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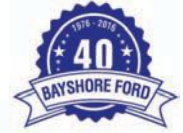


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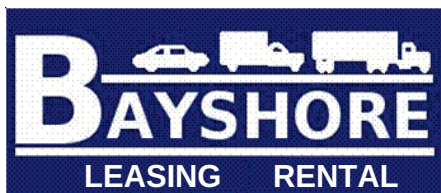


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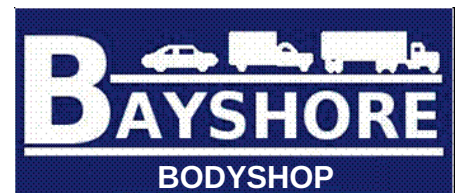
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SAVE THE DATE

WED
NOV. 1
2017

6:30 - 8:30 PM
LOCATION: TBD

EVENT CO-CHAIRS:

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Susie Zaslavsky

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Jennifer Steinberg
Arlene Wilson

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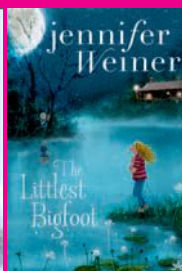
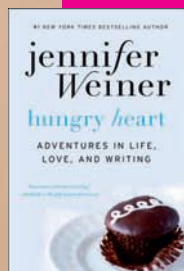
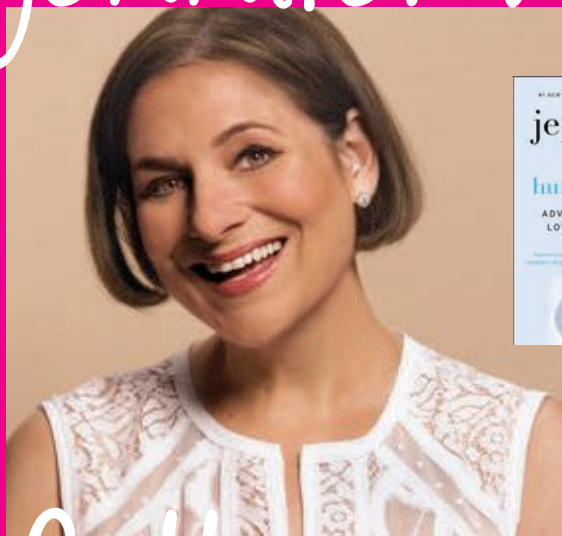
Barbara Blumberg
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jennifer weiner

New York Times bestselling author



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William Wagner
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Seth J. Katzen
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The Jewish Federation of Delaware's 2018 Campaign officially launched last month with our Community & Campaign Kickoff Event on September 11th.

It was a memorable evening featuring keynote speaker, Dr. Ron Wolfson, visionary Jewish educator and author of *Relational Judaism*. His vision transcends denominational boundaries, ideological differences and institutional walls to develop a Relational Judaism for the twenty-first century.

The impact of the continuing and unparalleled philanthropic success of the 2018 Campaign is priceless. Millions of lives saved, cared for, reached out

to and rebuilt; centuries-old Jewish traditions and values preserved for future generations.

We are facing challenging times. Every one of us is trying to do more with less. Our agency budgets are stretched to their limits and services may be reduced if we cannot make our goals. A gift to the Campaign helps meet a wide variety of needs across diverse Jewish populations. From local programming at our **Siegel JCC**; social services through **Jewish Family Services of Delaware**; Jewish education at our K-5 Jewish day school, the **Albert Einstein Academy**; connecting students at our local **Hillel at the University of Delaware** and **UD Chabad**; caring for our elderly at **The Kutz Home** and **Lodge Lane Assisted Living**; Federation is strengthening the fabric of Jewish life from "baby to bubbe."

Your support of the Annual Campaign also ensures our relationship with Israel is eternal and constantly evolving. We

continue to implement valued programs in our sister city of Arad through **Partnership2Gether** and our continued support of the **Negev Funding Coalition** and the **Ethiopian National Project**. Federation also builds a living bridge through our Community *Shlichah* and the reinvigorated Israel & Overseas Committee. Our relationship with Israel is not strictly donor to recipient, but is one of people to people.

Last year, we were unable to meet the needs of every agency in our community. There are many programs that went unfunded. Please help us meet the needs of as many Jews as possible, throughout our region and across the globe with your generous support of the 2018 Campaign. There is also still time to make your 2017 Campaign gift if you have not already done so. You can make a secure gift online at ShalomDelaware.org/donate.

We Are Stronger TOGETHER.



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RON DERNER**

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JUDAISM: THE RELIGION OF ACTION

By Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt
JCRC Director

“ The rabbis teach us that each time we read the Torah, we learn **something new, something deeper**—a new insight or detail we may have overlooked...each time we read the Torah, we come to it with **another year of life**, another set of circumstances or changes. ”

Each year we read the Torah from beginning to end and then, on Simchat Torah, start anew. We read and reread the same narratives, the same laws, the same conflicts and experience the redemption of our people from slavery. We read the laws of the holidays and the 613 mitzvot.

Why are we commanded to read it again and again?

The rabbis teach us that each time we read the Torah, we learn something new, something deeper—a new insight or detail we may have overlooked. Perhaps we study the text through studying a different commentator or a new teacher or rabbi. From a psychological perspective, each time we read the Torah, we come to it with another year of life, another set of circumstances or changes. Were there major changes in our lives? Health issues, loss, birth, a move, a new job, a divorce—so many variables may have changed in our own lives that we read the stories of our patriarchs and matriarchs through a new set of lenses and with new sensitivities.

This year, with all the upheaval in the world, in Israel, and in our own country, we will come to the synagogue in the aftermath of a war of words with North Korea, horrendous racial and anti-Semitic riots in Charlottesville, two devastating hurricanes, and more murders in our beloved Israel. The world's weather has gotten more volatile and scientists say that climate change is partly to blame. Refugees from war-torn countries are clamoring to come to places where they can live in safety. More and more

of our friends and family are being diagnosed with cancer—the plague of our generation.

We will read the creation story and wonder why, when we were given this beautiful earth and an endless supply of natural resources, do we ruin it and misappropriate resources. As it says in Genesis 2:15 “G-d took Adam (the first human) and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and to take care of it.” We will read the story of Cain and Abel and ask why two brothers harbor such hate that one must kill the other. We read about Noah and the symbol of the rainbow, which has come to stand for inclusion and peace and yet there is so much hatred in this country and around the world.

We have been taught that when we are confronted with challenges, we don't just sigh and resign ourselves to a terrible situation; we must be spurred on to action. Judaism is the religion of action, *naasaeh v'nishmah*—we will do and we will listen. Not only must we rise up and make our voices heard but we must be cognizant of creating advocates in the next generation and the next. What are our conversations around the dinner table or when we visit our grandchildren? Do we just take them to movies and shows and show them fun times, or do we take them to places that create thoughtful conversations and spur them to future action?

I remember taking my own children to rallies when they were very young and they remember marches on Washington to free the Soviet Jews. They remember collecting food and money to feed those less fortunate and serving meals at Emmanuel

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

“Judaism is the **religion of action**,
naasaeh v'nishmah—**we will do**
and we will listen. Not
 only must we rise up and make our
 voices heard but we must be cognizant of
creating advocates in the next
generation and the next.”

Dining Room and once we even recognized one of the people eating there and how we handled it so as not to embarrass that person. Hunger and homelessness took on a whole new meaning after that. We spent part of one winter vacation, while visiting the grandparents in Florida, at a sewage treatment plant, a project assigned to my daughter at (the former) Akiba Hebrew Academy. We all learned about sewage disposal and although we laugh about it now, it was the first of many lessons on recycling. Our still very young grandchildren love to put things into our compost bin and pick vegetables from our garden. They put money into their *tzedakah* boxes before we light Shabbat candles.

At this year's Rosh Hashanah table, we might have thought about the meaning of the shofar as the call to prayer and the call to action. In this world where so much needs to be done, we cannot be complacent. When we read the story of the *Akeda*—the Binding of Isaac, it seems that this year we hear the plea of Isaac who is saying, “G-d does not want human beings sacrificed; G-d wants us to live in peace in the world, doing *mitzvot*, and taking care of what was created for us.”

When we read the story of Abraham and Sarah leaving their homes to go to a place

that G-d will show them, to eventually find the Jewish people, we are inspired to make yet another trip to Israel or to go if we haven't gone already, to strengthen our ties with the miracle that is the State of Israel and the Jewish people so that our people will thrive forever.

The Torah ends with the letter lamed and begins with the letter bet. Together they spell lev, heart. Let our hearts be inspired as we read the words of the Torah which are familiar and yet new and may our hearts be filled with gratitude and passion to do good in the world.

Shana Tova, a happy, healthy new year.




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UPDATE FROM HOUSTON

By Mark Gurvis, Executive Vice President
at Jewish Federations of North America

Permission to reprint, given by the author.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This update was written September 5-6, 2017. Mark Gurvis along with three colleagues, were on the ground in Houston days after Hurricane Harvey to assess, assist, and report to our collective system.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 11:31 PM

At the end of a second long and exhausting day in Houston I thought I'd fill you in a bit.

I arrived yesterday mid-day together with Elise Slobodin from UJA NY, an experienced planner with Hurricane Sandy yichus. We dove right into being briefed by Deborah Joselow from UJA Federation and Becky Soberman-Stern from LA (William was already on his way to the airport) and then just joined the fray at the Federation. Becky and Deborah are now back in their communities.

The hours fly by as we literally field and triage countless calls, impromptu meetings, interruptions, questions on topics ranging from how we can get JFS geared up to deal with 1,000 families who lost homes, to whether we should still take truckloads of donated goods (no), to when we can help Federations start

bringing volunteer groups, to how we can help land \$1M from the Government of Israel, to how we can make sure the local staff remember to keep their board engaged.

Most importantly we are trying to get them set up for the start of their local process allocating funds raised through the emergency. This effort dwarfs the past floods and they are not used to making fast decisions to put millions of dollars to work. And we need to do that quickly even though we don't have a full and comprehensive picture of needs. It means breaking down the huge picture into the component parts of immediate support for flood victims, housing, transportation, legal aid, trauma support, damaged facilities, operating viability for community institutions, High Holiday preparations, and more. Each piece needs a short term plan and a longer range plan, and estimates.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



“ One of the most inspiring things is to watch the self-organized **Disaster Response Action Team** from the Federation board - a group of extremely talented young leaders who have jumped in to help strategize and plan alongside the professional staff. They are **smart, effective** and **inspiring** and they are spending hours each day at the Federation office working the problem. ”

Man wading through flooded streets in Houston PHOTO COURTESY OF JFNA

In addition to the two of us we have three other JFNA pros here this week - two from the Network doing literally whatever is needed in the moment - one at the Federation and one at JFS - as well as an IT database specialist who is helping specifically on that front.

And behind us virtually every department of JFNA is engaged - FRD, Washington, Israel office, Marketing, Finance, IT all playing important roles.

The Houston community is literally overflowing with gratitude. They have been big Federation system doubters for years but they have no doubts now.

We are working to identify the needs that will drive the next team we bring in, and also activating the JFS network to start bringing in similar resources for the local JFS. And we are coordinating with the national HFLA network to bring similar resources for the local HFLA, and so on and so on.

One of the most inspiring thing is to watch the self-organized DRAT group - Disaster Response Action Team - from the Federation board - a group of extremely talented young leaders who have jumped in to help strategize and plan alongside the professional staff. They are smart, effective and inspiring and they are spending hours each day at the Federation office working the problem.

For two days I have not left the Federation office until a late working dinner, and then stuff like this message at night at the hotel. In the next day or two I'll actually get out into the community to see the damage and the reality will hit home even more.

I believe as a result of our intensive work in supporting the Houston Federation the organization and community will emerge stronger, even in the face of an overwhelming disaster. And that makes this one of the most inspiring things I've

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FACTS

(based on early estimates and expected to jump)

➡ Of the 51,000 Jews who live in Houston, **71% live in areas affected by flooding**

➡ **1,000 people** have been displaced from their homes

➡ 14% of **Jewish day school students** and 20% of day school staff have confirmed flooding

➡ **6 major Houston Jewish institutions** have suffered catastrophic flood damage, including three of the largest synagogues and a day school

➡ Seven Acres, with one of the **largest Alzheimer's care units in the country**, experienced complete flooding on its first floor. Residents had to be relocated.

HURRICANE HARVEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

had the opportunity to work on in 34 years of Federation work. Thank you for the opportunity to represent our system at such an important moment.

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

5:31 AM

First, a word about our other three JFNA staff who have been here this week.

Cheryl Blawusch is a member of our IT team who supports the Blackbaud platform, which Houston uses. She has been focused this week on helping them manage the more than 8,000 gifts Houston has received directly, and create system and reports to automate their reporting and tracking. She was a lifesaver for their finance and IT team. She got them to a point where they can manage with remote help beyond this week.

Rachel Levy is a member of our Network team and ended up being loaned to JFS, where she dove into doing intake with flood victims. Not what we planned



Woman evacuated from home in a shelter in Houston PHOTO COURTESY OF JFNA

or expected but a true lifesaver for JFS which has numerous of their own staff dealing with flooded homes who are not back at work. Within a day JFS was begging for her to never leave as they found her warmth, her intelligence and her heart filling all kinds of holes through the week.

Lexie Tuchman, another member of our Network team, pitched in at Federation with a different set of tasks every day. She started with some basic volunteer coordination and then helped frame out

a system for how to manage volunteer processes going forward. She then dove into the Marketing department to help them deal with writing needs of various kinds, and shifted into grant writing today to help put some big asks out in front of various foundations.

