



# Moscow's trouble with Israelis has a deeper meaning

BY ISRAEL KASNETT



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, here pictured with Russian President Vladimir Putin, has been trying to gain the release of Israeli/American Naama Issachar to no avail.

*This Week's Torah Portion: Vayeshev*

 *Candle lighting - 4:14 pm*

## In this week's Scroll

*The Israel/ Moscow relationship is complicated*

*& Naama Issachar's freedom may lie in the balance.*

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December 19, 2019 / JNS) Israel has long had a complicated relationship with Russia. As an ally of

some of the Jewish state's fiercest enemies, such as Iran and Syria, Jerusalem interacts with Moscow carefully and purposefully, walking a fine line to maintain warm ties. However, the recent arrest and imprisonment of Israeli-American Naama Issachar in Russia has brought the complex relationship between the two countries into the public eye.

A Russian court rejected Issachar's appeal on Thursday to mitigate her sentence of seven-and-a-half years in prison on drug offenses after a small amount of marijuana was found in her luggage at a Moscow airport in April. On the same day, 15 Israelis disembarking their plane in Moscow were taken in for questioning by Russian authorities; a similar incident involved 40 Israelis occurred earlier this week. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to bring Issachar home.

"I am not a magician, but one thing I assure you. I will bring Naama Issachar home," he said at a recent rally in Haifa, whose imprisonment by Moscow has widespread outcry in Israel and remained in the headlines for months.

In what appears to have been meant as a not-so-subtle message to Israel, the Russian embassy in Israel stated in a tweet on Wednesday that many Russian tourists had been refused entry to Israel in 2019, including 569 in November alone. Both issues were being addressed in a Thursday meeting between Russian and Israeli diplomats in Jerusalem.

Referring to both of these cases, Micky Aharonson, former head of the foreign-relations directorate of the National Security Council in the Prime Minister's Office and an expert on Russia at the Jerusalem Institute for

Strategy and Security, told JNS that "this is not a consular matter. The Russians are sending us a message. They are not pleased with us, and this has been going on for a long time."

The Syria arena has also created tensions between the two countries. According to Aharonson, these cases are "surrounded by so many other things, such as the growing anger of the Russian military and security establishment towards Israel." For instance, after foreign-media reports emerged earlier this month that Israeli fighter planes carrying out a mission in Syria had to flee from Russian Su-35 planes, Russia came out in the media aggressively, stating that Israel used the airspace of Iraq and Jordan to carry out the mission. Since this was secret and not reported by Israeli media at the time, Russia's tattling was perceived in Israel as revenge.

Aharonson also pointed to the incident of the Russian airplane that was shot down by Syria in September 2018 as a major point of tension between Israel and Russia, which appeared to have been resolved.

Regardless, Aharonson said the Russians are

## **Congregation Ahavas Sholom**

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*Naama Issachar was arrested when a small amount of marijuana was found in her luggage during a stopover in Moscow.*

“discontent with our behavior.” They perceive themselves as having a positive approach to Israel, and they believe Israel is not reciprocating.”

### **‘Standard negotiation tactics’**

Emil Avdaliani, a Eurasia analyst at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, told JNS that Israel’s detentions of Russians is what seems to be the real motivation behind Russia’s actions. Overall, the crisis was instigated right before the meeting of the diplomatic missions of the two states planned on

December 19,” he said. “However, contrary to many opinion articles in the Russian media, the ‘manageable crisis’ is unlikely to turn into a showdown. The Russians simply generated a ‘manageable crisis’ to have an advantage before the talks start.”

Regarding the case of Issachar, Aharonson said “it is a tragic humanitarian case, but it has no impact on the strategic relations between the countries.” Her detention is a sign that Russia is displeased with Israel, he added.

Avdaliani pointed to major Kremlin-related media outlets, which state that indeed Issachar is a part of negotiations. “It is standard negotiation tactics,” he said. “Releasing Issachar is not in Russian interests; they would do so in exchange for concessions from Israel.” Russia reportedly had been pressuring Israel to release Aleksey Burkov, an IT specialist arrested in 2015 on U.S. charges of credit-card fraud, in exchange for Issachar, but last month he was extradited to the United States.

