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- 4h ago: 1 in 4 American Jews has experienced anti-Semitism since 2016, ADL finds
- 15h ago: Rabbi Michael Cook, who helped Jews navigate the New Testament, dies at 79
- 17h ago: State Department revives pre-Trump use of 'occupied' Israeli territory language, but with caveats
- 19h ago: Leader of extremist haredi Orthodox sect Lev Tahor arrested in Guatemala
- 25h ago: Morris Dickstein, literary critic and public intellectual, dies at 81

State Department revives pre-Trump use of 'occupied' Israeli territory language, but with caveats

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FOOD

Jews in the former Soviet Union eat pounds of matzah per person – the most in the world – every year. Here's why.

BY CNAAN LIPHSHIZ MARCH 26, 2021 12:46 PM

CULTURE

The University of Chicago was just given the largest private collection of antique Haggadahs. Here are a few of them.

TRENDING ON JTA

- GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith to Schumer: The Sabbath is on Sunday
- A matzah NFT: Clubhouse and BuzzFeed's Passover event will feature a digital afikomen
- A Brooklyn Hasidic rabbi is under investigation for promoting child marriage

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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

This chef, born next to a matzah factory, is delivering meals to Holocaust survivors

"A Holocaust survivor who's 90 years old, who's taking care of them?" David Teyf wondered. "That's when I said to myself, I have to do something."

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...serving the LGBTQ community, and grounds her advocacy in Jewish values. She says religion represents striving for a "more just place, a place that is kinder, that is gentler, a place where we teach our children that from generation to generation, we will do better, and we will be kinder, and we will be more just to the stranger as well as to the family."

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Weingarten spoke to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from her office in Washington on March 9. This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

JTA: How close are we to getting students back in school full-time, and what are the steps it's going to take to get to that place?

ARTICLES

CULTURE

The University of Chicago was just given the largest private collection of antique Haggadahs. Here are a few of them.

BY GABE FRIEDMAN MARCH 26, 2021 10:50 AM



Stephen Durchslag has amassed over 4,500 unique Haggadahs from around the world. (Fred Eckhouse/Courtesy of Stephen Durchslag)

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(JTA) – Stephen Durchslag’s love of Passover started at a young age. One could argue it started at birth, when his parents gave him the middle name Pesach.

So it’s not surprising that Durchslag, now a retired lawyer, amassed what’s being called the world’s largest private collection of Passover Haggadahs – over 4,500 versions of the book that leads Jews through the holiday’s seder meal.

He is bequeathing the collection to the University of Chicago, where he earned a master’s degree in divinity after retiring in 2013.

“It will be a treasure trove for faculty, students and visiting researchers seeking to explore Jewish religion, history and culture and will significantly enhance our important academic collection in Jewish studies,” the university’s library director, Brenda Johnson, told UChicago News.

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The works in his collection are written in 31 languages, “from medieval Italian, Hebrew and Yiddish to Marathi, Judeo-Arabic and Judeo-Tat, spoken by the Jewish community in the remote Caucasus Mountains,” according to UChicago News.

Here are images from a few of them.

Mantua



TRENDING ON JTA

GOP Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith to Schumer: The Sabbath is on Sunday

A matzah NFT: Clubhouse and BuzzFeed’s Passover event will feature a digital afikomen

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Dimentman was riding in a car with two others to the outpost when they were ambushed by shooters with automatic weapons. The other passengers sustained minor injuries.

Dimentman, who is survived by his wife and 9-month-old son, was buried in Jerusalem Friday. At his funeral, the head of the yeshiva where he studied and others vowed to defend Homesh, and his brother said Dimentman was committed to living and studying there.

“Living according to Torah wasn’t easy for Yehuda but he knew it was his mission,” Shlomi Dimentman said, according to Ynet. “He bowed to no one. Wherever he felt he needed to be, he went and was loved by all. He never made allowances for himself, not in the cold of winter, not on Shabbat. His wife and he lived in a tin hut and they were happy there.”

The attack comes amid a spate of violent attacks by Palestinians against Jews in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Dimentman is the second settler to be killed this year in the West Bank, after a 19-year-old yeshiva student was shot and killed while waiting at a bus stop in May.

Meanwhile, violent attacks by Jewish settlers against Palestinians are up 50% in the last year, according to a recent Times of Israel analysis.

