BEHIND THE LENS: A Story Be Told

HAVA NAGILA: The Story Behind the Quintessential Jewish Song

DUE EAST: Creating a Bar Mitzvah Ceremony to Fit the Bar Mitzvah
The ONE-STOP-SHOP for all your personal & commercial vehicle needs!

www.bayshoreford.com

Sandy & Jerry Turnauer's

Bayshore Ford

"The TRUCK Store"
4003 N Dupont Hwy
New Castle, DE 19720
(800) 241-6644
(302) 656-3160

COMMERCIAL USED TRUCKS
2217 N Dupont Hwy
New Castle, DE 19720
(800) 241-6644
(302) 656-3160

"The CAR Store"

"The TRUCK Store"
200 S Broadway
Pennsville, NJ 08070
(800) 353-3872
(302) 678-3111

FIESTA - FOCUS - FUSION - MUSTANG
ESCAPE - EDGE - EXPLORER - TRANSIT PASSENGER VAN
TRANSIT - F150 - F250 - F550 - F650 - F750

TRUCK PARTS & SERVICE 85 hr/wk (302) 656-3160 - (800) 241-6644

WESTERN STAR
GAS - DIESEL - ELECTRIC - CNG - ALTERNATIVE POWER

Quick Lane TIRE & AUTO REPAIR CENTER
All Makes Cars & Trucks
302-225-8540

BAYSHORE LEASING RENTAL
302-832-0108

BAYSHORE BODYSOHP
302-633-6865

Area's Highest Volume Commercial Used Truck Center (800) 241-6644
CRAFT BASH
SAT • DEC 1 • 2018
BREW • CREATE • CELEBRATE

THE SIEGEL JCC’S
2ND ANNUAL CRAFT BASH
Benefitting our Early Childhood &
Afterschool Enrichment Programs
Honoring Barbara Schoenberg

#CB18 Begins
at 7 PM
$75/person

RSVP:
10/12 - Early Bird Registration
(free ticket entry into a Special Drawing)
10/22 - Final Registration

Register online: tinyurl.com/craftbash2018
By phone: (302) 478-5660

NOTE: Crafting hour begins promptly at 7:30 PM, followed by Craft Beer Flights, Creative Bar Foods, and Live Music & Dancing with the Dysrhythmics

For more information, email annasaul@siegeljcc.org
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2018
7-9 PM
SIEGEL JCC AUDITORIUM
WILMINGTON, DE

MR. CHARLIE HARARY, Esq. is a prolific speaker, known internationally for his charismatic, passionate and sophisticated lectures, seminars and keynote addresses on personal growth, entrepreneurship, social change and spirituality. Mr. Harary has spoken to businesses, organizations, and educational institutions on a variety of topics and to audiences of all sizes, demographics and affiliations. His videos have received worldwide attention and have reached hundreds of thousands of people.

Charlie is the CEO of H3 & Co., an advisory and investment firm based in New York.

Charlie is an Associate Clinical Professor of Management and Entrepreneurship at the Syms School of Business in Yeshiva University.

Charlie hosts two weekly radio shows, “The Charlie Harary Show” and “The Boardroom.”

Charlie launched a podcast show in April 2015, “Unlocking Greatness,” where he interviews successful entrepreneurs, thought leaders and experts to understand how they achieved their success. “Unlocking Greatness” reached the Top 10 on itunes New & Noteworthy business podcasts list in June 2015.

Charlie launched #TheAskCharlieShow, an online video show in May 2015 to answer the questions he has received from his listeners. In a short, concise, yet entertaining manner, he is able help his audience tackle their everyday challenges.

Prior to H3 & Co., Mr. Harary was the First Vice President of Residential Operations and Legal Counsel of RXR Realty, a multi-billion dollar real estate company based in New York.

EVENT CHAIR:
HEDY MINTZ

COST: $18
Includes light snacks/desserts and coffee.
(all dietary laws observed)

REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 28TH
ShalomDelaware.org/Charlie or call (302)427-2100

JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE

YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR 2019 CAMPAIGN PLEDGE AT THIS EVENT.

WE GROW STRONGER TOGETHER
CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY CELEBRATES 3 YEARS OF GROWING STRONGER
We have a reason to celebrate. Partnered with 11 organizations, more than 600 community members have made long-term commitments to the Delaware Jewish community, ensuring that our traditions and values continue for future generations!

WE CELEBRATE OUR CONNECTION TO ISRAEL
We welcome Daniella Buchshtaber, our new shlicha, who joined Jewish Federation of Delaware this past August. She has already begun to make her mark in our community.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Einstein Academy is celebrating the start of a new school year

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
Barbara Schoenberg will be honored at Siegel JCCs 2nd Annual Craft Bash

GATHERINGS OF JOY
The Community Havurah celebrates Shabbat with the joyful voices and the sounds of drums, guitars, and banjo and more

BEHIND THE LENS
The camera can play an important role. More than just preserving the moment, they can tell stories

HAVA NAGILA
You know the song. But do you know the meaning of the lyrics and the history of how it became the quintessential Jewish song?

REFLECTIONS: DUE EAST
One family challenged themselves to find the right direction to create a Bar Mitzvah Ceremony that fit their son

IN EACH ISSUE
COMMUNITY 5
FED FOCUS 8
DEAR EDITOR 7
THROWBACK DELAWARE 10
JEWISH SCENE 12
AGENCY UPDATES 19
SYNAGOGUE NEWS 22
RABBIS’ VOICES 24

LIFECYCLES:
SIMCHAS 25
COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT 25
CANDLE LIGHTING 26
JEISH LIFE 26
IN DEL 27

FEATURE SECTION
SIMCHAS & CELEBRATIONS 30

DEL & BEYOND 35
ARTS & CULTURE 38
PUZZLE PAGE 40
LIFECYCLES:
OBITUARIES 42
COMMUNITY CALENDAR 45
REFLECTIONS 48

ShalomDelaware.org
The 2nd Annual Movies That Matter Film & Speaker

**SATURDAY - OCTOBER 20**
2:00 PM Keynote Speaker: Lisa Long, Ed.D.
Nationally recognized author, speaker, mother, & mental health advocate. *Book sales and signing to follow

3:30 PM Feature Film: Call Me Crazy
Lifetime’s star-studded shorts about when a loved one struggles with mental illness

5:00 PM Your Community, Your Voice
Let your voice be heard in small group discussions with community professionals

**SUNDAY - OCTOBER 21**
1:00 PM Feature Film: Inside Out
Disney Pixar’s bold & insightful adventure about handling big emotions

3:00 PM Interactive Workshops for all ages:
- Parent Education – Seeing the Signs
- Bonding Music Therapy (Parent-Child Workshop)
- Coping with Stress (ages 17-25)
- Interactive Mindfulness (ages 11-16)
- Art Therapy (ages 5-10)

Location: Siegel JCC • 101 Garden of Eden Rd • Wilmington, DE
MORE details & information, visit: jfsdelaware.org/events/moviesthatmatter
FREE to Attend! REGISTER at: jfsmoviesthatmatter.eventbrite.com
WHY FEDERATION?

The Jewish Federation of Delaware supports a community-wide network of organizations that do two things:

- **Care for people** in need here at home, in Israel and around the world and;
- **Nurture and sustain** the Jewish community today and for future generations.

Through our community-wide network of partners and agencies, we actively seek out and address the most pressing issues facing our community every day in order to feed, clothe, comfort and rescue people in need. We also inspire, educate and connect people to their Jewish identity.

**For more than 80 years, the Jewish Federation of Delaware has been raising funds to meet the ongoing needs of our Jewish community.** Federation continues to be the single largest annual fundraising arm for our Jewish community with thousands of people providing support to a community-wide network of organizations that care for people in need and nurture and sustain the Jewish community today and for future generations.

**Federation truly supports the fabric of Jewish life in our community.** By working with community leadership, we ensure that the programs, institutions, and values that enrich our Jewish community remain vibrant and strong. From feeding the hungry to helping the unemployed...from supporting families with needs to funding Jewish education and Israel experiences...the Jewish Federation is focused on addressing the most pressing issues facing our community every day.

**Federation provides an effective and meaningful way for you to give Jewishly.** With one gift, we address causes and issues of importance to our community. If you or someone you know receives financial or scholarship assistance, enjoys PJ Library books, or has been a participant on Birthright Israel, then you know how important the Jewish Federation is to our community. And this is just a small sampling of services we help fund.

**During times of crisis and natural disasters, Federation responds.** The Jewish Federation system has a long track record of carrying out big bold initiatives and mobilizing great resources during times of crisis. We helped airlift thousands of Ethiopian Jews to safety in Israel, rescued and resettled more than one million Soviet Jews, and we provided lifesaving humanitarian relief in the Ukraine as well as during the natural disasters in Houston, New Jersey, New Orleans, Haiti, Japan, the Philippines and New Jersey.

**The extraordinary impact of the Jewish Federation can be felt around the community and around the world.** In Delaware and the Brandywine Valley, we provide opportunities for Jewish culture to flourish and are working toward reaching our broad, diverse, and growing community.

**In Israel,** Federation provides funds for training and educational programs to break the cycle of poverty, enrichment programs for children at risk and provides support for new immigrants to integrate successfully into Israeli society.

**And Federation is active in more than 70 countries around the world.** Through our broad network of partners and agencies, we actively seek out and support innovative solutions in order to provide basic necessities in life, rescue people in need, and educate, inspire, and connect people to their Jewish identity.

Federation’s success is dependent on building and strengthening a vibrant and caring community that is committed to improving the world. Thanks to your continued support, we Grow Stronger TOGETHER.

**WILLIAM WAGNER**  
President

**SETH J. KATZEN**  
Chief Executive Officer
GREAT COMMUNITY SPIRIT AT JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT WITH THE BLUE ROCKS

By Susan Shertok, TBE and Mike Kletter, CBS

Reminiscent of the seas parting for the Israelites on the journey from Egypt, the rainy skies parted, and the sun peeked out for the annual Jewish Heritage Night with the Blue Rocks at Frawley Stadium on August 14th (officially 3 Elul 5778). Sponsorship by Jewish Federation of Delaware provided one of the top giveaways in years – a jersey-style T-shirt complete with Israeli colors, the number 18, and the letter ה that the first 500 fans will be stylishly wearing around town.

Prior to the game, the Chai Notes Klezmer band, from Congregation Beth Shalom, played on the infield and entertained fans with the favorites L’Cha Dodi (Dixieland style), Hava Nagila, and Zemer Atik. The band is led by Mike Kletter (clarinet), and performing were Seth Walter (bass), Shari Walter (guitar), Jess Imber (keyboard), Meri Weiss (percussion), and Dennis Schnee (clarinet). Unfortunately, Jeff Schultz (drums) and Elly Alexander (trumpet) were absent.

Due to a delay at the start of the game, friends from all area congregations had ample time to schmooze, catch up on summer activities, and enjoy some ballpark food and beverages. Then came time for the Temple Beth El choir, led by Susan Shertok, to sing Hatikvah and the Star-Spangled Banner. Also performing in the TBE choir were Sharon Fullerton, Cailah Ogden, Chris Shelton, Sharon Giannotti, Nellie and Albie Forwood, Rabbi Jacob Lieberman, and Lynn Sontowski, along with singers from the Chai Notes Band. The combined set of voices provided for a stirring rendition of the anthems from both countries, and the impromptu combination of groups was a great demonstration of the community spirit that the evening represented.

At the seventh inning, the die-hard fans that remained were treated to a fun version of Take Me Out to the Ballgame, performed in both Yiddish and English, by the Chai Notes. Despite the band’s name sounding like a type of tea while being announced for the seventh inning (get it?), the show went on.

A great time was had by all – if you missed it, circle it on your calendar for next year!
Picture a hot pastrami on rye with a giant kosher pickle.

Yum. Are you picturing yourself or perhaps your grandparents sitting at a traditional Jewish deli and wishing you were there? Well, your wishes have come true! This is how our Delaware Jewish Community will celebrate the completion of three successful years of participation in the Create A Jewish Legacy (CJL) Program.

On Monday, November 19th, CJL will bring author Ted Merwin, Ph.D., a well-known professor, blogger, journalist, humorist, collector and intellectual to Delaware for our Year Three Celebration. Ted will share stories and insights from his book *Pastrami on Rye: An Overstuffed History of the Jewish Deli*, winner of the 2015 National Jewish Book Award in the category of Education and Jewish Identity. The evening’s festivities will also include some of your favorite deli treats, including kosher Pastrami on Rye and other delicacies for those of you who are already dreaming about having a delicious deli meal.

