



The Scroll

CAS Scroll - the weekly newsletter of Congregation Ahavas Shalom

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**HAPPY
INDEPENDENCE
DAY**

A Mother's Day tribute

Mother's day is this Sunday and as important as fathers are, let's be honest; it's all about mom. I wanted to dedicate some space, to give those who so desired, the opportunity to pay homage to their mother. Some of the participants are congregants of Congregation Ahavas Sholom, others are associated or work with the Museum (JMNJ,) and some are simply wonderful and caring Jews I met along the way.



Joan Podnos with her mother

Joan Podnos

This past April was the 29th anniversary of my mother's death. Not a day has gone by in all those years when I haven't had the impulse to pick up the phone and tell her about something that happened in my life that day. The impulse has weakened over time but the desire to share with my mother never will leave me. I would love her to see what amazing things her grandchildren have accomplished and how sweet and adorable her great grandchildren are. Life certainly goes on after you lose your mother but its never the same.

April Modlinger

My mother was a dear person who had many hardships in her lifetime and she tried to shield me from life's difficulties. I know she loved me dearly.

Harold Kravis



Isabela Dias-Freedman

Dear Mom,

On this mother day I was invited to honor you with some words at the new Ahavas Sholom newsletter, which for long time was your everyday work and pride. Then, I chose to tell you how much I appreciate everything you have done for me, for us your children and for your grandchildren.

Life with you was not always pretty, but one thing we cannot ever forget, your unconditional love for us. And your love comes in all shapes. My memories from childhood growing up are mostly good because of you. We were able to climb trees and eat fruits from them (mango, fig, grapes, guavas), to play outside on the grass, on the dirt, with chicken and dogs, with frogs and birds, including seeing puppies being born from early age, all because you made sure we had a house instead of living in an apartment in the city. You used to take us with you everywhere you went, even if we were always fighting on the back seat. You made sure we always had fun birthday parties, where you will put all your creativity into work, for decorations, games, party favors, all made by you, with little money. In events and parties at school, you will make yourself, with your creativity and sewing abilities, whatever crazy costume we will come up with, including when I wanted to dress up as a tree! You always found a way to get us where we want for our sport activities, even when we did not have money or resources, even if it meant to walk or to find someone to walk with us for 3 miles, every day, to go to horseback riding or tennis classes (I and Paola), or wake up 5:30 am to go to swimming classes (Rodrigo). You never missed, not even once, our sport competitions. You were always there cheering and defending us.

You were also an educator, you taught us to be honest, ethical and respectful to others. You would not always say yes. You let life teach us lessons. You taught us life lessons yourself when necessary, like when I was 6 years old, and the first (and last time!) I took \$0.10 out of your wallet to buy a popsicle at school, you made sure, with your hard words and methods, I will never do this again. You made sure we will always tell the truth, because we knew, lie to you was a very bad option.

By watching you, we learned to be resourceful, to know different stuff. We learned that age and resources should never be a limit to learn anything. You taught yourself how to make house construction projects, how to operate and to fix a computer or a printer, how to use different computer programs, how to paint and draw. You taught yourself accounting and clothes design. You learned English, Spanish, Russian and Hebrew, all to find yourself an income when necessary, or just to have fun. You danced, yes you did! But, you were also a choreographer! As a Montessori and dance teacher you also taught all kinds of children, all ages, always being inclusive in your classes, even in times when no one else did. You never made distinctions to special needs kids, you treated them with respect and valued everything they did! You taught us to not have prejudice, of any kind!

You supported us with our decisions, even when they were not the best ones. You wanted to make

sure we will learned from our own mistakes, as long our life was not at risk, because if it was, then you would be there to protect and defend us, in any situation. You taught us to enjoy family and friends, as we always had family and friend gatherings in our home. You taught us to not give up on our dreams, to fight for them, to persist. You taught us to respect and to love your father, even in times when your relationship with him was not good for you.

As a grandmother, you are the best! So much love! I was very fortunate to have you at my side to help with Akiva, when I needed it most. He was little and I was needed at work. He did not need to go to a day care until he was 2.5yrs old. You took him everywhere you went, including to Ahavas Sholom to work, or everywhere he needed to go, parks, doctors, piano classes, just like you did with us when we were kids. You helped Eric and I to educate him, you taught him how to walk! I could go to work every day in peace, because I knew he was in the best hands possible. Every day of my life I will be grateful for that!

“Mãe” I love you for all you did for us and for everyone else you could help! Thank you for trying to make us decent human beings. And I want to make sure you know, even if I am far away, I always will be there for you, always, for whatever you need, just like you were there for your mom when she needed it the most!

Love you so much! Happy Mother’s Day!