As for the relationship between Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Aharonson said that they have a “positive and respectful relationship, but none of this would hold if Russian interests were at stake. The gestures are there, and it is not to be taken for granted. Netanyahu treats him with a lot of respect, and we see reciprocity in that sense, but it is only until Russian interests are involved.” ✨

# SIMON

# SAYS

**Thought Provoking Insights from Rabbi Simon Rosenbach**



*Rabbi Simon Rosenbach*

**T**he city (or area) of Timnah figures both in this week's Torah portion and in the story of Samson. Judah meets Tamar on the way to Timnah (in Hebrew, Timnatah) and Samson went down to Timnah (in

Hebrew, Timnatah), and meets a Philistine woman that he takes to wife.

In this week's Torah portion, Judah goes up to Timnah, and one sage said that Judah was elevated by his trip to Timnah, that is why the Torah says that Judah goes up. The same sage said that Samson disgraced himself by his journey to Timnah, and that is why the Book of Judges says that Samson goes down. But that doesn't answer the question, what do the Judah-Tamar story and Samson-wife (not Delilah) have in common?

Timnah was, owing to its location because geographical and political boundaries, a place of cultural ambiguity. As one scholar explained, Timnah was a place where questionable sexual or cross-cultural practices took place. Samson's first wife was a Philistine woman (one scholar suggests that she was a Canaanite woman). Tamar is not ethnically identified, but Judah's wife was a Canaanite woman, and we can infer that Tamar was not related to the Abrahamic family.

Now, the Tanach doesn't do anything by

coincidence (but sometimes a cigar is just a cigar). There must be a reason why the only two instances of "Timnatah" occur in these stories. Judah learns humility from the Tamar story, that he

puts to the good use in the end of the Joseph story. Samson didn't learn anything from his trip to Timnah, and I have wracked my brain to see the commonality. If you have any ideas, feel free to... ✨

## CAS Announcement

*On February 1, 2020, we are going to initiate a new form of services. If the response is good, we have this form of services every other month, on the first Shabbat in February, April, June, and so forth. On February 1, we will start services as usual, at 9:30 a.m., but from 10 to 11, we will intensively study the Amidah: the history, the development, the meaning of the prayers, and the choreography. At 11, we will read Torah, and finish the service with the Musaf. We hope the new format gives a better appreciation to whatever portion of the service that study, starting with the Shacharit Amidah, the central prayer of the worship service.*

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### Help us Remodel Our Kitchen

We need \$ 60,000, to remodel our kitchen properly.

April Modlinger, a long time pillar of Ahavas Sholom, got us started with a generous pledge of \$10,000. Others have also pledged;

**but we need more!**

With your help the congregation will soon have a kitchen that will serve us all for years to come.

**Please, Make your  
Pledge Today!**

# Jewish Museum of New Jersey's Annual Jazz Collage Workshop - a Great Success

*Local artist Mansa K. Mussa makes it a day of new friends, great fun, and fabulous art.*



*Masnsa K. Mussa guides a visiting couple in the basics of creating a collage during the latest JMNJ/NJPAC Jazz Collage Workshop at Congregation Ahavas Sholom.*

**T**wo weekends ago the Jewish Museum of New Jersey (JMNJ) in conjunction with the New Jersey Performing Art Center (NJPAC) held its fifth annual Jazz collage Workshop. The workshop, led by the multi-talented Mansa K. Mussa boasted its largest turnout to date. The attendees were eager and enthusiastic and Mansa was quietly masterful; not telling individual artists what to do; but making suggestions so that they could create a collage that would be uniquely theirs. Everyone had a great time; artistic passion was in full gear, comradery among the artists was inspirational, and the art work...



***December 20, 2019***



*Mansa Mussa discusses design ideas with an attendee; his patience is only matched by his artistic vision.*



*Carol T. Jenkins has been attending the collage workshops for the last several years, always accompanied by her grandson. Phew... he's getting so big.*

was simply amazing. The collage workshop was part of the JMNJ's Ed Berger: Jazz Photographer Exhibit and NJPAC's James Moody Jazz Festival programming. The Ed Berger Jazz Photographer exhibit will run until January 12, 2020. ✨

*The Jewish Museum of New Jersey*

# ED BERGER: JAZZ PHOTOGRAPHER

November 3, 2019 to January 12, 2020

Co-sponsored by



Ed Berger was a world-class scholar, researcher, photographer, producer, author, administrator, and tireless jazz detective. But all of this is surpassed by his qualities as a person. *In his work as an author and photographer, he seemed to gravitate toward subjects who were, like him, quiet giants who shared Ed's passion for the music and the life* - David Demsey

**Special Opening for the Newark Arts Festival  
Sunday, October 13th, 1-5 pm**

Jewish Museum of New Jersey, 145 Broadway in Newark  
Free off-site parking / donations welcomed / [jewishmuseumnj.org](http://jewishmuseumnj.org)

*December 20, 2019*

# njpac

community  
engagement



## jazz at ahavas sholom

NJPAC and the *TD James Moody Jazz Festival*, in collaboration with Ahavas Sholom, the Jewish Museum of New Jersey, present a series of free community events.

