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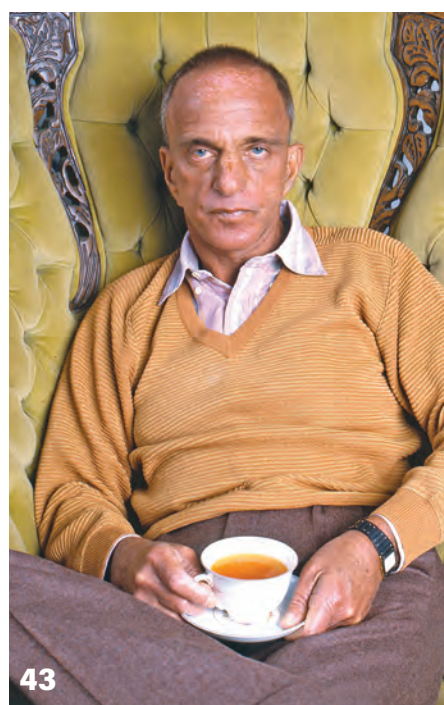
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ON THE COVER: Rebecca Kaplan in her Oakland office (Photo/Michael Fox)

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Annabeth Rosen *Fired, Broken, Gathered, Heaped*

JUL 25, 2019–JAN 19, 2020



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Annabeth Rosen, *Droove*, 2012. Slip over glazed and fired ceramic and rubber inner tube, 13 x 20 x 16 inches. Courtesy the artist; Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco; and P.P.O.W., New York. Photograph by Lee Fatherree.

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With the power out on Yom Kippur, local shuls improvised — and worried

SUE FISHKOFF | J. STAFF

Last week's power outages wreaked havoc in much of the Bay Area, particularly in Sonoma and Napa counties, where lights started to go out after midnight, Oct. 9, just in time for Yom Kippur.

Synagogues in the hardest-hit areas made it through Kol Nidre services without incident, but the next day was another story.

"The power went out in Napa around 1 a.m.," said Rabbi Elchonon Tenenbaum of Chabad of Napa, which like many local Chabads holds High Holiday services in a local hotel, in this case SpringHill Suites. "The next morning, we had to improvise. We moved services from the grand ballroom into the hallway. As it started to get dark, the hotel brought us lanterns and other things to help out."

While the Tenenbaums' home in downtown Napa kept its power, he said that was not the case for most of their congregants.

The hardest part, Tenenbaum said, was that the outage coincided with the two-year anniversary of the deadly wildfires that swept through the North Bay in 2017, leveling thousands of homes and businesses and leaving 44 people dead. Those fires broke out on Oct. 8, the first night of Sukkot. Now, again, it was a Jewish holiday, and fire was on everyone's minds.

"Listening to the winds last night, listening to it howling and gusting, it was definitely triggering," Tenenbaum said by phone. "We are all really anxious. It's very dry — anything could start a fire. A cigarette, a spark from a car. We're all hoping and praying that nothing happens."

There seemed to be little rhyme or reason to the pattern of the power outages, said those interviewed. The PG&E maps purporting to show the boundaries of the affected areas were constantly being updated and the schedule for shut-offs was a moving target.

Congregations Kol Shofar in Tiburon, Rodef Sholom in San Rafael and B'nai Israel in Vallejo were not affected. Neither was Congregation Beth Ami in Santa Rosa, situated in the heart of the 2017 fires.

Two miles away at Congregation Shomrei Torah, however, the lights went out at midnight after Kol Nidre. "We knew they would," said Rabbi Stephanie Kramer. "We scrambled all Tuesday afternoon to prepare."

Drew Weissman, an electrician and Shomrei congregant, managed to secure a generator in time for Yom Kippur services. That kept the lights on and the sound system working. His wife, Sarah, got dry ice to prevent the food for the break-fast from spoiling. Comcast was down, however, so the livestream of services didn't work. That meant congregants who were sick or otherwise housebound could not participate, Kramer said.

Without air-conditioning, the synagogue had to prop open its doors for a cross breeze, adding to security concerns. "But we had to keep the doors open, people were sweltering," she said.

Like Tenenbaum, Kramer invoked the memory of the 2017 wildfires. Shomrei Torah was ground zero for Jewish relief efforts during and after that disaster, hosting children's programs and family counseling and offering hot meals twice a day. Last week's events brought it all back for many.

"It was really hard for our community," said Kramer,

"It turned out to be very special and meaningful," she said. "In his sermon, the rabbi said, well, we can't read very well in the dark, so we'll have to pray from the heart."

Congregation Beth Shalom Napa Valley also made it through Kol Nidre and had a generator ready for Yom Kippur after the power was cut around 4 a.m. More than 200 people, most of whom had no power in their homes, showed up for services.

"So we had lights, and the refrigerator stayed cold; we had everything for the break-fast. We had bagels and lox and tuna fish and egg salad, and the wine bar was set up,"



Chabad of Sonoma County opened its new Joseph Weingarten center on Sept. 1 and held its first Yom Kippur there — in the dark.

who lost power in her home (as did Shomrei's Senior Rabbi George Gittleman). "So many people were triggered by the long lines at the gas stations, the wind, the fear."

The congregation already had planned to incorporate special prayers into this year's service, including an aliyah to the Torah for all those who lost homes and loved ones in 2017. "It was already on our minds, and this was just an added layer," she said.

Also in Santa Rosa, the Sonoma County Chabad Jewish Center lost power soon after Kol Nidre services ended. It was the first High Holidays in a new building, said Altie Wolvovsky, who runs the center with her husband, Rabbi Mendel Wolvovsky.

"We knew it was coming, so we got battery-operated lanterns and extra candles," she said. As the outage continued through Yom Kippur and darkness fell, the security guards brought more lanterns and fresh batteries.

said congregational president Ellyn Elson, who had all synagogue calls forwarded to her home phone.

They used paper plates and flatware, she said, because they didn't think they'd be able to wash dishes. "But they were all compostable. We try to be sustainable."

Contingency planning continued while the power was still out. Shomrei Torah even put up its sukkah during the outage — with battery-operated tools, of course — while Altie Wolvovsky was praying that the Chabad center's meat for Sukkot would stay frozen.

Beth Shalom's Elson knew that as inconvenient as the power outage had been, the situation could have been a lot worse.

"It's very windy here, I'll tell you," she said on Oct. 10. "I heard there were 70 mile-per-hour winds in the hills. We definitely could have had a fire." ■

"Listening to the winds howling and gusting, it was definitely triggering. We are all really anxious."

Rabbi Elchonon Tenenbaum,
Chabad of Napa

Our Crowd

Spotlight on the Community

COMINGS & GOINGS

After 12 years as CEO of Jewish LearningWorks, **David Waksberg** will retire in June. **Dana Sheanin**, the organization's chief strategy officer, will take over the position. According to a press release, Waksberg has shown strong support for educators, professional development and the Jewish Community Library, one of the organization's signature programs. Formerly known as the Bureau of Jewish Education, Jewish LearningWorks sponsors a range of classes, workshops and other Jewish programs in the Bay Area. Sheanin has been at the organization since 2016. She has overseen professional development programs and created Voices for Good, a women's leadership initiative.



(Above) The organizing committee of "Sukkot Under the Stars," a fundraiser for the Addison-Penzak JCC; (clockwise from left) Michael G. Pappas, Rev. Ken Westray, Rabbi Allen Bennett, Bishop Marc Andrus, Steven Geiger and Rita Semel at the Mensch Award event. (Photo/Courtesy Steven Geiger)



David Waksberg

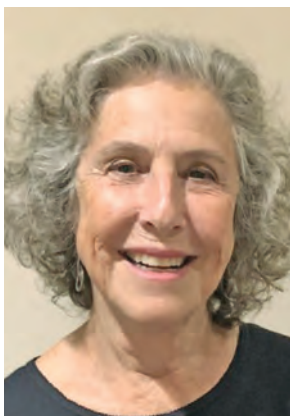


Dana Sheanin

Emunah's religious school, led Shabbat services and a Passover seder at San Quentin Prison, and served the community in a host of other capacities.

Executive director of San Francisco Hillel **Ollie Benn** will step down in December to become director of philanthropy and social impact at the Jewish Community Foundation San Diego. Benn won several awards from Hillel International during his five-year tenure and expanded the organization beyond the San Francisco State University campus, supporting revitalized students groups at University of San Francisco, UC San Francisco and UC Hastings. **Rachel Nilson Ralston**, who has served for nine years as S.F. Hillel's associate executive director, will be the interim executive director.

Laurie Beijen of San Francisco has been elected to the National



Daphna Noily



Ollie Benn



Laurie Beijen



Rabbi Michael Lerner

Board of InterfaithFamily. She has served on the organization's Bay Area Leadership Council for two years. She joins Paul Cohen of Mill Valley, currently the national board chair.

HONORS

Rabbi Michael Lerner will be honored on Nov. 21 with the Interna-



tional Association of Sufism Humanitarian Award at the organization's annual "Inspiration Dinner" at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael. Emcee will be **Michael Krasny**, host of the daily Forum current-affairs show on KQED. Lerner is the co-founder and longtime editor of Tikkun magazine, spiritual leader of the Beyt Tikkun "synagogue without walls" in Berkeley, and chair of the Network of Spiritual Progressives. The annual award is presented to "individuals whose life and work embody the highest values of humanity and offer a model of engaged creativity and outstanding contributions to our community and our culture," according to the event website.

Longtime Jewish community leader **Rita Semel** was honored on Oct. 6 with the Mensch Award from the Mensch International Foundation, which seeks to create "a tolerant social order of values which respects minority rights and freedom of speech and worship." Semel, 98, was director of the S.F.-based Jewish Community Relations Council, is a founding member and past chair of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and trustee emerita of the Graduate Theological Union's board of trustees. She was also a reporter and editor at the Jewish Bulletin, as this publication formerly was known. The award program took place at St. Vincent de Paul Church in San Francisco and was hosted by Rev. Kenneth Westray. Speakers included Rabbi Allen Bennett, retired leader of Temple Israel in Alameda, Bishop Marc Andrus of the Episcopal Diocese of California and Michael G. Pappas, executive director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council. The award was presented by Steve Geiger, founder and director of the Mensch International Foundation. Semel will be honored again prior to Friday night services on Nov. 1 at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

American Jewish Committee San Francisco will honor **Kelly M. Dermody** and **Nanci L. Clarence** at a dinner at the InterContinental in San Francisco on Nov. 6. Dermody is San Francisco managing partner at Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein and will be honored for her "dedication to diversity, inclusivity, and human dignity in the areas of

(Right) New Israel Fund CEO Daniel Sokatch in conversation with Ruth Messinger. (Photo/New Israel Fund-Flickr); (far right) Tawonga program manager Meg Adler (left) with her b'nai mitzvah orientation staff. (Photo/Courtesy Camp Tawonga)



pay equity, #MeToo, and unfair employment practices." She will receive the Judge Learned Hand Award, named for Judge Billings Learned Hand (1872-1961), who was known for his defense of civil liberties. The award honors members of the legal profession who embody his values. Clarence is a founder partner at Clarence Dyer & Cohen. She will receive the AJC Pursuit of Justice Award for her "civil rights advocacy and embodiment of legal excellence." California Attorney General Xavier Becerra will deliver the keynote address.

HAPPENINGS

Members of the Los Gatos-area Russian-speaking Jewish community gathered on Oct. 13 at the home of **Lilia and Vlad Gorshteyn** for "Sukkot Under the Stars," a fundraiser for the Addison-Penzak JCC. "We have a large Russian Jewish community here," said Gorshteyn,

adding that the money raised will be earmarked for expanding Russian-language Jewish programming at the JCC. Some 55 people crowded into her sukkah for the festivities, including **Lael Gray**, the JCC's new CEO.

Camp Tawonga kicked off its fourth cohort of 68 b'nai mitzvah students with an event on Sept. 22 at Urban Adamah. B'nai mitzvah program manager **Meg Adler** and Tawonga executive director **Jamie Simon** led the event with music by former longtime Tawonga song leader **Isaac Zones**. Students and their families created "sacred family timelines," charting meaningful moments in their lives and in



their families.

New Israel Fund held its annual Guardians of Democracy gala fundraiser on Sept. 22 in San Francisco, the city where the organization was founded 40 years ago. Some 500 supporters turned out, donating half a million dollars for NIF's work promoting equality and democracy for all Israel's citizens. Social justice icon Ruth Messinger, global ambassador for American Jewish World Service, delivered the keynote address, and attendees also heard from Gallanter Prize winner Maisam Jaljuli and honorees Laura Saunders and NIF CEO **Daniel Sokatch**. ■

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Getting creative and hyperlocal with lulavs and etrogs

JEW IN THE PEW | DAVID A.M. WILENSKY | J. STAFF

The lulav and the etrog. One week a year, we shake this magic rainstick and its citrus companion in the air. During the harvest festival of Sukkot, we orient ourselves upon the Earth and in nature by waving them in the cardinal directions, then up and down. It is a dance. In Jewish liturgy, dominated by singing and reciting, this embodied ritual is a total outlier.

More properly called the arba minim (four species), it is a collection of one palm frond (lulav), branches of myrtle and willow, and a citron (aka etrog). Why these four species? The short answer is because the Bible says so. For the long version, I waded into the issue this year, seeking out the most serious lulav-ers among us, those who source their arba minim locally. Some seek out palm, etrog, etc. grown nearby, while others get creative, selecting four indigenous species to replace the traditional plants.

Thus, I found myself at the Berkeley home of Rabbi Sara Shendelman, examining foliage and fruit-bearing trees. There

Shendelman noted that each of the four plants symbolizes part of the body: straight and sturdy palm frond for the spine; oblong etrog for the heart; willow leaves for lips; and myrtle for eyes. Indeed, the bay leaves are eye-shaped. So that checks out.

In a much newer trend, some Jews are thinking about plants indigenous to where they live, total replacements for the traditional plants. I called my friend Sarah Chandler, a Jewish environmental and food educator in New York. She lived and worked for five years at the Isabella Freedman Center, a Jewish retreat and environmental center in Connecticut. There, she created a variety of local lulav variants.

"The first time, we just got creative and got something round like an apple; something with evergreen-like leaves. So I used a fir; something tall and long — my favorite is a sumac," she told me. "Willows grow everywhere in the northeast, so that's easy to find."

One year, she used a walnut for an etrog. They ripen

bookoflulav) contextualized the creation of local lulavs as a leftist political act. Rather than importing "expensive ritual items produced by a very small number of private companies" in far-away lands, the authors advocate selecting your arba minim from local plants.

"The Book of Lulav" includes instructions for four local lulavs: Detroit, Philly, North Carolina and California. The California lulav, created by Gabi Kirk, represents four different California ecosystems: the coast is represented by redwood, a stand-in for willow; valley/foothill chaparral is represented by oak, a stand-in for palm; mountain by Jeffrey pine or bay laurel for myrtle (like Shendelman); and desert by prickly pear fruit. In a follow-up article last year (jewishcurrents.org/decolonize-sukkot), Kirk suggests a specifically East Bay lulav, similar to the California lulav, but using a pine cone instead of a prickly pear.

While I was at Shendelman's house, her friend Madeline



(Left) Rabbi Sara Shendelman holds two Buddha's hand citrons grown in her backyard. (Above) Shendelman with a homegrown lulav and etrog. (Photos/David A.M. Wilensky)

is a palm tree in front of her house, a willow tree across the street in Grove Park and, in her backyard, three varieties of etrog trees and a bay laurel, which she uses as a replacement for myrtle.

"Ritual allows your ego to relax, and you can invite your higher self in," she told me. "I feel the richness of Jewish tradition. It has roots in us." Roots indeed. All over her crowded backyard.

The etrog varieties are Ashkenazi (yellow dimpled skin, sometimes with touches of green, etrogs you'll see in the hands of most American Jews), Sephardic (greener and smoother) and the most glorious etrogs I've ever seen, the Buddha's hand citron. This Asian variety looks like the etrog as reimagined by H.R. Giger. At one end, it splits off into a dozen or so tentacles ("Fingers," Shendelman corrected me). Each one looks different, with a personality all its own. On one, the fingers were close together. Another was like a mutant octopus with the fingers going off every which way.

Shendelman brought up the term *avodah*, usually translated as prayer or work. To Shendelman, it means devotion. And at this time of year, she devotes herself to the environment by growing these prayerful plants. "It's all local. And it's carbon-free."

What, I wondered, makes bay a good stand-in for myrtle?

around the same time of year, and when they first drop from the tree, they look rather like a small etrog, covered in a smooth, yellow skin.

Over the years, Chandler got further into the details. Not all willows are acceptable, she told me. The biblical text references specifically "willows of the brook," that is, willows that grow near water. So the common weeping willow isn't an exact match.

Ironically, I reached Chandler while she was in Brooklyn shopping for lulavs and etrogs grown far away and shipped to the United States. She manages school gardens and rarely buys any non-local produce, so she gets a pass this year.

"There's a mitzvah to shake the lulav, but there's also a mitzvah to take it," she reminded me.

"If I take them from a dude on Avenue J, rather than taking them from the land, I'm relying on a lot of intermediaries. But when I can, the experience of taking them myself brings me a lot of joy in the season of joy," she said. (Sukkot, which runs Oct. 13 – 20 this year, is called *z'man simchateinu*, our time of joy.) "It does disturb me that I don't know the conditions of the farmers who grew these things or how much pesticides — though I'm pretty sure there are a lot of pesticides on the etrogim."

A 2017 zine called "The Book of Lulav" (tinyurl.com/

Prager stopped by to pick up her arba minim. "Oh, give me one!" she said with delight upon seeing the Buddha's hand. "They're gorgeous. And they smell amazing!" Indeed, they are the best-smelling etrogs I've ever encountered.

Prager has been getting her arba minim from Shendelman for years. "I used to order them from a store. They're sprayed with pesticides, shipped in plastic from overseas," Prager told me. "But one year, Sara said she's got all this stuff, so I came running."

While I was there, I figured I might as well pick up my arba minim. I quickly picked out my willow, palm and bay, but dithered over which etrog I wanted. Shendelman helpfully pulled out her divining pendulum, held it over the two I was considering, and pronounced the one on my right the best etrog for me. Good enough.

Shaking it for the first time in the sukkah at Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco, on the first day of Sukkot, I was pleased. My lulav was local. It was unruly, not tidy like all the store-bought ones held by others around me. And I had selected it myself. I shook it with joy. ■

David A.M. Wilensky is J's online editor. Jew in the Pew is a regular feature. Send tips about ritual and spiritual goings-on to david@jweekly.com

Learn more about BRCA gene, join a study — or do both

MAYA MIRSKY | J. STAFF

Oncologist Pamela Munster wants Jews to know something about cancer risk.

“In Ashkenazi Jews, the risk for BRCA mutation is almost 1 in 50,” she said, referring to a gene mutation that dramatically increases the likelihood of certain cancers. “That means a lot of people could have this mutation.”

Munster is co-leader of UCSF’s Center for BRCA Research, part of the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, and will be speaking at two upcoming events at Jewish venues.

BRCA is a type of gene that everyone has, but some people have mutations in those genes that are estimated to increase the risk of breast cancer by 60 to 80 percent and ovarian cancer by 20 to 40 percent. And certain groups — including Ashkenazi Jews — are more likely to have the mutation than others.

“It doesn’t mean you have cancer,” Munster said. “It means you’re at risk for cancer.”

Munster, who is researching how to detect and treat cancers caused by BRCA mutations, will be spreading her message at the annual Pink Power Day at the Peninsula JCC in Foster City on Oct. 27, and as part of a panel at Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael on Nov. 13. She uses public appearances to disseminate facts about BRCA mutations, urge people to get tested and clear up myths and misconceptions.

One of those misconceptions is that BRCA mutations affect only women.

“It’s perceived as a ‘breast cancer’ gene,” she said, but men are at risk as well. “It’s just much harder to get men into health care.”

Ashkenazi men with the mutation are not only at a much higher risk for prostate and pancreatic cancer, they also have an increased risk of breast cancer. So they need to get tested too, Munster said, and not only for their own health — men can pass the gene down to their children just as women can.

“Hopefully this is now dispelled, that [BRCA] genes come through the mother.”

Nor is it just Jews who need to pay attention. Munster, who is not Jewish, has the mutation herself — something she found out nearly 15 years into her career as a cancer researcher.

“I was pretty much caught completely off guard,” she said.

That’s why testing is key. And so is research.

UCSF is currently looking to enroll a total of 500 Ashkenazi Jews in a study about the gene mutation. In all, 30 genes

will be analyzed, including BRCA1 and BRCA2, and genetic counseling support will be available with every test.

More than half of the study slots are still open, according to Sydney Pietrzak, program manager at the Center for BRCA Research. One need not have cancer diagnoses in their immediate family to participate.

UCSF staff will be on hand at the upcoming events at the Peninsula JCC and Rodef Sholom to enroll people (a saliva sample is required). Information is also available on the study website at tinyurl.com/ucsf-brca or by calling (415) 885-7604.

Julie Mak, a genetic counselor at the Diller Cancer Center, knows that many people fear getting tested, and says that’s understandable.

“People get really nervous, too, when they start talking about this,” she said.

But she points out that a 1-in-50 or 1-in-40 chance for Ashkenazi Jews (the statistics vary according to studies) means many people do not have the mutation. And if they do, it’s better to have the information earlier rather than later.

Munster said a diagnosis of a BRCA mutation has ramifications both for prevention and treatment. Currently, women over 50 are advised to get annual mammograms. But “if you have BRCA2, that’s wrong,” Munster said. “You should be screened 25 and up.”

On the other hand, women without the mutation may not even need annual mammograms.

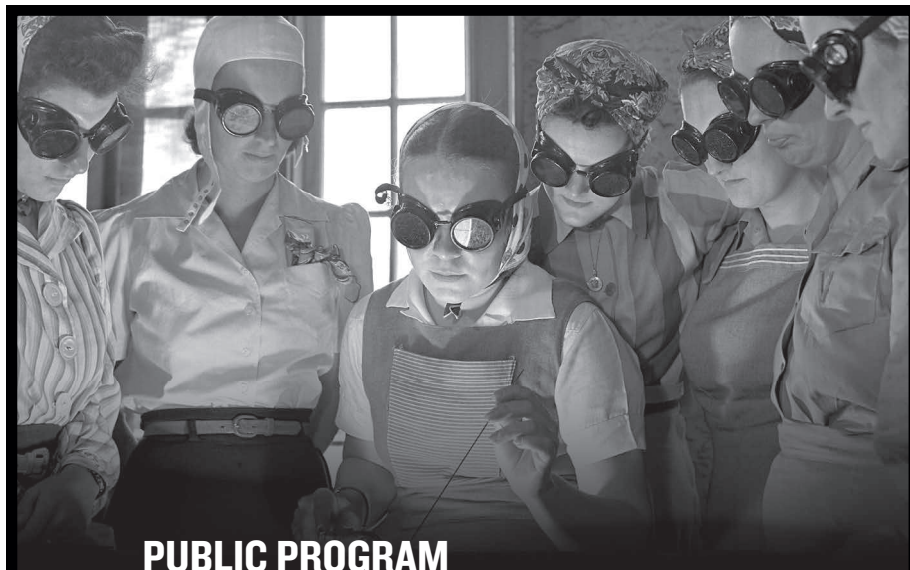
It changes how a cancer is treated, too. Not all patients who’ve received a cancer diagnosis have had a genetic test — but they should, Munster said.

“It affects treatment, it affects the surgical approach, it affects prevention,” she said. “It’s a significant difference.”

That’s why Munster continues to be a sought-after speaker for educational events about BRCA mutations. Although there’s still not enough testing, Munster said, she has seen growing awareness of BRCA mutations.

“I think in the last three to four years there’s a pretty significant uptake in this,” she said. “But still not enough.” ■

Pink Power Day 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City. Free. Cancer prevention speakers 12 to 1:30 p.m. tinyurl.com/pjcc-pink
BRCA Awareness Panel 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13 at Congregation Rodef Sholom, 170 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. Free. tinyurl.com/rodef-brca



PUBLIC PROGRAM

HOW DID AMERICAN WOMEN ACT? Heroism on the Home Front

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

6:30 P.M.

The Wing
115 Sansome Street
Suite 200
San Francisco

Women’s roles changed significantly in World War II America. Many were conscripted to join the war effort and wielded new power through jobs outside the home.

But, their influence wasn’t limited to factory floors. Some women used their social and political positions to fight back against isolationism and sound the alarm about the plight of Europe’s Jews. A select few even put their lives at risk to organize acts of rescue.

Join us to explore the role of the everyday woman during this era, as well as the mindset and motivations of a few extraordinary individuals who dared to act, including Lois Gunden, Edith Rogers, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

This program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required at ushmm.org/events/women-sf. For more information, please contact the Western Regional Office at 310.556.3222 or western@ushmm.org.

Light refreshments will be served.

Co-presented with

NWWM NATIONAL
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Photo: Women attend an airplane construction class at a vocational school in DeLand, Florida, in April 1942. *Courtesy of the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC*

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Oakland City Council's Rebecca Kaplan known for breaking political barriers

COVER STORY | GABE STUTMAN | J. STAFF

At 29, Rebecca Kaplan decided to run for Oakland City Council. She was a Stanford Law graduate and had volunteered on Sen. Ted Kennedy's re-election campaign in college, but still, she was an unconventional candidate for citywide office. She was an out lesbian, she preferred wearing suits to skirts, she was Jewish, and she was a proud partisan, even though Oakland city councilors aren't affiliated with political parties.

"Everyone knows I am running as a Green," Kaplan wrote in the Spring 2000 edition of "Synthesis/Regeneration," a publication of the progressive Green Party. "This time there is a real choice — there is a candidate running who is not beholden to corporate interests, and who will put the people of our city first!"

Kaplan lost that election, but not without earning 44 percent of the vote and endorsements from Ralph Nader, Noam Chomsky and ACORN. It was a campaign run "with no money," in a year in which an anti-gay marriage ballot measure, Proposition 22, passed easily.

Running for office was "the most fun, exciting, all-consuming, exasperating, frustrating, time-consuming, exhausting and wonderful thing I have done," she wrote in the

mayor and came in third, and in 2014 she finished second. In 2018 she decided to sit out the race and focus on her agenda on the city council. With a broad and diverse constituent base and more than a decade of experience in Oakland politics, many say Kaplan is a likely candidate for mayor in 2022 when Libby Schaaf reaches her term limit.

During her interview with J. at City Hall, Kaplan, a Jewish day school graduate from Canada, wore a wool vest over a blue button-down shirt with slacks. She was flanked in her office by her loyal chief of staff, Julie Wedge, who typed on a laptop. (Wedge sunnily answers the phone "Hey, boss" when Kaplan calls.) She wore no jewelry except for a mezuzah, slung from a silver chain around her neck.

Kaplan came out when she was 16. She's described herself as both lesbian and bi and is gender nonconforming — recently she's begun sporting a healthy patch of fuzz under her chin. When she first entered politics, she had friends who urged her to dress differently, less "butch" and more "fem." "You should wear a skirt, you should wear pearls," Kaplan said, mimicking her friends. "If you go like this, the straight people will freak out and they won't vote for you, and you'll lose!" There aren't many butch women on

under the headline, "Lesbian Candidate for Oakland Mayor Gains Surprise Allies."

Even for Oakland, Kaplan fashions herself a left-wing progressive, but one who relies heavily on "data and evidence." She's attacked Schaaf for not doing enough to combat homelessness. She's argued for more independence for the city's police commission, which oversees the scandal-ridden force. In 2016 she helped levy steep impact fees on developers building market-rate housing to raise revenue for affordable housing and infrastructure.

Though firmly on the left, Kaplan resists being characterized as an ideologue. She said her policy positions are informed by two things: "real-world" experience, and data and evidence. On facial recognition technology, for example, she cited failure rates from academic studies in proposing a ban on its use by Oakland police (the ban passed earlier this year). Her support for single-payer health care, she said, comes from breaking her leg in Canada.

"I'm not saying that to prove that I'm left enough," she said about backing universal health care. "I've had the experience of what it's like to go in and get treated, where they don't stop you on your way in during a medical emergency



Rebecca Kaplan being interviewed by local media during her 2014 run for Oakland mayor, and with Stacey Abrams in spring 2018, when Abrams was running for governor of Georgia. (Photos/Rebecca Kaplan-Facebook)

"I live in the Bay Area where people look at you funny if you talk about the Bible. But I do it anyway."

Synthesis/Regeneration essay. The campaign would augur a political career that, 19 years later, is reimagining how a leader of a major American city can look and sound, and how far that person can go to realize a progressive vision.

J. spoke to Kaplan last month on the heels of a job promotion. In January, her colleagues on the eight-member city council elected her president, making her the first openly LGBT person to occupy the role. She now quarterback meetings under the stately honorific "madame president" and is charged with presenting a city council budget, among other responsibilities.

Kaplan, 49, is in her third consecutive term in her at-large seat, representing the entire city. In 2010 she ran for

the national stage who don't "tone it down" at least a little, she pointed out. She gave that view serious consideration.

"But then I also realized that actually I have to run as me," she said. "And so I'm just going to run as me. And if the people don't want to be represented by me, that's their choice. It's a democracy."

It turns out the people of Oakland do want to be represented by Kaplan. In 2008 she became the youngest and first openly LGBT Oakland City Council member. In 2016, her most recent election, she cruised to victory with 51.9 percent of the vote, more than the next four closest finishers combined. And she's made ripples in the national press. In 2010 the New York Times covered Kaplan's first mayoral bid

to check your financials."

Kaplan has prestigious credentials — a bachelor's from MIT and a J.D. from Stanford — but operates with a touch of showmanship and flair, useful in the colorful world of Oakland politics. On Sept. 17, her 49th birthday, she hosted a ukulele performance by a lesbian folk duo during a city council meeting. One of her first official acts as president, at a Jan. 22 council meeting, was to skip the Pledge of Allegiance, opting instead for an a cappella performance from a local musical artist. The move roiled some conservatives and traditionalists, leading the Mercury News to wonder: "Does that mean the longstanding patriotic tradition of pledging allegiance to the flag is a thing of the past?"

It wasn't the first time Kaplan had openly protested the pledge: In 2016 she stayed seated at a council meeting in solidarity with Colin Kaepernick, the former 49ers quarterback who gained global notoriety (and the ire of President Trump) for his kneeling protests against police brutality.

