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# Tug of war — Justice v. compassion



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# One Gaza-Egypt border community returns home

By JUDY LASH BALINT

JNS

How do people have the fortitude to go back to the place where they were terrorized on Oct. 7? For the residents of Shlomit, the answer is, in a convoy. Together, as a unit, focused on continuing the Zionist enterprise started by families evicted from their homes in Gush Katif in 2005.

Shlomit is one of the villages in the northwest Negev on Israel's borders with Egypt and Gaza, known as the Halutza Communities.

Recently, the 82 families from Shlomit who were evacuated on Oct. 8 gathered at the Eshkol Regional Council, less than 3 miles from the Gaza border, and traveled in a noisy, flag-decked convoy of cars back to their community.

JNF-USA has invested heavily in supporting the development of the area, which boasts of innovative agricultural initiatives, educational institutions for all ages and a highly educated population. The return to Shlomit included a ceremony to lay



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY LASH BALINT.

*Eighty-two families evacuated from Shlomit on Oct. 8, 2023 prepare to return home, Feb. 29, 2024.*

the cornerstone of a JNF-USA fortified daycare center.

## The Strength To Go On

The atmosphere as the convoy set out was tinged with sadness; the community is still mourning four members of the Shlomit First Responder Team who were killed on Oct. 7 fighting terrorists who invaded the neighboring village of Pri Gan. Their actions prevented a massacre there.

Nechama Bibi, 27, whose husband Uriel, 30, was one of those killed on Oct. 7, welcomed her friends and neighbors from the convoy at the site of the planned daycare center. Uriel, a paratrooper who had recently begun training to become a paramedic, had two daughters, ages 2 and 4.

Bibi told JNS that the return of the community gives her stability, support and the strength to go on. The family had moved into their first permanent home just six weeks before Oct. 7, after four years of living in a caravan. For the past few months "we were on hold," said Bibi. "We didn't really deal with the absence of Uriel. Now to come home alone to the place that was really his, is really very difficult. But

it's a kind of hope, to come home to the place that's ours."

## Questions Future

Like many of her neighbors, She said that she's not afraid regarding the security situation because of the Israel Defense Force presence nearby amid the war with Hamas. "But the fact that we don't know what's going to be in Gaza after the war, and the possibility that the IDF will pull out sometime...is scary," she added.

The Shlomit convoy was met along the way and at the gated entrance to the village by dozens of cheering, flag-waving residents of nearby communities who had only recently returned.

## "Best Option"

Before the convoy set off, Shlomit and Idan, parents of three young kids, told JNS that the decision to return was taken by the entire community, and was the best of the options presented to them. "The thought of starting from scratch somewhere completely new was something we just couldn't imagine," said Shlomit.

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## The strife of the spirit — What's the bottom line?

As Jews we're torn between defending ourselves, and consideration for other people.

What's the answer in Gaza? Everyone, including the Israeli government and our IDF soldiers, feels terrible about what's happening to people in Gaza. At the same time, we must do what is necessary to eradicate the threat to Jewish lives.

It seems to us that we can't make the world better if we've been slaughtered.



# Israeli envoy: 'UNRWA must be defunded, dismantled'

By MIKE WAGENHEIM,  
DAVID BEDEIN

JNS

The head of UNRWA, the scandal-plagued, Palestinian-only refugee aid agency, told the U.N. General Assembly that his agency is "at a breaking point" after the United States and others suspended funding, pending an investigation of UNRWA staff's ties to Hamas.

The Israeli envoy to the global body told UNRWA good riddance.

"After all that has been exposed about UNRWA, it's very clear," Gilad Erdan, the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, told the General Assembly on Monday, March 4, "UNRWA will never again operate in Gaza as it has prior to Oct. 7. Its role in Gaza is finished and it must be replaced immediately. UNRWA must be defunded and dismantled."

## Sees Israel As Enemy

Phillipe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of UNRWA, said at the urgent General Assembly session that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "openly" stated "that UNRWA will not be a part of post-war Gaza."

"Part of this campaign involves inundating donors with misinformation designed to foster distrust and tarnish the reputation of the agency," Lazzarini said. He added that his agency faces a "deliberate and concerted campaign" to undermine its operations.

## 'Protecting' UNRWA

Lazzarini insisted that his agency cannot survive without a cash injection, after major donor countries suspended aid in the wake of Israeli allegations that 12 UNRWA employees participated directly in Hamas's Oct. 7 terror attack on Israel.

## Israel's Evidence

Israel has further alleged that there are more extensive ties between UNRWA's Gaza staff members, 13,000 of whom are from the Strip itself, and terror groups in the enclave.

The Jewish state released video footage of an UNRWA worker helping kidnap the body of an Israeli on Oct. 7 and audio of two phone calls that UNRWA teachers made that detail and celebrate their participation in the killing and hostage-taking spree.

Lazzarini told the General Assembly that Israel has not turned direct evidence over to him. He said he fired the 12 accused staffers "to protect" UNRWA. Lazzarini told reporters that he has "no regrets" about dismissing the workers, even as some \$450 million in aid was suspended in light of the seriousness of the accusations. Lazzarini had drawn criticism from Israel critics that he drew attention to the situation by firing the dozen or so employees based on what those critics say is little evidence.

UNRWA and other U.N. officials first stated the agency would run out of money at the end of February. They have since



PHOTO COURTESY MARK GARTENIU. N. PHOTO.

**Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of UNRWA, briefs reporters at U.N. headquarters on March 4, 2024.**

pushed that deadline back twice, although the organization's financial situation does not appear to have improved.

Lazzarini stated at the press conference that "many" of the 16 countries that suspended aid "would like to come back." "Most of the time, the decision is based not on foreign policy considerations, but it's based more on optics or domestic opinion in the various countries," he said, allowing that "supporting UNRWA can be divisive."

Several investigations are underway probing the charges that Israel leveled against UNRWA. There is an ongoing, internal U.N. investigation and a review, for which Lazzarini called, of UNRWA's neutrality and risk management.

## Agency's Missteps

Critics say the latter aims to whitewash the agency's missteps and extensive criticism of Israel, noting that one of the three Scandinavian research institutes selected by the United Nations and UNRWA to help shape the review has previously dismissed such charges against UNRWA, and the other two have criticized Israel, including since Oct. 7.

UNRWA has been accused repeatedly of kowtowing to Hamas and even collaborating with the terror group, which stores weapons in tunnels it built under U.N. facilities. In recent months, the Israeli military has documented an advanced Hamas data center underneath UNRWA's headquarters in Gaza City.

The U.N. agency has also drawn criticism for its unique mandate, which confers refugee status upon the descendants of those displaced during the 1948 and 1967 wars in perpetuity and sustains for them the so-called Palestinian "right of return," which would eliminate the Jewish majority in Israel.

## Still Slamming Israel

Despite its purported peril, UNRWA managed to compile a report—first detailed by *The New York Times*—on alleged Israeli abuses of Gazan prisoners after Oct. 7, Lazzarini told reporters.

UNRWA interviewed some 100 former

detainees after they crossed back into Gaza following their releases, Lazzarini said. The report has not been made public. Lazzarini said it "has been shared with the relevant human rights entities dealing with detention."

## Investigation

JNS asked Lazzarini how UNRWA had the capacity to conduct such an extensive investigation amid a war, during which UNRWA officials have repeatedly asserted that the agency has no capacity to investigate Hamas's construction of tunnels under UNRWA facilities and other usages of its property by terror groups.

Lazzarini told JNS that his organization deals primarily with education and health care, seeming to imply that the report of alleged Israeli abuses falls under the latter category.

"I do not have the expertise to look at what is underneath," Lazzarini said of the tunnels beneath UNRWA facilities. "Not only do I not have the expertise, I do not have the mandate. And if it is a peace and security issue, make sure such a mandate is given to those who can inspect underneath."

"We need to have a board of inquiry, a proper investigation because it's not OK that the U.N., which belongs to the member states, be blatantly disregarded," Lazzarini added. "We need to know what happened."

## Fourteen issues UNRWA's chief must address before Congress

Lazzarini, commissioner-general of the U.N.'s Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, has just been asked to appear on the record and in person before the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Here is a list of policy issues Lazzarini will have to address before Congress:

1. UNRWA textbooks violate U.N. principles of peaceful reconciliation. For example, the agency has reintroduced a new textbook that lionizes terrorist Dalal Mughrabi. In 1978, Mughrabi's terror squad commandeered a bus and murdered 38 passengers, including 13 children. The textbook presents her as a role model for UNRWA pupils. She is depicted in full terrorist garb. The lesson plan portrays her life story as suited for adulation and emulation.

2. In Judea, Samaria, Jerusalem and Gaza, UNRWA makes exclusive use of Palestinian Authority textbooks. Like all U.N. agencies, UNRWA is supposed to run schools based on the U.N. slogan "Peace Begins Here." P.A. schools, however, promote the ideology of the Palestine Liberation Organization: Conquest of "Palestine" by force of arms. Lazzarini could immediately cancel the UNRWA-P.A. contract.

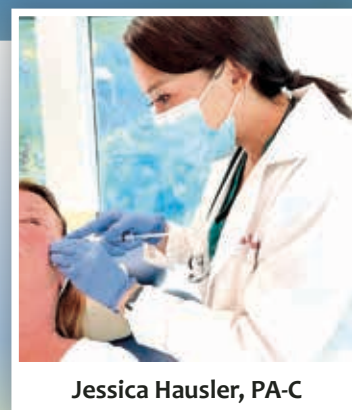
3. UNRWA schools are adorned with

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# Could the dark secret of Jew-hatred be purveyor's pleasure?