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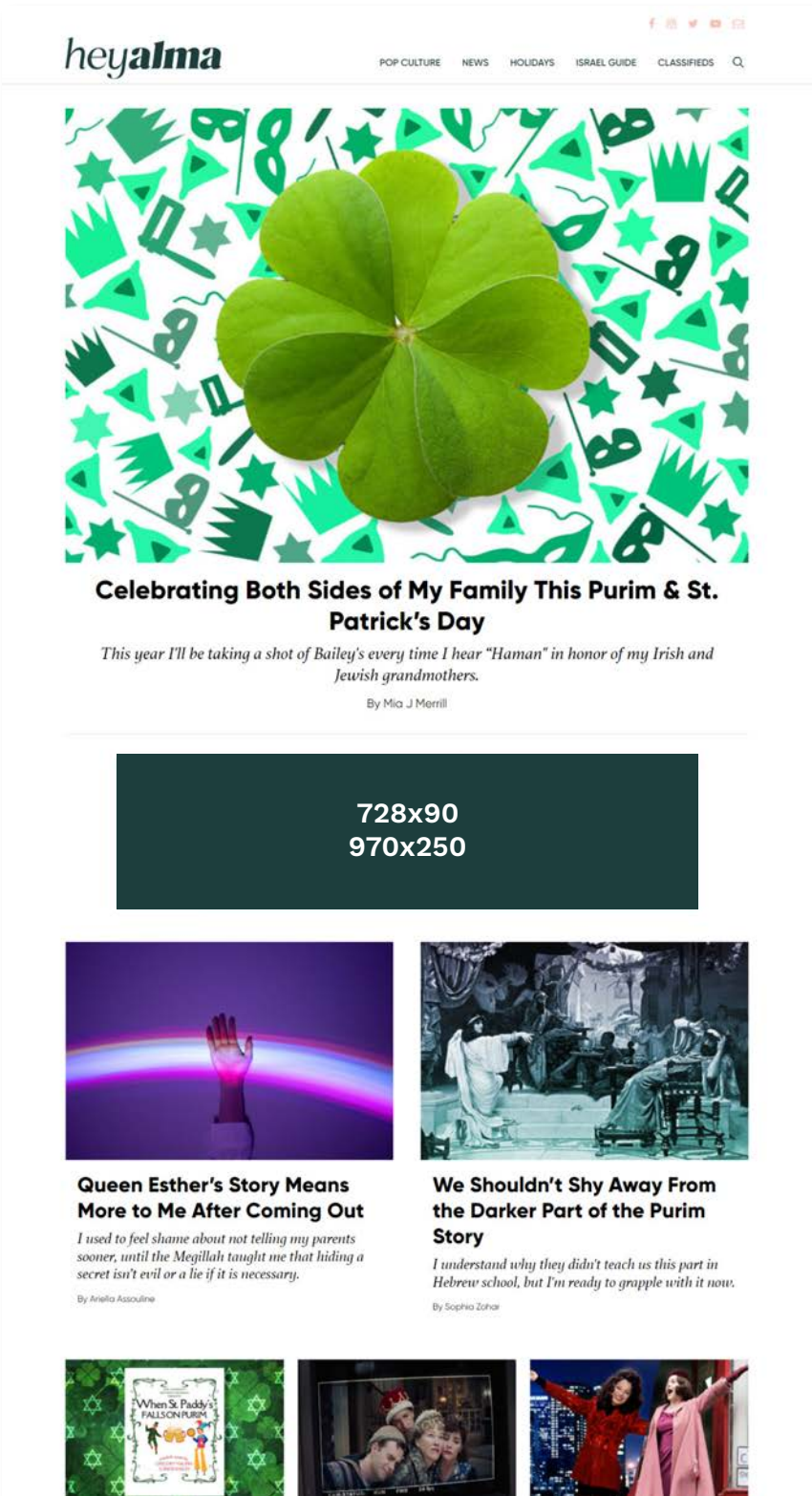
Prepare for the unexpected at this year’s Z3 Conference with a visionary futures workshop! Inspired by the tools of geopolitics and diplomacy, at the heart of the conference is a structured simulation. Speakers including Brett Stephens, Rachel Azaria and Natan Sharansky will take part in a plausible futuristic scenario that will impact the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. Reimagining Diaspora-Israel Relations.

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Celebrating Both Sides of My Family This Purim & St. Patrick's Day

This year I'll be taking a shot of Bailey's every time I hear "Haman" in honor of my Irish and Jewish grandmothers.

