



JT
NEWS

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B'tayavon!

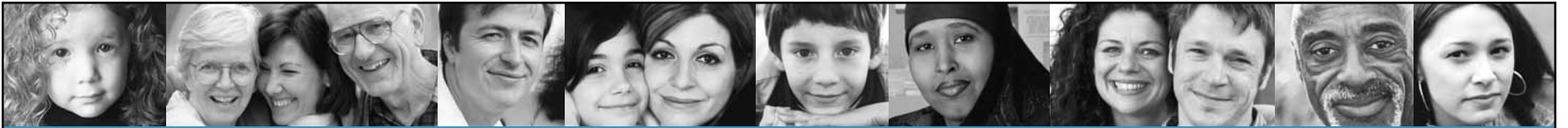
(Bon Appétit!)

Our Top Ten kosher picks
for 2014 Page 13

TRAFFIC ON J STREET PAGE 8

BOSNIA'S SEPHARDIC SONGSTRESS PAGE 9

YOUR COMPLETE WINTER READING LIST PAGES 16-18



December Family Calendar



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FOR ADULTS AGE 60+

ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

A community-wide program offered in partnership with Temple B'nai Torah & Temple De Hirsch Sinai. EO events are open to the public and are at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Good Sense About Your Cents: Protecting Yourself from Consumer Fraud

■ **Thursday, December 4**

Opening Doors: How Three Popes Changed the Catholic Church to Embrace Jewish Tradition

■ **Tuesday, December 9**

Celebrate Chanukah with the Shalom Klezmer Band

■ **Thursday, December 18**

RSVP Ellen Hendin or Wendy Warman, (206) 461-3240 or endlessopps@jfsseattle.org.

FAMILY VOLUNTEERING

Home Delivery for Food Bank Clients

Deliver groceries to a small group of clients. Weekday and Sunday pick-ups available.

Contact Jane Deer-Hileman, (206) 861-3155 or jdeer@jfsseattle.org.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Kosher Food Bank

■ **Wednesday, December 3**
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Contact Jana Lissiak, (206) 861-3174 or jlissiak@jfsseattle.org.

Recovery-Focused Text Study

■ **Wednesday, December 10**
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Contact Laura Kramer, (206) 461-3240 or lkramer@jfsseattle.org.

Understanding Changes in Our Aging Loved Ones

■ **Thursday, December 11**
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Contact Leonid Orlov, (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

Light the Night: An LGBTQ Chanukah

■ **Tuesday, December 16**
6:45 – 8:45 p.m.

Contact Leonid Orlov, (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

Sha'arei Tikvah

Celebrations for All

Sha'arei Tikvah Chanukah

■ **Sunday, December 21**
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Contact Marjorie Schnyder, (206) 861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

AA Meetings at JFS

■ **Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.**

Contact (206) 461-3240 or ata@jfsseattle.org.

Solutions to Senior Hunger

Ongoing

JFS is helping eligible seniors sign-up for food stamps. Contact Jen Mohr, (206) 461-3240 or jmohr@jfsseattle.org.

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Emotion Coaching

■ **Tuesday, December 2**
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Contact Marjorie Schnyder, (206) 861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

Raising Jewish Kids in a Non-Jewish World

■ **Thursday, December 4**
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Contact Marjorie Schnyder, (206) 861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

Menorahs and Mitzvahs

■ **Sunday, December 7**
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Contact Leonid Orlov, (206) 861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

VOLUNTEER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Contact Jane Deer-Hileman, (206) 861-3155 or jdeer@jfsseattle.org.

Chanukah Baskets

■ **Sunday, December 14**

Times assigned upon registration

Friendly Visitors for Seniors

Family Mentors in Kent for Refugees

Home Delivery Drivers

#GIVINGTUESDAY

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ALL IN A WEEK'S NEWS

■ Closed Hillel

Wellesley College abruptly fired its Hillel leaders, angering many in the community and leaving pro-Israel students feeling unsupported. The Boston-area women's college has seen strong tension between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel sentiment since the war in Gaza this summer. College officials had not consulted with students, alumni or other stakeholders prior to making the decision, but claim the decision was due to restructuring. A part-time interim director has been brought in, and a rabbi will eventually be hired to run the Hillel.

-The Jewish Daily Forward

■ Pride or Prejudice?

The Israeli cabinet on Nov. 23 approved a nationality bill that declares the country as the nation-state of the Jewish people. It passed 14-6, with two centrist parties against due to the bill's controversial nature. Critics call it a threat to democracy, worrying about the fate of the non-Jewish communities. The bill will now move to the Knesset, where a vote is expected Nov. 27.

-The New York Times

■ Street Smarts

Tel Aviv won the World Smart City Award at the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona. While the city is indeed full of smart people, the award applies to Tel Aviv's implementation of energy efficient and resourceful infrastructure and "smart" digital technology, which improves civic engagement and accessibility. The key project is DigiTel technology, a sophisticated web and mobile platform for connecting the city and its residents.

-Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality

■ Starting Up

StoreDot, an Israeli startup that develops electronics based on bioorganic materials, said it has developed a battery that can charge a mobile phone in a few seconds and an electric car in mere minutes. Using nanotechnology, the battery acts like "a super-dense sponge to soak up power and retain it." The potentially revolutionary technology could be available as soon as 2016.

-The Straits Times

-Boris Kurbanov

Correction

In the first article about the Palestine Teaching Trunk ("What do students learn when a curriculum is based on politics?" Nov. 14) the name and funding sources of the Institute for Curriculum Services were incorrect. Also, the ICS curriculum is built for only a single week, not nine as the article stated.

JTNews regrets the errors.

JTNews is the Voice of Jewish Washington. Our mission is to meet the interests of our Jewish community through fair and accurate coverage of local, national and international news, opinion and information. We seek to expose our readers to diverse viewpoints and vibrant debate on many fronts, including the news and events in Israel. We strive to contribute to the continued growth of our local Jewish community as we carry out our mission.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Can't we all just get along?	5
A plea for unity from the Federation CEO.	
Junk in the trunk, part two	6
More ado about the Palestine Teaching Trunk.	
Island living and praying	7
Mercer Island's Congregation Shevet Achim gets a home of its own.	
Roadblock ahead	8
"The J Street Challenge" met both enthusiastic support and staunch opposition from Seattleites.	
Singing a Sephardic song	9
A Bosnian music legend comes to Seattle.	
Hanukkah events listings	12
Eight nights? How about a whole month of parties?	
The Koshies are back!	13
Our annual review of our favorite kosher foods from local grocery outlets.	
Top-shelf selection	16-18
Great Jewish-themed books for kids and grownups to curl up with this winter.	
Northwest Jewish Family	20
Abba Knows Best: The Tofurky's not going down without a fight	
Family Calendar	21
What's Your J.Q.? The time-traveling Jew	10
Professional Services/Classifieds	19
M.O.T.: Written in verse	22
Lifecycles	23

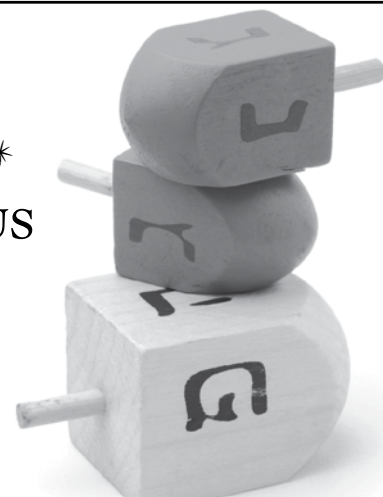
REMEMBER WHEN



November 25, 1963

Seattle celebrated nationwide Jewish Book Month December 1-8 in 1963 with a week of exciting literary events. Rabbi William Greenberg, chairman of the Jewish Book Council of the Seattle JCC, organized the event, which featured an exhibit of rare Bibles, and a talk by Sidney Braun, professor of French and Jewish Literature at Yeshiva University. Pictured from left: Norman Rosenzweig, Mrs. Harry Salzborg, and Rabbi William Greenberg.

**HANUKKAH
 GREETINGS
 & EASTSIDE FOCUS**
 December 12



Welcome, new advertiser!
 Champion Grocery!
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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

For a complete listing of events, or to add your even to the JTNews calendar, visit jewishsound.org/calendar. Calendar events must be submitted no later than 10 days before publication.

Candlelighting times

November 28.....4:03 p.m.

December 5.....4:00 p.m.

December 12.....3:59 p.m.

December 19.....4:01 p.m.

TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER

6–9 p.m. — NYHS 613s First Home Game and Shoot-a-thon

☎ Melissa Rivkin at mrivkin@nyhs.net
Cheer on the 613s at their first home game of the season. Women play at 6 p.m., men play at 7:30 p.m. Half time shoot-a-thon with prizes. At Seattle Hebrew Academy, 1617 Interlaken Dr. E, Seattle.

7–9 p.m. — Emotion Coaching: An Essential Part of Your Parenting Toolbox

☎ Marjorie Schnyder at 206-861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org or www.jfsseattle.org
Guide your child through life's ups and downs in a way that builds confidence, resilience and strong relationships. Led by Melissa Benaroya, LICSW, and a small group of parents. Advance registration required; financial assistance available. \$25 per person, \$40 per couple. At Jewish Family Service, 1601 16th Ave., Seattle.

WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

6–9 p.m. — 2014 AJC Distinguished Leadership Award

☎ 206-622-6315 or seattle@ajc.org or www.ajcseattle.org
Carol and Allen Gown will be awarded for their extraordinary contributions to the community. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave., Seattle.

THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. — Good Sense About Your Cents: Protecting Yourself from Consumer Fraud

☎ JFS Endless Opportunities at 206-461-3240 or endlessopps@jfsseattle.org or www.jfsseattle.org
Older adults are targeted by scam artists and financial abuse schemers. Bankruptcy judge the Honorable Karen Overstreet, a member of The Senior Money Project, and Anthony Leahy, executive director of the Consumer Education and Training Services program, provide information on defensive tactics. Free. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave., Seattle.

7–9:30 p.m. — 2nd International Ladino Day

☎ Stroum Center for Jewish Studies at jewishst@uw.edu or jewishstudies.washington.edu
A celebration of the Ladino language and Sephardic culture including poetry readings, Ladino songs, and presentations on Sephardic history. At Kane Hall, Room 130 at the University of Washington, 4069 Spokane Ln., Seattle.

FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER

7:30–9 p.m. — Special Shabbat Services to Build Love of Israel

☎ 425-844-1604 or admin@kolaminw.org or www.kolaminw.org
This third event in the series will feature Barbara Lahav, financial director of J Street Northwest. Festive oneg Shabbat (reception) to follow the service. Free. At Congregation Kol Ami, 16530 Avondale Rd. NE, Woodinville.

6 p.m. — JSU and Jewish High Shabbaton

☎ 206-295-5888 or thehoffather@gmail.com or www.seattlency.com
Join all the JSU clubs from around greater Seattle and the Jewish High program for Shabbos in Seward Park. Open to all Jewish 9th-12th graders regardless of affiliation. Includes Saturday night event of JSU Casino Night. At Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath, 5145 S Morgan St., Seattle.

Junior NCSY Trip to Portland

☎ 206-295-5888 or thehoffather@gmail.com or www.seattlency.com
Join other Jewish 6th-8th graders from around the Puget Sound in Portlandia for a fantastic Shabbos experience. Contact for details.

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

2–4 p.m. — Shabbat Unplugged

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org
Unplug from technology and plug in to your community and family. Variety of activities, like family yoga, a gym obstacle course, swimming, and

art projects. Free. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

6–10 p.m. — Camp Solomon Schechter 60th Anniversary Gala

☎ 206-447-1967 or development@campschechter.org or www.campschechter.org
Once-in-a-decade event to honor history and celebrate the future. Join camp alumni and friends for a gala evening of memories, food, drinks, and fun to commemorate 60 years of Judaism and joy at Camp Solomon Schechter. At The Hilton Bellevue, 300 112th Ave. SE, Bellevue.

6:30–9:30 p.m. — Film Premiere and Concert: An Evening with Flory Jagoda and Friends

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org
Bosnian-born musician and singer Flory Jagoda is one of the most important and recognized musicians in contemporary Sephardic music. She is joined by hand-picked musicians, family, apprentices and students steeped in the rich sounds of Sephardic traditions. \$25-\$35. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

9 p.m. — JSU Formal Casino Night

☎ 206-295-5888 or thehoffather@gmail.com or www.seattlency.com
JSU's annual fundraiser. Casino games and a special dreidel table. Buy in at the door and trade in your winnings for prizes like tablets, gift cards, cell phones and more. \$20 if in formal wear, \$30 if in street clothes. At BCMH, 5145 S Morgan St., Seattle

► PAGE 5

International Ladino Day
Community Programs

The world premiere of the documentary film **FLORY'S FLAME** tells the story of living legend Flory Jagoda and her life's work bringing Ladino song and rich cultural heritage to international audiences. After the film, Jagoda will be joined by her family and friends for a concert steeped in the rich sounds of Sephardic traditions.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6

Film 6:30 p.m.
Concert 7:30 p.m.

