

Ranking Jewish Holidays

COLUMN BY LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

The Jewish holiday of Passover (or Pesach if you wanna be OG) begins this Friday evening. For those not in the know, Passover involves a meal called a Seder (say-dare) on the first night, and 8 days of abstinence from leavened breads. (It's kind of like Lent, but without the choice of what to give up.) Instead of bread, we eat matzah, which is like a giant unsalted cracker.

As important as this holiday is (it celebrates the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt), it has one major flaw: it sucks. I like eating bread. It sucks not being able to eat bread for a week, especially when I was a kid and that meant little to no school lunch and no snacks at soccer games. The Seder can be fun, but it also takes a really long time. I would go so far as to say that Passover is one of my least favorite Jewish holidays.

That begs the question, though: If Passover is towards the bottom of the list, then what's at the top? What are my favorite Jewish holidays? How would they rank on a list?

Wonder no more, dear readers. Here's my ranking of the eight fun Jewish holidays. I say "fun" to differentiate

these from "serious" holidays, like Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), which wouldn't be appropriate to joke about. (Editor's note: All days are the days these holidays will fall on this year.)

8. Shavuot (June 5-6)

Shavuot (shah-vo-oat) is a holiday celebrating the reception of the Torah on Mount Sinai, and is celebrated by staying up all night to read Jewish texts, eating dairy foods like cheesecake and reading the Book of Ruth. Despite this sounding like a pleasant holiday, my experience with it has been so milquetoast that I don't remember ever actually doing anything for it. I've got one song about Shavuot stuck in my head as I'm writing this, but that's all I remember. It's not a bad holiday by any means, but nobody's going crazy over it.

7. Passover (April 16-23)

Despite my dislike of it, there are fun parts of Passover. The Seder includes the search for the Afikomen (ah-fee-koh-men), where one piece of matzah is hidden and all the kids in attendance search for it. The winner gets a prize (it was always candy when I

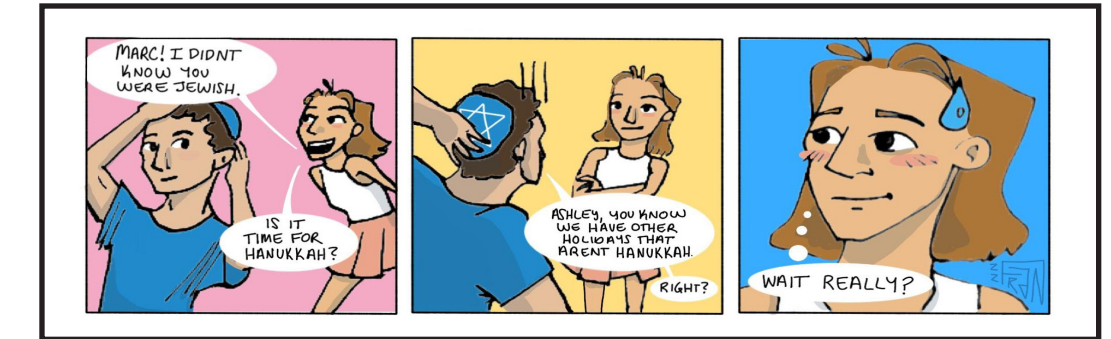
was a kid). Also, matzo ball soup is my favorite traditional holiday food. Even if I don't celebrate Passover anymore I still eat matzo ball soup.

6. Simchat Torah (Oct. 18)

The Torah, the big scroll the Rabbi reads from during services, contains the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. Simchat Torah (sim-khat, with the phlegm noise) marks the day we read the last chapter of Deuteronomy (33:1-34:12, where Moses dies) and start the first chapter of Genesis (1:1-2:3, back in the Garden of Eden). We celebrate this by carrying the Torah around the sanctuary seven times and dancing. It doesn't sound like an exciting holiday, but a good synagogue makes this one a blast.

5. Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 26-27)

The fun half of the Jewish new year, Rosh Hashanah is celebrated by eating apples dipped in honey and throwing bread crumbs into moving bodies of water to cast away our sins. (And if you're lucky you get to miss school that day to attend services.) While it's a bit more serious than



Comic by Fran Bollinger | Content Creator

the rest of the holidays on this list, it gives me enough positive memories to include it.

