

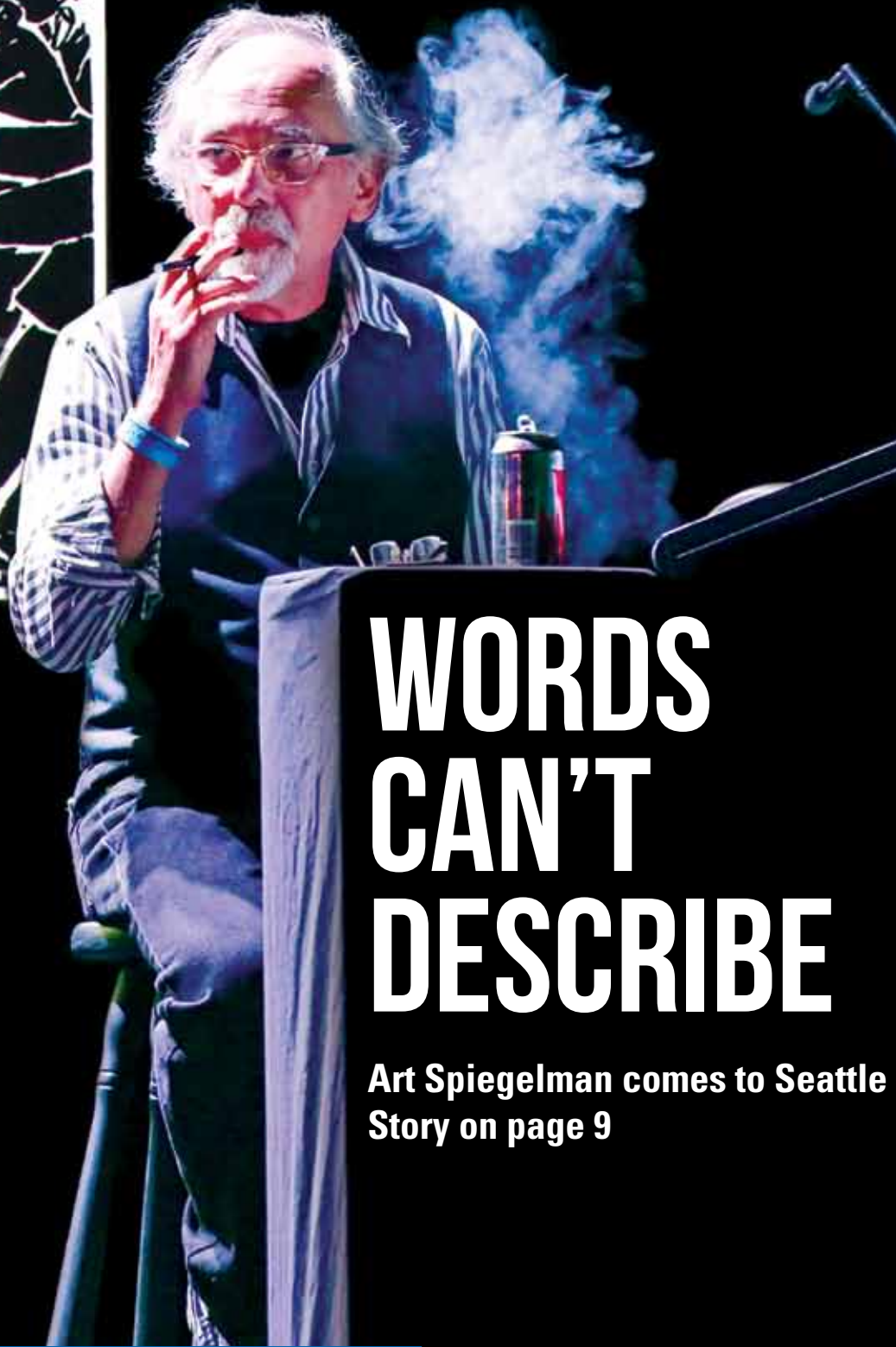
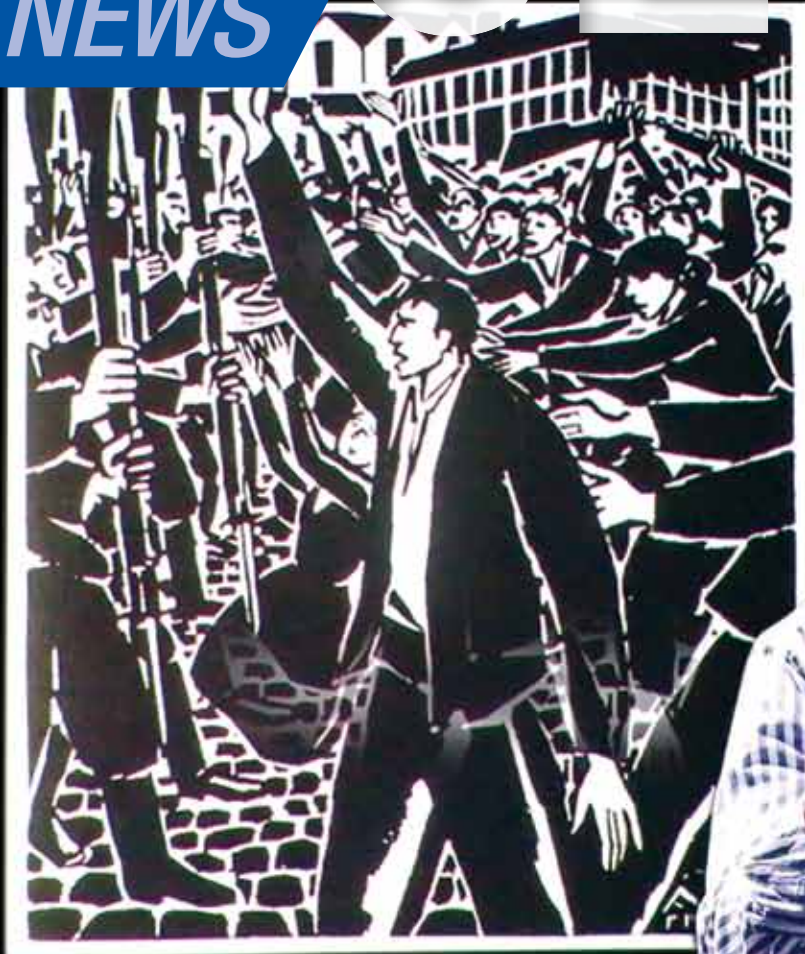


JT
NEWS

THE VOICE OF

JEWISH

WASHINGTON



WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE

Art Spiegelman comes to Seattle
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RICK STEVES GOES TO ISRAEL PAGE 24

COURTESY STEVEN BARCLAY AGENCY

Something different to break the fast

MICHAEL NATKIN JTNews Columnist

From May through October, we have a farmer's market just a couple of blocks from my house. Our regular ritual is to swing by in the afternoon, select what looks great, then walk home and figure out what to cook with our bounty.

If I don't have another plan, I'll often pick up a pound of fresh pasta from one of the vendors to serve as the base for improvisation.

Fresh pasta doesn't generally enjoy a full-bodied tomato "gravy" like you would serve with dried spaghetti. The style we are doing today is a much lighter broth of tomato juice, white wine and lemon, all emulsified with butter, which coats the noodles without overwhelming their delicate flavor.

If you don't have broccoli raab, you could do this same dish with zucchini or summer squash. Fresh basil would be a delicious addition as well.

When I want to cook with white wine but don't feel like opening a bottle, I often use dry vermouth, which I always have on hand. (Martini time can strike without warning). Vermouth keeps pretty well, so



Jewish and Veggie

I don't have to use it up the same day, and I love the herbaceous flavor it imparts.

FRESH FETTUCCINE WITH BROCCOLI RAAB AND LIGHT TOMATO SAUCE

Serves 3-4

1 bunch of broccoli raab (enough that you can't quite get your hand around it)

4 Tbs. unsalted butter

4 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 white onion, finely diced

Pinch of chili flakes

14-oz. can of diced tomatoes in juice, preferably San Marzano type

3/4 cup dry white wine or vermouth, divided

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Kosher salt

Freshly ground black pepper

1 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano

1 pound fresh (not dried) fettuccine

Big handful of flat-leaf parsley or basil leaves, roughly chopped

- Bring a large pot of well-salted water to a boil. Boil the broccoli raab until tender, remove (leaving the water for the pasta), and shock in ice water to retain color.
- In a large skillet, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the garlic, onion, chili flakes, and 1/2 teaspoon of salt, and sauté for three minutes, until soft-

ened. At this point your house will be fragrant and hungry diners may start wandering in with wild looks in their eyes.

- Whisk the butter and onions while drizzling in the juice from the tomato can. You want to get the butter to emulsify, as in a *beurre blanc*, or in this case a *beurre rouge*. If it gives you any trouble, just start whisking in a little more cold butter. Then add the tomato chunks, 1/2 cup of the wine, and the lemon juice. Bring to a slow simmer and reduce a little, until it coats the back of a spoon. Taste and adjust the seasoning; it probably needs more salt and possibly lemon juice.
- Preheat a serving platter or bowl in the oven (200° is good).
- When you are nearly ready to serve, add the broccoli raab back to the sauce to reheat, and boil the pasta. Fresh pasta usually takes about 3 minutes. When it is *al dente*, immediately strain it and toss it in the skillet with the sauce and the remaining 1/4



MICHAEL NATKIN

cup of wine. Toss the sauce, pasta, half the cheese, and a few grinds of black pepper together until the noodles are coated.

