



**JT**  
*NEWS*

THE VOICE OF

# JEWISH

WASHINGTON

## Coming to Terms With Addiction On the stage

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FRANCO RABAZZO/CREATIVE COMMONS

# Honey honey, farmer farmer and a Tacoma charitable legend

**DIANA BREMENT** JTNews Columnist

**1** I reached out to **David Feinberg** after seeing his name in a Seattle Times' Pacific Northwest Magazine article about local beekeepers who have worked with SeaTac Airport to set up hives there, "for artistic and commercial and genetic reasons," David explains. The hives are kept without treatments, insecticides, antibiotics or oils that help prevent infestations of mites and a disease called nosema.



**M.O.T.**  
Member of  
the Tribe

David and his wife, **Sarah Moore**, live on one acre in Burien, just over the Seattle city line, on what he calls the "ne plus ultra" of urban mini farms.

"I'm going to brag," David says. "We probably have the largest, coolest, one acre in the immediate [area]."

Though he says the place is a mess, "we do it for our own pleasure."

Along with bees, they have "two pregnant goats, fruit trees, chickens, tree-houses," and a sixth grade son, **Noah**. (A grown daughter lives in California.)

As we spoke on the phone, David walked around the farm and stopped to visit the bees. "The box is covered with poop," he observed, "because nosema gives bees dysentery."

But the queen survived the winter — and that means honey.

Nosema may or may not be the reason for the recent bee die-off in this country. Pinpointing the cause is "very complicated" and "hard to untangle" says David. Limited genetic stock, the result of a 1924 law banning the import of queen bees, might have contributed to the problem. Leaving colonies untreated hopefully allows bees to strengthen their genetic pool through natural selection.

Both David and Sarah have day jobs, because "no one can make a living off an urban mini-farm," he says, but they sometimes sell surplus eggs, goat milk and honey.

Sarah is Pacific Science Center's life sci-



TERRY PAGOS

ence manager in Seattle, where she runs the butterfly house and is "queen of the naked mole rats" ([www.pacificsciencecenter.org](http://www.pacificsciencecenter.org)). David refurbishes and sells Norwalk commercial juicers. An industrial designer by training, he is developing a juicer of his own in his machine shop on the property.

Growing up in Long Island City (Queens), New York, David moved to Seattle in 1978. He and Sarah had a smaller

farm in Lake City before moving to Burien 12 years ago. A designer of boat and RV covers and other products for a number of local manufacturers, he still consults with the last sewing factory in Seattle.

Noah, Sarah and David all blog about the farm at [severalgardens.blogspot.com](http://severalgardens.blogspot.com). Spend an entertaining few minutes there reading about their housetrained goat that got stuck in the duck house.

**2** She's not doing it for the glory, but **Adria Farber** says a little recognition never hurts, especially if it draws attention to the charitable causes for which she works so hard.

"It's important to let people know they're appreciated," observes Adria, and "with the

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## WHERE TO WORSHIP

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				<b>Jewish Community of the Palouse</b>	509/334-7868 or 208/882-1280		

## STORIES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Every weekday at 3 p.m., JTNews sends out an email with stories from near and far about what's happening in our Jewish world. Here are some stories you may have missed over the past two weeks:

- Conversion tactics
- Tourist or scammer?
- You think you want to be a rabbi?
- Comedy revolution

Want to be in the know? Sign up for the 3 O'Clock News by visiting our website at [www.jtnews.net](http://www.jtnews.net), scroll down, and give us your name and email address. Find all of these articles on our website.

## REMEMBER WHEN



From the Jewish Transcript, March 25, 1971.

Mrs. Charlotte Eskenazy, Mrs. Raymond Brown, and Mrs. Edward Schacher show off a piece of artwork to be sold at the ORT auction that was set to take place in early April at Temple De Hirsch. Find more photos like this one on our online archives at [jtn.stparchives.com](http://jtn.stparchives.com).

*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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Rabbi Rachel Nussbaum calls on her favorite Haggadah to get us into the mood for our Passover preparations.

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Now having spent more than six months learning about his new community, Keith Dvorchik, the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle's new CEO, has outlined his vision for the organization.

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Yes, it's true, there is something of a Yiddish revival going on in the Seattle area. It can be attributed to the desires of one retired transplant.

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A letter signed by 83 senators urges President Obama to make the dismantling of all nuclear bomb-making facilities the cornerstone of any agreement with Iran.

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A series of paintings hanging at Hillel at the University of Washington comes from an artist who visited Russia's Far East to meet its Jewish population.

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Coming up  
**March 28**  
 Passover Prep



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# THE CALENDAR to Jewish Washington



For a complete listing of events, or to add your event to the JTNews calendar, visit [calendar.jtnews.net](http://calendar.jtnews.net). Calendar events must be submitted no later than 10 days before publication.

## Candlelighting times

**March 21** ..... 7:05 p.m.

**March 28** ..... 7:15 p.m.

**April 4** ..... 7:25 p.m.

**April 11** ..... 7:35 p.m.

## FRIDAY 21 MARCH

### 7:30–9 p.m. — Shabbat Celebration of Purim

☎ Elizabeth Fagin at [eafagin@comcast.net](mailto:eafagin@comcast.net) or 425-882-0947 or [betalef.org](http://betalef.org)

Celebrate Shabbat with the energy of Purim. Get out your platform shoes and disco to the music of the '70s. Free. At Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle.

## SATURDAY 22 MARCH

### 10–11:30 a.m. — Family Shabbat Morning

☎ Kate Speizer at [kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org](mailto:kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org) or 206-315-7429 or [tdhs-nw.org](http://tdhs-nw.org)

Brief prayer service (with guitar) and snack, a project or story, and free play. All are welcome, no membership or experience required. Free. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 1511 E Pike St., Seattle.

### 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. — Torah Study with Rabbi Olivier BenHaim

☎ Elizabeth Fagin at [elizabeth@betalef.org](mailto:elizabeth@betalef.org) or 206-527-9399 or [betalef.org](http://betalef.org)

A Kabbalistic approach to the spiritual dimensions of the weekly Torah portion. Everyone welcome. Free. At Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, 1111 Harvard Ave., Seattle.

### 4–6 p.m. — Brundibár

☎ John Huffstetler at [info@musicofremembrance.org](mailto:info@musicofremembrance.org) or 206-365-7770 or [www.musicofremembrance.org](http://www.musicofremembrance.org)

A new production of this children's opera, directed by Erich Parce and starring some of Seattle's most gifted young singers, many from the Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint. \$40. At Seattle Children's Theatre, 201 Thomas St., Seattle.

### 5–10 p.m. — SJCC Parents Night Out

☎ Daliah Silver at [daliahs@sjcc.org](mailto:daliahs@sjcc.org) or 206-388-0839 or [sjcc.org](http://sjcc.org)

Games, arts and crafts, and activities for kids while parents go out. Theme is Monster Bash: Who's that under the bed? Includes dinner. \$30 SJCC members, \$40 guests. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

### 9–11:55 p.m. — Seattle NCSY Costume

☎ Ari Hoffman at [thehofffather@gmail.com](mailto:thehofffather@gmail.com) or 206-295-5888 or [seattlencsny.com](http://seattlencsny.com)

Food, drinks, mocktails, \$1,000 in chips, and prizes. Buy tickets online and get \$1,000 at the door, and get \$1,000 for each friend who has never participated before. At the VFW, 1836 72nd Ave. SE, Mercer Island.

## SUNDAY 23 MARCH

### 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. — Living a Healthier Life... Jewishly!

☎ Shelly Goldman at [sgoldman@a.templebnaitorah.org](mailto:sgoldman@a.templebnaitorah.org) or 425-603-9677 or

[www.templebnaitorah.org/adult\\_education](http://www.templebnaitorah.org/adult_education)

Explore how to integrate Jewish teachings and values into nutrition and food choices, the psychological aspects of healthy choices, stress,

and fitness. Free. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

### 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. — B'Tzelem: In the Image

☎ Julie Greene at [julie@bcmhseattle.org](mailto:julie@bcmhseattle.org) or 206-721-0970 or [livingjudaism.com/event/btzelem-workshop-series/](http://livingjudaism.com/event/btzelem-workshop-series/)  
Congregation Bikur Cholim-Machzikay Hadath and LivingJudaism present a one-day spiritual retreat with Rabbi Mark Spiro on what it means to be created in the image of God. \$25 includes seminar and lunch. At a private home, Seattle.

### 3:30–4:30 p.m. — Seattle Jewish Chorale at Kline Galland

☎ Marilyn Israel at [marilyni@klinegalland.org](mailto:marilyni@klinegalland.org) or 206-725-8800

Sponsored by the Rudy and Lucy Spring Endowment for the Enhancement of Jewish Life. Free, all are welcome. At the Caroline Kline Galland Home, 7500 Seward Park Ave. S, Seattle.