4. Tu B'Shevat (Jan. 17)

Also known as the New Year of the Trees or Birthday of the Trees, Tu B'Shevat (two bish-vat) marks the coming of Spring (despite falling in January this year when everything is still cold and icky). It's celebrated by having picnics, eating fruit and planting more trees. Planting trees in general is a mitzvah (good thing to do), so having a whole holiday about planting them is cool. It's just a bit boring compared to Sukkot, another plant-based holiday.

3. Purim (March 17)

One of the few major Jewish holiday stories to be made into a "Veggie-tales" special, Purim celebrates the events of the Megillah of Esther, who saved the Jews of Ancient Persia from being sentenced to death by Haman. During this holiday we recite the Megillah (story), and whenever Haman's (hay-

man) name is read we make as much noise as possible to drown his name out. It's pretty theatrical. We also dress up in costume, eat cookies called Hamantaschen (Haman's hats) and give care packages to those in need. This one gets third because Hamantaschen aren't great cookies, very dry and crumbly with a paltry amount of jam in the middle. If I could find a good recipe for Hamantaschen I'm sure this holiday would rank higher.

2. Sukkot (Oct. 10-11)

The harvest festival of Sukkot (sue-coat) is celebrated by building a Sukkah (soo-kuh), a temporary dwelling space. You're supposed to spend the night in the Sukkah, which I have never done for weather reasons but we've at least had sleepovers. You also celebrate by waving around a lulav and etrog (loo-lahv and et-rawg), which are respectively a palm branch with myrtle and willow leaves and a citrus fruit similar to a lemon, and by eating fruits

that are in season. I think the placement of this one is obvious: fruit yummy, camping fun.

1. Hanukkah (Dec. 19-26)

I mean, come on, what did you think it was gonna be? Commemorating the battle between the Jews and the Syrian-Greeks in which the Jews miraculously won and restored their Temple's eternal light, the Festival of Lights has presents, candles, fried foods and games. It's the only one I regularly actively celebrate with my family, and the only one I really look forward to.

If you ever get the chance to celebrate any of these holidays with either the local synagogue Temple Israel or one in your hometown, they're certainly worth your time. Most of these are chill enough that non-Jews can respectfully attend and enjoy them. As someone passionate about Jewish visibility and inclusion, I'm always happy to talk about the fun parts of my religion.

The Yard Food Review: Saigon



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SAIGON CRAFT FOODS



Photo by Jess McMillan | Staff Writer

COLUMN BY JESS MCMILLAN

STAFF WRITER

Many may be delightfully surprised with what is being served at The Yard, especially if you order from Saigon Craft Foods.

I went there with a friend during our usual once-a-week luncheon. We both decided on going to The Yard to try it out and see what they have to offer. As soon as you enter, it feels spacious with its high ceilings and large windows even though it looks small on the outside. Currently, there are still only two restaurants open at this time: Saigon and Larry's Pizza. We went with Saigon this time since we weren't feeling like pizza.

As we reached the counter to order, we were given individual menus to look at and choose from. I decided to go with the Grilled Pork-chop rice comb "Com Suong Nuong" which was \$13.95. The meal came with a grilled pork chop, cooked rice with a fried egg on top, a sweet chili dipping sauce and a small bowl

of clear beef broth that had cilantro in it. I also got an order of Grilled pork rolls "Goi Cuon Thit Nuong" and a regular-sized drink. The total of the meal came out to be \$22.32.

After ordering, we walked up to the loft area that was empty at the time. As we sat down, we noticed that silverware was already there. I began to look at the other items on the table but I took an interest in the sauces provided like hot sriracha and sweet hoisin. I know from previous meals that the sriracha is mainly for pho soups.

The wait for our food wasn't long and we got it in a reasonable time. When they brought up my meal, I was honestly excited about trying it out. The pork chop itself had a nice golden crust to it and I believe it had fried onions on top. I remember cutting into the meat and thought how easy it was. As I took that first bite, the meat was so tender and succulent. I have to believe that it was marinated before cooking at all. However, it did not end there as the next thing I took a

bite of was the buttery fried egg on top of the perfectly cooked rice. As a whole, it paired perfectly with the simple soup and dipping sauce. Everything balances each other out with the notes of sweet, salty, savory and finally, bitterness.

