

Honoring our heroes: A meaningful Veterans Day at Beth Shalom Academy

This past week, Beth Shalom Academy was privileged to host a deeply meaningful and heartfelt Veterans Day program, honoring three extraordinary individuals who have served our country with

courage, dignity and unwavering commitment: Captain Samuel Sandhaus, Sergeant Gene Barrett and Captain Nancy Willis. Their presence filled our school with a profound sense of gratitude, pa-

triotism and awe as students and staff came together to recognize the sacrifices made by these heroes and by all veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

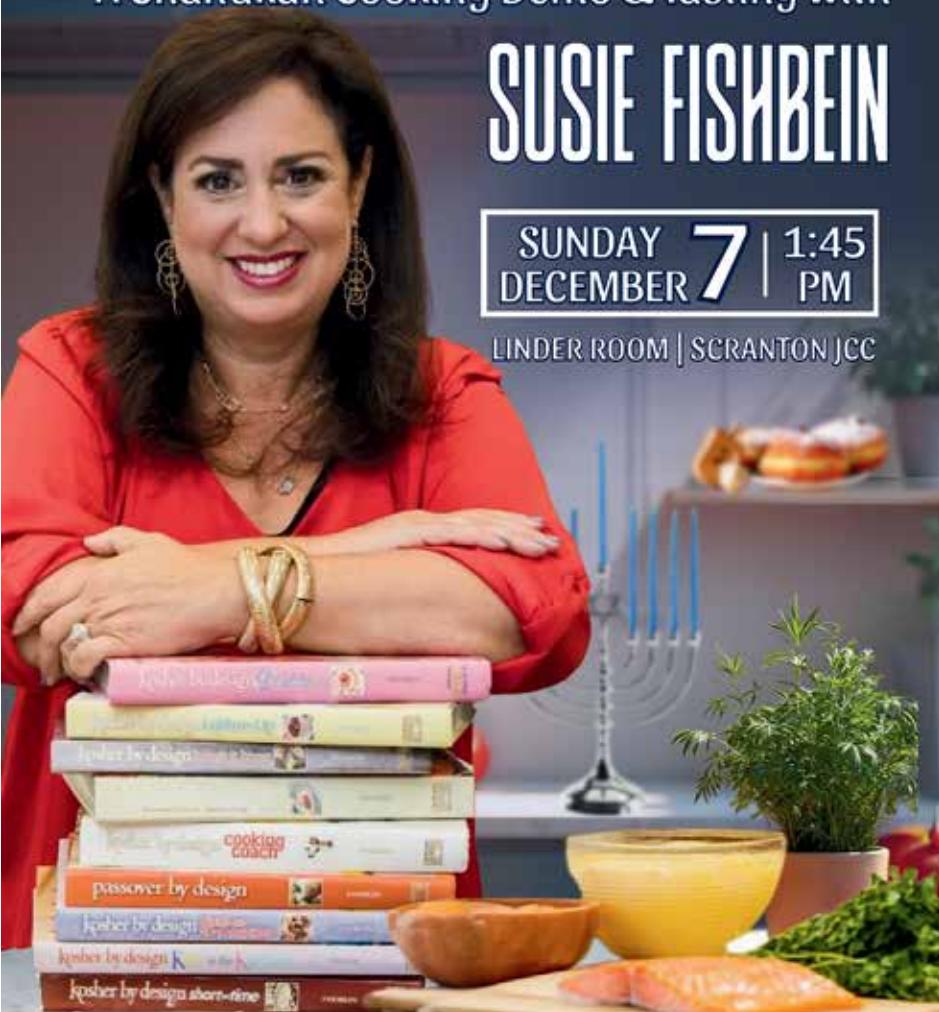
The program began with opening remarks from our principal, Dr. Leiter-Itzkowitz, who shared a deeply personal reflection about her lifelong respect and admiration for

veterans. She recounted how this appreciation was instilled in her by her father, Dr. N.Z. Leiter, who served as a psychologist at the V.A. Medical Center for over 30 years. Through his dedicated work with veterans – listening to their stories, supporting them through their struggles, and honoring their service – he See “Veterans” on page 8



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 Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN PA

December 2025 Elan blog

From recovery to renewal: Choosing a short-term rehabilitation facility

BY LISA M. WEBB, MA-CCC SLP/L,
DIRECTOR OF REHABILITATION

Whether you’re recovering from surgery, illness or an injury, the rehabilitation program you choose can make a significant difference in how quickly – and comfortably – you regain your independence. It is important to find a facility that is committed to delivering personalized care that’s tailored to the unique needs of every individual. Selecting

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

History

The latest history column looks at the years 1945-46.

Story on page 5

Chanukah

JCC Chanukah Festival; fried recipes for holiday celebrations.

Ad on page 8; Story on page 11

Medical breakthrough

Israeli researchers have discovered a new treatment for blood cancer.

Story on page 12

the right therapy and short-term rehabilitation provider helps ensure a successful bridge between your hospital stay and home.

At Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, the therapy team partners with Functional Pathways to provide skilled physical, occupational and speech therapy to assist short-stay patients in developing increased levels of strength, mobility and independence in an on-site private therapy gym. The staff designs a custom plan to help patients achieve their goals, using an integrative approach to ensure everyone receives the highest level See “Facility” on page 2

CANDLE LIGHTING

December 5	.....	4:15 pm
December 12	.....	4:15 pm
December 19	.....	4:17 pm
December 26	.....	4:21 pm
January 2	.....	4:27 pm

PLUS

Executive Director's Column.....	3
Schedule of Services	10

Temple Israel of Scranton strengthens community through ongoing support of JFS Kosher Food Pantry

Temple Israel of Scranton continues to demonstrate its deep commitment to helping neighbors in need through its ongoing collections for the JFS Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry. Throughout the year, congregation members donate food and essential household items, ensuring that individuals and families across the region have access to nutritious, kosher food options.

This thoughtful act of generosity not only addresses food insecurity but also reflects the shared values of compassion, community and *tzedakah* – the Jewish

At right, l-r: Temple Israel First Vice President Ann Monsky, Cantor Vladimir Aronzon, JFS Executive Director Sheila Abdo and Rabbi Daniel A. Bubnis.

principle of charitable giving. The partnership between Temple Israel and Jewish Family Service (JFS) has become a cherished tradition, one that strengthens the bonds of the Scranton community and reminds everyone of the impact that collective kindness can have.

Representatives from Temple Israel recently visited JFS to deliver their latest collection, bringing smiles and gratitude all around as they continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.



Facility.

of care and support that is tailored to their individual needs.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Elan's rehabilitation team is comprised of licensed physical therapists who are passionate about resident care. They bring wealth of experience and utilize evidence-based practices to ensure

the best possible outcomes for everyone. Therapy programs are designed to help residents improve strength, mobility, balance and overall physical function so they can move safely and maintain the highest level of independence possible. The programs empower residents to stay mobile, active and engaged – supporting stronger recovery, greater independence and an improved quality of life.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The occupational therapy pro-

gram at Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab is designed to assist patients with their physical, cognitive and emotional needs. The goal is to enable patients to perform everyday tasks and maintain or regain their independence in daily activities. Therapy may include exercises that improve strength, coordination and range of motion; training in self-care tasks such as dressing, grooming and bathing; and strategies for safely moving around the room or using adaptive equipment.



