

Beth Shalom Academy opens school year with day trips and soft start

Beth Shalom Academy began the 2025-26 academic year with a series of exciting day trips and a week of half days in the days leading up to Labor Day. Each division of the school enjoyed an age-appropriate trip, giving students the chance to

bond with their peers and teachers in meaningful and enjoyable ways. This “soft opening” created the perfect bridge from summer back into the rhythm of school life, allowing students to ease into the new year while teachers gained valuable

insight into their classes.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STARTING IN AUGUST

Principal Dr. Ruth Leiter-Itzkowitz emphasized that starting school in August is a deliberate choice rooted in student success. “When students return before Labor Day, they are able to reacclimate gradually and adjust to the structure of the classroom with less stress,” Dr. Leiter-Itzkowitz explained. “It allows teachers to observe their students socially, academically and emotionally in a gentler setting before the full schedule begins.”

The week of half days, along with the division-based day trips, gave faculty the opportunity to build connections and establish classroom



routines, while students had the space to settle in, bond with peers, and begin the year with confidence.

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING AT THE CORE

At Beth Shalom Academy, individualized education is at the heart of everything. Every student has an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP), See “School” on page 2

When in doubt, report!

The threat environment facing the Jewish community in North America is still at an all-time high and the situation remains dynamic. Organizations and community members are encouraged to remain vigilant.

I continue to encourage organizations to remain open and operational, absent information provided by law enforcement or public safety partners to specific

organizations or institutions. Suspicious activity should be reported to law enforcement, local Jewish security professionals, through the Incident Report Form on the Federation website or to me. It’s critical to have a full accounting on incidents. When in doubt, report!

Tim Brooks
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October 1.....	6:26 pm
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Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN PA

CAMPAIGN OPENING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 19TH
VIP EVENT: 1 PM
SHOW: 2 PM
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SHLOMO LEVINGER

September was Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Seniors and prostate cancer – what you need to know

BY DR. KEN SEBASTIANELLI

Prostate cancer is a significant health concern for men, especially as they age. Awareness of this condition is crucial for early detection and effective treatment. In this blog, we will cover the essentials of prostate cancer, including risk factors, symptoms, and preventive measures.

UNDERSTANDING PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate cancer originates in the prostate gland, which is a small walnut-shaped gland in men that produces seminal fluid. It is one of the most common types of cancer among men, but with early detection, the chances of successful treatment are high.

RISK FACTORS

- Several factors can increase the risk of developing prostate cancer:
- ◆ Age: The risk increases as men get older, particularly after age 50.
 - ◆ Family history: Having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles a man’s risk.
 - ◆ Race: African-American men are at higher risk compared to men of other races.
 - ◆ Diet and Lifestyle: A diet high in red meat and high-fat dairy products

may increase the risk.

SYMPTOMS

In its early stages, prostate cancer may not present noticeable symptoms. However, as it progresses, some signs may include:

- ◆ Difficulty urinating or a weak urine stream.
- ◆ Blood in urine or semen.
- ◆ Discomfort in the pelvic area.
- ◆ Bone pain.

It’s important to note that these symptoms can also be related to other non-cancerous conditions.

EARLY DETECTION AND SCREENING

Early detection through screening can significantly improve treatment outcomes. Common screening methods include:

- ◆ Prostate-specific antigen (PSA) Test: Measures the level of PSA in the blood, with higher levels suggesting a greater likelihood of prostate cancer.
- ◆ Digital rectal exam (DRE): A physician examines the prostate for abnormalities.

Men should discuss with their healthcare providers about the benefits and risks of screening, especially if they have risk factors for prostate cancer.

PREVENTION AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES

While there is no sure way to prevent prostate cancer, certain lifestyle choices can help reduce the risk:

- ◆ Maintain a healthy diet: Focus on a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while limiting red meat and high-fat dairy products.
- ◆ Exercise regularly: Physical activity can help maintain a healthy weight and reduce the risk of various types of cancer.
- ◆ Regular check-Ups: Routine health check-ups can aid in early detection of potential issues.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

For those diagnosed with prostate cancer, support is available through various organizations and communities. These resources offer information, counseling, and

support groups to help patients and their families navigate through the journey:

- ◆ American Cancer Society.
- ◆ Prostate Cancer Foundation.
- ◆ Us TOO International Prostate Cancer Education and Support Network.

Increasing awareness about prostate cancer is crucial in promoting early detection and supporting those affected by this disease. By understanding the risks, symptoms, and preventive measures, individuals can take proactive steps toward better health.

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.

Jewish online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

- ◆ The Jewish Book Council will hold the virtual program “Jewish Book Month 100 One Community with Rabbi Angela Buchdahl in Conversation with Abigail Pogrebin” on Tuesday, November 18, from 1-2 pm. Buchdahl, an Asian-American, will talk about her book, “Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi’s Story of Faith, Identity, and Belonging,” which tells the story of her journey to become a rabbi. For more information or to register, visit www.jewishbookcouncil.org/events/jewish-book-month-100-one-community-with-rabbi-angela-buchdahl-in-conversation-with-abigail.
- ◆ The Yiddish Book Center will offer the virtual program “Displays of Belonging: Polish Jewish Collecting and Museums, 1891-1941”

with Sarah Zarrow on Thursday, October 23, at 7 pm. She will discuss the work of Polish Jewish collectors and museologists, who sought to preserve the treasures of the Jewish past. For more information or to register, visit www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/upcoming-public-programs/displays-belonging-sarah-zarrow.

