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ISRAELI AMBASSADOR RON DERMER

Please join us for an extremely rare and extraordinary opportunity to listen to Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

RON DERMER is an American-born Israeli political consultant and diplomat who serves as the Israeli Ambassador to the United States (October 2013-present). He previously served as Israel's economic envoy to the United States from 2005 to 2008, a position requiring him to give up his American citizenship, and subsequently served as senior adviser to current Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for four years.

Dermer is considered Netanyahu's closest adviser and strategic consultant. According to The Jerusalem Post, he "runs much of the interference with the White House, and is intimately involved in the diplomatic process with the Palestinians." Ron Dermer was born and raised in Miami Beach, Florida. He earned a degree in Finance and Management from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) from Oxford University. For three years, he was a columnist for the Jerusalem Post.

In 2004, Ron co-authored with Natan Sharansky the best-selling book, *The Case* For Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror, which has been translated into ten languages.

He is married to Rhoda and has five children.

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William Wagner JFD President Seth J. Katzen
Chief Executive Officer

The Hanukkah story tells how a small amount of oil lasted eight days, a miracle. During this time of year we reflect and rededicate ourselves to ensuring the flame of our people will continue to burn bright.

Eight Days and Nights.
Eight Community Lights.

We light a candle on the first night of Hanukkah for **Albert Einstein Academy**

- the only Jewish day school in Delaware
- fostering inquisitive learners, critical thinkers and dynamic leaders.

On the second night of Hanukkah we light a candle for the **Siegel JCC** and their **Early Childhood Center** who nurture Jewish belonging and encourage social, physical, and intellectual growth in an environment guided by Jewish values and culture.

We light a candle on the third night of Hanukkah for Jewish Family Services of Delaware who provide critical, care management and community education, guided by Jewish values, to strengthen the well-being of the individual, family and community.

On the fourth night of Hanukkah we light a candle for **The Kutz Home** and **Lodge Lane Assisted Living** who recognize that growing older is a special time in life. They provide a nurturing environment with sensitivity and compassion steeped in Jewish tradition and values.

We light a candle on the fifth night of Hanukkah for the **University of Delaware Hillel** and **UD Chabad** who pave the way for students to have meaningful Jewish experiences. With 2,000 Jewish students on campus – 10% of the undergraduate population – UD Hillel and UD Chabad are focal points of Jewish student community on campus.

On the sixth night of Hanukkah we light a candle for Israel and our overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel; Partnership2Gether (P2G) including our sister city in Arad; the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC); Ethiopian National Project (ENP) and the Negev Funding Coalition (NFC).

We light a candle on the seventh night of Hanukkah for our seven synagogues throughout the First State – Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth, Chabad Lubavitch of Delaware, Congregation Beth Emeth, Congregation Beth Shalom, Congregation Beth Sholom, Seaside Jewish Community and Temple Beth El.

And on the eighth night of Hanukkah we light a candle for a strong **Annual Campaign** to meet today's needs and to **Create A Jewish Legacy** that ensures our Jewish future.

The impact of the Jewish Federation of Delaware is extraordinary. Together with our partners we help care for people in need, nurture and sustain the Jewish community, and respond to emergencies here in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley, in Israel and around the world.

Thanks to your continued and generous support, We Are Stronger TOGETHER.

The Officers, Board of Directors and staff of the Jewish Federation of Delaware

ON THE ROAD WITH THE JCRC

By Jennifer Steinberg

JCRC Co-Chair

One of the things that I love about the field of community relations is the opportunity to attend interesting programs outside of Delaware in order to bring news ideas to Delaware.

I've said it in the past and I'll say it again - Delaware presents unique opportunities to make things happen and as I meet others involved in this field, I can't help but see the possibilities for our community.

Last spring, I was introduced to the work of AJC (American Jewish Committee) which has a regional office in Center City Philadelphia. I was invited to spend two days in Philadelphia with other ACCESS (young Jewish professional) at Advocacy Day. Not only did I meet new people from all over the country who were also interested in global Jewish advocacy but I got to develop relationships with the AJC staff who are doing important work a little more than 30 minutes from my home here in Wilmington. That day of meeting diplomats led me to attending AJC's June Global Forum in Washington DC where I attended an Iftar at the home of the Indonesian Ambassador. heard foreign leaders and dignitaries speak about their countries relationship with Israel, and lobbied on Capitol Hill. Sometimes, reading the news can make you feel like Israel and the global Jewish community are alone in the world and that makes community relations work feel like it's about constantly being on defense. I'm not suggesting that there are not enemies out there but I've seen the power of relationship building at work. Since the Spring, Dana Berman, our community shlicha and I have visited AJC in Philadelphia for programs like a "Pluralism in Action" lunch and a breakfast featuring a senior Pew researcher speaking about the "Muslims in America" study. AJC has also visited

Wilmington to bring us a program on religious pluralism in Israel. I know this is the kind of programming that interests me but as the co-chair of the JCRC, I need to know if there is an audience here in Delaware for this kind of dialogue and advocacy work.