By DAVID SUISSA

Why do Jew haters hate Jews? On the surface, it makes little sense. Why would anyone hate a group that has given so much to the world in so many fields? Thousands of books and essays have been written on the subject. There are myriad explanations, but the general consensus is that Jews have served throughout history both as humanity's conscience and its convenient scapegoats. Whatever one hates at any point in time, just blame the Jews.

## Excuses To Hate

"People hate Jews because they are communists, capitalists, foreigners, residents, immigrants, elitists, have strange ways, are unassimilated, too assimilated, bankroll the left (like George Soros) or bankroll the right (like Sheldon Adelson). People hate Jews because they are weak and stateless, or because they are Zionists and defend Israel," Rabbi David Wolpe wrote recently in *The Harvard Crimson*.

One can always find a good reason, in other words, to hate, resent or envy Jews. These reasons are usually framed intellectually. We want to understand how the minds of haters work, even when they appear irrational. Understanding helps us cope.

## Since Oct. 7

Something has changed, howev-

er, since Oct. 7. The primal seems to have overtaken the cognitive. We've rarely seen such hysterics. Whether on campuses or city streets, the haters have gone bonkers with a fanatical exuberance. The fury has reached such a frenzy that I've been wondering if there's a deeper motivation at work, something as simple as ... pleasure.

Some smart thinkers believe so.

## The Pleasure Of Hatred

"There are (at least) three principal sources of pleasure which anti-Semitism provides," British philosopher Eve Garrard argued a few years ago in the online journal *Fathom*. "First, the pleasure of hatred; second, the pleasure of tradition, and third, the pleasure of displaying moral purity. Each of these is an independent source of satisfaction, but the three interact in various ways, which often strengthens their effects."

Explaining the pleasure of hatred, she writes: "Most of us know only too well the surge of self-righteousness, the thrill of condemning others, the intense bonding with a like-minded hater, which we feel when a good jolt of vicious hostility has risen within us."

On the pleasure of tradition, Garrard writes: "Long centuries of tradition have constructed the Jew as a being



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEFR4000 VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

*Students hold up anti-Israel signs and Palestinian flags at an anti-Israel protest in front of Sproul Hall at the University of California, Berkeley, on Oct. 25, 2023.*

who is both contemptible and dangerous, the purveyor and transmitter of evil; and various tropes have been deployed to flesh out this picture."

This familiar and ancient tradition gives Jew-hatred a sense of legitimacy, so the hater is free to protest without reservation.

For the third source of pleasure—the desire for moral purity—Garrard

highlights the "purity, which is readily visible to others, and can count as a ticket of entry to socially and politically desirable circles." She adds that "Israel as the Jewish state is a real opportunity for people who want to display their supposed moral purity and harvest a suitable quantity of admiration from like-minded others."

**Continued on page 10**

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— John Adams

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## Local woman agrees with view that "It's high time for a negotiated cease-fire and talk of the day after"

By PAULA WEISS

Yehuda Beinín, whose daughter had been taken hostage and son-in-law murdered by Hamas, spoke in the Capital District on Sunday, Feb. 18. A *Times Union* piece based on a private interview with the speaker was printed, and I'd like here to describe the event itself, which included a broader message.

## Sanctity Of Life

The talk was co-sponsored by J Street Albany/Capital District and Congregation Berith Sholom, Troy. Rabbi Debora Gordon gave an inclusive welcome, invoking the sanctity of all life and calling to mind those who have suffered, and the far too many who have lost their lives to this ongoing war.

Very movingly, Beinín described his awareness, in the days after the attack, that it was none too soon to begin talk of a "Day After." He spoke to the need for a negotiated cease-fire. He feels deeply that political agendas based on religion are blocking a path to peace, therefore current leaders in Israel, as well as Hamas, need to be removed from power for Israel to move toward ending its occupation of Gaza and the West Bank.

## Peace Efforts

Beinín referenced the Israeli Forum of Peace NGO, with which he intends to work to promote peace through civil society NGOs (non-governmental organizations).

He spoke to the need for Israel to be able to defend its borders, describing how his son-in-law, an excellent marksman, was killed attempting to stop the Hamas terrorists with only a pistol. The more effective weapons had been ordered removed and taken to the West Bank, another failure of the Netanyahu administration, in Beinín's view.

Beinín has repeatedly spoken to President Biden and administration officials and noted Biden's deep knowledge and acuity of the challenges of working in the region. He praised President Biden's avowal that this crisis must be used as an opportunity for the parties to move toward a just peace.

Thanks to J Street for bringing Mr. Beinín to the Capital District. J Street strongly encourages President Biden and the United States to lead the way to a negotiated cease-fire in Gaza, release of hostages and an immediate influx of humanitarian aid to Gaza, followed by boldly signaling U.S. readiness to recognize a Palestinian state. May it be so.



# Late Russian dissident Navalny corresponded from prison with Israel's Natan Sharansky

By DAVID BARON

JNS

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who recently died in a Russian prison, had been carrying on a correspondence with Israeli politician and former prisoner of Zion Natan Sharansky, the **Free Press** has reported.

## Free In Captivity

After managing to get a copy of Sharansky's memoir, **Fear No Evil**, through his lawyers, Navalny read it in the "Polar Wolf" arctic penal colony where he died under dubious circumstances according to the report.

This fact is contained in two letters Navalny wrote to Sharansky, in March and April 2023. In the letters, Navalny discusses the memoir, and also quotes the Bible, writing that "what has been will be again" and adds that he "continues to believe that we will fix this and that one day in Russia there will be what has not been."

Sharansky told **Israel Hayom** after the disclosure of the correspondence (both letters were printed in full by **Free Press**) that "Alexei Navalny was dangerous to the Russian tyrant [Vladimir Putin] for two reasons: He did more than anyone else to expose the nature of the Russian dictatorship to the eyes of hundreds of millions of people, and he challenged the system. Navalny proved that it is possible to remain a free man until your last breath in prison."

## Navalny Writes

In the first letter, dated March 30, 2023, Navalny writes: "I am now in penal colony IK-6 'Melekhovo,' but from the Vladimirskaya prison they are writing to me that a cell is being prepared for me there. So I will likely find myself in the same facility that you were in. Only now there will probably be a plaque saying 'Natan Sharansky was held here.'"

"Please forgive the intrusion and a letter from a stranger, but I believe it's permissible in author-reader relations," he continues. "I am writing as a reader. I have just read your book ... while I was held in the PKT [solitary confinement]. And now I am writing from SHIZO [a punishment cell]—it will be 128 days in total. I was laughing when I was reading the passage where you wrote, 'I was penalized with a series of 15 days at SHIZO, and then, as an offender who broke prison rules, they sent me to the PKT for 6 months.' I was amused by the fact that neither the essence of the system nor the pattern of its acts has changed."

## Modernized Authoritarianism

The memoir "has helped me a lot"



ALEXEI NAVALNY, Russian opposition leader, recently deceased

writes Navalny. "Yes, I am at SHIZO now, but when reading about your 400 days spent in the 'punishment cell' on decreased food rations, one understands that there are people who pay much higher prices for their convictions. I look at the postcards sent to you by [your wife] Avital, all the words have been blacked out. Then I go to court where they try to convince me that burning the letters that were sent to me is legal. After all, there was a 'code' embedded in them.

The most important thing, he continues, "is to arrive at the correct conclusions, so that this state of lies and hypocrisy does not enter a new cycle. In the preface of the 1991 edition you write that dissidents in prisons have kept the 'virus of freedom' and it is important to prevent the KGB from inventing a vaccine against it. Alas, they have invented it. But in the current situation, it is not them who are to blame, but us, who naively thought that there was no going back to the old ways. And for the sake of good, it's okay to rig elections a little bit here, or influence the courts a little bit there, and stifle the press a bit over here.

"These little things, and the belief that it is possible to modernize authoritarianism, are the ingredients of this vaccine.

"Nonetheless, the 'virus of freedom' is far from being eradicated. It is no longer tens or hundreds as before, but tens and hundreds of thousands who are not scared to speak out for freedom and against the war [Russia's war against Ukraine], despite the threats. Hundreds of them are in prisons, but I am confident that they will not be

broken and they will not give up.

"And many of them draw strength and inspiration from your story and your legacy.

"I am definitely one of them.

"My thanks to you."

Navalny concludes the letter with the words "Next year in Jerusalem," written in Cyrillic letters.

## Sharansky Replies

Sharansky's five-page reply, dated April 3, 2023, is also very moving.

"Dear esteemed Aleksei,

"I experienced a kind of shock receiving a letter from you. The thought itself that it came directly from SHIZO, where you have already spent 128 days, excites in a way that an old man would be excited, receiving a letter from his 'alma mater,' the

university where he spent many years of his youth.

"I respond to you not only as an 'author to reader,' but also as your admirer."

Sharansky recounts that his book was published when the Soviet Union was already in the process of disintegration, and that therefore, with the passage of time, was increasingly read as a historical novel "about the Dark Middle Ages."

"And now—'the idiot's dream has come true!'" he writes with bitter irony, referring to the Putin regime.

"Aleksei, you are not just a dissident—you are a dissident 'with a style'!" Sharansky writes. "My horror over your poisoning changed to amazement and exhilaration when you started your own independent investigation. [After recovering in Germany, Navalny and his team published a massive investigation into Putin's secret palace, and also exposed the assassination squad].

"I was very angered by the question of a certain European correspondent the day after your return to Russia.