Isabela

Tandy Cronyn



Thinking of Jessie on Mothers Day when I used to take her a bunch of white Mums. You all know about her as a great actress, but she also nurtured beautiful gardens around her Connecticut house and she was a wonderfully elegant cook.

For those who might not know Tandy is the daughter of two wonderful actors, Jessica Tandy and Hume Croyn

Kristie Wilson

Mama

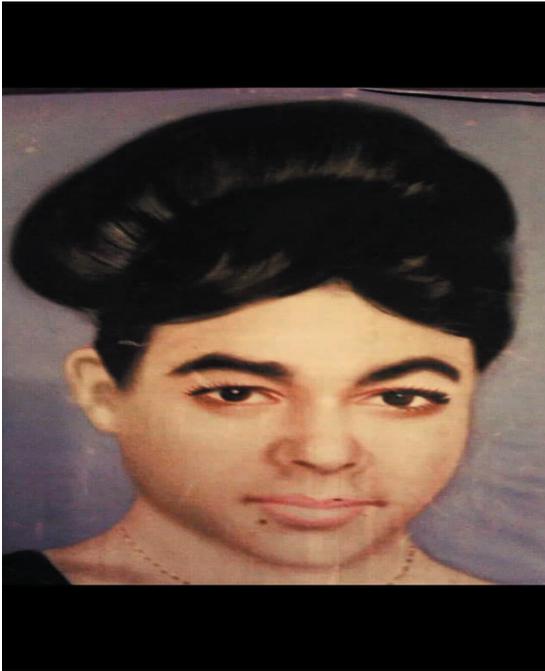
April 5, 1947 a beautiful baby girl
entered into this world
She cried, laughed, and played as
happy, healthy children do.
She loved, explored, imagined and she
dreamed

She lost, experienced tragedy, life
thrust her into adulthood far too early
Decisions, choices most children are
not equipped to handle
Out of the ashes grew a rare diamond
rose

As the pressures ensued encasing her
the coal fell away and the diamond
shone brightly

Rough around the edges, strikingly
beautiful, peculiar, imperfectly perfect
Shaped by affliction, joy, sorrow and
requited love her tomorrow's were
formed for her

Odds stacked against her caused a
passion to endure and insist on success
A jaded life bringing vitality to
obscurity surrounded by strife,
unknowing of the deep seeded effects
of her triumphs



Beth Zak-Cohen



My mother Nancy Zak, as some of you may know is a community organizer in the Ironbound and has accomplished so many great things. Recently, she had a health scare and she has worked so hard to get back to optimal health and keep organizing and working for people, I am very proud of her and I love her very much! / My grandmother Ruth Cohen nee Katzen grew up in Newark and went to Drake's Business College to train as a secretary. When I was born, she lived in Florida. We would visit her and go shopping and swimming and play Rummy and I have many wonderful memories. She was raised by a single mother (Rachel Katzen nee Furst) who also lived in Newark most of her life. My dad has many great memories of card games with his grandmother and she had a big influence on his life! ☆

Simon Says

Weekly insights from Rabbi Simon Rosebach



Rabbi Simon Rosenbach

You shall be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” What does that sentence actually mean? All the words are in English (not in the original), and I know the definition of every one of the words, but what does the sentence actually mean?

We are accustomed (at least, I am accustomed) to being shown a picture of a holy man as an ascetic: a slight man, with a long beard and white hair, wearing ragged clothes, living in a cave, fasting more often than not, and preoccupied with prayer. If you look up “ascetic” in a dictionary, you might find these synonyms: hermit, recluse, solitary, or monk. You might think the essence of holiness is being alone, living a life of deprivation, and getting down on your knees and praying all of you waking hours.

Alternatively, you might think a person is holy when he or she follows all of the commandments, taking pains to not deviate from any religious ritual that his or her religion prescribes. A person who is shomer Shabbos, or a person who goes to mass every day and confesses his or her sins as often as possible. I don’t pretend to be an expert on holiness, but I don’t think that either image is Judaism’s version of holiness.

We are in the middle of what is called the Holiness Code, chapter 17-26 of Leviticus. And this week’s Parashah is called Kedoshim, the plural form of the adjective “holy,” taken from the second verse of this Parashah, the verse that I quoted in the beginning of this column. The Holiness Code is comprised of, among other things, laws that govern a person’s relationship to his or her community. “You shall nor insult the deaf, or place a stumbling block before the blind.” “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field . . . ; you shall leave [the crops at the edge of the field] for the poor and the stranger.” “Do not stand idly by while your neighbor’s blood is shed.” And “love your fellow as yourself.”

Isolation is contrary to the Torah’s view of holiness. You can be holy when you conduct yourself properly in relationship to your fellowmen. Sure, there is a commandment in the Holiness Code to keep the Shabbat. And there is a commandment in the Holiness Code, “You shall observe my laws.” And certainly, “my laws” include the laws of kashrut, which do not involve

the community. And certainly, “my laws” include the laws of sha’atnez (wearing a mixture of wool and linen), which do not involve the community. But the vast majority of the laws in the Holiness Code governs interpersonal relationships. You can’t be holy if you leave your community behind.

