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FEBRUARY 2025

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WOMEN'S ISSUE

Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar

Sacred Sounds Reborn

Empowering Women Through
Jewish Education

A Different Kind of Music



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JEWISH LIVING DELAWARE

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AGENCIES Empowering Women Through Jewish Education

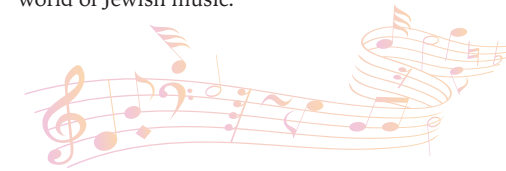
“The empowerment of women through Jewish education is perhaps one of the most significant developments in contemporary Jewish life. By opening doors that were once closed, we honor the resilience of our ancestors while ensuring the vitality of our future. Women today aren’t just preserving tradition; they’re breathing new life into it.”



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FEATURE: Sacred Sounds Reborn

“For years I have listened to lots of new music for the synagogue. I can appreciate the many new composers out there writing with music that moves them and speaks to them. Something was missing for me.” Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray, a fourth-generation cantor and founder and past president of the Women Cantor’s Network, shares her incredible work in the world of Jewish music.



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ARTS+CULTURE: A Different Kind of Music

Through tireless work and determination, Susan Detwiler has accomplished a goal 20 years in the making. In honor of her Greek roots, Susan has worked to bring classical Romaniote cantillation to Delaware, breaking away from the Ashkenazi norms. Join her at Congregation Beth Emeth on February 21, where she will chant nine verses of *Mishpatim*.

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FEATURE: Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar

While you were reading the January issue of Jewish Living Delaware, you may have seen some friendly furry faces on page 28 and wanted to learn more. Well, here’s your chance! Abbe and Rabbi Robyn spent some time with *Jewish Living Delaware*, answering questions about their latest project. Read on for the complete interview.



Pawsitively Jewish 2025 CALENDAR



Kirby

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COVER IMAGE

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Women's Philanthropy: The Power of Giving

BY **SETH J. KATZEN**, *President and CEO of Jewish Federation of Delaware*



Photo Credit: Photos provided by Delaware Lions of Judah

The Women's Philanthropy Division of the Jewish Federation of Delaware inspires all women in our community to give to their full potential—by sharing their time, knowledge, skills, and financial commitment with others. We enhance our community by . . .

- educating ourselves and others about needs in the Jewish community, and the crucial role Federation plays in meeting those needs
- empowering others not only to get involved, but to become future leaders
- encouraging women to take advantage of our local Jewish agencies so that each of us can live a satisfying Jewish life and pass the tradition of Judaism to the next generation—raising the funds necessary to carry out all the above

Women's Campaign—Ways to Give:

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The past few years, Delaware women have contributed nearly half of the total raised annually by the Federation's Annual Campaign! Your gift expresses your personal commitment to Jewish life in Delaware and around the world.

Lion of Judah Gift

The Lion of Judah is an internationally recognized designation for women who personally contribute \$5,000 or more to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign during a given year. Women who reach the Lion of Judah level with their campaign gifts are entitled to wear a gold pin in the shape of the Lion of Judah. Introduced in 1972 by the Miami Federation, thousands of women around the world proudly wear the Lion pin in recognition of their commitment to the Jewish community. The Lions of Judah gather during the year for inspirational, educational, and fundraising events.

Endowment Gifts

Jewish Federation of Delaware offers several Endowment Opportunities, such as the LOJE Funds, the Lion of Judah Endowment for our Lions and Pomegranates that will ensure a woman's gift remains in effect for the future. We encourage all our women donors to create an endowment so that their gift will continuously support Women's Philanthropy and the Federation Annual Campaign.

For more information on Women's Philanthropy or any of our events, or to become involved with Women's Philanthropy, please email Patti Gibson May, Advancement Director, at Patti@ShalomDel.org.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION FROM : DELAWARE GRATZ ENDOWMENT FUND

The mission of Delaware Gratz has always been and will continue to be the education of Jewish teens. Although we are no longer offering traditional classes, we are continuing to offer Jewish teens the opportunity to continue their Jewish education.

Delaware Gratz Endowment Fund will now be offering grants and scholarships to Delaware teens (currently in 9th grade) to attend educational opportunities.

These opportunities can include:

- Trips to Israel
- Semesters abroad in Israel
- Gap year educational programs
- Attending Jewish summer camps
- Attending special programs in Israel or in the United States
- ... as well as many other educational opportunities.

The Delaware Gratz Board is committed to continuing to enrich the lives of our Jewish teens by supporting their continued Jewish education.

Research has shown that the best way to not only give teens a Jewish education but also encourage them to become active and engaged Jewish adults is through experiential learning. These studies have shown that experiences in Jewish camps, youth groups, spending a semester in a school in Israel and trips to Israel have a much greater impact on these teens than actually attending traditional classrooms.

Jewish Federation of Delaware

If your teen is interested in applying for a scholarship, download Gratz application at: ShalomDelaware.org/scholarships

Questions may be directed to Scholarships@ShalomDel.org or the Federation office at 302/427-2100.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

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The Joseph & Marion Greenbaum Scholarship provides support for deserving students who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree at an accredited college or university in the U.S. or Israel.

This scholarship is renewable for up to 4 years — and can range up to \$2,000 or more each year.

Historically, over 40% of applicants receive scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 2025

Guidelines and the application for the GREENBAUM SCHOLARSHIP & other scholarship opportunities are available at: ShalomDelaware.org/Scholarships

Download an application or email your request to: Scholarships@ShalomDel.org

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Scholarships are overseen by the Jewish Fund for the Future Grants Committee. Application deadlines vary by scholarship.