By Mia J Merrill

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Queen Esther's Story Means More to Me After Coming Out


I used to feel shame about not telling my parents sooner, until the Megillah taught me that hiding a secret isn't evil or a lie if it is necessary.

By Analia Assouline

We Shouldn't Shy Away From the Darker Part of the Purim Story

I understand why they didn't teach us this part in Hebrew school, but I'm ready to grapple with it now.

By Sophia Zahar



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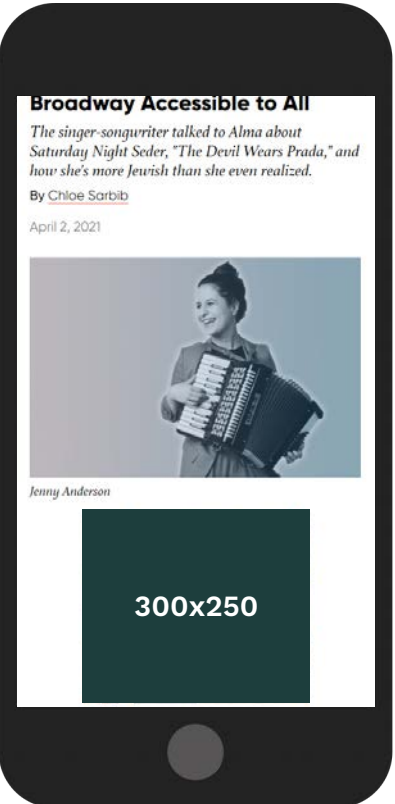
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Celebrating Both Sides of My Family This Purim & St. Patrick's Day

This year I'll be taking a shot of Bailey's every time I hear "Haman" in honor of my Irish and Jewish grandmothers.

By Mia J Merrill

320x50
320x100




Broadway Accessible to All

The singer-songwriter talked to Alma about Saturday Night Seder, "The Devil Wears Prada," and how she's more Jewish than she even realized.

By Chloe Sarbib

April 2, 2021



Jenny Anderson

300x250

Queen Esther's Story Means More to Me After Coming Out

I used to feel shame about not telling my parents sooner, until the Megillah taught me that hiding a secret isn't evil or a lie if it is necessary.

By Ariella Assouline March 16, 2022



Qi Ying/Getty Images

Esther: beautiful, brave and wise. That's what we learned about her in Hebrew school during readings of the Megillah during Purim. Her story resonated with me across my life. Her very name, one shared by the force that was my grandmother, evoked respect, wisdom and a deep power. I dressed every Purim in a white and gold kaftan as my grandmother penciled in a beauty mark on my cheek. She was everything, the role model from Judaism I couldn't wait to celebrate every year.

Esther was also a liar. Objectively, she hid her identity as a Jewish woman from her husband, King Ahasuerus of Persia. Purposefully. Yet, every Purim, we all gather to celebrate her and her uncle Mordechai and loudly boo Haman, the man who would have all the Jewish people in Persia killed over an insult to his ego. After King Ahasuerus' previous wife, Vashti, was killed for "disobeying" her husband (a feminist reading of the text reveals Vashti was killed for refusing a humiliating display of her femininity to a group of men in her husband's court), the king searched the land for a new queen. Esther was chosen for her beauty, and slowly had to prove herself as a person to be trusted with the nation's wellbeing.

728x90
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My fear around coming out stemmed from a life-long training that being queer was wrong, point blank. Abominations. Not in our family, not in our religion, not in our tradition. I thought I could trick myself, convince myself my feelings weren't real, not necessary to act on or explore. When I met my current partner, I realized I couldn't ignore it anymore, couldn't pretend that being bi meant that I could make everyone happy by marrying a man.

I first came out to my parents, separately. I think as queer people, we are told the outcome of our coming out will be one of two options: pride-worthy acceptance, or rejection to the deepest degree. No one prepares you for the other option: apathy. My dad was on his tablet and asked if that meant I was still interested in boys. I said yes, but reminded him that it also meant I might end up with someone who wasn't a man. My heart was pounding, begging my tongue not to betray me and confess something I wasn't ready to yet. Weeks later, when I told him I was dating someone who wasn't a man, all he asked was, "Is she bigger than you?"

