

The Jewish Community News



March 2022

2310 Oneida St., Utica, NY 13501 • Phone (315) 733-2343 • Fax (315) 733-2346 • www.jccutica.net

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| <i>Upcoming Events</i> |
| Library Talk Tuesday March 8 7:30 p.m. J.C.C. library |
| Dinner and a Movie Wednesday March 15 6 p.m. J.C.C. library |
| Board Meeting Thursday March 17 7:15 p.m. ZOOM |
| Book Rap Monday March 21 1:30 p.m. ZOOM |

Reynolds Traces Cheese Factory in March 8 Talk

Patrick Reynolds, director of public programs at the Oneida County History Center, will offer a J.C.C. talk with slides on Tuesday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m. in the library. His topic is "Jesse Williams and the Cheese Factory System." Just north of Rome, at the site of the current New York State Fish Hatchery, the modern cheese industry was born in 1851. Jesse Williams was a successful farmer and cheese maker, but he believed by working together as cooperative

dairies, farmers could maximize their profits. This belief motivated him to start the first cheese factory in the United States, a move that revolutionized agriculture locally and across the nation.

Reynolds is a graduate of the Cooperstown Program with a master of arts in Museum Studies and a bachelor's in arts in history from SUNY Oneonta. He has worked in museums throughout the U.S., including Hanford Mills Museum, Berks County Historical

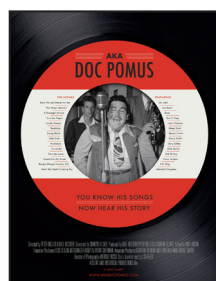
Society, Rome Historical Society and The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation.

This program is sponsored by The Cultural Arts Committee. Admission is free for center members and \$5 for nonmembers. Refreshments will be available.



Rock and Roll Giant Emerges in March 15 Documentary

Dinner and a movie night begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, with Italian fare: eggplant parmigiana, salad, fruit, dessert and beverages.



After dinner, watch "A.K.A. Doc Pomus." An unlike-

ly rock and roll icon, Doc Pomus was paralyzed with polio as a child. Brooklyn-born Jerome Felder reinvented himself, first at a blues singer, renaming himself Doc Pomus, then as a songwriter, creating some of the greatest hits of the early rock and roll era: "Save the Last Dance for Me," "This Magic Moment," "A Teenager in Love" and 1,000 more.

"A.K.A. Doc Pomus" contains incomparable music and rare archival imagery. Pomus is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

This program is sponsored by The Cultural Arts Committee. Admission is \$10 for center members and \$15 for nonmembers. Reservations are due by March 11.

**UJA:
MAKING
JEWISH COMMUNITY
HAPPEN**



Book Rap Discusses Loigman's Novel on March 21

Book Rap will meet on Monday, March 21, at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Lynda Cohen Loigman's novel "The Wartime Sisters."

Sisters Ruth and Millie work in a World War II armory in Springfield,

Massachusetts, each with a deep secret. This novel reveals the strength of women---even sisters who were never close---on the home front. They endure, fight and help each other survive.

Readers are wel-

come to attend monthly book discussions. This novel is available in area libraries.



Temple Beth El



UTICA, NY



Purim Party!

Everyone is Welcome

March 16, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Center

2310 Oneida St. Utica, NY 13501



Purim Speil

BY OUR TALENTED CONGREGANTS

Dinner followed by a reading of the Megillah



MENU

**Hot Dogs • Cole Slaw • Kugel • Sauerkraut • Condiments
Hamantashen and Beverages**

\$7.00 for Adults (13+) - \$3.00 Children (5 to 12) - Under 5 Free

RSVP – We must have reservations by March 9, 2022

Call: (315) 724-4751 or email tbeutica@gmail.com



Costumes Definitely Welcome



The Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Education Essay Contest

The lessons of history are many. Among the most important is the way that events of the past teach us how to better view the present and to react with understanding, foresight and courage.

Choose one of these topics for your essay:

1-How do events of the Holocaust have meaning in our current time of increasing anti-Semitic events occurring in the United States?

2-How has your personal life been affected by the study of the Holocaust?

Guidelines:

- This essay contest is open to students in two categories.
 - Grades 6-8 and 9-12.
- **Submit a PDF approximately 3 pages**
Using 12pt. Times New Roman font double-spaced.
- Cite your references and sources since plagiarism will be disqualified.
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling will be taken into consideration.
- Entry forms are available on the following websites:

JCCUTICA.net
TBEUTICA.org
TEMPLEEMANUEL-UTICA.org

•Submit completed application and essay to: andid@pjgreen.com

•**Deadline for submission is April 1, 2022**

Cash prizes will be awarded.