**Opening Reception with  
Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens**

Sun, Nov 3 @ 1-4PM

Enjoy jazz by NJPAC's *Wells Fargo Jazz for Teens* and acclaimed saxophonist Mark Gross, NJPAC Director of Jazz Instruction.

**Bobby Sanabria Concert**

Sun, Nov 17 @ 2-4PM

Relish in the sounds of eight-time GRAMMY®-nominee, musician, documentary film producer, educator, activist and bandleader.

**FREE!**

Ahavas Sholom the Jewish Museum of New Jersey • 145 Broadway, Newark, NJ

RSVP today! [njpac.org/JazzAtAhavas](http://njpac.org/JazzAtAhavas)  
For more information, contact Najiyah Bailey  
at [nbailey@njpac.org](mailto:nbailey@njpac.org) or call 973.297.5138

**The 5th Annual Jazz  
Collage Workshop**

Sun, Dec 8 @ 2-5PM

Create jazz-inspired collages under the instruction of Newark artist Mansa K. Mussa.

**The Ed Berger Photography Collection**

Nov 3-Jan 13

Sundays @ 2-5PM

This exhibit will feature photography inspired by the progression of jazz around the world.

Call 973.297.5138 to make an appointment.

Support provided by



# Fiddler On The Roof Returning To The Big Screen



**F**iddler on the Roof, the larger than life musical that chronicled the lives, loves and challenges of a Jewish family in pre-revolution Czarist Russia, is slated to return to the big screen.

The 2020 TCM Big Screen Classics Series, brought to you by Turner Classic Movies and Fathom Events, will bring the beloved Jewish classic back to movie theaters for two nights. Fiddler (1971) will be among the 14 classic movies that will return to the big screen in 2020; other classics include, Love Story (1970) starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw; An American in Paris (1951)



*Motel (Leonard Frey) and Chava (Neve Small) challenge tradition by daring to fall in love on their own.*



*Jerry Mulligan (Gene Kelly) and Lise Bouvier (Leslie Caron) fall in love as dance.*

starring Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron; *Annie* (1982) starring Albert Finney and Carol Burnett, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977) starring Richard Dreyfuss and Teri Garr; and Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, *Psycho* starring Janet Leigh and Anthony Perkins. Since its 1964 debut *Fiddler on The Roof* has wowed,



*Marion Crane (Janet Leigh) steals her boss's \$40,000 so she can run away with her lover Sam Loomis (John Gavin ; ) but, Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins) has other plans for our Miss Crane.*

entertained and inspired viewers. *Fiddler* follows Tevye (played by Israeli born actor Topol) a poor milk man, and his family of five daughters, as they struggle with everyday life, poverty, and love. It's a particularly challenging time for Tevye as he struggles to adjust to changing times and shifting attitudes, while holding with tradition. As if life isn't difficult enough, Tevye and the entire Jewish community must contend with the shadow of anti-Semitism that hovers over them.

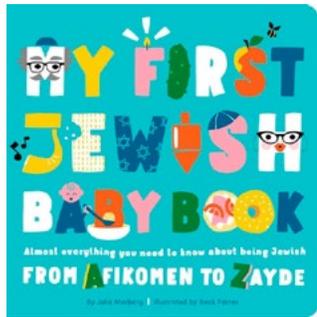


*Topol puts on a masterful performance as poor milk man Tevye; his nuanced performance tethers wonderfully between the extremes of tough and tender, and he's equally convincing at both..*

The movie is peppered with several wonderful musical numbers including, "Do you love me," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker", and my personal favorite, "If I were a rich man." *Fiddler on The Roof* will appear on several screens throughout the New York area next December. To learn more about upcoming *Fiddler on the Roof* showings or the other classics offered in the series follow the [link](#). 