- To serve, use tongs to put the noodles on the serving platter. Pour the rest of the sauce, which won't have mixed in too well, over the top, distributing the broccoli raab and tomatoes. Top with the rest of the cheese, more black pepper, and the parsley or basil and eat immediately.

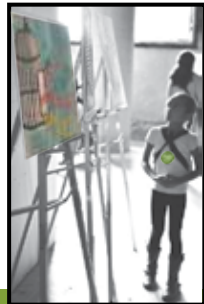
Local food writer and chef Michael Natkin's cookbook "Herbivorous, A Flavor Revolution with 150 Vibrant and Original Vegetarian Recipes," was a finalist in 2013 for a James Beard award. The recipes are based on his food blog, herbivorous.com.

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ALL IN A WEEK'S NEWS

Way out of bounds

The popular English soccer club Liverpool on Sept. 25 deleted a tweet wishing their Jewish followers a happy Rosh Hashanah hours after it was met with a flurry of anti-Semitic messages from other Twitter users. The club followed up with a tweet that read "LFC believes in the practice of religious freedom — we seek a world in which we can send good wishes to supporters without hateful responses." Police investigations could follow.

Source: *The Guardian*

Berlin mall

Wertheim, once Europe's biggest department store — until the Nazis forced its Jewish owners to sell and seized the property in 1937 before it was demolished in 1956 in Allied air raids — re-opened in Berlin on Sept. 25 as the Mall of Berlin with a ceremony paying tribute to its original owners. Wertheim is located in a historic part of Berlin, standing east of where the Berlin Wall divided the city during the Cold War and near Hitler's bunker.

Source: *Haaretz*

With Ransdell we lose

Robert Ransdell, a write-in candidate for the Kentucky senate seat currently held by Mitch McConnell, angered many by running a campaign with the slogan "With Jews We Lose." Ransdell, a leader of a white supremacy group, won't see his name appear on state ballots this fall.

Source: *The Jewish Daily Forward*

Poetic injustice?

The Bank of Israel on Sept. 24 released the first samples of its new 50-shekel note, which features celebrated Russian-born Hebrew poet Shaul Tchernichovsky. But the selection has angered several religious figures, as well as Dr. Hagai Ben Artzi, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's brother-in-law and former confidant, who condemn the decision because of Tchernichovsky's marriage to a Christian woman.

Source: *Times of Israel*
—Boris Kurbanov



REMEMBER WHEN

From *The Jewish Transcript*, October 13, 1989.

An elderly couple, newly arrived from the former Soviet Union, look at a Torah for the very first time on the bima at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Bellevue during a High Holiday workshop.

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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A local teen has raised tens of thousands of dollars to enable any Jewish person in Seattle to experience the joy of Shabbat.

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Temple De Hirsch Sinai tried something new with the city's young adult population this Rosh Hashanah: A bar instead of a bima. And they came.

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Popular travel host Rick Steves reports back from Israel and the West Bank, and tries to leave politics out of it.

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THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Candlelighting times

Friday, October 3.....6:25 p.m.

Friday, October 10.....6:11 p.m.

Friday, October 17.....5:58 p.m.

Friday, October 24.....5:45 p.m.

SUNDAY 5 OCTOBER

9 a.m.–5 p.m. — NCSY's Annual Sukkah Building Fundraiser

☎ 206-295-5888 or thhoffather@gmail.com or www.seattlencsy.com

Have your sukkah built by an army of NCSYers. \$36 for regular size, \$50 for large. RSVP to reserve your spot.

10–11:30 a.m. — Get Ready for Sukkot with PJ Library

☎ Alexis Kort at 206-525-0915 or alexis@templebetham.org or www.templebetham.org/community/families
Music, stories, and activities, light snacks and drinks for children kindergarten age and younger. RSVP with names/ages of children attending. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

5 p.m. — Blue Light Family Night

☎ Andrea Selix at 206-388-0821 or AndreaS@sjcc.org

Activities night geared toward families with autistic children ages 4-11. Swimming activities in the gym and arts and crafts in Kidstown. Free. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

5:15–9:30 p.m. — Monday Night Football: Seattle Seahawks vs. Washington

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org

Don your Seahawks gear and watch the Seahawks battle Washington. SJCC members: Adults \$8, kids \$5. Guests: Adults \$12, kids \$8. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

10–11:30 a.m. — Mommy Matters: Moms, Getting Real about What Matters

☎ Melissa Benaroya, MSW, LICSW at 206-226-6707 or melissa@growparenting.com or www.growparenting.com

Support for moms of toddlers and preschoolers, blending love and logic parenting, positive discipline, and Gottman principles with personal coaching. Workshop runs through December 9. Childcare available. \$259-\$279. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

5–7 p.m. — Young Adult Welcome to Seattle Happy Hour

☎ 205-527-1997 or elise@hillel.org or www.jconnectseattle.org

The Seattle Freeze doesn't have to be true. First drink on Jconnect if you are new to the group and Seattle. Please RSVP. Free. At Schilling Cider House, 708 N 34th St., Seattle.

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

9:30–11:30 a.m. — Seattle Jewish Cooperative Playschool

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org

Hands-on parent-toddler classes led by an early childhood educator. Focus on building community around parenting and Jewish identity. Runs Oct. 10-June 19. \$567 SJCC members, \$657 non-members. Age 18 months-3 years: 9:30-11:30 a.m. Age 3-4: noon-2 p.m.

10:30–11:15 a.m. — Northeast Tot Shabbat

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

Explore Jewish music from around the world. Celebrate Shabbat with prayer, songs, challah, juice and candles. Free, open to all. Ideal for babies, toddlers and pre-K. At Congregation Kol Ami, 16530 Avondale Rd. NE, Woodinville.

5:30–7 p.m. — SJCC Sukkot Celebration

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org

Sukkot Shabbat dinner in the Kesher Community Garden. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

6–8 p.m. — Pizza In The Hut

☎ 425-603-9677 or rsvp@templebnaitorah.org or templebnaitorah.org

Celebrate Sukkot with a pizza dinner and a brief Shabbat and sukkah dedication. \$10 per family, \$5 for individuals. At Temple B'nai Torah, 15727 NE Fourth St., Bellevue.

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

10–11 a.m. — Storytime in the Sukkah

☎ Kate Speizer at 206-384-6020 or kspeizer@tdhs-nw.org or www.tdhs-nw.org/index.php/learning/early-childhood-education/kiddish-club

Storytime for families with young children. Free. At Hillel at the University of Washington, 4745 17th Ave. NE, Seattle.

5–10 p.m. — J Explorers Sukkot Late Night

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org

Dinner and Havdalah in the sukkah in the SJCC Kesher Community Garden. Gaga, swimming, arts and crafts, games in the gym, and s'mores. For kids kindergarten-3rd grade and their dads. \$12-\$15. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

3–5 p.m. — SJFF Best of Fest Film: The Zigzag Kid and B-Boy

☎ 206-232-7115 or saraht@sjcc.org or www.sjcc.org

Nono's dad is the world's greatest detective, but his mom is a mystery that only he can solve. Plays with "B-Boy," about a Bar Mitzvah boy-break dancer navigating two diverse cultures. \$8. SJCC members, students, youth, senior \$5. At the Stroum JCC, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

5–8 p.m. — Farm-to-Table Dinner with Jconnect

☎ 205-527-1997 or elise@hillel.org or www.jconnectseattle.org

Explore Jewish values around food, agriculture, sustainability, and social justice. Chef Aaron Strauss will create a dinner featuring local produce. \$36. At Bradner Gardens, 1730 Bradner Pl. S, Seattle.

5:30–9 p.m. — Sukkot Pizza in the Hut

☎ 206-722-8289 or info@seattlekolllel.org or www.seattlekolllel.org

Pizza party with a screening of "Ushpizin." Free and open to all. Donations welcome. At the West Seattle Torah Learning Center, Seattle.

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

7:30–9 p.m. — From History to Family History with David Laskin

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

Hear about "The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century," David Laskin's epic book spanning the three upheavals that affected Jews in the 20th century, and his own family saga. Free. At the LDS Factoria Library Building, 4200 124th Ave. SE, Bellevue.

7:30–10 p.m. — TDS Adult Sukkah Hop

☎ Sasha Mail at 206-722-1200 or sashamail@tdsseattle.org

Adults enjoy a three-course elegant dinner hopping from sukkah to sukkah in the Seward Park neighborhood. \$36. RSVP for location details.

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

6:45–8:30 p.m. — Sushi and Singles in the Sukkah

☎ 205-527-1997 or elise@hillel.org or www.jconnectseattle.org

Learn to roll sushi while mingling with other young Jews looking for that special someone. RSVP to Elise. At Hillel UW, 4745 17th Ave. NE, Seattle.

