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East Brunswick Public Library Hosts “The Jews of Tsarist Russia and Bessarabia Before the Holocaust” Program

By CHRIS BARNES, EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY
March 15, 2018 at 12:28 PM



A Jewish man in Kishinev in 1900.
Credits: Wikipedia



EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ - East Brunswick Public Library (2 Jean Walling Civic Center) presents the fifth installment in the series “The Jews of Eastern Europe *Before* The Holocaust” on April 8 at 2:30 pm.

“The intent of the series is to bring to light the legacy of my Jewish ancestors, prior to their annihilation during the Shoah,” said Dr. Michael G. Kesler, producer of the event. Since his retirement in 2006, Kesler has written extensively of his and his late wife’s experiences during World War II.

This is the final annual program of a series on the history, culture, and music of Eastern European Jewry *before* the Holocaust. The series examines Tsarist Russia, where most of the six million victims of the *Shoah* came from. It is also where at least three-quarters of American Jews trace their origin. Tsarist Russia did, in fact, serve as the incubator of traditional Judaism as well as of the blossoming growth of the more liberal movements during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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The series’ mission has been to save whatever could be rescued from the ashes of the *Shoah*, including Yiddish, an offshoot of Germanic dialect that spread throughout European and American Jewry as a *lingua franca*. It became the language of writers, poets, and educators, as well as of Jewish communities.

Previous annual programs have presented the history and culture of the Jews of Ukraine, the Jews of Poland, the Jews of Russia, and the Jews of Belarus and the Baltic States. They have attracted full-house audiences of over 200 attendees.

This year’s program highlights Bessarabia, the swath of Tsarist Russia sandwiched between the Ukraine and Romania near the Black Sea, in the 19th and early 20th centuries. During that period the Jews increased five-fold their population and established an important presence in the main cities, where they accounted for approximately 40% of the inhabitants. They enriched their religious, cultural, and social lives, providing fertile soil for the growth of Hasidic dynasties, Zionism, Jewish culture and music, and the Jewish press. At the same time, they became important partners in Bessarabia’s mercantile, manufacturing, and professional life.

A distinguished historian, Professor Glenn Dynner, Chair of Humanities at Sarah Lawrence College in Westchester, New York, will present the history of the region. Dr. Tamara Freeman, an ethnomusicologist, noted Holocaust music educator, and violist, will lead the program’s selections of



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EVENTS

Tue, May 29, 7:00 pm
New Brunswick
New Jersey's Environment - A Pivotal Moment: an evening with Jeff Tittel, NJ Sierra Club Director

ELECTIONS



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traditional and classical compositions, with pianist/composer David Schlossberg. A cadre of accomplished artists will join Tamara and David: Dr. Michael Kesler, a petroleum engineer and former cantor of JCCP (tenor); Dr. Susan Hornstein, an Information Architect of computer systems and director of the Central New Jersey chapter of HaZamir, the International Jewish High School Choir (alto); Deborah Gerber, an educator and long-time member of Makhelat HaMerkaz (vocalist); Dr. David Simen received his PhD in Mathematics from the University of Michigan and is a member of Makhelat HaMerkaz (baritone); Steven White, a tenor of the Makhelat HaMerkaz; Donna Messer, founder and guiding spirit of the Highland Park Recorder Society (recorder player); Korina Kesler, high-school junior and member of the Westchester County Symphony Orchestra (violinist); and May Kesler, founder of Keslerdances, a contemporary dance company, and featured artist in "Dance Across the USA" (dancer).

Jennifer Podolsky (Director of East Brunswick Public Library), Rabbi Esther Reed (Senior Associate Director of Hillel at Rutgers University) and Rabbi Jeff Pivo (East Brunswick Jewish Center) will offer opening remarks. Dr. Barbara Reed of Rutgers University will recite one of Chaim Nachman Bialik's famous poems.

The program is sponsored by the East Brunswick Public Library, the Karma Foundation, the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey, and the East Brunswick Jewish Center.

Welcome to TAP into East Brunswick's weekly update of news and events from the East Brunswick Public Library. These columns are brought to you by Christopher Barnes, the voice of EBPL's online outreach.

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Elections 2018: Your East Brunswick Primary Ballot



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The Queen of the Big Time by Adriana Trigiani (Ballentine Books, 2005)



By BETH MORONEY
May 25, 2018

The Queen of the Big Time by Adriana Trigiani, a New York Times best selling author, was recommended to me by a young woman who actually came from the town of Roseto, Pennsylvania, the place where the novel is set. "The author did such a wonderful job of describing how the town actually is," said the young lady.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tue, May 29, 7:00 PM

The Heldrich Hotel, New Brunswick

New Jersey's Environment - A Pivotal Moment: an ...