Our Jewish community has a lot to celebrate with the completion of Year Three of the Create A Jewish Legacy Program, which is supported through generous grants from Jewish Fund for the Future at Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation/Life & Legacy. Create A Jewish Legacy is a community-wide initiative comprised of strategic alliances with eleven partners representing Delaware Jewish organizations. Our beneficiary agencies, synagogues and Jewish Federation of Delaware are all working together to secure legacy commitments and gifts to ensure that our community continues to thrive and grow for future generations.

Leaving a Jewish legacy allows individuals and families to support in perpetuity the Jewish agencies and organizations they care so deeply about. The result will be to empower our community to continue the sacred work of *tikkun olam* while ensuring that our traditions and values continue for those who follow us. Jewish Federation of Delaware leadership works with individuals and families along with their professional advisors to create vehicles which will reflect the donor’s philanthropic passions, while still meeting personal, family, and financial goals.

During the past three years eleven partner organizations have secured 617 Declarations of Intent (DOI’s), making a long-term commitment to the Delaware Jewish community through a bequest in their will or trust, or by naming one or more of our partner organizations as a beneficiary in their retirement account or life insurance policy. These commitments will generate an estimated $16.5 million dollars in future gifts and endowment funds held at Jewish Fund for the Future for these organizations. Through the CJL Program, there has already been $215,000 in realized gifts to our community, which will continue to provide ongoing critical funding in the name of many generous and caring individuals in perpetuity.

Our Create A Jewish Legacy Program has been successful because of the passion and commitment of so many people in our community who represent the values and interests of our Jewish People. We look forward to celebrating our success and gathering to discuss plans for our future with you on November 19th – and of course we will enjoy a delicious deli meal together! The Year Three Celebration is open to all community members who have signed a Declaration of Intent through the CJL Program or have already formalized their legacy gift.

For more information about the Celebration Event or about Creating Your Jewish Legacy, contact Shari Dym, Create A Jewish Legacy Program Manager, at (302)427-2100 or Shari@Shalomdel.org.

Dear Editor,

Thanks for the memories; 50 years ago, and wonderful recollections. Deane [Kattler] and I always said that we had a good time teaching together, and shared our experiences for many years. We both remembered many children and happenings!

Just a word of tribute to Deane (of blessed memory), she was always up-beat and enthusiastic.

This all would not have happened without the leadership of Barbara Yalisove who put it all together.

Kudos!

Edna Chaiken

The following is in response to the September, 2018, Throwback Delaware column titled: *December 6, 1968; JCC Preschool Pioneers with Team Teaching in Kindergarten.*
What will your Jewish legacy be?

Jodie and Ashley Pezzner

As new grandparents, we realized the importance of contributing to Create A Jewish Legacy to help ensure a Jewish future for our grandchildren and future generations. We wanted to support our synagogue and community to make sure there is a place where Jewish people feel safe practicing our traditions, where they will have a synagogue home and a place to study Torah. Please join us in creating your Jewish Legacy to ensure there are funds for future generations to create their own Legacy’s.

Create A Jewish Legacy with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account or life insurance policy.

Create A Jewish Legacy is a program of Jewish Federation of Delaware’s Jewish Fund for the Future and is funded in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY, CONTACT JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE
(302) 427-2100 | JFDinfo@ShalomDel.org | ShalomDelaware.org/Legacy
Introducing Daniella Buchshtaber: OUR VOICE FROM ISRAEL

By Jaidy Schweers
Editor

I recently asked some questions of our new and very enthusiastic shlicha, Daniella Buchshtaber, who joined Jewish Federation of Delaware this past August. Daniella has already begun to make her mark here in Delaware by extending her reach throughout our local agencies and synagogues. If you haven’t yet had a chance to meet Daniella, you’re sure to appreciate her warmth, her open mind, and her eagerness to learn and share. Until then, please enjoy a snapshot Q & A with Daniella Buchshtaber.

Q: Briefly tell us about your background. What transported you to Delaware?
I was born and raised in the north of Israel. My parents and my sister made aliya (immigrated) almost 30 years ago from Russia, to a city called Nahariya. I was raised in a very Zionist home, and those core values are an influence on my choice of career. In the past couple of years, I’ve lived in the Tel Aviv area, studying political science and working with olim (immigrants) from Russian speaking countries. I helped them start their new life after they made the life-changing decision of living in Israel. I knew my next step would be to apply for the Shlichim (emissaries) Program, and I was really lucky to have my fiancé, Noam, join me for the experience. We applied together for this program and got the positions here in Delaware. While I’ll be working at JFD, Noam will be serving as an Israel fellow at UD Hillel.

Q: What is your expectation of this experience?
My expectation is to learn. To learn about myself, learn about this wonderful community, and learn about Judaism and the way it is practiced here in North America. I know I am here to advocate and represent Israel, but I want to train myself to be a representative of this community as well, because when I’ll return to Israel, I want to share your story with the people in Israel.

Q: How will you begin to build a connection between Israel and Delaware?
So far, I’ve been reaching out to community members, congregations, and other agencies to try and learn more about how I can serve this community better. I think the key to building a strong and a sustainable connection is understanding the needs and the desires of the community and using this knowledge for creating a kesher (connection). I have gained a great deal of knowledge so far and there are many surprises waiting ahead! I will do my best to provide you with interesting content and Israeli-related programs.

Q: What is something you are compassionate about?
I am compassionate about traveling. Ever since I was a little girl, my family would travel a lot and I believe it is a vital part in who I am today. As I grew up, I continued traveling with my fiancé, Noam, who also shares this passion with me. I have visited over 15 countries so far and I am eager to continue traveling for the rest of my life. Traveling taught me about tolerance, acceptance, and appreciating the differences between people.
THROWBACK DELAWARE

What’s a Celebration without food! We found these holiday recipes in the 1989 Rosh Hashanah issue. We hope you and your family will enjoy your favorites and perhaps try some of these from the past! Visit our website at jhsdelaware.org to see some other recipes from the JHSD collections. L’Shana Tova!

– Gail Pietrzyk
Archivist, Jewish Historical Society of Delaware

SEPTEMBER 22, 1989

New Rebbetzins Share Holiday Recipes

By SYLVIA F. PANITZ
Special to The Jewish Voice

For the first time in many years, Delaware’s Jewish community is welcoming three new rabbis, their wives and families to the Diamond State. The rabbis’ wives were literally in the midst of unpacking and settling in to their new homes when we asked them to share some of the recipes that they might prepare for the upcoming holidays... and share them they did!

Evelyn Goldblum, a native of New York, is the wife of Rabbi Moshe Goldblum, who recently took over the pulpit at Beth Sholom Congregation of Dover. The Goldblums have two grown children. Before moving to this state’s capital, they spent 25 years in Pittsburgh.

The following are Goldblum family recipes.

Ginger Veal
2 - 2 ½ lbs. cubed veal
Fresh ginger and black pepper
1 cup chopped onion
2 cups chicken broth OR 1 ½ cup white wine
— Coat meat with spices and let stand for two hours. Brown in olive oil. Add chicken broth or wine and simmer until tender. Bake in a slow oven for three hours.

Broccoli and Chicken
Marinade:
1/3 cup honey
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon lemon rind
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 teaspoon paprika
3/4 cup water and 1 chicken bouillon cube
— Pour marinade over cleaned chicken.
Add 20 oz. bag of frozen broccoli pieces. Cover with foil and bake at 350° for 1/2 hour. Uncover and bake for another hour.

Braised Parnips
2 lbs. parsnips (4 or 5)
1/4 cup oil
2 teaspoons sugar
6 large lettuce leaves
3 tablespoons minced parsley
— Wash parsnips, pare and cut into julienne strips. Heat oil and add parsnips and sugar (and salt, if desired). Wash lettuce leaves, leave them wet and cover the parsnips with the leaves. Simmer, covered, over low heat for 30 minutes, until tender. Check after a while for moisture. If necessary, add a little hot water, one tablespoon at a time. Discard lettuce, fold in the parsley and serve hot.

Cheryl Matasar is the wife of Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth’s new rabbi, Howard Matasar, and the mother of eight-year-old Tracy. The Matasars moved to our community from Peoria, Illinois.

The following recipes are Matasar family favorites during the holidays and throughout the year.
Unstuffed Cabbage
1 large head of cabbage
1 large can tomato sauce
½ cup dark brown sugar
½ cup vinegar
2 lbs. ground beef
½ cup rice
—Combine beef, rice, salt and
pepper in a mixing bowl. Form into
meatballs. Place a layer of cabbage on
the bottom of a Dutch oven or large
saucepan. Place the meatballs on top of
the cabbage and cover with another
layer of cabbage. To make sauce:
Combine tomato sauce, brown sugar
and vinegar. Pour sauce over cabbage
and meatballs. Add another layer of
cabbage and stir gently. Cover and cook
on low setting, stirring occasionally, for
about 1 ½ hours.

Apple Strudel
5 or 6 firm apples, peeled and sliced thin
2 teaspoons cinnamon
¼ cup sugar
1 cup brown sugar
½ cup golden raisins
4 ounces pecans, chopped
1 package fillo (strudel) leaves
1 cup melted margarine
graham cracker crumbs
1 (16 ounce) jar cherry preserves
—Slice the apples and, in a large bowl, combine with cinnamon, sugars, raisins and nuts. Mix well. Prepare strudel roll: Unfold one fillo sheet onto a moist towel, covering remaining sheets with another moist towel. Brush the sheet with melted margarine. Sprinkle with cracker crumbs. Place a second fillo sheet on top and repeat the procedure with the margarine and crumbs. Continue until there are six sheets. Using a slotted spoon, take 1/3 of the apple mixture and place on long end of fillo. Place 1/3 of cherry preserves on top of apples. Roll up like a jelly roll and brush with margarine. Place on a well-greased jelly roll pan. Repeat the process for two more rolls. Make slits two inches apart on the tops of the rolls. Bake at 375° for 35 minutes. This makes three rolls — six to eight servings per roll. Slice and serve warm. Note: These freeze well in foil. To serve, thaw in refrigerator overnight. Place on jelly roll pan and open foil. Heat at 325° for about 20 minutes.

Sweet Potatoes and Pears
1 large can pear halves
4 or 5 large fresh yams
2 cans pineapple chunks with juice
1 teaspoon grated orange peel
Brown sugar
Small amount margarine
—Strain and dice the pear halves and place in a shallow baking dish. Dice the yams and place over the pears. Add pineapple and juice. Cover with the orange peel and a little brown sugar and dot with margarine.
Bake at 350° for 40 minutes or until yams are soft. Baste frequently.

L ‘Shana Tova!
YLD YOGA
PHOTOS BY JFD STAFF

1 Dana Berman, past Shlicha, Daniella Buchshtaber, current Shlicha and the participants at the YLD Stretch & Sketch Yoga  
2 Stretching and enjoying the sun

SUPERHERO TIME & MUSIC WITH MR. SHELLY

1 Michael K. and his Superhero mask  
PHOTO CREDIT: JAMYE COLE  
2 Parachute fun at Gymboree  
PHOTO CREDIT: LISA KORNBLUM  
3 Babies having a ball  
PHOTO CREDIT: LISA KORNBLUM  
4 Our first Shalom Baby Music with Mr. Shelley  
PHOTO CREDIT: JAMYE COLE  
5 Lily M. loved the music  
PHOTO CREDIT: LISA KORNBLUM
LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

More than 70 community leaders representing 14 of Delaware’s Jewish nonprofit agencies and synagogues gathered at the Siegel JCC on Friday, September 7th to participate in a Community Leadership Workshop on Board Excellence. The workshop was facilitated by Sheila Bravo, CEO of the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA), and sponsored by Jewish Federation of Delaware in partnership with our beneficiary agencies and synagogues. We are grateful for funding from the Beau Biden Leadership Fund at Jewish Fund for the Future to bring such valuable workshops to our community so that we may Grow Stronger Together.