Another Jewish activism organization close to my heart is the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) who brings together national and local Jewish agencies to mobilize grassroots Jewish advocacy. In June, I attended their spring meeting which included a one-day symposium on the Six-Day War and one day of domestic policy discussion. Their fall meeting included panels on strategic challenges and pluralism in Israel, the Jewish response to white supremacy, and discussions of US domestic policy initiatives like the DREAM act and criminal justice reform. Having these important policy conversations through a Jewish lens always energizes me and gives me hope that our own Jewish Federation of Delaware JCRC can use some of these policy issues to expand the scope of what our Jewish community advocates for, further engaging our community in the work of our JCRC.

Our recent community study reported that 77% say it is very important for JFD to advocate for the Jewish community to the broader Delaware community. While the official role of our JCRC is to serve as the public affairs arm of Jewish Federation of Delaware, working with government leaders and the media as an advocate for Israel and also bringing in speakers on Israel and issues of importance to the Jewish community, we are also charged with participating in programs and coalitions to enhance good relations among different religious and cultural groups. It is the "Community Relation" in Jewish Community Relations Committee that our community says they want and my goal for our JCRC is for it to continue to seek out new partners and make new relationships to help our Federation answer the call to action from our community.



By Ellisha Caplan

Sitting in my seat, a few rows away from one of my favorite authors at Jewish Federation's Women of Wisdom event Wednesday, November 1, I was struck by what an amazing Jewish community we live in, and how fortunate we are to get to come together for nights like WOW.

Over 200 women of every age (truly!) laughed and related to Jennifer Weiner's self-deprecating recollections of her days as a young journalist-turned-novelist, and at the "Beyonce fan" that she revealed was helping her make it through a menopause moment. We listened (and probably related in our own ways) to the stories about how she has stepped into the fray of gender politics by standing up for herself and other female writers who have been ignored by a male-dominated literary community.

It was so much fun, so much laughter, and such a much-needed night with friends.

Perhaps the most WOW moment of the evening, though, was when the WOW Event Co-chairs, Shelly Mand, Nancy Crain and Susie Zaslavsky; Women's Philanthropy leadership, Jennifer Steinberg, Karen Jacobs and Arlene Wilson; and Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Barbara Blumberg and Lisa Dadone-Weiner stood before the crowd and shared why they give to Federation.

There's a good reason Jewish Federation's Women of Wisdom event has grown to include over 200 women from Delaware and the Brandywine Valley—every event is truly remarkable and memorable. I'll remember this most recent event not because I got to hear Jennifer Weiner make puns about feminine hygiene products, but because of the reasons these women that I already know and like made their decisions to give to Jewish Federation of Delaware.

MORE ON PAGE 9

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FED FOCUS DID YOU KNOW



PJ Library sends free, award-winning Jewish children's books to your home every month, books that celebrate Jewish values and culture. Families with kids ages 6 months through 8 years old with Judaism as part of their lives, are welcome to sign up. PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, whatever your background, knowledge, or family make-up, or observance may be.

PJ Our Way (PJOW) is for children ages 9 through 11 years old. They get to choose their own free chapter books each month!

Locally, PJ Library of Delaware and the Brandywine Valley is made possible through a partnership with the Jewish Federation of Delaware and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. PJ Library was started in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley in 2011. Our PJOW program began in 2016.

It's been ten years since the Harold Grinspoon Foundation first sent Jewish books to 200 children in Western Massachusetts. PJ Library is modeled after Dolly Parton's Imagination Library[2] program.

PJ Library has grown to now send free books to more than 180,000 subscribers throughout the United States and Canada. Today, PJ Library is an expanding global community linked by shared stories and values that spans twelve countries across five continents. There is PJ Library in Australia, the UK, Mexico, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Uruguay, Singapore, and Russia. In Israel, PJ Library's sister program, Sifriyat Pijama, distributes books in Hebrew throughout preschools and daycare centers to more than 340,000 children.

Since our starting date, we have had the privilege to send books to some 580 children in our community. Currently, we are sending over 430 books to children in our community monthly.



Here in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley PJ Library does more than just send books. We are here to help facilitate bringing our wonderful community together. We offer programs for our littlest community members all the way through age 11.

We have a welcome gift for new babies in our community through our Shalom Baby program. We also have an annual Shalom Baby event for children age 2 and under. Stay tuned for that event in May!

Our Tiny Tots program is a weekly program for children under 3 and their caregivers. We hold this program every Friday at 10:30 AM in the Einstein Academy Kindergarten room. Come join us and bring your friends (its free and open to the community). This program is free play for the children and social time for the caregivers. We read stories and also sometimes have special activities.

For PJ Library subscribers, we have several different programs throughout the year. We love to have Shabbat programs like our Tot Shabbat Pajama Party coming up on December 16th at 11 AM at Temple Beth El. We will be having a Chanukah dance party in our PJs!

We also love to do programs around the different Jewish holidays. On December 10th 11 AM at Albert Einstein Academy we are having a Latke Fest. This event is for ages 2-6 (with siblings welcome). Both of these events are free and open to the community.