SJCC Mercer Island
3801 East Mercer Way | Mercer Island

THE STROUM JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
AND UW SEPHARDIC STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENT

“FLORY'S FLAME” AND LEGACY




Buy tickets at www.SJCC.org




Media sponsor: JTNews and Jew-ish.com
Partial funding for this program is provided by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

STROUM JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER



◀ COMMUNITY CALENDAR PAGE 4

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER**10:30 a.m. — Double Chai Chavurah Brunch**

☎ Carol Benedick at 206-524-0075 or carolbenedick@bethshalomseattle.org
Congregation Beth Shalom's annual fundraiser brunch. Free. At Congregation Beth Shalom, 6800 35th Ave. NE, Seattle.

3:15–4:30 p.m. — Chai Mitzvah: Grow your Judaism

☎ 425-844-1604 or admin@kolaminw.org or www.kolaminw.org

A different topic is examined in each of eight month community learning group sessions. This class: "Interpersonal Relationships: Part 1, The Individual and Community." At Congregation Kol Ami, 16530 Avondale Rd. NE, Woodinville.

5 p.m. — SHA Annual Gala

☎ Bev Falgione at 206-323-5750 or bfalgione@sha613.org
At Showbox SoDo, 1700 First Ave. S, Seattle.

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER**7:30–9 p.m. — Family Stories: Scandalous, Scintillating or Sweet?**

☎ Jewish Genealogical Society of Washington State at or programs@jgsws.com or www.jgsws.org

What are your family stories? If you would like present your short tale submit a two-sentence synopsis to stories@jgsws.org by 3 p.m. Monday, December 1. At the LDS Factoria Building, 4200 124th Ave. SE, Bellevue.

TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER**10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. — Opening Doors: How Three Popes Changed the Catholic Church to Embrace Jewish Tradition**

☎ JFS Endless Opportunities at 206-461-3240 or endlessoppo@jfsseattle.org or www.jfsseattle.org

Mark Markuly, Seattle University's Dean of Theology and Ministry, will explore the intellectual, emotional and spiritual transformations that led Pope John XXIII, Pope John Paul, and Pope Francis to open the doors of the Catholic tradition to the Jewish faith. Free. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1441 16th Ave., Seattle.

7:30–9 p.m. — Soulmates: Jewish Secrets to Meaningful Relationships

☎ RoshChodeshMI@gmail.com

"Behind Closed Doors: Judaism's View of Intimacy." This lesson taps into Judaism's vast reservoir of wisdom, both practical and kabbalistic, on a topic your Hebrew school teacher likely never broached. At The Friendship Circle, 2737 77th Ave. SE, Mercer Island.

THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER**6–8 p.m. — Understanding Changes in Our Aging Loved Ones**

☎ Leonid Orlov at 206-861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org

Licensed geriatric mental health counselor Karen Kent will discuss the difference between normal aging and issues of concern, as well as strategies for intervention. Topics include depression, memory loss, failure to thrive, and care options. Advance registration is encouraged. Scholarships available. \$15 per person in advance, \$20 at the door. At Jewish Family Service, 1601 16th Ave., Seattle.

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER**8–10 p.m. — Congregation Shaarei Tefilah Lubavitch Annual Dinner**

☎ Dr. Joseph Greenberg at 206-478-3800 or

CSTL613@gmail.com or www.CSTLSeattle.org
CSTL annual dinner and election. \$90. At Congregation Shaarei Tefilah, 6250 43rd Ave. NE, Seattle.

5:30–7:30 p.m. — Letters to the Editor: 90 Years of Writing Our Community's Story

☎ jewishsound.org/90-years

Book-It Repertory Theatre's production of 90 years of Jewish Transcript news, opinions, and ads opened to rave reviews in November. Here's your chance to see it again. Heavy kosher appetizers provided. \$18. At The Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Ave. S, Seattle.

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER**6–9 p.m. — StandWithUs Northwest's 7th Annual Community Reception**

☎ www.StandWithUs.com/NW2014Event

With keynote speaker Dr. Einat Wilf and honoring Rabbi James Mirel with the David B. Brumer Israel Advocate Award. Reception features Israeli hors d'oeuvres and wines. Kosher dietary laws strictly observed. At Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave., Seattle.

As we mourn, let us stop the divisiveness about Israel

KEITH DVORCHIK Special to JTNews

I read with horror this week about the attack in a synagogue in Israel that left five dead, many injured, and millions of Jews around the world demoralized and shaken. How did we arrive at such a place when the vicious murders we have seen in the past few weeks are not only occurring, but are accepted by the world as normal? To see terrorists and people filled with hate celebrate the death of innocent people is simply horrific. And yet here we are.

I have struggled over the past several months in regards to how our community in Seattle has been addressing the challenges that Israel presents. Israel must deal with real problems and real struggles, some like those most countries face, some unique to Israel: How to treat people with dignity and respect, even when some of them want you dead; how to provide a living wage for all people; how to ensure Gaza can be rebuilt

without the reconstruction of tunnels and restocking of rockets; and the overarching, existential concern, a nuclear Iran with the means and the twisted motivation among its leaders to destroy Israel.

And yet here in Seattle, Israel's struggles have been used to mount polarizing attacks on people within our own community. It's frustrating and aggravating. And on a day like Tuesday, when terrorists filled with hate attack Jews praying in shul, it simply makes me sad.

The Jewish community is such a wonderful thing to be a part of. It's mishpacha, family. It's a community that looks out for those in need and warmly welcomes all members of the community to join us. It's Shabbat dinners together, unplugging and connecting to the wonders of family and friends. It's being together to celebrate the joys of life — births, B'nai Mitzvah, wed-

dings — and the sadness of life, when we lose those we love.

And yet we have allowed and encouraged the challenges faced by the State of Israel to divide us. We have chosen to attack people in our own community because everybody doesn't see eye to eye on the solution. In a community based on debate, discussion and disagreement, we have allowed ourselves to become divisive. Instead of following the teachings of the Talmud, which rabbis and scholars have debated publicly for centuries, always for the betterment of the community, we have chosen to publicly attack, humiliate, castigate, and attempt to cast out individuals and organizations whose positions don't precisely match our own. Instead of following the example of Hillel and Shammai, who had differing views on almost every issue yet still are used as models of

how to disagree, we aggressively attack our own people.

So as I sit in shock, saddened for the loss of life in Israel caused by hate, I call upon our entire community to rise up and avoid the temptation to attack our own. While we may differ on the approach to a lasting peace for an Israel that we love, the key focus is that it is an Israel that we love. We can't allow our different views on how to show our love for Israel turn us to hate and anger against people in our own community. For once we go down that destructive path, those who hate the Jewish people and seek the elimination of Israel have truly won.

Keith Dvorchik is president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. This article first appeared on his blog at keithsreflections.wordpress.com.

Vaad appoints ombudswoman

EMILY K. ALHADEFF Associate Editor, JTNews

Following the discovery of Washington, D.C. rabbi Barry Freundel's breach of privacy for spying on women preparing for immersion in the mikvah and his subsequent arrest, the Rabbinical Council of America voted to appoint ombudswomen across the country to support women in the conversion process.

Every Beit Din (the Orthodox organization that handles conversion and divorce, among other Jewish legal issues) in the United States will select a woman to serve as

a point person for female converts.

The Vaad HaRabbanim of Greater Seattle has announced that Elana Zana will fill this role. Zana is attorney with Ogden Murphy Wallace, where she focuses on issues around healthcare, telecommunications, healthcare information technology, and business.

"Elana is bright, perceptive, and she is a professional woman who can serve in this capacity in an excellent way," said Av Beit Din Rabbi Moshe Kletenik.

The mikvah scandal proved how vulnerable female converts can be, and in the wake of the allegations a number of women came out expressing their frustrations during the conversion process.

Rabbi Ron-Ami Meyers, of Congregation Ezra Bessarothe where Zana and her family attend, said "Elana Zana is an individual with a sterling reputation; she is respected by those who have come to know her in the community and in the framework of both her professional and non-profit

endeavors. When considering the Rabbinical Council of America request that each city choose an ombudsperson for women in the conversion process, we felt that Elana was a natural choice."

According to a statement issued by the RCA, women will be given the ombudswoman's name at the beginning of the conversion process, and concerns will not compromise the conversion process. Concerns will furthermore "remain confidential to the extent possible," the statement read.

**"The mission of a Sephardic woman was to teach the women of the family Judeo-Spanish and to sing."
-Sephardic musician Flory Jagoda, who will be in Seattle next week. See page 9 for the story.**

What do students learn when a curriculum is based on politics?

JOEL MAGALNICK Editor, JTNews

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on a social studies curriculum offered to the state's social studies teachers that focuses on Palestinians and their side of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The Palestine Teaching Trunk, a social-studies curriculum for 9th and 10th graders focusing on Palestinians and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict created by local activist Linda Bevis, has drawn the ire of local scholars and pro-Israel organizations who believe it to be one-sided and injecting political doctrine into the classroom.

Sarah Culpepper Stroup, a professor of classics on the faculties of comparative religion and Jewish studies at the University of Washington, questions why any teacher should spend nine weeks, the length the bulk of the curriculum would take for instruction, on this conflict. But even Bevis doesn't believe that teachers will use the full nine weeks of her curriculum, and has offered suggested two-, three- and four-week units.

Yet Stroup suggested that the only reason so much time and effort would be expended on this particular conflict, especially in a region so fraught with so many conflicts, is political.

"There's not an educational argument to privilege this conflict...over so many conflicts in history," she said.

Stroup and Bevis do agree that students must have the opportunity to explore on their own and make informed decisions after learning as much as they can.

"I think that 9th and 10th graders have a great capacity for critical thinking," Bevis said. "If you provide only one side to a 9th grader or 10th grader, they will rebel. They will ask, 'Where's the other side?'"

But Stroup, who teaches the history of the Middle East and this conflict at the college level, believes that younger high

school students "are not yet intellectually mature. Ninth and 10th graders are working on a lot of things, including their ethical beings, and trying to find their place in the world," she said. "There's only one right answer that is suggested for each of these exercises.... We don't do social studies or history like that."

This curriculum is "full of bullying language," she added. "Our first job is to protect our students. It's not to push our politics on our students, and I feel this slams straight into politics without any recognition of safe space or mutual respect or diversity in the classroom."

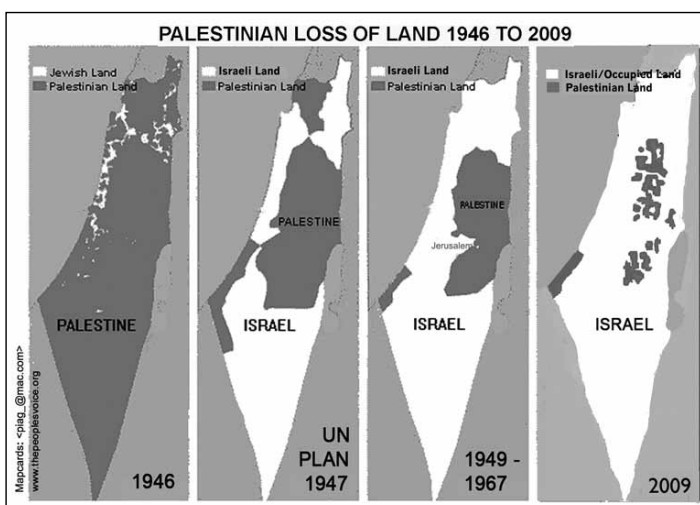
"It would be very difficult to teach this history and its ongoing complexities well to 9th or 10th graders."

Bevis, who has taught social studies at this level, believes students are ready for hard topics, and can go to their teachers for support if they need to.

"Teachers should do what they always do to support students who are upset — talk to them in class or in private, be very open to hearing how the student is thinking/feeling, offer student alternatives if the subject matter is too emotionally difficult," Bevis wrote in an email. "Teachers should always create a class climate where it is possible to respect multiple views and feelings."

One way she hopes to respect multiple views is in what she called the curriculum's attempts to pay respect to Muslims.