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A Festive Celebration at AKSE on December 25

With the rare coincidence of winter holidays, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Sisterhood sponsored a Chinese Dinner/Movie/ First Night Chanukah celebration on December 25. The lighting of *chanukiyot* (Chanukah menorahs) and singing of Chanukah songs were followed by a delicious Chinese dinner buffet, donuts, fortune cookies, and the movie *Welcome to Yiddishland* accompanied by popcorn.

1. Chinese dinner buffet / Photo Credit: Mark Wagman
2. Enjoying a festive Chanukah-Chinese dinner / Photo Credit Mark Wagman
3. Community Shaliach Yuval Moha and his army friend, Tamer Abu Shindi / Photo Credit: Mark Wagman
4. First night of Chanukah candle lighting / Photo Credit: Pat Panzer



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Gina Kozicki
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REFORM:
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 Wilmington
 302-764-2393 | BethEmethDE.org

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 302-734-5578 | CBSDover.net

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Reflections of a Rabbi on Martin Luther King, Jr.

RABBI DAVID GEFEN



We welcomed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the evening of March 25, 1968, with the singing of "We Shall Overcome" in Hebrew. He had come to the Concord Hotel in upstate New York to participate in the celebration marking Professor Abraham Joshua Heschel's 60th birthday, being given at the 68th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Colleagues in the civil rights struggle, Heschel and King had marched hand in hand in Alabama, from Selma to Montgomery, in the summer of 1965. The two had challenged the clergy of America to enter the struggle for Black civil rights.

"Martin Luther King," Heschel stressed in his own inimitable fashion, "is a sign that God has not forsaken the United States of America. His presence is the hope of America. His mission is sacred, his leadership of supreme importance to every one of us."

Heschel then called upon "every Jew to hearken to King's voice, to share his vision and follow in his way."

As Heschel called King forward, the audience rose as one to give this non-violent leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate a standing ovation.

Almost immediately, King remarked on our song of greeting. His face shining, he said that hearing the Black struggle theme song "We Shall Overcome" in Hebrew for the first time had been a "beautiful experience."

He did not deliver a speech that evening. Instead, he answered questions which we had submitted earlier.

A preacher in the Southern tradition, his words carried both passion and softness. When he urged us to "take a stand for that which is just," he used the words of the Prophet Amos, "Let justice roll down like the waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

King's career was one of striving for equality for Black Americans. But in a sense, it was a greater struggle for the just treatment of all humankind . . .

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Empowering Women Through Jewish Education

BY RACHEL BLUMENFELD, Head of School

Jewish education has always been at the heart of our identity and tradition, shaping the way we connect with our faith and community. For much of history, though, Jewish women were primarily educated within the home, focusing on practical religious observance and maintaining a Jewish household. While men engaged in advanced Torah and Talmud study, women were often excluded from formal study.

However, change began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as forward-thinking leaders within the Jewish world challenged these boundaries. One of the most transformative figures was Sarah Schenirer, the founder of the Bais Yaakov school system. Her vision created a formal education framework for Jewish girls, combining Torah study with general academics and opening the door for generations of women to engage deeply with their heritage.

Today, Jewish women are embracing education in ways that would have been unimaginable just a century ago. They are reclaiming their voices in Jewish tradition and reshaping their communities through the power of learning. But this movement is about more than just access; it's about empowerment. It is about discovering the richness of Jewish texts and using that knowledge to engage with Jewish law and practice in meaningful ways. It enables women to ask questions, offer interpretations, and participate in communal conversations traditionally reserved for men.

When women pursue Jewish education, they aren't just learning for themselves. They're challenging old assumptions, asking important questions, and offering fresh perspectives.

They're joining conversations that, for too long, were reserved for men. Most importantly, they're forging a path for others to follow. In doing so, they're enriching the Jewish world for everyone.

The impact of their learning extends far beyond the individual.



A woman who reads books about Judaism at home or attends a weekly Torah study brings that passion into her household. She inspires her children to see Jewish learning not as an obligation but as a joy—a living, breathing tradition that connects us to our ancestors and to one another. Sisters, daughters, and friends see her example and feel encouraged to explore their own paths of learning.

Women's study groups, too, have become spaces of connection and growth. In these gatherings, bonds are formed over shared insights and struggles, creating a sense of belonging and collective purpose. These groups remind us that Jewish education isn't just about individual growth—it's about building stronger, more vibrant communities.

The empowerment of women through Jewish education is perhaps one of the most significant developments in contemporary Jewish life. By opening doors that were once closed, we honor the resilience of our ancestors while ensuring the vitality of our future. Women today aren't just preserving tradition; they're breathing new life into it.

They are proving that Jewish education isn't just a tool for empowerment—it's a sacred act of connection, renewal, and leadership.

In the words of *Pirkei Avot*, "Turn it and turn it, for everything is in it." Women today are turning the pages of religious texts with curiosity and purpose, and in doing so, they're transforming themselves—and the Jewish world.



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Sacred Sounds Reborn

A nusach-based project with **Beth Styles**—producer, composer, and gifted musician.

BY CANTOR DEBORAH KATCHKO-GRAY

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray is a fourth-generation cantor. She is the founder (in 1982) and past president of the Women Cantor's Network. Her story is included in *The Invisible Thread: A Portrait of American Jewish Women*. Her archives are preserved with the American Jewish Archives and the National Museum of American Jewish History, where two items are on permanent display. Her papers and memorabilia from her years of study with Professor Elie Wiesel are housed in the Mugar Library at Boston University with the Elie Wiesel Archives. Cantor Deborah helped found The Women of the Wall Choir, which she organized and got generous funding for from the Women Cantor's Network. Her friend Beth Styles arranged the choral music and produces the tracks for this project.

Cantor Deborah kindly agreed to share more about her incredible project below.

For years I have listened to lots of new music for the synagogue. I can appreciate the many new composers out there writing with music that moves them and speaks to them. Something was missing for me.