1 Sheila Bravo of DANA  2 Agency Executives, Karen Friedman, Basha Silverman, Donna Schwartz, Ivy Harlev, Rabbi Jeremy Winaker  3 Workshop participants

BACK TO SCHOOL

1 Miriam P. is excited for the start of Einstein  2 Maya D. is happy to show off her locker  3 Jared M-C. (left) and Owen D. (right) play on the new Gan carpet  PHOTOS BY DONNA HARLEV

4 Einstein community discusses what we saw hiking in Brandywine Creek State Park  5 Einstein 5th graders cast off their sins at tashlich  PHOTOS BY TOM NAGLE
1 Touch-A-Truck at the J  2 State Trooper vehicles at Touch-A-Truck  3 The Horowitz family dropping off on the first day of school!  4 Construction vehicles at Touch-A-Truck  5 Blaine Breeding and his daughter at Touch-A-Truck at the J  6 Assistant Executive Director Wendi Weingartner and Executive Director Ivy Harlev share Cajun Sno at Open House + Touch-A-Truck  7 First day at the ECC means old friends are reunited!  8 Back to School at the ECC  9 ECC Administration Anmie Baker, Beth Ann Short, and Pam Galbraith on the first day of school
Students at our Welcome Back BBQ
2 Staff are excited to meet all the new students
3 First Shabbat Candle Lighting ceremony with Hillel
4 Incoming Freshmen class with Freshmen Fest
5 Students and Staff attend the FIDF Gala in Philadelphia

LET US SHOW YOU EXCEPTIONAL

The Mottola Group is one of the top real estate groups in the U.S., according to The Wall Street Journal. Success for our clients resulted in record-breaking sales in 2017—selling 324 units for a total of $157 million in sales.

Bonnie Sherr and Meredith Rosenthal will put their in-depth knowledge of the local market to work for you! They have over 50 years of combined experience in selling real estate in Delaware and Pennsylvania. They’re invested in our community, serving on boards and committees at the Siegel JCC, Jewish Federation of Delaware, Fund for Women and the Alzheimer’s Association of the Delaware Valley.

302.351.2600 | MottolaGroup.com
CAMP GAN IZZY
DELAWARE
2018 / 5778
PHOTOS BY CHABAD OF DELAWARE

1 Suzy Venit staying cool during swim time  2 Lucy Clark gets crafty with her personalized crayon at the Crayola Experience  3 Chiara represents her team in an intense relay race  4 Abigail Adeyanju relaxing on a tube at Coco Key indoor water park  5 Ian Stefanovski at the annual CGI car wash  6 Lucca Siseles-Reiner having fun making delicious Challah during the weekly Shabbat party  7 Jenna Mussaf loves CGI Delaware  8 Hayley Eng enjoying the Herrs Factory Tour with her counselor, Chaya Katz
TBE SUMMER BBQ & BLUE ROCKS

PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON FULLERTON

1. Stan Menashes wins the matzah eating contest at Blue Rocks’ Jewish Heritage Night
2. Rabbi Jacob Lieberman answers trivia questions between innings
3. TBE and Religious School Administrator, Rachel Mussaf, anticipates pie smash from daughter Jenna
4. Officer Offbeat, Chris Shelton, welcomes Henry to TBE’s Welcome Back BBQ
CBS DOVER TRIP TO PHILLY

PHOTO PROVIDED BY CBS DOVER

A great time was had by all at the National Museum for American Jewish History and Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philly! Thank you to Jewish Federation of Delaware for partially funding the trip.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT’S IN YOUR GENES?

1 IN 15 ASHKENAZI JEWS ARE A CARRIER OF AT LEAST ONE SEVERE JEWISH GENETIC DISORDER.

GET EDUCATED AND TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FUTURE. ALL AGES CAN BENEFIT!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
10 AM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
101 Garden of Eden Road
Wilmington, DE 19803

RSVP REQUESTED by October 29th
To RSVP or for more information go to ShalomDelaware.org/genes
*All dietary laws observed

In partnership with

ShalomDelaware.org
EINSTEIN CELEBRATES THE START OF A NEW YEAR

By Rabbi Jeremy Winaker
Head of School

Honey. Jews celebrate beginnings with honey.

We not only dip apples in honey on Rosh HaShanah to start the Jewish New Year, we also give children honey to sweeten their first experience with learning. Some Jews have the custom of substituting honey for salt on their Shabbat challah for the first year of marriage or in a new home. Honey sweetens the path forward.

Actually, Jews use more than honey to celebrate beginnings. The honey is always part of a ritual. On Rosh HaShanah we recite a special intention asking that God renew for us a good and sweet year. Those children do not just get honey when they are brought to school, they get to lick it from a slate (or its contemporary equivalent) designed for class. Shabbat challah is part of the order of Friday night dinner after kiddush over wine or grape juice and with rituals for holding the challah and distributing it, too. Jews celebrate beginnings with ritualized sweetness.

Einstein began its new school year just days before Rosh HaShanah. We rushed to teach songs and meanings for starting the year off sweet and with an eye toward doing our best. We even hiked down to Brandywine Creek to cast off our bad deeds, to listen to the shofar's call to improve, and a story of God's loving forgiveness. Of course, we ate apples and honey as soon as we returned to school.

More than just teaching about a sweet new year, we celebrated the beginning of a year of learning with rituals and sweet surprises. After unpacking supplies, students gathered in our prayer room to share gratitudes from summer. Only after giving real space to what came before the start of school, did we then usher in the school year. We rang a special bell, a golden apple which symbolizes Jewish learning. We also engaged in leadership games to build camaraderie and to have active reminders of the importance of listening, leading and following, experimentation, and teamwork. The first day was a gentle introduction filled with the sweet reminders of what we do and why.

This year, Einstein celebrated a sweet new school year with a “wild Wednesday.” We took extra time just to make the point that our curriculum theme “Einstein Goes Wild” is meant to encourage us not only to explore wild animals, the wilderness, and our wild side but also to think differently, get out of the box, and have fun learning. Every student got to stomp on bubble wrap to pop open a year of wild beginnings.

The rabbis teach that Torah is sweet as honey on our tongue; shouldn’t school be sweet, too? It’s important to take pride in immersing students in an environment that focuses on the value of each individual, that brings Jewish traditions to life in vibrant ways, and that encourages us all to see each class as a new beginning. By ritualizing sweet moments, we make those beginnings into opportunities to grow academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The best part of celebrating our beginning is that we have celebratory rituals throughout the year. Now is just the beginning. Torah is sweet as honey on our tongue all year round, especially at Einstein. Come celebrate with us, we will make it a sweet beginning that you will want to repeat.

Ella S. on the first day of school PHOTO BY DONNA HARLEV

Albert Einstein Academy is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.
BARBARA SCHOENBERG HONORED AT 2ND ANNUAL CRAFT BASH

By Siegel JCC Staff

“Craft Bash has a pulse on this community; it reminds us how important camaraderie is to leading a fulfilling life,” said Caryl Marcus-Stape, Event Chair of the first annual Craft Bash and current co-chair.

With over 300 participants at CB17, Craft Bash is now catalogued as one of the J’s many success stories. It seemed fitting, then, to use the event as an opportunity to honor one of our esteemed lay leaders.

Stepping into the spotlight, enter: Barbara Schoenberg.

Barbara has been involved in Delaware Jewish life for over 30 years, elevating the achievements of our community through her commitment and everlasting drive. Moving to Wilmington in 1963, she became involved with Jewish Federation of Delaware in the early 1980s, serving as Board President from 1998-2000, and has continued her presence ever since. Barbara has been on the JCC Board for 12 years, serving in nearly every role and capacity. She has helped with budgets of various community agencies, including Albert Einstein Academy, and has served on the Kutz Home Executive Committee, where she’s a lifetime member, for over 20 years.

At Jewish Federation, Barbara is the first to pitch in with fundraising, working tirelessly for their Annual Campaign. She’s considered by all at JFD “one of the best fundraisers.”

“I love asking people to give $18 more,” says Barbara, to whom the number’s association to chai holds special meaning. Barbara feels life (chai) is a gift, and she’s not one to waste it. She translates that by giving back to this community without a second thought.

In turn, we can give back to her.

Please join us at our 2nd Annual Craft Bash with Honored Guest, BARBARA SCHOENBERG
DECEMBER 1, 2018 @ 7 PM
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION 10/12 (free ticket entry into a Special Drawing)
FINAL REGISTRATION 10/22
Register online: tinyurl.com/craftbash2018
By phone: (302) 478-5660
AGENCY UPDATE

The Kutz Home/Lodge Lane are Beneficiary Agencies of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

STEP-UP TO GREATER PHYSICAL FITNESS

By Chaplain Mollie Epstein
Kutz Rehabilitation and Nursing

The Centers for Disease Control reports that only 35 – 44% of adults 75 years or older are physically active.

As with other age groups, older adults can glean significant health benefits from daily physical activity. Some of these benefits are as follows: Increased metabolism and muscle mass, improved immune function, better heart health, blood pressure, bone density, and digestive functioning. There are also improvements in strength, flexibility, posture, balance, coordination, and a reduced risk of falls. Daily physical activity may even affect the progression of dementia.

For those older adults living well on their own, this activity can take the shape of a daily routine consisting of house chores, walking, shopping, and organized exercise. For those with physical compromises, maintaining a beneficial level of physical activity is more of a challenge.

For the residents of Kutz Rehabilitation and Nursing, this challenge has been met in the form of a newly expanded, renovated, and equipped Therapy Department. Physical, Occupational, and Speech therapies will be provided by our licensed therapists, in a state-of-the-art environment. The physical space has been increased and designed with large windows overlooking the outdoor courtyard. This beautiful courtyard provides an ever-changing seasonal view for those working-out in the Department. A model kitchenette has been added to permit occupational therapy re-orientation and task training for our short-term residents looking to return home. This setting simulates a home kitchen and enables the resident to perfect skills and safety awareness while reaching into cabinets.

In addition to the enhanced physical space, new equipment will take our therapy programs to a higher level. There is new cardio equipment for strengthening, balance, and transfers. A new set of functional stairs for stair climbing training. A sling-assisted stand-up table and standing frame table will aid residents who would otherwise be confined to sitting. We have added a new upper body exerciser as well as more hand weights to help in increasing strength and endurance.

Our therapists are now better able to monitor goal setting and get feedback on residents’ progress through the program. The focus of the renovation was to meet the needs of the residents’ conditions and increase our ability to tailor a plan of treatment to restore the highest level of function possible.

The renewed space and equipment will impart a greater capacity for our therapists to develop short-term rehabilitation plans for those in need of post-hospital physical, occupational, or speech therapy before returning home. It will also provide enhanced resources for maintaining our long term residents’ strength and abilities.

We are grateful to the following groups for their financial support. The Auxiliary of the Kutz Home provided the majority of the funds for the construction. Additional funds for construction were provided by an anonymous foundation in New York through the Association of Jewish Aging Services. The equipment was purchased through a grant from the Milton and Hattie Kutz Foundation, managed by the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

As it is said, “It takes a village” to provide the backing for a large undertaking such as this, and we couldn’t be more excited to welcome the community to this new space.

PHOTOS BY DONNA HARLEV
“It is not upon you to finish the work, but you are not free to ignore it.”

– Mishna, Ethics, 2:21

As a congregation, Beth Emeth does wonderful work around the concept of social action: Operation Isaiah (High Holiday food drive); Family Promise; Emmanuel Dining Hall; Ronald McDonald House; our winter coat campaign; individual b’nai mitzvah projects and many others too numerous to mention. Recently, our Social Action Committee, clergy and staff have discussed the creation of a cogent congregational plan of direct action centered around the basic needs of all people: To literally engage in Tikkun Olam. We begin with the understanding that when all people have enough food, a place to live and quality health care, the world begins to repair itself. And where better to start than in our own community, specifically the Ninth Ward.

Phase One is the opening of the Beth Emeth Food Pantry at the beginning of November. The food pantry will distribute emergency food and personal items to needy individuals and families. Initially, we will provide non-perishable and shelf-stable food, bread, and produce. It is our hope that within six months to one year, we will begin to provide meat and dairy products.

While in past years we have donated hundreds of pounds of food to the Delaware Food Bank and Jewish Family Services through Operation Isaiah, this year that food will remain at Beth Emeth as the beginning inventory of our own food pantry. We welcome and encourage the Jewish community’s involvement with the food pantry in order to make a real difference in our community.

With regard to homelessness, we are discussing a partnership with Y Innovations, a non-profit organization co-founded by our congregant, Brennan Stark. Y Innovations builds sustainable houses for homeless families. Their first house will be occupied in the next several months. Groundbreaking for five more houses will take place in April of 2019. To volunteer to help in building the houses go to www.YInnovations.com.

Our long-term goals include providing health screenings and nutritional counseling as well providing an on-site social worker and basic primary health care through partnerships with area health care providers.

