LYNN – Last Christmas, Miriam Mendez logged onto FaceTime. Her hands were trembling and her skin was covered in goosebumps. A few seconds later, she was staring at a certain form of reflection: a man with her pinto eyes, a woman with her gray-blue eyes. Mendez called it an “out-of-body experience.”

This couple, John and Teresa Callicoat of Gallaway, Ohio, were her birth parents, and it was the first time she had ever seen or spoken to them.

“You can’t put that under a tree. “My [birth] father told me it was the best Christmas gift they’d ever gotten,” said Mendez.

For Mendez, 44, it was a Hanukkah miracle. At just three days old, she was adopted by Rabbi Martin Twersky, the longtime associate rabbi at the former Congregation Ahabat Sholom in Lynn and the mashgiach (kosher supervisor) of The Butcherie in Brookline, and his wife, Bella. They brought Mendez up in a house near the old shul where everyone – Martin, Bella, and Mendez’ husband, Benjamin, and their five children – still live today.

Mendez was raised Orthodox, and in her early years, she loved going to shul every Saturday to see her father and his uncle, the esteemed Rabbi Samuel Zaitchik, lead the congregation in prayer.

“We were there all the time,” she said. “There was something very homoyn about growing up at Ahabat Sholom and having my uncle Rabbi Zaitchik [as the leader]. If someone could go back in time and copy what he was doing, life would be [Jewish] back in Lynn.”

When Mendez wasn’t at Ahabat Sholom, she was somewhere in the back at The Butcherie. “I used to watch them cutting up the meat and I learned so much that I could probably be a mashgiach, blindfolded,” she said. “I watched how they cut the arteries and how they soak and salt it seven times, and I sat there and watched it many, many times, and it was very cool to see those secret workings.”

Still, Mendez had been told when she was very young that she was adopted, and she felt different from all of her peers attending Orthodox schools. “I didn’t fit in with them character-wise,” she said. “In my family, I can’t say that I felt apart, but there were times when I didn’t feel comfortable. You know they’re trying to include you, but as an adoptee, you always feel those weird feelings, like, ‘Do they really accept me as part of the family?”

These feelings grew more acute as she got older and Orthodox tradition dictated strict gender divisions and modesty requirements that she found suffocating. Because she grew up in a community without many other observant families, she was aware of how different her family’s traditions were from those of everyone else, even more secular Jews.

“At some point there was a lot extra that didn’t need to be there,” continued on page 11

A rabbi’s daughter finds her birth parents, and now has two families

By Michael Wittner
JOURNAL STAFF

MALDEN – It started nearly 50 years ago when a tight-knit, vibrant Jewish community lived in the Faulkner section of Malden. Bingo! It was a fun night out with sociability on tap and you, maybe, could rake in some real gelt.

Marilyn Masters, who is 83, has been part of the bingo scene at Congregation Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel in Bryant Street for nearly half a century – as long as bingo’s uninterrupted run on Tuesday nights lasted. It was the go-to place after working at home or in offices all day, a way to kibbitz with your fellow players, have some excitement and see old friends.

The regular players and some 25 volunteers got the announcement recently: The long run would end this winter.

“We had all ethnic groups. Some couldn’t even speak English,” she said. “They’d come from East Boston, Lynn, Everett and Beverly. Two sisters came every Tuesday in an Uber from Newton. The bingo evening was an important part of their lives, said Weiner.

As interest in bingo waned (200 to 300 bingo parlors have closed in the state in the last 10 years, said Weiner) the Bingo volunteers were Jewish, said Weiner, but the players in recent years were not.

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While synagogue membership at the temple stands at 80, members vow to find other sources of revenue to make up for bingo. There will explore renting out the hall on Tuesday or other nights, and they intend to continue with small fundraisers throughout the year.

For Mendez, 83, a caller at the shul’s bingo and a volunteer at Congregation Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel, the End run would end this winter.

The long run would end this winter.

The Faulkner section of Malden, an immigrant neighborhood bound by Ferry Street on the west and Everett on the south, was once filled with working-class Jews, Italians and Irish. But those days are long gone. The Jews have moved, several other synagogues are gone, and now there is just Agudas Achim-Ezrath Israel and the Orthodox Congregation Beth Israel.

The bingo volunteers were Jewish, said Weiner, but the players in recent years were not.

“We had all ethnic groups. Some couldn’t even speak English,” she said. “They’d come from East Boston, Lynn, Everett and Beverly. Two sisters came every Tuesday in an Uber from Newton. The bingo evening was an important part of their lives, said Weiner.”

As interest in bingo waned (200 to 300 bingo parlors have closed in the state in the last 10 years, said Weiner) the synagogue made less and less money, to the point where it was just breaking even. The opening of the Encore Boston Harbor casino “down the street” in Everett didn’t help, she said.

While synagogue membership at the temple stands at 80, members vow to find other sources of revenue to make up for bingo. There will explore renting out the hall on Tuesday or other nights, and they intend to continue with small fundraisers throughout the year.

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LAST CALL FOR BINGO AT MALDEN SHUL

MARCH 12, 2020 – 16 ADAR 5780

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By Bette Keva
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

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- Bo & Barbara K. Stone Hill Residents
The Krakow Jewish renaissance comes to Marblehead

By Michael Wittner
JOURNAL STAFF

MARBLEHEAD – Just 40 miles from Auschwitz, Jewish preschoolers are learning Hebrew songs. A few doors down, a Yiddish lesson is taking place. Soon, 50 people will gather for a home-cooked Shabbat dinner.

Krakow, Poland was once a prominent Jewish cultural capital that was 25 percent Jewish and home to some of the world’s most influential sages and rabbis. After the Holocaust wiped out 90 percent of its Jewish population and Soviet Communism forced any remaining Jews underground, an astonishing renaissance has taken place. At the well-preserved Jewish quarter at the heart of town, there is Jewish life again – a lot of it.

For many of the people who engage in its programs each week, the Krakow Jewish Community Centre of Krakow, which has used education and outreach to rebuild a vibrant and thriving Jewish presence. The center started almost by chance in 2002, when Britain’s Prince Charles came to Poland to visit Holocaust survivors. Charles wanted to build Poland to visit Holocaust survivors. Charles wanted to build Poland, many Poles, including Ornstein’s wife, are rediscovering their heritage. “People start getting curious when they understand that they’re part of something larger than themselves. That’s safe to be openly Jewish in Poland, and when it began to take a turn, it’s been really shocking at how eager people are to reconnect to their Jewish background."

Poland was once home to three million Jews, who made up 16 percent of its total population. Now that it is finally safe to be openly Jewish in Poland, many Poles, including Ornstein’s wife, are rediscovering their heritage. “People start getting curious when they become teenagers and they see a lot of Jewish books on the family’s shelves, or they sometimes a memory of being younger and grandparents not allowing them to have milk and meat together, so sometimes these remnants of Judaism stay with families, and they find out in different ways,” said Ornstein. "Our first step is to make them feel like they’re not alone, and we’re a community center, and our main focus is on community. If they want to be more focused on religion, we’ll help them with a rabbi, if they’re interested in language, we’ll put them in a Hebrew class … we’re trying to help them get up to speed to help them understand that they’re part of something larger than themselves that cares about them."

The center currently has 750 Jewish members, and more than 40 religious and cultural programs each week. Many of the people who engage in its programming, from classes to lectures to volunteer work, are non-Jews interested in connecting with what they see as an important, essential part of their country’s history. “For the most part, nobody really spoke about what happened to the Jews – it was kind of an open wound in the Polish culture,” said Ornstein. “You have a country that in 1989 woke up from a 50-year bad dream, and when it began to take a continued on page 20

Purim in Krakow.

North Shore residents visit the Krakow JCC in September.

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Author of haunting Holocaust tales to speak in Salem

By Michael Wittner

SALEM – What would you do in order to survive? In two incredible novels based on real-life Holocaust stories, Australian author Heather Morris explores the ways that two Jewish prisoners used the tiny bit of power granted them as they muddled through the pits of hell with everyone else.

Morris will visit Salem to give the Sonia Schreiner Weitz lecture on two books, “The Tattooist of Auschwitz” and her follow-up book “Cilka’s Journey” as part of a multi-day educator workshop called “The Holocaust in Comparative Context,” which is sponsored by Combined Jewish Philanthropies and hosted by the Salem State University Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

The lecture will take place at the National Park Service Salem Visitor Center, 2 New Liberty St., at 7 p.m. on March 19.

The numbered tattoos on the arms of concentration camp prisoners have become a dreaded, internationally recognized symbol of the Holocaust. Camp prisoners have become a mystery to the world.

For years, Lale Sokolov had kept the fact that he was the “Tattooist of Auschwitz,” needing numbers onto the skins of hundreds of thousands of unfurling patients, a secret, worried he would be branded a collaborator. But in his declining years, he felt ready to share his story with the world. He asked his son to find him a non-Jewish audience to avoid what he felt was the baggage and preconceptions he felt all Jews carry about the Holocaust.

For three years, New Zealander born Heather Morris learned Sokolov’s incredible story: in 1942, he was deported to Auschwitz from his native Slovakia. As an able-bodied 26-year-old, he worked to construct new housing blocks for the increasing number of prisoners. After he contracted typhoid, he was cared for by the Frenchman who had given him his identification tattoo, and eventually began as his assistant. Because he already knew many languages, he was made Auschwitz’s main tattooist after the original mysteriously disappeared.

