

OUR COMMUNITY Newsletter

March 2021 | Adar 5781 — Nisan 5781



Minute With Moshe

How do we create a welcoming, vibrant, and nurturing Jewish future? I've heard to create the future, you first must be able to imagine it. I hope you who are interested will collaborate with me and my JFED (Jewish Federation) colleagues to imagine this envisioned future. One thing we have going for us is the Federation's mission. Our mission uniquely positions us as the singular organization in Jewish Michiana capable of linking people, institutions, and community. The Federation asks "what key outcomes would you like to see a result of being a vibrant, and sustainable community?"

Vision & Voices | March 7

Learn more about this all day event on page 3!

Creating our envisioned future is the major driver behind Vision & Voices, a 2021 Campaign event that offers a conversation with two extraordinary community builders in their own right. See pages 8-9

In choosing the texts and ideas to include in their recent book *The New Jewish Canon: Ideas and Debates 1980-2015*, co-editors Claire Sufrin and Yehuda Kurtzer sought to capture the most important Jewish conversations of the last three decades. Join us as professor Claire Sufrin reflects on what she learned about American Jews and Jewish communities in the process.

At 3:00 PM, Dr. Amal Elsana-Alh'jooj will speak on the topic: Building Community: Lessons from a grass-roots community organizer. As a teenager, Dr. Elsana-Alh'jooj

was already a community organizer, founding the first Arab Bedouin women's organization. After earning her B.A. at Ben-Gurion University, she went on to earn her Doctorate at McGill University in Montreal where she is now Executive Director of the International Community Action Network.

Vision & Voices will be one of a series of community events to help us reach our 2021 Campaign goal of \$370,000. We are over 80% to goal. On behalf of the Federation, I ask that you help us reach that goal. You have three easy ways to respond:

ONLINE: TheJewishFed.org/Visions
MAIL: 3202 Shalom Way
South Bend, IN 46615
PHONE: 574-233-1164

Vision & Voices begins a conversation about our hopes, dreams and desires we have for our Jewish community. What we hold dear are the seeds of our Jewish community. I think you'll agree, we are the ground within which these seeds must grow if we want to be a community for all Jewish people. This is the type of desired community

I'm thinking about. It is my sincere hope this event will renew our focus about our Jewish future. I'm delighted to invite you into this community conversation. Vision & Voices will help prime the pump as will your input to generate and prioritize fresh solutions. Please call me at 574-360-4995 or email MKruger@TheJewishFed.org, I look forward to hearing from you!

Visit, TheJewishFed.org/Visions and register for Visions & Voices!

Kudos to our Jewish Film Fest

Act I of the 11th Michiana Jewish Film Festival featured four recently released films -- films that have since headlined at festivals nationwide. In selecting films for the MJFF, we look for new films that are engaging. Whether they cover controversial topics, inspire smiles of familiarity, or land somewhere in between, the films we choose embrace relatable Jewish themes.

The film committee is in the process of screening and selecting the films for Act II of the festival which, like Act I, will feature 4 films for virtual viewing over 4 days -- May 10-13, 2021 (Mon-Thurs). More details will



Camp Ideal | page 6



Elsana-Alh'jooj | page 9

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574-233-1164 x1804

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574-233-1164 x1811

Karen L. Dwyer
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Editor Emeritus

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In Memory of:

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Sam Katz

Mazel Tov:

To Rabbi Yonah & Dena Gewirtz on
the birth of your granddaughter
The marriage of Josh & Batel Brown
Happy birthday for Noah Rossow

In Honor of & Wishing a Speedy Recovery to:

Hahn Family Jill Ross



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

- » **Craig & Carol Kapson Scholarship**
For Jewish students who will attend a university, college or technical institute in Indiana.
- » **Lillian & Harvey Roland Scholarship**
For Jewish students who will be attending Indiana University and are active in the Jewish Community.
- » **Neil & Leah Silver Advanced Degree Scholarship**
For Jewish students who wish to attend an accredited graduate program.

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Scholarships or call Moshe. 574-233-1164 X1812 to learn more and apply! Deadline to apply is April 1, 2021.