Continued from page 1

SPEECH THERAPY

Elan's speech therapy services are designed to help individuals regain and improve their communication and swallowing abilities, which can be affected by various conditions such as stroke, neurological disorders or age-related illnesses. Speech therapy plays a vital role in maintaining residents' safety, dignity and quality of life – helping them stay connected, nourished and engaged in daily activities. Therapy may include exercises to strengthen speech muscles, improve breath support or enhance articulation so patients can express themselves more clearly. Collaboration among therapists, nurses and dietitians ensures comprehensive care and maximizes the potential for positive outcomes for patients.

At Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, every patient's discharge plan starts from admission, and the team works with patients to meet and exceed their goals. The therapy, nursing, dietary and social services professionals work as a team to tailor patient care to fit individual needs. Elan promotes education and encourages self-management to achieve and maintain the highest level of function. When it's time for discharge, the team works together to determine what is truly important to the patient, family and caregivers with the goal of getting every patient back home, where the best healing happens.

To learn more about the short-term rehabilitation programs at Elan Skilled Nursing and Rehab, visit elanseniorlife.org or call 570-344-6177.

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: David Falk
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:
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Project Joy
Helping children & families this holiday season!

Dear Friends,

We would once again like to thank you for your generous support of last year's Project Joy. During the Christmas and Chanukah holiday season, Project Joy provides toys, books, stuffed animals, and other gifts to many children who are in need throughout our area. Sadly, statistics show that one in five children in Lackawanna County lives below the poverty line.

Each year, local agencies submit wish lists to our committee, which we then strive to fulfill to the best of our ability. Thanks to your generosity, over 150 children affiliated with several nonprofit organizations experienced a brighter holiday season last year.

This year, we'll be wrapping gifts in the JCC Auditorium with our incredible team of dedicated volunteers on Thursday, December 11th, at 9:00 AM. The more the merrier—feel free to bring friends!

We kindly ask for your continued support. Donations can be made payable to JCC Project Joy and sent directly to the JCC. As in past years, we are also accepting new, unwrapped toys. Please note: This year's deadline is December 3rd, as agencies require the gifts ahead of both Chanukah and Christmas.

Thank you for your continued support of this meaningful initiative. These agencies count on us each year, and your generosity is deeply appreciated.

Finally, we would like to take a moment to recognize and thank Carol and Jeff Leventhal, whose family led Project Joy for over 30 years. Though they have recently moved out of the area, their legacy continues to inspire us. We are honored to carry the torch and continue this important work in our community.

With gratitude,

Project Joy 2025 Committee Members:
Ann Lebowitz Monsky
Amanda Sagona
Alma Shaffer Mullin
Susan Blum Connors

*For questions or additional information please email annlmonsky@gmail.com
*Donation checks may be payable to JCC Project Joy, and mailed to the JCC at the address below:

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Abraham and King David

I was surprised when I realized that the Chaye Sarah weekly *parasha* came. Why was I surprised? It was my bar mitzvah *parasha*. I was also surprised by how applicable is to our reality today.

The story is about Abraham and Sarah. It starts by stating that Sarah died and goes on to describe how Abraham made arrangement to have his property (what we would call today “estate”) divided among his children, painstakingly assigning each of his children some portion of his earthly property.

As a counterpoint, we have the *haftarah*. *Haftarot* are intended to reinforce the lessons of the *parasha*

and were initially read during a time when reading the Torah itself was forbidden by the imperial oppressors of the time. Later, they became incorporated as part of our regular reading because they complemented the *parasha*. This particular *haftarah* is from the book of Samuel II and it relates the story of the last days of King David. Specifically, it deals with the infighting in the Royal Court. How do these two readings connect?

Both readings refer to the end-of-life arrangements of two figures central to Jewish history.



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

But their previsions for after their death could not have been more different. Abraham distributes his wealth while still alive and divides it among his children, knowing that by doing so he would help to avoid fighting between them. He also clearly designates Yitzhak (Isaac) as his “spiritual” successor, the heir to God’s promise. King David seems to try to avoid making determinations. It comes out through the text that his older son rebelled against him in an attempt to occupy the throne earlier and he received the

backing of some of the members of David’s court. It also comes up that Batsheba demands that his son Solomon be declared the heir to the crown – and she receives the backing of a different group of courtiers. The text describes the conflict created by David’s indecision and lack of “estate planning” – a sharp contrast with Abraham’s behavior.

If we fast forward to our days – how many times political or community leaders neglect to plan for their succession? This lack of planification has serious impact on the continuity of institutions, political parties and even nations. Shouldn’t it be an integral part of leadership to plan for succession? To enable the group (whichever that is) to focus on what needs to

be done rather than on who will lead?

Lord Rabbi Jonathan Saks raise similar points in his seminal work “Lessons on Jewish leadership” and the point(s) remain an important issue for us; in our case for Jewish communal life.

Behaving like King David seems to indicate that we feel entitled to make the decisions and that only we can make them. Behaving like Abraham means to put the future and the community above our own feelings and continuity of action above power. It demands to understand that leadership is a role of service and not a seat of power.

In this community, we are blessed today with incredible leaders and we stand on the shoulders of past leaders who clearly behaved more like Abraham than like King David. Leaders who thought ahead about the future of Jewish life and accepted the reality of change as the only constant.

May we continue to honor those who came before us and those we serve – because that is what community is about.

DEADLINES

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

DEADLINE

ISSUE Monday, December 15 January

Monday, January 12 February

Monday, February 9 March

Monday, March 9 April

Israel job market strong

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Israel’s labor market stayed strong in October as the high-tech sector showed signs of recovery, according to data released by Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics on November 17.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3 percent, unchanged from September. The employment rate remained at 60.9 percent. Job vacancies climbed to 149,000, marking an increase from the previous month and approaching levels last seen during the peak in mid-2022.

The report draws comparisons to September 2023, before the war, and September 2021. Job vacancies totaled 139,000 in 2021 and dropped to 115,000 in 2023 during an economic slowdown.

Israel’s high-tech industry, classified under Information and Communications, saw job vacancies rise to 13,800 after falling to 10,400 in 2023, though still below the sector’s boom. The absolute number of employees grew to 260,000 from 249,000 last year.



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

Jewish online resources

BY REPORTER STAFF

♦ Literary Modiin will hold its hybrid December 2025 Author Event on Sunday, December 28, at 1 pm. The books to be discussed are Ilana Kurshan's "Children of the Book), Caroline Goldberg Igira's "Pictures of My Desire" and Judy Lev's "Bethlehem Road." For more information or to register, visit www.juliezuckerman.com/event-info/literary-modiin-december-2025-author-event.

♦ The Museum of Jewish Heritage will hold several virtual book talks, with a suggested donation of \$10 to attend: "The Girl Bandits of the Warsaw Ghetto" on Monday, December 8, at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/the-girl-bandits-of-the-war-saw-ghetto-book-talk>); "Resisting Nazism" on Monday, January 26,

at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/resisting-nazism-book-talk>); and "Stories Survive: 'I Am André'" on Monday, February 9, at 7 pm (<https://mjhny.org/events/stories-survive-i-am-andre-book-talk>).