### 4:30–9 p.m. — JDS Auction 2014

☎ Risa Coleman at [rcoleman@jds.org](mailto:rcoleman@jds.org) or 425-460-0242 or [www.jds.org](http://www.jds.org)

Annual community fundraising event for The Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle. All are welcome. \$136. At Sheraton Hotel Seattle, 1400 Sixth Ave., Seattle.

### 7–9 p.m. — Brundibár

☎ John Huffstetler at [info@musicofremembrance.org](mailto:info@musicofremembrance.org) or 206-365-7770 or [www.musicofremembrance.org](http://www.musicofremembrance.org)

At Seattle Children's Theatre, 201 Thomas St., Seattle.

## TUESDAY 25 MARCH

### 8–10 p.m. — "The Story of the Jews"

Five-part PBS series featuring British historian Simon Schama traveling from New York to Odessa,

Berlin to Jerusalem. Tuesday nights starting March 25 at 8 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. On KCTS channel 9, Seattle.

## WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH

### 7 p.m. — University Lecture Series with Prof. Devin Naar

☎ 206-525-0915 or [www.templebetham.org](http://www.templebetham.org)

What happened to the Jews expelled from Spain in 1492? How are Sephardic Jews linked to Seattle? How does the University of Washington have a larger collection of Ladino books than the Library of Congress? UW professor Devin Naar answers these questions and more. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

## THURSDAY 27 MARCH

### 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. — There's an App for That!

☎ Ellen Hendin at [endlessopps@jfsseattle.org](mailto:endlessopps@jfsseattle.org) or 206-461-3240 or [jfsseattle.org](http://jfsseattle.org)


Bring your iPhone, iPad, smartphone or tablet. Paul Lowenberg and Susan Matalon will explore the App Store and open a new world on your mobile devices. At Temple De Hirsch Sinai, 850 156th Ave. SE, Bellevue.

### 7–9 p.m. — Bensussen Deutsch: Business Lecture

☎ Kim Lawson at [klawson@sjcc.org](mailto:klawson@sjcc.org) or 206-232-7115 or [www.sjcc.org](http://www.sjcc.org)


Eric Bensussen and Jay Deutsch, founders of Bensussen Deutsch and Associates, were childhood friends who turned a hobby into a career. Now their company has offices around the globe and has appeared on ABC's "Secret Millionaire." At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

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**12th Annual Community of Caring Luncheon**  
**Thursday, May 8, 2014**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. • Sheraton Seattle Hotel**

Event Chairs: Karyn Barer and Dawn Gold  
 For more information, contact Leslie Sugiura (206) 861-3151.  
 Register online now at [jfsseattle.org/luncheon](http://jfsseattle.org/luncheon).



# SEND THE COMMUNITY A PERSONAL GREETING ON PASSOVER

**PASSOVER GREETINGS ARE PUBLISHED APRIL 11TH!**  
 Greet family and friends for the holiday with a personalized greeting in our big April 11th Passover issue.  
 Call or email Becky for information about placing your greeting: 206-774-2238 or [beckym@jtnews.net](mailto:beckym@jtnews.net).



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## THE RABBI'S TURN

**“In every generation”:** Spiritual preparation for Passover**RABBI RACHEL NUSSBAUM** *The Kavana Cooperative*

The sun is shining, matzoh is out on the grocery store display shelves, and it's clear that Pesach is on the way. Time to prepare!

For the past two years, I've been enjoying a haggadah that's new to the scene: “The New American Haggadah,” edited by Jonathan Safran Foer with a new translation by Nathan Englander (Little, Brown & Co., 2012). While the book features some beautiful design elements, its large hardcover format makes it bit clunky for seder use.

That said, I think it has incredible potential as a resource for seder planning. On top of four cups of wine, four children, and four questions, this haggadah now brings us four commentaries! To give you a sense of this haggadah (and hopefully to enrich your Passover experience as well), I'd like to use it as a lens to dig into one of the core lines of the seder.

Toward the end of the maggid section — after the four questions, the ten plagues, Dayenu and Rabban Gamliel's three symbols, but just before our taste of Hallel before the meal — we recite a line that is arguably the key to unlocking the essence of the Passover seder: **“B'chol dor va-dor chayav adam lir'ot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza mi-mitzrayim.”** **“In every generation, a person is obligated to view himself as if he were the one who went out from Egypt.”**

This line, lifted from Mishna Pesachim, chapter 10, is a bit challenging to interpret. After all, when Jews use the language of obligation (“chiyuv”), we're generally talking about behaviors, and not about self-image. This is a great example, then, of a case where interpretations from multiple sources and perspectives have the potential to really illuminate our understanding of a short text. And indeed, “The New American Haggadah” offers a two-page spread featuring short essays about the “b'chol dor va-dor” line. Here is the essence of each of the four commentaries: 1) In the “House of Study” commentary, Nathaniel Deutsch draws our attention to Exodus 12:15, where God commands Moses and Aaron to instruct the Israelites about observing a seven-day period of unleavened bread, and to Exodus 13:6, where Moses relays God's command. “But,” Deutsch writes, “there is a crucial difference. Where God uses the plural form of ‘you’ in the Hebrew original, Moses substitutes the singular form; where God directs his command to the



entire nation, Moses redirects it to the individual Israelite...” Is the “real challenge,” he asks, to be reminded that we are individuals, or to imagine that we belong to something bigger than ourselves?

2) Lemony Snicket's (Daniel Handler's) voice is fresh and snarky in the “Playground” commentary, which generally lives up to its fun title. He urges us to see ourselves in the story and to use the story as a lens for understanding our own lives. To give you a taste: “The story of Passover may seem very remote to you, as it happened thousands of years ago, when the oldest people at your seder table were very, very young... We must look upon ourselves as though we, too, were among those fleeing a life of bondage in Egypt and wandering the desert for years and years, which is why we are often so tired in the evenings and cannot always explain how we got to be exactly where we are.”

3) Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, in her “Library” commentary, writes eloquently about the power of embracing a child-like sense of imagination as we approach the telling of the Passover tale. “It is the imagination alone that can extend the sense of the self, broaden our sense of who we really are,” she writes. “Tonight is the night that we sanctify storytelling.”

4) In “Nation,” Jeffrey Goldberg challenges us to consider our contemporary world from the perspective of our experience of having gone out from Egypt. He asks, “Do you live in a place where some people work two and three jobs to feed their children, and others don't have even a single, poorly paid job?” From infant mortality, immigration, incarceration, and spiritual impoverishment in America, to the gap between household income of Jews and Arab citizens of Israel, the issues Goldberg raises are both poignant and painful to confront. He challenges us to interpret the “b'chol dor va-dor” line as a charge to help fulfill the promise of both American and Israeli societies.

Any one of these comments alone could be a powerful starting point for a rich seder discussion; together, they bring the “b'chol dor va-dor” line to life! Now, through this deceptively simple line of text, we can see the centrality of both individual and communal experience, the power of employing a collective narrative to better understand ourselves, the potential unlocked through imagination and

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**WHAT'S ACCEPTABLE**

Your recent article (“The Jewish Zen master to make Seattle appearance,” March 5) detailed an appearance by Bernie Glassman in Seattle. Aside from the question of why a Jewish organization would host a Jew who has chosen to be a Buddhist, there is another troublesome issue.

His organization, called Zen Peacemakers, notes his alliance with a so-called leader in the “Palestinian non-violence movement,” Sami Awad. Glassman states on his website that he “is going to Israel and Palestine twice a year” and supporting Awad's efforts. According to NGO Monitor, Awad is a supporter of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel, and he has stated that non-violent resistance “is not a substitute for the armed struggle.”

I would never suggest that people who favor a two-state approach, or even those that are anti-Israel, should be prevented from speaking. And to be fair, the Glassman event may be a lovely evening of peace and fellowship. So why mention it?

Quite simply, it illustrates how acceptable it has become for local organizations to host, and for the JTNews to publicize, speakers and events that seek to weaken or discredit Israel, or in this case, those who openly associate with people who wish to harm the Jewish State. And why celebrate a Jew who has chosen Buddhism? Will local synagogues start hosting so-called Jewish Christians or Jewish Muslims next?

Obviously, as individuals and as a Jewish community, we should respect those who have different religious or political beliefs. But in a time when intermarriage is at an all-time high, and Jewish pride in Israel is not a given, it should be equally clear that our community institutions should foster love and support of Judaism and Israel.