- ◆ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold a variety of programs in October and November, including “An All-of-Society Approach: A Conversation with Yair Rosenberg and Amy Spitalnick on Uprooting Antisemitism” on Sunday October 12, at 5 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/uprootingan-tisemitism>); “The Birth of Jewish Art with Richard McBee” on Monday, October 27, at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/birthofjewishart>);

“‘Women of War’ Book Talk” on Wednesday, November 12, at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/women-of-war-book-talk>); “‘The Director’ Book Talk” on Wednesday, November 19, at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/the-director-book-talk>); and “The Radical Camera with Richard McBee” on Monday, November 24, at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/theradicalcamera>). The museum requested a \$10 donation to attend.

- ◆ Roundtable will hold the virtual course “Shanghai, the ‘Paris of the East’ and its Jewish Diaspora” on Thursdays, October 23-30, from 6-7 pm. The cost to attend is \$88. The course will explore the history of the Jewish diaspora in Shanghai and will feature excerpts from contemporary films, documentary footage and memoir. For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/history/shanghai-the-paris-of-the-east-and-its-jewish-diaspora>.
- ◆ Uri L’Tzedek will hold the virtual talk “Jewish Ethics of Interfaith Dialogue” Tuesday, October 21, at 4 pm, with Rabbi Daniel Ross Goodman. The cost to attend is \$18. For more information or to register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TaPjNEbnQ5ifctKX-fXZdvQ#/registration.
- ◆ Yetzirah will hold its November reading series featuring Daniela Naomi Molnar, Joanna Fuhrman and Sabrina Orah Mark See “Resources” on page 10

TheReporter

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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.

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School.Continued from page 1

a personalized roadmap that recognizes both strengths and challenges. These ILPs are informed by ongoing assessments throughout the year, ensuring that instruction evolves to meet each child’s needs.

Rather than expecting students to fit a rigid mold, BSA is committed to meeting the student where they are: academically, socially and emotionally. This approach creates a nurturing and effective learning environment in which every child is empowered to grow.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR GROWTH

The early start, paired with the school’s focus on personalized education, has already set the tone for a promising school year. With students supported by ILPs and guided by teachers who understand their unique journeys, BSA continues to fulfill its mission of providing a strong, student-centered education rooted in community and care.

For more information, visit www.bethshalomacademy.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

And a New Year rolls by

I write these lines a couple of weeks before Rosh Hashanah and you will be reading it during the “Aseret Yamim Hanora'im” (the Ten Terrible Days, also known as the Days of Awe). I'd like to first wish each and every one of you a *shanah tovah u'metukah*. This closing year was not the best for me personally. My father falling ill in November of last year and his passing in March; my mother's health issues in July and August, which also forced me to travel back to Buenos Aires to help her; and the continued imprisonment in Gaza of one of the sons from a childhood friend. Not the best of years. But then, my mind forces me to explore the reasons behind the name of the day between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Archeologists and historians believe that they represent a negation of the Celebrations of Marduk, the Babylonian god. I do not believe that explanation described the role of *Yamim Hanora'im* in Jewish culture and identity.

The rabbinical description of these days is as a period of trial. On Rosh Hashanah, we are



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

given the opportunity to fix our mistakes from the prior year before the sealing of our destiny for the new year. Therefore, those 10 days represent a time of holding our breath (collectively and individually) to see what the Supreme Judge will decree for us. Hence the “terrible” and “awe” descriptors in the name.

But our expectation for the judgement should be not a passive one. To earn our destiny in the new year, we need to actively seek to make amendments for our mistakes in the past year.

Amendments with God for our transgressions against God's instructions and amendments with our fellow human beings for our transgressions against them. God cannot “forgive” our transgressions against other people, and people cannot “forgive” our transgressions against God.

So how does a Jew ask for forgiveness from other people? The first step is to acknowledge what we did wrong and how it affected others –

because all actions have consequences. Once we determined how others were affected, we need to ask forgiveness from those affected by our actions. But that is not the end of the process. The final and most important stage is to learn from our mistakes and change our behavior so as not to repeat the mistakes in the future. Our tradition recognizes that as human beings we are imperfect and struggle every day to do the right thing – often failing spectacularly. It is our recognition of that imperfection that becomes our motivation to strive, every day, to do the right thing. Self-reflection is an integral part of Jewish thinking. Reflecting on our actions, reflecting on our commitments and reflecting on our relationship with others.

