




## Jewish Siblings, Among the Victims of Terror Attack in Sri Lanka



*Daniel and Amelie Linsey*

Linsey at a Colombo Hotel. I told them I wanted a bit more, said Matthew Linsey, my daughter said I'll get it; then, a bomb went off and he saw his children running toward him. Then, another explosion and he saw his children on the floor, unconscious. National Towheed Jamaat, a splinter Muslim militant group, has been blamed for the carnage. The attacks were reputedly in retaliation to the mosque attacks in Christchurch New Zealand earlier this month. Daniel and Amelie Linsey were active members of London's Westminster Synagogue. "While the intended target of this atrocity were clearly meant to be Christian, the terrorists' bombs did not discriminate," said Howard Leigh, a member of the House of Lords and president of Westminster Synagogue. 

**A** Jewish brother and sister were among those killed during a coordinated terror attack by Islamic terrorists in Sri Lanka on Easter morning. Daniel Linsey (19) and his sister Amelie Linsey (15) were among the 253 victims of the Easter morning bombings. Daniel and Amelie Linsey, who held dual citizenships in the United State and United Kingdom, were enjoying a meal with their father, Matthew

# Student Model Seder, Photo Book

*Here are a few additional photos from the wonderful and inspirational model Seder, held a few weeks ago at the Synagogue.*





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## groups

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# Is Humanity Stuck in a Downward Spiral of Hate and Polarization, Or Can We Find a Better Way Forward?

Although the Holocaust happened some 75 years ago, religion-based hate crimes and the audacious rise of white nationalists continue to roil the U.S. and the world, from the Tree of Life massacre of Jews in Pittsburgh to the senseless loss of Muslim lives in Christchurch, New Zealand.


As Israel and the world prepare to celebrate Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day marked by the period from April 28 through May 2, and the number of living Holocaust survivors continues to fall, second-generation Holocaust survivor Ellen Korman Mains maintains that this topic could not be more current.

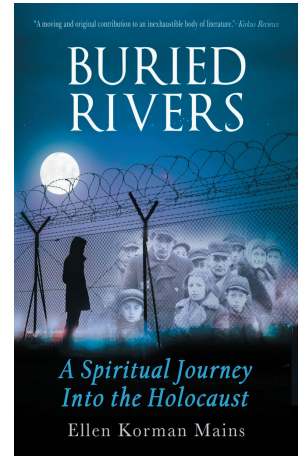
Mains says, “It’s important to commemorate these events, not only to remember the dead and overcome ignorance of the past, but to take stock of our personal and societal patterns in the present and how we can shift these so that genocides and mass violence don’t continue into the future.”

Mains adds, “Since the Holocaust could not have happened without the silent participation of bystanders – ordinary people not so different from ourselves – we need to look at the deeper roots of genocide and how we can prevent them from spreading.”

In her No. 1 Amazon bestseller, *Buried Rivers: A Spiritual Journey into the Holocaust* (West Lake Books), Mains, whose mother survived Auschwitz, explores the question “How can you still believe in basic goodness?” while journeying through Poland and Germany, where she felt troubled spirits seeking answers to this question.

In an interview, Mains, who will be giving a Yom HaShoah talk based on her book at the Boulder JCC at noon on May 1, can answer such questions as:

- What do the roots of nationalism and of genocide have in common?
- The Politics of Us and Them: Can religious or spiritual practice help us come together or do these only serve to divide and polarize us more?
- The Cycle of Victim/Perpetrator: How do we shift from blaming others to creating positive action in the world?
- Why is it easier to believe in lies than to deal with the complexity of truth? 



# Simon Says

*Weekly insights from Rabbi Simon Rosebach*



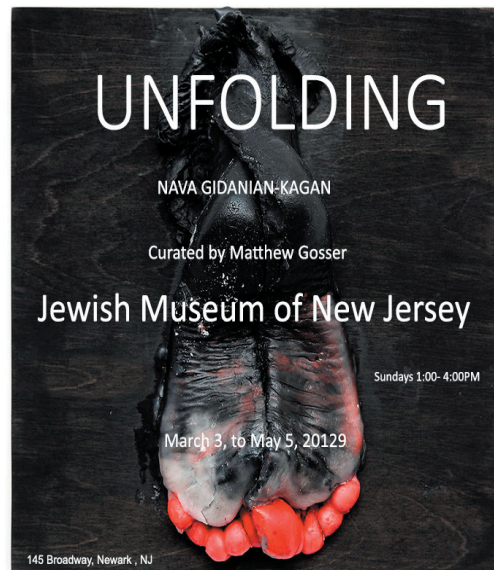
## ***Rabbi Simon Rosenbach***

of Pesach, “I want the Egyptians to know that I am God.”

On reflection, I think that the Torah was written for the Israelites. They had a unique way of thinking (Jews still have a unique way of thinking), and they were surrounded by peoples who were pagans. These peoples had river gods, tree gods, earthquake gods, rainbow gods, fertility gods, and these peoples were always enticing the Israelites. No wonder: these peoples participated in drunken orgies, they ate all manner of foods, they didn’t have as many rules as the Israelites did to constrain their behavior. The Israelites needed to be reminded time and again to worship God and to obey God’s laws. I think that the Torah didn’t (and doesn’t) mean to reflect that God has an ego. I think that the Torah didn’t (and doesn’t) mean that God wants to be worshipped and adored and feared and loved. I think that the Torah is reminding the Israelites (and

Does God have an ego? It seems strange to me that God, who created the entire universe out of nothing, wants to be worshipped, praised, adored, feared, and respected, by puny humans. What are humans compared to black holes? What are humans compared to quasars? What are humans compared to the rings of Saturn, or the Great Red Spot of Jupiter, or even to the Grand Canyon, for that matter?

God created billions of stars, and galaxies, and planets, probably teeming with life. And on earth, we have millions of species of insects, millions of species of birds, millions of species of fish, millions of species of plants, and countless (I don’t know about millions) species of mammals. You think that a God who created such diversity wants every human to worship God in the same manner? Yet God says in the Torah reading for the seventh day



present-day Jews) that there is the God of our culture, and there are other cultures' gods that we must avoid. I think that when the Torah has God saying, "I want the Egyptians to know that I am God," the Torah is saying, "I want to remind the Israelites that I am their God."

God doesn't mind that the rest of the peoples on earth worship gods other than God. God wants to ensure that the Israelites don't worship another god. The Torah reinforces this philosophy by making God appear to be sending a message to the Egyptians. In reality, the Torah is sending a message to the Israelites that they should refrain from worshipping any other god. ☆

## Kiddush Sponsorship

**L**ast week Kiddush was sponsored by Rasbbi Simon Rosenbach in honor his son's upcoming wedding. 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.

## Shabbat Services

**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.



### Help Us Remodel Our Kitchen

It's been estimated it will take \$60, 000 to properly renovate out kitchen.

April Modlinger, who has always been a pillar at Congregation Ahavas Sholom, has generously pledged \$10, 000 to making this happen.

We have recently received another pledge for \$2,200, bringing the total to 12, 200.

With you help Congregation Ahavas Sholom will soon have a kitchen we all deserve.

**Make your pledge today!**