FILM:
MY DEAR CHILDREN
SUNDAY NOV 4, 2018
4 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

MY DEAR CHILDREN IS A STORY OF FAITH, FAMILY AND TRAGEDY. The pogroms in the years following the Russian Revolution of 1917 killed tens of thousands of Jews and marked the beginning of the near-obliteration of Jewish life from an area of the world to which nearly 80% of the world’s Jewry can trace its roots. Feiga Shamis, a Jewish mother of 12, wrote about those years in a rare first-hand account of what drove her to make a choice no mother should ever have to make that ensured the survival of two of her children.

Decades later, Feiga’s granddaughter, Judy Favish, set out from South Africa for Poland and Ukraine to try to understand the grandmother she never met, the choice Feiga made, and her father who would never talk about his past.
SAKS ON SACKS
Ten Paths to God

By Rabbi Steven Saks

I’m a big fan of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, but it’s not only because we share the same last name (though I spell it without the “c”).

The real reason I’m a big fan of the former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain is because he is a master of making Torah applicable to our modern lives. Therefore, I was excited when congregants told me that they were interested in studying a new curriculum Rabbi Sacks has developed, Ten Paths to God.

Rabbi Sacks laments that, though Jews are good at overachieving, Judaism itself tends to underachieve. By that he means that many Jews, though successful, often don’t realize that Judaism’s message speaks directly to them. The truth of the matter is that Judaism has a universal and timeless message that can help guide us through today’s uncertainties.

The curriculum seeks to make the Torah’s teachings accessible by examining ten dimensions of Jewish life:

- Identity
- Tefilla (prayer)
- Study
- Mitzvot (commandments)
- Tzedakah (charity)
- Chesed (kindness)
- Faith
- Israel
- Kiddush Hashem (sanctification of God’s name)
- Responsibility

Rabbi Sacks’ greatest passion is the Jewish future. He holds that Judaism’s heroes in securing that future are teachers, though these heroes are often unsung and not given adequate support and resources. His curriculum is meant to provide educators with a resource that can be used to provoke thought and discussion in a variety of settings such as synagogues and college campuses.

We live in an age in which people often feel isolated and alone, despite the many ways we have at our finger tips to communicate. The word “religion” comes from the Greek religare, meaning to bind. Rabbi Sacks’ curriculum reminds us that we Jews, who are bound together, have a message worth exploring ourselves, and sharing with the rest of the world.

I am excited to begin the new year of 5779 by teaching a class based on Rabbi Sacks’ curriculum entitled Saks on Sacks – A Study of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks’ Ten Paths to God. I hope you will join me on the journey.

Saks on Sacks – A Study of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks’ Ten Paths to God
Thursday evenings from 6 to 6:45, beginning October 18
Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth
4412 Washington Blvd., Wilmington
OPEN TO ALL FREE OF CHARGE

More info at RabbiSacks.org/tenpaths or by contacting Rabbi Saks at 302-762-2705.
Q: Is interfaith involvement important today?

A: Rabbi Yair Robinson
Congregation Beth Emeth

“Stronger Together.” That is, of course, Jewish Federation of Delaware’s motto. The implication is that the Jewish community is stronger together, regardless of background or movement. I would argue, however, that this applies also to the work we as Jews do with our non-Jewish brothers and sisters.

Historically, interfaith engagement has often been seen as a necessity, mostly born out of our being a religious and cultural minority. In the Talmud, we are taught that we should apply many of the halachot that apply only to Jews to non-Jews as well, mipnei darchei shalom, in order to pursue peace. In the late 19th century, Chautauqua societies sprung up, largely led by Jews as efforts to educate non-Jews about who we were, de-mystifying the Jewish religion. Those efforts have largely seen non-Jews about who we were, de-mystifying the Jewish religion. Those efforts have largely continued with programs like “Taste of Judaism”, interfaith seders, and the like. And, of course, starting with the Reform movement in the 1970s, there has been an increased urgency around welcoming interfaith couples, especially helping non-Jewish spouses and family members find their place in the Jewish community.

Those efforts have paid dividends. Whenever the kids from St. Andrews School appear in my sanctuary, or non-Jewish parents send their kids to the Siegel JCC Early Learning Center (and come to Shabbat!) it builds bridges. Anti-Semitism is reduced, and we come together in the spirit of Psalm 133: How good it is when we sit together. This was beautifully illustrated two years ago, when the JCC was receiving bomb threats. Non-Jewish friends, such as churches, Catholic schools, the Islamic Society, and other non-Jewish religious organizations sent us cards and letters of support.

The interfaith encounter is also sacred. It gives us the opportunity to partner with our brothers and sisters in faith when we share values: combating poverty and bigotry, protecting the environment and the dignity of the individual. When we explore our differences in safety, profound sharing happens. Some of the most powerful Jewish moments I’ve experienced have been in shared worship experiences, or when I’ve had the chance to study sacred scripture with non-Jews. When we lift up our voices together in song as we prepare to pack Thanksgiving, or study text together (non-Jews studying Talmud is pretty cool!) we deepen our Jewish connections, think more deeply about what it means to be Jewish, and affirm our commitment to shared values and hopes. And we are truly Stronger Together.

Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Emeth

Perhaps never before has it been more important! Surely the days of the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War proved that community cooperation was vital. For Wilmington in particular the desegregation of our schools was successful in part because of the work of the regional office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ), in tandem with Wilmington’s wonderful mayor at the time, Bill McLaughlin (I’m very biased. There was a great deal of pushback he faced but he persevered in his insistence that this effort was the "right and just" thing to do!)

Ahh, those were the days when such cooperation was in its prime. Alas, while there surely is a great deal of it today, the demise of the NCCJ over a decade ago changed the profile of interfaith work. Our monthly luncheons and our regular board meetings brought to the fore the important issues we had to confront. We worked closely with local and state officials. While there were always differences of opinion as to “how” we could accomplish "this and that," for the most part

MORE ON NEXT PAGE
there were few differences as to the need to confront injustices.
How much the more so today!
For whatever the reason - and there are many unfortunate ones - the divisions we find and the hatred far too many of our citizens experience, have resulted in greater distrust than ever before. If humans can create such sad situations, we can also overcome them by concentrated efforts at unity and fighting against divisions.
Interfaith work might be the way to do so, not alone, but certainly as a first step.
Every generation seems to have its issues that we simply cannot solve alone. To one degree or another, the interfaith route has worked in the past. I am sure it can do so today.

Local Science Teacher Selected to Participate in the 2018 National Geographic Society Geo-Inquiry Summer Institute

By JFD Staff

National Geographic has launched a new interactive geography education program: The Geo-Inquiry Process. This past July, local Delaware resident, AKSE member, and Springer Middle School Science teacher, David Brown was selected to join 53 inspiring educators from across the United States and Canada to participate in the 2018 National Geographic Society Geo-Inquiry Summer Institute at the Jackson Campus of the Teton Science Schools in Jackson, Wyoming.

The Geo-Inquiry Process was developed by National Geographic Education to teach students the skills necessary to think and reason geographically. The five-step method provides students with a way to investigate and understand the world through patterns, processes, and interactions between human and natural systems, and to act on their conclusions.

Brown says that through the Geo-Inquiry Process, “students begin to VISUALIZE a story about their sense of place, and how their school site fits into a greater landscape locally, regionally, and globally.” Using both a geographic perspective and the Geo-Inquiry Process students connect complex components, see patterns, and make connections that can change their communities (NationalGeographic.org).

Shai Schweers Levin, son of Darren Levin and Jaidy Schweers, became a Bar Mitzvah at Mercaz Shimshon: The World Union for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem on Thursday, August 16th, 2018. Shai is the older brother of Joy and Levi, and the grandson of Dr. Martin and Lois Borsky, of Bridgewater, NJ, and David and Amy Schweers of Greeley, CO.
Shai is an 8th grade student at Springer Middle School where he has enjoyed Music, Art, and Foreign Languages. He is a prospering musician on both the piano and ukulele, and plays frequently with the local Community Havarah. Shai thrives on nature and travel and is always open to exploring new cultures.
The family would like to thank local Rabbi, Micah Becker-Klein for his direction, creativity and open mind, and unwavering commitment to Shai during his bar mitzvah preparation. And to Rabbi Steve Bernstein for accepting the baton and leading a beautiful and meaningful service in Israel.
JEWISH LIFE

WOULD MY ZADA HAVE INVITED HIM?
By Marvin S. Cytron

Over these past months many articles have appeared in both the Lay and Jewish Press about the ongoing constriction of the religious liberty, rites and practices of the liberal (Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, etc.) Jewish communities in Israel.

Of particular importance a New York Times Op Ed, August 1, 2018... Fighting for Judaism in the Jewish State, I am an Orthodox rabbi dedicating my life to breaking the ultra Orthodox monopoly over Jewish life in Israel, by Seth Farber. I forwarded this to many friends and synagogue leaders suggesting that it would be interesting to invite a representative of Rabbi Farber’s organization, ITIM, to speak here in Delaware.

Among the recipients of my correspondence was an acquaintance of mine named, for this piece, Heschel. A bit about Heschel, who I have known for a long time: Heschel lived in my grandparent’s neighborhood in St. Louis. Heschel and I both grew up in an Orthodox/Traditional environment, went to the same Hebrew School and Orthodox shul (synagogue).

Heschel later went to a rabbincal seminary for a short time, but returned to our home city and became a successful business owner. Heschel is a zealous political right wing supporter both here and for issues of Israel. By his own admission, a racist, despises African Americans, Hispanics, and Moslems, and believes guns are needed “to protect ourselves from the government.” While he has never been to Israel, he supports the ultra-Orthodox domination of Jewish life in Israel. Heschel and family have never joined a synagogue, though he tells me he sometimes “sneaks in” to the Orthodox shul on holidays.

Heschel wrote back to me referring to Rabbi Farber as a schmendrik (fool, idiot). Referred to liberal Jews as “stupid and uneducated Manhattan Jews.” He believes that liberal Jews have “no place in Israel.” He went on to write that my grandfather would have understood and supported his position and that Rabbi Farber would not be welcomed in my grandfather’s home.

Well, Heschel you never really knew my zada (grandfather). To my knowledge never sat as his side and never shared time with him, you only knew him by reputation. And a fine reputation indeed: My zada, Noah W. Salz, of blessed memory, came to America from Jerusalem at the turn of the last century, founded one of the first Yiddish –English newspapers west of the Mississippi. He was a community leader, secretary of the Vaad Hoeir (Orthodox St. Louis governing body) and when the State of Israel was founded in 1948, he wrote editorials supporting the rights of all peoples and religions in this new democracy. Zada taught me Yiddish, chess, love of books, and classical music. He was his own version of a modern Orthodox Jew before it was in vogue. On Shabbat morning he never stayed for the Musaf (additional) service. Left the shul at 11:30, a magnificent Shabbat banquet precisely at noon, and at 1 PM, after concluding meal prayers, went to his Stromberg Carlson radio to listen to Milton Cross introduce the weekly broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera from New York. His newspaper covered news and opinions from all facets of Jewish life. He would have been proud that a grandson became a respected Conservative rabbi, and would have kvelled (beamed with pride) at the bnai mitzvot of many great grandchildren at Reform and Conservative Synagogues.

Yes, Heschel! My zada would have welcomed Rabbi Farber.

Marvin Cytron is a long time resident of Wilmington and often contributes articles on Jewish life in America.
In 8th grade I decided that I wanted to join BBYO.

BBYO is a Jewish teen movement that aspires to involve Jewish teens in meaningful Jewish experiences. It is made up of BBG (BBYO’s sorority) and AZA (BBYO’s fraternity). I didn’t know much about BBYO but I figured I would give it a try; so I went to a meeting at the Wilmington Siegel JCC.

This began my journey into an amazing world. I have attended so many fun social events as well as learned more about Judaism in a fun way. We also adopt a “stand-up cause” every year, which involves adopting a charitable organization, and giving back to the community. One year, this involved going to the Delaware Humane Society and helping out with all the animals. Since that first meeting of BBG, I have developed leadership skills, strengthened my Jewish identity, and formed lasting friendships. I have held multiple board positions, attended chapter events, regional events, and even international events. I have also met people from all across the United States and as far away as Canada, Russia, and Denmark. During BBYO events, I’ve been able to bond with people over our common Jewish connection. This year, I am the N’siah (President) of Wilmington’s BBG Chapter.

In order to do my best, I decided to attend BBYO’s summer experience called CLTC (Chapter Leadership Training Conference). Three other members of our board attended other sessions of CLTC this year as well.