My mom, on the other hand, was more incendiary. The reversal of roles between them had my head spinning. She demanded to know why I lied to her. How she never expected me to be a coward. That she saw me as deceitful, hiding things in order to get what I want. Selfish things. I didn't have the words to explain to her then that 22 years of information told me, shouted at me, that I better hide. The disgust when gay marriage was discussed, the definitiveness of sin in Sodom and Gomorrah, the casual statements thrown out at the Shabbat table. "If she comes back from Brandeis gay, I'm pulling her out." Nothing I could say then proved the severity of my scars. How do you communicate a lifetime's worth of conditioning in one conversation?

HOMEPAGE

The homepage features a top navigation bar with the Kveller logo and categories: JEWISH CULTURE, MOTHERHOOD, NEWS, SELF, PREGNANCY, and BABY NAMES. A main hero section includes a large graphic of three faces and a featured article titled "I'm a Nonbinary Person. Can I Still Be a Jewish Mother?". Below this is a "THE LATEST" section with several article thumbnails. A "PASSOVER" section contains three articles about Debbie Friedman's song, Jewish baby names, and Passover crafts. A "MOST POPULAR" list ranks these Passover-related articles. An "OUR GUIDES" section features a carousel of guides for Jewish Pregnancy, Shabbat, and Bris. A "KVELLER BASICS" sidebar lists various resources like a Baby Name Finder and Jewish Events. A "DON'T MISS" section is at the bottom.

300x600

KVELLER BASICS
 Baby Name Finder
 Kveller Events
 Jewish Holidays With Kids
 Call Your Mother Podcast
 Jewish Words To Teach Kids
 What To Expect At A Shiva
 Hottest Jewish Baby Names

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The mobile app interface shows the Kveller logo and social media icons at the top. A large purple banner displays the dimensions "320x50" and "320x100". Below is a "YIDDISH" section with the article "Yiddish Classes Are Now Available on Duolingo!". The article includes the author "By Maddy Albert" and the date "Apr 5, 2021", along with "share" and "tweet" buttons. A Duolingo character is featured in a blue heart-patterned graphic.

The mobile app interface shows a text-heavy article with a purple banner at the top displaying "300x250". The article text includes: "several difficult conversations about our vastly different religious practices. When we met, I was approaching 30 and I had begun to lose all hope of ever finding a nice Jewish guy on the streets (and apps) of New York City. But then, one day, Josh's picture appeared on a dating site called Coffee Meets Bagel, a dating app that uses an algorithm to match people who are in the same social network but have not met — kind of the tech equivalent of the local matchmaker in the Old Country." Below the text is an "ADVERTISEMENT" banner with the dimensions "300x250". The article continues: "Josh checked all the boxes: Jewish, Ivy League-educated, and, most important, dare I say, normal. He also had a very kind smile and his profile was embedded with his characteristic humility. On our second date, Josh took me to an Italian".

ARTICLES

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Kveller JEWISH CULTURE MOTHERHOOD NEWS SELF PREGNANCY BABY NAMES


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JEWISH IDENTITY

I'm a Nonbinary Person. Can I Still Be a Jewish Mother?

By Shelly Jay Shore Mar 31, 2021

f share t tweet



Every now and then, a conversation crops up about the ways in which the eldest daughter – the oldest female-assigned child in a family, even if there are older brothers – can be considered its own gender. That's because, regardless of gender identity, something about the way oldest daughters are socialized and the roles they take on in a family just sticks.

"Your gender can change but eldest daughter syndrome is forever," one Tumblr user joked. "As an eldest daughter, I sometimes commit the grave sin of having emotions," another user posted, to which another replied, "Conceal, don't feel, don't let them know" had nothing to do with Elsa's powers. It's just the mantra of eldest daughters." (Which: ouch.)

As a nonbinary person who doesn't present androgynously, I spend a lot of time thinking about gender, and how it connects to our identities and the way we move through the world. I'm the oldest of two, and my sister and I have joked – mostly sarcastically – that I played an ample role in raising her. I strongly believe that being an eldest daughter is its own experience, and therefore I have no problem calling myself an eldest daughter while still maintaining my nonbinary identity.

And yet, when I became a parent last December, I found myself surprisingly uncomfortable with taking on the mantle of "Jewish mother." Considering that I'm Jewish – and that I've long been the "mom friend," ever since I realized that not every second-grader reminds their friends to bring their sweaters to recess – I did not expect to feel so uncertain about this term.

