



The Star:

Jewish Voices of Central Massachusetts



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Include your idea, relevant experience and any other information that may help explain your story.

Welcome to Issue # 6 of The Star. The days are getting longer, buds are on the trees, daffodils are blooming... and oh yes, Passover is only a week away! We hope you can take a few minutes out of your feverish Passover planning to sit down and read a bit about what's going on in our local Central Mass Jewish Community.

This edition features an interview with Mindy Hall, Outreach Director for Jewish Federation of Central MA. You probably have met Mindy at some event or other that she has so masterfully organized, but in this issue's Community Conversations, you'll hear Mindy speak in her own words about her passion for her job, connecting Jews of different ages and different religious observances throughout Central MA.

Also in this edition, read about Susan Stock, who trains service dogs... which includes bringing them to Shabbat services! Guest editor Patricia Bizzell provides us with a review of *The Hebrew Teacher*, a novella about Israeli ex-pats by Maya Arad that was recently translated into English. Worried about the price of eggs with Passover coming?

Food-writer Carol Goodman Kaufman has you covered with her journey to perfect eggless matzah balls, and Rabbi Blotner presents each of us a challenge as we look toward Passover. Of course, there's crosswords and more...

We, the Editorial Staff, wish you all a happy and meaningful Pesach. It is our fervent wish that the coming year brings freedom to the those still held hostage in Gaza and others all over the world still in the bondage of slavery, hunger, and war.

Carol Goodman Kaufman
Dan Margolis
Karen Rothman
Mike Smith

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Should We Be Demanding Accountability for False Accusations Against Israel?

By: Steven Schimmel, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts

In the wake of the October 7th massacre perpetrated by Hamas, global media outlets and many elected officials were swift—not in condemning the terrorists, but in turning their outrage toward Israel's response. Accusations of genocide against Palestinian civilians were amplified across press briefings, university campuses, legislative chambers, and even here in Worcester, where City Councilors Etel Haxhijaj and Thu Nguyen echoed these charges. At the same time, credible reports of rape and sexual assault committed by Hamas were publicly denied or dismissed by activists, including in a stunning article by local figure Bill Shaner condemning a joint program in May 2024 held by Hadassah and Federation that highlighted the sexual violence committed on October 7th.

Now, 18 months into the conflict, two major developments have emerged that call these narratives into serious question. First, Hamas has admitted that approximately 75% of those killed in Gaza were combatant age males—completely contradicting the continuous allegations that the majority of deaths were civilian women and children. This admission starkly contradicts the widespread accusations that Israel has been indiscriminately killing innocent people. Second,

multiple official investigations, grounded in survivor testimony, have confirmed that rape and sexual violence were indeed used by Hamas during the October 7 attacks.

These revelations should be prompting a deep reassessment of how the public conversation has unfolded. Yet instead, we are met with silence. The damage, it seems, has already been done. Once the idea that Israel was committing genocide—and that Hamas's sexual violence was fabricated—entered the public imagination, it became almost impossible to reverse.

So, the question now arises: as a Jewish community, should we be demanding public retractions from those who spread these falsehoods? Or has the moment already passed?

Sadly, this is not the first time we've seen the spread of false accusations. During the 2002 conflict in Jenin, media outlets reported a "massacre" that never happened. Years later, even Judge Richard Goldstone partially retracted the conclusions of his own report accusing Israel of war crimes. In both cases, as now, the truth came too late to change the narrative that had already taken root.

We are witnessing this pattern all over

again. Deeply damaging falsehoods have imprinted on the public memory. And yet, when evidence surfaces that disproves these claims, the same voices that amplified the accusations remain silent. This silence is not benign; it has consequences. The refusal to acknowledge verified acts of sexual violence dishonors the victims and sends a dangerous message: that such atrocities can be denied with impunity.

So yes, we must demand accountability. Elected officials and media outlets should be held to the same standard of truth and integrity we expect from anyone in public life. The falsehoods they helped promote have fueled outrage, distorted the narrative, and eroded global sympathy for Israel in the aftermath of a horrific attack.

Will retractions undo the damage? Of course not. But they matter. They matter for the sake of the victims. They matter for the credibility of our institutions. And they matter for the historical record. If we don't push back, misinformation will become accepted truth. As a community, we must ask ourselves: Will we let that happen yet again?

