

# Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

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jewishberkshires.org

## Middle East Update 2020

“Is there light at the end of the Middle East tunnel?” with Dennis Ross and David Makovsky

On Wednesday, November 18 at 7:30 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes two distinguished guests to our Middle East Update 2020, Dennis Ross and David Makovsky, both fellows at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

In light of the recent groundbreaking treaties brokered by the Trump administration between Israel and Persian Gulf states the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, as well as with the European Muslim nation of Kosovo, Ross and Makovsky’s topic will be, “Is there light at the end of the Middle East tunnel?”

At press time, all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs were scheduled to be presented via Zoom or other platforms – please check your emails from Federation to find the necessary links, or visit our calendar of events online at jewishberkshires.org.

### About Our Speakers

**David Makovsky** is the Ziegler Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He is also an adjunct professor in Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

Author of numerous Washington Institute publications on issues related to the Middle East peace process and the Arab-Israeli conflict, he also co-authored the 2009 Washington Post bestseller *Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East* with Ambassador Dennis Ross. His 2011 maps on alternative territorial solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were reprinted by *The New York Times* in the paper’s first interactive treatment of an op-ed.

Makovsky is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies. His commentaries on the peace process and the Arab-Israeli conflict have been widely published, and he appears frequently in the media to comment on Arab-Israeli affairs. He also has testified before Congressional committees and subcommittees on foreign relations and foreign affairs.

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## “The Shtetl Kitchen,” with co-owners of The Gefilteria

On Monday, October 19 at 6:45 p.m., join Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alpern, co-authors of *The Gefilte Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods* and co-owners of The Gefilteria, a food venture that has been reimagining Old World Jewish Foods since 2012. Expect an evening of dynamic discussion on Eastern European Jewish foodways, past and present, in a talk called “The Shtetl Kitchen.” This program is rescheduled from August 6.

This program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit jewishberkshires.org for registration links.

From their website, gefilteria.com: “The Gefilteria is a new kind of food venture launched in 2012 with the mission of reimagining eastern European Jewish cuisine, adapting classic dishes to the values and tastes of a new generation. We’re the people with the chutzpah to believe that Old World Jewish foods can be beautiful, inspiring and delicious. We produce limited runs of our signature artisanal gefilte fish in the spring and the fall. While don’t have a storefront, we’re regularly cooking a wide range of Jewish foods from the Ashkenazi – central and eastern European Jewish – culinary tradition, for unique dining



Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alpern

events. Along the way, we’re looking to inspire others to reimagine and rediscover this incredible cuisine in their home kitchens.”

They’ll share insights about seasonal Jewish eating, holiday cooking, and culinary wisdom, which together will transform everything

**SHTETL KITCHEN,**  
continued on page 5

## Zooming Into Fall

Federation connected families from across the Berkshires online over the holidays



Families celebrated Rosh Hashanah together during an interactive Zoom program on September 3 with educator Rabbi Jarah Greenfield (top row center) – enjoying a craft activity, reading a story, dipping apples in honey, and making some noise (with the shofar). Participants explored the birthday of the world and celebrated the contribution that each and every creature from the mightiest elephant to the smallest child can make. For more, please see pages 8 and 9.

## Federation’s General Assembly 2020 – Online

Ensuring a strong, flourishing Jewish community. Today. Tomorrow. And for generations to come.

From October 25 through October 27, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) will hold its 2020 General Assembly online.

This GA is underwritten by JFNA and its sponsors to make it available at no cost to participants.

At this pivotal time for our community and communities everywhere, GA 2020 will bring our entire Jewish world together – from across backgrounds, political viewpoints and even continents – to enlighten, engage and inspire. Together with Federations from across North America, we’ll celebrate accomplishments over these past tough months, examine our current challenges, and work to ensure a strong, flourishing Jewish community. Today. Tomorrow. And for generations to come.

This year’s GA is composed of two main plenaries, the first targeted to Federation lay and professional teams and the second for all members of the Jewish community:

Plenary one, **FederationTogether**, will take place on Sunday, October 25 at 7 p.m. It will tell the story of how Federations worked together to address the unprecedented challenges brought on by the COVID pandemic. This plenary will feature a video that takes a look back and comments on Federations most powerful moments. JFNA hopes to have every member of the Federation lay and professional team in attendance.

Plenary two, **JewishTogether**, will take place on October 26 at 1:30 p.m. It will showcase the depth and breadth of Jewish communal life and share stories of how Federation responded, reimagined and shined together. For this event, JFNA hopes to have as much of our broad Jewish communal base in attendance as possible, along with Federation stakeholders.

In addition to these two special plenaries, the GA will feature three blocks of programming:  
**Workshops:** On October 25 and 26, there will be workshops designed to explore questions and challenges currently facing Jewish life and the Jewish

people.

**FedLab:** Jump into the 2020 phase of the FedLab experience on October 27 and explore solutions to the challenges now facing our Jewish world. By invitation only.

**Cohort Convenings:** Federation affinity groups, including National Women’s Philanthropy and National Young Leadership, will be holding special gatherings during the virtual GA.

Full lineups and registration details were not available at press time. Please visit [www.generalassembly.org](http://www.generalassembly.org) for details.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will provide additional information as it becomes available through email and Facebook, along with links. You can reach us by phone at (413) 442-4360, ext. 12.



## In My View

### Doing What is Necessary to Preserve Our Freedoms

Taking her immigrant grandmother's wisdom to heart in turbulent times

By Dara Kaufman



During my sophomore year in college at UMASS Amherst, I took a women's studies class. My major and my interests at the time were business, law, and finance, and I have to admit that I only took the class to fulfill one of my last elective requirements. Having grown up in a liberal Jewish family with a full-time working mother who owned and ran two businesses together with my father, my two sisters and I were raised to be independent women who were fully capable of going out into the world to make a life for ourselves.

Yet when I took this course in 1987, I remember being a little surprised at how many of the freedoms of gender equality and women's

rights were really fairly recent developments in our evolving society. I recall very robust discussions on the Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Roe vs. Wade*, access to birth control, and equal pay for equal work. It was an eye-opening class that put a new perspective on many things that, as a young woman, I had taken for granted.

But the most rewarding part of that class was our final project in which we interviewed a woman in our life and presented her history and wisdom. I chose my grandmother on my mother's side, Vera Ganter. At the time, I knew very little about my grandmother's history. She lived in Connecticut and though we visited there regularly, our time together was usually spent hanging out with my aunts and uncles, playing with my cousins, and enjoying Grandma Vera's kasha varnishkas, a favorite of my father and uncles. It turns out her story was a fascinating one.

Vera Mirapolsky (her maiden name) grew up in a comfortable middle-class family in the city of Kirovograd, Ukraine. Her life changed abruptly at the age of 10 when her family packed up their belongings and left in the middle of the night after a particularly bloody pogrom at the beginning of the Bolshevik revolution.

She and her family traveled Eastern Europe, finally settling for a few years in Bessarabia (now Romania and Moldova), where her father made a living peddling various goods on the streets. She and her sister were taught Hebrew, with the hopes that the family would make their way to the British Mandate of Palestine. When they could not secure the visas needed, they eventually made their way to Estonia, where they had heard that Canada was offering visas for immigration.

Vera shared a harrowing story of crossing a river during a blizzard en route to Estonia. Afraid that they would lose someone, her father tied a rope from one person to another as they made their way across the churning waters.

As they arrived at the outskirts of Estonia, they found a Christian farmer who, for a sum of money, allowed them to live in his barn as they awaited passage to Canada. Vera's grandmother, who had made this journey with them, fell gravely ill. Unable to delay their departure, the family turned over most of their valuables to the farmer in exchange for him keeping and caring for her grandmother, who would have to stay behind. It was a heart-wrenching decision and ultimately a terrible loss for the family – we never heard from her again, nor learned of her fate.

My grandmother was 16 years old when she arrived in Montreal, and the thing she cherished most there was the freedom she had. After so many years of



Vera (Mirapolsky) Ganter, age 19, photographed in Montreal, Canada

*I asked my grandmother to share her wisdom. Her one-sentence response was surprisingly simple and direct. "Don't ever take for granted the freedoms you have in this country and always make sure you vote."*

"looking over their shoulders," she intuitively knew how precious that was. A few years later, Vera and her family moved to the United States where she later met my grandfather Sam and settled in New Haven to raise their family.

As we approached the end of our interview, I asked my grandmother to share her wisdom. Her one-sentence response was surprisingly simple and direct. "Don't ever take for granted the freedoms you have in this country and always

make sure you vote."

I have tried to heed her advice over the years, although there was a period of time when living in Israel that I did not always vote in the US election. I always felt a little guilty about that.

I wish that I had spent more time with my grandmother and asked her more questions. The important, meaningful, grown-up type of questions that were not so apparent to me as a young 19-year-old. I wonder what Vera would think about our world today – our response to the pandemic, the deep social and political divides, racism in America.

With the recent passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the upcoming election, I am ever more aware of the rights and freedoms I have taken for granted over the years. I am also more aware that many of those freedoms are not always applied equally, especially if you are poor or have black or brown skin. And with that awareness comes the understanding that I have an obligation to help preserve the freedoms that others have fought for on my behalf, and also do what I can to assure those freedoms are afforded to every person equally.