"Learning about Palestinians you also are humanizing Muslims, and that's important because there's a lot of Islamophobia in the United States," she said.



One of the trunk's maps, which compares pre-1948 Palestine to 1967 to today has been highly politicized — and discredited — due to a failure to differentiate between the British colony and the land that would be governed by the Palestinian Authority, for example.

But while doing so, the curriculum dehumanizes Israelis, soldiers in particular. Bevis also works on the assumption that teachers have a working knowledge of the Middle East.

"I trust the teachers to either know about the conflict already or to be spending their spring break learning about it, which is what one of the teachers did," she said.

Rob Jacobs, director of Israel advocacy organization StandWithUs Northwest, who has been monitoring the trunk, he found that's not the case. After attending the conference for the Washington State Council of the Social Studies (WSCSS) in October to watch Bevis present the trunk, he realized "many social studies teachers really know surprisingly little about the material they're supposed to be teaching students," he said. "We had some social studies teachers telling us that we were being ridiculous saying Israel was not a European colony, that we should of course know that the Jews took over the

country of Palestine."

Before 1948, when Israel achieved statehood, Palestine was the name of the British-mandated territory where Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza now appear on the map.

Stroup sees the breadth of the trunk as an issue as well. "Speaking as a teacher...it is one of the least organized attempts at a curriculum that I've seen," she said. In addition, "a lot of their curriculum is outdated, and it doesn't actually tell the teacher how to...stay up to date and develop [the materials]."

But Bevis doesn't see that as a problem.

"I wish the situation would change. I don't think it's

changed very much in a long time," she said. "There's a lesson in there on the attack on Gaza in 2008-2009. Truthfully, I didn't feel I needed to add a lesson on the latest Gaza attack because I didn't feel it was all that different from the last two."

She does, however, continue to add materials to the online version of the trunk.

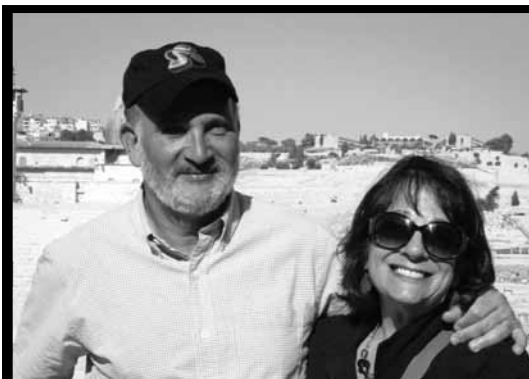
Which raises the question of who is using the trunk. Bevis said three teachers have checked out the trunk, and about 200 people have visited the website. The trunk has also been presented at social studies conferences in Oregon and Washington.

WSCSS president John Hines appears to have received multiple complaints about Bevis's appearance at the October conference, and said in a statement prior to the event that "if the Palestine Teaching Trunk is as inflammatory and loose with facts as suggested, Ms. Bevis will face a tough audience at the conference. The alternative, cancelling her presentation, smacks of censorship and is less palatable for teachers who thrive on deliberating controversial issues and on considering diverse perspectives."

That so few people have used the trunk creates a conundrum: How much effort does StandWithUs want to put into mounting an opposition? In recent years, Jacobs said his organization has reached out to social studies chairs at local high schools to find out if "they had had somebody come speak about the Middle East from a Palestinian perspective in the past year," he said.

Nearly all of them had, he said, and StandWithUs created a highly successful program to have speakers talk about Israel in high schools.

"I haven't done that with the Palestinian Teaching Trunk because we didn't want to draw more attention to it in case somebody hadn't looked at it yet," Jacobs said.



Rabbi Mirel and Julie on the May 2008 TBT Trip to Israel.

To register and pay for the reception go to

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Dwelling together, in their own space

EMILY K. ALHADEFF Associate Editor, JTNews

The word on the Jewish street is “attrition.” Made painfully clear by last year’s Pew study, Jews — especially young Jews — are falling away from organized Jewish life.

The one denomination that seems to defy the statistic is Orthodoxy; nevertheless, even Orthodox synagogues struggle to keep the seats warm.



Shevet Achim's soon-to-be new home.

COURTESY SHEVET ACHIM

In this era of uncertainty, Congregation Shevet Achim is defying the statistics. By the end of this year the Orthodox congregation, which has spent the last two decades in the Northwest Yeshiva High School building on Mercer Island, will move into a home of its own — the former First Church of Christ, Scientist, just a few blocks away on Island Crest Way at 47th Street.

Rabbi Yechezkel Kornfeld said that when the spacious midcentury building

and grounds came up for sale, they had to go for it.

“We had a wonderful relationship with the yeshiva high school, but we outgrew them,” Kornfeld said. “Everyone realized that we were trying to make the move.”

Given that Shabbat-observant community members need to stay within walking distance of their shul, the new location

had to be in the immediate vicinity. That the church came up for sale was, one could say, a godsend.

Shevet Achim put up a rapid cam-

paign to purchase the property and came through with the \$4.5 million needed in 18 months.

“It was a true testament to the community that people stepped up to contribute to make the purchase a reality,” said Shevet Achim president Josh Adler. “I believe that for a lot of people it was the vision of what the building [and] the campus could provide the congregation.”

The church was built in 1961 and is highly regarded by architectural preserva-

tionists. In addition to a sanctuary space that can hold up to 244, the building has a 3,500-hundred-foot multipurpose space. Shevet Achim has plans for a playground, a nursery for moms and babies, and classrooms, and the leadership hopes to see more lifecycle events take place, as well as the construction of a mikvah.

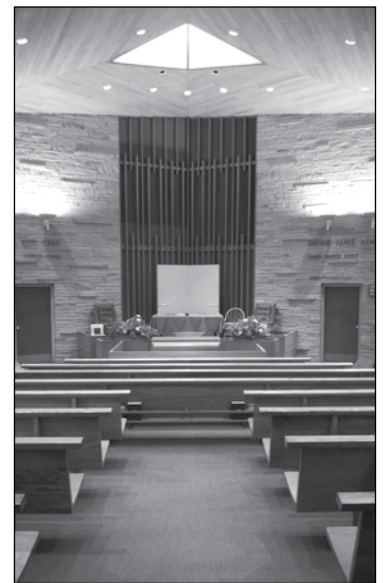
“The grounds are exactly what we need to grow the congregation,” said Kornfeld.

Shevet Achim’s growth says something about Jewish life on Mercer Island, home to Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation and the Stroum Jewish Community Center, but distant from the larger communities in Seward Park and the Northend.

“I think more Jews will move to Mercer Island,” said Kornfeld. “There are many unaffiliated Jews living on the island. I’m sure they will be impressed by our warmth, our nonjudgmental manner.”

According to Adler, the congregation of over 90 families is growing, and at last count had nearly 100 members under the age of 18. Two families joined just last week, Kornfeld noted. Not all members are observant, and some don’t even live on the island.

“It’s a very accepting, warm shul,” Kornfeld said. “Everyone is welcomed unconditionally to the services and pro-



COURTESY SHEVET ACHIM

grams that the synagogue provides.”

Miriam Friedman moved to Mercer Island and joined Shevet Achim with her husband and three children. The young family couldn’t be happier.

“We were just greeted with such interest and warmth and affection from all the different members,” she said. “There are so many children. We haven’t had a quiet Shabbos since we moved to Mercer Island.”

A community event and open house is in the works for once the move is complete this winter.

“We’re really excited,” said Adler. “This is a very exciting moment for us and Seattle’s entire Jewish community.”

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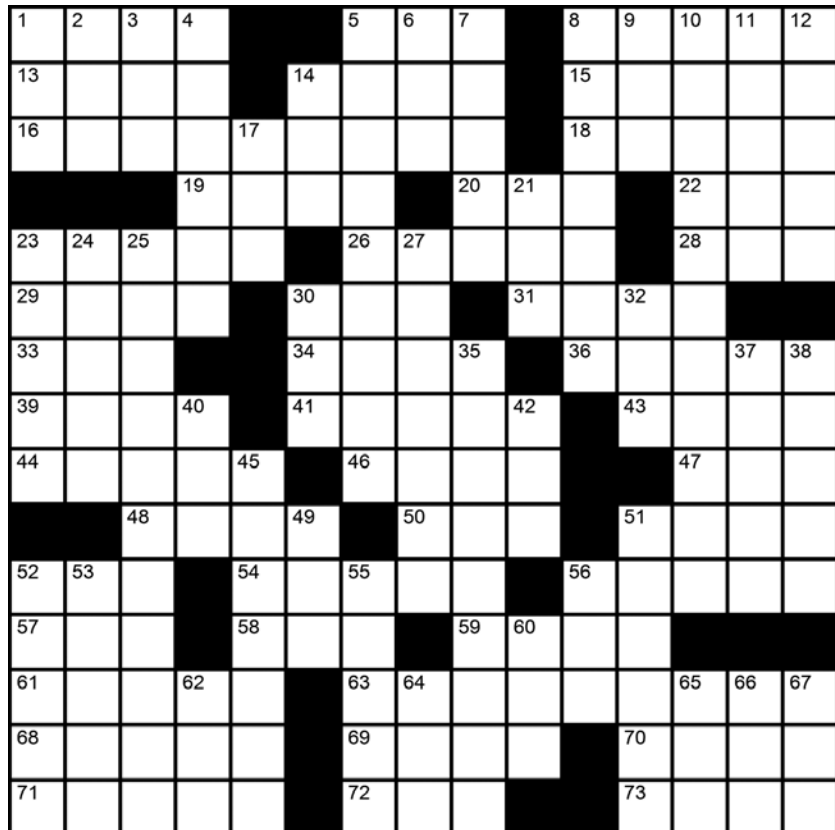
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If you have comments or questions, please contact Amanda Ip at amanda.ip@fredmeyer.com.



Peer Into Holes

by Mike Selinker



The hole in a bagel isn't a thing, per se. It's the absence of a thing, but therein lies the rationale for its existence. In Maria Balinska's book *The Bagel*, she asks, "What does the hole represent? Nothingness? Infinity? What a feast for intellectual discussion in a small roll." In honor of this puzzle's 100th edition, we've rolled out some holes for you. Find all the holes in this finished grid and bring it to an Eltana, and you might see a way to win a free dozen bagels.

ACROSS

- 1 Vegan's bane
- 5 Name in stoogery
- 8 Secret society
- 13 St. Louis site
- 14 Vice squad hire
- 15 Attractive pebble
- 16 Bar
- 18 Pteranodon of Japanese film
- 19 Wartime cover
- 20 Bering, e.g.
- 22 *Le dernier* ____ (current sensation)
- 23 Nutso
- 26 The Eye network, for short
- 28 Words before "one" or "the wall"
- 29 Utterances of disgust
- 30 "____ had one job!"
- 31 Animation creations
- 33 Roadwork need
- 34 Swear
- 36 "See ya!"
- 39 Many soccer scores
- 41 Peeping Tom's opportunities
- 43 Basketballer Anthony's "Knickname"
- 44 Creep
- 46 Tabula ____
- 47 Oil tapper
- 48 Hid in a hideout
- 50 Stars' org.
- 51 Muck
- 52 Have dinner
- 54 Bakery treat
- 56 Key of many Schubert pieces
- 57 Pac-12 sch.
- 58 AI brain
- 59 Type of pear
- 61 Park seat
- 63 Soundgarden smash
- 68 *Nouveau* ____
- 69 Do a usurer's task
- 70 Scorch the earth
- 71 Old-time anesthetic
- 72 Nest sight
- 73 Central to

DOWN

- 1 It may be gaping
- 2 Period
- 3 Emulate a Phoenix sibling
- 4 Some crimes
- 5 It clanks when you drive over it
- 6 Alternative to com or edu
- 7 Apocryphally, like a duck's quack
- 8 Ancient oceangoing vessel
- 9 Past
- 10 LDL, popularly
- 11 Missile Command company
- 12 Layer in Red Square?
- 14 Veto
- 17 *Blade Runner* replicant, with 23-Across
- 21 And so forth
- 23 Smoker's leavings
- 24 Anew
- 25 Staples purchase
- 27 Like a life preserver
- 30 Hairy beast
- 32 On the ____
- 35 Kit and caboodle
- 37 Actress Dushku
- 38 Thesaurus author
- 40 Glum
- 42 Actor Mineo
- 45 Moore's ex
- 49 Sound from a balloon or weasel
- 51 Last two words of a Gabriel Garcia Márquez novel title
- 52 Buffalo player in the 50-Across
- 53 First half of an aphorism about seizing the moment
- 55 Russian denomination
- 56 Inquire
- 60 Anxious person's malady, for short
- 62 Noted freedom fighter
- 64 Table part
- 65 Football player Michael
- 66 Brand of submachine gun
- 67 Homer's neighbor

Answers on page 23

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Edited by Mike Selinker and Gaby Weidling. Crosswords of Wisdom, 1538 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122

'J Street Challenge' drives down the middle of the community

JANIS SIEGEL JTNews Correspondent

The Seattle premiere of "The J Street Challenge," a documentary film critical of the self-described pro-Israel and pro-peace group J Street, drew over 250 adults to Congregation Ezra Bessaro November 12, according to organizers, but the screening drew fire in a written letter of protest sent before the event from 13 clergy in the Washington Coalition of Rabbis who said they "fear the screening — divorced from direct dialogue and respectful exchange with those of differing views — will lead Am Yisrael to further division."