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Rabbi's Corner

By: Rabbi Yaakov Blotner, Congregation Shaarai Torah West

Status Quo: A No-Go

Let's sit in at the quarterly meeting of a Forbes 500 (or to update things) - a Future Global 500 company. Gathered around the table are the officers and directors of this prominent firm. They eagerly, and in some cases, nervously await the report that is about to be given. The presenter will either be the treasurer or the CFO, Chief Financial Officer.

The report conveys the good news that sales continue to be in the tens of millions. But then come the dreaded words: "earnings are flat this quarter." That old menace that the company is not growing; they are status quo. Near panic and certainly grief prevails in that boardroom.

We don't have to be big machers in the corporate world to appreciate growth and be discouraged by the "same old, same old." Yet, perhaps for many of us in our lives as Jews, we have let our levels of knowledge and observance stagnate. All too often they are relegated to mediocrity.

Why not learn a lesson in this regard from the upcoming Holiday of Passover? The Torah tells us to recall, remember, indeed relive the Exodus. Whether it be in the Ten Commandments or daily prayers, we find this emphasis. How do we apply this in 2025 when in time and space we are so distant from the Exodus scenario?

One way (with your therapist's blessings!) is to get out of our comfort zone,

our personal, often self-imposed Egypt. Break loose from old habits, even holy ones, and nurture, grow, and expand our Jewish knowledge and commitments. A personal trainer would say "No strain, no gain."

We can all make this Passover a more meaningful and gratifying experience with some effort.

Dispense with status quo and adopt a mitzvah we might have overlooked.

Best wishes for a joyous and meaningful Passover. With prayerful hopes that well before this is read our hostages will be safely freed and peace reigns in Israel.

The Star
Jewish Voices of Central MA

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Who's the girl with the dog... in the synagogue?

By: Susan Stock

That would be me.

About 13 years ago I saw an article about a family who was taking part in the Prison Program of NEADS (National Education for Assistance Dog Services). The dog they were helping raise was released from the program, and they were able to adopt him permanently. It was a nice story, but what got to me was the idea of the program. Five days a week, selected inmates trained dogs at the prison. Then, from Friday night to Sunday night, the dogs were taken out of the prison for further socialization. These pups were headed to careers as service dogs for people who are deaf or otherwise disabled. And while the inmates did a great training job, they couldn't take the dogs to stores, through crowds, in vehicles, or to religious services.

I had always wanted a dog and always wanted to do training. As a person who worked during the week and lived alone, this was my chance to have a dog, at least for a while. I applied to be a puppy raiser, was approved, and began my dog raising and training volunteer career. I had never had a dog, never raised a dog, never trained a dog...and suddenly, I had a weekend dog.

Puppy raisers attend meetings to learn about the training, and we have a manual explaining the how-to-dos. And of course, there are rules: no dog parks, no "counter surfing" for food,

no dogs on furniture, crating at night, and crating when left alone. Attendance at group meetings with dogs and raisers is required once a month. Specific excursions, exposures, and socializations are specified, and they become more complex as the pups grow. They begin with a weekend puppy raiser at about 12 weeks. We teach house manners, public manners, as well as specific commands like stay, come, touch, get it, leave it, and my favorite, doing their business on command (get busy). And yes, it is possible! The inmates teach some of the service dog commands like turning on lights and opening doors. The training we do is basic. At about 18 months the dogs are returned to NEADS for further specific training to match a client's needs.

All our NEADS dogs were labrador retrievers. Some are bred at other service dog organizations, although currently NEADS has its own breeding program. Dogs are tested within weeks of birth for suitability to be a service dog, and the personality and trainability of the puppies can be determined pretty well. About 50% of the dogs who begin training make it as service dogs. Any number of things can cause a dog to be removed from the program: it could turn out to have too much prey drive, have allergies or other physical issues, be too sensitive to noise, or be unsuitable as a service dog for another reason.



Susan and her current trainee, Keanu

Those dogs are usually offered for adoption or might go on for a "career change" to do some other work.

I was not working with a dog at the time the pandemic hit. Because of lockdowns, the dogs needed to be pulled out of the prisons almost overnight. I was asked to take a dog full-time and went to Gardner Prison the next day to pick up Franklin. So began my full-time raising. Once Franklin graduated, I switched over to raising full-time for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, and I am on my third dog from that organization. The raising is similar for these dogs, but some favorite commands, like "leave it" really don't make any sense if the client is blind! They still do have to "get busy" on command however!