And I think the concept of holiness goes farther. I think if you want to be holy, you need affirmatively work to better the community. As Isaiah said in the words that we read on Yom Kippur, feed the hungry, house the homeless, clothe the naked, free the oppressed. I think that you can be holy only if you fight injustice, take care of the downtrodden, and work to better mankind (and the planet, in today’s day and age). I don’t think you need to devote your life to this endeavor, but I think you need to do your part. And in so doing, you will be holy. ✡

Kiddush Sponsorship

Last 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. 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.

Birthday Wishes

Our friend and fellow congregant, Leslie Mishell, celebrates her Birthday this week. Happy Birthday Leslie; we hope you enjoy a truly wonderful day; all the best to you, and your entire family.

Shabbat Services

Join 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.

*“In Israel,
in order to be a realist
you must believe in
miracles.”*

*David Ben-Gurion - first
Prime Minister of Israel*

Angelo Magni releases Debut album

Angelo Magni's Debut Album "Ruah" Boasts a Soothing Spiritual Jazz



Angelo Magni

After 20 years of silence, Angelo Magni is releasing his debut album. Originally from Milan, Italy, the graduate of Boston's Berklee College of Music, has concentrated on business, the only shows he's played during these years were international Jeff Buckley tributes. Magni's debut album *Ruah* is a meditative, jazzy insight into Angelo's spirituality. This music is better listened to late at night, with a glass of wine. Think about listening to someone praying. Ethereal harmonies flow up and down and effortlessly bring crescendos with a smooth warm voice that seems to be whispering in your ears. Angelo sings of a relationship of gratitude and God-partnered walk through daily events

and people met. *Ruah* is "the Breath of Life," or "Holy Spirit" in the Jewish tradition. "Throughout the album I sing about how this spirit brings life, creates situations and ultimately teaches us how to be in touch and united with God," he explains.

The album is available on all streaming and downloading platforms and the official title track video is also released today on YouTube at this address: <https://youtu.be/uDkbNkRXw6Y> ✨

Shtisel Renewed for a third Season.



Israeli drama *Shtisel* has been renewed for a third season. The series, whose fan base exploded in America when it began streaming on Netflix, follows the lives, trials, insecurities, inner desires of an ultra-orthodox (Haredi) Jewish family. The show offers a peek into the lives of a sect of Jews who are often depicted as little more than caricatures on television and

in film. The show has succeeded dramatically in making the characters human, not perfect, not superior; but, human. There has been no word on when the new season will air; but, the show's co-creator, Yehonatan Indursky has confirmed his team is already working on new story lines. ✨

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The company celebrates 6 decades with the NJ premiere of Rennie Harris' *Lazarus* and a *Timeless Ailey* program, plus the iconic *Revelations*.

Fri, May 10 @ 7PM
Community Gospel Choir
Voices from the Greater Newark and surrounding areas unify to make a joyful noise. Directed by Kyle Smith, St. James AME Church, Newark

Sat, May 11 @ 7PM
DanceWorks Studios
An eclectic dance company based in Montclair, NJ performs. Directed by Kathy Costa

Sun, May 12 @ 1:30PM
Reflections of Cry with Judith Jamison
A pre-performance conversation on this renowned work, first performed by Jamison in 1971.



For more information call 973.353.7561. To order online visit njpac.org/fbc

The Kosher Kitchen

We are adding a new section to the scroll this week. The Kosher Kitchen is all about Jewish cuisine and the love affair all Jews have with food. It is our goal to explore, experiment, and embrace Jewish foods across the geographical and cultural spectrum. To feast on timeless Jewish classics while exploring and testing Jewish dishes from around the globe; to break away from our narrow, self-imposed culinary tastes and dive into the whole of Jewish cuisine. Are you ready? Let's go.

We're going to start with a true Jewish classic, Matzo Ball Soup.

Classic Matzo Ball Soup

Ingredients

For the Matzo Balls

- 2 extra large eggs
- 2 tablespoons rendered chicken fat (or canola oil)
- 1/2 cup matzo meal
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

For the Soup

- 6 large carrots , peeled and ends trimmed, cut into thirds
- 4 stalks celery , peeled, cut in half and tied together
- 1 large onion , outer skin removed, kept whole
- 1 (49 ounce) can low-sodium chicken stock
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (12 ounce) package of egg noodles
- 3 cups roasted chicken pieces

Directions

For the matzo balls, beat the eggs and chicken fat (or oil) in a small bowl. In a medium bowl, whisk together the matzo meal, salt, and baking powder. Add in the egg mixture and gently mix with a fork until just combined (do not over mix!) Cover bowl and place in the refrigerator for at least 20 minutes. For fluffy matzo balls, gently shape batter with



your hands into 8, 1-2 inch balls.