Why can't we use real nusach to create new Jewish music for the synagogue? My grandfather was a pioneer in the world of nusach-based synagogue music. His *Thesaurus of Cantorial Liturgy* was hailed as the first complete book of nusach for the modern cantor by Hebrew Union College in 1951. He reworked the elaborate motifs from his European background and composed every phrase and prayer a cantor needed using the authentic Jewish prayer motifs—nusach—that is still taught today in cantorial schools.

I wanted to use his music, fragments of it, to keep the sounds in our ears, hearts, and souls. The authentic nusach for Shabbat will be lost if we don't use it in our newer music as well. Many cantors use nusach for the occasional *hatimah*, the ending or seal of the prayer. Why not use some of the beautiful motifs for an actual piece that uses English as well to help bring the meaning of the prayer into our lives?

For years I dreamed of doing this project. It was the loss of my professional singing voice that compelled me to begin. After a wonderful experience teaching and singing with cantors from all over the world in Budapest for the European Cantors Association in November 2022, I returned home with a bad case of COVID that left me with a paralyzed and nerve-damaged vocal cord. I have not been able to sing professionally since then and have been on medical leave from my beloved pulpit in Ridgefield, CT and on disability.



Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray and Beth Styles in the studio



Final Cover

Without my singing voice as I once knew it, I realized I could still make music and make a difference. Creating these new liturgical pieces based on the classic nusach of my grandfather is a dream come true. With the help of my friend Beth Styles, we worked magic in the studio to create something very special. We included the voice of my dear father, of blessed memory, Cantor Theodore Katchko—who taught me everything his father, Cantor Adolph Katchko, taught him.

I feel it is my responsibility to see which prayers can be reworked for our contemporary synagogue, using the old motifs with a new fresh interpretation.

Adonai Malach has always been a favorite prayer. I studied it with the master cantor of all cantors, Cantor Jack Mendelson. This is a favorite of his, too. It begins with the nusach called *Adonai Malach*. How cool is it that the prayer *Adonai Malach* begins with the actual nusach called *Adonai Malach*? Beginning with a recording of my father, which I then added harmony to years after he passed (Thanks Natalie Cole for the idea!), the prayer begins with the majesty and history it deserves.

It then moves into a fresh and prayerful personal plea for strength and peace for Israel. We included the phrase "*Am Yisrael Chai*" as we both felt it was the time to show our faith and support for Israel now

and forever. With the rise of antisemitism and the war in Gaza, it feels right to use the phrase in a prayer that states the power and majesty of God in our lives. We need the strength of God more than ever, and we need to be supportive of Israel, "*Am Yisrael Chai*."

L'chu N'ran'na is an opening prayer for many Friday evening services. I was thrilled to hear a recording from Central Synagogue where they opened with my grandfather's nusach composition, and then went into an Israeli version of the prayer. I loved hearing the combination. It inspired me to think of ways to include that opening motif and keep using it in a new way, a new composition that kept the original nusach throughout. *L'chu N'ran'na* literally says, "Come let us sing joyously to God." This was an easier prayer to interpret and find new words to bring it to modern ears and hearts. Beth added a joyous new *niggun*, which has become an ear worm for me. Thankfully it is replacing *1-877 Kars for Kids* in my head.

This is only the beginning. There are so many wonderful phrases of nusach that I believe should be part of the service and not just an antique little ending to a prayer. It is my hope that these new nusach-based prayerful songs find their way into the cantorial world and synagogue music worship. ■



Calendars for a Good Cause:

Q&A with the Founders of the Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar

BY EMMA DRIBAN, Editor

While you were reading the January issue of *Jewish Living Delaware*, you may have seen some friendly furry faces on page 28 and wanted to learn more. Well, here's your chance!

The Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar was dreamt up by two local Jewish women, who were inspired by the need to create something uplifting in the aftermath of October 7. Abbe Lunger of PrintArtKids—a mom-owned and operated small business which creates fun, personalized items featuring your kid's original art—and Rabbi Robyn Frisch of Mazel Pups—a website created as a way for Jewish and Jew-ish dog lovers to learn more about Jewish dog-related topics—are the co-collaborators behind the unique calendar, which, as stated in last month's sneak preview, combines elements of Jewish tradition, joy, and adorable dogs.

Abbe and Rabbi Robyn spent some time with *Jewish Living Delaware*, answering questions about their latest project. Read on for the complete interview.

How did you meet?

RABBI ROBYN: It was completely random on my end—but it feels *b'shert* (meant to be). In December 2023, a couple of months after the horrors of October 7, Abbe reached out to me. She emailed saying she wanted to create something uplifting to benefit a Jewish or Israeli organization and thought that her PrintArtKids and my Mazel Pups were a perfect match. She ended her email with, "I'm hoping that you are intrigued and would be interested in working together . . ." And I absolutely was.

ABBE: When I reached out to Robyn, I had no idea that she lived within 20 minutes of my home! She could have lived anywhere in the USA! Our proximity to each other made working on this project even more rewarding, exciting, and fun—we were able to meet in person to share ideas (and sometimes frustrations), review proofs, and discuss how best to promote the calendar. It was a true partnership! Together, Robyn and I created a beautiful and meaningful calendar, and developed a special friendship in the process.

How did you each get into your respective roles?

RABBI ROBYN: I've always loved both Judaism and dogs. In January 2022, I thought, "Why not bring them together?" So, I started a Facebook group where Jewish dog lovers could celebrate their furry friends and their heritage. People shared pictures of their dogs doing everyday things—and uniquely Jewish things, like eating challah on Shabbat, dressing up for Passover, or celebrating a Bark Mitzvah. It became a bright spot for people in a chaotic world. From there, Mazel Pups grew into an Instagram account, a website, and even a podcast. The podcast, in particular, has brought me so much joy.