And in this older and (I hope) wiser time of my life, I think I finally understand what my grandmother was trying to tell me. Don't take our freedoms for granted. Make sure you vote.

Dara Kaufman is the executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Register to vote and learn about voting options in MA by visiting [www.mass.gov/topics/voting](http://www.mass.gov/topics/voting)  
Voter registration deadline is **October 24, 2020**



## Letters to the Editor

### Compassionate Support Truly Makes a Difference

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

We deeply appreciate your support of the Community Health Programs. It is through the help and generosity of people like you that we are able to continue to serve over 30,000 individuals in Berkshire County each year. Your compassionate support truly makes a difference!

Your generous gift will go a long way toward supporting those in need, from prenatal education to kindergarten readiness, nutritious food for those with food insecurity, to healthcare and wrap-around services for everyone in our community regardless of insurance or ability to pay. Thousands of our friends and neighbors, many of them struggling to access care, will have their lives improved with your support.

Our team of over 240 employees at 9 medical sites, 3 dental centers, our 2 mobile health units, and family services, work daily to address basic and complex health needs.

You put the community in Community Health Programs. On behalf of all of us at CHP, thank you.

Sincerely,

Apelia (Lia) Spiliotes, Chief Executive Officer  
Community Health Programs  
Great Barrington

### Working Together Makes All the Difference

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

It is our pleasure to acknowledge your recent grant in support of social welfare centers, Entwine, Jewish summer camps and leadership programs, global disaster relief, and Israel Social Service Incubator programs.

As JDC begins its second century of activity, we continue to confront the evolving challenges facing the world's most vulnerable populations. Along with our ongoing mission to strengthen the global Jewish family, JCD's ability to provide critical care and meaningful assistance where it is most needed is the end-goal of all our efforts. Our wonderful partnership changes countless lives for the better and working together makes all the difference. With your support, our global community is growing in vitality and resilience.

On behalf of those we serve, please accept our heartfelt appreciation.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Sisisky  
President

Asher Ostrin  
Interim CEO, JDC  
New York, NY

MORE LETTERS,  
on page 4

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## Rabbi Reflection

### Listening to Voices from Genesis on How to Live as Good Neighbors

By Rabbi Neal I. Borovitz



In the preface to his book *Voices from Genesis*, my teacher and friend Rabbi Norman Cohen, Professor Emeritus of Midrash at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, wrote:

"This book speaks about the human journey from birth to death as reflected in the development of the characters in the Book of Genesis. As such, it challenges all conscientious readers to reflect upon their lives and the stages of growth which they have experienced."

Though you will be reading this column in mid-October or early November, I am writing this column during the Days of Awe between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. These awesome and awe-filled days have been very different for me,

and for all of us, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. My wife, Ann, and I have been living in Stockbridge since mid-March. We came up to what is usually our summer residence after Purim, with the intention of returning home by Pesach, when we, like so many of you, believed that the COVID-19 epidemic would be under control. Even after sharing Passover Seders with family on Zoom and attending online services on *Shabbatot* over these many months, I have still had a very hard time imagining, after being in crowded synagogues every Rosh Hashanah since my birth in 1948, what the High Holy Days would be like. I have been blessed this year to actually be able to attend a live service with our small Berkshire Minyan, outdoors under tents with open sides and everyone socially distanced and wearing masks.

One of the things I found extremely helpful this summer was re-reading Rabbi Cohen's *Voices from Genesis*. It actually helped me wrestle with the challenges that this pandemic has placed before each one of us individually and all of us communally by suggesting how we can see our own lives and our own time through the prism of the narrative of our imperfect and sometimes dysfunctional Biblical patriarchs and matriarchs. For example, both Abraham and Jacob leave the land that God had promised them when famine threatens the welfare of their families. All of our patriarchs and matriarchs are pictured for us in Genesis as lacking in some of their parenting skills and their social interactions with strangers; Abimelech, Pharaoh, Laban, or others in the narrative are also less than perfect.

Their human mistakes had consequences. In fact, I would argue that from the Genesis narrative of the world's first siblings until today, God continues to ask us the question: "Where, and at what state of health and happiness, are your brother and your sister?" We humans continue to emulate Cain and avoid taking responsibility for the fate of our brethren and refuse to give God the response that The Eternal is requesting of us – namely, "Yes I am my brothers' keeper and my sisters' as well!"

I could use examples from Abraham and Isaac narratives to expound on this point, but I believe that the "voice from Genesis" that most distinctly speaks to me in 5781, this year that begins with us continuing to live with the plague of COVID-19, is the story of Jacob and, in particular, his two dreams.

*Parsha VaYetze* (Genesis 28:10-31:3) begins with Jacob, who is running away from home and is described for us as afraid and exhausted.

*The Kotzker Rebbe once rhetorically asked: "Where do you find God?" His answer was: "Wherever and whenever you invite God in."*

*How often have we been deceived because of our own arrogance of believing that we are smarter than everyone else? When do we practice deception with those that we say we love? Is this truly a loving action? When does sibling rivalry devolve into Sinat Hinam (baseless hatred)? Is this an apt description of where we are as contemporary Jews? As contemporary Americans?*

Jacob dreams a dream in which he sees angels depicted as going up and then down on the ladder? (28:12), and he awakes with a realization: "Surely God was in this place and I, I, did not know it" (28:16).

*How often do we forget to be grateful for the angels that help us? How many times have we been in need of an angel and felt forgotten and/or betrayed just because we did not look around us and notice the angels that are with us? How many times have we mistaken enemies for angels and angels for enemies? Are we grateful for what we have? How do we show gratitude for what we have to God and others?*

The Kotzker Rebbe once rhetorically asked: "Where do you find God?" His answer was: "Wherever and whenever you invite God in." This is the message I find in Jacob's awareness when he awakes – "God was in this place and I, I, did not know it." How could Jacob, the inheritor of the spiritual mantle of Isaac and Abraham not know that God was in the place? Perhaps, in the spirit of one of Jacob's descendants Sigmund Freud, it was due to the fact that the "I" that Jacob uses twice in this verse is the "I" of the ego that blinds him to the presence of others both human and Divine.

In Norman Cohen's recounting of Jacob's second dream – in which, the night before he is to encounter his estranged brother Esau, the patriarch wrestles with a "Being" and is given the name Israel, literally "God wrestler" – he differs from classic rabbinic commentators and asks us to see the story from the perspective of Esau. As I re-examined the subsequent meeting of Jacob and Esau in terms of contemporary sibling relationships, I thought about the anger on the part of Esau and the guilt on the part of Jacob that must have existed around caring for their aging parents. Imagine with me, how Esau must have felt. Jacob is returning home after 22 years, presumably to assert his right as the tribal leader. While Jacob was in Haran, Esau, we can assume, had been caring for their now aging parents and running the family's substantial cattle business. No wonder he approaches Jacob ready to do battle.

Does brotherly love win out? Do Jacob and Esau really forgive each other and make peace?

The text in Genesis 33 is unclear. I hear it saying "yes, but..." The reason I can honestly add the "but" is because in verse 4 of that chapter, the word "*va-yishakehu*" – which translates as "they kissed each other" – is written with a series of dots above it. This word is found nowhere else in the Torah. One thousand years ago, Rashi wrote that "the dots could be a hidden clue to indicate either that Esau's kiss was insincere or, that after planning for 22 years to kill his brother, Esau's latent love for his twin wins out."

After their embrace and their kiss, Jacob and Esau each go their separate ways, but seem to remain friendly neighbors who respect each other's rights to be different. This year, as we Americans have had to deal with the plague of racism as well as COVID-19, I suggest to you that the dots over the word "*va-yishakehu*" might serve as a reminder that while Jacob and Esau never became united as one family, they did learn the lesson of the Cain and Abel story. Yes, we are our brothers' and sisters' keeper! Yes, despite our differences we must learn to live side by side as good neighbors.

As Americans of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, can there be any more relevant message for us to hear?

*Rabbi Neal I. Borovitz is Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Avodat Shalom, River Edge, NJ and a member of The Berkshire Minyan in Great Barrington.*

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Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Mitch Greenwald, Roman Rozenblyum, and Colin Ovitsky.

## The Jewish Transportation Network Discount Taxi Vouchers

for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

**Purchase \$50 worth of taxi vouchers for \$5**

(\$6 if requested via mail)

Vouchers are valid for three months and can be used with Tunnel City Taxi of North Adams, Rainbow Taxi of Pittsfield or Berkshire Taxi Co. of Great Barrington and Lee.

Some restrictions apply. Limit 10 voucher booklets per person/per year.

**Purchase vouchers at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires  
196 South St., Pittsfield, MA 01201. (413) 442-4360, ext. 10**

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## Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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## Your Federation Presents

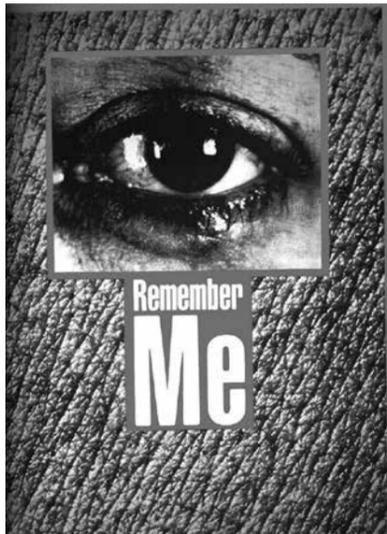
### “The Art of Eve: Exploring Jewish Female Creativity”

On Thursday, October 29 at 6:45 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “The Art of Eve: Exploring Jewish Female Creativity” a program created by Jewish Art Education.