VISIONS & VOICES

A 2021 CAMPAIGN EVENT

Join us on March 7

Become a Member of the Jewish Federation!

Make a pledge to the 2021 Annual Campaign to become a member.

- Solidify Your Commitment to Our Jewish Community
- Help Those in Need
- Take Advantage of Our Many Free Programs.

Visit TheJewishFed.org/Visions to learn more and make an investment in your community.



Morning Wellness Retreat 9:00 – 10 AM

Smoothie demo and yoga with Chelly Freel.



Asking the Big Question 10:30 – 11:30 AM

A panel of our community Rabbis discuss the question “For whom are we responsible?”



Musical Lunch Break 12:00 – 12:45 PM

Join community friend Anna Hagen for a tranquil lunch as she plays harp.



Dr. Claire Sufrin 1:00 – 2:00 PM

What have we learned about community building in the last 40 years? *Read More on page 8*



Dr. Amal Elsana Alh'jooj 3:00 – 4:00 PM

Building Community: Lessons from a grass-roots community organizer. *Read More on page 9*

Caring Connections

Passover Preparations March 2021

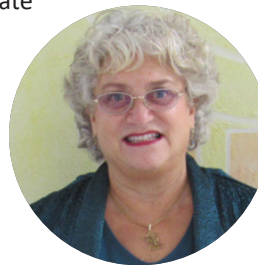
What are your Pesach plans for this year? How can those of who can't safely travel and gather in groups make our Seders meaningful? One suggestion is to prepare a package for your far-away adult children, including some fun Passover activities, games and Seder preparations. If they need Pesach foods, you can send that too. My kids are getting a set of recipes for our family's traditional foods, fun frogs, and some of the books mentioned below.

JFS is seeking funds to help people who experience food insecurity. We provide packages with essential Pesach foods and food throughout the year. We provide a Passover gift to our seniors as well. New this year: See our fund-raising campaign on the website; watch as your donated dollars help Moses escape Egypt! My favorite line of the Passover Seder is "Let those who are hungry come and eat!" If you usually host a large seder and you aren't this year, consider donating the cost savings to this cause to help those who are hungry. Speaking of Passover, think about the Hebrews wandering for 40 years in the desert. They weren't wandering aimlessly; they had a vision: The Land of Milk and

Honey! As we travel through life, are we following a vision of our own? Where do we find meaning for our life? What do we want for our future? On March 24, at noon, join JFS for a Lunch 'N' Learn. Tiffany Russell, MSW, will show us how to create a Vision Board to express our hopes and dreams for our own future. A complimentary Kosher lunch from Kramer's Kosher Cuisine will be delivered to you in the morning, along with a few materials for the event, upon request.

This event and the lunch are free! Donations are gratefully accepted and will be directed towards our Seder Plate Campaign.

JFS is here to enhance Jewish Family Life. We look forward to the arrival of Spring and Passover. Hag Samaech!



Sandy Markley Levine, MA
Jewish Family Services Director
574-233-1164 x1806
SandyL@TheJewishFed.org