Kaplan eventually brought back the pledge to city council meetings. But she modified it: After "with liberty and justice for all," she added the word "someday." "If you add 'someday' at the end it changes the whole thing," she explained from the dais. "We're not telling a lie about the current conditions of justice, we're telling an invocation about the conditions of justice we seek."

Kaplan grew up in Hamilton, Ontario, just over the border from Niagara Falls. The oldest of three, she attended the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, an Orthodox school, where she studied Torah and Talmud in Hebrew and Aramaic. Her parents were not devout, "they just really wanted me to get a good Jewish education," she said. For high school she went on to CHAT, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Kaplan was a voracious Torah student. She says she was in the advanced class in elementary school. "I was really into it," she said. At 13, her first job was teaching Torah classes to Hebrew school students who didn't attend day school. She was the only one of her siblings to choose a Jewish high school. Studying Talmud prepared her for law school, she says. "I was like, a) it's not in Aramaic, and b) there's only two opinions, not 20." Today's she's a member of Kehilla Community Synagogue and attends Queer Talmud Camp in West Marin each year, a program of the learning organization Svava.

Kaplan wears a kippah regularly. She had always done so in shul, but started wearing one in her daily life in 2017 after the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville (which she referred to as "the white supremacist hoo-ha in Virginia").

After "the 'Jews will not replace us' march," she said, "I decided to start wearing it all the time. Because — and I don't know if I can say this in your publication — but f— them," she said.

She recites Bible verses in her daily life, including at city council meetings. It can raise eyebrows among her friends and associates. "I live in the Bay Area where people look at you funny if you talk about the Bible," she said. "But I do it anyway."

Demographics are shifting, but Oakland remains a majority African American city. Its scores of black churches, many of them Baptist, are pillars of the community and essential constituencies for anyone seeking citywide office. While black churchgoers, in general socially conservative, traditionally do not line up to support LGBT candidates, Kaplan has never found much purchase in that view.

In 2016, precinct-by-precinct returns from Kaplan's successful re-election bid show she performed well in East Oakland, where many of the city's black neighborhoods and churches are located. In most of those precincts she beat the second-place finisher, Bruce Quan, by more than 30 percentage points.

Her appeal to black voters, and members of black churches specifically, stems partly from her upbringing learning Torah. "We can go chapter and verse, back and forth," she said. "The black churches know their Torah backwards and forwards. Even more than the white churches.

"I think that's an important part of how it was that this Green Jewish lesbian got the support of all these black church leaders," she said. "We can start by talking Bible together."

During her interview with J., she referenced the Bible at least three times, with citations. She said her politics are "intertwined" with Jewish theology, particularly when it comes to helping the poor. About 19 percent of Oaklanders live in poverty, according to the U.S. Census, and the city is in the midst of an affordable housing crisis, with the vast majority of low-income households spending more than half their money on rent. Homelessness is soaring.

"God is not impressed with your fasting and wailing and praying unless you're taking action to help people," she said, paraphrasing Isaiah 58. "And then shall your light break forth. And then will God answer you."

"I think a lot of people who aren't intimately familiar with [Jewish theology] assume it's just kind of a symbolic, philosophical thing," she said, jabbing her finger on the table for emphasis. "Like — no. It actually says you have to help the poor. You can't just pray for the poor. You have to actually take action."

Her progressive vision isn't always celebrated, particularly within Oakland's old guard. She's been criticized for not being tough enough on left-wing activists, or telling people "what they want to hear." During the Occupy Wall Street movement in 2012, Kaplan opposed a measure to toughen policing against Occupy protesters, siding with "loud protesters" over city officials, San Francisco Chronicle opinion writer Chip Johnson wrote.

"It's interesting when people throw out words like appeasement," Kaplan told J. "Is it only a critique if you care about progressive issues, like affordable housing? As opposed to, say, giving away land and city resources to billionaire developers?"

"I recognize my job is to represent all the people of Oakland," she said. They "care about the poor, they care about police brutality. So for me, that's the job."

There's "a lot I like about Bernie Sanders" on the national stage, Kaplan said, but her approach to politics can look a bit more like Elizabeth Warren's in the way she couples left-wing populism with a scrupulous approach to policymaking. She can be cautious — one explanation for her 2014 mayoral defeat was that "progressives didn't buy the depth of her commitment," Sonoma State political science professor David McCuan told the East Bay Times.

Earlier this month Kaplan announced a new policy to address the need for affordable housing: extending the hours at the building permit desk to 7 p.m. "We know Oakland has a housing crisis and we [need] to build more housing," she said via press release. "It was critical to fight for extended hours at the permit desk to accommodate working people" who want to build out their homes.

City politicians often take small steps in the face of big problems. But Kaplan has taken some giants leaps, too. In 2016 she championed steep fees on luxury housing developers, levying impact fees of up to \$24,000 per market-rate unit, depending on the neighborhood, with revenues going toward affordable housing nonprofits. It has helped raise around \$80 million so far, she said. Last year, Kaplan co-sponsored a public land use measure that would require the city to give 100 percent of proceeds from the sale of vacant lots to affordable housing development, and to offer to lease city-owned land to affordable housing nonprofits first. The city council passed the measure in December.

Neither measure, Kaplan pointed out, has been seen through — she's accused the mayor's office of slow-walking



Rebecca Kaplan is expected to run for Oakland mayor in 2022. (Photo/Michael Fox)

the distribution of the housing impact fees fund and the execution of the public land measure. "I think they'd rather sell the land to whoever," she said about the city's unused lots. "Big-money people."

Kaplan and Schaaf, the Democrat establishment-backed mayor who starred in a 2017 Sundance documentary and gained national notice for sparring with President Trump over immigration, have had their public disagreements, too. This year they differed widely (by about \$100 million) on their two-year budget proposals — Kaplan's, backed by labor unions, rejected a plan to cut 8 parks maintenance jobs, expanded services for the homeless and included additional funding for wildfire damage prevention. It was criticized by the mayor's office as overestimating city revenues.

"It is far more fun to spend money, it's more popular," Schaaf told the San Francisco Chronicle. "But that's not the responsible thing to do for Oakland." Kaplan was quick to point out that the budget approved in June had \$87 million more in expenditures than Schaaf's original proposal, and passed unanimously.

Kaplan sat out the mayor's race in 2018, supporting the activist, playwright and radio show host Cat Brooks instead. Schaaf cruised to re-election, more than doubling Brooks' vote count. Kaplan said she would not rule out a run for mayor in 2022, but for now she's focused on the more immediate future — her legislative priorities this year, and holding her council seat in next year's elections. "I think we have a lot to accomplish in life, in terms of the work left to do," she said. "Specifically, Oakland is way behind on affordable housing production.

"People ask me, Are you running for mayor?" she said. "Before I do anything in 2022, I have to run in 2020." As for her political future, she said, "I think that remains an open question." ■

"I'm just going to run as me. And if the people don't want to be represented by me, that's their choice. It's a democracy."

Mexico's top diplomat in S.F. speaks to Jewish community

GABE STUTMAN | J. STAFF

Remedios Gómez Arnau, Mexico's S.F.-based consul general since May, told a group of local Jewish leaders that she hopes to "change the narrative" regarding Mexico and Mexicans.

Americans' perception of Mexicans "usually is focused on negative things," she said at an Oct. 7 lunch forum hosted by the San Francisco branch of the American Jewish Committee. "But if you only focus on the negative side, you don't have the whole picture."

Gómez Arnau touted Mexicans' contribution to the U.S. tax base, their indefatigable work ethic and international trade deals that boost the economies of both nations. She said she hopes to harness business innovation in the Bay Area and match U.S. companies with Mexican talent.

Diplomatically, she declined to speculate on why Latinos are often portrayed in what she perceives to be a negative light.

"I don't want to blame a specific person or specific remarks," she said. "I think this is historical, and I think it's time to start changing what has been happening for so many years."

Gómez Arnau said she serves almost 1 million Mexican-born constituents in Northern California and Hawaii. She's been a Mexican diplomat to the United States since 2001, with previous posts in Atlanta, San Diego and Raleigh, North Carolina.

Noting there are 40,000 to 50,000 Jews in Mexico, according to demographic estimates, Gómez Arnau lauded her country's welcoming attitude toward the Jewish community. Last year, Mexico City elected its first Jewish mayor (and first female mayor), Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo.

While anti-Semitic incidents are few, a 2017 report from the Anti-Defamation League showed that "anti-Semitic attitudes" in Mexico had experienced a "sharp rise" in conjunction with "a faltering economy." The most commonly held stereotype was that "Jews have too much power in the business world," held by 56 percent of respondents, an increase from 40 percent three years earlier.

Gómez Arnau was joined at the forum by Sara Velten, a Mexican Jew based in the Bay Area as senior director of philanthropy at the Opportunity Fund. She spoke about her experience as a Jew in Mexico and joined Gómez Arnau in her aim to "change the narrative" surrounding Latinos. She also said she hopes Latino interest groups might take a page out of the playbook of Jewish Americans.

"We're not very well organized," Velten admitted. "That's something that we don't

have in common with the Jewish community."

She said, for example, that in the event of a public anti-Semitic attack, or an anti-LGBT incident, there is a corresponding public outcry. But how about "when the Latino community was attacked," as it was during the 2016 presidential election? "Crickets," she said.

"We need to change that," said Velten, who co-founded a nonprofit in Texas to expand educational opportunities for Latinos. "And the only way to do that is by starting on the local level, and then [creating] networks."

During the Q&A portion of the event, held at the Google Community Space on the Embarcadero, Gómez Arnau was asked to weigh in on Israel, though she mostly dodged the question. Last year, after populist Andrés Manuel López Obrador

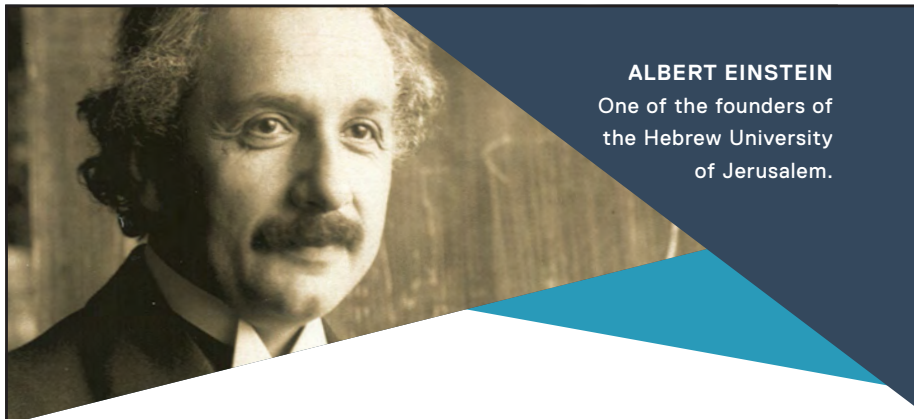


Consul General of Mexico in San Francisco Remedios Gómez Arnau addresses an audience at the "Building Bridges" forum Oct. 7. (Photo/Gabe Stutman)

was elected president of Mexico, the Jerusalem Post wondered if the "golden age" of Mexico-Israel relations that existed under Enrique Peña Nieto, president from 2012 to 2018, would come to an end. AMLO, as he is known, has never been to Israel and is said to be focused on domestic issues.

"I'm not an expert on those relations," Gómez Arnau said of the Mexico-Israel dynamic. "I know that we have a good relationship."

Gómez Arnau said she always has cultivated relationships with Jewish groups in her various posts in the United States. "I think it's mutually beneficial," she said. "We can work on behalf of our communities." ■



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Governor signs law to protect vulnerable targets of hate

GABE STUTMAN | J. STAFF

Two days after a deadly shooting near a synagogue in Halle, Germany, the third such highly visible attack by radical right-wing extremists this year, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law that Jewish and other legislators in Sacramento hope will improve safety at vulnerable places of worship across the state.

AB 1548, signed by the governor on Oct. 11, “establishes the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)” — a state funding initiative meant to “harden soft targets,” such as synagogues, mosques, community centers and schools.

The NSGP itself is not new. The program began in 2015 as a line item in the state budget, and its funding levels have fluctuated from year to year. Over four years it has paid out \$4.5 million in grants, but this year, the governor revised the 2019-2020 budget after the Poway attack to pour \$15 million into the program.

Citing a rise in hate crimes in California, the governor said in a release that it was urgent to “act to defend those targeted for their religious beliefs, who they love or how they identify.”

Jesse Gabriel (D-Los Angeles), vice chairman of the California Legislative Jewish Caucus, introduced the bill. He said he hopes that codifying the NSGP into law will send a message and help ensure that the program receives adequate funding moving forward. “The fundamental and most important obligation of government is to protect its citizens,” he said in an interview with J. the day the bill was



Gov. Gavin Newsom, Assembly member Jesse Gabriel (at governor's right) and other lawmakers at signing for AB 1548 nonprofit security grant bill in Sacramento.

signed. “We’re making a statement that this is something California will continue to do.”

The measure was co-sponsored by Assembly member Brian Maienschein (D-San Diego), a longtime Republican who recently changed his party affiliation and is not a member of the Jewish caucus.

Funds will be administered through the Office of

Emergency Services in a competitive grant process, funding target-hardening features such as security cameras, up-to-date doors, locks and gates, and the hiring of professional security guards. Other similar grants have been issued by the federal government.

State action on the NSGP follows concerted lobbying efforts by the Jewish caucus. The group met with the governor at a bagel breakfast earlier this year, laying out a series of asks under the 2019 “Tikkun Olam Bill Package.” “It was a wonderful meeting,” state Sen. Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) told J. at the time. “Our message really got through.”

The text of the measure lists “schools, clinics, community centers, churches, synagogues, mosques and temples” as potential recipients — specifically organizations that are “at high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes due to ideology, beliefs, or mission.” The maximum grant amount per institution is \$200,000.

The measure had the unanimous support of lawmakers and a broad coalition of interest groups, including the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, Muslim and Catholic organizations, and the LGBTQ civil rights group Equality California.

“Hate crimes against people of color, immigrants, the Jewish community and LGBTQ people are on the rise,” said Rick Zbur, executive director of Equality California. “We applaud Gov. Gavin Newsom for showing that California is better than hate.” ■



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CELEBRATING BOLD LEADERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY AND EQUALITY IN ISRAEL AT THE GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY DINNER

On Sunday, September 22, the New Israel Fund successfully launched NIF's 40th year at the Guardian of Democracy Dinner.

With a sold-out crowd of some 500 people, NIF was celebrated as an organization that is advancing democracy in Israel and doing so as a true partnership of Israelis and progressive Jewish communities worldwide, particularly here in our founding city of San Francisco.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
RUTH MESSINGER

"Let us hear the shofar calling us to action, recommitting us to shared struggle, reminding us to hold fast to our Jewish values and fight for those values as one community committed to justice in Israel, in America and in every place in the world."



GALLANTER PRIZE WINNER
MAISAM JALJULI

"When we understand that Israel is the home for all of us, and that there is a place for everyone, we can create partnership, with respect for one another and with hope for a new path forward."



GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY HONOREE & NIF CEO
DANIEL SOKATCH

"I have watched in awe and amazement as our organization has gone from being viewed as a benign, behind-the-scenes foundation supporting progressive civil society, to the fierce and fiery front-line defender of Israeli democracy."



NEW GENERATIONS HONOREE
LAURA SAUNDERS

"I learned how I could support social change in Israel. I was inspired by an Israeli activist involved in non-violent protests against home demolitions in the West Bank."



Big thanks to guest MC Daniel Handler (AKA Lemony Snicket)!



We are grateful to our phenomenal speakers, generous sponsors, local leadership and dinner co-chairs for an incredibly successful and inspirational evening!

What I did on my summer vacation

Student intern creates digital map of S.F. Jewish history

MAYA MIRSKY | J. STAFF

The tall, round-balconied building on Sutter Street is hardly noticeable, tucked away in a cluster of hospital and clinic sites. Passers-by would never know it's a notable part of the Jewish history of San Francisco: a Jewish-funded health center designed by one of the most remarkable architects of the 20th century, the German Jewish expressionist Erich Mendelsohn.

"They see an interesting building, but they have no idea it was Maimonides Hospital," said Sam Salkin, executive director of Sinai Memorial Chapel.

The nonprofit S.F. funeral home is opening up the story of Jewish life in the

"It's about letting people in our Jewish community know there's been a Jewish presence in San Francisco since the Gold Rush."

Susan Morris, Sinai board president

city with a new tool at SinaiChapel.org that illuminates the rich history of San Francisco's Jewish influence. Maimonides Hospital is just one stop on the "Map of Jewish San Francisco," Sinai's newly launched digital mapping project, which includes guided walking tours.

It may seem like a departure for the institution, but Susan Morris, board president and former head of the Western Jewish History Center, said it fits in perfectly with Sinai's mission of connecting Jews to their past.

"That's why it is there: It's community," she said. "It's about letting people in our Jewish community know there's been a Jewish presence in San Francisco since the Gold Rush."

The main map collects Jewish sites across the city, from landmarks like Congregation Emanu-El to lesser-known bits of history, like Cable Car Clothiers, located at the original Montgomery Street location where founder Charlie Pivnick first opened it.

For ease of use, the sites have been broken down into four walking tours: Financial District to the Embarcadero, Civic Center to Presidio Heights, South of Market to the Financial District, and Presidio Terrace to Polk Gulch.

"You get step-by-step directions to learn about the sites included on the tour," Salkin said.

The maps were created by Jacob Isaacs, a San Jose native who is currently a senior at Carleton College in Minnesota. He worked at Sinai over the summer as a Kohn intern, a program of Jewish Vocational Service that places young people with Jewish nonprofits.

Isaacs said that although he grew up in the Bay Area, he didn't feel all that connected to California Jewish history and wanted to know more.

"I thought this was the perfect way to do that," he said. "So I really reached for the opportunity."

The job started with Isaacs being handed a "giant stack" of books. He got to work and started digging into the city's history, talking to local historians and others. One story inevitably led to another.

"They'd say, 'Well, have you considered this?'" Isaacs said.

He was thrilled to discover remnants of a Jewish past that were hiding in plain sight, like the story of French Jew Raphael Weill, who came to San Francisco in 1855.

"He was the owner of the White House department store," Isaacs said. "The building is still there in downtown."

"What Jacob provided is a window into ... an invisible history," said Victoria Fisch, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Sacramento. "I hope people take advantage of it." Isaacs spent a couple of days talking with Fisch and her partner, Jeremy Frankel, head of the S.F. Jewish Genealogical Society, as part of his research.

Frankel said that the information on Jewish San Francisco is out there, but it's dispersed in various archives around the area. Historians know where to look, but the general public doesn't.

Morris concurred. "What Jacob has done is really make this accessible to everyone," she said.

The historical maps are a new path for Sinai, which has a long history of providing funeral assistance to Jewish families. It was founded in 1902 and today owns and manages several cemeteries in the Bay Area.

Part of the idea behind the map is to open up local history for visitors. Salkin said it's common for families who are in town for a funeral to seek interesting Jewish things to do or see. But the map is also meant for locals.

"So many Jewish individuals living in the Bay Area are not connected to a synagogue, have not lived in the Bay Area for very long,"

Morris said. "Their roots may be elsewhere."

Salkin said the maps are just a start. He's hoping people will get in touch to amend or add information, and there are plans to expand the project to "ultimately go as far south as Monterey and Carmel and as far north as Oregon," he said.

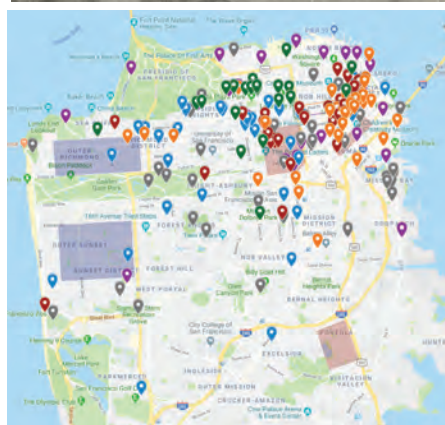
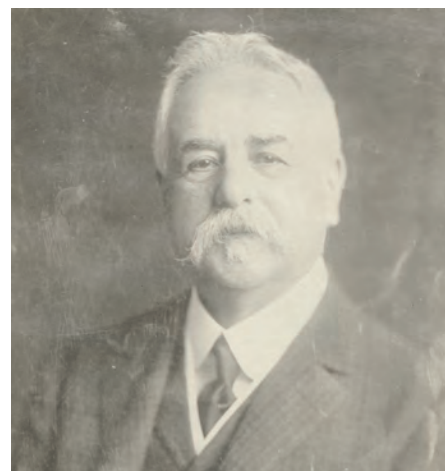
"This is a living document. If we didn't get it all right, we want to correct it," Salkin said.

Isaacs plans to keep working on the maps over his winter break, expanding them to the East Bay.

"It is also by no means comprehensive, and I'd really love for it to be a constantly expanding document," he said. "Because history is always being rewritten." ■

"Map of Jewish San Francisco" and its four walking tours can be accessed at tinyurl.com/jewishsf-sinai.

(Clockwise from right) Sinai intern Jacob Isaacs; Isaacs' map of Jewish landmarks and institutions; and French Jew Raphael Weill, founder of the White House department store in San Francisco (Photo/ Courtesy California State Library)



SILICON VALLEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

2019

OCT 27-NOV 17

NEW VENUE: In addition to AMC Saratoga 14 and the OFJCC in Palo Alto, we are pleased to add CinéArts in Palo Alto for the 2019 Festival.



2019 SCHEDULE

OFJCC	OCT 27, 6:30 PM	Picture of His Life
CINÉARTS	OCT 28, 5:00 PM	Abe*
CINÉARTS	OCT 28, 7:15 PM	Ask Dr. Ruth
CINÉARTS	OCT 29, 4:30 PM	Carl Laemmle*
CINÉARTS	OCT 29, 6:45 PM	Simon and Théodore*
CINÉARTS	OCT 30, 4:30 PM	Redemption*
CINÉARTS	OCT 30, 7:00 PM	The Passengers
CINÉARTS	OCT 31, 4:30 PM	King Bibi*
CINÉARTS	OCT 31, 6:30 PM	Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*
CINÉARTS	OCT 31, 8:30 PM	Echo
CINÉARTS	NOV 2, 6:30 PM	Marianne and Leonard: Words of Love*
CINÉARTS	NOV 2, 8:45 PM	Leona*
CINÉARTS	NOV 3, 2:00 PM	The Tobacconist*
CINÉARTS	NOV 3, 4:30 PM	Golda*
CINÉARTS	NOV 3, 6:30 PM	My Polish Honeymoon*
CINÉARTS	NOV 3, 8:30 PM	Shai K.
CINÉARTS	NOV 4, 4:30 PM	The Accountant of Auschwitz*
CINÉARTS	NOV 4, 6:30 PM	93 Queen*
CINÉARTS	NOV 4, 8:45 PM	Family In Transition
CINÉARTS	NOV 5, 4:30 PM	You Only Die Twice*
CINÉARTS	NOV 5, 6:30 PM	The Day After I'm Gone*
CINÉARTS	NOV 5, 8:45 PM	Amos Oz: The Nature of Dreams
CINÉARTS	NOV 6, 4:30 PM	The Jewish Underground*
CINÉARTS	NOV 6, 7:15 PM	Working Woman*
CINÉARTS	NOV 7, 4:30 PM	Working Woman*
AMC14	NOV 7, 7:15 PM	The Jewish Underground*
AMC14	NOV 8, 1:30 PM	A Fortunate Man
AMC14	NOV 9, 6:00 PM	Marianne and Leonard: Words of Love*
AMC14	NOV 9, 8:15 PM	Abe*
AMC14	NOV 10, 2:00 PM	My Polish Honeymoon*
AMC14	NOV 10, 4:00 PM	Simon and Théodore*
AMC14	NOV 10, 6:00 PM	Standing Up, Falling Down
AMC14	NOV 10, 8:30 PM	Golda*
AMC14	NOV 11, 4:00 PM	93 Queen*
AMC14	NOV 11, 6:00 PM	Carl Laemmle*
AMC14	NOV 11, 8:15 PM	The Unorthodox
AMC14	NOV 12, 4:30 PM	The Accountant of Auschwitz*
AMC14	NOV 12, 6:30 PM	King Bibi*
AMC14	NOV 12, 8:30 PM	Redemption*
AMC14	NOV 13, 4:00 PM	The Tobacconist*
AMC14	NOV 13, 6:30 PM	You Only Die Twice*
AMC14	NOV 13, 8:30 PM	Shoelaces
AMC14	NOV 14, 4:00 PM	The Spy Behind Home Plate
AMC14	NOV 14, 6:30 PM	Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*
AMC14	NOV 14, 8:30 PM	The Day After I'm Gone*
AMC14	NOV 16, 6:00 PM	The Other Story
AMC14	NOV 16, 8:30 PM	Leona*
OFJCC	NOV 17, 6:30 PM	Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles

*Indicates two screenings during the Festival

2019 SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT:

OCT 27 | 6:30PM | OFJCC

Featuring *The Picture of His Life* and special guests Amos Nachoum, the subject of the film; director Dani Menkin, and executive producer Uri Eisen.

Discussion and reception to follow.



ASK DR. RUTH:

OCT 28 | 7:15PM | CINÉARTS

Featuring *Ask Dr. Ruth* and invited guests Miriam Westheimer and Joel Westheimer, children of Dr. Ruth Westheimer.



CENTERPIECE EVENT:

NOV 6 | 7:15PM | CINÉARTS & NOV 7 | 4:30PM | AMC 14

Featuring *Working Woman* and special guests Illana Shoshan-Diamant, co-founder of Women's Empowerment Foundation; and Ann Ravel, CA State Senate candidate. **Discussion and reception to follow.**



CLOSING NIGHT:

NOV 17 | 6:30PM | OFJCC

Featuring *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles* and special guest actor Michael Bernardi.

Discussion and reception to follow.



TICKETS & INFO:

SVJFF.ORG

800-838-3006



Tashlich in *spaaaaaaacce*

See your sins blast off on Stanford rocket

DAVID A.M. WILENSKY | J. STAFF



Daniel Shorr (far right) and other members of Stanford's Student Space Initiative escort a rocket he built. (Photo/Courtesy Daniel Shorr)

They call it Tashlich in Space. The website puts it succinctly: "Reflect. Renew. Blastoff."

That's right, this year you can (belatedly) send your sins up into the Earth's atmosphere on an honest-to-God rocket. This twist on tashlich, a pre-Yom Kippur ritual in which Jews cast breadcrumbs representing their sins into a body of water, is the invention of Hillel at Stanford and Stanford's Student Space Initiative.

Technically, admits Stanford junior Daniel Shorr, it's not really space. Space begins at the Kármán line 62 miles up. Your sins are only destined for about 4,000 feet. At that altitude, you still get birds. So not even close to space. But definitely in a rocket, which is still pretty cool.

Typically, Jews gather after Rosh Hashanah services to recite a brief prayer and then symbolically cast away their sins by tossing breadcrumbs into the ocean, a river, lake or creek. This isn't halachically mandated — just a popular folk ritual. But its simplicity and symbolism have kept it popular for centuries. And now, because they can, some Jews at Stanford are dragging the ritual into the Space Age.

The Student Space Initiative is a Stanford University club that allows students with an interest in space to get together and work on practical projects. "We do experiments in low-Earth orbit or compete with other universities. You don't need any background to join," Shorr says.

Hillel assistant director Jeremy Regent approached Shorr about collaborating as part of a series of projects mixing Stanford expertise with Jewish content. "We did a project with cameras on top of a bike helmet and reading Talmud about protecting your body. Stuff like that," Regent says.

He and Shorr talked about ways Hillel and the Student Space Initiative could collaborate. "And from there we came up with tashlich in space. Thus, your sins can be blasted out of the atmosphere," Shorr

says. (Again, it's still in the atmosphere.)

"Certainly, tashlich in space is something new for us," he adds, "and hopefully will open the door to all kinds of cool collaboration."

Here's how it works: Go to the project's online form, submit your sins (securely — no one will read them), and they'll be put on a small SD storage card along with some breadcrumbs in a 5-foot rocket built by Shorr.

In a normal tashlich, your sins go away. In this case, they'll come back down in the recoverable section of the rocket. "We don't know what state they'll be in or whether we'll find it, but it will likely come back," Shorr says.

"It's a heightened version of the embodied practice we do down on Earth," says Regent. "We hope there's a cathartic release in seeing this blastoff happening. You can only throw bread so far."

Shorr has always been interested in space, but his connection with Judaism is more recent. Though his family is Jewish, he grew up in China with very little Jewish content in his life. It wasn't until he got involved with Hillel at Stanford that he became actively Jewish.

He feels a tension between Jewish observance and his non-Jewish interests. "This was a way to have that crossover happen in a way that felt organic and genuine," he says. "I want something to ground me when I think about going out there as far from the ground as possible."

The launch will occur sometime in November, depending on a variety of factors. In the future, Shorr wants to follow up with a rocket that will go to 30,000 feet. "We're also working on a space shot, to about 350,000 feet, actual space," he says. "And we're looking forward to maybe a Hillel payload on that one as well." ■

To add your confession to this year's launch, go to tinyurl.com/tashlichinspace

Each year, AJC San Francisco honors and recognizes members of the legal profession who embody Judge Learned Hand's democratic values. Please join us in honoring this year's Bay Area Leading Advocates

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and

Congresswoman

KATIE PORTER (CA-45)

Wednesday, November 6th, 2019

5:30 PM

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Online registration, tribute information, and sponsorship opportunities can be found at AJC.org/sanfrancisco/judgelearnedhand or RSVP to rsvpsf@ajc.org

To be listed on the dinner materials, please respond by October 17th, 2019. All other RSVPs by October 23rd, 2019. For more information call [415.777.3820](tel:415.777.3820)

AJC San Francisco

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Q&A: A rabbi finds a way through Sacramento food desert

TALKING WITH | ROBERT NAGLER MILLER | J. CORRESPONDENT



NAME: Rabbi David Azen
AGE: 60
CITY: Sacramento
POSITION: Fresher Sacramento CEO and founder

Rabbi David Azen founded Fresher Sacramento more than a decade ago to provide low-cost, healthful meals to communities that are “food deserts,” lacking easy access to fresh, affordable and nutritious items. In addition to its twice-weekly meal service, the nonprofit also offers skills and job training to area students. In June, state Sen. Dr. Richard Pan chose Fresher Sacramento as nonprofit of the year for its service to the community. Azen, who previously had pulpits in New York, New Jersey and Toronto, is also the part-time spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Harim in Grass Valley. He is the father of five. (The eldest, Aryeh Stein-Azen, died of a rare form of sarcoma in 2015.)