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

7–8:30 p.m. — Couples Kosher Wine Tasting

☎ 205-527-1997 or elise@hillel.org or www.jconnectseattle.org

Kosher wines and appetizers in the sukkah. For adults 21-35. RSVP to Elise. Free. At Hillel UW, 4745 17th Ave. NE, Seattle.

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER

7–8:30 p.m. — Herzl-Ner Tamid Simchat Torah

☎ Rebecca Levy at 206-232-8555, ext. 207 or rebecca@h-nt.org

Ma'ariv at 6:45 p.m., then marching, singing, and dancing with the Torah. Free. At Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation, 3700 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island.

7:15 p.m. — Eastside Torah Center Grand Simchat Torah Celebration

☎ Rabbi Mordechai Farkash at 425-957-7860 or eastsidechabad@gmail.com or www.chabadbellevue.org

L'chaim, food, and dancing with the Torah. Free. At Eastside Torah Center, 16199 Northrup Way, Bellevue.

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

10–11:30 a.m. — Jewish Perspectives on Talking with Your Children and Friends about Guns

☎ Marjorie Schnyder at 206-861-3146 or familylife@jfsseattle.org or www.jfsseattle.org

Hear community leaders speak, be part of a discussion, learn developmentally appropriate information, and engage in practice scenarios. Free. At Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle.

5–9 p.m. — AIPAC Membership Gala

☎ 206-624-5152 or seattle_office@aipac.org or www.aipac.org

The largest pro-Israel gathering in Washington State. RSVP for details.



MILLIE SCHORR

Jill Hawkins, a mother of two children with special needs, cuts the Walk With Friendship start ribbon at the start of the Friendship Circle's third annual 5k and 1k walkathon on Sept. 21. The event was designed to raise awareness for the Jewish organization, which offers several programs for kids with special needs and their families.

“Project DVORA was there to listen... and to let me know I’m normal.” – JFS Client

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month



jfsseattle.org

THE RABBI'S TURN

Returning to our real selves

RABBI BEN HASSAN *Sephardic Bikur Holim*

What is Yom Kippur? What does a Day of Atonement mean? Does it mean we can come to synagogue, say some prayers, and fast one day a year so we can run wild the other 364? And then come back next year to wipe the slate clean all over again? That's pretty crude. I can't imagine too many of us would believe that works.



temptations and never do the action again.

The four steps sound very simple, but each one requires a conscientious effort on our part to improve ourselves. Sometimes we make the mistake and think that uttering an apology will fix everything. That is only one of the four steps. Feeling remorse is not

sufficient, even when there is sincere regret for our past deeds. We need the other steps with it.

Maimonides writes that complete teshuva is only fully achieved when we find ourselves standing in exactly the same position as we were before, but this time we are able to strengthen ourselves and resist our temptations, whether that be gossiping, cheating on our tax returns, or any other commandment.

Toward the end of the Laws of Teshuva, Maimonides writes a fascinating piece. He states, "Do not say that teshuva only helps in transgressions that are inherently an act, such as promiscuity, theft, or robbery; rather, just as a person refrains from these acts, so too must one search out evil thoughts and return from anger, hatred, jealousy, quarrelling, pursuit of money or honor, or being gluttonous, etc. One needs to do teshuva from everything."

Maimonides is explaining that the root of our transgressions are not the acts themselves. It is our thoughts within. If we truly want to master the act of teshuva, we must purge our systems of our anger, hatred and jealousy. As Rabbi Elazar Hakapar says in Pirke Avot — Ethics of the Fathers, "Envy, lust and honor drive a person from the world." As we approach this year's Day of Atonement — this day of being at one with God — let us redouble our efforts to return ourselves to when we were free from all of our negative character traits. These traits prevent us all from being the people we want to be.

May we all be written and sealed in the Book of Life.

We can't buy God. He knows our deepest thoughts. We can't try to look good in front of Him because He knows exactly what we're thinking. Are we meant to beat our chests in remorse for our wrongdoings of the year gone by? Let's be honest about it. Are we really going to change our whole lifestyle? Will next year be any different to the past year? So who are we kidding? Honestly, isn't it all a bit hypocritical?

Throughout Yom Kippur and the days before it, we are involved in the process of teshuva, which most of us translate as repentance. When we look at the word repentance it means to feel or show that you are sorry for something bad or wrong that you did and that you want to do what is right. But I don't believe that it is the real essence of teshuva. The Hebrew root for the word teshuva is shuv, which means return. On Yom Kippur, when we work on ourselves, we are not repenting; we are working on returning to our original selves, that time before we slipped up. So how do we return?

This is an easy question to answer but a very hard thing to put into practice. Maimonides explains that four key steps need to be accomplished for a person to do complete teshuva:

Step 1: We must stop doing the particular action.

Step 2: We must confess verbally what we did that was wrong.

Step 3: We must feel deep remorse for our past actions.

Step 4: When faced with the same situation, we must be able to rise above our

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A COMMUNITY ASSET

Kudos to the Samis Foundation for the amazing work it is doing ("Samis allocations sustain the community, locally and in Israel," Sept. 19). Although I thought I was familiar with the Samis Foundation, I never understood the full breadth of its work until I saw the list of grants published in the Sept. 19 JTNews. Total grants for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, totaled more than \$4 million to organizations here and abroad — from day schools to Israel experiences to victims of the Oso mudslide. In addition, Samis established the Samuel Israel Foundation, a supporting foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle and through that donated an additional \$351,518 to local organizations. I recently read in the Puget Sound Business Journal that the Samis Foundation is the 16th largest foundation in Washington State, with assets in 2012 of more than \$114 million. We are so lucky to have this philanthropic organization as part of our community, contributing to such a broad array of important causes.

Cynthia Flash Hemphill
Bellevue

Fighting extremism and intolerance in Israel and Seattle

JON BRIDGE AND CAROL GOWN *Special to JTNews*

This summer was hard for any supporter of Israel. As members of New Israel Fund's local leadership, we shared in the turmoil of Israel under fire and its terribly destructive response. Some of us watched from afar, while some of us spent time in bomb shelters with loved ones. It was also painful to witness increased ultra-nationalist extremism in Israel and heightened incivility here in Seattle. This month is a fitting one to take stock of our hopes for Israel and each other.

During the war, already gaping societal divides in Israel were widened. When it was learned that some bomb shelters were being gender-segregated by religious extremists and that others barred Arab citizens at the door, New Israel Fund's civil society grantees mobilized. Some Bedouin citizens who serve proudly in the Israeli Defense Forces but live in unrecognized villages lacked shelters entirely. NGOs representing the best of Israeli society quickly sought legal action to remedy this, cleaned away racist graffiti, and strove with municipal leaders to protect all lives under fire.

Of particular concern to us are heightened ultra-nationalism and religious extremism. We were all shocked when three Jewish teens were kidnapped and murdered. And our horror increased when six Jewish vigilantes murdered a Palestinian teenager in revenge. Anti-Arab and anti-Jewish mobs and other acts of intolerance, including some by sitting members of Israel's security cabinet, prompted newly elected President Ruby Rivlin to declare after the war that Israeli society must combat a "volcano of incitement." These social divides persist and we wonder how Israel will move forward more committed, not less, to equality and fairness for all citizens.

Here in Seattle, incivility has also been on parade. Anti-Semitic posters appeared in rallies at Westlake. Meanwhile, a campaign of intimidation targeted Seattle Jews perceived as out of lockstep with Israel's government. Individuals recently went so far as to announce on social media that New Israel Fund leaders are a "horrible, frightening" threat to Seattle Jewry even bigger than anti-Israel hate groups. While these voices are a shrill minority, they do our community outsized harm. We aspire for a better communal conversation.

We joined New Israel Fund's local leadership because we care about both Israel's sustainability and American Jewry's participation in that work. Ari Shavit said to an audience of nearly a thousand in Seattle this past May that the two most important audiences for building Israel support are progressives and the next generation, for whom New Israel Fund commands unique appeal. We must be able to work together despite our differing views because we all have a role to play in the pro-Israel movement.

Though Iron Dome can intercept rockets fired at civilians, no machine can protect Israeli democracy. The forces of equality and tolerance in Israel are human: Israelis with liberal values. They face an uphill battle, but one that is not hopeless if we come to their aid.

Recently we've heard some commentators say liberal Zionism is in crisis; we disagree. We are asking those who share our values to join us to work for a better Israel...and refuse to give up on its possibilities.