At the end of July, I traveled to B’nai B’rith’s Beber Camp in Wisconsin for 12 days. It was one of the best experiences of my life. The first night of CLTC, we were assigned mock chapters where we practiced how to successfully lead a chapter. Through these chapters, we learned all the responsibilities of board members, how to program effectively, and how to plan services. Throughout my wonderful 12 days, I attended programs that taught me new techniques to help me lead the Wilmington chapter. I was also able to plan my own programs and services. Besides programs and services, we had events like color wars, song sessions, dance parties, a talent show, and so much more. At CLTC, I not only learned some amazing skills that made me feel ready to take on the year as N’siah, but I also made lifelong friends and had so much fun. I will never forget my experience at CLTC and I already miss it.

Now, that I’m home, our board members and I hope to use the ideas we learned at CLTC to grow Wilmington’s BBG Chapter and to make this a great year. I hope other 8th-12th grade girls will join our chapter. We have already had our first few events this summer, a Pizza and Mini Golf outing at the Wilmington Riverfront and a joint BBG/AZA kickoff at the JCC pool. We are looking forward to many other fun events!
GATHERINGS OF JOY

By Marla Friedman
Community Havurah Member

It’s a Friday evening at 6 PM, and your senses are awakened by the aroma of the delicious food on the tables, the sounds of joyful voices, drums, guitars and banjo, the sight of friendly faces of all generations, the taste of fresh challah, and the touch of a friend’s kind embrace.

This is what over 80 locals of the Delaware Valley have experienced through their Community Havurah, which welcomes individuals and families who are interested in an environment that enriches Jewish cultural and spiritual life. The group is passionately committed to experiencing Judaism joyously, infusing their lives with Jewish values through learning, worshipping, and celebrating together.

The Community Havurah is proud to be a non-denominational and egalitarian spiritual community that is served by Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein. The Community Havurah is a non-profit organization and their plans for the future are evolving. They follow the cycle of the Jewish calendar year and create gatherings that welcome all parts of the community. The Community Havurah meets at participants’ homes in northern Delaware and the surrounding area.

Havurot (plural- Jewish fellowship groups), have been around since the first century and became a part of the 1960’s counterculture when newer groups including Reconstructionist Judaism used the term to describe how they gathered to study, discuss, and pray in informal settings. These havurot evolved by finding common interests among participants. The local Community Havurah group, for example, started a Jewish book club due to interest and are open to what members bring to the table. The Community Havurah Friday night Shabbat prayerful singing and pot luck dinners have been a favorite activity—a evening which offers engaging music and a spread of the most delectable vegetarian dishes. Rabbi Micah and his wife, Rachel, share their recipe for Hummus Dip below which is a Community Havurah favorite.

We wish everyone a sweet and joyous new year!

Micah & Rachel’s Hummus
By Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

Hummus is a great example of a food that connects, inspires, and tells a story. While not a Jewish food per se, it has become one of the central components of many Jewish gatherings. Like the blending of cultures and people as we share this world, hummus flavors also have evolved from one country to another throughout the lands of the Middle East. As a blend of ingredients, the base of hummus is garbanzo (chickpeas) beans (called “hummus” in Hebrew and Arabic) and tehina. To this base is added olive oil, salt and pepper, and an ever-changing array of herbs and spices including garlic, lemon, parsley, cumin, coriander, chili peppers, and pine nuts. Culturally, this hummus “dip” could be flavored with a variety of herbs and spices available to the local community. Sometimes it is left alone and the simple flavors of the base stand alone.

Who knows where the first hummus was produced? Who knows which one is the original and which are interpretations? It does not matter, truly. What really matters is what we bring into our food and food preparations: love, attention, and life. The loving intention of providing others with healthy and nourishing foods is important. Also, the attention to the details of creating food that is flavorful and assuring that our world strives to have wholesome food available for all people binds us to a higher purpose. And, recognizing life, from the Holy Source of All, which began

MORE ON NEXT PAGE
creation, and in recognizing life in the hearts and souls that will eat from the food we have prepared, as well as the life of those who helped raise and transport the food, draws us closer together as humans.

Hummus is an example of what can bind us together as a community. As each individual brings their background and life experience to a community, so too do all of the ingredients in the hummus blend together to make a flavorful dish. As we enter the new year, may you heart be open to life and love and may you be inspired to be a part of a flavorful “hummus” community!

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ cup EVOO (or more)
- ⅛ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- Juice of 2 lemons
- ¼ tsp. Sea salt
- ⅛ tsp. ground cumin (or more)
- ¼ tsp. black pepper
- Options: Add some pine nuts to mix but reserve 10 for garnish

In food processor with blade, puree the garbanzo beans. Add next 3 ingredients and puree and then the remaining ingredients. Taste. If it is too thick for your taste, add up to ¼ cup cold water. You can add more of what is needed to your taste. Spoon into serving dish and let cool in refrigerator for a few hours to bring out the full flavors. You may garnish with any combination of olive oil, za’atar, paprika, parsley, or pine nuts.
Over 25 years ago I was planning my eldest son, Alex’s Bar Mitzvah, which actually fell on his birthday, January 8, 1994. (Planning for a winter event is stressful, as you never know what mother nature might throw at you.) As a member of Congregation Beth Emeth, we had the party in their social hall, hired a DJ, a local caterer, and a local photographer. It was very important for me to have this event captured on film. The night before the event, an ice storm hit Wilmington, causing power outages and treacherous travelling conditions. Needless to say, all my plans for a “perfect event went out the door—my DJ did not show up, some friends and family could not navigate the roads therefore could not attend, but the photographer showed up!

While my memory of the day was a disaster, the photographer was able to capture an array of images which told a very different story; a story of family and friends—the raw and candid and beautiful; a story...
of togetherness—side-by-side, through thick, through thin; and a story of celebration—the coming of age, the smiles, the laughter, the pride.

These images were a reminder to me that in perceived moments of chaos and dread, which can absorb our attention, the reality of Jewish celebrations are often marked with significant meaning for all involved.

Photography, and the power of capturing images to tell a story, became my inspiration. In 1995 I began offering photography services to the Wilmington community. I had attended many of my friend’s events and noticed some photographers who seemed to be impersonal and unaware of all the nuances of Jewish traditions. I understood the sequencing of services and was able to recreate the significant moments by heart. I developed signature photo set ups that preserved all of the rich traditions of these rites of passage. As a Jewish mother, I brought my caring touch to my clients, often adjusting ties, aligning tallit and kippot, and removing forgotten tags from suits and dresses. These adjustments were not merely of things, but of attitudes as well. As parents were able to relax and be in the moment, so did their memories become that much more positive and meaningful.

Having a rapport with the local rabbis and cantors also helped tell the story. Additionally, by working in the Fitness Center at the Siegel JCC, I gained a significant connection to the Jewish community. No matter the venue, I knew many of the guests, who were more like friends than strangers. I knew how to make them smile and feel comfortable in front of the lens, which resulted in genuine images.

Over time, I have had the pleasure of photographing siblings, and seeing the families grow up through the years. I photographed other family simchas, weddings of children whose bar/bat mitzvahs I had photographed, baby namings, and confirmations. I have probably attended more than 300 bar/bat mitzvahs and captured over 100,000 images that have preserved important Jewish life narratives to be shared with future generations.

Being a photographer for most of my adult life has given me an enhanced sense of community and the feeling of being more like a family member than a hired service provider. Through all my experiences as a young adult to a young senior, my life has been enriched by being a part of Jewish traditions that I hope to also enjoy with my children and grandchildren. Because what better way to tell a story than through pictures.
Hava Nagilah: The Story Behind the Quintessential Jewish Song

By Dr. Yvette Alt Miller | aish.com
The story of Hava Nagila spans much of modern Jewish history.

The energetic tune of Hava Nagila has its origins in the early 1800s in Czarist Russia. At the time, Czar Nicholas I enacted a number of cruel decrees against the Jewish population. Most devastating of all was the law that young Jewish boys be forcibly taken from their homes and serve in the Czar’s army for 25 years. Given such privations, many Jews tried to resist, sometimes by defying the Czar publicly, and more often in private, by maintaining their Jewish practice and spirituality at home.

One Jewish leader who gained a reputation as opposing the Czar was Rabbi Yisroel Friedman, who was born in 1797 in the town of Ruzhin, in the Ukraine. So great was his charisma that Rabbi Friedman soon became a local Jewish leader; his followers were known as “Ruzhin” Chassidim. Like many Chassidic rebbes, Rabbi Friedman acknowledged the difficulties in life and encouraged his fellow Jews to try and live lives of happiness and joy, even in the face of brutal repression. Singing is one way of creating happiness and many Chassidic communities became known for humming wordless tunes called nigunim. These catchy tunes were popular during holiday and Shabbat meals, and helped create a rousing, fun atmosphere.

At the age of 41, Rabbi Friedman was accused of being a “rebel” against the Czar and was cast into prison for two long years. In 1840, he managed to escape and fled to the town of Sadigora in Austria, where he found refuge and was welcomed by the local Jewish community, eventually building up another group of followers. These Chassidim were sometimes known as Sadigora Chassidim; like their counterparts in Ukraine, they engaged in happy song when together. One of these tunes was Hava Nagila, though it wasn’t yet known by that name.

Around the turn of the 20th century, a group of Sadigora Chassidim moved from Austria to Jerusalem, bringing their unique tunes and nigunim with them. There, around the year 1915, some of the Chassidim met with a musical pioneer, and changed the course of Jewish musical history.

The musical pioneer was a composer and cantor named Abraham Zvi Idelsohn. Born in Latvia in 1882, Abraham Idelsohn worked in synagogues in Germany before moving to Jerusalem in 1905. He was an avid scholar and a passionate Zionist, as well as one of the world’s first ethnomusicologists: scholars who study people through the music they create.

Abraham Idelsohn was fascinated by the diverse Jewish musical traditions, and recorded thousands of Jewish songs and tunes from Asia, North Africa and Europe. One of these was the Sadigora niggun we know as Hava Nagila.

Captivated by its upbeat melody, Idelsohn decided to create lyrics for the hitherto wordless niggun. Excited by the return of Jews to the Land of Israel from all over the world, Idelsohn seems to have wanted to forge a new Hebrew-language musical canon that would unite Jews in the nascent country of Israel. For Hava Nagila’s words, Idelsohn turned to words inspired by the Biblical quote that forms part of Jewish holiday liturgy: Ze ha’yom asah Adonai, nagila v’nismecha bo, “This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be happy in it” (Psalms 11:24).

The words that Idelsohn penned capture much of this joyful feeling:

Hava nagila, Hava nagila = Let’s rejoice, Let’s rejoice
Hava nagila v’nismecha = Let us rejoice and be glad
Hava neranana, Hava neranana = Let’s sing, let’s sing
Hava neranena v’nismecha = Let’s sing and be glad
Uri, uri achim = Awake, awake brothers
Uri achim b’lev sameach = Awake brothers with a joyful heart.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE
Hava Nagilah CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 33

Idelsohn included this new version of the Chassidic song in a concert he helped organize in Jerusalem to celebrate the end of World War I. It became an instant hit. He later recalled the concert and its aftermath: “The choir sang it and it apparently caught the imagination of the people, for the next day men and women were singing the song throughout Jerusalem. In no time it spread throughout the country, and thence to the Jewish world”.

Hava Nagila was soon sung in kibbutzim and towns throughout Israel. It became a wildly popular folk melody and was often accompanied by the Jewish folk dance the Hora. Outside of Israel, Hava Nagila soon was a standard in Zionist youth camps and later became popular at Jewish weddings and other celebrations.

In the 1950s, the song took another great leap when non-Jewish artists began recording it. One of the first singers to start performing Hava Nagila was the American superstar Harry Belafonte. Belafonte discovered the song in New York in the 1950s, and adopted it as one of his greatest crowd-pleasers. He later recalled that the two songs he was best known for were his famous “Day-O” (also called “The Banana Boat Song”) and Hava Nagila.

Belafonte’s most moving experience singing the hit took place in the 1950s in Germany, he later explained to the documentary filmmakers Roberta Grossman and Sophie Sartain. “It hit me kind of hard that here I was, an African American, an American, standing in Germany, which a decade earlier had been responsible for mass murder, these young German kids singing this Hebrew song of rejoicing, ‘Let us have peace, Let us rejoice.’ And I got very emotional.”

Hava Nagila has become perhaps the most recognizable Jewish song. Olympic gymnast Ally Raisman performed to its peppy beat during the 2012 Olympics and won a gold medal in the process. In 2013, when the Korean Government sponsored a “Gangman style” musical competition in Israel, the winner was a teenager named Eva Kamun, who won with a performance of this classic song.