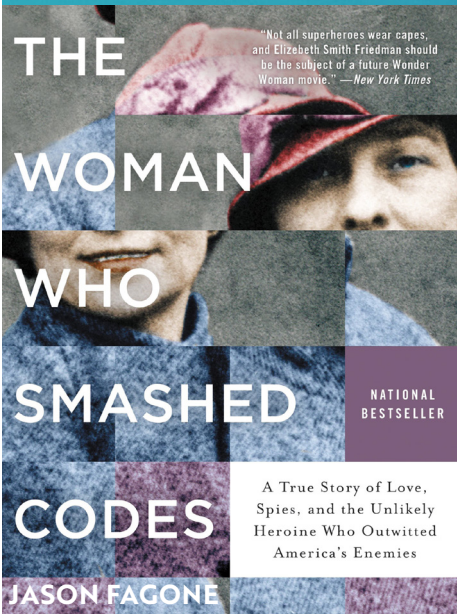
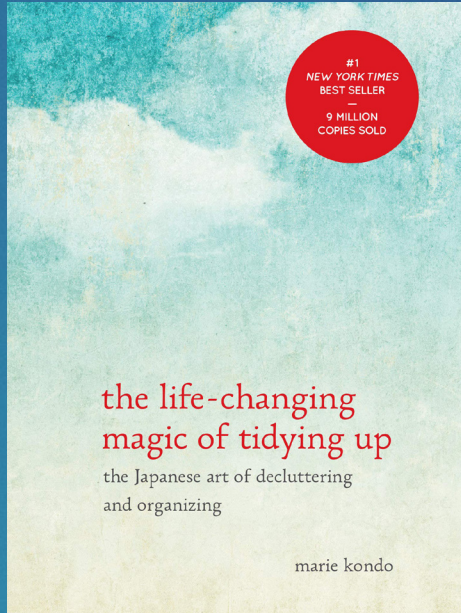
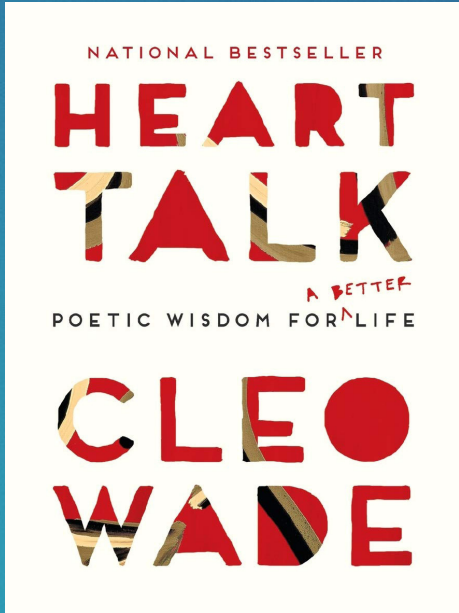
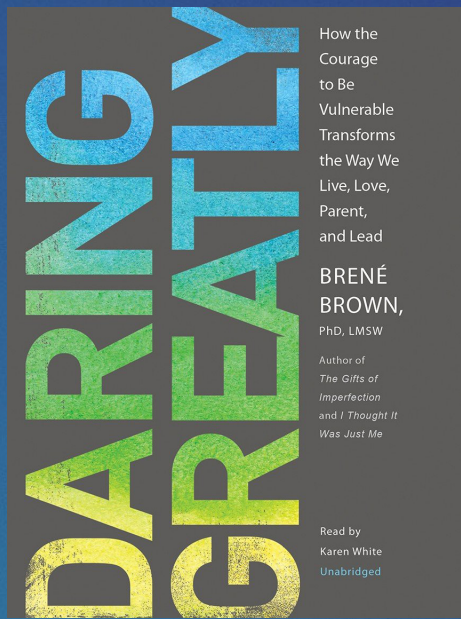
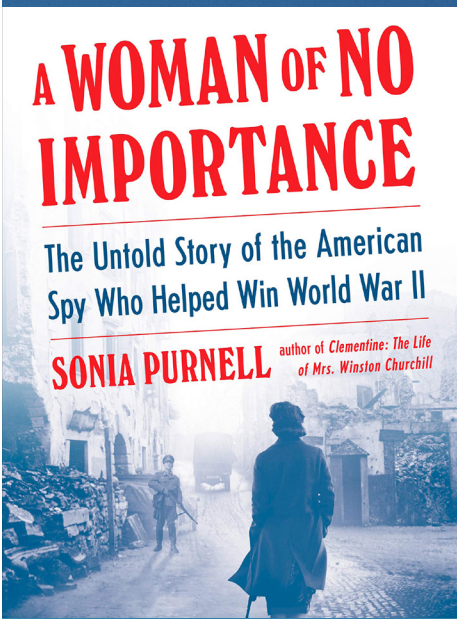


COFFEE & WELLNESS

EVERY SUNDAY AT 12:00 PM

A weekly virtual meetup targeting individuals in the community who just want to connect.

Email Sandy at SandyL@TheJewishFed.org if you would like to attend.



MARCH READING LIST



CAMP IDEAL 2021

Our Sessions

Session I

June 14- July 2

Session II

July 12 – 30

Our Tribes

Alonim: ages 5-7

Oranim: ages 8-12

Activities

Arts

Painting

Printmaking

Pottery

Education

Archery

Knot Tying

Bees & Pollination

Gardening

Cooking

Team-building

Games

Sports

Market Bazaar

*Activities are dependent on enrollment and what is available in the community.