300x600

MOST POPULAR

- PASSOVER This Passover See Shanley Parody Is a Seder: The Movie' Is the Hilarious Passover Parody We Need
- POLITICS Doug Emhoff Loves Gettifer Fish and Other White House Passover Seder Highlights
- PASSOVER The Macabreah's New Passover Madley Will Help You Finish Your Seder
- VIDEO This Cover of Debbie Friedman's 'Miriam's Song' Is So Inspiring

300x250

300x600

Jewish culture, and Judaism in general, relies on gendered language, concepts, and archetypes to help create community stories and experiences. From Hebrew being an explicitly gendered language, to the differences in gendered obligations to perform certain mitzvot, to the way we know exactly what someone means when they talk about a "nice Jewish boy," connecting to Jewish spaces and stories requires an engagement with gender.

That engagement doesn't have to be performative or binary. Publicly existing outside of the gender binary in Jewish spaces is, in and of itself, a radical act in the way it requires institutions and individuals to reckon with their own understandings of gender, and how it

HOMEPAGE

THE JEWISH LEARNING

the nosher

CHALLAH DESSERT FOOD VIDEOS EASY DINNERS PASSOVER FOOD Search The Nosher...

DESSERT

Pavlova With Fresh Berries Recipe

This stunning dessert tastes as good as it looks.

PASSOVER FOOD

Restaurants Around the U.S. Offering Passover Meal Delivery

From matzah ball soup to wood-fired matzah, the options are endless.

PASSOVER FOOD

The Noshers Presents A Week of Passover Cooking Classes

It's a Passover miracle! Christmas, er, Hanukkah has come early! You are all lucky ducks, because for the first time ...

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NOSHING

The Jewish Roots of Old Bay Seasoning

Oh Bay! Become seasoned on the history of America's beloved spice blend.

NOSHING

Jewish Cookbook Author Julia Turshen Wants You to Cook Chicken Soup All Year

Why save the good stuff for the holidays?

PASSOVER FOOD

Golden Chicken Broth With Real Egg Noodles Recipe

A comforting broth with delicate egg noodles.

MOBILE

JEWISH BASICS

The Tangled History of Noodle Kugel

From sweet to spicy, a love of lockshen kugel unites the Jews.

300x250

NOSHING

Jewish Cookbook Author Julia Turshen Wants You to Cook Chicken Soup All Year

Why save the good stuff for the holidays?

BY SHANNON SARNA | MARCH 24, 2021

320x50
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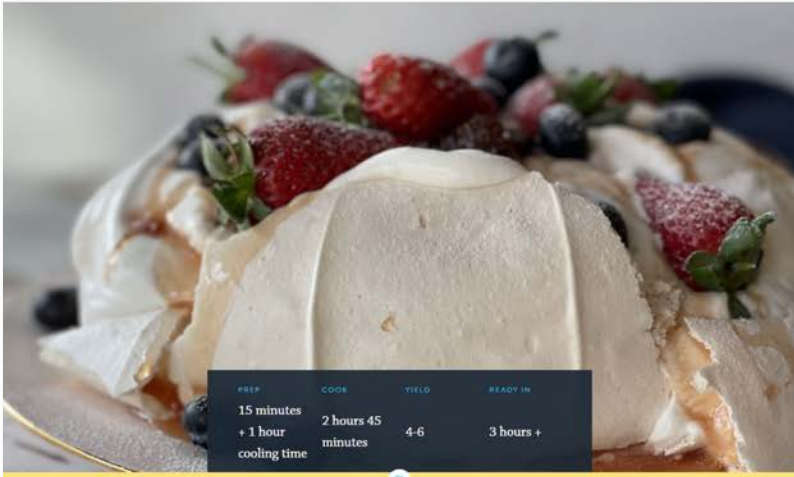
Julia Turshen, whose fourth solo cookbook *Simply Julia: 110 Easy Recipes for Healthy Comfort Food* was recently

ARTICLES

BY JEWISH LEARNING

the nosher

CHALLAH DESSERT FOOD VIDEOS EASY DINNERS PASSOVER FOOD



PREP	COOK	YIELD	READY IN
15 minutes + 1 hour cooling time	2 hours 45 minutes	4-6	3 hours +

DESSERT

Pavlova With Fresh Berries Recipe


This stunning dessert tastes as good as it looks.

BY LIOR NASHIACH | MARCH 17, 2021


728x90
970x250

[f](#) [t](#) [p](#) [e](#)

This dessert is both simple, and elegant. Pavlovas are delicious all year, but are particularly impressive during Passover. You can serve it with whatever fresh fruit you prefer.