"Why did he return? We all knew that he would be arrested in the airport—does he not understand such simple things?" My answer was pretty rude:

"You're the one who doesn't understand something. If you think that his goal is survival—then you are right. But his true concern is the fate of his people—and he is telling them: 'I am not afraid and you should not be afraid either.'"

"I wish to you—no matter how hard it may be physically—to maintain your inner freedom."

Sharansky concludes the letter (written just before Passover) by wishing him and all of Russia an "exodus from Egypt."

*Originally published by Israel Hayom.*

## Why look at page 2? or, How to answer Hillel's paradox

*If I'm not for myself, who will be?  
If I'm only for myself, what am I?  
And if not now, when?*

In three pithy lines, Hillel presents us with a paradox central to being Jewish: my individuality is sacred; so is sharing human joys and sufferings. If I don't serve others, am I truly human? And he says, Solve this puzzle—now!

The prophets told us God wants us to take care of other people, and most of us believe this is our duty.

If you want to do good, you have to be alive. If we're thrown into cattle cars, smashed with rockets, raped and disfigured, we can't do any good for anybody!

Job One is self-preservation, survival.

Become stronger, more aware, and potent! Join together with the Jewish people, your bulwark for 4000 years, your shield for the future.

**See page 2.**

*Check renewal date on page 1, fill in and send us the form on page 2.*



## Netanyahu: Unrestricted Muslim access to Temple Mount during Ramadan

Muslim worshippers can enter the Temple Mount “similar to the numbers in previous years” during the first week of Ramadan, according to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office.

### Upholding Freedom of Worship

Netanyahu made the announcement about the Muslim holy month, which begins on Sunday evening, March 10, after meeting with security officials. After the first week, Israel will reassess and a “decision will be made accordingly,” Netanyahu’s office stated.

“Israel strongly safeguards freedom of worship for all faiths, at all sites in Israel, especially the Temple Mount,” per the office’s statement. “Ramadan is sacred to Muslims. Its sanctity will be upheld this year, as it is every year.”

In the past, Jerusalem has permitted Palestinians and Israeli Arabs to visit the Temple Mount during Ramadan, and security brass supports maintaining that policy amid the war with Hamas in Gaza.

Some 50,000 to 60,000 worshippers, including Palestinians from Judea and Samaria, are expected to enter the site.

### Ben-Gvir Not Happy

The statement confirmed a Feb. 28 *Channel 12 News* report that Israel would only impose restrictions on individuals, citing Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) intelligence. *Channel 12* reported that the War Cabinet decided it would be



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMAL AWADI/FLASH90.

*Palestinians rally in support of terrorism at the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem, Jan. 27, 2023.*

the sole body making decisions about the flashpoint site, sidelining National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees the police.

The Cabinet decision came shortly after Ben-Gvir called for Palestinians in Judea and Samaria to be barred from the Temple Mount during the Muslim holy month. Ben-Gvir also pushed to ban Arab Israelis under the age of 70 from accessing the site, local media reported on Feb. 17.

At large Muslim gatherings on the Temple Mount, especially during Islamic holidays, individuals have often hoisted Hamas flags.

Ben-Gvir has warned that the Cabinet’s

decision could “endanger the citizens of Israel and allow a victory photo for Hamas.”

“The decision to allow an ascent to the Temple Mount during Ramadan, similar to previous years, contrary to the police’s and my position, shows that Prime Minister Netanyahu and the small Cabinet believe that nothing happened on Oct. 7,” Ben-Gvir stated.

The minister posted on social media, “Hamas celebrations on the Temple Mount ≠ complete victory.”

The Islamist Ra’am Party welcomed what it called a “responsible decision to allow freedom of worship for Muslim worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque.” Party

leader Mansour Abbas called on Muslim Israelis to “uphold the law and public order.”

### Hamas urges Ramadan Attacks

Late in February, Ismail Haniyeh, the Doha-based leader of Hamas’s political bureau, urged the Iran-led “axis of resistance” to step up attacks on Israel during Ramadan, calling for a “broad and international movement to break the siege on Al-Aqsa Mosque.” The “axis” includes Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, the Houthis and other Iranian-backed terrorist groups in the Middle East. In his speech, the terror leader called on Palestinians in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to storm Temple Mount on the first day of Ramadan.

Haniyeh’s comments came a day after Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant warned that terrorist groups are plotting to step up violent attacks on the Jewish state during Ramadan.

“The main goal of Hamas is to take Ramadan, with an emphasis on the Temple Mount and Jerusalem, and turn it into the second phase of their plan that began on Oct. 7,” Gallant told troops at IDF Central Command, which is responsible for Judea and Samaria. “This is the main goal of Hamas, and it is being amplified by Iran and Hezbollah.”

“We must not give Hamas what it failed to achieve during the beginning of the war and [let it achieve] ‘unity of the battlefields,’” he added, in reference to the terrorist group’s attempts to spark a multi-front war.

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Who knows where life will take you...*

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Will always get more at the...*

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By Rabbi SHLOMO RISKIN

*And Moses assembled [vayakhel] all of the congregation of the children of Israel and said unto them: ... Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day shall be for you, a day of complete rest for the Lord. (Exodus 35:1–2)*

**EFRAT, Israel** –The portion of **Vayakhel** opens with the command to keep the Sabbath. This raises once again that fundamental question of the strange order of the last five portions of the **Book of Exodus**, sanctuary – Sabbath – golden calf – Sabbath – sanctuary.

### Keeping Sanctuary Pure

Thus the Torah commands us first to create a sanctuary, to establish a center of the sacred, which is after all the purpose and ideal of a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. But the sacred can easily be profaned — as history in modern life can testify —with holy wars, Iranian Khomeini-ism and fanatical stone throwing and book burning. Hence, in the middle of the construction of the sanctuary (the first two portions, **Teruma** and **Tetzaveh**, are dedicated to the sanctuary) comes the travesty of the golden calf (the portion of **Ki Tisa**), which serves as a warning to subsequent generations not to pervert, or make idols of what is holy.

It then becomes perfectly logical, or rather psychological, to now return and conclude with the positive message of the sanctuary as the Torah does in its two concluding portions of **Vayakhel** and **Pekudei**. The Sabbath is the beacon of light, which teaches the essence of Judaism, preventing its perversion into a golden calf of idolatry.

### The Shabbat Experience

The Sabbath is the most central pillar of our faith. It is no accident that the first law that was given to the Israelites after the splitting of the Reed Sea — before the revelation at Sinai — was the Sabbath (**Exodus**, 15:25; Rashi ad loc. citing Sanhedrin 56b), and the first law explained to a would-be convert (Jew by choice) is likewise the Sabbath (**Yevamot** 47).

In all of my experience in attempting to expose Jews who have wandered far afield from their faith to the glories of their Jewish heritage, I have found that there is no more powerful introduction to returning to Judaism than the Sabbath experience.

How does the Sabbath accomplish this? Certainly the delightful glow of the Sabbath candles, the warmth of the kiddush wine, the familial and congenial togetherness of delectable Sabbath meals replete with angels of peace, praises to women, blessings of children,

# Shabbat may be the most central pillar of the Jewish faith...

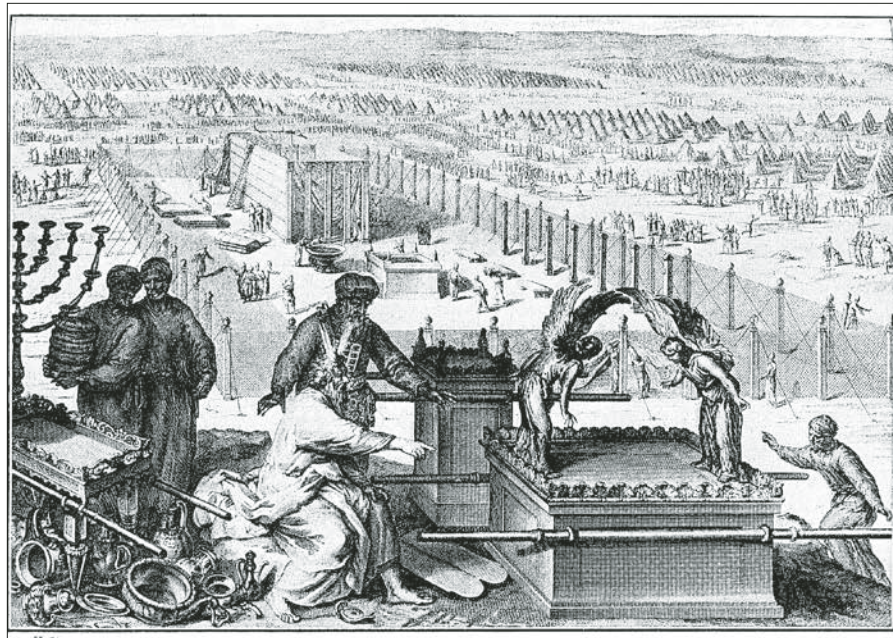


Illustration from the 1728 *Figures de la Bible*; illustrated by Gerard Hoet (1648–1733) and others, and published by P. de Hondt in *The Hague*; Image courtesy Bizzell Bible Collection, University of Oklahoma Libraries

songs of holiness and words of Torah, all contribute to the creation of a unique day dedicated to physical relaxation, spiritual creativity and existential well-being.

### Three Pillars

But the Sabbath is more than that. It contains the essence of the Jewish ideal, the purpose for which we were chosen by God, and the mission that has the power to unite all of us in the pursuit of a common historic goal (*vayakhel*). The “oasis in time” evokes the three most seminal moments in Jewish history, three moments of past and future that more than any others serve to define our Jewish present.

