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# Did DC sell out Israel's deterrence to help Iran save face?

By YIGAL CARMON

To understand what happened in the Middle East overnight Saturday, April 13 one has to go back four years to the killing by the United States of Iranian Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani. Iran needed to retaliate symbolically to save face, and asked to do so. The United States allowed Tehran to attack its Ayn al-Asad airbase in Iraq. Fifteen missiles were fired at the base, causing minor damage and shedding not one drop of blood, a feat for which Iran may deserve a Nobel Peace Prize.

## Previous History

Lt. Col. Staci Coleman, the commander of the 443rd Air Expeditionary Squadron, and members of her squadron testified that they had been briefed about an impending Iranian ballistic missile attack almost six hours before it happened. Captain Wesley Florez, the executive officer of the 1st Expeditionary Rescue Group, said that he had received information about the attack early the previous afternoon.

Former president Donald Trump told *Fox News* in February 2024: "Do you know, we hit them [Iran] very hard for something that they did, and they had to hit back, they feel they have to do that and I understand that. Do you



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM SCHULTZ/WHITE HOUSE.

*U.S. President Joe Biden meets with member of the national security team regarding the unfolding missile attacks on Israel from Iran on April 13, 2024, in the White House Situation Room.*

know, they called me to tell me 'We're going to hit a certain location but we're not gonna hit it, it's gonna be outside of the perimeter'...They let us know. And we had 16 missiles that went off...And we knew they weren't going to hit. And now I reveal it...So they aimed those missiles and they said, 'Please don't attack us, we're not going to hit you.' That was respect, we had respect."

Iran's then-foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that the Iranian regime had informed Iraq of its plans to

launch missiles at the U.S. base. This move guaranteed Iraq would then inform the United States, so that precautions would be taken to prevent the loss of life.

## Protecting Civilians

Now, let's come back to Iran's missile and drone strike on Israel on April 14. Iran wanted to restore its deterrence after the killing in Damascus of Iranian General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, who by Iran's own testimony was the mastermind of Hamas's Oct. 7 attack. The

United States then did to Israel what it had done to itself: It coordinated with the Iranians so that civilians would not be struck. Arab media are already reporting this coordination. Iran made it easy for the United States, Israel, Britain and Jordan to know what it would and would not do, and where it would do it. Israel was not part of this coordination.

Iran then launched 300 cruise and ballistic missiles and drones, with the only injury being to a 7-year-old Bedouin Israeli girl, whose house was hit by shrapnel from an Israeli interceptor. When Hamas shoots, there are injuries. When Hezbollah shoots, there are injuries. Why when Iran shoots, there are none?

## Possible Explanation

Just as was the case with Ayn al-Asad four years ago, the Iranian strike caused minor damage, in this case to Israel's Nevatim Air Force Base in the northern Negev, but no one was injured there, either. Can this be explained by claiming, out of sheer hubris, that the Iranians are weak and stupid? Only naïve people can believe this.

In the days before the attack, America, according to media reports, had exchanges with Iran. Early warnings had been coming from America for a

**Continued on page 14**

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# IDF: Israel will strike Iran at a 'time and place of our choosing'

JNS

Jerusalem will respond to Iran's unprecedented aerial assault "at the time and place of our choosing," IDF Spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said on Tuesday, April 16.

Israel Hayom's "Tomorrow's Conference" opened Tuesday at the International Convention Center in Ashkelon. Hagari was a guest at the conference and was asked about a possible response to the Iranian attack, the regional anti-Tehran coalition, a framework for a deal to free the captives in Gaza and the situation on the Israeli home front.

"On Saturday, Iran attacked the State of Israel with 350 launches. This was blocked and Iran failed in its attack. It was blocked thanks to capabilities built up in the State of Israel over years in the defense industries. It was blocked thanks to a historic air defense battle that will be studied extensively around the world. A defensive battle in which Israeli Air Force pilots downed swarms of aircraft," Hagari said.

"Additionally, something very big happened: a regional coalition led by the U.S., Britain and France came together perfectly—in the air, on land and at sea—and together intercepted 99% of the threat before it entered Israel[i airspace].

"In the end, four ballistic missiles hit the Nevatim [Air] Base without causing damage. Thanks to our operational success on Saturday, we now have many options for how and when to act. We will act properly and at the right time, and any discussion on this matter is unnecessary," Hagari continued.

"It is impossible not to respond to such an attack. We will act at the time and place of our choosing, and any discussion about it is unnecessary. We are in a high state of readiness even as we speak—pilots are defending the skies, we have fighters on the borders. Just a few minutes ago there was an incident on the northern border with unmanned aircraft.

"In the past six months, we have been working to protect the citizens of the State of Israel. There was a failure on October 7, and since then there has been a great recovery. In recent days, there has been a development due to what happened with Iran, but it also brings strategic opportunities," the admiral said.

"A coalition arose and said, 'No more, we will not allow this.' This is a great opportunity that must be seized. We must remember that our war is in Gaza, we have captives in Gaza, and we must not divert our attention from there," he said.

## The Home Front

Hagari also addressed the plight of Israeli citizens who have been displaced from their homes for six months due to the conflict.



PHOTO COURTESY TOMER NEUBERG/FLASH90.

Israeli air defenses intercept Iranian ballistic missiles over Tel Aviv, April 14, 2024.



PHOTO COURTESY AVSHALOM SASSONI/FLASH90.

IDF Spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari briefs reporters in Tel Aviv, Oct. 16, 2023.

"This is an opportunity to talk about the home front and the residents, especially those who left their homes and are in difficulties that no one can understand, a difficulty that we as a society must be sensitive to," he said.

"In the military, we need to act and do everything we can so they can return home, but only when there is no threat. All Israeli citizens are living in difficulty, and we need to be sensitive and coordinate with the municipalities," Hagari added.

The IDF spokesman continued, "We will do everything we can to ease the situation. We feel the difficulty. Our role is to ease the situation for the public, but the security of the state's residents is paramount. So far, the residents have acted with exemplary responsibility. We

need to do everything so that 1.9 million people can return to their schools and homes."

Hagari said, "I want to talk about the captives because that's what's important. I don't think [ Hamas chief in Gaza ] Sinwar doesn't want a deal—he wants it on his terms. It was the same during the time of Gilad Shalit," the IDF Armored Corps soldier who was held in Gaza for five years and then released in 2011 in exchange for Israel releasing 1,027 Palestinian terrorists from prison.

The military spokesman vowed that Israel would eventually decapitate the Hamas leadership through targeted killings.

"We are at war with Hamas, and on a military level we have defeated 19 out of 24 of its battalions, but it is a terrorist

organization and we need to make sure we eliminate the leaders—it will take time but we will get to all of them."

Hagari said Sinwar is in hiding, speculating, "Maybe he expected that the Iranian war on Saturday would work in his favor. We need to see that our regional balance is strengthening—this will weaken Hamas. Any action we take in Gaza, in maneuvers and eliminating leaders, needs to advance the return of the captives."

The IDF spokesperson said investigations of the events of Oct. 7 have already begun to yield lessons, adding, "We will also take responsibility at all levels. We must earn the public's trust, and public trust comes with taking responsibility.

"We will do everything in the IDF, with a wide deployment, to allow the citizens of the State of Israel to sit securely at the [Passover] Seder night [next Monday]. We are in a complex security reality; if there are changes, we will update the public."

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# Hippocrates and hypocrisy...

By RUTHIE BLUM

Israel ought to have its head examined. Its bleeding heart could use a check-up, too. This became painfully clear recently (and by no means for the first time). Whatever the prognosis, one thing is certain: Only a serious disorder could explain the Jewish state's provision of top-notch medical care for a member of Hamas's Nukhba force, the group that led the Oct. 7 massacre.

## Depraved Action?

A healthy response to the perversion ensued, however. When word got out, that the wounded terrorist was being treated at Hadassah Mount Scopus Medical Center in Jerusalem, Herzl Hajaj—whose 22-year-old daughter, Shir, was killed in a 2017 ISIS-inspired truck-ramming attack—went on the offensive.

"Shame on Hadassah Mount Scopus for treating terrorists who murdered, raped, butchered and humiliated our daughters, our loved ones and the entire people of Israel," he posted on X. "The time has come for Health Minister Uriel Buso ... to issue an order to hospitals not to treat terrorists."

## Angry Demonstration

He then called on his social-media

followers to protest the "depraved action" of Hadassah, which "has forgotten the terrible massacre and what these despicable terrorists did to our daughters and the people of Israel. We do not forget and will not be silent."

Shortly thereafter, dozens of angry demonstrators stormed the halls of the hospital. Hajaj, a member of the Choose Life Forum and an activist against the cushy conditions of Palestinian terrorists in Israeli jails, showed up to express his outrage.

"Is this where the terrorist son of a bitch is hospitalized?" he shouted at the Hadassah staffers and armed guards protecting the door of the intensive-care unit room where the Nukhba commando lay hooked up to an IV. "Is the terrorist hospitalized here? Take him out of here, not us."

## Quickly Moved

The commotion struck a nerve. By the end of the day, Hadassah announced that the Nukhba commando was being transferred to the Sde Teiman military base in southern Israel, where terrorists are detained and/or given medical treatment in accordance with the Geneva Convention guidelines for prisoners of war.

It transpired, however, that he was actually sent to the Assuta Medical



PHOTO COURTESY OF URI LENZ/FLASH90.

*Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, March 18, 2012.*

Center in Ashdod. Asked by journalists for a comment, Assuta denied knowledge of the prisoner's crimes and refused to take responsibility for the move.

## Why?

"Contact the Health Ministry" for answers, the medical center replied in a statement.

Hajaj wasn't satisfied. "Dear residents of Ashdod and the south," he wrote on X. "Be advised that ... Buso transferred the terrorist who was hospitalized in Hadassah Mount Scopus yesterday to Assuta Medical Center in Ashdod. Unfortunately, I can't make it there today, but you are welcome to visit the terrorist."

## "Coddling Murderers"

That's what they did, by flooding the corridors of the hospital, placards in hand. Hajaj saluted them from afar. As much as they earned the gesture, they shouldn't have had to fend off such societal sickness in the first place.

That the practice of treating Palestinian terrorists and their families with kid (and surgical) gloves has been going on for decades is bad enough. But allowing it to continue after Oct. 7 is not only taking the Hippocratic Oath too far; it makes a mockery of morality in general and medical ethics in particular.

Even if Israel decides to uphold the clauses of the Geneva Convention where they don't apply, it has no obligation to coddle murderers whose open aim is to annihilate the Jewish state—you know, to conquer all land "from the river to the sea."

## We Have Been Bitten

But the Jewish gene that causes national amnesia and a penchant for prioritizing the well-being of others over that of oneself is dominant. It is thus that Israeli doctors cured Hamas

chief Yahya Sinwar of brain cancer before Israeli politicians released him from prison as part of the Gilad Shalit deal in 2011.

So here we are, with 133 of our hostages held in brutal, sexually abusive captivity at the hands of Sinwar's evil army. Those men, women and children who haven't been shot or starved to death aren't receiving the crucial medication many require for chronic conditions. Nor are the injured among them being given even the most basic medical attention.

Hamas has no problem torturing and slaughtering innocent Israelis while taking advantage of their medical know-how and technology. When Qatar-based "political leader" Ismail Haniyeh was still in Gaza and serving as the terrorist organization's prime minister, for example, his mother-in-law and daughter were treated at Israeli hospitals.

## Lack Of Common Sense

Ditto for his infant granddaughter and the sister of Hamas spokesman Moussa Abu Marzouk. They expressed his gratitude by calling for a third intifada and raining rockets down on Israeli civilians, thus sparking "Operation Protective Edge." That was in 2014.

A mere four years later, Sinwar declared, "We will take down the border [with Israel], and we will tear their hearts from their bodies." Well, he certainly came to keep that promise.

Meanwhile, he has appropriated all of his Gaza's hospitals—above and below ground—for use as terror bases in which to amass weapons, hide hostages and plot Israel's demise.

If Israel is so insane as to treat Sinwar's goons in beds next to the targets of their jihad, the country really is in critical condition. Hajaj and his ilk deserve accolades for not letting common sense die along with Hamas's victims.

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# From one coast to the other: It's Passover 'to go'

By ETHEL G. HOFMAN

JNS

My head is spinning. A Passover seder meal planned and nearly completely prepared on the East Coast and then flown to the West? For Gloria and Bob Spitz, it's no big deal. Gloria says, "We've been doing it for the last five years; it's a combined effort, a labor of love."

Expedience

Why did they decide to schlep dishes and the makings of a seder to California? Wouldn't it be easier to cook for the crowd in your own kitchen?

Gloria explains that, "it's easier for two to fly out there than to bring nine to Philadelphia." Their two sons, Eric (and his wife, Jane) and Daniel (and his wife, Liat), and five grandkids—ages 13 to 23—all live in the Los Angeles area. Gloria and Bob usually fly out one or two days before the start of Passover "so that we can pick up items like chicken for the soup and any ingredients I cook that day," she says, "and we get to spend time with all the grandkids."