# The Book Shelf

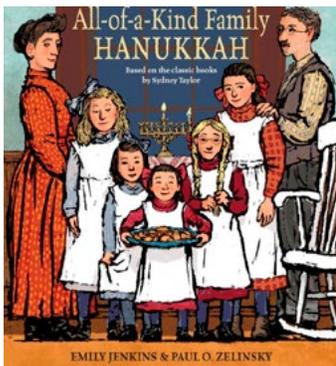
*Chanukah is approaching quickly; during this wonderful time of giving, consider giving the children in your life the gift of words and knowledge. Below we have a list of some of the most popular Jewish-themed children's books on the market.*



**My First Jewish Baby Book:** *Almost everything you need to know about being Jewish—from Afikomen to Zayde*

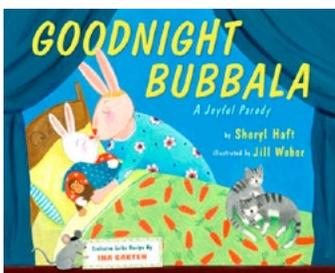
This irresistible board book gives little ones (ages 0–3) an alphabetical introduction to Judaism—the delicious foods, meaningful rituals, lively holidays, expressive language, and more.

Hip illustrations accompany snappy, rhyming text in a fun, fabulous package that is a must-have for any Jewish baby's nursery. This tiny tome covers quintessential foods such as bagels and brisket, rituals and holidays including Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Shabbat, and Hanukkah, as well as important cultural references (F is for Fiddler on the Roof!) with a little Yiddish thrown in. Parents and grandparents will love sharing every concise, funny entry with the little ones in their lives. Written by Julie Merberg, & Illustrated by Beck Feiner



**All-of-a-Kind-Family Hanukkah** - *Written by Emily Jenkins & Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky*

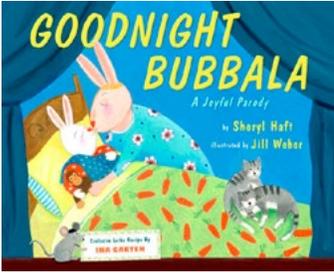
Acclaimed author Emily Jenkins (A Greyhound, a Groundhog) and Caldecott Award-winning artist Paul O. Zelinsky (Rapunzel) bring the beloved All-of-a-Kind Family to life in a new format. Fans, along with those just meeting the five girls (“all of a kind,” as their parents say), will join them back in 1912, on the Lower East Side of NYC, and watch as preparations for Hanukkah are made. When Gertie, the youngest, is not allowed to help prepare latkes, she throws a tantrum. Banished to the girls’ bedroom, she can still hear the sounds and smell the smells of a family getting ready to celebrate. But then Papa comes home and she is allowed out—and given the best job of all: lighting the first candle on the menorah.



**Goodnight Bubbala** - This festive parody reimagines a classic bedtime book as a lively Jewish family gathering complete with bubbies and zeydes, a dreidel, and a shmear on a bagel. Includes an exclusive latke recipe by Ina Garten, TV’s Barefoot Contessa!

In the small blue room there was a bubbala, and a little shmatta, and then

—oy vey!—came the whole mishpacha!

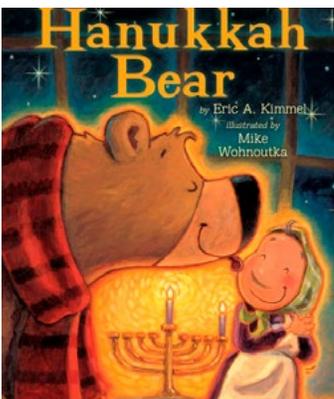


This zesty parody of one of America’s favorite picture books offers a very different bedtime routine: one that is full of family exuberance and love. Instead of whispers of “hush,” this bedtime includes dancing and kvelling, and of course, noshing—because this little bunny is a Jewish bunny, and this joyous book celebrates the Jewish values of cherishing your loved ones, expressing gratitude, and being generous.

Filled with Yiddish words, the book includes a phonetic glossary and even an easy latke recipe by beloved cookbook author Ina Garten, who calls the book “brilliant, beautiful, important, and so much fun!” Written By Sheryl Haft & illustrated by Jill Weber.

**Hanukkah Bear** - *Bubba Brayna’s legendary latkes lure an unexpected visitor into her home in this playful Hanukkah tale from a master storyteller.*

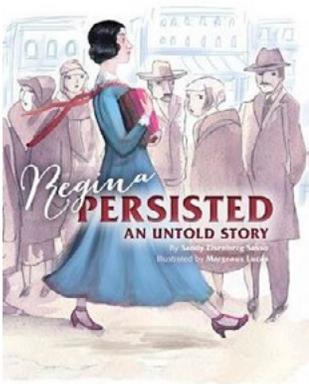
Bubba Brayna makes the best latkes in the village, and on the first night of Hanukkah, the scent of her cooking wakes a hungry, adorable bear from his hibernation. He lumbers into town to investigate, and Bubba Brayna—who does not see or hear very well—mistakes him for her rabbi. She welcomes the bear inside to play the dreidel game, light the menorah, and enjoy a scrumptious meal.



