



# The Scroll

CAS Scroll - the weekly newsletter of Congregation Ahavas Sholom

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## Mazel Tov Miriam Yosefa Moy Welcome to the Tribe



*Miriam Yosefa Moy studies with Rabbi Rosenbach*

✠n gratitude for my journey which culminated today, March 6, with me going to the Mikvah, I am SO PROUD to announce the launching of the “Russell Moy - Ahavas Sholom NJPAC Jazz for Teens Scholarship Fund”. Russell, whose birthday was incredibly also today, March 6, passed away in 2011.

Russell, my husband, was an avid Jazz drummer and teacher and would be extremely proud of Ahavas Sholom for embracing the Jazz for Teens program as part of our community outreach.

It is so fitting to be honoring him through this scholarship fund and we welcome your support in joining us and keeping his legacy alive and well! His life's passion was teaching and giving opportunities to those rising stars who might never have had a chance to meet and learn from music's great legends! The joy that I feel on this most auspicious day of my conversion will convert his dreams that he can no longer actualize into a dream come true for a student that would have otherwise not had an opportunity to attend a Jazz camp. Please join us in honoring both Russell and Marianne for both their contributions and journey together!

Donations should be made to Ahavas

Sholom through check, debit or credit card and simply noting "Russell Moy scholarship fund" on check or card. Your support is greatly appreciated and tax deductible! ☆

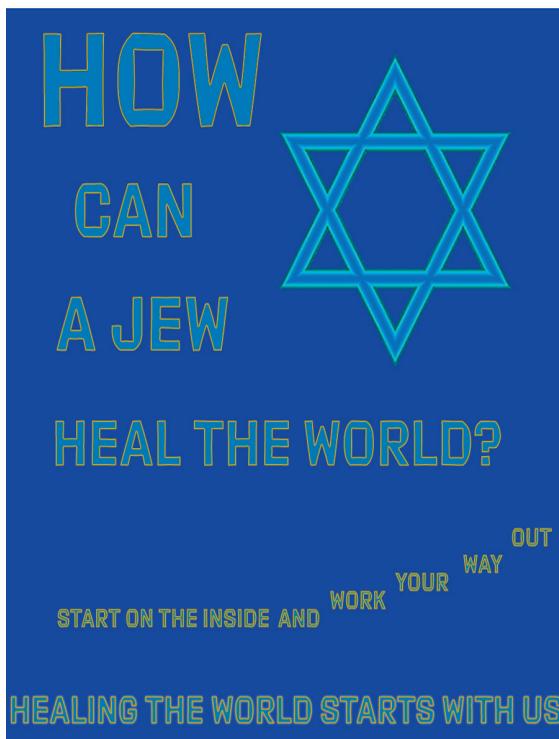


*Russ and Marianne Moy*

## Kosher Warning

### **Not all Entenmann's products are certified Kosher.**

Last year, Bimbo Bakeries USA, the largest baking company in the United States announced it would cease carrying Kosher certification labels on almost all of their breads. The announcement covered many of their best known brands including Arnold, Sara Lee, Stroehmann, Freihofer's and others. At the time, they also announced some brands like Entenmann's and Thomas would retain their kosher status; but, that only applied to the breads. The notion that all Entenmann products are Kosher no longer holds; *please check your product's labeling before purchasing them.*



# Nava Gidanian-Kagan Exhibit 'Unfolded' Opens at JMNJ



*Nava Gidanian-Kagan*

Sunday, March 3, 2019, marked the opening of The Jewish Museum of New Jersey's latest exhibit, 'Unfolded.' The exhibit, curated by Matt Gosser, features the works of multi-talented artist Nava Gidanian-Kagan. Nava Gidanian-Kagan is an Iranian born Israeli Jewish mix-media artist, who now resides in Jersey City, NJ. In describing her work Miss Kagan said, "The core subject of my work is the nature of impermanence and its manifestation in our daily life. Coming from an Iranian family, moving from Israel, where life and death are a daily struggle; I know that life is precious. "Written in Skin" series is painted in layers of wax and oil, emulating a memory of the body and its fragility. Abstracted within the figure; I am stretching the limits between what is seen and what can be represented, confronting mortality and vulnerability. The goal of

my work is to bring these tender moments to the front of the stage; from my personal view to a universal one and transform them into a meaningful experience that embraces all shades of life. The evolution of Miss Kagan's work has been fueled by environment, school, travel, and an experienced life. That evolution is in full display in this exhibit; from the standard-sized intimate portraits, that are of a classical nature, to the experiments in clay and color, to her behemoth interpretations of the fragility of the human body that dominate so many of the museum's walls. She told me of a series she did on dancers. She described how when she would enter the studio, the dancers would posture and aggrandize themselves; but, after a while they would get used to her being there, and eventually, she'd become invisible, and the real dancer, the dancer she had come to capture, would be revealed. Interestingly, when she showed the work to her fellow art students, they didn't see dancers, they saw something else. They hadn't seen what she'd seen; they hadn't seen what she'd created. Knowing she was Israeli, they saw a representation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They hadn't actually seen... they had only projected. Nava Gidanian-Kagan will hold an artist talk on her journey; but no date has been set yet. ✨