Watch Lior make the dish below:



Passover Cooking with the Nosher: Lior M... watch later

Watch on [YouTube](#)

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

-  **Mimouna: A Delicious Way to Celebrate the End of Passover**
[SEPHARDIC FOOD](#)
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NY Jewish Week

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By Ruthie Fierberg

NEW YORK

A new Instagram account tells the story of New Yorker Judith Kaplan, America's first-ever bat mitzvah

A Manhattan synagogue remembers a milestone in a way accessible to today's tweens.

By Ada Bergley

UNITED STATES

A podcaster explores her own Black and Jewish identities in a series about the Crown Heights riots

"Love Thy Neighbor" looks back at four days of violence that shook New York City.

By Adam Dichter

CULTURE

This Jewish photographer was the 'unlikely' chronicler of New York's Chinatown

UNITED STATES

'F— Jews' sprayed outside Israeli restaurant on Upper West Side

CULTURE

Ezra Goldstein, literary tastemaker who saved Brooklyn's oldest independent bookstore, is retiring

By Ada Bergley

NEW YORK

New York federation funds security at smallest Orthodox synagogues

NEW YORK

New York is lifting its mask mandates. Will synagogues follow suit?

CULTURE

'Gazpacho Police' is now an original klezmer song

NEW YORK

As antisemitism rises in New York, local politicians share tools to fight it

300x250

Upcoming Events

FAMILIES AND KIDS: **Ein Sham: Pre-Shabbat Fun for Toddlers**
Fri, Feb. 25, 2022 @ 09 AM
hosted by: The Jewish Center of New York City (J.C.)

FAMILIES AND KIDS: **Baby & Toddler Shabbat Music Classes**
Fri, Feb. 25, 2022 @ 10 AM
hosted by: The Lefter School

FAMILIES AND KIDS: **Early Childhood Families: In-Person and Virtual Shabbat Services**
Sat, Feb. 26, 2022 @ 11 AM
hosted by: The Jewish Center of New York City (J.C.)

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Trending on JTA
Jewish news from around the world

Rabbi ousted from Park East Synagogue announces new congregation on the Upper East Side

After a Jewish lawmaker's impassioned speech, Wyoming's conservative legislature rejects critical race theory ban

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970x250
970x90
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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

NY Jewish Week

RELIGION

A new Instagram account tells the story of New Yorker Judith Kaplan, America's first-ever bat mitzvah

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NY Jewish Week

CULTURE

Is it safe? A new play explores the unease of modern French Jews in the face of antisemitism

By Ruthie Fierberg February 22, 2022 4:33 pm

Molly Ranson and Francis Benhamou star in "Prayer for the French Republic," a new off-Broadway play at Manhattan Theatre Club. (© Matthew Murphy 2021)

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ARTICLES

RELIGION

A new Instagram account tells the story of New Yorker Judith Kaplan, America's first-ever bat mitzvah

By Julia Gerety February 23, 2022 3:10 pm



The Instagram account @judithkaplan1922 aims to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Judith Kaplan's bat mitzvah, the first for an American girl. (Shorbound Films, Inc.)

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(New York Jewish Week via [Facebook](#)) — If Instagram existed 100 years ago, what would 12-year-old Judith Kaplan, the first American girl to have a bat mitzvah, be posting? What issues would she care about? What feelings would she share with her friends and followers on social media about taking such a big step?

These are all questions that video producer Mik Moore and director Jeremy Newberger sought to answer when they created the Instagram account @judithkaplan1922. The multimedia miniseries retells Kaplan's Jewish milestone through a medium with which most 12-year-olds today are all too familiar.

"The idea was that you can use a platform like Instagram to tell the story of a young girl — who might have been using Instagram if it had existed at this historical moment," Moore told *The New York Jewish Week*.

Allowing his daughter to celebrate her coming-of-age in public — an honor previously reserved for Jewish boys — was just one of the ways Kaplan and Reconstructionism were ahead of the curve: It took another 50 years for bat mitzvah ceremonies to become mainstream celebrations in Reform, Conservative and, eventually, many Orthodox synagogues.

The Instagram account, which will feature 11 one-to-three-minute episodes, will culminate on the 100th anniversary of Judith's bat mitzvah on March 18, 2022. It is part of a year-long series of events at SAJ commemorating the Reconstructionist congregation's 100th anniversary. The festivities include a celebratory event in March in collaboration with the Jewish Women's Archive, where Dylan Tanner, the actress who plays Kaplan in the series, will perform a monologue.