So, what's up with puppies in our temple? Visits to services give excel-

Continued on Page 15

Book Review: *The Hebrew Teacher*

By Maya Arad (2018; translated from Hebrew by Jessica Cohen, 2024)

Reviewed By: Patricia Bizzell, Professor of American Literature Emerita, Holy Cross

Israeli ex-pat life is deftly presented by Maya Arad in three novellas, published together here. Born in Israel, a resident in the U.S. for over twenty years, and now a U.S. citizen, Arad is widely regarded as one of the best contemporary Hebrew writers.

“The Hebrew Teacher” in the first novella is Ilana Drori, coming to the end of a long career teaching the Hebrew language part-time at her husband’s college. Fewer and fewer students are electing to study this language. Then a new professor of Hebrew literature is hired, and his work is highly theoretical, far removed from the Hebrew language, and far removed from any positive association with Israel. Ilana’s old-fashioned Zionism draws a rebuke from him, an ideological battle that turns ugly. The story can serve as a parable for what has happened to the climate for all things Israeli in American academe.

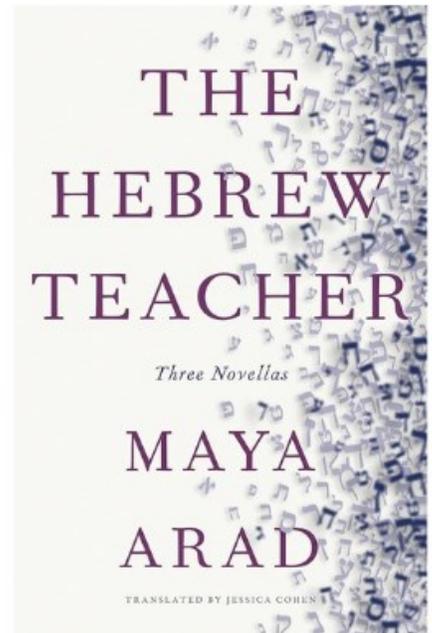
The presence of the Hebrew language in the homes of Arad’s ex-pat characters is just one subtle detail indicating their degree of assimilation.

“A Visit (Scenes)” takes us into the home of Yoram, who emigrated to California twenty years ago and turned his back on Miriam, his mother. At age 40 something, he has married a younger ex-pat, Maya, and they now have a toddler son, Yonatan. Miriam is unable to resist booking a week visit with the grandchild she has never seen. She doesn’t see much of him once she arrives, either, as he

spends long hours in day care while both parents work. This arrangement is only one of the cultural disconnects between Miriam and her son; she’s bemused by their upscale lifestyle, trendy food, distaste for Shabbat rituals, and more. Miriam’s presence gets on Maya’s nerves especially since she works at home, but Miriam comes to understand that the marriage has troubles unrelated to her. Finally, two medical crises break down some of the barriers among them.

“Make New Friends”—ironically titled—focuses on the ex-pat household of Efrat and Benny, successful biological researchers, and their thirteen-year-old daughter Libby and younger son Yotam. Efrat and Libby are locked in the typical battles of mom versus teen daughter; Libby alternates between babyish behavior and profane defiance. Efrat zeros in on Libby’s social isolation, and she intervenes in more and more inappropriate ways to try to connect her daughter with peer friends. The story title is also the name of a new social network that inflames the FOMO emotions of both mother and daughter. We come to understand that Efrat’s over-involvement traces in part to her own lack of women friends. That problem, at least, is finally addressed.

Nostalgia for happier times forms a persistent theme in all three stories, when Ilana radiated Sabra glamour as a young teacher, Miriam and Yoram were close in his childhood, and Efrat



remembers family harmony from her kids’ much younger days. Arad’s technique forms a delicate mosaic of the characters’ points of view, clustered around the consciousness of the mature woman at the center of each story. Though filtered through the lens of ex-pat experience, the characters’ conflicts will resonate with most American readers.

Patricia Bizzell is Distinguished Professor of English Emerita at the College of the Holy Cross, as well as an award-winning author on rhetoric. While at the college, she served as Director of both the College Honors Program and the English Honors Program, as Chair of the English Department, and as Speaker of the Faculty.

Community Conversations

Mindy Hall, JFCM's Director of Outreach and Engagement

By: Mike Smith, Editorial Board

This issue's "Community Conversation" features someone many of our readers already know, but we thought it was time to get to know her a little better! Since 2009 Mindy Hall has been Director of Outreach and Engagement for the Jewish Federation of Central Mass. Read on to learn more about Mindy's path from New York to Federation and the crucial work she continues to do in building a sense of Jewish community across Central MA.

So many people recognize you from your work with Federation. How did you get your start as Director of Outreach and Engagement?