In 1942, Sokolov emblazoned “34902” onto the shaking arms of a beautiful young girl named Gita. He began sneaking her letters and extra food rations, and a clandestine romance began. For the rest of this international bestseller, Morris tells the story of how Sokolov and Gita’s love survived in the worst circumstances imaginable. She also tells the story of how Sokolov used his position – designed as a way to remove the prisoners’ humanity by replacing their name with numbers – to help his fellow prisoners survive.

As Morris worked with Sokolov, she told him about another prisoner in a position of power who he believes saved his life. Sokolov said that a young girl named Cilka Klein interceded on his behalf when he ran afoul of the camp authorities, using her position to convince the commandant to spare his life.

“Lale kept telling me, ‘When you are finished telling my story, you must write the story of Cilka – you must tell the world about the bravest person I ever knew,’” said Morris.

After “The Tattooist of Auschwitz” became an international hit, Morris traveled throughout Eastern Europe talking to people who knew Klein and piecing together a life of fiction based on her life. She was born around 1926 in Bardejov, Slovakia, and was known as a bright, headstrong young girl. In 1942, her family was sent to Auschwitz, where everyone was murdered but her. Klein was able to become kapo – a Jewish guard – after carrying an identity card in her hut, and trained to be a nurse with a female doctor. She befriended the other women and her husband traveled back to Slovakia, where she lived a quiet life as a nurse, and kept her past and her Jewish heritage largely secret. She wanted very much to have children, but that was not physically possible after all the abuse she suffered. So she became everyone’s mother, caring for local children and neighbors.

“I will not judge (them) for a second,” said Morris about Klein and Sokolov’s actions during the war. You did what you needed to survive, and until you can walk in the shoes of the people who were in those camps, nobody gets to judge.”

Tickets to Morris’ talk are $5 for Salem State students, $10 for general admission, plus fees. Go to eventbrite.com and search for Heather Morris.

EVENTS

Yousef Bashir

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With Jewish history in mind, Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill hosts Refugee Shabbat.

By Michael Wittner

HAVERTHILL – The word “Hebrew” comes from a root that means “to cross over” or “to cross boundaries.” Ever since God told Abraham to leave his home and his family for a foreign land, the Jews have been wanderers who know all too well the difficulties of being immigrants and refugees.

On March 21, Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill will join synagogues across the world in honouring that heritage through the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society’s Refugee Shabbat.

Israel Bonds postpones North Shore event due to virus fears

By Michael Wittner

BOSTON – Israel Bonds Boston, which was planning a March 16 cocktail reception at the Kernwood Country Club to honor Epstein Hillel School principal Amy Gold and youth leader Abby Avin of Marblehead, has postponed the event due to the coronavirus.

“We have decided to postpone our North Shore Community Cocktail Reception honoring Amy Gold and Abby Avin that was scheduled for Monday, March 23 until a later date,” wrote Israel Bonds Executive Director Jonathan Lang in an email to the event committee.

“In light of the coronavirus, we are exercising an abundance of caution to ensure that our clients, colleagues and friends stay healthy. For those that have registered and paid we will issue refunds. Please reach out to us should you have any questions.”

Gold was going to be recognized for her work around a struggling Cohen Hillel Academy and oversaw its renaming as the Epstein Hillel in 2017 after a $5 million gift from philanthropist Arthur Epstein.

Avin is a junior at Marblehead High School who founded the first Jewish Student Union at Marblehead High School and has led local chapters of the B’nai B’rith Youth Organization, the Lappin Foundation’s Israel Advocacy Fellows Program, and served on the Teen Leadership Council of Israel advocacy organization StandWithUs.

This summer, she will travel to Eastern Europe with the second cohort of Holocaust Legacy Fellows.

The guest speaker was going to be Tzipi Livni, a former foreign minister of Israel, vice prime minister, minister of justice, and leader of the opposition who ran for prime minister in 2008, as its guest speaker. Known as a leading proponent of a two-state solution, she is widely considered one of the most powerful women in Israel since Golda Meir.
Getting Reel: Film festival focuses on those who have overcome challenges

By Penny Schwartz
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON – Chris Hoeh, a beloved and trailblazing Jamaica Plain educator who became paralyzed after a skiing accident, continues to inspire as a leading local and national champion for those with disabilities and spinal cord injuries.

Sylvia Bowersox is a U.S. Army veteran whose three tours in Iraq as a press officer left her with post-traumatic stress disorder, was paired with service dogs, and reemerged from the devastation to climb the heights of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Kristen McCosh, commissioner of the Boston Mayor’s Commission for Persons with Disabilities, speaks at last year’s ReelAbilities Film Festival.

For more information, see bjff.org.

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To apply, please contact your local Jewish Family Service office.

Tara Melnik
Jewish Journal
March 2, 2020
By Rich Tenorio

JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

BOSTON – Boston civic and religious leaders addressed a crowd of 250 at UMass-Boston last Sunday, who attended the 13th annual Anti-Defamation League of New England “Nation of Immigrants” Community Seder.

“The goal of ADL’s ‘Nation of Immigrants’ Community Seder is to celebrate the strength of diversity and to advocate for humane immigration policies,” said Debbie Shalom, chair of ADL’s New England Regional Board. “The theme of recovery – a Seder celebration of liberation as is relevant today as it was thousands of years ago. At a Seder serves as a powerful motivation for all of us to stand up and speak out for others and advocate more strongly for the values that make America a nation of immigrants.”

Boston City Councilor Julia Mejia was the keynote speaker, and others who spoke at the Seder included Cardinal Sean O’Malley of the Archdiocese of Boston, Combined Jewish Philanthropies President Marc Baker, and immigrants of diverse backgrounds. In addition, Rabbi Rubbi Kremen of Temple Beth Zion in Brookline officiated, and the program featured a performance from a Haitian contemporary dance company, Jean Appolion Expressions.

“ADL’s Seder serves as a powerful motivation for all of us to stand up and speak out for others and advocate more strongly for the values that make America a nation of immigrants.”

– Debbie Shalom, chair of ADL’s New England Regional Board

Robert Trestan, executive director of the ADL’s Boston office praised Cardinal O’Malley’s remarks.

“I think Cardinal O’Malley is a critical leader not just in the Boston area, but a global leader,” Trestan said. “He recognizes the importance and the impact of the U.S. as a nation of immigrants.”

Trestan also welcomed O’Malley’s comments on civility and common respect for all. The cardinal “often speaks, as he did [Sunday], on the perspective of people being equals, and the U.S. has never been tied to one religion, one history, one language, but people coming together,” said Trestan.

Trestan was moved by the sentiments of democracy and the right for Americans to vote, addressed at the Seder. “Most of the speakers emphasized the important role and civic obligation of voting in a democracy like the U.S.,” he said. Trestan noted “that one of the things that was built out this year was the theme around the importance of voting, the role of voting in the journey to freedom.”

Having been Purim and Passover, the event was not a full Seder service, but it had elements of the service. The event included the Four Questions, which were recited in multiple languages reflecting the Boston immigrant community, including Hebrew, Arabic, French, Spanish, Chinese and Haitian Creole.

The event itself dates back to 2007, with similar Seders taking place under ADL chapters in New York and San Diego. However, the ADL New England Community Seder began over 30 years ago under its last former head Lenny Zakim. Previous iterations included a Black-Jewish Seder and an interfaith Seder, Trestan said.

The Seder capped a busy stretch of activity for ADL New England, which also hosted a Black-Jewish Seder and an immigration forum last Wednesday. The speakers included local and national immigration leaders.

“Hopefully people found the day inspiring, that they can actually make a difference. Hopefully people left and went home not only to vote, but to make a difference,” said Trestan.

In a statement shared by the ADL on social media, Councilor Mejia wrote, “As an immigrant myself, this is very personal and important to me.”

The ADL also tweeted a statement made by one of the immigrant speakers, UMass-Boston first-year Jacqueline Mejia, who discussed her family’s journey under the Temporary, Protected Status program. “When people tell us to go back to our country, that really means this country, because this is the only country we’ve ever known,” she said.
In Israel, a unity government is needed

For the third time in the last 11 months, Israel held an election to decide the next prime minister. And for the third time in the last 11 months, neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu nor his opponent Benny Gantz received a mandate from the electorate to form a new government. It takes at least 61 members of the 120-seat Knesset to put together a governing coalition, and neither Netanyahu or Gantz currently have that majority. Election fatigue was evident of the streets of Israel’s major cities this winter. There were few banners; Israelis seemed resigned that the stalemate would continue, and these days, most Israelis believe a fourth election will produce similar results.

Israel can no longer continue without a functioning government. There are too many issues to deal with in the country that require cooperation among elected officials. While the country has stepped up its efforts to battle the coronavirus, the impact of the virus has hit the country’s tourism, aviation, entertainment and restaurant industries hard, and those industries may need economic relief. Relations with the Palestinian Authority need to be maintained, and security cooperation is required to keep the West Bank border quiet. And further south and north, more attention may be needed along the Gaza and Syrian borders, which have not been quiet in recent months. Also, Iran has shown no signs of reducing its rhetoric and goal to destroy Israel.

Israel has had successful national unity governments in the past, including a rotational premiership that included former prime ministers Yitzhak Shamir and Shas’s Ahmed Benazzouz in the mid-1980s. At a time of growing polarization in the country, Israeli lawmakers need to embrace a unity government and move forward in dealing with the country’s major issues. It cannot afford to amble along, postponing key economic, and possibly, military decisions.