A description of these moments is to be found in each of three main Amidot (standing prayers) recited by observant Jews every Sabbath. On Friday evening we evoke and re-experience the creation of the world (“*And God completed the heavens and the earth and all their hosts...*”), on Sabbath morning we evoke and re-experience the revelation of the law at Sinai (“*Moses rejoiced with the gift of his portion... the two tablets of stone he brought down in his hands*”), and on Sabbath afternoon we evoke and attempt to experience the redemption (“*You are One and Your Name is One*” — and the prophet Zechariah teaches that only “... on that day [of Messianic redemption and universal peace] will God be One and will His name be One”). Creation, revelation and redemption are the three pillars, which form the bedrock of the Jewish message and mission.

### Sensitivity To Others

Creation reminds us that there is one omnipotent creator, and the entire world consists of His limited, but still exalted, creatures created in His image: This serves to unite all individuals in a bond

of inescapable unity. The fact that we share the same parent in heaven means that we are all of us siblings on earth: whites and blacks, Israelis and Palestinians. The corollary of God the creator is God the redeemer, God who will not allow any of His children to be enslaved by any of His other children. Hence the

two versions of the Decalogue as well as the Kiddush prayer define the Sabbath as both a memorial to creation as well as a memorial to the exodus from Egypt. The Sabbath remains an eternal reminder that any expression of the sacred which does not include sensitivity to every human being and respect for the freedom and integrity of each of God’s children can only lead to the perversion of the golden calf idolatry.

Revelation reminds us that there can be no freedom without structure; no respect for self without taking into account the needs of others, no love without law. The Torah remains our God-given blueprint for the kind of meaningful and sacred lives, which lead to more perfect families and societies. In this sense, Judaism is a revolutionary concept, an idea and lifestyle, which will not rest until human nature is perfected and the world is redeemed. Thus the final Sabbath Amidah evokes that longed-for period when the world will be redeemed as a result of the Torah, which has the power and the purpose to perfect the universe under the kingship of God, in effect to revolutionize society.

Continued on page 10

## Israeli envoy: ‘UNRWA must be ...

Continued from Page 3

posters and murals of “martyrs” who died while murdering Jews. Lazzarini could order the removal of all such images from UNRWA facilities.

4. El Kutla youth clubs in UNRWA schools inculcate pupils with the mantra of the armed struggle from a young age. Lazzarini can order these clubs to end violent incitement.

5. Military parades are frequently held on UNRWA premises. Lazzarini can end this practice immediately.

6. Hamas members lead UNRWA’s teachers and workers unions. Lazzarini can stipulate that any agency employee who runs on a “Hamas ticket” must be dropped from the payroll. After all, even the U.N. defines Hamas as a terrorist organization.

7. “Nakba Day” events are held at UNRWA facilities each year on May 15, the day the PLO mourns the defeat of the Arab armies that invaded Israel in 1948. These rallies call for violence. Lazzarini can issue a directive banning any incitement to violence at such events.

8. Popular Gazan singer Mohammad Assaf, who claims to be an “UNRWA Youth Ambassador,” routinely incites crowds to violence. Lazzarini can issue a policy statement banning Assaf from UNRWA premises.

9. Memorial events for Arabs killed while murdering Jews occur regularly in UNRWA schools. Lazzarini can cancel them.

10. Lazzarini can ensure fiscal transparency. UNRWA receives \$1.6 billion in annual donations from 67 nations and 32 NGOs, mostly in cash. Lazzarini must ensure that this money is used for humanitarian needs, not stolen by terror groups. He must also put an end to all cash donations, which make transparency almost impossible.

11. Using the diplomatic pouches of donor nations, UNRWA exports textbooks promoting the “right of return” of Palestinian Arab refugees and their descendants, along with the replacement of Israel with an Arab supremacist “Palestine.” Lazzarini can end this practice immediately.

12. UNRWA has never revealed its financial practices, including how it spends its budget. Lazzarini can immediately release an accounting of expenditures to the public.

13. UNRWA distributes world and regional maps that erase Israel and replace the names of all Israeli cities with Arabic names. Should Israel, a U.N. member in good standing, not appear on a map issued by a U.N. agency? Lazzarini can end this practice of cartographic ethnic cleansing immediately.

14. Over the past 25 years, thousands of UNRWA students aged 9-16 have participated in summer camps that feature arms training with live weapons. With summer approaching in a few months, Lazzarini can act to stop this training of child soldiers that violates U.N. resolutions protecting the health and well-being of children.





## Calendar of Events

### FRIDAY, MARCH 8

**Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service** – 5:30 p.m., in-person at 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

### SATURDAY, MARCH 9

**Beth Emeth Torah Study** – 9:30 -10:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Vayakhal Shekalim** in-person and via Zoom, led by Spencer Mandell, rabbinic intern, Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

**Beth Emeth Sisterhood Walk** – 1 p.m. Six Mile Waterworks Park, 135 Fuller Rd. Albany. Family-friendly, 2-mile walk 135 Reg. – [www.bethemethalbany.org](http://www.bethemethalbany.org). Info. – Jacki at [CBESisterEvents@gmail.com](mailto:CBESisterEvents@gmail.com).

**Beth Emeth Havdalah At Capital Rep** – 5:30 -10 p.m., 111 N. Pearl St., Albany. Also tour of theater before presentation of the play *Sweat*. Cost: \$20 for the pre-show activities; show tickets, \$40. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org).

Info. – 518-436-9761, [Andrea@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:Andrea@CBEAlbany.org).

**“The Levys of Monticello”** 7:30 p.m. B’nai Sholom, 420 Whitehall Rd., Albany. Documentary film that tells the story of the family that saved the home of Thomas Jefferson. \$5. Info. – 518-482-5283.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

**“The Devil’s Confession: The Lost Eichmann Tapes”** – 2-4:30 p.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad St., Pittsfield, Mass. Followed by a panel discussion. \$10 for TAA members \$12 for non-members. Part of 3 film series. Reg. – [www.ansheamunim.org/event/filmseriesgolda](http://www.ansheamunim.org/event/filmseriesgolda). Info. – 413-442-5910.

**Beth Emeth Sisterhood Speaker Series: Raising Interfaith Jewish Children** – 10 -1 a.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Led by Shira Etzion, J.F.S. marriage and family counselor. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Andrea@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:Andrea@CBEAlbany.org).

**Drama Mamas’ “The Last Resort Musical”** 2 p.m. Albany Civic Theater, 235 Second Ave., Albany. For women only. Exploring themes of contemporary Jewish culture. (See March 17)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

**Beth Emeth Lunch and Learn: Israel** at 75 – 12-1:15 p.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Participants bring lunch. Also on Zoom, <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

[CBEAlbany.org](http://CBEAlbany.org).

**Beth Emeth Youth Group** – 5:30 -7 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Meeting for high school students. Info. – [CBEYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:CBEYouthGroup@gmail.com).

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

**Beth Emeth Mah Jongg Tournament** – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., play begins 9:30 a.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Various levels: Tournament with timed games and cash prizes or relaxed play. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Info@BethEmethAlbany.org](mailto:Info@BethEmethAlbany.org).

**Beth Emeth Brotherhood Yom HaShoah Candle Bagging** – 5:30 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Preparing memorial candles for distribution. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Jayhurewitz@hotmail.com](mailto:Jayhurewitz@hotmail.com).

**Mifgash Fund-raiser** – 5:30 -8:30 p.m. Temple Israel, 600, New Scotland Ave., Albany. Israeli Street food, deli, auction, klezmer music. Info., Reg. – <https://www.mifgashcommunity.org> Or 518-596-7213.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

**Beth Emeth Shabbat Installation Of Cantor Emily Short** – 5 -8 p.m. in-person at 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Pre-neg, 5:30 p.m. service followed by festive oneg. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16

**Purim Palooza** – 8-11 p.m. Ohav Shalom Synagogue, 113 New Krumkill Rd., Albany. Purim party for adults. Costumes encouraged but not required. Music Man Entertainment. DJ. Hors d’oeuvres, desserts, “Modechai’s Merch” raffle \$36, p.p. \$25, YAD price. Info. – [execdirector@ohavshalom.org](mailto:execdirector@ohavshalom.org), or 518-527-1163.

**Beth Emeth Torah Study** – 9:30 -10:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Pekudei** in-person and via Zoom, led by Rabbi Greg Weitzman. Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

**Beth Emeth Cantor Short Installation Celebration** – 7-9 p.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Havdalah, concert of Jewish American songs followed by a wine and dessert reception. \$18 p.p. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

**The Jewish Federation Of Northeastern N.Y. Super Sunday** – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 194 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany. Annual fund-raiser to benefit Jewish communities. Volunteers phone solicit funds. Info. – 518 783-7800.

**“Clifton Park’s Future”** – 10 a.m. Beth Shalom Synagogue, 688 Clifton Park Center Rd. Town of Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett will speak. Open to community.

**Gates of Heaven Internet Safety** – 10-11 a.m. at Temple Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Info. – Arnie Rotenberg, 518-374-8173, [arotenberg@cgoh.org](mailto:arotenberg@cgoh.org).

**Drama Mamas’ “The Last Resort Musical”** 2 p.m. Albany Civic Theater, 235 Second Ave., Albany. For women only. Exploring themes of contemporary Jewish culture. (See March 10)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 19

**Beth Emeth Brotherhood Game Night** – 6:30 -8:30 p.m. Card games, ping pong, pool socializing at a member’s home. Spouses welcome. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Andrea@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:Andrea@CBEAlbany.org).