In the meantime, place all of the soup ingredients (except the noodles and chicken) in a large pot. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to simmer. Cover and cook until vegetables are tender, but not mushy, about 20 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning, if necessary.

While the soup is simmering, cook your noodles al dente, according to package directions. Remove the noodles with a hand strainer; do not drain the water. Set noodles aside and keep warm.

Add a little more water to the pasta water if it looks low. Bring back to boiling, drop matzo balls into the bubbling water (they will sink), lower heat, cover pot and let gently simmer for 20-25 minutes until all the balls float to the top.

Discard onion and celery from the soup.

Place noodles, shredded chicken, carrots, and 1-2 matzo balls into bowls and ladle soup on top. Serve hot.

Eurovision Song Contest steeped in controversy

Eurovision Song Contest, the international, multi-day music competition has been beset with controversy this year; none of it of its own volition. The 64th Eurovision Song Contest, usually a time of enjoying good music, reveling in the talents of artists from around the world, and immersing oneself in a world of musical camaraderie has found itself surrounded by controversy this year. The music competition; which began in the spring of 1956 with a mere seven competing countries, and broadcast primarily on radio, now features entries from 41 countries, is followed by millions and broadcast throughout the world.

Last year's contest (held in Lisbon Portugal) was won by Israeli singer Netta Barzilai (Netta.) Netta won for her song, 'Toy'. The country the victorious artist represented, plays host to the event the following year, accordingly, this year's event is being held in Israel at the Expo Tel Aviv International Convention Center. As should be expected, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) crowd has been busy trying to disrupt and undermine the competition. Gene Simmons,

lead singer and front man of the rock group, Kiss, spoke out against the proposed boycott of the song contest,; saying , "BDS Can KISS My Tuchus." He continued, "Let music be heard throughout the world, whatever your political point of view is." Other artists have not been so amiable. Peter Gabriel and Pink Floyd's Roger Waters have urged breaking with tradition and moving Eurovision 2019 elsewhere. Waters even attempted to get Madonna to cancel her scheduled guest performance in Tel Aviv. Madonna is scheduled perform two



Eurovision winner 2018 Netta Barzilai



Gene Simmons, "Let the music be heard."

songs on the final day of the event.

BDS proponents have been encouraging musicians and celebrities to boycott this year's event; because, of its being held in Israel. The BDS advocates have also been busily calling on broadcasters, prodding them to not televise the competition, and imploring advertisers to pull out of the event; but, with some 200 million viewers throughout the world expected to watch the multi-day event, there have been no takers, so far. Still, BDS protesters are expected to descend on the com-

petition, and piggyback on the sizable media presence expected to cover the event, in an attempt to promote their cause and further their agenda. Palestinian/ BDS supporters cite Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people for their actions; BDS detractors object to critics holding Israel to a different and more rigid international standard while simultaneously turning a blind eye to other countries that commit true atrocities, simply because it doesn't benefit their cause.

However, that is not the only controversy Eurovision 2019 faces. The competition has three phases; the first round (first Semi-Final) will take place on May 14, the second round (second Semi-Final) will be held on May 16, and the Grand Finale will take place on Saturday, May 18, which is also Shabbat. Israel has serious rules regarding working on our day of rest.

According to Israeli law, it is illegal to work overtime without a permit from the Department of labor. While the finale begins at 9:00PM, Israeli time, approximately one hour after Shabbat ends; it takes long hours, vast resources and lots of manpower to set everything up. The Israeli Labour Ministry has reportedly issued more than 2,000 permits allowing Jewish workers to work this Shabbat.

In Israel, even broaching the issue of working on Shabbat is like navigating a religious and political minefield. Unsurprisingly, the issuance of the work permits led to push-back from the orthodox, ultra-orthodox, and other right leaning groups within the country.

After learning the permits had been issued, the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism Party, canceled coalition negotiations with Netanyahu's Likud party. Calling the decision to issue the permits, "shocking," UTJ co-chair Moshe Gafni said, "His party could not accept "this grave situation." Netanyahu is attempting to garner a right-wing coalition of 65 seats comprising Likud (35 seats), Shas (8), United Torah Judaism (8), Union of Right-Wing Parties (5), Yisrael Beytenu (5) and Kulanu (4).

Eurovision 2019 begins this coming Tuesday, May 14th at 9: PM. ✡



Help Us Remodel Our Kitchen

It's been estimated it will take \$60,000 to properly renovate our 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 your help Congregation Ahavas Sholom will soon have a kitchen we all deserve.

Make your pledge today!