May we find ourselves in the new year with the wisdom to build bridges within our community and with those outside our community; may we find the strength to see beyond the growing climate of antisemitism to stay loyal to our tradition and our people; may the new year allow the leaders of the United States and Israel to find a way forward to end the bloodshed and to bring our people home. May our community continue to grow strong and proud of who we are.

Shanah tovah u'gmar hatimah tovah.

Tikvah receives largest grant in NEH history to fight Jew-hatred

BY ANDREW BERNARD

(JNS) – The National Endowment for the Humanities announced on September 15 that the Tikvah Fund will receive the largest grant in the agency's history – \$10.4 million – for a new project to combat Jew-hatred. The award will support the New York-based, Jewish non-profit's “Jewish Civilization Project,” a three-year educational program to “combat the recrudescence and normalization of antisemitism in American society.”

“While it is essential to combat the rise of antisemitism in the political and legal arenas, the humanities also have a vital role to play in this fight,” stated Michael McDonald, acting

chairman of the NEH. “The sinister and hate-filled attacks on Jewish people that we have been witnessing on American campuses and streets are, at a deeper level, also attacks on the very foundations that have made the United States the exceptional nation that it is.”

Tikvah's educational, scholarship and public programs under the project will include creating a Jewish civilization curriculum for middle and high school students, and university courses in the Jewish humanities and publishing scholarly books on “the meaning of Jewish resilience in the history of the United States and the Western world.”

The activities supported by the grant will focus

on “foundational” Jewish texts like the Talmud, Bible and modern Jewish literature, as well as the history and meaning of Zionism.

See “NEH” on page 8

DEADLINES

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

DEADLINE	ISSUE
Friday, November 11	December
Monday, December 12	January
Monday, January 12	February
Monday, February 9	March



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Remembering 9/11



At left: Rabbi Bubnis of Temple Israel of Scranton delivered the benediction at the program marking 24 years of the September 11 attacks.



At right: Organizers of the September 11 memorial program.

Autumn festival and sukkah feasts, made simpler by culinary shortcuts

BY ETHEL G. HOFMAN

(JNS) – Sukkot is glorious. It’s akin to a Jewish Thanksgiving holiday, where family and friends gather in booths decorated with fall fruits, gourds and paper chains (add yellow ribbons and Israeli flags this year). There’s the excitement of eating festive meals under a leafy roof that lets the stars and moon shine in during a time of year when the skies are resplendent and the air crisp and clear. Some decide even to sleep in their sukkahs. At the very least, make sure to have at least one meal or snack in a sukkah during the weeklong holiday; most synagogues and Jewish organizations build one and would be happy to have your company. This year, Sukkot begins on the evening of Monday, October 6.

After cooking elaborate, traditional meals for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (pre- and post-fasting), convenience is now the top priority. For seven days, dishes are carried from the kitchen to the sukkah or potluck meals are brought to share with neighbors. If traveling, soups may be carried in thermos containers made for hot or cold purposes. Prepare items like chicken dishes and casseroles in foil pans, which are easy to transport, serve and discard.

The following recipes use ingredients where much of the labor has been done for you. However, if you have the desire and lots of help, do it the old-fashioned way: peel, core, chop and dice. And, if time permits, prepare and cook artichokes. But first, check out store shelves, and the freezer and refrigerator aisles in your supermarket.

Note: Artichokes are the flower buds of a large thistle prickly family plant. Globe artichokes are available year-round. To prepare, slice off the stem to form a flat base. Snap off the tough outer leaves. Trim about 1-inch from the pointed top. Trim any remaining points with kitchen shears. Rinse under cold running water. Steam in a steamer basket

over a large pot of 4 to 5 inches of simmering water. Add more water as needed. Cover and cook for 50 to 60 minutes or until you can pull off an outer leaf easily. The artichoke may be quartered before steaming 40 to 50 minutes. Don’t worry if you don’t have a steamer basket; use a metal colander or mesh strainer. Just make sure that it is heatproof and fits snugly inside the pot.

Good yom tov!
ANY-WEATHER CHICKEN SOUP, ISRAELI-STYLE (MEAT)

- Serves 4-6
- Cook’s tips:*
- ◆ Use food processor with grater blades to grate zucchini or use a box grater.
 - ◆ Store-bought kosher chicken broth is fine. To make pareve, use pareve powdered consommé.
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
2 ribs celery, sliced thinly
1 medium green zucchini, coarsely grated
1 red bell pepper, seeds removed coarsely chopped
1 cup corn kernels, fresh, frozen or canned
3 medium tomatoes cut up coarsely
2 green onions, trimmed and sliced thinly
4 cups kosher chicken broth
2 tsp. lemon-pepper seasoning or to taste
Salt to taste
- Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add the celery, zucchini and bell pepper. Cook, stirring often, for 4 to 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Add the corn, tomatoes, green onions, chicken broth and seasoning. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 10 minutes. Taste for seasoning; adjust to liking.

Serve hot.
CREAMY GAZPACHO WITH TOASTED ALMONDS (DAIRY)

Serves 4-6

- Cook’s tips:*
- ◆ To toast almonds, place on a microwave plate. Cook at High for 35 to 50 seconds or until golden brown. Watch constantly.
 - ◆ Soup and vegetable mixture may be chilled and made ahead of time.