Approximately 15 ½ years ago, I interviewed and accepted a part time job working for both the Federation and Jewish Family Services. When the JFS project finished after several months, I remained working at Jewish Federation for the full 3 days per week (and then some) as their Director of Outreach and Engagement.

My initial job was to help re-build a dwindling community with an initial focus on developing a young adult demographic; a young family demographic; growth and engagement of our PJ Library program; and developing a community concierge for newcomers. It was a challenging task to say the least, trying to build something from virtually nothing in those demographics. I laugh as I recall having a computer that moved more slowly than a sloth, and a pad of paper that listed a few young adults who might still live in the area. That was my day one and I had to figure out a way to go from there. But I was determined at the heart level. Coming here from New

York as a newcomer and young adult, it was so difficult to make connections in our community. I truly felt like an outsider and wanted to go back home to "my shtetl" in New York. I vowed I would always make people feel welcome and connect them into our community as best as I could. I didn't want anyone to feel the way I did.

Has your position evolved over the years?

My position has evolved ten-fold over the past fifteen-plus years, especially given the enormous growth of our Federation community. The more people we have, the greater the needs of our community. In a very brief nutshell, my job is to help build and bring our Federation community together, creating low barriers and inclusivity. Whether it is/was creating, implementing or collaborating on community-wide events and programs, building relationships and collaborations with our community partners both Jewish and non-Jewish, advising on marketing and engagement strategies, writing/producing our previous in-house newsletter Jewish Central, building our social media platforms and presence, fundraising, bringing people into our community and connecting them to one another, leadership development, building Chaverim for the 40's and over group, helping people in personal crisis and job connections, educating on the current state of affairs and, most recently with the resulting climate post 10/7, developing advocacy groups concerning anti-semitism in our community, and anti-semitism in school curriculum. I am



Mindy Hall volunteering on a lemon farm in Israel last spring

sure I left many things out. The job reminds me of a haberdashery.

So, like a haberdasher, you wear many hats! What's your favorite aspect of your work with Federation?

I love and care for our community. I love being Jewish. I love Israel. I love knowing that working for Federation is an important part of growing, supporting, protecting, and sustaining Jewish life here locally, in Israel, and worldwide.

I love that I may have made a difference in someone's life for the better. I love seeing people I have connected become closest of friends and chosen families. I love seeing many people grow into leadership roles. I love helping people when I know I have the ability to do so. I love watching our community come together for the good and bad, and knowing I was a part of that. Really, it's all about the people and seeing how this work has created a better and stronger community overall.

How did you end up in central MA?

I was raised on a “shtetl” on the South Shore of Long Island, and moved to Manhattan after college, working for large multi-national corporation and an international CPA/Business Consulting firm, among other things. I suppose fate came in the way. I visited Worcester to see a friend in a play and met Steven, who would become my future husband. Given that my current place of employment had decided to dissolve its partnership over litigation, I was in search of a new job. As I was about to accept a new position with a prestigious firm, a ring appeared on my finger. And that was that. He coerced me into moving to Worcester, leaving friends and family on a journey I had not expected. We had 2 children together, my loves Jessica and Joshua, and a stepson Steven Jr., but unfortu-

nately I unexpectedly became a very young widow, raising my kids without their father. Everything changed in a New York minute.

Fast forward years later, I am still at Federation, and I have a wonderful partner, Errol, and still love my wonderful kids and my community.

Are there any other upcoming events you would like to make sure our readers know about?

There are always a multitude of events happening in our community, whether PJ Library and PJ Library collaborations, at least 3 events per month in our YAD group, and many community wide events coinciding with upcoming holidays this April, May, and June. If any Young Adult needs a place at a Seder table, we are hosting a 2nd night Seder event. There is always

some event happening, and some way to connect with your community and meet new people.

This summer, we will host our annual YAD newcomer event, and near the Fall holidays, we will host our annual Young Family newcomer event. The Chaverim group meets 2-3 times a month for a coffee meet-up during the summer and comes all together for our annual New Year event in September or October. Truly, the best way to keep up with everything is to check your emails, despite how many you might receive. Get on our private Facebook group which posts events; and read Fed-mail. Everything you ever wanted to know about what’s going on in our community but was afraid to ask!! Or simply just give me a holler and I can help.



Polar Park
Tuesday, June 17
6:45 PM

JEWISH
Heritage Night



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For an Egg–ceptional Passover this Year

By: Carol Goodman Kaufman, Editorial Board

The Hebrew calendar is lunisolar, combining the lunar cycle with the solar year. Our months begin on the new Moon, and many of our festivals fall on the full Moon. These include Passover, Sukkot, Purim, Tu B'Shevat, Tu B'Av (The Tu stands for the number 15, and a full Moon reaches its peak on the 15th day of the month.).