Elise and I have been working with the Federation management, board leadership and many of their staff researching needs and responses, preparing for their Flood Committee's

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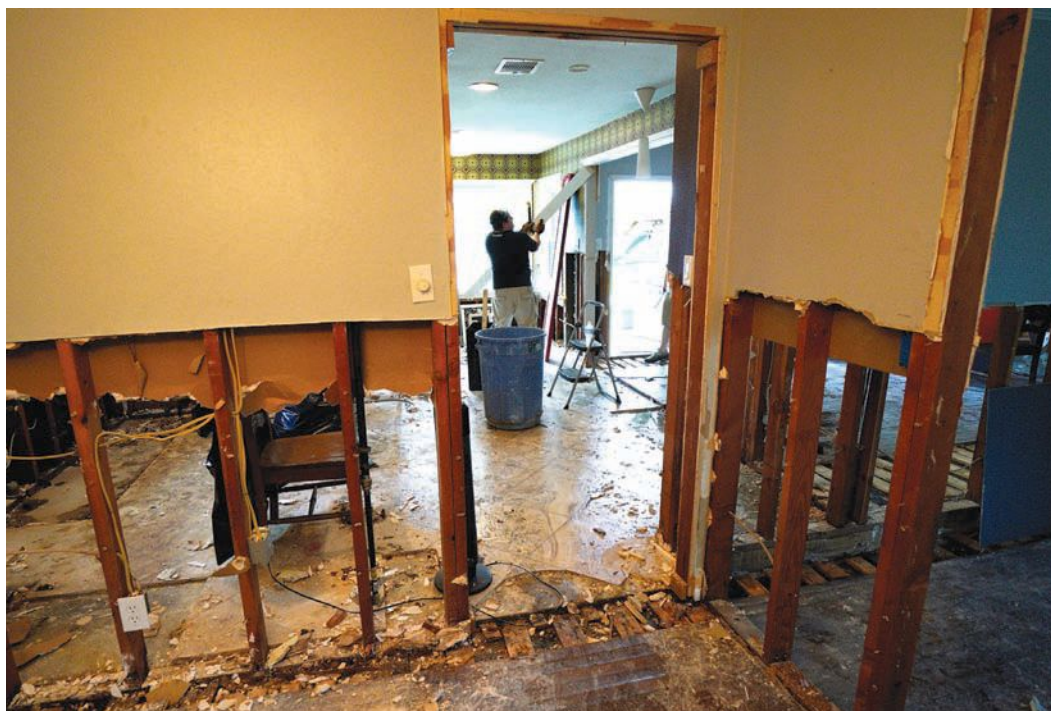
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first meeting, meeting with JFS and JCC staffs to strategize on their parts of the community response, helping get them ready for a meeting with their day school and early childhood directors tomorrow to launch their next major salvo of emergency cash assistance grants.

Houston is likely the only Federation in the country with a standing Flood Committee. Participating in that meeting and helping facilitate their discussion and decisions was one of the most inspiring and fulfilling moments in my career. Houston has stellar lay leadership and they really shone last night. They recognized the extraordinary nature of their situation and stepped way out of their comfort zone to accelerate process and make big decisions. As Sandy Weiner, their board chair, noted “We are really operating outside our normal process. But then again 54” of rain is also not normal.”

They approved the first \$1.6M in grants barely a week after they were back in operation and will meet again to probably move an even larger amount of funding forward. They dealt with truly tough decisions - how to prioritize which groups in the community to carve out for special immediate emergency assistance grants, how to balance serving Jews and non-Jews, how to deal with the long term challenge of the Meyerland development, which will inevitably face more flooding until the government addresses serious and big water management issues too long ignored. They addressed these issues with passion and compassion, with extraordinary wisdom and great values. They took good staff recommendations and made them better.

One group for which there will be special emergency cash assistance grants is those people who work for any Jewish communal organization whose home flooded - Jewish or non-Jewish. It was a truly beautiful decision that reflected such appreciation and concern for the people across their community who serve the community.



Damage to home in Houston from Hurricane Harvey PHOTO COURTESY OF JFNA

They recognize and appreciate our role in helping them evolve a whole new capacity to make quick strategic decisions, and have been blown away by the depth and breadth of our system's response. That is true of the fundraising (today at \$8.28M) as well as our deep presence.

We will leave them this week with a strategic framework for managing the next stage of decisions they face, and with a plan for how to expand the Federation's internal capacity to manage what they now face. And they will have dramatically repositioned themselves within the community as the essential leadership engine of a community facing an enormous challenge.

Team #3 is set to come Sunday for next week, and Elise and I will meet with them Sunday morning for the hand-off.

The letter that will go to those in the community receiving special cash assistance grants closes with the following line:

The new Jewish year is upon us and we wish for you and all our community a year of recovery and renewal, and an appreciation that our bonds of community and mutual support are a reflection of God's presence in our lives.

So maybe I got a little poetic when I drafted that at 5:30 this morning, but I truly believe it reflects a sentiment that the Houston Federation is making real for their community, with our leadership and support.

IT'S EASY TO LEND A HAND. Here's how you can help...

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DISASTER RELIEF



JDC RESPONDS

Damage and destruction from Hurricane Irma

PHOTO COURTESY OF JFNA

By David Schizer
CEO, American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee (JDC)

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017

It is with profound concern that I've been watching the news out of Florida, distressed by stories of mass power outages, flooding, destruction to property, and, of course, the thousands of people who braved the storm in shelters and are desperate to return home.

Similar feelings were also stirred two weeks ago when Hurricane Harvey took a colossal toll on Houston and its residents, including the family of our JDC President, Stan Rabin.

With family and friends in these places, I know we all experience this pain even more profoundly.

I am therefore thankful that our partners in the Jewish Federation system have been at the forefront of efforts to bolster American communities in the aftermath of these events, just as they, and those Jewish communities who have been impacted by the storms, have been deeply supportive of our efforts around the

globe in disaster zones and when other Jews are in distress.

We should pause to remember the lives lost to these storms and note the hope being delivered by our Federation partners, and so many others, today.

It is also incumbent upon us at JDC, given our role as the overseas arm of the American Jewish community, to focus on the destruction beyond America's borders.

Indeed, Irma's wrath in the Caribbean — islands decimated as well as food and water shortages — compelled us to deploy a response as we have done after numerous disasters in the past.

We will be immediately providing hygiene kits, safe drinking water, psychosocial support for children, access to safe educational facilities, as well as rehabilitating homes of hundreds of children in the Caribbean countries hardest-hit by the disaster through our longtime partner UNICEF.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

“ Our **partners in the Jewish Federation**

system have been at the forefront of efforts to bolster American communities in the aftermath of these events...In the face of so much suffering, it is only **together** that we can **save lives, strengthen communities**, and **build resilience** for the future. ”

We have also been in contact with Jewish communities in the region like Cuba, where we have a long-term relationship helping the community to revive Jewish life, to assess needs and determine what interventions may be required. We have also dispatched a staff member to Havana to that end. In the time leading up to the hurricane, he worked with the community in Havana on a crisis communications strategy to ensure the well being of Jews in the provinces.

In Haiti — where we responded last year to a cholera outbreak after Hurricane Matthew and to the catastrophic 2010 earthquake — and in other places throughout the northeastern Caribbean, we could bring our expertise honed in past crises to address: access to medical care and safe water, disaster mitigation, and livelihood restoration — a very important issue given the

widespread damage to tourism industry infrastructure.

In the last several days, I have been moved by the timely and professional way we and our partners have worked to address dire needs in the face of multiple, and emotionally taxing, disasters.

There is no doubt that these needs will only grow in the days ahead and I know that many of you want to help. To support JDC's efforts in the Caribbean and Cuba, visit our Hurricane Irma Caribbean & Cuba Relief Fund page, and to address suffering in Florida and Texas, please contact your local Jewish Federation.

In the face of so much suffering, it is only together that we can save lives, strengthen communities, and build resilience for the future.

JDC RESPONSE IN THE CARIBBEAN & CUBA

The JDC will assess needs, determine interventions and help to provide:

- ➡ Hygiene kits
- ➡ Safe drinking water
- ➡ Psychosocial support for children
- ➡ Access to safe educational facilities
- ➡ Rehabilitating homes of hundreds of children in the Caribbean countries hardest-hit by the disaster through JDC's longtime partner UNICEF.
- ➡ Address access to medical care and safe water
- ➡ Disaster mitigation
- ➡ Livelihood restoration

JC RC **FEDTALKS** (formerly Bagels & Briefing)

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AMERICAN JEWRY & ISRAEL: CAN THE RIFT BE HEALED?

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INSPIRED: NYL Cabinet Retreat in Arizona

By Lauren F. Danneman

I had the honor of representing the Jewish Federation of Delaware at JFNA National Young Leadership Cabinet Retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Cabinet is the premier leadership and philanthropic program within The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and throughout the Jewish world. Cabinet is comprised of approximately 300 men and women, ages 30 to 45, from across the United States and Canada who are deeply committed to shaping a bright future for the Jewish people throughout North America, Israel, and around the globe.

In Arizona, we had 210 delegates from the US and Canada who participated in an amazing mitzvah project, lectures/best practices sessions, and learned about Federation programs here and around the world.

Our mitzvah project took us to the Scottsdale JCC where we were introduced to Jewish Family and Children's Service program *Shelter Without Walls*. This program supports victims of domestic violence. As a group, we made 1,200 hygiene kits and 180 teddy bears/stuffed dogs -made with love to be donated to the *Shelter Without Walls*. We also received help from the 8th grade class from Pardes (local Jewish day school), which allowed us to show the next generation the importance of *Tikkun Olam*.



Lauren and George Danneman
PHOTO CREDIT: JFNA

I felt honored to have Delaware's Suzanne Grant, JFNA National Campaign Chair, speak to all of Cabinet about giving on "Campaign Day" before the caucuses began. Suzy spoke about the importance of giving to Federation's amazing programs locally and internationally. Afterwards, sitting in a small room with three other women and sharing our reasons for giving, was an inspiring experience. By the end of the day, over \$2 million had been raised and with an average pledge card increase of 24 percent.

Our scholar-in-residence, Rae Ringel, was an inspiration and gave us the tools to bring our ideas back to our communities. I am part of Cabinet's 55th class and the number stands for L'Cha, "go forward." The mission of Federation is to go forward and change the world. Each one of us has a passion to help our community and Federation is here to help facilitate helping our local community and the global community. What a perfect time to get involved.

Lauren F. Danneman, a Delaware resident, is a member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware Israel and Overseas Committee, and first year NYLC member. To learn more about Cabinet, email nyl@jewishfederations.org.

JEWISH VOICE

SERVING DELAWARE & THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

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FEDERATION DOLLARS SUPPORT ENP SPACE PROGRAM

By George J. Danneman

While at the National Young Leadership Cabinet Retreat in Scottsdale, Arizona, I had the incredible opportunity to learn more about the Ethiopian National Project.

First, THANK YOU. As part of our annual allocation, the Jewish Federation of Delaware allocates funds to the Ethiopian National Project. This means regardless of how much you give to the Jewish Federation of Delaware you are also helping the Ethiopian National Project. Thank you. Now, let me explain.

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) has various programs. I will focus on one of the programs that was presented to us –

The ENP SPACE Program. Many Ethiopian school students are struggling academically because their parents never attended school and are unable to provide them with the academic support most of us received. This includes help with homework, help with organization skills, after school snacks, and support and other related activities. Most of us take all of this for granted. Further, many of the struggling Ethiopian students cannot go to siblings for help because their siblings are also struggling for the same reasons, in some cases more so, because they are older and dealing with more difficult academic work and situations. The ENP SPACE Program fills this gap by providing these essential academic support services at a cost of less than \$12 a week per student. Importantly, this program helps the students academically succeed so they may become contributing members of Israeli society.

While in Scottsdale, I met Sefitu Ezra, who benefited from the ENP SPACE Program. Prior to the ENP SPACE Program stepping



ENP Space Program PHOTO CREDIT: JFNA

in, she was failing academically. Her parents could not help her. Her older brothers could not help her because they were also struggling. Now she is on her way to becoming a doctor so she can “save lives.” On behalf of Sefitu Ezra, THANK YOU.

Maybe one day, she will help you.

George J. Danneman, a Delaware resident, is a member of the Jewish Federation of Delaware Board of Directors. George joined JFNA's National Young Leadership Cabinet, the premier leadership philanthropic program for Jewish men and women ages 30-45 across the U.S. and Canada in 2014. To learn more about Cabinet, email nyl@jewishfederations.org.

FEDERATION WINS AFP FUNDRAISING AND COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

By Delaware Business Now



The Jewish Federation of Delaware is the recipient of four winning entries in the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)/ Brandywine Chapter's 2017 Fundraising and Communications Excellence (FACE) Awards.

The 2017 FACE Awards recognizes and honors not-for-profit organizations whose communications demonstrates excellence, quality, creativity and overall effectiveness. The PRSA Delaware Chapter's Board of Directors served as this year's judging panel.

Federation's four winning entries include Annual Report, Annual Appeal, Branding, and Website categories. Federation will be

accepting the awards at the AFP National Philanthropy Day 2017 on Wednesday, November 15th at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. This year's theme is “Inspire – Educate – Connect.”

“Winning multiple FACE Awards in consecutive years is a wonderful achievement and a testament to our professional and lay leadership's commitment to excellence,” stated Seth J. Katzen, Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. “We are honored to be the only organization with multiple winning entries in this year's competition.”



By Arlene C. Wilson

BEFORE GIVING TO YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, CONSIDER THESE TIPS

Many grandparents take joy in giving gifts and money to their grandchildren. Whether paying for groceries or establishing a college savings fund in their name, providing financial support for grandchildren can be a wonderful gesture, but it should be managed within the context of an overall financial plan.

This is particularly true for those in or nearing retirement – a period in which traditional income is often reduced or eliminated, and expenses for healthcare and other costs have the potential to increase. If you're contemplating passing down wealth to your grandchildren, consider these tips for doing it in a way that's beneficial for both them and your finances.

1. Give only what you can afford. Your own financial security should be your first priority. Since there is no way to know with any certainty how long you'll live, how the market will perform or how inflation may impact your purchasing power in retirement, make sure that you gift within your means. Doing so will help ensure your generosity today doesn't create a financial hardship for you down the road.

2. Clarify whether you're making a loan or giving a gift. If you're giving a gift, familiarize yourself with federal tax rules, which are based on the calendar year. For example, in 2017 you can give up to \$15,000 to each of your grandchildren before the federal gift tax is applied. Be sure the recipient knows it's a gift to alleviate any uncertainty about whether they're required to pay you back.

If you are loaning money to a grandchild, be specific about the terms of repayment. Spell out the terms in writing and have both parties sign and date. This will help safeguard your financial situation and ensure both of you are on the same page – now and in the future.

3. Discuss your intentions. If you would like to help your grandchildren pay for college or make a down payment on a home, be sure to communicate this with their parents. Be upfront about the amount you'd like to contribute, and keep the conversation open in the event that future situations impact the dollars you're able to give.

For example, if the parents of your grandchild know how much you are expecting to contribute to their child's education, they may be able to decrease the amount allocated to a 529 Plan and investment more toward other goals, such as their own retirement.

4. Set appropriate boundaries. Even if you want to help your grandchildren financially, depending on their age, it may not be appropriate to do so. For example, many young adults take pride in their financial independence. The experience of letting them live within their own means can be an excellent teaching opportunity. Keep in mind the smart — and sometimes tough — financial lessons you learned as you made your own way as a young adult, and the pride that came with successfully overcoming challenges.

5. Incorporate giving into your overall financial plan. Your financial priorities are likely to change, especially as you near or move through retirement. Evaluating your giving goals against your other priorities will give you a clear and realistic understanding of how much you can comfortably give, as well as the most tax-efficient and effective way to go about it.