## A Moving Feast

For the past 50-plus years, Gloria and Bob have lived with her sister, Susan Lodish, husband Len but Gloria has always been the "master cook." The Food Processor Gefilte Fish and Carrot-Pineapple Kugel recipes are from **Passoverama**, a collection of favorite recipes from the Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El Sisterhood in Wynnewood, Penn. (the Conservative synagogue made headlines recently for not one, but two episodes of vandalism on an outdoor sign that says, "Our Community Stands With Israel"), and edited by Gloria and Susan. This was its first Passover cookbook, published in 1975. **Passoverama** went on to have two more editions. The Passover Liquor Cake, Passover Chocolate-Chip Kamish Bread and Sweet Passover Cookies are from Gloria's vast recipe collection. For the cookies, she substituted matzah for graham crackers in the original recipe.

Since Passover desserts, appetizers and sides are prepared at home to be transported to L.A., Gloria's kitchen is kashered a week beforehand. Everything is kosher for Passover. She adds, "I always bring one box of matzah with us, as often, the local L.A. store is sold out of Passover matzah," and she insists on "always bringing red horseradish. I can never find that in any store." She has made and embroidered a foldable matzah holder. I was exhausted just listening to it all, and here they are a grab-and-go operation, as I am sure many others are this holiday season with families all over the country and the world.

Planning for the whole shebang begins six weeks ahead of time. Gloria has lists galore, each neatly handwritten on long sheets of paper. To name a few: "things to buy, things to bring, lists of people attending first seder, list of people attending second seder, lists

of what to make at Daniel's house, lists of what to pack to take to Eric's house." Each item is checked off when completed. "I'm only allowed one small box for storage in each house; they just don't have room," she says. Many items, such as serving utensils, are discarded and purchased anew the next year. This year I made a "pilgrimage" with Gloria to, a party goods store in Lakewood, N.J., where she loaded a cart, disposable paper goods and glasses with Passover designs, serving utensils, flatware and even fancy toothpicks and skewers for fruit and appetizers. The jumbo soup pot is stored in Daniel's house. She uses a lot of foil pans.

The night before the trip, the oversized duffel bag is packed. Rather than bring containers, which take up room, spices that will be needed are measured out into little plastic bags. Paper goods, flatware and serving utensils are arranged. The liquor cake is returned to the Bundt pan to avoid any crumbling. Just before leaving for the airport, rolls of gefilte fish that have been frozen in thermal bags are tucked into the duffel bag.

The first seder is at Daniel's house with families, friends and neighbors. Since there's no way to fit 20 to 30 people in their California home, Daniel's garage is cleared out (usually used as a photographic studio), and tables and chairs are set up. Everybody is on board. Children arrange the Haggadahs; the seder plate; place cards; disposable dishes and flatware; and games to illustrate the plagues. The second seder is at Eric's house, an hour away, where there's even a visit from the bishop of Orange County. It's a repeat performance, this time setting up outdoors on the patio. One year, there was even a Chocolate Seder; that was remembered as a hit! The seders end with families and guests standing up, hands joined or arms draped around shoulders. Voices ring out as they sing "Hatikvah" ("The Hope"), Israel's national anthem. Incorporated in the song: "To be a free people in our land of Zion and Jerusalem." Perhaps that's never been more relevant.

Family, food and tradition come together at Passover time—the most observed Jewish holiday, according to poll after poll.

Let us celebrate our freedom together, and pray for the speedy release of the hostages and a lasting peace for Israel.

## Food-Processor Gefilte Fish

(Pareve)

Serves 6

### Ingredients:

- bones, heads and skins of fish
- 2 onions with skins
- 2 large carrots, sliced
- 1 stalk celery with leaves, sliced
- cold water to cover
- salt and pepper
- 3 pounds of fish fillets (pike and carp, or pike and whitefish)
- 4 large onions, peeled and cut into chunks



PHOTO COURTESY OF ETHEL G. HOFMAN.

## Packing up supplies for the Passover holiday.

- 1½ cups matzah meal or more as needed
- salt and freshly ground white pepper
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup cold water
- parsley to garnish

### Directions:

Make the fish stock by placing bones, heads and skins of fish in a large pot. Add two onions. Leaving on the skins gives the stock a yellow color. Add carrots and celery and cover with cold water. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 1 hour. Set aside.

Grind fillets and four peeled onions in a food processor until finely chopped. Add the rest of the ingredients and mix well. Shape into desired size. If the mixture falls apart add more matzah meal.

From the stock, remove and discard fish bones, heads and skins. Taste stock and adjust seasoning. Place gefilte fish portions into stock and simmer for 1½ to 2 hours.

Allow to cool slightly before removing fish to a platter carefully to retain shape.

Serve warm or thoroughly chilled. Garnish with sliced, cooked carrot and a sprig of parsley.

## Food-Processor Carrot-Pineapple Kugel

(Pareve)

Serves 6

### Ingredients:

- 3 eggs, separated
- 4 large carrots grated or 3 cups grated
- ¾ cup raisins
- 1½ teaspoons cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 small can (8 ounces) crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 apples, diced
- ½ cup matzah meal
- 2 tablespoons oil

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Grease a 9-inch square pan or a 2-quart casserole.

Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Set aside.

Mix the egg yolks and remaining in-

gredients in the food processor. Transfer to a bowl.

Fold in the stiffly beaten egg whites. Spoon the mixture into a prepared baking dish or casserole.

Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour.

## Passover Liquor Cake

(Pareve/Dairy)

Serves 10-12

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup chopped pecans
- brown sugar (optional)
- 1½ boxes of yellow kosher-for-Passover cake mix (a half box, or 12 ounces, is ¾ cup of mix)
- 1 small package of kosher-for-Passover instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup cold water
- ½ cup canola oil
- ½ cup kosher-for-Passover liquor (i.e., Sabra)

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Grease and flour a Bundt cake pan or spray it with kosher-for-Passover nonstick baking spray.

Sprinkle pecans over the bottom of the pan. If desired, sprinkle a couple of tablespoons of brown sugar over nuts.

In a bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Mix well.

Pour the batter over the nuts, smoothing the top evenly.

Bake for 1 hour or a little less if the Bundt pan is black. Do not overbake. While the cake has 10 minutes of cooking left, make the glaze.

### Glaze:

- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons cold water
- ¾ cup sugar
- 6 tablespoons liquor, kosher-for-Passover

Melt the butter or margarine in a medium saucepan. Stir in the water and sugar.

Bring to boil, stirring constantly. Cook for 4-5 minutes or until syrupy.

Turn off the heat and pour in the liquor. Stir to combine and reheat for 30 seconds.

Continued on page 23

# 99-year-old Holocaust survivor tends graves of soldiers killed on Oct. 7

By ETGAR LEFKOVITS

JNS

**K**ADIMA-ZORAN, Israel—Walking cane in hand, the small elderly man hovers over the two fresh graves, gingerly watering the potted plants adorning them. He straightens the pictures of the young men, arranges the stones and mementos, and cleans off the tombstones.

“I know what pain is,” Yaakov Lubinewski, 99, whose entire family was murdered by the Nazis eight decades ago, told a freshly bereaved Israeli father nearly six months ago in the aftermath of Hamas’s Oct. 7 massacre. “The pain will not pass, and it will be hard to recover, but remember there is something to live for.”

## “Something To Live For”

It was, after all, his own life’s lesson—climbing out of the ashes of despair to build a new life—that he was sharing as he nears his centennial year.

## Caretaker

“When I heard about the soldiers who had fallen I couldn’t contain myself and burst into tears,” Lubinewski told JNS during a recent interview in the village cemetery just east of Netanya where his wife, who died two years ago, is also buried. “They were just starting their lives. It touched my heart how these parents would live on.”

Lubinewski pledged to the bereaved father, whom he met the day after his son’s funeral, that he would take care of the gravesite for as long as he lived.

Lubinewski, accompanied by his faithful caretaker, Anya, has made the half-hour trek to the cemetery on his scooter every day since, walking stick in one hand and watering can in the other. He first stops at the grave of his wife, Mazal, which is bedecked with a rainbow of colorful plants, and after recounting to her the latest goings-on makes the short walk over to the military section of the cemetery and the



PHOTO COURTESY OF RINA CASTELNUOVO.

Yaakov Lubinewski, 99, tends the graves of two Israeli soldiers from his town killed during Hamas’s Oct. 7 massacre, March 26, 2024.

final resting place of the two soldiers from his town who were killed during Hamas’s invasion of southern Israel on Oct. 7. If he misses going one morning, Lubinewski comes in the evening. He never skips a day, according to his caretaker.

“This is Russo, and this is Shay,” he said, gesturing to the gravesites of IDF Staff Sergeants Ofek Russo and Yaron Oree Shay, both of whom were 21 years old when they were killed. “I feel that they are like my own children,” he added. “I will be with them until I die.”

“This is my task now,” he said. “I feel it is a great privilege.”

Izhar Shay, Yaron’s father and a former Israeli government minister, told JNS that. “Yaakov entered our lives at the most difficult and painful moment. From the shrapnel of our crushed happiness, he—who climbed out of his own devastating personal family tragedy and built a new life—made it clear to us that there is something to live for.”

## Surviving The Nazis

Living—and surviving—was something that as a young teenager in Nazi-occupied Poland Lubinewski was determined to do. Born in 1925 to a traditional Jewish family in a village some 40 miles from Warsaw, he remembers keeping the Jewish holidays and the Sabbath together with his three siblings. When the Germans invaded Poland, his family fled to another town where there were more Jews, including some relatives, but they were soon ordered to relocate to the Warsaw Ghetto. (Eight decades later, he still remembers

how they were forced to sell his beloved tailor-made bar mitzvah suit ahead of the journey.)

“I don’t know how we managed to live,” he said. “There was no food; illnesses were rampant.” His uncle died of starvation before his eyes.

Desperate, his family managed to get out of the ghetto before it was sealed off and made their way via a river to a city about 60 miles from Warsaw.

In the spring of 1941, a German sergeant saved Lubinewski and a childhood friend from the clutches of the Nazis by offering them a job as agricultural workers on his estate. He passed the lads off as Poles in Germany after changing their names. The sergeant, Nickel Otto, was among the first non-Jews to be recognized by Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum as a Righteous Among the Nations.

Lubinewski, who would often cry out the words of the Jewish prayer “Shema Yisrael” at the German farm, felt pangs of conscience and regret at having left his whole family behind in Poland without a parting word, feelings he would carry with him for the rest of his life. His family had been rounded up by the Nazis and sent to Auschwitz, where they perished. He alone, of his whole extended family, would survive the Holocaust, working on the German farm with his fake identity.

## Starting Over

After the war, Lubinewski became a forest ranger in Poland and often felt that he was the only Jew left in the world. Then one day, he met the child-

hood friend with whom he had escaped to Germany, who told him of his plans to sail to the Land of Israel with a youth group.

“I was a forest inspector in Poland, but I knew I was Jewish and that I needed to be among the Jews,” said Lubinewski. “I told him, ‘I’m coming with you to the Land of Israel.’” Arriving in the midst of the 1948-49 War of Independence, Lubinewski was immediately drafted into the ragtag Israeli army.

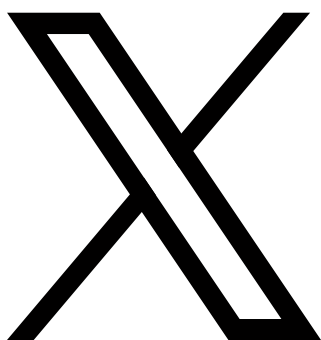
“There was food; there was bread, margarine and jelly,” he said. “I was happy.”

## Out Of The Darkness

He would subsequently meet his late wife Mazal, with whom he had five children. He now has nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. “It was my wife who brought me out of the dark well of despair to the light and brought me back to life,” he said, tears welling in his eyes.

After getting a job with the Israeli Agriculture Ministry in the 1950s by highlighting his experience as a forest ranger, he would later become a beekeeper. He built with his own hands the large village home he still lives in with some of his family members, in addition to a cat and dog.

Lubinewski, his astute mind belying his advanced age, clearly recalls the day that he embraced his Jewish brothers and sisters in the group that gathered in the Polish forest before making their way to the new State of Israel. “What has happened to [the unity of] the Jewish people?” he asked.



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# Egypt is in the Haggadah and the news this Passover season

By SARAH OGINCE

JNS

Every Passover, Albert Gabbai smiles when he gets to the part of the Haggadah, towards the end of Magid, stating that each Jew in every generation must “view himself as if he left Egypt.” “It’s very easy for me,” the Egyptian-born rabbi told JNS. “Other people, they have to imagine it.” Not only did Gabbai—rabbi emeritus at the nearly 285-year-old Sephardic synagogue Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia—leave Egypt, but he fled the country in 1970 after spending three years in an Egyptian prison.

He is one of a small minority of American and world Jews who have firsthand experience with life in the setting of the biblical story at the center of the Passover holiday.

## Egypt Today

Before Hamas’s terror attack on Oct. 7, Egypt existed for many in the imaginations of many as a biblical rather than a modern nation. But the country, which began to expel its Jews in the 1950s, has become more than Haggadah illustrations of Hebrew slaves laboring over half-finished pyramids or of the Nile River turned to blood.

The Rafah border crossing between the Gaza Strip and Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula has been the focus of much attention of late. Even if the United States and other countries have been loath to mention that Egypt could take in Palestinian refugees, Cairo is in the news regularly as a site for diplomacy and attempts to negotiate the release of hostages still being held captive in Gaza by Hamas terrorists.

After Oct. 7, the land of the pharaohs is a viscerally real location, captured in images and video in the news, with humanitarian aid trucks waiting to enter Gaza and anti-Israel demonstrations in Cairo streets.