- 2 medium cucumbers, peeled and cut into chunks
1 ¼ cup vegetable broth
1 ¼ cups sour cream
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 (6.5-oz.) jar of marinated artichokes, drained and quartered
8 cherry tomatoes, quartered
¼ cup snipped parsley
1/3 cup slivered almonds, toasted (if using)
- Place cucumbers, broth, sour cream, lemon juice and mustard in the food processor. Pulse until the cucumbers are finely chopped. Pour into a bowl and refrigerate for 2 hours or overnight. In a small bowl, toss the artichokes with the tomatoes and parsley. Set aside. Ladle the cucumber soup into serving bowls. Spoon the artichoke mixture into the center of each bowl. Sprinkle toasted almonds on top and serve.

PEAR AND PARSLEY BISQUE (PAREVE)

- Serves 4-6
- Cook’s tips:*
- ◆ Good vegetable broth is available in markets.
 - ◆ Substitute any fresh herb, such as dill or cilantro, for the parsley.
- 5 cups vegetable broth
½ tsp. nutmeg
½ tsp. cinnamon

See “Feasts” on page 9



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The Jewish Federation OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

The Middle East during World War II

(Ninth article of history series)

BY DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

In 1933, the first concentration camps for Jews were established in Nazi Germany. The first Jews to be interned were recent Polish Jewish immigrants to Germany and their internment was presented as a regular immigration control issue. For the leaders of the Jewish Agency and the Zionist movement, it was, however, painfully clear the direction things were going, and that there was probably no future for German Jews. At this, the beginning of Nazi rule, Germany's goal was to "clean" Germany of Jews rather than physical extermination. Their laws and regulations expelling Jews from German society were intended to promote their emigration.

It was under those circumstances that the Zionist leadership negotiated an agreement with Nazi Germany to facilitate their emigration. This agreement became known in Hebrew as the "ma'avar" or "transference." Holocaust historian Yehuda Bauer wrote about this agreement extensively in his book "Jews for Sale."

The agreement was designed, on one hand, to facilitate the emigration of German Jews at a time when most countries of the world, including British Palestine, closed their doors to Jewish refugees. On the other hand, it was intended to circumvent the serious limitations on Jewish immigration imposed by the British colonial administration.

Under the agreement, German Jews were allowed to bring out their assets with them after hefty payments to the Nazi state. With the remaining of their capital, they were allowed to enter British Palestine not as regular immigrants, but as investors, thus not counting against the quotas in immigration imposed by the British. Ironically, this not only saved Jewish lives, but it also accelerated the economic development of Palestine, including industrialization and urban economy. This new industrial capacity provided England

with a "safe" economic backyard outside from Europe – something they very much wanted given what they perceived to be the inevitable confrontation with Nazi Germany. The agreement remained in force until the outbreak of open hostilities on September 1, 1939.

While our main focus is the development of Zionism toward the establishment of a Jewish state, it is important to understand that the Arab population had its own Nationalist movement. Modern Arab Nationalism first appeared as an organized movement under Ottoman rule, as an opposition to the drive by the Young Turks Movement to "Turkify" the empire and thus subsume Arab identity and culture. The close relationship between Germany and the Ottomans prior to World War I and the German contribution to the modernization of the Turkish empire establish an image of Germany which, from an Arab perspective, was more favorable than the image of France or Great Britain. This made support for Nazi Germany and receptivity to their propaganda a natural way for Arabs to go.

The grand mufti's role in the 1936-1939 Arab revolt against Britain got the British to expel the mufti. He moved first to Lebanon and from there to Baghdad. It is in Iraq that the mufti would have a decisive role in the Middle East during World War II. There is a growing number of historians who believe that at this point Amin al Husseini was in the payroll of the Nazi Party. And this perception seems to be reinforced by the mufti's activity in Iraq. The Nazi connection is predicated on his meeting of German Consul General Dohle in 1937 and his meetings with Adolf Eichmann that same year. Both meetings are supported by documentary evidence.

The Nazis, after the invasion of Poland and the subsequent British declaration of war against Germany, sought as a strategic imperative to

gain control of the oil sources in the Middle East. It was here that the Mufti became useful to them. He worked with a group of pro-Nazi Iraqi staff officers (Salah al-Din al Sabbagh, Fahmi Said, Mahmud Salman and Kemal Shabib), who came to be known as "the Golden Square," and he also sent one of his followers, Kemal Hadad, to Berlin to serve as his personal contact with the Nazi leadership. The "Golden Square" officers staged a military coup and replaced the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Said with Al-Gaylani, a Nazi sympathizer, in April 1941.

The British reacted forcefully and, with the help of British Indian troops, defeated the coup by May 8, 1941. The mufti and his followers fled first to Iran, along with other pro-Nazi leaders.