PJ Library also hosts special events like father/child night. Stay tuned for this event in early 2018!

New this year, PJ Our Way will have some programs especially for their age. We have started a local PJOW Design Team. This team is for PJOW subscribers that are interested in learning more about writing, blogging, podcasting, making videos, and more. It is not too late to sign up. Our next meeting is November 30th at 6 PM in the JCC Senior Lounge.

All of these programs are a great success thanks to our amazing PJ Library Parent Committee! Ellisha Caplan, Wendi Ufberg, Liz Platsis, Phili Miller, Alexandra Pratz, Ilicia Shaver, Svetlana Gorelik and our new members, Julia Forester, Taylor Clearfield, and Rachel Gottesman—thank you all so much! If you are interested in getting involved with our parent committee, please contact me at jamye@shalomdel.org.





TO SIGN UP FOR PJ LIBRARY:

www.pjlibrary.org/enroll-in-a-community

TO SIGN UP FOR PJOW: www.pjourway.org

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FED FOCUS

ONE BIG WOW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

They give to Federation because of the friendships they've found. They give because of the opportunities that Jewish Federation has provided them and their families to meet new people and learn new things. They give because a gift to the Jewish Federation supports Jews in need here at home, in Israel, and around the world. They give because someone they know asked them to. They give because they grew up in Delaware, their parents grew up in Delaware, and supporting Delaware's Jewish community today is also honoring that legacy. They give because they have seen how Federation connects families to each other and to the greater Jewish community.

I found myself nodding along in agreement with their reasons, and proud

to be in a room with 200 other women who have made similar commitments to the Jewish Federation's 2018 Annual Campaign. More than 50% of the gifts raised from the Annual Campaign come from Women's Gifts—over \$800,000 annually. As a part of the evening's program, Lauren Danneman, Jennifer Steinberg, and Sissy Aerenson, three women who have committed to an Annual Campaign contribution of \$5,000 or more, were presented with their Lion of Judah pins. 48 women made a first-time or increased gift to the Annual Campaign when they attended WOW this fall, adding almost \$8,000 in new or increased gifts to support Jewish life in Delaware and around the world in 2018.

WOW.



Thank

Out

to everyone who helped make this our most successful wow Event ever!

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We Are Stronger **TOGETHER**

Ginger Weiss

JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE Women's Philanthropy presents



and your nights be filled with light

JFS wishes everyone in our community a Happy Hannukah

What will your Jewish legacy be?



We have made a legacy commitment for our daughter. We see it as our obligation to insure that this community, from which we derive so much, continues to thrive.

~ Gina and Josh Schoenberg

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.

ShalomDelaware.org/Legacy



DELAWARE

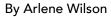
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For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact the Jewish Federation of Delaware at (302) 427-2100 or JFDinfo@ShalomDel.org.

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CREATING A CHARITABLE **GIVING STRATEGY**

For many of us, the New Year signifies a fresh chance to align our spending with our priorities.

If charitable giving is an important part of your budget, now is a good time to take a step back and reevaluate your giving strategy. There are a myriad of causes and organizations you can support, which can leave even the bestintentioned philanthropist confused and overwhelmed. The following steps can help ensure your money is being used effectively and efficiently by the organizations you choose to support.

STEP 1:

Clarify your own values and preferences. Before you reach for your checkbook, ask yourself a few questions. What causes are important to you? Is there a particular demographic or group of people you would like to support? Would you prefer to give to a local, regional, national or global organization? As a donor, what do you hope to see in the organization's leadership or structure? The answers to these questions can help you make a list of charities that will allow you to align your financial resources with your personal values - making your donation even more meaningful.

STEP 2: Consider each organization's mission.

Once you have determined which organizations meet your criteria, research each charity to make sure their programs, mission and goals match your expectations. Consider meeting with an executive or local leader to hear about the charity's strategy and their impact on the community first-hand. During the meeting, ask about the organization's short- and long-term goals as well as how they measure success. You want to be sure that the charity is making progress toward achieving its goals.

STEP 3:

Investigate each charitable organization's financial health. Look into how each donation is used and what percentage of the money goes directly to the cause. Fundraising and administrative expenses help the charity do its work, however you should be cautious about organizations with higher overhead costs. Ask the charity for a copy of their most recent annual report and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990. These forms outline the charity's budget allocation and financial plans, and can provide you with insight into how your money is used to make the intended impact.

If you'd like an objective perspective on a charity's financial health, fundraising practices, day-to-day efficiency and

accountability standards, look at how watch dog groups evaluate the organization. BBB Wise Giving Alliance (www.give.org), GuideStar (www. guidestar.org) and Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org) are several national groups that offer unbiased evaluations.

STEP 4: Make giving part of your financial plan.

As you figure out your donation strategy, consider meeting with a financial planner or tax advisor who can help you select the most appropriate donation method for your financial situation. These professionals can also work with you to create a strategy for ongoing contributions or to make giving part of your legacy. Keep in mind that there may be legal or tax considerations, depending on the amount and form of your donation (i.e. check, investment donation, etc.).