## Fighting The Pharaoh

The Haggadah doesn’t “really care about Egypt,” according to Aaron Koller, professor of Near Eastern studies at Yeshiva University in New York City, who has written often on ancient Egypt. “It cares about the pharaoh,” Koller said of the central Passover text. “He is the real threat to liberty and freedom, but Egypt itself is really just in the background.”

“It’s not the place—not the sand and pyramids—but the idea. Passover stands against a society that builds itself literally on the backs of others,” Koller added. “It’s against the idea of Egypt that the Haggadah rebels—tonight each person is wealthy and worthy.”

## ‘Exodus In Reverse’

Ancient and modern-day Egypt are separated by 3,000 years of history and a radical ideological change, from polytheism to Islam. “The Egypt of the Bible and the Haggadah is the Egypt that



PHOTO COURTESY OF MERRYDOLLA

rejects God. I don’t think that’s where we are anymore,” Joshua Berman, professor of Bible at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, told JNS.

“Of course, when we say, ‘Let my people go,’ this year, that has a resonance that it hasn’t had for a long time,” added Berman, who is also an Orthodox rabbi.

Like Gabbai, Berman has hands-on experience with Egypt. Since 2022, he has led what he calls “Exodus in reverse” kosher tours of Egyptian sites mentioned in the Bible. Although modern Egypt has persecuted Jews, he has found that his group of visibly Orthodox Jews has been welcomed warmly without fail.

“It’s a testament to how strong Israel is and how important Israel is to Egypt as an ally,” Berman said. “I see a lot of cooperation.”

That doesn’t mean he sees Israeli flags on the streets of Cairo, he noted wryly, or that Egyptians are breaking out in song with “Hatikvah,” although he does credit the tailwinds of the 2020 Abraham Accords and a desire to boost the economy with warming Egyptian feelings toward Israel.

## Rich History

The Egypt of the Bible is a world leader and a place of vast physical wealth—ample food supplies that drew biblical forefathers and Jacob’s sons in times of famine. “From the beginning, Egypt was famously fertile,” Koller told JNS, noting the reliability of Egyptian agriculture due to the annual flooding of the Nile.

“This doesn’t happen anymore since the Aswan Dam was built,” he said. “But it was a huge deal in pre-modern times.”

Today’s Egyptian politics and religion contrast starkly with those articulated in the Torah when idolatrous Egyptians held the all-powerful pharaoh—now believed to be Ramesses II—to be both Divine and a political leader.

“In Egyptian thought, the pharaoh truly was a god, son of Horus,” Koller said. “So Egypt was the only place

be built by hundreds of thousands of people,” Koller said. “So the pyramids represent people being forced to work for a central power, not being allowed to be important in and of themselves.”

The Torah appears to prohibit Jews—or at least Jewish kings—from returning to Egypt after the exodus, and there is a long tradition of rabbinic responsa and debate on whether something like an “Exodus in reverse” is permitted. That debate aside, Jews have a rich history in the country.

A large community flourished in Roman-ruled Alexandria, home to the Jewish philosopher Philo, during the first century BCE. Some 1,100 years later, Cairo hosted one of history’s most famous Jewish thinkers, Maimonides, in the 12th century.

For generations, Jews must have differentiated the Egypt where their community prospered as distinct from that of the Torah. During their Passover seders, Egyptian Jews presumably thought of a spiritual redemption from the country in biblical times, as they celebrated the holiday there in modern ones.

One of the earliest apparent references to Passover outside the Bible comes from the so-called “Passover Papyrus,” dated between 419 and 418 BCE, written by a Jew living on the southern Egyptian island of Elephantine. (Mod-

**Continued on page 20**

where theology and political power went together.”

## Truth Or Symbol?

Anachronistic images in Haggadahs and Disney’s 1998 animated film “*The Prince of Egypt*” show Israelites laboring over the pyramids, though those structures were completed 1,000 years prior to Moses’s birth, according to Koller. Still, the ahistorical images embody the Jewish idea of Egypt, he told JNS.

“Everyone understood that massive projects like the pyramids could only

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## Calendar of Events

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

**Beth Emeth Torah Study** – 9:30-10:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion **Metzora**, in person and via Zoom. No prior knowledge of Torah, Hebrew or Judaism is needed. Reg.–www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

**2024 AJCC Pillars of the Community Award Brunch**– 10:30 a.m. Beth Emeth, Academy Rd., Albany. Pillar Award recipients: Rob and Margie Dorkin, Dr. Michael and Sharon Lozman, and Michael and Melissa Lurie. Other awards: Sasha Greenberg to receive Bellin, Jacob Mosden to receive Applebaum and Peggy Hogan to receive Susan Shpeen Staff Award. Info.– 518-438-6651.

**Beth Emeth Jewish Basics** –10-11 a.m. in-person at 100 Academy Rd., Albany or via Zoom. A twice-monthly class led by clergy Rabbi Greg Weitzman, Cantor Emily Short and Director

of Lifelong Learning Rabbi Shara Siegfeld with guest speakers. Open to all. Free for B.E. \$72 for non-members (covers materials). Reg.– www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

### MONDAY, APRIL 22

**Beth Tephilah Community Seder**–8:15 p.m. 82 River St., Troy. Res. requested by 4/15. Info.–Leible Morrison at 518-894-3490. Donations for the meal accepted. (See 4/23)

**Temple Gates Community Seder**–5:30-8:30 p.m. Gates of Heaven 852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady. Gershons' catered buffet meal. \$45. Info., menu choices, Res. – www.cgoh.org, 518-374-8173.

**Bethlehem Chabad Seder**– 6:45-8:45 p.m. Bethlehem Chabad, 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar. \$45 per adult, \$15 per child, Info.–518-439-3310.

**Colonie Chabad Passover Seder**–7:15 p.m. Colonie Chabad, 401 Loudon Rd., Loudonville. Res. prior to 4/15. \$36, Adult, \$10, Child. Info.– 518-368-7886. (See 4/23)

**Pittsfield Community Seder**–6:30-9:30 p.m. Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, Mass. \$45 for adults, \$22 for youth (6-17), 5 years and under are free (but will still need a ticket). Res., by 4/14, Info. –413-442-4360, ext. 12.

**Saratoga Chabad Seder**–8 p.m. 130 Circular St., Saratoga Springs. \$54. Students free. Res., Info. – 518-

584-7702.

**Clifton Park Chabad Seder**– 7 p.m. 495 Moe Rd., Clifton Park. Family and child friendly. \$45 Info., Res.- 518-495-0772 or [cliftonparkchabad@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonparkchabad@gmail.com).

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23

**Shaaray Tefila Passover Seder**–6 p.m. 68 Bay St., Glens Falls. \$25 p.p., \$10 for children, max \$60. Info., Res by 4/9–518-792-4945 [cstgfn@gmail.com](mailto:cstgfn@gmail.com) [www.shaaraytefila-gfny.org](http://www.shaaraytefila-gfny.org).

**Anshe Emeth Seder**– 6 p.m. Anshe Emeth Synagogue, 249 Jossen Blvd., Hudson. \$20-45 for adults under 40. \$45 for those over 40. Res. required by 4/1. Res., Info.–518-828-6848.

**Catskill Community Seder**–5 p.m. Temple Israel, 220 Spring St., Catskill. \$45 per adult. Res., Info.– <https://www.templeisraelofcatskill.org>.

**Beth Tephilah Community Seder**–8:15 p.m. 82 River St., Troy. Res. requested by 4/15, , Info.– Leible Morrison at 518-894-3490. Donations for the meal accepted. (See 4/22)

**Temple Sinai Community Seder**–6 p.m. Temple Sinai, 509 Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Catered by the Omlette King. Participant involvement expected. Res. prior to 4/9 \$30 Adult, \$15 Child (under 13), \$75 Family Max. after prices go up. Res. required by 4/16. Info.–518-584-8730.

**Colonie Chabad Passover Seder**–7:30 p.m. Colonie Chabad, 401 Loudon Rd., Loudonville. Res. prior to 4/15, \$36, Adult, \$10, Child. Info.– 518-368-7886. (See 4/22)

**Anshe Amunim Seder**– 5:30 -7:30 p.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad St., Pittsfield, Mass. Attendees requested to bring 2 items to share at the seder as well as poems and recollections. Adult \$36/member, Child to 18, free. Adult \$54/non-member, Child 5-18, \$10. Info., Res.–413-442-5910, [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org).

**Saratoga Chabad Seder**–8 p.m. 130 Circular St., Saratoga Springs. \$54. Students free. Res., Info. – 518-584-7702.

**Women of the Seder Focus** –5-7 p.m. Agudat Achim Synagogue. 2117 Union St., Schenectady. Traditional seder and dinner menu. \$60. Info., Res.–518-393-9211.

**Clifton Park Chabad Seder**–8 p.m. 495 Moe Rd., Clifton Park. “In the light of the kabbalah” \$45. Info., Res.– 518-495-0772 or [cliftonparkchabad@gmail.com](mailto:cliftonparkchabad@gmail.com).

### FRIDAY, APRIL 26

**Beth Emeth Chol Hamoed Passover 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.

### SATURDAY APRIL 27

**Beth Emeth Torah Study** – 9:30-10:30 a.m. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Discussion of the Torah portion Chol

Hamoed Passover, in-person and via Zoom. Reg.– [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Zoom link: <https://Us02Web.Zoom.us/j/89304372729>. Password: CBE. Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 28

**SJCA's Panel Discussion of "Colliding Dreams"**– 7 p.m. via Zoom. The 2015 documentary reviews the history of Zionism. Reg.–SJCA Home Page [www.saratogajewishculturalfestival.org](http://www.saratogajewishculturalfestival.org).

### MONDAY, APRIL 29

**Beth Emeth Passover Yizkor Service** – 10:45 a.m.-12 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.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 30

**Beth Emeth Tiny Tots Concert: Peter and the Wolf** – 10:45 -11:45 a.m. 100 Academy Rd. Albany. Albany Symphony Orchestra musicians, led by conductor David Alan Miller, to take youngsters on a journey into the world of classical music. Geared for children 18 months-6 years. Tickets, \$5, [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – [www.albanysymphony.com](http://www.albanysymphony.com). (See 5/1)

**Bethlehem Chabad Moshiah Seudah** – 6:45 p.m. 393 Delaware Ave., Delmar. Res.–[www.bethlehemchabad.com/MoshiahSeudah / info@bethlehemchabad.com](http://www.bethlehemchabad.com/MoshiahSeudah/info@bethlehemchabad.com), 518-439-3310.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

**Beth Emeth Tiny Tots Concert: Peter and the Wolf** –9:30 -10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Albany Symphony Orchestra musicians, led by conductor David Alan Miller, to take youngsters on a journey into the world of classical music. Geared for children 18 months-6 years. Tickets, \$5, [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – [www.albanysymphony.com](http://www.albanysymphony.com). (See 4/29)

**Beth Emeth Evening Learning** – 7- 8:15 p.m. 100 Academy Rd. Albany. Golda's Kitchen: A Taste of Israel. Reg.– [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, [Info@BethEmethAlbany.org](mailto:Info@BethEmethAlbany.org).

### FRIDAY, MAY 3

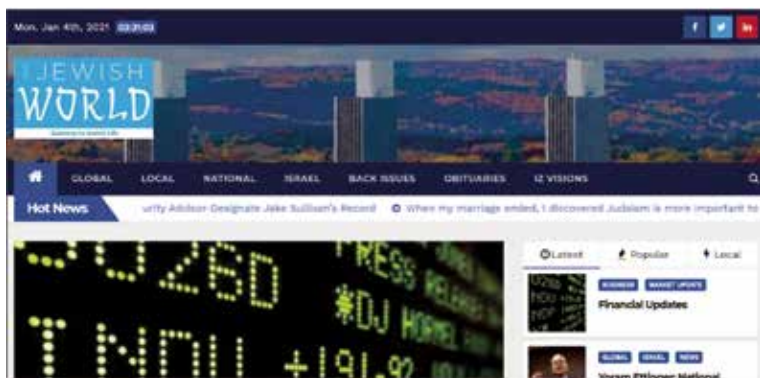
**JFed Breakfast Program**– 8 a.m. Federation of Northeastern NY, 184, Washington Ave., Ext., Albany. IDF Lt. Col Avital Leibovich, CEO of American Jewish Committee, to update attendees. Info., Reg. –518-783-7800.

**Beth Emeth Ruach Shabbat**–5:30 p.m. in-person, 100 Academy Rd., Albany, or via live-stream at [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Junior Choir and New-Member Welcome featured. 5: Pre-neg at 5 p.m. Dinner, 6:30-8 p.m. Reg.- at [www.BethEmethAlbany.org](http://www.BethEmethAlbany.org). Info. – 518-436-9761, ClergyAdmin@CBEAlbany.org.

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## ADL: Reported anti-Semitic incidents up 140% in 2023, Records shattered

In part due to the unleashing of Jew-hatred in the aftermath of Hamas's Oct. 7 massacre, anti-Semitism in the United States spiked by a record 140%, according to figures released by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) on Tuesday, April 16. Nearly 9,000 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism—including more than 5,000 in the post-Oct. 7 period—were reported across America last year. The figure not only blew away the totals from 2022—itsself a record year—but outpaced the marks from the previous three years combined.

The ADL began tracking relevant data in 1979.

The numbers in the ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents bear out a staggering 24 incidents of Jew-hatred per day in the United States.