One explanation for placing festivals on that day is that the full Moon is considered a time of joy and celebration, freedom and abundance. And according to the Kabbalah, God's feminine face creates souls on the full Moon.

Surveys indicate that the most celebrated Jewish holiday in the United States is Passover. As always, it begins on a full Moon, the 15th of Nisan. Now, Nisan usually falls in April when the Pink Moon, a Native American name for the silver disk, peaks. But there are plenty of other names that may speak more to our tradition—and they have to do with the traditional subject of this column: food.

For example, coastal tribes in North America coined the name Fish Moon to mark the start of fish spawning season. In my decidedly Jewish imagination, I like to think that when opening the front door for Elijah, one of our ancestors looked up to the night sky, and upon spying the big white circle, our forbear said, "Why, that looks like Bubbie's gefilte fish!"

The Anglo-Saxons claim credit for calling the full Moon of Spring the Egg Moon, but I like to think that much earlier in the world's history, it was

one of our people who named it. While checking the sky to see if the Moon was full enough for the festival to begin, our ancestor saw the hero ingredient of Passover.

Now, any Jewish cook who has spent time in the kitchen knows just how many dozens of eggs we consume during the eight-day holiday. In our house, Joel threatens every year to check our cholesterol levels the day before the holiday and on the eighth day.

But this year presents a unique challenge to our culinary skills. Passover food is already expensive. How are we going to manage meal preparation with eggs going for a national average of over \$7.00 a dozen?

Would it be possible to go eggless as well as leavenless? Would kneidlach hold together without the eggs? Would matzah brei without the eggs even begin to satisfy?

I decided to give it a try.

My first experiment was an attempt at egg-free matzah balls. I potchkiend around with several recipes to find something that resembled the beloved traditional dumpling. I ended up with kneidlach that looked authentic, although their core was gluey. Cooking much longer than the original recipes' instructions solved that problem. As for flavor, I was surprised that I couldn't detect the applesauce. However, the chicken broth was definitely necessary for the mix, even though I had cooked them in water flavored by chicken bouillon.

Finally, because hard matzah balls that require knife and fork are to me an abomination, one of my major goals was to achieve "floaters." Switching out some of the broth for seltzer did the trick. The kneidlach bobbed to the surface almost immediately.

The verdict: Joel liked them. I much prefer the real thing.

Next up was matzah brei. Again, I played around with some vegetarian and vegan recipes found online until I came up with a result that was surprisingly good and true to the original dish. At first, I thought that my judgment might have been influenced by the maple syrup I drizzled over the top of the scramble. Then Joel reminded me that we normally eat matzah brei with syrup or jam.

So, there you go. Two completely egg-free dishes for your Passover consideration. If you decide to try either or both of the recipes below, please let me know what you think!

Eggless Matzah Balls

Makes about 12

Ingredients:

2 cups matzah
3 tablespoons
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon garlic powder
Pepper to taste
¾ cup plain, unflavored seltzer
¾ cup chicken broth
¼ cup oil
¾ cup applesauce
Chicken bouillon powder

Directions:

In a bowl, whisk together until well blended the matzah meal, potato starch, baking powder, garlic powder, salt, and pepper.

Make a well in the dry ingredients and pour in the seltzer, broth, oil, and applesauce.

Mix everything together until evenly combined.

Cover the bowl and place the fridge for at least 1 hour to firm up the mixture.

Cook for 20 minutes in a pot of boiling water to which you add bouillon powder.

Serve with your favorite chicken soup.

Eggless Matzah Brei

Serves 2

Ingredients:

- 2 sheets of matzah, crumbled
- ¼ cup ground quinoa*
- 1 cup boiling water
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tablespoon butter
- ½ apple, diced small
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- Maple syrup, jam, or cinnamon sugar for serving

Directions:

Combine the crumbled matzah, quinoa, apple, cinnamon, and the salt in a heatproof bowl.

Pour 1 cup boiling water over them and stir together. Let stand for 2 to 3 minutes.

While the matzah mixture is sitting, melt the butter in a large skillet.

Once it's sizzling, pour in the matzah mixture, cover and cook over a medium flame until it's golden brown and crisp, about 10 minutes, occasionally stirring it so that all pieces can brown.

Serve at once with your choice of topping.