♦ Roundtable will hold several courses over the winter months, including "The Song of Songs: A Biography" on Mondays, January 12-February 2, from 10-11 am, cost to attend \$138 (<https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/the-song-of-songs-a-biography>); "Global Jewish Book Club: Winter 2026" on Wednesdays, January 7, February 4, March 4 and April 8, from 12:30-2 pm, cost to attend \$184 (<https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/global-jewish-book-club-winter-2026>); "Yiddish in New York" on Tuesdays, February

10-March 10, from 1-2 pm cost to attend \$239 (<https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/yiddish-in-new-york>); and "Rembrandt's Jews and Other Themes from the Dutch "Golden Age" on Wednesdays, February 11-25, from 11 am-noon, cost to attend \$138 (<https://roundtable.org/live-courses/arts/rembrandts-jews-and-other-themes-from-the-dutch-golden-age>).

♦ Ritualwell will hold the virtual class "The 10 Rules of Writing With Etgar Keret" on Sunday, January 11, from 1-2:30 pm. The cost to attend is \$54. For more information or to register, visit <https://ritualwell.org/event/the-10-rules-of-writing-with-etgar-keret>.

♦ The Center for Jewish History has begun the podcast "From Rubble to Root." The podcast will "follow Holocaust survivors and their children as they gather what remains, hold onto what they can, and try to understand what it means to inherit such a history." It is available worldwide on Spotify and Apple Podcasts, and at cjh.org/

rubble-to-roots. New episodes will be released every other Thursday. For more information, visit www.cjh.org/research/rubble-to-roots.

♦ The Grandparents Network will hold a virtual "Learning Fest 2026" on Tuesday, January 27, from 3-6:30 pm. Registration must be made by Monday, January 19. Keynote speaker Dr. Becky Kennedy will discuss "What Parents Want Grandparents to Know About Raising Kids Today." For more information or to register, visit <https://jewishgrandparentsnetwork.org/learningfest>.

♦ The Yiddish Book Center will hold the virtual course "Speak the World! A Tour of Global Jewish Languages" on Tuesdays, January 13, 20 and 27, and February 3, from 7-8:30 pm. The course will explore the more than 20 distinctively Jewish vernaculars with scholars, activists and artists who are using them today. For more information or to register, visit <https://support.yiddishbookcenter.org/site/Ticketing?view=Tickets&id=11502>.

See "Online" on page 12



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1945-1946: A prelude to Partition

(Eleventh article of history series)

BY DANIEL CHEJFEC, PH.D.

It is a coincidence that this article comes out at the beginning of December, just a few days after the 78th anniversary of the U.N. Partition Resolution. It is, however, important to understand the context for that resolution and how it came to pass.

The defeat of Nazi Germany left the independent Arab governments with no allies and, while the moderate governments tried to appeal to Europe and the U.S. as natural supporters, they were also haunted by the popular support of pro-Nazi ideology which had been promoted by the mufti during the war.

While the idea of an “Arab Caliphate” that dominated Arab politics in the interwar period was no longer perceived as doable, the Arab states came together in 1944 to form the Arab League based on the 1943 Alexandria Protocol originally presented by the British. This new political reality did not abandon the dream for Arab unity; it changed it into the idea of Pan Arabism, rather than a unified “Caliphate.” The original signatories of the Arab League were Egypt, Trans-Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen.

The emergence of these more narrowly defined Arab nations still developed within the context of Pan Arabism creating a dual system of validation for political power. On the one hand, how individual governments fulfilled the needs of their citizens and on the other the adherence to the ideas of a “wider Arab nation.”

The mufti’s popularity during the war succeeded in making the case of Arab Palestine a core element of Arab identity and therefore a necessary core element of the political agenda of the Arab League. The document defining the Arab League governance, states in the first annex: “Therefore, the States signatory of the Pact of the Arab League consider that in view of Palestine’s special circumstances, the Council of the League should designate an Arab delegate from Palestine to participate in its work until this country enjoys actual independence.”

It was then natural for the Arab League to join in the efforts to prevent the establishment of a Jewish state. For the Arab League, their focal point was the consolidation of “Arab National Aspirations” in the sense of the collective Arab political identity – and that demanded the inclusion of Palestine.

The *yishuv* (Jewish community) in British Palestine was faced with a very different challenge. The end of the war brought about a resumption of the fight for an independent state and the Jewish Agency tried to unify the disparate factions (Hagannah, Irgun, Lehi) into a single force in preparation for what they saw as the inevitable conflict with Britain (and possibly the Arabs)

in the pursue of a Jewish state. At this point in time, they failed.

The Jewish community was also concerned about the fate of the Holocaust survivors lingering in the DP (displaced persons) camps across Europe. The Joint Distribution Committee and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, funded by the United Palestine Appeal (to be later renamed United Jewish Appeal – UJA), stepped in to care for the need of the survivors and their rehabilitation. If any of the survivors still thought that they could go back to their villages and cities, the Polish pogroms of 1946 disabused most

of them of the idea. The survivors existed in a limbo in the DP camps, not being allowed to go to British Palestine, not being able to receive visas for the U.S. (with few exceptions) and not being willing to go back to the places where their former neighbors did not want them. At the time, the number of Holocaust survivors in DP Camps was over 350,000.

The Hagannah stepped up the efforts to bring Holocaust survivors to British Palestine in defiance of the British blockade. Many former members of the Jewish Brigade were

See “Prelude” on page 6



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GIANT

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

Over 50 women gather for rugelach baking event at Jewish Discovery Center

BY MALKA ABRAHAMS

More than 50 Jewish women filled the Jewish Discovery Center on November 10 for an evening of baking, connection and community at the Women's Rugelach Bake event.

The evening began with guests being welcomed with cups of hot apple cider before diving into the hands-on experience of creating traditional rugelach from scratch. Under guidance, participants learned to roll dough and experiment with an array of fillings – from classic chocolate and cinnamon to raspberry jam, apricot preserves, mini chocolate chips and chopped walnuts – creating their own signature combinations.

"Attended the rugelach making class last night – *wonderful!* It was so organized and pleasant," shared one attendee. Another participant



noted, "Excellent program last night. You covered every detail. I had a blast!"

While the dough rose, women enjoyed a warming soup bar and autumn salads, followed by an interactive "This or That" game using pink and green flags to answer fun questions about food, baking and Jewish culture. The game sparked laughter and conversation across tables, breaking the ice for many

who were meeting for the first time.

As the rugelach baked, participants engaged with "Table Talk" conversation cards at their tables, sharing stories about Jewish traditions, family memories and meaningful moments. The relaxed atmosphere encouraged genuine connections, with many women exchanging phone numbers and making plans to stay in touch.

"We had such a wonderful

time!" said attendees as they left with their bags of homemade rugelach and new friendships formed over flour-dusted hands and shared stories.

The Women's Rugelach Bake is part of the Jewish Discovery Center's Women's Circle, which includes monthly Torah and Tea gatherings and social events that engage hundreds of Jewish women across Northeastern Pennsylvania each year. The evening was made possible through community sponsorships from Mrs. Deede Schneider Rothenberg, Mrs. Lilian Weiss and Mrs. Marlene Warner, and support from the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

For information about upcoming Women's Circle events or other programs at the Jewish Discovery Center, contact info@jewishnepa.com or visit jewishnepa.com.

Prelude

instrumental in this effort. Most of the ships carrying "illegal immigrants" were, however, detained by the British and their passengers interned in prisoner camps in Cyprus, then under British control. The Irgun, led by Menachem Begin, made its own independent efforts in this direction with similar results. The Lehi focused its action

on military confrontation with the Mandatory authorities.