The first place essays will be read at

The Annual Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Memorial Lecture
April 28, 2022

Jewish Community Center
2310 Oneida St.
Utica, NY 13501

SPONSORED BY THE HELEN AND LEON SPERLING HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Education Essay Contest Entry Form

Student Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Sponsoring Teacher: _____

Email Address: _____

School Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____

•*Submit completed application and essay to:*
andid@pjgreen.com

•*Deadline for submission is*
April 1, 2022



Gennis Fund Assists Jewish Youth Programs

Camping activities, educational programs and travel with Jewish content can be monumental experiences for young people. With this in mind, the Gennis Incentive Program seeks local children and young adults, ages 8 through 21, who will be attending such a program. A bequest from the estate of Sidney Gennis to honor his parents, Celia and Jacob, has established a fund to be used to encourage young

people to seek out these Jewish experiences.

Applicant must be a Jewish child residing in the area, and parents must be members of the Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley (have made a donation to the UJA) and a local Jewish congregation. To apply for this incentive/scholarship, submit a letter explaining what program the award will be used for, as well as

some information about the applicant: name, age, parents, address and telephone number and e-mail address. Please also include the name and address of the program to be attended.

Please submit this letter to the Jewish Federation of the Mohawk Valley, 2310 Oneida St., Utica, NY 13501 before April 15 for both summer and fall programs.

Boeheim to Headline Return of Sitrin Wheelchair Basketball Game

Game on! Local celebrities will once again take to the court to faceoff in wheelchairs against Sitrin STARS (Success Through Adaptive Recreation and Sports) athletes in the 18th Annual Sitrin Celebrity Classic Wheelchair Basketball game. This event, presented by Fust Charles Chambers LLP, will be held on Thursday, April 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Utica College Clark Athletic Center.

Headlining this year's game is Syracuse men's basketball star, Buddy Boeheim. Standing 6'6," the senior guard has had a very successful basketball career with the Orange. Leading his team with 19 points per game, Boeheim has accumulated more than 1,500 career points. He is now tucked within the top-20 overall on the all-time scoring list for Syracuse basketball. Son of Jim Boeheim, Hall of Fame basketball coach, Buddy has made a legacy for himself at Syracuse, passing his father on the career scoring list (745) during his junior year.

"After two long years, we are very excited to bring back one of the area's premier events," Marc DePerno, director of the STARS program, said. "The STARS athletes are anxious to showcase their abilities and are incredibly appreciative of the support they receive from the community."

Ticket prices for adults are \$10, students \$5, and children under the age of five are free. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Sitrin STARS program, which provides opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to participate in a variety of adaptive sports, including wheelchair curling, road racing, target shooting, paddling and biathlon, in addition to wheelchair basketball. Thanks in great part to generous donors, Sitrin STARS athletes have competed on the international and Paralympic level, representing the United States throughout the world. Such opportunities have allowed athletes to achieve international status through the Paralympic pipeline

Sitrin is currently seeking additional sponsors for this fundraiser. The sponsor form and flyer can be found on Sitrin's website under the Events category:

<https://www.sitrin.com/about/events/18th-annual-sitrin-celebrity-classic-wheelchair-basketball-game/>.

For more information about the Celebrity Classic Wheelchair Basketball Game, or the Sitrin STARS program, contact DePerno at (315) 737-2459, or mdeperno@sitrin.com.

ABOUT SITRIN: Sitrin provides a

variety of services for people of all ages and abilities, including comprehensive medical rehabilitation (inpatient and outpatient), long-term care, assisted living and enriched housing (Cedarbrook), NeuroCare, residential care for people with intellectual disabilities and medically complex conditions, medical and social model adult day health care (OPAL Program), military rehabilitation, adaptive sports (STARS Program), a Wellness and Aquatic Center, orthopedic injury program, concussion management, child care and dental clinic. Sitrin is a not-for-profit corporation.



Pictured is Syracuse Men's Basketball standout Buddy Boeheim, who will headline the 18th Annual Sitrin Celebrity Classic Wheelchair Basketball game on April 28.

SAVE THE DATE

Please note that the annual Helen and Leon Sperling Holocaust Lecture and Yom HaShoah Observance will take place on **Thursday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m.**



SAVE THE DATE!
**Mah Jongg
Tournament**

Sunday, May 1

Contact Lynn Tomaino for more information lynnbt@roadrunner.com

SAVE THE DATE

JEWTiCA

A JEWISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

➔ JEWISH FOOD, MUSIC AND MORE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022

"IN THE PARK"

NOON TO 8 P.M.

ON THE FRONT GROUNDS OF THE J.C.C.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Israeli Engineers Develop Implants to Help Paralyzed People Walk Again

People with long-term paralysis might regain the ability to walk after Israeli scientists successfully engineered the first 3D human spinal cord tissue. The results were published in a groundbreaking peer-reviewed study published in the journal *Advanced Science* on Monday morning.