By taking the time to thoroughly evaluate charitable organizations, you'll give yourself the peace of mind that your money is being used wisely, effectively and for the purposes you intended.

Arlene C. Wilson is a Financial Advisor and Vice President with Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware. She specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for 34 years. To contact her: Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. 1011 Centre Rd, Suite 100, Wilmington, De 19805, email: arlene.wilson@ampf.com, telephone: 302.468.8211; website: http://ameripriseadvisors.com/arlenewilson.

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FED FOCUS

Jaidy Schweers, Jewish VOICE Editor, Federation President Bill Wagner, and Nicole Terranova, Events and Marketing Coordinator, accept Federation's four FACE Awards



PHOTO CREDIT: AFP BRANDYWINE CHAPTER

JEWISH FEDERATION OF DELAWARE RECOGNIZED WITH FOUR FACE AWARDS By JFD Staff

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Brandywine Chapter held its National Philanthropy Day on November 15th at Chase Center on the Riverfront. The theme of "Inspire - Educate - Connect" was delivered by relevant speakers including the Honorable Jack Markell, AARP Foundation's Lisa Marsh Ryerson and Ashley Biden. There were also a choice of education sessions with relevant topics to enhance attendee experiences.

At the luncheon, Philanthropy & Communications Award winners were also recognized. Jewish Federation of Delaware received four Fundraising and Communications Excellence (FACE) Awards including Annual Appeal, Annual Report, Branding and Website categories. Federation was the only multi-category award winner in this year's competition.

JFD RECEIVES TWO GOLD MARCOM AWARDS

Jewish Federation of Delaware announced it is the proud recipient of two (2) MarCom Awards in their 2017 international awards competition recognizing outstanding creative achievement by marketing and communication professionals. Federation received Gold Awards for its 2016-2017 Report to the Community and special publication, Shalom Delaware.

Judges are industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talents exceed a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry. Entries come from throughout the United



By JFD Staff

States, Canada and numerous other countries. Gold Awards are presented to those entries judged to exceed the high standards of the industry norm.

"Winning multiple entries in the 2017 MarCom Awards is a wonderful achievement and a testament of our organization's ongoing commitment to excellence," stated Seth J. Katzen, Chief **Executive Officer of Jewish Federation** of Delaware. "Federation appreciates having the ongoing support and partnership between our lay leadership and professional staff who work tirelessly in improving the world. We Are Stronger TOGETHER."



FIND YOUR LIGHT

And share it with those who need it most. You have the capacity. Just like the candles you add to the menorah, you can bring light, warmth and comfort to those who are struggling without them. * Your gift to Jewish Federation delivers relief and brightens the lives of thousands of people at home, in Israel and in more than 70 countries worldwide. * Find your light. Federation will help it shine.



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JEWISH SCENE



On Wednesday, November 1, Federation held its most successful WOW Event ever featuring #1 New York Times Best-Selling author, Jennifer Weiner. Thank you to the amazing committee, sponsors, and attendees for an unforgettable evening of community-building.











- 1 Susie Zaslavsky, Jennifer Fisher, Jodi Mickelberg, Wendi Ufberg, Kimberly Felzer, and Jennifer Weiner PHOTO BY CHRISTY FELMING
- 2 Sophie Crain and Jennifer Weiner PHOTO BY RACHEL GORDON
- **3** Berta Kerr and Regina Alonzo

PHOTO BY RACHEL GORDON

- 4 Janie Truitt, Dana Walters, and Kerry Welsh PHOTO BY RACHEL GORDON
- 5 Laura Sturgeon, Meredith Rosenthal, and Iris Vinokur PHOTO BY RACHEL GORDON
- 6 Suzanne Grant, Jennifer Weiner, and Karen Mengden PHOTO BY CHRISTY FELMING
- **7** Jennifer Steinberg, Lisa Dadone-Weiner, and Susie Zaslavsky

PHOTO BY CHRISTY FELMING

- 8 Liz O'Neil, Nancy Crain, and Shara Bubes
 PHOTO BY CHRISTY FELMING
- 9 Women's Philanthropy Leadership with Jennifer Weiner

PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS

10 Audience at WOW PHOTO BY CHRISTY FELMING











JEWISH SCENE (

JFNA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PHOTO CREDIT: JFNA

Delaware was well-represented again at this year's Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly (GA), November 12-14, 2017, in Los Angeles, CA.





1 Robin Kauffman Saran, Wendy Berger with Harold Grinspoon and Winnie Sandler Grinspoon in front of PJ Banner at GA 2 UD Hillel with Hillel International's Eric Fingerhut and JFNA President and CEO, Jerry Silverman

PJ LIBRARY DOES YOGA

PHOTO CREDIT: JAMYE COLE

PJ Library kids had so much fun learning the Hebrew Alphabet through Yoga and Crafts with Hebrew teacher Sylvia Wagman.







- 1 Coloring the Hebrew Letters
- 2 Hebrew Alphabet Yoga Poses



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JEWISH SCENE

PJ OUR WAY DESIGN TEAM

PHOTOS BY JAMYE COLE

We started our own local PJ Our Way Design Team. The PJOW kids are going to learn about and produce their own writing, blogging, publishing, podcasting and more.