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

**Beth Emeth Youth Group** – 5:30 -7 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Meeting for high school students. Info. – [CBEYouthGroup@gmail.com](mailto:CBEYouthGroup@gmail.com).

**Beth Emeth Evening Learning: Israel’s Playlist: Eurovision and Beyond** – 7-8:30 p.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. In-person and via Zoom. Reg. [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89446907753> Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21

**Beth Emeth Sisterhood Dinner Out** – 6-8 p.m. Dinner at Il Faro, 698 N. Pearl St., Menands. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Andrea@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:Andrea@CBEAlbany.org).

**Beth Emeth Purim For 20s and 30s** – 8 -10 p.m. Encore Lounge, 71 Fuller Rd., Suite 4, Albany. Karaoke Drag Queen Night featuring MC Matzah Belle. Snacks and first drink free. Reg. – [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Andrea@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:Andrea@CBEAlbany.org).

**YAD Trivia Night** – 7 p.m. Wolffs Biergarten, 165 Erie Blvd., Schenectady. Young adult division of the Jewish Federation. Res., Info. – 518-598-8103.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

**Beth Emeth Erev Shabbat Service** – 5:30 p.m. in-person at 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org](mailto:ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org).

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

**Megillah & Martinis** – 8:15 p.m. Clifton Park Chabad. Info. – [Clifton-parkchabad@gmail.com](mailto:Clifton-parkchabad@gmail.com), 518-495-0772/9.

**Bethlehem Chabad Saturday Night Live** – 8:30 p.m. 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Free. Info., Res. – [www.bethlehemchabad.com/purim/](http://www.bethlehemchabad.com/purim/) [info@bethlehemchabad.com](mailto:info@bethlehemchabad.com), 518-439-3310.

**Purim Family Potluck** – 5-9 p.m. Temple Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Dinner, play, service. Info. – 518-374-8173, <http://www.cgoh.org>.

**Star Wars Purim** – 6-9 p.m. Temple Berith Sholom, 167 Third St., Troy. Info. – 518-272-8872.

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# The pest in the attic...

**By MARILYN SHAPIRO**

In October, on a miserable, windy, rainy day, Larry and I found a puddle on our kitchen floor. Looking up, we could see water coming from one of our recessed lights. Damn! We called a roofing company the next day. After spending an hour directing a hose onto spots on the roof, the roofer found nothing.

“Just call us if it happens again,” he said.

It did. On Dec. 23, on another miserable, windy, rainy day, we had to again pull out the buckets to catch the water dripping from the same spot.

**New Roofer**

As promised, the roofer came back free of charge. This time, he found the problem. The flashing had not been installed properly when the house was built, resulting in a spot where water had gathered. The wood in the attic was mildewed and rotting. The roofer was honest: his company specialized in shingle roofs. He couldn’t guarantee they could fix it and recommended we contact another roofer.

We called another roofing company that had been recommended by a friend. The representative confirmed the problem and said his company had seen this several times in Solivita. We signed the contract, forked over half the payment, and waited for the repair, thankful for dry weather in the meantime.

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the roofers came as promised. Five hours later, the job was done. Of course, we could have taken a cruise on the money we paid, but the leak problem was solved.

## Or Was It?

Less than an hour after the crew left, we heard a sad, moaning sound in our attic above our bathroom. Oh no! It sounded as if an animal had gotten into the attic when the roofers were working on the problem and had gotten trapped.

We texted the roofing company.

“Oh no! So it sounds like something may have pushed through your soffit,” a representative wrote back. “I’d definitely walk the perimeter of the home and check to see if the soffit is pushed in or damaged anywhere.”

Then came the less helpful comment. “Unfortunately we cannot get any animals out from an attic, that is something a trapper or pest control would have to do.”



What lurks beneath this roof?

## Pest Control Contacted

We called our pest guy on Friday. Meanwhile, I put out a recommendation request on Next Door. People wrote back suggesting DIY solutions—mothballs, noise, cats. Along with the names of companies, people shared frightening stories of rabid raccoons, slithering snakes, and aggressively agile alligators.

Our pest guy finally return texted us Monday. No, he didn’t do animals. Just bugs. He texted me the name of an animal control company.

“We’ll come out for a free estimate on Thursday,” we were told.

And if there is an animal?

“The cost will range from \$500 to thousands of dollars, depending on the animal and the damage.”

I immediately texted the roofing company again.

“Considering we noticed the sounds literally an hour after work was completed, we can assume the animal was trapped during the work,” I responded. . It’s turning into what can be a very expensive follow-up to what was already a huge expense. Would it be possible for someone to come and at least crawl into the attic, maybe releasing the animal?”

## Roofing Company Reasonable

I also contacted the concierge in our community, who gave us a name of a local person who trapped animals at a more reasonable cost. “Johnnie” could come Tuesday at 2:30.

Meanwhile, the general manager of the roofing company called Monday night. He said that animals usually don’t go in with all the banging and hammering, but he was willing to split the bill.

On Tuesday, “Johnnie,” albeit three hours late, arrived at our home. Ninety

minutes and \$350 later, he found nothing. Nada. No animal. No droppings. No noise. No nothing. He left a trap and said he would be back the next day.

## Eureka!

That night, while in the bathroom doing our nightly ablutions, we realized that the squeaking, moaning sounds were in synch with our turning our faucets off and on. Eureka! It wasn’t an alligator or armadillo or an aninga in our attic. It was pressure in our pipes, Shoot! Did we now need to call a plumber?

The next morning, on a hunch, I went outside and checked the outside hoses. Yes, I had turned off the front hose when I watered the plants on Wednesday. Whew! Not my fault! Then I checked

the back hose. Mystery solved! When the men were fixing the roof, they must have used the outside hose in the back of the house. Our hose attachment was in the “off” position, but the water had been left on. Because of that, there was pressure in the pipes. I turned off the water connected to the hose. Voila! The sound stopped immediately.

## Left Holding The Cage?

Six days and a huge chunk of money later, the roof was repaired and the noise that had been driving us crazy was gone. Thankfully we figured it out before we called a plumber. But we are hoping that the roofing people will step up to the plate and pick up the entire bill for the pest guy. Hey! I don’t mean to be a pest! But I will be badgering (raccooning? squirreling?) them until we get this settled.

*Marilyn Shapiro, formerly of Clifton Park, is now a resident of Kissimmee, Fla. **Keep Calm and Bake Challah: How I Survived the Pandemic, Politics, Pratfalls, and Other of Life’s Problems** is the newest addition to her line-up of books. It joins **Tikkun Olam, There Goes My Heart and Fradel’s Story**, a compilation of stories by her mother that she edited. Shapiro’s blog is [theregoesmyheart.me](http://theregoesmyheart.me).*

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## One Gaza-Egypt border ...

Continued from Page 2

### Economy Of Shlomit

"Life here will never go back to what it was before Oct. 7 because of the things we lost. We lost friends and we lost our innocence and our trust in those who were supposed to protect us," she said. "It's all very sensitive and painful and it will take us all some time to recuperate." Her brother-in-law was killed in the war.

"Despite everything, Shlomit is expanding, another 30 families are coming to live here, and people are having lots of kids. We need this new day care center," she added.

Unlike the surrounding communities, Shlomit's economy is not based on agriculture, so it has been less affected economically by the war. Most of the families in Shlomit are professionals working as engineers, in high tech, as social workers, teachers and physical therapists. Nevertheless, the trauma of the Oct. 7 attack, the loss of friends and family and the months-long displacement have left their mark.

### Fighting Fears

Ariel and Shira Avchayon left their home in Shlomit on Oct. 8 with three kids and returned with four. Baby Eyal was born two weeks ago while they were living

in a Jerusalem area hotel. "We're coming back strong and proud, with our heads held high. We're looking to the future," Ariel told JNS.

"All the communities here are full of people with lots of strength, but there are some who are afraid, so I hope this step of ours to return will be an example to others," he said.

### Hope

He expressed the hope that new communities will be created to revitalize the region "after everything that happened here."

Security has been doubled, he said, with the addition of soldiers stationed inside the community.

"We want to believe that things are going to be safe. We have a great security team, and we trust that the IDF has learned the lessons of Oct. 7. Our awareness and preparedness are on a different level now and we'll be O.K.," he added.

Now that the 500 residents of Shlomit have come home after almost five months of displacement, Bibi says she realizes that what she calls "the hold" was actually helpful from the point of view of grieving, "but it stopped our lives. Now we can try to restore our lives. On the one hand we have a lot of pain, but on the other hand, a lot of hope."

## Could the dark secret ...

Continued from Page 4

### Crowd-Driven Exhilaration

Given that bashing Israel is a lot more acceptable than bashing Jews, Israel provides the ideal instrument to camouflage Jew-hatred and maintain a semblance of moral purity.

Is it plausible, then, that Jew-hatred would bring such pleasure to the haters? My eyes and my gut tell me yes.

The anti-Israel protesters we're seeing on college campuses and major cities may be enraged, but they're not sad or unhappy. Indeed, there's a kind of thrill in the air; a crowd-driven exhilaration in the service of going bonkers against the world's most condemned country.

### Seeking Dopamine Hit?

No matter how self-righteous and justice-seeking the protesters appear, like every human, they have a pleasure gene. They're more likely to yell for hours if they get a dopamine hit in return. Behind the screams and the fury, the experience itself must feel good for them to keep showing up.

So, if Jew-hatred is a source of pleasure, what does this mean for our fight to end Jew-hatred? For starters, it means being more realistic. Pleasure is a tough nut to crack. No amount of education or condemnation can overcome visceral satisfaction.