J.: How did a rabbi get involved in the food industry?

RABBI DAVID AZEN: I’ve always thought that hunger in America is the most unconscionable thing, and social justice is my driving force as a rabbi. The prime directive we Jews have as spiritual heirs to Abraham is to be a blessing to all families of the Earth. Our well-being

requires us to be in partnership with other minority communities. That’s why we’re involved, for instance, with the Black Child Legacy Campaign in Sacramento, to ensure that pregnant women of every color get the nutrition they need.

Can you describe your operations?

We work out of a pool kitchen at a community center in the southernmost part of Sacramento, one of the most underserved areas of the city. It’s 30 percent Asian, mostly Hmong; 30 percent Hispanic; and 30 percent African American. We have a chef and five young people from the area who receive training in food preparation, handling and techniques that are in accordance with the guidelines of the California Restaurant Association. So far, 500 students have been involved in the program. A number of organizations, such as a local Meals on Wheels serving the Japanese American community, contract with us to provide meals. Proceeds go to pay stipends to our students. At present, we have the capacity to produce 800 to 1,000 meals per shift.

What are some of your favorite meals?

Asian noodle salad, teriyaki chicken and veggie lasagna.

Did your family play a role in your career choice and your interest in social justice?

Not at all. My parents were Republicans,

and I was a junior golf tournament master. But my family did attend a Reform synagogue in Westfield, New Jersey [Temple Emanu-El], and the rabbi there, Charles Kroloff, talked about things that mattered. I gave up golf and started reading history [and books about] free markets and social responsibility. At Princeton, I started a progressive Jewish service. I also fasted on Yom Kippur, the only one in my family to do so.

Your interests extend beyond Jewish social action. A half-dozen years after you were ordained, you completed a fellowship in film, cinema and video studies at Temple University. How did that come about?

I write screenplays. I have three under my belt. My screenplay called “Moses in the Wilderness and How the West Was Lost” is based on a story in the Tanach about Moses dealing with a rebellion and the right wing.

But you’re not limited to the silver screen. At Princeton, you also were part of the university’s mime group. And what’s this about your



Rabbi David Azen (second from right) with young food industry interns and chef Mike Harris (left) with Zion Taddese (owner of Queen Sheba’s).

one man-show about the origins of the universe, and all of its related problems, that starts with a rabbi arriving late to conduct Yom Kippur services?

It’s called “I Caused the Big Bang.” I used to perform it locally, but I haven’t done it in a while.

For a guy involved with serious causes and commitments, you have quite a sense of humor.

My mother always said I was weird. I thought that I was going to be Clarence Darrow in “Inherit the Wind.” ■

For more information, call (916) 295-1884 or email info@freshersacramento.com.

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Local Maccabi sports camp merging with Palo Alto JCC

MAYA MIRSKY | J. STAFF

Josh Steinharter, founder of the first Jewish sports overnight camp on the West Coast, is hyped up.

"It's super exciting for us," the JCC Maccabi Sports Camp head said. "It's just a really great opportunity."

Steinharter is full of enthusiasm about what's ahead for the much-loved summer camp now that it's merging with the Palo Alto-based Oshman Family JCC, which will allow for camp to expand and create more options for kids.

"The ideas are just starting to bubble," said Sally Kauffman Flinchbaugh, the JCC's chief operating officer. "But there are so many opportunities."

Although there are plans for year-round programming in the future and leadership projects for teens, Steinharter said nothing will change for campers next summer and camp will remain at its Menlo College location in Atherton. The merge, to be finalized early next year, will mean senior camp staff

"This is going to benefit not just the Palo Alto community but the Bay Area community."

Sally Kauffman Flinchbaugh

become JCC staff from now on.

"We're super excited we're able to take on some seasoned camp professionals and Jewish professionals onto our team," Flinchbaugh said.

JCC Maccabi was founded in 2014 to appeal to kids who don't want to have to choose between a sports camp and a Jewish camp. It serves children in grades 3 to 11, who get four hours of training each day in baseball, basketball, soccer, tennis or volleyball, with Jewish values and rituals woven into the schedule. There's also a day camp option for kids in grades 3 through 6.

"I do take a lot of pride in what we've



Campers throw water balloons to each other. (Photo/Courtesy JCC Maccabi Sports Camp)

created in the past six years," Steinharter said.

Steinharter developed the concept at the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Specialty Camp Incubator. At the time it was the only camp of its kind on the West Coast (another in Los Angeles was founded in 2016). Like other camps that came out of the program, it received \$1.16 million over four years, Steinharter said. Besides camp fees, it also receives funding from local foundations, according to Steinharter, including the Koret Foundation, Taube Philanthropies, the Pritzker Family Foundation and the S.F.-based Jewish Community Federation, as well as individual donors.

The Oshman Family JCC also has a summer camp, plus year-round programming in sports, arts and culture, and a preschool and after-school program. Flinchbaugh said the support of the large institution will make scaling up more possible for Maccabi and allow it to expand its reach.

"This is going to benefit not just the Palo Alto community but the Bay Area community," she said. "And ideally the community beyond the Bay Area."

Registration for the 2020 summer camp is coming soon, according to the JCC Maccabi Sports Camp website. For details, visit maccabisportscamp.org. ■



Raquel "Racky" Newman

May Her Memory Be A Blessing

We extend our deepest condolences to Racky's children and grandchildren, with heartfelt appreciation for her dedication to Hebrew Free Loan and her visionary leadership and service to the Jewish community.



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Dr. Raquel H. (Racky) Newman



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International Council, San Francisco
Regional Council, as well as one of
our first International Board members,
we could not have asked for a more
passionate thought leader, advocate,
and supporter.

Racky's quick intelligence and wit,
her understanding of the American
Jewish community, and her devotion to
her community and social justice values
here and in Israel will be deeply missed.

May her memory
be for a blessing.

זכרונה לברכה

Growing up undocumented with Jewish-Latinx identity inspires ex-‘Dreamer’ to act

ALIX WALL | J. CORRESPONDENT

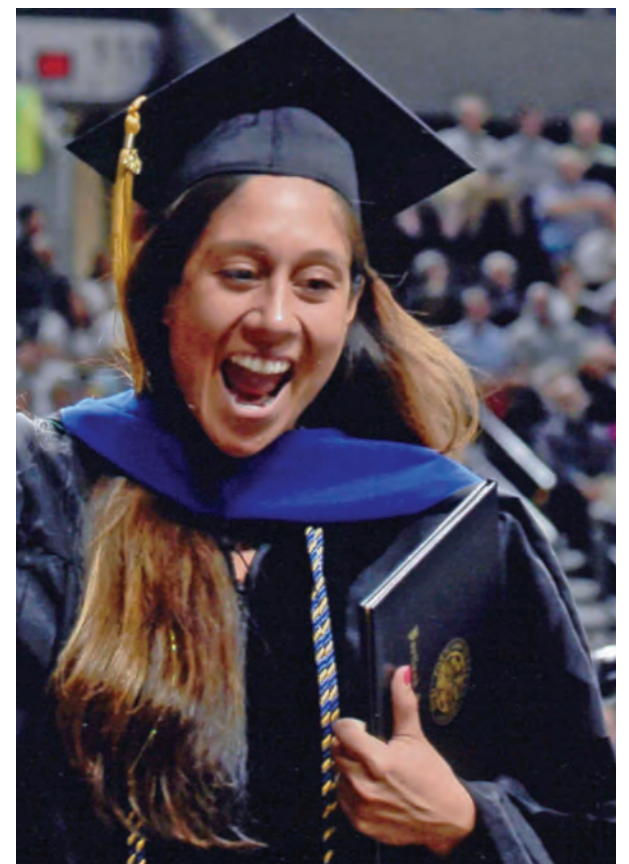
Growing up Jewish and Peruvian in Southern California, Analucía Lopezrevoredo always knew she was different — from her Jewish friends, most of them wealthy and white, and from her Spanish-speaking friends, most of them from Mexico.

The summer before ninth grade, she found out why.

While driving with her father, she casually asked if she could go on a Girl Scout trip to Ireland, which would be her first time out of the U.S. All of a sudden, he fell silent and pulled the car over.

“I’m not the only Jew who grew up undocumented,” she said, estimating that thousands are in that group nationwide. “There isn’t a lot of room for them to come forward and say ‘This is also my experience,’ and that really saddens me.”

For the last three years Lopezrevoredo has been the associate director of West Coast programs at OneTable, a nonprofit



Analucía Lopezrevoredo celebrates after earning her Ph.D.

“The reality of my Jewish friends was so far from mine.”

“He couldn’t even look at me,” she recalled. “He told me, You can’t leave the country. If you do, you won’t be able to come back in. And if you leave the country, we might be separated. We’re not supposed to be here, we’re not allowed to be here.”

That’s how Lopezrevoredo found out that she and her younger sister were Dreamers, among the 800,000 young adults who were brought to this country as children by their undocumented parents.

She was not to tell anyone, not even her sister. It could risk exposing all of them, her father told her.

Lopezrevoredo, now 33, lives in San Francisco and is active in the Jewish community and in immigrant-rights organizations. Though she became a permanent resident at 20, and a U.S. citizen eight years ago, only recently has she started speaking publicly about what it was like to grow up without legal status.

She wants American Jews to know it is more commonplace than they might realize.

that provides tools for young Jewish adults who want to host and attend Shabbat dinners. She also spent two years as program director of JIMENA, which preserves the stories and cultural heritage of Jews from the Middle East and North Africa.

She is also the founder of Flavors of Coexistence, an organization that holds cross-cultural, pop-up dinners to promote understanding, and is co-founder of Jewtinay Co, a community for those like herself, with dual Jewish-Latinx identity.

“The narrative about the Jewish-Latinx experience is so limited, and there’s a lot of classism in deciding which stories are told,” she said.

Lopezrevoredo comes from a mixed



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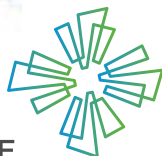
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background. Her mother's matrilineal line is descended from Sephardic Jews from Spain. (Her name, Analucia, comes from Andalucia, where the Jewish community once thrived.) Her father isn't Jewish.

She grew up attending a Reform synagogue in Orange County with her mom and sister and said she has felt comfortable in Jewish spaces since childhood. Her cultural experience, however, was different from that of her other Jewish friends, largely because of class and race. She didn't have a bat mitzvah until she was 23.

"Growing up as an undocumented person, I felt so much further away from the Jewish experience," said Lopezvoredodo. "The reality of my Jewish friends was so far from mine."

Both of her parents were professionals in Peru — her father was an attorney and her mother a teacher — and came here on tourist visas, but violence prevented their return home, where the Shining Path terrorist organization was active.

In the U.S., the family struggled in the early years. Lopezvoredodo remembers helping her parents put newspapers in plastic bags for weekend delivery. There were times when her parents didn't eat so the children could. And she always assumed that she and her sister were enrolled in the school's free lunch program because their mother worked at the school, only learning much later that they qualified because of the family's income.

Her mother went on to work as a master teacher at Head Start and her father as a professor at Santa Ana College, both becoming naturalized in 2006. One constant value in her family was education, and Lopezvoredodo excelled in school. (That is still the case — she recently earned her Ph.D. in social work and social research from Portland State University.)

A high school Model UN teacher, Linda Levine, recalled Lopezvoredodo as "an outstanding debater [who] lit up a room" and remembered other trips she had to decline. "I felt so bad," Levine said. "It was such a shame that someone of her ability was unable to participate in these activities with her classmates, and she couldn't tell them why."

By her senior year Lopezvoredodo was the student body president, a top debater and an excellent athlete and star water polo player, which under normal circumstances would have earned her multiple scholarship offers. With expectations high, teachers

encouraged her to apply to top colleges, without knowing that she wouldn't be able to attend without financial assistance — and that her status made her ineligible for Cal Grants and federal funding. That put private schools and even the UC system out of reach for her family.



Analucia Lopezvoredodo at "Xocoatl, A Culinary Journey Through the Cacao Belt," a Shabbat dinner hosted by OneTable in San Francisco in December 2018.

She ended up at Loyola Marymount, a Jesuit university in Los Angeles, not only because it was affordable but also because she wanted to be near her family in case they were discovered.

In 2006 Lopezvoredodo became a permanent resident and in 2011 became a naturalized citizen, coincidentally at the same time as the passage of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors), which allowed children who grew up here with undocumented parents to get conditional permanent resident status.

Finally feeling safe, and protected by her citizenship, she began advocating for undocumented immigrants, working with humanitarian organizations and helping people navigate their way through the bureaucracy. She also leads workshops at schools and volunteers as a translator for Spanish-speakers applying for residency.

"They see me as someone who understands their experience," she said.

For most of her life, Lopezvoredodo was reticent about sharing her story because of her status. However, given today's hostile climate for immigrants and knowing what it was like to grow up living in fear, she feels she must speak out.

"I didn't speak out about being an undocumented person until about six months ago," she said. "Now I feel I can talk about it." ■

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Remembering Loma Prieta earthquake 30 years later

J. STAFF

As the Bay Area remembers and memorializes the 30-year anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake of Oct. 17, 1989, we took a dip back into the J. archives to see what we were reporting at the time.

OCT. 20, 1989

Edition delayed by earthquake

This issue of the Jewish Bulletin was produced two days late following Tuesday's major earthquake, which necessitated temporary evacuation by our staff. Although our offices were unharmed save for some bookcases and papers upset, power was off until late Thursday. This edition represents a special effort by staff members who started contacting rabbis, synagogues and Jewish institutions in the Bay Area in the field and by phone from their homes. It is hoped that the Bulletin's Oct. 27 edition will be published on time.



Residents of Menorah Park, who went days without power after the quake, picked up food at the JCC of San Francisco.

OCT. 27, 1989

Earthquake brought Bay Area Jews a mix of fear and prayer—and smiles

All through the Bay Area, the same question has been asked since last week's 7.1 earthquake: "Where were you when it hit?" For Janice Freiburger of Larkspur, the answer was a scary "on the top deck of the Bay Bridge." Freiburger and her partner, Bruce Stephen, were returning from the East Bay in his 1984 silver Mazda. The two co-workers were busy talking when Stephen indicated he had a flat tire. But when they saw the bridge swaying, they realized that what they were feeling was an earthquake.

Then they heard a loud noise, which Freiburger described as "a rumble, a dynamite-type explosion sound," and found themselves plummeting forward, down the collapsed piece of roadway.

She remembers seeing water and fearing "we'd be going into it."

In an interview from her hospital bed, Freiburger recalled "distinctly bracing myself like on a roller-coaster. I felt the sensation of air blowing past me. I don't remember the impact of stopping, but when I opened my eyes, I still could see the bay."

Ultimately the two were pulled to safety by people on the bridge, and they began walking toward San Francisco.

... Rabbi Gary Greenebaum was in Candlestick Park for the Bay Area World Series when the Earth started rumbling. At first he thought too many people were reveling. Then

he realized it wasn't just the concrete floor he felt shaking but the entire ballpark. The executive director of the Northern California Hillel Council said an eerie silence fell over the crowd, which moments before had been joyous, cacophonous. "What ran through my mind is I couldn't believe this was how I was going to die." — *Peggy Isaak Gluck*



Earthquake damage in the Marina District (Photo/Wikimedia Commons)

Yes, it's a 'virtual community' — a link for worried relatives

People online often speak of themselves as a "virtual community," but their response to last week's earthquake has mirrored that of the "real community" around them.

Lack of power caused the Sausalito-based WELL, which houses the Jewish Conference, to be out of commission for some six hours. But once it got running again, people started logging on, making sure their relatives and friends were all right.

People far outside the area, including distraught parents of students who couldn't get through on regular phone lines, had no trouble reaching the WELL through interconnecting computer networks. — *Tamar Kaufman*

JCC offers hot meals and support to quake victims

Aided by donations from local bakeries, grocery stores and a case of shampoo from a San Francisco hotel, the San Francisco Jewish Community Center opened its doors over the weekend to provide snacks, hot meals, showers and other support services to victims of the earthquake.

THE ANNUAL SIMCHAT TORAH SOLIDARITY RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWS

SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29 IN FRONT OF THE SOVIET CONSULATE WILL NOT BE HELD AS A RESULT OF THE TRAGIC EARTHQUAKE.

THE DECISION IN NO WAY DIMINISHES OUR CONTINUING CONCERN FOR SOVIET JEWS.

* The community is planning a major "Women's Plea for Soviet Jews" event 6:30 p.m., December 6, at Congregation Sherith Israel, which we hope will attract all who would have attended the Simchat Torah rally.

We urge all members of our community to write to:
Soviet Consul General Valentin Kamenev
2790 Green Street • San Francisco, CA 94123

to acknowledge the positive developments in the USSR, to urge the Soviet government to allow all remaining refuseniks to leave and to express concern about the rise of popular anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

Contact the sponsoring organizations for more information on how to help Soviet Jews.

Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties (415) 957-1551
 Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews (415) 585-1400
 Jewish Community Relations Council for the Greater East Bay (415) 839-2900
 Northern California Board of Rabbis.

This ad paid for by Jaffe/Schlossberg Insurance 3502 Geary Blvd., S.F. • 221-5340

Advertisement in the Oct. 27, 1989 issue

In addition, the center became an official collection site for the Salvation Army, and soon after the doors opened Saturday, a steady stream of donations — blankets, clothing, sleeping bags — were dropped off by local residents. — *Matt Elkins*

NOV. 3, 1989

JF&CS counselor tells how to cope with earthquake jitters

Talking about the Oct. 17 earthquake will help people cope with the emotional aftershocks, according to Amy Rassen of Jewish Family and Children's Services.

"Sharing and talking with one another seems to relieve some of the feelings of being alone and safe," said the JF&CS assistant director in an interview. "The whole Bay Area experienced the earthquake. There wasn't anyone who missed it who was here." And while personal issues varied, "everyone was just as helpless and out of control."

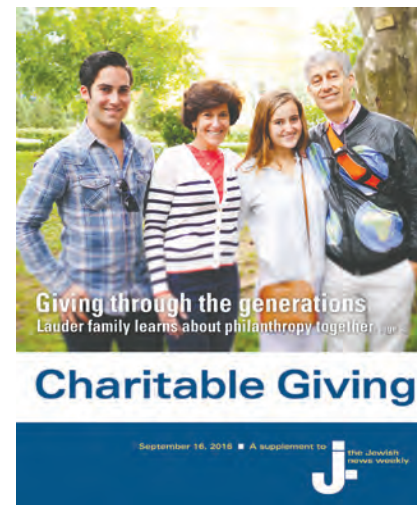
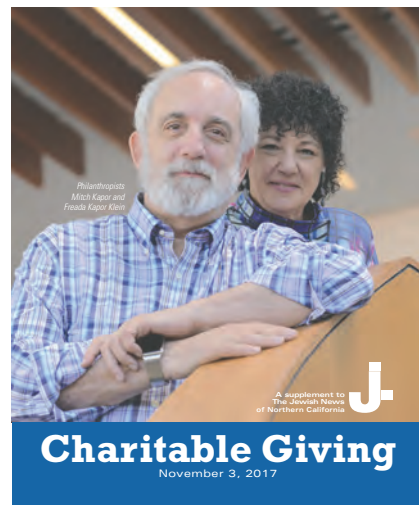
Many people will continue to feel residual effects from the earthquake for up to six weeks, according to Rassen. Some may feel distracted, uncomfortable being alone, have difficulty concentrating, feel sad, mad or irritable, have trouble sleeping or sleep too much, experience an increase or decrease in appetite, feel exhausted for no reason, or perceive they are not in control.

... A number of Holocaust survivors have contacted the agency since the quake, seeking help in coping with a profound sense of loss of control, she said, noting that that sense probably comes from similar feelings of helplessness in the years during and since the Holocaust.

... According to Rassen, another way of coping is to help others, "and that's where tzedakah, charity, comes in. To assist people is the highest form of tzedakah, according to Maimonides, because you don't know the person who you're helping, you get no personal recognition, and the recipient doesn't know where it came from, either." Despite the emotional burdens, people have coped by pulling together and helping each other, she said. — *Peggy Isaak Gluck* ■

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Facebook's Sheryl Sandberg pledges \$2.5 million to ADL

GABE STUTMAN | J. STAFF

Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg pledged this week to donate \$2.5 million to the Anti-Defamation League. The money is earmarked for anti-hate programs in Europe and the United States, including anti-bias educational programs.

The social media COO and author of the 2013 New York Times bestseller "Lean In" said she arrived at the decision during Yom Kippur services, after hearing news of the anti-Semitic attack that day in Halle, Germany. Sandberg, a former Google executive recruited by Facebook in 2008, attends Congregation Beth Jacob in Redwood City.

"I was sitting in synagogue, thinking about how, earlier that day, a gunman showed up at a synagogue in Germany, hoping to kill as many Jews as he could," she wrote in a Facebook post published Oct. 16. "He knew the temple would be full because of the holiday."

"For over a century, ADL has been fighting hate around the world," she continued. "Their primary mission is confronting anti-Semitism, and they also work to reduce hate and bigotry of all kinds...because they know that hate begets hate, and attacks on one group of vulnerable people can quickly lead to attacks on others."

Sandberg cited her parents' 75th birthdays in making the donation. Joel and Adele Sandberg, a retired ophthalmologist and teacher, respectively, were active in the movement to aid



Sheryl Sandberg (in pink) with her family (Sheryl Sandberg-Facebook)

Jewish refuseniks — those blocked from emigrating out of the Soviet Union — during the 1970s. Sandberg writes in "Lean In" that during a visit in 1975, they were interrogated by Soviet officials and expelled from the country.

"My parents taught my siblings and me to be proud of our Jewish heritage and that leading a meaningful life meant doing what you can to make the world a better place," she wrote.

The ADL was founded in 1913. In recent years the New

York-based nonprofit has seen revenues climb alongside an increase in reported anti-Semitic incidents. In 2017 the ADL received about \$72 million in contributions and grants, the most of any year for which information is available, and a 17 percent increase from the previous year.

"We are at a critical juncture in the fight against bigotry because it will take more than words to solve this ever-escalating problem," ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt said in a statement, citing the Halle attack and attacks in Pittsburgh and Poway. "We are honored to receive Sheryl's generous gift and grateful for her commitment to fighting hate in all of its forms."

Sandberg made the donation through her foundation, the Sheryl Sandberg & David Goldberg Family Foundation, based in Palo Alto. The private nonprofit is named for Sandberg's late husband, a former tech CEO, who died unexpectedly of a heart problem while the couple were on vacation in 2015.

Forbes estimates Sandberg's net worth at \$1.7 billion. In 2014 she signed the Giving Pledge, promising to donate at least half of her fortune to philanthropic causes. ■

Rep. Ro Khanna of Fremont walks a careful pro-Israel line

RON KAMPEAS | JTA

Ro Khanna, a rising star among progressive Democrats, wants to make a point about how to be progressive and pro-Israel, so he quotes Alan Dershowitz.

Yes, that Alan Dershowitz, the Fox News habitue who has accused the Democratic Party of "tolerating anti-Semitism."

"I don't agree with all of professor Dershowitz's book," the Bay Area congressman said, referring to "The Case for Israel," Dershowitz's 2003 effort to advance a liberal argument for Israel. "But where he makes that point about not singling out a country unfairly — you have to stand up for human rights consistently around the world."

Khanna, 43, is a member of the House of Representative representing a district that spans from Santa Clara to Fremont, encompassing much of Silicon Valley. He initiated this interview with JTA in his Capitol Hill office.

Here's the point he wants to make: The United States and Israel have a "deeply intertwined" relationship that ought to continue, but that shouldn't preclude the U.S. government from using the relationship as leverage to push for changes in Israeli policy.

"The vast majority of the Democratic Party wants this relationship to continue to succeed," he said, "[but] we want it to succeed on progressive values that bring peace and human rights."

It's a fine line to walk as Democrats grapple with accusations — including from within — that the party is drifting away from Israel, and as its progressive wing grows increasingly vocal in its criticism. Republicans, chief among them President Donald Trump, have sought to imprint the party with the stamp of four congresswomen, known as "The Squad," two of whom back the boycott Israel movement: Ilhan Omar of Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib of Michigan. Trump has called the party anti-Semitic.



Ro Khanna in his D.C. office, Sept. 17, 2019
(Photo/JTA-Ron Kampeas)

Yet Khanna, a seasoned Democratic activist and a formidable fundraiser able to tap the deep reserves of wealthy liberals in his district, is intent on establishing his approach to Israel as a valid position within his party's progressive wing.

A senior adviser to the presidential campaign of Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, Khanna is a rising star in the party, having ousted an eight-term incumbent Democrat, Mike Honda, in 2016.

Born in Philadelphia to Indian immigrants, Khanna has been ensconced in the party's progressive wing for decades, having campaigned as a University of Chicago student for

Barack Obama's first run for state Senate in 1996. Khanna went on to earn a law degree at Yale and was named by Obama, during his first term, to a top Commerce Department role.

In 2011, Khanna started exploring a congressional run almost as soon as he arrived in Silicon Valley to practice and to teach, which he has done at Stanford University and San Francisco State University, and at the Santa Clara University School of Law. In 2016, he was elected to Congress.

On Israel issues, Khanna is closer to "Squad" member Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, who similarly represents a district with a large population of wealthy liberal Jews. Khanna and Pressley both voted for a House resolution condemning the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement targeting Israel, and both said they were heeding the sensibilities of their Jewish constituents.

Though he opposes BDS, Khanna, like many Democrats, opposes bills that would penalize Israel boycotters.

Nonetheless, Khanna is sensitive to how pro-Israel Americans feel singled out, especially on college campuses.

"I've had students and their parents saying they're uncomfortable about going to Hillel or being open about their faith," he said. "Just like I think we shouldn't penalize boycotts, or speaking about Palestinian rights, we have to have equal respect for people who are practicing Jews or supportive of the U.S.-Israel relationship."

Khanna backed a bill this year to consolidate U.S. defense aid to Israel at about \$3.8 billion per year, but he also favors leveraging U.S. aid as a means of pressuring Israel to end Palestinian home demolitions, release imprisoned Palestinian minors and stop settlement building.

"I support continued aid to Israel," Khanna said, "but the American president has a whole range of options." ■

After Halle attack, thousands in Germany mourn with Jews, protest anti-Semitism

JTA & J. STAFF

A week after a deadly anti-Semitic attack in the city of Halle in eastern Germany, memorials still flank the doorway of a synagogue where a gunman tried to force his way inside using explosives and homemade weaponry.

For a city with an aging populace where services like Uber are still largely unavailable, the Yom Kippur attack came as a shock.

"Everyone is quiet, turned into themselves. You can tell everyone is in deep mourning," Nicole Wiedemann, a Halle resident, said while paying her respects before work one day last week.

The memorials are for the congregation, the ostensible target of the attack, as well as for the two people injured and the two who were killed.

Those murdered were Jana Lange, 40, a dedicated fan of German pop music; and Kevin S., 20, a construction worker and decorator who loved soccer. Neither was Jewish.

On Oct. 9, as 51 worshippers prayed inside the synagogue on the holiest day of the Jewish year, Stephan Balliet, a 27-year-old self-proclaimed anti-Semite and right-winger, tried unsuccessfully to shoot through the synagogue's door. During a since-removed livestream on the platform Twitch, Balliet said in English as he began shooting that "the root of all problems are the Jews." He had previously posted a manifesto online, saying his objective was to "kill as many anti-whites as possible, Jews preferred."

Before she was shot, Lange reprimanded Balliet for being noisy near the synagogue during Yom Kippur services. After killing Lange, Balliet proceeded to a kebab shop, where he shot and killed Kevin S.

At the time of his capture less than two hours later, Balliet had some 9 pounds of explosives in his car, the Associated Press reported, indicating that he planned "a massacre," according to a federal prosecutor.

The public outcry in Germany was immediate.

Solidarity marches against anti-Semitism and in support of the victims were held in a number of German cities, including Leipzig on Oct. 10, Hamburg and Marburg on Oct. 12 and Berlin on Oct. 13. Thousands joined each march.

More than 10,000 people marched in Berlin, about 100 miles north of Halle, carrying Israeli flags and banners with slogans reading "No Nazis" and "Far-right terror threatens our society," ABC News reported.

Meanwhile, the head of Germany's Jewish community said the police did not adequately protect the Halle synagogue, which is why the attacker was able to get so close.

The synagogue's high and strong metal doors were secured shut during the services and repelled the gunman's attack, which reportedly was undertaken with homemade weapons that may have malfunctioned.

"If police had been stationed outside the

synagogue, then this man could have been disarmed before he could attack the others," Josef Schuster, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, told Deutschlandfunk public radio on Oct. 10.

The head of Germany's police union responded that the police could not provide such protection, according to Reuters.

"We'd have to guard every synagogue, every church, every mosque, every holy place in Germany around the clock," Oliver Malchow reportedly told public television in an interview.

While the synagogue's hefty doors protected those inside, the pious Yom Kippur atmosphere was shattered for this synagogue in a city of some 240,000 residents, including 555 Jews.

According to media reports, 50 to 80 worshippers were inside the Orthodox synagogue at the time, including about 10 Americans living in Germany and participating in the Base Hillel program sent to Halle to bolster the small community's Yom Kippur worshippers.

Karen Engel, who was part of the visiting Hillel group, described an emotional gathering with singing and prayer that included Jews of many denominations.

A rabbinical candidate at the Conservative movement's Zacharias Frankel College in Potsdam, Engel found herself thinking about "how wonderful it was that this was able to take place."



(Above) Thousands rally against anti-Semitism on Oct. 13 at Bebelplatz square in Berlin after two people were killed by a gunman targeting a synagogue in Halle. (Photo/AFP via Getty Images-Axel Schmidt)

(Right) Flowers and candles in front of the synagogue where a shooting took place in Halle, Germany, Oct. 10, 2019. (Photo/JTA-Getty Images-Jens Schlueter)



"We know how difficult it is to have meaningful services in Germany in small communities," said Engel, an American who has lived in Europe for 30 years. "And then in the middle of this singing we heard an explosion and then the shots."