"When we got the letter, we said 'Take the first three questions, they're yours,'" Ari Hoffman, volunteer director for Seattle NCSY, a co-sponsor of the movie, told JTNews.

"We said it would be an open Q and A and that anybody could ask a question," he said. "They didn't just ignore us. They said 'no.'"

"The J Street Challenge," the first movie in the "Love of Eretz Yisrael" film series at Seattle Orthodox synagogue Ezra Bessaro, features interviews with Harvard professors Alan Dershowitz and Ruth Wisse, deputy managing editor of The Jerusalem Post Caroline Glick, Boston University history professor Richard Landes, and Bret Stephens, a columnist for The Wall Street Journal, among others, all stating that J Street's policies are bad for Israel.

It also highlights two of J Street's funders, hedge fund billionaire and activist for liberal causes George Soros, and Genevieve Lynch, who is a board member on the National Iranian-American Council.

J Street president and founder Jeremy Ben-Ami declined to be interviewed for the film. Instead, the film includes several clips from public statements made by high-profile J Street leaders, including Ben-Ami, and Daniel Levy, one of its original organizers and a current political consultant.

In a personal response in Israel's Haaretz newspaper to Dershowitz's accusations that J Street's main goal is to drive a wedge between the U.S. and Israel, Ben-Ami detailed a long list of "existential threats" facing Israel, and suggested that anti-J Street Jews refocus their ire.

"We urge those attacking us to spend a little less time leveling baseless accusations against a now-established Jewish organization and a little more time addressing these fundamental challenges facing the Israel we love," Ben-Ami told Haaretz.

"The J Street Challenge" was released by Americans for Peace and Tolerance,

a Newton, Mass.-based nonprofit "dedicated to promoting peaceful coexistence in an ethnically diverse America by educating the American public about the need for a moderate political leadership that supports tolerance and core American values in communities across the nation." Much of the group's work deals with pro-Israel activism and exposing dangers of Islamic radicalism. The film was produced, written, and directed by Ilya Feostikov and Avi Goldwasser.

Goldwasser, a Boston-based, Brooklyn-born entrepreneur who lived in Israel for much of his life, joined the group in Seattle by Skype to take questions from the audience, but no one took advantage of the opportunity, said Hoffman.

Speaking to JTNews from Boston, Goldwasser said that after screening the movie in more than 70 U.S. cities, he has seen this reaction before, but that it's never risen to quite this formal of a level.

"It's exposed the kind of irrational censorship attitude that people have about something they don't like," said Goldwasser. "In Boston, where we screened it at the JCC, they received phone calls from people who objected to the film being screened, but the leadership of the JCC stood their ground."

The Washington Coalition of Rabbis is described as providing "an important moral and religious voice for Washington State and spiritual leadership for our local Jewish communities," according to its website.

One of the signatories to the Seattle letter, Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation's Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, told JTNews that the rabbis' letter was a call for dialogue, and that the dialogue is already happening.

"I signed the letter because I feel the Jewish community needs to have an open conversation about how to speak to each other," said Rosenbaum.

The letter claims that past screenings have reportedly "sown dissension and mistrust in the communities in which the film has been shown."

"People wrongly assume that someone who supports J Street is a hater of Israel, and that someone who supports AIPAC is right wing, or completely uncritical of Israel," Rosenbaum said. "Those are false assumptions and we need to start breaking down those assumptions."

Due to requests from the community to offer another screening of The J Street Challenge, the film was shown again on Nov. 25, at the South Bellevue Community Center.

Sephardic songstress carries her tune to Seattle

TORI GOTTLIEB JTNews Correspondent

If you've ever heard the Hanukkah song "Ocho Kandelikas" ("Eight Little Candles") you're familiar with Flory Jagoda's music. Next week, the 90-year-old Sephardic songstress will visit Seattle to perform that and other songs — some her own, and some passed down from generation to generation among Sephardim. All of the songs are sung in Ladino, also known as Judeo-Spanish, the spoken and written language of Jews with Spanish origins.

With the third largest Sephardic community in the United States, Seattle is the perfect place for Jagoda to showcase her music. Pamela Lavitt, director of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival and cultural arts for the Stroum Jewish Community Center, has partnered with the University of Washington's Sephardic Studies program to organize the event. She acknowledges that Jagoda, who is originally from Sarajevo, may seem out of place at first in a community that is largely from Turkey and Rhodes.

"One of our jobs is to have something for everyone in our community," Lavitt explained. "The Ladino that she sings [is universal]. We want to celebrate the life and the continuing life of this music."

Lavitt's partnership with Prof. Devin Naar, who chairs the Sephardic Studies



TOM PICH

Flory Jagoda poses with her guitar.

Program at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies at the UW, and Molly FitzMorris, a Ph.D. student in linguistics, began with the planning of the first annual International Ladino Day, which Naar and FitzMorris co-organized in 2013. After the success of that event, the three saw an opportunity to bring in a world-renowned performer of Sephardic songs to culminate the second annual International Ladino Day on December 4. Jagoda, they all felt, was a natural choice.

Jagoda, who has always written her music with children in mind, will be pleased with this year's International Ladino Day line-up. In addi-

tion to a number of performers who are returning from last year's celebration, the program will also feature youth performers ranging in age from elementary school students to students at the university level.

Jagoda's efforts to preserve and pass on Sephardic culture are a lifetime effort for her. She

grew up in a musical family in Sarajevo, where her grandmother taught her Sephardic songs that dated back generations. During World War II, she escaped Nazi-occupied Yugoslavia with her family to Italy, where she met American Sergeant Harry Jagoda. They married and eventually settled in the United States, but Jagoda never lost her strong sense of Sephardic identity.

"The mission of a Sephardic woman was to teach the women of the family Judeo-Spanish and to sing," Jagoda said, explaining why she continued to write and perform music after emigrating from Europe. "That was a way of life, and

I knew I had the desire to continue and teach other people."

In 2002, Jagoda was formally recognized by the National Heritage Fellowship and the National Endowment for the Arts and was awarded a Lifetime Honor — the highest award bestowed upon artists by the government. Though she no longer records new music, she continues to perform her songs all over the country in hopes that she will inspire Sephardic communities to continue their musical traditions.

If you go:

Flory Jagoda will perform at the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island, on Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. as part of the culminating celebrations surrounding International Ladino Day. Her performance will open with a screening of "Flory's Flame," a documentary about her life. For more information and to buy advance tickets, visit sjcc.org. The 2nd International Ladino Day takes place Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m. at UW Kane Hall, Room 130. For more information about Ladino Day and to reserve tickets, visit jewishstudies.washington.edu.

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Jews, science, and intergalactic time travel: The Jewishness of 'Interstellar'

RIVY POUPKO KLETENIK, JTNews Columnist

Dear Rivy,
I just saw Christopher Nolan's movie "Interstellar." I am baffled. The science is way beyond my comprehension — if it is science at all — and I just do not know what to make of it. I understand that the film has nothing to do with Jews or Judaism; still, I thought you might be able to shed some light on the meaning of this film.



What's Your JQ?

paper is "The elephant and its place in IT." The American student's paper is "Elephants and the war machine." The Israeli student's paper is "The elephant and the Jewish problem."

One interpretation of the joke is that we Jews are a pessimistic, paranoid, neurotic people fixated eternally on "our problem." More on that another time. I prefer the approach of, "Wow! We Jews

can put a Jewish spin on anything. Books, poems, art and movies are open to interpretation, and I cannot help but wear my Jewish lens looking at just about all things." So, "Interstellar," here we come!

First, a quick rundown for those who are not "Interstellar-ly" aware. IDM succinctly sums it up: "A team of explorers travel through a wormhole in an attempt to find a potentially habitable planet that will sustain humanity." This occurs as a result of the earth becoming virtually unlivable by virtue of an end-of-days scenario of blight and dust with corn being the last produce able to be farmed. Corn? Why corn? Ah, why corn, so you should

ask, of course. Not exactly. There is some convoluted scientific answer to that — not Jewish — so not for now. On to some Jewish takeaways from "Interstellar."

Time warps and time travel figure prominently in the movie. At one point our NASA space-traveling heroes are moving at the rate of a different galaxy so that seven days can become actually 23 years on earth. This continues and the central character's daughter ages while he does not. Spoiler alert: She becomes an old woman, and when he returns he is younger than she. That thought, right there is enough to keep us up at night.

What of this idea of time travel and time warps? Of folks transcending time and place? Is this idea of the distortion of space in relation to time, through which people or objects of one period can be moved to another, a Jewish one?

Long before the more recent obsession with time travel — "Rip Van Winkle," "A Christmas Carol," "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," and "The Time Machine" — came on the scene, the Jewish imagination had been transporting people unencumbered by constraints of time and place to far off locals and futures not yet experienced.

In this fantastical aggadah found in Talmud Menachot, Moses is transposed from Mount Sinai and the receiving of the Torah to the Land of Israel circa 1st century CE to the house of study of Rabbi Akiva. There he is to find the purpose for the spiraling crowns on the letters of the Torah. He is told that one day:

There will arise a man, at the end of many generations, Akiba ben Joseph by name, who will expound upon each title, heaps and heaps of laws. Lord of the Universe, said Moses; permit me to see him. He replied, Turn thee round. Moses went and sat down behind eight rows and listened to the discourses upon the law. Not being able to follow their arguments, he was ill at ease, but when they came to a certain subject and the disciples said to the master, "Whence do you know it?" and the latter replied, "It is a law given unto Moses at Sinai," he was comforted.

A classic time-travel story complete with the foibles of finding yourself painfully outside of your own milieu. Moses is the venerated giver of the Torah, yet he cannot understand its analysis in future classrooms. He is comforted knowing,

► PAGE 11

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◀ WHAT'S YOUR JQ? PAGE 10

though, that he is not wholly irrelevant, his worth is timeless and his name still evoked as authority. Rav, the scholar to whom this story is attributed, lived in Babylonia during the 2nd-3rd century.

A similar tension is found in the very Rip Van Winkle-like story which tells of the curious episode of Honi the Circle Drawer who falls asleep only to wake 70 years later when he inquires of people:

"Is the son of Honi the Circle-Drawer still alive?" The people answered him, "His son is no more, but his grandson is still living." Thereupon he said to them: "I am Honi the Circle-Drawer," but no one would believe him. He then repairs to the house of study and there he overhears scholars saying, "The law is as clear to us as in the days of Honi the Circle-Drawer"... Whereupon he called out, "I am he;" but the scholars would not believe him nor did they give him the honor due to him. This hurt him greatly and he prayed for death and he died.

This tale is attributed to Rabbi Yochanan who also lived during the 1st-2nd century era, though in Israel. I'm not sure whether or not this is a coincidence. One has a character visiting way into the future, and the other has someone simply living past their own era, but both carry the object lesson of the distress of being found in an era not your own.

A related notion of kefitzat ha-derech,

miraculous travel, in which long distances are contracted into much shorter journeys and people are quickly situated in alternate locations, is found in the Talmud in regard to Eliezer, Jacob, and Avishai. This notion then becomes the stuff of many a Hassidic and mystical story. Danny Maseng tells the tale of "How The Baal Shem Tov Came To Be In The Possession Of The Talisman For The Shortening Of The Way." It incorporates the legend of the island of Djerba, in Tunisia, which was founded by priests, kohanim, from the time of the first Temple along with the famous supernatural legends of the Baal Shem Tov whose wagon supernaturally carried him on fantastical journeys. Shlomo Carlebach would tell epic stories of the Munkatcher Passport, a piece of paper drenched in tears that would be used to extricate Jews from precarious locales.