*Simply grind some quinoa in a food processor

Upcoming Events

- Apr 13 - CBS Community Seder
- Apr 13 - PJ Family Seder at CAA
- Apr 19 - CAA Shabbat
- Apr 20 - CAA Matzah Brei Cook-off
- Apr 20 - BI Beer Meat Off
- Apr 21 - Hillel Event with Cantor Jonathan Kohan
- Apr 22 - Community Mimouna Celebration
- Apr 23 - Oct. 8 Film & Discussion
- Apr 27 - Without an Evil Eye - CMJTC Production
- Apr 27 - Yom Hashoah Community Event 5785
- May 1 - 3 - TES Bar Mitzvah Celebration
- May 2 & 3 - CBS Rabbi Gurevitz Bat Mitzvah
- May 4 - CAA Israel Day
- May 4 - Hadassah Donor Event
- May 10 - PJ Tot Havdalah at CBS
- May 11 - BI Od Meyer Hike
- May 15 - BI Smores Fest
- May 18 - Yom Hazikaron and Yom Haatzmaut at BI
- May 29 - BI Shavuot
- June 17 - Jewish Heritage Night at the WooSox

To view more events, please check out www.jewishcentralmass.org/calendar



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ACROSS

- 1 Tend to, as children
- 5 Principle that enables planes to fly
- 9 Staple of the Seder meal
- 14 On a cruise, for example
- 15 Not sweet
- 16 Highly addictive drug
- 17 It's parted in the Passover story
- 19 Solder
- 20 Certain air filters
- 21 TV screen type
- 23 Intl. Repub. Inst. (acronym)
- 24 Symbolic feature of the Seder meal
- 28 Exist
- 31 "Is _____"
- 32 Jewish festival which commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery
- 35 Mount where Moses received the Ten Commandments
- 40 Noses
- 41 Expel, as from a property
- 42 Passover setting, geographically speaking
- 43 Statement
- 47 Continent where Ashkenazi Jews come from
- 49 Linguist Chomsky
- 50 Centerpieces of the Passover table setting
- 54 Allowance in golf
- 55 Lip
- 56 College town in New York
- 61 Where most of the world's people live
- 63 Symbol for the Israelites' enslavement in Egypt
- 66 Bad thing to expose at a poker game
- 67 Things on a list
- 68 German thought?
- 69 French fashion magazine
- 70 Hatcher and Garr
- 71 Really fast flier (acronym)

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- 1 Hard subject for many
- 2 Intl. Soc. for Human Ethology (acronym)
- 3 Type of ocean tide
- 4 Hebrew name meaning "pearl of wisdom"

- 5 Psychedelic drug
- 6 Apple operating system
- 7 What carries oil across the rails
- 8 Traditional clothing in German-speaking lands
- 9 Large crowd
- 10 Month in which Passover is occurring
- 11 Fancy headwear
- 12 For two of these you can buy a goat, or so it is said in a Passover song.
- 13 Biology suffix that forms nouns denoting objects having a specified nature
- 22 German definite article
- 25 Recreational vehicles
- 26 Feminine pronoun
- 27 Not a winner
- 28 Part of a church
- 29 Phoned
- 30 Engin. Soc. of York (acronym)
- 33 Soak up liquid
- 34 Semiaquatic mammals of the weasel family
- 36 He was Terrible?
- 37 El _____ (weather phenomenon)
- 38 Org. where College Counselors go for advice of their own?
- 39 A hot couple?
- 43 A web page
- 44 Countertop appliance
- 45 Popular marketplace for PreK-12 resources (acronym)
- 46 Wide shoe spec.
- 48 Something you might tell a person hanging a picture on a wall?
- 50 A large quantity of something
- 51 What a painting might rest on
- 52 It makes holes
- 53 Big _____
- 57 Temp. Humidity Index (acronym)
- 58 Homemade bombs (acronym)
- 59 Musical abbr.
- 60 Assist in a crime
- 62 Alternative to a lager
- 64 Texter's "I don't want to hear anymore!"
- 65 It follows "are" in the alphabet?