Eventually the congregation was evacuated to the local hospital for evaluation. They asked permission to continue their Yom Kippur service in the cafeteria.

"We had four or five machzorim [prayerbooks], and we were singing and chanting," said Christina Feist, 29, who is studying at the Sorbonne in Paris and the University of Potsdam outside Berlin. "It was intense and emotional."

She added that one worshipper "had his shofar and took it with him when we were evacuated."

Some hospital staff stopped to watch the service. They provided food for infants and the elderly, and the chief physician treated them all to beer after the service, Feist said.

Rabbi Elisha Portnoy, who practices in Halle and in Dessau, about 30 miles north, said the biggest surprise wasn't the attack itself but the location: Such violence may have been expected in larger cities like Berlin or Munich, but not Halle.

Portnoy said he has felt an increase in hostility toward Jews in Germany, which is supported by data gathered by organizations such as the Center for Research and Information on Anti-Semitism, or RIAS Berlin.

"It's not in Halle, not in Dessau, it's basically Germany in general," Portnoy said of the rise in anti-Semitism.

Balliet comes from a small community of 2,000 near Eisleben, a German town just 20 miles west of Halle whose population has fallen nearly 50 percent since the mid-1960s. The decline mirrors the same demographic collapse that much of East Germany suffered following unification in 1990.

Some observers suggest that economic stress coupled with the influx of more than a million refugees in Germany — many of them Muslims from war-torn countries since 2015 — have contributed to support for right-wing parties.

The areas suffering population loss and economic stress have also proven to be strongholds for Germany's anti-immigrant AfD party, which includes members who have belittled the Holocaust. Following the party's election successes in September, Schuster told reporters that the AfD is closely interwoven with right-wing extremism, inciting fears and promoting an anti-minority atmosphere.

"We cannot simply go back to normal," said Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission coordinator for combating anti-Semitism. "The attack in Halle must be the wake-up call." ■

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OFJCC Leslie Family Preschool: built around children

The OFJCC Leslie Family Preschool creates a welcoming environment incorporating play-based, hands-on learning and guided exploration for children 18 months to five years old. With carefully designed indoor and outdoor learning environments that embrace nature and invite discovery, children are encouraged to both shape and explore their surroundings.

We are proud to employ the Sheva framework from the JCC Association as a means of bringing Jewish values and tradition into the classroom in a warm and inclusive way. Sheva is the Hebrew word for seven, reflecting the seven core principles of early childhood Jewish education supporting the framework. This framework espouses a dynamic vision of teaching excellence and developmental best practices, integrating the latest research on childhood learning and brain development.

A core element of Sheva is the creation of a constructivist learning environment where children are active partners in their own learning; encouraged and delighted by individual curiosity and wonder. Our teachers are all certified early childhood professionals; deeply committed to the growth and development of the entire child. Lindsay, a parent, says "The teachers really listen to their students and see what they're interested in. [They] continue to revamp and rebuild their curriculum around their students. In my son's class, all

the students are interested in airplanes so they've been making paper airplanes in class and drawing airplanes. The teachers have really built a unit around the kids' interests."

Key to the Sheva framework is providing an active, engaging and flexible environment; encouraging exploration, intellectual engagement and creativity. Preschoolers even have a hand in imagining and designing new spaces, such as our recently added outdoor kitchen. Our home at the Oshman Family JCC allows children to add swimming, music, holiday celebrations, performing arts, gardening, and multigenerational interactions with our senior neighbors at Moldaw Residences to their experience.

The Leslie Family Preschool offers meaningful cross-cultural values, rooted in Jewish teachings that are regularly part of the preschool day. For example, our children learn about doing mitzvot (acts of human kindness) and tikkun olam (repairing the world). They experience firsthand how to do good for others by planting, nurturing and donating fresh fruits and vegetables from the preschool's thriving Giving Garden.

At the heart of Leslie Family Preschool is our vibrant and engaged community of families who call us their home



away from home. Through the Yad b'Yad parent participation program, children become comfortable in their preschool environment and parents and children alike form lifelong friendships and a lasting community.

Families stay connected over summer break with exciting camp experiences, and as a part of the Oshman Family JCC, there are frequent opportunities for enrichment with family hikes, cooking classes, performances, parent education workshops, and more. Older siblings can participate in innovative afterschool programs and parents can enjoy onsite fitness facilities and a café, making the OFJCC a convenient and enjoyable stop for everyone.

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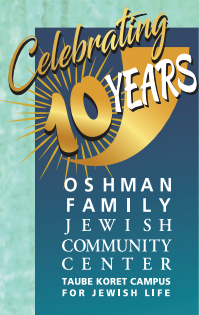


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SPOTLIGHT ON EDUCATION

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The Contra Costa Jewish Day School (CCJDS) welcomes students from across the greater East Bay — and makes it easy for them to get to school. Thanks to convenient, affordable bus and van service - including a new route in North Berkeley - one-third of the school's student population comes from Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville, El Cerrito, Richmond and El Sobrante.

"We are thrilled with CCJDS," says Miri Levy from Richmond. "We came here suddenly from Tehiyah school after its closure and the program, and teachers and community have been wonderful. The van service is a huge convenience."

CCJDS has always had families come from Oakland and Berkeley. In 2013, CCJDS

started bus service to Oakland and South Berkeley. This year the school has expanded service to North Berkeley. CCJDS is helping additional families tackle transportation challenges by providing subsidies for Zum transportation, a ride service focused on student transportation.

CCJDS is a diverse and inclusive Kindergarten-8th Grade community Jewish Day School. Learn about their renowned program focusing on both academic excellence and social-emotional growth, their outstanding teachers and their warm community of involved families. Visit ccjds.org and contact Abby Seitelman, Director of Admissions at admissions@ccjds.org.

How community builds student leadership

The excitement builds in the air as the students at Oakland Hebrew Day School (OHDS) get ready for Maccabbiah, a day of Jewish-themed team competitions. Middle school students spend intensive days planning activities to create fun collaborative experiences for the whole school. The younger students choose their colorful costumes and wait in anticipation for the older students to take them by the hand and lead them through relay races, art projects, Torah trivia games and drama activities, all culminating in spirited impressive whole-school presentations.


Maccabbiah is just one of many community-building experiences at OHDS which promote important leadership skills such as effective communication, collaboration with a wide variety of people, and empathy and awareness of the needs of the others. Students receive another chance to practice these skills during American Civics Day. Each grade prepares a topic to teach to another grade. For example, first graders present the Postal Service to the sixth graders and sixth graders teach second graders about the Environmental Protection Agency.

Our service learning program provides multiple opportunities for leadership. For example, second graders learn about recycling and composting, research City of

Oakland regulations, visit Urban Adamah to see composting in action, and communicate this information to other students.

OHDS students also enjoy building bridges to the community outside of school: seventh graders partner with second grade reading buddies at a local elementary school; fifth graders meet students from different backgrounds to help build communication and conflict resolution skills at a week-long field trip to The Mosaic Project; and kindergartners visit elderly residents at a nearby assisted living program to engage in intergenerational experiences.

Come find out more about how our community encourages strong leadership! Contact Philippa Lichterman, Admissions Director, for a tour: plichterman@ohds.org.

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5th Grade Step Up Day
Wednesday, Dec 11
8:00-2:00

Middle School Info Session
Thursday, Dec 12
9:00-10:00

Contact Philippa Lichterman for a tour and to RSVP:
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- Rachael Rosenberg (Class of 2014)
Chabot Community College, Cosmetic Sales



In the small community [at Kehillah], there were constant opportunities to innovate. The experiences in leadership, with the support of faculty, gave me hard skills for the future and the feeling that I could make a difference.

- Sarah Cramer (Class of 2013)
Graduate of University of Maryland,
Former IDF Soldier,
Current Student at Hebrew University

"Kehillah gave me a place to figure out how I best learn... which really allowed me to pursue my passion."

- Matan Grinberg (Class of 2016)
Senior majoring in Physics at Princeton, Researcher in quantum field theory and string theory, Aspiring PhD in theoretical physics.



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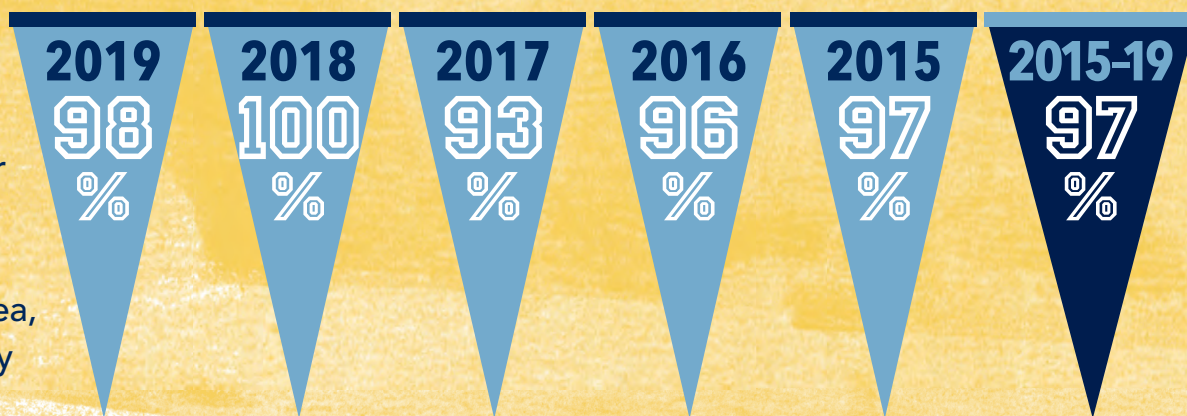
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| | International High School | Milken High School (Los Angeles) | San Francisco University High School | Stuart Hall High School |
| | Jewish Community High School of the Bay | | | The Urban School of San Francisco |

Colleges/Universities

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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| Brandeis University | Johns Hopkins University | Reed College | University of Chicago | University of Southern California |
| Brown University | Kings College | San Diego State University | University of Colorado | University of Vermont |
| Cabrillo College | Lafayette College | Santa Clara University | University of Denver | University of Washington |
| California Polytechnic State University | Loyola Marymount University | Seattle University | University of Massachusetts, Amherst | Vassar College |
| Chapman University | McGill University | Stanford University | University of Oregon | Washington University |
| College of San Mateo | Middlebury College | Syracuse University | | Yale University |
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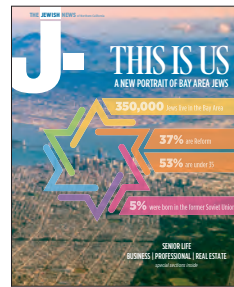
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FALL 2019 EVENTS



Thursday, October 24 5:00pm
Building 360, Room 361J (Conference Room)
"Nostalgia for the Present: Forgetting the Torah in Rabbinic Judaism"
with Mira Balberg (UCSD).



Tuesday, October 29 12:00pm
Encina Commons, Room 123
"Jewish Law and Modesty: Hair Covering, Body Covering, and Living in a Revealing Society" with Michael Broyde (Emory University School of Law).



Monday, November 11 5:00pm
Stanford Law School, Room 180
"The Rabbinic Idea of Law" with Chaim Saiman (Villanova University).

EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2020:



Wednesday, January 15
The Aaron Roland Endowed Lecture
"Access to Justice and Gender in the Hebrew Bible" with Daphne Barak-Erez (Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel)



Tuesday, January 21
"The Seventh Heaven: Travels through Jewish Latin America"
with Ilan Stavans (Amherst College)



Thursday, February 6
The Jewish Community Federation and Endowment
Fund Lecture
An Evening with Nathan Englander (Author)



Wednesday, February 26
The David S. Lobel Visiting Scholar in Jewish Studies Lecture
"Learning from the Dead about the Living: Jewish Daily Life in Medieval Northern Europe" with Elisheva Baumgarten (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)



Tuesday, March 3
An Evening with Ilana Pardes (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

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Opinion

Thousands of citizens say 'not this time' as extremism strikes in quiet German city

EDITORIAL

And now, Germany.

With an Oct. 9 terror attack in the city of Halle, deadly anti-Jewish violence has returned to the nation that gave us Kristallnacht, World War II and the Final Solution. The suspect, an avowed white supremacist donning a military helmet, attempted to shoot his way into a synagogue during Yom Kippur services and, when thwarted, shot dead two unrelated people.

The suspect was quickly arrested. And it's worth noting that although his stated target was Jews, he redirected his anger toward others instead — a woman walking by the synagogue and an immigrant in a kebab shop. Neither was Jewish. Hatred toward the "other" does not discriminate.

In recent years, Jews and their allies have looked on with horror as anti-Semitic terror attacks, many of them lethal, plagued European cities: Paris, Brussels, Copenhagen, Toulouse. Now we add to the list Halle, population 240,000, including more than 500 Jews.

It comes as no surprise that Germany should also become a locus of anti-Jewish violence. Government data reported a 20 percent uptick in anti-Semitic hate crimes last year.

But this time the German people are standing up and saying no. In response to the attack in Halle, 10,000 people took to the streets of Berlin to demonstrate their support for the Jewish community. In a potent symbolic act, the demonstrators marched from Bebelplatz, where Nazis burned Jewish books in the early 1930s, to the site of a venerable synagogue rebuilt after the fall of the

Berlin Wall. Similar solidarity marches took place in cities across Germany.

There is no question that Germany has done much to make restitution for its unforgivable crimes during the Third Reich. The Claims Conference has paid out billions of dollars to Holocaust victims. Nazi symbols and Holocaust denial have long been illegal. Germany has been a staunch ally of Israel and a promoter of democracy around the world. The nation deserves credit for all of this.

But clearly no place is safe from the rapidly spreading contagion of white nationalism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. As economic dislocation and other factors unravel the world order we grew up with, the forces of hate see an opportunity and are striking hard. These are dangerous times.

This means that Jews and their allies have to double down in response. Partnering with governments, businesses, media, nonprofits and faith communities, Jews will tell the world we will not passively endure anti-Semitism. Not this time. Never again. ■



PICTURE THIS

Rabbi Jeffrey Newman, 77, was arrested Oct. 14 during a climate change protest in central London. The rabbi emeritus of Finchley Reform Synagogue, who has been an environmental activist for more than 50 years, was holding his lulav and etrog as police dragged him away. (Photo/JTA-PA Images via Getty Images-Gareth Fuller)

Clearly no place is safe from the rapidly spreading contagion of white nationalism, white supremacy, anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Native American reparations first

Regarding Gabriel Greschler's article on black reparations ("Atonement: The Jewish case for black reparations," Oct. 4), if we're going to use the Holocaust as the model for justifying reparations, then we need look no further than Native Americans as the worthiest recipients. They were the victims of a long genocidal campaign by the U.S. government, most notably in the decades following the Civil War, where the quote by General Sherman that "the only good Indian is a dead Indian" became the marching orders for the U.S. Cavalry up till Wounded Knee in 1890. Those who survived were subjected to having their land confiscated at gunpoint, in many if not most cases in violation of treaties which the U.S. government had signed. And, under Grant and subsequent administrations, it was U.S. policy to pursue the elimination of Native American culture, language and religion. Talking about reparations for past injustice in our country without mentioning Native Americans is equivalent

to talking about Nazi war crimes without mentioning Jews.

STEVE MILLER | SAN FRANCISCO

Forever reparations?

"The Jewish case for black reparations" (Oct. 4) suggested that, since victims of Nazi travesties were paid reparations by Germany, so too should the USA now pay reparations to American blacks — at least six generations after slavery ended in America (1865). Also cited was "The 1619 Project," which incorrectly asserts that slavery began in the United States in 1619. There was no USA in 1619! Also suggested: "Previously" governing nations should provide reparations.

North America's 13 colonies were founded by independent, political and religious British groups. In 1776, those independent colonies joined to wage a civil war against Britain. The colonists, victorious in 1783, presented the new "United States of America" to the world.

I like that Bernie Sanders is Jewish 'like most of us'

VIEWPOINT | AARON FREEDMAN



Aaron Freedman is a writer and journalist living in Brooklyn, N.Y. He writes about politics, pop culture and Jewishness. This essay was distributed by JTA.

Since Sen. Bernie Sanders' heart attack on Oct. 1, there has been plenty of talk about whether he can come back in polls that show him in third place behind Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, and how his campaign's emphasis on electability will fare with voters.

Less discussed is the fact that Sanders epitomizes what it means to be an American Jew in 2019.

For Sanders' critics, this idea almost seems laughable. A Morning Consult survey of American Jews in May found that 47 percent supported Biden, the former vice president, compared to just 11 percent for Sanders. (Granted, Sanders still placed second in the poll, and Biden's national poll numbers have substantially dipped over the past few months while Warren's have ascended.)

The reason, a chorus of Jewish commentators allege, comes down to some variation of Sanders being "a Jew in name only," as the conservative pundit Ben Shapiro put it in 2016.

The Forward's opinion editor, Batya Ungar-Sargon, summed up the familiar arguments in a recent op-ed.

"Sanders isn't religious," she wrote, "he doesn't have any close ties to institutional American Judaism, and has long had a reputation for being cagey about discussing his Jewish identity."

It is certainly true that Sanders is far from the mold of the last Jewish candidate on a presidential ticket, Joe Lieberman. An observant, diehard Israel supporter, Lieberman, now 77, fit the mold of institutional American Judaism familiar to those raised in Jewish day schools and summer camps.

But to say that Sanders does not tell a "Jewish story" is to miss the messy, contradictory and polarized nature of American Jewry today. For as much as Sanders seems alien to many of the shul-going, institutionally affiliated older Jewish Americans, he is deeply representative of the silent majority for whom social justice movements take the place of synagogue and Israel is more often a cause for kvetching

than kvelling.

Though he is 78, Sanders represents the future — and increasingly, the present — of American Jewry.

Even as American Jews remain fairly united in opposition to Donald Trump (only 24 percent voted for him in 2016), we disagree sharply on most everything else. According to survey data from Pew and the American Jewish Committee, 44 percent of Jewish Americans say religion is not important in their lives and 59 percent consider being Jewish "mostly a matter of ethnicity or culture."

Then there's Israel. Sanders has insisted that he is a supporter of the Jewish state, describing himself as "100 percent pro-Israel," but a critical one: He said in 2016 that "if we pursue justice and peace, we are going to have to say that Netanyahu is not right all of the time."

As much as Sanders seems alien to shul-going, older Jewish Americans, he is representative of the silent majority for whom social justice movements take the place of synagogue.

Earlier this year, the longtime senator proposed leveraging U.S. aid to push Israel to change some of its policies.

A majority of Jewish Americans share this outlook: 59 percent describe themselves as pro-Israel but critical of some or all of the current Israeli government's policies. Six years ago, half of American Jews thought Israel should dismantle at least some West Bank settlements; that share is now at two-thirds, according to Pew Research.

From 2013 to 2018, the share of Jews who identify as politically liberal has jumped from 49 percent to 64 percent, according to Pew data. While in 2013 Sanders was part of the 36 percent of Jews who did not identify with a particular

denomination, now he is in the company of 44 percent of our community.

That's particularly true with Jewish youth, who are less religious, more liberal and more critical of Israel than our older co-religionists. Among Jews who've been married in the past 25 years, it's more common than not to marry a non-Jew, as Sanders himself did.

For Jewish millennials like me, it is refreshing to have a presidential candidate like Sanders who, as David Klion has written in *Jewish Currents*, expresses his "Jewishness" (an ethnic and cultural identity rooted in family history and present life here in America) rather than just Judaism (a religion) or Zionism (a political ideology). In a time of rising, violent anti-Semitism in the United States and increasing discontent with the policies of Israel, Sanders speaks to the contemporary Jewish moment with his call for "war with nationalism and racism in every aspect of our lives."

"My father's whole family was wiped out by Hitler and his white nationalism," Sanders said at the Young Leaders Conference in Atlanta in August. "Too many people have fought over the years, too many people have died against racism to let it resurface and flourish in America."

I once was a committed Zionist who attended Jewish day school. As a young kid, I remember my pride in helping my dad put up a Gore-Lieberman campaign poster.

But like many of my peers, I became alienated with the injustices I saw political elites perpetrate in the U.S. and Israel, and American Jewish organizations' unwillingness to challenge them.

Now, as a mostly secular democratic socialist, I'm glad to have a presidential candidate who is not just Jewish, but Jewish like me. And, increasingly, Jewish like most of us. ■

In 1803, America purchased the France-owned "Louisiana Territory," from which many "slave states" were eventually formed. In 1819, the USA acquired Florida from Spain. Britain abolished slavery in 1833 but never considered reparations for slaves across the British Empire. Will reparations be demanded from England, France and Spain?

Post World War II, many first-generation Jewish Americans had parents who immigrated here to escape Nazi Europe or its aftermath. Germany paid monthly reparations to many of our parents and grandparents — while alive — for the economic loss that they themselves had suffered. Neither I nor any of my American-born Jewish friends considered seeking reparations; they simply did not apply to us. Also, the vast majority of America's Jewish population was not here during America's slavery period.

How many generations after America abolished slavery would such "reparations" end — if ever?

FRED KORR | OAKLAND

Livermore: best place on Earth

I started Shabbat Shuvah morning Oct. 5 at Congregation Beth Emek. Founded in 1956, Beth Emek has been my Jewish home for almost 40 years, first in Livermore and, since 2005, in Pleasanton.

After Shabbat services, I went back to Livermore where I enjoyed food, music and dance at the eighth annual "Taste of Africa in the Heart of Livermore" festival. I then headed to the Livermore Airport — one of the top hundred in the country — for the 23rd annual open house and air show.

Later that day, I opened the J. to the Jew in the Pew column ("Connection and renewal at fire-damaged Chabad's celebration of unity," Sept. 27), which began by comparing Pleasanton with "most of the Earth's extremities." If Pleasanton is the end of the earth, what does that say about Livermore, even further east? Don't bother to answer. After spending many years at UC Berkeley, I've heard it all.

The Tri-Valley has always been underrated by points west. Livermore is home to more than

60 wineries, two national labs, its own element (Livermorium 116), a long ranching history, a large Latinx population, a lively arts scene and a powerful sense of community. I love it and wouldn't live anywhere else.

With that in mind, let me extend an invitation to Jew in the Pew's author: Join me for a Tri-Valley Shabbat. Following services at Beth Emek, we can wander through Livermore's "ArtWalk" or enjoy the first Livermore Pride Festival, then hit some wineries and walk through some of the regional parks. You won't be sorry.

DR. PATRICIA MUNRO | LIVERMORE

On board with Trump strategy

Let's give some credit to the Trump administration in its Middle East calculus. The Kurds have now allied with Assad/Russia, and it is Syria defending its territory against Turkey. The Kurds have found their solution without us, and Turkey had planned to dump 1 million Syrian Arab refugees into Kurdish regions, which would have been a humanitarian disaster.

Trump has just committed 3,000 troops to Saudi Arabia, and they will also work the Patriot missile systems to block more Iranian aggression against Saudi oil fields. This may be a geopolitical calculation that Saudi Arabia is worth defending, while the Kurds are not (I do not agree with this proposition, but from U.S. interests' point of view, it can make sense).

There is little public interest to intervene in Syria, while there is a lot at stake with Saudi Arabia. If the U.S. can protect the Saudis, then it bolsters Israel to have more confidence that Trump will give Saudi Arabia and Israel a pass in support against Iran — the only two entities that can thwart Iran and justify U.S. support. Note that both Israel and Saudi Arabia have billions in U.S.-made equipment and technology, and so there is a bigger investment in their success.

Shifting sands, but perhaps a Saudi Arabia and Israeli tacit alliance with U.S. support is the best hope to stop Iranian aggression.

JEFF SAPERSTEIN | MILL VALLEY

continued on page 38

Prejudice in the draft ethnic studies curriculum

YOUTH VOICE | MICHAELA PELTA



Michaela Pelta is the 2019-20 StandWithUs high school intern at Lowell High School in San Francisco, where she is a junior.

On Sept. 20, I had the incredible opportunity to go to the State Capitol in Sacramento and fight for a cause close to my heart.

In August, the California Board of Education released a draft proposal, the Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum, that alarmed many people in the Jewish community, myself included. The draft did not include any meaningful content about Jews or anti-Semitism, and it openly promoted the boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement and other anti-Israel agendas.

I know there is a vital need for education on anti-Semitism in the public school system. My first exposure to anti-Semitism was in the fifth grade when a boy regularly held up a Hitler salute to me. Too often, I hear that Holocaust jokes are “just jokes.” My responses are met with regular backlash that I am “overreacting.” So, my question is — when should we start to care? After a Jewish man is beaten in New York? Or after two mass shootings at synagogues within a year?

Frustrated, I felt helpless and that no one heard me. So when StandWithUs offered me an opportunity to have a say in my education, I took it within seconds. I am beyond grateful to be a high school intern for a nonprofit that embodies my fundamental core values.

In August, StandWithUs released an action alert, alongside the S.F.-based Jewish Community Relations Council, the Amcha Initiative, Club Z, the Israeli-American Council, the American Jewish Committee and others. Nearly 18,500 comments were mobilized from people across the political spectrum. Later in August, the state board of education president and California’s superintendent of public instruction acknowledged the flaws in the curriculum and called for it to be redesigned accordingly.

But the decision rested with the Instructional Quality Commission, an advisory body to the California State Board of Education. That is why I went to Sacramento with three other SWU interns — Kian Mirshokri and Danielle York (a former intern) from Palisades Charter High School in Los Angeles and Meshi Benezri from Woodbridge High School in Orange County.

We spoke during the public comments portion of a meeting of the IQC. I stated, “As a member of an ethnic minority, I fully support the goal of ethnic studies. However, this proposed curriculum not only doesn’t include me, but actively marginalizes me.”

I shared my dismay that the draft included a poem strongly implying that Jews control the media, echoing classic anti-Semitic tropes. Since they had the final say, I implored them to care — to care about all the students who have to sit in class feeling attacked every day for who they are if the curriculum remained unchanged.

The board should pay careful attention to the current high school students who spoke with one voice.

The draft had to be changed. After all, we are the ones affected by it.

I am glad the committee heard various perspectives. There was also concern from parents who want to send their children to schools where they can be safe, and from heads of Jewish organizations from throughout the state.

Opposing us were people who implored the committee “not to take away ethnic studies.” Yet almost everyone who spoke against the draft, including me, emphasized that we support the goal of ethnic studies, and do not want to take it away. I believe that if we genuinely listen to each other’s

concerns, a large part of this disconnect would be resolved.

In the end, it seems our voices were heard.

Instead of moving forward with the current draft, the IQC decided to take no action. There will now be an extended process to revise the curriculum over the next year.

When asked if this is what I wanted to do — skip school and travel to a meeting where someone may not even listen to me — my response was simple: No, I didn’t want to do this. This shouldn’t have been an issue in the first place.

I don’t want to have to constantly call people out.

But I will.

I will keep fighting.

We cannot let people silence us into submission. We must stand united against prejudice.

While I am thankful the IQC is giving itself time to get this right, our community must monitor the process closely. For all our sakes, I hope the next draft lives up to its stated goals and values. ■

ADD YOUR VOICE

J. welcomes your local voice on timely Jewish issues and events of the day. If accepted, submissions are subject to editing. Approximate length: 750 words. Email to editors@jweekly.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

continued from page 37

Len Traubman, a true mensch

Alix Wall’s moving tribute to Len Traubman practically left me in tears (“Len Traubman, who got Jews and Palestinians talking, dies at 80,” online Oct. 8). Dr. Traubman was my childhood dentist. Despite his profession, his gentleness always reminded me of Mr. Rogers.

When I was around 12, I started becoming interested in tracing my family tree but was stymied by being too young to get access to most records (internet genealogy was in its infancy). An offhand comment to Len during a cleaning led to the gift of his own self-published family history, as well as encouragement to keep going and not get discouraged.

Len and his wife, Libby, also embodied the idea of *menschlichkeit* — kindness without strings. Every time he was in the news, it was for doing something good, particularly building bridges of dialogue and understanding between groups who often saw each other as enemies. On a few occasions I saw him get verbally attacked by critics, either in the press or online. He was always a perfect gentleman, letting the other party have their say and never feeling the need to argue. He knew what was right and that was enough.

The world was a better place while he was here. The world needs more Len Traubmans. The usual comment when someone dies is a prayer that their memory will be a blessing. For the thousands of people Len touched with his kindness and empathy, I have no doubt this will be true for many years to come.

ANDREW NUSBAUM | DENVER

Anti-Semitism, the great unifier

I am afraid that Rabbi Niles Elliot Goldstein’s appeal for a dignified and tolerant discourse (“May the Days of Awe help us embrace what’s important,” Oct. 2) may fall on deaf ears. Yes, Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai hotly, but respectfully, discussed “an esoteric matter.” But they shared a common interest of advancing Judaism, especially, in modern terms, Jewish ethics.

Nowadays, the right and left share few common interests. While Jews on the right find pride and excitement in Judaism, those on the left do not always do so. As for Israel, to the right the Jewish state, with all its faults and misdeeds, is a manifestation of the Zionist dream of Jews living free in the Jewish ancestral homeland, while some on the left believe it is an apartheid

state oppressing the innocent Palestinians.

Still, there is one factor that may unite the Jewish right and Jewish left. Enter anti-Semitism. And just look at the reaction of Jews belonging to both sides and no sides at all to the anti-Semitic ethnic studies curriculum draft produced by the advisory committee of the California Department of Education (DoE). The avalanche of condemnations was so swift and resolute that the DoE has shelved the draft, although there is no concluding decree on its fate, yet.

For anti-Semites, every Jew is an evildoer and Zionist. They don’t distinguish between right and left, between Jews interpreting the Torah one way or another, or seeing Israel from different perspectives. The spread of anti-Semitism may, just may, force Jews of all stripes to realize that the common identity and common homeland is more important than winning points in the right/left strife.

VLADIMIR KAPLAN | SAN MATEO

Civic studies, not ethnic studies

Jerome Berkman’s letter is right (“You’ve got to be taught to hate,” Oct. 4). The evidence suggests that we are losing the war against anti-Israel

and anti-Semitic content in California schools. Actually, “suggests” does not go far enough.