So what to make of all of this? What is reality and what is beyond reality? I'm not sure. What I do know is that in all of this our minds can create and imagine things that are, ironically, beyond our own comprehension. That might be the most significant and humbling truth of all.

Rivy Poupko Kletenik is an internationally renowned educator and Head of School at the Seattle Hebrew Academy. If you have a question that's been tickling your brain, send Rivy an e-mail at rivy.poupko.kletenik@gmail.com.

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HANUKKAH EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

10:30–11:30 a.m. — Let's Celebrate Hanukkah: A Dance and Art Class Series for Children Ages 2-5

☎ Irit Eliav Levin at 425-603-9677, ext. 209 or ILevin@templebnaitorah.org or www.templebnaitorah.org/SECC

Five-week art and dance class series for children ages 2-5, focusing on Hanukkah. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

10 a.m.–12 p.m. — Hanukkah Breakfast and Carnival

☎ Melissa Rivkin at mrivkin@nyhs.net
Face painting, cookie decorating, bouncy house and a magic show to get you in the Hanukkah mood. \$7 per person or \$20 per family of four. At Northwest Yeshiva High School, 5017 90th Ave. SE, Mercer Island.

10 a.m.–3 p.m. — Fourth Annual Hanukkah Art and Gift Sale

☎ 206-547-3914 or office@kadima.org
Kadima's art and gift sale, featuring jewelry, ceramics, art, accessories, Judaica, and more. A portion of all proceeds to benefit Kadima. At Kadima House, 12353 Eighth Ave. NE, Seattle.

2–3 p.m. — Hanukkah Music by Sasson

☎ Joe Ginsburg at jg.bluebottle@gmail.com
Sasson will perform Jewish music, including Hanukkah songs, for the Seattle Yiddish Group. All are invited, no knowledge of Yiddish is necessary. Free. At University House Auditorium, 4400 Stone Way N, Seattle.

2–3:30 p.m. — Menorahs and Mitzvahs

☎ Leonid Orlov at 206-861-8784 or familylife@jfsseattle.org
Explore themes and traditions of Hanukkah with this email series, culminating in a get-together to celebrate the Festival of Lights. Donation of potatoes and oil for the Polack Food Bank is your ticket into this event. Free. At Jewish Family Service, 1601 16th Ave., Seattle.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

5:30–7:30 p.m. — Hanukkah Under The Stars

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org
A festive and fun Hanukkah party, with kid-friendly band Recess Monkey, delicious food vendors, Hanukkah trivia, games, and crafts. Co-sponsored by Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle and the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. No registration necessary. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

11:15 a.m.–12:30 p.m. — The Sababas in Concert

☎ www.templebnaitorah.org/whats_happening
Concert by The Sababas with Hanukkah and Israeli music, and even some Jewish twists on pop songs, plus a puppet show. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

3:30–4:45 p.m. — Olive Oil Press Demo and Hanukkah Cookie Baking

☎ Julie Greene at 206-721-0970 or

juliecbmhseattle@gmail.com

Rabbi Shimon Emlen demonstrates how to use an olive oil press in the Volotin Social Hall, and Ariella Margolese bakes Hanukkah cookies in the kitchen. Free and open to the entire Jewish community. At BCMH, 5145 S Morgan St., Seattle.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

11 a.m. — Hanukkah Program at Kline Galland

Join Rabbi David Lipper and Cantor David Serkin-Poole for the first "day" of Hanukkah with an informal and spirited hour of Hanukkah music and storytelling. At the Caroline Kline Galland Home, 7400 Seward Park Ave. S, Seattle.

6:15–7:30 p.m. — Sparks & Spuds: Hanukkah at HNT

☎ Rebecca Levy at 206-232-8555, ext. 207 or h-nt.org/chanukah
Everyone is invited for a healthier (and just as tasty) twist on latkes with a baked potato toppings bar. Then bring it home with some classic sufganiot. Register by December 3. At Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, 3700 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

7 p.m. — Hadassah Hanukkah Lights and Warmth Party

☎ Seattle@hadassah.org or www.hadassah.org/seattle
Suzanne Goren will speak about homelessness in Seattle and what Jewish Family Service does and how we can help. Bring a few gently used warm winter things to share with each other and then to donate to women and children in need. Please also bring your donation check for underground

surgery rooms in the Hadassah Davidson Tower. At the home of Cathy Godwin; contact for address.

8 p.m. — The Sasson Hanukkah Freylekh 5775

☎ Sasson.klez@gmail.com
Join Sasson to light candles and celebrate Hanukkah with traditional and original Jewish music from Eastern Europe to the Mediterranean, plus a set of Brazilian music featuring accordionist Benjamin Gown. All-ages event with full bar. At The Royal Room, 5000 Rainier Ave. S, Seattle.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. — Celebrate Hanukkah with the Shalom Klezmer Band

☎ Endless Opportunities at 206-461-3240 or endlessopp@jfsseattle.org or www.jfsseattle.org
It just isn't Hanukkah without the Shalom Klezmer Band. Sing Hanukkah songs, dance, see friends, and spin dreidels while the band plays. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

12–2 p.m. — Annual Joint Adult Hanukkah Luncheon

☎ 253-564-7101 or rebecca@tбетacoma.org
Michael Sullivan, noted Tacoma historian and preservationist, will tell us the story of the Prairie Line and how Tacoma was built around the Line. Cost for lunch is just \$13. Reservations must be made no later than Monday, December 15. At Temple Beth El, 5975 S 12th St., Tacoma.

► PAGE 15

Come Bring Your Light and Love to Temple B'nai Torah for Chanukah!

Chanukah Program at Kline Galland (7500 Seward Park Ave S, Seattle 98118)

Wednesday, December 17th at 11:00 AM (FREE)

Join Rabbi David Lipper and Cantor David Serkin-Poole for the first "day" of Chanukah with an informal and spirited hour of Chanukah music and storytelling.



Community Chanukah Dinner at TBT

Friday, December 19 2014 from 6:30-8:00 PM

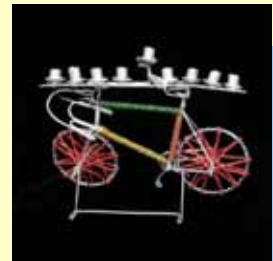
Cost: families \$10 and individuals \$5

Join us for a festive holiday dinner that features mouth-watering homemade latkes and more! We'll also welcome new members at the dinner.

Crossroads Mall Chanukah Program

Tuesday, December 23 from 4:00 – 5:00 PM (FREE)

Here's another opportunity to celebrate Chanukah with music and storytelling held at Crossroads Mall in Bellevue.



TBT's award-winning Judaica Shop has lots of cute and reasonably-priced items in stock for Chanukah.

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All proceeds from The Big Spin benefit Uncompensated Care at Seattle Children's Hospital.



The Top Ten best kosher foods to serve or gift this Hanukkah

JOEL MAGALNICK Editor, JTNews

Nobody can blame us for not doing the heavy lifting. As we do every year, we bring far more kosher food than should be allowed by law, and taste all of it. All so you, our dear reader, know the best foods to serve at your Hanukkah party, or simply to give as host gifts to whomever you may be invited. Here we have our top 10 favorites. Each item includes our impressions, the price, and what store it came from. A special thank you to all of the stores that donated goods for us to taste.

1. Blue Hill Bay Herring in Mustard Sauce (\$5.99, Albertson's Mercer Island):



Lynn called it "Yummy" and marked it as her favorite. Sara called it amazing. "Never thought of this combination," she said. "Mustard pairs really well with the pickled herring," said Amanda. "Jubilee!" said Roberta. "Very good." "Loved it!" said Celina.

2. Mary's Gone Crackers organic gluten-free crackers with jalapeño (\$4.99, Central Co-op):



"Really spicy and delicious," said Shoshannah. "Spicy, creamy,

cheesy, crunchy, perfect appetizer for the season," said Andrea. "Good kick and healthy," said Ilana. "Yum!" said Karen. "Great combo with a kick," said Cheryl, in particular with...



3. Albertson's kosher salmon mousse (\$17.99/lb.):

"Yum! The dill really adds dimension," I said. "Perfect!" exclaimed Emily A. "Great!" echoed Sara.

4. Pumpkin cream cheese (\$2.99, Trader Joe's):

"Very tasty," said Mary Lou. Ilana, who got some at home, said it disappeared quickly when they dipped pretzels in it. "Would be great with French toast," said Emily M. "Who needs the pie?" asked Sophia.



5. Eden organic apple butter (\$5.15, Champions):



"Loved, Loved, Loved it!" said Cheryl. Then she took it a step further and put it on top of Golden Traditional Potato Latkes (\$4.49, QFC) with a dollop of Galbani Mascarpone Fresca

(\$4.29, Central Co-op) for a delicious treat. "You're welcome," she said.



6. Chocolate peppermint Joe Joe's (\$3.99, Trader Joe's):

"Twice the Girl Scout cookie," said Sophia. Amanda said they had "Great peppermint taste." Chris marked it as a favorite, but he loves anything peppermint. "It's fantastic. Just like the toffee you get in the expensive specialty candy shops," said Jean. "Great flavor, salty and sweet," said Amanda, though she found it "a little messy." "Delicious!" said Lynn.

8. Galbani Mozzarella balls (\$4.99, Albertson's):



"Delicious, great flavor," agreed Amanda.

9. Albertson's bakery shortbread cookies with chocolate thumbprint (\$5.79):

"Shortbread is shortbread, but that chocolate in the middle just makes it so darn good," I said. "Home-made peppermint patties!" exclaimed Celina. "What she said," echoed Amanda. "Really good," according to Roberta. "Yum! Absolutely perfect!" said Shoshannah. And Chris? Well, you know what he thinks.



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Leeks **1⁴⁹** lb
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Sabra Hummus **4⁹⁹**
Select Varieties, 10 oz With Card

Manischewitz Noodles **2\$4**
Select Varieties, 12 oz for With Card

Beigel & Beigel Pretzels **2\$3**
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Gefen Whole Chestnuts **2\$5**
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Elite Milk Chocolate Coins **3\$1**
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◀ HANUKKAH CALENDAR PAGE 12

7-9 p.m. — Sisters of Beth Am: Lights, Laughter and Bling – Game Night and Jewelry and Scarf Exchange

☎ rsvp@templebetham.org by December 15
Mini-latkes, snacks, wine, and other beverages; games; jewelry and scarf exchange fundraiser; menorah lighting. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

6 p.m. — Hanukkah Lights Shabbat

☎ 425-844-1604 or admin@kolaminw.org or www.kolaminw.org
6 p.m. potluck dinner. 7 p.m. Shabbat service and menorah lighting followed by festive oneg. At Congregation Kol Ami, 16530 Avondale Rd. NE, Woodinville.

6:30-8 p.m. — Community Hanukkah Dinner

☎ www.templebnaitorah.org/whats_happening
Festive holiday dinner with homemade latkes and more. Welcome new members at the dinner. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

8-10 p.m. — Temple Beth Am Cabaret Night

☎ 206-525-0915 or alexis@templebetham.org
Enjoy singing, musical performances, and more. Showcasing talented congregants in a festive setting. This event is especially geared to empty nesters. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

5:30-8:30 p.m. — Hanukkah Party with the Secular Jewish Circle

☎ 206-528-1944 or info@secularjewishcircle.org
Celebrate Hanukkah with latkes, a candle-lighting ceremony, children's activities, and a potluck meal. Bring your menorah and join your friends. RSVP for directions.

7 p.m. — The Big Hanukkah Show

☎ Rabbi James Mirel at 206-234-7600 or jamesmirel@earthlink.net
First-time Seattle Vaudeville-style show featuring Hanukkah-related music, comedy, and entertainment. With a performance by the Seattle Jewish Chorale, a recitation of the Hanukkah story in different languages, a menorah-lighting ceremony, and sing-along. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

3-5 p.m. — Sha'arei Tikvah Hanukkah

☎ Marjorie Schnyder at 206-861-3146
Community-wide, trans-denominational celebration for people of all abilities and ages. Led by Cantor David Serkin-Poole, Rabbi Aaron Meyer and special guests. Kosher dietary laws observed and advance registration encouraged. ASL provided by a CI/CT interpreter. To discuss other special accommodations, please contact. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

4-5 p.m. — Hanukkah Sippy Cup Schmooze

☎ alexis@templebetham.org
Hosted by Young Families at Beth Am, this annual event for families with kids newborn to 5-years-old is always a hit. Spin dreidels, make Hanukkah cards, play with stickers and puzzles. Light snacks for kids and cheese and wine for adults. RSVP with the number of adults and children. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

5-7 p.m. — Temple Beth Am Hanukkah Party

☎ alexis@templebetham.org
Live music with TBA's own KlezKidz; candle lighting (bring your chanukiah and candles); dinner with professionally made latkes with sour cream and apple sauce, salads, with chocolate gelt (coins) and sufganiot (donuts) for dessert; performance by fire-spinner Izra Shalmiyev. \$6-\$12. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

5 p.m. — BCMH Hanukkah Dinner and Party

☎ Julie Greene at 206-721-0970 or juliebcmhseattle@gmail.com
Delicious meat/pareve dinner with gluten-free options, activities for adults and kids and more fun surprises. RSVP and pay by December 15. At

BCM, 5145 S Morgan St., Seattle.

