½ tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 3½ cups flour, plus more for flouring
- ⅔ cup Dutch-process cocoa (pareve)
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt

For the filling:

- 1 (12-oz.) bag frozen dark pitted cherries, thawed
- ⅓ cup dry red kosher wine
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- ¼ tsp. cinnamon

Prepare the dough: Cream the oil and sugar together in an electric mixer until a grainy paste forms. Beat in eggs, milk and vanilla until well-blended.



Drunken Cherry-Chocolate Hamantashen. (Photo from “The Giving Table” by Naomi Ross, November 2022)

Mix: In a separate large bowl, sift together the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Slowly add the flour mixture to the batter, a little at a time, mixing at low speed until the dough comes away from the sides of the bowl and forms into a ball. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least two hours or overnight. While the dough chills, prepare the filling:

Filling: Combine all filling ingredients in a medium saucepan and stir to blend until all cornstarch is dissolved and no lumps are visible.

Place saucepan over medium heat and bring to a simmer. Cook for 5 to 7 minutes, stirring often until the mixture is thickened and bubbly. Remove from heat to cool; chill to thicken.

Roll and fill: Preheat oven to 350°F. Line three baking sheets with parchment paper. Divide dough into four parts. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured board (it helps to flour the rolling pin as well) into a very thin round, about ⅛-¼-inch thick. Using a 3-3½-inch diameter cookie cutter or glass, cut circles in the dough. Place one cherry with a little of the sauce in the center of each circle. Shape into a triangle. See “Purim” on page 12

OnlineContinued from page 8
Slutsky discusses “the story of a young man’s escape from a moving train bound for the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust, and his fight to hold the French national rail company, the SNCF, accountable for its actions as it later bids for lucrative high-speed rail contracts in the United States.”

TodayContinued from page 3
There have been cases in which a sitting prime minister resigned (Golda Meir in 1974, Rabin in 1976, Olmert, etc). In such a situation, the party may decide to name somebody else to step in in place of the resigning prime minister, and present a new government to the Knesset for approval. In other cases, when the party in government cannot secure enough votes for coalition approval, the Knesset dissolves itself and there are new elections.

The political balance is also complicated by the war and the growing demands for negotiations for the liberation of the hostages.

If you are confused by how the system works, I can only tell you “welcome to Israeli politics.”

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.

| If Your Goal is to: | Then You Can: | Your Benefits May Include: |
|---|--|---|
| Make a quick & easy gift | Simply write a check now | An income tax deduction and immediate charitable impact |
| 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 |

To get Federation updates via email, register on our website www.jewishnepa.org

Pledge or Donate online at www.jewishnepa.org/donate

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

Fiddler

gets 130 candles on his cake. The writer penned the final Tevye story in 1914 (110 years ago), and “Tevye and His Daughters” became an off-Broadway musical in 1957. In 1959, New York’s Channel 13 aired “The World of Sholom Aleichem” in its show “Play of the Week,” starring Mostel.

The film critic Jan Lisa Huttner, who has published two books on “Fiddler,” notes differences in the iterations of “Fiddler.” The written stories have a male matchmaker with a minor role, not Yenta, for example. She told JNS that it is “to the credit of the creators” that they managed to universalize the play, whose financial backers thought it was too parochial for American sensibilities when it was first pitched.

“It has universal truths,” Huttner told JNS. “Parents, they have a certain image in their mind of what their children are going to be, and they’re responsible for them in many ways, shaping and molding that child. Children on their own encounter strengths and weaknesses and everything.”

The story must also be viewed in the context of history, she urged. “In periods of great turmoil, there’s going to be different turns of events in significant ways, and that’s what ‘Fiddler’ captures,” she said. In the story, that turmoil included tsarist marauders that disturbed, or pogrommed, Jews.