Education, Government, Green, Home & Garden, Other



Sat, June 2, 11:00 AM

South plainfield

John E Riley Food Truck Festival

Arts & Entertainment, Food & Drink, Giving Back

Sat, June 2, 8:00 PM

East Brunswick

Casino Night & Tricky Tray

Giving Back, Other

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EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY TOWN CENTER

Learn How to "Ace The Interview" at the East Brunswick Public Library



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East Brunswick Public Library Launches "EB Grow" Seed Library



EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ— Every spring, library customers visit East Brunswick Public Library (2... [Read More »](#)

BETH'S BOOK REVIEW

The Queen of the Big Time by Adriana Trigiani (Ballentine Books, 2005)



The Queen of the Big Time by Adriana Trigiani, a New York Times best selling author, was... [Read More »](#)

Pinkin Resolution to Raise Awareness of Gun Violence passes Assembly



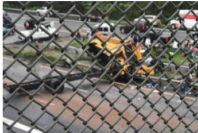
By NEW JERSEY ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS
May 24, 2018

TRENTON, NJ - Assembly Democrats Yvonne Lopez, Angela McKnight and Nancy Pinkin resolution to raise awareness of gun violence was voted out of the Assembly 67-0 on Thursday.

The measure (AJR-100) designates June 2 of each year as "Gun Violence Awareness Day" in New Jersey in order to promote ...

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Vehicular Homicide Charges for Driver of Paramus School Bus



By FRED J. AUN
May 24, 2018

MORRISTOWN, NJ - The driver of a school bus involved in a crash on Route 80 last week that killed two people faces two counts of second-degree vehicular homicide/death by auto, it was announced today.

The driver, Hudy Muldrow, 77, of Woodland Park, attempted to make an illegal U-Turn on the highway in an attempt to find his way to Waterloo Village, the planned destination of the bus that was ...

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EBHS Students Win County-Wide "Don't Drive Dangerously" PSA Contest



By MIDDLESEX COUNTY OFFICE OF INFORMATION
May 24, 2018

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ – High school students from throughout Middlesex County produced 30- to 60-second public service announcements to warn their friends and classmates about the dangers of driving while impaired or distracted.

The winners of Middlesex County's 18th Annual 3D-Don't Drive Dangerously PSA Contest were announced May 8 during a conference in ...

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Learn How to "Ace The Interview" at the East Brunswick Public Library



By CHRIS BARNES, EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY
May 23, 2018

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ—Looking for a new job? East Brunswick Public Library (2 Jean Walling Civic Center) is here to help. The library offers a special program called "Acing the Interview" on Saturday, June 16 at 10:30 am, which is designed to help jobseekers.

"Acing the Interview" focuses on what many feel is the most stressful part of the job search process: ...

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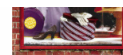
Inclusion Center to Start Programs on June 2



By PRESS RELEASE, DISABILITY ALLIES
May 23, 2018

EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ—Disability Allies, Inc. (DA), a 501(c)(3) organization based in East Brunswick opened the Young Adult Inclusion Center on April 28, 2018 is featuring a variety of programs to Young Adults with Special Needs in the following areas: Technology, Music, Theatre/Drama, Cooking/Baking, Arts & Crafts, and Poetry & Creative Writing. The programs are set to begin on June ...

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The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah (St. Martin's Press, 2018)



What is the "final frontier" on the Earth's surface? Many people would say Alaska, the...
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LIZ ON THEATRE

'Turning Off the Morning News' brings comic twist



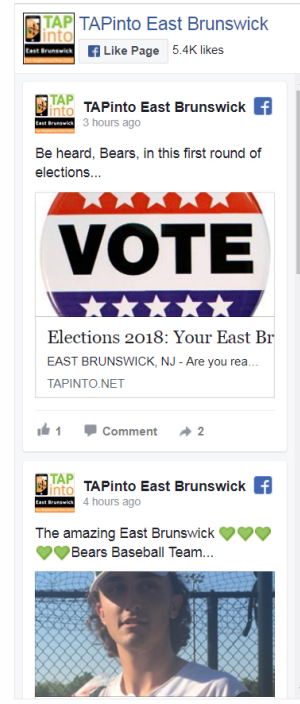
'Turning Off the Morning News' tackles today's issues with a comic twist
By Liz...
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'To Kill a Mockingbird' Sustains Timeless Appeal



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FACEBOOK





Trump-Pence Administration Introduces Nationwide "Gag Rule" Regarding Planned Parenthood



By PRESS RELEASE, PLANNED PARENTHOOD
May 23, 2018

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Tonight, the Trump-Pence administration released a nationwide gag rule, marking a radical departure from how health care has operated in the United States up until this point.

The proposed rule, issued by the Department of Health and Human Services tonight but not yet posted to the Federal Register, would do three main ...

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