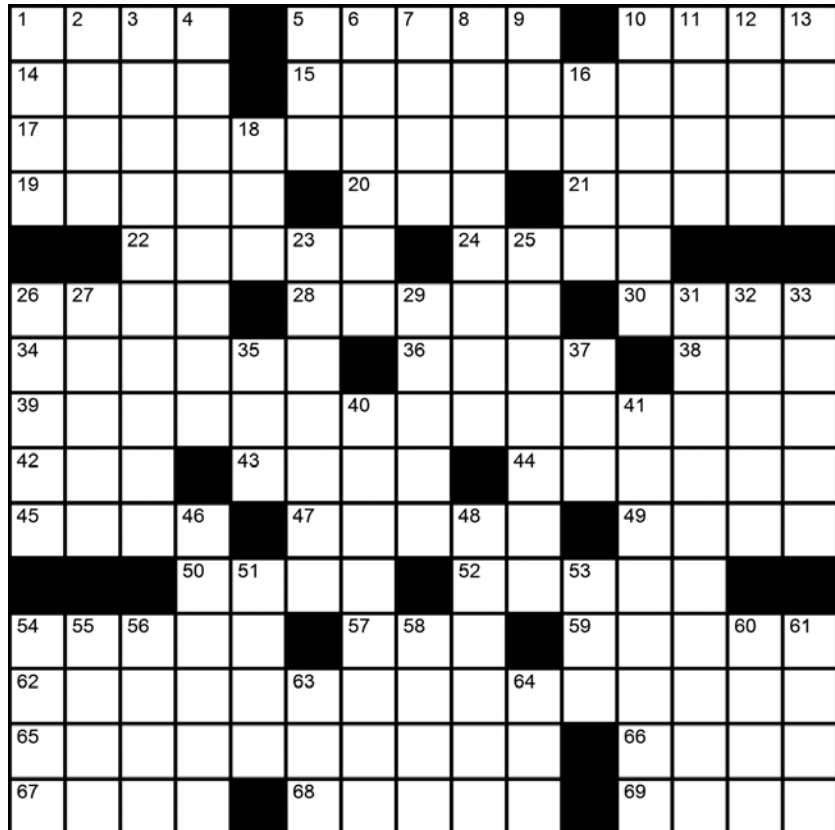
Jon Bridge and Carol Gown are members of the Pacific Northwest regional council of the New Israel Fund, which is committed to equality and democracy for all Israelis.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: We would love to hear from you! You may submit your letters to editor@jtnews.net. Please limit your letters to approximately 350 words. Letters guidelines can be found at www.jewishsound.org/letters-guidelines. The deadline for the next issue is October 7. Future deadlines may be found online. The opinions of our columnists and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the views of JTNews or the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.



Ask the Right Questions

by Mike Selinker



Social commenter Fran Lebowitz notes, "Children ask better questions than adults. '[17-Across], [39-Across], and [62-Across] are far more likely to elicit cheerful responses than 'Where's your manuscript?', 'Why haven't you called?', and 'Who's your lawyer?'" Mature queriers might pass them off as known quantities, and may miss the point. Fill in the brackets above and you might feel you're asking the right questions again.

ACROSS

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- 5 Lighting rig
- 10 "Holy moley!"
- 14 Time periods
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- 17 See introduction
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- 65 Frasier's brother
- 66 Disney's queen of Arendelle
- 67 Hurried
- 68 Whispered comment
- 69 2012 VP hopeful Paul

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- 1 Early track, for a musician
- 2 Some financial plans, briefly
- 3 What the Yiddish word "daven" means
- 4 Its theme song was The Who's "Won't Get Fooled Again"
- 5 Not yet scheduled, on schedules
- 6 Change, as a manuscript
- 7 Not new
- 8 Port lands
- 9 "Wait a ___!"
- 10 Amnesiac's query
- 11 Hit the trails
- 12 "Come ___!"
- 13 Time periods
- 16 ___ *Nostra* (the Mafia)
- 18 Character in the upcoming *Star Wars* movie
- 23 People like Simon Cowell and Tina Fey
- 25 Item in an old-timey barn
- 26 Genre of carpentry books
- 27 Despise
- 29 Fishing pole parts
- 31 In a mournful manner
- 32 Vision: Prefix
- 33 He had a "Winning!" meme
- 35 Inquire
- 37 Neighbor of Leb. and Isr.
- 40 Christian Slater/Winona Ryder black comedy
- 41 One who shouts
- 46 At rest, perhaps
- 48 ___ feather (torture)
- 51 Appends
- 53 Miracle-___ (gardening brand)
- 54 Has
- 55 Frito-Lay offering
- 56 It may be spun
- 58 *Criminal Minds* actor Morales
- 60 To whom the Curiosity Rover reports
- 61 Actress Cannon
- 63 Yam-like vegetable
- 64 ___Lo Green

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

To beat back Islamic State, a prescription for the president

JANIS SIEGEL JTNews Correspondent

The United States needs a comprehensive policy in the Middle East — one that includes institution building and political economic reform. And it should not count Iran among its allies against the Islamic State and become its propaganda tool.

So says Michael Singh, the Washington Institute's managing director and a Middle East expert. Singh spoke to a crowd of nearly 100 on Sept. 18 at the University of Washington on "Nuclear Iran: Beyond the Bomb."

"We need a broader strategy for the region," said Singh, who answered questions on the legality of air strikes inside of Syria, the legacy of the Bush Administration's Middle East policies, the status of an ISIS coalition with our allies, ISIS's threats to the U.S., and what a future strategy there might look like.

"I think there is a case to be made that the absence of a strong U.S. role and a clear U.S. strategy certainly hasn't helped," said Singh, "and our allies want to hear, 'What's the bigger picture?'"

Singh, the Lane-Swig Senior Fellow at the non-partisan think tank, visited the Northwest as part of the American Jewish Committee Seattle's speaker series.

From 2005 to 2008, Singh was the senior director for Middle East Affairs for the National Security Council. He helped formulate U.S. national security policy for the Bush administration and was the assistant to Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice in the U.S. embassy in Tel Aviv. Singh also served as the Middle East adviser to the Romney presidential campaign from 2011 to 2012.

A proponent of defeating ISIS in Iraq and Syria, Singh said the terrorist organization is a direct and immediate threat to the security of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and most likely Israel, too, where the Islamic State's army is not very far from the Golan Heights.

"I can't imagine President Obama wanted to be the fourth president in a row to be ordering military operations in Iraq, certainly not the President Obama of 2008," said Singh, "but unless you take steps to stabilize Syria, another insurgent group could come along and replace ISIS in the future, and we'll be dealing with this problem again."

According to Singh, the Bush administration adopted its Freedom Agenda, a comprehensive strategy that included democratic and political reforms, after recognizing that peace there might be an elusive proposition.

He recommends the Obama administration embrace this approach.

"The idea of institution-building and political and economic reform is one that needs to be an element in our strategy, especially if you want, as President

Obama said in his West Point speech, our allies to do more," Singh said. "I don't think we should throw the baby out with the bath water by saying that the Freedom Agenda was associated with President Bush, therefore let's do away with it."



COURTESY THE WASHINGTON INSTITUTE

Middle East expert Michael Singh, managing director of The Washington Institute.

While the Obama administration has recruited nation partners who have already taken part in airstrikes against ISIS in Iraq, five Arab allies — Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain — began attacks against ISIS in Syria along with the U.S. on Sept. 22.

Obama, who said he wants Syrian president Bashar al-Assad gone, won the financial backing of Congress to arm the so-called moderate rebels who he hopes will do the job.

Singh supports the administration's strategy, pointing to the U.S.'s previous counterterrorism operations in Yemen and Somalia as precedent for the action and U.N. Security Council resolutions on fighting terrorism. Additionally, he said, Iraq has asked for help from the U.S.

"I think it's the right strategy, because if you were to confine the strikes to ISIS's positions in Iraq, ISIS could withdraw behind the Syrian border and use Syria as safe haven and allow other terrorist groups to use it as a safe haven as well," he said.

For Obama, the fact that Assad has lost control of a significant southeastern portion of his country to ISIS has weakened him.

"From President Obama's point of view, which I think is correct on this," said Singh, "Assad and the Assad regime have lost the legitimacy to govern."

Singh is quick to point out that ISIS also represents a threat to American interests.

"One is the threat of an attack on the homeland," said Singh. "It has the aspirations to do that in the future. The second is the issue of foreign fighters who've gone from other countries to fight with ISIS. The third is this concern about home-grown terrorists and people who might just be inspired by ISIS."

Defeating ISIS and groups like them, said Singh, will require continued surveillance of financial transactions, ongoing travel security, identifying accomplices, and shutting down their media presence.

The 'J' embarks on a new roadmap to sustainability

JOEL MAGALNICK Editor, JTNews

The next three years at the Stroum Jewish Community Center look something like this: A lot more arts programming, more experimentation in fitness and outreach programs, small changes in the look and feel of its Mercer Island facility, and more emphasis on maintaining and building the quality of its early childhood school. That's what most members will see.

Taking a peek under the hood, however, a committee convened by the SJCC's board nearly a year ago has created a three-year strategic plan that will also look at incremental improvements and repairs to the organization's aging structure, build a long-overdue endowment, and continue the momentum of a donor base that has increased by 35 percent over the past two years.

"The JCC has had somewhat of a renaissance and lot of growth over the last few years," according to Aaron Alhadeff, the SJCC's immediate past president. "The staff and the board and the community decided we need to figure out what we're going to focus on."

The plan consists of four of the SJCC's most pressing priorities, which Alhadeff said had to be culled down from a list of seven or eight:

- Early childhood
- Long-term financial stability
- Facilities
- Community engagement

"Some of the things we've been doing for a long time are really important and some of those things need more attention and more focus," Alhadeff said.