ABBE: My entire career has been working as a sales professional in the printing industry. PrintArtKids evolved somewhat organically when my sons, now in their 20s, were in elementary school. They created so much art and I didn't know what to do with it all! My printing background inspired the idea to create items like notecards and notepads with their artwork. Working with several designers and printers in my network, I developed samples and perfected the various templates, and soon after launched the PrintArtKids website (<https://printartkids.com/>), so that parents could order items with their own children's art. What started with a few basic items has grown to include notebooks, journals, postcards, holiday cards, puzzles, and now the Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar!

What inspired you to collaborate on such a meaningful project? What led you to create a calendar?

RABBI ROBYN: It was all Abbe's idea. Once we agreed to work together, she suggested a calendar. I thought it was brilliant—fun, educational, and uplifting. I loved that it could showcase adorable dogs, highlight dog-related holidays, and teach about Jewish and Israeli holidays. We even included a section that explains these holidays in detail. I'll admit, I didn't realize how much work it would be, but it's been so rewarding!

ABBE: I wanted to create something useful that Jewish people of all ages could enjoy throughout the year, something that would make them smile by simply seeing others (in this case, dogs) celebrating their Jewishness. It was also important that there be a fundraising element so we could support a Jewish or Israeli organization. A calendar is an item that people buy year after year, so from a business perspective, a calendar made sense.

You donate a portion of your profits to the Israel Guide Dog Center. Can you tell us a bit about IGDC? How did you learn about and connect with them?

RABBI ROBYN: I've known about the Israel Guide Dog Center (IGDC for years); my husband was friendly with its Co-Founder, Norman Leventhal. On a trip to Israel in 2022, we toured the center with Noach Braun, the Co-Founder and CEO, who began training dogs while serving as a paratrooper in the IDF. The visit was amazing in so many ways, but the most powerful part was speaking with a blind woman whose life was transformed by her guide dog. More recently, Norman's son Michael, a longtime leader in the IGDC community, appeared on my podcast and shared incredible stories about the guide, service, and emotional support dogs they train.

We asked the parents of the dogs featured in the calendar to suggest which organizations to support and then they all voted on their top two. I was thrilled when the IGDC was the top choice.

What does it mean to you to create something meant to uplift those affected by the tragedies of October 7?

RABBI ROBYN: Like so many Diaspora Jews, I felt helpless after October 7. I spoke about it with my congregants, attended rallies, posted pictures of dogs with Israeli flags and yellow ribbons on Mazel Pups, and made donations. But I wanted to do more.

This calendar is a small thing, but if it can bring attention to the tragedy, help people feel proud to be Jewish, and even give someone a reason to smile during a difficult time—then I think it's worthwhile.

ABBE: Like Robyn, I wanted to do something to make a difference, to help, but didn't know where to start. I was participating in the weekly Run4TheirLives walks to bring awareness of the hostages, but wanted to do more. I took what I know best, printing, and with Robyn, created this wonderful, thoughtful, uplifting calendar. So much love and passion went into this project. The feedback has been truly wonderful! It makes me happy and proud that the calendar has been so well received and it feels good that it has provided the means for us to donate to such an important organization as IGDC.

How did you recruit your canine models?

RABBI ROBYN: Mazel Pups has an abundance of gorgeous photos of dogs celebrating Jewish holidays and traditions. The real challenge wasn't finding pictures, but narrowing them down!

Abbe handled the logistics—ensuring the photos were high quality and deciding which ones would resonate most with people. Once she selected the pictures, we contacted the dogs' parents for permission. Not a single person said no!

Are there plans in the works for a Pawsitively Jewish 2026 Calendar?

RABBI ROBYN: We're hoping to make it happen!

Where can folks find out more about your work?

RABBI ROBYN: Follow Mazel Pups on Instagram (@mazelpups) or our Facebook page, and join the Facebook group. You can also check out the *Mazel Pups Podcast* on YouTube or any podcast

platform. Visit our website, mazelpups.com, to sign up for our newsletter and stay updated on future projects. Feel free to email me at mazelpups@gmail.com, too.

ABBE: Visit the PrintArtKids website (<https://printartkids.com/>) and follow @printartkids on social media (Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube). You can also sign up for our newsletter. Email contact: abbe@printartkids.com.

Is there anything else you want to share with our readers?

RABBI ROBYN: Follow your passions! My life was already very full and very busy—I work full-time for a Jewish nonprofit, serve a small synagogue, and have three kids, a granddaughter, and two rescue dogs. Mazel Pups is a fun side project, and it's been incredibly rewarding.

If I hadn't moved forward with Mazel Pups, among many other blessings and wonderful people I've gotten to know, I wouldn't have met Abbe or created this calendar, which has been such a joyful and meaningful experience. So, if you're passionate about something, go for it—you never know where it might lead!

ABBE: I agree with everything Robyn said above! Our lives are all so very full and busy, but when you have an idea or are passionate about something and are determined to make it happen, you somehow find the time. Don't give up! The rewards and experiences are more than worth the effort! ■



Rabbi Robyn Frisch and Abbe Lunger

If you or someone you know could use some Jewish Pawsitivity, buy yourself a copy (or two) of **The Pawsitively Jewish 2025 Calendar** and spread some Jewish love! Bulk purchases are also available for retail and fundraising opportunities.

Go to <https://printartkids.com/calendars/> to order or to learn more!

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Family Favs

BY **ELLISHA CAPLAN**,
Jewish Living Delaware
Committee Member



Do you cook while listening to music? Or watch TV/movies while working away in the kitchen? I must confess, when I need to make dinner on a weeknight, sometimes the only thing that can pull me away from my desk to get started is the thought of putting my earbuds in and listening to some good tunes or catching up on a guilty pleasure show while preparing whatever I've got on the menu that night. For me, it's a satisfying way to get into a groove and unwind during a time that can feel pretty frenetic, especially now that I've got two kids going off to one activity or another nearly every night of the week. Here is a smattering of weeknight dishes that go well with whatever is on your playlist and are easy to put together!