### National Emergency

That only includes examples, which are reported. According to the American Jewish Committee, nearly four in five Jews who experience anti-Semitic harassment don't report it to law enforcement or media, mainly for fear of ongoing harassment.

"Anti-Semitism is nothing short of a national emergency, a five-alarm fire that is still raging across the country and in our local communities and campuses," said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO. "Jewish Americans are being targeted for who they are at school, at work, on the street, in Jewish institutions and even at home."

### Education Failures

The rise was particularly felt on college campuses, where reported anti-Semitism activity increased by 321% from 2022. Hamas supporters have turned out for demonstrations across the country on campuses after Oct. 7, often calling for violence against Jews and reveling in the Oct. 7 massacre.

That particular phenomenon has led to congressional hearings and the subsequent ouster of the presidents of Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania for failure to condemn calls for the genocide of Jews, despite many opportunities to do so.

The tide appears to be turning, though, at least on some campuses. Recently, the University of Southern California canceled the planned commencement speech of its valedictorian. While the official reason given was to maintain campus security and safety, critics pointed to the student's anti-Semitic social media postings, including the labeling of Zionism as a "racist-settler colonial ideology."

Meanwhile, a tenured political science professor at Hobart and William Smith colleges was removed from the classroom following the publication of an essay celebrating the events of Oct. 7 and calling them "exhilarating."

Thirty-six percent of the 8,873 reported incidents of anti-Semitism last year contained elements referencing Israel or Zionism, compared with 6.5% in 2022, the ADL says.

Even excluding all Israel-related inci-

dents, though, anti-Semitic incidents still rose by 65% to 5,711 incidents recorded in 2023.

The pre-Oct. 7 period was not quiet, either, with monthly year-over-year increases in February, March, April, May and September. Each of these months broke the previous monthly record for most incidents, set at 394 in November 2022.

### Elementary Schools

Grade schools also became a breeding ground for antisemitism, with the 1,162 incidents there marking an increase of 135%. The ADL cited K-12 school incidents including "swastikas scrawled on desks, playgrounds and school buildings; anti-Semitic images AirDropped to large groups of unwitting students; harassment directed at visibly Jewish students; and teachers saying Jews are rich, powerful and control banks."

Peggy Shukur, vice president of the east division of the Anti-Defamation League, said recently that "unvetted curriculum is being developed, sometimes created through teacher unions or other groups with some kind of ideological agenda, resulting in the existence of curricula that is biased and sometimes anti-Semitic."

Incidents of vandalism, bomb threats and swatting against synagogues and Jewish institutions also skyrocketed in 2023, according to the ADL data.

Oren Segal, vice president of the ADL

Center on Extremism, said these incidents were "all aimed at terrorizing the community by disrupting services and activities" at sites where Jews congregate.

"Our tracking of a swatting network enabled ADL to offer crucial intelligence to law enforcement, ensuring accountability for perpetrators, while also pre-emptively alerting targeted communities and mitigating potential harm," said Segal.

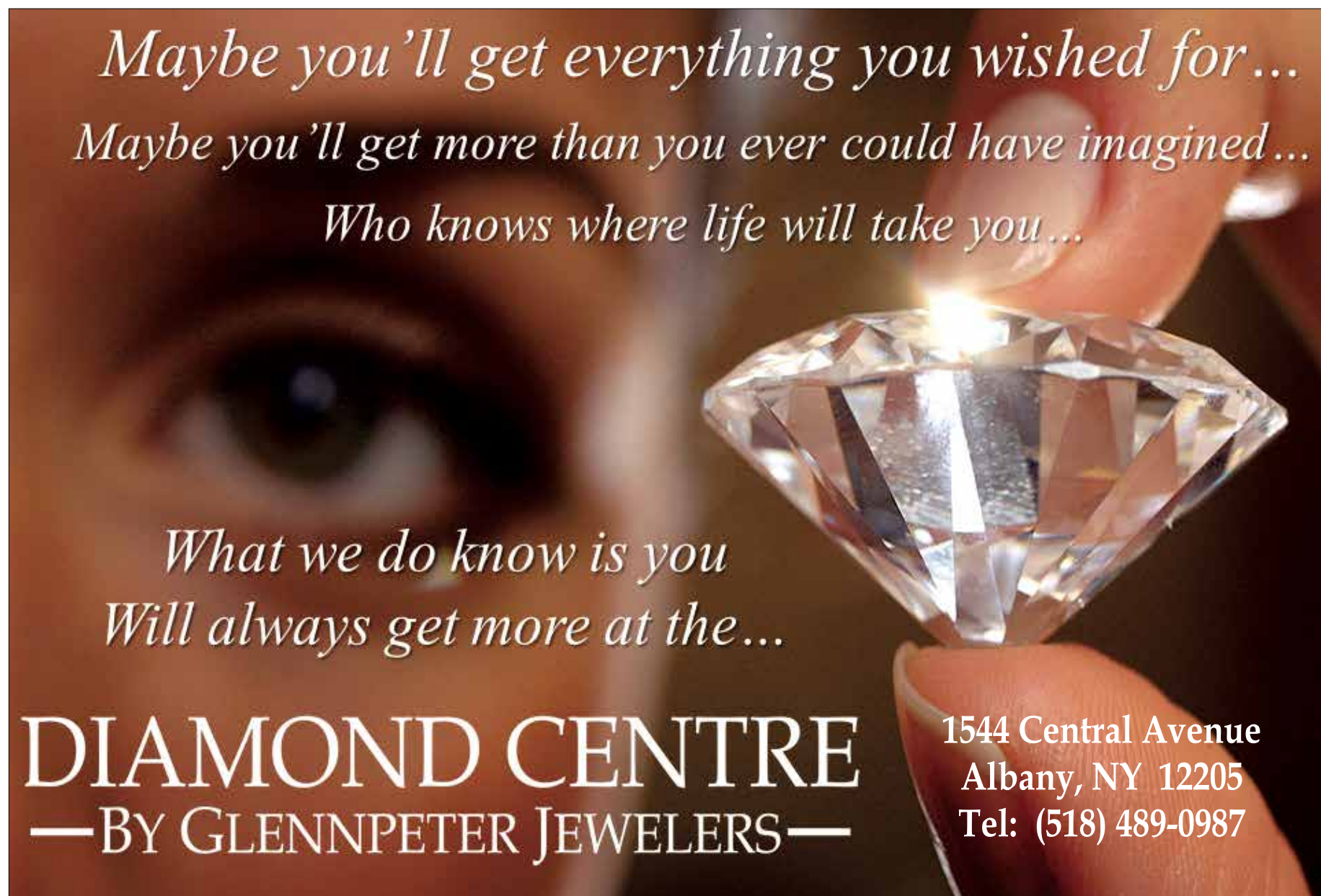
The ADL recently issued a call to state governors across America to enact individual, state-level versions of the Biden administration's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

### No Need To Fear?

"This crisis demands immediate action from every sector of society and every state in the union," said Greenblatt. "We need every governor to develop and put in place a comprehensive strategy to fight anti-Semitism, just as the administration has done at the national level."

The Biden administration has been criticized, though, for a failure to include enforcement mandates in its national plan and to, in large measure, fulfill existing mandates to take action for violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

"Despite these unprecedented challenges, American Jews must not give in to fear," Greenblatt said. "Even while we fight the scourge of anti-Semitism, we should be proud of our Jewish identities and confident of our place in American society."



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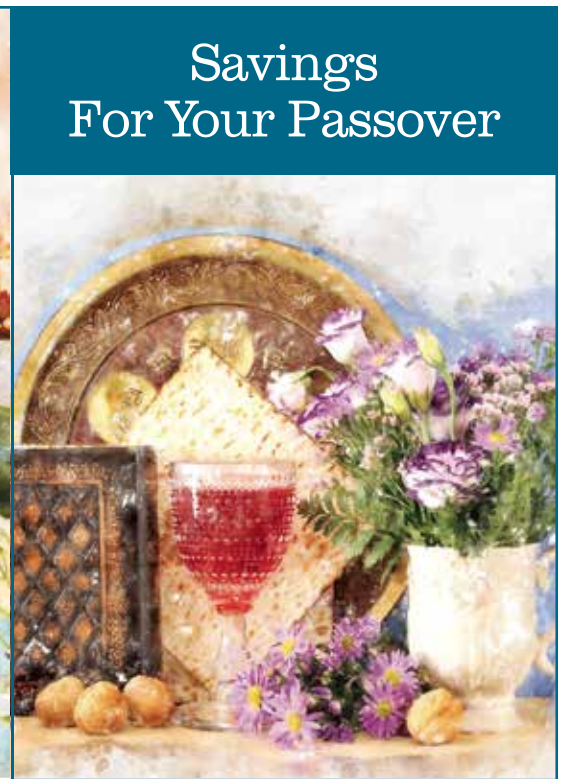
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# Oct. 7 triggers many Jewish moms in Arizona

By MASADA SIEGEL

JNS

Jewish mom chat groups on WhatsApp and other platforms cover lots of topics, including prayer requests for the sick, book clubs, opportunities to volunteer. But new topics have been added since Oct. 7 for some in the state of Arizona who, like religious women in Judea and Samaria, have been spending time at the local shooting range.

## Self-Defense

Messages about private shooting classes at gun ranges abound, as do discussions about Taekwondo self-defense courses.

Sunny Levi, 46, an Orthodox Jewish mother of six in Scottsdale, Ariz. told JNS that her services have been in demand since the terrorist attacks in southern Israel six months ago, with triple the number of people attending compared to before then. “Every woman should know how to defend herself,” she said. “It is important that you know where to hit someone to knock them out, how to stop the blood flow to the brain, to disable them and even to kill them if needed.”

“When a person has the knowledge on how to protect themselves, they have more confidence and that makes them less of a target,” she added.

Farah Tataro, 40, a petite young widow and Jewish convert who lives in Phoenix, told JNS that she went to her first gun-training class in 2023. “I was really nervous. I have never held a gun before,” she said. “But when I left, I felt empowered. I need to be ready. I have to protect my family.”

## “Not Going To Hide”

Andrea Bakall, 36, also of Phoenix, learned to shoot as a child. As an adult, she developed her shooting skills more seriously for when she hiked solo in the wilderness. She never considered carrying a weapon in town to protect herself from potential harm until a few months ago.

“After what I saw on Oct. 7, I realized the need to protect myself and my family,” she told JNS. “There needs to be a lot of good Jewish people in America, too, that are ready to react in dangerous situations. If the world does not protect us we have to protect ourselves.”

“We are not going to hide; that is for sure,” emphasized Bakall. “Historically, American Jewish women have focused on promoting peace and spreading light,” she told JNS. “It is a paradigm shift to have to protect yourself as a peaceful group.”

## Paradigm Shifts

Bakall’s husband is from Sweden. “I used to be shocked that the Jewish community in Sweden was hesitant to wear Jewish stars because of the dangers it poses,” she told JNS. “I never thought



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASADA SIEGEL

Jewish woman in Arizona practicing her shooting skills.

as an American that this would happen here.” She plans to continue learning to shoot and purchase a handgun when she feels more confident in her abilities.

Phoenix resident Adena Rochelle, 45, who has organized several self-defense events, told JNS that the “atrocities and murderous rampage against Jewish people has caused a major shift in my personality.” Previously, she didn’t broadcast her Jewish identity but now, for the first time, is wearing a necklace with a Star of David. “I am just grateful we live in a state that honors the Second Amendment and that we are allowed to have a gun in Arizona,” she said. She plans to purchase a firearm when she is “properly trained, and when my children know all the safety rules and have taken a class on it as well.” “I want one in my home for self-protection, and I am considering carrying it at all times,” she said.

## Safety?

Don Aguilar, chief of police of the City of Santa Paula, Calif., told JNS that he has seen an increase in women taking self-protection courses. “The gun as personal protection has come to the forefront for women more than I have seen before,” he said. “Prior, it was common for women to attend trainings with pepper spray and taser guns. Now there are more women receiving gun training than I have seen in my 36-year career in law enforcement.”

He did make it a point to say that gun owners “must practice the highest level of safety in securing firearms in their homes.”

## Justification

Arik Wollheim, a rabbi and the cantor at the modern Orthodox congregation Beth Jacob Congregation

in Beverly Hills, Calif., told JNS that the Talmud records that self-defense is justified when a person senses an imminent threat and need not wait until he or she is attacked physically to protect oneself. “The principle is that, ‘The

one who comes to kill you, rise early to kill him,’” Wollheim said. “Individuals have the right to defend themselves and preserve their lives, even if it requires taking the life of the one who poses a threat.”

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# Confused as to what to cook after the seder? Try these recipes!

By PAULA SHOYER  
JNS

## Roasted Eggplant with Bell-Pepper Vinaigrette

(Pareve)

Serves 6-8

**PREP TIME:** 10 minutes

**COOK TIME:** 17 minutes

**ADVANCE PREP:** May be made 2 days in advance; finished dish needs to marinate for 2 hours

**EQUIPMENT:** Cutting board • Knives • Measuring spoons • Pastry brush • Grill or baking pan • Medium frying pan • Tongs • Silicone spatula

**CUTTING PEPPERS:** To cut bell peppers into small dice (cubes), first cut the peppers in half, from the stem end to the bottom, and remove the seeds and white pith. Cut in half again lengthwise. Slice each part the long way into ¼-inch-thick slices. Gather the slices together and cut them across into small cubes. Repeat with the other pepper quarters.