Specifically, the early childhood school

(ECS), which is one of the agency's largest programs, needs to come front and center. "It starts a lot of people's journey into the Jewish community," he said. "We know we're great. We want to be the best."

Judy Neuman, the SJCC's CEO, said the marketplace for early childhood programs is far different even from when she took the reins five years ago.

"Whether it be synagogue preschools, whether it be day school preschools, and whether it be secular top-tier preschools, we are not the only game in town and we know it," she said, "so part of the focus is making sure that we stay way on top of our game, that we're out in front of it from a trend perspective."

That includes looking, on an annual basis, at teacher compensation and price points for parents to ensure the school is staying ahead of the curve.

"If you don't stay focused on that, you can kid yourself, and you might still be saying it, but you're not delivering it," Neuman said.

The SJCC has already come a long way in improving its short-term financial stability. The budget has grown from \$6.5 million five years ago to \$9.5 million for Fiscal Year 2015, according to Neuman. And while money is often tight, the agency has delivered revenue-neutral or surplus budgets over that period.

For the long term, while it won't happen in the first year of this strategic plan, Neuman said it's unusual that a 65-year-old agency like the SJCC would not have established an endowment.

"That's something I feel is really, really important for the 'J' long term," she said.

It's critical "to have a little flexibility by building an endowment to fund the next new bright ideas that we have, or to supplement and sustain the things that we're currently doing."

She cited the SJCC's takeover of the Seattle Jewish Film Festival two years ago, coupled with this year's \$5 million renovation of its auditorium, as a perfect example.

"We made a big bet when we did our renovation and we hired a team to build a cultural arts platform," she said. "We also know that arts necessarily ever break even, or pay for themselves, or certainly make money."

So for the SJCC to fully establish itself as a hub for Jewish arts, which has already begun to see success, Neuman said, it will need to be supported more broadly than through operating dollars.

What the SJCC will do this year, however, is begin allocating money to facility upkeep.

"We have a very old building, and so the operating budget has been heavily burdened by surprises," Neuman said. "We now feel that it's very prudent for us...to budget for and allocate resources to the capital reserve."

Alhadeff agreed.

"We want to get away from having to

make a panicked call to a donor, and being prepared ourselves," he said.

When it comes to facilities, Alhadeff said the SJCC is not gearing up for a specific capital project.

"A lot of times the community dictates that. The leaders of the community will tell you," he said. "They'll tell you with their heads, their hearts, and their checkbooks."

The auditorium renovation, he said, was intended to be a "proof of concept" that needs to show value before the next big thing.

"We need to fill that auditorium. We need people coming in multiple times a day. We need there to be demand," he said. "We need to see it was a smart investment."

But Neuman said facility changes are afoot.

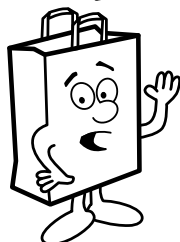
"We have a very long laundry list, if you will, of all the things that need repair [and] restoration," she said. "We'll continue to look, and look at more formally, what are the aesthetic enhancements both externally and internally...to make this a more inspiring place to be in."

There are no plans to purchase or build a space in Seattle's Northend, which has its satellite ECS program housed at Temple

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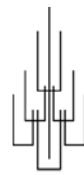
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Ten years in, a project still helps homeless families begin again

EMILY K. ALHADEFF Associate Editor, JTNews

They sleep in their cars, they crash with friends and family, they give up their pets. They don't know where they're going to stay tonight, or if they'll be able to stay in the apartment they're in. The shelters are at capacity, work runs out, a health issue arises. Their kids may not know what's going on, but they know something's wrong.

These are some of the terrifying conditions for homeless families across King County. Affordable housing is a growing crisis in Seattle, and one of the biggest challenges for homeless individuals and families is making the initial rental deposit of first and last months' rent and security.

"When you're out of a home and trying to enter an apartment, it's impossible," said Fred Diamondstone, the chair of Homeless to Renter (H2R). "You've got to come up with a fair bit of money."

A product of Temple Beth Am and Congregation Beth Shalom, H2R after Temple Beth Am hosted Tent City in its back lot in 2003. The congregants learned something critical while hosting the homeless camp.

"There would be families who could make it in housing if it weren't for the depos-

its," said Diamondstone. "If we could help with the deposits, that would get people over the hump."

Anyone who has ever rented should relate to this obstacle. With little to no government or family assistance and an average- or low-paying job, writing a check for hundreds or thousands of dollars is just about impossible. Now throw in a family to support.

H2R helps about 25 families a year by providing them with the necessary startup housing funds. Working with Jewish Family Service since 2006, H2R gets referrals for families who meet certain criteria — they must live in King County, be recently homeless with children, and have a sustainable source of income.

The H2R committee also follows up with families for a 12-month period. Diamondstone says 74 percent of families are able to hold onto their housing during that first year.

"This is a best practice that very few agencies are able to do," said Carol Mullin, director of emergency services at JFS. "We are happy to invest our time in that."

Mullin is moved by the stories of sustainable housing success that have come out of H2R. This year, at the annual benefit during Sukkot, H2R will feature a short film with three recipients who have been able to start over with the organization's help. One man describes riding the bus all night when he had nowhere to go; a woman recalls having to bring her children's dog to the pound when they couldn't afford to keep it.

"Just think for a second about what that means," said Mullin. "You're struggling to make ends meet and you've lost your housing. How do you begin again?"

H2R raises about \$25,000 a year. This year, Temple Beth Am is including a line item for it in the budget for the first time.

"We're pleased with that kind of institutional commitment for the program," Diamondstone said. "We've got a lot of board support and we're grateful for it."

The lack of affordable housing in the region is at the forefront of the issue, said Mullin. The shelters are at capacity and not always viable. In other cases, work falls through and the earnings from a new job aren't enough to pull together next month's

rent. It's easy to fall through the cracks. By following up, JFS is able to provide additional help if the family faces a challenge during the first year.

"It's really a great partnership. Without the initial investment of H2R we probably wouldn't be helping them at all," said Mullin.

"The energy that they put forth on the mission of the project is admirable," she continued. "They've made themselves into a best practice."

If you go:

Simchat Sukkot, H2R's 10th annual benefit, takes place October 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the sukkah at Temple Beth Am, 2632 NE 80th St., Seattle. The evening includes a Havdalah ceremony, wine, refreshments, and music by the Klez Katz. \$18 minimum donation.

For more information visit www.templebetham.org/social-action/homeless-to-rent-h2r.



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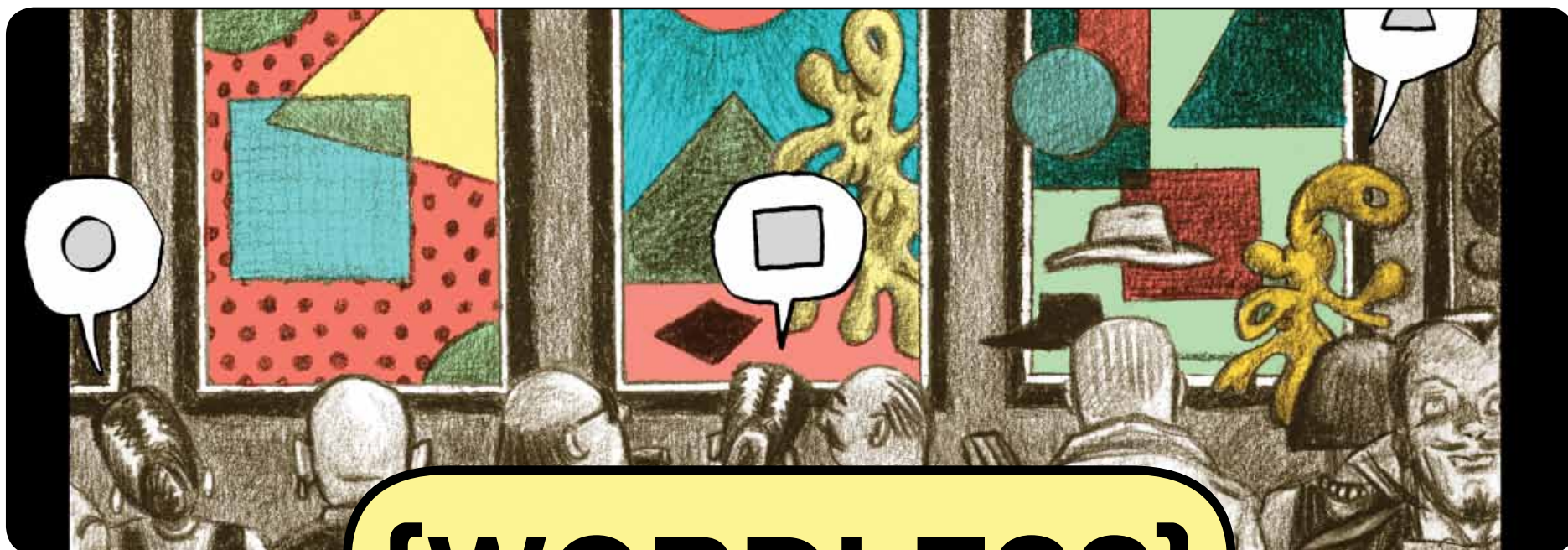
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{WORDLESS}

EMILY K. ALHADEFF Associate Editor, JTNEWS

Art Spiegelman has a hard time explaining his new production. It's "somewhere between intellectual vaudeville" and "a lecture run amok" inspired by woodcut novels, the musical genius of Phillip Johnston, and an opportunity to use the Sydney Opera House. Whatever it's about, he said, "your brain will be cracked open."