Soy-Glazed Brussels Sprouts and Chicken

Adapted from *The Food Matters Cookbook* by Mark Bittman
This dish does not sound special, but I'm telling you, squeeze that lemon on top and sprinkle on some soy sauce and this dish sings! So yummy and easy peasy on a weeknight. We eat it over rice, but you could pair it with cauliflower rice, quinoa, or eat it on its own.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb brussels sprouts, halved
- 1 lb chicken tenderloins, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 3 tbsp toasted sesame seeds (or toast your own)
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp ginger, minced
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- ½ cup chicken broth
- lemon slices and soy sauce, for serving

Instructions:

1. Heat the vegetable oil in a large, deep skillet over medium heat. Add the chicken, raise the heat to medium-high and stir occasionally, letting it brown a bit. Add the ginger and stir until fragrant. Remove the chicken from the pan, leaving the juices and browned bits in the pan.
2. Add the sesame oil, brussels sprouts, and chicken broth to the pan and bring to a boil. Cover the pan and keep to a gentle bubble. After about five minutes, the sprouts should be fork-tender, but you may need to add a little more liquid to the pan and keep it going a little longer if the sprouts are big!
3. Uncover the skillet and add the chicken and ginger in with the sprouts. Raise the heat to boil off the liquid and create the glaze, letting the chicken and sprouts get browned and a little bit crisped. Once the chicken and brussels sprouts are well glazed, stir in the sesame seeds, taste, and add salt and pepper if needed.

Serve hot, with lemon slices for squeezing and soy sauce for sprinkling over the mixture.

Sheet Pan Gnocchi

Adapted from *TheKitchn.com's Sheet Pan Gnocchi and Vegetables*

This one is so incredibly easy that you could put it together and then relax for a few on the couch while it bakes. Also, I think you could play with this and roast sweet potatoes or broccoli, or any other vegetables you like if tomatoes and peppers aren't your thing.

Ingredients:

- 1 lb shelf-stable potato gnocchi
- 2 medium yellow or orange bell peppers, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 pint grape or cherry tomatoes
- 1 small red onion, halved and sliced
- 4 cloves garlic, smashed
- 1 tsp fresh rosemary leaves, coarsely chopped
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- ¼ tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp fresh basil leaves, coarsely chopped
- grated Parmesan or Pecorino Romano for sprinkling.

Instructions

1. Arrange a rack in the middle of the oven and heat to 450° F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Place the gnocchi, vegetables, garlic, rosemary, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Drizzle with the olive oil and toss to combine. Spread the gnocchi mixture out evenly onto the prepared baking sheet.
3. Roast, stirring halfway through, until the gnocchi are plump and the vegetables are tender and caramelized, about 18 to 20 minutes total.

To serve, spoon the gnocchi and vegetable mixture into individual bowls, sprinkle some chopped basil and grated cheese over top.

Turkey Tacos

This originated from a Rachael Ray recipe, but I have made it my own over the years, according to my kids' disinterest in the combination of sweet and savory in the original, which called for quarter cup of chopped raisins, and the fact that we skip the sour cream and cheese that she called for, since we keep kosher style in our home. We often serve this with vegetarian refried beans on the side.

Ingredients:

- 1½ lbs ground turkey
- 2 tsp Montreal chicken seasoning
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- 2 tsp cumin
- ½ cup beer or chicken stock
- 1 cup tomato sauce romaine lettuce, finely chopped for serving
- diced tomatoes or fresh salsa
- prepared guacamole
- flour street tacos or corn taco shells

Instructions

1. Heat olive oil in a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the turkey and break it up with a wooden spoon. Season the meat with the chicken seasoning.
2. Add the garlic and onions to the meat, then season with the chili powder and cumin.
3. Cook for 5 minutes, then stir in the beer or stock and deglaze the pan.
4. Stir in the tomato sauce and simmer over low heat for 5 minutes.
5. To serve, put the meat into the taco shell, add lettuce, tomatoes, salsa, and guacamole on top.



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Etz Chaim— Our Tree of Life

BY **FAITH BROWN,**

Resident at Lodge Lane Assisted Living

A celebration of nature has always been our mission
As Tu B'Shvat arrives this month, a holiday tradition
Yes, it's still winter, but the days are visibly longer
Beneath the earth life is reasserting itself, even the sun seems stronger

Not mentioned in the Bible and yet, we've always prayed
"To sit under our own fig tree, and never be afraid"
There are no special laws or prayers that we must say
Just plant a tree in Israel on this Jewish Arbor Day

To plant a tree says, "I believe in a future when wars will cease"
And like our trees, our arms will be open to love, and our people will live in peace
Despite sad times, we must not fear
And believe the trees will bloom again next year

And to those who say, "We will never be free"
Those are the people who don't plant a tree

Let us grow like trees with solid roots
And put away the soldier's boots
As we celebrate this month of Tu B'Shvat
Tied together with the land of Israel in an unbreakable knot

Happy New Year, Trees!

Dedicated to Joyce Kilmer, who wrote:
"Poems are made by fools like me,
But only G-d can make a tree."



Sneak Peek!!