### Ingredients:

- 2 medium eggplants, not peeled, cut into ¾-inch-thick slices
- 5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- ground cumin and turmeric for dusting eggplant
- ½ red pepper, seeded and cut into ¼-inch cubes
- ½ yellow pepper, seeded and cut into ¼-inch cubes
- ½ medium red onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3 tablespoons white or apple cider vinegar
- salt and black pepper

### Directions:

*To prepare the eggplant:*

Preheat the broiler.

Pour 1 tablespoon of the oil on a grill pan or other baking pan and rub to coat. Add the eggplant slices in one layer and brush with another tablespoon of oil. Sprinkle a little cumin and turmeric on top.

Broil for 5 to 7 minutes, or until



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BENNETT KRESS/REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE NEW PASSOVER MENU (STERLING 2013).

### Roasted Eggplant.

browned. Turn over the eggplant slices; sprinkle with some more cumin and turmeric; and add some black pepper. Broil for another 4 to 5 minutes.

Let cool for 3 minutes and then transfer to a serving platter.

*To prepare the peppers and onions:*

Heat 3 tablespoons of the oil in a medium frying pan over medium-high heat. Add the diced red and yellow peppers, and the onions, and cook for 3 minutes. Add the sugar, vinegar, salt and pepper to taste, and cook for 1 minute.

*To assemble the dish:*

Scatter the pepper and onion mixture over the eggplant slices, making sure to place some on top of all the slices, as well as under them. Let the dish marinate for 2 hours or overnight. Serve at room temperature.

## Chocolate Quinoa Cake

(Pareve, Gluten-Free)

Serves 12

I had heard the myth of chocolate cakes made with cooked quinoa and didn't quite believe that they would actually be tasty. This cake is surprisingly moist and delicious—great for Passover and all year round.

**PREP TIME:** 20 minutes



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL MILNE/REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE HEALTHY JEWISH KITCHEN (STERLING 2015).

### Chocolate Quinoa Cake.

**COOK TIME:** 15 minutes to cook quinoa, 50 minutes to bake cake

**ADVANCE PREP:** May be made 3 days in advance or frozen

**EQUIPMENT:** Measuring cups and spoons, small saucepan with lid, 12-cup Bundt pan, food processor, medium microwave-safe bowl or double boiler, silicone spatula, wooden kebab skewer, wire cooling rack, large microwave-safe bowl, whisk

### Ingredients:

- ¾ cup quinoa
- 1½ cups water
- cooking spray
- 2 tablespoons potato starch
- ½ cup orange juice (from 1 orange)
- 4 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract (or other vanilla, if for Passover)
- ¾ cup coconut oil
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 cup dark unsweetened cocoa
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 ounces bittersweet chocolate
- fresh raspberries, for garnish (optional)

### Glaze (Optional)

- 5 ounces (140g) bittersweet chocolate

- 1 tablespoon sunflower or safflower oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract (or other vanilla, if for Passover)

### Directions:

Place the quinoa and water into a small saucepan and bring it to a boil over medium heat. Reduce the heat to low, cover the saucepan, and cook the quinoa for 15 minutes, or until all the liquid has been absorbed. Set the pan aside. The quinoa may be made 1 day in advance.

Preheat the oven to 350° degrees. Use cooking spray to grease a 12-cup Bundt pan. Sprinkle the potato starch over the greased pan and then shake the pan to remove any excess starch.

Place the quinoa in the bowl of a food processor. Add the orange juice, eggs, vanilla, oil, sugar, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Process until the mixture is very smooth.

Melt the chocolate over a double boiler, or place in a medium microwave-safe bowl, and put in a microwave for 45 seconds, stirring and then heating the chocolate for another 30 seconds, until it is melted. Add the chocolate to the quinoa batter and process until well mixed. Pour the batter into the prepared Bundt pan and bake it for 50 minutes, or until a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean.

Let the cake cool for 10 minutes and then remove it gently from the pan. Let it cool on a wire cooling rack.

*To make the glaze:*

Melt the chocolate in a large microwave-safe bowl in the microwave (see above) or over a double boiler. Add the oil and vanilla and whisk well. Let the glaze sit for 5 minutes and then whisk it again. Use a silicone spatula to spread the glaze all over the cake.

*Paula Shoyer is the author of The Healthy Jewish Kitchen, The Holiday Kosher Baker, The Kosher Baker, The New Passover Menu and The Instant Pot Kosher Cookbook.*

## Did DC sell out Israel's deterrence ...

Continued from Page 2

whole week, including in reports by **The Wall Street Journal** and **Bloomberg**. All of Israel was put in hysteria over the upcoming Iranian attack, which anyway benefited Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, pushing from the news his supposed responsibility for October 7.

U.S. coordinated the attack with Iran so that no one would be physically injured or killed. This was achieved thanks to the highly skilled American, Israeli, British and Jordanian air defenses. The Americans played Israel, and are continuing to do so by preventing an Israeli reaction. In fact, they

began the pressure on Israel not to react even before the attack took place. U.S. CENTCOM commander Gen. Michael Kurilla went to Israel on April 13 and pressed for prior coordination of any action by Israel.

Now, President Joe Biden has said it himself: You weren't hurt, they failed. Don't do anything. Don't escalate because you will be dragging us into a war. We protected you and no one was hurt, the answer will be diplomatic. Indeed, almost no one was hurt—but Israel's deterrence was struck down by Washington's coordination with Iran. Israel's deterrence was sold out to save Iran's.

## Was Israel Consulted?

When the ballistic missiles that can reach Tel Aviv from Iran in 12 minutes were delayed, I told friends that it was probably in order to stop for refreshments along the way and that the Americans were going to tell us not to react.

*Al Jazeera*, the Qatari channel aligned with Iran, reported that drones spotted over Aqaba in southern Jordan were continuing on their way to Eilat. Anyone who knows the area knows that drones anywhere in Aqaba could reach Eilat in two minutes, and yet there were no drone bombings in Eilat.

## Don't Be Fooled

Israel's air force, like those of the

United States, United Kingdom and Jordan, did a great job. They had full information about the incoming missiles. Israel got the information from the Americans, who got the information about the what, where and when of the air strikes from the Iranians, enabling an unfathomable 99% interception rate.

But Israel's deterrence was lost, and restoring it will be a painful process because, as the Iranians are threatening, their next attack will *not* be pre-coordinated. The worst thing Israel could do would be to believe that the results of the attack is the best Iran can achieve. They can do far more.

*Originally published by The Middle East Media Research Institute.*

**Metzora**

שבת שלום  
SHABBAT SHALOM

By Rabbi SHLOMO RISKIN

*The Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron saying, "When you come into the Land of Canaan which I give to you as an inheritance and I shall give you the plague of leprosy in the houses of the land of your inheritance."* (Leviticus 14:34)

**EFRAT, Israel**—The disease known as leprosy has engendered dread in the hearts of people, especially in times gone by when it was apparently more widespread and exceedingly contagious. In biblical times, the priests (kohanim) would determine whether a skin discoloration or scab was indeed leprosy — and, if so, the hapless leper would be rendered ritually impure and exiled from society. From the biblical religious perspective, this tzara'at emanated from a serious moral deficiency, generally identified as slander.

**Contaminated Houses?**

A problematic aspect of these laws of tzara'at is the fact that not only individuals, but even walls of houses could become infected by this ritually impure discoloration. Do walls have minds, souls, consciences or moral choices, which allow for punishment? Stranger still, the Bible describes the phenomenon of "leprosy of houses" in almost positive, gift-of-God terms:

*"The Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron saying, "when you come into the Land of Canaan which I give to you as an inheritance and I shall give you the plague of leprosy in the houses of the land of your inheritance." (Leviticus 14:34)*

**A Positive Phenomenon**

How are we to understand this biblical reference to the "divine gift" of the leprosy walls? Third, for individuals, the tzara'at malady is expressed as a

# How can walls of a house be infected by ritually impure discoloration? What does it mean?

white discoloration, whereas for walls, white spots are not at all problematic, the only thing they attest to is mold! Green and red are the dangerous colors for walls (Leviticus 14:36, 37). Why the difference?

Nahmanides, the 12<sup>th</sup> century commentator, who is a champion of the importance of the Land of Israel for the people of Israel, sees the phenomenon of the leprosy walls as an expression of the intensely concentrated moral sensitivity of our holy land: the sanctity of Israel, home of the Divine Presence (Shekhina), cannot abide within its boundaries a home in which slander is spoken. Hence the walls of such a house in Israel will naturally show the effects of words of gossip, which can destroy lives.

Maimonides sees another benefit to the "leprosy of the homes"—an explicit warning to cease and desist from speaking slander: "This is a sign and a wonder to warn people against indulging in malicious speech (lashon hara). If they do recount slanderous tales, the walls of their homes will change; and if the inhabitants maintain their wickedness, the garments upon them will change" (Mishneh Torah, Laws of the Impurity of Tzara'at 16:10).

Rashi suggests a practical application for the "gift of the leprosy walls": "It was a happy tidings for them when the plague (of leprosy) came upon (their homes). This is because the Amorite Canaanites had hidden treasures of gold in the walls of their homes during the 40 years when Israel was in the desert, and because of the leprosy plagues the walls were taken apart and [the treasures] were found" (Rashi, Leviticus 14:34).

**Lessons Of A Home**

I suggest that Rashi's commentary may be given a figurative rather than a literal spin. The walls of a house



*Hyssopus officinalis of the family Lamiaceae as depicted in Dr. Otto Wilhelm Thomé's painting in his book, Flora von Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz 1885, Gera. This herb was part of a biblical prescription for ridding a house and or a person with skin disease of its uncleanness.*

represent a family, the family, which inhabits that house; and every family has its own individual culture and climate, scents and sensitivities, tales and traditions. A house may also represent many generations of families who lived there; the values, faith commitments and lifestyles, which animated those families and constituted their continuity. The sounds, smells and songs, the character, culture and commitments, which are absorbed — and expressed

—by the walls of a house, are indeed a treasure that is worthy of discovery and exploration. The walls of a home impart powerful lessons; hidden in those walls is a significant treasure-trove of memories and messages for the present and future generations. Perhaps it is for this reason that the nation of Israel is called the house of Israel throughout the Bible.

**Treasures In the Walls?**

From this perspective we can now understand the biblical introduction to "house-leprosy." This hidden power of the walls is a present as well as a plague, a gift as well as a curse. Do the walls emit the fragrance of Shabbat challah baking in the oven or the smells of cheap liquor? Are the sounds that seep through the crevices sounds of Torah study, prayer and words of affection, or are they experiences of tale-bearing, porn and anger? The good news inherent in the leprosy of the walls is the potency of family: the very same home environment, which can be so injurious can also be exceedingly beneficial. It all depends upon the "culture of the table" that the family creates and which the walls absorb — and sometimes emit.

With this understanding, it is instructive to note the specific colorations — or discolorations — that render the walls ritually unclean: "And he (the kohen — priest) shall examine the leprosy plague penetratingly embedded in the walls of the house, whether they are bright green or bright red..." (Leviticus 14:37). Can it be that green is identified with money and materialism (yerukim in modern Hebrew, an apt description of American dollars) and red identified with blood

Continued on page 23

**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 trying to help others. I must attend to myself and focus on my needs — and — if I don't serve others, am I truly human?

And Hillel says, Solve this puzzle—now!

The prophets told us the creator 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, abducted, and murdered, we can't do good for anybody!

Our first duty is self-preservation, survival.

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See page 2

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# “Wonder of wonders, miracle of miracles...”

## Gratitude and hope

By MARILYN SHAPIRO

“There can be miracles/When you believe. Though hope is frail, it’s hard to kill”

Stephen Schwarz,  
“Prince of Egypt” soundtrack.

The story of Passover, more than any other Jewish holiday, is all about miracles. A burning bush. A staff that turns into a serpent. Ten plagues, each one worse than the previous one. The parting of the Red Sea. Manna coming down from heaven. Moses receiving the Torah and the commandments.

I have experienced many (of what I consider) miracles in my own life. Meeting my husband Larry at a Purim party over 50 years ago. Holding our son and, three years later, our daughter, in our arms. Seeing flashes of ourselves and our children in our three beautiful grandchildren.

### Mini Miracles Too!

Just this past month, I experienced a mini-miracle. On my 50th birthday, Larry gave me a pair of diamond earrings. Once I had second holes pierced into my ears, I put them on and only took them off to clean them. About 10 years ago, I lost one of them when the backing came off. Six months and one earring replacement later, Larry found it when he swept our garage. I happily chalked it off to an amazing stroke of good fortune.

I thought my luck with miracles had ran out on Friday, March 31. While eating dinner at a restaurant with friends, I suddenly realized that I had lost one of my diamond earrings again.

I had no idea when and where. (Was it in the middle of the night? During an aerobic session at the Palms, our community’s recreation center? Was it while doing laps in the community pool? Or could it have been that evening, walking into the restaurant? Or anytime in the

“Then the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great terror, signs and wonders.”  
Deuteronomy 26:8

last week? When was the last time I felt it on my earlobe?

### Resolve

I made a couple of phone calls to the appropriate places and did a thorough sweep of my house, car, and garage. I then resigned myself to never seeing it again. I tried to be philosophical. “It’s only stuff,” I told myself. Friends had lost their entire house to a fire a year ago and were yet to even have a roof. Other friends had lost spouses and—worse yet—children to illness and accidents and suicide.

I certainly was going to get past a lost earring.