**Randy Kessler**  
Mercer Island

**EFFECTIVE ALLOCATIONS**

Foreign Minister of Israel Avigdor Liberman has proposed that the State of Israel budget \$365 million annually for Diaspora education, the objective of which is “to serve as an antidote to rising assimilation, intermarriage, and disengagement from the Jewish community.”

A threshold question is how many additional students can be educated if all of the \$365 million is allocated to the United States, and the preferred vehicle is Jewish day schools, at a cost of \$20,000 per student annually, or \$180,000 per student for nine years (K-8). The answer is shockingly few: 2,027. If we assume that in each grade level there is a potential pool of 60,000 students (1 percent of total estimated American Jewish population of 6 million), it is apparent that use of the money to educate this way is fruitless.

While a 10-day or two-week-duration Israel experience is not the equivalent of a K-8 Jewish day school education, there is evidence that in terms of Avigdor Liberman's objectives, there is a near equivalency.

Assuming a per-student cost of \$5,000 for a 10-day Israel experience (Birthright Israel is less), \$365 million would fund 73,000 Jewish teens on a life-changing Israel experience, as compared to a mere 2,027 children for a Jewish day school experience. Potentially every Jewish 16 year old and 25,000 additional teens in the Diaspora could be served each year, with “the antidote to rising assimilation, intermarriage, and disengagement from the Jewish community.” Jewish continuity will be assured.

Mr. Liberman must be applauded for his wonderful idea of allocating \$365 million from Israel's budget to educate Jews of the Diaspora. Now his challenge is to use the money most effectively.

**Robert I. Lappin**  
President, Lappin Foundation  
Salem, MA

**WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:** We would love to hear from you! You may submit your letters to [editor@jtnews.net](mailto:editor@jtnews.net). Please limit your letters to approximately 350 words. The deadline for the next issue is April 1. Future deadlines may be found online.

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storytelling, and the relevance of using the Exodus narrative to cultivate our own sense of empathy and justice.

Over the coming weeks, I hope that you will continue to let these ideas percolate as you prepare for the holiday to come. Wishing us all a meaningful journey, as

each one of us begins the process of going forth from Egypt!

P.S. In case you're interested in learning a new melody to the “b'chol dor va-dor” line, I've recorded it as an mp3 file, and it's available on the JTNews website.

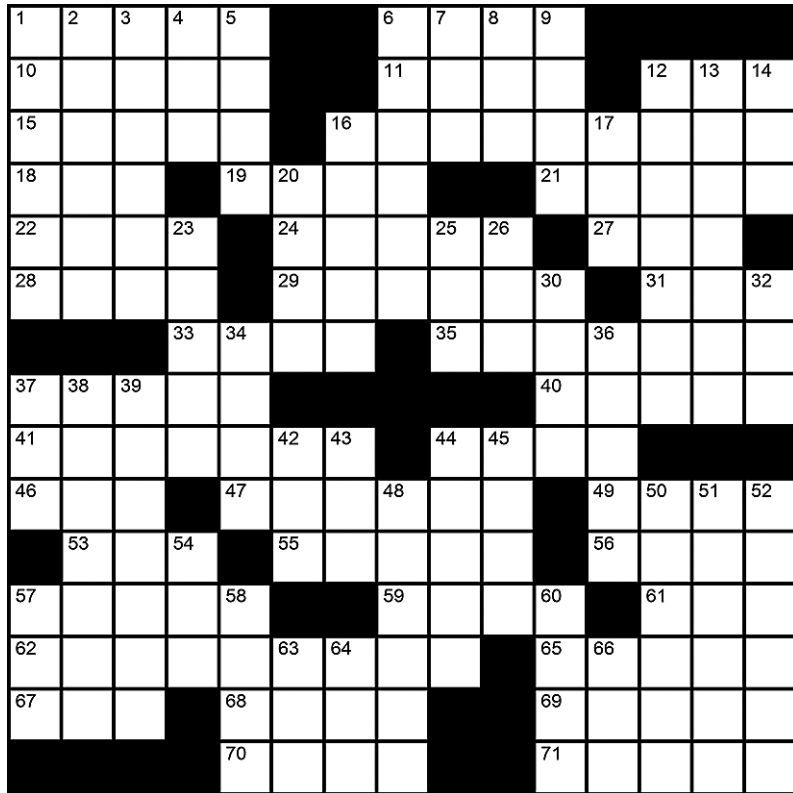
**“This is obviously important for the Jewish community in Washington and it was to me personally having grown up Jewish in the South.”**

**— State Sen. David Frockt (D-46th) on the passage of Senate Bill 5173, currently awaiting a signature from the governor, which will allow citizens to take two excused days off of work or school to commemorate religious observances. Read more about how our Jewish legislators felt about the session just ended on page 6.**



## Break Some Bread

by Mike Selinker



"Breaking bread by hand is very common, because of the desire not to let a knife, an instrument of war, touch bread, the bounty of peace," writes Maggie Glezer in *A Blessing of Bread*. Here, the bread and knife do touch. Six answers can go in front of "bread" to get a type of bread (e.g., RAISIN), and they cross six answers that can precede "knife" to get a type of knife (e.g., STEAK). Where they cross, you'll see what unites the bread and knife.

### ACROSS

- 1 He sung of "Fame" and "Fashion"
- 6 Got off the ground
- 10 Hockey venue
- 11 Actress Singer
- 12 Mariner's tool
- 15 Saltpeter
- 16 Gold Rush miner, slangily
- 18 \_\_\_ Khan
- 19 Where a figurehead is found
- 21 Sweepstakes item
- 22 E Street Band axeman Lofgren
- 24 Creative bursts
- 27 Big Slick's better half
- 28 Sarcophagus symbol
- 29 Where Mr. Tumnus lives
- 31 \_\_\_ Just Not That Into You
- 33 In Vegas, they're seen in a line
- 35 What benzodiazepines treat
- 37 Outside market
- 40 2005 documentary \_\_\_: *The Smartest Guys in the Room*
- 41 Last word in a Damon/Affleck film
- 44 \_\_\_ Grants (student aid program)
- 46 Termite foe
- 47 Absorb
- 49 Pooch's litany
- 53 Jeremy Bieber, to Justin
- 55 Perry of the Planet
- 56 Prefix for wolf
- 57 Second word in "Candle in the Wind"
- 59 Take it in stride
- 61 Sty
- 62 Second largest military force per capita, after the Israeli Defense Forces
- 65 Portents
- 67 2014, por ejemplo
- 68 "Hush-\_\_\_" (bedtime song)
- 69 For the \_\_\_ (temporarily)
- 70 She's not averse to a verse
- 71 The Cure's fans, often

### DOWN

- 1 Type of republic
- 2 Source
- 3 Either blank in Rob Bell's *What \_\_\_ About When \_\_\_ About God*
- 4 Suffix for nectar
- 5 Old West surname
- 6 Disney skunk
- 7 Singer Reed who died in 2013
- 8 Botch it
- 9 Like a missed field goal, perhaps
- 12 Market employee
- 13 Accept
- 14 "\_\_\_ will be done"
- 16 Jones sells these
- 17 2012 film *Man \_\_\_ Ledge*
- 20 Tangelo covering
- 23 Comedian Martin
- 25 Tennis star Ivanovic
- 26 Transgression
- 30 Ice skater's move
- 32 Prefix that sounds like 26-Down
- 34 Professor's platform
- 36 Wedding acquisition
- 37 "Boy, howdy!"
- 38 Assassinate, perhaps
- 39 It borders five states
- 42 This second
- 43 Slangy expression of frustration
- 44 Silly substance
- 45 Fencing prop
- 48 It's ordained
- 50 Express contrition
- 51 Language of Gabon
- 52 Registers
- 54 Twitter communiqués, briefly
- 57 Org. noted for its data sweeps
- 58 Not this second, but close
- 60 It has virtual paddles
- 63 The \_\_\_ blood group system
- 64 Whiskey type
- 66 Barnyard sound

Answers on page 19

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# The Jewish caucus speaks: Wins and losses in this year's legislative session

JOEL MAGALNICK Editor, JTNews

With another session in Olympia now behind us, JTNews asked the members of Washington State's Jewish caucus to give us their insights into how things went for our state and our Jewish community.

**How did this session benefit our Jewish community?**

**Sen. David Frockt (D-46th):** We extended a crucial funding source for homelessness prevention, expanded the opportunity to access higher education to all children of immigrants through the DREAM Act, and I'm particularly proud of a little noticed but important provision in the state budget that I helped secure that funded the Bright Futures autism screening program for newborn infants. We have more to do, but this is a good start.

One bill I cosponsored for our community allows public employees two additional days off per year for observing religious beliefs and holidays, which often don't fall regularly on the calendar [Senate Bill 5173]. Similarly, public school students could be excused from school with their parents' approval for up to two days for similar reasons. This is obviously important for the Jewish community in Washington and it was to me personally having grown up Jewish in the South.