# Simon Says

*Weekly insights from Rabbi Simon Rosebach*

**T**he Book of Exodus comes to a close with the erection of the Mishkan and the anointing of Aaron and his sons as priests. Even though the Mishkan was made to be portable, it seems that the Book of Exodus assumes the Israelites would stay put. But if you read farther, at the end of the Book, you know that God has other plans for the Israelites: “when the cloud lifted from the Tabernacle, the Israelites would set out, on their various journey; but if the cloud did not lift, they would not set out until such time as it did lift.”

The Israelites pillar of fire and the guided the Israelites journey. The Israelites agonize about their need to consult maps route was the shortest, safest, what route was little children. Not so

*God can be a safety net; but, we learn from our mistakes.*

were lucky. The pillar of smoke to the end of their ites didn't need to route, they didn't to determine what what route was the the easiest for the most of us.

Most of us needed to seek a mate, and we probably settled on that mate with many false starts. Most of us needed to pick a college, and our guidance counselor, who was most assuredly not God, helped us. We needed to pick a major, and we needed to find a job. We needed to find a place to live, and we needed to teach our children not to make the same mistakes that we did (that effort was unavailing).

But God's assistance to the Israelites has two sides. With luck, we learn from our mistakes, but first we have to make the mistakes. Should God have worked behind the scenes, to shepherd the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan, to insure that the Israelites would learn from their mistakes? Did God make a mistake in telling the Israelites when to move, when to stay put, and telling the Israelites where to go?

You can't argue with success. We Jews have been around a long time. But maybe the Israelites would have been better served if God had let them make their own mistakes. God doesn't overtly show most of us the way, but most of us make our way in life nevertheless. God can be a safety net, but we learn from our mistakes. 

# Purim: a story of Survival

*A tradition of dressing up.*



**P**urim is the holiday in which we celebrate God's saving the Jewish people from the nefarious designs of the evil Haman, by reading the book of Ester. Interestingly, God does not intervene directly; the people are saved through the cunning of Mordechai and King Achashverosh's love for, the story's heroine, Ester. In fact, it's the only Jewish holiday story that doesn't even reference God. Though not a major holiday; it's extremely popular, particularly among our children. Our kids get to dress up in

costume and share gift baskets, they get to eat sweets and play with their friends, and they get to make tons of noise without fear of their parents shushing them. To be honest, that last perk is conditional; they can make crazy noise; as long as they make it on cue. On Purim, as we read the book of Ester (also known as the Megillah) it is traditional to make loud noises whenever the evil Haman's name is mentioned. Every reference to the villain in this story is met with the loud and boisterous sounds of noisemakers, tin Groggers and the simple banging of hands against chairs. The revelers make loud noises in every direct reference to him, affectively drowning out his name to the joy of all around.

Comparing Purim to Halloween can lead to vigorous debate, and perhaps an argument or two; so, we won't be doing that here. Even so, there are undeniable similarities. Both are mainly for children (although that was not always the case; many parents still enjoy these





holidays, if only vicariously through our children; both offer treats and quite often a party; both embrace dressing up in costume. Now, that's a big one. Costume sales statistics are not broken down by holiday and the holiday and Halloween sales statistics are much more readily available than Purim sales statistics.

According to National Retail Federation's annual survey, Halloween sales were estimated at 9 billion dollars in 2018. While that was down slightly from the 9.1 billion of the previous year, it still indicates the 175 million shoppers who purchased Halloween items, spent an average of \$86.79 on costumes candy and decorations last year. 90 percent of Americans purchased Halloween candy, last year expending \$2.2 million, and 75 percent of Americans purchased

Halloween decorations last year, expending 2.7 billion. Unsurprisingly, costumes were the costliest of all Halloween expenditures last year, still 75 percent of Americans spent a total of 3.2 billion, purchasing some type of costume.