It is civic education that should concern the State Department of Education, not some so-called curriculum claiming to educate regarding ethnic diversity but which was “mysteriously” (read “intentionally”) hijacked. Who was responsible for this frightening fiasco?

E pluribus unum, not hostile ethnic (grievance) studies, must guide the California State Department of Education. We must promote understanding and acceptance among our diverse population by studying the contributions of all Americans as Americans, instead of divisively focusing on people as members of groups. A simple reference to a person as a hyphenated American should suffice to remind our students that we may come from many places, but we are all Americans now.

The students’ home environments play a large role, and schools might reach out to parents with the *e pluribus unum* message. Matter-of-fact comfort with diverse backgrounds in California will develop naturally for our children if they and their families see themselves first as Americans, instead of as members of groups.

JULIE LUTCH | DAVIS

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FILM

FRIDAY | October 18

"WHERE'S MY ROY COHN?"—Opening in wide release, a documentary about the Jewish lawyer who served as Sen. Joseph McCarthy's chief counsel and Donald Trump's personal attorney. At Clay Theatre, S.F., Shattuck Cinemas, Berkeley, and other theaters. Varying times, ticket prices. tinyurl.com/wheres-roycohn

MONDAY | October 21

"ADVOCATE"—2019 documentary about a Jewish lawyer in Israel who defends Palestinians, including armed militants. In Hebrew, Arabic and English with English subtitles. Part of the U.N. Association Film Festival. At Mitchell Park Community Center, 3700 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. 8:10 p.m. \$12. unaff.org

TUESDAY | October 22

"THE LAST SHEPHERD"—2015 Israeli comedy-adventure about Kabbalists vs. an angry archangel and a secret government agency. In Hebrew with English subtitles. Q&A with filmmaker, plus shorts. Part of Weird Film Fest. At PianoFight, 144 Taylor St., S.F. 7 p.m. \$10-\$12. tinyurl.com/last-shepherd

WEDNESDAY | October 23

"BYE BYE GERMANY"—Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival. Comic drama about post-war Germany. In German and English, with English subtitles. At Rialto Cinemas, 6868 McKinley St., Sebastopol. 1 and 7 p.m. \$10-\$12. jccsoco.org/2019jff

THURSDAY | October 24

"WOULD I LIE TO YOU?"—1997 French comedy about a man who passes himself off as Jewish after a fabric dealer hires him thinking he's a fellow Jew. With English subtitles. Under One Tent event. At Gateway Clubhouse Rossmoor, 1001 Golden Rain Road, Walnut Creek. 1 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/movie-wouldilie

SUNDAY | October 27

"THE BEST OF MEN"—2012 biography about a German Jewish refugee assigned to a British military hospital near the end of World War II. Under One Tent and East Bay Int'l Jewish Film Festival event. At Acalanes High School, 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. 3 p.m. \$8 advance. \$12 at door. 18 and under free. tinyurl.com/thebestofmen

SILICON VALLEY JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL—Opening night gala. Includes 70-minute documentary "Picture of His Life," reception and guests: famous wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum and Israeli director Israeli Dani Menkin. Partially in Hebrew with English subtitles. Festival runs through Nov. 14 at AMC Saratoga 14 in San Jose, OFJCC and CinéArts in Palo Alto. At Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 6:30 p.m. \$45. tinyurl.com/svjff-opening

TUESDAY | October 29

JEWISH SHORT FILMS—Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival presents a program of five short films. Some with English subtitles. At Rialto Cinemas, 6868 McKinley St., Sebastopol. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$11-\$14. jccsoco.org/2019jff

TUESDAY | November 5

"KEEPING THE FAITH"—Romantic comedy about three friends in New York City, with Ben Stiller portraying a rabbi. At Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. 1 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/faith-keeping

THURSDAY | November 7

"THE ITO SISTERS"—Documentary on the earliest Japanese immigrants to the U.S. Panel discussion with filmmaker Antonia Grace Glenn to focus on Japanese American internment camps. At Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. 7-9 p.m. \$8-\$10. tinyurl.com/itosisters-film

MUSIC

SUNDAY | October 20

"NABUCCO"—Jewish opera performance by Giuseppe Verdi about the Biblical and historical story of Babylonian King Nabucodonosor (Nebuchadnezzar) featuring baritone Kenny Stavert, soprano Juyeon Song, bass-baritone Philip Skinner, mezzo-soprano Tamara Gallo and tenor Alex Boyer. At Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St., S.F. 3 p.m. \$18-\$100. tinyurl.com/nabucco-sherith

WEDNESDAY | October 23

DANIEL PEARL MEMORIAL—Annual concert to honor the life and memory of Stanford alumnus and Wall Street Journal reporter who was murdered in 2002. Featuring Steve Reich's "Daniel Variations," which quotes the Book of Daniel as well as Pearl himself, and the Grammy-winning "Different Trains," about the plight of European Jews during World War II. At Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen St., Stanford. 7 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/daniel-pearl-music

TUESDAY | October 29

"STREET CORNER CABARET"—Lunch and concert with vocalist Deborah Rosengaus, accordionist Ron Borelli and dancers. Music includes Broadway, folk and popular favorites. At Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 12-1:30 p.m. \$25. tinyurl.com/cabaret-paloalto

SUNDAY | November 3

MUSIC AND DISCUSSION—Professor Tom Laqueur of UC Berkeley shares how 20th-century Vienna attracted radical Jewish artists and thinkers. Followed by concert of Arnold Schoenberg's music performed by Valley of the Moon Chamber Music Festival musicians. At Congregation Shir Shalom, 252 W. Spain St., Sonoma. 3 p.m. \$20. RSVP by Oct. 30. shir-shalom.org

TUESDAY | November 5

KEREN PELES—Israeli singer-songwriter in concert, singing her all-time greatest hits and sharing the stories behind the songs. In Hebrew. At Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 8-9:30 p.m. \$78-\$84. tinyurl.com/peles-concert

THURSDAY | November 7

"BREATH IN A RAM'S HORN"—Soprano Carol Menke performs a song cycle based on the words of poet Paul Pines, with themes of Jewish identity and family. Sonoma State Jewish Music Series. At Schroeder Hall, SSU, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park. 6:30 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/sonoma-series

YEMEN BLUES—A performance that blends Yemenite Jewish culture, ancient Arabic sounds and Afro Funk grooves. At Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison St., Berkeley. 8 p.m. \$40 in advance, \$44 at the door. tinyurl.com/yemenblues-concert

BOOKS

THURSDAY | October 24

"A STATE AT ANY COST: THE LIFE OF DAVID BEN-GURION"—Discussion with journalist and author Tom Segev about his new book on the founder of Israel. Facilitated by the Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies. At UC Berkeley Law, 225 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 5-7 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/berkeley-gurion

"PROTECTORS OF PLURALISM"—Professor Robert Braun of UC Berkeley discusses his new book examining which religious groups protected Jews during the Holocaust, and why. At Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis St., S.F. 7-8:30 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/braun-pluralism

"REVOLUTIONARY LOVE"—Presented by KPFA radio, Rabbi Michael Lerner of Tikun discusses his new book examining how political divisiveness can be mended. **Also 4 p.m. Oct. 27** at Book Passage, Corte Madera. At Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St., Berkeley. 7:30-9 p.m. \$12-\$15. tinyurl.com/michael-lerner

TUESDAY | October 29

"UNBOUNDED HEART: POEMS AND PRAYERS"—Rabbi Diane Elliot presents her new book. At St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Berkeley. 7-9 p.m. \$10-\$20 donation requested. aquarianminyan.org/calendar

SATURDAY | November 2

ADAM MANSBACH—Berkeley-based author of "Go the F**k to Sleep" reads from his new book, "F**k, Now There Are Two of You." A Parents Night Out event that also includes Kate Schatz of the Rad Women book series. Not intended for children. At Kepler's Books, 1047 El Camino Real, Menlo Park. 7:30 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/keplers-mansbach

SUNDAY | November 3

"REFUGEES IN AMERICA"—Rabbi Lee Bycel discusses his new book about refugees, the hardships they survived and how they adjusted to life in the U.S. At Jewish Community Library, 1835 Ellis St., S.F. 1:30-3 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/bycel-jcl

MONDAY | November 4

"TEHRAN CHILDREN: A HOLOCAUST REFUGEE ODYSSEY"—CUNY professor Mikhal Dekel will discuss her new book about the unlikely refuge found in Central Asian countries and Iran during World War II. At UC Berkeley Law, 225 Bancroft Way. 5-8 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/mikhal-dekel

"BORDER WARS: INSIDE TRUMP'S ASSAULT ON IMMIGRATION"—Authors Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Michael D. Shear of the New York Times discuss their new book on how Trump eroded the long-standing bipartisan consensus that immigration makes positive contributions to America. At Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 7:30-8:30 p.m. \$20-\$32. Book available for purchase. paloaltojcc.org/borderwars

WEDNESDAY | November 6

"THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ"—Author Heather Morris discusses her new sequel, "Cilka's Journey," about a Holocaust prisoner later sent to a Siberian gulag. At Books Inc. Laurel Village, 3515 California St., S.F. 7 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/cilkas-journey

"UPROOTED, A MEMOIR OF A MARRIAGE"—Retired USF Hebrew professor Esti Skloot talks about her new book on her experiences moving from England to Israel to the U.S. At Congregation Kol Shofar, 215 Blackfield Drive, Tiburon. 6-7 p.m. Free. kolshofar.org/events

Calendar

October 18- November 7

For more listings see jweekly.com/calendar



ON STAGE

MONDAY | October 21

"THE KINSEY SICKS"—The drag quartet, which released 2005 album "Oy Vey in a Manger," performs its new show for a synagogue fundraiser. Adult themes. At Congregation Ner Shalom, 85 La Plaza, Cotati. 7:30 p.m. \$35-\$48. shalomevents.org

"A NIGHT OF JEWISH HUMOR"—Performance by writers Dave Barry and Adam Mansbach, two of three authors of the comic haggadah "For This We Left Egypt?" At San Mateo Performing Arts Center, 608 North Delaware St., San Mateo. 7:30-9 p.m. \$15-\$25, \$50 includes book. tinyurl.com/duo-smhumor



Sing those shtetl tunes!

Partake in the legendary movie adaption of "Fiddler on the Roof," with a twist. Two screenings in the 24th annual Sonoma County Jewish Film Festival will feature audience sing-alongs, trivia and a costume contest for prizes. Get your Tevye on!

1 and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 at Rialto Cinemas, 6868 McKinley St., Sebastopol. \$11-\$14. jccsoco.org/2019jff

TUESDAY | October 29

"SWEET AND SOUR"—A table reading of Dan Schiffrin's play about food, dying and family stories. Accompanied by a catered meal based on the script. Discussion between acts and following the play with Schiffrin and Dr. Jessica Zitter. Part of 11-day, Bay Area-wide Reimagine event. At JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 7 p.m. \$45. jcceastbay.org/arts-civics

SUNDAY | November 3

ROTEM ABUHAV—Comedy routine by Israeli comedian. At Cañada College Theater, 4200 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City. 8:30 p.m. \$55-\$65. tinyurl.com/rotem-abuhav

BENEFITS & SOCIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY | October 19

"L'CHAIM NAPA VALLEY"—A benefit tasting and dinner celebrating Jewish vintners. With culinarian Joan Nathan, at least 12 wineries, live music and an auction. At Congregation Beth Shalom, 1455 Elm St., Napa. 4-9 p.m. \$50 for wine-tasting, \$195 for dinner, \$225 for both. tinyurl.com/jewish-wine

THURSDAY | October 24

GTU PRESIDENT INAUGURATION—Rabbi Daniel Lehmann is inaugurated as the eighth president of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. At International House at UC Berkeley, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. 5:30 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/inauguration-gtu

"COUNT ME IN COCKTAIL HOUR"—

Socialize and learn about volunteer opportunities in and out of the Jewish community. At Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. Registration requested. tinyurl.com/countme-pjcc

SUNDAY | October 27

JFCS ANNUAL GALA—Peter Sagal from NPR's "Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me" in conversation with KQED radio's Scott Shafer. Wine and food. At Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. Reception at 5:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m. \$75-\$150. tinyurl.com/sagal-shafer

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY—Join the Jewish Community Federation of S.F. and honor Sukkot with a day of volunteer service building homes for those affected by the 2017 Sonoma and Napa County fires. Work gloves, lunch and beverages provided. Bring water, hat and closed-toe shoes. At Habitat Center, 500 Valley House Drive, Rohnert Park. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. RSVP required. tinyurl.com/service-fires

TUESDAY | October 29

"ANN BEAR MEMORIAL WOMEN OF VALOR RECEPTION"—Celebration of Barbara Kaufman, recipient of the 2019 Judith Chapman Memorial Women's Leadership Award. Performance by Violins of Hope. At Kohl Mansion, 2750 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. 4-6:30 p.m. \$95. tinyurl.com/barbara-kaufman

SATURDAY | November 2

FIDF SAN FRANCISCO GALA—Regional chapter of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces holds annual "A Night of Heroes" fundraising event. At InterContinental hotel, 888 Howard St., S.F. 7:30 p.m. \$390, discount for early bird, \$180 for young leaders. tinyurl.com/fidf-gala

SUNDAY | November 3

FIDF MENLO PARK GALA—Regional chapter of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces holds its annual "A Night of Heroes" event/fundraiser. At Hotel Nia, 200 Independence Drive, Menlo Park. 5:30 p.m. \$180-\$390. tinyurl.com/fidf-gala

A WIDER BRIDGE FUNDRAISER—

S.F.-based nonprofit that promotes LGBTQ inclusion in Israel hosts "A Wider Brunch" to honor two stalwarts in their cause, Rachel Wahba and Zack Bodner. At St. Regis Hotel, 125 3rd St., S.F. 11:30 a.m. \$180. awiderbridge.org/sfbrunch19

WEDNESDAY | November 6

"JUDGE LEARNED HAND AWARD DINNER"—AJC San Francisco honors attorneys Kelly Dermody and Nancy L. Clarence (recipient of the AJC Pursuit of Justice Award). At International Mark Hopkins, 999 California St., S.F. 5:30-10 p.m. \$400. RSVP by Oct. 23. tinyurl.com/learned-handdinner

THURSDAY | November 7

"JIMENA HAPPY HOUR"—Before the Yemen Blues concert at nearby Freight & Salvage, meet up with JIMENA's Young Professionals for nosh and drinks. At Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 6-7:45 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/jimena-hour

HOLIDAYS & SPIRITUAL

FRIDAY | October 18

"SALMON IN THE SUKKAH"—Musical Shabbat service with a songleader, with dinner to follow. Gluten-free, veggie and kids' options. Under One Tent event. At Congregation B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. 6 p.m. \$10-\$19. Under 6 free. RSVP required for dinner. tinyurl.com/salmon-sukkah

SATURDAY | October 19

SUKKOT AT FERRY PLAZA FARMERS MARKET—Join JCCSF and CUESA to decorate a sukkah, shake the lulav/etrog and draw mandalas with Leslie Jonath, author of "Forged Art." At Ferry Building Plaza, S.F. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/sukkot-festival

"PARTY IN THE SUKKAH"—Includes dance party, with Shamati performing live in the tent. With bonfire, Covenant wines, art-making and craft cocktails. 21 and over. At Urban Adamah, 1151 6th St., Berkeley. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$15. tinyurl.com/partyinsukkah

SUNDAY | October 20

"SUCCOT CELEBRATION"—Jewish Baby Network event for families with newborns through 36 months. With stories, crafts, etc. At 768 Paul Ave., Palo Alto. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Free, donation requested. tinyurl.com/succot-celebration

"SUKKOT APPLE PICKING"—Head to Live Earth Farm with Addison-Penzak JCC's young adults group. Apples to be donated to those in need via Jewish Family Services. Meet at Gizdich Ranch, 55 Peckham Road, Watsonville. 12-2 p.m. \$5. tinyurl.com/apple-sukkot

"SUKKOT BBQ"—A free lunch for members and non-members in the humongous Yavneh Day School sukkah. At Addison-Penzak JCC, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos. 12-2 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/sukkot-bbq

SUKKOT CELEBRATION—Arts and crafts, a clay studio, sukkah-building with Legos, dancing, Jonathan

Bayer's Itty Bitty Brass Band and a magic show. At Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free for two adults with someone 18 and under, or a transitional youth 18 to 22. thecjm.org/programs/600

"SUKKOT FARM FESTIVAL"—Build a sukkah, care for animals, work in the garden and prepare farm-to-table meals in a family event sponsored by 20 Jewish organizations. Children's programming and adult workshops. Ends with Octopretzel concert. At Urban Adamah, 1151 6th St., Berkeley. 1-4 p.m. \$15. tinyurl.com/sukkot-farm

"BEER TASTING IN THE SUKKAH"—Under One Tent event includes appetizers and brews. Non-drinkers admitted for free only with RSVP. 21 and over. At Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville. 7 p.m. \$20-\$25. tinyurl.com/beer-sukkah

FRIDAY | October 25

"TORAH IN A NEW LIGHT"—Five-part course about the Torah texts and how it has shaped Jewish life. At Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City. Until Dec. 20. 10-11:30 a.m. \$15-\$18 per class, \$65-\$80 for course. tinyurl.com/torah-newlight

"QUEERING KABBALAH"—Rabbi Mychal Copeland on reading the Zohar in a queer context. Part of "The Mystical Voice" series. At Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. 12:30-1 p.m. Included with admission. thecjm.org/programs/587

FRIDAY | November 1

"POP-UP SHABBAT: UKRAINIAN"—Chef Anna Voloshyna's dinner will include hot veggie borscht, pampushki (garlic buns) and blinis filled with homemade cottage cheese and raisins. At Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto. 5:30-7 p.m. \$12-\$20, \$48 family of four, 2 and under free. tinyurl.com/ukraine-shabbat

A dose of 'The Daily'

As host of the popular New York Times podcast "The Daily," Michael Barbaro is known for his thought-provoking questions and smooth, rhythmic voice. You can hear it live when he joins Hana Baba, host of KALW radio's "Crosscurrents," for a behind-the-scenes look at how the podcast is created.

7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28 at JCC of San Francisco, 3200 California St., S.F. \$40-\$50. tinyurl.com/michael-barbaro

JEWISH CALENDAR | SHABBAT

Oct. 18 | Tishrei 19, 5780
Light candles at 6:10 p.m.
Shabbat ends at 7:06 p.m.

Oct. 25 | Tishrei 26, 5780
Light candles at 6:01 p.m.
Shabbat ends at 6:58 p.m.

Nov. 1 | Cheshvan 3, 5780
Light candles at 5:53 p.m.
Shabbat ends at 6:50 p.m.

(Photo/Courtesy Julie Richter)

TALKS & WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY | October 20

GENEALOGY TALK—Judith Berlowitz on using Geni.com for family tree research. Includes live demonstration of the tool. At FamilySearch Library, 4766 Lincoln Ave., Oakland. 1 p.m. Free. sfbajgs.org/calendar.html

WEDNESDAY | October 23

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN COEXISTENCE—Members of a joint community established by Jewish and Arab citizens in Israel discuss raising their families in this shared community and prospects for peace in Israel today. At Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City. 7-8:30 p.m. \$15-\$20. pjcc.org/programs/diverse-voices

"CARL ZIMMER ON HEREDITY"—New York Times science columnist discusses the nuances of what gets inherited, from microbes to tech knowledge, and offers a radical new definition of heredity. Moderated by writer Annalee Newitz. At JCCSF, 3200 California St., S.F. 7 p.m. \$30-\$40. tinyurl.com/carlzimmer

THURSDAY | October 24

"REIMAGINE END OF LIFE"—Evening program with conversations, food and comedy shows around the Bay Area with a focus on questions about life and death. Culminating in all-day fair on Nov. 3 (see separate listing). letsreimagine.org/sf

"WOMEN OF A CERTAIN AGE"—Journalist-author Gail Collins explores how attitudes toward older women have shifted in U.S. With Lauren Schiller of "Inflection Point" radio show. At JCCSF, 3200 California St., S.F. 7 p.m. \$30-\$40. tinyurl.com/collins-jccsf

"NAVIGATING THE CHALLENGE TO JEWISH IDENTITY"—Tomer Persico, visiting professor at UC Berkeley, talks loyalty, tribalism and religion. Part of Great Jewish Thinkers Series. Under One Tent event. At Beth Chaim Congregation, 1800 Holbrook Drive, Danville. 7 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/tomer-persico

"ISRAEL & THE WORLD: ECONOMICS & POLITICS"—S.F.-based Israeli consul general Shlomi Kofman gives an overview. Under One Tent event. At Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek. 7:30 p.m. \$7-\$10, 21-and-under free. RSVP requested. tinyurl.com/shlomi-kofman

FRIDAY | October 25

"ENVISIONING PEACE"—Discussion of United Religions Initiative with Jewish interfaith activist Rita Semel and several faith leaders. At Commonwealth Club, 110 The Embarcadero, S.F. 12-1:15 p.m. \$8-\$20. tinyurl.com/envisioning-peace

SUNDAY | October 27

"OUR HERITAGE AND OUR HEALTH"—Biotech educator Gary Frolich discusses Ashkenazi Jews' risk of certain genetic diseases and one little-known disease. Includes dinner, but RSVP required by Oct. 21. At Addison Penzak JCC, 14855 Oka Road, Los Gatos. 4-6:30 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/ourheritage-apjcc

"FEMINISM ALL DAY"—Conversation, exploration, learning and integration of feminism, spirituality and life experiences. Lunch included. At Urban Adamah, 1151 6th St., Berkeley. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$8-\$18. tinyurl.com/feminism-allday

"MY ATTIC, YOUR STORY"—GTU Center for Jewish Studies fellow Roslyn Sholin talks about inheriting an old family home, history, migration and her exhibit. At JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 2-4 p.m. \$10-\$15. tinyurl.com/artist-discussion

MONDAY | October 28

STOLPERSTEINE TALK—East Bay author Judy Vasos talks about the commemorative stones/plaques in front of Nazi victims' homes in Europe, with short film. S.F. Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society event. At Congregation Etz Chayim, 4161 Alma St., Palo Alto. 7:30 p.m. Free. sfbajgs.org

TUESDAY | October 29

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST—Discussion on collaborative initiatives in food, energy and water systems, with Suleiman Halasah of the Jordan-Israel Center for Community and Environmental Research and the Arava Institute. At UC Berkeley Law, 225 Bancroft Way. 5:30-8:30 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/sustainability-me

THURSDAY | October 31

JOHN LITHGOW—Actor-author discusses his book of political poetry, "Dumpty: The Age of Trump in Verse," in conversation with KQED Radio's Michael Krasny. At Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro Road, San Rafael. 6:30 p.m. \$45-\$50 with book purchase. tinyurl.com/lithgow-krasny

SATURDAY | November 2

"JEWISH & QUEER-RAISED: A GATHERING"—Two-day retreat for adults who grew up in a Jewish/queer family, organized by Center for LGBT and Gender Studies in Religion. At Pacific School of Religion, 1798 Scenic Ave., Berkeley. 9 a.m. \$18. tinyurl.com/jewishqueer-retreat

SUNDAY | November 3

"REIMAGINE END-OF-LIFE RESOURCE FAIR"—Reimagine festival and JCC East Bay team up for a drop-in event packed with organizations, experts and information. At JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/reimagine-jcceb

"END OF LIFE RESOURCE FAIR"—Resources from businesses and organizations, plus speakers sharing spiritual advice, traditions and tips for navigating the path in compassionate and dignified ways. At JCCSF, 3200 California St., S.F. 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. RSVP recommended. jccsf.org/eol





BEING A JEWISH TEENAGER—Youth-led discussion about some of the most pressing topics facing Jewish teens today. Peninsula Jewish Youth for Community Action event. At Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City. 2-4 p.m. Free. tinyurl.com/jewish-teenager

"REMEMBERING THE LESSONS OF KRISTALLNACHT"—French journalist Marc Weitzmann discusses his new book about the rise of anti-Semitism and what it means for Jews. Under One Tent event. At Congregation B'nai Tikvah, 25 Hillcroft Way, Walnut Creek. 7 p.m. \$5-\$10, 21-and-under free. tinyurl.com/kristallnacht-tikvah

THURSDAY | November 7

"CLIMATE CHANGE, DISABILITY AND THE POLITICS OF SURVIVAL"—Georgetown Jewish studies professor Rabbi Julia Watts Belser delivers Swig Program's annual Human Rights Lecture, looking at ancient Jewish texts from a framework of disability studies, queer theory and feminist climate ethics. At USF, Fromm Hall, 2497 Golden Gate Ave. 6:30-8 p.m. Free. omkrollzeldin@usfca.edu

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New 'Roy Cohn' documentary hits hard at the brilliant, widely despised figure

FILM | MICHAEL FOX | J. CORRESPONDENT

The High Holidays are over, and while none of us knows for sure whether we have been inscribed in the Book of Life for the coming year, we can feel fairly certain that Roy Cohn, who died 33 years ago, is inscribed for eternity in the Book of Bad Jews.

"Where's My Roy Cohn?" — a Matt Tyrnauer documentary that premiered at Sundance last winter — revisits in depth the infamous early landmarks in the unscrupulous lawyer's career: his role as a U.S. prosecutor in the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted of spying for the Soviet Union and executed, and his time as chief counsel to Sen. Joseph McCarthy, which involved the investigation and prosecution of alleged communists in the federal government.

Those high-profile, early 1950s power plays established Cohn as a brilliant, ruthless and smoothly articulate operative, and he also was someone who would go to any lengths to conceal his sexual identity (while pursuing his pleasure).

All of that, along with Cohn's rule-flouting approach to private practice, is sufficient to place him among the most despicable figures of 20th-century public life.

Yet "Where's My Roy Cohn?" adds a third charge to the indictment. It assembles a case that Cohn, starting in the 1970s and up through his death in 1986, was the primary mentor and role model for a bullying, amoral, upstart real-estate developer by the name of Donald Trump. Our current mess, in other words, bears the long-gone Cohn's greasy fingerprints.

This last bit, while provocative and persuasive, is plainly included in Tyrnauer's purview to draw his detailed (and aggressively, excessively soundtracked) documentary out of the realm of history and into the maelstrom of current events.

In fact, the film takes its title from a Trump lament when he needed a fixer with Cohn's efficiency, discretion and nonexistent moral code. (He found him in Michael Cohen — another candidate for entry into the Book of Bad Jews?)

After playing twice in the Mill Valley Film Festival earlier this month, and after cinematic runs in various U.S. cities over the past month, "Where's My Roy Cohn?" is opening Friday, Oct. 18 on screens in San Francisco, Berkeley, San Rafael and Sacramento. A week later, it will open in Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa.

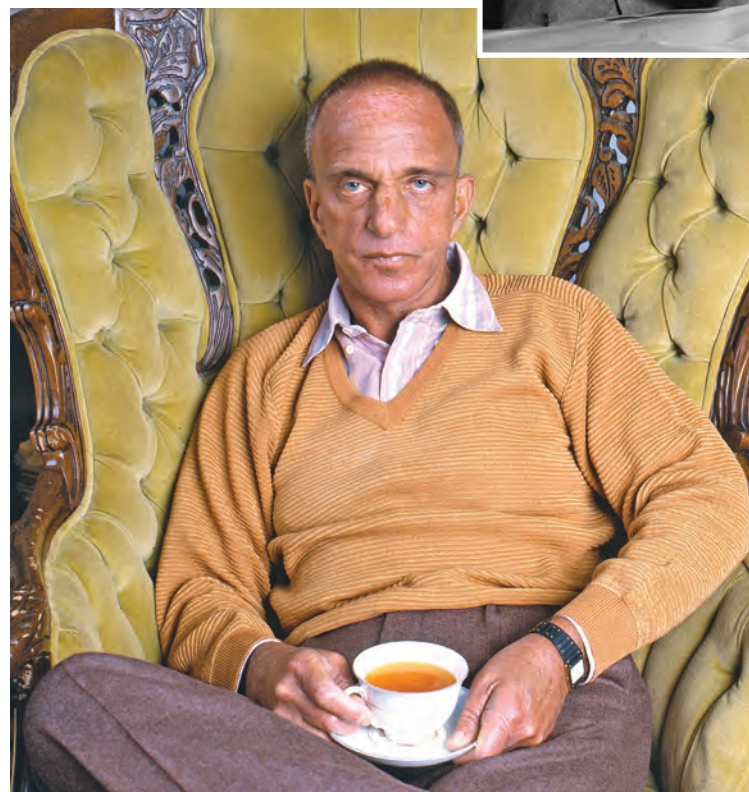
Cohn was an only child under the thumb of a domineering mother and an

influence-seeking father: Dora Marcus was a woman with family money and powerful connections; Albert Cohn was a shady lawyer who purportedly proposed marriage if one of Dora's kin procured a judgeship for him.

Dora was quite, um, pragmatic herself, it seems. A cousin remembers the seder when a maid inconveniently died, and Dora ordered the body stashed under the kitchen table rather than ruin her guests' evening.

Presumably, Roy got his extraordinary talent for expediency from Dora.

(Right) Sen. Joseph McCarthy covers his microphone to listen to his chief counsel Roy Cohn; (below) Cohn in his later years (Photos/Courtesy Mill Valley Film Festival)



A regular presence in the New York newspapers and a political force behind the scenes for nearly his entire career, Cohn was driven by power and its perks. His tactics were astonishingly shameless — deny, distract, attack and intimidate.

Incidentally, that cousin, while one of the most candid interviewees in the documentary, is pretty much the only one who can muster a smidgen of affinity for Cohn three-plus decades after his death from AIDS.

The obvious crony who wouldn't kick dirt on his grave

is former TV personality Barbara Walters, who likely benefited from her association with the Manhattan power player (even as Cohn used her to deflect persistent reports that he was gay). But Walters, now 90, is conspicuously absent in the film.

If it seems that the saga of Cohn, like the Passover story, is told and retold to new generations, you're not wrong. Tony Kushner imagined the ghost of Ethel Rosenberg visiting an AIDS-wracked Cohn in his Tony

Award-winning 1991 play, "Angels in America," and in 2003, director Mike Nichols adapted the play for HBO Films with Al Pacino playing Cohn and Meryl Streep as Ethel.