**Rep. Gerry Pollet (D-46th):** On many fronts, this was a disappointing legislative session with conflicting values of the House majority with the Senate majority, resulting in D.C. Tea Party-style obstructionism. One clear significant step for our community is the bill that provides two days of excused absence for religious reasons for schools and work places.

**Sen. Andy Billig (D-3rd):** I am most pleased that we were able to stop the cutting. This session, we were able to create a balanced budget that did not contain cuts to social services, and actually started to reinvest, particularly in the area of mental health funding.

**Rep. Jessyn Farrell (D-46th):** We stopped the cuts that have been made to our social safety net over the last several



Rep. Sherry Appleton



Sen. Andy Billig



Rep. Reuven Carlyle



Rep. Jessyn Farrell



Sen. David Frockt

years — this includes important programs like TANF and state food assistance. We also took a small step on the gun safety issue by passing HB 1840, which will place limits on those who have used guns in domestic violence situations. We have a long way to go on common-sense gun safety as well as protecting the most vulnerable among us.

**Rep. Reuven Carlyle (D-36th):** Tikkun Olam was alive and well in protecting vital funding for homeless services, foster youth, developmental disabilities, elder care services and more. Education received a boost with \$58 million more — quality-of-life priorities for us all.

**Rep. Sherry Appleton (D-23rd):** Exciting: Allowing employees to take two unpaid holidays for religious or conscience or organized religious activities and students to take the same without penalty (delivered to governor). Most exciting: \$25 million for mental health and \$58 million in new funding for schools for materials, supplies, technology and operating costs.

**Rep. Tana Senn (D-41st):** I was honored to speak on the floor in favor of legislation that will allow workers and students to receive two days off for religious holidays, without pay or penalty. This will have direct benefits for members of the Jewish and other religious communities.

We made significant progress in providing funding to mental health treatment and services for the developmentally disabled. These two areas have been woefully underfunded and the new dollars we are directing to them will make a marked difference in outcomes.

An additional \$1 million will go directly into food assistance programs, with \$800,000 going to food banks, \$100,000 to the Farmer's Market Nutrition Program and \$100,000 for seniors.

**What legislation do you feel should have come to a vote that didn't?**

**Frockt:** I continue to be disappointed in the legislature's inability to take mean-

ingful action to reduce gun violence. While we did pass a bill protecting victims of domestic violence by limiting the ability of DV offenders to possess firearms, I have heard loud and clear from leaders of all faiths that we need to take more action.

**Carlyle:** Responsible gun safety legislation continues to be impossible with strong opposition; lack of medical marijuana regulation is a major problem.

**Pollet:** The Tea Party-like obstructionism meant that we did not move forward on sensible gun background checks — leaving that issue to voters to decide at the ballot. We were blocked from adopting a transportation budget or helping King County save Metro transit service from drastic cuts; and the Tea Party-like Senate Republicans even blocked a supplemental capital budget.

The lack of a capital budget hurts our values — health clinics needed for low income families, especially with expanded Medicaid access, will not be built or expanded; shelters for homeless families will not be built or renovated. The House repeatedly passed bills to make our tax system more fair, closing loopholes for education, while the Senate majority kept proposing new tax loopholes.

**Senn:** Without question, I would have liked to see legislation requiring background checks for all gun purchases come for a vote. However, I anticipate the citizens of Washington State will take action where the legislature did not and, in November, pass I-594.

Having lost both my parents in the past couple of years and having two children at home, I understand the value of paid sick and safe leave. Being able to care for yourself after a trauma or for a loved one at the end or beginning of their life is a basic tenet of a civilized society. I wish the Senate had taken up this important legislation.

One proposal I was proud to support would have provided \$700 million in bonds, backed by state lottery funds, to help pay for K-3 classrooms, a key component in meeting our McCleary obligations. I hope this idea, combined with others to increase teacher



Rep. Gerry Pollet



Rep. Tana Senn

pay and improve education funding, will receive a greater airing in the next legislative session.

**Billig:** We were not able to pass a capital budget or transportation revenue and investment package. These are jobs bills that create short-term construction jobs now and build long-term prosperity by creating the infrastructure necessary for a successful economy in the future.

**Appleton:** Breakfast After the Bell for students on free or reduced meals; closing the opportunity gap; [Cost of Living Allowances] for teachers who haven't had a raise in five years; building schools for early learners (K-3); All voting and election bills (Open Democracy); no transportation revenue package; no supplemental capital budget — would have generated 1,660 new jobs.

**Farrell:** Regretfully, one of my top priorities this session, the Oil Transportation Act (HB 2347), after passing the House

with bipartisan support, didn't receive a hearing in the Senate. In the last two years the United States has seen more oil spilled because of train derailments than we saw over the previous 40 years. The bill would have required disclosure of information about oil shipments, and incentivized safer movement of oil over our waters.

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## Feet firmly planted, Federation CEO outlines his vision

**JOEL MAGALNICK** Editor, JTNews

With seven months and two major events under his belt, Keith Dvorchik is beginning to feel like he's getting his feet under him.

"You forget what the beginning is really like," said the CEO and president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, who joined the organization last August. "It takes a long time to get things started, to get things moving."

But after what he said have been hundreds of conversations with Federation stakeholders, community members, and

agency and synagogue leaders, Dvorchik said he's ready to start moving the Federation in a direction that makes it more relevant to Seattle's diverse and changing community.

This is the direction he plans to move:

- To raise money in multiple venues to best take advantage of community-growth opportunities.
- Based upon available information, to understand the geography and demographics of the community as a whole and make funding decisions based upon

its needs.

- To facilitate growth for all local Jewish organizations to help them better achieve their missions.
- To provide big-picture oversight of the community and assist in finding partnership opportunities for all local Jewish organizations.
- To be a resource for knowledge sharing, community outreach, and conflict resolution.

"The Federation always has to be value-add," he said. "We need to always be focused on, 'How does whatever it is what we're going to be doing benefit the community?'"

What that means, in essence, is to provide funding and services to help local organizations improve their existing services or create new programming. Until three years ago, the Federation allocated a set amount of money each year to an approved list of local agencies. It currently grants money to a wider range of organizations and synagogues based upon specific project requests, and Dvorchik sees

his vision as an extension of this new model.

"We really need to be about enhancing Jewish life in Seattle in all areas," Dvorchik said. "We need to find out what those needs are so we can make sure there are appropriate entry points, that there are appropriate leadership opportunities, that there are engagement opportunities, and that when there is a great opportunity, whatever agency comes with the idea that can fill it, has somebody to turn to and say... 'We need you as our partner.'"

While partnerships may sound nice in theory, agencies require funding to pull their programs together.

"The dollars are still important, and I think that for me it's the difference between being a fundraising organization and being an organization with a mission that raises funds to accomplish the mission," he said. "I view us as the second."

Dvorchik pointed to Livnot Chai, the community supplementary high school that launched in 2012, as an example.

"There was a need, there was an oppor-

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tunity, we were able to step in with the funds and continue to provide the funds so that they can really grow and provide that service to the community," he said.

The Federation's annual community campaign has decreased or been largely stagnant since the 2008 fiscal year. Dvorchik believes the campaign has to mean more than the numbers, however.

"The more we fixate just on the campaign number we really provide ourselves a limited view of what's possible," he said.

Positioning the Federation as a center for supply purchases for multiple organizations as a way to help keep costs down is one option.



Keith Dvorchik

COURTESY JFGS

"We're talking about hard dollars that never show up in the campaign," he said.

The same could be done with professional services, he added.

The Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center, which plans to move into a new space in the next year, "had some IT questions in their new facility, and so [Federation systems administrator Andrew Chadick] was able to provide some consulting to

them," he said. "They can move forward and have somebody who's a real expert in this area help them and guide them. That's a real value-add."

But Dvorchik made clear he doesn't believe the Federation should be dictating what local organizations should be doing.

"The key is finding out, 'What are those opportunities for the community, what are those needs, where can we really provide the benefit?'" he said.

The real work of transforming the Federation will begin this summer, as organizations begin preparing for the fiscal year 2015 grant cycle. At that point, he will have a better idea of what types of funding agencies will seek and work with them to create the biggest bang for the

buck. The results of a community demographic study just now getting underway and expected to be released late this year will provide the data necessary to understand the directions in which the community is moving.

Dvorchik noted how donations to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel, much of which come from Federation campaigns around the country, leverage partnerships and efficiencies to stretch the value of each dollar. That, he said, needs to happen right here at home.

"Our obligation is, to treat every dollar as a sacred dollar, as a holy dollar, and to make sure that it's being used to its highest capacity," he said.