That, however, is when the comparisons end. Purim is a religious/ cultural holiday and many costumes reflect that. While not impossible, one is much less likely to see a child celebrating Purim dressed as a ghost, skeleton or a witch; historical and biblical characters are still costume staples within the Jewish community. Even the community itself will hold certain traditions.

"Here in the Chabad community, the children are brought up to shy away from what's popular. Purim costumes are supposed to reflect an aspect of our ideals & aspirations," said Dalia S, a mother of two. "If they're traditional, they dress up as Mordechai, ha Tzaddik and Queen Esther, if they're creative, sky's the limit." Isabela Dias-Freedman also sees many dressing as historical characters, "I see people dressed as Esther, Mordechai, even Haman". However, she also sees a lot of children dressing as super heroes during the holidays. Elad Nehorai, Founder and Editor-in-Chief at Hevria, acknowledged, that a group as diverse as the Jewish people is difficult to pin down; but, added, "I know that in my community, many boys like to dress as the Cohen Gadol and young girls generally dress as princesses or kosher animals." Of course, we can never underestimate the popularity of dressing like Moshe on Purim. The types of costumes worn during the holidays can run the gamut from clowns to princesses, and from animals (kosher animals that is) to Tzedakah Boxes; all in the name of tradition and fun. There is one last major difference. In Jewish tradition, a big Part of Purim is giving as opposed to receiving; but we'll save that for next week. ☆

### Birthday Wishes

**B**irthday wishes to the lovely, and talented April Modlinger, who recently had her work exhibited at a local art gallery. Happy Birthday April from all of us at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, may you enjoy many more to come.

**D**o you have a birthday, anniversary, graduation or any other life event you would care to share with the CAS Scroll Newsletter, just let us know.

**Congregation Ahavas Sholom**  
Adult Bar/bat Mitzvah class is hard at work; come join us for Shabbat on March 16, 2019



**J**oin us this Saturday for Shabbat services. Strangers, visitors, friends, old and new; our doors are open to you. Looking for a new home? New members are always welcome at Congregation Ahavas Sholom services starts at 9:00AM. Our congregation is open and welcoming, so feel free to pay us a visit.

### Kiddush Sponsorship

**L**ast week Kiddush was sponsored by April Modlinger . This week's kiddush is being sponsored by Marianne Moy, in celebration of her joining the tribe. The cost of sponsoring Kiddush is \$150, which barely covers the cost of the lunch. Our goal is to have every Kiddush sponsored. To sponsor a Kiddush, email Rabbi Rosenbach or contact Alla Eicheldinger at [Alla7815@yahoo.com](mailto:Alla7815@yahoo.com). You can also help us by shopping, which doesn't cost any money, just a little time.

We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. 

# Measles Outbreak in New York's Orthodox Community Tops 200 Cases

*New York City is facing its highest instance of measles infection in decades.*

**T**he Orthodox Jewish Community was hit with another ten cases of measles, last week; pushing the number of confirmed cases over 200. Most of the cases were found in Borough Park and Williamsburg Brooklyn, and several more in Rockland County. Danielle De Souza, NYC Department of Health spokesperson, attributed the outbreak to people, particularly children being unvaccinated or under vaccinated. “The outbreak would not have occurred had the children been vaccinated on time,” said De Souza. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) a child should be vaccinated for measles, mumps, and Rubella within the first year, and another between the ages of four and six years old. When they don’t receive them on time a child may become vulnerable to the disease. This risked is multiplied exponentially when a child is brought into a high risk environment, like a place where a large number of other children have not received the required vaccinations. City health officials believe the orthodox students were infected at day school. The situation is further complicated by familial travel between the United States and Israel. In Israel, where a large section of ultra- orthodox Jews are unvaccinated, the disease is running roughshod through the community. Between March 2018 and January of this year Israel’s Minister of health reported 3,400 cases of measles. According to a CDC report, this is not the first time Brooklyn’s orthodox community has been beset with large instances of measles infections. In 2013, 58 cases were reported in the same area, including; six generations of measles infection in two neighborhoods of the borough of Brooklyn. Many in the community still don’t have their children vaccinated for religious reasons; others continue to listen to vaccination fear mongers spouting long debunked theories. Measles is a highly contagious, acute viral illness that can lead to serious complications. Measles infections are rarely fatal; but it does happen. Although measles was eliminated in the United States in 2000, importations of the virus continue to cause outbreaks. While the current number of infectious cases in New York’s orthodox Jewish community is over 200 and rising, the highest recent case of infection was 2014, in Ohio, where 700 cases of measles were reported in the countryside of the Amish community. The Amish are another heavily insulated group. 

**The outbreak would not have occurred had the children been vaccinated on time,”**