- 1 The PJOW kids had a great time creating their own super hero
- 2 The kids watched videos created by the PJOW National Design team to get some inspiration

JFS: MOVIES THAT MATTER

PHOTOS BY JAMYE COLE

JFS in partnership with the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington hosted *Movies That Matter*, a film series which raised awareness and expanded the conversations related to issues affecting humanity, social justice, tolerance, racism, and prejudice.







- 1 Dr. Jill Biden, Lourena Gboeah PHOTO BY DONNA HARLEV
- 2 Lisa Driban, Jackie Ettinger, Rachel Harad PHOTO BY JFS STAFF
- 3 Karen Commeret, Lourena Gboeah, Senator Chris Coons, Basha Silverman, Sophie-Marie Namugenyi PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS
- 4 Sadiq Mohammadi PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS









KUTZ HOME & LODGE LANE

PHOTOS BY ESTHER STIESKA

- 1 The Kutz Home and Lodge Lane staff enjoyed a beautiful Fall day participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's
- 2 Lodge Lane sponsored the "Puppy Tent" where pooches were offered bandanas, treats, and water
- 3 Gathering at the Walk to End Alzheimer's
- 4 Even the pups got involved













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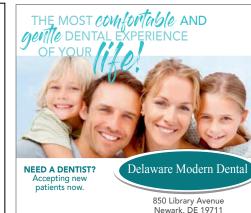


Brandywine River views from this beautiful 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath luxury condominium. Upgraded kitchen with high-end appliances, top tier granite counters and imported tile backsplash. Laundry room with storage. Built-ins throughout. Granite and marble counters in bathrooms, stone showers. Two assigned parking spots and 5 storage lockers in garage. The Pointe at Brandywine Park offers a fitness center, club house, pool and security. Convenience and amenities without city taxes. Offered at \$869,000.

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JEWISH SCENE

J IN ISRAEL PHOTOS BY JCC STAFF

Nine members of the staff of the Siegel JCC traveled to Israel for a seminar for JCC professionals from October 27th-November 9th. The trip included staff members from six medium-size JCCs from across the country. The focus of the trip was to experience the beauty of Israel, understand Jewish collective memory, strengthen community, and bring it back to the J.















1 Ivy Harlev, Wendi Weingartner, Carrie Kee, and Anna Saul at Makhtesh Ramon 2 Carrie Kee picking sweet potatoes with Leket, a national food bank 3 Katie Glazier, Ivy Harlev, Peggy Newsome (Weinstein JCC Richmond) and Anna Saul at Har Bental in the Golan Heights 4 Josh Leviton, Wendi Weingartner, Ivy Harlev, and Zack Horowitz near the Jaffa Gate 5 Delivering community messages at the Western Wall 6 The Siegel JCC making personal and professional connections in Arad







SEASIDE CELEBRATION PHOTO BY DAVID UDOFF



Consecration Ceremony at Seaside Jewish Community on October 15th

- 1 Siegel JCC Canyon Country Trip, October 2017 PHOTO BY DAN BRODY
- 2 Chanukah Craft Fun PHOTO BY JULIA FORESTER

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JEWISH SCENE

FALL FUN AT EINSTEIN ACADEMY

1 Einstein 3rd and 4th Grade on a field trip to Longwood Gardens

PHOTO BY EINSTEIN STAFF

- 2 Sam P and Malcolm H at Einstein's Torah Re-rolling to celebrate Simchat Torah
- PHOTO BY FINSTEIN STAFF
- 3 Einstein with Sharon Kurfuerst, COO at Christiana Care, for Delaware Principal for a Day

PHOTO BY AYELET SEED









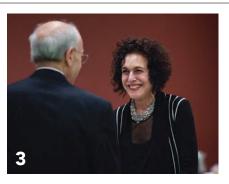
TEMPLE BETH EL







- 1 Congregants browse an unscrolled Torah after an evening of music and dancing to celebrate Simchat Torah PHOTO CREDIT: FINNIGAN MADISON
- 2 Rabbi Jacob Lieberman and Shyya Prybutok shake the *Iulav* and *etrog* in the Sukkah PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON FULLERTON PHOTOGRAPHY
- 3 NYC Artist Flash Rosenberg entertained at Men's Club Breakfast with a show called The Riddle of Hebrew School or How Getting in Trouble for Talking is Now My Art PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON FULLERTON PHOTOGRAPHY
- 4 Walkers enjoy beautiful weather for the 18th Annual Scott Mackler 5k PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON FULLERTON PHOTOGRAPHY





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LIGHT TO MEET THE DARKNESS

By Rabbi Jeremy Winaker Head of School, Albert Einstein Academy



Einstein students in Star (of Judah) Wars December 2013 PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN WEITZ

In trailers for Star Wars: The Last Jedi, Supreme Leader Snoke ominously declares, "Darkness rises and light to meet it;" while Luke Skywalker surprisingly states, "It's time for the Jedi to end."