Arlene C. Wilson is a Financial Advisor and Vice President with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Wilmington, De. She specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 33 years. To contact her: Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. 1011 Centre Road, Suite 100, Wilmington, De 19805, email: arlene.wilson@ampf.com, telephone: 302.468.8211, website: <http://ameripriseadvisors.com/arlene.wilson>

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WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY BRINGS BEST SELLING AUTHOR, JENNIFER WEINER, FOR FALL WOW EVENT

By JFD Staff



The Jewish Federation of Delaware Women's Philanthropy is pleased to announce its Women of Wisdom (W.O.W.) Fall Event featuring #1 New York Times Bestselling author, Jennifer Weiner, on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at the Siegel JCC beginning at 6:30 PM.

Jennifer Weiner is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of fourteen books, including *Good in Bed*, *In Her Shoes*, *Who Do You Love*, *The Littlest Bigfoot*, and her memoir *Hungry Heart: Adventures in Life, Love, and Writing*. A graduate of Princeton University, and contributor to the New York Times Opinion section, Jennifer lives with her family in Philadelphia. Visit her online at JenniferWeiner.com.

The WOW Fall Event is being co-chaired by Nancy Crain, Shelly Mand, and Susie Zaslavsky and is open to women at a cost of \$50 which includes a copy of her newest release, *Little Bigfoot, Big City*, plus a minimum tax-deductible household gift of \$250 to the Jewish Federation of Delaware 2018 Annual Campaign.

A fast-paced, witty, magical tale that both kids and their moms will love, *Little Bigfoot, Big City* is not only a fantastic mystery with an on-the-edge-of-your-seat

WOW FALL EVENT jennifer weiner

Join us on November 1st
and receive a copy
of her newest release,
Little Bigfoot, Big City!



WED
NOV. 1
2017

6:30 - 9 PM
SIEGEL JCC



COST: \$50
plus a minimum household gift of
\$250 to the 2018 Annual Campaign

RSVP by October 26:
ShalomDelaware.org/WOWEVENT

plot, but also a story about what it means to be a friend, and an exploration of the lengths mothers go through to protect their children.

"Women's Philanthropy is a sisterhood of women united by acts of kindness and generosity who are dedicated to ensuring the continuity and vitality of our Jewish community," said Women's Philanthropy Co-Chair, Jennifer Steinberg. "Our intent is to welcome and encourage current and new perspective women to attend our highly anticipated Women of Wisdom (WOW) Event."

The continued success of the annual WOW Event is a testament to the women in our community who embrace *tikkun olam* and improving the world. We also thank the generosity of our sponsors including First State Orthopaedics, Pivot Physical Therapy, Levy Wilson Real Estate, Dr. James Zaslavsky, The Yaffa Family, Shoestring Solutions, Aztec Printing, Barb and David Blumberg, Two Sisters, Ginger Weiss/Creative Financial Group, Shelly and Marty Mand, Eve Slap, Matt Slap Subaru, Francesca Rudin, and Hedy Mintz.



JFD 2018 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

PHOTOS BY JFD STAFF

On Monday evening, September 11, 2017 our Community Event & Campaign Kick-off with Dr. Ron Wolfson, educator and author of Relational Judaism, proved to be a successful event. Thanks to the generosity of our valued supporters, we raised more than \$90,000 for the 2018 Campaign.



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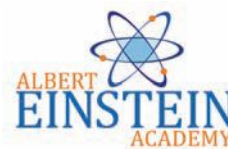


6



7

1 Ron Wolfson signs Jack Blumenfeld's book 2 Community members attend JFD 2018 Campaign Kickoff Event
3 UD Hillel staff and students enjoying a discussion 4 Kerin Hearn and Arlene Wilson 5 Marty Mand, Buddy Aeronson, and Dan Klein 6 Leslie Newman, Robin Kauffman Saran, and Michelle Silberglied 7 Leni Markell and Philippa Miller



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- 1 Einstein Upper School students work together on their first day of school PHOTO BY JEREMY WINAKER
- 2 Einstein 5th Graders on their first day of school PHOTO BY JULIA FORESTER
- 3 Einstein Kindergarten and 1st Graders on the first day of school PHOTO BY JULIA FORESTER



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PJ GET TOGETHERS



1 Regan, Mason, and Renyn Root pressing cloves into oranges, preparing for Havdallah at Ellisha Caplan's house PHOTO BY ELLISHA CAPLAN

2 PJ Library parents and friends had an adult night out at Zahav in Philadelphia PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMYE COLE

3 At Liz Platsis' Get Together a group of PJ friends had a Wonder Woman Book Club PHOTO BY LIZ PLATISIS



JFS SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE OFFICE OF MAJORITY LEADER VALERIE LONGHURST, REPRESENTATIVE OF DELAWARE'S 15TH DISTRICT

Majority Leader Valerie Longhurst, Representative of Delaware's 15th District, and Delaware's Attorney General Matt Denn met with kids in JFS' Summer Youth Program



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2

LIFE AT TEMPLE BETH EL

PHOTOS BY SHARON FULLERTON

- 1 A beautiful welcome to Shabbat over Temple Beth El
- 2 Shoppers find great deals at TBE's Children's Item Resale

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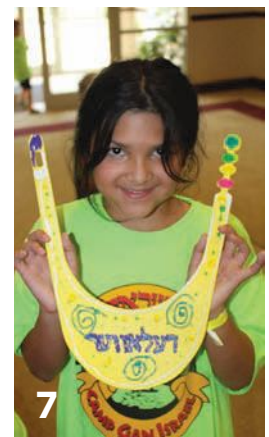


FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Dana Berman dana@ShalomDel.org
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CHABAD OF DELAWARE CAMP GAN IZZY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHABAD

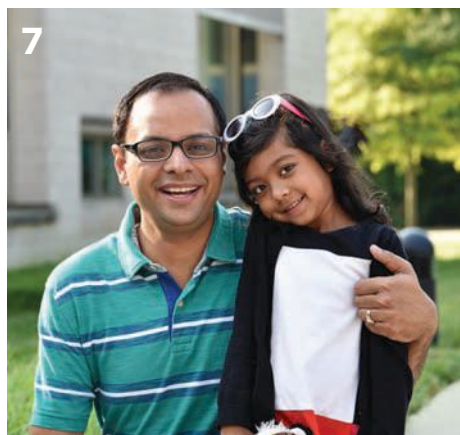


1 Legoland Discovery Center 2 Christiana Skating Center 3 Coco Key Indoor Water Resort 4 Building a life-size Menorah at Legoland 5 Clementon Amusement Park 6 Jacob Kanthal at the Fire Truck Experience 7 Hayley Eng decorated her own beautiful Hebrew 'Delaware' visor 8 Challah Baking



GOODBYE SUMMER CAMP, HELLO SCHOOL

PHOTO CREDIT: DONNA HARLEV



- 1 Campers perform a dance at Camp JCC 2 A camper gets her face painted at the end of the summer 3 Executive Director, Ivy Harlev, and Assistant Executive Directors, Mona Duwell and Wendi Weingartner, with new ECC Director, Pam Kreuer 4 Matt Petrin brings his daughter to school 5 Phili Miller and her son on the first day of school 6 New Staff Wall at the Early Childhood Center 7 Abishek Ranjan and his daughter arriving at school 8 Students listen to Ms. Tiffany on the first day of school

THE EINSTEIN MELTING POT

By Rabbi Jeremy Winaker
Head of School, Albert Einstein Academy



Einstein 3rd Graders PHOTO BY JEREMY WINAKER

Cast iron cooks better when it is first seasoned with oil, even better when it is used repeatedly.

The food made in it has a richer flavor. A pot passed one generation to the next is even more potent.

A crucial element of elementary education is building a student's sense of self. To create a community in the classroom, students need to know who they are individually in addition to communally. Each student brings unique features, approaches, and skills let alone history, background, and values. A good classroom and a good school serve as the cast iron pot, enriched by students and teachers of prior years, in which to warm the hearts and souls creating new blends of learning and relationships.

Einstein's mission depends on its execution of being "a nurturing environment." Focused on Jewish values like *hachnasat orchim* (welcoming the traveler), our cast iron pots and pans frame the learning experience in the iron

of Jewish history, values, and tradition. To be the "inquisitive learners, critical thinkers, and dynamic leaders" our mission seeks to produce, students must learn to see their unique contributions to the class and the benefit of learning from their peers.

A crucial component of our curriculum that serves as the key cast iron pot is our immigration unit focused on *Molly's Pilgrim* by Barbara Cohen, grandmother of an Einstein alumna. In the story, Molly's class is supposed to make dolls coming to America, seeking religious liberty like the *Mayflower Pilgrims* she is learning about before her first Thanksgiving. Her mother helps her make a doll that looks like a Russian refugee, a version of the mother's self. Embarrassed by the difference, Molly and her classmates all learn the similarities and the differences among immigrants to America. The process is enriching for everyone.

Einstein students not only read and discuss the story, they interview their families to learn their own American stories. Over the years, Einstein students

have discovered Jewish roots in Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Israel, Ethiopia, Morocco, Guatemala, and more. Whether these roots are one or four generations back or incorporate non-Jewish stories of all kinds, the gathering of stories alone is a deeply impactful learning experience. After the stories are shared, the learning is all the more so a lasting memory. This year promises to be even richer as one student is herself an Afghan refugee.

At this season of the year, we all benefit from looking at our roots to see what has led to the harvest we celebrate at Sukkot and later Thanksgiving. America has served as a melting pot that allows our Jewishness to flourish and enrich our community, inside and out of Jewish spaces. Einstein is privileged to serve as a melting pot, too. As we welcome travelers, so may we appreciate their stories and our own. As our students and families enrich our classrooms, so may they enrich our community into which they enter as leaders. The harvest meals we will share will taste that much better and be that much more memorable. We hope yours do, too.



Albert Einstein Academy is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

A BIG HEART FILLS A BIG BAG: INTRODUCING THE JFS “PANTRY CHAMPION”

By JFS Staff

Steve Gonzer would like you to know that he's really very shy and does not like to talk about himself. This month, we're profiling him as a JFS Volunteer and even though he said he didn't know what to say, we think he says all the right things.

Steve has volunteered with JFS in many capacities over the years – from taking part in Adopt-A-Family during the winter holidays, to providing support for those with gambling addiction, to donating food to the JFS Food Pantry. Everyone at JFS knows Steve: “Steve Gonzer has been a Pantry Champion! He has been calling every few weeks and asking what specific items we need, and delivering them by the trunk load!” and “Great guy! Fun to talk to.” It was his unofficial role as “Pantry Champion” that we are profiling him for this month.

JFS: So Steve, you've become a minor celebrity around JFS for your donations to the food pantry. What drives you to give back in this way?

SG: I've always felt the need to share what I have with others. I'm not just talking about food because it's not hard for me to fill another bag at the grocery store for someone who needs it. I want to repair the world and I know that there are people who are not as lucky as me. I want to share what I have and hopefully, I can inspire others to give a little more for someone in need, like adding another bag of groceries during their weekly shopping trip.

JFS: You're involved with JFS in a few different ways, what do you wish people knew about the organization?

SG: Well, for starters JFS and the food pantry are a family affair. Everyone there is concerned about the greater community. They're there to help the entire community, not just Jews. I drop off, I talk to people and I see all the services the agency provides. If more people can be inspired to come in and bring food, more people will see just how much JFS does.

JFS: You mentioned that it's not hard to fill an extra bag (or cart) at the grocery store for someone in need. Back in the summer, you dropped off a whole bunch of peanut butter – what kinds of food can people donate to our food pantry?

SG: In my opinion, it's important that food people want to eat is available. Whether that's kosher food, Tasty Cakes, or peanut butter. I try not to eat junk food but I like it and I know that other people like to eat it too. But seriously, if people are not getting the proper nutrition, their potential is wasted. I like to call ahead and find out what the pantry needs and then I get to go and shop for it. Even if it's something I don't eat, I know that someone will benefit from that food.

THE JFS FOOD PANTRY

IS OPEN TO ALL CURRENT
CLIENTS & REFUGEE FAMILIES.



They may access the pantry once a week accompanied by their clinician.

The Pantry is kept stocked by members of the community, local organizations, and our Mitzvah Basket program.

JFS is currently seeking local businesses that would be willing to host a food drive one month per year.

**TO LEARN MORE or
TO DONATE,**
please contact:

Jody Grinberg,
Team Coordinator at
302-478-9411, ext. 134 OR
JGrinberg@jfsdelaware.org

JFS: One of the values of JFS is *B'Tzelem Elohim* (בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים): treating others with the inherent dignity that arises from the belief that all human beings were created in the image of G-d. How do you think donating to the food pantry fills that value?

SG: When I hear of people saying they have to choose between food and medicine, I know there's no reason for that. There is no excuse for hunger when we have an abundance of food available. Where there is food insecurity, there is a breakdown in human dignity. Why should anyone who has the means donate to the food pantry? The better question is: Why doesn't everyone with the means donate to the JFS food pantry?



*Jewish Family Services of Delaware is a Beneficiary Agency
of Jewish Federation of Delaware.*



INTRODUCING DEAR SARAH. JFS is here to help you. Please email letters to dearsarah@jfsdelaware.org. Names and details will be altered in published letters to protect your privacy. Some letters and responses will appear here each month, and all letters and responses can be viewed on our website, www.jfsdelaware.org/dearsarah.

DEAR SARAH

advice and answers to
life's questions

Dear Sarah,

I came home early from work the other day looking forward to spending the evening with my family. I even stopped to pick up pizza so no one would have to cook. My wife called to say that she was staying at work to finish up some things and wouldn't be home until late because she had an evening meeting. My daughter came in, grabbed a slice of pizza, and asked for a ride to her friend's house to work on a project. As we headed out the door, my other daughter scowled at me and asked why I was home so early. So much for family time.

I know, we've all got busy lives but I'm suddenly dreading coming home to an empty house and no one to share a pizza with – what can I do now to make the most of the time we have together?

– Empty Nest Before My Time

Dear Empty Nest,

Oftentimes the community pays lip-service to the Jewish family while it continues to schedule endless meetings, classes, and groups that send family members running in separate directions.

If everyone is so overscheduled, it might be high time to schedule your own family time. Pick a day of the week that is typically less busy than others for everyone in your family—perhaps Saturday or Sunday evening. And make a “date” for some family togetherness. Cooking a meal, playing some board games—even watching a movie together will bring everyone closer together. Try scheduling these “family dates” every other week for a month. If successful, then try once a month. Soon you should flow into at least one day of the week where you can all convene as a family. Pizza and all!

In the meantime, try sharing your feelings with the rest of your family.

Good luck,
Sarah



Learn. Think. Lead.

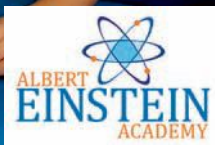
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Jodi and Benjie Cohen PHOTO BY DONNA HARLEV

MULTI-GENERATIONAL EFFORTS ENRICH THE J COMMUNITY

By Dan Metz
Youth & Teen Coordinator

The Jewish Community Center is always growing and changing, but some names are as steady as a rock against the tide.

