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# The Making of 'The Chutzpah!' Cocktail

By [Naomi Major](#)

*Naomi and Jon's mixology laboratory. Photograph by Jon Wunder*

Now that I'm writing for the Forward, my boyfriend, Jon, has been peppering me with questions about Judaism and the paper. It's lovely to have such a supportive boyfriend, but it's more than a little embarrassing to have to pull out my dog-eared copy of [Blair and Engel](#) to get him answers.

Last week I'd written about the duo's "[The Jewish Festival Cookbook](#)," and the Forward had adapted a holiday recipe from the book, [pears poached in concord wine](#).

"Concord wine?" Jon questioned, looking over my shoulder as I tried surreptitiously to look up the history of Sukkot. "What's that?"

"You know, it's Manishewitz," I replied, from actual personal knowledge.

"Oh it's that sweet wine?" he asked. He'd never tried it. Why would he? He's not Jewish. It's not something we tend to have around — it wasn't even in my house growing up, just at my bubbe's. "So people drink it at the high holidays, then what? It just sits there?"

"I guess so," I said. "It's an acquired taste."

Being the thoughtful fellow he always is, Jon suggested that in service of this column and its readers, we attempt to make a concord wine cocktail to help people put their leftover booze to work. And so, after much trial and error, I present to you, [The Chutzpah!](#)

Drink and enjoy. L'chaim!

Naomi Major is a writer living in the Inwood neighborhood of Manhattan. You can find more of her writing at [naomimajor.com](http://naomimajor.com).

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