AN IDEAL SUMMER!

Two Tribes, Countless Opportunities for Fun

Looking for a safe empowering camp experience for your child this summer? For over 60 years we have been dedicated to a Jewish camp experience exploring community values while also offering exciting workshops that stimulate creativity and leadership. Join us this Summer!

No commitment, register now and if anything changes due to COVID-19 receive a complete refund!

\$175 per week

\$475 per session

Discounts available

Visit TheJewishFed.org/CampIdeal to register and complete your scholarship application!!



MEET OUR CAMP LEADERSHIP



Dan Ravitch
Camp Director

Born and raised in the Temple B'nai Shalom community, coming back to Direct Camp Ideal for our children this summer is an amazing opportunity. I've spent the past 10 years expanding my horizons across the globe, through service in the IDF, and studying at Hebrew University studying Jewish education and Sociology. Jewish Summer camp has always been a passion to me, from my early years at over night camp, to the youth group that led me to Israel. This summer, Camp Ideal will offer a safe, enriching outdoor experience where our kids can play and learn. With professional staff following Health Department and American Camping Association(ACA) guidelines, our children will be able to feel the freedom of nature after a year of complicated school schedules, while having the opportunity to discover their Jewish Identity. [Reach out with any questions you may have, Email Camp@TheJewishFed.org](mailto:Camp@TheJewishFed.org) or call 574-233-1164.

Shirlee Greenwald
Israeli Emissary

My family home is in a small town in the Western Galilee, a 20 minute drive from Akko, our partnership city. Being raised by two former Soviet Union immigrants to Israel, I was privileged with a rich family history and culture, multiple languages, and deep-rooted Zionist passion that brought them to the country. After my service in the IDF in a combat field intelligence unit, I obtained my degree from Hebrew University in Middle Eastern studies. Following this, I began to work with youth programming and Jewish community work in Jerusalem, bringing me closer to my own Jewish Identity. This in turn brought me to the decision of doing Shlichut, working abroad as a representative of Israel in other Jewish communities around the world. This Summer, I am honored to be a part of Camp Ideal and pass on a part of the passion I hold for my country to the youth of The Jewish Federation.



Parent Orientations

Visit TheJewishFed.org/CampIdeal to register for a virtual orientation!

March 21 at 12PM

March 21 at 7PM

March 25 at 7 PM

Looking forward to seeing you this Summer!
Dan + Shirlee

THE NEW JEWISH CANON

IDEAS & DEBATES
1980-2015

Edited by Yehuda Kurtzer and Claire E. Sufrin



Meet Dr. Claire Sufrin on March 7

The New Jewish Canon

Join us on March 7 at 1:00 PM as Dr. Claire Sufrin discusses the New Jewish Canon. This talk will look at what we have learned about the Jewish community, particularly in America, when we examine the most important Jewish ideas of the last 40 years. Touching on a broad subject matter we will take a look at larger public events that have affected the state of Israel, larger social movements, the effects of the Internet and its role in creating our wildly diverse Jewish community.

This is a rich collection that provides a window into many of the key debates that have raged, and still rage, in the Jewish world. It raises many provocative questions about the nature of contemporary Judaism and its future.

— Martin Green, Jewish Book Council

The discussion will focus on four ideas

- Jewish Politics and the Public Square
- History, Memory, and Narrative
- Religion and Religiosity
- Identities and Communities



PASSOVER APPEAL

We can't achieve our 2021 Passover Appeal goal without your help. Every dollar donated helps support JFS and our community.

Donation Levels

- \$18 Karpas
- \$36 Hazeret
- \$54 Charoset
- \$72 Zroa
- \$90 Maror
- \$180 Beizah
- \$360 Seder Plate

Help us meet our 2021 goal! Sandy

Can't donate \$18? Send us what you can, every dollar helps. Visit TheJewishFed.org/Passover2021 or call 574-233-1164 to donate!

GOAL: \$2,000

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

DONATE

OR **STAY IN EGYPT**

Your donations help the Hebrews escape Egypt!