### Cultivate Friends

To be sure, the fight must continue. We must make sure Jews are protected from bullying and harassment. We must correct the lies, expose and isolate the haters, and use all legal weapons at our disposal.

But let's not waste time hoping haters will stop hating. Their anger is hard-wired; it feels too good. Most importantly, let's remember that Jew-haters are in the minority. The silent majority of Americans, as the latest polls show, see Jews favorably. Let's find them and engage them and make them our allies.

As we continue the fight, that is the group that ought to give us strength and hope—the fellow Americans who find pleasure in *liking* Jews.

*Originally published by The Jewish Journal.*



Continued from Page 8

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

**Temple Israel Havdalah-Megillah**—8-9:30 p.m. Temple Israel, 600 New Scotland Ave., Albany. \$15. Info.—518-438-7658.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 24

**SJCC Purim Carnival**—2-4 p.m. Schenectady Center, 2565 Balltown Rd. Reg. by 3/21 —\$15 for members, \$18 for nonmembers. \$25 at the door. Info.—

**Beth Emeth Purim Spiel, Carnival**—9:30 a.m.—noon 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Megillah, food for sale, Costumes encouraged. Info.—518-436-9761.

**Colonie Chabad Purim In Israel Party**—4 p.m. All ages. Dinner, music, Megillah, misloach manot. Free. Res.

by March 15 required, chaicentercolonie@gmail.com or 518-368-7886.

**Bethlehem Chabad Emoji Purim**—11:30 a.m. 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Reg.—\$15 adult and \$10 child. Info., Res.—www.bethlehemchabad.com/emoji / info@bethlehemchabad.com, 518-439-3310.

### MONDAY, MARCH 25

**AJCC Teen Food Competition**—6:30 -8:30 p.m. Albany Center, 340 Whitehall Rd., Albany. Teams of 4 teens to compete in cooking for prizes. Chopped. \$20. Info. Reg.—www.albanyjcc.org or 518-438-6651.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 28

**The Braid: Yearning To Be Free**—7 p.m. SJCA virtual program. Info., Reg. 518-584-8730.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 31

**Women Rabbis, Cantors Kallah**—1-3:30 p.m. Temple Israel, 600 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Noting 40th anniversary of women rabbis and cantors in the area. Study sessions. Info.—518-438-7858.

## Shabbat may be the most ...

Continued from Page 7

### Reminder Of Sanctuary

The genius of Judaism lies in its ability to maintain the future ideal as an ever-present reality of our daily lives. In this way we can never forget what we are striving to accomplish, nor can we allow ourselves to become cynically disillusioned as to the possibility of our attaining it. Hence each workaday week of frustration and sadness is climaxed

by a Sabbath—a taste of the World to Come, a glimpse into the longed-for period of peace and harmony. Each Sabbath reminds us of the pure taste of the sanctuary, and prevents us from descending into the depths of golden-calf materialism and idolatry.

**Shabbat Shalom.**

*Rabbi Shlomo Riskin is chancellor emeritus of Ohr Torah Stone and chief rabbi of Efrat, Israel.*

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# Oct. 7 NOVA music festival survivor shares story with students at UAlbany Shabbos House

The Shabbos House Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center recently hosted a survivor of Israel's NOVA music festival of October 7. Twenty-three year-old American-Israeli Matan Boltax was the speaker. Coincidentally, his father Jonathan had graduated from the University of Albany (UAlbany) in 1994. The family had moved to Israel around the time of Matan's bar mitzvah.

Boltax shared a slideshow, which included a selfie taken at the NOVA music festival close to the time that the terror began. Among those pictured in that selfie was Hersh Goldberg-Polin who remains hostage in Gaza. Boltax showed how he escaped, some of his short service afterwards in Gaza and how he and his friends have been dealing with the trauma in the ensuing months.

The Faces of October 7<sup>th</sup> organizational chaperone would not allow any political or military questions, but Boltax did conclude with two uplifting and encouraging messages: First, he spoke to the deeply appreciated value of every seemingly small act done on behalf of Israel: any mitzvah, an extra psalm or lighting candles (as Hersh Goldberg-Polin's mother requested to do as a merit for her son), or a supportive



*UAlbany students with Matan Boltax (brown and white shirt, behind podium), survivor of Hamas massacre at Israel's Oct. 7 NOVA music festival. Boltax, was speaker at a recent program at The Shabbos House Rohr Chabad Jewish Student Center at the University at Albany.*

social-media post. He also spoke to how much the post-Oct. 7 sense of unity in Israel and with Jewish people around the world means to him. He reviewed what he sees as a contrast to the divisive lack of unity in the months prior to Oct. 7.

Yirshalem Pinkus of Orange County, a UAlbany student who spent a summer program in Israel with one of the hostages, opened the event by reciting

"Acheinu" (a prayer for brethren in captivity) in Hebrew and English. Ari Klein of Buffalo, a UAlbany student on Shabbos House Lchaim Student Board and UAlbany Hillel Board and UAlbany's CAMERA on Campus fellow, introduced how impactful the events and aftermath of Oct. 7 have been and how it has been a catalyst for greater Jewish involvement, engagement and observance.

The speaker followed a series of a varied additional Israel-related programming added since October 7<sup>th</sup> at Shabbos House to support students during this time and to increase awareness and opportunities of connection. The event was co-sponsored by Shabbos House, UAlbany Hillel, and CAMERA on Campus, and facilitated by the Faces of October 7<sup>th</sup> organization.



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The Schenectady JCC Jewish Film Festival Presents

## The Conductor

in person at the SJCC on Sunday, March 10, at 7 p.m.



The Conductor (2021) is an American film about internationally renowned conductor Marin Alsop. Born into a musical Jewish family in New York, Marin set her sights on becoming a conductor at just nine years old while accompanying her father to one of Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts. This documentary gives viewers a backstage pass to the artistry and energy that rewards her audiences and inspires her students today. The film tells Marin's story through a combination of intimate interviews and shared moments in the Maestro's professional and personal life, encounters with cognoscenti in the music world, unseen archival footage with her mentor Leonard Bernstein, and scenes of Marin teaching the next wave of conductors who, like her, were being excluded from the classical music canon.

**Rabbi  
Beverly Magidson**  
will lead a discussion  
after the film

**Individual Tickets**  
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For more information,  
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## Discussion about future of Clifton Park slated

**CLIFTON PARK** – A program, sponsored by the Partnership of Congregation Beth Shalom, will be held on Sunday, March 17, at 10 a.m. at the synagogue at 688 Clifton Park Center Rd., Clifton Park.

Town of Clifton Park



PHIL BARRETT

Supervisor Phil Barrett will speak about the future of the town.

The event is open to the community and refreshments will be served. Information may be obtained by contacting the synagogue, 518-371-0608.

## Internet safety program for parents planned by Gates of Heaven; Julia Reyes to conduct

**SCHENECTADY**– Congregation Gates of Heaven has launched a cyber and Internet safety program designed specifically for parents and caregivers. Julia Reyes, the multidisciplinary team coordinator at the Schenectady County Child Advocacy Center will present a comprehensive PowerPoint session on Sunday, March 17, from 10-11 a.m. at Temple Gates of Heaven, 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady.

According to Arnie Rotenberg, director of congregational learning, “In an era where digital interactions shape much of our daily lives, ensuring the

safety and well-being of our children online has become paramount. Rooted in the Jewish value of caring for oneself and others, it is essential to equip parents and caregivers with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the virtual landscape responsibly. It’s crucial to address the gaps in preparing our youth for ethical and safe online interactions. By promoting discussions on digital citizenship, we empower parents to effectively nurture and guide young individuals in today’s digitized society.

Rotenberg at 518-374-8173, arotenberg@cgoh.org can provide details.

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## Local teens attend NYC Chabad international gathering joining 3000 others



Teens from the Bethlehem Chabad's CTeen chapter included from left, Samantha Lefkowitz, Gaby Raydo, Talya Cohen, Sophie Raydo, Goldie Hein.

**ALBANY**—A delegation of Jewish teens from Bethlehem Chabad's CTeen chapter, under the guidance of Chanie Simona, co-director of Bethlehem Chabad, attended the recent annual CTeen International Summit in New York City. According to Simon, this year, the summit held an even greater than usual significance as it aimed to fortify the teens, providing them with a platform to connect with other Jewish teens and recommit to Jewish values amidst the backdrop of recent adversities, according to Simon.

The February gathering, which hosted a delegation of 200 Israeli teens and included survivors of the Nova Dance massacre, attracted over 3,000 participants from 58 countries. Programs included workshops, discussions, and opportunities for prayer and reflection at the ohel, the grave of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson. A Times Square “havdalah” ceremony, celebrating Jewish identity, featured prayers for peace.

“This year’s CTeen Summit was

a transformative experience that has deeply impacted my connection to my Jewish identity,” shared Gaby Raydo, a participant from Bethlehem Chabad. “Being surrounded by thousands of Jewish teens from around the world gave me a sense of belonging and strength that I’ve never felt before and which is so important today.”

Rabbi Mendy Kotlarsky, vice chairman of CTeen International, emphasized the importance of such gatherings. “In a world where our youth are bombarded with countless challenges to their faith and identity, the CTeen International Summit stands as a critical platform to empower the teens to hold strong and be ambassadors of positivity back home,” he stated.

CTeen Bethlehem, is part of the International Chabad Teen Network, encompassing over 730 chapters in 58 countries across six continents

Information about the CTeen program may be obtained by contacting Chanie Simon at Chanie@BethlehemChabad.com or 518-439-3310.