Jodi and Benjie Cohen have been members at the Siegel JCC for over 20 years. They've raised a family in this community, three children who are still active on the JCC campus. Tireless volunteers, Jodi and Benjie's help with November's Craft Bash is only the latest

of their contributions to their community.

The Cohens first came to the JCC in the 90's, and they quickly found their home in the Jewish Community Center. Each of their three children, Ari, Jordan, and Aliya, attended the Early Childhood Center, then the Albert Einstein Academy, and continue to use the center regularly. Jodi and Benjie accepted their first invitation onto a committee in 2001, to work on the event committee making decorations for the JCC's 100th Anniversary party. Since then, they've helped with dozens of events, volunteering their time and energy to the community.

The buck hasn't stopped with them, either: All three of their children have worked and volunteered at the JCC. Jordan and Aliya have both spent time working in the Membership or Aquatics departments. Ari, the eldest, is a familiar face to many at the JCC front desk, which Benjie takes pride in. This year, Ari is old

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



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Betsy S. May, DMD

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We hope you will join us in celebrating this major milestone as it provides a tremendously exciting opportunity for you, our clients, and ourselves. We look forward to bringing to you a range of expertise and a quality of service unmatched by any other real estate company.



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FINE WINES & BEER

AGENCY UPDATE

MULTI-GENERATIONAL EFFORTS ENRICH THE J COMMUNITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

enough to join in the festivities for Craft Bash, the latest project his parents have been working on. While Benjie knows the Bash is going to be a great event, he believes that it's more important than that: "[Ari] is old enough to enjoy, but more importantly, he wants to help out in any way he can. He feels as if he is a major component to the community and wants to give back."

There's plenty of work to go around for the Craft Bash, which will be held on Thursday, November 16th. Benjie and Jodi are Chairs of the Event Committee, and they're reprising their roles as Decorators-in-Chief for the event. The proceeds for the fundraiser go to funding important programs like the Early Childhood Center and KidsPlace, both of which the couple used for all of their children. According to Benjie, "[It's] a fun night while raising money for the J. Great combo."

The Jewish Community Center thrives on the contributions of its members, and the Cohens are proud to contribute. They see the JCC as their community and have

CRAFT BASH

BREW • CREATE • CELEBRATE

Join us for
CRAFT BASH
Thursday, November 16
7 – 10:30 PM

Register at tinyurl.com/craftbash
by October 9 to brew, create,
and celebrate with us!

worked hard to make it a community for their children as well. "They grew up here, went to school here... [this is where] their friends are, this is where they exercise, this is their community." Their hope is to continue the tradition, keeping their community strong through programming and raising children to be the next generation of leaders in a community which they have called home for over twenty years.

JC RC FEDTALKS (formerly Bagels & Briefing)
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Members at a meeting of the Ladies Bikur Cholem Society

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KUTZ HOME

A HERITAGE OF CARING

By Karen Friedman,
Executive Director, The Kutz Home
and Chaplain Mollie Epstein

Judaism is rich in teaching us family and community values and responsibilities.

We find many examples of this throughout our sacred literature. Consider these two: Our 5th Commandment directs us to "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord G-d gives you." Chapter 71, verse 9 in the Book of Psalms instructs us to care for our elderly... "Cast me not off in the time of old age; when my strength faileth, forsake me not."

Whether our "birth" parents, or the elderly "parents" of our community, we are charged with caring for those generations who have gone before us, cared for us, taught us, and gifted us our heritage of traditions and values.

In 1902 several women of the Delaware Jewish Community took this charge to heart and formed the Ladies Bichor Cholem Society to provide for the "aged, infirmed and needy." Members of the Society were called "Sister" and the monthly dues were \$.25. Among the Sisters were Rosa Topkis, Nessie Tiger, Anna Ostro, Esther Finkelstein, and Mrs. Charles Schagrin. These forward thinking women set the stage for those to follow, raising funds to provide for those in need. Their efforts enabled the acquisition of property to care for the aged, indigent and

transients, who at that time were called "inmates."

Harry Bluestone (z"l) served as the JCC Director from 1945-1960. In 1974 he published *The Kutz Home, A Historical Review 1902-1970*. In his review, he traced the work of the Ladies Bichor Cholem Society from its inception in 1902. Mr. Bluestone recounted the establishment of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home in 1960, thanks to a \$350,000 pledge from Hattie Kutz. The actual cost of the 40 bed facility was \$660,000. The review continued to chronicle the progress of the Kutz Home through various renovations up to 1970.

Of interest, is that shortly after the opening of the Kutz Home, the Ladies Bichor Cholem Society voted itself out of existence; but not out of purpose. The Society became the Auxiliary of the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home. The Home's board of directors was established and the community had a beautiful facility to continue to care for the elderly.

Fast forward to today; the Kutz Home is now joined by Lodge Lane, our Assisted Living Facility offering care to those who need some assistance, but not as much as a nursing home.

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The Kutz Home is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.



Ladies Bikur Cholem Society Sister Badge – 1902

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KUTZ HOME



The Milton & Hattie Kutz Home Auxiliary will hold its annual **Forget-Me-Not Gala** **Saturday, October 21, 2017** **The Delaware Contemporary**

This year's Gala will honor past presidents of:

- The Kutz Home
- Lodge Lane Assisted Living
- Kutz Home Auxiliary

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AGENCY UPDATE

A HERITAGE OF CARING

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The Auxiliary continues to be the fundraising arm of the Home, and through their special events have provided the residents and the Home with so much; be it programs or funds for capital improvements. The Board of Directors, comprised of dedicated volunteers from the community, remains the governing body of the Home.

Quoting Irving S. Shapiro (z"l) in the Preface to Harry Bluestone's Historical Review, "The quality of a community may be measured in various ways. All are significant, but one measure may be as revealing as any of them, and this is the way a community provides for its aged. That single index, simple as it is, tells a great deal about a people's values and their concern for the community's well-being."

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From Generation to Generation: THE IMPACT OF UD HILLEL

By UD Hillel Staff

College is a period of self-discovery.

At the University of Delaware Hillel, we are lucky to mold the next generation of leaders as they make their way through their college experiences. This is a cliché, but it is also borne out every day in the students who pass through our building – especially those who come to realize, through Shabbat dinners, internships and leadership roles with us, that their future careers lie within the Jewish world. Staff members are fortunate to have the unique experience of being Jewish professionals who mold, grow, and struggle with young adults taking their first steps into communal work and building a new slate of Jewish leaders who go on to work for Federation, for Jewish fraternities, and so much more.

During their four years, staff and organizations alike provide professional development experiences to ultimately boost a multitude of skills – like networking and resume building.

“Hillel has been a remarkable resource in preparation for Jewish professional life,” shares Alyssa Hartstein, a 2017 graduate of Delaware.

“I met some of my best friends at Freshmen Fest and had an incredible winter Birthright trip during my sophomore year, but it was the opportunity that Hillel gave me to attend

the Jewish Federation’s General Assembly in Washington, D.C. that had the biggest impact. I was inspired by the passion and energy felt in the room of 5,000 Jewish professionals, lay leaders and students. I returned from the first GA I attended during my junior year with a new group of friends and a strong desire to become more involved within Hillel.”

Alyssa currently works as the Planning Assistant for the Wiener Center for Leadership and Learning and SYNERGY departments at UJA-Federation of New York.

And Nicki Poliak (‘17), is back to school. She recently accepted the role of Engagement Associate at the University of Connecticut Hillel. “The relationships I created with both staff and students at UD Hillel allowed me to explore being a Jewish leader as well as helped me easily transition into my professional role.”

A graduate of the class of 2016, Abbie Goldring explains, “Two years ago I could not imagine I would be working as a Jewish professional post-graduation. The community, resources, and support that UD Hillel gave me convinced me that applying for the Springboard Fellowship through Hillel International last year was the right move for me. Now I can’t see myself anywhere else besides working as the Social Media Specialist at the Bronfman Center at NYU!”



Alyssa Hartstein (center), attending a networking event in New York

PHOTO COURTESY OF HILLEL



Nicki Poliak PHOTO COURTESY OF HILLEL



Abbie Goldring PHOTO COURTESY OF HILLEL

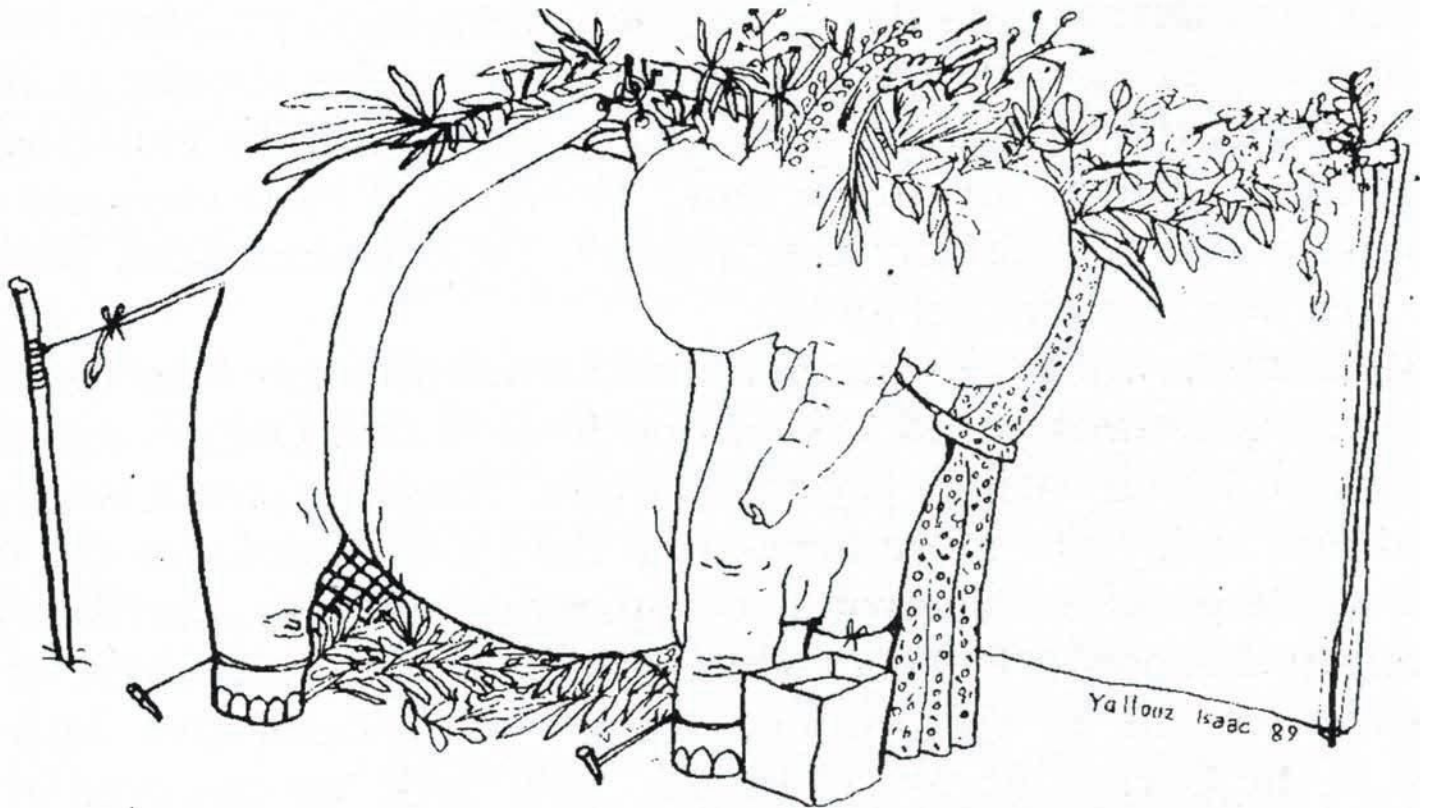


UD Hillel is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

CAN YOU BUILD A SUKKAH FROM AN ELEPHANT?

By Shira Leibowitz Schmidt
and Roald Hoffmann

What does the sukkah tell us about where the “natural” ends and man’s making, the “artificial,” begins? The authors ponder the contemporary philosophical relevance of an ancient Jewish observance.



“Can you build a sukkah from an elephant?” Drawing by Isaac Yallouz.

Starting in the 1860s, the German-Jewish painter Moritz Oppenheim began producing a set of 20 “pictures of traditional Jewish family life” that brought him considerable fame in his lifetime. The book version of the series may have been the most popular Jewish book ever published in Germany. One of the scenes features a *sukkah*.

A well-to-do Jewish family is seated at the holiday table in the sukkah, erected in the leaf-strewn yard. We peer in through the curtained doors to see the family patriarch making the

traditional holiday blessing over what is probably homemade raisin wine, while the *challah* is covered with delicate linen damask. His wife, holding the baby, sits at the table with the other family members. As the maid brings the steaming chicken soup, the family cat watches her, hoping that some will spill from the porcelain tureen. Two German schoolboys peek in at the curious scene and probably wonder: Why on earth are these Jews eating outdoors in a weird booth on a chilly autumn day?



“An **elephant** is **kasher** to serve **as a sukkah wall** since it meets the minimal size requirements. But... what if the elephant wants to **escape**? So put it on a leash. What about the **space** between its legs? Fill it with palm branches. What if it **sits down**? So tie it with cords from above. What **if it dies**? Even if Jumbo shrinks a bit, the carcass still meets the minimal wall-size specifications.”

The scene is ostensibly a celebration of nature. Or is it? What is natural about this sukkah and what is unnatural?

The family pictured is hardly back-to-nature. From floor to ceiling the sukkah is festooned with the refinements of the bourgeois family it houses. No leaf or stray bit of nature touches the lush carpet that covers the wooden floor. The drapes, no flimsy affair, are the very same heavy satin curtains that appear in the other scenes Oppenheim painted of the family's regular dining room. The oil-filled crystal chandelier would be equally in place in a ballroom. The mahogany-framed painting on the wall, the fine linen tablecloth, the hand-painted china, and the holiday finery remind us that this is no picnic in nature.

In fact, the whole idea of building a sukkah is unnatural. We erect a patently synthetic imitation of the booths that sheltered the Israelites during their desert wanderings, as commanded in Lev. 23:42-43. “You shall live in booths seven days... so your descendants may be reminded that I provided booths for the Israelites to live in when I brought them out of the land of Egypt...”

The timing of the festival is also most unnatural – just at the start of the autumn rains in *Eretz Yisrael*, when most people would rather be indoors.

The only intrusion of nature is the sukkah's roof, which is made of leafy boughs. Everything else is unnatural—that is, made by human hands.

In contrast to the idyllic scene Oppenheim portrays, the reality of eating in a sukkah is not always so attractive. A rabbi from Phoenix, Arizona, where autumn temperatures can surpass 100° F, reports that the question most frequently posed to him was: “Is it kosher to air-condition the sukkah?” At the other end of the thermometer, it has been told that a U.S. Air Force chaplain in Anchorage, Alaska, built sukkah walls from igloo-like ice-blocks!