The following year, Julius and Ethel's granddaughter, Ivy Meeropol, released "Heir to an Execution," a powerful documentary about the Rosenberg trial and its political and personal aftermath. At last month's New York Film Festival, Meeropol premiered "Bully. Coward. Victim. The Story of Roy Cohn," which reportedly will air on HBO.

It's difficult to glean a lesson, or a moral, from Cohn's life of narcissism, cruelty and self-loathing. After all, he penetrated the inner circles of power, and he reveled in the spoils of victory.

But if history truly is the final judge, then Cohn has at least a page or two, or maybe even an entire chapter, in the Book of Bad Jews. ■

"Where's My Roy Cohn?" Opens Friday, Oct. 18 at Clay Theatre (S.F.), Shattuck Cinemas (Berkeley), Century Regency (San Rafael) and Tower Theatre (Sacramento), and Oct. 25 at Nickelodeon Theatre (Santa Cruz) and Summerfield Cinemas (Santa Rosa). (97 minutes, rated PG-13 for thematic content, some sexual material and violent images)

For popular Palestinian writer Sayed Kashua, home is elusive

EVENTS | ANDREW ESENSTEN | J. CORRESPONDENT

"It sounds really good, my life," the Palestinian Israeli writer Sayed Kashua said with a chuckle after he was introduced at San Francisco State University Oct. 15. "But basically, I live in St. Louis and I'm a Ph.D. student now, so it's very boring."

On the contrary, the creator of the popular Israeli TV series "Arab Labor" and author of four novels is busier than ever, juggling coursework in comparative literature at Washington University while working on several television projects. These include "Shtisel," an Israeli series for which he serves as story editor, and a series for HBO about the FBI and the American Muslim community that he is helping to write.

The TV work takes priority these days, he told a group of students, faculty and community members at SFSU.

"It's getting a little bit tough," he said, bemoaning the hundreds of pages of classwork reading he must do each week. "Like, I have two weeks to finish one full script for HBO, so is it that or translation theory? I guess HBO wins big time."

Kashua's quick wit and self-deprecating humor were on display throughout his talk, which was organized by SFSU's



Sayed Kashua (Photo/Andrew Esensten)

Department of Jewish Studies, the Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford University and the Israel Institute. After reading a comic essay — his first written in English, his third language — about achieving his American dream by riding in a limousine and flying first class, Kashua discussed his latest novel, "Track Changes," which will be published in English in January. The book follows an Arab-Israeli writer who reconnects with his estranged father on his deathbed.

"It's about the effect of writing and how sometimes there's a very big price to pay for what you write," he explained.

Born in Tira, an Arab town about 18 miles north of Tel Aviv, the 44-year-old Kashua uprooted his family from Jerusalem in 2014 in the midst of a wave of violence following the kidnapping and murder of three Jewish teenagers by Hamas operatives and the revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager by extremist Jews — events dramatized in the new HBO series "Our Boys," which Kashua praised. "I wanted to tell the Israelis a story, the Palestinian story," he wrote in the Guardian at the time. "Twenty-five years that I am writing and knowing bitter criticism from both sides, but last week I gave up."

For the past few years he taught Hebrew literature — or "Advanced Arabic-Accented Hebrew Literature," as he put it — at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He admitted that he has not tried to assimilate into American society — though he loves free refills and watches Fox News — and tells people who inquire about his accent that he is Albanian "because no one knows what an Albanian sounds like."

Asked by Vered Weiss, an Israel Institute teaching fellow in Jewish studies at SFSU, where he feels most at home, he replied: "Is it St. Louis? Tira? Jerusalem? Israel? I don't know. Home is what's written in the GPS."

Weiss called Kashua "one of the most unique voices in Israeli society" who has helped to bridge the divide between Israel's Arab minority and Jewish majority. "Sayed has the extraordinary talent of making the reader laugh even while crying," she said.

In an interview with J. after the talk, Kashua chewed nicotine gum and said that he still follows Israeli politics obsessively. "I'm trying to be very carefully optimistic for change," he said. "But who knows?" (In a New York Times op-ed last year, Kashua criticized the country's recently passed Nationality Law, writing that "Israel's message to its Arab citizens is that it does not wish to be our state.")

He said he may return to Israel one day but worries about how his children, who have been in America for five years, would cope. His daughter, a sophomore at Brandeis University, responds to his Arabic texts in Hebrew, and his younger son, an 8-year-old, "thinks that he's American." Kashua joked that he and Najat would break the news to their son that he's not a U.S. citizen, and that he's Muslim, at the boy's bar mitzvah.

"Are they going to be accepted as citizens in America?" he wondered. "What's going to happen to immigrants, foreigners, Muslims? With each year it becomes much more difficult [to go back to Israel], because they are forgetting both the Arabic and the Hebrew." ■

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Anti-Semitism explored in award-winning books

BOOKS | LAURA PAULL | J. STAFF

Two recently published books that grapple with the historically tangled threads of anti-Semitism and Zionism have been selected as the Natan Notable Books for fall 2019.

Bari Weiss' "How to Fight Anti-Semitism" and Susie Linfield's "The Lions' Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky" are the winners of the Jewish Book Council distinction, formerly known as the Natan Book Awards.

Handed out twice a year, the Natan Notable Book awards are intended to draw attention to recently published (or about-to-be-published) nonfiction books on Jewish themes.

Previous winners have included Matti Friedman's "Spies of No Country" in 2018 and Ari Shavit's "My Promised Land" in 2013.

The two new winners "offer fresh and nuanced analysis of complex issues," the Jewish Book Council said in its Oct. 7 announcement.

In her book, "Weiss explores the permutations of contemporary anti-Semitism — from the right, from the left and in radical Islam — each of which has a different kind of intensity and character, and none of which can afford to be overlooked."

In the other winning book, "Linfield untangles the intellectual knots which some prominent 20th-century thinkers on the Left twisted to disparage and demonize Israel and Zionism."

Franklin Foer, co-chair of the Natan Notable Books



Susie Linfield



Bari Weiss

committee, said in the release, "The books are in fruitful dialogue with each other" with respect to anti-Semitism, which, "as both writers clearly demonstrate, [is] a multi-headed beast."

Added committee co-chair Tali Rosenblatt-Cohen: "At a time when many people gravitate toward Tweetable oversimplifications of complex problems and to idealistic visions that fail to account for context, history or the necessities of realpolitik, both authors remind us that real life is messy and difficult to understand, often requiring people to hold multiple competing ideas in their heads at once."

Linfield is a social and cultural theorist at New York University who is a self-described leftist and Zionist. "Lions' Den" offers critical studies of eight seminal leftist

intellectuals: Hannah Arendt, Arthur Koestler, Maxime Rodinson, Isaac Deutscher, Albert Memmi, Fred Halliday, I. F. Stone and Noam Chomsky. Of this group, only Memmi and Halliday supported Israel's right to exist.

"Only in the case of Israel is the eradication of an extant nation ... considered a progressive demand," Linfield writes.

Weiss, a New York Times opinion page editor and writer, grew up in Pittsburgh, where she attended the Tree of Life synagogue. The attack on that synagogue last October prompted her to take a deep dive into the subject of anti-Semitism. This is the career journalist's first book.

Weiss spoke at the JCC of San Francisco last month and was interviewed by J.

"There's a lot of misunderstanding that it is just prejudice against Jews," she told J., referring to new types of anti-Semitism emerging in society and online. "Yes, it can manifest as that, but it's really a signal of a society that has replaced lies for truth, and open societies are dead or dying. This is the early warning signal."

Each author will receive a \$5,000 prize and promotional support. ■

"The Lions' Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky" by Susie Linfield (400 pages, Yale University Press)

"How to Fight Anti-Semitism" by Bari Weiss (224 pages, Crown)

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Jewish film fest in Silicon Valley flying higher than ever

FILM | LAURA PAULL | J. STAFF

The Bay Area offers moviegoers an abundance of Jewish film festivals, and one of the granddaddies is just around the corner: the Silicon Valley Jewish Film Festival, now in its 28th year.

This year's festival opens Oct. 27 and runs through Nov. 17, with 31 films and 51 screenings (including three free screenings for students) at three venues: the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto, the AMC Saratoga 14 in San Jose and, new this year, the two-screen CinéArts at Palo Alto Square.

According to festival director Tzvia Shelef, there will be more special events, more invited directors and guests and more movies than ever before.

The opening-night gala on Sunday, Oct. 27 at the JCC will feature a screening of "Picture of His Life," a documentary in English and Hebrew (with English subtitles) about the personal quest of renowned underwater and wildlife photographer Amos Nachoum to swim unprotected with polar bears. Nachoum, who served in the Yom Kippur War and now lives on the Monterey Peninsula, will take questions from the audience after the show, as will the film's award-winning Israeli director Dani Menkin and executive producer Ori Eisen.

The festival's centerpiece film is "Working Woman," an Israeli feature in Hebrew with English subtitles, about a married woman who sacrifices her family life to prove herself to her new boss. But when flirting turns into harassment, she struggles to restore her sense of dignity and self-worth.

Following both screenings, on Nov. 6 at CinéArts and

Nov. 7 at Saratoga 14, a panel discussion will be held with Ann Ravel, a Berkeley Law lecturer who represents victims in sexual harassment cases; former Miss Israel Illana Shoshan-Diamant, now a lawyer and women's rights activist; and Jennifer Blakely, a former Google employee who has spoken out about the company's alleged exploitation of women.

The closing-night film on Nov. 17 at the JCC is "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles," a documentary about the creation of the Broadway sensation "Fiddler on the Roof" and its continuing impact. A Q&A following the 92-minute film will include producer Valerie Thomas and actor Michael Bernardi, the youngest person ever to play Tevye on Broadway (at age 31) and the son of Herschel Bernardi, who played Tevye on Broadway nearly 50 years ago.

Another festival highlight is the West Coast premiere of "Shai K.," a documentary about legendary Israeli actor Shaike Ophir, whose story is unknown to most Americans. Born in Jerusalem in 1928, he became a megastar while playing a spectrum of character types in both dramas and comedies. "Often described as 'the Israeli Charlie Chaplin,' Ophir worked with Alfred Hitchcock and Marcel Marceau, but he also had a troubled family life, which the film explores. In Hebrew with English subtitles, the film will screen Nov. 3 at CinéArts.

A perhaps even more unknown story will be illuminated in "The Accountant of Auschwitz," a 2018 documentary that reconstructs Germany's controversial 2014 war crimes trial

of a frail, 94-year-old former Auschwitz guard. The 78-minute Canadian film, partially in German with English subtitles, will screen Nov. 4 at CinéArts and Nov. 12 at Saratoga 14.

This year's festival will pay tribute to the great Israeli writer Amos Oz, who died last December, with a screening of "Amos Oz: The Nature of Dreams" on Nov. 5 at CinéArts. The 2009 Israeli documentary, which is in English, Hebrew and German with English subtitles, includes Oz himself talking about his life and work, plus insights from writers such as Nadine Gordimer, Sari Nusseibeh and Paul Auster.

Shelef also recommends "The Jewish Underground," a tense documentary about the Shin Bet's investigation of a radical right-wing Jewish organization, the Makhteret, that carried out several attacks on Muslims in the West Bank in the 1980s and even plotted to blow up the Muslim holy site the Dome of the Rock. In Hebrew with English subtitles, the 2017 film will screen Nov. 6 at CinéArts and Nov. 7 at Saratoga 14. Director Shai Gal, a correspondent for an investigative TV program in Israel, is scheduled to attend both screenings.

"It's an extraordinary documentary about people who tried to bomb the holy site in Jerusalem, and did not succeed — thank God!" Shelef said. "And yet it tells how these same kinds of people continue to impact the government today."

Tickets to most films are \$14 in advance and \$16 at the door (with a \$2 discount for seniors). Special events cost more. For ticket information, a complete schedule and other details, visit svjfff.org or call (800) 838-3006. ■

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SENIOR LIFE

NYT columnist gives 'women of a certain age' their due

BOOKS | PATRICIA CORRIGAN | J. CORRESPONDENT

When it comes to women of a certain age making the most of life, Gail Collins' credentials are impeccable. A political columnist for the New York Times, Collins, 73, also is the author of three books on the history of women.

Collins will bring some of their stories about aging—and some of her own—to town on Thursday, Oct. 24 when she will speak at the JCC of San Francisco about her new book, "No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of Older Women in American History."

"Collins is funny, relatable and extremely sharp," said Stephanie Singer, director of Arts and Ideas at the JCCSF. "We expect her book to speak to many of our community members and we're grateful to the Jenerosity Foundation for their support of this program." Lauren Schiller, the creator and host of "Inflection Point," a nationally syndicated weekly public radio show and podcast, will interview Collins at the Kanbar Hall event.

"No Stopping Us Now" pays tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Susan Sontag, Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan and other notable Jewish leaders in thought, word and deed. Funny as well as informative, Collins' book also honors other older women in America who "figured out how to get around what seemed like fixed social deadlines for being a valuable part of society."

All women, Collins says, must be grateful for the way those deadlines keep getting pushed back, writing that today, "You can recreate yourself at 65—go back to college or move to Cambodia or start a commune."

In an interview with J., Collins suggested that women thriving in their later years is not a recent development. "This

whole vision of women moving forward is not new. Early in this country, women knew how to grow food and raise chickens, and this women's economy brought in money that helped keep the household going," she said.

"Today, women have economic power, too, [and] investments, and that has helped to wipe away the age thing. If you have an economic function, you're great. Of course, that's true whether you're female or male, gay or straight, Catholic or Jewish."

Collins' book highlights Mary Fields, the first African American postal worker in the U.S. In the 1880s, Fields delivered mail in Montana, driving a horse and wagon part of the year and strapping on snowshoes when the weather was bad. Collins writes of another Mary as well, recalling that Mary Tyler Moore's TV character in the 1970s was described by the media of the time as a "30-year-old spinster."

Anne Pollard also is featured in this book. Pollard is said to have been the first woman to set foot in the new settlement of Boston, in 1630, and she lived for more than a century. Also spotlighted is 98-year-old Betty Reid Soskin, a national park ranger (the nation's oldest) at the Rosie the Riveter Visitor Center in Richmond, although she's been off the job since



Gail Collins (Photo/Courtesy Nina Subins)

mid-September after suffering a stroke.

Collins, employing a sharp wit, also tracks the history of corsets, the Equal Rights Amendment and hormone-replacement therapy. She describes how women have reimagined the "change of life" for the better. And the book cites many famous feminists past and present.

Collins' earlier books on related topics include "America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines" and "When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present," and she has also written "As Texas Goes: How the Lone Star State Hijacked the American Agenda" and "Scorpion Tongues: Gossip, Celebrity and American Politics."

Writing about women in history is "one of the most fun things I've done," she said. "I'd always read about different women's lives through history. I think that's interesting. It's also been interesting to hear from younger women who have grown up empowered. So many didn't realize that, at one time, our only career options were teacher or mother. Telling stories about the women who challenged that is still a pleasure." ■

"Gail Collins on Women of a Certain Age" 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 at JCCSF, 3200 California St. S.F. \$30-\$40, discount for members. jccsf.org/events/arts-ideas/gail-collins

"No Stopping Us Now: The Adventures of Older Women in American History" by Gail Collins (432 pages, Little, Brown and Company)

When it's time to get Medicare, make it your business to know your options

J. WIRE SERVICES

Did you know that there are two different ways to receive your Medicare benefits?

The most popular way is Original Medicare, where you can choose any doctor, hospital or other health care provider (as long as they accept Medicare). When you receive medical services or goods, Medicare pays the provider directly.

The other way is Medicare Advantage, which is a form of managed care, like an HMO or a PPO. Medicare Advantage plans are sold by private insurance companies approved by Medicare, and you generally must go to doctors and other providers within the company's network.

Medicare Advantage plans may cover some benefits—such as dental, hearing and vision—that Original Medicare doesn't.

Most people with Original Medicare pay a monthly premium. Some Medicare Advantage plans charge an additional monthly premium; others don't.

With Original Medicare, you must pay deductibles and/or coinsurance when you get care.

To cover these "gaps" in Medicare, some people buy supplemental insurance called Medigap. If you have a Medigap policy, Medicare pays its share of the covered costs, and

your Medigap policy pays its share.

Original Medicare generally doesn't cover prescription drugs. For that you can purchase a Medicare Part D plan. Like Medicare Advantage, Part D plans are sold by private insurers for a monthly premium.

About 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries are currently in Original Medicare; the rest get coverage through Medicare Advantage.

Medicare Advantage companies must cover all of the services that Original Medicare covers, except hospice care and some care in qualifying clinical research studies. (Original Medicare covers these items even if you're in a Medicare Advantage plan.)

Medicare Advantage plans cover emergency and urgent care, and many include some prescription drug coverage.

But the plans can charge different out-of-pocket amounts and they have different rules for how you get service.

For example, you may need a referral to see a specialist. And you may need to stay in their provider network, unless you're willing to pay more to go outside the network.

Check with the plan before you get a service to find out whether it's covered and what your costs may be. If the

plan decides to stop participating in Medicare Advantage, you can join another Medicare health plan or return to Original Medicare.

To decide which plan is better for you, there's a detailed explanation between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage in the "Medicare & You" handbook, which is mailed to all Medicare households every fall. The handbook is also available at Medicare.gov (go to "helpful links" at the bottom of the page.)

You can shop for a health or drug plan using the Medicare Plan Finder, also at Medicare.gov. Click on "Find health & drug plans."

If you have any questions, you can call Medicare's 24-hour customer service line at (800) Med-icare (633-4227).

If you'd like to join a Medicare Advantage or Part D drug plan, you can do so during Medicare's open enrollment period, which runs from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7.

If you're in Original Medicare and satisfied, you don't need to do anything during open enrollment. If you want to buy a Medicare Advantage or Part D plan, or already have one, Medicare officials note that you can save money by shopping around. ■

'Ordinary' North Bay man writes his 'extraordinary' story

BOOKS | LEZAK SHALLAT | J. CORRESPONDENT

Al Hirshen is one of those natural raconteurs whose friends react to his anecdotes by saying, "You should write a book!"

The 81-year-old Petaluma resident is a Bronx-born civil rights lawyer, former member of the Carter administration and a retired international development consultant.

He is, by his own reckoning, an ordinary man. But he has led a rather extraordinary life, guided by curiosity, fearlessness and a voracious appetite for working abroad.

Those qualities — summed up by his motto "Don't stop yourself from doing anything" — are chronicled in his memoir, "The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man."

The self-published book, is being launched this month with several events.

Hirshen was not always a writer. As a child, he struggled with dyslexia. But like many lawyers, he has a way with words.

Three years ago, a friend invited Hirshen and a writing coach to a breakfast that ended up producing a memoir.

Why? "For the grandchildren, of course," he responds. "But after one year and 500 pages, my ego took hold and I started thinking beyond them — to my time in history."

But telling isn't same as writing. He needed to learn how to structure, and how to engage strangers.

"I enjoyed it all — all nine to 10 drafts." He credits his editor, Renate Stendhal, with keeping him on track.

Curiously, Hirshen is not a fan of memoirs, and he avoided reading them while writing. But he's always loved biographies.

"I always like to know what the *turn* is: the moment when your life turns and you become someone else."

From the reader's perspective, Hirshen's life seems to have taken many of these pivotal turns. He pioneered anti-poverty law programs in the United States and created the Carter administration's first public-private partnerships.

He was among the first USAid consultants to work in Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia and Albania, and worked for nine years as a consultant to the leadership of Indonesia during its transition to democracy.

"My life has been figuring out how to move things through the political system," he says. In international development, that meant "how to operate to get something done, how to make things happen."

One connecting thread throughout is Hirshen's Jewish identity.

"Mine is not a Jewish memoir, but it is about a Jewish man," he says.

He also writes honestly about his "drinking career," which went from "fun to mostly fun and some trouble, to more trouble, to finally mostly trouble."

"Although I never went to prison for killing someone in a bar fight or while driving drunk, I paid a heavy price: loss of a marriage and family, economic distress, loss of self-esteem and deep humiliation."

He's says he's been sober for 33 years due in large part to

a 12-step program that he still participates in, as a mentor to others.

One of the most entertaining chapters in the memoir contains Hirshen's account of his failed attempt to make a Hollywood movie about an acquaintance in Southeast Asia who was both a missionary and an undercover CIA agent.

"Throughout my career, I had excelled at networking, building relationships and putting together the pieces and people necessary to move a project forward," he writes. "Why not use these same skills to produce a movie?"

Instead, he says he lost \$50,000 and his marriage. "As a friend said, 'You lived a movie trying to make a movie.'"

Writing this book allowed Hirshen the chance to "look back and discover that I've had a lot of fun."

So much so that "maybe I'll write a supplement to this memoir when I turn 90." ■

Al Hirshen book launch events: 10 a.m. Oct. 10 on "Talking With Rabbi Ted," KPCA radio 103.3 FM; 6-8 p.m. Oct. 16 at Della Fattoria Café, Petaluma; 3-5 p.m. Oct. 27 at private home in Berkeley; 3-5 p.m. Nov. 2 at private home in San Francisco; 2-4 p.m. Nov. 10 at private home in Point Reyes Station. More information is at alhirshen.com

"The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man" by Al Hirshen (270 pages, self-published)

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Engaging in acts of kindness is good for your health

HEALTH | DR. JERRY SALIMAN



Dr. Jerry Saliman

My daughter teaches at a school where a major theme for the students this year is doing acts of kindness.

This prompted me to wonder about the health ramifications of being kind. It's not unusual for some older patients to feel withdrawn, and I speculate that if they could engage in sustainable acts of kindness (such as volunteering), maybe their mental and physical health would improve.

When we hold an elevator door open for someone, hand a dollar to a homeless person or let someone go ahead of us in a line, we notice that we tend to feel good. Aside from the benefit to the recipient when we're kind, might there be health benefits to the giver as well?

In order to answer this question, we have to look at what happens in the brain when a good deed is performed.

First is the release of several brain chemicals: oxytocin, dopamine, serotonin and endorphins.

Oxytocin is known as the "love hormone." It plays a role in social bonding and helps mothers when giving birth and breastfeeding. It also causes the release of nitric oxide in the

body, which dilates blood vessels. This results in lowering blood pressure, which, in turn, leads to lower risk of heart attack and stroke.

Dopamine is the neuro-transmitter that is most credited with causing the "helper's high." It has a major role in the brain's pleasure and reward system.

Serotonin is the neuro-transmitter that regulates mood and happiness. Most prescription anti-depressants work by increasing serotonin levels in the brain.

Endorphins, another kind of neuro-transmitter, interact with opiate receptors to reduce the perception of pain and can lead to feelings of euphoria. Prolonged exercise and eating chocolate are familiar ways of increasing endorphins.

Performing acts of kindness regularly provides other health benefits. It reduces cortisol, the stress hormone, thereby lowering anxiety.

In a study of 3,000 patients aged 57 to 85, volunteering was the activity most strongly linked to lowering inflammation in the body as measured by C-reactive protein (CRP), a substance made in the liver. High CRP can increase the risk of stroke, heart attack and mortality. In particular, active volunteers aged 70 to 85 had lower CRP levels than those aged 58 to 69 who were not active as volunteers. In addition, several studies show volunteering leads to longer lifespan.

A study from Pennsylvania State University published in November 2015 in the American Journal of Public Health studied 753 kindergartners to determine the link between

social competence and future wellness. Each child was scored on a scale that included items like "cooperates with peers without prompting" and "is helpful to others."

Follow-up was done when these students were 25 years old. The children who scored the highest in social competency in kindergarten had significantly higher college graduation rates and stable employment, and fewer crime, binge-drinking and mental-health problems as adults. By fostering kind behavior in children, we are giving them a greater chance for success later in life.

So how much kindness do you need to do to acquire long-lasting emotional and health benefits? A lot.

A single act of kindness results in maybe a two-minute high, so to obtain real benefits, performing acts of kindness needs to be repetitive or sustained — like by volunteering.

There are many acts of kindness that can become habits. These may include things like tutoring, making charitable donations, expressing gratitude to others, or reading to children or grandchildren.

Caring about one another can lead us to act compassionately. And when acts of kindness become a ritual, the positive effect on our own health can become a surprising side benefit. What will be your next act of kindness? ■

Dr. Jerry Saliman is a contributing wellness writer for the Peninsula Jewish Community Center in Foster City. He retired from Kaiser South San Francisco.



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Israel gives new hope to patients with multiple

LARRY LUXNER | JTA

Shlomit Norman was only 42 when doctors diagnosed her with multiple myeloma — a bone marrow cancer with no known cure that rarely strikes people under the age of 65.

At the time, the youngest of her three boys was 10, and few patients with the disease survived for more than a couple of years.

“I told my best friend that she’d have to be in charge of my son’s bar mitzvah because I didn’t think I’d be around by then,” recalled Norman, who lives in Haifa.

But thanks to some innovative treatments with roots in Israeli research, Norman managed to outlive her initial prognosis and, 12 years later, leads a relatively stable life.

“For the first 10 years after I was diagnosed, I was in a partial remission after my first bone marrow transplant and I had a fantastic quality of life,” she said. “But in 2016, I relapsed and had another transplant. Since then, I’m on maintenance medicine.

Other than fatigue, and numbing in the hands and feet, I’m OK.”

According to the American Cancer Society, some 13,000 Americans die annually from multiple myeloma — commonly referred to as myeloma and first documented in 1844. But the typical life expectancy for patients following diagnosis has surged from two years to nearly 10. Some people now live for more than two decades with the illness.

Part of the global progress in treating multiple myeloma — in which the body produces too many plasma cells, “crowding out” other types of blood cells like platelets and red cells, all of which are necessary for optimal health — stems from research conducted in Israel.

In 2004, Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko, scientists at Haifa’s Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, along with American biologist Irwin Rose, for their discovery years earlier of the ubiquitin proteasome



Members of the Israeli association of myeloma patients at Tel Aviv University, May 2019. (Photo/Courtesy AMEN)

system, a pathway responsible for the degradation of proteins within the cell.

This discovery was crucial to the creation of a whole class of treatments

called proteasome inhibitors — drugs that slow the degradation of protein and thereby inhibit the cancer’s progress, explained Dr. Yael Cohen, head of myeloma services at



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myeloma bone marrow cancer

Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, also known as Sourasky Medical Center.

"Velcade, a drug which came out of that, was revolutionary, and it's still used as first-line treatment for myeloma in most places around the world," Cohen said.

Dr. Mark Israel, national executive director of the New York-based Israel Cancer Research Fund, which helped fund Ciechanover's research and raises millions of dollars every year for cancer research in Israel, said the early work on proteasome inhibitors was groundbreaking even if the scientists at the time didn't fully realize all its implications.

"When Ciechanover and Hershko [won] the Nobel Prize for something important, they had no idea they had discovered an efficacious drug target that inhibits multiple myeloma," Israel said. "But if they had never done their work, everybody with the disease would still be dying quickly."

Now there are second- and third-generation drugs based on the same research, such

as carfilzomib, a selective proteasome inhibitor given to patients via an intravenous line, and ixazomib, the first oral therapy for multiple myeloma.

A more recent Israeli contribution to treating multiple myeloma was the invention of the CAR-T cell based on early work by Zelig Eshhar of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot.

T cells are a type of white blood cell that helps the human immune system fight harmful microbes. CAR-T cells are specially modified T cells designed to fight cancer.

"Eshhar's idea was to take a T cell, modify it genetically by implanting a hybrid receptor that can target the cancer cell and have a second component that activates the T cell to kill the cancer cell," Cohen said. "This was later developed for the treatment of leukemia and lymphoma, and we are now hoping to open CAR-T clinical trials in Israel to treat multiple myeloma in the next few months."

Dr. Moshe Gat chairs the Israeli Multiple Myeloma Study Group, a gathering of 20 to

30 physicians who meet every few months to discuss current topics in myeloma. The group runs some joint clinical trials and advocates for better patient care and enhanced access to medication.

"When I was a fellow 15 years ago, the median survival for a patient with multiple myeloma was 2½ years," Gat said. "Since then it's nearly quadrupled, and I don't know what to say to a new patient since so many treatments are coming online."

About 550 people in Israel are diagnosed with multiple myeloma each year, with some 3,500 patients living with the disease at any given time, according to Norman, who chairs AMEN, the Israeli association of myeloma patients. The nonprofit, founded in 2005, advocates and supports myeloma patients throughout Israel.

"These days, people are living with myeloma much longer than they used to," Norman said. "Even if they're diagnosed at the age of 40, they will make it into their 60s." The most difficult thing about living

with myeloma, Norman said, is the inevitability that her health will take a turn for the worse.

"For now there's no cure, so even when you're in remission you know it's going to come back," Norman said. "You don't know when or how, but every physician you ask will say, 'You're going to relapse.'"

While the median age for a multiple myeloma diagnosis is 70, some patients get it much younger. Norman says it is outdated thinking to view it as a disease of the elderly.

Myeloma is one of the many cancers that the Israel Cancer Research Fund is targeting through research.

"We contribute to the fund of knowledge on which cancer interventions are based," Israel said. "This is where the investment really counts." ■

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Israel Cancer Research Fund. This article was produced by JTA's native content team.



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'Reimagine' project embraces life in creative approaches to death

LAURA PAULL | J. STAFF

How do you like death served? With words, or without? Danced, or set to music? Humorously — or gravely?

All options will be on the table in the second annual, Bay Area-wide "Reimagine End of Life." For 11 days starting on Oct. 24, the topic of death and dying will be brought into focus through events, conversations, art, films, participatory rituals, food experiences, comedy shows and theatrical performances.

"Reimagine" founder and executive director Brad Wolfe, the grandson of two Auschwitz survivors, says the project aims to "give ourselves permission to explore death and prepare for it ... by creating spaces and support to remember our loved ones fully."

Wolfe began exploring death through art during college, when a friend was diagnosed with cancer. As a songwriter, he turned to music to help soothe her as she faced the end of her life. Today, "Reimagine" organizers collaborate with people in the arts, spirituality, health care and design spheres to create events that foster unity and break down taboos.

A wide range of institutions, nonprofits and creatives have signed on this year.

Some of the workshops are practical, such as "How to Avoid Probate." Others offer spiritual tools to contemplate the inevitable. And a number of events look at the end of life through a Jewish lens.

Here are some of the events. To sign up for a session or get more details, visit letsreimagine.org/sf.