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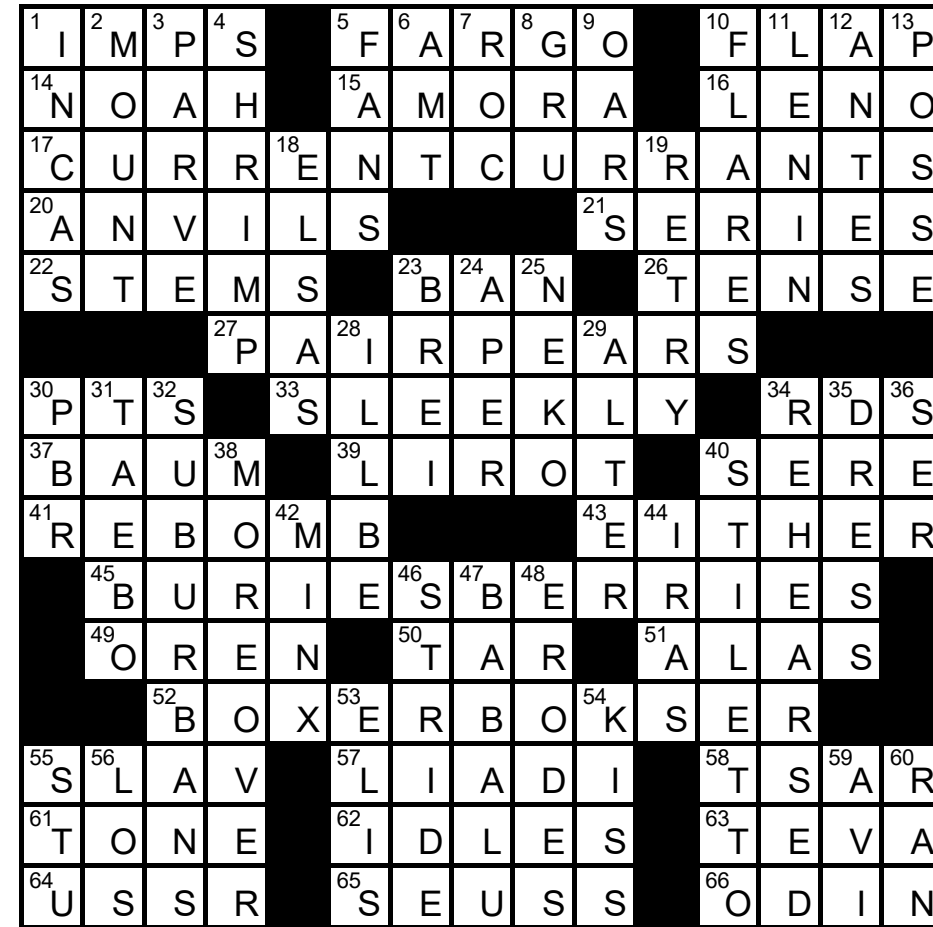
Two Bshvat

BY **YONI GLATT**

koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM

SOLUTION: PAGE 27



ACROSS

1. Children, at times.
5. North Dakota city, or a movie, or a TV show
10. Try to get airborne, maybe
14. He lived to 950
15. Ancient rabbinic sage
16. Funny Jay
17. Fresh grapes?
20. Blacksmith blocks
21. Asimov's "Foundation", e.g.
22. Asparagus, mostly
23. Declare illegal
26. Present or past, e.g.
27. Combine Seckel and Bosc?
30. 3 for an FG, e.g.
33. In a smooth manner
34. Thunder and Abbey, briefly
37. He invented "Oz"
39. Israeli money, once
40. All dried up, as land
41. Blast again
43. Flexible response
45. Gets rid of the goji and the acai?
49. Ambassador/historian/author Michael
50. Slander, say
51. "Woe!"
52. Carob for a pugilist?
55. Bulgarian, for one
57. Rabbi Shneur Zalman's town
58. Ruler over 57-Across, once
61. Parents might not like the sound of it?
62. Just hangs around
63. Sport-sandal brand
64. Khrushchev's realm: Abbr.
65. Big name in children's books
66. Big name in Asgard

DOWN

1. Ancient Americans
2. Carmel or Temple
3. Food designation, in Judaism
4. Popular piece of treif
5. Supporters
6. Quantity, for short
7. Feathered fiend in Sinbad stories
8. Minions' master
9. They're found on some boats
10. They're found on some boats
11. Big name in 64-Down
12. They go in the pot
13. Desperado hunters
18. "Anna & ___ Frozen Playground" (Lego set)
19. Make a second attempt
23. Matzah follower
24. Copy cat
25. Alt-country singer Case
28. "Can you believe that!"
29. Shorten, as slacks
30. Big initials in award-winning beer
31. '90s workout system
32. Chevrolet SUVs
34. Prepared for opening night
35. Prepared on opening night, with 34-Down
36. Sabbath speech: Abbr.
38. "In addition"
40. Heel type
42. Mouthy miss
44. Golden years investments, briefly
46. Runner's unit
47. Desi Arnaz's signature song
48. Eats away, as soil
53. Yale students
54. Band with frontmen born Stanley Eisen and Chaim Witz
55. Man's nickname that is a letter run
56. Article with Alamos
59. Rabbi Weiss of note
60. "And Esau ___ to meet him..." (Genesis 33:4)

A Different Kind of Music

BY SUSAN DETWILER,
Congregant from Congregation Beth Emeth

Attending synagogue in most of the United States, you would be forgiven to think the sound of Torah being chanted is the same everywhere, with only minor variations. Ashkenazi trop (Torah cantillation) is ubiquitous on Shabbat; on High Holidays, Festivals, and Haftorah readings, it is usually Ashkenazi versions that we hear. But that's not all there is.

My father's parents came from Ioannina, Greece, a city with a large Jewish community in the early 20th century. My Nona was eight years old when she came in 1912; my Grandpa was 16 when he came in 1916, and they met and raised their family in New York City. As I learned about my Greek heritage, I realized that the Romaniote (Greek-Jewish) traditions were often different from those of my Polish and Russian grandparents.