If not the Jedi, who will be the light? Audiences will begin to find out Thursday, December 14th, when the movie opens.

A different, Jewish answer will also be presented to our community on the same night when Einstein presents its evening Chanukah show, Star (of Judah) Wars. Chanukah itself is a holiday of light at a dark time of year. We light the chanukiyah, ideally in the window, to shine lights ever brighter each night of the holiday. We light candles to remember the miracle of the oil found in the Temple lasting just long enough for more to be made. You might think that the answer to "Who will be the light?" is Jews lighting Chanukah candles. The message of Einstein's show is that lighting candles is not enough.

Let's face it, there are plenty of Christmas lights to light up the dark nights of winter's arrival. While Chanukah came first, the menorah does not hold a candle to strings of LED's in a variety of colors outlining trees, windows, and houses. To be the light

that will meet the darkness, something other than physical lights are required.

To meet darkness, not just the dark, we need a spiritual light like the Force in Star Wars, only real. The author of Star (of Judah) Wars, Meridith Shaw Patera, finds this light in the stories of the Maccabees and Hannah. The spiritual light we need is to be found in the rebellion against the Syrian-Greek empire, in teaching Torah despite a ban, in believing in one God, and fighting for the freedom to worship God. Princess Leah Maccabea concludes this play with the last idea of light coming from being willing to fight for religious freedom.

Once again, Einstein's message goes further. Weaving Chanukah songs into the play, our students hammer home the idea that the light that meets the darkness when they sing Banu Choshekh ("Let Us Drive Out Darkness"). The song includes the powerful line: kol echad hu ohr katan / v'kulanu ohr eitan ("each of us is a little light, and all of us are a strong light"). Each of us is a little light; we ourselves are the light. Together, our spiritual light has the strength to banish darkness.

We do not need the Jedi. We have our students.

A 5th grade Einstein student recently referenced *Banu* Choshekh when explaining a possible meaning of "great lights" in our prayer book; he said, "the great lights are the light in us when we are the *ohr katan*." With some clarification, he reminded the whole school of the song, its meaning, and our ability to be the light in a time of darkness. He was our Jedi.

This Chanukah, may we work individually and together to fight for religious freedom and to banish darkness within ourselves, in our community, and in our world. We are the light to meet the rising darkness. May the force be with us!



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





JFS is pleased to offer a new column in The Voice, Dear Sarah. Each month, JFS' skilled team of counselors and therapists will offer their expert opinion on your issues, problems, or questions about family, aging, marriage, coping with loss, depression, or children. No question is too large, small, or complex!

DEAR SARAH

advice and answers to life's questions

Dear Sarah,

I spent much of my early childhood living with a parent with mental illness. My father, who died by suicide when I was eight years old, struggled with bipolar illness for all of his adult life. I have very few memories of that time before my father died. Now, I have an eight-year-old daughter myself and during a recent visit with my mother we started looking at old baby pictures of mine. My daughter has started to ask questions about what happened to Zayde Bernie and I don't know how or where to start talking to her about something that I did not come to understand until I was an adult. I feel like we need to start having this conversation because my family history of mental illness is also her family history. However, I want the conversation to be age appropriate.

- Painfully Parenting

Dear Painfully Parenting,

For an eight-year-old, I would focus on the basic fact that Zayde Bernie died, that he is missed by his family, and that he will always be with them in their hearts. You should share your memories of him (as should your own mother) and depending on what your daughter asks, you can talk about mental illness. I would not, at this time, talk to her about depression or suicide. This is a topic for an older teenager, when and if the teen or someone they love is struggling with depression, or the teen starts to ask questions about suicide. You've made a good start by looking at pictures with your daughter. Now is the time to let her ask the questions and share what you do remember of your father.

Sarah

Dear Sarah,

My best friend from childhood just lost his wife this week after a short and devastating illness. They have two kids, eight and ten years old, but live too far away for me to drop everything and go there. What can I do to help him? I feel at a loss of what to say and what to do, but I want to be there for them during this difficult time—as a friend and as a fellow dad.

- Distressed Dad

Dear Distressed Dad,

Finding the right words to say to someone who is experiencing such deep and profound loss can be overwhelmingly difficult. However, it is important for us to "be there" even if you can't be there in a physical sense, there are other ways to be present. Making a statement is also important, make sure your friend knows you are "there." Starting with "I am so sorry for your loss," followed by "How can I help?" and then wait for a response. Texts and compassionate emails are also OK considering you are far away. These short messages should just be reminders that you care, sending thoughts and letting them know you are thinking of them. Avoid emojis. You can also be there for your friend by simply listening to whatever he needs to say. Don't feel like you have to "fix" anything. Avoid the tendency to fill the difficult spaces with sentiments that although are well intended, may not be helpful as your friend works through the stages of grief.

A few months from now, when life returns (or feels like it should) to "normal," that is when the loneliness sets in and may be the best time for you to plan a visit. There are many resources out there for children and spouses who have suffered a loss, however it may be some time before they are actually needed and wanted.