This program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for registration links.

This program examines the various art forms created by female painters, sculptors, printmakers, and photographers reflecting their unique life experiences and displays concern for aesthetic issues and social equality. These artists reacted to the culture and the times in which they lived. This program will survey the 19th and 20th centuries of Jewish female creativity in the visual arts.

Presenting will be Nancy Kotz, an art historian and nonprofit professional. She began her career in arts and public policy (Congressional Arts Caucus) before transitioning to the museum world (Smithsonian Institution and National Gallery of Art) where she held positions in museum education and museum retail. Nancy is also the founder and content curator for VisualArtsDC, a social media-based community with over



“Remember Me” (1980) by Barbara Kruger

1300 followers focused on the visual arts in the metropolitan Washington, DC region.

Since 2015, she has been presenting programs to audiences across Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia for Jewish Art Education (JAE) as well as serving as JAE’s marketing director. Her clients include senior living communities, synagogues and adult education programs.

### “What Connects Us,” with Restaurateur Aaron J. Oster of A-Ok Berkshire Barbecue

On Thursday, November 5 at 6:45 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Aaron J. Oster, co-founder (with his partners, wife Alexandra Oster and Orion Howard) of A-Ok Berkshire Barbecue in North Adams. His topic will be “What Connects Us” – he’ll share experiences accrued over the last 20 years creating environments in which people share time, food, and memories.

At press time, all Jewish FeThis program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for registration links.

Writes Aaron J. Oster: “The difficult world in which we live constantly defines our needs with reminders, notifications, and news of things that are more important. What connects us are the basics, the

good in us that sits with the rich and emotional memories we’ve collected as members of the human race, which can be remembered when we eat. When the basic needs of our bodies and minds demand our attention, let’s take a second to listen and see that we find. This is the goal of a great restaurant in a community. This has been my goal for the past two decades...and I hope that it finds a place in our future.”

In 2018, Aaron and his partners established A-Ok in North Adams, adjacent to MassMOCA, “with the specific goal of putting better food on the tables of those within our community.” There they



Aaron J. Oster

slow-cook BBQ meats, and even bake their own bread.

Find out more about how they did it and about what it takes to make it as a restaurant in Berkshire County in “What Connects Us.”

### “Rock ‘n’ Roll Jews,” with “Radio Dave” Milberg

On Thursday, November 12 at 6:45 p.m., join “Radio Dave” Milberg – a “disc jockey-at-law” who has been broadcasting since 1965 and lawyering since 1979 – as he discusses the fascinating subject of “Rock ‘n’ Roll Jews.”

This program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for registration links.

Writes Milberg: “The rock and roll family tree has Jews at its roots, trunk, and branches – disc jockeys, singers, songwriters, musicians, record company executives, and even mobsters – who planted its seeds and nurtured it to become the dominant music in America over the past seven decades.”

“Radio Dave” will morph into his DJ persona to spotlight seven decades of selected Jews who rocked – and whose cultural impact went beyond their music. His presentation will include photos of famed “Rock ‘n’ Roll Jews” along with soundbites of their songs. And yes, you can sing along and get up and dance during the presentation.”

“Radio Dave” has been a featured radio disc jockey on stations across the Midwest, and has also been a radio announcer for the Chicago Bears and Chicago White Sox. He has received more than 20 national awards for broadcast station management, journalism, sports, and community service. As “Lawyer Dave,” Milberg retired from the Chicago-based firm of Schiff Hardin LLP in 2014, and has taught Media Law. His “Rare & Scratchy Rock ‘N Roll” podcast



“Radio Dave” Milberg

is regularly downloaded by nearly 100,000 listeners in more than 135 countries worldwide.

As a musicologist, Milberg, an authority on popular music history, was among a group of scholars who were 2019 finalists in the “Documentary Record” category for the Grammy Awards. He also is a volunteer consultant to medical professionals, creating customized music mixes that are used in the therapy for their patients suffering cognitive impairment.

Milberg owns more than 60,000 records, including “the largest Christmas collection this side of the North Pole” and “the largest-known archive of original versions of Elvis Presley remakes, as well as songs about or mentioning the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

For further information on all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, Program Director, at (413) 442-4360, ext.15.

## Letters to the Editor, continued

### Little People Learning Big Words Like “Hygiene” and “Social Distancing”

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

Child Care of the Berkshires was delighted to receive your very generous gift to assist families in these challenging times of COVID, unemployment, anxiety, and high stress throughout our community.

CCB reopened its doors at the end of June and is providing child care to many families. Our classrooms are full of little people wearing masks and learning big words like “hygiene” and “social distancing” while running through sprinklers or playing in sandboxes.

Our traditional home-visiting staff members are transitioning into a busy year of creative virtual coaching in parenting skills and supporting parents.

Your donation will help meet the underfunded needs of a number of families in our community and assist with a brighter future. Our teachers, family support specialists, and home visitors are in constant contact with families, and they will continue to alert their supervisors when an unmet need arises. Let me assure you that your gift will have a

significant impact in making their home life a little more stable and secure.

Thank you to your generous donors for having the confidence in Child Care of the Berkshires’ commitment to nurture, educate, and support our neighbors.

Gratefully,  
Anne Nemetz-Carlson,  
President/CEO  
Child Care of the  
Berkshires  
North Adams

### Federation Technology Grant Made All the Difference Over the Holidays

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

I want to thank you on behalf of our congregation for the support we received for technology enhancement for our High Holy Day services. The professional that we were able to have with us, supported by your grant, made all the difference to the spiritual and meaningful worship experience we could provide for our congregants and guests throughout the holidays. We shared our gratitude to you all with everyone during these days together.

With profound thanks,

Rabbi Barbara JK Cohen  
Congregation Ahavath Sholom  
Great Barrington

Thinking about Suicide? Help is available

National Suicide Prevention Hotline  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Local Brien Center Crisis Hotline  
1-800-252-0277

Text a Crisis Counselor  
text TALK to 741741

More resources at  
[berkshirecoalition.org](http://berkshirecoalition.org)



## Your Federation Presents

### MIDDLE EAST UPDATE, *continued from page 1*

Before joining The Washington Institute, Makovsky was an award-winning journalist. He also was Executive Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*; Diplomatic Correspondent for *Haaretz*; and Contributing Editor and special Jerusalem correspondent to *U.S. News and World Report*. He received the National Press Club's 1994 Edwin M. Hood Award for Diplomatic Correspondence for a cover story on PLO finances that he co-wrote.

A native of St. Louis, David Makovsky received a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a master's degree in Middle East studies from Harvard University.

**Ambassador Dennis Ross** is counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Prior to returning to the Institute in 2011, he served two years as special assistant to President Obama and National Security Council senior director for the Central Region, and a year as special advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

For more than twelve years, Ambassador Ross played a leading role in shaping U.S. involvement in the Middle East peace process and dealing directly with the parties in negotiations. A highly skilled diplomat, Ambassador Ross was U.S. point man on the peace process in both the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations. He was instrumental in assisting Israelis and Palestinians to reach the 1995 Interim Agreement; he also successfully brokered the 1997 Hebron Accord, facilitated the 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty, and intensively worked to bring Israel and Syria together.

A scholar and diplomat with more than two decades of experience in Soviet and Middle East policy, Ambassador Ross worked closely with Secretaries of State James Baker, Warren Christopher, and Madeleine Albright. Prior to his service as special Middle East

coordinator under President Clinton, Ambassador Ross served as director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff in the first Bush administration. In that capacity, he played a prominent role in U.S. policy toward the former Soviet Union, the unification of Germany and its integration into NATO, arms control negotiations, and the 1991 Gulf War coalition.

During the Reagan administration, he served as director of Near East and South Asian affairs on the National Security Council staff and deputy director of the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment. Ambassador Ross was awarded the Presidential Medal for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service

by President Clinton, and Secretaries Baker and Albright presented him with the State Department's highest award.

Ambassador Ross has published extensively on the former Soviet Union, arms control, and the greater Middle East, contributing numerous chapters to anthologies. He is the author of several influential books on the peace process, the Middle East, and international relations, analytical and personal insight into the Middle East peace process. *The New York Times* praised his 2007 publication, *Statecraft, And How to Restore America's Standing in the World* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007), as "important and illuminating."

### SHTETL KITCHEN, *continued from page 1*

you thought about Ashkenazi gastronomy – goose, gefilte fish, cabbage, kugel, and more.

Jeffrey Yoskowitz is a food entrepreneur and a thought leader in the Jewish food world, and co-executive producer of The Great Big Jewish Food Festival. He has written for *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic*, among others. Jeffrey teaches Jewish culinary anthropology at The City College of New York. Follow him on Instagram @jeffyosko and @gefilteria.

Liz Alpern is also the creator of Queer Soup Night, a global event series highlighting the talent of queer chefs and raising funds for locally-based social justice organizations.

She holds an MBA from CUNY Baruch's Zicklin School of Business and teaches culinary entrepreneurship at the International Culinary Center. Follow her on Instagram @lizalpern and @gefilteria.