The Iraqi Jewish community

openly celebrated the defeat of the Golden Square and their Nazi overlords. On June 1, with the British back in full control, a delegation of Jews went to welcome the Iraqi regent Abd-Illah who was returning from exile. Pro-Nazi Iraqis, military and civilians attacked them, and soon the attacks spread over all of Baghdad in what can only be described as a pogrom. The British troops stood by and did not intervene. This non-intervention was ordered by the British ambassador to Iraq, Kinahan Cornwallis. At the time, almost one-third of all inhabitants of Baghdad were Jewish and they represented a major economic element in almost all levels of society. The anti-Jewish pogrom is known in Iraqi Jewish history as the "Farhoud" – an Arab word meaning "violent dispossession"

See "Middle" on page 10

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Rabbi Avi Horowitz inspires BSA faculty with insights on differentiation

Beth Shalom Academy was honored to welcome Rabbi Avi Horowitz as a featured speaker at its recent in-service training. Rabbi Horowitz,

who holds a master’s degree in education with a specialization in differentiation, delivered a powerful and engaging presentation on the importance of tailoring instruction to meet the diverse needs of students.

DIFFERENTIATION: MEETING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE

Rabbi Horowitz emphasized that no two students are ever in the exact same place academically, socially or emotionally. Whether in kindergarten or high school, every child comes into the classroom with unique strengths, challenges, and learning styles. He explained that differentiation is not simply an instructional method, but a mindset, equipping teachers with the tools to guide students at varying levels and ensuring every child can succeed.

“Regardless of where they come from or what grade they are in, our responsibility as educators is to recognize that each student is on their own journey,” Rabbi Horowitz noted. “Differentia-



tion allows us to honor that individuality and help every child reach their potential.”

AN INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Faculty members actively participated in the session, asking thoughtful questions about how to put differentiation into practice. Rabbi Horowitz shared practical strategies, classroom anecdotes and encouragement, drawing on his years of experience as an educational leader. Teachers left the session with renewed energy, a deeper understanding of differentiation, and a sense of how these strategies can be woven into Beth Shalom Academy’s mission of nurturing the whole child.

LESSONS FROM ABROAD

Adding a global perspective, Rabbi Horowitz reflected on his tenure as rabbi and head of school in Chile. There, he witnessed firsthand the transformative role that a community school can play in shaping not only students’ futures, but the broader Jewish community as well. His stories highlighted how community schools become central pillars for children and families – providing not just academics, but stability, identity and inspiration.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Rabbi Horowitz is a valued member of Beth Shalom Academy’s Advisory Board and continues to support the faculty and administration with his expertise. Following his return to Israel, where he now lives with his wife and family, he will be meeting with BSA teachers via Zoom to continue the dialogue and provide ongoing guidance.

Beth Shalom Academy is grateful for Rabbi Horowitz’s wisdom, dedication and passion for education, and looks forward to building on the seeds planted during this inspiring in-service session.

For more information about Beth Shalom Academy, visit www.bethshalomacademy.com.

Save the Date Coming November 2, 2025



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.)



Beth Shalom Academy kicks off school year with rooftop fund-raiser

Beth Shalom Academy launched the 2025-26 school year with a memorable rooftop fund-raiser held atop the Oppenheim building the week before classes began. The event brought together parents, teachers and members of the extended BSA community for an evening filled with food, celebration and shared purpose.



Guests enjoyed a gourmet spread prepared by Matthew Chan of New York, whose food created an atmosphere of warmth and festivity. More than 150 attendees gathered to mark the end of summer and to celebrate the start of what promises to be an exciting new academic year. Against the backdrop of a breathtaking sunset, conversations flowed easily, and the event was filled with positivity and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

The program was further uplifted by moments of spiritual inspiration. Rabbi Itkin sounded the *shofar*, filling the evening with its stirring call. Rabbi Raices followed by speaking about the special significance of the month before Rosh Hashanah

and the importance of hearing the *shofar* each day as the community prepares for the holiday.

The rooftop setting offered more than just a stunning view: it provided the perfect space for families, faculty and supporters to come together around BSA’s mission. The evening highlighted the strength of community support, uniting those present in the shared goal of fur-

thering the Academy’s growth and sustaining its role as a cornerstone of Scranton and the surrounding communities.

The fund-raiser also shined a spotlight on the generosity of sponsors, including ERA Realty and Keystone Testing, whose support helped make the event possible. A special moment of the evening See “Academy” on page 10







THE MAGIC OF CUBA

Let us know if you'd like to join the Jewish Federation of NEPA on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Cuba! This unforgettable journey will only happen if we have at least 20 participants, so your response matters. Please share your interest today to help us gauge participation and bring this incredible experience to life.