What these two structures, from Arizona and Anchorage, have in common with each other, and with Oppenheim's sukkah, is the leafy roof. The name of the holiday reveals that the root of “Sukkot” is the roof.

“One's name reflects one's essence” – “... *khishmo kayn hoo*,” we read in I Sam. 25:25. Sukkot is the plural of sukkah, which means “booth” or “tabernacle.” The root of “sukkah” is “*s'chach*,” meaning “covering” or “protection.” Thus, for the essence of the sukkah, and of the entire holiday, we must look up to the roof.

Jewish law (*Halacha*) devotes much thought to defining which materials are *kasher* – valid – for the roofing, the *s'chach*. Here we gain insight into how tradition differentiated natural from unnatural, and perhaps find an answer to our question about Oppenheim's sukkah:

Where does the natural leave off and the man-made begin?

The material that goes into the roof is crucial to the answer to this question, in contrast to the irrelevance of the material that forms the walls.

There must be at least three walls, and they must be of a certain height, width, and length. But there are no restrictions on material. The sukkah walls may be of wood, cloth, brick, plastic, or metal. “All things are valid for walls,” says the Talmud (*Sukkah* 12a), which then challenges its own statement by asking: “Even live animals?”

This launches a debate (23a) about whether an elephant may be used as a wall, since it meets the minimal size requirements. Four objections are raised, and followed by retorts: What if the elephant wants to escape? So put it on a leash. What about the space between its legs? Fill it with palm branches. What

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CAN YOU BUILD A SUKKAH FROM AN ELEPHANT?

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if it sits down? So tie it with cords from above. What if it dies? Even if Jumbo shrinks a bit, the carcass still meets the minimal wall-size specifications.

The bottom line is: Yes! An elephant is *kasher*... to serve as a sukkah wall.

Most certainly the Talmudic sages were not besieged by questioners wishing to build sukkot from elephants. Rather, the discussion is a search for the boundaries of a definition. The Mishna declares: “All things are valid for the walls” and the Gemara asks: “Even elephants?” The sages are not satisfied with generalizations, but demand logic and specificity when fleshing out a definition.

In contrast to the *carte blanche* for walls, there are three strict requirements that dictate which materials may be used for the roof. Underlying these dry laws, we find a complex philosophical approach to the question raised above: “What is natural and what is unnatural?”

The *s’chach* covering the sukkah, to be *kasher*, must:

- 1) have grown from the ground;
- 2) be cut off from its roots; and
- 3) be incapable of becoming defiled (ritually impure).

The first two requirements imply that the roofing materials must originate in nature but may not be used in their natural state. These rules form the lower boundary of the spectrum of *kasher* materials. A growing vine trained across a sukkah top is too natural. It is not *kasher* because human beings did not make it. We are enjoined in Deut. 16:13: “You shall make the Sukkot festival...” A growing vine is nature-made and is not a fulfillment of this injunction ordering us, humans, to “make” the festival. Even cutting a vine that had been trained over the sukkah is not enough. After being severed, each vine has to be lifted and set down again so that we have done the making, not nature.

But lest we go too far in rendering the *s’chach* human-made, an upper boundary is stipulated. The third rule insures that the *s’chach* will not become too man-made and lose its natural

properties. It is phrased in the language of the Talmudic laws relating to ritual purity and impurity, but the implications are startlingly modern.

To understand the third *s’chach* requirement, we must take a short excursion into the laws of ritual purity, because they hint at a borderline between natural and unnatural.

Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz (*The Essential Talmud*) points out that “the laws of purity are essentially a complex, unified network of laws, interrelated within a special logical structure.” The Torah offers no explanations for purity laws and it is risky for us to do so. Furthermore, since the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem many of the laws are inapplicable because they had been related to the Temple ritual.

Ritual purity (*tahara*) and impurity (*tum’a*) are not concepts of physical cleanliness or hygiene, as can be seen from the fact that ritual hand washing must be preceded by a regular washing. In general, what is living and healthy contains no

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“Sukkot” oil-on-canvas painting by Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, 1867. Jewish Museum – gift of Oscar & Regina Gruss Charitable and Educational Foundation.

impurity, and impurity increases as an object comes closer to death. Impure sources—a corpse, carcasses, humans in certain conditions—can transmit their *tum'a* to objects that come into contact with them.

Many things cannot become impure—for example, bodies of water, living animals, growing plants, and unfinished objects. To categorize any given object, one must take into account its source material, shape, and intended use.

SOURCE MATERIAL: Utensils made from unbaked earth, stone, or marble are impervious to ritual defilement. This is one reason archaeologists find so much stoneware in Jerusalem excavations.

On the other hand, objects made from wood, metal, leather, bone, cloth, sackcloth, and baked clay can become impure. Glass is classified with metal because both materials are recyclable.

A pattern seems to emerge: Materials that are further from their natural state and undergo more transformations are more susceptible to impurity—for example, metal has to be mined from ore, smelted, and then shaped, whereas stone can be hewn directly.

SHAPE: Another factor comes into play when determining whether *s'chach* is susceptible to impurity. Wooden objects are further classified by shape: flat – *pashut*, or concave – having a *beit kibbul* that can contain liquid, etc. Concave wooden objects can hold liquids which are susceptible to impurity. Nonconcave wood, which is closer to its natural state, for example, branches, palm fronds, and slats, are valid for roofing since they are impervious to impurity.

INTENDED USE: If you come across a wood or reed mat that seems to fit the bill for *s'chach*, there may be a problem. Mats made for reclining are ruled by the Talmud (after substantial discussion) to be susceptible to impurity, whereas mats intended to provide shade are impervious (and valid for sukkah roofing). We can't submit all mat makers to a polygraph test

to gauge their intentions. So the codes provide guidelines based on assumptions about the majority of people in a given city: Small mats are usually for reclining and therefore not *kasher*, but large mats, usually for shade, may be used. Bamboo mats of the latter type, popularly sold for *s'chach* in Israel, are *kasher* and are called “permanent *s'chach*,” which is an oxymoron since by definition a sukkah is a temporary dwelling!

What emerges from the laws of Sukkot is that the Talmudic minds some 2,000 years ago were deeply engaged in dividing the world around them into categories. At first these might seem bizarre, but their schemes of categorization shed light on our present-day concerns about the amount of artifice and the synthetic in our lives.

In recent decades there has been renewed interest in issues concerned with nature versus technology, and a *Zeitgeist* including Green politics, deep ecology, New Age science, and ecofeminism has emerged. In an attempt to address these concerns, a group of young Jewish activists formulated a code in the 1960s for readers of the *Whole Earth Catalogue*.

Called *The Jewish Catalogue: A Do-It-Yourself Kit*, this code popularized Sukkot as an IN holiday: *Sukkah-building—if you can get into this mitzvah you will probably find great joy in it... Place some 1 x 1's running in both directions on the roof and cover that with rushes or pine boughs. The entire roof must be made of organic material.*

Note the buzzword, “organic,” which reflects the authors' concern about our over-reliance on the “unnatural.” By condensing all the laws about *s'chach* into that one word, brevity has been gained. But their definition is intellectually poor in comparison to the sensitive and profound discussion of Sukkot in the Talmud, which reveals that these questions about natural and unnatural were addressed by the framers of *Halacha* millennia ago.

The philosophical underpinnings of the holiday will be found, *inter alia*, in the petty details of sukkah building. That the Talmud and later codes are not construction manuals is seen in the story of the yeshiva student who set out to build his first sukkah for himself and his bride. Not knowing how to begin, he asked his teacher.

The rebbe said: “Learn the first two chapters of Tractate Sukkah, then go build!”

The first night of the holiday, the sukkah came tumbling down. Crestfallen, the groom ran to ask his rebbe why his booth had collapsed. The rebbe opened his Talmud and said:

“You ask me, ‘Why did the sukkah collapse?’ Too bad you didn't read Rashi's commentary on the next page before you built your sukkah. He asks the same question!”

No, what we have in the traditional texts is not a builder's handbook, but a sensitive, multilevel inquiry into issues such as natural and unnatural that are still perplexing us today.

This article was originally published in the Jerusalem Post Succot Magazine. It is reprinted with permission from the authors, with minor adaptation by Mark Wagman.

Shira Leibowitz Schmidt is an engineer, author, and translator who has written about science and religion, women's role in Halacha, and the experiences of Holocaust survivors. She lives in the Chassidic enclave of Kiryat Sanz in Netanya, Israel. **Ronald Hoffmann** is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1981. He is the Frank H. T. Rhodes Professor of Humane Letters Emeritus at Cornell University. Together they coauthored the book *Old Wine, New Flasks: Reflections on Science and Jewish Tradition*. Earlier this year, Professor Hoffmann spoke in Wilmington on the topic of science and Jewish tradition, a kickoff to a project at Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth exploring the theme of *Natural and Man-made from the perspectives of science and Judaism*.

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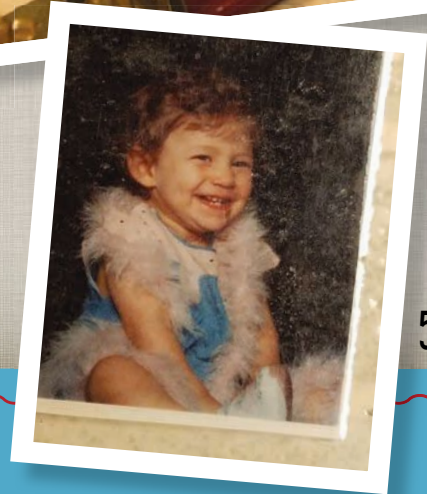
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L'DOR V'DOR: From Generation to Generation

By Jennifer Simon, Jewish VOICE Committee Member

A major component of Judaism is to pass along traditions to keep them alive.

It's what we call *L'dor V'dor*, which literally means from generation to generation. Think about your most recent family holiday or celebration. I'm sure there are at least one or two traditions you faithfully carry on year after year. It's what keeps us connected to our relatives who have passed on; the fibers that weave our family tree together. For some it's a particular recipe, or an antique crystal heirloom, maybe a book that came over from Europe with your family, or an Ellis Island passport that you now have framed and on display. Whatever the heirloom or memory, it is yours to own and cherish, and eventually pass on to your kids – from generation to generation.



1. CELLO

Contributed by Jennifer Simon, Wilmington, DE

PHOTO 1: Irving Berger at 19 with his cello

PHOTO BY JENNIFER SIMON

My maternal grandfather, Irving Berger of Wilmington, Delaware, was a cellist. It's a great source of pride for me and truly something that has shaped much of my families' passion for music and the arts. When he passed in 2004, I became the keeper of his cello. It was handcrafted in Germany in the early 20th century. It's not the instrument that I'm enamored with, it's the memories of my Poppy sitting in his Margate beach house practicing his cello every morning.

He began studying cello at age nine. The story goes, when his father Nathan stopped in to visit his friend Lew Knowles of Knowles Music and Hobby store on Market Street, he brought home a violin, cello, and bass. He handed each of his three sons an instrument and required them to study music. For my grandfather, it was a successful journey. He was the first Delaware student ever to be sent to the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. He made his first appearance with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra at age 14. He studied with Orlando Cole and Walter Heerman. With one of his brother's, Ted, he formed the Brandell String Quartet. He served in World War II as a member of the 11th Airborne Division Band and played throughout the South Pacific.

My cousin, Philip Berger, is the son of Irv's other brother Morry. You will see him play his father's 1912 bass around Wilmington with his band, Philip Berger Music.

While I do not play the cello, I hope my three-year-old son will decide to take lessons. He has already taken a liking to the cello that sits on display in our home. We take him to the Philadelphia Orchestra's children's series, so that he can gain an appreciation for the arts. I wonder if my great grandfather knew the impact that a cello would have for so many generations when he bought it so many, many years ago.



2 & 3. SELTZER BOTTLE

Contributed by Michael Cook, Newark, DE

PHOTO 2: Morris Cooke and his wife Bessie

PHOTO 3: Original Seltzer bottle

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL COOK

At the turn of the 20th Century, my great-grandfather, Morris Cook, who I'm named after, arrived in Newark, NJ from Lithuania where he started a family-run seltzer business. His sons, including my grandfather, worked their entire lives in the seltzer business. Even my father and his brothers grew up working in the seltzer business, prospering from making and schlepping cases of seltzer all over the city. They also made a dozen different flavored sodas. Carbonated beverages were prevalent in the house of every family member, and soda was always served with every dinner. You could say that if you put a tap into our family tree, soda would come out instead of sap.

As a little boy in the late 1950s, I would visit the factory and be mesmerized by the sight and sound of clanking conveyor belts and bottling equipment. Sadly, all those soda bottles vanished after the business closed in the 1970s; however, only a handful remain, including an original seltzer bottle etched with the company name and address and *Morris Cook, Proprietor*.

Although the factory is long gone, this bottle has made its way through the generations, and is a blessed reminder of what seltzer means to the extended Cook family.



4. BRACELET

Contributed by Anna Saul, Wilmington, DE

PHOTO 4: Bracelet

PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS

My family immigrated to the United States from Belarus in 1990 to escape religious persecution. My family is small, and our known history does not go back very far. My maternal grandfather's extended family perished in the ghetto in Riga, Latvia, during World War II, while he was living in Siberia due to his father's



exile there on false accusation of being a German spy. All that was saved from his family in Latvia were two long gold chains, which were kept safe in Siberia.

When we came to the United States, my mother had the chains cut into bracelets for our immediate family to wear. Currently, my grandfather, mother, sister, and I all wear the matching bracelets every day. My mom has also given bracelets to my husband's family because of how we've all accepted one another and come together. My grandmother and stepfather are buried with their bracelets.

The bracelets are a nice reminder to never forget where you came from and to cherish those you love. While there aren't many of us in my family, we are tightly-knit, woven together like the links on our bracelets.



5. WOOL ONESIE

Contributed by Nina Licht, Newark, DE

PHOTO 5: Wool Onesie

PHOTO BY NINA LIGHT

This outfit was given to my father, Frank Eisenstein, when he was a baby. It is a pink and blue wool onesie with snaps. That was in 1938. His picture was taken in it at about one-year-old. My father is the oldest of three children. His younger siblings had their pictures taken wearing it as well when they were a year old.

My father and his siblings then each had their children's pictures taken wearing the outfit when they were a year old. My grandmother made me *Keeper of the Outfit* when me, my siblings, and cousins began having our children. At about a year old the third generation of children had their pictures taken wearing it.

We have now begun the fourth generation of babies having their pictures taken.

When my daughter Elizabeth (pictured here as an infant wearing the outfit) enters her adulthood she will become the keeper of our family heirloom. We will keep the tradition for the successive generations.

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L'DOR V'DOR

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6. RUSSIAN CANDLESTICKS

Contributed by Hilary Baris, Tenafly, NJ

PHOTO 6: Russian Candlesticks

PHOTO BY HILARY BARIS

Although, I have never met my great grandmother, the beauty and history of her silver candlesticks live on as a family heirloom for four generations.