But for Spiegelman, the comics artist who became a household name for his "Maus" graphic novels about the Holocaust, words are not the only tool on hand. To that end, it's fitting that his latest endeavor is called "Wordless."

"It's sort of about the war between words and pictures," Spiegelman told JTNews by phone from New York. "What is it the pictures are doing? They're not just decorations. They're language. What happens when you use that language when you get rid of the words? With one hand tied behind its back, what can it still lift?"

According to the trailer, "Wordless"

intends to leave you as "breathlessly unbalanced" as Spiegelman normally feels, teetering on the invisible hyphen between words and pictures, high art and low art, serious and comic, time and space. The show consists of Spiegelman's commentary to a slideshow of comics from early 20th-century comic artists and

wordless novelists like Frans Masereel, H.M. Bateman, Lynd Ward, Otto Nückel, Milt Gross, and Si Lewen. A live band led by jazz composer Phillip Johnston moves the show along.

"Wordless" comes to the Moore Theatre in Seattle October 12.

Spiegelman and Johnston's artistic partnership dates back a number of years, when they worked on a musical production that never saw the light of day. Their connection was broken when Johnston moved from New York to Australia —

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Saturday, October 11 at 2 p.m.
In Sleep The World Is Yours
Concert

Music of Remembrance opens its tenth Sparks of Glory concerts-with-commentary season with Lori Laitman's 2013 song cycle "In Sleep the World Is Yours," inspired by the poetry of Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger. Selma died in a Ukrainian labor camp in 1942 at the age of 18, but her powerful poetry lives on through Laitman's original compositions. The concert also features String Quartet No. 2 by Erwin Schulhoff and Duo for Violin and Viola by Lazlo Weiner, and corresponds with the centenary of the outbreak of World War I and works in SAM's collection reflecting the radical artistic innovation in the wake of the war. Free. At Plestcheeff Auditorium, Seattle Art Museum, 1300 First Ave. For more information visit www.musicofremembrance.org.



ACTION 2 AND VAN HOUTEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Sunday, October 19 at 3 p.m.
Gerard Schwarz on "The All-Star Orchestra"
Music talk

Maestro Gerard Schwarz, Seattle Symphony's conductor laureate, discusses his new project and public television series "The All-Star Orchestra," his handpicked ensemble of top musicians from America's leading orchestras. Schwarz will share excerpts of the music and discuss how he is educating the public through the orchestra's television broadcasts. SJCC members, students, youth, and seniors \$12; guests \$18. At the Stroum Jewish Community Center, 3801 E Mercer Way, Mercer Island. For tickets and information visit sjcc.org/cultural-arts/lectures-authors/gerard-schwarz.



Thursday, October 16 at 8 p.m.
Matisyahu
Concert

The former "Hasidic reggae superstar" comes to Seattle with his latest album, "Akedah." Since shocking (and disappointing) many fans with his distance from religious life, the musician describes his latest material as "the kind of album an artist makes when there is no other creative choice but to turn oneself inside-out, to scrape the insides and reveal everything raw." Drawing on the near-sacrifice of Isaac, "Akedah" is considered Matisyahu's most personal album to date. Tickets start at \$29.50. Doors open at 7 p.m. At the Showbox, 1426 First Ave., Seattle. For tickets and information visit www.showboxpresents.com.

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A JTNEWS SPECIAL SECTION ■ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2014

UNITING SEATTLE UNDER A BANNER OF JEWISH PRIDE

By Justin Coskey

I recently had the opportunity to interview Daniel Cohen, an active young adult in the Jewish community of greater Seattle, on his most recent endeavor, The Shabbos Project. While the Shabbos Project is an international organization and event, Daniel came up with the idea for a Seattle chapter, and has worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality.

JTNews: Daniel, tell us a little about yourself.

Daniel Cohen: I come from a traditional Jewish home. I always went to an Orthodox Jewish synagogue, but didn't always identify as Orthodox. I am a graduate of the Jewish Day School and Northwest Yeshiva High School. I'm currently at yeshiva in Israel.

JT: What exactly is The Shabbos Project?

DC: The Shabbos Project, or the Shabbat Project, is an effort to bring together as many Jews as possible from every walk of life across the spectrum of religious affiliation (or lack thereof) to keep one Shabbat together on October 24-25.

JT: Why are you doing this project? What's your inspiration?

DC: My parents are South African, and I was inspired by South Africa's Shabbos Project program last year. I thought, "Living in Seattle, so much of the community is really in its own little world. The Orthodox keep to themselves, the Reform and Conservative keep to themselves, and nobody really knows each

other, so nobody really communicates." This seems like the perfect opportunity for the Seattle Jewish community to unite under a banner of Jewish pride.

JT: When you first proposed the idea for Seattle to have a Shabbos Project, what was the reception you got?

DC: When I proposed this, from all sides there was a lot of support. A meeting was held at the Stroum JCC, and many Jewish organizations jumped in and quickly got involved. There was a lot of excitement from all over the place.

JT: You managed to raise a lot of money for the Shabbos Project. Could you talk a little bit about the fundraising process?

DC: We used J-Kick, the Seattle Jewish



COURTESY BERYL COHEN

Daniel Cohen

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◀ SHABBOS PROJECT PAGE 11

Federation's platform for crowdfunding. We basically sent out lots of emails and put out lots of publicity on Facebook, encouraging people to donate to our J-Kick page. We also approached a number of larger donors, and in the end, thank God, our campaign had the most amount of money, and we reached the tipping point of our goal, so we received all the money that was donated to us.

JT: How else is the planning process going?

DC: It's going very well. We've already started the publicity for the Challah Make and Take, which is going to be held on Thursday, October 23. People can sign up online. We've also put up many posters publicizing the Shabbos Project as well as the challah bake all over Jewish schools and shuls all over the city. We also have many "Shabbat Kits" that are being distributed to families who are committing to the Shabbos project and who commit to having someone else over for a Shabbat meal. Schools across the city are making challah covers that will be in the kits. There will be Shabbat guides available as well for everyone.

JT: What are the activities going to be like on Shabbat?

DC: Shabbat itself is really based on each sub-community within Seattle, and each individual, but our job is to provide information and materials to make that Shabbat experience as accessible as possible for everyone. In each community, different synagogues are doing different things. For example, many synagogues will be serving Shabbat dinners, and others have Havdalah programs planned. Overall, though, everyone will have a warm, community oriented Shabbat experience.

JT: What are your hopes and expectations for this project?

DC: My hope, expectation, and goal for the project are to have as many people as possible participating by stepping outside their comfort zone and doing one Shabbat-oriented mitzvah. If they usually leave their phone on, this week, they leave their phone off. If they usually don't light candles, this week

they light candles. If they usually don't have a meal with their family, this week they have a meal with their family. If they usually don't make Kiddush, this week, they make Kiddush. The more people that do that, the more people are united together in the Seattle community, and our community thereby will be united with world Jewry through our participation in this event.

JT: What can people do to help and promote this cause?

DC: First of all, spread publicity and awareness. People can take the Shabbat guides to help them to create their Shabbat, and they can also come to the Challah Make and Take. People can organize Shabbat dinners for their neighbors and community, inviting over their friends and family. People can do that one thing that they usually don't do during Shabbat. Everyone should also sign up for the Shabbos Project on our website, and participate in it on October 24 and 25.


JT: Assume that I'm just some Joe Schmo, and I don't know too much about the Shabbos Project. Why should I participate?

DC: Well Joe, just think about how building and powerful it is. In a world today where there's a lot of pressure on Israel and the Jews, it's extremely important for us to stick together, and to connect to what makes us who we are, which is our heritage. That's why you should participate. Plus, the Shabbat experience is not something you can find easily. Just the atmosphere of sitting down with your family, lighting candles, making Kiddush, no devices. The whole world falls away and you have a chance to reflect on what matters most.

For more information about the Shabbos Project, visit TheShabbosProject.org, like the Facebook page at [Facebook.com/theShabbosProjectSeattle](https://www.facebook.com/theShabbosProjectSeattle), or email Seattle@TheShabbosProject.com.