Exactly a week to almost the moment that I felt that empty space on my earlobe, as we members of Congregation Shalom were settling into our seats for the Shabbat services, my phone rang. “Marilyn, this is Anita at the Palms. I want to let you know that we found your earring!” A cleaning person, who was ironically on her last night on the job before moving an hour away, found my earring stuck in her

mop. When I picked it up, the backing was obviously missing and the post was bent. But my diamond was still intact. Luck? No, I consider someone finding my earring—and turning it in to lost and found—a miracle.

### Fate Or Miracle?

Through my writing, I have been able to share stories of other people’s miracles. My great-aunt Lillian Waldman was fired from her job at the Triangle shirtwaist factory a week before a tragic fire snuffed out the lives of 146 garment workers. Born and raised in Bialystok, Poland, Harry Oshinsky faced innumerable obstacles as he navigated a three-year journey over three continents, arriving in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1916.

Along with immigrants’ stories, I also shared miraculous stories from World War II and the Holocaust. United States Army soldier Melvin Weissman survived a plane crash and the subsequent 16 months in a German POW camp, using his knowledge of Yiddish to provide needed information to his fellow prisoners. Galina “Golda” Goldin Gelfer and her father spent two years hiding in a Russian forest with Soviet partisans, living as did the real-life Jews portrayed in the 2008 movie “*Defiance*.” Seven-year-old Estelle Feld Nadel, hours away from being deported to Auschwitz after being captured by Nazis, escaped from a prison cell and found shelter and refuge in the home of Righteous Gentiles. By his own account, Albert Kitmacher credited his survival during the Holocaust with five miracles that snatched him out of the jaws of death. Eva Geringer Schloss, along with her mother, survived Auschwitz/Birkenau and recently held her first great-grandchild.

### Coincidence? Phenomenon?

As I write this, parts of the country are experiencing a total eclipse. Scientists can provide a logical, calculated explanation, but even they were celebrat-

ing this once-in-a-lifetime moment. Dr. Charles Liu, Graduate College/Staten Island, called the totality of the April 8, 2024, event nothing short of a ridiculous coincidence of cosmic proportions. The astrophysicist, an award winning educator who hosts the LIUniverse podcast, offered up on YouTube his own rendition of a Cat Stevens song: “We are going to see a moon shadow, moon shadow, moon shadow. Looking and laughing in a moon shadow.”

Chances are Moses and the Israelites may have experienced a solar eclipse during their wanderings in the desert. According to Space.com, approximately once every 18 months (on average) a total solar eclipse is visible from some place on the Earth’s surface. Did they, like most ancient cultures view it as an omen, a sign of God’s displeasure?

Or did they think it was a miracle, a message from God?

Albert Einstein reportedly said: “There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

No matter what, this Passover, I will hope for more miracles. I hope that my friends who have been diagnosed with terminal cancer will go into complete remission. I hope that scientists will find a way to deal with climate change and global warming.

Most of all, I hope for the miracle of peace in the Middle East and the world. Shalom. Chag Sameach.

*Marilyn Shapiro, formerly of Clifton Park, is now a resident of Kissimmee, Fla. Keep Calm and Bake Challah: How I Survived the Pandemic, Politics, Praterfalls, 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.*



Continued from Page 8

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

**WP to Attend Capital Rep’s “Three Mothers” Premiere**—2 p.m. Capital Repertory Theatre, 251 North Pearl St., Albany. Fictional account of the mothers of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman after their 1964 murders. Talk with playwright Ajene D. Washington following

performance. \$60 p.p. Reg. required. <https://jewishfedny.ticketspice.com/three-mothers>. Info.—518-793-7800.

**Berkshires Holocaust Remembrance**—2-4 p.m. Berkshire Museum, 39 South St. Pittsfield, Mass. Performing artist and lecturer Laura Wetzler will share the music and history of Sephardic and Ashkenazi communities celebrating prewar Jewish life. Concert, candlelighting, prayers. Info.—Rabbi Daven Litwin, 413-442-4360.

**Rohkl Auerbach’s Warsaw Testament with Samuel Kassow**—2-3 p.m. Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West St. Amherst, Mass. Also on Zoom. Noting publication of Kassow’s translation of Auerbach’s Warsaw Testament. Reg., Info.—413-256-4900, pro-

grams@yiddishbookcenter.org .

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

**WP Bouquets For Bubbies**—7 p.m. The Jewish Federation, 164 Washington Ave. Ext. Women’s Philanthropy to arrange flowers and cards for Daughters of Sarah residents. \$20. Res. by 5/3. Info., Res—518-783-7900.

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

**Beth Emeth Mah Jongg Tournament**—9 a.m.-4 p.m., play begins 9:30. 100 Academy Rd., Albany. Pick the level: Tournament with timed games and cash prizes or relaxed play. Reg.—www.BethEmethAlbany.org. Info.—518-436-9761, Andrea@CBEAlbany.org.

### MONDAY, MAY 13

**Yom Hazikaron Commemoration, Yom Ha’Atzmaut Celebration**—6:30—8:30 p.m. GE Theatre of Proctors, 432 State St., Schenectady. Izzy Ezagui, IDF soldier, and Judah Gavra, Israeli singer/songwriter to entertain. Tekes Ma’avar ceremony. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern N.Y. and Israel Bonds. \$10 in advance, \$15 at door. Info.—518-783-7800. Reg. <https://jewishfedny.ticketspice.com/israel-76>.

### SUNDAY, MAY 19

**Ohav Shalom Shomrei Habayit Brunch**—11 a.m.—1 p.m. Ohav Shalom Synagogue, 113 New Krumkill Rd., Albany. Several of the congregation’s volunteers to be honored. Info.—518-527-1163.



# Judaica collector gives some pointers to the University of Virginia

By MENACHEM WECKER

JNS

Clay Barr's husband Jay D. A. Barr had been ill for "quite a long time" when she brought him home in early 1994. "There was no more to be done, and I'm pacing around thinking this wonderful 57-year-old man needs to have some memorial so his name will keep being spoken," she told JNS. "In the Jewish religion, if your name is spoken, you're not completely gone."

Then she remembered that he had given two antique Torah pointers—or yads in Hebrew—that he bought at Sotheby's that January to their congregation, Congregation Beth El in Norfolk, Va. The Conservative shul traces its origins back to 1850 and also was where her husband had his bar mitzvah.

## Fascination With Hands

"He loved the hand in art. So it seemed, 'Aha!' I had an epiphany," Barr told JNS. "This is what I'll do to memorialize him. It will be 30 years come the second of July that he died. This has been a dedication of 30 years so far. Hopefully, I'll hang around and make it a lot longer."

As it approaches the three-decade mark since her husband died, Barr, who is in her early 80s, has gifted a minimum of 150 Torah yads, or hand-shaped pointers, to the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Torah pointers enable the reader (ba'al koreh) to follow along in the scroll without touching the parchment, which is religiously anathema.

## History Of Embellishments

For centuries, yads were made of silver and adorned with baroque embellishments. Barr's collection includes pointers that date back some 325 years. She owns one with a ruby ring dated around 1700; an Italian pointer likely made in the 17th or 18th century; a 1789 German

wood yad with three movable spheres; and an 18th-century Dutch silver one.

She's particularly proud of one by an English artist. "Hester Bateman to this day is the most renowned English woman silversmith. She inherited her husband's business on his death—ran it for 20 years, in which time she made about 1,000 pieces," Barr said of Bateman (c. 1709-94).

"She made teapots. She made bowls. She made creamers. She never made anything for outside the home," Barr added. "How

she ever happened to make a Torah pointer, how I was ever lucky enough to see it at auction and get it, it's just remarkable. That's from 1781."

The New York auction house Kestenbaum & Company, which sold a Bateman Torah pointer for \$5,000 on June 25, 2015, tells the story a little differently. It dates the pointer, which it says "perfectly demonstrates Bateman style," to 1778 and notes that Bateman made George III silver Torah finials for England's Great Portsmouth synagogue, which Christie's sold for a little more than \$300,000 in 1999, and a 1781 silver Shabbat hanging lamp now at the Yeshiva University Museum.

## Contemporary Pointers

Barr told JNS that the bulk of her energy and interest has been devoted to commissioning contemporary artists to make new Torah pointers. "That excites me," she said.

"We all have things that please us, and certainly contemporary pleases me more at this point than antiquity, though I was raised with antiquity," Barr said.

## Concrete, Legos, skateboard

As a collector, Barr is very interested in materials, and she has hired artists to

create Torah pointers out of things that would have surely astounded the Jews who used the silver ceremonial objects in the 18th century, which form the

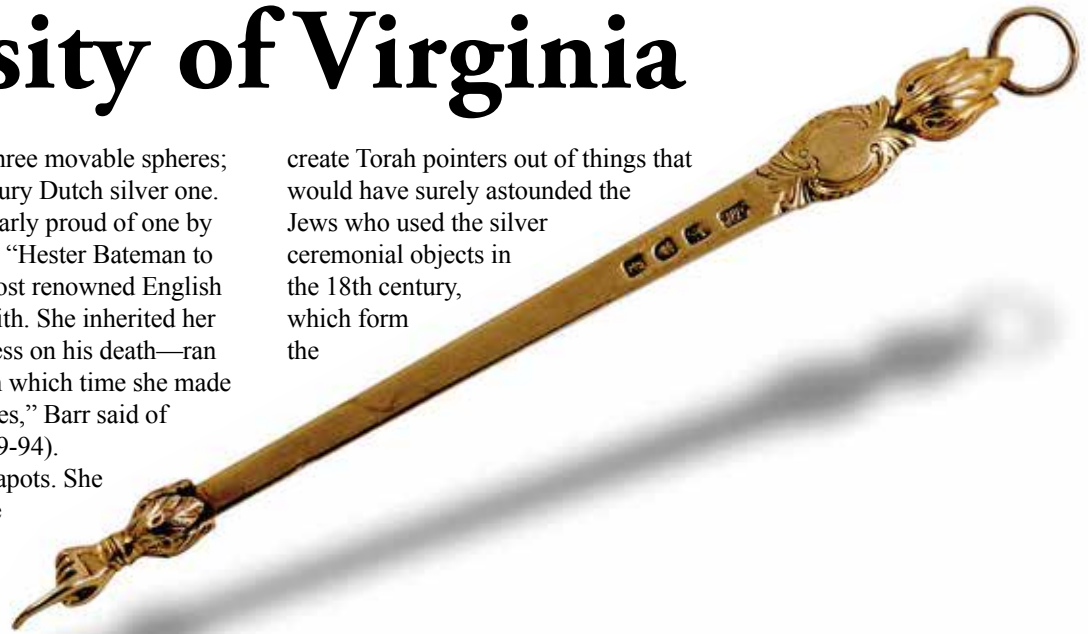


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRALIN MUSEUM OF ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

*Torah pointer (yad) by Hester Bateman (1781). Barr Foundation collection.*

chronological beginning of her collection.

Barr's father worked in the concrete business, so Barr commissioned the Israeli designer Marit Meisler to create a cast concrete yad. Barr's grandson made a Torah pointer out of a toilet paper roll and a chopstick, which "has caused a sensation," she told JNS. And she recently received a yad she commissioned out of Legos.

"It's certainly not the most gorgeous

in the collection, but this is just to show this is what that man works in," she said.

In 2004, Barr hired Wendell Castle to make a silver and stained-walnut Torah pointer that lies on a hand, made of foam board and painted with acrylic, which rests on a rosewood and maple wood table. When the furniture maker and sculptor in Emporia, Kan., died in 2018 at age 85, *The New York Times* described him as a "whimsical

**Continued on page 18**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MENACHEM WECKER.

*Torah pointers (yads) on view at the Jewish Museum in New York City.*

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## Judaica collector gives some pointers ...

Continued from Page 17

designer who coaxed wood into weird, mind-bending shapes that blurred the boundary between serviceable furniture and fine art.”

“He’s this great famous man, and I’m talking to him like I’m talking to you. He was easy to talk to,” Barr told JNS. “We went back and forth over a year, and he finally said, ‘I’m a furniture maker. I’m going to make a table. I’ll put a hand on it. And we’ll put a Torah pointer.’ I said, ‘Great, Wendell. Go.’”

Four years beforehand, Barr commissioned Orthodox Jewish N.Y. artist Tobi Kahn—whose work, in part, is among the collections of the Guggenheim Museum, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Phillips Collection (Washington, D.C.), Minneapolis Institute of Art and Yale University Art Gallery—to make a pointer.

Barr met Kahn at a dinner party, and he invited her to his studio one Sunday in Queens. She saw a table full of stuff that he had found out on walks. “I picked up three pieces from nature and put them together and I said, ‘OK, Tobi. Make me a Torah pointer,’” Barr said. “If you look at it, there are three very distinct pieces from nature that he put together, and I think it’s wonderful.”

She also admits to being a “little addicted” to the work of jewelry maker Tom Herman—whose company is called “Seven Fingers” because he lost three in

a childhood accident—and owns four of his Torah pointers. She also has a Torah pointer made out of her grandson’s broken skateboard by Norfolk artist Spencer Tinkham. (It’s shaped like a rabbit.)

“I had no idea skateboards were so beautiful,” Barr told JNS.

### ‘Meaningful Tribute’

Barr’s gift, which is also supported by the Barr Foundation, is “the first major gift of Judaica in the university’s history,” according to the University of Virginia. The gift includes funding to “preserve the collection and support related staff as well as educational programming and touring of the objects,” per the university, which notes that the late Barr earned undergraduate and law degrees from the school.