The Allies, for their part, faced political challenges, as well. Europe was devastated and in need of reconstruction. Access to oil (at the time mainly Arab oil) was a key to their success. As a consequence, the Allies at Nuremberg were reluctant to conduct a trial (in absence)

of the grand mufti for his part in the planning and implementation of the Final Solution. They knew that pursuing that would be very unpopular in the oil-producing countries. This explained why the British warned Ben Gurion that any attempt to kill the mufti in Cairo would face strong opposition of the Mandatory authorities and the possible end to Jewish autonomy in Palestine.

At the same time, the end of the war brought about the end of the anti-Nazi alliance, the division of Europe into a Soviet-controlled and a Western Allied-controlled areas,

Continued from page 5 and the beginning of a "Cold War" between the former allies.

The victorious nations were also confronted with the economic need to reintegrate the demobilized forces into their economies and societies. In the case of the U.S., this also created social conflicts, some gender related and some racial related, as a consequence of the competition for insufficient jobs.

In the midst of this socio-economic context, the Truman administration pressed the British government to open the doors of Palestine to the Holocaust survivors, something the British were reluctant to do because they feared an Arab uprising in their colonial holdings. As a consequence, and in response to the U.S. pressure, the U.S. and Britain established the joint "Anglo-American Commission" in 1946 with the goal of resolving the situation of the Holocaust survivors in the DP camps. In the next article, we'll discuss the role and actions of this Commission.

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A message to the community

BY RABBI DOVID ROSENBERG,
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT,
SCRANTON HEBREW DAY
SCHOOL

I would like to take this forum to express my deep gratitude to all of those in the Scranton Jewish community who have over the last 28 years supported our beloved Scranton Hebrew Day School, now in its 78th year.



I wanted to share a story that happened just a couple of weeks ago that really inspired me.

I received a call from a person who is from the greater Scranton community who said, "I want to make a contribution to the school of \$1,800 in honor and in thanks for the release of the hostages in Israel. There are some strings attached."

I replied, "Are they iron chains or fish line?" He then went on to say, "One condition is that it stays anonymous. The second is that you find a matcher."

I called one of our loyal and generous alumni who agreed to match this man's gift (though he has already committed to a \$5,000-plus pledge to the dinner campaign). This was a heartwarming donation to

the school, of course. However, as the father of a son (married, father of three) who served most of the last two years in the Israeli army, I was touched by his expression of gratitude for the hostages' release. We live in a very special community where Jewish education is front and center of importance, and was so beautifully shown by this story!

SHDS activities



SHDS kindergarteners learned about Rosh Hashanah.



SHDS sixth grade girls with their Sukkot project.



SHDS third grade boys with their Yom Kippur machzor.



At left:
Library time
at the SHDS.

At right: SHDS birthday cookies sponsored by a close friend of the Scranton Hebrew Day School.



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

Happy Chanukah!



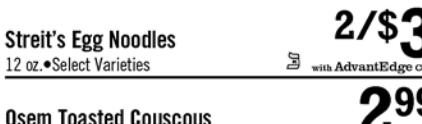
2/\$7

with AdvantEdge Card
Kedem
Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz. • Select Varieties



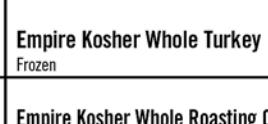
15.79 lb.

Meal Mart
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Kosher



2/\$3

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Streit's Egg Noodles
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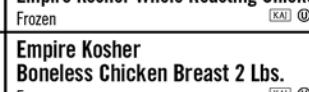
4.49 lb.

Empire Kosher Whole Turkey
Frozen



2.99

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Osem Toasted Couscous
8.8 oz.



4.69 lb.

Empire Kosher Whole Roasting Chicken
Frozen



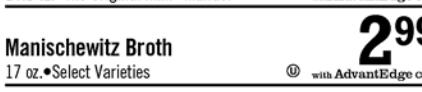
5.99

with AdvantEdge Card
Osem Chicken Consomme
14.1 oz.



18.99

Empire Kosher Boneless Chicken Breast 2 Lbs.
Frozen



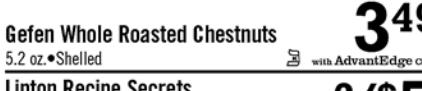
4.49

with AdvantEdge Card
Osem Mini Croutons
14.1 oz. • The Original Mini "Mandel"



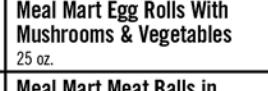
10.99

Meal Mart Chicken Wings
Frozen • 24 oz.



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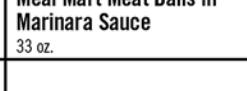
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Meal Mart Egg Rolls With
Mushrooms & Vegetables
25 oz.



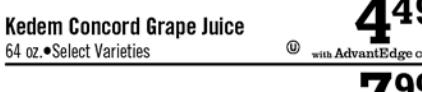
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1.9-2.4 oz. • Select Varieties



17.99

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Marinara Sauce
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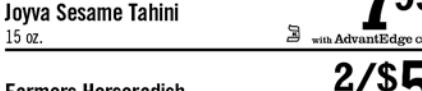
5/\$4

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Kedem Tea Biscuits
4.2 oz. • Select Varieties



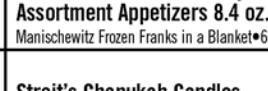
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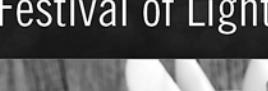
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Golden Vegetable Pancakes
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Veterans.....

modeled profound respect for those who served our nation. His influence shaped her understanding from a young age that veterans deserve not only gratitude but reverence. Her heartfelt words set a meaningful tone for the entire program.



Following her remarks, BSA students presented a beautiful selection of poems expressing gratitude, admiration and heartfelt appreciation for our veterans. Each poem was performed with sincerity and emotion, reflecting themes of bravery, sacrifice and the priceless gift of freedom. The students' voices carried across the room and their words resonated deeply with all in attendance. The atmosphere was filled with a reverent stillness as students expressed sentiments such as, "Because of you we stand in freedom today."

The centerpiece of the program came as our honored veterans shared their stories – real, personal accounts of service, courage and perseverance.



◆ Captain Samuel Sandhaus spoke about leadership under pressure and the powerful bonds formed between soldiers who rely on each other like family.

◆ Sergeant Gene Barrett recounted moving experiences that illustrated the daily courage, discipline and determination that define military life.

◆ Captain Nancy Willis offered an inspiring perspective on resilience, integrity and the importance of standing strong even when faced with uncertainty.

The students listened intently, captivated by these firsthand narratives that brought history, responsibility and patriotism to life in the most genuine way. Their respectful engagement and thoughtful questions afterward showed how deeply the stories resonated with them. Teachers later noted that students continued discussing what they learned long after the program ended – evidence that the lessons had truly taken root.

As the event concluded, heartfelt thanks were extended to Captain Sandhaus, Sergeant Barrett and



Captain Willis on behalf of the entire BSA community. We honored not only these three heroes, but all veterans who have worn the uniform of our nation with courage and pride.

At Beth Shalom Academy, we believe that true education includes cultivating gratitude, empathy and respect. Our Veterans Day program accomplished exactly that – reminding us all of the extraordinary individuals who protect our freedoms and inspire the next generation through their service.

May Hashem bless all our nation's veterans with strength, health and peace. We are deeply grateful and we were honored to spend this meaningful day with them.