6 p.m. — The Big Spin 2014

☎ admom71@gmail.com
Rollerskate with the Mitzvah Mama Guild to raise money for Seattle Children's Hospital. At Skate King, 2301 140th Ave. NE, Bellevue.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

4-5 p.m. — Crossroads Mall Hanukkah Program

☎ 425-603-9677 or info@templebnaitorah.org or www.templebnaitorah.org/whats_happening
Another opportunity to celebrate Hanukkah with music and storytelling by Temple B'nai Torah clergy and friends for all to enjoy. At Crossroads Mall, 15600 NE Eight St., Bellevue.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

9 p.m. — Latkepalooza

☎ Elise Peizner at elisep@hilleluw.org
Jconnect's annual legendary young adult bash. The largest Jewish party of the year. Tickets sales begin December 1 for \$15 for the first 50 people, \$20 after that, and \$25 at the door. At the Baltic Room, 1207 Pine St., Seattle.

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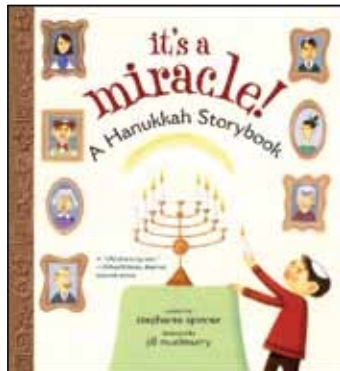
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VOTED BEST OF JEWISH WASHINGTON 2013

Say Shehechyanu as you share this year's crop of Hanukkah and gift books for kids

RITA BERMAN FRISCHER Special to JTNews

Sometimes it seems like a miracle how many different books on Hanukkah are out there. One of the newest and

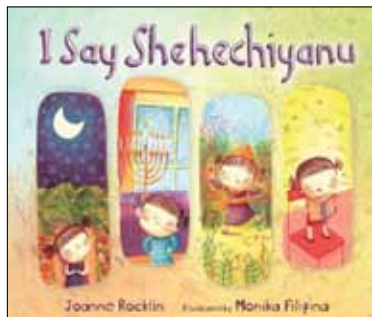


best is **It's A Miracle: A Hanukkah Storybook** by Stephanie Spinner, illustrated by Jill McElmurry (Simon & Shuster/Aladdin, ages 4-8). A family-centric tale, it features 6-year-old Owen, newly promoted to O.C.L. (Official Candle Lighter). Each Hanukkah night, Grandma tells him a different bedtime story about a boy or girl, never named, who each sounds, in some odd way, familiar. One boy clowns around in school getting in trouble until he learns to keep his comedy at home, making his family laugh — he's a real comedian (like Owen's Uncle Izzy). A girl loves to study

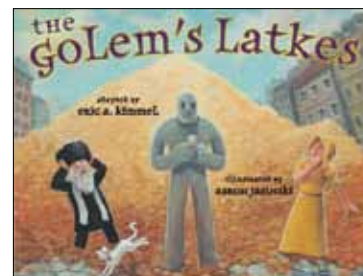
Torah and actually becomes a rabbi (like Cousin Shira), even though girls didn't do that back then. Another night, the story's about a girl who adored horses. By cleaning stalls at the racetrack and writing about horses, she eventually, earns enough money to get her own palomino. She names it Lucky (like the horse Grandma used to have).

Owen catches on by the eighth night of Hanukkah. He looks around the dinner table at each family member, seeing them as they are now and as they used to be. Grandma's stories may be the best present he'll ever get. So, have you told any good family stories lately? Try it.

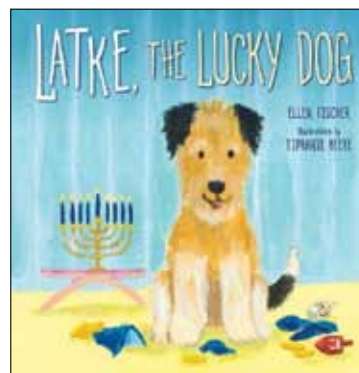
Noted children's author Joanne Rocklin provides us a perfect book to introduce not only Hanukkah, but gratitude for the rhythm and miracles of our Jewish year. I



Say Shehechyanu, illustrated by Monika Filipina (Kar-Ben, ages 3-8) takes readers through the four seasons, spotlighting occasions for saying "Shehechyanu" in each. From the first meal in a sukkah to the first candle of Hanukkah to the first bite of matzoh at Passover to the first day of Rosh Hashanah as the year begins again — for all these, we express our gratitude to be experiencing them, for the first time or again.



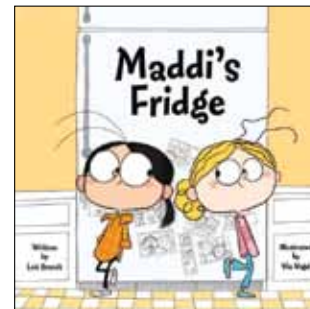
In **The Golem's Latkes**, (Marshall Cavendish, ages 3-8) Eric Kimmel combines his take on the classic Golem legend with a dash of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice"; local artist Aaron Jasinski's convincing illustrations enhance this Hanukkah mashup. We can almost smell the flood of latkes that overwhelms the city of Prague after Rabbi Judah must go to visit the emperor. Against his better judgment, he leaves his Golem at home to help Basha, the new housemaid, prepare for that night's Hanukkah party. He gives her specific orders not to ever leave the golem alone since he doesn't know when to stop doing what he's doing. Of course, Basha — delighted to find Golem is great at making latkes — lets him run amuck, chopping and frying, while she slips out to gossip with a friend. Not until after the streets are clogged with latkes does Rabbi Judah fight his way home and shout, "Golem, enough!"



Kar-Ben Publishing this year presents Ellen Fischer's lovable puppy story, **Latke, the Lucky Dog** (Kar-Ben, ages 2-7), illustrated by French artist Tiphonie Beeke. Told in first person, it follows a family's newly adopted rescue dog through eight days of mischief, mishaps and making up. The way Latke tells it, despite chewing up the family's candles and slobbering on the gelt, he's not only forgiven; on the last night, he receives a present too — a chew toy of his very own.



Gracie's Night: A Hanukkah Story by Lynn Taylor Gordon, illustrated by Laura Brown (A Cookie&Nudge Book, ages 2-7), written in verse, encourages a spirit of giving that reaches out to others. Gracie and her father are happy together, but there's no money for material niceties. Determined to show her love and appreciation, Gracie gets a job and buys special gifts, warm and cozy and new, to give Papa on Hanukkah. But when she spots a homeless man huddled in a box, much to Papa's pride and delight, she impulsively takes an action that Papa says made her "Become



someone's miracle; be someone's light."

My final book, therefore, is not about Hanukkah lights but about the kind of light Papa prefers, the light of friendship, trust, and concern. Local author Lois Brandt has written her first picture book, **Maddi's Fridge** (Flashlight Press, ages 4-8), seemingly inspired by her life as a teacher and a one-time Peace Corps volunteer. After playing together in the park, Sofia runs, uninvited, to her best friend Maddi's apartment, where she finds the big white fridge is empty. Maddi, embarrassed, says there's no money for food and makes Sofia promise not to tell. How Sofia tries to keep her promise but still find a way to help Maddi shapes the story. Appropriate touches of humor and the sprightly illustrations by Vin Vogel animate the characters and help keep it from being too earnestly an "issue" book.

Young readers will better understand "haves" and "have nots" after reading this expertly handled, well-balanced introduction to childhood hunger in America. Perhaps, receiving this book, they too (like Sofia, and like Gracie above) may be moved to action. The author has provided a page of possible ways for children and families to help.

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On the bookshelf

DIANA BREMENT JTNews Columnist

Dear readers who read: For over a decade I have written these quarterly book reviews, reading or skimming 15 to 20 books over six weeks, and reporting back to you. But the time has arrived when I no longer have the time for that, so we are trying a new format. Through my eyes you'll scan the bookshelf behind my desk and see what looks interesting. Then, just as if you were at the bookstore or library, it will be up to you through research or impulsivity to decide if you want to read the book.

The mission of these book reviews is to bring you information you can't readily get elsewhere (except in other Jewish media). I often call the books we feature here "second tier" — worthy of publishers' attention, but not of the marketing efforts that go into fewer than ten percent of books produced each year.

To that tier we now add self-published books. Authors we would have snootily labeled "vanity" a decade ago are turning to viable independent publishing options in a world of shrinkage and consolidation among publishing houses.

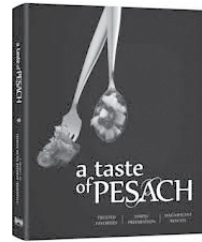
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And now, to the bookshelf.

Halloween is over, but I'm going put a scare in you now. Ready? What are you

making for Passover? It's not too early to plan, especially if you are as food obsessed as me. Publishers must agree because there are two Passover cookbooks and a Haggadah on the bookshelf.

Passover



"A Taste of Pesach" (Artsroll) from the parents at Yeshiva Me'on HaTorah in Roosevelt, N.J., is a large, full-color, well-illustrated cookbook with easy but scrumptious-looking recipes. Butternut squash kugel might make it to my Thanksgiving table.

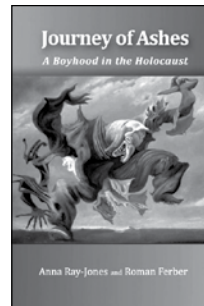
Isn't the point of Passover to gorge on potatoes? Author Aviva Kanoff has different ideas set forth in "The No-Potato Passover" (independent). She wrote this cookbook, she says, "to change the way we think about Passover food, and to put an end to the cooking rut" that comes with preparing 24 Passover meals. Winter and summer squash and quinoa figure heavily, along with Mediterranean flavors, beautiful color photos and simple instructions.

If you're looking for a new Haggadah, "Wellsprings of Freedom: The Renew Our Days Haggadah" by Rabbi Ronald Aigen (independent) brings a fresh perspective with more gender equality in story and language, a touch of mystical tradition, and more content from Torah and Midrash.

Holocaust

Riveting Holocaust memoirs are still coming. With most survivors well into their 70s and beyond, it's important to get these stories into print for the coming generations.

Despite being the youngest person on Schindler's List, Roman Ferber still went from the Krakow ghetto to Auschwitz. He and author Anna Ray-Jones tell his story in "Journey of Ashes: A Boyhood in the Holocaust" (independent). Author Enrico Lamet's family took a different path, managing to escape Austria for Italy, finding sanctuary in the small town of Ospedaletto. The effects of the war and being Jewish are still felt there, which Lamet described originally in "A Gift from the Enemy" (Syracuse University).



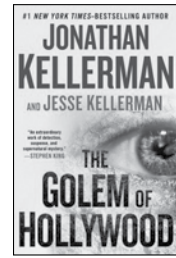
Memoir

Sandra Hurtes' "The Ambivalent Memoirist," (independent) is not quite a Holocaust memoir. However, her parents were both survivors and their history and

► PAGE 23

More notable picks Recommendations from the associate editor's desk

The Golem of Hollywood (Putnam)
Jonathan Kellerman with Jesse Kellerman



Crime fiction runs in the Kellerman family. This 600-pager by the father-son team weighs in at just under 2 lbs., but reads with the ease of the guiltiest of pleasures. Far deeper than the typical murder mystery, the Kellermans weave in their own well-written Midrash and give the classic Golem legend a new spin.

Murder 101 (William Morrow)
Faye Kellerman

The Kellerman family matriarch also has a new novel out this fall. Detective Peter Decker and his wife, Rina Lazarus, try to escape the ugliness of crime in Los Angeles, but find that a whole new mystery awaits them in pastoral upstate New York.

Asylum City (HarperCollins)
Liad Shoham

Israeli crime writer Shoham's brand new novel delves into a lesser known story in Israel — that of the country's African asylum seekers. Set in Tel Aviv, this page-turning whodunit follows desperate refugees, corrupt politicians, and activists who become entangled following the murder of

► PAGE 23

A dark side to the White City

BORIS KURBANOV JTNews Correspondent

It's a noir world, or so the publishers at Akashic Books would have us think.