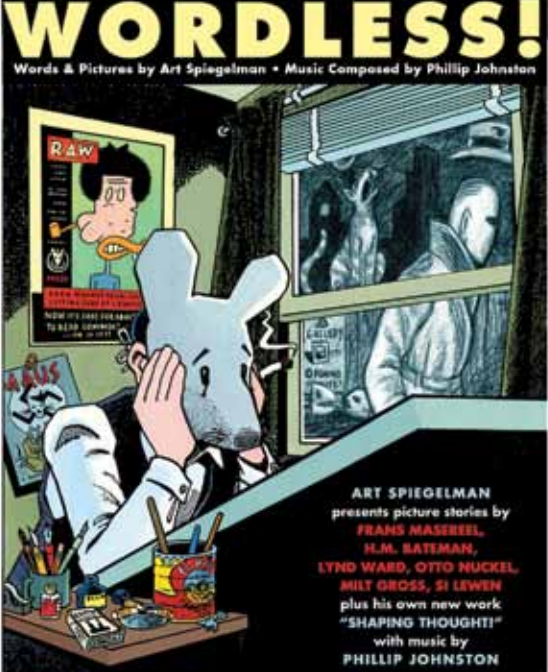
Justin Coskey is a senior at Northwest Yeshiva High School. He is the editor-in-chief of the student newspaper, The Northern Light, and he fully supports the Shabbos Project.

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◀ WORDLESS PAGE 9

until one day, when Spiegelman was invited to participate in a live interview at the Sydney Opera House. The invitation didn't appeal to him, but then he had a thought.

"You have an opera house. Can I use it?" he asked. "After a pause they said, 'Well, yes.'"

Spiegelman and Johnston got back to work creating a silent story facilitated by live music. The debut performance of what became "Wordless" received a standing ovation at the iconic opera house.

"I was high for about half an hour afterwards," Spiegelman recalled.

Then it hit him: Now what?

Upon his return to New York, Spiegelman arranged for four more performances last winter, leading to the eight-city tour across the United States this October.

The response has been positive, he said.

"It crosses through comics, but it's about something else," he said. "It's about thought and the way you think and the visual aspects that are making you feel something."

Music takes the place of words by pointing to "emotional registers," he said. "There's a kind of richness to things that don't get tied down by words. Words kind of staple things in place."

Words are part of what got Spiegelman in trouble last month, when he criticized Israel on Facebook alongside side-by-side illustrations of David and Goliath. Using the artistic technique of forced perspective, in one panel David appears bigger than Goliath. His controversial statement received thousands more hits than his typical posts about art.

"Now I know the word 'like' can mean 'I'll kill you on sight,'" he said.

"People are so preprogrammed to have responses that there's no perspective possible," he said. "They just come up with their noses up against your face so there's no room for 3D."

Art, especially comics, is not immune to politics, and Spiegelman is no stranger to controversy.

"Part of making something in the world has a political dimension to it," he said. "That has to come out in one way or another."

If you go:
 If you go: "Wordless" premieres in Seattle at the Moore Theatre Sunday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$17.50. For tickets and information visit bit.ly/1oYbEFz. Want a pair of free tickets? Visit and like our Facebook page for a chance to win! Facebook.com/jtnews.

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One in four Ashkenazi Jews is a carrier of at least one in 19 genetic diseases; one in three Sephardic or Persian Jews is a carrier of at least one in eight diseases. If you and your partner happen to both be carriers of a genetic disease, your future children could be at risk. Everyone between the ages of 18 and 50 considering children is invited to this community screening to get tested and learn more.

Screening is affordable to those who hold any Washington State health insurance. If you do not have insurance, please contact Nancy Citrin at 404-312-4892 or nancy.lajgdprevention@gmail.com.

Registration is recommended. Visit jgdprevention.cvent.com/GetScreenedSeattle. At Hillel at the University of Washington, 4745 17th Ave. NE, Seattle.

■ Temples De Hirsch Sinai and Beth Am to swab for bone marrow donors on Yom Kippur

Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Temple Beth Am, in partnership with the Union for Reform Judaism and Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation, will be organizing a bone marrow registration drive this Yom Kippur, October 4. Gift of Life

is North America's only Jewish bone marrow donor registry. A simple cheek swab has the potential to connect donors with patients suffering from leukemia, lymphoma, and other blood cancers and genetic disorders.

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◀ SJCC ROADMAP PAGE 7

Beth Am and summer day camp at Seattle Jewish Community School. But that's where the community engagement component comes in.

"There's a lot of brick and mortar across greater Seattle, and you can take programs in and out of those physical spaces regardless of who the sponsor is, and fully maximize the investment the community has made in all of that brick and mortar," Neuman said.

The impetus for this plan came from a board realization that it needed a longer-term view of where to invest its time and energy, according to Liz Friedman, who with current board president Aaron Wolff co-chaired the strategic plan committee.

"We found that in order to meet the overall vision and mission and values at the 'J,' we would need to really deliver value to the community along each of those four [priorities]," Friedman said. "The plan really is a way of breaking

down some of those bigger, harder decisions or discussions, putting an order to them and priority to them, and really breaking them down into manageable pieces so we could make progress on the big, hard things instead of postponing them."

Over the past year, the committee, which included senior staff, board members, SJCC members, and some non-members, worked with a consultant and the wider community to set the direction.

At the end of this three-year process, the SJCC's staff and lay leaders all hope to have a greater insight into the organization's identity and impact on the community, in addition to the more tangible improvements.

"I expect to have a lot more information on all these [priority] areas, a lot more visibility on what we offer, and hopefully even greater commitment from the community and investment in the organization," Friedman said. "There's just a unique and special energy there right now."

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Young Seattle's Rosh Hashanah: Think different. Pray different.

JANIS SIEGEL JTNews Correspondent

Temple De Hirsch Sinai took a programming risk with Rosh Hashanah this year and it paid off — big time.

On the second night of 5775, nearly 100 Jews in their 20s and 30s showed up at Sole Repair Shop, an event space in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood, for an unconventional service sponsored by TDHS's young adult group, The Tribe.

"We will start 5775 as the people we want to be," read the invitation. "We will be doing, not sitting. We will be with community, not feeling isolated from it."

"It was packed," Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen told JTNews. "It was mostly people who were unaffiliated in the city and transplants that came here for professional reasons. We had 80 RSVPs and people who walked in off of the street."

Refresh 5775 was paid for with an \$11,000 grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle, which covered all event expenses. Publicity for the free event came from posters, announcements on public radio stations KEXP and KUOW, and the Pandora online music service.

"The people responded to something that's different," said Cohen. "There are incredible things happening in the Jewish community of Seattle. This has left me incredibly excited about what's possible — not just for The Tribe."

Once inside, guests were treated to wines and hors d'oeuvres before walking through four individual spiritual "work" stations at their own pace. One of the activities included a private Tashlich room, where visitors could create a personal and private Rosh Hashanah ritual.

"When I sit through a regular Rosh Hashanah service I go through the motions," said Seattleite Nick Barrat, 33, who liked being surrounded by his peers as well as the interactive liturgy. "Prayer is not always about routine and repetition. True prayer is about expression of appreciation for all our blessings and having had the chance to have some personal reflection."

Cohen also created a take-home combination prayer book and personal writing journal.

"I write the sermons that I would want

to hear," said Cohen, "and I plan events that I would want to go to. Hopefully, it will give all of us a chance to hit refresh on our own lives."

Other activities gave participants the chance to answer 10 Jewish New Year-related questions from their smartphones and to write a letter to themselves with their hopes and intentions for the New Year. Cohen will hang on to the letters and send them back to each participant next year. In another activity, guests were encouraged to write a holiday thought on a strip of colored paper that was strung across a wall during the evening.

Izzy Sederbaum, 27, originally from the East Coast, found the laid-back Seattle



The group of young adults who took part at Temple De Hirsch Sinai's Refresh event.

JOSH COHEN

jeans-and-prayer environment much less formal than the services he's used to, but he quickly felt at home.

"Everyone knew most of the liturgy, and as a result, the evening had a very familiar feeling, like revisiting a place you hadn't been since childhood," Sederbaum said. "I really think it was the Refresh event that really solidified my feeling that with the beginning of 5775 I was 'coming back' to

► PAGE 22

Kehilla | Our Community

Kehilla is our community

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Real estate company enters a new era

BORIS KURBANOV JTNews Correspondent

Nearly 50 years after the late Morris Piha opened his commercial real estate company, Morris Piha Real Estate Services, the firm has rebranded, announcing its new name on Sept. 17 as Azose Commercial Properties. Long known for being one of Puget Sound's top commercial real estate firms, the name change represents the company's evolution since its inception in 1965.



Dave Azose



Michael Azose

The company recently relocated from its Bellevue headquarters to Mercer Island, said president and CEO David Azose, though you shouldn't expect big changes—the game is the same, just with a new name. Property management—the firm owns 130 properties and manages nearly 3.5 million square feet of property from Olympia to Bellingham—will remain the company's focal point. Prop-

erties the firm owns includes offices, retail, and industrial warehouses. The firm also brokers real estate deals and invests in real estate.

"The reality is the new brand is simply an extension of who we were before," said vice president Michael Azose, David's son. "The people that are here, the principles, the service we offer, is exactly the same. Our family has always been a family business, so the new name, the new brand, simply reflects where we are today."



Jay Azose

Michael's brother Jay Azose is also a vice president of the company.

The rebranding effort began this summer as the firm rolled out a new logo and website.

"At the end of the day, all you have is your name and your reputation," Piha would say before he died last year at the age of 79, following a battle with cancer. After founding the firm, the proud yet inconspicuous Piha acquired hundreds of properties in the Northwest over the span of his 48-year career. At one time, Piha owned most of historic downtown Bellingham.