In collaboration with the food website The Nosh, The Gefilteria has been compiling "The Official Guide to Jewish Eats," which explores the Jewish cuisine found in cities in the United States and around the world. For more, visit [myjewishlearning.com/nosh-category/city-guides/](http://myjewishlearning.com/nosh-category/city-guides/).

The Great Big Jewish Food Festival took place virtually in May, and sessions were recorded and can be viewed on the Gefilteria website.

### "Jews in Sports," with Evan Weiner

On Thursday, October 15 at 6:45 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes radio journalist and newspaper columnist Evan Weiner for a presentation about "Jews in Sports."

This program will be presented via Zoom. Please visit [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for registration links.

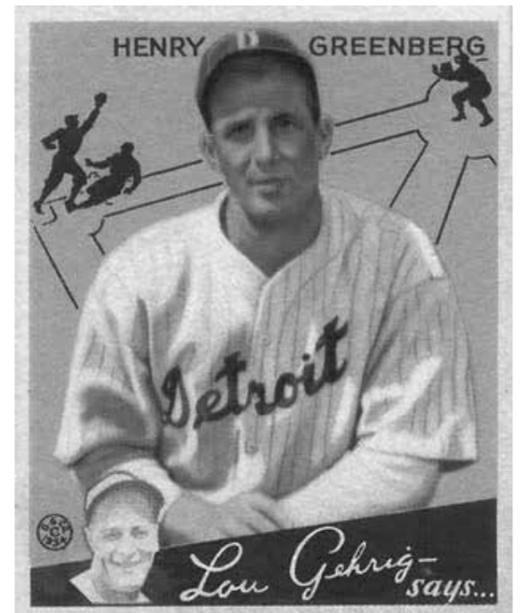
Writes Weiner: "Once upon a time, Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax were bigger than life to Jewish families. They were authentic Jewish sports heroes. But there were plenty of others."

"Mark Spitz won gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Sid Luckman was a star quarterback for the Chicago Bears. The early days of basketball featured many Jewish athletes who honed their skills at local Jewish centers like the South Philadelphia Hebrew Association. The SPHAs were inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA for their contribution in building interest in basketball. Jews today run sports leagues and own sports

teams, and there are some sports megastars like swimming's Katie Ledecky" who have Jewish ancestry.

A radio journalist from the age of 15, Evan Weiner won two Associated Press Awards in 1978 and 1979. In the 1980s, he started his long association with Westwood One Radio. Weiner was a contributing columnist for several newspapers throughout the US. He did a daily commentary called "The Business of Sports" for Westwood One Radio between 1999 and 2006. He has written six books about the business and politics of sports.

Weiner also lectures at colleges and universities about the business and politics of sports, including the globalization of North American sports and how technology is changing sports. His book, *The Business and Politics of Sports*, has been critically acclaimed by academic journals and is used as part of a number of sports business management courses at schools throughout the United States.



1934 baseball card of Hall of Famer Henry "Hank" Greenberg of the Detroit Tigers

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### MAZEL TOV

#### Mazel Tov to...

**Eileen Henle** on the marriage of her grandson **Michael Weiss** to **Kelly McIntyre**

\*

**Margo Golos**, on the recent marriage of her daughter **Joy Reines** to **Craig Zimmerman**

\*

**Michele Krieg Bauer and Chris Fader** on the birth of grandson **Wesley Flynn Bauer** – parents are **Joshua and Elissa Bauer**

\*

**Jacob Klein** on his bar mitzvah at Knesset Israel – proud parents are **Sara and Lawrence Klein**

\*

**Amy Alexander** on receiving the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Berkshire County's Eunice Zorbo Award as Member of the Year, which recognizes a member who contributes enthusiastically to the organization's mission to help families whose lives are affected by mental illness

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# Your Federation Presents

## Our Social Worker is Here for You

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all members of our Jewish community.

It has impacted jobs, education, and travel, and our ability to attend lectures, concerts, and religious services. Food shopping, essential medical appointments and seeing friends and family have created challenges for everyone.

Older adults in particular are feeling the prolonged impact and face unique challenges during this time.

Jill Goldstein, LICSW, is a social worker contracted by this Federation through the Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts to serve the Berkshire Jewish community. Her primary responsibilities are to provide social services to the adult and senior adult community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Jill has been working remotely to assist Jewish community members in coping with the health crisis and other life challenges. Jill's work includes:

- Regular phone support services to people who are isolated in their homes
- Bereavement support
- Support to caregivers whose loved ones are in medical facilities
- Referral to home health care services
- Education and assistance with food stamp applications
- Support to people who are unable to leave the Berkshires due to the pandemic.

Jill also assists out of town family members in arranging services for their Berkshire loved ones (i.e. home health care, live-in care).

If you or someone you know needs help during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jill for a confidential consultation. She receives referrals from community members, adult children, clergy, Jewish Family Services, and her Federation colleagues.

Jill can be reached by calling the Federation office: (413) 442-4360, ext. 17. All messages are retrieved regularly.



Jill Goldstein

# Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

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## Your Federation Presents



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### Financial Assistance Available

No one could have anticipated the financial impact this pandemic would have. The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has provided a safety net for our Jewish community for more than 80 years and we are here to help individuals and families through this difficult time.

The Federation is offering onetime financial assistance to help Jewish community members struggling with essential needs such as food, utilities, mortgage and rent. Additional critical needs may be considered. Interest free loans are also available.

Any Jewish community member who has been impacted financially by the pandemic may be eligible. You do not have to belong to a synagogue or be part of the Federation to apply. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis and are per household. All inquiries regarding assistance will be kept strictly confidential.

To inquire about assistance please visit

[jewishberkshires.org/covid19-assist](http://jewishberkshires.org/covid19-assist)

## Your Dollars at Work – A Virtual Journey and Taste of Latin America



On the first three Mondays of November at noon, join JDC Ambassadors for an unforgettable lunchbreak series and taste of Latin America and Cuba. Discover the region's rich Jewish history, vibrant cultures, and dynamic communities with Will Recant, assistant executive vice-president and expert in JDC's fieldwork.

Open the window to an exclusive look into JDC's life-saving emergency response in embattled Venezuela, visit the unique and dynamic Jewish community of Cuba, and learn how the resilient Jews of Argentina are meeting emerging needs related to COVID-19.

Check out Federation's community calendar at [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) for links to this program, or check out our weekly emails. You can also register at [tinyurl.com/JDCinLatAm](http://tinyurl.com/JDCinLatAm).

**Venezuela** – On Monday, November 2, meet the courageous women in Caracas serving vulnerable community members threatened by COVID-19. You'll also learn to cook arepas, a traditional cornmeal cake, with the director of

Venezuela's Jewish welfare initiative and connect with intergenerational leaders and participants of the touching and inspiring "Adopt a Grandparent" program through the Hebraica JCC in Caracas.

**Cuba and Beyond** – On Monday, November 9, tour Jewish Havana and explore JDC's partnership with and support of Cuba's remarkable resurgence of Jewish tradition, faith, and culture. Discover how the Cuban Jewish community celebrates holidays despite the unique challenges of the pandemic and explore JDC's innovative models of care for vulnerable elderly Jews. Then you'll jump over to Uruguay to witness the impact of JDC's support at "The Israelite Nursing home from Uruguay" and "Tzedakah Uruguay."

**Argentina** – On Monday, November 16, join a virtual tour of Buenos Aires including historic landmarks and Jewish communal sites. Learn how JDC is helping vulnerable Jewish families in the face of the country's looming financial crisis. Plus, learn how to tango!

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# Your Federation Presents

## Federation Volunteers Brought High Holy Day Spirit to Local Seniors

Volunteers were vital to the success of our recent high holiday outreach to support families and older adults. Thank you to the many community members who stepped up to help bake challah, decorate cards and bags, pack and deliver Rosh Hashanah Care packages to 250 older adults at home, in senior residences, nursing homes, and hospitals across the Berkshires. While volunteers could not make their traditional holiday visits due to pandemic restrictions, the staff of the various facilities shared that the packages were received with joy and gratitude by the recipients.

We thank all of our volunteers – Susan Gordon, Judy Moss, David Pill, Stuart Masters, Kayla Bellmore, Cindy Helitzer, Jim Moran, Alice and Marty Jonas, Joan Grossman, Amy Smith, Avi Dresner and family, Carol Smoler, Vicki Loring, Wendy Robbins, Rabbi Daniel Lehmann, Rabbis Don Weber and Shira Stern, Jess Berwick, Ronni Arrow, Diane Weinstein, Lori and Jeremy Guy, Maris Katsir, Naomi Schwartz, Joan Brotman, Roman Rozenblyum, Rosalind Kopfstein, Adam Lehrer, Steve Rubin, Shaina Adams-El Guabli, Eric Greenberg, Irit and Dalia Blaugrund, Isabel, Eliana, and Zak Gunnet-Shoval. Please forgive us if we forgot your name.

Baking



Packing



Delivering



# Your Federation Presents



“Thank you so very much for this gift. I so enjoyed the visit (at a distance) with you and Adam. While the goodies were delicious, the visit was even better...”  
– Anita Bakst (Adam’s teacher for many years) Taken on the stoop of her house while we visited from the driveway and chatted.