Artists from China to Africa to Eastern Europe and beyond all embrace the song. A search for Hava Nagila on Youtube yields well over half a million videos from around the world.

The jubilation in the song and the uplifting words convey a deeply felt Jewish truth: that we all long to transcend the challenges in our lives. That we all long to be the best people we are capable of. That all of us want to be happy. And that singing and listening to the happiness in Hava Nagila can bring us all a measure of joy.

Home is Where the Heart Is...

A continuum of care
Assisted Living | Memory Care | Rehabilitation | Skilled Nursing
By Michael Geller
Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

APPLES, HONEY, AND EXTRA AID

30 Years of Providing Help to Thousands of Elderly Jews in Need in FSU

Continuing a tradition started before the fall of the Soviet Union thirty years ago, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and its network of volunteers provided extra aid and traditional Rosh Hashanah treats — including apples and honey — to thousands of poor, elderly Jews across the former Soviet Union. The aid — provided by JDC through its partners the Claims Conference, the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ), the Jewish Federations, and other generous donors — was distributed in hundreds of locations throughout the region where JDC also held scores of holiday events to mark the Jewish New Year.

“As Jewish volunteers delivered apples and jars of honey, they provided comfort to seniors who have lived unimaginably hard lives, and are building their communities for generations to come,” said David M. Schizer, JDC CEO.

Living on about $2 a day, it’s hard to believe that Mark G. has advanced degrees in mathematics and physics. Living with debilitating health conditions that make active life impossible in his hometown of Beltsy, Moldova, this former teacher savors the Jewish holidays, especially Rosh Hashanah, and the jar of honey he received from a visiting volunteer. Expressing his joy for the temporary alleviation from the depression he fights daily — and a reminder of his beloved mother who escaped a ghetto to join the Red Army in WWII — the 67-year-old says, “Even in all my loneliness, I feel now I have a community and someone who cares enough to watch over me.” And of the fresh faces of volunteers that delivered Jewish New Year greetings, “They are my hope.”

Elderly Jews in the region were among hundreds of local Jews who participated in JDC organized Rosh Hashanah events. In addition to holiday lectures and concerts, cooking workshops and cultural performances, special holiday retreats for families and children brought holiday traditions — like sounding a shofar, or ram’s horn, and learning blessing over apples and honey — to new generations of Jews. The events took place in JDC’s network of Jewish community centers, Hesed social welfare centers, and other local institutions.

At the same time, volunteers visited homebound elderly, offering holiday wishes and gifts. In Kharkov, Ukraine, the “Every Home a Holiday” volunteer initiative included dozens of seniors receiving guests to share in holiday traditions and greetings while more than 300 people, including local elderly, attended Rosh Hashanah concerts including music and dance performances at Sha’are Tikvah Hesed social welfare center. In Gomel, Belarus, a multigenerational audience learned about Rosh Hashanah food traditions, including how to make holiday fare, while in Krasnodar, Russia, Jewish youth attended a holiday bash at the Taki Da Jewish restaurant where they learned about Rosh Hashanah traditions, played holiday quizzes, and performed songs and dances.

Schizer urges the wider Jewish community “to join us in the coming year in caring for those Jews in need and in the strengthening of the communities where they live.”

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is an international partner of Jewish Federation of Delaware allowing local Jews to help Jews from around the world. The JDC is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC works in 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-term development support for victims of natural and man-made disasters. For more information, visit www.jdc.org.
After growing up in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, I thought I understood what it felt like to be on the fringes of the Jewish community.

While I regularly attended synagogue, went to Jewish sleep-away camp, and frequented the Wilmington, Delaware JCC, I was one of few Jewish students in my school district. This continued during college, as I often felt I was singled out in class either to offer a “unique” perspective or because I was causing an inconvenience by missing class for major holidays. None of this kept me from fiercely identifying with my Jewish heritage, and I deeply cherish the communities I was able to be a part of. However, I didn't have the experience that I felt was more typical of some of my friends and relatives who were surrounded my Judaism at every turn. This all, of course, came before I had the immense privilege of living in Madrid, Spain this year as an English language assistant.

Thanks to a recommendation by my former rabbi, Peter Grumbacher, and an impactful article written about the community, I soon discovered a group that would change my life forever. I spent the last year attending services almost every Friday with a beautiful, diverse, strong-but-mighty group of Reform Jews in the heart of Spain. Leaving Spain in July continues to be a difficult transition in many ways. So, naturally, when I saw that the j-VOICE Monthly had an article written by George Danneman in their August edition about the National Young Leadership Cabinet retreat in Madrid and Morocco, I was thrilled. However, I wanted to share more about my personal experience with Jewish life in Madrid, given that I spent time with a community different from the one discussed in that piece.

Having spent a year immersed in the city’s Jewish life, I have come to know that the Jewish scene in Madrid is heavily dominated by the Orthodox community. This is not surprising, given that they were the first community to reestablish themselves in Spain after being expelled in 1492. The majority of resources for Jews in Madrid are allocated to the Orthodox community, along with the Conservative movement that was established by Argentinian Ashkenazim in the 1990s. They have a beautiful synagogue, a Jewish day school and own the Jewish cemetery, among other things. Again, they fought to make a name for themselves and now enjoy the fruits of their labor. This is nothing to criticize, but rather to admire. The Reform community is in the earlier stages of their fight for equal recognition. Jewish communities in Spain face unique challenges that I believe many modern American Jews are spared from.
facing. I was naïve when I stepped into my first Shabbat, but this community showed me week after week that you do not have to have a lot of resources to do a lot—you just need a lot of heart and a strong sense of faith.

La Comunidad Judía Reformista de Madrid has been such an amazing gift in my life. Friday nights with this community became a ritual for me during my time in Spain. Shabbat was the event of the week—we would convene to start around 7:30 PM (which really meant 8 PM “Spanish Time”) for services and dinner and would head home around 11:30. Services were usually led by Yael Cobano, one of the founding members of the group, along with other women and men that help make this community so special. A potluck dinner followed every service where the food on the table represented the rich diversity represented in the community. What started as a way for me to connect to something I missed from home, quickly turned into my safe haven and the thing I found hardest leaving when coming back to America.

Madrid became my home, and this is in large part due to the people I now consider friends for a lifetime and the community that didn’t hesitate to welcome me with open arms. While the community stands strong as it is, there are surely things that would help make them feel more established. Things I used to take for granted, from getting a Jewish education to practicing my Jewish star with pride, are not a reality for the Reform community of Madrid. Having educational materials for their youth, a synagogue space to call their own, and resources to make their programming even richer—realities for many Jewish communities in the U.S.—are what this group dreams of. So, I’d like to urge us all to reach farther and search deeper for the heart of Jewish life abroad... because if they were willing to take a pretty naïve, Pennsylvania Jew and call her one of their own, we should outstretch our hands too.

Please consider purchasing the Reform Community of Madrid’s Rosh Hashanah Seder cookbook. The book is a compilation of recipes from members of the community, Spaniards, and expats, Jewish born and converts, old and new. All the proceeds benefit the community directly.


ShalomDelaware.org
From October 24-November 18, Delaware Shakespeare will present The Merchant of Venice as its 2018 Community Tour production. The Community Tour brings professional Shakespeare to the full spectrum of humanity in our state by offering free performances in non-traditional locations such as homeless shelters, prisons, psychiatric care facilities, low income-senior apartments, and other community centers before presenting two concluding ticketed performances at the OperaDelaware Studios.

We realize many members of the Delaware Jewish community may have questions about why Delaware Shakespeare is producing The Merchant of Venice. I am grateful for this opportunity to share some of the thoughts behind this production and the positive impact we hope it will have in the community.

Why is Delaware Shakespeare producing The Merchant of Venice?
As we traveled around the state in October and November 2016 on our first Community Tour, we began thinking about sharing The Merchant of Venice as its themes, unfortunately, became all too timely during the election campaign which saw increased instances of hate speech and hate crimes, including anti-Semitism. These incidents continued in 2017. In its annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, the Anti-Defamation League reported a 57% increase in 2017.

Delaware Shakespeare aims to position the performance as an exploration of the corrosive impact of anti-Semitism and xenophobia and engage the community in a conversation about how we can ensure that those who are perceived as different are not treated unjustly. There is no Shakespeare play that could better facilitate this conversation than The Merchant of Venice.

What do I need to know about this production?
In addition to a powerful performance, several other elements will surround the production. On Tuesday, October 16, as a fundraiser to support the tour, we will hold a mock appeal of the famous trial scene in the play. Hosted by Delaware Law School and with a judges panel presided over by former Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland, this event will explore issues of law and social justice in the play.

At the actual performance, audience members will find in the program questions to consider and historical context related to anti-Semitism (these questions and historical notes will also be covered in a prep workshop that will be made available to each of our 18 community partner venues). I will echo some of those questions and framing statements during brief pre-show comments. Then immediately following each performance, we will have a structured conversation with carefully planned
questions to get the audience responding, making connections, and brainstorming positive actions. We hope each audience member will leave with at least one specific step they can take to reduce anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

**What should I expect from the performance?**

Community Tour productions are incredibly intimate and raw affairs. We perform in spaces such as conference rooms and gymnasiums, with a 15’x15’ playing area and the audience on all four sides, no more than three rows deep.

As the Community Tour performs for very diverse audiences, our 9-actor cast will reflect that incredible diversity. For example, Kirk Wendell Brown, an African-American actor, will play the role of Shylock. This choice was made, in part, to encourage audiences to consider other population groups who may be treated in similar ways to how we see Shylock treated.

If you don’t know the play, you should expect a challenging story in which Shylock, a Jewish moneylender, is systematically separated from his faith and his wealth and subjected to hate speech by members of the Christian majority in Venice, Italy.

At the beginning of our production, you can expect to see a Shylock who has a desire to connect with and be accepted by the Christian majority. Once his daughter, Jessica, abandons him to marry one of the Christian characters, you will see a Shylock driven by pain to try to reclaim some sense of justice. Throughout, you should see a Shylock who is yearning, at times desperately, for his humanity to be accepted by his fellow Venetians.

You can also expect to see a Jessica who is torn by her decision to leave her father and her faith.

**What does success look like for this production?**

If an audience member comes to this performance with anti-Semitic or xenophobic views, we would hope this audience member would be horrified at the way Shylock is treated during the trial scene and be shocked that the other characters do not realize the damage they have done to Shylock. The audience member may even wonder whether they personally have ever acted in a similar way.

For an audience member who is aware of the corrosive impact of anti-Semitism and xenophobia but not committed to taking restorative action, we would hope the audience member would be inspired to take proactive steps to create a more just world.

For a Jewish audience member, watching the story told by a diverse group of actors and in front of an audience reflecting a diversity of experiences, many of whom have also been marginalized, we would hope the audience member would be strengthened by new allies in the fight against anti-Semitism and experience an expanded sense of welcoming the stranger, which I have learned is a fundamental Jewish value.

During the past year, I have been welcomed by various members of the Jewish community in meetings about this production. While at times challenging, the conversations have been marked by intelligence, respect, and dignity, as well as a willingness to listen and be changed.

Through these conversations I have also learned of the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* – repairing the world. At its most fundamental level, this is what Delaware Shakespeare hopes our production of *The Merchant of Venice* can achieve. While the play captures painful damage specific to the Jewish community, by exploring it in a way that highlights our shared humanity we can find steps to mend tears in a broader social fabric.

---

**The Area’s Largest Selection of Kosher Foods!**

**ShopRite of Brandywine Commons**

- Deli Finger Sandwich Trays
- Smoked Fish Trays • Vegetable Trays
- Fruit Trays • Meat Trays • Sabbath Meals
- Mini Bagel & Lox Trays • Corned Beef
- Roast Beef • Turkey Breast • Pastrami
- Beef Salami • Brisket • Chopped Liver
- Rotisserie Chicken • Oven Fried Chicken
- Turkey & Beef Meatballs
- Chopped Herring • Matjas Herring
- Nova • Nova Trim • Sally Lox
- Kippered Salmon • Large Whitefish
- Macaroni Salad • Egg Salad
- Health Salad • Cole Slaw
- Red Bliss Potato Salad
- Whitefish Salad • Tuna Salad
- Baked Salmon Salad • Rotisserie Chicken Salad

**SHOPRITE OF BRANDYWINE COMMONS**

1300 ROCKY RUN PARKWAY, WILMINGTON, DE 19803
(302) 477-3270 ext. 5 SHOPRITE.COM/CATERING

Dedicated to providing the highest standards of Kashrus. Under the supervision of the Va’ad Ha Kashrut of Delaware.
***Dates/Programs are subject to change. Please check Jewish Federation of Delaware calendar for updated information***

[https://shalomdelaware.org.presencehost.net/calendar/]
**LIFE CYCLES**  
August 30, 2018.