Ever since the release of 2004's best-selling "Brooklyn Noir," the editors at the Brooklyn-based independent publisher have taken to traversing the globe, soliciting seamy and sometimes downright malicious tales from Paris, Mumbai, Los Angeles, Moscow, Haiti, Singapore, and more recently, Tehran. For its Tel Aviv treatment, editors Etgar Keret and Assaf Gavron give us a closer look at the White City — the high-tech and cultural hub of the country renowned for its urban beach life, art, food, fashion and nightlife.

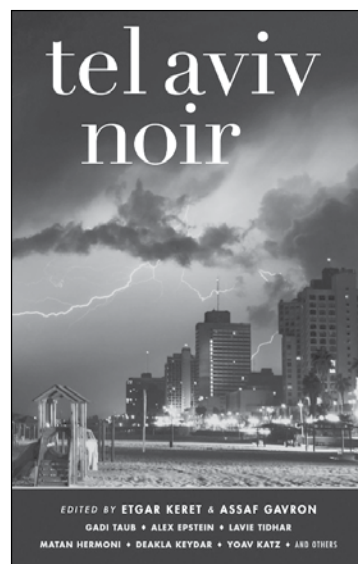
But as with many of the world's exotic destinations, the city has its dark secrets and sinister goings-on, too, complete with people you wouldn't want to meet for lunch in a bustling restaurant on Dizengoff, much less in a dark alley behind King George Street.

These secrets are explored in "Tel Aviv Noir," the newest offering in a crime anthology which probes — through 14 short fiction stories tinged with mystery — the dark side of the always-thriving, 24-hour metropo-

lis while evoking the neuroses, tension and paranoia with which Tel Avivians are all too familiar. Each story takes place in a neighborhood you know well, from Dizengoff and Florentin to Rabin Square, Levinsky Park and a lobby of a plush hotel on HaYarkon.

Tel Aviv, known as Israel's financial and commerce seat, doesn't often conjure up thoughts of criminal activity and general anti-social behavior. Yet this collection underscores just that, showing us that even the sunniest of places have their dark corners and evils.

"In spite of its outwardly warm and polite exterior, Tel Aviv has quite a bit to hide," writes Keret, who himself writes short stories that remind us how complicated it is to be human. As he observes in the introduction, the concept of noir in Tel Aviv may not be immediately



clear to readers, because the city is renowned for being "one of the happiest, friendliest, most liberal cities in the world...what could possibly be dark about our sunny city?"

Plenty, as it turns out. The stories in "Tel Aviv Noir" are divided into three categories: Encounter, estrangements and corpses. Keret and Gavron begin with the light stuff and save the bodies and body parts for the end.

Each story includes different slices of life in Israel. There's a murder mystery at a startup in Dizengoff Square, a woman who becomes a prostitute to pay off her father's debts, a couple that adopts a dog with unusual eating habits and violent tendencies, a pregnant Palestinian woman who suffers a miscarriage due to a delay at a checkpoint, and ominous visits from the Shin Bet.

Most stories in "Noir" are compelling

page-turners, though some are swing-and-misses. All, however, give us a better look at what it means to live in the city known to outsiders as "the Bubble."

"Don't get me wrong—Tel Aviv is a lovely, safe city," Keret concedes. "Most of the time, for most of its inhabitants. But the stories [in the book] describe what happens the rest of the time, to the rest of its inhabitants." The tales expose, in his words, "the concealed, scarred face of this city that we love so much."

For each new book in the series a key decision is finding the right editors — those who bring together writers across divides of religion, ethnicity and politics. For "Noir," Keret and Gavron set out to introduce some of Israel's top contemporary writers to English-speaking audiences, hoping to catapult their careers and get them published abroad while painting a stark picture about what takes place after dark, letting the vignettes play out against a big, flashy, dangerous Tel Aviv backdrop, full of schemers and undesirables, reminding us most sunny getaways aren't always what they seem.

A "Jerusalem Noir" is in the works.

Paeon to a tragic, fallen heroine

DAVID SHAYNE Special to JTNews

“Haviva Reick: A Kibbutz Pioneer’s Mission and Fall behind Nazi Lines” by Zeev and Tehila Ofer (FAWNS, \$16).

Toward the end of World War II, the British and the Haganah (the underground army of pre-Israel Jewish Palestine) collaborated to train and insert some three dozen Jewish commandos into Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe. Their mission was two-fold: To try to rescue Jews, and to aid the Allied forces, particularly airmen downed behind enemy lines.

One third were killed. Several were women, the most famous being the poet-soldier Hana Szenes, whom the Nazis captured and executed. Two weeks later the Nazis executed Haviva Reick, another female commando largely unknown outside of Israel.

“Haviva,” as the book is titled in its



original Hebrew, is the subject of a detailed and fascinating biography by the husband-wife team of Tehila and Zeev Ofer. The Ofers are veterans of the Haganah’s elite Palmach unit and have their own compelling personal histories: Tehila came to Palestine after being caught on an “Aliya Bet,” an illegal immigrant ship, and interred in Cyprus, while Zeev had a distinguished career in

the Palmach and then in the Israel Defense Forces. Now in their 80s, the Ofers remain actively involved in preserving the legacy of the Palmach.

Haviva was born in Slovakia 100 years ago, the youngest of five children, at the beginning of World War I. As a teenager, she became a Zionist, but rather than move straight away to Palestine, she remained in Slovakia to assist her single mother and lead Zionist youth until it was almost too late — she and two sib-

lings managed to enter Palestine in late 1939 despite the British White Paper that severely restricted Jewish immigration — among the last Jews to safely reach Palestine from Europe just as the Nazi onslaught began.

But the rest of her family was soon trapped. Haviva, like others with family in Europe, followed events with an ever-growing fear and helplessness, which finally drove Haviva and her comrades to willingly return to the inferno from which they had escaped.

She spent the first four years living as a “halutza,” pioneer, on a new kibbutz performing manual labor. In 1943, at age 29, she joined the Palmach, despite being considerably older than her comrades. Nonetheless, Haviva met every challenge and overcame the numerous hardships. She so impressed her younger male commanders that she herself was promoted to a field commander at first, and then selected for the British commando course, which led to her final mission and tragic end.

The Ofers capture her life and personality in great detail, as if they spent weeks interviewing Haviva in person. Despite never having met her, the Ofers bring much of Haviva’s sadly truncated life to light. Their book is not a two-dimensional paeon to a fallen hero, but an intimate look at Haviva, the whole woman, including her faults and failures: Haviva was not always successful socially — she was nearly dishonorably discharged for unbecoming conduct — and had a rather tumultuous love-life, including a failed marriage.

Ultimately, Haviva was a force majeure, a woman of indomitable spirit and tremendous strength, a heroine in every sense of the word. Aside from telling this riveting story, the Ofers also provide wonderful insight into the lives of Jewish women pioneers and soldiers. It is an intense but fascinating read for any interested in Holocaust/World War II studies, life in pre-Israel Jewish Palestine, insight into the lives of female warriors, or just a good story about a great woman.

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NORTHWEST JEWISH FAMILY

Thanksgiving at the Harris home: Norman Rockwell it ain't

By Ed Harris



Abba Knows Best

faiths, unlike Christmas and Hanukkah, which are drawn from entirely different religious traditions.

In making this assessment, however, my friend was not familiar with the squabbling which takes place among Mishpocha Harris. After all, what would a holiday celebrated by Jews be — even if the event itself is not

A Jewish friend of mine once described Thanksgiving as his favorite holiday. He said Thanksgiving is the only celebration of the season that serves to unite people of all

Jewish — without arguing?

The first item up for debate is the vantage point from where we should sit inside and watch the precipitation come down. Is it better to stay at home, and avoid the expense and hassle of travel, and stare at rain-sodden pewter skies from the comfort of our own living room couch? Or perhaps it might be more fun to load up the car, turn on the windshield wipers, and stare at the gloom from a rental in a local vacation spot such as Cannon Beach or Victoria. Every trip we've made to Victoria, the brochure in the hotel room cheerfully explains the cozy little city is located in a sub-tropical temperate zone, affording it an unusually dry, sunny climate. However, somehow despite numerous winter visits, we get the same miserable off-season weather as back home, except with the added privilege of

paying for it. I guess Victoria reverts to sub-tropical as soon as the Clipper disappears over the horizon.

The next item of dispute is what to eat at the family dinner. In theory, the common denominator of Thanksgiving is the turkey, as exemplified by the classic Norman Rockwell picture, "Freedom From Want," which portrays a smiling family about to devour what appears to be about a 30-pounder prepared by Grandma.

We Jews may not be able to partake of the Christmas ham with the same gusto as our gentile friends and neighbors, but we can all agree on the suitability of a turkey as the centerpiece of a feast. Except, that is, chez Harris: We've been overrun by rampant vegetarianism. Meanwhile, our youngest, Izzy, a dedicated carnivore, cannot believe his bad luck. Tevye the Dairyman wondered, "would it have spoiled some vast, eternal plan, if I were a wealthy man?" Izzy probably similarly speculates whether the cosmos would have tilted off-kilter had his parents eaten meat, like, you know, normal people. He's lobbying to be served his own private dinner, an entire turkey, roasted for an audience of one. Given the fact that in over two decades of parenting, we've never once said "no" to any of our children, he's likely to get it.

Two years ago, we stayed at a hotel that served a Thanksgiving buffet, and conveniently (for them) happened to be the only dining option available to guests. The price tag was about 40 bucks per person. Since we keep kosher, we were limited to salads and vegetables. One needs to consume a lot

of string beans to get your money's worth.

Jews, given our history, have a tendency to side with underdogs, which might color a celebration of conquering Europeans a bit out of character. Plus, my own family contains two authentic Native Americans, one a descendant of the Mayans and the other of the Incas. However, many of the first Europeans who came into contact with the New World believed the native peoples were direct descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes. This would make Thanksgiving in a sense a Jewish holiday, especially as it is also entirely possible that members of Columbus's crew were Jews fleeing after the expulsion from Spain in 1492.

However, I find this rather fanciful speculation. I know the real facts. My daughter is the modern-day descendant of royalty, an Incan princess. You can see the nobility etched into her face, and I have the Bat Mitzvah and wedding receipts to prove it. Although, to give credit to the pilgrims, my father has noted that Izzy, despite his Central American heritage, rather remarkably has quite the Jewish shnazola on him. Maybe those first settlers were on to something.

Well, enough philosophizing. Someone has to get the Tofurkey into the oven. I know just the person to do it. He answers to the name "Abba."

Ed Harris, the author of "Fifty Shades of Schwarz" and several other books, was born in the Bronx and lives in Bellevue with his family. His blog, Fizz-Ed, and additional information about his books are available at www.edharrisauthor.com.



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Celebrate Shabbat with prayer, songs, challah, juice and candles. Holiday celebrations. Monthly crafts. Ideal for babies, toddlers,

and pre-K. At Congregation Kol Ami, 16530 Avondale Rd. NE, Woodinville.

11–11:30 a.m. — **PJ Library Song and Storytime Jewish Junction Style**

☎ 206-384-6020

or info@jewishjunction.net.

Sing, dance, play and engage in some of the great PJ Library picture books. At Ravenna Third Place Books, 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle.

11:15 a.m.–12 p.m. — **Tots Welcoming Shabbat at Temple B'nai Torah**

☎ Irit Eliav Levin at 425-603-9677, ext. 209

or lLevin@templebnaitorah.org.

Singing, prayer, and challah and grape juice, led by Cantor David Serkin-Poole and Chava Mirel. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

5:30–7:30 p.m. — **Raising Jewish Kids in a Non-Jewish World**

☎ Marjorie Schnyder at

206-861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org.

Growing up as a minority, kids might encounter curiosity, misunderstanding, stereotypes or worse. It's a parent's job to help them and to model respect for others as well. Bring dinner or a vegetarian dish to share. Registration encouraged. Free. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

6–6:45 p.m. — **Kinder Kabbalat at Beth Am**

☎ Alexis Kort at 206-525-0915 or

alexis@templebetham.org.

Designed for kids 6 and under and led by rabbis and Shoshannah Stombaugh. Light dinner for kids, schmoozing begins at 5:30. Service starts at 6. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

2–4 p.m. — **Lego Man at BCMH**

☎ Julie Greene at 206-721-0970 or

juliebcmhseattle@gmail.com.