## Colonie Chabad family to simulate Israel trip at March 24 Purim dinner party



Rubin family to take off for Israel in planned Purim celebration in Colonie.

**ALBANY**—Colonie Chabad will host a Purim in Israel-themed celebration, Sunday, March 24, at 4 p.m. A festive Israeli style dinner program will feature Israeli music, fresh orange juice and activities for families. The free program will highlight the megillah reading and

mishloach manot. Those attending are invited to wear costumes.

Rabbi Mordechai and Chana Rubin at chaicentercolonie@gmail.com or 518-368-7886 can provide registration, location and other details. Registration is required by March 15.



# Capital District's Jewish War Veterans presents 59<sup>th</sup> Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award

Members of the Jewish War Veterans across the Capital District joined with JWV's Albany Post 105 to remember the World War II service and sacrifice of four chaplains and present its annual brotherhood award to Justine Crowley-Duncan of Latham on Feb. 25, at the First Reformed Church of Schenectady.

The annual award presentation notes the four Army chaplains who gave their life jackets and thus their lives in the sinking of the troopship Dorchester on Feb. 3, 1943. The Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award honors local individuals whose service and devotion to the practice of brotherhood are deserving of community recognition.

The ship was torpedoed shortly before 1 a.m. on Feb. 3, 1943. The chaplains provided comfort and direction to soldiers as the ship rapidly sank. After they gave their own life jackets to others they prayed together as the ship sank in the North Atlantic.

The four chaplains were Reverend George Fox, a Methodist minister from Lewiston, Penn., Rabbi Alexander Goode from Brooklyn, a Dutch Reformed Reverend Clark Poling, from Schenectady, and Father John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest from Newark, N.J.

One hundred attendees filled the Poling Chapel at the First Reformed Church, the site of Poling's congregation before World War II. The diverse group of attendees included Gold Star Mothers, local veterans organizations, representatives of the First Reformed Church, the Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, members of the New York State Assembly and Senate, and the region's congressional representative, Congressman Paul Tonko.

"We honor people who have given selfless service that is commensurate with the legacy of the Four Chaplains," said Fred Altman, Albany Post 105



*Jewish War Veterans Capital District Council Commander Rich Goldenberg, left, joins Albany Post 105 Commander Fred Altman in presenting the 59<sup>th</sup> annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award to Justine Crowley-Duncan for her three decades of service and support to the veterans' community. Post 105 has conducted a Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award program since 1966.*

commander. "In their legacy, we chose this year's honoree for her selfless service to others that these Four Chaplains exhibited 81 years ago this month," he said.

"I'm repeating this a little bit," Altman continued, "but how truly honored we are to be in this beautiful chapel that is named for one of the four chaplains in whose honor we hold this ceremony. His spirit, and through him, the spirit of his three comrades, is in these walls. Can you just feel it? We can."

"We chose Justine because her character profile and her record of more than 30 years of dedicated advocacy for our veterans, meets this profile of the four chaplains admirably," Altman said.

Crowley-Duncan served as veteran service chairwoman with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A. for more than 13 years, supporting her lodge, her district and the state. She organized a statewide Elks raffle

fund-raiser for the Fort Drum United Services Organizations, raising close to \$14,000.

It began with a simple offer to be a pen pal to a service member deployed the Persian Gulf War in 1990, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, according to Altman. "It is a little thing, but it means a lot, that's how Justine got started. A little thing that means a lot," he said.

Crowley-Duncan emphasized her spirituality as a bedrock of her commitment to helping others.

"This morning when I woke up, every morning I read scripture, this morning the passage that I read started with 'I am leading you, step by step, through your life, hold my hand in trusting dependence, letting Me guide you through this day.' This was a step-by-step journey."

"Spirituality can and should bring us all together, so today is very special,"

said New York State Assemblymember Pat Fahy in presenting a citation to Crowley-Duncan.

Crowley-Duncan also volunteered with Patriot Flight, an organization that sends veterans to visit to their memorials in Washington, D.C., and was a guardian to six veterans on four flights. As a Patriot Guard Rider, she has volunteered her time in the flag line at veteran homecomings, funerals or other ceremonies.

New York State Senator Jake Ashby, a former Army Reserve captain who has completed combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, thanked Crowley-Duncan.

"If you were in remote areas, you wouldn't come into contact with chaplains very much. When I came back, it was not easy, and Justine was there," Ashby said. "She was there for many veterans and their families. And continues to do that work. Continues to inspire me."

She has been the secretary of the Not-For-Profit Capital Region Veterans Memorial Legacy Project. She raised funds for the project to create a museum, veterans café, resource center and monuments listing area military personnel killed in combat. The Legacy Project will be built on six acres in Glenville, N.Y., which anticipates a grand opening of the first phase of the project this coming April.

"Justine, I know you've done some wonderful and miraculous thing for our veterans. You go above and beyond that, you go across the state of New York and we thank you for that," said State Senator Jim Tedisco as he presented Crowley-Duncan with a proclamation.

She is also co-founder of the New York Warrior Promise Wall that commemorates servicemen and women from the state who succumbed to suicide. The display is now part of the NYS Fallen Military Memorial, scheduled for a May 2024 display at the NYS capitol.

Crowley-Duncan said that she was humbled and emotional to learn of her selection for the award, having volunteered alongside several prior awardees.

"I had 30 years of memories that just came rushing back. I never thought I'd be standing here today for this award. For years it was all about thanking the people that paved the way for us. This was my way to say thank you."

Crowley-Duncan offered this advice for others, "simply take it slow and do what you can, when you can."

She added, "When I joined in the Elks, my kids were small and I said, 'I'm gonna start small. And I said I'm going to give what I can give,'" she said.

"When people come to join the Elks, I tell them, 'start slow because then it will be a journey that will be forever.'"



*Guests congratulate Justine Crowley-Duncan following the presentation of the annual Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award. From left, former U.S. Congressman Michael McNulty, J.W.V Albany Post 105 Commander Fred Altman, JWV Capital District Council Commander Richard Goldenberg, U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko, New York State Assemblywoman Pat Fahy, Honoree Crowley-Duncan, Jeff Jamison, counsel for the Albany County Executive, Bruce Hidley, grand exalted ruler of the New York State Elks, State Senator Jim Tedisco and State Assemblyman Jake Ashby.*





## Obituaries

**STEVEN ABROOKIN**

70, of Albany, Feb. 25, 2024; survived by mother, Florence Abrookin; sisters, Bonnie (Alan), Marcia (Dave) and Rebecca (Ronnie); and daughter Heather (Stephen) and son David (Cindy).

**SARAH CHAPMAN**

94, of Schenectady, Feb. 20, 2024; widow of Lewis H. Chapman; survived daughters Barbara (Paul) Dworkin and Janet (Mike) Goldman; grandchildren Michelle Dworkin, Elyse Sara, Dan (Jess Spies) Goldman, Brian Goldman, Shauna Goldman; and great-grandchildren: Violet and Leon Goldman and Ilona Dworkin.

**ALAN L. GEBELL,**

78, of Niskayuna, Feb 27, 2024; survived by wife Yvette Cohen Gebell; daughters Meredith Gebell and Elaine Gebell; and grandchild Max Sparer.

**ABBOTT PHILLIPS**

85, of Slingerlands, Feb. 23, 2024;

survived by wife, Judy Diamond Phillips; daughters Michelle Davidoff (Doug Harff), Tracey Nussbaum (Keith Nussbaum); sons Jonathan Phillips (Amy Phillips) and Rick Lev (Tammy Lev), Scott Phillips (Debra Phillips) and their children, Taylor Cody and Dylan Czajkowski; and grandchildren Max and Julia Davidoff, Tyler, Connor, Morgan Lindsey and Dylan Phillips, Jake Nussbaum, Carlee (Nussbaum) Alexander (Josh Alexander), Brett Nussbaum, Jordan and Brendan Lev.

**ROBERT PRIVLER**

76, of Albany; March 4, 2024; survived by son Jason D. Privler; daughter, Kimberly R. Privler; grandchild E. Raabe; and brother, Irvin Privler.

**HERMAN WEINSTEIN**

96, of Averill Park, March 1, 2024; survived by daughter Aura Weinstein of Averill Park; son David (Karynn) Weinstein of Shelton, Conn. grandchildren Shelby (Tony) Bishop of Elgin, Texas and Sonya Ward (Dan Grinnell) of Colonie; and brother Leon (Phyllis) Weinstein of N.J.

*The Jewish World publishes obituaries containing age, date of death, spouse and immediate family survivors at no cost. For other options, contact Jim@JewishWorldnews.org*

## Yiddish Book Center announces retirement of Aaron Lansky, founder and president



*The Yiddish Book Center has announced the retirement of Aaron Lansky, the organization's founder, left, and its new president, the current Executive Director Susan Bronson, in June.*

AMHERST, Mass.—The Yiddish Book Center has announced that Aaron Lansky, the organization's founder and MacArthur Foundation "Genius Grant" winner, will retire from his role as president in June 2025. Susan Bronson, the executive director, will assume the position of president. Following his retirement, Lansky will remain at the Center for two years as senior advisor.

Lansky founded the Yiddish Book Center in 1980, when he took what he thought would be a two-year leave of absence from graduate school to recover endangered Yiddish books. The primary, tangible legacy of a thousand years of Jewish life, irreplaceable Yiddish books were being discarded by relatives unable to read the language of their Yiddish-speaking parents and grandparents. When Lansky and his colleagues first set out to save Yiddish books, scholars estimated 70,000 volumes could still be found. With the help of volunteer zamlers (collectors), Lansky recovered that number in the first six months and eventually saved 1.5 million volumes. As new technology emerged, the newly found titles were digitized; they have since been downloaded more than 5 million times.