**OBITUARIES**

**SHIRLEY G. ADELMAN (NEE GROSSMAN)**  
Hockessin - Age 90, passed away August 13, 2018.  
Shirley was a 1949 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in music on a partial scholarship. She was a lifelong piano student, a lifelong learner, a social activist, and passionate about contemporary design and health. Shirley had a great life growing up in a loving family where she could do no wrong. She lived a lot, loved a lot, and learned a lot.  
Shirley is survived by her husband of 70 years, Herbert; son, Robert (Lynn); daughter, Joan; grandsons, Jeff (Bethaney) and Mark; and great-granddaughter, Abby.  
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Compassionate Care Hospice Foundation, 248 E. Chestnut Hill Road, Suite 4, Newark, DE 19713.

**ANNE CHERRIN**  
Wilmington - Age 100, passed away Thursday, August 30, 2018.  
Born June 10, 1918 in Paterson, NJ, she was a homemaker and a member of the Montefiore Mutual Benefit Society.  
Preceded in death by her husband, Samuel; brother, Isadore; and daughter-in-law, Joanne; she is survived by sons, Alan and Dennis; 4 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.  
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to The Kutz Home, 704 River Road, Wilmington, DE 19809.

**HERMAN COHEN**  
Wilmington - Age 96, passed away Saturday, August 25, 2018.  
Herman Cohen came with his family to Wilmington, DE from Philadelphia, PA when he was just a few months old in 1922. His parents, Abraham and Sarah were immigrated from Eastern Europe.  
As a child growing up on Poplar Street he loved school and had aptitude for learning. From a young age, he also relished working hard alongside his father in his grocery businesses and other endeavors and always helped take care of his mother who mostly spoke Yiddish. Herman was especially close to his three older brothers Morris, Mike, and Joe and loved his baby sister Fay whom he remained close to his entire life.  
Before graduating high school Herman volunteered to serve in the US Army. It was World War II and after basic training in the South, he was stationed in the Philippines and specialized in Morse Code. He served bravely and honorably and spoke often about his experiences and valiant service throughout his life. After the war, he joined his brother’s used furniture business. This eventually became known as Cohen’s furniture which he ran for more than 60 years, first with his brothers, Morris and Joe on Market Street and then on DuPont Highway when his son, Arnold joined him.  
Upon his discharge from the Army, he went on a blind date that changed his life. He met his love, Mildred and they married within a year, honeymooning in NYC and seeing all the best original Broadway shows.  
While he loved his work, his employees, and generations of customers that he knew by name, and he won numerous awards, Mildred and family always came first. Together, they had four children, Janet, Arnold, Phillip, and Sharon. The family always celebrated and hosted holidays with extended family and went on fun adventures to the beach and mountains.  
Herman was a true people person, and loved history, especially Jewish history, music (symphonies and opera), and collected coins and art.  
Herman, while not perfect, led a full and fulfilling life that touched each of us. His daughter Sharon recalls two phrases that he constantly repeated: “you are your own best asset,” a call for self-care, and the second: “you must always renew your enthusiasm for life” find a new passion and try to live in the wonder of G-d’s miracle.  
In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Congregation Beth Shalom or the Arnold and/or Janet Cohen Memorial Scholarship Fund.

**JUDITH CORBIN DIRECTOR**  
Wilmington - Age 96, passed away peacefully on August 15, 2018 from natural causes. She decided it was time.  
Judy grew up on Union Street in Wilmington, attending Wilmington High School, the University of Delaware, and graduating from Temple University with a B.A. in Medical Laboratory Technology in 1944. Judy was a medical technician in Wilmington before she married. While raising her sons Robert and Steven, she was a substitute teacher in the Wilmington schools, terrorizing many of her sons’ friends. For many years, she ran a retail liquor business (Corbin Liquors), as some may recall, but her passions were art, theater, New York, decorating, fashion, cooking, books, golf, travel, Italy, foreign films and politics, not necessarily in that order. Judy was an eager learner at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute for many years. An avid collector of Blue Canton porcelain, Judy loved roaming antique shops and shows. Judy loved anything blue, as her decorating style, as well as clothing and gifts to her children and grandchildren have demonstrated. In her early years, she tried oil painting, taking lessons from Ed Loper, Sr. These lessons were successful only to the extent of having Ed Loper do two memorable paintings of her. Judy was always well-dressed and her sons were probably negligent in not having the Sunday News-Journal Style Section photograph her. An expert baker, Judy was determined to create the perfect cheesecake. She was also demanding of perfection in onion soup and French fries, and for that matter her children and the rest of the world. Judy had a rich, full, and long life, and made a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.  
The family would like to thank the excellent care Judy received from the physicians and staff at the Wilmington Hospital, Compassionate Care Hospice, the Kutz Home, the companionship of Paul Simon, and the friendship and care of those who visited her recently.  
In addition to her sons; daughter-in-law, Debbie; and grandchildren, Corbin, Laura, and Daniel; Judy is survived by her good friends, Allene Goodfellow, Yetta Chaiken, Sybil Zefelt, and Natasha Latina.

**EDWARD A. DOUGHERTY**  
Wilmington - Age 74 of Wilmington, DE passed away peacefully August 7, 2018 after a short battle with cancer.  
Born in Wilmington, DE to the late George Dougherty Sr. and Gertrude Dougherty Denney; Ed served our country in the United States Army stationed in Germany. He enjoyed horse racing, the lottery, and going to the casino. His passion was his vegetable garden and sharing his harvest. Eddie was always a hard worker. Plumbing was his trade, working for various companies in Wilmington. He loved children. Eddie was always up for a good meal and enjoyed holiday parties and cook-outs at his sister Linda’s house. He enjoyed spending time with his brother Paul and helping him with anything he needed. A true friend to all who knew his. He was will be greatly missed.  
The family would like to thank John McMullin for being a good friend to Ed and Compassionate Care Hospice at St. Francis Hospital for making Ed’s last days comfortable ones.  
Predeceased by his sister, Marian and brother, Les; Ed is survived by his brothers, Ronald Sr., Paul and George "Joe" (Peggy); sisters; Elaine Cirillo, Linda Schofield, and Karen "Kay" Richardson; along with many nieces, nephews, and friends.  
In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Compassionate Care Hospice, 248 E. Chestnut Hill Road, Suite 4, Newark, DE 19713 (www.cchfoundation.net).

**SelmA GiAMMaTTeO (nee Wolfman)**  
Wilmington - Age 98, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Tuesday, August 7, 2018.  
Born December 4, 1919 in Wilmington, DE, she was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Helen Wolfman. Selma graduated from Goldey-Beacom
College and worked for the B & O Railroad as a secretary. She was a caregiver for her mother for many years. Selma loved to go to the casinos like Delaware Park and Harrah’s. She traveled to the Atlantic City casinos with her husband, Paul; Dover Downs was her favorite. Selma played the violin as a child and was a life-long member of Congregation Beth Shalom.

The family would like to thank Compassionate Care Hospice for their wonderful care of Selma.

Preceded in death by her sister, Rayzella Spector; she is survived by her husband of 24 years, Paul; niece, Linda Phillips; and many great-nieces and great-nephews.

DEBORAH S. LEFF
Kennett Square - Deborah Leff, wife of Sanford M. Leff, daughter of Minie and Solomon Schwartz passed away Wednesday, August 8, 2018 from complications due to Alzheimer’s in the comfort and care of the Kendal Crosslands Community.

Deborah was born September 7, 1935 in Brooklyn, NY, graduated from the University of Connecticut, and earned her Masters of Education from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

Deborah will be remembered by the many lives she touched as an extraordinary, passionate, and dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and teacher. She was recognized as a Teacher of Distinction in the Syosset Central School District where she served as an elementary school teacher for 31 years in all grades and as the district science coordinator.

Outside of her professional life, Deborah will be most remembered and missed as the matriarch of the Leff family. It was in her role as a wife, mother, aunt, and grandmother, and friend where Deborah shone the most brightly. She was loving and loyal beyond measure to all she loved. Her husband Sanford, was the love of her life. He gave her love, stability, excitement, comfort, and laughter throughout the 62 wonderful years they gave her love, stability, excitement, comfort, and the staff at Kendal Crosslands made Deborah’s life these last four years a joy and kept her comfortable and occupied in the final months while Alzheimer’s was taking her away.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Kendal Crosslands Employee Appreciation Fund, at Kendal Crosslands, P.O. Box 100, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Marilyn Menelson
Glen Mills - Age 88, passed away peacefully August 21, 2018 in Rose Court, at Maris Grove, Brinton Lakes, PA, after a long-term battle with Parkinson’s disease.

Marilyn was born November 1, 1929, in New York, NY, the daughter of Julius and Matilda Margolis. She grew up in the Bronx. Marilyn graduated from Hunter College in 1951 with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Biology with a minor in Botany. Following graduation, she worked in a cancer research laboratory at Sloan Kettering Institute.

In 1955, Marilyn married the love of her life, Al Mendelson, and they resided in Manhattan. After giving birth to her two sons, the family moved to Glendale, Queens, where she raised her family and earned a teaching certificate at Queens College, followed by a Master of Education from Hunter College. There she began her 25-year career teaching elementary school. She lived in Queens until Al’s death in 2009. Marilyn moved to Maris Grove in 2010.

Preceded in death by her husband, Elwood (Al) Mendelson and her sister, Helene Axelrod; Marilyn is survived by her sons, Mark (Elaine) and Jay (Evelyn); grandchildren, Aaron (Kristine), Justin, Kurt (Lovisa), Robert, and Amy; great-grandchildren, Eli and Elizabeth.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent in her name to American Parkinson Disease Association (www.apdaparkinson.org) or Willow Tree Hospice, 616 E. Cypress Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

Mary M. Szymanski
Elkton - Mary M. (Kavanaugh) Szymanski, 84, passed away on Thursday, August 23, 2018.

Mary is survived by her children, Anmarie Heisler, James (Gael), John (Christine), Kevin (Mary), Karen, Timothy (Marc), Christopher (Magdalena), Matthew (Trish); her brother, Rev. John Kavanaugh; 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her son, Joseph.

Milton S. Wahl
Wilmington - Age 90 of Wilmington, DE passed away peacefully August 30, 2018.

Born in Wilmington to the late Julius and Bella Wahl; he attended P.S. DuPont High School, the University of Delaware, and earned his M.D. degree at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Indiana. While doing his residency in otolaryngology in New York, he married Gail Rubenstein of Wilmington. They subsequently moved to Florida where he was a captain in the United States Air Force practicing otolaryngology at Eglin Air Force Base. In 1959, they returned to Wilmington where he was in private practice for 20 years. He was particularly fond of working at St. Francis Hospital and also enjoyed treating children.

He was an avid racquet sports enthusiast; playing tennis in the warmer months and squash in the winter. He was the owner of multiple standardbred race horses, including Ricky Joe and Cajun Brother. He loved spending many hours at Brandywine Raceway and nearby

MORE ON NEXT PAGE
Winterset Farm. Racing was a family activity which included frequent travel to tracks from Washington, DC to New York. It was a very sad day when Brandwywine Raceway closed in 1995. Milton also loved classical music, especially chamber music. He would always arrive early to get a front row seat.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Health Center at Stonegates in Greenville, DE for the excellent care he received in his last two months. We are also grateful for the support of Ray Holback during the last few years of Milton’s life.

Predeceased by siblings, Robert, Betty, and Mervin; he is survived by his wife, Gail (Rubenstein) and children Jeffrey (wife Linda), Beth (husband Jack), and Stephen (wife Susan). He also has 6 grandchildren; Daniel, Michael, Rachel, Kathryn, Hayley, and Hannah.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to The American Heart Association, P.O. Box 1520, Chicago, IL 60693 (heart.org) or Temple Beth Emeth, 300 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802 (bethemethde.org).

SAMUEL WENZER
Wilmington - Age 95 of Wilmington, DE and Delray Beach, FL, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 4, 2018 surrounded by his family.