As for what I had along with the main dish, the grilled pork rolls were a good way to restart and refresh a person's palate. They were clean and simple to eat. The rolls were filled with sliced cucumber, carrot, lettuce, vermicelli rice noodles and marinated pork meat. Along with the creamy peanut sauce, each bite was truly savory.

Overall, I feel the meal was a great success especially since I was full as a tick. I was barely able to walk down the stairs. Even my friend got a kick out of it. She described me as her grandma walking down a fleet of stairs. This meal is perfect for those who may have not had breakfast yet or the individual who worked up a big appetite. I honestly can't wait to try something else at Saigon because I know it will be a treat.

How to Use Tone Indicators

COLUMN BY LILY CABIBI-WILKIN

OPINION EDITOR

You may have seen people on the internet using things like "/j," "/s" or "/gen." These are some examples of tone indicators, and while they can be confusing at first glance, their purpose is simple: they give a message the tone, emotion or emphasis it would have if you were hearing a person speak to you normally. They've become more popular on internet spaces, particularly in spaces with neurodivergent people who may (but not always) have trouble understanding tone through plain text.

Here's an example of why tone indicators may be useful: Read the phrase, "You're a horrible person," with different inflections – joking, serious, etc. If you sent this to someone with no context, would they know what you meant right away? Tone indicators are a simple way to solve this problem.

The most common tone indicators are "/j" which means "joking," "/hj" which means "half-joking," "/s" which means sarcastic, "/gen" or "/g" which mean genuine, "/pos" or "/neg" which mean positive connotation or negative connotation, "/lh" which means light-hearted and "/nm" which means "not mad." To use them,

TONE INDICATORS TO LEARN /SRS

/j = joking	/sx or /x = sexual intent	/lh = lighthearted
/hj = half-joking	/nsx or /nx = non-sexual intent	/nbh = nobody here
/s = sarcastic	/th = threat	/m = metaphorically
/srs = serious	/cb = clickbait	/li = literally
/p = platonic	/pc or /pos = positive connotation	/rh or /rt = rhetorical question
/r = romantic	/f = fake	/gen = genuine question
/l or /ly = lyrics		/g = genuine
/nm = not mad		/hyp = hyperbole
/t = teasing		/c = copy-pasta
/nc or /neg = negative connotation		



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER (@DIVERSIFYOURNARRATIVEPLPS)

you add them to the end of your sentence, message or post.

You don't have to use a tone indicator at the end of every sentence, but if you're sending a message that could be taken the wrong way, it doesn't hurt to add a tone indicator. If I'm making a joke with one of my brothers that could be taken as being mean, I'll add a "/j" or "/nm" to the end to make sure they know I'm just kidding. You also don't have to use more than one or two – many tone indicators overlap in tone, like "/lh" or "/j" – and you don't have to use every tone indicator that exists. Just use the ones that

are useful and comfortable.

Of course, if you make a habit of using tone indicators, you may confuse people who haven't seen tone indicators before. I generally avoid using tone indicators when talking to my parents. You may also wind up speaking to someone who doesn't like tone indicators. Some neurodivergent people feel like tone indicators are condescending. Just use your best judgment and be understanding.

For a full list of tone indicators, visit toneindicators.carrd.co.

Life

Graphic by Mihye Walker | Graphic Designer

STUDENT SPEAK

How does YikYak appeal to you?

By Jess McMillan | Staff Writer



Yasmine Aly says:

“It’s a source of social networking, like Facebook and Instagram.”

Yasmine Aly is a junior criminology major from New Orleans.



PJ Soescer says:

“There’s a lot of drama that goes on there. It isn’t a good thing at all unless you keep up with gossip.”

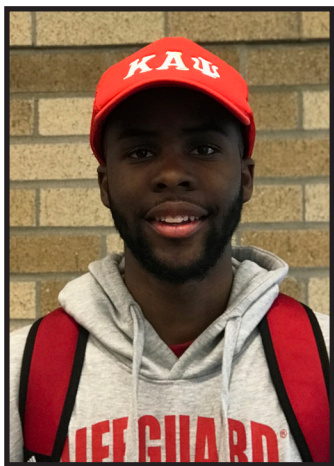
PJ Soescer is a freshman general studies major from Memphis.



Olivia Dunn says:

“You can say what you want and get anonymous opinions instead of people judging you as a person.”

Olivia Dunn is a concurrent communication disorders major from Jonesboro.