✓ Open to Everyone – bring friends & family

✓ 5-day trip in the Fall of 2026

✓ Transportation Included

✓ Mostly City Walking – light activity

INTERESTED?

 dassy.ganz@jewishnepa.org

 570-961-2300 x2



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](#)

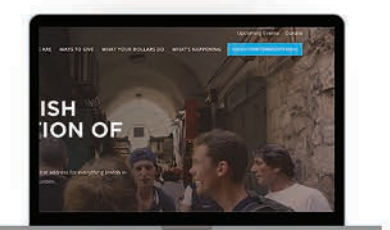
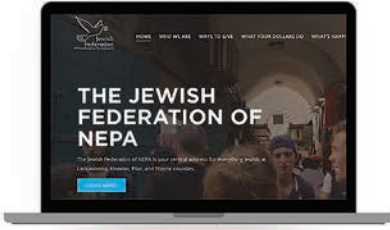
Step 3

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

• *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 Alan Berlin
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.

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

Israel unveils National Archaeological Database with some four million records

BY JSN STAFF

The Israel Antiquities Authority recently launched a digital platform centralizing all archaeological information collected and researched in Israel. The database currently contains 3,910,005 records, along with 964,393 objects, 1,223,552 images and 15,164 three-dimensional models. The National Archaeological Database allows users to browse publications, photos, 3D scans, excavation reports and archival documents through a smart search by site, period, type of find and other categories.

The system includes an interactive geographic search that lets users plot an area of interest on a map and instantly access all relevant archaeological information -- from findings to excavation documents, images, models and professional publications.

“In a country with a rich heritage like Israel, a huge collection of archaeological information from all periods has been collected over the years,” said Alby Malka, head of the IAA’s Technologies Division. “By Israeli law, every

archaeological find that is uncovered must be reported, documented and deposited in the National Archives. As a result, data constantly gathers under the aegis of the Israel Antiquities Authority on many archaeological digs, as well as on hundreds of thousands of ancient items -- from scrolls and coins to pottery, jewelry and archaic architectural elements.

“A national archaeological database, which gathers and makes all this knowledge accessible both to the lay public and to researchers, is a tool of paramount importance for scientific research, for preserving the country’s heritage, and for deepening public knowledge,” added Malka.

IAA chief scientist Débora Sandhaus described the archive as “a treasure” and a “global asset.”

“It gives the international scientific community unique access from any computer in the world to vast knowledge about the history of the Levant, and enables a large-scale comparative study, which was never even possible until now,” she said.



Aerial view of the Israel Antiquities Authority excavation of a 2,500-year-old burial complex in Israel’s Negev Desert. (Photo by Emil Aladjem/ Israel Antiquities Authority)

NEH. Continued from page 3
“At this weighty moment in the history of the West, we believe that Jewish ideas are essential to strengthening the best of our shared American culture and answering the perverse ideology of antisemitism with the enduring majesty of Jewish civilization,” stated Eric Cohen, CEO of Tikvah. Founded in 1992, Tikvah describes itself as “shaping the rising generation of Jewish, Zionist and American leaders” by “advancing the most serious thinking about the great challenges facing the Jewish people.”



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Israel to pump desalinated Mediterranean water into the Sea of Galilee

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS)— Israel plans to pump desalinated Mediterranean seawater into the Sea of Galilee to combat years of drought and falling water levels, in what is considered the first project of its kind in the world.

Located in northeastern Israel, between the Golan Heights and the Galilee, the lake is the country’s main freshwater reservoir, underscoring the importance of the Water Authority’s initiative. Officials aim to reverse the decline after a series of droughts pushed the lake dangerously close to the “black line” – the level at which water extraction becomes ecologically

harmful and could cause irreversible damage.

In the coming weeks, desalinated water from Israel’s Mediterranean coast will begin to be re-directed into the Sea of Galilee, Ynet reported on September 2. By late October or early November, the Water Authority expects to start pumping up to 5,000 cubic meters (1.3 million gallons) of water per hour, with a long-term plan to expand to 15,000 as additional infrastructure is completed.

The desalinated water will travel 62 to 93 miles, drawn from plants in Ashdod, Hadera and other coastal sites. The project has required upgrading pumping stations, constructing new pipelines and reinforcing reservoirs, at a cost of

around 1 billion shekels (\$297 million).

“We dropped below the lower red line and came close to the black line. That’s when experts proposed reversing the National Water Carrier and channeling desalinated water into the lake. Ultimately, this became the chosen solution,” said Firas Talhami, head of the Water Authority’s northern region, in an interview with Ynet.

“This is a historic event that has never been done before anywhere in the world,” Talhami added. “We also considered the ecological impact, and the project will restore the Zalmon stream as a perennial waterway, reviving plant and animal life.”

Feasts Continued from page 4

1 Tbsp. honey
1 Tbsp. lemon zest
5 ripe pears, core removed and cut into 1-inch chunks
1 medium potato, peeled and cut into 1-inch chunks
Salt and white pepper to taste
½ cup snipped parsley, divided
In a medium saucepan, combine the broth, nutmeg, cinnamon, honey and lemon zest. Bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer for 5 minutes.
Add the pears, potato and half the parsley.



Pear and Parsley Bisque (Photo by Ethel G. Hofman)

Cover and cook until pears and potato are tender, about 20 minutes. Cool slightly.

Pour into a blender jar or food processor and purée. Taste for salt and pepper. If too thick, add a little more broth.

Serve warm or chilled, sprinkled with remaining parsley.