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## Freedom from the pharaoh of addiction

**ERIN PIKE** JTNews Correspondent

On March 30, two weeks before the liberation-themed holiday of Passover, the Stroum Jewish Community Center is hosting a performance of "Freedom Song," a musical workshop about freedom from addiction. "Freedom Song" is an original production of Los Angeles-based Beit T'Shuvah, a Jewish residential recovery facility with over 100 residents. JTNews correspondent Erin Pike spoke with James Fuchs, Beit T'Shuvah's artistic director; underwriter Kenny Alhadeff of the Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff Charitable Foundation; and Laura Kramer, Jewish Family Service's Alternatives to Addiction counselor/educator. The 50-minute production, featuring a cast of Beit T'Shuvah alumni, is co-sponsored by the Stroum JCC and JFS, along with BBYO Evergreen Region, Bet Alef Meditative Synagogue, Camp Solomon Schechter, City of Mercer

Island Youth and Family Services, Congregation Beth Shalom, Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, Livnot Chai, Temple Beth Am, Temple B'nai Torah, Temple De Hirsch Sinai, and Hillel at the University of Washington.

**JTNews: How was Freedom Song created?**

**James Fuchs:** In 2004, when I joined Beit T'Shuvah as the music director, I mentioned I wrote a musical called "Figaro's Divorce," and that I'd like to produce it at Beit T'Shuvah. There was no objection; [the organization] really wanted to do something with theater. "Figaro's Divorce" was so successful that Rabbi Mark Borovitz said, "we have to have a Beit T'Shuvah play." In 2005 Craig Calman, who was affiliated with Beit T'Shuvah, mentioned that he was doing a production called "Let Freedom Sing," where there were many events happening in Los Angeles simul-

taneously through the week of Passover. One of the things he wanted to include was a play written by Beit T'Shuvah. Originally it wasn't supposed to be a musical, it was supposed to be a play. The [Beit T'Shuvah] cantor at that time was Rebekah Mirsky, so myself and Rebekah got together and said, "let's make a performance piece, let's add some songs." We wrote about 12 songs for the first draft, called "Freedom," that would eventually become "Freedom Song." Then [writer/director] Stuart K. Robinson came on board. He said, "I'd like to find some writings from residents that tell their story." We met every Sunday at Beit T'Shuvah, and Stuart had residents write. He would take their writings and then bring it back and say, "This is what your story was, in a paragraph." Stuart cut and added songs. That was the birth of "Freedom Song."

**JTNews: So the performance is autobiographical?**

**JF:** Absolutely. As the play developed and evolved, what we found out was that some of the monologues that we had originally written pertained to that original person. When we brought in new actors to play those roles, we found out that you could write your own monologue. It's the same play, but slightly different, because you hear different perspectives from other people's stories.

**JTNews: How did it grow into a touring production?**

**JF:** This play was only supposed to be performed one time six years ago, but it never stopped. We had no control over this, it became this thing where people said,

### IF YOU GO

"Freedom Song" will be performed Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. at the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island. Tickets are \$5 and can be reserved by contacting Laura Kramer at [lkramer@jfsseattle.org](mailto:lkramer@jfsseattle.org) or 206-861-8782. For more information about Beit T'Shuvah, visit [beittshuvah.wordpress.com](http://beittshuvah.wordpress.com).

"We'd like this at our temple." So we had done a lot of shows locally in Los Angeles. That was the springboard for our traveling. In 2007, we ended up in St. Louis at the Conference in Alternatives for Jewish Education convention. That was our first traveling gig. Someone sponsored flying 23 residents to St. Louis. That's when they realized [touring] is something that can be done. It was a huge success. From then on, we've been to New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Miami, Minnesota. It sort of took off.

**JTNews: What was the process of inviting Freedom Song to Seattle?**

**Laura Kramer:** I heard about this play, and I thought this might be something that would be normalizing and lighter than the other events that deal with addiction. I proposed it well over a year ago, knowing that Beit T'Shuvah had gone to the East Coast, where they had really loved the performance and had a good turnout. I called Beit T'Shuvah to see if coming to Seattle was an option, and then it got rolling.

**JTNews: Do you feel that the medium of**



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COURTESY BEIT T'SHUVAH

The cast members of the upcoming production of "Freedom Song."

musical theater is an effective way to discuss addiction?

**Kenny Alhadeff:** I don't think there's any subject that's too intense, too serious, to not be addressed through musical theater. Song is a way of expressing human emotions. ["Freedom Song"] is a genuine production of people in recovery sharing their stories, which, hopefully, will open some minds and eyes and hearts. It's about lifting the veil of ignorance in our community around addiction. The concept of

"well, Jews don't really have these problems..." we don't have it any more or any less than anybody else.

My personal goal is to open every pathway of opportunity to recovery for every human being on the planet, whether they are Jewish or not Jewish. But being Jewish, I have a passion to make sure that we do not put up roadblocks to that opportunity through lack of understanding. There is no one that isn't touched by the issue of addiction. ["Freedom Song"] is a chance

to lift the soul and fuel a connection. These [performers] are people in recovery who are artistic and expressive, and every time they do this piece, they are putting another building block in the foundation of their recovery. If one person is inspired to deal with the addiction that may be destroying their lives by coming to this [show], it will all be worth it.

**JTNews:** What does addiction have in common with the story of Passover?

**KA:** It's freedom from bondage. And

addiction is slavery. Addiction is bondage. The tragedy [with addiction] is you are your own pharaoh; you have put your chains on yourself.

**JTNews:** Will there be any special post-show discussions or follow-up conversations for those who attend?

**LK:** In the after-session, the actors talk about their own stories and people can ask questions. Idealistically, people will be more willing to reach out for help [after seeing the performance].

**JTNews:** What benefits do you hope this production will have within our community?

**KA:** Partners in the community have come together for this, and that in itself, that collaborative effort, that "putting the light in the darkness of addiction in our community," that makes this already successful. It's the ability for people to share dialogue and face this situation that can affect any human being. We are so thrilled and excited that the leaders and partner organizations in the Jewish community have stood up and said, "No, not here, not our community. We will lift the veil of darkness, we will give people opportunities for recovery and hope in their lives."

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# Seattle's accidental Yiddish revival

**EMILY K. ALHADEFF** Associate Editor, JTNews

*This story complements the JTNews' inaugural podcast. Listen to Wendy Marcus, Annette Peizer, Eli Davis and more Yiddish enthusiasts in "A Freilichen Seattle," available at [www.jtnews.net](http://www.jtnews.net).*

Jeffrey Grossman's retirement dream was to learn Yiddish.

"As I got older, I can't tell you what it was, it lit that spark in me," he said.

But there was one problem. When Grossman, who spent his life in New York where there are plenty of opportunities to learn and speak Yiddish, retired, he ended up relocating to Issaquah to be near his grandchildren.

"I looked around to see if there was anybody teaching Yiddish and I couldn't find anybody," he said. "I was very disappointed."

On a whim, he contacted Temple Beth Am, where he had heard they were teaching Hebrew. It just so happens that Temple Beth Am's music director, Wendy Marcus, is a Yiddish maven.

"I said 'Jeffrey, I am so busy, I'm swamped, I would love to teach but I can't do this,'" Marcus recalled. "He said, 'I'll just come over and we'll talk.'"

One conversation turned into another, which led to a small group, which led Marcus to launch a beginning Yiddish class last October. Beginners and more advanced speakers emerged, creating the need for two levels, and scheduling conflicts created a need for classes on weekdays as well as Sundays at Temple Beth Am. Native Yiddish speaker Ayn Dalgoff came onboard to teach the intermediate



JOEL MAGALNICK

Wendy Marcus, music director at Temple Beth Am, has a standing biweekly appointment at the Menachem Mendel Seattle Cheder, where she sings Yiddish songs and plays violin, panflute and a handful of other instruments for the youngest classes.

class. The mailing list bloomed to about 40 Yiddish enthusiasts.

"Seattleites tend to come to things a little bit more slowly, but once they're there, they're committed," said Marcus. "Some people want to learn because they're nostalgic. Some people want to teach it to their kids. Other people are just fascinated with the language because it's such a jargon.... Some people are just language nudniks."

If the presence of Yiddish enthusiasm in Seattle can be traced to a source, it is Ruth Peizer, who learned Yiddish from her Latvian immigrant parents. She taught classes and promoted Yiddish in Seattle with what Marcus calls "a missionary

zeal." Marcus was one of Peizer's disciples.

Peizer died last October, and her children are in the process of going through her extensive Yiddish library. A portion of her books went to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass., and a portion went to Marcus, who is using them in her classes.