Sarah

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



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



Camp JCC PHOTO CREDIT: DONNA HARLEV

A Legacy Lives On: IMPACTING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

By Dan Metz Youth and Teen Coordinator



To apply for the Silverman Scholarship, please visit the Siegel J's website at SiegelJCC.org.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund and help it grow, contact Executive Director Ivy Harlev at IvyHarlev@SiegelJCC.org.



Siegel JCC is a Beneficiary Agency of Jewish Federation of Delaware.

This fall, the Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship joins the Siegel J family.

The program, which has been in the community since 1989, has worked to help provide summer and camp programming opportunities for Jews in the Delaware community. With the scholarship lives the spirit of its namesakes, whose shared legacy in Delaware inspires future generations to come.

As young orphans, Isadore N. Silverman and Sylvia Spring came to America from Europe at the age of 11. The two met soon after Sylvia's arrival. They each attended school, but Isadore was forced to drop out and work full time at the age of 14, and Sylvia at the age of 16. Both took night classes while working full time during the day. They eventually earned their high school diplomas and continued on to attend classes at Goldey-Beacon College.

Fourteen years after they arrived in Delaware, they were wed. Isadore began his own business, and Sylvia gave birth to four daughters. The two were active in their communities: Sylvia in Hadassah and as president of Mizrachi, the forerunner of AMIT, an American Jewish volunteer organization dedicated to education in Israel; and Isadore as a Jewish Federation of Delaware volunteer, and vice president and gabbai of Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth for more than 40 years. Isadore was also a boy scout troop leader for over 500 boys, many of whom he stayed in contact with. On the occasion of his 90th birthday, he was flooded with letters from former scouts.

On their 55th wedding anniversary, their friends and daughters surprised them with the creation of the Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship, as a dedication to their love of children, education, and Judaism. Since its inception, the scholarship has provided opportunities for summer and camp programming for Jewish youths in our community.

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AGENCY UPDATE

The Siegel J is delighted to announce that the fund will now exclusively be used to provide summer programming scholarships to Jewish families who may otherwise be unable to afford them.

"The J is the center of our community," says Executive Director Ivy Harlev, "it's a place where Jewish values and living are intensified. We are honored to engage with the family of Sylvia and Isadore Silverman. Not only does their altruistic philosophy run parallel with our own, their actions will further impact the lives of Jewish families in our community."

The Sylvia & Isadore N. Silverman Scholarship recognizes the importance of Jewish summer programming in our community and its impact on children's identities, helping them to expand their understanding of their Judaism, and allowing them to contribute towards a more vibrant and healthy Jewish community.



May the Festival of Lights bring blessings for you and all of your loved ones.

Best wishes for a Bright & Happy Chanukah!





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Past Presidents Group Photo PHOTO CREDIT: BRADFORD GLAZIER PHOTOGRAPHY

CELEBRATING DEDICATION

By Chaplain Mollie Epstein The Kutz Home



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

The 2017 Forget-Me-Not Gala, on October 21, honored all Kutz Home/Lodge Lane Board Presidents and all Presidents of the Kutz Home Auxiliary.

Held at the Delaware Contemporary, the Gala provided the perfect setting for the more than 100 attendees to enjoy the sumptuous buffet while reconnecting with friends and recalling their time serving the Kutz Home and it's Auxiliary. After a welcome and opening remarks from Executive Director Karen Friedman, Felisha Alderson, President of the Board, and Auxiliary Co-Presidents Sherry Simmons and Michael Tannen recognized the past presidents individually. Each was presented with a beautiful modern sculpture by famed Judaica artist, Gary Rosenthal, as well as a personalized congratulatory letter from Delaware Senator Chris Coons.

The atmosphere was one of genuine camaraderie and appreciation of the dedication and commitment to the history and the mission of the Kutz Home/ Lodge Lane and the Auxiliary. Many of those present had been associated with The Home for years, having volunteered in various capacities and having had relatives as residents of The Home.

Karen Friedman noted, "Everyone seemed genuinely pleased to be there to celebrate the presidents, the organization, and to look to our future."

In reflecting on the focus of the Gala, Felisha Alderson, President of the Board

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Felisha Alderson, Sherry Simmons, Michael Tannen and Karen Friedman assisting with Havdallah

PHOTO CREDIT: BRADFORD GLAZIER PHOTOGRAPHY

shared that "[the event] truly touched my heart and made the evening that much more meaningful." Felisha also said that "one of our past presidents commented that this would probably be the last time he would be recognized for the work he did at the Kutz, and how nice it was to be remembered."

Highlights of the evening included the reading of a Tribute from the State of Delaware House of Representatives and a Tribute from Governor John Carney and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long. Councilman John Cartier read the Resolution from the New Castle County Council that he had introduced and signed. All three documents commended the service and commitment of the presidents of the board and

auxiliary. Quoting the New Castle County Resolution, "The County Council hereby expresses its gratitude to these distinguished individuals for their years of service and commitment to a mission of serving the people of The Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, Lodge Lane Assisted Living and Community."