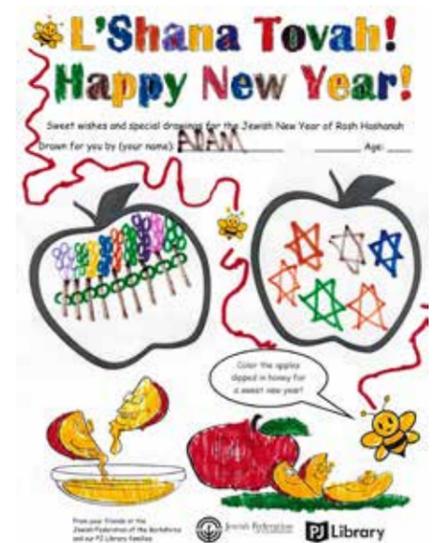
Nurses at Fairview Hospital delivered the gift bags to Jewish patients to remind them that they are being embraced and wished a happy, healthy and sweet New Year. Here, nursing assistant Cassie Bercier and Sandy Keefner accept the bags on our Medical Surgical Unit.



## Volunteers are Vital!

*Yasher koach* to Merle Ferber (here with Ziva, her service dog), one of our Federation volunteers who went above and beyond to make dozens of calls to check in with our Jewish community members before the High Holy Days. She wished them a Happy New Year on behalf of the Federation and checked in to see how they were doing. We are continuing to check in with folks, and if you want to have a friendly chat with a volunteer (or want to be a friendly caller), please let us know! We’re happy to make the connection! Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer slehrer@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 14.

## Federation and PJ Library Connected Families with Rosh Hashanah Fun



Families celebrated Rosh Hashanah together during an interactive Zoom program on September 3 with educator Rabbi Jarah Greenfield using many of the items in their bags. We enjoyed a craft activity, read a story, dipped our apples in honey, and made some noise (with the shofar) as we explored the birthday of the world and celebrated the contribution that each and every creature – from the mightiest elephant to the smallest child can make. There were lots of other fun things in the bags for families to use during the High Holidays, too.



Our son Eli’s comment on getting the Rosh HaShana bag was “it was super nice” and the activity we all did together on zoom with PJ Pals as a family was “super fun and awesome.” We thought so, too. It was a nice way to start the holiday and feel in community.

Jen Margo and Stuart Lemmen



Our grandson Troy enjoyed celebrating the holiday while interacting with other kids. Thanks to PJ Library and Federation.

Paul Gluck

## NEWS

## ‘Israel has the makings of a cyber superpower’

In the wake of the Abraham Accords, “the potential vis-à-vis the UAE is endless,” says Israel’s National Cyber Directorate head Yigal Unna

By Yoav Limor

(Israel Hayom via JNS) – Walking into the Tel Aviv office of Israel National Cyber Directorate head Yigal Unna, you immediately notice a very specific memento—a very weighty plaque he was awarded by his counterparts in the United Arab Emirates. Unna was part of the historic delegation that traveled to Abu Dhabi in August after the landmark peace deal between Israel and the UAE was announced, and the plaque sheds light on the deep cyber and technological ties between the two countries.

“The potential vis-à-vis the UAE is endless,” he told *Israel Hayom*. “We have the knowledge, tools and capabilities that can offer the issues they’re dealing with the best solutions in the world. In terms of cybersecurity, Israel is one of the most protected countries in the world. We want them to be as protected as we are,” he said.

According to Unna, until now Israeli companies

pursued only defense deals in the Gulf. Now that the Abraham Accords are in place, trade can expand to include economic and industrial ventures.

“There are many overtures by Israeli and Gulf companies that want to get started. The cyber sphere connects people and Israel is a powerhouse in this arena—one considerably larger than its physical size or the size of its economy. We have something for every actor in the region, and they all face similar threats as Israel,” he said.

For Israel, a high volume of cyberattacks is a matter of routine. This is the price highly technologically advanced countries must pay when dealing with their enemies, be they traditional or more amorphous, such as criminal organizations or countries on the other side of the world, like North Korea.

Unna, 49, is Israel’s cyber gatekeeper and his agency guards every entity in the public and private

sector—from critical state infrastructure and state-owned corporations to every last member of the public.

A veteran of the intelligence community, Unna has spent most of his professional life in the shadows; this is the first time he has ever given a press interview.

Born in Jerusalem, Unna currently lives in Givatayim. He is married and the father of three teenage sons. He skipped a grade in school and enlisted in the Israel Defense Forces at the age of 17, where he was assigned to Unit 8200, Military Intelligence’s elite division, which is responsible for collecting signals intelligence and code decryption. He later underwent officer training as a cyber-intelligence officer, rising to the rank of captain before leaving the military.

Unna had his eye on becoming a Mossad officer, but the Arabic he studied while in uniform led him to Israel’s domestic security service, the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet), where his experience

in the cyber sphere was put to use in the agency’s operational directorate. He went on to spend his years in the Shin Bet in technology-oriented positions, mostly in the offensive sphere. In 2013, Unna was named head of the agency’s technology division, and in 2018 was tapped as head of its cyber division.

“It’s the type of role that doesn’t let you sleep at night,” he said. “You can’t revel in yesterday’s achievements because every day brings new battles and the smallest breach can cause significant damage.”

The National Cyber Directorate was effectively established in the 1970s, and has undergone several reincarnations since its inception.

Originally, defending the nation’s computer infrastructure was entrusted to a small unit in the Shin Bet, but it wasn’t until 2002 that the government officially asked the agency to protect critical infrastructure, bringing about the formation of the Information

Security Directorate.

A few years later, it became clear that the Shin Bet was unable to fully meet the wide range of threats lurking in the cyber sphere, and that even non-essential state infrastructure faces challenges that must be met.

“It happened when we noticed cyberattacks on states, like Estonia and later in Georgia, and even the mishap that happened to the centrifuges in Iran,” said Unna, referring to the 2007 Stuxnet computer virus attack that crippled the Islamic republic’s nuclear program in an operation largely attributed to the United States and Israel.

“This process made us acutely aware of the fact that it [cyber] had the potential of becoming a battlefield.”

Then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked IDF Maj. Gen. (ret.) Professor Isaac Ben-Israel, formerly head of the Defense Ministry’s

CYBERPOWER,  
continued on page 16



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**Dr. Andrew Puttick**, owner and audiologist at Greylock Audiology, is a state licensed doctor of audiology with more than 17 years of experience serving the Berkshire community. He proudly established Greylock Audiology and FYZICAL Pittsfield to meet the local need for integrated Audiology and Physical Therapy care that maximizes quality of life through better hearing, balance and overall health.



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**LOCAL NEWS**

**The CAS Creative Arts Series Presents:  
Designing Photographs, with Arthur Hillman**

Congregation Ahavath Sholom member Arthur Hillman is a photographer and printmaker who has been exhibiting his photographs and prints for over 50 years. His work has been presented in over 20 one-person shows and in many national print exhibitions and group exhibits.

**Designing Photographs, Part II, on Zoom**

Sunday, October 18 at 2 p.m.

Participants will submit (by email) two of their own digital photographs for discussion and review. Subject matter can include portraits,

landscapes, garden images, still life compositions, street photography, abstractions, etc. We will examine and discuss these images on the basis of content, composition, expression, technical effectiveness and other design considerations. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested to support CAS Creative Arts programs. (Please email arthurhillman@roadrunner.com to reserve a place and to submit your photographs by Friday, October 16).

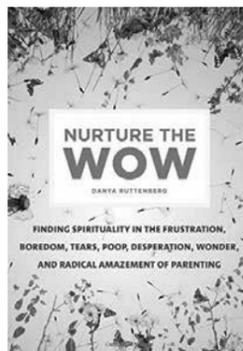
**About Arthur Hillman**

Arthur Hillman has a B.F.A. from the Philadelphia College

of Art and an M.F.A. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Arthur taught at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston from 1968-1974. He joined the visual arts faculty of Simon's Rock in 1974 and taught there until retiring in 2011. He has delivered a variety of lectures and presentations on photography and printmaking, juried many exhibits, and was a founding member of the Berkshire Photography Group. He is currently Professor Emeritus, Photography, Printmaking and Design, Bard College at Simon's Rock. More of his work can be seen online at www.arthurhillman.net.

**Fall Programs at TAA**

For registration information, please contact the Temple office at (413) 442-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.



**Jewish Parenting Book Club**

Temple Anshe Amunim will hold a Jewish Parenting Book Club at 8 p.m. on Thursday, October 22.

Parents are invited to join Rabbi Liz Hirsch for a discussion on *Nurture the Wow* by Danya Ruttenberg. All parents are encouraged to join in and to read the book beforehand, as you are able.

The event is free and open to the public.

**Young Families Shabbat Experience**

Temple Anshe Amunim will hold a Young Families Shabbat Experience virtual gathering at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 30. The program, led by Rabbi Liz, will include singing, blessings, and a craft.

This event is free and open to children Pre-K through grade 5 and their siblings and parents, but registration is suggested so that TAA can arrange for you to receive the materials needed for the craft portion.

**TAA and Hevreh to Host Joint Shabbat Service**

On Friday, October 23 at 5:45 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and Temple Anshe Amunim will jointly host an online Kabbalat Shabbat service.

Join the clergy of both congregations for a lively and musical welcoming of Shabbat. For more information, visit ansheamunim.org or hevreh.org.