Marcus's and Dalgoff's students cross the age spectrum. Most interesting is the generation of young adults fueling a Yid-

dish and Klezmer revival. One of Marcus's students, Eli Davis, is a 21-year-old who spent last summer on the Yiddish Farm, a sustainable farming-Yiddish immersion program in New York.

"Right now we have this Jewish generation that's seeking their language," said Marcus.

Marcus pointed out the irony: Two of the strongest groups keeping Yiddish going are young, culturally but not necessarily religiously affiliated Jews, and Orthodox, Hassidic Jews, who speak Yiddish at home.


"I'm not willing to say Yiddish is dying," she said, "because there are these two camps."

And as Isaac Bashevis Singer would say, quotes Marcus: "It's not a dead language; it's a dying language. And for us Jews, there's a long time between dying and death."

Indeed, death is a long way off for Yiddish, especially now that it's found a renovated home in Seattle, thanks to Grossman's persistence.

"My being a catalyst was a total fluke thing," said Grossman. "Sometimes good things happen by accident."

It sounds like a Yiddish phrase, doesn't it? "Gut mazel iz min-hashamayim!" — good fortune comes from heaven.



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## ◀ COMMUNITY CALENDAR PAGE 4

## FRIDAY 28 MARCH

11-11:30 a.m. — **Ravenna Jewish Junction PJ Library Story Time**

☎ Kate Speizer at [kate@jewishjunction.net](mailto:kate@jewishjunction.net) or 206-384-6020 or [www.facebook.com/JewishJunction](http://www.facebook.com/JewishJunction)

PJ Library educator Betsy Dischel leads a free community storytime for tots and their caregivers the fourth Friday of the month. At Ravenna Third Place Books, 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle.

4 p.m. — **Russian Shabbaton Retreat**

☎ Yechezkel Rapoport at [rabi@shalomseattle.org](mailto:rabi@shalomseattle.org) or [seattlerussianjews.org/shabbaton](http://seattlerussianjews.org/shabbaton)  
Spend five days of learning and discovery with master Torah teachers. Explore new ideas and expand your horizons in an open, embracing environment. \$350. At Alderbrook Resort and Spa, 10 E Alderbrook Dr., Union, Wash.

6-7 p.m. — **HNT Scholar in Residence with Rabbi Lawrence Kushner**

☎ Rebecca Levy at [Rebecca@h-nt.org](mailto:Rebecca@h-nt.org) or 206-232-8555 or [www.h-nt.org/SIR](http://www.h-nt.org/SIR)  
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## SUNDAY 30 MARCH

5-8 p.m. — **NEST Presents: NE Seattle Treasures Featuring Nancy Pearl and Steve Scher**

☎ Kelsea Shannon at [info@nestseattle.org](mailto:info@nestseattle.org) or 206-525-6378 or [www.nestseattle.org](http://www.nestseattle.org)  
Featuring your favorite bibliophiles, Nancy Pearl and Steve Scher. \$75. At Faith Lutheran Church, 8208 18th Ave. NE, Seattle.

## MONDAY 31 MARCH

6-9:30 p.m. — **AJC Seattle Diplomatic and Interfaith Model Passover Seder**

☎ Becki Chandler at [chandlerb@ajc.org](mailto:chandlerb@ajc.org) or 206-622-6315 or [www.ajcseattle.org](http://www.ajcseattle.org)  
Building meaningful, lasting relationships between Greater Seattle's Jewish and non-Jewish communities. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

7:30-9:30 p.m. — **Strom Lecture with Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer**

☎ Lauren Spokane at [laurenjs@uw.edu](mailto:laurenjs@uw.edu) or 206-543-0138 or [stromjewishstudies.org/events](http://stromjewishstudies.org/events)  
"School Photos in the Era of Assimilation: Jews, Indians, and Blacks." This year's Strom Lectures examine the historical, memorial, and aesthetic dimensions of school photographs from a comparative Jewish perspective. At the University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 220, Seattle.

## ◀ M.O.T. PAGE 2

diabetes, I just want to let people know [how to] make life better... If I can do that in any way, I feel like I've done something."

Last year, Adria received a Tacoma News Tribune City of Destiny award for her fundraising work for the American Diabetes Association, which the paper called "legendary." Adria Farber. This May, she will receive a Kurt Gegner Award from the National Football Foundation for her work with the Tacoma Athletic Commission. Adria has supported the commission — which raises money for local amateur sports programs and scholarships — in memory of her late husband, Tacoma News Tribune sports writer **Stan Farber**. (Gegner was a 1950s UW Husky football player.)

A Garfield High alumna, Adria grew up in Seattle, the daughter of **Dorothy and Herman Offenhenden**. Dorothy was the long-time tribute chair for City of Hope hospital and Adria learned about charity and organizing by taking calls for her mom from an early age.



COURTESY ADRIA FARBER

**Tacoma mega-fundraiser Adria Farber.**

Moving to Tacoma in the 1970s to work for the state, Adria met and married Stan. Like her, he had diabetes, and he died in 2005 from heart complications related to the disease. The couple was active at Temple Beth El and Adria still is. When we spoke last week, she had just returned from making Purim baskets there.

Planning for local activities benefitting the American Diabetes Association has already begun. There will be a walk on Oct. 11, a dining-out fundraiser in November, and a diabetes awareness night at an August Kitsap Blue Jacket's collegiate league baseball game. That is being organized with team co-owner, and Adria's current life partner, **Charlie Littman**.

The now-retired and self-described "Zumba queen" stresses that "you can have diabetes...and live a normal life and be a healthy...[and] productive person."

**3 Short takes:** Seattle Met magazine ran a nice profile earlier this month of **Ari Lackman** and **Rebecca Kaplan**, third-generation brother and sister owners of Glazer's Camera in South Lake Union. It details the new generation's approach to the future, and there's a great photo of the team.

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Camp Solomon Schechter is also gearing up for its most popular Shabbatons:

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### Family Camp

May 23-25; Cost: \$350/family  
The perfect getaway, whether you are checking out the facilities before that first big summer, reliving those old camp memories or just coming to see what the kids are always talking about.

### Young Alumni Reunion

June 13-15; Cost: \$150/person  
It is that time of year again, the time of year when you get to relive your childhood memories of playing gaga, sneaking into the girls/boys side and not showering for three weeks. Open to all Schechter Alumni, ages 21-30.

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# Personal genome mapping brings new dimension to Jewish identity

EMILY K. ALHADEFF Associate Editor, JTNews

Who is a Jew?

This oft-pondered, never sufficiently answered question was the topic of a recent three-part class led by Rabbi Oren Hayon for Jconnectors at Hillel at the University of Washington this winter.

But this was no ordinary identity discussion group. Hayon was approached by 23andMe, a DNA testing company, which offered its Personal Genome Service test for \$36, just more than a third of its standard \$99. With a drop of saliva, 23andMe analyzes your DNA for ancestry and unique genetic markers. Around three dozen participants received DNA analysis, which can identify Jewish origins.

"I have been interested in how Jewish identity is constructed and maintained in Jewish young adults for a long time," said Hayon. "That's at the core of my work."

Hayon turned to the Tanach, early rabbinic texts, and later commentators for insights into Jewish identity, especially on how it is bestowed upon Jews by choice.

While people come to Judaism on all kinds of personal and spiritual trajectories, rites like conversion — which requires immersion in mikvah waters — prioritize the physical body.

"There is clearly a sort of bodily component to Judaism," said Hayon.

And now we can trace our Jewish identity right down to our DNA.

For geneticists, and for many Jews, that's exciting.

According to Catherine Afarian, spokesperson for 23andMe, the company reached out to the Reform movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis, which is how Hayon found out about the opportunity. Geneticists are interested in Ashkenazi Jews in particular because the group is a fairly homogenous genetic sample and functions as a kind of control for studies. (European and Asian populations are sought for the same reason.) Furthermore, 23andMe hopes to learn more about genetic diseases and conditions that Ashkenazi Jews tend to carry, like Tay-Sachs, Crohn's, and the BRCA

breast cancer gene. While the FDA halted 23andMe's health report service, which alerted customers about genetic issues that showed up in their results, Afarian says they are still collecting this data for research purposes but cannot market it until regulation is in place.

For the majority of Personal Genome Service test-takers, understanding who they are, genetically, is the most interesting thing.

Corinne Pascale, a Caradigm engineer and participant in the project, tested because she wanted to know more about her family.

"My mother was born Jewish, my father was not. He converted in. There's a little bit of mystery surrounding him," she said. Pascale had stories about both sides of her family, but no facts about who they were.

"There are all these really weird stories but there's no paper trail," she said. "As an engineer I'm enamored with numbers and concrete proof rather than stories."