“This meaningful tribute includes support for the collection and provides educational programming,” James Ryan, president of the University of Virginia, stated in February. “I look forward to an exciting initial exhibit in 2025.”

Abby Schwartz, curatorial consultant and director emerita at the Skirball Museum in Cincinnati, told JNS that it was of “special interest” to the museum to show Barr’s collection—it’s show continues to July 28—“because it reflects such a wide range of artistic excellence.”

“There are no specifications for materials or style or size in the making of To-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRALIN MUSEUM OF ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

**Torah pointer by Wendell Castle. Silver and stained walnut; hand: sign foam and acrylic paint; table: rosewood, maple wood. 8 in. high. (2004). Barr Foundation collection.**

rah pointers. What results is dazzling,” Schwartz said. “Not to mention the historic importance of this remarkable collection: wooden and silver yads from the 18th century on one hand and pointers made of paper, glass and found objects made very recently on the other—a testament to the enduring art of the guiding hand that brings humankind in connection with Torah.”

Barr’s husband had been wanted to own a sculpted hand by Auguste Rodin, but Barr told JNS. “I never managed.” “Even when he looked at portraits, he’d say, ‘Oh, look how wonderfully’ or how ‘badly’” the hands were depicted, she said. “He just seemed to gravitate toward the hand in art. It was something he was always cognizant of.”

She began by emulating her husband’s collecting, by going to antique stores, including a “lovely” Judaica dealer “right down from Trump Tower on 56th Street in New York.” She “fell in love” with three Torah pointers and bought them, and went “right to Moriah” every time she went to New York and would “find something that I couldn’t resist.” (Moriah Galleries closed in 2015 after six decades.)

“At some point, it just dawned on me that the Judaica that is made today is far from superior, as rightly as I can put it, and maybe I can make a difference. And I have,” she said. “It’s no question that I have turned a lot of people on to what a Torah pointer is.”

At a recent craft show in Baltimore, she asked people if they knew what a Torah pointer is. “They usually say, ‘A what?’” she said. “I explain, ‘In the Jewish religion, we read from a scroll. It’s called a Torah, and it has no punctuation. It’s just almost impossible, so you need something to guide your eye to protect the sacred parchment.’”

Barr, who can’t read Hebrew but says she has the letter aleph “down pat,” reads transliterated blessings when she is called up to the Torah for an *aliyah*. She grew up—and has spent her whole life—in Norfolk with a “devout” atheist father and a mother who “was so in awe of him.” Sunday Reform Jewish school was “so boring,” she said. “We drew pictures of trees. It was so ridiculous.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FRALIN MUSEUM OF ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.

**Torah pointer by Spencer Tinkham. Rabbit pointer made from skateboard. 2021. Barr Foundation collection.**

She says Judaism’s after-death rituals turned her on to faith. “The torn piece of cloth. The candle. All those sorts of things were so comforting,” she said. “I think that’s when I became a Jew—as a widow, at 53.” She went to Israel for the first time in 1985 when she was 44. “You can’t go there and not be spellbound by what an amazing country it is,” she said.

### Money For Israel

She offered the collection to her hometown museum—the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk—but the director only wanted seven or eight, and she was loath to split the collection up. “That meant nothing to me. What’s the impact?” she said. “If you take the seven best, it diminishes the collection.”

Barr was in the process of setting up a fund for collecting Judaica at the Chrysler, with a meeting scheduled for Oct. 9—two days after the Hamas terrorist attacks in southern Israel. “We sort of tabled that,” she said. “Money’s going to Israel for things other than collecting Judaica at this point.”

So the collection is headed to the University of Virginia, where her late husband was in the last year of law school when they married. “We started our marriage in Charlottesville,” Barr said. “They will have it, but I have provided funding for a part time staff person

**Continued on page 22**

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Monday, April 29  
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# Why is this Passover in Israel different? Financial prudence: A family planning guide

By ANNA PRI-ZAN  
JNS

As Passover swiftly approaches (April 22), this year's observance is poised to be distinct from previous years for a substantial portion of the Israeli population, primarily due to the Oct. 7 Hamas invasion, which led to the war in Gaza and in the north with its widespread impact on numerous families across diverse sectors.

This situation underscores the critical need for financial planning. Presented below are recommendations for family financial management in preparation for Passover in Israel, highlighting the necessity of such planning.

## Budget Definition

Setting up a comprehensive budget for the holiday is advised, taking into account all foreseen expenses such as food, attire, gifts, the extent and manner of hosting, and entertainment.

## Meal Planning

Advance planning of meals and compiling a detailed shopping list are recommended strategies. Electing to prepare traditional dishes at home instead of purchasing pre-made options can significantly reduce expenses. Price comparisons across different supermarkets and disciplined shopping are advocated for cost efficiency.

## Gift Planning

Setting a predetermined budget for gifts and adhering to it is suggested. Creative and low-cost gift options, such as baking cookies or crafting, are recommended. Promoting a gift exchange culture among family members and friends can also contribute to managing expenses.

## Hosting Strategy

For hosts, determining the guest count beforehand and planning meals accordingly is crucial for logistical and financial preparedness.

## Activity Selection

Seeking out free or discounted activities, such as nature trails, museum visits or park outings, is advised to provide economical entertainment options



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATI SHOCHAT/FLASH90.

Seder night at Mishmar David, located between Ashdod and Jerusalem, April 5, 2023.

during the holiday season.

## Ongoing Savings

The importance of allocating funds

towards savings during the holiday period cannot be overstated. It's essential to remember that Passover is but one holiday in the calendar year, and

long-term financial goals should not be sidelined.

Originally published by Israel Hayom.

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# Family Court Judge Jill Polk seeks re-election in Schenectady County

Jill Polk of Niskayuna is seeking a second term as Schenectady County Family Court Judge, a position she has served in since Jan. 1, 2015. Her name will appear on the ballot in the June 25 Democratic primary.

Judge Polk, a Democrat, has lived in Schenectady County for over 25 years, 21 of those in Niskayuna, where she raised her daughter, Isabella. She is a 19-year member of Congregation Gates of Heaven, where her daughter was bat mitzvah.

Speaking recently about her experience, Judge Polk said, “I have presided over more than 13,000 matters, changed court protocol to be more humane and sensitive to families’ time and needs, created and implemented new programs to help youths find more constructive paths, and I continue to promote diversity.”

As a board member of the state Fam-

ily Court Judges Association, she meets with legislators and administrative judges to secure resources to strengthen family courts. “I have been advocating for supervised visitation programs, increased mental health services, a child-care center on site and a new facility for Family Court,” she said.

Judge Polk’s 36 years of experience includes 28 years as a family court attorney, 14 years as an attorney for children in Schenectady County, and 8 years on the board of the NYS Family Court Judges Association.

Judge Polk noted that “family court often deals with the most intimate and vulnerable aspects of people’s lives, which points to the importance of putting families first.”

*The Jewish World has a commercial relationship with Judge Polk’s campaign.*



JUDGE JILL POLK

## Egypt is in the Haggadah...

Continued from Page 7

ern scholarship questions whether the text, in the collection of Berlin’s Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection, actually references Passover.)

### “A Second Exodus”

The establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948 and the rise of

pan-Arab nationalism under Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser brought an end to Jewish life in Egypt. In 1950, the government began confiscating Jewish property, though many Jews, who had established livelihoods around the Suez Canal, remained.

Gabbai, the rabbi and cantor in Philadelphia, recalls attending at-capac-

ity Shabbat morning services at Cairo’s Sha’ar Hashamayim Synagogue in the early 1960s. (The shul was founded in 1899.)

In June of 1967, with the onset of the Six-Day War, Gabbai and his older brothers were rounded up with the rest of the Jewish men in Egypt and sent to detention camps. When he was finally released three years later, he was taken directly to the airport.

“Nasser made life unbearable,”

Gabbai told JNS. “We needed a second exodus.”

Two bloody wars and a long “cold peace” later, relations between Egypt and Israel have warmed as the two reportedly cooperate in some ways against Hamas.

For Gabbai, however, the lessons of the Bible and modern history are clear. “The hatred of the Jews is still ongoing,” he warns. “One day or another, your freedom can be taken away.”

# HAPPY PASSOVER!

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**Monday, April 22, 5:30 PM**

**852 Ashmore Ave., Schenectady**

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## JWV Post 106 notes Vietnam Veterans



COURTESY PHOTO.

From left, Post 106 Commander Gene Altman, Jason Lefton, Past Albany Post 105 Commander Gary Hoffmann, Post 106 Vice Commander Karl Auerbach and John Gold.

**SCHENECTADY**— Members of the Jewish War Veterans Schenectady Post 106 joined with other veterans in the community on March 29 to acknowledge National Vietnam War Veterans Day at the Schenectady County Vietnam Veterans War memorial at the Schenectady Community College.

The Vietnam War Recognition Act of 2017 designates every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The Department of Veteran Affairs estimates that today there are over 7 million U.S. Vietnam Veterans living stateside and abroad, along with nearly 10 million families of those who served.

## Hebrew Academy 2024 Gala to focus on community connections to Israel

The Hebrew Academy of the Capital District (HACD) will note the Capital District community’s connections to Israel as part of its “Keshet L’Yisrael” (Connection to Israel) Gala, on Tuesday, June 4, at Temple Israel, 600 New Scotland Ave., Albany. Doors will open at 6 p.m. The program will feature an Israeli buffet dinner, an opportunity to share personal connections to Israel, as well as a raffle to win a pair of tickets to Israel.

“We’re using this gala event to focus on two things,” remarked Sandra Goldmeier, executive director. “First is the importance of having a place where any Jewish student can gain both excellent Jewish and general studies education. The second is our community’s connection to Israel.”

According to organizers, the HACD has always had a strong connection to Israel.

### Sharing Experiences

Goldmeier said, “Whether its teachers and students who used to live in Israel, families from HACD who make aliyah, alumni serving in the IDF, programs with our partner region in Eshkol, or our many students and graduates who visit or study in Israel, there is no question that HACD is proud of our strong Israel connections. But the connection to Israel goes far beyond HACD in the Capital District, and HACD feels that this should be an opportunity for the entire community to come together. Therefore, to highlight the many connections the entire Capital District community has to Israel, we are inviting everyone to share their Kesharim, connections.”

Community members may go online

to [www.hacdalbany.org/gala](http://www.hacdalbany.org/gala) and share their connections.

This will include any time individuals, or a family member or loved one has:

- Made aliyah
- Served in the IDF or Sherut Leumi (National Service), including as a Lone Soldier
- Studied in Israel for a gap year or yeshiva program
- Spent time living in Israel
- Directed an educational program based in Israel
- Experienced tragedy or loss from war or terror in Israel

At the gala, boards with all the names provided listed will be featured.

There will also be an opportunity for attendees to bring photographs of their loved ones. to the gala.

### Fund-raising For Israel Too

In addition to raising funds for the Hebrew Academy, the gala will also donate money toward four important Israeli causes:

- 1) Magen David Adom
- 2) Michael Levin Lone Soldier Foundation
- 3) Kibbutz Nachal Oz (where one of our teachers lost her brother on 10/7)
- 4) A directed donation to the Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY to support the youth program partnership with Eshkol in memory of Judy Weinstein

The goal is to send \$5,000 to Israel. If the fund-raising target of \$55,000 is surpassed, HACD will donate 10% of all additional funds raised.

Goldmeier at [sgoldmeier@hacdalbany.org](mailto:sgoldmeier@hacdalbany.org) can provide details.

## N.Y. Attorney General warns Jews to be cautious of discriminatory practices ahead of Passover

**NEW YORK CITY**— New York Attorney General Letitia James has issued a consumer alert urging New Yorkers to be careful of potential discriminatory pricing practices at car washes in the days leading up to Passover and warning businesses that this practice is illegal. This year and in previous years, there have been reports of car wash businesses in predominantly Orthodox Jewish communities in New York City and the Hudson Valley raising prices for Jewish customers seeking cleaning services close to Passover.

In the days leading up to Passover, many Jews clean their homes, cars, and other spaces to remove “chametz” (leavened products). According to reports provided to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), some companies have



LETITIA JAMES

advertised “specials” for car washing services related to Passover, but instead, charged higher prices to Jewish customers. Under New York law, it is illegal to discriminate against someone on the basis of religion.

Anyone who is aware of businesses using discriminatory practices or believes that they were charged more for services because of their religion, race, or background is encouraged to file a complaint online or call 1-800-771-7755.

## Pesach seders slated by Colonie Chabad

**ALBANY**—Colonie Chabad will host community Passover seders on Monday and Tuesday, April 22 and 23. Both will be held at 401 Loudon Rd., Loudonville. The first night seder will start 7:15 p.m. and the second seder begins at 7:30 p.m.

Rabbi Mordechai Rubin of Colonie Chabad, said, “limited spaces are available, No one will be turned away due to lack of funds, but admission is generally

charged for the full course seder dinners.” Information and required reservations may be obtained by contacting the rabbi and his wife Chana Rubin at [chaicentercolonie@gmail.com](mailto:chaicentercolonie@gmail.com) or 518-368-7886.

The rabbi also suggested that those interested in handmade Shmurah Matzah for the holiday contact him to place an order.