It must act now, for the sake of the people of Israel.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Family remembered in Beverly’s Jewish history

How delightful to see my sister Sally, posing with her confirmation class, in one of your Beverly history photos, and in another photo my friend Abraham Al Cohn of Alcon’s “from second from right – dark suit, bow tie, tall and handsome” in “Beverly’s Jewish History: Part I,” of the Feb. 27 Jewish Journal. It warmed my heart. Thank you.

Barbara Cohn Younger

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

For a safer and better world, the U.S. needs Israel and Israel needs us. We need to actively support pro-Israel candidates in both parties. How can this be done?

I would suggest signing on to pro-Israel America, a PAC that will keep you updated on all pro Israel candidates running for Congress. Take, for example, Rep. Joyce Beatty, a Democratic legislator from Ohio and a long-time pro-Israel advocate. In the upcoming primary she is facing a challenger who is funded by the same group that endorsed Representatives Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar. Her opponent, Morgan Harper, is an unknown who has an endorsement from an anti-Israel group that accused Israel of being a human rights violator on par with Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, this is not just happening in Ohio, but is a problem that we face nationwide.

The time to get involved is now. We cannot afford to lose the backing of those who have been lifelong friends of the Jewish State.

Carol Dembo

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome. Letters must be signed and include your name, address and telephone number for verification purposes. Letters are limited to 300 words. Submissions are subject to editing for accuracy. Email submissions to: editor@jewishjournal.org, subject “Letters.”
Israel in quarantine, or ‘A plague on both of our houses’

By Michael Widlanski

JERUSALEM — After Israel’s politicians put themselves in a kind of mindless quarantine from each other a year ago, failing to form a stable coalition, the State decided to put itself in actual official quarantine this week, requiring returning Israelis and visitors to self-isolate for two weeks. The reason: spreading the coronavirus.

“As I say and have said repeatedly, we are in the midst of a global plague, even if it has not been officially recognized as such,” declared caretaker Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at a special cabinet meeting, announcing the measures against the virus.

Israel’s precautions have kept virus carriers at a lower level than many countries in Europe, and Netanyahu says he prefers to be overly cautious rather than complacent, but some critics say he has overreacted and harmed Israel’s economy.

While the coronavirus appears to be less fatal than other flu-like viruses like SARS or MERS, it is far more deadly to the elderly than common flu viruses. However, one thing is already clear: it is the most serious challenge to Israel’s tourism industry and the entire economy.

Many hotels, travel agencies, guides, and even the national airline carrier El Al are in desperate straits, firing large parts of their staff, and forecasting that the airline may even go bankrupt.

The virus-induced economic blow appears to have been harder on the right than on the left, as it has overspent (three inconclusive election campaigns) and misallocated other funds because it is run by the laziest of lame-duck ministers whose last official budget was planned in 2017.

Israel’s three elections this year are said by many to set up a fourth, with a new political graveyard being set up to make it impossible to form a government. It seems the only clear victor was the Likud which has won a solid majority, and from 35 to 34 and now to 31 — a downward spiral.

Over three rounds, Blue and White’s leftist bloc dropped from 45 (if you count Amir Peretz) to 42 (if you count Lieberman) and now to 40 (47 with Lieberman). The difference this time is that the Israeli left of Labor and Meretz have collapsed entirely, while anti-Zionist Arab parties, which are united in one list, went from 13 to 9 and now to 15, eliminating “voted” voters.

Essentially, Netanyahu “won,” but Gantz has a “spokes-lock” or “Gush Hosen” (Hebrew) bloc of 46 seats. It is quite impossible for Gantz to form a solid coalition with the right-oriented (but Netanyahu-hating) Lieberman and the anti-Zionist United Arab List, whose members do not hide their support for Palestinian terrorist groups.

On election eve, Gantz promised that he would never form a government with the acting or even tacit support of anti-Zionist Arab parties. But Netanyahu’s many election promises — some of which may have cost him the formation of a new government on the winner.

This would be tremendous fuel for anti-Zionism; and the winner.

Some new lessons can be learned from the elections results and from the behavior of the voters after the results were known.

Within the Jewish Zionist public, a minority (58 out of 105 members of Knesset, or 55 percent) support the rightist bloc — 44 of them are in the Likud Party; and 34 are in the more left-wing bloc of anti-Netanyahu Zionist parties.

Still, that is exactly what Gantz and Lieberman have proposed — completely violating their election promises and remedying Netanyahu’s aggressive campaign question unanswered — with the leader, and charging that Blue and White would get into bed with the anti-Zionists.

Netanyahu is hardly loved among the Israeli media, but even commentators at the left who think this way.

Benny Gantz’s appeal to the Joint List reflects how unreliable his previous promises were before Israel’s last three elections.

One race in Europe, and Netanyahu says he will form a government, and hence the winner.

After the Israeli election: five lessons

By Yossi Kuperwasser

JERUSALEM — The third round of elections in Israel did not resolve the political impasse and forming a new government, let alone a stable government, remains a very difficult mission. Netanyahu and the Likud Party gained power and had an impressive achievement, but fell short of winning.

Election Analysis

White Party and the bloc of anti-Netanyahu Zionist parties suffered a loss of five seats in the Knesset, but are still strong enough to be the only party with the ability to form a government. It seems the only clear victor was the Likud which has won a solid majority, and from 35 to 34 and now to 31 — a downward spiral.

Over three rounds, Blue and White’s leftist bloc dropped from 45 (if you count Amir Peretz) to 42 (if you count Lieberman) and now to 40 (47 with Lieberman). The difference this time is that the Israeli left of Labor and Meretz have collapsed entirely, while anti-Zionist Arab parties, which are united in one list, went from 13 to 9 and now to 15, eliminating “voted” voters.

Essentially, Netanyahu “won,” but Gantz has a “spokes-lock” or “Gush Hosen” (Hebrew) bloc of 46 seats. It is quite impossible for Gantz to form a solid coalition with the right-oriented (but Netanyahu-hating) Lieberman and the anti-Zionist United Arab List, whose members do not hide their support for Palestinian terrorist groups.

Many more Israel Beitenu candidates and at least some of Blue and White voters (here and White and Green) are uncom- fortable with or oppose a govern- ment that will be based on any sort of support from the anti-Zionist Joint List. This does not seem to deter the leader- ship of Blue and White from seriously exploring this option as a viable one. In fact, they are ready to support such an option, if necessary.

The Joint List has gained considerable strength thanks to the rise in the voting percentage of Arab Israelis. This solidifies their status as the group with- out which Benny Gantz cannot form a government, and hence raises their ability to condition their support on accepting demands — some of which may be very problematic from the point of view of the majority of the Jewish and Zionist citizens.

At the end of the day, right-leaning ideology has a vast majority in the Knesset (88 members at the least), but the no ideology “just not Bibi” mes- sage is more relevant to many of the more dovish voters. Only a unique candidate, MK Ofer Shelah from Blue and White said after the elections that now it is time for Blue and White to adopt an alternative content and subst- ance of anti-Zionists, because “Just not Bibi” is not enough to bring Netanyahu down.

Even after this election, it remains hard to assess which of the following options may materialize: a fourth round of elections in spite of everybody’s reluctance to end up with it; a Gantz government with the Joint List support that may lead to further escalation in the conflicts between the pro-Netan- yahu and the anti-Netanyahu parties, and the most remote option of a rotation-based unity government. More and more voices are calling upon the leaders to understand that the pub- lic’s desire for the politicians to overcome their mutual disdain and form a unity government. But it seems that both, and especially Gantz, remain deaf to these voices.

Gantz’s appeal to the Joint List is not just a lesson in unreliable his promises before the elections were, but a re- examination of the nature of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. On the one hand, from a democratic point of view, it is perfectly acceptable to count the Joint List votes in forming a government (and definitely the Arab citizens should be equal in the electoral process). But on the other hand, Israel was estab- lished in order to be a beacon of democracy — as it was) in order to avert the Palestinian people the opportunity to have a national entity in their own home- land where it can feel safe and prosperous. This cannot be achieved without a Jewish major- ity and without a govern- ment that is based on a Jewish- Zionist majority. The Jewish and the democratic identities are both crucial, but the Jewishness is superior when it comes to the Israel’s national identity.

The broad set of challeng- es Israel faces are not wait- ing: there’s the coronavirus; Palestinian and Israeli security threats; the de-legitimization campaign; and economic prob- lems.

Israel needs a functioning government, and it seems that the only way to do so is by forming a unity government.

Brig. Gen. (ret.) Yossi Kuperwasser is an Israeli intel- ligence and security expert. He is co-author of “Intelligence as a Force Military Intelligence and the Israel Defense Force”, available as a kindle version as card as the head of the research division in the Israel Defence Force Intelligence and Division and Director General of the Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs.

CREDIT: Handout

THE JEWISH JOURNAL – JEWISHJOURNAL.ORG – MARCH 12, 2020
Israeli tap dancing partners still in step after all these years

By Penny Schwartz

BOSTON – In its three-week Boston run, thousands of local theater-goers who caught the Tony-nominated touring production of “Fiddler On the Roof” became fans of Yehezkel Lazarov. The award-winning Israeli actor is delighting audiences and winning acclaims across the country for his role as Tevye, the iconic patriarch of the hugely popular musical of upended shtetl life based on Sholem Aleichem’s story, “Tevye the Dairyman.

The touring production closed earlier this week from its run at the Emerson Colonial Theatre, presented by Broadway in Boston.

This was Lazarov’s first time in Boston. But one local fan who needed no introduction was Ronni Sadka, an Israeli who’s a longtime finance professor and dean at Boston College.