PASSOVER PUZZLE

April 2025

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					47	48					49			
50	51	52								53				
54					55					56	57	58	59	60
61				62		63		64	65					
66						67					68			
69						70						71		

PASSOVER MINI 1

	1	2	3	
4				5
6				
7				
	8			

ACROSS

- 1 Mornings?
- 4 Not with others
- 6 Hebrew month during which Passover occurs
- 7 One doing math problems all the time?
- 8 Compass heading

DOWN

- 1 Type of skirt
- 2 Central figure in the Passover story
- 3 Trap
- 5 Conclusion

PASSOVER MINI 2

		1	2	3
4	5			
6				
7				
8				

ACROSS

- 1 One of the symbols on a Seder plate
- 4 Forearm bones
- 6 Sweeney and Rundgren
- 7 Medit. diet staple
- 8 Transmitted

DOWN

- 1 Something to do with a high note?
- 2 Israeli actress Gal
- 3 Certain appliances
- 4 Type of vehicles
- 5 Poor tennis score

David Scholder is a crossword puzzle enthusiast, traveler and lover of a good pun. He is a long-serving Board member of the Maine Jewish Film Festival. He currently lives with his wife and two cats in the small town of Denmark, Maine.

Answer Keys can be found here: [Jewish Crossword Answer Key - April 2025](#)

This Passover, consider four more questions ...

Do you value Central
Massachusetts
Jewish organizations?

Do you support these
organizations on an annual
basis?

Do you want them to exist
for future generations?

How will you assure Jewish
tomorrows?



**Be remembered forever with a gift to Jewish Federation of Central MA in
your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.**

To learn more about leaving a legacy, contact
Lisa Thurlow, Legacy Coordinator, LThurlow@jfcma.org 508.756.1543

תרבוזו ותסעדו
Mimuna 2025

Please join me,
Maayan your Israeli Shlichah,
for our Mimuna celebration!

Drumming circle
with

Mitch Gordon

Arts & Crafts

DJ by

Kfir Mizrhachi

Sweets

Henna artist

Belly dancing

Mufleta

April 22th - 6:30 PM

Worcester JCC

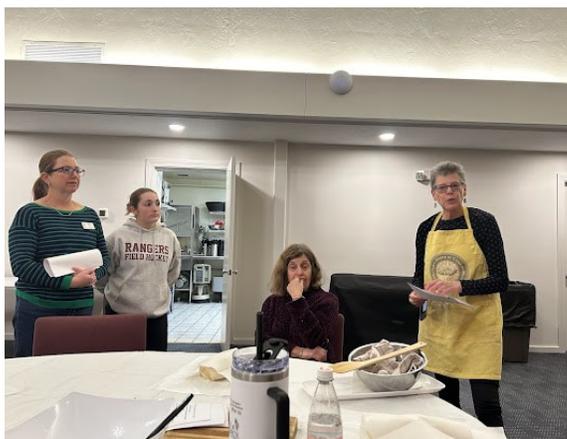
633 Salisbury St, Worcester



Jewish Federation
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Challah-making Workshop held on March 2, 2025 at B'nai Shalom

Pictures by Beth Whitman and Mindy Hall



The Central MA Community

YOM HASHOAH

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

APRIL 27

4:00PM

SAVE THE DATE

HOSTED BY CONGREGATION AGUDAT ACHIM
268 WASHINGTON ST, LEOMINSTER, MA



Jewish Federation
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

No RSVP needed

lent and varied exposures for the pups. They get to be with crowds, see people who may react to them differently, and see people with disabilities. They hear live music, singing, clapping, and practice remaining settled when people are all sitting and standing at different times. There are also quiet times. I teach them when they can say “hello” and when to ignore specific



people when necessary. Interestingly, although service dogs in training have full public access in Massachusetts, that does not include synagogues and churches, which require specific permission, since they are not considered public institutions. I recall going to services one night and asking the Rabbi if it was ok if I brought in the dog. I had the feeling the rabbi was not quite sure if this was a good idea, but she was willing to see how things worked out.

Over time, the pups worked out wonderfully. They have brought happiness and amusement to services for 12 years now, including “Shabbat in the Lot” during COVID. I don’t take them until they are about six months old and calm, and there have not been any major problems this entire time, except for some occasional loud snoring. And when it’s the pups’ birthdays, or more importantly, when they are going back to NEADS for full

training, I’m invited to bring them up for the motzi for blessings and a tiny piece of challah.

And finally. My most frequently asked question: Isn’t it hard to give them up? The answer: yes. It is hard, but these dogs go on to help people who need them—and change their client’s lives. If the clients are willing, we can keep in

touch and know how their lives turn out. But even if we can’t keep in touch, we know that good has been done. It is very hard to give them up, but the best way around that is to do it again!

Susan Stock is a retired systems analyst and an active member of Congregation B'nai Shalom in Westborough. In addition to raising service dogs and having a second career as a dog trainer, she also enjoys reading and travel.