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



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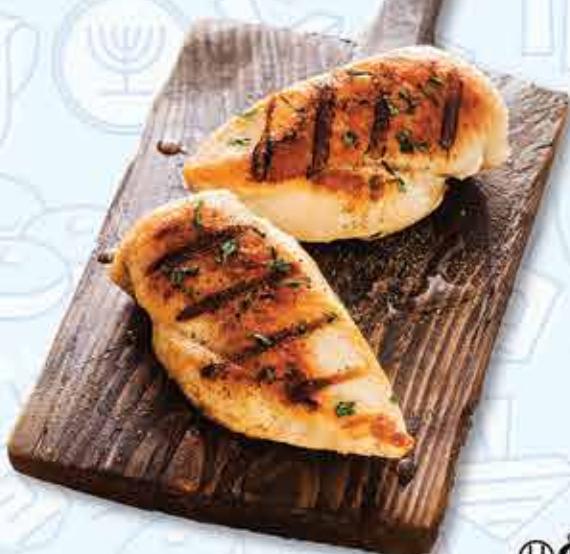
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wishes you a Happy Chanukah!



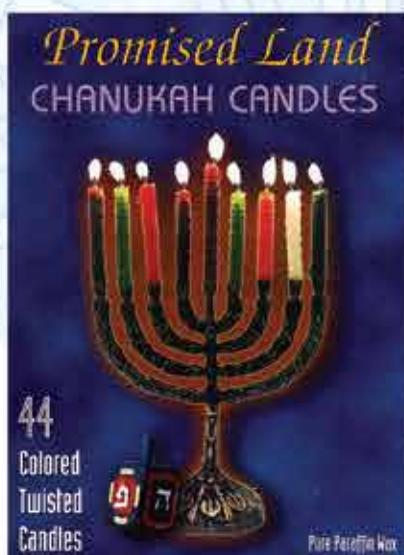
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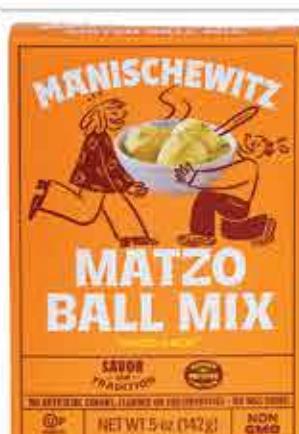
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IDF launches new family support program for officers

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – The Israel Defense Forces has launched a new support program for the spouses and families of career combat officers, the military said on November 17.

Led by IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir's wife, Orna Zamir, and developed with the IDF's Warrior Family and Permanent Family centers, the initiative aims to strengthen families' emotional, social and financial resilience. The program offers counseling, childcare assistance, training and employ-

ment opportunities, and community-building activities for spouses of officers from major through brigadier general. According to Zamir, the effort recognizes that "the mission is not only for those in uniform" and seeks to support those who bear the burden of maintaining stability at home.

The IDF said the project, run jointly by the Manpower and Technology and Logistics directorates, is designed to reinforce family and national resilience while maintaining operational readiness.

Israeli kibbutz listed among U.N.'s "52 Best Tourism Villages"

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Just days after Kibbutz Neot Smadar was added to the U.N. Tourism 2025 list of "52 Best Tourism Villages" in the world, the *kibbutz*'s tourism director told Hebrew-language outlet Ynet on October 20 that the small community in Israel's south could not handle the flood of booking requests.

"In the guest rooms they told me, 'Enough, we're collapsing, we can't keep up,'" said Adva Meir-Weil. "Suddenly there were so many inquiries," the director added.

The *kibbutz*, located in the southern Arava, was "very surprised" to be included in the U.N. list, Meir-Weil continued, "but on the other hand we worked four years [to achieve] this. When we received the announcement in September we were thrilled and glad," she related.

In the letter, the U.N. agency praised the

kibbutz for its cultural and natural richness, and its commitment to sustainability "in all three dimensions: ecological, social and economic," according to Ynet.

The list of new villages was announced on October 17 in a ceremony held in Huzhou City, China. The small towns were selected from more than 270 applications from 65 U.N. Tourism Member States, according to the international body's website.

Following the recognition, Israel's tourism ministry and the Southern Arava Regional Council issued a joint statement, saying that Neot Smadar "serves as a unique model of a cooperative ecological community and offers an exceptional tourist experience that includes an Art Center – built over 15 years by community members – an organic boutique winery, an inn featuring local

See "Best" on page 12



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Latkes and doughnuts for Chanukah? Think oil, but think again

BY ETHEL G. HOFMAN

(JNS) – Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, begins this year on the evening of Sunday, December 14, and ends on the evening of Monday, December 22. While the date varies on the solar Gregorian calendar, it always starts on the same day on the Jewish calendar: the 25th of Kislev.

Potato latkes are the most popular dish for Chanukah, right? Not so. In other countries, wherever Jews settled or passed through, they learned the regional dishes, and their cuisine was influenced by their non-Jewish environment. In American markets, mainstream items such as hummus, lox, baklava and bagels were all brought to our shores by immigrants.

Throughout history, Jews exiled from their homelands have wandered the globe. In the Middle Ages, Jews traveled to escape oppression, wherever it reared its head. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, hundreds of thousands fled Europe – Eastern and Western – and movements associated with czarist tyranny, fascism, Nazism and communism. Moving on, they took their favorite recipes, adapting them for the kosher kitchen and thus enriching Jewish cuisine everywhere they went, including America.

But in every place, oil and dairy products are recognized as symbolic, traditional Chanukah foods related to Jewish history and redemption. Oil emphasizes the miracle of the cruse found in the Holy Temple, which burned for eight days when there was only enough for a single day. Dairy food products commemorate the heroism of Judith. She fed the enemy general Holofernes large quantities

of salty cheese, washed down with wine, perhaps the specialties of the area. He fell into a drunken stupor, Judith killed him, the enemy army fled and the Jews were saved. It's a version of "They tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat!"

Latkes and *sufganiyot* – basically, a holiday doughnut classically filled with jelly, but these days run the gamut from salted caramel to cookies-and-cream – are most common; however, other items remain deeply connected to individual countries using ingredients of origin. In Italy, for example, eggplant is sliced, dipped in egg and matzah meal, and fried in olive oil. Today, Caribbean Jews fry eggplant in coconut oil. They create a salsa of pineapple, peppers and lime juice, rather than the original Mexican spicy version of tomatoes and chili peppers. The recipe for gefilte fish croquettes, which uses cooked flaked fish, was inspired by the football-shaped croquettes I devoured at a kosher-style restaurant in London. Always requested this time of the year, my quick and simpler version of *sufganiyot* is made with baking powder instead of yeast. And along with favorite preserves, delight the kids with a filling of Nutella. If you don't have a deep frying thermometer, to reach 350°F, a piece of white bread should brown nicely in 60 seconds.

A small silvery fish about six inches long, smelts are found in the North Atlantic as well as in Canada. Tossed in egg and seasoned breadcrumbs, and then cooked either in the oven, a pan or an air fryer, they're eaten whole – crunchy, and a good source of protein and omega-3s. In Israel, *sufganiyot* are often fried in olive oil pressed from

local olives. The milk chocolate cookies resemble gelt, or "coins." Press a square of chocolate-mint candy on top for the last two minutes of baking time and you have instant frosting. (I use Andes Crème de Menthe thins cut in half.)