My Bubby, Sylvia Dlugatch, came to America from Russia with her family when she was 10 years old. Among her families' possessions included an elegant pair of silver candlesticks. My Bubby was one of three girls in her family and was fortunate to eventually inherit them from her parents.

Eventually, my mom, Beverly Lutze, inherited these candlesticks and they have always been prominently displayed in her home. When I got married, my

mom made it a tradition to bring these heirlooms to important family gatherings in my life including my wedding, my son's bris, my daughter's baby naming and every Passover Seder hosted in my home. It's lovely having a piece of my Bubby and her family with us as the memories always live on.

My mom and I always tear up as we light the candles together, remembering the women in our family that came before us, doing the exact same thing.



7. MAH JONGG TILES

Contributed by Alisa Reichwald Wiggins, Richboro, PA

PHOTO 7: Mah Jongg Set

PHOTO BY ALISA WIGGINS

Clad in their swimsuits and lightly coated with Coppertone, my mother and her group sat around the poolside table in our backyard. They were equal parts

serious game players—they had bets on the line, after all—and chatty best friends catching up on the latest happenings in each other's lives. The game at hand was mahjong, my mother's favorite. She was a shark at pretty much all games, but especially this one. I guess you could say it was in her blood.

My mother was a second-generation mah jongg player who inherited the set of tiles, often glistening in the sun, from her mother. And while I didn't know it then, during those lazy days of summer listening to the din of clicking and clacking and calls of dragons and flowers and dots, I would someday become the third.

I inherited my grandmother's mah jongg set much too soon; my mother, Joan Reichwald of Wilmington, passed away at 70 only a year ago. But I am so grateful to have it. As I spread the tiles across my own card table and begin to mix, I feel as if the spirits of fun and friendship and family all magically come to life.

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Q ■ What do we learn from the earliest stories in Genesis?

“Before creation, there was *tohu vavohu*, without form and void...Our genesis molded us and all humanity into the **imperfect people** we are today. **Saints? Sinners?** Not quite.”

A ■ RABBI ELLEN BERNHARDT
JCRC Director

There was once a man who walked into a clothing store. He told the store owner his measurements and was brought a fine suit. The man went into the fitting room to try the suit on. The man came out and complained that the suit didn't fit; it was too tight. The owner of the store looked closely at his customer and discovered the problem. “Sir,” he said to the man, “in order for the new suit to fit, you must first take off the old one.”

According to Rabbi Yaakov Traiger, “We have said good-bye to 5777 and welcomed 5778. We listened to the sound of the shofar, reflected on our lives and decided to make changes. We are now reading the Bible anew with a perspective of another year. The holiday season is a time to look back and think about what we have done – the good as well as the not so good. It is the time to ask the important questions: Who am I? Who do I want to be? How can I improve?”

In Genesis, we read that before creation, there was *tohu vavohu*, without form and void. Next, G-d created light. In this world, as hurricanes destroy and terrorism is on the rise, we might be tempted to say that we are still in the state of *tohu vavohu*. But, as we just recently witnessed an eclipse, and watched as people responded to the hurricanes with helping and outstretched arms, we are reminded of the miracles of creation and

the godliness within each human being. The complexities of the natural world could not have happened by chance. The hand of G-d is evident in an eclipse as it is in loving and positive human interactions.

In the story of Noah, after G-d flooded the Earth, a dove was sent to represent that there would be a better future and that life would flourish.

When we come out of the old year, we must shed ourselves of the old suit and put on a new suit; we must look for the doves. We read the Torah again with new eyes. G-d created a magnificent world and then created human beings to shepherd the Earth.

Let us shed the garments of pessimism, be inspired by the power of human potential, and work for a better world.

RABBI PETER GRUMBACHER

I love the Book of Genesis. From the first to the last *parashah* we learn that our, well, genesis molded us and all humanity into the imperfect people we are today. Saints? Sinners? Not quite. Yet as individuals and as families Genesis does nothing to hide our foibles and inadequacies. One guy was ready to sacrifice his son; one woman manipulated her husband to bless their youngest son; brothers would have killed the baby of the family had not reason prevailed (they just sold him as a slave!).

What a start in the life of a people that became *lagoyim*, a “light to the nations” (or hopefully will become that “light”)!

But it should be said that as stories fashioned by mortals there are psychological and sociological truths that allowed us to grow. Even God evolves from those days of yore. Step-by-step through the Torah, a territorial deity in the minds of the Israelites is acknowledged as universal, and it is only through the Genesis narratives do we see how far we have come theologically.

The midrash (rabbinic legend) of the *Akedah*, the binding of Isaac, describes how God is cajoled by Satan (pronounced *Sah-TAHN*, the “devil’s advocate,” not *SAY-tin*) to test Abraham. It’s very important for us to know that a deity seen as omniscient today was far from that when Genesis was written. In fact, while the midrash was craftily written to give us the impression that God knew exactly how Abraham would respond when commanded to put Isaac to the knife, the very presence of that annoying nudge called Satan makes the story a bit more real (as real as such stories can be).

But of all the early stories of Genesis, we learn the most from the very first, the creation stories. Yes “stories,” for in chapter one we read one version of creation while in chapter two quite a different one. There are two kinds of Adam, two kinds of Eve, and it is up to us to think about how each of us has the components of both Adams and both Eves. Fascinating stuff! Read it!

Each month, Rabbi Peter Grumbacher, along with rabbis from around the state, answer your questions about Judaism.



Have a question?

ASK THE RABBI!

Send your questions to:

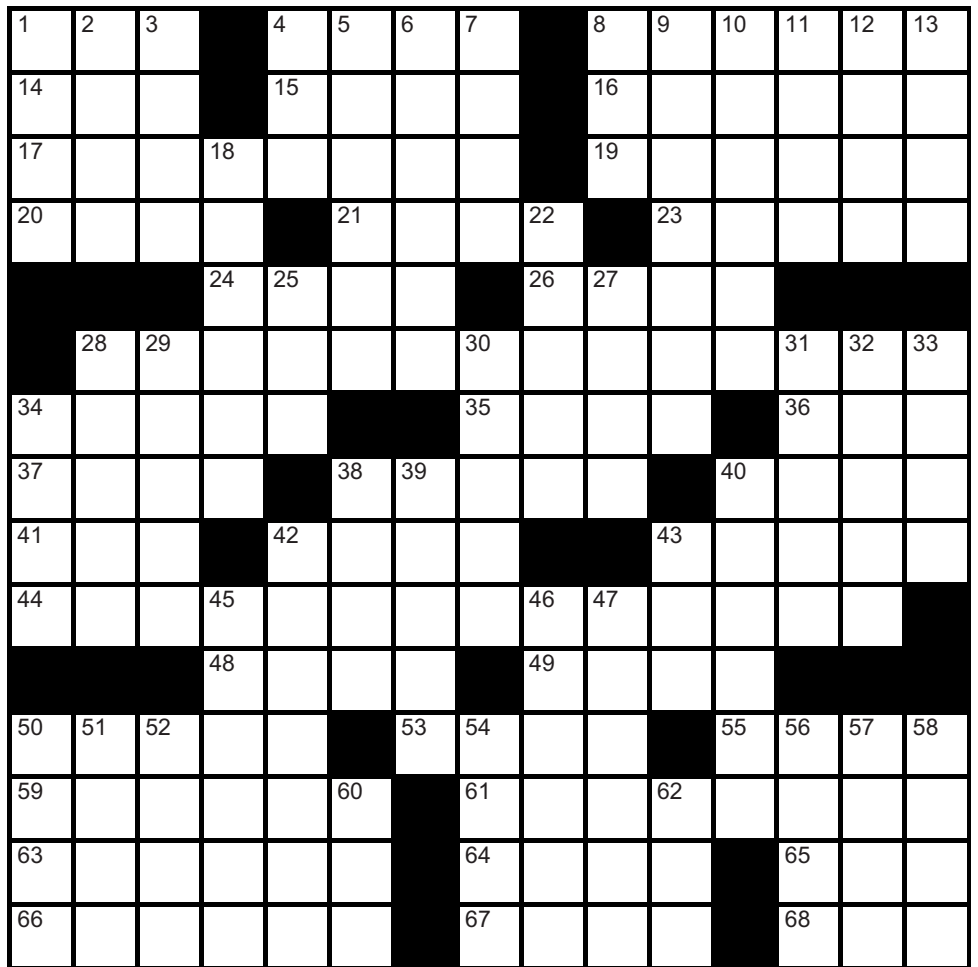
AskTheRabbi@ShalomDel.org

JEW-ISH HOSTS

By Yoni Glatt
koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Easy

SOLUTION APPEARS ON PAGE 43



ACROSS

1. ___ Yomi (daily page of Gemara)
4. Leader after Moses, for short
8. Common construction need
14. ___ Mae Brown (Oscar-winning role for 44-Across)
15. Ideal status for a service
16. Many a flick produced by Roger Corman or David F. Friedman
17. Long time TV talk show host
19. Cut film, like the Coens
20. Sefirat Ha___ (Jewish counting time)
21. 13, 40, 120, e.g.
23. Loafs
24. Karenina or a daughter of Freud
26. Israeli port city that can also be a plot of land
28. Long time TV talk show host
34. Tennis star Monica who once appeared on "The Nanny"
35. Puts on YES or 8-Down
36. "I ___ Rock" (Simon and Garfunkel song)
37. ___etz (left-wing Israeli newspaper)
38. Passover month
40. Yom ___ (fast day)
41. Dough machine?
42. "Achshav!"; in a hospital
43. Battier who played for Arison's Heat
44. Long time TV talk show host
48. Attraction at Superland or Disneyland
49. Heavenly bear
50. Famous Gertrude

53. QB Tony that Marc Cuban made a Maverick for a day
55. (The) Old City
59. Los Angeles suburb named for a false goddess of fruit
61. 17, 28, and 44-Across, despite their names
63. Jewelry that would get in the way of tefillin
64. Waze suggestions (Abbr.)
65. Stat. for Scott Feldman or Clayton Kershaw
66. Seth who would also work with this puzzle's theme
67. ___ Einai
68. Sinai in Torah

DOWN

1. Where krav maga might be taught
2. Magen David ___
3. Dunaway who announced the wrong Best Picture winner
4. Jacob's 11th son, for short
5. Available to help
6. Martial arts actor Steven
7. Hopper with only one sign of kashrut
8. Longtime "eye" network of 28-Across
9. Persian and Greek
10. One shaping clay menorahs, maybe
11. Like Haman
12. "Yafeh"
13. Glatt need?
18. David, compared to those who didn't face Goliath

22. Standardized test that might be taken at MTA or SAR
25. Holy Land money letters
27. PC corner key
28. End that some say never befell Elijah
29. Ben Gurion car rental option
30. Turn a deaf ___
31. Actress Debi
32. "A Stranger ___ Us"
33. Abraham, Isaac or Jacob, e.g.
34. Robert in Spielberg's "Jaws"
38. Yesh ___ (party)
39. Beeping device for an Einstein doctor
40. AKA for great kabbalist Rabbi Yitchak Luria
42. Dreidel, for one
43. Baseball stats. that violate the Eighth Commandment?
45. One who played for Eli Jacobs' Baltimore baseball team
46. Belonging to legendary director Sydney
47. Some flying Israeli spies
50. Canned tref or junk email
51. Did kria to a garment
52. 17-Across has won one out of sixteen nominations
54. Shrek is one
56. New Jew in Israel
57. Designer Wang who married Arthur Becker
58. Trei ___ (minor prophets)
60. @@@
62. US security org. whose reputation isn't as good as El Al's

NEW GAME

SPELLING BEE



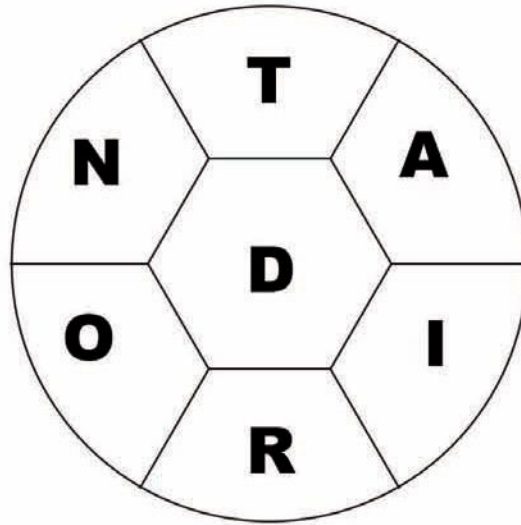
JEWISH SPELLING BEE

By Yoni Glatt

Let's Play!

How many common words of 5 or more letters can you spell using the letters in the hive?

Every answer must use the center letter at least once. Letters may be reused in a word. At least one word will use all 7 letters and have a direct Jewish connection. Proper names and hyphenated words are not allowed.



SCORE:

1 point for each answer
3 points for a Jewish related word that uses all 7 letters.

RATING:

9=Good;
17= Excellent;
25= Genius

Here is a list of some common words (Yes, we know there are more words in the dictionary that can work, but these words are the most common):
Jewish Answers: TRADITION, ORDINATION. Other words: ADORATION, RADIATION, ADDITION, RADIATOR, DONATION, DONATOR, RADIANT, ANDROID, TORNADO, ORDAIN, INDOOR, INROAD, DOODAD, TORRID, INDIAN, ADROIT, RADAR, TRIAD, RONDO, RADII, RADIO, DONOR, DRAIN, ARDOR, DROIT, ADORN, DINAR, NADIR

Questions/comments: email Yoni at koshercrosswords@gmail.com

SHABBAT & YOM TOV CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

EVE OF SUKOT

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4, 2017

Light candles at 6:21 PM

FIRST DAY OF SUKOT

THURSDAY, OCT. 5, 2017

Light candles after 7:18 PM

SECOND DAY OF SUKOT

FRIDAY, OCT. 6, 2017

Light candles at 6:18 PM

Shabbat, October 7, 2017

Shabbat ends at 7:15 PM

HOSHANA RABBAH

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11, 2017

Light candles at 6:10 PM

SHEMINI ATZERET

THURSDAY, OCT. 12, 2017

Light candles after 7:07 PM

SIMCHAT TORAH

FRIDAY, OCT. 13, 2017

Light candles at 6:07 PM

Shabbat, October 14, 2017

Shabbat ends at 7:04 PM

FRIDAY, OCT. 20, 2017

Light candles at 5:57 PM

Shabbat, October 21, 2017

Shabbat ends at 6:54 PM

FRIDAY, OCT. 27, 2017

Light candles at 5:48 PM

Shabbat, October 28, 2017

Shabbat ends at 6:46 PM

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AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OPENS PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

By Joyce Grossman
National Director of
Communications, AFHU

Seth M. Bloom, experienced Jewish communal leader, to spearhead Philadelphia outreach in support of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Seth Bloom PHOTO SUBMITTED BY AFHU

American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to raising support for, and awareness of, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, announced the launch of a new Center City Philadelphia office to serve the greater Philadelphia community. This office will complement AFHU's six current offices in regions throughout the United States, as well as the operations of its national headquarters in New York. AFHU's Philadelphia office will be headed by Mr. Seth M. Bloom, an experienced development professional with close ties to Israel and the American Jewish community.