"The Art of End of Life Care: A Retrospective Conversation." Topics will include end-of-life care during the AIDS crisis (and in S.F. in general), and speakers will include Rabbi Eric Weiss, president and CEO of the Bay Area Jewish Healing Center. With AIDS-era photos by A. Raja Hornstein, and a Q&A moderated by Rabbi Elliot Kukla. 12:30-2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. Free.

"Care-Giving and Care-Receiving at the End of Life." Judith Redwing Keyssar will present a six-hour workshop that will include music by cellist-nurse Jami Sieber, poetry, storytelling and information. The aim is to foster confidence and resiliency in caring for others at the end of life. The speaker, who wrote "Last Acts of Kindness," is a palliative care nurse and the director of patient and caregiver education

at UCSF/Mount Zion. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26 at the Firehouse at Fort Mason, S.F. Free.

"Loving Letters to the Children: For the Days After I'm Gone." Michelle Hoffmann, author of "Life Worth Living: A Practical & Compassionate Guide to Navigating Widowhood and Sole Parenting," leads a workshop on how to create a meaningful ethical will, and discusses other difficult issues such as supporting grieving children and how to get through family celebrations after a spouse's death. Sessions will be co-led by Sinai Memorial Chapel executive director Sam Salkin. 10 a.m. to noon. Sunday, Oct. 27 at Sinai Memorial Chapel, 1501 Divisadero St., S.F. Free.

"Art and Living After Loss." Presented in conjunction with the current exhibit "Fired, Broken, Gathered, Heaped," this event will include a guided tour of artist Annabeth Rosen's ceramic pieces. Lunch discussion to follow about how people feel "fired, broken, etc." after a loved one dies, and how they move forward. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. Free with museum admission.

"Jewish Mourning Rituals. Not Just for Jews!" This interfaith workshop will use Jewish practices as a starting point to encourage participants to create their own rituals for grief. Rabbis, therapists and end-of-life caregivers will share stories, practices and wisdom. Speakers include Reconstructionist Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky and S.F. psychotherapist Gloria Saltzman, both of whom have published writings on death and grieving. 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at Stage Werx Theatre, 446 Valencia St., S.F. \$10.

"The Museum of You Is Open: What's on Display?" Roslyn Sholin, a community fellow at the Graduate Theological Union's Center for Jewish Studies, will display her educational exhibit "My Attic, Your Story" and talk about what happened when she inherited a house that had been in her family for 80 years. She'll show how family history and world history are linked, and focus on the importance of inherited artifacts. 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at JCC of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. \$15 includes dessert and tea.

"A Beginner's Guide to the End." Shoshana Berger and Dr. BJ Miller, co-authors of a new book by that name, will give a talk that centers on the subtitle of their book "Practical Advice for Living Life and Facing Death." 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27 at JCC of San Francisco, 3200 California St. \$30-\$40, see "Reimagine" website for discount code.

"The Mourner & The Soul!" Using her four-panel artwork, described as a map of the Jewish soul, Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky will discuss what Jewish traditions say about the soul. Co-hosted by end-of-life organizations Kavod v'Nichum and Gamliel Institute. 7-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28 at Sinai Memorial Chapel, 1501 Divisadero St., S.F. Free.

"Life, Death & Creativity." Co-hosted by the Jewish Studio Project in Berkeley, this hands-on workshop will weave sacred Jewish texts with expressive art-making to explore Kaddish, the traditional prayer recited by Jewish mourners (which doesn't actually mention death). 7-9:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28 at Jewish Studio Project, 940 Dwight Way, No. 13B, Berkeley. \$20.

"Mourning, Grief and the Afterlife." Rabbi Peretz Wolf-Prusan, chief educator at HaMaqom/ThePlace (formerly Lehrhaus Judaica), will discuss Jewish ideas on the afterlife in an event hosted by HaMaqom, Sinai Memorial Chapel's Chevra Kadisha, and the end-of-life organizations Kavod v'Nichum and Gamliel Institute. 7-9 p.m.



Moving forward after a loved one's death will be discussed Oct. 27 at the Annabeth Rosen exhibit at the Contemporary Jewish Museum (Photo/Courtesy ReImagineSF)



Tuesday, Oct. 29 at Sinai Memorial Chapel, 1501 Divisadero St., S.F. Free.

“What They Left Behind: A Night of Storytelling.” Still Life Stories, an East Bay photography outfit that documents treasured objects and the personal stories behind them, is hosting this event. Come to hear stories, or bring a personal object; five attendees will be chosen at random to talk about why it was passed down, why it matters and what emotions it elicits. 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Congregation Beth El, 1301 Oxford St. Berkeley. \$10.

“Planning for Your Health and Financial Future.” Speakers include attorney Sally Bergman, who specializes in estate planning and elder law, and a fiduciary expert from Jewish Family and Children’s Services. 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30 at Peninsula JCC, 800 Foster City Blvd., Foster City. Free.

“Life, Death and Conflict: Swords into Ploughshares.” Marcy Einhorn (Conflict Resolution for Elders) will facilitate a workshop on ways to deal with the family conflicts a death can create. The session will include an exploration of classic triggering situations and ideas for solutions. 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct.

30 and 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 at Jewish Community Federation, 121 Steuart St., S.F. \$25.

“You May Think I’m Funny, But It’s Not.” In a one-woman show, Rabbi Sydney Mintz of Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco will talk about the intense experiences of being a rabbi, sharing people’s intimate beginning and end-of-life moments. 7:15-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31 at The Laundry, 3359 26th St., S.F. \$10.

“Reimagine End of Life Resource Fair.” “Reimagine” and the JCC are teaming up to present a free, drop-in event packed with organizations, experts and information designed to support your end-of-life journey. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 at JCC East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. Free.

“Embracing the Journey: End of Life Resource Fair.” The JCCSF’s fifth annual resource fair, with loads of experts and information, will include the closing event, a 4 p.m. panel discussion titled “The Power of Creativity” and moderated by Jeannie Blaustein, founding board chair of “Reimagine End of Life.” 9:15 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 at JCCSF, 3200 California St. Free, advance registration recommended.

“Sweet and Sour: The Play Where Everyone Lives and Dies.” Berkeley writer and performer Dan Schifrin flavors death both sweet and sour in a new play he’ll be presenting at the JCC of the East Bay. “Sweet and Sour” imagines a family coming together for a father’s announcement of a mortal diagnosis, only to have relations upended by an even more shocking revelation.

Directed by Berkeley writer-performer Dan Wolf, the staged reading will feature the actors at a kitchen table in the middle of the auditorium. Audience members will sit at their own tables, eating the same food as the actors.

“The idea is for everyone to embody the experience,” Schifrin told J. “The play and the meal will have different courses, and during intermissions, the audience will discuss the play and their own life experiences to the extent they wish.”

The genesis of this play about how families connect to storytelling, ritual and food to deal with end-of-life issues, occurred at a grief-and-growing weekend Schifrin attended five years ago. Rabbi Eric Weiss of the S.F.-based Bay Area Jewish Healing Center “offered a ritual about the raw, organic nature of death that no amount of thinking or technology could capture, and that feeling birthed the play,” Schifrin said.

Following the performance, Schifrin will have an onstage conversation with Dr. Jessica Zitter, a physician at Highland Hospital in Oakland and a national advocate for transforming the way people die in the U.S. She’s the author of “Extreme Measures” and is featured in “Extremis,” a Netflix documentary dealing with end-of-life issues.

“Sweet and Sour,” 7-10 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29 at JCC of the East Bay, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. \$45 includes dinner. ■



Art from “Sweet and Sour,” an immersive theatrical piece to be performed Oct. 29.



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Tips to help minimize behaviors of 'sundowning'

For some people with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, the late afternoon and early evening hours can bring increased agitation, confusion and restlessness. Some may even experience hallucinations or energy surges.

This unusual evening behavior is commonly known as "sundown syndrome" or "sundowning," and it typically occurs as the daylight fades.

"Sundowning is more likely to affect those who are in the mid or late stages of dementia," said Andrea Korsunsky, the director of the Center for Dementia Care, a Seniors at Home program of S.F.-based Jewish Family and Children's Services. "And while doctors are not certain what causes sundowning, fading light appears to be the trigger."

If you are caring for someone that experiences sundowning, there are various ways to minimize the behaviors during this challenging part of the day. Here are some tips from Korsunsky to manage the severity of sundown syndrome.

Lighting. Keep the home well lit in the evenings. Provide adequate lighting to lessen shadows when it begins to get dark. Since fading light can be a trigger, maintaining a well-lit environment can minimize the change in behavior.

Activity. Keep your loved one active and distracted at the time when sundowning may occur. For example, have them help prepare dinner, set the table or take on another simple task.

Bedtime. Create a safe and comfortable sleeping environment. Keep the room temperature moderate for sleeping and

provide nightlights (if desired) and any other security means to help the person with dementia feel safe, reducing agitation.

Schedule. Stick to a strict and predictable schedule. Maintaining a daily schedule is key to keeping a healthy sleep pattern, reducing the likelihood for sundowning. In addition, planning regular exercise or activities during the day (such as brisk walks, a stationary bike or social day programs) may reduce restlessness at night.

No coffee. Avoid stimulants. Alcohol, coffee, soda and nicotine can all interfere with sleep cycles, especially for those experiencing dementia.

Journal. Keep a journal. Record the times when sundowning occurs. This can help you pinpoint triggers and determine which strategies help to ease them.

Comfort. Surround the person with familiar and comforting things. Whether it is a comfortable chair, pictures of loved ones, favorite music or a particular smell (lavender, pine, etc.), these items may ease agitation or disorientation.

Advice. If symptoms of sundowning are impacting quality of life for you and the person you care for, consider seeking a professional dementia care consultation through JFCS. Dementia care experts can help you determine underlying causes of sundowning and to put new strategies in place to reduce challenging behaviors.

To set up a free consultation, fill out the form at seniorsathome.jfcs.org/contact or call (844) 222-3212, or one of the Seniors at Home regional phone numbers listed on the website. ■

Longtime reader at 97



(Right) Ruth Gottstein, 97, enjoying the Rosh Hashanah issue of J. She grew up in San Francisco and moved to the Amador County town of Volcano in 1984, where she continued to run the independent book publishing company, Volcano Press. (Left) Gottstein is depicted as a schoolgirl in a sailor suit (the "Library" scene), painted in 1934 by her father, Bernard Zakheim, as part of the WPA Coit Tower mural project. She was and still is an avid reader of anything worth reading...like J, she says.



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Sukkot Chol Hamoad
Numbers 29:23-31
Ezekiel 38:18-39:16

Ten months after the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, I moved to Palo Alto. When our first Sukkot arrived, members of the Jewish community were talking about their memories of the earthquake that had occurred during Sukkot the previous year.

Everyone had their own unique memories of fear and awe, concern for loved ones, loss and gratitude. But one story recurred in virtually everyone's story. While the earthquake had caused significant damage to the Stanford campus, every sukkah in the area had remained intact.

At first the story sounded like an urban myth, and I was skeptical. But as I listened to the account again and again — from a wide range of people — I began to appreciate the story's deeper meaning, regardless of its historical veracity.

The image of the sukkah unshaken by the movement of the Earth brilliantly captures the paradox of the sukkah. We move into the sukkah to get closer to the Earth and to God, feeling our utter vulnerability and dependence on The One, as our ancestors did during 40 years of traveling in the *midbar* (desert).

Without our "stuff," the comforts of home and the apparent security of our well-constructed homes, we are at the mercy of the elements. We are vulnerable to rain, wind



Rabbi Amy Eilberg serves as the coordinator of Jewish community engagement at Faith in Action Bay Area. She can be reached at rebamy@eilberg.com.

and cold. We are physically unprotected, with no buffer between us and the Earth.

The Loma Prieta story suggests that, paradoxically, the sukkah is the strongest structure there is, at the same time that it is fragile and precarious. Our houses are built of robust materials. They have walls that dependably separate us from our neighbors, the elements and the Earth. We live in the comfortable illusion that our homes will never fail to protect us ... until they do — and we are shocked.

The sukkah, by contrast, has no presumption of invulnerability. We expect occasional wind, rain and discomfort. And we fill the sukkah with loved ones and even with neighbors beyond our normal social circle. We take risks in the sukkah — that we will stay comfortable, both physically and interpersonally. We open ourselves to the primal pleasures of being closer to the Earth, to one another, and to the Divine.

The sukkah has its own unique power, including its suppleness in the face of wind and rain and its openness to people beyond our usual circles. The strength of the sukkah is the power of spirit, where strength includes rolling gently when weather challenges and life's twists and turns shake us. Sitting in the sukkah, we take in the beauty of the sky, the stars, and the fruits of the harvest. We are close to the ultimate Power, but without pretense of invulnerability.

The late Rabbi Alan Lew said it best, in his book "This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared" from 2003:

So now we sit flush with the world, in a "house" that calls attention to the fact that it gives us no shelter. It is not really a house. It is the interrupted idea of a house, a parody of a house ... And it exposes the idea of a house as an illusion. The idea of a house is that it gives us security, shelter, haven from the storm. But no house can really offer us this. No building of wood and stone can ever afford us protection from the disorder that is always lurking all around us. No shell we put between us and the world can ever really keep us secure from it.

In the sukkah, a house that is open to the world, a house that freely acknowledges that it cannot be the basis of our security, we let go of this need. The illusion of protection falls away, and suddenly we are flush with our life, feeling our life, following our life, doing its dance, one step after another.

In truth, we are always in the sukkah: always more vulnerable than we realize, and always exposed to dangers both natural and human. And we are always more secure than we may feel, with access to the Earth's beauty, to the awareness of breath, and to the grounding available in any moment when we bring our attention to the sacred. May our stay in the sukkah remind us of how our life is simultaneously less secure and more safe than we think. ■

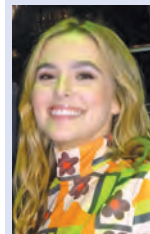


(Photo/Flickr commons)

CELEBRITY JEWS

AT THE MOVIES

"Zombieland Double Tap," opening in wide release on Oct. 18, is a sequel to "Zombieland," a 2009 sci-fi adventure hit that featured a lot of wry humor. In the original, **Jessie Eisenberg**, now 36, starred as Columbus, a nerdy guy who cleverly avoids being bitten and becoming a zombie. He meets up with other survivors played by Abigail Breslin, Emma Stone and Woody Harrelson, and they eventually bond and stave off a big zombie attack.



Zoey Deutch

The sequel finds the same quartet, played by the same actors, meeting up with four new survivors, one of whom is played by **Zoey Deutch**, 24. **Ruben Fleischer**, 44, who made his directorial debut with the original, returns as the director of "Double Tap." Fleischer also directed the big box-office hits "Gangster Squad" in 2013 and "Venom" in 2018. **Paul**

Wernick, 47, co-wrote the original and the sequel.

"The King" and "The Addams Family" opened in theaters last week. "King" is a Netflix film (begins streaming Nov. 1) that stars **Timothée Chalamet**, 23, as Henry V of England (1386-1422). Henry was a reluctant heir. But after his tyrannical father died, he learned how to manage palace politics and lead his army to victories. "The Addams Family" is an animated film about the famous spooky (and funny) family. **Nick Kroll**, 41, voices Uncle Fester (Gomez Adams' brother) and **Bette Midler**, 73, voices Grandmama, Gomez and Fester's mother.

LOOK WHAT'S STREAMING

I've been advised that there's another Jewish actor with a leading part in the first season of "The Politician," a Netflix series that dropped on Sept. 27. That new actor is **David Corenswet**, 26, in his first big role. As I previously wrote, the series stars **Ben Platt**, 26, as a Santa Barbara rich kid, and each season will cover an election that he's in. The first season he's running for class president against Corenswet's character. A family history maven friend uncovered that fact that David's father, **John Corenswet**, was from an old Southern Jewish family. Sadly, John died this year and his funeral was at a New Orleans temple. David's mother, a native New Yorker, isn't Jewish. My friend referred me to an online caption in which David seems to identify as Jewish.



Paul Rudd

Paul Rudd, 50, stars in the Netflix series "Living With Yourself" as a man who undergoes a mysterious treatment, only to find out that he's been replaced by a man better than himself. The first season dropped on Oct. 16. Rudd also appears in Funny or Die's recently released "Between Two Ferns: The Movie" on Netflix. The movie is an expansive version of the online, abrasively awkward talk show of the same name hosted by Zach Galifianakis. Rudd is interviewed about 30 minutes in and pretty quickly Galifianakis begins peppering him with some Jewish questions, including "Are you a practicing Jew?" Rudd responds in an original and witty way.



Jenny Slate

"Why We Hate" is a six-part documentary series on the Discovery channel that began on Oct. 13. Produced by **Steven Spielberg**, 72, and Oscar-winning documentary-maker Alex Gibney, the series is described by the PR staff as "explor[ing] one of humanity's most primal and destructive emotions: hate."

Comedian and actress **Jenny Slate**, 37, stars in her first stand-up special, "Jenny Slate: Stage Fright," which begins streaming on Netflix Oct. 22. It's a mixture of onstage stand-up and scenes of her having conversations with her family in her childhood home.

Columnist Nate Bloom, an Oaklander, can be reached at middleoftheroad1@aol.com.

The Cyclops brews coffee with an eye on the future

THE ORGANIC EPICURE | ALIX WALL

Alix Wall is a contributing editor to J. She is also the founder of the Illuminoshi: The Not-So-Secret Society of Bay Area Jewish Food Professionals.



Doing homework at a café may be what launched Eli Salomon's eventual career — and his love affair with coffee. He was in high school in Dallas at the time, an alum of Jewish day school, and took his father's suggestion that they go to a coffeehouse together and get some schoolwork done.

"That combination of being forced to sit down and do my homework, and doing it while caffeinated, made my GPA skyrocket," he said. "I went from being below average to being one of the top students in my high school."

Today the 37-year-old San Francisco resident is CEO of Voga Coffee, which has reinvented the way coffee is brewed. Its Ground Control Cyclops machine took best new product honors when it launched last year at the Specialty Coffee Expo in Seattle, the highest industry award for commercial coffee-making equipment.

Salomon said his family has always provided inspiration.

Three of his four grandparents were Holocaust survivors. His maternal grandfather had been a Socialist in Poland who believed strongly in building things to contribute to society, something Salomon admired about him. His paternal great-grandfather was a settler in pre-state Israel, where he was an inventor; he invented the machine that pasteurized milk in Israel.

"Later he also had a vinegar operation and made apple cider, so he developed all the machinery and the bottling operation," said Salomon. "So from both sides of my family we have people who were builders."

Salomon's path to the coffee industry took a few unconventional turns. He became interested in brewing technology while working with a tech investor in Dallas. That was after receiving his undergraduate degree from Harvard, attending law and business school and doing a three-year stint in a law firm.

But his true entry into the business started in 2015, just a few years after he moved to the Bay Area, when he found himself thinking again about coffee and

had a so-called lightbulb moment.

"No one had really come up with a new way to brew coffee at scale," Salomon said. "Coffee has improved dramatically since drip coffee was invented in 1954, and the way we consume it has fundamentally changed. I realized that maybe there's another way to brew coffee that could not only produce a much better cup, but could really help the cafés and businesses by producing it at greater scale." In addition, he said, the drip method "is wasteful, ugly and makes a pretty bad cup of coffee."

One of Salomon's closest friends from



Harvard, Josh Avins, had just finished his Ph.D. in chemistry. He flew out to the Bay Area and the two began tinkering in Salomon's kitchen.

Using glassware from the chemistry lab and an air mattress vacuum to remove the grounds, it was Avins' idea to brew the coffee three separate times, combining those three brews together to make one outstanding cup. They continued to refine their process, trying it out on friends. Finally, it was the taste of their product that convinced a third co-founder and coffee industry professional, Jason Sarley, to join them some time later.

They entered the marketplace with a machine called Ground Control, which they have retired in favor of their newer model, the Cyclops.

"The Cyclops brews the coffee in three separate stages," Salomon explains. "First, it adds water to the grounds, and then a powerful vacuum sucks it out and puts it into a collection chamber. Then new water goes into those grounds, and brews it a second time, and then a third time. The staged brewing process allows us to leave in more of the positive flavors of coffee while leaving out the negative; you have



(Clockwise from left) Salomon's brewing machine at Dandelion Chocolate in the Mission District; customers at Dark Horse Coffee in Truckee; Voga Coffee partners Jason Sarley, Eli Salomon and Josh Avins



much more control this way."

The machine also works well for brewing a superior cup of tea at scale; Salomon noted that someone in Singapore recently bought three machines and brewed 7,000 cups of tea in four days.

About 60 of the machines are in use around the world, including several in the Bay Area: at Dandelion Chocolate café, Front Café, Equator in Fort Mason and UpforDayz in the city, Firebrand in Oakland and Highwire in Berkeley. When it opens, Boichik Bagels in Berkeley will have one, too.

The machines, manufactured in West Oakland, cost \$7,500, but a new model under \$6,000 is coming to market next month.

"It's less than a Rolex, and it makes the best coffee in the world, so it's a bargain," said Salomon, whose company is seeking investors (eli@vogacoffee.com).

Noting that the machine also does cold brew, Salomon concluded by saying, "Our goal is to replace every single drip brewer in the world."

SMALL BITES: Liz Alpern, the Brooklyn-based author of the 2016 cookbook "The Gefilte Manifesto," co-founder of the

artisanal gefilte fish company The Gefilteria and founder of Queer Soup Night, will be doing an Oct. 25 event at Solomon's Delicatessen, the new Jewish deli in Sacramento. From noon to 2 p.m., Alpern will be on hand to speak and sign books (which will also be for sale, or people can bring their own). The regular lunch menu will be on offer, as well as some dishes from the book. Solomon's Deli is at 730 K St.

Midnite Bagel, a San Francisco pop-up venture we reported on not too long ago, is offering bagels every Friday evening starting at 6 p.m., both to eat in-house and to go, at Tartine's original 18th and Guerrero location, Eater reported. It's a project of Tartine's lead bread baker, Nick Beitcher, who hopes to open his own place eventually.

Thanks to a tipster, we learned that excellent bagels are being made in Petaluma. While the Organic Epicure hasn't had time to make it there herself (yet), **the Bagel Mill** reportedly is worth the drive. According to the website, the bagels are made with freshly milled flour and a sourdough starter. The Bagel Mill is at 212 Western Ave. and is open 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. ■

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Get on a roll with these mini-Torah taste treats

COOKING | FAITH KRAMER



Faith Kramer is a Bay Area food writer. She blogs about her food at clickblogappetit.com. Contact Faith at clickblogappetit@gmail.com.

Appetizers shaped like rolled-up Torah scrolls are an excellent way to celebrate Simchat Torah — and these phyllo-dough treats stuffed with zucchini and feta cheese certainly fit the bill. They're savory, tasty and a darned cute likeness.

Eating scroll-like or rolled-up foods has become part of the celebration of the holiday, which commemorates the end of the yearly Torah reading cycle and the beginning of the next. Simchat Torah this year will begin on the evening of Monday, Oct. 21 and end after sunset the next day. Reform Jews and Jews within Israel celebrate it a day earlier.

The baked pastries in this recipe are a variation of the Sephardic and Mizrahi phyllo dough appetizers known as "cigars" ... but for Simchat Torah, the flaky cylinders are standing in for Torah scrolls.

Phyllo dough is available in many markets, often in the freezer section. Phyllo freezes well so save extra sheets for another recipe.

These rolls are best eaten within hours of baking, but can be reheated in a 250-degree oven on an ungreased baking sheet for 10 minutes, or until flaky and warmed. If refrigerated, bring to room temperature before heating.

ZUCCHINI-FETA ROLLS

Makes 16 to 18

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 oz. feta cheese (not crumbled) | ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper |
| 2 cups, packed, shredded zucchini | 1 tsp. finely grated lemon zest |
| ½ tsp. salt plus as needed | 1 large egg, beaten |
| 2 Tbs. finely chopped green onion | 1-lb. box phyllo dough sheets
(about 9-by-14 inches),
defrosted according to package directions |
| 1 Tbs. finely chopped dill | ½ cup oil |
| 1 Tbs. finely chopped flat leaf parsley | Dip (see below), optional |
| 1 Tbs. finely chopped fresh mint | |
| ¼ tsp. crumbled, dried mint | |
| ¼ tsp. paprika | |

Taste the feta. If it is overwhelming salty, rinse in cold water then soak in cold water for several hours, changing water periodically and rinsing again before using. Pat feta dry. Cut into ¼-inch pieces. Set aside.

Put shredded zucchini in strainer over bowl. Stir in ½ tsp. salt. Let sit 20 minutes. Squeeze zucchini to press out as much liquid as possible. Discard liquid. Combine feta cheese and zucchini. Mash well. Mix in green onion, dill, parsley, fresh mint, dried mint, paprika, pepper and zest. Taste. Most likely it will be salty enough from the feta, but add salt to taste, if needed. Mix in egg.

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Open phyllo box. Remove 10 sheets and keep covered with a damp kitchen towel. Rewrap remainder and freeze for future use.

Lay out 1 phyllo sheet flat on work surface, leaving rest covered. Brush with oil (sheet should be covered but not saturated). Top with second sheet. If there are any tears, mend by brushing oil on tear and pressing edges together. For larger rips, brush with oil and top with a scrap of phyllo. Cut into 4 equal rectangles.

Put 1 Tbs. of feta-zucchini filling about ¾ of an inch from the short edge of one of the rectangles, leaving a ½-inch margin from each side of the rectangle. Roll bottom of dough up over filling. Roll once more until filling is covered by the phyllo. At that point, stop rolling and fold in the sides of the phyllo rectangle. Then continue rolling until a cylinder is formed. Place phyllo roll seam side down on prepared baking sheet. Repeat with remaining ingredients.

Brush top and sides of phyllo rolls well with oil. Bake about 25 minutes until golden brown. Serve hot, warm or at room temperature with dip.

DIP: Combine 1 cup plain Greek yogurt with 2 tsp. finely grated lemon zest, ¼ tsp. paprika or cayenne, 2 Tbs. finely chopped dill, 2 Tbs. finely chopped fresh mint and 1 tsp. crumbled dried mint. ■



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Q&A: He grows grapes with surgical precision

FOOD | ALIX WALL

Dr. John Bry is a surgeon who also runs Perfusion Vineyard, a wine made from the grapes he grows at his home in Richmond. He often can be found at the Grand Lake and San Rafael farmers markets, selling his pinot noir.

J.: I recently interviewed the head of thoracic surgery at UCSF who just went into the bagel business, and now you. What gives?

John Bry: Yes, I'm a vascular surgeon in the East Bay, working at both the Sutter Health and John Muir Health hospitals. I used to live close to some people who would taste wines together, which led to them securing some grapes and making garage wine. I enjoyed it, even though I didn't have much of a palate then. But I had always enjoyed gardening, and when I moved to a home in Wildcat Canyon, the real estate agent had noted its great south-west exposure. So I did a bunch of research and soil samples and learned that pinot noir grapes might grow there, and I took a chance.



Dr. John Bry bringing in the harvest

How did your winery start?

In 2007, I hired a vineyard manager who, with his crew, planted mostly pinot noir grapes, and I put in some Tuscan olive trees for olive oil. We started making olive oil in 2012 and wine in 2013. My production is very small, 50 to 75 cases per year at this point. With the encouragement of a couple of people who recognized it was good wine, I submitted it to a wine editor and critic. I was expecting him to say 'Stick to your day job,' but rather, he said, 'You have something here.' So now we are fully licensed.

Is there any connection between your Jewish heritage and your wine interest?

Not really. I grew up very Reform in Connecticut. When asked if I wanted to have a bar mitzvah, my answer was "not really." An interesting anecdote about my name, though, is that it's an acronym for 'Ben Rab Yisrael,' and I know there's some truth to it because I met another person once with the same last name who had heard a similar story.

You have a winemaker, Tom Leaf, who is also winemaker at Dogpatch Wineworks, so what is your role at Perfusion Vineyard?

I'm the one out there taking care of my grapes and olives all year round. I do all of that myself. I pick and deliver all of the grapes and assist with the crush. By the time the olives and grapes are gone, I'm wiped out and want a few months off, but taking care of the grapes and olives is the most fun for me. I also sell the wine at the two farmers markets. I love seeing the surprise and delight from marketgoers that this comes from Richmond. The best experience for me is the guy who passes by the booth but somehow gets drawn in, and then tastes the wine and really enjoys it.

As a surgeon, I've got a major responsibility and a serious intensity to my work day-to-day, so I really enjoy the ability to be among the people in the market on the weekends. I'm also the guy walking down the rows of grapevines and freaking out when I see the gopher holes.

Do you know if you're the only one making wine from grapes grown in Richmond?

I don't know of anyone growing commercially. There might be some tiny vines somewhere, but my answer is no, with 97 percent certainty.

What are your future plans for your property?

We have three acres. We've had two meetings with the county supervisors and one in charge of arts and culture for the city. We're in talks with a builder-architect about making our barn into a rentable event spot that overlooks the vineyard. After 25 years of vascular surgery, that will be a great retirement, where I can just be a caretaker on the property and have income from that in a few years. ■

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THE VICTIMS OF THE PITTSBURGH SYNAGOGUE SHOOTING



'Pause for Pittsburgh' to mark one year since synagogue attack that killed 11

People across the United States and around the world will join together virtually on the one-year anniversary of the attack on the Tree of Life synagogue in suburban Pittsburgh.

The virtual commemoration, called "Pause with Pittsburgh," is scheduled for 5 p.m. on Oct. 27. The moment of solidarity and remembrance for the 11 people who were killed during the attack will include a video with the mourning prayer and a link to Pittsburgh's local community public memorial service via

livestream, and an opportunity to post on a community message board. Overseas participation is through email.

The program is a project of the Jewish Federations of North America.

"Rather than become desensitized to the terror of a never-ending cycle of senseless deaths, we must focus on doing what we do best: building and sustaining community that brings people together," Mark Wilf, chair of the JFNA board of trustees, said in a statement. — JTA ■

'Salesforce Sukkah' open to the public in S.F. park

GABE STUTMAN | J. STAFF

For the first time, software giant Salesforce is celebrating Sukkot by erecting a sukkah at Salesforce Park, the tree-lined public green space stretching for four blocks above the transit center in downtown San Francisco.

Chabad of San Francisco and Faithforce put up the sukkah on Oct. 16 and will keep it up until Oct. 22.