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## BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

### Traveling with Jewish Taste

#### Gaucha Marx?

Jews on horseback once galloped across the Argentine Pampas

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



Growing up in the small Pittsfield community, just about every Jew I knew was Ashkenazi. My friends' parents were engaged in business, law, medicine, engineering, teaching, and accounting. Nothing, in my young girl's mind, particularly exciting. So when I learned about the Jewish cowboys of Argentina, the image of those gauchos galloping across the Pampas grasslands atop their steeds captured my imagination. (It still does.) But how did these Yiddish-speaking Jews become folk heroes in South America?

But I get ahead of myself. Jewish presence in Argentina began well before the gauchos came to town. With the Alhambra decree, Spain

expelled its Jews who refused to convert to Catholicism. Many headed to South America and conversos, or crypto-Jews, came along with them, perhaps thinking that life would be easier in the New World. However, the Inquisition followed them to Argentina and, fearing more oppression, most of those conversos assimilated into the population. Once Argentina declared its independence from Spain in 1816, its General Assembly abolished the Inquisition and an organized Jewish community developed.

Of course, persecution wasn't confined to the lands under Spanish domination. Just few decades later, due to various conflicts and revolutions in Spain, Italy, the Slavic nations, and France, more immigrants arrived, among them Jews who brought their Ashkenazi practices and culture to the Sephardic mix.

Among the Eastern European immigrants arriving in Argentina in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century were Ashkenazi Jews fleeing pogroms and poverty. And, just like their fellow immigrants to the United States, many brought with them socialist political sensibilities first developed in their homelands (along with Zionism and even anarchism), and they became active in establishing labor unions.

Among the newcomers to Argentina in 1889 were 824 "Rusos" (Russians). And this is where the story of the gaucho begins. These cowhands needed help to launch their new lives, so they solicited help from the philanthropist Baron Maurice de Hirsch and his Jewish Colonization Association.

Three factors influenced de Hirsch in his decision to fund the Rusos. First, he knew that the 1853 Argentinian constitution guaranteed religious freedom. Second, he knew that Argentina was encouraging immigration. Third, and most important, he believed that Jews needed to be self-sufficient. So, the baron put his money where his beliefs were and helped masses of Jews desperate to flee the waves of vicious pogroms ravaging the Russia Empire, and purchased about a million and a half acres of land in Argentina. And that is where the gauchos rode the range.

More immigrants arrived in the early years of the 20th century, from Europe, Morocco, and the Ottoman Empire, adding Mizrahim to the Sephardi and Ashkenazi melting pot.

As the Tribe's history has a way of repeating itself, life hasn't always been grand for the Jews of Argentina. The country closed its doors to Jews fleeing persecution during the Holocaust, but welcomed Nazis fleeing prosecution after the war's end. Among the war criminals finding refuge in Argentina was the infamous Adolph Eichmann.

Although as Argentina's Minister of War, Juan Peron had signed Argentina's declaration of war against the Axis, as president he allowed Nazis to immigrate. At the same time, he established diplomatic relations with Israel and was the first to allow Jews to hold public office. When Peron was overthrown, anti-Semitic activity increased dramatically, and reached its height during the repressive and deadly military junta rule of the 1970s and 80s. Migration patterns reversed, and many Jews fled Argentina, heading to Israel, Europe, and North America.

Then, in the 1990s, terrorists attacked two Jewish institutions in Buenos Aires, bombing the Israeli Embassy and Jewish Community Center, killing 85 and wounding hundreds. More Jews left the country, most heading to Israel.

Despite the loss of over 45,000 Jews since 1955, Argentina still has the largest Jewish population of any in Latin America.



A Jewish gaucho in the Argentinian town of Moisés Ville

Carol Goodman Kaufman is a psychologist and author with a passion for travel and food. She is currently at work on a food history/cookbook, tracing the paths that some of our favorite foods have taken from their origins to appear on dinner plates and in cultural rites and artifacts around the world. She invites readers to read her blog at [carolgoodmankaufman.com](http://carolgoodmankaufman.com) and to follow her on Twitter @goodmankaufman.



Tour groups host Jewish heritage journeys in Argentina leading participants on visits to sites of Jewish interest

#### Argentina: Cazuela Gaucho (Chicken Stew)

Serves 12

Jewish cowboys? You bet! Back in 1889, a group of 824 Russian Jews fleeing poverty and pogroms in Russia arrived in Argentina and became gauchos, or cowboys. This recipe for chicken stew was reportedly cooked over an open campfire by those gauchos, in a clay pot known as a *cazuela*. Hence, the name of the dish. If you don't happen to have a campfire handy, you can still make this recipe in your kitchen.

Although the basic ingredients are the same as in the original recipe, I've cut down the number of steps involved after it took me almost three hours to prepare the recipe the first time around. I can't detect a difference in flavor.



#### Ingredients:

1 cut-up chicken or just parts that you like	2 teaspoons paprika
Flour for dredging	1 bay leaf
Olive oil	Salt and pepper
2 large carrots, sliced thick	¼ cup white wine
4 potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks	2 quarts chicken broth
½ lb. pumpkin or other winter squash, cut into chunks	½ cup barley
1 large parsnip, sliced thick	1 cup frozen corn kernels
2 large onions, sliced	1 cup frozen peas
3 cloves garlic, minced	½ lb. green beans, cut into 1-inch pieces
	1 egg, beaten

#### Instructions:

- Heat 3 tablespoons of the oil in a large pot or Dutch oven.
- Dredge the chicken pieces in seasoned flour.
- Sauté the chicken until golden brown on all sides.
- Set aside.
- Sauté the onions and garlic in the pot.
- Return the chicken to the pot along with all the vegetables.
- Add paprika, bay leaf, white wine, salt and pepper and chicken stock to barely cover the stew.
- Bring to a boil, cover, and reduce the heat to a simmer.
- Cook for 20 minutes and add barley.
- Cover and continue cooking for 40 minutes.
- Beat the egg.
- Add a little of the hot liquid from the pan and beat the egg vigorously.
- Add the egg to the pot and stir.
- Add green beans and peas and cook for 5 more minutes.
- Taste the stew and correct the seasoning, if necessary.

## Life Can Present Challenges Sometimes, a little help along the way can make things easier

Our community social worker, Jill Goldstein, LICSW, offers case management, information/referral and consultation to help Jewish community members find support and access to services to help with such needs as:

- ♥ Coping with life's transitions
- ♥ Aging and caregiving issues
- ♥ Relationship difficulties
- ♥ Adjustment to new living situation
- ♥ Living with illness
- ♥ Grief and loss
- ♥ Depression or anxiety

If you are struggling with one of these or other issues, Jill can help you find community resources to assist you. Jill has a Master's degree in social work (MSW) and is licensed as an independent clinical social worker (LICSW).



If you or someone you know needs a little help, give us a call:

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# EQUIP

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## OBITUARIES

### Marjorie Rosenthal, 72, pediatric nurse devoted to her patients

BECKET – Marjorie Rosenthal, 72, of Needham and Becket, died peacefully, surrounded by family, on Saturday, August 15 after a short but rapid decline in health from pancreatic cancer.

Born in Bronx, NY, she attended the Bronx High School of Science and Boston University School of Nursing before earning a master's degree in nursing from Columbia University. Her long career as a pediatric nurse and nurse manager was dedicated to the wellbeing of children, often those in critical need of care. She spent many years at Boston Children's Hospital, followed by a later-life career as a case manager for Aetna in pediatric oncology where she was much loved and appreciated by families whose children she served. Margie cared for those who could not speak for themselves, and moved through life creating quiet but evident beauty.

She raised champion Miniature Schnauzers, produced exceptional needlework and quilts, and collected children's educational toys, supplies, clothing, and books which she donated to her patients, family members, and various organizations and libraries. She listened with great care, remained calm, and gave excellent advice.

Margie will be missed by many friends, colleagues, pediatric patient families, and family members, who will do their best to treat children well because of her thoughtful, forbearing, and steady example.

Margie was predeceased by her parents, William (Bill) and Frieda (Fritzie) Rosenthal of NY, MA, and FL. She is survived by her brother, Steven Rosenthal, and his wife, Ruth, of Becket; two nieces, Caren Rosenthal of Washington, DC and Debra Rosenthal of NJ. She is also survived by her last AKA Champion Miniature Schnauzer, Dow's Dare to Defy of Highview (known as Ellie), in training as a service dog with an emphasis on working with children, who has returned to live with her breeder and continue her training.

A small socially distanced graveside service was held at Cedar Park Beth El Cemetery, Paramus, NJ. Donations in Margie's memory may be made to the newly-formed "Margie Rosenthal Children's Reading Corner" at the Becket Athenaeum; checks to 'Becket Athenaeum; (indicate for MR Reading Corner), PO Box 9, Becket, MA 01223.

### Laura Stoskin, 89, teacher devoted to each and every student

HALLANDALE, FL – Laura Stoskin, 89, died on Saturday, August 29.

Born in Great Barrington on February 21, 1931, daughter of the late Lillian and Morris Stoskin, she graduated from Pittsfield High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Later she obtained a master's degree from Springfield College. Ms. Stoskin was the first member of her family to obtain a college degree.

Ms. Stoskin worked in the Montgomery County, Maryland school system as an elementary school teacher, and later went on to specialize in teaching gifted and talented students. She became an instructor for other professionals and provided advanced training for teachers of gifted students and developed educational programs for disadvantaged and minority students. Ms. Stoskin was loved by students and their parents, who appreciated her tremendous devotion to each and every student. She and a colleague wrote a book together entitled *What Color is Saturday*, which was utilized by many other teachers of gifted students.