Herb Sachs, AFHU national board member, remarked: "We respect and appreciate the steadfast commitment of Philadelphians, including philanthropic leaders and the academic community, to Israel and the nation's foundational institutions. In opening the Philadelphia office, AFHU is signaling its intention of making our community pivotal to the university's future growth. Hebrew University is an outstanding research university. By extending our roots and relationships, we will improve lives the world over."

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

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WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4, 9 A.M.

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LIFE CYCLES ACHIEVEMENTS

Seth Bloom began his career as Assistant Director of the Jewish Federation of Delaware in 1989, subsequently becoming a Planned Giving and Major Gifts Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. In 2000, he expanded his professional portfolio as Vice President of WPO & Associates Consulting and later as the Founder and President of Bloom Metz Consulting. He has spent the past several years with the American Associates of Ben-Gurion of the Negev. As a professional consultant, he has provided hands-on service and supplementary leadership to more than 150 nonprofit organizations.

"Seth Bloom will play an important role in our efforts to advance higher education and research in Israel. AFHU will ensure that our already strong community of supporters in the greater Philadelphia area can become actively engaged in the transformative work of the university," stated Beth Asnien McCoy, National Executive Director of AFHU.

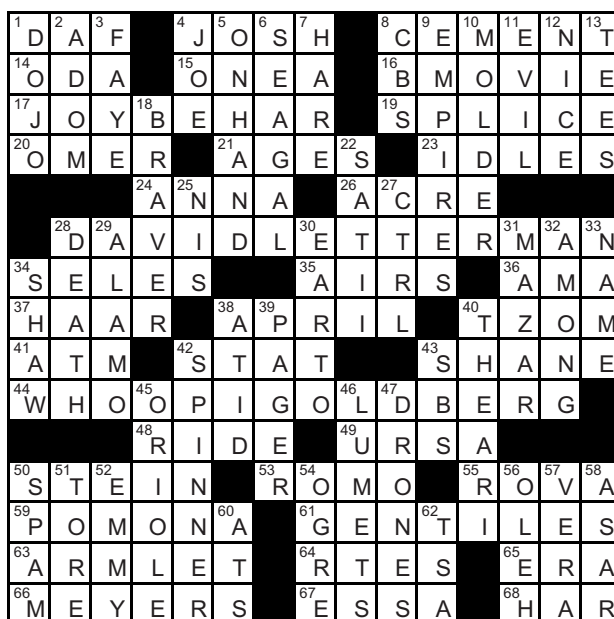
"Recognizing the special relationship that people who live in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic Region have with Israel, I'm thrilled to be representing Hebrew University in this new position," said Bloom.

Seth Bloom can be reached at the AFHU office located at 2100 Arch Street, Suite 455, Philadelphia, PA 19103; telephone 215.330.6722 or email sbloom@afhu.org.

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ON PAGE 40



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Want to find out more?

We are having an information session:

Date: October 19th

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Siegel JCC Senior Lounge
(includes dinner, information and more)

Get in on the fun!



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YOU AMONG THE
OTHER MOURNERS
OF ZION AND
JERUSALEM**



*Ha'makom yenahem etkhem betokh
she'ar avelei tziyonvi"Yerushalayim.*

SELMA LEE GORDON

Selma Lee Gordon, almost 100, passed away on September 3, 2017 in Denver. Wife of the late Leonard M. Gordon; Mother of Judy (Sharon Nantell) Gordon, Peggy (David) Marks & Richard (Juli) Gordon; Grandmother of Jodi Zeppelin, Wendy Berger, Ron Marks, Debra (Mike) Nichols & James (Helen) Marks; Also survived by 8 great-grandchildren. Contributions to Temple Emanuel or Porter Hospice Residence (5020 E. Arapahoe Rd, Centennial CO, 80122).



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NATHAN V. "UNCLE NATE" PLAFKER

Age 95, of Newark, DE passed away on Sunday, August 20, 2017.

Uncle Nate was born in Chester, PA and moved with his family to Wilmington in 1933 at the age of 11. He attended P.S. DuPont High School and went on to graduate from the University of Delaware. Shortly after his graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served in the infantry in World War II and the Korean War, achieving the rank of Captain at the time of his honorable discharge.

After his service to his country, Uncle Nate founded the Blue Diamond Meat Company which he and his longtime business partner and good friend, Ronald Malanowicz turned into a thriving enterprise. When Uncle Nate and Ron finally sold Blue Diamond, Uncle Nate switched gears and took an active interest in computers. He met Richard Bruno and Anthony Crunk and soon became an advisor and then partner in Shore Consultants.

Uncle Nate was also a runner, competing in countless races, including several marathons, some of which he sponsored through Blue Diamond. By far his biggest achievement however was in the relationships he fostered and the many people he guided and helped; earning him the title of "Uncle Nate." He was an Uncle not only within his family but within a much greater circle of friends who he drew in and who became part of his larger, extended family. His wise counsel and assistance was sought by many and he gave selflessly of his time and resources to help anyone in need. Whether they were actually related to him or not he loved and cared for them all equally. They loved him in return and proudly called him "Uncle."

Nate was predeceased by his parents, Israel and Molly Plafker; his brother, Jacob; his sisters, Lee Goldberg and Ruth Thompson; and by Amanda Malanowicz, who he dearly

loved and helped raise. He is survived by his nieces, Dale Hurwitz, Shelly Caney, and Amy Hurst; nephews, Robert Goldberg and Michael Plafker; his business partners and longtime friends, Ronald Malanowicz and Richard Bruno; and by numerous great and great-great nieces, nephews and other family and friends, all of whom were part of his larger family.

The family extends their deepest thanks and appreciation to Dr. Curt Blacklock and his staff for the time, attention and loving and compassionate care they gave to Uncle Nate.

VERNA KREIDER SCHENKER

Verna Kreider Schenker, of Wilmington, DE, an accomplished musician, community builder, loving mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away on September 1, 2017, four days after celebrating her 96th birthday with family and friends.

Verna was a pillar of the Jewish community in Wilmington. Verna dedicated her life to helping others in many ways, organizing a monthly brunch for senior citizens of all denominations in her Green Acres home for more than 20 years and spending much of her free time driving people to doctor's appointments and writing cards, making calls and taking food to people who were ill.

Entertaining was also a big part of Verna's life: she began playing music at age seven, and taught music for more than 80 years. She started with the piano, later taking up the violin, the Spanish guitar, ukulele and the Hawaiian electric guitar. She gave private lessons to more than 35 pupils in her hometown of Lititz, Pennsylvania while still a teenager, and at the age of 14 began conducting an all-girls chorus composed of members from Lititz and Lancaster.

After graduation she began teaching music in Pennsylvania public schools. Verna moved to Delaware in the 1950s, working as a music supervisor for five years at the New Castle Special School District and for one year as a music teacher at the Lore School. She

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

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Visit the Jewish Federation of Delaware website at ShalomDelaware.org for a full, up-to-date listing of community events.

met her husband, Henry, a research chemist at the DuPont Company, while teaching music in Wilmington. The couple married at Congregation Beth Emeth and had three daughters.

Verna was an extraordinary woman who led an extraordinary life, touching many people with her music and good deeds. She served as a role model to her family and many friends.

Verna was preceded in death by Dr. Henry H. Schenker, her husband of 57 years, her brother Bill Charles, of Baltimore, Maryland, and her daughter, Laurie Schenker Polleck, of Bear, Delaware. She is survived by daughters Connie Mullen (Wes) of Deltona, FL, Jennifer Schenker Beder (Stephane) of Paris, France; son-in-law Rick Polleck of Bear; five grandchildren, Deirdra Bull of Queensland, Australia, Michael O'Donnell, of Deltona, FL, Jordan Beder of Los Angeles, CA, Sasha Schenker Beder of New York, NY and Stephanie Mullen of Washington, D.C; and six great-grandchildren Kelsey, Lauren and Paul Henshall of Queensland, Australia and Mickey, Sophia and Wally O' Donnell of Deltona, FL.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests contributions be made to the Schenker Holocaust Memorial Garden at Beth Emeth.

MARVIN IRVING YAFFEE

Age 89, passed away peacefully Thursday, August 16, 2017 in Wilmington, DE.

Born July 28, 1928 in Reading, PA, he was the son of the late Jack and Loretta Yaffee. Marvin owned a printing company and later worked for the Wilmington News-Journal as a proof reader. He loved all kinds of puzzles including word finds and crossword puzzles. Marvin enjoyed starting every day by reading the Wilmington News-Journal. He was past Exalted Ruler of the Wilmington Elks Lodge #307. Marvin enjoyed bowling and professional boxing.

Preceded in death by his wife, Marion (nee Stifftel) and friend, Albert A. Aiello; Marvin is survived by friends who were more like family, Mary Ann Aiello, Susan Aiello, Barbara Lunsford, Patricia Baker-Ryan, Roe Temple, Gary Temple, their children, and grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution in Marvin's memory to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (www.mskcc.org).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 FED TALKS (formerly Bagels and Briefing) JCRC and AJC

**American Jewry and Israel,
Can the Rift Be Healed?**
**Dr. Steven Bayme on video
conferencing: AJC moderating**

12-1:30 PM
Siegel JCC

Free and open to the community. World renowned speaker on the state of relations between Israel and the U.S. in light of recent events on both sides of the ocean. Join us for refreshments and intellectually enlightening conversation. For more information, contact Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt JCRC Director, ellen@shalomdel.org, or call 302-427-2100.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 Dinner Under the Stars: Annual Community Sukkot Dinner

7 PM - Dinner Following 6:30 PM Services
Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Come experience the beauty of the festive Sukkot holiday as we join together and relive this special festival as a community. Be sure to come equipped with your souls and empty bellies as we will be serving a delicious, full-course meal. This promises to be a night that will not soon be forgotten. Once the Sukkah fills up, we must close registration so be sure to register right away! Dinner is at 7 PM following services at 6:30 PM. \$18/Adult \$10/Child (Under 11) \$60/Family Maximum. For more information and to register, please visit www.ChabadDE.com/register. Please register NO LATER THAN Sunday, October 1.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 Shabbat in the Sukkah

4:45-6 PM
Siegel JCC Courtyard

Enjoy the start of the new school year and join other families in the Courtyard for a delicious Shabbat dinner to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot. All families welcome! Space is limited, and RSVP's are a must! In partnership with Congregation Beth Shalom. To register, visit siegeljcc.org or contact Beth Ann Short at bethannshort@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 Sukkot for Kids: Shakes in the Sukkah

10:45 AM-12:15 PM

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Get your shake on at this Sukkot dance party and groove to beats mixed by a popular Jewish Dj. Features include games, party favors, and crafting your own signature milkshakes and frappes. To register or for more information, please visit ChabadDE.com/register or email rabbimotti@chabadde.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 Pizza in the Hut and Simcha in the Sukkah!

5 PM-7 PM

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

The community is invited to the most joyous Sukkot celebration with delicious pizza, music, unbeatable Chabad spirit and song, and kids Holiday crafts. If you play an instrument, bring it and add to the joy of the evening! Free Admission. Food will be sold. RSVP Requested. To register or for more information, please visit ChabadDE.com/register or call (302) 529-9900.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 CTeen Jr. Starbucks Sukkot Party!

6-7:30 PM

The Flikshtein's Sukkah

Come enjoy a fun night out under the stars, Starbucks style! Enjoy a party in the Sukkah, enjoy delicious ice coffee, fraps, and milkshakes with a toppings bar. Check out our portable Sukkah-mobile and have a great time! For more information about CTeen and a calendar of events go to CTeen.com/Delaware or find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware. Contact Rochel, CTeen Director at Rochel@ChabadDE.com.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9 Craft Bash Registration Deadline

Save the date! The Siegel JCC's Fall Fundraiser, Craft Bash, is Thursday, November 16th. Register by October 9th for the chance to combine your love of Arts & Crafts with Craft Beer! To register, visit tinyurl.com/craftbash, or call the front desk.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Subs in the Sukkah Party for Teens

6-7:30 PM

The Flikshtein's Sukkah

Come have a great time meeting and hanging out with other Jewish teens & enjoy a delicious sub buffet, check out our portable Sukkah-mobile and have dinner in the Sukkah! For more information about CTeen and a calendar of events go to CTeen.com/Delaware or find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware. Contact Rochel, CTeen Director at Rochel@ChabadDE.com.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Simchat Torah Celebration

7:30 PM

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Experience the most joyous night of the year as we dance with the Torahs and celebrate our Jewish pride. There will be an exciting and memorable children's program, which your kids will remember for years to come! Price: FREE. To register, please visit ChabadDE.com/register.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

Simchat Torah Party for Teens

7:30 PM

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Ever think that teens could have a blast at a Simchat Torah party? Well here is their chance to see how amazing Simchat Torah really is. This program is exclusive to teens who like to have a blast. Price: FREE. To register, please visit: ChabadDE.com/register.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

Simchat Torah Celebration

9:30AM – Services Begin

10:45AM – Deli Kiddush

11:45AM – Children's Program

12:15PM – Dancing with the Torah

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Experience the most joyous day of the year as we dance with the Torahs and celebrate our Jewish pride! Price: FREE. To register, please visit ChabadDE.com/register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Youth Social Guide: Movie Night (Grades K-5)

6:30-9 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Enjoy a movie night with friends on the big screen! Kids grades K-5 are welcome to join us in the Siegel JCC Auditorium. For more information or to register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact Becky Stahl at beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Real Estate Markets, Capital Markets and the Economy

9:30 AM – Breakfast

10 AM – Speaker

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

AKSE Men's Club is pleased to host Daniel Hurwitz, a prominent business executive in the real estate industry. He has served as the CEO of real estate companies and sits on several Boards of Directors. Dan will discuss the current state of the real

estate market, capital markets and the economy in general. All are welcome to both the breakfast and talk. The cost is \$7 with a reservation made by calling the synagogue office at 302-762-2705 by October 12. Without a reservation, the cost is \$9. Payment is made at the door.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

Alef-Bet Yoga for Kids

11 AM-12 PM

Albert Einstein Academy

Practice alef-bet yoga with teacher, Sylvia Wagman. Cool down after with a PJ Library story and snack. Free and open to the public. For children ages 2-6. For more info contact Jamye@shalomdel.org or julia.forester@einsteinaday.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Selecting a College Savings Program

7-8:30 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Join us in Selecting the College Savings Program That's Right for Your Family: Advantages and Disadvantages of Common College Saving Vehicles, featuring speakers David Tate and Teresa Zdziech, Financial Advisor. To register, contact David Tate at david.tate@dsfg.com or call (302) 366-0366.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Jewish Great Books Meeting