The Story of a Shepherd Girl

Who Became a Fighter for Social Justice

On Sunday, March 7th at 3:00 PM our community will have a unique opportunity to hear the amazing story of Dr. Amal Elsana-Alh'jooj as part of our Federation's Visions & Voices. Here is a small preview of her incredible life story that will explain why it is relevant to our Jewish community.

Last year in January, Bob Feferman and I flew to a Jewish Agency's seminar for shlichim and supervisors in New Jersey. Dr. Amal Elsana Alh'jooj was one of the keynote speakers. After her presentation, Bob and I both agreed that we have to bring her to speak in front of our community. As it turns out, Visions & Voices will be the perfect opportunity to do this.

Born in a temporary Bedouin camp in southern Israel in 1972, Elsana-Alh'jooj grew up in the Negev village of Laqiya. As it was unrecognized by the state at the time, it had no electricity or running water. Like other traditional Bedouin communities, it was a patriarchal society in which women suffered discrimination, and polygamy was rampant.

Her journey as an activist has taken her



from a life as a shepherd and daughter in a culture ruled by sons and fathers, to her work as a respected activist in Israel, to McGill University.

In a recent interview, Elsana-Alh'jooj told

The Times of Israel that early in her life her grandfather said, "We need her to herd the sheep. So my first career really I would say was as a community organizer, as someone who would organize and take responsibility, as a shepherd."

After years spent organizing for the rights and recognition of Israel's Bedouin population, she eventually went to McGill University in Montréal to earn her PhD in Social Work. She is now the Executive Director for the International Community Action Network (ICAN) at McGill University.

ICAN was founded in 1994 by Jim Torczyner, the son of Holocaust survivors, and was originally called the McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building. It brings together Israelis, Palestinians, Jordanians, and Syrians to study at McGill's School of Social Work, which is followed by a year back home in their respective communities working in the field with at-risk populations.

Today, Elsana lives in Montreal with her husband and their 17-year-old twins. Although she's lived outside Israel since 2012, Dr. Elsana-Alh'jooj is steadfast in her commitment to the country's Bedouin cause and her advocacy for Arab minority rights and greater Arab-Jewish cooperation.

Having long fought for her people, Dr. Elsana-Alh'jooj is considered a leader in Israel's Bedouin community and an authority on the status of both the Arab minority and women in Israel.

Elsana-Alh'jooj has pushed for the emancipation of women in the male-dominated Bedouin society; created the first Bedouin women's organization; is the founding director of the Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment, and Cooperation, and she has received numerous international humanitarian awards. In 2005, she was in-



Photo Credit
McGill University

cluded among a group of 1,000 distinguished women collectively nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