Ms. Stoskin enjoyed travel, tennis, and maintaining a strong connection with her family members. She was an avid golfer, having earned many trophies and on one occasion getting a "hole in one." Ms. Stoskin was a vivacious and engaging person who enjoyed her life and was kind to everyone.

She is survived by her sister Edith Taskin of North Adams; niece Barbara Gershen-Swartz and husband, Bruce Swartz of Newton, MA; nephews Richard Taskin of North Adams and Howard Taskin and wife Jenny Taskin of Palm Beach Gardens, FL. She also leaves many great-nieces and nephews and three great-great nieces and nephews. She also leaves her lifelong devoted friend David Applestein of Hallandale, FL. Ms. Stoskin was predeceased by her sister Vera Stoskin Gangel of Schenectady, NY.

A graveside service at Kneset Israel Cemetery, Pittsfield was held on Wednesday, September 2.

### Fred Greene, 97, professor known for wit, humor, vast knowledge, and real-world experience

WILLIAMSTOWN – Fred Greene, 97, passed away on Thursday, September 3 at his home.

Born to Max and Clara Greenberg on January 12,

1923 in Brooklyn, NY, he attended Yeshiva High School and City College of New York. Fred served as a Japanese language officer in the Army during World War II and was discharged with the rank of first lieutenant. After the war, he earned his Ph.D. from Yale University on the G.I. Bill.

His scholarship on US foreign policy, particularly in relation to East Asia, was widely published in books and journals. He is the author of *The Far East and U.S. Policy and the Security of Asia*, among other books, including *In the Shadows of War: A 20th Century Memoir*, which reflects on democracy, humanitarianism, the United Nations, and national and collective security.

Fred taught at Williams College from 1949 to 1986. His classes were known for their wit and humor, as well as his vast knowledge and real-world experience. During those 44 years of teaching, researching, and writing about international relations, he spent several years as a political and military analyst for the National Security Council and the Department of Defense, as well as teaching at the National War College. In both the early and late 1960s, he served as director of the State Department's Office of East Asian and Pacific Research and Analysis. For 25 years, he served as director of the Williams College Executive Program, which offered summer courses in the social sciences and humanities to mid-level corporate executives.

Fred is predeceased by his first wife, Marilyn Steiner Greene, who passed away in 1957, his second wife Ruth Light Greene, who passed away in 2011, and by his younger brothers Bernard Greene and Irwin Greenberg. He is survived by his children: Alicia Greene (Kelly McCann), Evalyn Greene (Paul Gallmeier), Joseph Greene (Ellen), and Carrie Greene (James McAllister), as well as his grandchildren DJ Ross, Catherine McAllister, Joshua Greene, Samuel Greene, and Paul Langway.

Donations in Fred's memory can be made to Williams College for either the Professor Fred Greene Scholarship, established in 2008 and awarded to a deserving student interested in political science or political economy, or the Fred Greene Third Century Professorship, created in 1987 and currently held by his son-in-law, James McAllister. Donations can be made at <https://giving.williams.edu/ways-to-give/> or they can be mailed to Williams College, 75 Park Street, Williamstown, MA 01267.

### Ellen Tabs, 77, devoted teacher and woman of exceptional taste, style, and wit

WEST STOCKBRIDGE – Ellen Tabs, 77, passed peacefully on Thursday, September 3 after a year-long battle with cancer, with loving family at her side. She shared a 55-year-long marriage with her adoring husband and high school sweetheart, Leonard, 79.

Born in Paterson, NJ on June 15, 1943 to parents Esther and Hyman Solomon, she graduated from William Paterson college in 1965 with a degree in Elementary Education. Ellen spent several years teaching second grade, and later taught remedial math in Plainfield, NJ. She was devoted to her students, ensuring that each child she met had the resources needed to succeed, no matter their background. Ellen later created Good Cookies: Plain and Fancy, a cookie catering business in Westfield, NJ. Her cookies were particularly delicious, and well-loved by the community. Ellen valued her time volunteering as a sighted reader for the visually impaired with the Lighthouse Guild in the early 90s. After enjoying many years living in New York City, Ellen and Lenny retired to the Berkshires in 2008, where they had previously lived part-time since 1998.

Ellen co-founded a special interest mystery book club called Murder, Mayhem, and Mystery as part of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), where she also chaired the membership committee. Her passion for baking extended throughout her life. She also cultivated an impressive knitting talent. Ellen was deeply engaged in the world, always eager to discuss current events and social issues. She will be remembered as a woman of exceptional taste, style, and wit. She loved with her whole heart.

Ellen is survived by two children: Nancy Tabs and husband Zach Young of NYC; and Mark Tabs and wife Lisa Tabs of Katonah, NY. She also leaves behind five much loved grandchildren: Halle Young, Emily Young, Sam Tabs, Jacob Tabs, and Jordan Tabs. Ellen loved nothing more than spending time with her family. She is also survived by her sister Marilyn Rauchberg and husband Howard of Montville, NJ. Ellen will be missed tremendously by her family and friends, who loved her fiercely.

A private family memorial service was held in her honor at Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, Great Barrington.

Donations may be made to HospiceCare in the Berkshires, Inc. c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

### Arleen Beth (Sharad) Seidman, 65, daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt

GREAT BARRINGTON – Arleen Beth (Sharad) Seidman, 65, passed away Tuesday, September 1.

Arleen was the dear daughter of Sheila (Boodman) Sharad and the late Irving Sharad. She was the beloved wife of Keith Seidman and loving mother of Ilana Perlman and husband David, and Erica Seidman. Arleen was the adored grandmother of Simone and Margot Perlman, loyal sister of Steven Sharad, and cherished aunt of many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were planned to take place privately. Expressions of sympathy in Arleen's memory may be donated to Susan F. Smith Center for Women's Cancers c/o Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215.

### Freke Quirine Vuijst-Klein, 68, award-winning documentary filmmaker, author, and foreign correspondent

GREAT BARRINGTON – Freke Quirine Vuijst-Klein died of cancer on Friday, September 4, her 68th birthday, at her home. She was an award-winning documentary filmmaker, author, and foreign correspondent for Dutch media.

Vuijst-Klein was the daughter of the late Reverend Jan Vuijst and Tina de Ridder-Vuijst, both of whom were recognized as Righteous Gentiles during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Vuijst-Klein was a reporter for the Dutch newsmagazine, *Vrij Nederland*, since graduation from the Royal School of Journalism in the The Hague. *Vrij Nederland* began as an underground resistance newspaper during the Nazi Occupation.

Vuijst-Klein's films included *Keep on Walking* (the 2002 Paul Robeson Award, First Prize) and *Consuming Hunger* (the 1988 World Hunger Media Award, First Prize). Most recently, she translated and narrated the book she co-wrote, *Alias Fortezza – a Hacker's Diary* for American publication (Audible Audio Books.)

She is survived by her husband, Daniel M.

OBITUARIES, continued on next page

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Friday, October 2 .....5:39 p.m.  
Friday, October 30 .....5:29 p.m.  
Friday, November 6....4:21 p.m.  
Friday, November 13..4:13 p.m.  
Friday, November 20..4:08 p.m.



# Connecting with Community

## Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

**In response to coronavirus guidelines...**

As of press time, all in-person Connecting With Community programming has been canceled. For the most up-to-date information and details on virtual programming, please visit our website [www.jewishberkshires.org](http://www.jewishberkshires.org) to sign up for our eblasts to receive a weekly listing of online opportunities.

**Meals-on-Wheels & Meals to Go – Advance Reservation Required**

Kosher lunch will be prepared on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. *Meals to go will be ready by noon for pickup at the Knesset Israel kitchen door, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.*

All meals-on-wheels will be delivered by Federation volunteers in the early afternoon.

**Please call (413) 442-2200 no later than 9 a.m. to reserve your meal for pickup and to arrange delivery if standing instructions are not in place.** All are welcome to reserve meals for pick-up, although delivery may be limited in certain circumstances.

The menus listed below are planned, but may be modified depending on availability of ingredients. When making a reservation, please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy.

Adults 60 and over: \$2 suggested donation. Adults under 60: \$7 per person.

**Volunteers are Vital!** Volunteer drivers who can deliver meals-on-wheels are always appreciated. Please call Susan Frisch Lehrer at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14. The Federation's kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.



**Jewish Federation**  
OF THE BERKSHIRES

**OBITUARIES, continued**  
*from previous page*

Klein of Great Barrington; daughter Samara Q. Klein of Housatonic; Samara's partner Daniel M. Bialowas; grand-daughter Eliana Q. Bialowas. She is also survived by her sister, Marjan Q. Vuijst and her brother, Peter Q. Vuijst, both of The Netherlands.

A convert to Judaism, Ms. Vujst was buried at the Jewish cemetery in Great Barrington on Sunday, September 6 with Rabbi Barbara Cohen officiating.

**Vladimir Yefremov, 76, husband, father, grandfather**

PITTSFIELD – Vladimir Yefremov, 76, a loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away at his home on Tuesday, September 15, after a yearlong battle with cancer.

Born in Belarus on May 9, 1944, the son of Yuriy Yefremov and Anastasia Karpova Yefremova, he immigrated to America 25 years ago with his family.