Through the years, the Yiddish Book

Center has evolved into a cultural and educational center, sharing Yiddish language, literature, and culture with new audiences. Noteworthy initiatives include educational programs for learners of all ages, fellowship programs, an oral history project, a publishing imprint, and a textbook that has transformed Yiddish language learning. The Center has received awards and recognitions, including the National Medal for Museum and Library Service.

Bronson joined the Center as executive director in 2010. She expanded the Center's initiatives to include popular programs such as Yidstock, the annual festival of new Yiddish music; reading groups for public libraries, which engage readers with translated works of Yiddish literature; and the new permanent exhibition Yiddish: A Global Culture, which has attracted thousands of visitors since opening last fall.

Reflecting on his planned retirement, Lansky marvels at his journey of the past 44 years and expresses his gratitude to the friends and colleagues who made it possible. "When all is said and done, I was able to act on my dreams, save a literature, and reclaim a culture, and that, I think, makes me one of the world's luckiest people."

**Friday, March 8, 28, Adar 1.** Shabbat candle lighting at 5:36 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 9, 29, Adar 1. Sedrah: Vayakhil Shekalim.** Shabbat ends at 6:37p.m.

**Friday, March 15, 5, Adar 2.** Shabbat candle lighting at 6:44 p.m.

**Saturday, March 16, 6, Adar 2. Sedrah: Pekudei.** Shabbat ends at 7:45 p.m.

**Thursday, March 21, 11 Adar 2. Fast of Esther**  
—5:27a.m.-7:39 p.m.



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Levine Memorial Chapel was founded in 1952 by Robert M. Levine, on lower Madison Avenue, moving to Delaware Avenue, and now on Washington Avenue in Albany. Mr. Levine had been

a licensed funeral director at Riverside Memorial Chapel in Manhattan for 12 years. Since his passing in 1992, his son, Mark, and Mark's wife, Jane, have carried on serving the community.

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## Schenectady Center lists annual online auction

SCHENECTADY—The Schenectady Jewish Community Center (SJCC) is hosting its sixth annual online auction continuing through Thursday, March 21. The online auction is the second largest fund-raiser for the SJCC. This year's goal is to raise \$6,000. According to organizers, all proceeds raised from the online auction will be used to help the SJCC offer scholarships, support youth and senior programming, and allow the Center to expand its efforts to serve the community.

The SJCC has more than 40 items

that will be up for bidding. Some of the donors that have items up for auction are Utica Zoo, Hoffman's Car Wash, Tri-City Valley Cats, Send Me Waffles, LLC, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Sondra's Fine Jewelry, Museum of Innovation and Science: miSci, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Nisky Day, One Hope Wine, and Pretty Rugged.

Joslyn McArdle at j.mcardle@jccsofthecapitalregion.org. can provide information. Items to be auctioned and participation is possible at <https://new.biddingowl.com/SchenectadyJCC>.



## Schenectady JCC to start next Jewish Film Fest series with 'The Conductor' on March 10

**SCHENECTADY**—The Schenectady JCC (SJCC) will kick off the next round of its Jewish Film Festival with the screening of *"The Conductor,"* directed by Bernadette Wegestein. The 90-minute documentary will be shown in English at the Center, 2565 Balltown Rd., Schenectady on Sunday, March 10, at 7 p.m. After the film, Rabbi Beverly Magidson will lead a discussion.

*"The Conductor,"* (2021) is an American film about internationally renowned conductor Marin Alsop. Born into a musical Jewish family in New York, Marin set her sights on becoming a conductor at nine years old while accompanying her father to one of Leonard Bernstein's Young People's Concerts. The documentary film tells Alsop's story through a combination of intimate interviews and shared moments in the maestra's professional and personal life, encounters with cognoscenti in the music world, and archival footage with her mentor Leonard Bernstein. It offers scenes of Alsop teaching the next



*Conductor Marin Alsop as depicted in the documentary "The Conductor." The film will be shown at the SJCC on March 10.*

wave of conductors.

Individual tickets may be purchased for \$7 for JCC members and \$12 for non-members. The price includes access to the film, discussion, and refreshments. Childcare will also be available during the film.

Details may be obtained at [www.schenectadyjcc.org/events/jewish-film-festival-2023-2024-session/](http://www.schenectadyjcc.org/events/jewish-film-festival-2023-2024-session/) or by contacting the SJCC at 518-377-8803.

## Drama Mamas slates 2 performances of "The Last Resort," a musical, March 10, 17

**ALBANY**—The Drama Mamas, a Jewish Women's group, will present an original musical (for women and girls only) on Sunday, March 10, and also on Sunday, March 17. Both performances will be at 2 p.m. at the Albany Civic Theater, 235 Second Ave., Albany. "The Last Resort" musical will explore themes of contemporary Jewish culture and life.

The original musical by Elisheva Liberman, follows a group of women who meet to explore their Jewish identities. They learn a lot about each other and themselves. One year later, they have a reunion. Who has changed the most? Who made aliyah?

According to organizers, the musical is planned in conjunction and in the spirit of the Purim holiday, which commemorates the bravery of Queen Esther, a Jewish woman, who saved the Jewish people from destruction. Jewish communities around the world will celebrate the holiday with plays or "spiels" which recount the story on and around the March 23/24 holiday.

"The Last Resort" cast members in-

clude: Nirit Ovadia Hull, Simone Hull, Susannah Levin, Rebecca Schwarzmer, Nechama Liberman, Esther Liberman, Amarit Rosin, Adina Wildman, Sophia Gurock, Esther Ita Holt, Tanya Schwarz, Tziporah Kaufmann, Devorah Leah Kaufmann, Leah Ahavah Weintraub, Gittel Laber, Marian Mattice, and Dini Gordon. The musical will also feature the debut of the Drama Daughters. The daughter group includes: Gavi Horowitz, Jasmine Simons, Sara Forero, Dassi Gordon, Rachel Maddali, Rivkah Kaufmann, Odelia Schulman-Marcus, Beatrice Bass, Rivka Caras, Suri Weisberg and Gittel Holt.

The Drama Mamas is a local theater organization, founded by Elisheva Liberman. This is its third presentation.

Advance tickets and sponsorship information are at: [https://www.shalomfoodpantry.com/templates/articlecco\\_cdo/aid/6305600/jewish/The-Last-Resort.htm](https://www.shalomfoodpantry.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/6305600/jewish/The-Last-Resort.htm).

All proceeds go to support the Shalom Food Pantry, which serves over 200 kosher meals to local families every month.

## Bethlehem Chabad lists The Kosher Gourmet, a twice weekly takeout kosher meal service

**ALBANY**—Bethlehem Chabad has announced the launch of The Kosher Gourmet, a weekly takeout kosher meal service. Each week, two complete meals are offered at a cost of \$18 per meal. The options will change weekly, and are posted online at [www.bethlehemchabad.com/koshergourmet](http://www.bethlehemchabad.com/koshergourmet) where payment may also be made.

Orders are required by Tuesdays at 5 p.m. for pickup on Thursday between 3-6 pm. Organizers report that food is prepared from scratch and packaged for reheating at home.

Information is available at [www.bethlehemchabad.com/koshergourmet](http://www.bethlehemchabad.com/koshergourmet) or by calling Bethlehem Chabad at 518-439-3110.

## Local Jewish women clergy set community program on March 31; celebrate women's efforts



*Celebrating 40 years! On-screen center, Rabbi Zoe B. Zak, Temple Israel of Catskill; Rabbis attending virtually or in person included Rabbi Julie Wolkoff, hospital chaplain (Boston); Rabbi Wendy LoveAnderson, Temple Israel, Albany; Cantor Emily Short, Beth Emeth (Albany); Rabbi Danielle Weisbrot, B'nai Sholom (Albany); Rabbi Rena Kieval, retired from Ohav Shalom, Albany; and Rabbi Susan Gulack, prison and psych center chaplain (Albany and elsewhere). Rabbi Beverly Magidson, retired community chaplain (Albany); Rabbi Debora S. Gordon, Berith Sholom (Troy); Rabbi Nomi Manon, Hillel at UAlbany; Rabbi Suzanne Schemerhorn, Knesseth Israel (Gloversville). Not pictured: Rabbi Linda Motzkin (retired from Temple Sinai, Saratoga) and Rabbi Eleanor Pearlman (retired from Congregation Gates of Heaven, Niskayuna).*

Women rabbis and cantors of the area, past and present, joined together in January to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the arrival of the first female rabbi in the Capital District. In the winter of 1983, Congregation Berith Sholom in Troy hired Rabbi Julie Wolkoff as its interim, part-time rabbi. That summer she was joined by Rabbi Beverly W. Magidson who had been hired by Congregation Beth Shalom in Clifton Park. Magidson was the first woman to lead a Conservative Movement congregation.

The group will continue to celebrate Jewish women clergy with a community program of afternoon workshops on Sunday, March 31, during Women's History Month. The free kallah program, open to both men and women, will be from 1-3:30 p.m. It will be held at Temple Israel, 600 New Scotland Ave., Albany.

Kallah presenters will include Rabbi Wendy Love Anderson, Rabbi Rena Kieval, Rabbi Linda Motzkin, Rabbi Susan Gulack, Rabbi Debora Gordon, and Rabbi Beverly W. Magidson.

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