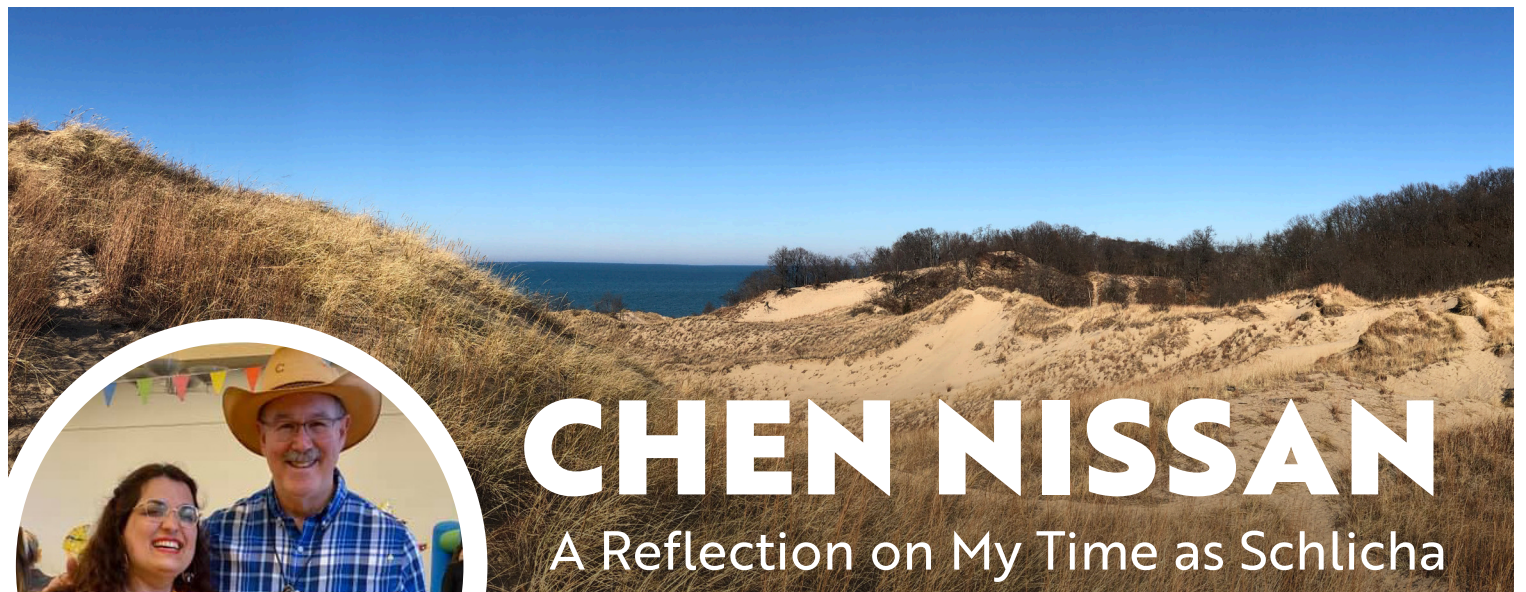
"Every time you leave Israel and zoom out, you see things differently," says Elsana-Alh'jooj in the interview for *Times of Israel*. "But my vision remains constant. It's always been and always will be how to create a shared space for Palestinian and Jewish Israelis to live together in Israel on an equal basis with mutual understanding."

On our Federation's Visions & Voices campaign event on March 7th, we'll have the opportunity to listen to inspiring figures who have a lot to tell us about the power of community. The conversation with Dr. Amal Elsana-Alh'jooj will focus on building bridges between different people, and how can we find mutual understanding based on what we all have in common. Her personal story is a shining example of all this. I look forward to seeing you all there!



Chen Nissan

Israeli Schlichta
574-233-1164 x1807
Israel@TheJewishFed.org



CHEN NISSAN

A Reflection on My Time as Schlichah

Coming to the US for the first time and being a part of this community has been such an eye-opening experience for me. And I would love to tell you some of the greatest lessons I've learned during my time here in South Bend.

God blessed the USA

The U.S is a country of immigrants from all over the world. Many times people are coming here because they had to escape from their homeland. I was fortunate to get to know some families from the Muslim community including Iraqis, Saudis, and Palestinians. They all told me the same thing: "Back in my country I was told all Jews and Israelis are evil, but after coming here and getting to know Jews and Israelis for the first time, I understand what I was told was a big lie." The United States is blessed because it is a neutral place where people who come from countries in conflict can truly meet and make peace.

All Jewish souls once stood together at the Sermon of Mount Sinai I remember my first Shabbat Service here at the beginning of last year, I went to Temple Beth-El, and throughout the prayer, I could not hold back my tears, I was embarrassed people are going to see me like that, but I really couldn't control it. I think it was the first time in my life that I truly understood the meaning of the Jewish people. Living in Israel my whole life, I mostly knew

the Jewish-Israeli people. I didn't have the opportunity to get to know a Jewish community outside of Israel. And this first service at Temple Beth-El was the first of many experiences in which I gained new insights about the Jewish people worldwide.

Every person has a unique story

During the training that the Jewish Agency did for all the new Shlichim, we had a session about the cultural differences between Israelis and Americans (as you might experience with Israelis, there are big differences sometimes). At the end of the session, we were told: "The most important thing you can take from this session is: Don't make any assumptions about anyone you meet." I didn't know how true it was until I got here. Every time I made assumptions about people here- how they grew up, how they got to this community, what is their family background, how they practice their Judaism (or whether they were even Jewish), they turned out to be wrong. Every person here has such a different story, and I think this is one of the main things that makes this community so great.

