

The Jewish Community News

January 2024



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

Upcoming Events

Dinner and a Movie

Tuesday

Jan. 9

6 p.m.

J.C.C. library

Book Rap

Monday

Jan. 15

11 a.m.

J.C.C. library and ZOOM

Preschool

Registration Opens

Monday

Jan. 15

Members Only

Board Meeting

Thursday

Jan. 18

7:15 p.m.

J.C.C. library

Preschool Closings

Monday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

J.C.C. Building Closings

Monday, Jan. 1

New Year's Day

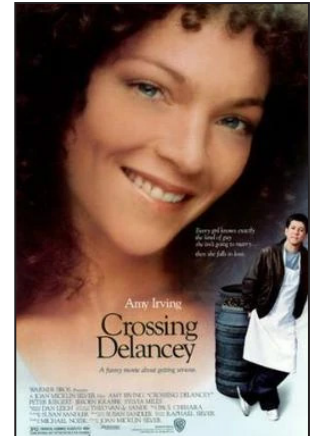
New York Comedy is Jan. 9 Movie

Dinner and a movie begins at 6 p.m. on Jan. 9 with Pizza Classic's pizza and salad, plus fruit, dessert and beverages. After dinner, watch the popular comedy "Crossing Delancey."

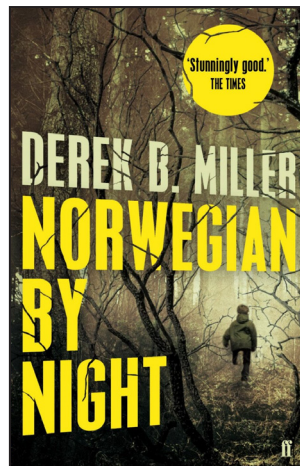
In this 96-minute contemporary comedy, Isabella, a Jewish woman, played by Amy Irving,

is caught in a romantic quandary when her grandmother hires a Jewish matchmaker to find her a husband.

Reservations are due by Jan. 5. Admission is \$15 for center members and \$20 for nonmembers. No-shows who do not cancel reservations will be billed.



Book Rap Discusses Miller's Novel on Jan. 15



Book Rap will meet on Monday, Jan. 15, at 11 a.m. in the J.C.C. library and on Zoom. We will discuss Derek Miller's novel "Norwegian by Night."

Sheldon Horowitz--widowed, impatient, impertinent--has grudgingly agreed to leave New York to move in with his granddaughter, Rhea, and her husband, Lars, in Norway, a country with 1,000 Jews.

After witnessing a murder, this former Marine sniper and s newly orphaned boy race across the Norwegian wilderness, fleeing demons both real and imagined.

This novel is available in area libraries and online. Readers are welcome to attend monthly discussions. **Admission is free for center members and \$5 per discussion for nonmembers.**

Shop Amazon Smile and Support Your J.C.C.!

Amazon Prime Members: Support the J.C.C. via Amazon Smile! Simply log on to Amazon Smile and choose "Jewish Community Federation of the Mohawk Valley NY Inc." as your charitable organization; then begin your Amazon shopping! Amazon will donate .05% of your total Amazon Prime purchase costs directly to the J.C.C.

Please use the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/15-0533576>



UJA:
MAKING
JEWISH COMMUNITY
HAPPEN

Preparing for Our Future

The J.C.C. made a little bit of history this month, executing its most ambitious fundraiser in many years.

For the 50th anniversary of the center, we decided to overhaul our typical fundraising efforts to try something completely new, and admittedly, a bit scary.

Noah Dinerstein, son of Rick and Andi Dinerstein and lifelong member of the J.C.C., brought his company's model and expertise, pitching his fresh fundraising approach to our board back in October.

With a heavy emphasis on expanding the reach past our annual UJA donors, increasing our marketing efforts 10 fold, recruiting "ambassadors" to take on their own personal goals, and creating a live call center to bring the community together, we started our new mission to success.

The goal was clear: raise \$200,000 in 32 hours!

Noah recruited Victor Pearlman, Andrew Cohen and Rick Dinerstein to head the fundraising committee and begin the uphill six-week battle of planning something of this size. The fearless foursome met weekly, delegating tasks and phone calls, culminating in our 32-hour call center. Andi Dinerstein welcomed the community into a beautifully decorated room with music, coffee, bagels, lox, lunches and dinners for everyone who generously came to call. It was a sight to behold!