More than three decades ago, when Lazarov and Sadka were about 8 years old, the two were paired by their dance teacher as a tap dancing duo. Their crowd-pleasing act put them in the spotlight for six or seven years. From stages across the country to television. In the late 1980s, they even performed in Festigel, Israel’s premier annual showcase of song and dance for children.

They hadn’t been in touch or seen each other for more than 30 years. Lazarov was excited when he received an email from his long-ago dance partner who suggested they get together during Lazarov’s Boston gig.

The much anticipated reunion took place Saturday, Feb. 25, following the “Fiddler” performance. Sadka and his wife were in the audience, Sadka told the Journal. They met the following Monday evening, with their families. Each have three children.

“She’s 30 years haven’t passed at all,” Sadka said in a follow-up email. “We actually recalled a short dance we performed together 35 years ago. We just stood up, did it, no practice, we were totally in sync. Our kids [and wives] watched in disbelief. Amazing.”

Lazarov was as gleeful. “Yes, we met, and we had the best time! We even danced together in memory of the good old days,” he wrote in an email.

After 30 years, Yehezkel Lazarov (right) and Ronni Sadka have reunited in Boston for the touring production of “Fiddler On the Roof.” Sadka is a finance professor and dean of faculty at Boston College.

“For me, it was more of a hobby,” Sadka said about tap dancing in a conversation before the reunion. The tap rhythms strike a chord with his affinity for math.

Even from a young age, Lazarov, whom he calls Herzi, was deeply connected to his artistic creativity. “He was really good in all sorts of dance,” Sadka said. Lazarov went on to dance with Israel’s Batsheva Dance Company and is also a noted choreographer.

Spending his youth performing before large audiences and dealing with stage fright was good preparation for Sadka’s academic career, he observed.

Over the decades, Sadka kept up his tapping hobby. In Evanston, Ill., where he was a graduate student immersed in researching his doctorate at Northwestern University, Sadka happened on a tap class and decided to once again put on his dancing shoes. That experience exposed him to a more contemporary world of tap beyond the Fred Astaire, Gene Kelley style that he and Lazarov channeled in their younger days. Even now, alone in an elevator, Sadka taps, and once he surprised his B.C. students, entertaining them during class.

For his son’s bar mitzvah in Israel last summer, Sadka and his daughter tapped to a dance choreographed by his former Evanston teacher.

Looking back, Sadka admires Lazarov’s creative instincts and how he always strove for perfection. “To me, he’s always seemed a free spirit. Like a true artist, you can’t put him in a box.”
Let a genealogist help you trace your Jewish roots

Carol Clingan, research projects coordinator at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, located and archived almost 80,000 Yahreitz plagues throughout Massachusetts.

By Michael Wittner
JOURNAL STAFF

MARBLEHEAD — Nobody ever says, ‘I wish I had asked my grandparents, includ-
ing one, said Carol Clingan. As the research projects coordina-
tor of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, Clingan comes across many people who wish they had asked their grandparents more ques-
tions about their families’ pasts. Luckily, Clingan has decades of experience in answering those answers.

On March 15 at Temple Sinai in Marblehead, Clingan will treat the North Shore to an "Introduction to Jewish Genealogy," a talk cospo-
sored by Sinai, the Jewish Community Center of the North Shore, and Temple Emanuel in Marblehead.

For two hours, Clingan will explain how to get started answering all those questions. She will tell you what you had asked your grandparents. Thanks to several online databases from places like Ellis Island, Yad Vashem, and detailed Massachusetts vital records, there are many ways to solve the mysteries of the past.

"There’s a lot online now: you can get census records from every 10 years and track your family back, there are passenger lists, and citizenship records," said Clingan.

Thanks to mar-
riage and death records that list the names of parents, Clingan said she can generally help Jews trace their lineage to the gen-
eration before immigration to the United States, most between 1880 and 1920.

She can also help people find the original surnames and birthplaces of distant ances-
tors, which she says are among the most common requests. According to Clingan, census records, citizenship records, and ship manifests (detailed passenger lists) can provide all of this information. If you find out that your relative was natural-
ized after 1906, you’re in luck: after that year, a standardized form requires citizens to state their name, date of birth, and place of origin, and the name of the ship they came on and the date it arrived and at which port.

Clingan gives many intro-
ductive classes like this in her role with the Greater Boston nonprofit, which grew out of a small group meeting at Hebrew College in the early ’80s to one of the largest Jewish genealogy societies in the country. She recently gave a similar talk in Malden, and will speak at the Peabody Essex Museum during Salem Ancestry Days May 1-4.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston offers extensive resources and inex-
ensive memberships. For $35 a year, members have access to free monthly talks, extensive research libraries at Temple Emanuel in Newton, and three research Sundays a year, which offer help from genealogists with translations, strategies, DNA results, and more. Members also can join special interest groups devoted to in-depth research on the Jewish history of a particular country of region, like Luisiana or Galicia. The JGSO also offers a comprehensive eight-week genealogy course at Hebrew College once a year.

Numerous resources also are available on jewishgen.org, a veritable treasure trove of spe-
cific databases, online geneal-
ogy courses, discussion groups, and information about many of the same resources and strateg-
es that Clingan will discuss in her talk.

There are many resources available to learn about our ancestors. But Clingan says that the most valuable discoveries are more than names and dates: "I always tell people to find any photos you can, and ask any-
body you can what stories they have."

Carol Clingan will speak at Temple Sinai, 1 Community Road in Marblehead, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on March 15. Call 781-631-2763 for registration and more information.

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Rabbi’s daughter now has two families

(Carol Clingan)

Rabbi’s daughter now has two families

(Carol Clingan)

extra,” she said. “I’ll never forget the time I went to a wedding and my cousin I grew up with, playing as children – I went to give him a hug, and he leaned back and said ‘shomer negiah’ [the Halacha prohibit-
ing physical contact between

brothers and sisters, which she says is among the most common requests. According to Clingan, census records, citizenship records, and ship manifests (detailed passenger lists) can provide all of this information. If you find out that your relative was natural-
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THE JEWISH JOURNAL – JEWISHJOURNAL.ORG – MARCH 12, 2020

11
New film spotlights divide that led to Rabin’s assassination

By Rich Tenorio
JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE – It will be 25 years in November 2020 since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was leaving a Tel Aviv rally in support of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. A gunman waited in the shadows. Yigal Amir, a 24-year-old Israeli law student, fatally shot Rabin, who a year earlier had won the Nobel Peace Prize for supporting the Oslo Accords, which called for the creation of a Palestinian state.

“Incitement,” a new Israeli feature film by Yaron Zilberman, tells the story of the assassina-
tion from an unusual point of view: that of the killer. Directed by Zilberman, with a screen-
play cowritten by Zilberman and Ron Leshem, “Incitement” was screened at the Boston
Israel Film Festival in mid-February and the Kendall Square Cinema on Feb. 28 and 29, just
a few days before the Israeli elections. Leshem, who now lives in Boston, participated
in Q&As following some of the Cambridge screenings.

“I don’t think I’m going to write ever again about someone I am so disgusted with,” Leshem
said. “Almost every single word said on screen is real.”

Leshem recalled attending the fateful rally at which Rabin spoke on Nov. 4, 1995. The
future screenwriter was serving in the Israeli Defense Forces as an intelligence officer. Leshem
left the rally to go to the beach and learned about the assassina-
tion from an army radio broadcast. He told the Jewish Journal that he felt “mostly shocked and depression.”

Up to that point, Leshem felt that the fractured Israeli soci-
ety was “going to reunite, that we would be better people,” he said, but following the assassina-
tion, “I was not optimistic then, I have lost confidence since then.”

The making of “Incitement” dates back more than six years, arising out of conversations between Zilberman, who lives
in New York, and Leshem in Boston. “Yaron called me from New York,” Leshem recalled to
the audience. “I did not know him, but I loved his films.

“Yaron said, ‘I want to do a film about the assassination of the prime minister.’ I said, ‘I can’t do it, it’s too depressing.’

Yet Leshem ultimately signed

“Incitement” was co-written by Ron Leshem, above, and director
Yaron Zilberman.

on, even though, he said, “I usu-
ally write characters I’m attract-
ed to, I want to be with.

Leshem did not interview Amir, who is serving a life sen-
tence in Israel. “I did not want to meet him,” Leshem said.

Instead, the screenwriter went to two researchers to Amir’s
wife’s home, where they were able to record his conversations from prison. “He’s so similar to a lot of assassins, even [Lee Harvey] Oswald,” Leshem said, noting that Amir had both “an inferiority complex” and “a god complex.” But, Leshem added, “he had something no other assassin ever had. One thing, he was mostly fearful someone else would kill the prime minister before him. He was obsessed with the fact that someone else would be written as the future biblical Messiah.”

When the film begins, Yigal Amir is a Yemeni Jew living in Herzlya, the son of Shlomo, a
sofer (Torah scribe), and Gedaa, a preschool teacher. In the film, Yigal Amir is played by actor
Yehuda Nahari Halevi, a secular Israeli who hosts Shabbat events in the
neighborhood and knew his family, Leshem said.

In the film, Shlomo Amir laments that his son’s military service took away his gentle
nature. Unhappy in love with girlfriend Nava, the younger Amir is increasingly radical-
ized by religious and right-wing voices amid violent reactions to the Oslo Accords, rang-
ing from deadly Palestinian suicide bombings to Israeli Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 Palestinians and wounded 125 others while they were worship-
ning in Hebron in 1994. Yigal Amir sees Goldstein as a hero and hosts Shabbat events in the
occupied territories. He recruits volunteers for his broth-
er Hagai, for a clandestine proj-
ект, stockpiling weapons and

soliciting multiple rabbis’ opin-
ions on his ultimate goal.