The ark is on the eastern wall, with numerous *ner tamid* in front of it—it was a custom for families to dedicate a *ner tamid* to commemorate special occasions
Photo Credit: Mark Detwiler

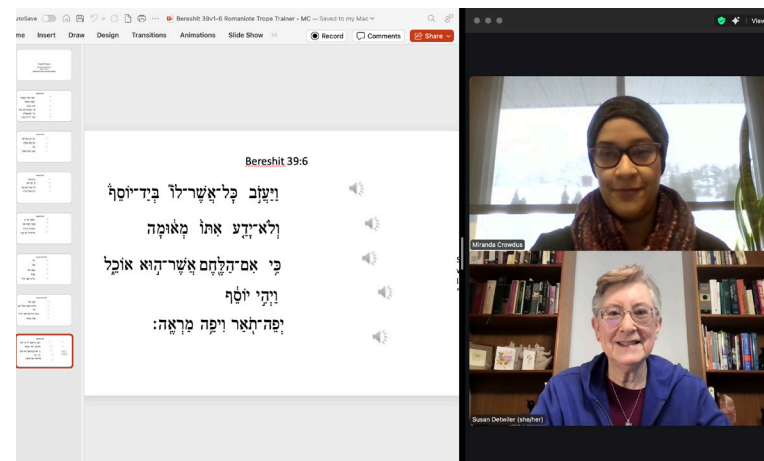


Torahs in the ark of the still standing synagogue in Ioannina; the temple was built in 1829, and was known as the Old Synagogue—there had been an older synagogue, dating from the 9th century, that was destroyed in the 18th century / Photo Credit: Mark Detwiler

Since Romaniote Jews settled in Greece before the destruction of the second Temple in Jerusalem, I wondered—are the Torah traditions also different? The answer is, "YES."

For almost 20 years, I've wanted to chant Torah using the Romaniote cantillation. When I visited Ioannina in 2011, the desire became even stronger.

On February 21, 2025, that wish will be fulfilled.



Susan Detwiler (bottom) and Miranda Crowdus (top) meet via Zoom to work on their Romaniote cantillation project
Photo Credit: Susan Detwiler

It has been a long road to get here. For years, I asked rabbinic, cantorial, and temple musician friends for direction—where could I find the Romaniote cantillation? I searched Google and YouTube videos, but I came up empty.

Until May 2017. That's when I discovered that ethnomusicologists in Germany were recording the liturgical music of the Romaniote Jews in Ioannina, Greece. I reached out to them and began working with Dr. Miranda Crowdus, then with Hannover University of Music, Drama, and Media.

Miranda was recording the liturgical music chanted by Cantor Haim Ischakis, who still uses the Romaniote tradition. I asked her if Cantor Ischakis would record Torah verses for me, and with her as intermediary, he agreed.

Imagine my excitement! At last, I would hear the Torah as chanted by my ancestors, and perhaps learn it myself!

Obviously, we couldn't ask Cantor Ischakis to chant the whole Torah for us. So, I immediately contacted all the cantors and temple musicians again, and asked a very specific question:

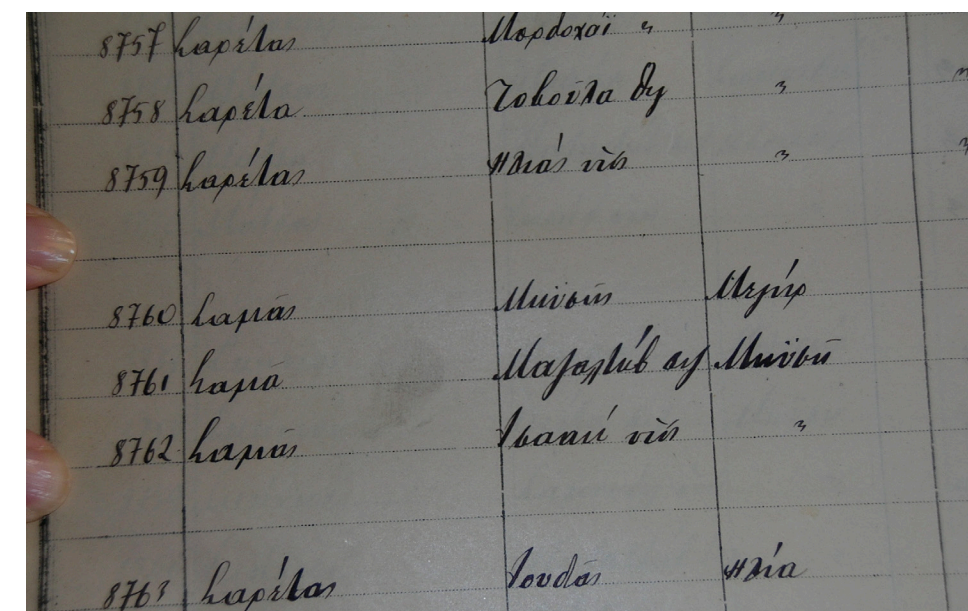
What verses in Torah, when taken together, would give me all the different trop marks and trop combinations?

Their responses were immediate. I sent their answers to Miranda, and by August 2017, we had Cantor Ischakis' recordings.

Then came the hard work. Torah cantillation is an aural tradition; until recently, most who learned to chant did so aurally. The musical notes are not written, and the Romaniote Torah melodies are no different. How could we convert the

recordings into a form that would allow me—or anyone else—to pick up any *Torah parshah*, and chant it in the Romaniote trop?

Over the past seven years, we have considered different options. I tried using software to create clips of the different verses, broken by trop notation. But the original recordings are not clean, so Miranda sought out recording technicians to help clean them. I spent time breaking out the recorded *parshiot* in the pages of a *tikkun*—the Hebrew text that helps people learn to read the Torah for services—so Miranda could match them to the recording. Finally, I created a PowerPoint trop table of the various trop phrases, annotated with where the phrases could be found in the verses Cantor Ischakis had sampled for us. In return, Miranda used



Susan's family census, showing her grandfather's family—his father, mother, and himself—in Greek / Photo Credit: Mark Detwiler

the Romaniote cantillation to record the names of the trop marks.

Mercha, tipcha, munach, and etnachta sound very different!