We saw Jews and non-Jews alike, sitting side by side. They entered the room, helped themselves to a delicious plate of food, trained with Noah on fundraising basics, and received a call sheet of 1,500 possible names to call. Whether a mahjong player, pre-school parent, Jewtica attendee, UJA member, pickleball player, etc...they were on those lists, and boy, did they give!

As far back as anyone could remember, the J.C.C. has raised, on average, \$120,000 for its yearly campaign. This year, we raised \$228,000! That's \$28,000 past the original goal.

In the last 20 years, the J.C.C. has had, on average, 115 individual donors. This year's campaign brought in 470 individual donors.

Last, but certainly not least, 30 ambassadors made or exceeded their personal fundraising goals.

The J.C.C. will be acknowledging everyone in one form or another, but for now we must highlight ambassadors who took time from their own busy lives to raise an incredible amount of money for an incredible cause.

- Anne and Eric Yoss
- Lisa and Gary Philipson
- Dan and Lisette Berg
- Denise Sachs-Mishalanie and Chuck Mishalanie
- Alex and Jenna Harris
- Drew and Jennifer Ward
- Leslie and Howie Cohen
- Marsha Silverman
- Fred Lampert
- Rabbi Peter Schaktman
- Rachel Smith: In Loving Memory of Eric Smith
- Aaron and Mary Carol Evans
- Dave Goldbas
- Randy Rockford
- Barbara Goodman
- Lynn Tomaino
- Rabbi Gustavo Geier
- Rob Sullivan
- Joanie and Michael Basloe

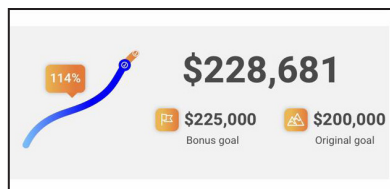
- Nikki N.
- Bronk-Pimpinella Family
- Kristy Mandour
- Amanda Robertello
- Proud member of the J.C.C.
- The Slavin Family
- Dave Meislin
- Victor Pearlman
- Noah Dinerstein
- Rick and Andi Dinerstein
- Andrew and Carrie Cohen

Finally, a special thank you to the following people: Ed Kowalsky, Rich and Heather Cohen, Gary and Lisa Philipson and Philip and Lori Felice, for their help making this year's campaign an exceptional one.



The money we raised will serve two important purposes. First, as always, a portion of the proceeds will go directly to Israel to provide humanitarian support during this difficult time. Second, monies will be placed in a new endowment account to ensure the safety and security of our local Jewish community for years to come. Along with the financial security came the unity and common purpose felt among everyone who participated. The campaign hit its \$200,000 goal around 6 p.m. on Monday night. An auditorium full of community members joined arm in arm and danced, singing "SIMON TOV OH MAZEL TOV," expressing their joy, meaning and purpose. What is better than that?

Thank you!





CELEBRATING HANUKKAH



Mohawk Valley Jewish Hall of Fame Call for Nominations

Do you know of someone who deserves to be honored in our Mohawk Valley Jewish Hall of Fame? Each year, as part of the J.C.C.'s JEW-TICA celebration of Jewish Culture, we are proud to enshrine a new member in the Mohawk Valley Jewish Hall of Fame. Honorees are selected by the JEW-TICA committee from nominations submitted by our local community. Our first two honorees were singer/songwriter Debbie Friedman and Frank J. Basloe. Criteria for eligibility include the following:

- 1) Nominees must have a tangible connection to the Mohawk Valley, either by local residency at some time in their lives, by family lineage, or by significant impact.
- 2) In most cases nominees are expected to have a demonstrable Jewish lineage. "Righteous Gentiles," whose impact on the Jewish community is significant, may also be considered eligible.
- 3) The committee will consider specific notable accomplishments of nominees and/or career accomplishments over a lifetime.
- 4) Nominees should have had a demonstrable positive impact upon

the Jewish community, either locally, nationally, or internationally.

5) Nominees may be living or deceased.

Do you know of someone who belongs in our Hall of Fame? Submit your nomination to: Jewish Community Center, ATTN: JEW-TICA Committee, 2310 Oneida Street, Utica, NY 13501. Deadline for nominations this year is April 15, 2024.

Previous Inductees:

Deborah "Debbie" Friedman, (1951-2011) an accomplished singer/songwriter, was born in Utica. She became known as a song leader in Jewish camps and NFTY groups, performing in synagogues and at events around the country. Her songwriting, with lyrics in English and Hebrew, transformed the Reform movement's liturgy, making it more approachable and more inclusive of a feminist perspective. In her lifetime, Debbie released 22 albums. Following her passing in 2011, the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music was renamed the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music.