“A few rabbis either said ‘yes’ when he asked or debat-
ed among themselves, ‘Should we warn the prime minister?’” Leshem said. “None got to the point of a trial. All were investi-
gated.”

As the story moves toward a denouement, the film shows
death of Rabin — and
even actual footage of the assassina-
tion itself.

“Incitement was the Israeli entry for Best International Fea-
ture film this year’s Academy Awards.

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Parshat Ki Tisa

The wisdom of recognizing different points of view

By Rabbi Richard Perlman

There are three obvious points of view that we learn in this week’s Torah reading. The first is the perspective of Moshe, the leader of our people, who ascends Mount Sinai. The second is the view of Yehoshua, the warrior, who eventually succeeds Moshe. The third is the perspective of B’nai Yisrael at the bottom of the mountain. The thing is, if that is all we see, we will miss something of great importance.

What about God’s view of things? Our Torah reading shows God getting angry, telling Moshe: “… Your people … have acted basely,” and then commanding Moshe: “… Your people … have been suffering from earlier war induced Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The warlike noise he heard coming from below may have caused Bashbucks that could have inhibited him from taking necessary steps.

As for the talk that Moshe had with Yehoshua, even though he had no idea what PTSD was, it is possible that Moshe sensed Yehoshua’s fear and wanted to console him. Then Moshe let Yehoshua know that if he were ever going to be a good leader, he would have to learn to deal with his past and look at things with a fresh perspective. There is a message here for all of us, and that is in finding a middle ground is something we would all be wise to learn. When someone sees the entire world from only one perspective, they will do what Yehoshua did. They will rush to interpret things from their own world view.

Recently, during a conversation, a woman told me that she was having a great deal of difficulty with her relationship with her father, a Holocaust survivor who is in his 80s. For years, she has been having arguments with him once a week. She complained that the lunches were getting increasingly difficult since she and her father got angrier at each other each week.

I asked her where she and her father sit in the restaurant. She said she always sits across from him so she can see his face. I suggested that the next time they go out, she should sit next to him instead. To my delight, she called me the next week and said, “You know, Rabbi! I did the opposite, I changed things in a whole new way today, a whole new perspective. It was nice. Thank you.”

Something as simple as seeing things from a different side, from a different angle, can cause amazing things to happen.

Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Richard Perlman leads Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody.

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As of publication, event details are accurate. Many events have been cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus, so contact organizers before attending.
CALENDAR

MARCH 22

SPRING STORIES OF HEALING AND LIBERATION | A creative exploration of difficult themes in the Book of Esther with Melissa Dimond (Ex-Director of Wellspring House). Featuring the textual activist approach exploring the issue of human trafficking in the modern world.

MARCH 28

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION: THE ART OF IAN SHERWIN | Presented by Marblehead Natural Healing. Meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments. Marblehead native Ian Sherwin draws in ballpoint pen from images on his phone, allowing him to zoom in to areas of detail (he is blind in one eye). His drawings are a modern take on Impressionism: scribbled lines combine to formulate a complicated subject matter, whether it be portraits, animals, buildings, or boats. Ian’s work will be on display at the offices of Marblehead Natural Healing through April. Reception 6 – 8 p.m. | 781-639-0010; office@marbleheadnaturalhealing.com | Marblehead Natural Healing, 10 Spring St., Marblehead

KLEZKABARET WITH SRRUL AND LISA | Presented by Congregation Beth Israel of Marblehead. Dessert reception included. Adult and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase. $19 per March 28 at KlezKabaretCSH.eventbrite.com or $25 at the door. Open to all. 7:30 p.m.; show start at 8 p.m. 781-599-8055. 55 Atlantic Ave., Swampscott

MARCH 29

PJ LIBRARY PASSOVER | PALOOUZA | Lapidus Foundation, Congregation Ahavas Achim, 53 ½ Salem St., Marblehead. 3 p.m. | 781-986-2260. PJ Library invites families with children, ages 8 and younger, to have fun learning about Passover. All PJ Library families are invited to attend.

EXPLORE YOUR PASSION FOR FASHION | Presented by Temple Tiferet Shalom. Sisterhood of TTS invites the community to a presentation and talk with Talia Bk, an Israeli personal stylist. Get tips to find your best style, how to organize your closet - regardless of your age. Free. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to sisterhood@templetiferetshalom.org. 10:15 a.m. Temple Tiferet Shalom, 499 Lowell St., Peabody

"MY SOULE IS FILLED WITH JOY" | A Holocaust Story | Presented by Congregation Beth Israel of Marblehead. With Karen I. Treiger, author

APRIL 6

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Submit your Calendar listings to calendar@jewishjournal.org

MUSICIAN BINGO | Presented by North Shore Youth Group of Temple Ner Tamid and Temple Tiferet Shalom. Public is invited to a night of Musical Bingo for a chance to win cash prizes. Ages 21+. $20 per person in advance, $25 at the door. Proceeds to benefit North Shore Youth Group. 8 p.m. Admission includes a Ramos Rum tasting, snacks and dessert, and beer and wine for purchase. RSVP to nsginbo@comcast.net. Temple Ner Tamid, 369 Lowell St., Peabody

MARCH 22

SUPER SEDER WORKSHOP | Presented by Epstein Hilb School. Featuring international guest speaker and haggadah author Noam Zion. Community is invited to learn new ideas to engage your guests, pique your child’s curiosity, and add some interactive features to your next seder. RSVP by March 19 to rebecca@epsteinhilb.org, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Epstein Hilb School, Marblehead

MARCH 24

TODAH HUR | Presented by the JCNO. “Teaching Children How to Give and Receive Feedback: A Lifeskill.” Event is free and open to the community. Registration required. Presented by Sara Ewing at sewing@jcncs.org. 7:30 p.m. Jewish Community Center of the North Shore, 4 Community Road, Marblehead

MARCH 26

WOMEN’S SEDER | Presented by Congregation Beth Israel of Marblehead. All women are invited to connect, celebrate together. Dairy potluck family style meal. $10 per person. Register online http://bit.ly/WomensSeder2020. Call 781-599-8055 ext. 25 for more information. 55 Atlantic Ave., Swampscott

CTEEN PAINT NIGHT | Sponsored by Chabad of Peabody. For Jewish Teens. 7:30 p.m. Free. 781-978-9111; office@jewishpeabody.com; jewsypeabody.com

YOUSEF BASHIR: A PALESTINIAN FAMILY’S QUEST FOR PEACE | A lecture presented by the Iris Center for Jewish Studies. Palestinian peace activist Yousef Bashir tells an unusual story. Born and raised in Gaza, when he was 15, Yousef was shot in the back by an Israeli soldier, but then his life was saved by Israeli medical professionals. Free and open to the public. RSVP to Saralyn Box at saralynbox@gmail.com. Temple Emanuel, 393 Atlantic Ave., Marblehead.

MARCH 28

TRIVIA NIGHT AND TEQUILA TASTING | Presented by Andover-The Merrimack Valley Jewish Federation (MVJF). The event will benefit Federation Programs. Mike Realty of Bueno Malo Restaurant, a local SoCal eatery, will lead the Tequila tasting and will provide their signature chips and salsa. The Tequila experience is open and included in the entry fee. Prizes for trivia winners and raffle items. A cash bar will be available. $30 per person. To register, contact the MVJF at 978-638-0446, or purchase tickets online atmyrv.org. 7:30 – 11 p.m. Old Town Hall, Andover
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THE JEWISH JOURNAL – JEWISHJOURNAL.ORG – MARCH 12, 2020

‘Shtisel’ star headlines new Netflix series

Netflix will release a new series on March 26 about a young woman in Brooklyn’s Chassidic Satmar community who leaves an unhappy and fulfilling marriage for a new start in Berlin.

“Unorthodox” is inspired by the 2013 best-selling memoir “Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of My Hasidic Roots” by Deborah Feldman, who was born into a Chassidic Satmar family in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Feldman got married at 17 in an arranged marriage; by 18, she had a son.

She decided to seek higher education and enrolled at Sarah Lawrence College, a move frowned upon in her circles. In 2009, she left her husband and community, and eventually moved to Germany with her son in 2014.

The series is the first by Netflix to feature Yiddish as a main language alongside English.

The lead star in “Unorthodox” is Shira Haas, the Israeli actress who plays Bella/Sammi Weiss in the Israeli series “Shtisel,” which also streams on Netflix.

Netflix released another documentary feature film that chronicles the lives of three former Chassidic Jews who left their communities in Brooklyn in “One of Us,” released in 2017.

—JNS.org

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The Jewish Journal

WEB CONTENT

Documenting the Goldberg’s story of survival

By Karen Treiger

ANDOVER — We all have sto- ries of how our parents met, but my husband’s parents’ story beats them all. Sam and Esther Goldberg met in the Polish for- est as Sam was running away from the death camp Treblinka during the prisoner uprising on a blustering hot August day in 1943. Esther, dressed in lice- covered rags, had been out in the early morning, searching for food about ten miles from Treblinka. She found Sam, exhausted and looking for a place to hide. The Nazis and Ukrainians were scouring the area for the escaped prisoners. Esther took Sam to her “angel” – Helena Stys – and convinced Helena to allow them to hide in her barn, though if they were caught, Helena and her entire family would be killed. Sam and Esther hid in the Stys barn for three days. They emerged, letting their eyes adjust to the bright light and decided to go into the forest and dig a pit. They covered the pit with wooden planks and forest brush and “lived” in it. They hid in that pit, with the help of the Stys family, until July of 1944 when they were liber- ated by the Soviet army. Three months later, they got married.