**Pinkhus & Rhoda Gurevich
Annual Yom HaShoah Art & Writing Challenge**

*Sponsored by B'nai B'rith Commonwealth Worcester Lodge 600
& organized by Jewish Federation of Central MA*

Topic: Anne Frank. This year marks 80 years since her death at Bergen Belson in March 1945. She is known around the world for her diary documenting her life in hiding during the Holocaust.

Submissions may include either a work of art or a piece of writing based on or inspired by the topic. Art may include any work of art, drawing, painting, photography, 3-D piece, music, singing, or other performing art or dance. Writing may include essays, poems, reports, or other prose.

Please contact us at director@jfcfm.org if you have a question about your submission.

Who may enter: Any student grades 6-12 in the Central MA area, Jewish or non-Jewish.

To submit your entry: Submission must include your grade level and name- email photos, videos or pdfs of your submission to: director@jfcfm.org

Submission Deadline: April 20, 5:00PM.

Cash Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category. Categories: Art grade 8-12, Writing grade 8-12, Art grade 6-7, Writing grade 6-7.

The public announcement of the awards will be made during the Yom HaShoah Memorial Service on April 27th at Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster, MA.



**PRIVATE
COMMUNITY
SCREENING**

“October Hate”

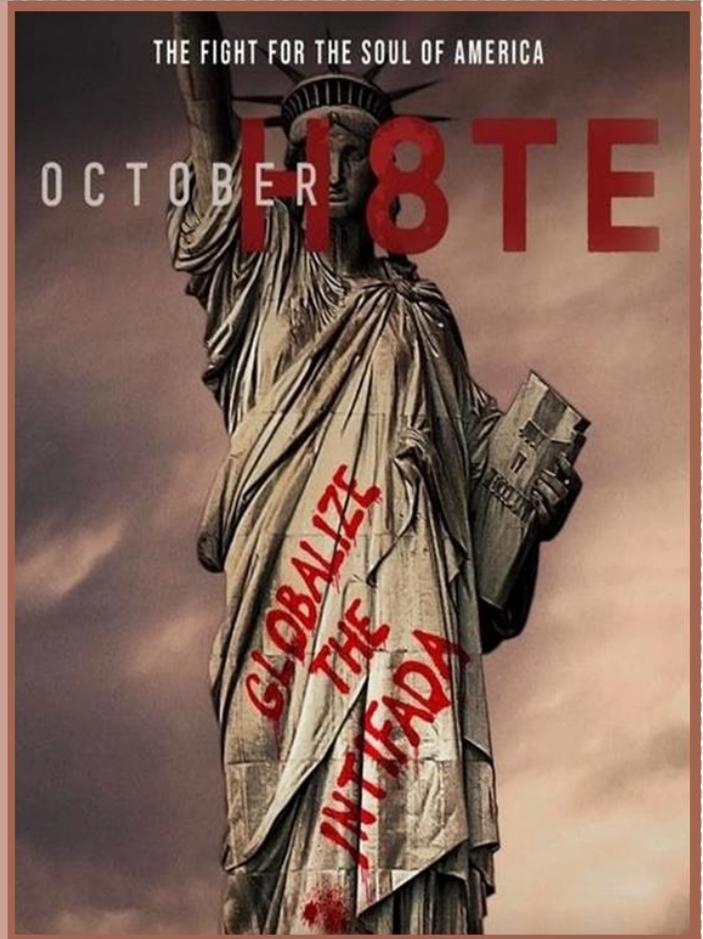
April 23rd, 6:30 pm

Worcester JCC

633 Salisbury Street

Registration:

www.jfcm.org/Octoberhate



Join our community to view a private screening of **October Hate**, an important 2025 documentary directed by Wendy Sachs, with Executive Producer Debra Messing, followed by breakout discussions facilitated by community Rabbis and leaders. Free event. Not recommended for students under 13. Parent’s discretion advised.

October Hate documents the sharp rise in antisemitism and anti-Israel demonstrations that followed the devastating October 7 Hamas terror attack on Israel, and has continued since. It devotes particular attention to anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian protests that erupted on college campuses in the U.S., leading to instances of harassment of Jewish students and defenders of Israel.



SAVE THE DATE

Central MA Community

Yom Ha'zikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut Program Sunday, May 18th

4:30pm - 7:00pm

At Congregation Beth Israel, Worcester

Honoring:

Vivian and Elliot & Kassia and Josh Honig,
The Rudnick Family



Celebration of Israel's 77th Anniversary

Children's Program
Dinner by Silvia