"Thousands of Jews work downtown on a daily basis," said Rabbi Moshe Langer of Chabad of SF. "A lot of them would love to have a sukkah on the holiday, but they don't know how to build one, or don't know what it is.

at the public park.

Salesforce, which employs more than 35,000 people worldwide and more than 8,000 in San Francisco, was co-founded by Marc Benioff, the Jewish co-CEO and chairman who attends services at Congregation Emanu-El.

The 16-by-18-foot, fully kosher sukkah will be open to the public during park hours, from around 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. every day. Lulavs and etrogs will be available, as will prayer sheets, Langer said.

Langer and his wife, Taliyah, run Chabad of Pacific Heights. He said he was partic-



Rabbi Yosef Langer (left) at a sukkah at Salesforce's Dreamforce conference last year.

"Every other sukkah is either at a synagogue or at somebody's house," he said. "This sukkah is open to anybody who wants to use it."

Chabad purchased the sukkah from a vendor in Los Angeles with help from an anonymous donor and \$1,000 from Faithforce, Langer said.

Faithforce is an interfaith affinity group populated by employees at the web-based software company, which recently surpassed Wells Fargo as the city's largest employer. Supporting religious and spiritual diversity at the company, Faithforce is one of 12 "Equality Groups" along with collectives like Latinoforce, Vetforce, Earthforce and Outforce, an LGBTQ group.

Langer has worked with Salesforce before, helping to facilitate volunteers who assemble hygiene kits and serve matzah ball soup in the Tenderloin. And he has spearheaded building sukkahs at Dreamforce, an annual fall conference, in years past. This is the first time a sukkah will sit for the week

"Thousands of Jews work downtown on a daily basis, a lot of them would love to have a sukkah on the holiday, but they don't know how to build one."

Rabbi Moshe Langer, Chabad of SF

ularly excited about the sukkah's central location in Salesforce Park. First opened last year, the park is an oasis of green space perched in the shadow of Salesforce Tower and other large office buildings in the Financial District.

"There's seven or eight mega high-rises right there," he said. "Everybody will be able to look down and see it."

"People can come have their lunch, eat their dinner," he said. "It will bring awareness of the holiday to people walking in the park, for both Jews and non-Jews." ■

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B'NAI MITZVAH

ANYA ARAVANIS Daughter of Laura Chavkin and Alex Aravanis, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo.

SUSANNA AUFRICHTIG Daughter of Allyson and Richard Aufrichtig, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

JULIEN BOURGADE Son of Eileen Blum Bourgade and Alain Bourgade, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

JACOB "JACK" CARR Son of Beth and James Carr, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills.

LEV COLVIN Son of Jessica and Mathew Colvin, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

ENRIQUE EIGNER-HERRERA Son of Evelyn Herrera and Adam Eigner, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto.

MIA FESSEL Daughter of Sarah Mars and Jason Fessel, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco.

JILLIAN GLADSTONE Daughter of Lorna and Seth Gladstone, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Beth Jacob in Redwood City.

LILLIAN GREENBERG Daughter of Nanci Tucker and Bob Greenberg, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Temple Sinai in Oakland.

MAYA HAMMERMAN Daughter of Julie and Jason Hammerman, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette.

BEVERLY HEPLER Daughter of Jennifer and Chris Hepler, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo.

NATAAN HONG Son of Jennifer Grossman and Steven Hong, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael.

HUNTER KIM-TURNOFF Daughter of Theresa Kim and David Turnoff, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto.

MAX LANGS Son of Anna and Larry Langs, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette.

LEAH LASHINKSY Daughter of Ruth Kirschner and Adam Lashinsky, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

YARDEN LEVINSON Daughter of Vered and Rami Levinson, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco.

MICK LEWIN Son of Ksenia and Ron Lewin, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto.

JOSHUA LIPTON Son of Cindy and Mark Lipton, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette.

AYELET PASSMAN-LAPUSHIN Daughter of Stacy Passman and Dan LaPushin, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco.

MIRIAM REICHENBERG Daughter of Ana Schwartzman and Jeffrey Reichenberg, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Temple Sinai in Oakland.

ZACHARY SHAPIRO Son of Kirsten Mellor and Jonathan Shapiro, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Peninsula Temple Sholom in Burlingame.

SOPHIE ULTAN Daughter of Jill and Robert Ultan, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Peninsula Temple Beth El in San Mateo.

ISAAC WAYNE Son of Lisa Wayne and Mary Tienken, Saturday, Oct. 26 at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

EVAN WHITE Son of Heidi Hirvonen-White and Alan White, Saturday, Oct. 19 at Congregation Rodef Sholom in San Rafael.

OBITUARIES

Len Traubman, who inspired Jews and Palestinians to dialogue, dies at 80

ALIX WALL | J. CORRESPONDENT

Len Traubman, co-founder of the Jewish Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group and a pioneer in Jewish-Palestinian relationship building, died Oct. 4 of Guillain-Barré syndrome. He was 80.

Born Lionel Traubman in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1939, he and his parents, second-generation immigrants, moved to Los Angeles when he was 5.

Fifteen years ago, Traubman published "The Oreckovsky Family: From Russia to America," documenting his mother's family's journey escaping pogroms in Russia and settling in Duluth. The book is now in more than 100 libraries.

A graduate of UC Berkeley and the UCSF School of Dentistry, Traubman became a renowned pediatric dentist with a long list of accomplishments. He was a two-term director of the San Francisco Dental Society and a lecturer in pediatric dentistry at UCSF for 15 years. He saw patients at his San Francisco practice from the 1960s until his retirement in 2000.

In 1966, he met social worker Elizabeth "Libby" Linn at a tennis match in Indianapolis, where he was doing specialty training. "I knew right away he had something I needed," said Libby. She told her parents about him that same day.

They married in 1967 and moved to San Francisco. In 1977, they moved to San Mateo and settled in for more than four decades.

In 1982, the Traubmans cofounded the Beyond War movement, now known as the Foundation for Global Community. As anti-nuclear activists, they had long worked to encourage face-to-face interaction between Russians and Americans during the height of the Cold War. But when the Iron Curtain came down, they set their sights on the Middle East.

Len was a strong believer in citizen diplomacy. "There are things that governments can do that people cannot, like forging binding agreements," he told J. in 2002. "And there are things that citizens free of government can do that the governments cannot, like changing human relationships."

Going by the maxim "An enemy's story is one that you haven't heard," the Traubmans founded the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group in their San Mateo home in 1992, along with some Palestinian neighbors. Adham and Nahida Salem were among the first to join, but only after Libby

repeatedly visited Adham's store nearby, telling him, "I'm not going to stop asking until you show up." Though the Salems now spend half the year in their native Ramallah, whenever they are in California, they attend



Len Traubman (Adam Traubman)

the dialogue group.

"These two, and all they do, give me hope," Nahida Salem said of Len and Libby in 2012, the group's 20th anniversary.

Elias and Fanny Botto were introduced to the Traubmans by a mutual Palestinian friend, and they joined the group in its early days. A Palestinian born in Jerusalem who fled to Bethlehem during Israel's War of Independence, Elias admitted he was skeptical at first that the dialogue groups would last. But after his first meeting, he became a regular at both the original San Mateo group and a group in San Francisco, and over the years he has appeared at many Jewish events, sharing his story with others.

"I really took it to heart. Len became a brother," Elias said. "Through Len, I've learned how important dialogue is, not just between Jews or Israelis and Palestinians, but I see how the whole world lacks that capability to listen to each other."

In the early years of the group, Len Traubman recruited participants however he could. For example, as soon as he heard of a new Palestinian contact, he would drive to meet them and invite them to dinner. But after the first group spawned numerous others, people started reaching out themselves. At one point, the Traubmans were facilitating three or four groups a month.

"More and more, we are being asked into synagogues, campuses, colleges and high

schools," Len told J. in 2002. "The media calls us. These groups just seem to be a model of hope."

From 2003 to 2007, Camp Tawonga hosted Israelis and Palestinians who lived in the Middle East, along with local Jewish and Palestinian participants of the dialogue groups, for intensive weekends. At its apex, Tawonga's Peacemakers camp hosted 250 people.

Len Traubman also was a frequent letter-writer to J., with a letter from him and his wife appearing as recently as the Sept. 20, 2019 issue. Len was not a religious Jew, but in his letters, he often invoked the Shema as a guiding concept, imploring people to actively listen as the Shema says, but in this case, to the stories with which they were unfamiliar.

The work of the Traubmans became well known, and they were often asked to consult with groups around the world. The State Department and the Reform movement were two of their "clients." Libby estimates they have sent out more than 17,000 DVDs about their work, to every U.S. state and 98 countries around the world. They paid for most of this out of their own pocket, but some years ago found a fiscal sponsor in the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

As the years went on, they began to get a lot of interest in their work from Africa. In 2010, a man in Nigeria saw one of the films about the Peacemakers camp and invited the Traubmans to Nigeria to facilitate dialogue between 200 Christians and Muslims there. Videos about that that summit were seen in other parts of Africa, provoking even more people to reach out to them.

"We've been having regular [video] conferences with people from Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon and more," Libby said. "We support them financially and help them bring warring tribes together."

Locally, the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group lives on; this month, the group will have its 314th meeting.

In addition to his wife, Len Traubman is survived by his son, Adam Traubman (Raychel) of Cardiff-by-the-Sea in San Diego County, daughter Eleanor Traubman (Mike) of Brooklyn, New York, and three grandchildren. Donations in his memory can be made to the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (pcrcweb.org), earmarked for the Jewish-Palestinian Living Room Dialogue Group. ■

OBITUARIES

VICTOR HORWITZ

Nov. 11, 1918–Oct. 3, 2019



Victor Horwitz died of natural causes on Oct. 3, 2019, just shy of his 101st birthday. He was born in Springfield, Illinois, on Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918. His mother, Bessie (Ressin) Hurwitz, was a benevolent, observant woman from Dobranke, Belarus. His father, Benjamin Hurwitz, from Trashkune, Lithuania, was a Hebrew scholar and composer of traditional Jewish music, *schochet*, *chazan* and *ba'al koreh*. His musical compositions and his commentaries, both in Yiddish and Hebrew, are now in the library archives of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Victor was also a *ba'al koreh*, who read Torah with emphasis, precision and understanding at many conventions of the United Synagogue of America (now the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism), at Congregation Beth Sholom, San Francisco, and at Congregation Beth Jacob, Redwood City. He was a regional president of three different regions and a national vice president of the United Synagogue, and a director of the World Council of Synagogues.

Victor was associated with Levi Strauss & Co. for 30 years, retiring in 1985. He had an acerbic sense of humor, both secular and religious, and attended services at festival times with Eric Apayim, Ralph Chesed and Emmet. He relished Jewish music and humor, was religious until he lost the sight in one eye and became less observant.

He was bothered by obituaries of individuals who were lauded for their educations, traits and achievements but without a single fault or misdeed. Victor was smart, funny, astute, intelligent and entertaining. He even thought he had a great sense of humor — but, in his own estimation — he could also be smug, abusive, obtuse, stubborn and arrogant.

Victor grew up and was educated in Kansas and Missouri, was a veteran of World War II and resided in California after 1945. He was preceded in death by his late wife Rebecca (Rickie) Lillian Britt, his sister Dorothy Wasserman (Sam), his brother Albert (Marilyne), his brother Harry (Rose), and his sister Naomi.

He is survived by his faithful wife of 46 years, Donna, and her sons Sheldon Greenberg (Romina Ronquillo) and Michael Greenberg (Julie). He is also survived by his devoted family: his daughter Barbara Foreman, son Robert (Libby Brydolf), daughter Andrea Warthen (Dan), daughter Marci; his 10 grandchildren: Danielle Foreman (Jon Brandon), Brett Foreman (Bekka Rabison), Lindsay Foreman, Marc Brydolf-Horwitz, Rachel Brydolf-Horwitz, Britt Warthen, Olivia Greenberg, Gavin Greenberg, Cole Greenberg and Ezra Hurst; his two

great-grandsons, Zachary Brandon and Noah Brandon; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. His sons-in-law, Stewart Foreman and Tom Detavernier, preceded him in death.

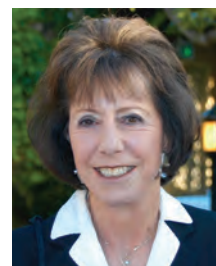
Victor was the oldest ball dude in the history of the San Francisco Giants baseball team, through the courtesy of Larry Baer and Sue Petersen.

Contributions in his name may be sent to the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital for Children, via the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 400 Hamilton Ave., Suite 340, Palo Alto, CA 94301 or to the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, 3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL-REDWOOD CITY

RAQUEL H. NEWMAN

Aug. 20, 1928–Oct. 6, 2019



Raquel H. Newman passed away at her home in Palm Springs, CA at the age of 91, surrounded by friends and family. Racky, as she was known to her friends, was born and raised in Chicago, IL, where she and her late brother, David Heller, attended Francis W. Parker School.

Community and democratic ideals became important to Racky early in childhood. She was involved in promoting the Marshall Plan during her time at Radcliffe College, and worked one summer for the National Labor Relations Board. Just before earning her B.A. in political science, Racky met her future husband and the love of her life, C.M. "Nick" Newman, in Chicago in the spring of 1949. He proposed to her at a New Year's party that year. Married in 1950, they established their home in Nick's native Omaha, NE, where he worked for Hinky Dinky, the family's chain of grocery stores. Racky started and for several years managed a magazine, which she dubbed *The Noodleer*, for the Skinner pasta company. Racky and Nick raised four children.

In the early 1960s, Racky, in her own euphemistic words, began her career as a "tire kicker," becoming an active proponent of civil rights. She served on the interracial and interfaith Panel of American Women, brought black children to Camp Esther K. Newman (founded in honor of her late mother-in-law) outside of Omaha, and filed a successful suit against Omaha's Westside School District for illegal political practices.

In 1972, Racky served on the credentials committee and as a delegate at the Democratic National Convention. She was also active with Planned Parenthood, working directly with clients. After losing her beloved husband, Nick, in 1973, Racky earned an M.S. in public affairs and social planning from the University of Nebraska, Omaha. She volunteered for a legal aid society

that worked to desegregate Omaha schools and housing. Evidence that Racky discovered of real-estate agents refusing to show or sell homes to black families helped to force desegregation in the school system.

Her idea of paradise awaited her in California, where she moved in 1975, first to Los Altos Hills and later to a second home in San Francisco. There, she began a long involvement with Jewish and other educational institutions, a list too exhaustive to print in full. Her activities included serving multiple terms as a board member or president of Jewish Family and Children's Services, the Bureau of Jewish Education, Rhoda Goldman Plaza, the S.F.-based Jewish Community Federation, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Sherith Israel (where she sponsored Newman Hall), Congregation Emanu-El, Camp Swig, the Jewish Bulletin, Fromm Institute of Lifelong Learning (where she took classes for over a decade), the Graduate Theological Union, Achenbach Graphic Arts Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Jewish LearningWorks and the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology (now Palo Alto University).

When not attending board meetings, Racky indulged in her love of art, symphony, figure skating and tennis. Racky traveled all over the world with family and friends into her final decade. She visited *refuseniks* in the USSR, and made many visits to Israel, beginning in 1963. Among her efforts to improve life and education in Israel, she funded and dedicated two kindergartens and a high school there, and encouraged others to do the same. Racky was also an early funder of the first Reform *kibbutz*, *Yahel*, helping to build the community swimming pool. Years later, after providing the seed money to purchase the Santa Rosa site for URJ Camp Newman in 1995, she enjoyed her frequent visits to the camp and was greatly loved and appreciated by generations of campers and staff.

Racky became involved with the New Israel Fund shortly after its founding in 1979. She served on the NIF International Board, International Council and as president of the San Francisco Regional Board. In 1995 and 2005, the NIF honored Racky for her work and philanthropic support with their Guardian of Democracy Award, noting her special commitment to pluralism and women's rights.

In 1993, at an age when most people would retire, the indefatigable Racky earned her Ed.D. in organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco. In subsequent years, she worked as an independent nonprofit consultant (RHN Associates) and published her book *"Giving Away Your Money: A Personal Guide to Philanthropy."* In 2002, she received an honorary Ph.D. in humane letters from the Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. After four decades of active involvement with Bay Area nonprofits, Racky was able to enjoy the last part of her life in the quiet and warmth of Palm

Springs, living near her son Tom and accompanied by her two wonderful caregivers.

Racky is survived by her children Peter (Carla), Tom (Ron), Ted and Sara, and her granddaughters Vianna (Alec) and Cassandra. She was a devoted and loving friend, mentor, wife, aunt, mother, mother-in-law and grandmother who made the world a better place far beyond her immediate circle. Racky will be remembered as a leader in her community and for her passionate dedication to philanthropy, social justice, Jewish organizations and education.

In honor of Racky's memory, please make a donation to the organization of your choice or to URJ Camp Newman in Sonoma County (camp-newman.org), which especially needs nurturing after the wildfires of 2017.

LEONARD A. ROSENBERG

Oct. 11, 1946–Sept. 26, 2019



Leonard A. Rosenberg, a distinguished attorney, multi-talented musician, tai chi enthusiast and inspirational man dedicated to family, friends and faith, died peacefully Sept. 26,

2019, in Greenbrae, California, after complications from prostate cancer. He was 72.

Born in San Francisco, Len was the son of Ralph Rosenberg, a doctor, and Jeannette Rosenberg, a teacher. A Lowell High School graduate, he followed in his parents' footsteps, attending UC Berkeley. He dropped out to become a musician, but his band broke up and, after marrying Sandra Kurlon, he returned to graduate from Cal with a major in psychology and minor in music.

He earned a law degree from Golden Gate University and practiced divorce law before finding his calling in immigration law. He worked 32 years for the federal government, including the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, retiring as deputy chief counsel. An asylum law expert, he mentored many attorneys and was honored for his extraordinary performance.

A member of Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco, Len remained very active after retiring in 2007, visiting with family and friends; attending concerts, lectures and services; volunteering for the JFCS Holocaust Center; and playing with his beloved *Netivot Shalom JazzKlezmet* band. Len and his wife shared a love of music, food, family, spirituality, kindness, conversation and each other. He took immense pride in his two sons, their spouses and three grandchildren, and enjoyed finding connections through genealogy.

He had an amazing attitude during his bout with cancer, staying positive through treatments, showing gratitude to his compassionate



caregivers and continuing to play guitar. He found great pleasure playing and arranging music and discussing each song's meaning. The last song he played: "I Shall Be Released." Len was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sandra (Kurlon) Rosenberg; son Alec Rosenberg and his wife, Marilo Aceves; son Ivan Rosenberg and his wife, Kristin Cavoukian; and grandchildren Matthew, Charlie and Lucie. A private graveside service was held at Home of Peace Cemetery in Colma.

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL-SAN FRANCISCO

Mountain View, CA; Donna Weber (and husband Ed Roseboom) of Palo Alto, CA; and Janet Weber of Half Moon Bay, CA; and her three grandchildren Elan Merry, Oren Merry, and Noa Merry.

Dorothy will be missed greatly by all who loved her. We are heartbroken.

Please do not send flowers, per Dorothy's request; in lieu of flowers, please donate to the Israeli Defense Forces via Friends of the IDF (fidf.org/donate) on her behalf, if you like.

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL-REDWOOD CITY

**DOROTHY "DOTTY"
WANETICK WEBER**

June 15, 1936-Oct. 5, 2019



Dorothy "Dotty" Wanetick Weber, 83, of Sunnyvale, CA, passed away peacefully after an unexpected stroke on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019.

Dorothy was born in McKeesport, PA on June 15, 1936. She lived in Los Angeles from 1966 to 1971, and then moved to San Jose in 1971. Dorothy got her bachelor of science degree in interior design with a minor in marketing from San Jose State in the 1980s, while she raised four daughters. She lived life fully and was fiercely independent until the end, passionately involved with her family, her friends, her community, and her bridge and mahjong groups. Dorothy lived in Sunnyvale since 2002.

Dorothy is survived by her four daughters, Nancy Weber of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; Linda Merry (and husband Nir Merry) of

RAYMOND L. WEISBERG

March 30, 1929-Oct. 3, 2019

Beloved husband of the late Marilyn; father of Dvora Weisberg (Neal Scheindlin) and Adam Weisberg (Rachel Brodie); grandfather of Micah (Elana), Noah, Sophia and Ariella. Raised in Sacramento.

Following medical training in Chicago and Boston, Ray spent most of his adult life in San Francisco, where he was active in civic and cultural life. During many years of practicing medicine, he was devoted to and deeply appreciated by his patients. Ray was an avid volunteer, serving on the board of the American Cancer Society, on the San Francisco Retirement Board and on numerous Jewish community boards. He received many honors, including a lifetime achievement award from the American Cancer Society for his work to reduce smoking and the presence of secondhand smoke in public spaces. Ray had a dry sense of humor, a love of beautiful things, and a deep love for his family.

Funeral services were Oct. 6 at Hills of Eternity in Colma. Contributions in Ray's memory may be made to the New Israel Fund or the American Cancer Society. ■



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ANNAIS RITTENBERG

We would like to remember the life, love and contribution of **Annais Rittenberg** who was born on October 18, 1991 and tragically died on July 3, 2013 at Camp Tawonga. In her short life she was a shining star of hope and change for so many causes.

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My kids do well in public, but home? That's another story

PARENTING | DREW HIMMELSTEIN



Drew Himmelstein is a former J. staff writer. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two sons.

We had a good 20 minutes in Yom Kippur services this year. My 3-year-old, Harvey, napped on my husband, then woke up and gazed around with a tired, disoriented look on his face under his angelic halo of blond hair. My 7-year-old, Nate, quietly worked on his activity book, then slumped on the pew in boredom, but he kept the fidgeting to a minimum.

"Your children are amazing," whispered the man sitting next to us.

I love people like this. What a jolt of pride and relief it is for a parent when a stranger praises your children's behavior in public.

And yet, I suspect I am not alone when I say that my first, internal response to hearing a comment like this is a shock of disbelief. My children, you say? The ones who threw our neighbor's shoes down the stairs on our way up to our apartment after school last week? The ones who cannot play together for longer than five minutes without tackling each other? The ones we've hauled out of restaurants for screaming and running and generally acting like monkeys?

For every glimpse of a family you see in public, there is an iceberg underneath made up of children with idiosyncratic strengths and challenges going through all manner of developmental stages, and parents at varying levels of patience and sensitivity.

So the cousin who once complimented then 2-year-old Harvey's table manners because he asked to be excused from dinner is blissfully ignorant of the fact that we often spend family meals reminding our kids not to eat with their hands or use toilet humor. The teacher who complimented Nate

for his wonderful participation in the kids' activities during Yom Kippur services isn't aware that it's more common for him to struggle in new environments. The adults we meet in the neighborhood who regularly praise Harvey for being gregarious and well-spoken don't know that he's recently discovered the F-word and integrated it into his vocabulary with gusto.

Yes, yes, he has. There is no higher mom shame than the looks you get from other parents when your child unleashes that word on the playground.

I readily admit that I don't deserve full credit when my children present as polite, obedient children. But I also don't deserve full blame when they don't. And maybe, just maybe, what pokes out of the water on the top of the iceberg counts for something. Maybe if my kids come across as well-behaved, at least sometimes, it's because they (sometimes) are. You know, in public. Where it really counts.

As we walked to the Yom Kippur break-fast we had been invited to, we talked to the kids, as we usually do before we go to someone's home, about how we could be good guests. "We won't say the F-word!" Harvey shouted, then raced away down the sidewalk. My husband and I looked at each other, sighed, and agreed that that was a low bar indeed. And yet, we also agreed that if the bar was met, it would mean the evening was a success.

We went to the break-fast. We ate bagels and lox. Harvey hugged his host and charmed the adults by energetically singing Lady Gaga. He also hit a kid twice his size in the stomach. But he did not say the F-word. ■

At age 21 in the USSR — that's when I became a Jew

THE MATZO CHRONICLES | KAREN GALATZ



Karen Galatz is the author of *Muddling through Middle Age*, a weekly humor blog. She lives in Berkeley.

I was more New Yorker than Jew. More Las Vegas than landsman. More my father's daughter than one of the Chosen People.

At least that's what I thought, until I studied in the former Soviet Union when I was 21 years old. There, amid widespread and constant anti-Semitism, I embraced my Jewish identity.

Studying the Russian language in Moscow and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in the late 1970s, I was confronted with a nonstop stream of jokes about hated Georgians and the equally hated "yids." I didn't like the jokes, but "sticks and stones" and all that. Yet, as time passed, other incidents and attitudes were not so easy to shrug off. Like when I took time off from my Saturday classes to attend Sabbath services at Leningrad's one working synagogue. Inside the dilapidated building, a few elderly men worshipped without prayer books or a rabbi.

After the service, I spoke with the "cantor." He questioned me closely about how I had learned about the temple — and how I had gotten there. When I mentioned that a non-Jewish friend had brought me and that my friend was waiting outside for me, his ears perked up. He asked for my friend's name, and where he lived and worked. I knew this was more than idle curiosity. I stopped answering questions and left.

As we hurried away, my friend explained that the "cantor" was likely a KGB agent, or at least was required to report foreign visitors to the authorities.

The following Monday, back in class, one teacher kindly asked why I had missed class on Saturday, worried I had been sick. No, I answered, I was fine. I had gone to shul.

The look of concern on her face instantly morphed into one of complete contempt. No mind reader was needed to understand what she was thinking.

She asked what I thought of the experience, and, with the reckless arrogance of youth, I told her I hadn't liked it, because the cantor worked for the KGB.

It was a stupid thing to say. In Communist-era classrooms, instructors working with foreigners were carefully vetted (they probably were Communist party members), and the classroom itself was possibly bugged. I was

putting my teacher in an awkward position. But I didn't care. I was taking gleeful delight in making her squirm.

My teacher denied my cantor-is-a-KGB-agent claim. She followed this denial with a "if that was so" theory — it was because there were probably "bad" elements at the temple.

Even though I was sad about the dilapidated condition of the state-controlled synagogue, and infuriated about the overt anti-Semitism of my instructor, neither provided my proverbial come-to-my-Jewish-God moment.

That occurred just days before Passover.

I was out shopping with my Russian boyfriend, Sasha. We planned on getting married. He wasn't Jewish, a fact that didn't thrill my parents, but was a non-issue for 21-and-in-love-with-someone-behind-the-Iron-Curtain, non-religious me.

With us on our shopping expedition that day was the 6-year-old son of some friends of ours. As the line outside the bread shop inched forward and we finally approached the front door, Sasha told me to stay outside to watch the boy. I said I could watch him through the shop's big glass window, since there were lots of mothers around. Sasha hemmed and hawed, but finally stated that I needed to stand vigilant, explaining "It's a dangerous time."

I had no idea what that meant. So I asked. He said it was almost Passover, and "Well, you know, Jews kidnap non-Jewish children and murder them for their blood."

Shocked, outraged, crying, I reminded him I was Jewish.

"Yes, but you're an American Jew. You're different. You won't do that."

At that moment, I knew I would not marry Sasha. More importantly, at that moment, I knew that being a Jew mattered.

I didn't need to recite to myself the terrors that family members — and countless other Jews — had faced as they lived or perished in pogroms or fled Russia or died in the Holocaust. I just knew in that moment I could no longer ignore my history and heritage and my people.

From that moment on, recognizing — and celebrating — that I am a Jew has become a vital part of my identity, as much so as the NYC part, the Las Vegas part, and as much as being my father's daughter. I'm all that and more. I am one of the Chosen People. Not just by birth, but by choice. I am a Jew. ■



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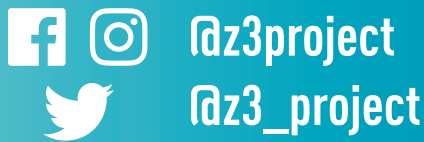
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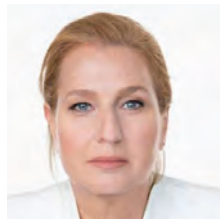


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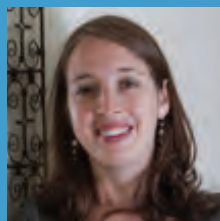
Tal Keinan

American-born Israeli entrepreneur, author, financier and the founder of Clarity Capital



Noam Pianko

Samuel N. Stroum Chair of Jewish Studies and Professor in the Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington and winner of the American Jewish Historical Society's Saul Viener Book prize



Sara Yael Hirschhorn

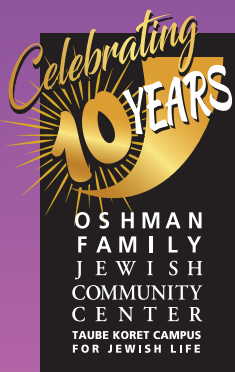
Visiting Assistant Professor in Israel Studies at the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies at Northwestern University and winner of the 2018 Sami Rohr Prize in Jewish Literature Choice Award

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

THURSDAY

OCT
24

A STATE AT ANY COST: THE LIFE OF DAVID BEN-GURION



Tom Segev

Leading Israeli Journalist and Historian

TIME 5:30pm Reception / 6:00pm Lecture
PLACE Room 100, Berkeley Law
RSVP bit.ly/calsegev or berkeley_institute@law.berkeley.edu

TUESDAY

OCT
29

INNOVATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS AT THE NEXUS OF FOOD, ENERGY, AND WATER SYSTEMS: TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Suleiman Halasah

Founder of the Jordan-Israel Center for Community, Environment and Research, under the auspices of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies

TIME 5:30pm Reception / 6:00pm Lecture
PLACE Room 330, Blum Hall, UC Berkeley
RSVP bit.ly/halrasah or berkeley_institute@law.berkeley.edu

Cosponsorship with Berkeley's Master of Development Practice and INFEWS: Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems, the Blum Center for Developing Economies

MONDAY

NOV
04

UNLIKELY REFUGE: SURVIVORS, AID ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WWII UZBEKISTAN AND IRAN



Mikhal Dekel

Professor of English and Comparative Literature, City College, New York
Director of Rifkind Center for Humanities and the Arts

TIME 5:30pm Reception / 6:00pm Lecture
PLACE Room 100, Berkeley Law
RSVP bit.ly/caldekel or berkeley_institute@law.berkeley.edu

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