I spent three years research- ing and writing Sam and Esther’s story of resilience and survival. My work culminated with a book: “My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story.” In June of 2016, I visited Poland with my family. Through some old letters, written in Polish, found in my father-in-law’s condo after he died, we were able to locate the three surviv- ing members of the Stys fam- ily. Eugeniusz Stys took us into the forest and showed us the remnants of the pit. We were shocked that it was still there! As I looked into that pit, I wiped my tears and, at that moment, I changed. I realized how much I take for granted – my home, my family of food, my warm bed, my closet full of shoes. Since that day in the Polish forest, I have tried to live my life with a deeper sense of gratitude and appreciation for what I have and the people in my life.

I am looking forward to sharing these stories and more when I visit Congregation Beth Israel of the Merrimack Valley Sunday March 29. Breakfast will be served at 10 a.m., and I will present a multimedia presenta- tion at 10:30 a.m.

Karen Treiger, a Seattle native, retired from her law practice in 2015 to write the award-winning book “My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story.”

—JNS
MARCH 13, 1948
Davidka Mortar First Used

The Davidka, a mortar designed and manufactured at the Miltex Israel agricultural school as a Palmach weapon for Israel’s fight for independence, is used in combat for the first time in an attack on Jaffa’s Abu Kabir neighborhood. The Davidka is known for being wildly inaccurate because of its oversized bomb and unstable aerodynamics. But it creates large, loud explosions that scare enemy soldiers and civilians.

MARCH 14, 1972
Black Panthers Steal Milk

Israel’s Black Panthers, who seek equality for Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews, steal crates of milk meant for wealthy Arabs and Mizrahi Jews, to protest poverty. Operation Milk and Mizrahi Jews is part of Fighting Zion), the underground resistance movement to fight for Independence, and is second in command to Moshe Dayan during the 1956 Suez Crisis. Appointed to head the Mossad in 1963, he stays until 1969.

MARCH 15, 1939
Irgun Radio Begins Broadcasting

An Irgun poster in the 1930s reflects the underground movement’s willingness to fight for the Land of Israel. Kol Zion HaLokhavim (“Voice of Fighting Zion”), the underground radio network operated by the Irgun, broadcasts for the first time. The network’s messages include news the British would censor. The Hebrew broadcasts from Tel Aviv often feature Irgun leader Menachem Begin. Aside from a brief period after the British captured the transmitter in 1944, the station regularly broadcasts until May 14, 1948.

MARCH 16, 2017
MK Basel Ghattass Accepts Plea Deal

Basel Ghattass, an Arab member of the Knesset for the Joint List, signs a plea deal to resolve charges that he used his position to smuggle cellphones and documents to prisoners in jail. Under the deal, he must resign his position, serve two years in prison and pay a fine of 120,000 shekels (about $38,000). The plea deal marks the first use of the MK Impeachment Law, enacted in July 2016.

MARCH 17, 1921
Mossad’s Meir Amit Born

Meir Amit, a career soldier who builds the Mossad into an internationally renowned intelligence agency, is born Meir Slutzky on the shores of the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias. He joins the Haganah at age 15, is promoted to colonel and serves as a battalion commander during the War of Independence, and is second in command to Moshe Dayan during the 1956 Suez Crisis. Appointed to head the Mossad in 1963, he stays until 1969.

MARCH 18, 1974
OPEC Lifts Oil Embargo

The shortages caused by the OPEC embargo led some people to run out of gas, such as this man standing in line with a gas can in Portland, Ore., in December, 1973. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries lifed the oil embargo it had placed on the United States in the fall of 1973 for resupplying Israel during the Yom Kippur War. The embargo quadrupled gasoline prices and produced long lines at gas stations. The belief that a disengagement pact between Israel and Syria would follow a similar deal between Egypt and Israel leads OPEC to end the embargo.

MARCH 19, 1999
Hanoch Levin Premieres Last Play

Hanoch Levin’s final play, “Requiem,” debuts in Tel Aviv. The play is based on three short stories by Anton Chekhov. Levin dies of bone cancer at age 56 later in 1999 after a career in which he writes some 50 plays. Prime Minister Ehud Barak calls him “one of the greatest playwrights that Israel has ever had.”

Items are provided by the Center for Israel Education (israelined.org), where you can find more details.
Jewish World and Mideast News

Julian Edelman studying for his bar mitzvah

Patriots star Julian Edelman is studying to have a bar mitzvah in Los Angeles. "I'm going to have a bar mitzvah here soon," Edelman told lamag.com in Los Angeles last week. "I speak with a rabbi every Friday. He's from out here." The wide receiver and former Super Bowl MVP has been one of the most vocal supporters of Israel and American Jewry in the NFL. Edelman wears a Star of David necklace and also wore Star of David cleats after the Pittsburgh temple shooting in 2018. Edelman has also visited Israel in the past.

Netanyahu announces 14-day quarantine for tourists; reservists called up to assist with coronavirus

On Monday night, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced a 14-day quarantine for anyone landing in Israel, including active-duty military members. To date, 72 people in Israel have been diagnosed with the coronavirus.

In addition, with over 2,200 active-duty Israeli soldiers under quarantine for COVID-19, the Israel Defense Forces has decided to call up dozens of reservists to help the Home Front Command deal with the challenges the virus outbreak has created.

The IDF Spokesperson’s Unit explained in a press release on Tuesday that "to face with an ongoing situation assessment, the IDF has decided to call up some 70 reservists to help prepare an information campaign for the IDF Home Front Command." The IDF spokesperson added that an additional 100 reservists had been called up over the past few days to bolster Magen David Adom, the nation’s official medical emergency agency.

GW University quarantines AIPAC attendees

In the early hours on Saturday morning, George Washington University in Washington, D.C., quarantined 38 students who attended this year’s AIPAC Policy Conference, held nearby from March 1-3, due to a virus outbreak. The university decided less than 12 hours later that the student attends have since been targeted by anti-Semitism.

The decision came amid a statement from AIPAC that two conference attendees had tested positive for COVID-19. In a statement, AIPAC president and CEO Jacob Solomon cited "the need to protect the conference community from the conference.” However, "out of an abun-

dance of caution, GW assisted those students’ ability to self-quarantine overnight," she said. “We have since received updated information. “There has been a determination by public-health experts that the two people at the con-

ference did not present symp-
toms during their visit to D.C.,” continued Fox. "The current information indicates that both students who attended to continue to self-quarantine." - JNS.org

OBITUARIES

Henny (Flaumenhaft) Adler, 94, of Swampscott

Henny (Flaumenhaft) Adler, of Swampscott and formerly of Ramapo, N.Y., entered into rest on February 27, 2020 at the age of 94. Beloved wife of the late Samuel Adler, with whom she shared 71 years of mar-
riage. Devoted mother of Dr. Joseph Adler and his partner Leslie Sweeney, Sandra Terrace and her husband Robert, and Rosalie Miller and her husband Todd. Cherished grandmother of Rachel Cockerline, Deborah Wood, Sara Adler, Melindia Adler, Stephen Adler, and Rebecca Miller, and eight great-grand-
children. Daughter of the late Samuel and Golda (Strum) Flaumenhaft.

Henny survived the Holocaust, losing her beloved mother, father, brothers Leo and Paul, and many extended family. She was passionate about Israel, and was a found-
ing member of the Oranttown Chapter of Hadassah, serving as president and in other func-
tions in the chapter. She worked tirelessly to raise money for Israel Bonds and United Jewish Appeal, and was honored for her work.

A funeral service for Henny was held on March 1 at Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapel, Salem. Interment fol-

owed at Temple Sinai Cemetery, 16 Buxton Road, Danvers. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in Henny’s memory to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, D.C. 20024-2126 (https://www.ushmm.org/). For more information or to register in the online guestbook, visit stanetskyhymansonnalem.com.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Jewish Journal prints brief notices for free. Biographical sketches up to 200 words cost $100; longer submissions will be charged accordingly. photographs cost $25 each; emailed photos should be sent as jpeg or tiff files. Submissions are subject to editing for style and space limitations. Obituaries can be mailed, faxed, emailed or hand-delivered to our office. For further information, contact your local funeral home; call Andrew at the Jewish Journal at 978-745-4111 x174, or email andrew@jewishjournal.org.

E-mail Obituary Submissions to:

Andrew at the Jewish Journal at 978-745-4111 x174, or email andrew@jewishjournal.org.
Joyce (Cohen) Freedman, 67, of Peabody

Joyce (Cohen) Freedman died on Monday, January 29, 2020, at the age of 67.

A lifelong resident of Peabody, she was the beloved wife of Michael Freedman and the late Hy Cohen and sister of Ira. Loving daughter, mother, and grandmother, Joyce was the heart of her family, creating a home filled with love, laughter, and joy, always celebrating holidays, as her 4th of July barbecues became tradition with her family. Joy was proud of her successful career as a purchasing agent. She was known as a dear person, but her greatest happiness came from her family. In addition to Howie, those near and dear to her were her grandchildren, Michael Goldstein and his wife Sadie, and Leo Goldstein, both of Swampscott; Michael, who lit her li-

tion, she was a loving and devoted stepmother to Charles Freedman, who adores her, and Nathaniel Freedman and his wife Karrie. Her greatest joy came from her grandchild-

ren Victoria Goldstein, Theo Goldstein, Charlie Freedman, and Emere and Alex Freedman.