A 3D image of a human spinal cord. (photo credit: CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

The study was conducted by researchers from the Sagol Center for Regenerative Biotechnology at Tel Aviv University, headed by Prof. Tal Dvir. He was joined by researchers from the Shmunis School of Biomedicine and Cancer Research, and the Department of Biomedical Engineering at TAU. The team at Dvir's lab includes PhD student Lior Wertheim, Dr. Reuven Edri and Dr. Yona Goldshmit.

Why haven't we been able to heal spinal cord injuries?

Paralysis can occur after a spinal cord injury, which can refer to damage sustained to any part of the spinal cord or the nerves at the end of the spinal canal. These injuries can cause permanent changes in strength, sensation and other bodily functions, and in severe cases, can lead to long-term paralysis, for which there is currently no cure.

Despite many prior attempts having been made worldwide to promote natural or intervened regeneration at the site of the injury, there has been minimal success.

Many existing experimental or investigated methods rely on the

transplantation of different cells or biomaterials into the site of the injury. Two issues jeopardize the success of the treatment, however: the immune response to the transplanted cells causing them to be rejected, and the implantation of dissociated cells that fail to form into a functional network.

Therefore, the research team hypothesized that mimicking embryonic development by applying a specific spinal cord motor neuron differentiation protocol in a 3D dynamic environment would provide cells with signals for appropriate regenerative tissue formation, healing the site and lowering the risk of rejection.

Furthermore, they theorized, assembling a functional neuron network prior to implantation would increase the chances of functional engraftment, in which it integrates well into the host body.

The procedure developed by the research team would involve taking a small fatty tissue biopsy from the patient and separating it into the cells and the extracellular biomaterial.

The cells would then be reprogrammed to become patient-specific induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)

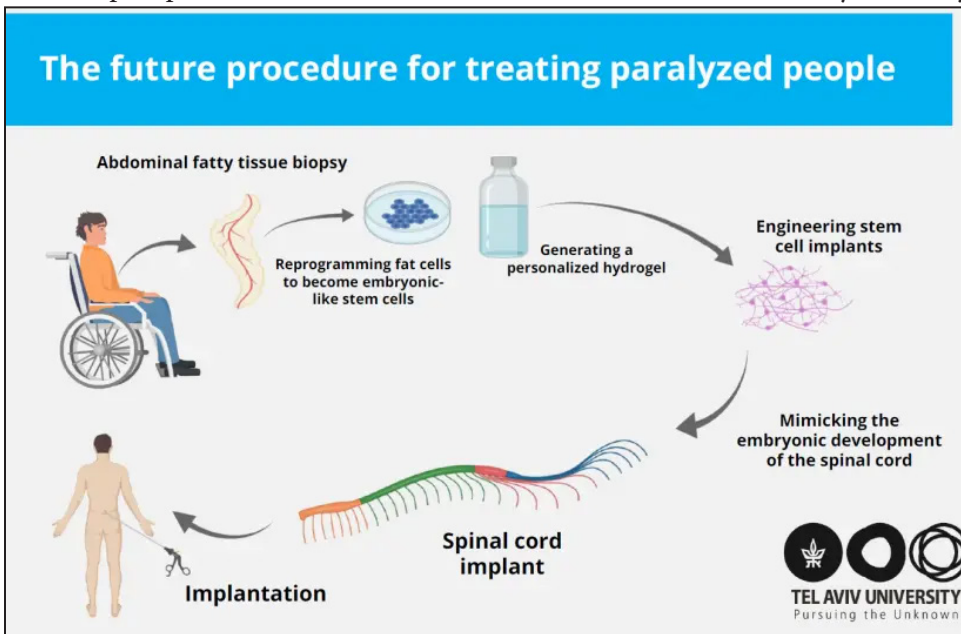
– a cell type used in regenerative medicine that can propagate indefinitely and can be used to replace cells lost to damage or disease.

Meanwhile, the biomaterial undergoes a process to turn it into a personalized hydrogel, into which the embryonic-like iPSC cells are then encapsulated, allowing them to differentiate into a 3D spinal cord network.

Not only does the biomaterial turned hydrogel support the cells, the study explained, but it also constantly adapts and develops, thereby providing a dynamic inductive microenvironment that allows for the assembly and maturation of a functional spinal cord implant.

Following the successful mimicking of embryonic spinal cord development and the engineering of functional tissue implants, the researchers moved on to testing the therapeutic potential of the 3D spinal cord network, choosing to use mice as the testing model.