Unless you're on a restricted diet for medical reasons or have food allergies, forget about trying to alter your grandmother's or family's recipes. To do so will take away from the rich symbolism of Chanukah. Instead, eat moderate portions, keep exercising – despite temperatures having plummeted in many parts of the world this time of the year – and celebrate the light of the holiday, which is needed now more than ever.

FRIED EGGPLANT WITH PINEAPPLE SALSA (PAREVE)

Makes 4 servings

Cook's tip: Coconut oil is a saturated fat but gives flavor as well as crispness. Any vegetable oil may be substituted.

2 eggs, beaten
1½ cups seasoned breadcrumbs
1 medium eggplant, trimmed and sliced
½-inch thick
Coconut oil
Place the beaten eggs and breadcrumbs in separate shallow dishes.

Dip the eggplant slices in the egg, then coat with breadcrumbs. Pat lightly. Place on a paper towel-lined platter and set aside for 15 minutes.

In a large skillet, heat ¼ cup oil over medium-high heat. Arrange the eggplant in one layer in the skillet, about ¼-inch apart.

See "Oil" on page 15

The Reporter

Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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

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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
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The Reporter
Published by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania

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

Israeli breakthrough: a new treatment for blood cancer

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Doctors at Rabin Medical Center in Petach Tikvah have begun treating blood cancer patients with Israel's first fully "homegrown" CAR-T therapy, marking what the hospital calls a major medical breakthrough.

The treatment was developed and manufactured at the Samueli Integrative Cancer Pioneering Institute, part of the Davidoff Cancer Center, which recently completed in-house production of genetically engineered CAR-T cells for multiple myeloma patients whose disease has stopped responding to standard therapies. The first three patients received the therapy with no unusual complications and were discharged as planned, according to a press release issued on November 19.

CAR-T therapy is considered one of the most advanced tools in modern oncology. Physicians extract a patient's T-cells and genetically engineer them to recognize and kill cancer cells. At Davidoff, scientists are using retroviral vector technology developed at the Max Delbrück Center in Berlin to equip the cells with cancer-targeting receptors before returning them to the body.

Israel diagnoses roughly 550 new cases of multiple myeloma each year. While treatment options have expanded in recent years, a significant number of patients eventually face drug resistance. Hospital experts say the new therapy offers realistic hope



Dr. Alessio Nahmad, director of Biology Research at Samueli Integrative Cancer Pioneering Institute, and Dr. Michal Besser, CTO at the Samueli Institute. (Photo by Shlomi Yosef)

for those with the toughest prognoses.

The Samueli Institute, established in 2023 and led by Avner Paz-Tsuk, operates under international standards for advanced therapy manufacturing. The initiative is integrated with the Hemato-Oncology Division directed by Prof. Pia Raanani. The CAR-T program is headed by Prof. Michal Besser, while the clinical study is led by Prof. Moshe Yeshurun in collaboration with myeloma specialist Dr. Iuliana Vaxman and Prof. Salomon Stemmer, deputy head of the Davidoff Center.

"The early results show a very positive response," Vaxman said, calling the development "significant news" for patients with limited options.

Davidoff Center director Prof. Gal Markel said the achievement demonstrates Israel's capacity to develop and deliver advanced cancer therapies under one roof. He added that researchers expect to expand the technology to treat solid tumors, including lung and liver cancers, and ultimately autoimmune diseases.

Best. Continued from page 10 produce, desert guest rooms, artist workshops, stargazing alongside the Weizmann Institute's survey telescope, and guided tours through breathtaking desert landscapes," per Ynet.

The kibbutz welcomed "this important international recognition and hope it will serve as a springboard for the continued development of tourism in the Arava and in Israel as a whole."

Neot Semadar was founded in 1989 and is home to some 250 residents.

Online. Continued from page 4

♦ Uri L'Tzedek will hold the virtual talk "Workers Rights and Paying On Time" with Rabbi Mike Moskowitz on Thursday, December 11, at 4pm. The cost to attend is \$18. The talk will be a text based analysis of the biblical obligations to pay works in a timely fashion and explore the ethical and mystical implications of the obligation. For more information or to register, visit https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NEeyMNKQGau-70HKEJn0Q#/registration.

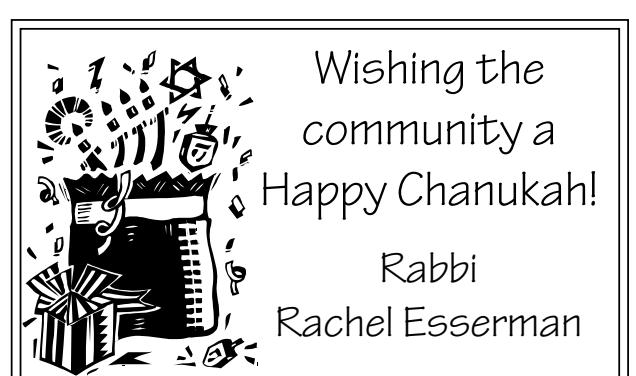
♦ Tikvah Ideas is holding the online nine-part series "The Wisdom of Jewish Literature" with Professor Ruth R. Wisse. She will discuss "the masterpieces of modern Jewish literature." For more information or to register, visit <https://ideas.tikvah.org/courses/the-wisdom-of-jewish-literature>.

♦ Roundtable will hold the virtual course "The Generations of Tevye: Reading the Stories of Sholem Aleichem" on Thursdays, December 11-January 15, from 11 am-noon. The cost to attend is \$176. "Scholar Saul Noam Zaritt discusses the original stories and several of its adaptations from the 1930s to today." For more information or to register, visit <https://roundtable.org/live-courses/literature/the-generations-of-tevye-reading-the-stories-of-sholem-aleichem>.

Chanukah Greetings

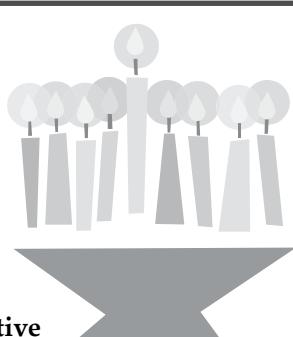
Wishing the community a Happy Chanukah!

Rabbi Rachel Esserman



Warm Chanukah wishes to you and your family!

Kathy Brown,
Advertising Representative



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:

Make a quick & easy gift

Then You Can:

Simply write a check now

Your Benefits May Include:

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

Despite war in Ukraine, a historic discovery at Babi Yar

BY STEVE LINDE

(JNS) – On the 84th anniversary of the notorious Babi Yar massacre, the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center revealed the names of more than 1,000 newly identified victims, announced publicly for the first time at a ceremony at the site. In Jerusalem, BYHMC and March of the Living hosted a parallel memorial at the National Library of Israel, where the newly discovered names were also read out. Speakers included BYHMC Chairman Natan Sharansky, Ukraine's Ambassador to Israel Yevgen Korniychuk and Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan.

"Memory is a moral weapon against denial, oblivion and distortion," said Sharansky. "Every name we succeed in restoring contributes to Holocaust commemoration and advances justice and dignity for its victims. Precisely in times of war, the obligation to defend the truth is doubled."

Korniychuk thanked Sharansky, in his capacity as chairman of the supervisory board of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, for working together with the Ukrainian government to maintain the site, the memory of the massacre and its victims. "Let's do everything we can in order to preserve the history and prevent such atrocities from happening again," he said.

Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, researchers restored the identities of 1,031 people previously lost to history. The BYHMC da-



Natan Sharansky, BYHMC's chairman, at the symbolic synagogue founded by the Memorial Center in Babyn Yar, in 2023. (Photo courtesy of BYHMC)

tabase now contains nearly 30,000 names, enriched with details such as ages, relatives, professions and circumstances of death. Victims ranged from a 9-month-old baby to a 102-year-old woman, underscoring the indiscriminate nature of the massacre.

On September 29-30, 1941, Nazi forces and their collaborators shot 33,771 Jews at Babi Yar in just two days. Over the following two years, the ravine outside Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, became the largest mass grave in Europe, where some 100,000 people – including Jews, Roma and Ukrainian prisoners – were executed. The discoveries were made possible by unprecedented archival access during wartime, when BYHMC scanned more than seven million documents, creating the largest digital archive in Eastern Europe.

Among the newly discovered materials are applications to adopt children orphaned after their parents were murdered at Babi Yar, petitions



Babyn Yar massacre victims Esfir Ulanovskaya and her son, Adolf Ulanovsky. (Photo courtesy of BYHMC)

by citizens seeking legal recognition of relatives' deaths for inheritance, remarriage or financial support, and birth certificates from the 1920s and 1930s that helped identify children murdered alongside their parents.

One striking case is a 1946 legal file detailing the plea of Zindel

Kravetsky, who sought recognition of the deaths of his wife and three children: Aron, 8, Zoya, 6, and Vova, 4, all murdered at Babi Yar. Another record documents Rakhil Meirovna Kravets, born in 1863, who fled Korosten to Kyiv at the outbreak of the war, only to be murdered in the ravine.

Since the Russia-Ukraine war began on February 24, 2022, more than 2,000 existing records have been updated and corrected, BYHMC said in a press release. More than 300,000 visitors have visited the Babyn Yar memorial since the Russian invasion began, while more 600 educational tours have been conducted, it added.

"Babyn Yar, the symbol of the 'Holocaust by Bullets,' tells the story of more than two million Jews shot and thrown into mass graves across Eastern Europe," said March of the Living Israel CEO Revital Yakin Krakowsky. "We honor their memory and pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. We hope to march in Kyiv next year on the 85th anniversary of the massacre."



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.

SAVE THE DATE



CONGREGATION
B'NAI HARIM

JEWISH RESCUE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sunday, December 7
10:00am - 12:00pm
5349 Pocono Crest Road
Pocono Pines, PA 18350

Please join us for a fascinating program, The Jewish Rescue in the Philippines.

Our guests will be Dr. David Abramowitz and his wife, Cathryn who will bring us personal knowledge about Jewish life in the Philippines today, and a historical lesson from the WWII era. They will also share delicious Philippine foods!



President Manuel Quezon signing documents in 1937

In 1936, when reports of the Jewish persecution reached President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines, he vowed to take them in.

For more information and registration, please email:

JanetBnaiHarim@gmail.com

Entry fee:

\$10 per person, pay at the door
cash/check only

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

jewishnepa.org



570.961.2300

Byzantine-era gold coins unearthed near Sea of Galilee

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Israeli archaeologists have uncovered a Byzantine-era treasure of nearly 100 gold coins and earrings near the Sea of Galilee, the University of Haifa announced recently. The hoard, unearthed in July during excavations at the ancient city of Hippos (Sussita) and dating to the sixth century C.E., was discovered when a metal detector operator with the dig picked up a signal near a large stone at the site.



The hoard of gold and jewelry dating to the sixth century, unearthed during archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Hippos near the Sea of Galilee. (Photo by Dr. Michael Eisenberg/University of Haifa)

As the stone shifted between two walls, the signal grew stronger and gold coins began to emerge one after another. “The device went crazy. I couldn’t believe it – gold coins started appearing one after another,” said Edie Lipsman, the metal detector operator.

The find includes 97 pure gold coins and dozens of fragments of gold earrings inlaid with pearls, semi-precious stones and glass, the university said. “This is one of the largest hoards from the Byzantine period discovered on

dry land in Israel, and its uniqueness lies in the combination of jewelry and gold coins from the reigns of different emperors,” said University of Haifa expedition co-director Michael Eisenberg. “In addition, remnants of fabric were found on

some of the coins – a trace of the cloth pouch in which the hoard had been hidden.”

The coins date from the reign of Emperor Justin I (518-527 C.E.) to the early years of Emperor Heraclius (610-613 C.E.).

Founded by the Greek Seleucids on a hill about a mile east of the Sea of Galilee, the city of Hippos was a major Christian center and episcopal seat during the Byzantine period (330-636 C.E.), with at least seven active churches.

Fearing for their safety during the Arab conquest of 614 C.E., residents of many Christian cities, including Hippos, hid valuables in the hope of recovering them after the fighting. Although Hippos survived the Arab invasion, a devastating earthquake in 749 C.E. destroyed the city, which was subsequently abandoned.

“Gold is a noble metal, and when you find coins and jewelry nearly 1,400 years old that look new, it is a rare experience,” Eisenberg said.

Four thousand-year-old lamp wicks discovered in Israel

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – Oil-lamp wicks dating back four millennia, making them among the oldest ever discovered, have been unearthed in an archaeological dig in central Israel, the Israel Antiquities

Authority announced recently.

The ancient wicks were preserved inside clay lamps used for illumination in the Intermediate Bronze Age (c. 2500-2000 B.C.E.), according to the IAA. They were uncovered near the central

Israeli city of Yehud just north of Ben-Gurion International Airport during an excavation ahead of the establishment of a new neighborhood in the city. The find was especially rare due to its location in the humid coastal plain; wicks are generally destroyed by use or decompose in the soil.

“This is a unique discovery that we did not expect could ever be found in the moist Mediterranean climate; these wicks are among the few of their era known to us in the world,” according to IAA researchers Naama Sukenik and Yonah Maor. “Although wicks were a common product for lighting in the ancient world, the fact that they are made of organic fibers makes it difficult to discover them in an archaeological dig,” they added.

The lamps were found in ancient graves, as was common practice at the time, alongside other burial offerings, including various types of pottery, animal bones, metal weapons and jewelry, according to excavation directors Gilad Itach, Yossi Elisha and Yaniv Agmon.

“While these lamps must have been used to illuminate the underground, dark burial space during the burial ceremony itself, it seems that this was not their only function,” they said. “Just like today, thousands of years ago, the fire burning in a lamp symbolized the human soul. The common term we use today, ‘ner neshama,’ the flame of the soul, probably originated thousands of years ago.”

This study was published in the IAA scientific journal Atiqot.

PACE 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.

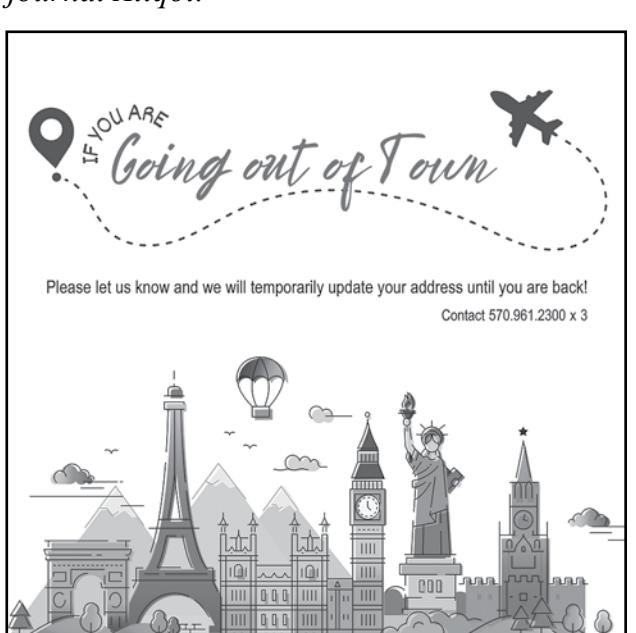
They also enable you to perpetuate your commitment to the Annual Campaign in a way that best achieves your own personal financial and estate planning goals.