Joyce gracefully and courageously battled ovarian cancer for over ten years with indomi-
nable strength and always with humor.

Funeral services were held on Monday at Stanetsky-Hymanson Memorial Chapel, Salem, burial followed in Temple Tifereth Israel Cemetery, Route 128/129, Peabody. In lieu of flowers, donations in Joyce’s mem-
ory may be made to Ovations for the Cure, 79 Main St., Suite 202, Framingham, MA 01702 (www.ovationsforthecure.org/), or to a charity of your choice. For more information, please visit stanetskyhymanson-salem.com.

BROTHER of Irma Kline. Son of

of Swampscott, and Rich Wolinski and his wife Nancy (Torf) Lawee and mother-in-law of


MENOVICH, Mary (Weber), 103 – of Chelsea, formerly of Malden and Revere. Died on February 20, 2020. Wife of the late Bernard Menovich. Mother of Francine Black and her husband Jay; Barry Ehrlich and his wife Debra; Lila Lifton and her husband Harvey; Steven Goldman of Foxboro, and Norman Menovich and his wife, Bette. Grandmother of eight, and great-grandmother of eleven. Sister of the late Benjamin Weber and his wife Yetta, and Hilda Levine and her husband Al. Daughter of the late Esther and Max Weber. (Goldman)


STANGER, Lillian (Foib), 96 – of Wynnewood, Per., formerly of Brookline and Boston. Died on February 23, 2020. Wife of the late Arthur Stanger. Mother of Ben Zion Stanger and his wife, Celia Moses, Harry Stanger and his wife Lori, and Elsa Stanger and her husband Barry. Grandmother of Jacob, Sarah, and Aaron. Sister of Adelaide Foib, the late A. Foib, and Frances (Foib) Levine. Daughter of the late Harry and Rose Foib. (Brezniak)

TOBINS, Beverly L. (Siegel), 81 – of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Randolph. Died on March 6, 2020. Wife of Marvin Tobins. Mother of Jamie Tobins and her husband Mark Keys of Conn., the late Stacy Goldman, and mother-in-law of Steven Goldman of Foxboro. Daughter of the late Morris and Betty (Cohen) Siegel. Sister of Arlene Weinstein and her hus-

band Marvin of Needham and Alan Siegel and her wife Linda of Fla. Grandmother of Noah and Maxwell Goldberg. (Tori)


Irving “Inky” Chaiton, 94, of Lynn, formerly of Malden and Chelsea

Irving “Inky” Chaiton, 94 years of age, of Lynn, formerly of Malden and Chelsea, entered into rest on March 4, 2020. Irving was the beloved hus-

band of Ruth “Kiki” (Shainker) Chaiton. Devoted father of Marsha and her husband Frank Caarabino of Salem, and Elliot R. Chaiton and his life partner Loretta Battaglia of Tewksbury. Loving son of the late Max and Ida (Woodman) Chaiton, Dear brother of Barbara King and her husband Don of Florida, Miriam Chaiton of New York, and the late Robert Chaiton, Leonard Chaiton, and George Chaiton. Loving grand-

father of Michael Resser and his

wife Monica, and Ilana Rich and her husband Todd. Cherished great-grandfather of Sophia and Thomas Resser, and Samuel, Logan, and Idie Rich. Also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family. He was a proud WWII U.S. Navy vet.

Services were held at Torf Funeral Service, Chelsea, on March 6. Internment followed in Agudas Shalom Cemetery, Everett. Contributions in Inky’s memory may be made to the Friends of the Lynn Senior Center, 8 Silsbee St., Lynn, MA 01901. Visit tofffuneralservice.com for an online guestbook.
Last call for bingo from page 1

Laraine Alpert of Saugus, a vice president, said a 50-year anniversary is planned for 2020. Like many other urban shuls, its membership is getting older. The event was delayed in 2019 because of the deaths of several key members. Past president Donald Weiner, Barbara’s husband, passed away in May and past president Paula Sack passed away in August. Both will be honored at the anniversary celebration.

Masters, a former bingo chair, said she will miss bingo nights. Asked if she worries about the shul closing, she said, “I don’t like to think of it. I’d like to see us go on forever. My grandmother, mother, me, my children and their children have gone here. And now I have a new great-granddaughter.”

There will be luncheons with speakers and fundraisers in the coming months. There are services every week, a minyan with 15 regulars, a Kiddush and large holiday services. There are Sunday get-togethers with speakers, programs, movies and breakfast.

The congregation does not have a rabbi, but congregants lead and “daven beautifully,” said Weiner. There is a cantorial singer, shofar blowers and upcoming will be bnai mitzvot in May and a baby naming.

Weiner and others will arrange a thank-you breakfast for all the bingo volunteers.

“We’ll have a few laughs and a few cries,” said Weiner.
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The North Shore Celebrates Purim

Peabody's Temple Tiferet Shalom held its annual Purim Spiel this week. Temple member Bryna Tabasky wrote a retelling of Esther's story set to the tunes of famous songs from Broadway musicals and pop culture. Cast (seated): Maureen Fritz; Front standing, from left: Lauren Cherkas, Nancy Kahn, Jim Moran, Bryna Tabasky, Jeff Kahn, Lisa Wazman, Steve Blumenkrantz, Merle Gordon; Middle row, from left: Judy Clark, Ruth Nager, Gary Gillette, Rabbi David Kudan; Back row, left to right: Rosa Budilovsky, Howard Kaufman, Tracy Cranson, Ed Andrews, and Ed Weiner.

Rabbi Yossi Lipsker, Rabbi Nechemia Schusterman and Raizel Schusterman hosted a Megillah reading and Purim Party in Peabody.

Elliot Cohen-Henriquez celebrated Purim at Temple Sinai in Marblehead, where his father, David Cohen-Henriquez, is rabbi.

Deborah Noah, Rabbi Alison Adler, and Deb Willwerth celebrate Purim at Temple B’nai Abraham in Beverly.

Eloise Adler and Skylar Ross enjoy Purim at Temple Ner Tamid in Peabody.

Liora Ragozin and Jasmina Kurtovic prepare for Purim at Congregation Shirat Hayam in Swampscott.

The Jewish Journal – JewishJournal.org – March 12, 2020

The North Shore Celebrates Purim

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With Jewish history in mind, Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill hosts Refugee Shabbat

from page 5

“Anybody here in the States, unless they’re Native American, came at some point from somewhere, and I think the more we can let that ground us, the more compassionate and better listeners we can become to other peoples’ experience of coming here,” said Emanu-El spiritual leader, Cantor Vera Broekhuysen. “Anybody here in the States has experienced some form of migration, whether it’s one’s family or oneself.”

The Refugee Shabbat service will include readings of testi monies of children who were detained, interspersed with prayers and readings from Passover, Tisha B’Av, and the Holocaust to tie to the Jewish experience. The D’VAR Torah will be given by a man named Marius, whose story will be told through his work with the Merrimack Valley Interfaith Sanctuary Network. Marius sought asylum in the United States after his family was killed in his native Togo, but was detained. He is now free and living legally in the United States, and the Emanu-El congregation welcomed him into their services and their homes. After the Shabbat service, the congregation will throw a party to congratulate Marius.

“There are so many Jewish groups involved in refugees and immigration issues in the United States. It feels like an explosion in the last couple years how immediately Jews have made the connection between how foreign immigrants are being treated in the United States and the kinds of experiences and treatments that Jews have had over the centuries,” said Broekhuysen. “There are very few spaces that I’ve been in the past few years where there wasn’t discussion about immigration — for me, that’s one of the geniuses of Judaism: that we keep remembering these stories each year and we keep accruing the connection between how we hear the story of slavery, our own lived experience, and then make decisions against current immigration laws. A few years ago, the congregation welcomed a family of Congolese Jews who had trekked throughout the Americas before arriving in Boston. The synagogue’s Chessed community treated in the United States foreign immigrants are being immediately Jews have made the past few years where there wasn’t discussion about immigration — for me, that’s one of the geniuses of Judaism: that we keep remembering these stories each year and we keep accruing the connection between how we hear the story of slavery, our own lived experience, and then make decisions against current immigration laws. A few years ago, the congregation welcomed a family of Congolese Jews who had trekked throughout the Americas before arriving in Boston. The synagogue’s Chessed community

helped them obtain jobs, health care, and education in their new country, and even though they now live in Brookline, the family still attends Emanu-El, where Wilkson, the father, serves as gabbai.

The Refugee Shabbat is just one of many ways that Jews are responding to the immigration crisis. Others include the group Never Again Is Now, T’ruah, and The Joseph Project.

“The Jewish Agency for Israel. Giving women the license to dream big

from page 8

Women should be ambitious. blaz ing their paths to positions of influence and never look back.”

Amina Ahronziz is CEO of The Jewish Agency for Israel.

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Leonard Florence Center for Living (LFCL), the country’s first urban model Green House® skilled nursing facility, recently hosted a tour for two renowned experts. Ruth Katz, senior vice president of Public Policy/Advocacy at LeadingAge in Washington D.C. and Dr. Richard G. Frank, a professor of health economics in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School, toured the Leonard Florence Center to gain insight into how the non-profit organization cares for seniors and individuals with disabilities as well as observe the innovative Green House concept.