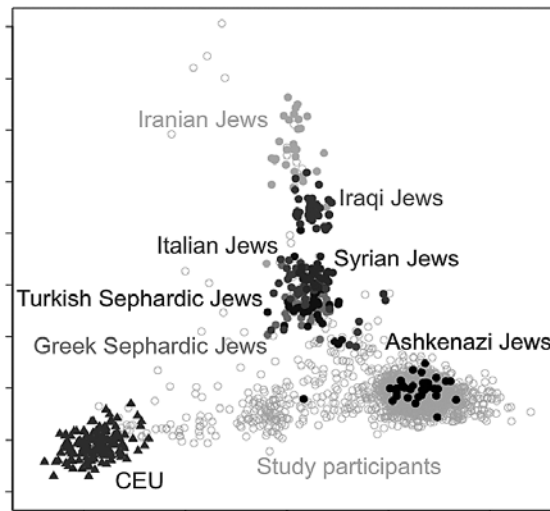
Pascale ended up locating her family's specific origins and finding relatives no one knew existed.

"I think about myself now as link in a larger chain," she said. "Now I see myself as this sum total of all these people. It's 100 percent you, but now I realize how much of that 100 percent is other people."

Pascale is far from the only one to be blown away by test results. Afarian, the 23andMe spokesperson, found out she was 50 percent Ashkenazi Jewish when she was 35.

Afarian's parents had a one-night stand, and she never knew anything about her father, except that her mother thought he was Italian. It turns out he was Jewish.

"That was really informative because I was about to have my first child," she said. "I'm still figuring out what it means to be Jewish."



A map showing genetic variation between Jews of different ancestry set apart from the general DNA test subjects. From a study by Kenny et al, 2012, "A Genome-Wide Scan of Ashkenazi Jewish Crohn's Disease Suggests Novel Susceptibility Loci."

Since the first human genome was mapped in 2003 for \$3 billion, technology and investments have brought the cost of send-away genome test kits down to just \$99. Also bringing the cost down is the fact that the kits don't sequence the entire genome, which is nearly identical for everyone, but just the variant part that traces the things that make us individuals.

Pascale was so affected by the test that she is building a website for Jewish genetic research. She's basically picking up what 23andMe was forced to close, a service that informs Personal Genome Service customers about their risk for genetic diseases.

"If you look at the raw data you can actually draw your own conclusions," she said.

With the help of her fiancé, Zach Stroum, Pascale is building a site, OyMyGenes.com, which is due to launch in April. OyMG, for short, will analyze results from 23andMe for the standard panel of Ashkenazi diseases.

"You are either at typical odds or you're at increased risk," she said. This is good information to have. But Pascale is very clear that this is not a replacement for professional medical consultation. She sees OyMG as a stopgap measure until 23andMe can resume its health reports.

"It's a fun personal project that has a lot of meaning to me," she said.

Lizzie Dorfman, a doctoral student in public health genetics at the UW and a geneticist for 23andMe who helped Hayon facilitate the class, believes mapping our Jewish genomes may be a way to preserve history, particularly as we move away from events like the Holocaust.

"There's a wide spectrum of how people identify as Jewish," she said. Whether it's matrilineal descent, or "dip and snip," she said, "it offers a fruitful foundation for an interesting conversation."

For Pascale, DNA is the link to family information lost between wars and the Holocaust.

"My genetic lineage is the paper trail. That data is all I have left of them right now," she said. "These people lived and died and they loved and they got here.... I'll never see their handwriting, but their stories are still being written."

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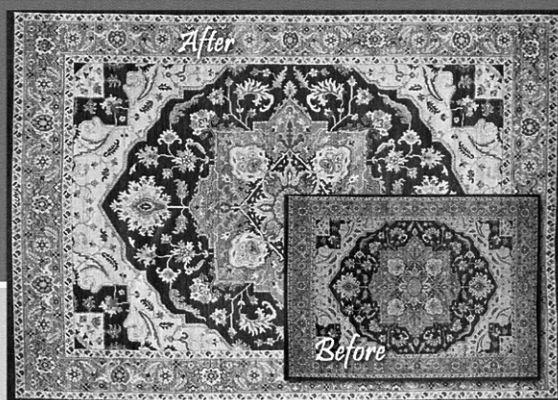
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**Seattle Jewish Theater Company Presents 'From Door to Door'**

**Play**

Art Feinglass directs the local company's latest production, a warm and bittersweet comedy by James Sherman about three generations of Jewish women as the family evolves from impoverished immigrants to successful Americans.

March 23 and 27 performances at the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

March 30 performance at Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, 5217 S Brandon St., Seattle. Tickets to Stroum JCC performances \$12 members, \$18 non-members. More information and reservations at [sjcc.org/cultural-arts/arts-events](http://sjcc.org/cultural-arts/arts-events). Ezra Bessaroth tickets \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door. Reserve online at [ezrabessaroth.net/support-eb](http://ezrabessaroth.net/support-eb). For more information about the production, visit [seattlejewishtheater.com](http://seattlejewishtheater.com).



**Tuesday, March 25 at 8 and 9 p.m.**  
**'The Story of the Jews'**

**Television**

Simon Schama leads a five-part series for PBS about the history of the Jews, traversing the globe from New York to Odessa,

Berlin to Jerusalem, investigating Jewish history and identity from the beginning of time to now. The series, originally produced for BBC, is based on his acclaimed book by the same title.

Tuesday nights starting March 25 at 8 p.m. and again at 9 p.m. on KCTS Channel 9. For more information, visit [www.kcts9.org](http://www.kcts9.org).



Richelle Willner Martin and Gabi Benisti hold the trophy from their victory at the national Jewish Unity Mentoring Program Challenge, a program of the NCSY youth group. The pair was one of four teams from around the country to travel to New York this week to compete in the challenge. Representing teammates Ruth Boldor, Shira Puterman, Sara Greene, and Julia Appelbaum, and joined by adviser Nina Garkavi, the students were given the mission to "successfully create and execute four events relating to Israel advocacy, Jewish values, Holocaust remembrance and bullying, as well as a fundraising event for their school and community," according to the Orthodox Union's JUMP web page. The Seattle team created the "Insecuri-T's Campaign," which got high schoolers from across the region to create t-shirts with slogans to help them overcome personal insecurities and break down stereotypes.

The purpose of the program is to educate high school students about leadership through action while giving them an understanding of global issues that affect Jewish people today.

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## ◀ LEGISLATURE PAGE 7

**What initiatives are you most proud of passing, or at least bringing attention to, this year?**

**Senn:** I am thrilled that my first piece of legislation will help children involved in the child welfare system access quality early learning. These children are often seriously neglected and can benefit significantly from a stimulating and supportive environment.

We also passed legislation preventing someone with a protection or restraining order from possessing a gun. Not only is this common sense, it is a direct response to the alarming statistic that of those women killed with a gun, almost two-thirds were killed by their intimate partners.

**Pollet:** On education, I am proud of work we did to ensure that every child has a fair opportunity to graduate from high school with additional math, science and English courses, without punitive measures that would increase drop-out rates.

We did take a nice step forward for open government with a bill which Attorney General Bob Ferguson and I have worked on for three years to ensure that elected officials at all levels know that they are supposed to hold their meetings in the open, and that their emails and other official records have to be open to the public

and news media.

**Froctt:** It was just reported by the Superintendent of Public Instruction that we have over 30,000 homeless students in our public school system. Passing legislation to better support and educate those students was a priority of mine this session.

Another bill, which didn't pass, would have built upon a successful federal pilot program to help provide stable housing for families of homeless school children.

**Billig:** I was glad we were able to take a step forward to increase opportunity for young people in our state with the passage of the DREAM Act and a small additional investment in higher education and K-12 education.

**Farrell:** I was very proud to be the prime sponsor on House Bill 2672, which would have raised Washington's minimum wage to \$12 over the next three years. I firmly believe that if you work hard you should be able to make ends meet and cover the basics — rent, food, etc. Yet right now our minimum wage is a poverty wage. We can and must do better.

**Carlyle:** I was intimately involved in crafting the budget. Solid, responsible, modest, but sets the stage for next year's major budget. It did not take a strong enough step forward on McCleary.

**Appleton:** Extending the documenta-tion fee (Bill 2368) which finally passed

as a Senate bill and the Veterans Tuition bill, which was my bill in the House, but we eventually passed the Senate bill in a legacy to Senator Paull Shin.

**What does our Jewish community (and by extension, our state) need moving forward that you hope will get traction in the next legislative session?**

**Froctt:** Our paramount duty is fully funding a basic education for all Washington students. We need to find \$4 billion or more for K-12 education by 2018, and we need to make significant progress in the 2015 budget session. The Supreme Court is holding us accountable to this goal and I seriously worry about the possibility of a constitutional crisis if we don't increase our rate of progress.