ZA’ATAR BAKED CHICKEN WITH GREEN TOMATOES (MEAT)
Serves 4-6
Cook’s tips:
♦ Za’atar is a Middle Eastern spice, a blend of toasted sesame seeds, dried thyme, marjoram and sumac.
♦ Substitute bottled vinaigrette dressing mixed with 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice and ½ tea-

spoon freshly ground pepper for lemon-pepper salad dressing.

4 green tomatoes, cut into thick wedges
1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
1 Tbsp. za’atar seasoning
1 kosher chicken, 3.5 to 4 pounds, cut into 6 to 8 pieces
½ cup lemon-pepper salad dressing
Preheat oven to 375°F.
Place tomatoes and red onion in a shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with za’atar and toss to mix.
Arrange chicken pieces on top. Pierce each piece 5 to 6 times with the tip of a sharp knife.
Pour the salad dressing over spreading with a spoon to coat evenly. Cover loosely with foil.
See “Feasts 2” on page 11

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



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:

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

The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Resources.....Continued from page 2

on Sunday, November 9, from 5-6:30 pm. For more information, visit <https://yetzirapoets.org/yprograms/11-9-molnar-fuhrman-orah-mark>.

◆ The Yiddish Book Center will hold two virtual programs in October: “Displays of Belonging,” with Sarah Zarrow on Thursday, October 23, at 7 pm (www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/upcoming-public-programs/displays-belonging-sarah-zarrow); and “Book Launch: Adventures of Max Spitzkopf: The Yiddish Sherlock Holmes,” with Mikhl Yashinsky on Monday, October 27, at 6:30 pm (www.yiddishbookcenter.org/events/upcoming-public-programs/book-launch-adventures-max-spitzkopf-yiddish-sherlock-holmes-mikhl).

◆ Hadassah Magazine will present “Two Years On With Yossi Klein Halevi and Lee Yaron” on Wednesday, October 29, at 12:30 pm. Hadassah Magazine Executive Editor Lisa Hostein will host Israeli writers Yossi Klein Halevi and Lee Yaron for a discussion “about what it means to

be a Jew today, in a post-October 7 world; how Israeli survivors are coping; and what almost two years of war and rising global antisemitism mean for the future of the Jewish people. coping; and what almost two years of war and rising global antisemitism mean for the future of the Jewish people.” For more information or to register, visit www.hadassahmagazine.org/2025/08/25/two-years-on-with-yossi-klein-halevi-and-lee-yaron.

◆ The Jewish Grandparents Network will hold “How Your Jewish Life Stories Can Impact Your Grandchildren’s Jewish Identity” on Tuesday, October 21, from 1-2 pm. Dasee Berkowitz, author of “Becoming a Soulful Parent: A path to the wisdom within,” will show grandparents “how sharing family stories... can greatly impact grandchildren, especially when done in partnership with the parents.” For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/event/how-your-jewish-life-stories-can-impact-your-grandchildrens-jewish-identity>.

◆ Jewish Women’s Archive will hold its virtual Fall 2025 Book Talks: Jane Eisner on “Carole King: She Made the Earth Move” on Thursday, October 30, at 8 pm; Esther Chehebar on “Sisters of Fortune” on Thursday, November 6, at 8 pm; Minna Bromberg on “Every Body Beloved: A Jewish Embrace of Fatness” on Thursday, November 13, at noon; and Sarah Hurwitz on “As

a Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us” on Thursday, November 20, at 8 pm. For more information, visit <https://jwa.org/events>. To register for the events, visit <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/Ex0TGr2/JWABTFall2025>.

Academy.....Continued from page 7

was the recognition of Dr. Steven Vale and his wife for their outstanding contributions through the EITC program. Dr. Vale accepted an award and spoke passionately about the importance of the program, encouraging both individuals and corporations to take advantage of this opportunity to support nonpublic schools like BSA in meeting critical budgetary needs.

The rooftop fund-raiser embodied the spirit of Beth Shalom Academy: community-centered, forward-thinking and dedicated to excellence in education. As the Academy enters the new year, the event served as a powerful reminder of what can be accomplished when families, educators and supporters come together with shared vision and purpose.

Beth Shalom Academy is grateful to all sponsors, attendees and supporters who helped make the evening a success, and looks forward to a year filled with growth, achievement, and continued partnership. For more information on BSA, visit www.bethshalomacademy.com.

Middle.....Continued from page 5

After the defeat of the Golden Square, Hussein fled first to Persia (Iran) and from there to Berlin. He spent the rest of World War II as a guest of Germany in Nazi-occupied Europe. His role in the Iraqi coup boosted his image in the Arab street as a nationalistic, anti-imperialistic, anti-colonial leader.

Hitler, aware of the value of propaganda, treated him as a favored guest and called him “Führer of the Arab World,” funding a radio program, which was broadcasted in Arabic to the Middle East, in which the mufti preached the Nazi message to the Arab masses. In 1943, he traveled to Bosnia to help the SS recruit Bosnian Muslims into the infamous “Hanjar Troops,” who were responsible for implementing the Nazi Final Solution in Bosnia.