2-3:15 PM

Siegel JCC Board Room

Join us on the third Wednesday of the month for a discussion of A Call From Spooner Street by Carol Ascher, called, "A superb novel, tender, wise, and beautifully crafted." For more information, contact Anna Saul at annasaul@siegeljcc.org.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Friends Helping Friends

Hadassah Fundraiser at Boscov's

Support Hadassah and enjoy great shopping and super savings. Buy your shopping pass for \$5 and enjoy 25% of all purchases at Boscov's that day! All money goes directly to Hadassah. Email esterschmerling@comcast.net to volunteer at our table (hours are between 3 and 9 PM. Buy your shopping pass ahead of time. They make great gifts.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

TGIS Family Shabbat Experience

10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Come explore and celebrate Shabbat with the family! There will be fun and educational kids programs for all ages, Special Prayer 101 class for the adults to make the prayers more meaningful, uplifting and relatable sermon, full kiddush buffet spread and social. Your kids will beg you to come back! Come together with the community. Have a meaningful and fun experience. Leave inspired and connected. Thank G-d It's Shabbat! TGIS Family Shabbat! This program is FREE and open to the entire community regardless of affiliation, background or level of observance. Kindly register before Shabbat at ChabadDE.com/register.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21

The Milton & Hattie Kutz Home

Forget-Me-Not Gala

7 PM

The Delaware Contemporary

A celebration honoring the past presidents of the Kutz Home and Lodge Lane and the Kutz Home Auxiliary. For more information, contact the Kutz Home at (302) 764-7000.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Jewish History Course: Life Under Siege

10 AM

Congregation Beth Shalom

340 N. Queen St. Dover, DE 19904

We will discuss the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires that dominated the ancient Near East from the 9th through the 6th centuries BCE. We will cover the siege of Jerusalem and the economic impact of heavy tribute required of Assyria and Babylonian. These classes are open to all members, their friends and neighbors, and whoever has an interest in Jewish history! You do not have to be Jewish to learn from, and enjoy these classes. These classes are in Jewish History, not religion, so everyone will be comfortable in attending and participating. Please contact Burt Brenman, the moderator of the class, at burtrehab@gmail.com, in order for him to prepare sufficient handouts for new class members.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Shabbat 54 for Teens!

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

5 PM-10 PM

Dress up and celebrate Shabbat in style and in unity as we attempt to gather 54 teens from BBYO, CTeen and the entire community for an unforgettable Shabbat experience! Pose before the step and repeat before Shabbat and connect with other Jewish teens who are just like you as you enjoy homemade challah and a four-course meal, fun activities, and a relaxed and warm environment. \$18 per person. Be sure to register at ChabadDE.com/register to make sure that you are included in the first 54 teens!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Youth Social Guide: Outdoor Movie Night

6-9 PM

Siegel JCC Outdoor Amphitheater

Enjoy the cool autumn weather with blankets, apple cider, ice breaker games, and an outdoor movie. This program is open to grades 6-8. To register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact Dan Metz at danmetz@siegeljcc.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Havdallah Glow Party and Bowling for Teens

7:15 PM – 1 Contact: info@jfsdelaware.org or 302-478-9411. 0:15 PM

Chabad Center for Jewish Life

Teens can come and light up the night with a Havdallah ceremony and rocket balloon light show followed by a fun bowling outing. \$10 per person. Register now at ChabadDE.com/register.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Movies that Matter:

The Refugee Experience Presents

THE GOOD LIE

Delaware Art Museum

2 PM

Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Jill Biden, Ph.D.

Performance by: Martin A. Hargrove

After their village is destroyed and their parents killed by Northern militia, Sudanese orphans Theo, his siblings and other survivors make a difficult journey to a refugee camp in Kenya. Thirteen years later, the group gets the chance to settle in the U.S. This movie is rated PG-13.

This is a free series, please register as seating in the theatre is limited. <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3089172> For more information, contact: info@jfsdelaware.org or 302-478-9411.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

23rd Annual ADL In Concert Against Hate:

Ann Jaffe to be Named Honoree

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

5:30 PM – Kay Family Award Reception & Dinner

7 PM – NextGen Pre-Concert Reception

8:30 PM – ADL In Concert Against Hate

Congratulations to Ann Jaffe who has been named the fourth and final honoree of the 23rd Annual ADL in Concert Against Hate on October 30th. Tickets are on sale at www.adlconcert.org

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Reservation Deadline

Hadassah Honoring Ann Jaffe

(Sunday, November 12)

12–4 PM

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

Join Hadassah on Sunday, November 12, in honoring a very special woman, Ann Jaffe, for her work in Holocaust education at a special Woman of Valor event. The cost of the luncheon is \$50 per person. Other contribution opportunities are available on request. Deadline for reservations is November 1. To RSVP or to contribute, please contact Arlene Eckell at hseane1967@gmail.com or 302-368-3530.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

WOW Event with Jennifer Weiner

6:30–9 PM

Siegel JCC

Please join us for our celebrated WOW Event featuring Best Selling author, Jennifer Weiner. Registration includes a copy of Jennifer's new book, Little Bigfoot, Big City and a dessert reception.

For more information, contact Wendy@

ShalomDel.org

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

PTSD in Israeli Society – Cinema

7 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Please join us for a FREE and OPEN community event co-sponsored by Jewish Federation of Delaware and Jewish Family Services. Guest speaker Ayal Beer will give the audience a look at PTSD in the Israeli Society through the use of Cinema.



Congregation Beth Emeth

Join us for Shabbat
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017

5 PM

**BRING YOUR OWN
SHABBAT DINNER**

*We will provide challah,
wine/grape juice and beverages.*

7 PM

SHABBAT SERVICE

Featuring our special

Guest Speaker:

SARAH McBRIDE

*LGBT activist & National Press Secretary
for the Human Rights Campaign*

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THE WATER IS RISING: ADAPTING TO CHANGE

By Jaidy Schweers, *Editor*

In the drastic wake of hurricane season my visceral response to consider our future forced itself upon me like a heavy lead blanket.

Feeling an incredible surge of energy to act, I felt seized by the powers of a perilously-shifting environment, and by the inability to know what to actually do.

Yes, I do my part to protect our environment. I take recycling seriously, I carpool when possible, and I fervently support the environmentally-friendly. Local synagogues and agencies are also engaged. Some conduct energy audits, others rely on renewable energy sources, and many maintain active recycling programs. We live in a culture that, even despite governmental traces of environmental opposition, has become greener than ever.

Yet, the facts still remain: Our climate is still in flux. Storms are more volatile. Sea levels are rising. Annual temperatures are increasing.

And people still live in Florida.

It's called *home*. And for most, establishing *home* is the result of a strong family history of migration and settlement, regardless of the bold, brash target Mother Nature bears upon it.

This past September, as residents in Houston, Florida, and the Caribbean Islands, braced themselves for the impact of Harvey and Irma—two of what would become the most devastating hurricanes in history—many people evacuated their homes at the prompting of local leaders, and many stayed, ready to hunker down and do what generations after generations have done . . . weather the storm.

But how much longer will people be able to sustain the power of our changing atmosphere in such high-risk places?

Because it's nearly impossible to find a direct answer to this question, I then wonder instead: Is it time to shift our paradigm? Rather than solely doing everything in our power to *avoid* Climate Change, shouldn't we add to that initiative by doing everything in our power to *prepare* for Climate Change?

American Environmentalist, Paul Hawken embraces this concept entirely. "The responses that environmentalists evoke—fear, anxiety, numbness, despair—are not helpful, even if they are understandable. It should be fascinating, even enthralling, to be in the milieu of environmental change." He continues to add, "The first rule of sustainability is to align with natural forces, or at least not try to defy them."

This embracing-of-the-enemy so to speak is of course a very real thing. *Adaptation* is a science that is growing rapidly all over the world. It is less about technology and instead about human organization and institutional reactions to *dealing* with a problem rather than technical fixes.

The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) publishes an index which "summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience." In 2014, the U.S. ranked 8th on the index. When the 2015 data was released in January of 2017, the U.S. dropped its ranking to 11. Out of the 181 nations ranked, Israel came in at 33. And Denmark ranked number one as the leading country most prepared to deal with Climate Change.

"This planet came with a set of instructions, but we seem to have misplaced them. Civilization needs a new operating system," says Hawken. Most of the world is updating that system. And for many countries those updates include, despite the many challenges, moving populations out of high risk biomes, including places which are just above sea level.

And yet, can you imagine uprooting your home in Florida? Or Texas, or Louisiana?

There will always remain the population who refuses to evacuate and admit their own vulnerability. But then again, there are many who will continue to heed the calls of alarm and flee to a more permanent higher ground.

Boston-based Rabbi, Katy Allen, co-founder of the Jewish Climate Action Network (JCAN) an organization which works to develop a network of synagogues around issues of sustainability and climate change, believes that the Jewish people's constant struggle for continuity and concern for the well-being of future generations aligns with the need to adapt to a changing environment for the purpose of preservation.

My son recently asked me if Climate Change can be reversed. Unfortunately, I could not affirm this.

I did however, encourage him to consider a degree in Science.

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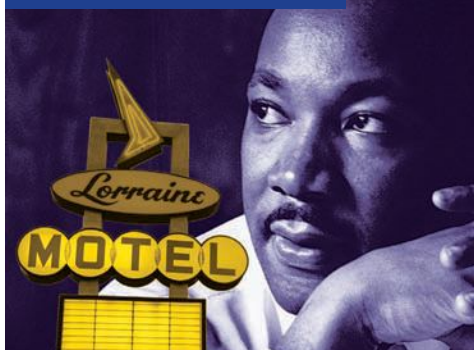
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THE MOUNTAINTOP



YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU



FROM THE AUTHOR OF...



DIAL "M" FOR MURDER



A FLEA IN HER EAR



TWELFTH NIGHT



SEPT. 14 - OCT. 8

THE MOUNTAINTOP

by Katori Hall

A moving fictionalized look at the events on the night before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination that both humanizes the great man and shines a sharp, modern light on his message.

SEPT. 21 - OCT. 8

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU

by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart

Hilarious mayhem and madness abound in this life-affirming classic romp that is widely regarded as "America's greatest stage comedy."

NOV. 9 - DEC. 3

FROM THE AUTHOR OF...

by Chisa Hutchinson

A famous NYC author tries to salvage her career by attempting to rehabilitate an irascible homeless woman. A blunt, insightful, and amusing play with plenty of strong language and stronger opinions.

JAN. 18 - FEB. 4

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER

by Frederick Knott

The basis for Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller, this stylish "holiday for whodunit fans" will have you on the edge of your seat until the curtain falls.

MARCH 1 - MARCH 18

A FLEA IN HER EAR

by Georges Feydeau

Widely regarded as one of the funniest farces ever written, this bawdy bedroom comedy swirls with eccentric personalities, revolving beds, a great many doors, and non-stop hilarity!

APRIL 19 - MAY 6

TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare

Shakespeare's comedic masterpiece of mistaken identities, tangled letters of love, and gender-bending hijinks that reminds us that love can make fools of us all.

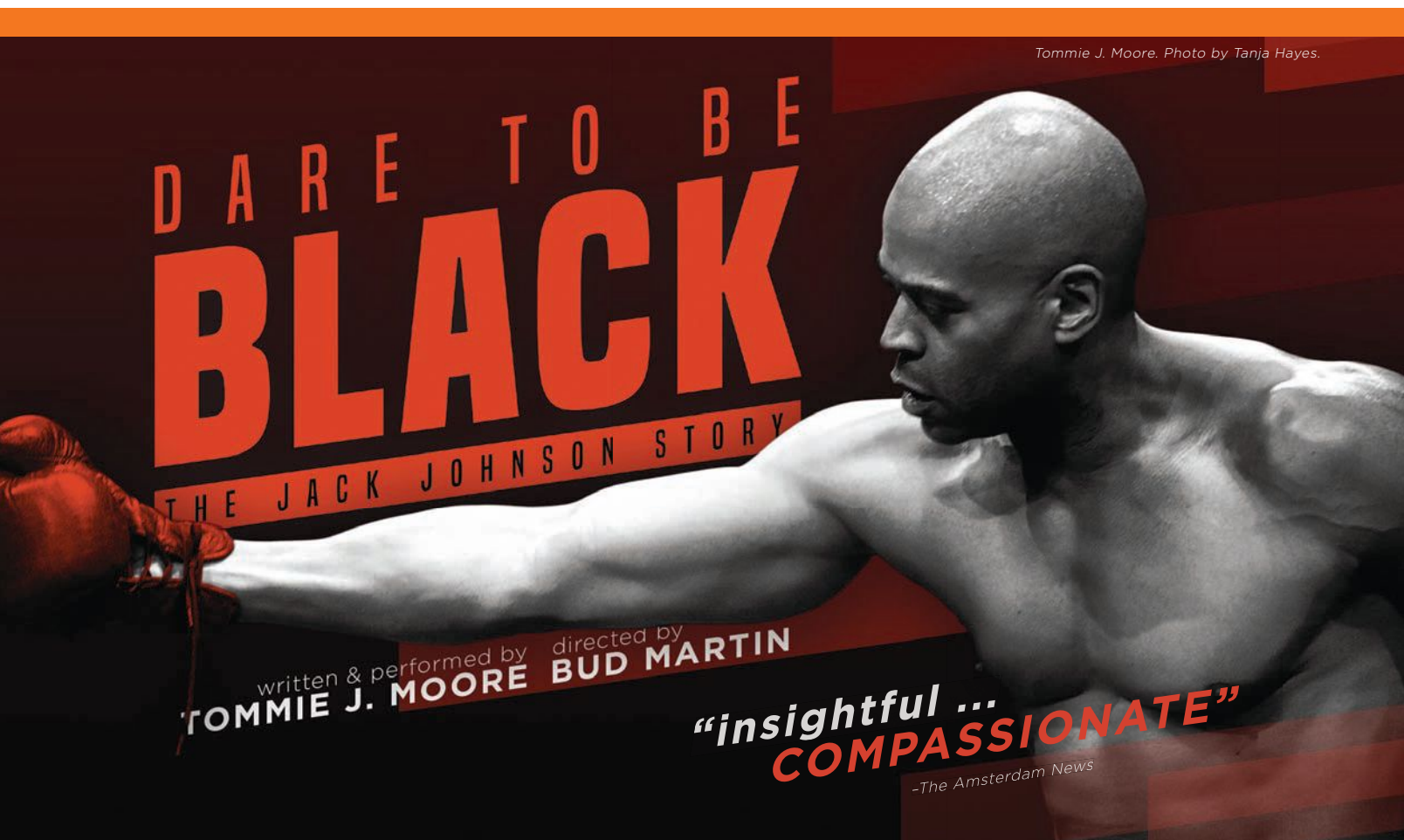
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