Vladimir is survived by his wife Alla Yefremov; daughter Olga Yefremova; son Yevgeniy Yefremov and wife Sigita; three grandchildren Emilia, Livia, and Alisa. A memorial service was planned for immediate family.

**You can now read and share Berkshire Jewish Voice feature stories online! Visit [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org) and select Community & Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.**

## What's for Lunch?

# Dairy Free, \*\* Gluten Free Main Entrée

For more information on specific programs please see "Your Federation Presents" section of this paper.

**OCTOBER**

**Monday, 12** ..... Closed for Columbus Day

**Tuesday, 13** ..... Hearty beef barley stew#, green beans, salad, Italian bread, applesauce, and tea.

**Thursday, 15** ..... Salami & egg frittata\*\*#, broccoli, hash browns, salad, Challah, peaches, and tea.

**Monday, 19** ..... Mild Malaysian curry chicken\*\*#, rice, mixed vegetables, farmer's loaf, pineapple, and tea.

**Tuesday, 20** ..... Sweet & sour meatballs\*\*#, chicken soup, noodles, peas, pumpernickel bread, fruit cocktail, and tea.

**Thursday, 22** ..... Fresh fish\*\*, noodle kugel, roasted Brussels sprouts, salad, whole wheat bread, cookies, and tea.

**Monday, 26** ..... Meatballs in tomato cumin sauce\*\*#, noodles, broccoli, salad, pita bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.

**Tuesday, 27** ..... Turkey pot pie\*\*#, peas & carrots, rice, salad, multi-grain bread, grapes, and tea.

**Thursday, 29** ..... Fish chowder\*\*, grilled cheese, stewed tomatoes, oyster crackers, sugar cookie, and tea.

**NOVEMBER**

**Monday, 2** ..... Meat loaf\*\*#, chicken soup, peas, mashed potatoes, rye bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

**Tuesday, 3** ..... Roasted chicken\*\*#, vegetable soup,

sweet potato, green beans, noodles & onions, Challah, pears, and tea.

**Thursday, 5** ..... Pasta "carbonara", minestrone soup, peas, garlic bread, apricots, and tea.

**Monday, 9** ..... Chicken cacciatore\*\*#, Italian wedding soup, noodles, broccoli, Italian bread, peaches, and tea.

**Tuesday, 10** ..... Shepherd's pie\*\*#, chef's choice of soup, salad, whole wheat bread, applesauce, and tea.

**Thursday, 12** ..... Salmon\*\*, mushroom soup, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, salad, potato bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

**Monday, 16** ..... Sloppy Joes\*\*#, vegetable soup, corn, mashed potatoes, salad, hamburger bun, parve cookies, and tea.

**Tuesday, 17** ..... Tuna salad platters\*\*#, vegetable soup, whole wheat bread, parve cookies, and tea.

**Thursday, 19** ..... Roasted turkey\*\*#, squash soup, mashed potatoes, peas & pearl onions, cranberry sauce, salad, Challah, apple dumplings, and tea.

**Monday, 23** ..... Stir fried chicken\*\*#, egg drop soup, white rice, Oriental blend vegetables, pumpernickel bread, pineapple, and tea.

**Tuesday 24** ..... Meat chili with "cheese", brown rice, salad, corn bread, dessert TBA, and tea.

**Thursday, 26** ..... Closed for Thanksgiving

*Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?*

Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-4360, ext 10



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NEWS

**CYBERPOWER**, *continued from page 10*

Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, to head the “National Cyber Initiative.”

The latter outlined Israel’s cyber-defense doctrine, which led to the inception of the National Cyber Bureau in the Prime Minister’s Office, the task of which was to plan Israel’s cyber strategy. A sister agency, the National Cyber Security Authority, was tasked with the operational aspects of putting the strategy into action, and three years ago, the two were united under the National Cyber Directorate.

Like the Mossad, Shin Bet and the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Cyber Directorate reports directly to the prime minister. It employs just under 400 people, from National Service recruits to PhDs. Over half of its workforce comprises women, and about two-thirds are in cyber.

“We don’t target the enemy, we target ourselves, to make sure we are protected. We specialize in defending the ‘blue zone,’” or Israel, he explained.

**Q: But in order to protect the “blue zone” you need to be in the enemy’s “red zone.”**

A: Israel should also be in the “red zone” and there are other elements in the defense establishment that do that [mainly Unit 8200, the Shin Bet and the Mossad]. We work together with full cooperation.”

**Q: How good are Israel’s enemies?**

A: Every actor in this theater has to be treated with respect because in cyber, even a small “David” can surprise you, and we really don’t want to be the “Goliath” on the other end of the attack. Someone without the backing of a major power could come up and inflict serious damage.

**Q: Do you recognize such potential in our adversaries?**

A: The cyber arms race exists all over the world, and certainly in our region.

**Q: Does the average Israeli need to be concerned?**

A: You can’t stop technology, but you have to be aware of dangers. The average Israeli doesn’t know how dominant this threat is, how present it is everywhere. Like they say on [the hit TV show] *Game of Thrones*, “Winter is Coming,” and cyberattacks on Israel are only expected to become stronger. This is likely to reach massive proportions—that’s something that has become evident since the onset of the coronavirus outbreak because everyone is working from home using digital platforms.

The National Cyber Directorate has two homes: it is headquartered in Tel Aviv but its war room—from where every cyberattack against Israel is monitored—is in Beersheva.

Unna oversees four departments. The first deals with the daily protection of Israel’s critical infrastructure and directs nonessential bodies, such as commercial banks and insurance companies, with regard to their protection via directives that come down through the relevant government ministries. Its Beersheba operational response center also addresses concerns relevant to every Israeli.

Data published here for the first time show that in the first half of 2020, the NCD’s response center received 7,164 reports concerning cyberattacks of various levels.

The second department deals with early detection of ongoing cyberattacks, repairing breaches and, if need be, damage control. The third deals with both proprietary and acquired technology, and the fourth deals with the cyber ecosystem—strategy, external relations and promoting Israeli cyber exports.

“Many countries are not willing to deal with the Israeli industry sans state

backing. I’m authorized by the government to provide this backing,” he explained. “Since I took office, we have already signed 15 such agreements, with India and many other countries, including some that do not maintain official ties with Israel.

“The cyber defense field has opened many doors for Israel around the world. In Chad, for example, the very inception of ties with them—the fundamental of peace—was through cyber. The first [Israeli] delegation there included one of our guys, who was there to help them conduct a national risk assessment.

“In South America, for example, we have an agreement with the Development Bank of Latin America. They currently have two cyber experts—bank employees, Spanish-speaking Israelis—who were appointed on our recommendation. Their job is to promote and improve cyber defenses in 22 countries in South and Central America.”

The National Cyber Directorate has operational cooperation agreements with 90 countries, with future deals in the works.

“It’s an information exchange that operates around the clock,” Unna said. “If something happens in South America at night—say, for example, an attack on a bank there—they report it to me immediately and by morning we are ready to go with all the information necessary to protect our banks.”

Cyber experts tend to rank Israel among the top five cyber superpowers in the world, alongside the United States, China, Russia and the United Kingdom. According to Unna, a cyber superpower “is a country that has world-class abilities and force that stands up to other absolute powers.”

The list of the “hottest” cyber companies comprises 150 firms, of which 113 are American, 18 are Israeli and seven British, he said, “and that’s without counting 10 other Israeli companies that are registered in the United States for tax purposes.”

Asked how he explained this, Unna said, “Israel relies much more than other countries on information and information technologies due to the lack of other resources. There is tremendous power here. When you add defense aspects to that and the fact that we are more threatened than others and are therefore required to defend ourselves, along with the Israeli character, which is inherently less restrained—the result is a cyber ‘cake’ to be proud of.”

NCD data shows that in the first half of 2020, the Israeli cyber industry, despite the global coronavirus pandemic, raised \$1.2 billion in 43 transactions. This period also saw the birth of two Israeli “unicorns”—an industry term for companies valued at more than \$1 billion—namely SentinelOne and Snyk.

Overall, between 20 and 25 percent of all cyber “unicorns” are Israeli. According to Unna, about 29 percent of the world’s cyber investments are made in Israel. There are currently 540 cyber firms in Israel, compared to 250 companies 10 years ago. Israeli exports in the field of cyber defense stood at \$6.5 billion in 2019—a 600 percent increase since 2011.

It is estimated that along with the cyber-offense field, Israel’s exports of cyber technologies amount to some \$10 billion a year—more than all classic defense exports combined.

All these things combined, Unna says, “are the making of a superpower.”

*This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.*



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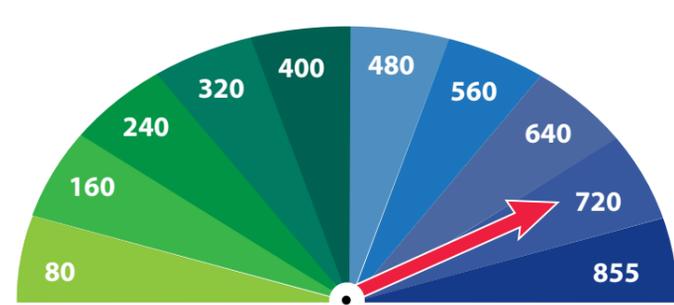
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