Professional Lego builder Dan Parker will lead a pre-Hanukkah event for kids K–5th grade. Snacks served. \$10 per child. At BCMH, 5145 S Morgan St., Seattle.

3:30–5 p.m. — **Family Music Experience**

☎ 206-384-6020 or

info@jewishjunction.net.

Come drum, dance, and play — no experience necessary. At the Seattle Jewish Community School, 12351 Eighth Ave. NE, Seattle.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

4–5:30 p.m. — **SJCC Early Childhood School Open House — Seattle Campus**

☎ Nicci Burrell at NicciB@sjcc.org

or 206-526-8073.

Interested parents can visit the Early Childhood School, take a tour of our facility, experience a day in the life of a child in the classroom, meet staff and faculty and have an opportunity to ask questions. At the Stroum JCC, 2618 NE 80th St., Seattle.



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Members of the poetry tribe

DIANA BREMENT JTNews Columnist

Happy Jewish Book Month to writers and readers everywhere!

1 I decided to reach out to **Merna Ann Hecht** after the Seattle Times did a lovely profile of her and her poem that won a place in the King County Metro Poetry on Buses competition.

As co-founder and co-director of “Stories of Arrival: Refugee and Immigrant Youth Voices Poetry Project” at Foster High School in Tukwila, Merna helps immigrant youth tell stories of their roots through poetry, working in one of the most linguistically diverse high schools in the country. (The 2010 census indicated half of Tukwila residents speak a language other than English at home.)

When Merna noticed that this year’s Metro contest theme was “home,” she thought, “that’s what these kids write about...they write about missing home.” She entered almost 20 students in the contest and eight of them won.

“At the last minute I typed up my poem and submitted it and [also] won.”

Her poem, about breads from different cultures, reflects her love of cooking.



M.O.T.
Member of
the Tribe

“I love to bake,” she notes. “I put a lot from my own culture [in writing] and food is really central to me.”

Making challah and beet borscht from scratch are among her specialties, and “I still have my grandmother’s old wooden chopping bowl and knife,” with which she makes charoset every Passover.

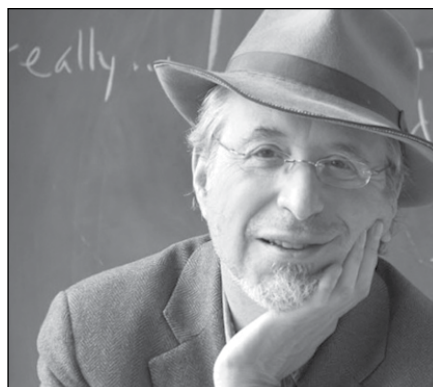
Merna, who grew up in Kankakee, Ill., is also a storyteller, active in the Seattle



COURTESY MERNA HECHT

Merna Hecht, co-founder and co-director of “Stories of Arrival: Refugee and Immigrant Youth Voices Poetry Project” at Foster High School.

Storytellers Guild. She’s performing at Haller Lake Community Center in Seattle on Dec. 19, “telling stories of gratitude, light, and Hanukkah.” One will be an adaptation of “nine spoons,” a true story about women in a concentration



ROSANNE OLSON

Psychiatrist and poet Jed Myers, who has published two books of poetry this year.

camp who pilfered — at great risk — spoons to make a menorah. She will also speak to Jewish Family Service’s Endless Opportunities group at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle on Jan. 20, 2015, about the importance of storytelling in Jewish tradition.

2 “They just both happened to happen at about the same time,” says **Jed Myers** of his two books of poetry published this year. Jed enters lots of contests and explains that he usually has many manuscripts in circulation. Sometimes, as with his chapbook “The Nameless” (Finishing Line Press), a manuscript doesn’t win a contest, but the publisher chooses to publish it. Other times, as with the full-length, “Watching the Perseids,” the manuscript wins and is published — in this case by the Sacramento Poetry Center.

“Watching the Perseids,” focuses on Jed’s father’s illness and death from a brain tumor.

“I think I had in mind — when I learned my father’s diagnosis — that I was going to cope...in part by writing,” he says.

“Writing is an exploration of experience, [and] a therapeutic process for me,” he adds.

As he developed the manuscript, he found other “poems I had already written...that fit in,” mostly on family themes.

A psychiatrist with a private therapy practice, Jed is also adjunct faculty at UW Medical School. He hosts a twice-monthly poetry open mic at Bai Pai Thai restaurant in Seattle’s Ravenna neighborhood, one of three Easy Speak Seattle venues (www.easyspeakseattle.com). A guitarist, harmonica player and singer, he performs music there, too.

You can find Jed’s books at Third Place Books in Ravenna, Open Books: A Poem Emporium in Wallingford (one of

only two poetry bookstores in the U.S.), on Amazon.com, and through the publishers. There’s more information at www.jedmyers.com.

3 “It Looks Worse than I Am,” is poet and novelist **Laurie Blauner**’s latest book, her seventh poetry collection and her 12th published book.

As a poetry student of **Richard Hugo** and **Madeline Defrees** at the University of Montana in the early ’80s, Laurie once insisted she would only write poetry.

“I never, never, thought I would write fiction,” she says, recalling a short fiction class in which she needed “the entire quarter to write one short story.”

But as she got older and had more time, she decided to turn to fiction and to date she has published three novels and a novella.

“You can spread out more” with prose, she says, and observes that now fiction and poetry “inform each other”



DAVID DINTENFASS

Laurie Blauner, a poet who never expected she would also become a novelist.

in her work. “There’s poetry in my fiction and fiction in my poetry.” Her new book, appropriately enough, is a collection of prose poems.

Laurie grew up in Manhattan and moved to Seattle in 1987, meeting her husband **David Dintenfass** just one month later. They are active in Seattle’s Emanuel Congregation, where he is co-president.

Hear Laurie on Dec. 11 as the featured reader for the It’s About Time series at the Ballard Library (www.itsabouttimewriters.homestead.com) and buy her book at Open Books and Amazon.com. There is a sample poem and a list of her work at www.laurieblauner.com.

4 Short Takes: Former JTNews board member **Dan Mayer** was named executive director of Book-It Repertory Theatre, which will hold its second performance of “Letters to the Editor,” telling the history of our community through this very newspaper, on Sat., Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. at The Royal Room in Columbia City. Don’t miss it!

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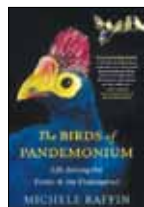
◀ ON THE BOOKSHELF PAGE 17

culture seeps into Hurtes' life. This book — a nicely produced, self-published volume — is a series of brief vignettes based on the author's blog in which she reflects on family, issues of independence, writing and publishing.

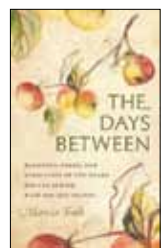


Originally published in 2011, "Swimming in the Daylight: An American Student, a Soviet-Jewish Dissident, and the Gift of Hope" (Skyhorse) takes on a different chapter in Jewish persecution. Author Lisa Paul was a 23-year-old Catholic American college student living and working in Moscow in the early 1980s. Her Russian tutor, Inna Meiman, was a Soviet-Jewish dissident and refusenik. Paul documents their unlikely friendship and her actions on behalf of Soviet Jews when she returned to the States. This edition has a new foreword by Natan Sharansky.

Local author Ellen Newhouse chronicles a different kind of horror in her memoir, "Nothing Ever Goes on Here" (New Media). Growing up with an outwardly charming, but cruelly abusive father and a mentally ill mother unable to stand up for herself and her children, Newhouse managed to escape the confines of her personal history and heal. She describes memories of her childhood and young adulthood in connected vignettes, including the joy she felt going to synagogue as a child.



In Michele Raffin's charming "The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the Exotic and the Endangered" (Algonquin) the former Silicon Valley executive tells us how she went from nursing one injured finch back to health to founding Pandemonium Aviar-



ies, one of the largest bird sanctuaries and rare bird breeding facilities in the country. The author works to protect and reproduce endangered species and their habitats.

Poet Marcia Falk takes on memory as well as blessings and musing on the High Holidays in this new collection of poems, "The Between Days" (Brandeis).

It's not a memoir, but "Seven Chinese Questions, Seven Jewish Answers" by Eric J. Friedman, MD (Nanjing) arose from the curiosity often expressed by his Chinese colleagues about Judaism when he worked in research at the National Cancer Institute. This is a bilingual book, half English, half Mandarin Chinese, with two different covers, depending on which way you open the book. Who are the Jews? What is the secret to Jewish identity survival? How have Jews contributed to world civilization? What is anti-Semitism? These are some of the questions asked and answered.

The following are newly published fiction of Jewish interest, or by Jewish authors:

"Brewster," by Mark Slouka (Norton), a family drama.

"A Possibility of Violence," by D.A. Mishani (Harper), crime fiction from an Israeli author.

"One Night in Winter," by Simon Sebag Montefiore (Harper), historical fiction set in Stalinist Russia.

"Ade: A Love Story," by Rebecca Walker (Little), a poetic tale.

"Forgiving Maximino Rothman," by AJ Sidransky (Berwick), crime and historical fiction focusing on the Jews of the Dominican Republic.

"Hello Devilfish," by Ron Dakron (Three Rooms). A local author takes on the persona of a monster stingray that attacks Tokyo.

◀ MORE NOTABLE PICS PAGE 17

an aid worker.

Paper Love: Searching for the Girl My Grandfather Left Behind (Riverhead Books)

Sarah Wildman

Already receiving critical acclaim, this young journalist's exploration into her grandfather's pre-war true love through letters found after his death is potentially paving the way for post-survivor Holocaust writing.

Jewish Mothers Never Die

Natalie David-Weill

(Editions Robert Laffont)

Behind every great Jewish man is a Jewish mother. Or so say the late mothers of Sigmund Freud, Marcel Proust, Albert Einstein, Albert Cohen, Romain Gary, Woody Allen, and the Marx Brothers.

Gathered together in the afterlife, the mothers bicker over whose son is the best. Originally published in French in 2011, the English edition was released this year.

-Emily K. Alhadeff



SOLOMON LEO BIRULIN

July 6, 1921-October 26, 2014

Born to Leo and Tamara Birulin in Tientsin, China, Sol passed away in Seattle at the age of 93.

He greeted everyone with a smile and was instantly their friend.

Working as a teacher, selling jewelry, or volunteering for numerous community organizations allowed Sol an opportunity to express and demonstrate his love of people of all backgrounds. He was a devoted Jew and led a life committed to God and Torah.

Together with Ann, his wife of 65 years, Sol traveled extensively. He served in the army in Europe in World War II and then graduated the University of Washington. He taught in junior high, high school, and community college. He was a past president of the Seattle Hebrew Academy, and a strong supporter of Jewish education. Sol was a great chess player and loved to write poetry and stories, which he shared with all his friends.

In addition to Ann, Sol is also survived by his beloved children, Gloria (Mark) and Mark (Ayelet) and his dearly loved grandchildren, Brian, Brandon, Jenna, Avital (Netanel), Tikva, and Maayan; nephews, David and Robert. Predeceased by his brother, Alex.

Funeral services were held at Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath Cemetery on October 28. Remembrances may be made to Seattle Hebrew Academy, the Birulin Scholarship Fund at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, or the Summit at First Hill.



HARRY EPHRAIM JACOBY

Harry celebrated his Bar Mitzvah September 20, 2014, at Congregation Ezra Bessaro in Seattle.

Harry is the son of Beth and David Jacoby of Seattle and the brother of Anna. His grandparents are Michal Jacoby of Seattle and the late Samuel Jacoby and Dick and Joann Steinbock.

Harry is a 7th grader at South Shore K-8. He is interested in Judaica, reading and swimming, and he attends the Sephardic religious school and is a member of the Cascade Swim Club.

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DR. EINAT WILF, a Senior Fellow with the Jewish People Policy Institute and an Adjunct Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, is a former Member of the Knesset for both the Labor and Independence Parties. She also served as a former foreign policy advisor to Shimon Peres. A frequent commentator on Israeli, U.S., and international media, Dr. Wilf has been acclaimed as "One of Israel's exciting new young leaders and one of its most articulate representatives on the international stage."



RABBI JAMES (JIM) MIREL has been a leader in the Seattle Jewish community for more than 40 years. He is currently Rabbi Emeritus at Temple B'nai Torah in Bellevue and the rabbi at the Wood River Jewish Congregation in Sun Valley, Idaho. Since he arrived here more than four decades ago, he initiated many and supported every Seattle-area pro-Israel community event, and has been an inspirational voice and tireless advocate for the State of Israel.

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