Standing behind Israel can unite us

Part of my work as a Shlichah was Israeli advocacy. During my presentations in front of different audiences- inside and outside the Jewish community, I was asked lots of complicated questions. In my attempt to answer the questions, I have never hidden the criticism I have of the decisions

of some Israeli leaders and policies that can be unjust. But one thing I know for sure: The right of Jews to self-determination, to a Jewish state in which they can defend themselves and live freely, will not change. Supporting Israel's right to exist can unite people from both sides of the political map. And during this time of political division, I hope we can all work together on this important effort.

When I look back at my Shlichut, I invested my time and effort in teaching people about Israel, strengthening our sense of Jewish peoplehood, and explaining Israel to members of both the Jewish and non-Jewish community.

One thing I know for sure, more than I changed people, people here changed me. And for that, I will be forever grateful!



Virtual Farewell Party April 25

TURKISH EGGPLANT SALAD

For years I've been searching for THE eggplant salad recipe that tastes just like one I once had and wanted to make on my own. I've tried many recipes, but they were not THE one. But, now, I think I've finally found it. Here's a bit of the background story for how I came across this excellent recipe.

About a year ago, Canadian kosher cookbook author Norene Gilletz passed away. I was so sad, as I've been a fan of hers for quite some time. I had first heard of Norene back in the late 1990's when we were both members of an e-mail group that shared kosher recipes. Then, I contacted her and asked her if she would be willing to come to South Bend to do a demonstration at the Jewish Federation's first book fair. She came and the demo was amazing. It was so nice to meet her. I purchased a copy of her current newest cookbook, *MealLeaniYumm!* (later renamed *Healthy Helpings*) and got it signed by the author.

Over the years, I did not purchase any of her other books. *The Pleasures of Your Processor* didn't appeal to me because I rarely use a food processor. Another of her cookbooks, *Micro Ways*, was never a consideration because I don't use microwave ovens. I've never had one. I don't want one. But since I love *MealLeaniYumm!* so much I didn't really feel like I

needed another of Norene's cookbooks. There are so many great recipes in that volume that I never felt that I was lacking.

Last year when Norene passed away, I decided that I would like to get another one of her cookbooks. I looked on-line to see what she had published that didn't highlight using a food processor or microwave or anything else that I didn't use. There was a book called *Norene's Healthy Kitchen* which had been published in 2007. I ordered a used copy. And, guess what? When it arrived I was thrilled to find that it was signed by the author! It reads; "From my kitchen to yours – cook in good health!! Norene Gilletz." What a big smile that put on my face!

Working my way through the book, I've tried a number of recipes and they do not disappoint. But this eggplant salad finally ended a quest that started nearly two decades ago to replicate an amazing dish I wanted to have again and again. There are a couple of changes that I've made, which I will add in at the end of Norene's recipe.



INGREDIENTS

1 (1 ½ lb.) eggplant
Salt, for sprinkling
2 Tbsp. olive oil
2 lg. onions, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 c. tomato sauce
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
¼ c. sugar
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
½ tsp. cumin
½ tsp. thyme
2 Tbsp. minced fresh cilantro or parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

Cut off both of the ends of the eggplant but do not remove the peel. Dice the eggplant into ½" pieces. Place the diced eggplant into a colander and sprinkle with salt to drain out any bitter juices. Let stand for about 30 minutes before rinsing and patting dry.

Heat the oil in a large pot on medium heat. Sauté the onions and garlic for five minutes or until softened. Increase the heat to medium-high and add the eggplant. Sauté for five-seven minutes longer, until softened.

Stir in the tomato sauce, lemon juice, sugar, salt, pepper, cayenne, and cilantro. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer partially covered for 25-30 minutes. Stir occasionally. Adjust the seasonings to taste. Serve chilled.

Notes: I found the amount of tomato sauce to be a bit too much. The most recent time I made this salad I only used two cups and was much happier with the results. Also, the amount of sugar is too much for my taste. I reduced the sugar to two tablespoons and slightly reduced the lemon juice. It was still a bit too sweet for me, so I plan on using even less sugar next time.

Deena Abraham
Community Contributor