Each Green House home is designed from the bottom up to look and feel like a real home, with spacious private rooms/bathrooms, kitchens on every floor, spa, café and deli. Residents set their own daily routines: getting up when they choose, eating meals where and when they want, participating in lectures, classes and recreation-related activities. In a Green House setting, the residents are supported by universal caregiver knowledge as they live to the fullest. In effect, the shabbatim become a part of each household, interacting with residents as they would an extended family.

Additionally, the LFCL dedicates 30 homes to caring for individuals living with ALS and MS. Residents who are completely immobilized are able to control the lights, turn on the TV, open doors and raise window shades through the Center’s innovative technology. Today, the LFCL takes care of more individuals living with ALS than any place else in the world.

The tour was led by Steve Saling, a resident who helped design the LFCL, when he was diagnosed with ALS 12 years ago. Both Dr. Frank and Ms. Katz were incredibly moved by Seling’s story and the other LFCL residents.

Leonard Florence Center hosts distinguished visitors

Help fund life-saving kidney transplants

On July 31, Peabody native Gene Ogman received a kidney from a live donor coordinated by the Peabody native, Bruce Gilman. The tour was led by Steve Saling, a resident who helped design the LFCL, when he was diagnosed with ALS 12 years ago. Both Dr. Frank and Ms. Katz were incredibly moved by Seling’s story and the other LFCL residents.

Epstein Hillel School earns ten-year accreditation

Epstein Hillel School in Marblehead is pleased to announce that the school recently renewed its ten-year accreditation with the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE) and received many accolades. This rigorous examination began with a comprehensive self-study report written by the administration, faculty, and staff, followed by an on-site visit from a team of outside administrators and educators from other AISNE accredited schools. The four day visit was extremely thorough and went far beyond classroom observations. Members of the visiting team conducted in-depth interviews with board members, every faculty and staff member, current parents, and even students. The accreditation process documents and ensures that every aspect of the school aligns with its stated mission, values, and goals.

Following the on-site visit, the AISNE team members submitted a report to their membership committee followed by their governing board. There were many notable findings: the exceptional level of consistency between the school’s curriculum and teaching methods in keeping with the school’s mission to provide a challenging interdisciplinary curriculum that fosters critical thinking, curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning; faculty’s exemplary skill in teaching students to their individual abilities, learn ing styles, and developmental needs; the full immersion of the school’s mission among faculty, staff and students; and the evidence of strong leadership, passion, and commitment of the Head of School, Board of Directors, administrators, and faculty. Finally, the report commended the unparalleled passion for and success with fulfilling the school’s mission.

Temple Ner Tamid USY alumni meet in New York

Two former Temple Ner Tamid USY alumni, Gary Gulman and Lee Lubarsky, exchange “Peabody stories” at Gary’s show in New York. Gulman, a Peabody native, is a comedian and appears regularly on TV. His show “The Great Depresh” made its debut last year on HBO.

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Wendy Dubow Polins, of Swampscott, has been deeply involved in Greater Boston’s Jewish organizations for more than 20 years and has held leadership positions with the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, Our Generation Speaks, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and the Anti-Defamation League. Why are you so dedicated to the Jewish community? One of the core values that guides my commitment is that I knew it was a random act of fate — that my grandparents chose to go left instead of right. That they chose to take a ship to America instead of Palestine.

This awareness of how fate affects everything is a driving force in my life. Some people might not agree with this, but I truly believe that as Jew, I am not safe in the world unless there is a very strong State of Israel. So I do everything I can to try to dedicate myself to the security of the State of Israel and the strength of the community I live in.

Wendy, your family has a long history with Judaism. Can you tell us about your grandparents and your parents’ involvement with Israel and the Soviet Jewry movement? My maternal grandfather was a member of the United Palestine Appeal of 1948. My mother recalls meetings in her home that were held specifically to figure out how to smuggle arms into Palestine from the landscape of Europe after World War II and before Israel was a state. Guns from German barracks, ammunition and other items of war were bought from the Czech government then had to be smuggled past the British blockade entering Palestine.

My mom was one of the founders of the Soviet Jewry Movement in Canada — called the Group of 35. She traveled secretly into the Soviet Union and brought the information from Israel to Moscow for Anatoly Sharansky’s trial. My father, an orthopedic surgeon, answered the call Israel sent out on the fifth day of the Yom Kippur War and traveled to Israel to help the wounded. He was in Israel for five weeks, operating on Israelis and Arab POWs. I remember how he would come home every night and my mom would speak to him until one night when he told her he would no longer be able to call.

That was because he was going to cross the Suez Canal with the IDF and Ariel Sharon, Commander of the South when Israel retook the Sinai. When he returned and we went to the airport, newspapers were there taking photos of us meeting him. I believed that my dad was a real war hero.

We lived in Israel for nine months in 1974, and then in 1975 my family made Aliyah. I returned to the U.S. for college. I look at both my parents and my grandfather as fearless warriors taking action to express their beliefs. This had a huge influence on me.

You met Golda Meir in 1974, and spoke with her. How was that experience and how did it influence you? I remember that day so well. I remember being so taken aback by Golda’s appearance and especially her voice. She had a very strong American accent — I don’t know why it surprised me but it did.

I remember what my mom had said to her: “It must have been so difficult for you to come to Israel in 1948 and live in such hardship, leaving the comfort of Milwaukee, right?” Golda’s answer surprised both of us. She said, “It wasn’t difficult at all. You come here because you’re selfless. Every day, when you live here, you meet someone interesting, who has done something interesting.”

And I understood what she meant. So true, isn’t it? When I travel to Israel — and I go as often as I can — I can feel that energy. The power that people live there with so much purpose, making, creating, inventing the future as they have built this brilliant, miraculous country out of the desert, all while defending their right to exist and do so. Golda also told me to be very careful and always consider the choices I make — because what I value and how I choose to spend my time will determine the course of my life.

You went to Barnard and then to Columbia’s Graduate School of Architecture. What drew you to design and architecture, and which projects have you most enjoyed working on? I consider myself so lucky. My parents gave me the most amazing gift — and that is the gift of my education. Attending Columbia Architecture School was an incredible experience — and being in NYC certainly drew amazing faculty and visiting speakers all the time. The education was definitely more philosophy and abstract thinking rather than anything that applies to real world construction and budgetary issues!

I was fortunate at the very beginning of my career. Richard and I bought and remodeled a house in Dallas, and it was published in the magazine section of the Sunday newspaper. That really launched my career, and I established my own design firm then specializing in residential construction and interiors. I love it before and after” part of my work. To be on a job site and see a space transform from an idea to a drawing to reality is very exciting.

Why did you choose to move to the North Shore and what do you love about it here? We moved to Boston in 1999, and I knew I wanted the girls to go to Jewish day school. We had come to the North Shore over the years to spend time with close friends in Rockport and I learned about Cohen Hillel Academy. I remember thinking, “Where is Marblehead? What is Swampscott?” So we decided to rent a house here and give it a try, and I really fell in love with this community. I love so many things about living here: the history, the proximity to Boston, the ocean, people’s values and sense of community, and the fact that I really feel safe here.

You’re also a writer. Can you tell us about your book? It was 2008 and the economy had really crashed, and my work as an architect had dried up. I hadn’t yet started teaching art history at Salem State and I really had more time than usual on my hands. Three things happened: I was studying Kabbalah and was going to MIT to have an interview. I arrived early and mistakenly walked into a lecture on Einstein’s theories. I sat there and listened and realized that whether you’re an ancient Kabbalist, a cutting-edge physicist, or an architect — everyone is asking the same questions: what is eternal? What lasts? And what exists outside of time? With these ideas I started writing my novel. It’s a long story — so many highs and lows, but I can say it was definitely the hardest thing I have ever done. It came out under one title, but then when I signed with a new literary agent it was pulled from that arena and I went through very intense editing and has a new title: “The Architect of Time.”

You’ve been in a leadership role at many Jewish organizations: the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, Our Generation Speaks, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and the Anti-Defamation League. Why are you so dedicated to the Jewish community? One of the core values that guides my commitment is that I knew it was a random act of fate — that my grandparents chose to go left instead of right. That they chose to take a ship to America instead of Palestine.

This awareness of how fate affects everything is a driving force in my life. Some people might not agree with this, but I truly believe that as Jew, I am not safe in the world unless there is a very strong State of Israel. So I do everything I can to try to dedicate myself to the security of the State of Israel and the strength of the community I live in.

You teach art at Salem State. What’s the best way a teacher can motivate a college student these days? It’s an interesting problem — teaching the history of art to young people today and showing them that the subject is relevant to them, I basically hold up my iPhone and ask them to look at the back. And I tell them — someone had to decide all of these things. We live in a very lucky position to be able to view everything.

If I teach them to see things more clearly, to notice something that they might have before even gone to a museum for the first time, then I am happy.

You sent your children to Hillel and also to Gann Academy. Why is a Jewish day school so important to the community? Jewish day school immerses families in the beautiful rhythms of the Jewish calendar: the big holidays and the small ones that we would otherwise miss. Jewish day school gives both the ability to teach children the depth of Jewish history, culture and a love of Israel beyond what a family can do alone or a temple after-school and Sunday school program. The power of a Jewish day school education is immeasurable.

What’s your advice for young Jewish couples and parents who want to get involved with the community? There are so many wonderful ways for a young couple to get involved in the community. The JCC, CJP and temples offer so many programs to different age groups and families. When I moved here, the first people I met were the other parents from Hillel, and they shared my values and desire to educate their children.