Following the success seen in the lab trials and the results observed in the mice post-implant, the researchers hope to progress to clinical trials in humans within the next few years. They



Visualization of the next stage of the research - human spinal cord implants for treating paralysis (credit: SAGOL CENTER FOR REGENERATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGY)

Israeli Engineers Develop Implants to Help Paralyzed People Walk Again

have already held talks with the FDA regarding the preclinical program.

“Since we are proposing an advanced technology in regenerative medicine, and since at present there is no alternative for paralyzed patients, we have good reason to expect relatively rapid approval of our technology,” he explained.

Based on this revolutionary organ-engineering technology, Dvir

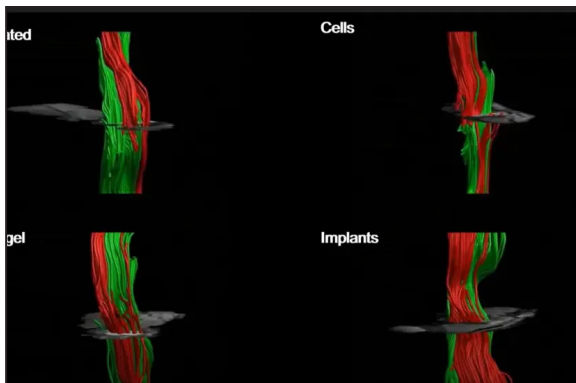
teamed up with industry partners to establish Matricelf in 2019. The company applies his approach in their work with the aim of making spinal cord implant treatments commercially available.

How could this impact the field of medicine?

While the study specifically focused on injured spinal cords, the researchers hope that in the future the same technology could be applied

effective treatment for their condition,” Dvir said.

“Individuals injured at a very young age are destined to sit in a wheelchair for the rest of their lives, bearing all the social, financial and health-related costs of paralysis,” he said. “Our goal is to produce personalized spinal cord implants for every paralyzed person, enabling regeneration of the damaged tissue with no risk of rejection.”



MRI of an injured spinal cord with and without treatment
(credit: SAGOL CENTER FOR REGENERATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGY)

and used to treat a variety of different diseases and injuries such as Parkinson’s, brain trauma, myocardial infarction and age-related macular degeneration, all of which they are currently researching through this technology.

“There are millions of people around the world who are paralyzed due to spinal injury, and there is still no



(Left to right): Dr. Yona Goldshmit, Prof. Tal Dvir and Lior Wertheim
(credit: SAGOL CENTER FOR REGENERATIVE BIOTECHNOLOGY)

Pickleball at the



When: Mondays 5:30 - 8 p.m.
Sundays, 8 - 10 a.m.

Cost: \$6 per person, per session

Members: \$4 per person, per session

**** NOW ON THURSDAYS, BEGINNING 3/10/22****

5:30 - 7 p.m. - ONLY \$5 per person!!

Where: J.C.C. gymnasium

Who: 18 and over - All fitness levels

****All equipment provided!**

> For more information, call (315) 733-2343,
or e-mail David at dmeislin@aol.com



Newsletter

**The Jewish Community
Federation of the Mohawk
Valley
2310 Oneida St.
Utica, NY 13501**

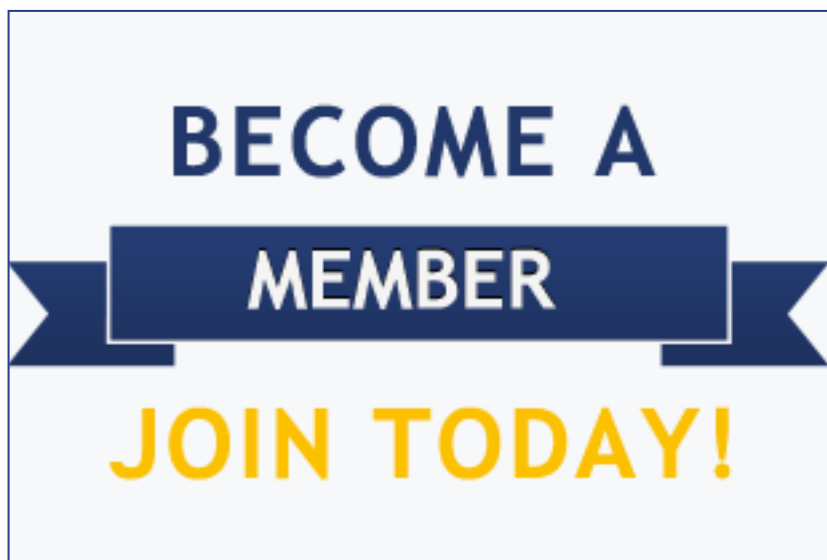
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Utica, NY**

**We're on the Web
www.jccutica.net**



Executive Director:
Victor Pearlman

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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