Sam was born December 24, 1922 in New Brunswick, NJ and raised in Highland Park, NJ. He was a WWII veteran, serving in the 3rd Army in the European Theatre. Sam graduated from Highland Park High School and Temple University. He was a lifelong employee for the railroad, starting with Pennsylvania Railroad, then Penn Central and retiring from Conrail.

Sam was a volunteer for Jewish Family Services and other local organizations in Wilmington, DE. He traveled the world with his wife, later with his grandson. Sam also enjoyed railroad memorabilia, talking with and visiting friends and above all else, his family.

Always the athlete, Sam loved golf (playing into his 90s), tennis, basketball and baseball. He was thrilled to participate in the Phillies Dream Week during Spring Training when he was 72 years old.

Sam was preceded in death by his wife, the love of his life, Helen. He is survived by his two children, Kenneth Wenzer of Takoma Park, MD and Carrie Wenzer Littman of Wilmington, DE; two grandchildren, Evan Littman and Jada Littman Eldrich (Samuel) who affectionately called him Sampa; and the rest of his adoring friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Honor Flight Network (www.honorflight.org), Siegel JCC (www.siegeljcc.org) or Congregation Beth Emeth (www.bethemethde.org)
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018
Simchat Torah Celebration
7:40 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018
Candlelight Dinner
5:45 – 7:30 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Join us for a Candlelight Dinner with Joyful Noise! Enjoy fabulous music and a delicious dinner. Cost: $8/60 and better, $10/Under 60. Dinner will be served at 6 PM. Entertainment begins at 6:30 PM. Register at the front desk or by calling (302) 478-5660 by 9/28. For questions, contact Karen Ballard at karenballard@siegeljcc.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018
Campaign Opening Event and Celebration with Charlie Harary
7 – 9 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Celebrate the kickoff of our 2019 Annual Campaign with featured speaker, Charlie Harary, author of Unlocking Greatness and host of #TheAskCharlieShow. Cost is $18 includes light snacks/dessert and coffee (all dietary laws observed). Register by 9/28 at Shalomdelaware.org/Charlie.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2018
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.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018
Simchat Torah Celebration
10 AM -- Services Begin
11 AM -- Deli Kiddush
12 PM -- Children's Program
12:15 PM -- 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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018
Einstein Torah Rerolling
8 – 9 AM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
All are welcome to celebrate as Einstein students and faculty mark Simchat Torah’s ending and beginning of the Torah reading by opening a Torah scroll all the way and exploring its contents. For more information, please contact Rabbi Jeremy Winaker, Head of School at 302-478-5026 or jeremy.winaker@einsteinday.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018
Campaign Opening Event and Celebration with Charlie Harary
7 – 9 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Celebrate the kickoff of our 2019 Annual Campaign with featured speaker, Charlie Harary, author of Unlocking Greatness and host of #TheAskCharlieShow. Cost is $18 includes light snacks/dessert and coffee (all dietary laws observed). Register by 9/28 at Shalomdelaware.org/Charlie.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018
Youth Social Guide (K-5): Movie Night
7 – 9 PM
Siegel JCC
Enjoy a movie night with friends on the big screen! Cost: $5/Members, $10/Non-members. For questions, email Becky Stahl at beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2018
PJ Pumpkin Patch
11 AM – 12 PM
Bellevue Arts Center Field
Bellevue State Park
Rain Location: Siegel JCC Auditorium
Welcome Fall with PJ Library Story Time and Pumpkin Decorating with Einstein’s Art Teacher. All Ages Welcome! For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Kornblum, Admissions Director at 302-478-5026 or lisa.kornblum@einsteinday.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018
Open House
5 – 7 PM
Siegel JCC
Come see what the J is all about; join us for an Open House. Refer a friend, and you’ll get a month of membership FREE! For questions, contact Katie Glazier at katieglazier@siegeljcc.org.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2018
Fall BBQ Dinner
5 – 7 PM
Siegel JCC Courtyard
Join us for a Fall BBQ Dinner! Enjoy a la carte barbecue in the courtyard. For questions, email Karen Ballard at karenballard@siegeljcc.org.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018
Shalom Baby and Albert Einstein Academy Present: Baby Einstein - Music with Mr. Shelley
9:30-10:30 AM
Albert Einstein Academy - Music Room
Please join us for Music and Story Time with ECC’s Music Teacher, Mr. Royce Shelley.

This NEW Monthly Music Class will meet the SECOND Thursday of each month. This FREE class welcomes little ones (ages 0-3) and their caregivers for stories, music, and fun! (Strollers should enter through the Siegel JCC main entrance). For more information or to RSVP, please contact Lisa Kornblum, Admissions Director at 302-478-5026 or lisa.kornblum@einsteinday.org.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2018
Shabbat Dinner for Teens
6 – 10:30 PM
The Flikshtein Residence
Enjoy a relaxing and fun gourmet Shabbos dinner! Back by popular demand, the Flikshtein’s will be hosting an exclusive teens Shabbos dinner with all the trimmings. Celebrate the gift of Shabbat with friends and peers, see Rabbi Motti rap, ask any question to stump the Rabbi and just have a great time! For more info find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware or go to CTeen.com/Delaware.
You can also contact Rochel, CTeen Director at: Rochel@ChabadDE.com. Please RSVP at ChabadDE.com/register.

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

INNOVATIVE THEN
Celebrating 100 Years of Excellence

INNOVATIVE NOW

Tower Hill School
JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE
REGISTRATION AT
OCT 3
NOV 4
DEC 6
9am
1pm
9am
302-657-8350
TOWERHILL.ORG/OPENHOUSE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018
Sunday Family Funday
10 AM – 12 PM
Siegel JCC Gymnasium
Join us in the Gymnasium for fun for the whole family! For children up to 5 years of age with adult supervision. For questions, contact Beth Ann Short at bethannshort@sigeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018
Delaware Jewish Teen Philanthropy Initiative
12:30 – 2:30 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Topic: Introduction to Philanthropy and Event Prep. Join with your friends to raise funds and give back to the Delaware Jewish Community. $18 registration fee.
For more information, contact Philippa Miller at philippa@shalomdel.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018
JFS Movies That Matter: Mental Health – The Invisible Experience
2 – 6 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Join JFS for our 2nd annual film & speaker series event. Free to attend!
For more information, visit: jfsdelaware.org/events/moviesthatmatter
Register at: jfsmoviesthatmatter.eventbrite.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018
JFS Movies That Matter: Mental Health – The Invisible Experience
1 – 4 PM (doors open at 12:30)
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Join JFS for our 2nd annual film & speaker series event. Free to attend!
For more information, visit: jfsdelaware.org/events/moviesthatmatter
Register at: jfsmoviesthatmatter.eventbrite.com

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2018
Community Service for Teens: Toy Drive Preparation
Siegel JCC
7 – 8:30 PM
Let’s get together to prepare for a wonderful toy drive for the children with terminal illnesses and bring them some Chanukah light! This Toy Drive is in collaboration with Chai Lifeline and the children and families they support. If you would like to donate a new toy at one of our drop-off points, please contact one the contacts below. For more information on Chai Lifeline please visit chailifeline.org. For more information about CTeen and a calendar of events go to www.CTeen.com/Delaware or find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware. Contact Rochel, CTeen Director at Rochel@ChabadDE.com for more info.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018
Brunch & LEARN: Genetics Symposium
10 AM – Noon
Siegel JCC Auditorium
Speakers on genetic disorders, especially common to the Jewish community. Free for families through seniors. Be informed. Free and open to the public. Free babysitting provided. RSVP needed for babysitting. Sponsored by the JCRC of Jewish Federation of Delaware in cooperation with JFS, Hillel, JCC, Albert Einstein Academy, Hillel, and Chabad at UD. For information, please contact Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, JCRC Director at ellen@shalomdel.org.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2018
FILM: My Dear Children
4 PM
Siegel JCC Auditorium
The showing of this Holocaust film is being sponsored by the JCRC, HEC, and the Jewish Studies Department at UD Hillel.
A good ole’ fashioned secular Jewish couple each sat down to a slice of pizza in a non-descript Manhattan dive one day, and had a conversation about being Jewish.

They reminisced about their Jewish upbringing and what stood out and what didn’t and what most profoundly marked their identities. They spoke proudly to be Jewish, and never once expressed regret or not feeling Jewish enough.

As a mother and father of three boys, they were approaching a moment in their parenthood when a decision would need to be made as to how to celebrate their first son’s coming of age. They were sure their son’s bar mitzvah would not be a traditional service and enormous celebration, for this didn’t quite feel natural for their family, so they were in search of ideas that would still align with their concentrated connection to their people and heritage.

But the question of what this would actually look like loomed.

When at that moment (as a long stretch of melted mozzarella ignored my mouth and fell to my chin) my husband turns to me and says: I know what we should do for his bar mitzvah ceremony. . .

We should go to Israel.

And two years later, we did just that.

The journey getting there was a pothole-filled obstacle course. We had little idea what we were doing. We Googled, we mulled, we noted, we spoke. About everything from our own ideas of the Bar Mitzvah Ceremony, to common courses of study, to what it means to be a Jewish family in the 21st century, to how much it would cost; the bar mitzvah banter was all-consuming, as most everyone knows it can be. Until finally, we decided to have local Reconstructionist Rabbi, Micah-Becker Klein, teach our son how to play Matisyahu’s, One Day on the ukulele.

Talk about going out of bounds.

Of course, bar/bat mitzvah ceremonies are evolving: “The sociological forces underpinning much of modern life—feminism, egalitarianism, individualism, and assimilation—are reshaping the modern bar/bat mitzvah ceremony and sometimes raising difficult questions for parents.” (Contemporary Issues in Bar/Bat Mitzvah, myjewishlearning.com, MJL)

For us, it’s been the reshaping bit that’s been enlightening. To understand that the backbone of this ceremony could be strengthened by the conversations our son contributes to it, drove a new purpose: that the bar mitzvah ceremony fit the bar mitzvah.

In the same MJL article, the author explores the trends in contemporary bnei mitzvah by acknowledging the social force of individualism and how in many progressive synagogues the individual, humanistic expression of spirituality is leading what used to be a focus on communal rights and responsibility.

It was not our intention to ignore the very important concept of responsibility and ownership to which the bar mitzvah must traditionally accept in this coming of age, but it was our intention to have him express, in his own right, how he would step up to that charge.

With a mindset on visiting his homeland, would he explore the sounds of music and prayer developed from the history of our people? Yes. Would he learn to ride the wave of the ukulele revival, considering the influence Israeli music has had on American music? Yes. Would he develop a meaningful relationship with a musically-minded Rabbi who would later help prepare his D’var Torah and answer direct questions on the parsha, Shoftim, from the fifth book of Deuteronomy? Yes. Would he plant a tree for Peace? Yes. Would he accept the gift of a 74-year-old tallit unearthed by his grandfather from his very own coming of age? Yes. Would he stand, head held high, overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem, a city whose history can date back to over 3000 years, and smile proudly to be Jewish?

Yes.

Regardless of the choice we made together to push the boundaries of tradition, or the choice another family might make to celebrate via the established customs of our ancestors, neither is right nor wrong. The choice of how we pass on our heritage to our children is not only through an acknowledgement of lineage, but through the guidance of our hearts.

Israel called to us, and so we listened.
Every day of every year, Jewish Federation of Delaware works with local, national, and international agencies to transform lives and deliver hope, dignity, and comfort to people in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley, in Israel and around the world.

Please support the Annual Campaign and Create A Jewish Legacy so Federation, in collaboration with our local agencies and overseas partners, can continue improving our world.

Today, Tomorrow and TOGETHER.
OCTOBER 17–NOVEMBER 4, 2018

This devastatingly funny show follows a day in the life of Sam Pelczowski, an out-of-work actor who mans the red-hot reservation line at Manhattan’s number-one restaurant. Coercion, threats, bribes, histrionics—a cast of desperate callers will stop at nothing in their zeal to land a prime reservation or the right table. Amid the barrage, Sam’s got his own needs to contend with. While juggling scheming socialites, name-dropping wannabes, fickle celebrities, and egomaniacal bosses, can he manage to look out for himself?

TICKETS AS LOW AS $25!
Group (10+) & student discounts available

A RARE COMEDY WITH A FULL SERVING OF LAUGHTER

“immensely entertaining”
—The New York Times

“hilarious”
—Time Out New York

“fully committed”
directed by Kathryn Macmillan

by becky mode

This organization is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com

DELAWARE THEATRE COMPANY

200 WATER STREET / WILMINGTON, DE 19801 / 302.594.1100 / DELAWARETHEATRE.ORG