However, after her well-fed guest leaves, there’s a knock at the door—it’s the rabbi, and all of Brayna’s other friends, arriving for dinner. But there are no latkes left—and together, they finally figure out who really ate them.

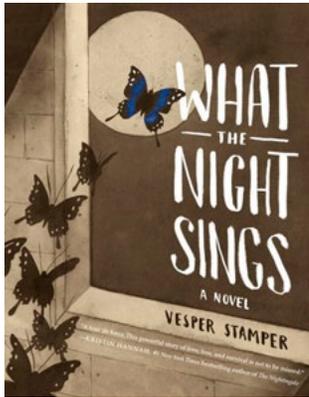
Lively illustrations by Mike Wohnoutka, portraying the sprightly Bubba Brayna and her very hungry guest, accompany this instant family favorite, a humorous reworking of Eric A. Kimmel’s earlier classic tale, *The Chanukkah Guest*. A traditional recipe for latkes is included in the back matter, along with interesting, digestible facts about the history and traditions of Hanukkah.

A 2013 National Jewish Book Award Winner, this book is perfect for a holiday story time with children— either in the classroom or at home, as an introduction for young readers to the traditions and customs of Hanukkah, and as a classic to return to year after year.

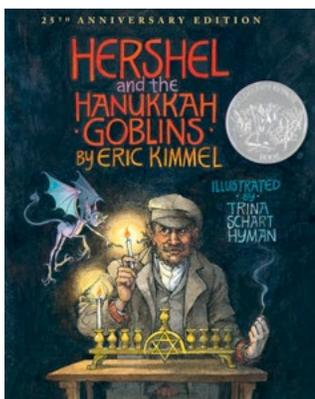


**Regina Persisted: An Untold Story** - From a young age, Regina Jonas loved to read stories from the Bible. She loved to read Hebrew. She wanted to be a rabbi. There had never been a woman rabbi before, and some people said, 'You should learn to cook and sew like the other girls.' But Regina persisted. They said, 'Don't make trouble.' But Regina persisted.

They said, 'Women are not smart enough.' Regina heard, but still she persisted. Finally, in 1935, Regina Jonas became the first woman ever ordained as a rabbi. Her story inspires us to pursue our dreams and to persist even in the face of great challenges. *Evocative, inspiring, and uplifting* --Kirkus Starred Review



**What the Night Sings** - For fans of *The Book Thief* and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* comes a lushly illustrated novel about a teen Holocaust survivor who must come to terms with who she is and how to rebuild her life. -After losing her family and everything she knew in the Nazi concentration camps, Gerta is finally liberated, only to find herself completely alone. Without her papa, her music, or even her true identity, she must move past the task of surviving and on to living her life. In the displaced persons camp where she is staying, Gerta meets Lev, a fellow teen survivor who she just might be falling for, despite her feelings for someone else. With a newfound Jewish identity she never knew she had, and a return to the life of music she thought she lost forever, Gerta must choose how to build a new future.



**Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins: 25th Anniversary Edition** - On the first night of Hanukkah, a weary traveler named Hershel of Ostropol eagerly approaches a village, where plenty of latkes and merriment should warm him.

But when he arrives not a single candle is lit. A band of frightful goblins has taken over the synagogue, and the villagers cannot celebrate at all! Hershel vows to help them. Using his wits, the clever trickster faces down one goblin after the next, night after night. But can one man alone save Hanukkah and live to tell the tale?

An original adventure featuring a traditional Jewish folk hero, this clever story has been a family favorite for decades and was named a Caldecott Honor book when it was originally published. Trina Schart Hyman's leering goblins are equal parts terrifying and ridiculous as they match wits with Hershel, trying to keep him from lighting the menorah and celebrating Hanukkah. ✨

## Kiddush Sponsorship Shabbat Services

**L**ast week's Kiddush was sponsored by Eliot Sash in honor of his father. Sponsoring Kiddush is \$150.00, 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 Allah Eicheldinger at [alla7815@yahoo.com](mailto:alla7815@yahoo.com). You can also help by shopping; which doesn't cost money, just a little time. We'll give you a list of items, you shop and we'll reimburse you. Whatever you can do will be appreciated, greatly.

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

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*Join us at Congregation  
Ahavas Sholom this  
Shabbat and help us  
make minyon*