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.)



Oil

Cook for 2-3 minutes on each side, or until tender when pierced with a pointed knife and nicely browned. If browning too quickly, reduce heat.

Drain on paper towels.

Serve hot or at room temperature.

PINEAPPLE SALSA (PAREVE)

Makes 1½ cups

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Always use fresh pineapple. Canned is too liquid. Cubed fresh pineapple is available in markets. It's more expensive but saves time.
- ◆ For a milder punch, remove the seeds and white pith from jalapeño peppers.
- ◆ Chop the onion, bell pepper and jalapeño pepper separately in a food processor.

1 cup pineapple cut into ½-inch dice

¼ cup finely chopped red onion

¼ cup red bell pepper, chopped

½ jalapeño pepper, finely chopped

2 Tbsp. snipped cilantro

2 Tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice

½ tsp. salt

Place all ingredients in a serving bowl. Mix gently.

Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

OVEN-FRIED SMELETS (PAREVE)

Make 4-6 servings

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Frozen smelts should be thawed, rinsed in cold water and patted dry before cooking.
- ◆ Substitute seasoned breadcrumbs or matzah meal for panko.

1 lb. smelts (about 8-10)

¼ cup all-purpose flour

2 Tbsp. panko breadcrumbs

½ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. pepper

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Spray a baking sheet with nonstick baking spray.

Rinse the smelts in cold water and pat dry. Set aside.

In a Ziploc bag, place the remaining ingredients. Add the smelts and shake to dredge the fish, covering all over.

Arrange on the prepared baking sheet. Spray with an olive-oil baking spray.

Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes or until nicely brown. Turn and bake 10 minutes longer.

Arrange on a platter and serve hot with lemon wedges.

GEFILTE FISH CROQUETTES (PAREVE)

Makes 4-6 servings

Cook's tips:

- ◆ Perfect for any leftover cooked fish such as salmon, haddock or cod.

◆ Freezes well.

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil, plus more for frying

½ medium onion, finely chopped

4 cups cooked flaked fish

½ cup mashed potatoes

3 Tbsp. ground almonds (optional)

2 eggs, beaten

½ to ¾ cup matzah meal

½ tsp. salt

¼ tsp. pepper

In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium heat. Add the onion. Cook until softened and lightly browned, for 3-4 minutes. Scrape into a mixing bowl.

Add the fish, mashed potatoes, almonds, eggs, half-cup matzah meal, salt and pepper. Mix well. The mixture should be firm enough to shape. If needed, add a little extra matzah meal.

Using an ice-cream scoop, form the mixture into balls and flatten them slightly. Chill in the fridge while heating oil.

In a large deep saucepan or deep fryer, heat about 1½ inches of oil over medium-high heat to 350°F. Gently slide croquettes into hot oil. Fry, turning, until browned all over. If browning too fast, reduce heat to medium. Drain on paper towels.

Serve hot or cold.

SUFGANIYOT (DAIRY)

Makes 15-18

Cook's tips:

- ◆ To make pareve, use a nondairy milk such as oat milk.
- ◆ To sour milk, add 2 teaspoons of white vinegar to 1 cup of milk. Let stand at room temperature for 10 minutes. Do not stir.

3 Tbsp. butter, softened

2 cups all-purpose flour

2 Tbsp. sugar

1 Tbsp. baking powder

1 cup buttermilk or sour milk

3 Tbsp. preserves or Nutella

Favorite oil for frying

Confectioners' sugar

In a medium bowl or food processor, rub or process the butter into the flour and sugar to resemble coarse breadcrumbs. If in processor, transfer to a bowl.

Stir in the baking powder. Make a well in the center. Mix in enough buttermilk to make a soft dough.

With floured hands, roll a heaping tablespoon

Continued from page 11
dough into a ball about 1½ inches in diameter.

Using the handle of a wooden spoon dipped in flour make an indentation large enough to hold ½ teaspoon preserves. Work dough around to seal preserves completely. Refrigerate while the oil is heating.

In a large deep saucepan or deep fryer, heat about 1½ inches of oil to 350°F. Gently slide dough balls into hot oil in batches, without crowding. Cook over medium heat, turning often until crisp and brown, about 4 minutes.

Drain on paper towels. Toss in confectioners' sugar and serve hot.

MINT CHOCOLATE COINS (DAIRY)

Makes 18-20

Cook's tip: Turn off the oven for the last 2 minutes of baking time. Cookies will continue to bake with residual heat.

1/3 cup butter at room temperature

½ cup sugar

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1 egg

1 cup all-purpose flour

1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder

9-10 chocolate peppermint wafers, each cut in half

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Spray a cookie sheet with nonstick cooking spray.

Beat the butter, sugar and vanilla until fluffy. Add the egg and about ½ cup of the flour and mix.

Add the remaining flour and cocoa. Mix well to make a stiff dough. No white streaks should remain. If the mixture is too soft, add a little more flour. Lightly flour a board.

Roll the dough into a 10-inch log. Cut into half-inch thick slices and place on the prepared cookie sheet.

Bake in preheated 350°F oven for 12 minutes. Remove from oven.

Place a piece of peppermint wafer onto each cookie. Return to the oven and bake for two minutes more.

Gently press the melted mint wafers into the cookies. Cool on a wire rack.

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.



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.

YOGALATES W/MEGAN MIZANTY
YOGA AND PILATES

Burn calories, fit and tone your body
 A mix of yoga poses and pilates strength training.

Bring a mat and water

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 Begins March 5th
 in the JCC Koppelman Auditorium

FREE for JCC members
 \$10 drop-in fee

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

The world is
an unstable
place.



We bring security.

Throughout Europe, violent attacks target Jewish people and Jewish institutions. Security is posted at synagogues. At Jewish day schools, five-year-olds file past armed guards to get to the playground. Jewish students arriving at college encounter toxic anti-Israel slogans.

Your UJA gift will help restore a sense of security. With your help, we can share expertise and funding to keep children safe at schools, and stand up against hatred so that Jews everywhere can walk without fear - into a synagogue or simply down the street.

**That's why there's UJA and the Federation.
And that's why we need you.**

The mission of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania is to rescue the imperiled, care for the vulnerable, support Israel and world Jewry, and revitalize and perpetuate Jewish life in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

I'm enclosing a gift of \$ _____ I'll pledge \$ _____ *

* One-time * Quarterly installments (1/4 of total) * Monthly installments (1/12 of total)

**2025-26 UJA Campaign
Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania
601 Jefferson Avenue, Scranton, PA 18510
Telephone: 570-961-2300 (ext. 3)**

Payment options

- Please bill me at the above address.
- Enclosed is my check payable to "UJA/Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania".
- On-line banking (designate your payments through your bank auto-draft account to "UJA/Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania").
- My company (_____) has a matching gift program.
- I'll obtain the form and forward it.

Authorized signature

Date

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