Frank J. Basloe, (1887-1966) was born in 1887 in Austria-Hungary

and immigrated to the United States at the age of four. The family settled in Herkimer, where Frank became enamored of basketball, both as a player and later as a promoter of the sport. He wrote a book called "I Grew Up With Basketball" which is still available today. It's a fascinating look at the birth of the sport and of Basloe's role in the early days of basketball. He went on to become the manager of several local teams and later the president of the New York State Basketball League.

Despite the fact that his formal education ended at grade six, Basloe opened a real estate company in 1915. Eventually, he added insurance adjusting to his resume. During the depression, he helped many people get mortgages who would not otherwise have been able to get a house. He donated the land that Temple Beth Joseph (named for his father) was built on and was well known for supporting his adopted hometown of Herkimer.

Always an entrepreneur, Basloe purchased the rights to the name "Herkimer County Cheese," which laid the groundwork for a company which his family still operates.

Pickleball at the J.C.C.!



When: Mondays, 5:30 - 8 p.m., Thursdays, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, 8 - 10 a.m.

Cost: Nonmembers: \$6 per person, per session

Members: \$4 per person, per session

Beginner Classes: Mondays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m., \$6/person

Fridays, 2:30 - 4 p.m., \$5/person

Where: J.C.C. gymnasium ♦ **Who:** 18 and over

**All equipment provided!

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

J.C.C. Preschool Registration 2023 – 2024



The Jewish Community Center Preschool registration for the 2023 – 24 school year begins on Monday, Jan. 15, for all J.C.C. members. Starting on Monday, Feb. 15, registration will open to the public. Registration forms will be put in cubbies for all preschoolers. Registration forms will only be accepted along with the \$100 registration fee. Placement is on a first-come, first served basis, so please return your form and payment early to ensure your child's spot.



Call Lynne at (315) 733-2345 for more information.



Gallant: Parts of Gaza Close to Being Able to Transition to 'Day After' *Source: JPost*

Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Monday said at a press conference with U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin that parts of Gaza are already close to being able to transition to a "day after" status, even as other parts may remain in intensive conflict for an extended period.

Gallant's statement was the first time that any Israeli official has publicly talked about the "day after" and a process of rebuilding starting in any part of Gaza since the start of the war.

Though he declined to say where, his statement came only hours after the IDF announced that Division 252 had "completed its mission" in the northern Beit Hanoun area of Gaza, with IDF sources telling the Jerusalem Post that many of the reservists involved would now get to go home.

This does not in any way mean that the IDF will reduce its robust attacks on Hamas in Shejaia in the north and Khan Younis in the south, but it does mean that parts of Gaza may be differentiated based on their relative level of stability.

The defense minister indirectly acknowledged that the IDF still does not know exactly where Hamas's leaders are, referring to a need to still "detect" them.

However, he was adamant that at some point, even if it was down-the-road and not in the near future, Israel would get to Hamas's leaders.

Recently, defense sources have told the Jerusalem Post that the "main war" might end without having killed or arrested Hamas's top leaders, with that being left to some later stage.

Austin backed Israel in a stronger way than expected on the issue of Palestinian civilian casualties.

Despite the U.S.'s concern about the rising Palestinian civilian casualties in Gaza, including U.S.

President Joe Biden having warned of Israeli "indiscriminate" fire and Austin having previously warned that harm to civilians could lead to "strategic failure," on Monday Austin said Jerusalem faces "an incredibly complex battlespace."

He added that the extent of the density of the population in Gaza "makes it very very difficult to conduct any military operation."

Not that he ignored the issue, as in his prepared statement, he stated, "Democracies are stronger and more secure when we uphold the law of war, protecting Palestinian citizens in Gaza is both a moral duty and a strategic imperative...This will also be crucial for Middle East allies to help after the war."

Concern for Gazan civilians

While he said that he continued to urge Israel to improve, he voiced being impressed at lessons Israel had learned from its operations in northern Gaza, which it was already implementing in southern Gaza to reduce civilian casualties.

Also, he said that "Hamas hides behind innocent civilians...and does not speak for regular Gazans," noting that Hamas fights "near hospitals, mosques, churches, you name it. That adds to the complexity."

Next, he added that Hamas should never again be able to terrorize Israel, and that the U.S. will continue to help Israel to bring its hostages home.