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[jnf.org/wficr](http://jnf.org/wficr)



Your Voice in Israel



## Obituaries

**SIMON FREEDMAN**

75, of Schenectady, April 10, 2024; survived by brother Michael (Elissa) Freedman.

**HILDA SCHWARTZ**

95, of April 10, 2024; widow of Moe Schwartz; survived by daughters Roslyn Winston, Diane (David) Gellman and Paula (Betty) Segal; and sons Jeffrey (Patti), Schwartz, Scott (Michele) Schwartz.

*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*

## Judaica collector gives some pointers ...

Continued from Page 18

to make sure that it keeps traveling. I don't want it to stay in the basement."

Beyond the 150 promised to the university, Barr has about 75 more. She told JNS that she talked with 11 artists at

a recent Baltimore craft show, so the collection appears poised to keep growing.

While she acknowledges being tempted by other isolated Judaica works at auctions, she plans to collect nothing else seriously beyond Torah pointers. "This is a memorial," she said.

**Friday, April 19, 10, Nissan.** Shabbat candle lighting at 7:24 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20, 11, Nissan. Sedrah: Metzora.** Shabbat ends at 8:26 p.m.

**Monday, April 22, 14, Nissan.** Chametz may be eaten until 10:15 a.m. Candle-lighting is at 7:28 p.m. **Passover Eve. First seder.**

**Tuesday, April 23, 15 Nissan.** Candlelighting after 8:32 p.m. **Second seder.**

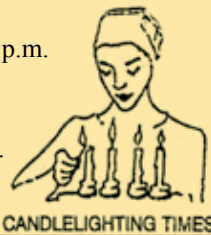
**Friday, April 26, 18, Nissan.** Shabbat candle lighting at 7:32 p.m.

**Saturday, April 27, 19, Nissan.** Shabbat ends at 8:37 p.m.

**Sunday, April 28, 20, Nissan.** Candlelighting at 7:35 p.m.

**Monday April 29, 21, Nissan.** Candlelighting after 8:40 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 30, 22, Nissan. Yizkor.** Passover ends at 8:41 p.m.

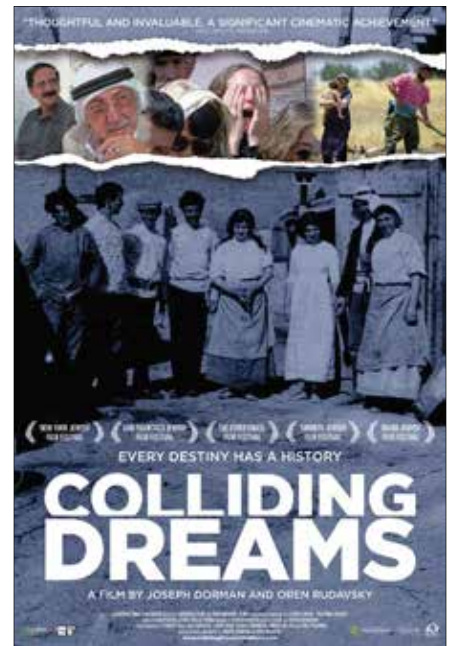


## 'Colliding Dreams,' a documentary about Zionism to be focus of SJCA's Zoom panel

**SARATOGA SPRINGS**—Saratoga Jewish Community Arts (SJCA) will present a panel discussion of the 2015 documentary "Colliding Dreams" by American filmmakers Joseph Dorman and Oren Rudavsky on Sunday, April 28, at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

According to organizers, and filmmakers, "Colliding Dreams" relates Zionism's history, often considered a controversial and relevant political ideology. The Zionist idea of a homeland for Jews in the land of ancient Israel remains little understood and its meanings are often distorted. The film suggests that Jews and Arabs both believed that, at the end of World War I, the land, then called Palestine, would be theirs. Jews worked for and cited the Balfour Declaration while Arabs asserted promises made by Britain on the condition they would fight alongside the Allies against the Turks. Does today's strife find its roots in these seemingly conflicting promises?

"What does the future hold— what's the solution?" asks Phyllis Wang, coordinator of SJCA. "We hear all the time, 'it's complicated.' That perspective shows an awareness of the countless interlocking pieces in this history—



and offers little guidance or a route to resolution."

"Colliding Dreams" can be viewed free of charge on Kanopy (registration with a library card required). It may also be rented from Apple, Google Play and YouTube.

Registration for the panel discussion may be obtained on [www.saratogajewishculturalfestival.org](http://www.saratogajewishculturalfestival.org).

## Preparation underway for the Shalom Food Pantry's annual 'Battle of the BBQs' fund-raiser



*A steering committee has been formed for the "Battle of the BBQs" June 30 program. The committee comprises of, from left, Rabbi Zalman Simon, Adam Rosen, Jessica Richer, Lauren Iselin. Chanie Simon and not pictured Peter Rosenfeld.*

"We are thrilled to announce the formation of the steering committee for the "Battle of the BBQs" event," said Chanie Simon, co-director of the Shalom Food Pantry. "This event is not just about showcasing culinary prowess; it's about rallying our community behind a cause."

The "Battle of the BBQs" event on Sunday, June 30 will feature competition among local barbecue teams, live music and family-friendly activities. Through sponsorships, ticket sales, and donations, the event aims to raise significant funds to bolster the operations of the Shalom Food Pantry and ensure that no one in this community goes hungry, according to Simon.

The Pantry combats food insecurity in the Capital Region by providing food and necessities for those who struggle to make ends meet. With the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic and other economic factors, the demand for the food pantry services has surged, according to Simon.

As the fund-raiser preparations kick into high gear, the steering committee invites businesses, organizations, and individuals alike to join in to support the event.

Information about the Battle of the BBQs may be obtained on the website, [www.ShalomFoodPantry.com/bbqbattle](http://www.ShalomFoodPantry.com/bbqbattle) or by contacting [chanie@shalomfoodpantry.com](mailto:chanie@shalomfoodpantry.com).



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## Iz Visions A Look at Pesach 5784



May the Light of Peace Burst Forth . . .  
**HAPPY PESACH!**

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## From one coast to the other ...

Continued from Page 5

Remove cake from oven. Immediately drizzle about one-third of the glaze over the cake in the pan. Allow to sit for 5 minutes. Invert the cake onto a serving plate. Prick the surface about 100 times (gently please).

Slowly drizzle the remaining glaze all over allowing it to drip down the sides. Cool at room temperature before serving.

### Passover Chocolate-Chip Kamish Bread

(Dairy or Pareve)  
Makes 36 cookies

#### Ingredients:

- 2¾ cups matzah cake meal
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup potato starch
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter or margarine at room temperature
- 2 cups sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips (may add some pistachios)
- cinnamon sugar to sprinkle (optional)

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line two sheet pans with parchment paper. In a medium bowl whisk together cake meal, salt and potato starch. Set aside.

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually add the cake meal mixture, mixing well. Stir in the chocolate chips.

With wet hands, form dough into four

loaves, each about 12 inches long. Place two of them a good size apart from each other on each baking sheet.

Bake in preheated oven for 45 minutes or until just turning golden brown. Cool for around 15 minutes and then slice about three-quarters inches wide. May sprinkle with cinnamon sugar.

Return to oven and bake until golden brown on all sides.

### Sweet Passover Cookies

(Dairy or Pareve)  
Makes 24-30

#### Ingredients:

- 6 matzahs
- ½ cup of sliced almonds (optional)
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 large-rimmed cookie sheets with foil, dull side up. Cover with matzahs in one layer breaking to fit. Sprinkle with almonds. Set aside.

Melt butter or margarine in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir in the brown sugar and vanilla. Mix well.

Spoon over the matzahs, spreading to cover. Make sure almost equal amounts of melted butter or margarine, and the sugar, are spooned over top.

Bake in preheated oven for 8 minutes. Cool completely, then break apart into desired-sized pieces.

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

## Bat Mitzvah



He loves to hang out with friends and travel with family.

**LEVI GERMAN**, son of Luba Yafayeva, will be bar mitzvah on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Beth Emeth in Albany.

Maternal grandmother is Polina Polotskaya from Arad, Israel.

Paternal grandparents are Anatoly and Klara German of Colonie.

Levi swims competitively and plays saxophone in his school's band and in jazz band. Levi received a character award from his school last summer.

Levi loves to hang out with his friends, play Fortnite, travel with family, and play with his dog.



**NATHANIEL LERNER**, son of Diane and Matthew Lerner, of Slingerlands, will be bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Beth Emeth in Albany.

Maternal grandparents are Marilyn and Curt Auerbach of Clifton Park.

Paternal grandmother is Debbie Lerner, of Staten Island. The late Richard Lerner was paternal grandfather.

Nate's interests include tennis, golf, and drawing. Family is important to Nate and he enjoys playing board games and cards with his grandparents and aunt. Nate is a teen aide at the CBE Religious School and has also volunteered his time at the Pruyn House.

**DREW LERNER**, son of Diane and Matthew Lerner, of Slingerlands, will be bar mitzvah on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Beth Emeth in Albany.

Maternal grandparents are Marilyn and Curt Auerbach of Clifton Park.

Paternal grandmother is Debbie Lerner, of Staten Island. The late Richard Lerner was paternal grandfather.

Drew loves playing baseball and golf. Family is important to Drew and he enjoys playing board games and cards with his grandparents and aunt. Drew helps the younger kids at summer baseball camp and has also volunteered his time at the Pruyn House.



## How can walls of a house ...

Continued from Page 15

and violence? A home which imparts materialistic goals as the ideal and/or insensitivity to the shedding of blood—remember that our sages compared slander or character assassination to the shedding of blood—is certainly deserving of the badge of impurity!

Finally, Rashi suggested that there was an Amorite-Canaanite treasure, which the inhabitants placed in the walls of their homes in Israel while the Israelites dallied in the desert rejecting the divine challenge of the conquest of Israel. Might not this interpretation be suggesting that the indigenous seven

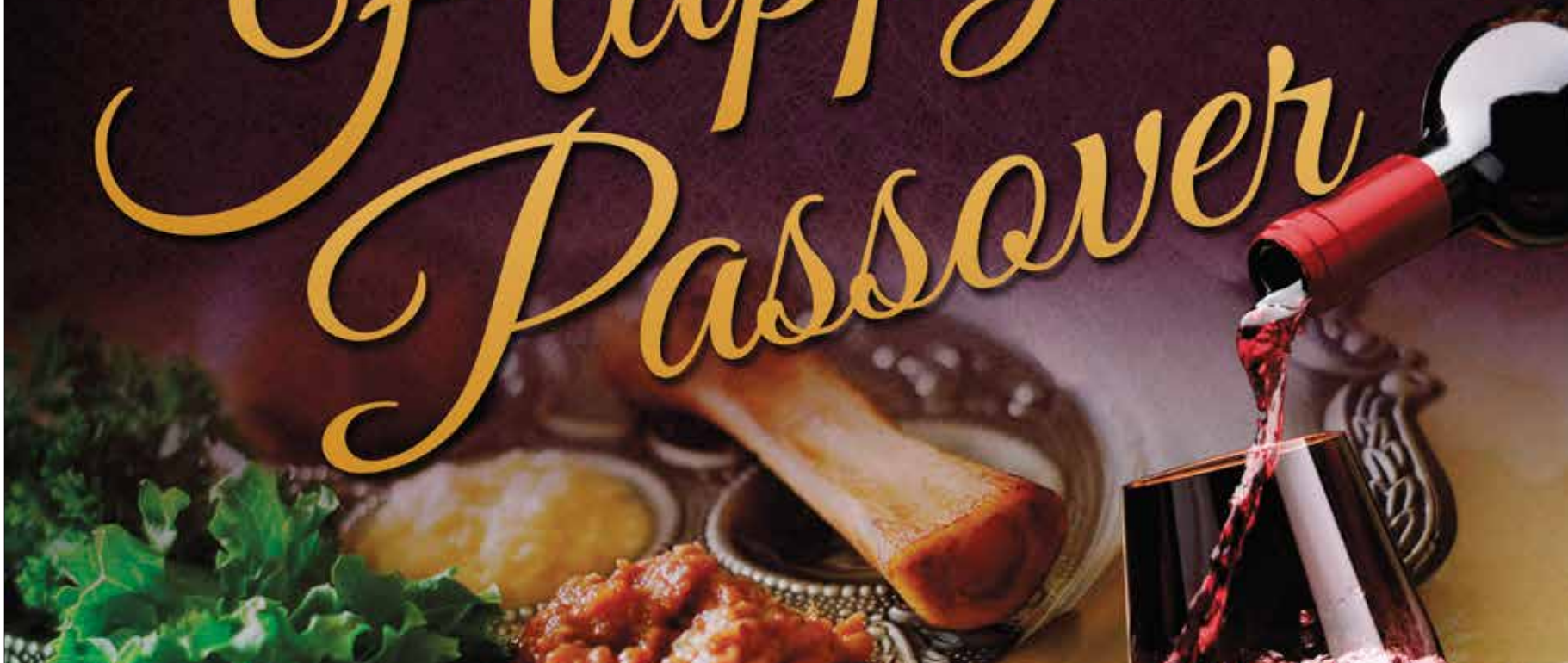
nations, do indeed have a treasure that they impart to the children through the walls of the houses? This treasure is the belief that the land is important, that the connection to the land is cardinal for every nation, which claims a homeland and respects its past. The land must be important enough to fight and even die for, since it contains the seed of our eternity; only those committed to their past deserve to enjoy a blessed future.

**Shabbat Shalom.**

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

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