**Pollet:** A resounding message from across the state that our children's future depends on us having the courage to provide the resources needed for our schools with lower class sizes, paying our teachers, and providing every classroom the resources needed for children to succeed.

**Billig:** SB 6098 was a campaign finance transparency bill that I worked on throughout the legislative interim leading up to this session. It would have provided that all organizations that participate in Washington State elections, regardless of their non-profit status, would have to report their donors. Currently, 501(c)(4)

and certain other non-profits do not have to report donors, as is required of all other political committees. We have excellent campaign finance laws in this state, but this one glaring transparency loophole has to be closed.

**Farrell:** I am hopeful that we will continue to address gun violence. We made good progress this year, passing HB 1840, which makes it easier to remove guns from someone who is under a restraining order. The Jewish community was integral to getting this legislation pass. We still have a long way to go on this issue, but this was a good first step.

**Appleton:** We absolutely need a transportation revenue package. Without it, transit will have to cut service; ferry schedules and runs will be cut back; bridges and infrastructure will continue to fail and the new projects won't be funded.

**Senn:** Two major issues loom over the legislature — a transportation revenue package and funding for basic education as required by the McCleary decision. The longer we delay on funding these basics, the further we hinder our community.

**Carlyle:** We are on the march toward being a low-tax, low-service, low-quality-of-life state with a weak public education system. We need to ask hard questions about how our values translate into action to build a 21st-century future. Tough decisions as a community are ahead.

March 21, 2014

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**Engagement  
Newman-Ben-Meir**

Talya Newman and Natton Ben-Meir will be married June 22, 2014, in Manchester, England. Rabbi Singer will officiate.

Natton is the son of Amir and Gail Ben-Meir of Seattle, and the grandson of Sali Galanti of Seattle and the late Joseph August. He graduated from Northwest Yeshiva High School and

currently studies psychology at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and rabbinical studies at Yeshiva Netiv Aryea of Jerusalem.

Talya is the daughter of Joanne Sheldon of Manchester, England. She studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The couple resides in Jerusalem.



**Death  
Daniel E. Shafer  
October 4, 1928–March 1, 2014**

Ephraim D. Shafer, born October 4, 1928 in Philadelphia, Pa., was an independent thinker practically from the start. He changed his name to Daniel E. Shafer, graduated high school early, and moved to Troy, N.Y. to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. When he graduated at 20 years of age with a degree in aeronautical engineering and went to work for the Boeing Company in Seattle, he looked so young that he took up smoking a pipe in order to be taken more seriously. And serious he must have been to get another degree, this time a master's in electrical engineering from the

University of Washington. He continued to work for nearly 40 years for Boeing as a guidance and control engineer.

A successful young Jewish engineer new to Seattle is obviously in need of an excellent wife, and he found one when he knocked on the door of Molly and Isadore Sigel, a nice Jewish family with three beautiful daughters. The middle daughter, Carmen J. Sigel, was just the one he was looking for. They were married June 25, 1950, and remained married for over 63 years! Together they raised two daughters, many horses, goats, rabbits, dogs, cats and chickens. Pretty good for a city boy who grew up in Kansas City, Mo.

Daniel was known for his wide range of interests and his positive can-do attitude. When he wanted to learn how to do something, he read a book about it — then did it. In this way he learned about sailing, golf, tennis, horses, guns, politics, religion, playing bridge, fixing cars, tools, agriculture, fence maintenance, sharpening knives, making wine, and many other things. Daniel was a founding member of Temple Sinai in Bellevue and an avid reader of science fiction.

He was also a wine connoisseur, he was famous for carefully studying a restaurant's wine list, and then, after much deliberation, ordering the "house wine." Daniel would fearlessly navigate in the mountain ranges of Washington State armed only with a map and compass, leading his family, on horseback, through rushing rivers, over mountains, down steep cliffs and through thorny brush to return them safely to their campground before dark. Of course the horses, dogs, and other members of the family might have preferred the trail, but Daniel often chose adventure over the ordinary.

As for adventure, he once promised his young daughters he would someday take them to the moon on a space ship he would help design and build. Of course they never actually went to the moon, but because of his ingenuity, imagination and intelligence, they grew up believing anything was possible. This gift was passed onto many people, both family and friends, whose lives he touched.

Daniel died March 1, 2014 on Maui, Hi., where he lived for the last 14 years. He is survived by his wife Carmen J. Shafer, his sister Judy Miller, his two daughters Pamela J. Miller and Patricia A. Knapp and their husbands Bruce and Robert; plus four grandsons and two great-granddaughters.

*Purim Fun!*



MERYL ALCABES

Above, the Ohr Chadash Purim Players presented the play "Queen Esther's Diaries" on Shabbat Zachor, March 15 following services.



RAYMOND KWAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Rachel Baer, left, URJ Camp Kalsman's communication and development associate, and Emily Rader, nature supervisor, provided a bean bag for participants at the Stroum Jewish Community Center's annual Purim carnival to get a piece of Shea Hillinger, the camp's ropes course supervisor.



JOEL MAGALNICK

At right, a young Adam West, left, and a young Christian Bale put on their costumes to celebrate Purim at the Stroum JCC's early childhood center in Seattle.

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# JEWISH

A JTNews special section

March 21, 2014

See more at [jew-ish.com](http://jew-ish.com)

## The art of memory

By **Tori Gottlieb**

Late last month, Hillel at the University of Washington opened its doors to the artwork of Alice C. Gray, a local oil painter whose most recent works center around a the Jewish community living in Russia's Far East.

Gray's project was inspired by a trip she took in the summer of 2011 to Russia's Far East, beyond Siberia. The trip, sponsored by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and organized on the Seattle end by Jconnect, sent 14 young adults from the Pacific Northwest and the East Coast to Khabarovsk and Birobidzhan to educate them about the struggles of the Jewish communities. The participants were briefed on the history and the conditions of the communities, met with recipients of JDC aid, did service projects, and spent many hours just hanging out with the young adults in Khabarovsk who

were excited about their Jewish identity — in many cases, an identity they had only recently become aware of.

"People were sent [to the Russian Far East] as teenagers under Stalin, and a lot of them were forced to hide or bury their Jewish heritage in order to fit in," said Gray, who added that the communities suffer from huge age gaps. Most of the residents are elderly or very young due to the emigration of many of the residents who would now be middle-aged. Many of those who remain suffer from abject poverty, and many receive aid from the JDC for food, medicine, and young children's needs.

Gray started painting and drawing as a child, but didn't begin oil painting until she was in her early 20s. For the last four years, she has been a student of Atelier, a French art instruction model that allows students to work on

their own projects under the guidance of teachers. She has been working on this series of paintings since the group returned two-and-a-half years ago.



COURTESY ALICE C. GRAY

Top: Khabarovsk Hillel Shattered  
Center: Rabbi Shattered  
Bottom: Sunset Birobidzhan

### IF YOU GO

Alice C. Gray's artwork is currently on display and for sale at Hillel at the University of Washington, 4745 17th Ave. NE, Seattle. For more information on Gray and to see samples of her paintings, visit [www.pbase.com/alycone/siberiapaint](http://www.pbase.com/alycone/siberiapaint).

"I just felt like this was a slice of the world that people didn't get to see," said Gray. "It's continuously changing. The elderly people aren't going to be there forever, and the young people are going to grow up. It was something I really wanted to capture."

Gray produced nearly 100 paintings based on her travels to Russia's Far East, but said the "shattered" series was her favorite to paint. Inspired by famed Jewish artist Marc Chagall, Gray was able to try a new style of painting while working to depict the idea of the Jewish community being broken and then reassembled.

"There was something uniquely inspiring about the Jewish community there," Gray said. "I felt like if I didn't record or paint it, then maybe no one would."

Other members of the group echoed Gray's sentiments, including Josh Furman, Hillel UW's associate director, who attended the trip when he was the director of Jconnect.

"Parts of the trip were really challenging, but it was important to see some of the difficult things facing Jews in that region," Furman said. He explained that the trip embodied a strange dichotomy, particularly between the impoverished elderly persons — many were Holocaust survivors — and the energy of the younger populations who were excitedly reviving Jewish life in the region.

"The Hillel staff and leaders [in Russia] were doing such important and meaningful work, and you could see the passion that they brought every day," Furman said. "I was lucky that we were able to work with them."

Joanne Rossignol also went on the trip with Gray and Furman, and has already bought several of Gray's prints, including one of a cemetery gate where the group had volunteered to clean up neglected Jewish graves. Rossignol said some of the group's members are trying to set up a showing at the JDC's office in New York.

"She definitely deserves the recognition," Rossignol said, "but I also feel that it's a great way to keep that [region] in everyone's mind."

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