It took seven years to get to this point. Miranda and I had work, life events, and, of course, the interruptions of COVID. We've met only once in person. Miranda is now on this side of the Atlantic as Assistant Professor, Research Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies, and Director of the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University in Quebec.

Going forward, our goal is to create a Romaniote Trop Table, which we will publish online and make available to students, researchers, and the public.

But more immediately, Congregation Beth Emeth is hosting a trio of programs around Romaniote traditions and this seven-year project. Dr. Miranda Crowdus will present a webinar on February 19, 2025—*Reviving a Dying Tradition*—about her work with Cantor Ischakis. On Friday, February 21, I will chant nine verses of *Mishpatim* using the Romaniote cantillation. We will round out the weekend on Sunday, February 23, with a brunch and learn about the Romaniote tradition, along with other Romaniote Jews.

Watch for notifications—I hope you can join us!

OBITUARIES

Ha'makom yena hem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei tziyon vi'Yerushalayim

May God console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Samuel Sigesmond Campbell

Age 70, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2024.

Sam was born on July 1, 1954 in Kingston, Jamaica. As a young man, he met, fell in love with, and married Carmen Hackett, and they had a beautiful daughter, Sheries Campbell. Years later, Sam set his sights on moving to the United States. He moved to Brooklyn, NY and started a new life. Ultimately, he moved to Delaware and settled in the city of Wilmington.

Sam loved life and was a very hard worker, often working two or three jobs at any given time. For the past 15 years, he worked as a Technician at Communications Test Design, Inc. ("CTDI"). Sam was very proud of his accomplishments at CTDI. If asked, he would say that he was most proud of the close and lasting friendships that he made while working there.

Sam was blessed with two precious granddaughters, Affadasha and Anneisha, who now reside in Florida.

Preceded in death by his parents, Ethelbirth Campbell and Linett Robertson; his sister, Grace; and daughter, Sheries; Sam is survived by his brother, Carol; grandchildren, Affadasha and Anneisha; and three great-grandchildren, Amiir, Amariee, and Amaya.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Kutz Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE. 19809.

Richard Harvey Margolin

Age 84, passed away December 31, 2024.

Born August 12, 1940, he was a proud Delawarean and a proud graduate of both the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and the Ohio State University, where he received his Master's Degree in Pharmaceutical Administration. A profound example of the impact of Richard's almost 60-year career as a pharmacist is the recently-discovered envelope filled with birth announcements and thank you notes from parents grateful for the unique treatments he compounded. His greatest and most passionate hobby was caring for and loving his family.

Preceded in death by his parents, William and Edythe Margolin; beloved sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Elaine and Jim Pizor; he is survived by his wife of over 63 years, Marcia "Marcy" (nee Schneider); children, Brett (Joelle), Scott (Christy), and Steven (Heather); grandchildren, Mirel, Sander, Levy (Ian), Rachel, Will (Ava), Kelsie, Amy, and Ryan; and brother, Myles (Diane).

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Elaine Pizor Child Family Room at Jewish Family Services of Delaware, 99 Passmore Road, Wilmington, DE 19803.

David Rodoff

Age 86, passed away December 23, 2024.

Dave Rodoff—a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend—passed away peacefully at his home on December 23, 2024, at the age of 86. Born on August 19, 1938, David lived a full life marked by love, laughter, and an unshakeable devotion to his family.

Dave is survived by his wife, Judy Rodoff, with whom he shared many wonderful years; and his sister, Charlotte Schwartz (Joel). He was a proud and loving father to Ken Rodoff (Jessica) and Wendy Bloom. Dave also embraced his role as a stepfather to David Driban (Lisa), Sam Driban (Marilyn Shadis), and Elissa Levin (Keith), creating a blended family filled with love.

As a grandfather, Dave was source of joy to his grandchildren, supporting all their endeavors and creating lasting memories with all: Sarah (David), Madeline (Matt), Emma (Haley), Bryan, Royce, Mark, Brian, Morgan, Quinn, Joshua, and Anna. His wisdom, humor, and kindness left an indelible mark on each of their lives.

Dave's life was a testament to the values he held dear: family, hard work, happiness, and his tireless passion for the Phillies and Eagles. He will be remembered for his uncanny ability to make friends and connections with everyone he met, his unwavering sense of humor, and the countless memories he created with those he loved.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Dave's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Charles "Chick" H. Simmons, III

Age 76, passed away December 24, 2024

Born December 18, 1949 in Philadelphia, PA, Chick was the son of Charles H. Simmons, Jr. and Freda (nee Immel) Simmons. He graduated from Upper Darby High School and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Once he was honorarily discharged from the Marines, he spent his working career at Phoenix Steel, and eventually retired from General Motors

Chick and Sherry's story is one of enduring love that began in the most unassuming places. They first met while working part-time jobs at the Save-A-Cent Drug Store. Their over 50-year relationship, 45 of which were married, is a testament to the power of time, patience, and friendship in forming a lasting and meaningful partnership

—They were blessed with two children whom they loved and adored (and still do). Chick was a dedicated family man who cherished every moment spent with his loved ones. He was a man of integrity, always putting his family's needs above his own.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl "Sherry" Snyder Simmons; his children, Heather Feliciano (Javier) and David (Amy); his sister, Linda Gorman; and grandchildren, Mason and Sierra; step-grandsons, Adrian Feliciano and Tyler Atkinson; and many other family members and friends who will miss him dearly.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in memory of Chick be made to Blood Bank of Delmarva (give.delmarvablood.org) or The Helen F. Graham Cancer Center at Christiana Hospital (<https://christianacare.org/us/en/make-a-gift/friends-of-the-helen-f-graham-cancer-center>).

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

Two Bshvat

Puzzle on page 23

1	I	2	M	3	P	4	S	5	F	6	A	7	R	8	G	9	O	10	F	11	L	12	A	13	P
14	N	O	A	H	15	A	M	O	R	A	16	L	E	N	O										
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