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Ukraine's Jewish community is preparing for war. Donations are urgently needed for medical gear, protective equipment, and basic necessities. Support Chabad Coesha and help hundreds of Holocaust survivors, orphans and others who have nowhere else to go.

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Upcoming Events

FAMILIES AND KIDS
Sim Bam: Pre-Shabbat Fun for Toddlers
 Fri, Feb. 25, 2022 @ 09 AM
 Hosted by: Et'ra, Mishkan of New York City (86)

FAMILIES AND KIDS
Baby & Toddler Shabbat Music Classes
 Fri, Feb. 25, 2022 @ 10 AM
 Hosted by: The Left! School

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CELEBRATE Why Some Holidays Last Longer Outside Israel

Israelis and liberal Jews observe fewer days for some holidays than traditional Diaspora Jews.



PASSOVER Passover 2021

In 2021, the first Passover seder is on Saturday, March 27.



CELEBRATE How to Count the Omer

A guide to the ritual that occurs between Passover and Shavuot.

728x90 970x250

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WHAT'S NEW TODAY



ANTI-SEMITISM & BIGOTRY Israel and Anti-Semitism

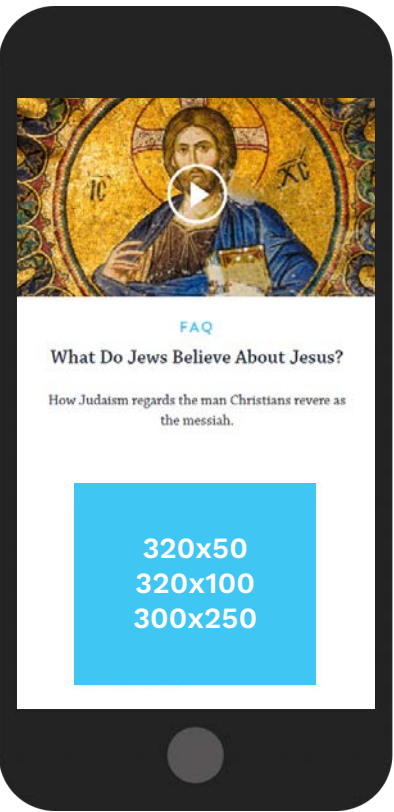
The idea that extreme criticism of Israel is anti-Semitic is



PSALMS Psalm 150: The Sound of the Soul

Hillel Tixas performs an original composition to the words of

MOBILE



FAQ What Do Jews Believe About Jesus?

How Judaism regards the man Christians revere as the messiah.

320x50 320x100 300x250

ARTICLES



CELEBRATE

Why Some Holidays Last Longer Outside Israel

Israelis and liberal Jews observe fewer days for some holidays than traditional Diaspora Jews.

BY RABBI DANIEL KOHN



In the Torah, major Jewish holidays are shorter than what most traditional Jews outside Israel celebrate now. So we read, "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread" (Exodus 12:15) and celebrate eight days of Passover. The festivals of Shavuot, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, and Shemini Atzeret are listed as single days in the Torah.

How did Diaspora practice diverge from the Torah's instructions? The answer lies in our history, during the time of transition from biblical to rabbinic Judaism around the beginning of the common era.

Addressing Confusion Over the Start of the New Month

The Jewish calendar is lunar. Over 2,000 years ago, a council of rabbis from the Sanhedrin, the ancient legislative and judicial body, held special sessions in Jerusalem at the end of each lunar month to receive witnesses to the first sliver of the new moon. Because a lunar cycle is approximately 29 days long, it was no mystery when the new moon should appear, but the Sanhedrin still declared months and holidays only on the basis of these witnesses. To encourage ordinary people to take the time to come and testify, the witnesses were fed and honored. The rabbis questioned every witness for credibility:

Where did you see [the new moon]? Was it before or after sunset? Was it in the north or the south? How high was it? How high was it? Which way was it tilted? (Mishnah Rosh Hashanah 2:6).

Once the sighting was legitimated, the rabbis declared the next day Rosh Hodesh, the beginning of the new month. Originally, beacon fires would be set on mountaintops to spread the word to distant Jewish communities already living in far away places such as

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Is Shavuot One or Two Days Long? SHAVUOT



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