At the Nuremberg Trials, Eichmann’s secretary Dieter Wisliceny testified that, “The mufti was one of the initiators of the systematic extermination of European Jewry and had been a collaborator and advisor of Eichmann and Himmler in the execution of this plan...”

After the fall of Nazi Germany, Hussein was taken under “protective custody” by the Free French Army, but he managed to escape to Cairo where he was received as a hero and granted asylum by Egyptian King Farouk. The British, fearful of another Arab revolt, made a point of preventing his trial at Nuremberg and warned Ben Gurion and the Jewish Agency to not touch him, going as far as threatening to dissolve the Jewish Agency and Jewish autonomy in Palestine. They also promoted, in 1943, the Pact of Alexandria which became eventually the basis for the Arab League.

Hussein lived long enough to be appointed the first president of the “All Palestine Government” set up in September 1948, a position he kept until 1953. He died in 1976 in his sleep in Cairo.

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For more information, call Kathy Brown at 1800-779-7896, ext. 244, or e-mail advertising@thereportergrgroup.org

The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania



The Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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

Feasts 2. Continued from page 9

Bake in preheated oven for 35 minutes. Remove foil.

Increase heat to 400°F. Bake 15 minutes longer or until skin is brown and juices run clear when chicken thigh is pierced with a fork.

ARTICHOKE AND MUSHROOM CASSEROLE (PAREVE)

Serves 4-6
Cook's tips:

◆ Make the day before. Refrigerate. Remove from the fridge 1 hour beforehand. Cover with foil. Reheat in a preheated 325°F oven for 20 to 30 minutes until warm.

◆ Keep kitchen scissors on hand to snip herbs such as dill.

◆ 21 Seasoning is available at most markets.
1 (12-oz.) package of frozen artichoke hearts, defrosted

5-6 white mushrooms, sliced
1 large beefsteak tomato, cut into ½-inch chunks

¼ cup fresh dill, snipped
1½ tsp. 21 seasoning
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. garlic powder (optional)
⅓ cup vinaigrette dressing

Place all ingredients in a 10-inch microwave-safe pie dish or casserole. Toss to mix.

Cook at high for 7 minutes. Stir and cook again for 3 to 4 minutes, or until vegetables are softened.

Serve warm.

Variation: Thaw 1 (10- to 12-oz.) package of frozen spinach. Squeeze to remove all liquid. Place in a pan with 1 teaspoon of all-purpose flour, a pinch of salt and ¼ teaspoon of nutmeg. Cook over high

heat until beginning to bubble, stirring constantly. Spoon on top of vegetable casserole and serve.

PRUNE AND CARROT TZIMMES (PAREVE)

Serves 4-6
Cook's tips:

◆ Substitute dried apples for prunes.
3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
3 medium onions, thinly sliced
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. freshly ground pepper
4 large carrots, cut into ¼-inch thick slices

1 cup orange juice
2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 Tbsp. honey or to taste
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 cup pitted prunes, cut in half

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions. Cover and cook until onions are softened, 8-10 minutes.

Add the carrots, orange and lemon juices, honey and cinnamon.

Bring mixture to a boil and let bubble for 3 to 4 minutes. Reduce heat to simmer.

Cook uncovered for 15 minutes or until carrots are tender. Stir in the prunes. Simmer for 5 minutes more. If excess liquid is still left, simmer for a few minutes to evaporate.

Serve warm.

DOWNTON PUMPKIN HONEY CAKE (PAREVE)

Serves 15-18
Cook's tips:

◆ Instead of a Bundt pan, you can divide the mixture between 2 loaf pans (8½ x 4¼ x 3), plus 1 mini-pan.

◆ Use baking soda, not baking powder.
◆ May substitute dried cherries or dried cranberries for raisins.

4 eggs
½ cup water
1 cup vegetable oil
1 cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin-pie mix)
¾ cup molasses
½ cup honey (warmed)
1 cup dark-brown sugar
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 Tbsp. Chinese 5-spice
1½ cups raisins, divided
Preheat oven to 350°F.

Spray Bundt pan with nonstick baking spray with flour.

Whisk eggs, water and oil until blended. Add the pumpkin, molasses and honey. Mix well.

Stir in the brown sugar and flour, about ½ cup at a time. Add the baking soda and spice with the last ½ cup flour. Stir in 1 cup raisins.

Spoon batter into the prepared Bundt pan. Scatter the remaining raisins on top.

Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. A mini-loaf pan will bake the contents in about 35 minutes.

Cool for 10 minutes in the pan. Loosen edges by running a round-bladed knife around the sides. Turn onto a wire tray to cool completely. Freezes well.

Ethel G. Hofman is a syndicated American Jewish food and travel columnist, author and culinary consultant.

GIFTING STOCK FORM

Gifting stock to a charitable 501©(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.

**DAVID HOLLANDER AND ALEX ITZKOWITZ, CO-CHAIRS OF OUR 2025-26 UJA CAMPAIGN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**