In a moving moment, Austin extended personal condolences to former IDF chief and current war cabinet minister Gadi Eisenkot on the loss of his son, Gal, in fighting in northern Gaza.

Austin said that he spoke to Eisenkot as he was "sitting shivah," using the traditional Jewish phrase for the seven-day period of mourning the loss of an immediate family member.

Moreover, the U.S. defense secretary hit on themes which are well-received in Israel, such as that, "On October 7, Hamas committed one of the worst atrocities in the history of modern terrorism," noting Hamas has said it would repeat October 7 over and over again and that the U.S. must stand with Jerusalem against this "fanatical terrorist group...which wants to eradicate Israel."

Both Gallant and Austin warned Iran and their Yemen Houthi proxies about ongoing maritime attacks.

They also both advocated for a diplomatic solution to convince Hezbollah to move its forces away from the border with Israel so as to improve security sufficiently for Israeli northern residents to return to their homes.

The main open disagreement between the two sides was about the plan for "the day after," with Austin insisting on the two-state solution and Gallant alluding to starting to develop new relations with groups of Gazans not connected to Hamas who could help manage the Strip post-war.

The press conference came after an earlier meeting between the two, which lasted multiple hours.

Joining the meeting were a number of top officials from both sides, but notably they included Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. CQ Brown in his first trip to Israel as the U.S. military's top official (though he has visited the Jewish state in other capacities in the past.)

Brown was formally appointed in September.

Some additional officials also included: IDF Chief-of-Staff Lt-Gen. Herzi Halevi, IDF intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Aharon Huliya, Defense Ministry Director-General Eyal Zamir, IDF Operations Command Chief Maj. Gen. Oded Basiuk, COGAT Chief Maj. Gen., Rasan Elian, and other senior officials.

Did You Know??? Space at the J.C.C. is available for rent!



Host your next event, party, child's birthday party or fundraiser at the J.C.C.

Our air-conditioned gymnasium, auditorium, library and lobby are all available for your next function.



Contact Lindsay in the main office at (315) 733-2343 or Lindsay@jccutica.net for availability and rental rates.

Also, check our website at www.jccutica.net/facility-rental

Tips For Visiting A Loved One in Long-Term Care

Many people may find it difficult to visit their loved ones in a long-term care setting, especially as their health starts to decline. At Sitrin, we see firsthand how our residents love it when their family and friends visit and spend time with them. These experiences allow residents to stay connected to their loved ones while also breaking up their everyday routines.

"Time spent with family and friends is always at the top of the list for our elderly nursing home residents," said AnneMarie Miller, director of nursing at Sitrin. "When our residents are visited by their family and friends, it provides them with a bit of extra comfort and enjoyment."

Here are some tips to consider when visiting a loved one in long-term care.

Quality Time Matters Most: Time spent with loved ones is priceless. Consider a visit during the early afternoon, a perfect time for relaxed conversations and shared moments.

Bring a Piece of Home: Take a walk down memory lane by bringing in pictures of loved ones, grandchildren's artwork, or memorabilia from the past. These items create a nostalgic atmosphere and may prompt memories and stories from the past to be shared and treasured.

Make Lasting Memories: Do something more personal such as taking photos of you and your loved one and making a photo collage for their rooms to hang up as a keepsake and decoration.

Personalized Comfort: Bring your loved one a personalized blanket or pillow with family pictures. These cherished items provide comfort and constantly remind them of the love surrounding them.

Home-Cooked Meals: Bring a taste of home with their favorite home-cooked meals and baked goods.

Generational Bonding: Whether it's reading a story together, playing cards, or watching a movie or sporting event together, get the whole family there to spend quality time with your loved one.

Comfort and Enjoyment: Thoughtful items to bring your loved ones include lap blankets, non-skid slippers, or comfortable clothing. If your loved ones insist, they "don't need anything," consider buying décor for their doors or a bird feeder to put outside their windows.

At Sitrin, we carefully curate activity calendars each month to ensure fun, socialization and recreation for our long-term care residents. Activities include live entertainment, Boccia, board games,

arts and crafts, table bowling and Bingo, to name a few.

ABOUT SITRIN: Sitrin, a not-for-profit corporation, 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 program, military program, adaptive sports (STARS Program), a Wellness and Aquatic Center, orthopedic injury program, concussion management, child care and dental clinic.



Above: At Sitrin, we carefully curate activity calendars each month to ensure fun, socialization and recreation for our long-term care residents.

Newsletter

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Federation of the Mohawk
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Executive Director:
Victor Pearlman

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
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