Lovers of the show think of tradition as a central and universal theme; “Tradition,” which



Actress Sam Massell with Sheldon Harnick, who wrote the lyrics to the original Broadway version of “Fiddler on the Roof.” (Photo courtesy of JNS)

notes that a tradition-less people would have lives as shaky as a fiddler on a roof, is among the play’s most admired songs. Many Orthodox Jews, however, view the production as advocating for assimilation, or at least rethinking Jewish religious practices and values.

Huttner, who consulted on the documentary “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles,” thinks tradition is a minor plot element. “Excuse me, that’s in the first five minutes. You’ve got another three hours to go,” she said. “At the end of it, it turns out that our lives are as unstable as the fiddler on the roof. We’re all in the balance.”

Alisa Solomon, who directs the arts and

Continued from page 9
culture concentration at Columbia Journalism School, told JNS the play “is beautifully built. The songs are wonderful. It’s completely emotionally engaging.

“For us Jews, we think of the show as speaking directly to us, addressing the things that we recognize and identify with – and that’s all true,” she said. “At the same time, it’s traveling on a parallel track of universalism, where children are making their own lives and moving away.”

Solomon, who is the author of the book “Wonder of Wonders: A Cultural History of Fiddler on the Roof,” added that historical forces, “for better and worse, often worse, are pressuring different groups of people to have to uproot their lives.

“All of those things are always going on,” she said. “In the show, it gives us windows into the experiences, feelings and meanings of all of those things.”

Purim

Continued from page 11
by folding the three sides inwards toward the center (leaving space for the filling to be open and visible); pinch the sides together tightly.

Bake: Place hamantashen 1 inch apart on prepared baking sheets (pinch again to secure folds). Bake for 12 to 14 minutes. Be careful not to overbake. Repeat with the remaining dough, using up dough scraps as well. Transfer baked hamantashen to racks to cool.

Chef’s touch: For a pretty look, drizzle with a little melted white chocolate (or dip one-half of the hamantash into white chocolate).

Seniors

Continued from page 1
such as meditation or engaging in hobbies. Deep breathing exercises can help calm your mind and reduce feelings of anxiety, and sometimes talking to a friend, family member or mental health professional can provide valuable support and perspective.

◆ **Eat well:** A heart-healthy diet can help lower your risk of developing heart disease. This type of diet is typically low in saturated and trans fats and cholesterol while being rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and healthy fats. It’s also a good idea to reduce your intake of processed and fried foods. Many of these foods are extremely high in sodium, which can raise your blood pressure and increase your risk of heart disease.

◆ **Quit smoking:** Quitting smoking is one of the most challenging things to do, but it is also one of the most rewarding. Smoking cessation can help improve your health and reduce the risk of various diseases. Remember, quitting smoking is a process, and it may take several attempts before you succeed. Be patient and kind to yourself, and celebrate each milestone along the way.

Remember, taking care of our heart health is essential for living a healthy and fulfilling life. It’s never too late to start incorporating these heart-healthy tips into your daily routine, so you can maintain good heart health as you age.

Dr. Ken Sebastianelli has served as medical director for Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, a Jewish Senior Life Community, since 2012. Dr. Sebastianelli is a board-certified Internal Medicine practitioner with Prime Med Medical Group, and is affiliated with Geisinger Community Medical Center and Moses Taylor Hospital. He is also a member of the Medical Executive Committee at Geisinger Community Medical Center.



WHAT CAN I DO TO STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE HOSTAGES?

1. [Wear](#) a blue ribbon.
2. [Plan](#) an Empty Shabbat Table event.
3. [Save](#) an empty seat at your own Shabbat table.
4. [Call](#) your representatives and urge them to demand the release of hostages.

WHAT CAN I DO TO SUPPORT ISRAEL?

5. [Tell](#) your members of Congress that the majority of Americans remain pro-Israel.
6. [Send](#) a message of love and support to Israel.
7. Donate to a charity of your choice that is supporting the war effort, displaced families, survivors, etc.

WHAT CAN I DO TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM?

8. [Report](#) on-campus antisemitic incidents to the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line.
9. [Contact](#) your alma mater and urge them to protect Jewish students.
10. [Support](#) Jewish employees in your workplace.