Larry Turner says:

“It’s entertaining. People don’t have a filter and it’s a way of seeing what’s going on.”

Larry Turner is a senior pre-med biology student from North Little Rock.



Meredith Weber says:

“My friends and I give each other comments, and some people come at each other.”

Meredith Weber is a freshman psychology major from Searcy.



Chalia Pugh says:

“I enjoy being able to keep up with events. I like the realness and how it encourages open expression.”

Chalia Pugh is a sophomore computer science major from Little Rock.

THIS WEEK'S POP PICK

REVIEW BY JACK BOND | STAFF WRITER

Tiny Tina's Wonderlands



PHOTO COURTESY OF EPIC GAMES

Tiny Tina's Wonderlands is a spin off of the Borderlands franchise where you play through the imagination of Tiny Tina's "Bunkers and Badasses" (the Dungeons and Dragons of the Borderlands) campaign. The gameplay consists of shooting and looting to level up your character and unlock new skills in a ludicrous world where guns, dragons and spells all mix together..

What sets the game apart from most modern shooters is the ridiculous writing. There is no shortage of witty lines and funny situations to keep players entertained. Everything from the dialogue to the quest

objective boxes on the HUD is filled to the brim with flat out absurdity. For example, one quest has you in search of a bard to bless your ship, Balsagna, for safe passage across the ocean. The only problem is that there are no full bards around, so you are sent to find a half bard, who is later revealed to be Torque, the bardbarian. His dialogue is in all caps, his curse words are censored by a lute note and he loves explosions to death. After meeting him, the party helped him play a song with vibes that were so powerful, the blessing became a "blasting" that resulted in Torque casting magic missile and firing off several ballistic missiles that blew up the entire ocean. The cherry on top was the quest object box saying "BLOW UP THE \$\$\$&ING OCEAN."

Yes, it was censored just like that in the game. It is rated T after all.

The gameplay also holds up to Borderlands standards. Players have the option of choosing between 6 different classes, each with their own unique passive ability and one of two action skills that can be switched between at any time. Each class has its own set of playstyles depending on what action skill you use and what skills you choose to level up. For example, the graveborn's action skill "dire sacrifice" lets you sacrifice hp to cause a massive explosion of dark magic that deals more damage the more hp you sacrifice (up to 40% of your current hp). By unlocking skills that deal more dark magic damage, the graveborn can become a massive aeo damage dealer than can wipe out groups of enemies with a single button. The other skill, "Reaper of Bones," heals you to full health, gives you bonus dark magic damage and "leech damage," but drains your health slowly over time.

Using this skill makes the graveborn a tank that can be difficult to take down.

If you find yourself getting bored of your class halfway through the game, don't worry! The game allows you to multiclass after progressing through a bit of the story, allowing you to gain another passive and even have access to two new action skills. Given that there are six classes to mix and match, the possible builds players can create are seemingly endless. The game is a refreshing remix of the borderlands formula that new and longtime fans alike can enjoy. If you want a dumb fun game full of hilarious moments, Tiny Tina's Wonderlands is sure not to disappoint. It is available on PS4, PS5, Xbox One, Xbox Series X and PC.

For the full review, visit www.atastetheherald.com.

Weekly Horoscopes

ALEX CLARK • MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT



March 22 - April 19

Things are going to get overwhelming. Be prepared to take it slow.



April 20 - May 20

You can't stop caring about yourself. Don't give up because things are hard right now.



May 21 - June 20

You need to share more of yourself with others. They will love you as you are.



June 21 - July 22

Don't be fooled easily. Look at things critically before drawing conclusions.



July 23 - August 22

You have surrounded yourself with the right people. They're ready to give you the support you need.



August 23 - September 22

You've bitten off more than you can chew. Take a break, people will understand.



September 23 - October 22

Sometimes it feels like you're working hard for nothing. Don't forget how far you've come.



October 23 - November 21

Hold others accountable for their actions. You deserve fair treatment.



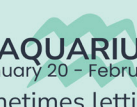
November 22 - December 21

Be loud about your accomplishments. They should be celebrated.



December 22 - January 19

Stop letting your pain define you. You cannot move on that way.



January 20 - February 18

Sometimes letting go feels more painful than holding in. That feeling will pass.



February 19 - March 21

You are allowed to find comfort in indulgence. Make extra time for the things you love.