Today, what does success look like for the Azoses?

"It's really all about customer service, and being in this business for 50 years,

and the long-term relationships is what we pride ourselves on," David Azose said.

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the Judaism I had left behind.”

TDHS membership concierge and marketing director Lisa Flora Meyers wrote a dramatic monologue about the Rosh Hashanah Torah story, “The Binding of Isaac” — but from the perspective of the matriarch Sarah. That took the audience by surprise.

“It was unexpected and it caught people

off guard, which was absolutely my intent,” Meyers, who holds a master’s degree in playwrighting, told JTNews. “Rabbi Cohen essentially challenged me to take the text and transform it, and view it with a critical, interrogative eye.”

Later, small groups gathered and shared their impressions.

“I — cannot love my husband quite as much anymore,” spoke Sarah, played by

Seattle actress and JTNews writer Erin Pike. “I know that he was doing what was right by God...I was not there but it haunts me... the image of it cycles through my mind....”

“I became really excited about telling Sarah’s story and getting deep into her heart and her pain,” said Meyers. “I wanted people to feel what Sarah was feeling, and for that to spark questions about Abraham’s choice and about the nature of God

and God’s actions.”

Cohen’s plan is for the Tribe, which meets at local brewpubs and holds apple-tini parties during Sukkot, to build on the energy from this event and plan more gatherings to keep this demographic engaged.

“How am I going to take it to the next level?” asked Cohen, accepting the challenge. “I’m just happy that people are seeking out a Jewish life for themselves.”

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“We just did one little step at a time. It wasn’t us going out and picking up 80 properties overnight.”

David Azose said the family-owned firm prides itself on its relationships and the ability to help local family-owned companies who own real estate, as well as foreign investors. David Azose, who married into the Piha family, has been with the firm since 1977. He said he attributes the firm’s growth to its client, vendor and attorney referral network.

David Azose and Piha became equal partners in the early 1980s, with Azose taking over as president in 1984. Under their direction, the firm grew to become

the 15th-largest commercial property management company in the region. After Piha died, Azose bought the balance of the company.

Since 2011, the firm has seen remarkable growth, particularly within the property management side of its operations, growing the number of properties it manages by more than 25 percent.

Just how strong is the retail market these days in the Puget Sound region? It varies, depending on where you are, Michael Azose said.

“The closer you are to major cities, things are great because businesses are starting and expanding,” he said. “As you sprawl further out, what we’ve found is those markets aren’t doing as great. And

it’s not a function of the economies; primarily, it’s that they’re overbuilt — what we get is more space than that market can support.”

That said, “the Pacific Northwest is and will continue to be a sought-after market for commercial real estate investment,” though he noted that such communities as Auburn and Bonney Lake continue to struggle. Investors, he said — both domestic and foreign — should “carefully navigate prospective properties to ensure that they are not just good properties today, but quality assets to hold indefinitely.”

Real estate as a whole is never a straight line, Michael Azose said, noting that investors should look at cycles and referrals. A lot of Azose Commercial Properties’ referrals have come from within Seattle’s Jewish community, with which

the firm has close ties.

“A lot of the relationships we have are with the Jewish families,” he said. “There are a lot of families that have been with us ever since the very beginning.”

Piha supported and served on the boards of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Samis Foundation, Foundation Bank and the Sephardic Brotherhood, and David Azose began serving on the Samis board shortly after Piha’s death.

“We are a continuation of the foundation Morrie laid, and I feel proud we’ve stuck to his high standards,” David Azose said. “The way we do business, the way we operate and the way we treat people, all comes from Morrie and what he was about. My hope is I’ll be able to leave this legacy and someday pass the torch to Michael.”

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MARIAN LYLE RIVKIN ZAK
 October 8, 1925–September 17, 2014


Marian Lyle Rivkin Zak, age 88, of Mercer Island, passed away peacefully in her sleep on September 17, 2014. She was born on October 8, 1925 to William Herbert Rivkin and Minnie Sentner of Seattle. Marian was the oldest of four siblings who all grew up in Seattle and attended Garfield High School.

After graduating from Garfield, Marian attended the University of Washington, but left her studies during World War II to work for Boeing.

Many of the Jewish community from Seattle would vacation at Soap Lake in Eastern Washington, and it was there that she was introduced to her future husband. On June 26, 1949, Marian married Marvin Zak, a pharmacist. Soon after they moved to Mercer Island to raise their three children. When the children were in school, Marian immersed herself in the Jewish community, becoming president of the Eastside chapter of Hadassah. Her life was spent in giving her time, her skills, her compassion, and her caring for family and her many friends.

At age 79, Marian was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and underwent experimental treatment orchestrated by her brother, Dr. Saul Rivkin, well known as a pioneer in the treatment of this disease. Amazingly, she survived and went on to live another ten years. This gift of a decade of life enabled her to witness both her granddaughters graduate from university and take rides in an airplane that one of them piloted.

Marian was preceded in death by one sister, Jeanette Duchin, and her husband of 55 years, Marvin Zak. She is survived by her sister, Shirley DiFrancisco; brother Saul Rivkin, M.D.; her three children Jonathan Zak (Bev True); Karen Zak; Daniel Zak (Louise Zak); and granddaughters, Hanne Zak, Ariel Zak and Denise True.

Marian was a vigorous, gutsy woman who maintained Jewish customs and traditions in her home and stood up for women's rights. She traveled extensively with her husband, visiting four continents.

She never shied away from taking the plunge, whether it be on a boat to Antarctica, or putting herself on Facebook in her 80s to keep up with the newer generation. She loved to garden and took pleasure in the beauty of nature. Until her last few years, she would walk and swim daily at the Bellevue YMCA and go hiking with her family.

A week before her death she spent a beautiful sunny day quietly sitting at Sunrise, enjoying the view of Mt. Rainier and, undoubtedly, treasuring the memories of many days spent amidst wildflowers, green meadows, valleys and rivers within the mountains.

The Zak family would like to thank everyone who attended her memorial ceremony.

Remembrances may be sent to Hadassah or the Marsha Rivkin Cancer Center, 801 Broadway #701, Seattle, Washington 98122.

Burial was at Herzl Cemetery in Shoreline on Friday, September 19, 2014.


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Rick Steves in the Holy Land: Strictly travel, and understanding

BORIS KURBANOV JTNews Correspondent

Last October, America's favorite travel guru Rick Steves left for Israel with one goal: To "show both narratives" and help people in the West better understand the players involved in the Holy Land. There, he filmed his latest TV travelogue, "Rick Steves' The Holy Land: Israelis and Palestinians Today," which he premiered and discussed at a special preview screening at the University of Washington September 23.

The program will air October 5 at 7:30 p.m. on KCTS 9 in Seattle.

"I know this is complicated and it's contentious, and I imagine some people on both sides are already upset with me," Steves says in a bustling West Bank market

four minutes in. "But I'm a travel writer, and the beauty for me is to come here with an open mind and learn."

Steves, a Seattle native, sees himself not only as a travel guide, but also as an alternative source of information for Westerners, examining social and cultural issues and entwining together both Israeli and Palestinian narratives. He shared the lessons he learned while making his way through Israel and the Palestinian territories while giving context to the challenges facing the conflict-ravaged region, including disputed settlements, the security wall Israel erected in 2003, as well as refugee camps in Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Nablus in the West Bank.

Steves declined to visit Gaza, where violence erupted this summer. An audience member questioned him about not doing so.

" Hamas is violent, and Hamas does not agree to the existence of Israel," Steves said. "I didn't want to get embroiled in Gaza because Hamas employs and endorses violent tactics. And I did not want anything to do with that."

Steves said he hopes those who aren't able to visit Israel can live vicariously through his experience, from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to Bethlehem and Ramallah, interacting with residents and tour guides along the way. The key to understanding why the Israelis and Palestinians act the way they do politically, militarily and economically, he said, is having empathy for both sides.

Steves is a firm believer that traveling is the best way for people to truly understand other cultures and conflicts, and he said his challenge as a TV producer was to give this dual narrative and present a balanced look at the region while humanizing both sides.

"It is critical that we understand other people's baggage and scar tissue," he said. "The way I see it, there are 10 percent of people in our society dug in on this side and dug in on that side, and unless you take their narrative only, they're going to be upset with what you've got to offer. Then, there are the other 80 percent of

people that just want to better understand what makes people on both sides tick."

Make no mistake: "The Holy Land" is focused solely on travel — sights to see and what to expect at such destinations as the Golan Heights, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, and the West Bank — and getting to know the people, as well as their history. It isn't a political documentary, nor was that the intention, Steves said. The goal was to create a documentary that tries to give context, not push any agenda, he said.



COURTESY RICK STEVES & AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION

Israeli children in the West Bank befriend Rick during his shoot.



COURTESY RICK STEVES & AMERICAN PUBLIC TELEVISION

Rick Steves visits Jerusalem's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

If you go:
 "Rick Steves' The Holy Land: Israelis and Palestinians Today" will air on KCTS 9 Seattle on October 5 at 7:30 p.m. On October 28 at 7:30 p.m., Steves will participate in a discussion at Town Hall as part of the Civics series. Tickets are \$5; doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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