The formal program concluded with the Shechechianu prayer and Havdallah led by Rabbi Michael Beals.

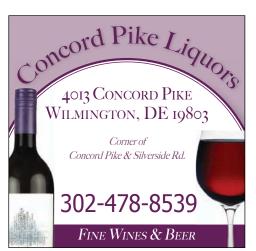
A lavish dessert buffet followed. Not ready to end the evening; the guests lingered at the venue to continue conversations and reminiscing.

"The fifty-three men and women who have served as president have been

instrumental in ensuring the original vision of the Kutz Home has continued over these many decades, and they have had a direct impact in improving the lives of countless older Delawareans. This tribute brings with it sincere gratitude for their dedicated service to the community and our state, and best wishes for the future." -- Governor John Carney and Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long.

May The Kutz Home/Lodge Lane and the Auxiliary continue to provide outstanding services to the elders of our community. May there always be a reason to celebrate.

Chazak, Chazak, V'Nitchazek—Be strong, Be strong, and let us strengthen one another.





AGENCY UPDATE

The UD Hillel Miracle: EIGHT SHINING **STUDENTS**

By Leigh Deitz Student, UD Hillel

Hillel is home, happiness, and a highly-valued aspect to the Jewish students at the University of Delaware.



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



Zack Sandberg



Tia Scheff



Madison Newman



Leigh Abramson



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF HILLEL

Kyle Basarab



Jonah Vesery



Emily Simon



Annie Gawroniak

As Hillel begins to celebrate its 70th year on campus, we note that we would not be where we are today without the student's' passion. Leaders, interns, and members alike are the modern day Maccabees stepping into the spotlight to inspire the future of the Jewish Community.

"Being involved with Hillel has allowed me the ability to share my perspective on many topics, both on campus and in the communities outside of UD."

> Madison Newman, ('19), Campus Engagement Intern

"Hillel gave me a community and a physical safe space to go and pass my time. I would not have met half my friends if it weren't for our involvement in Hillel."

> Emily Simon, ('19), Campus Engagement Intern

"Hillel has given me family on campus – it is truly my home away from home. I hope that by the time I graduate I can help Hillel to be seen by everyone the way I see it."

> Tia Scheff, ('20), Marketing Intern

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AGENCY UPDATE

"Whether it's mingling with other Jewish students at shabbat, or going on Birthright with students that share similar interests and goals, Hillel is a great place to meet people."

> Kyle Basarab, ('19), Marketing Intern

"By the end of this semester I will have helped Hillel send 120 students to Israel. I never thought Judaism would be a part of my college experience but Birthright changed all of that."

> Annie Gawroniak, ('19), Senior Birthright Israel Intern

"Being able to share my experiences and help freshmen get used to college life was a rewarding experience that I was able to be a part of thanks to Hillel."

> Zack Sandberg, ('19), Freshman Fest Leader

"The openness and acceptance that can be found at Hillel is unrivaled by any other on-campus organization that I am familiar with."

Jonah Vesery, ('19),

Campus Engagement Intern

"On the first night of Birthright I was randomly paired to room with Annie. I was so hesitant to room with girls I didn't know, but I'm so happy I did because Annie is now my best friend! As a result of my continued involvement I feel that I have been able to find my Judaism."

> Leigh Abramson, ('18), Senior Birthright Intern

The story of Chanukah teaches us that flames shine brighter when they are together. Within creating a strong community, the students illuminate as bright as the miracle that began the holiday.





AKSE TAKES BIG STEP TOWARDS A SMALLER HOME Congregation Approves Listing Building for Sale



Performers at Café Tamar, AKSE's annual musical celebration of Israel PHOTO CREDIT: BEN WEITZ

By Mark Wagman VP. Community Affairs, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

The High Holidays, approached properly, are a time for honest introspection and for making the sometimes difficult resolutions that will allow us to proceed towards a better future.

This year, congregants at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth felt this purpose not only personally but on behalf of their beloved congregation as well.

At two well-attended congregational

meetings in October, synagogue president Jonathan Jaffe reviewed our current status and the plans for securing our future. Following a period of spirited discussion and debate at the second meeting on October 17, congregants overwhelmingly approved a motion to list our synagogue building at 4412 Washington Blvd. for sale. This action is a necessary step in the plan to move to a new smaller home that will match the current and future needs and resources of the congregation.

Jaffe recounted that, despite new members joining each year, AKSE's net membership has declined over a period of decades. Two main forces have dominated—one economic, one religious. Because of the local business environment, there has not been a significant influx of Jewish families into the Brandywine Valley for many years.

This factor has impacted all of the area congregations.

The other factor is particular to AKSE's positioning as part of the religious center of Judaism. There has been a long-term trend of increased polarization of Jewish religious life in America. The Conservative movement has moved to the left closer to the Reconstructionist and Reform movements, while the mainstream Orthodox movement has moved further to the right. This split has left Traditional congregations like AKSE with both the challenge and the opportunity of filling the gap.

AKSE's current synagogue building is an impressive one, designed by the leading synagogue architect and innovator of modern synagogue design, Percival Goodman. It has been a significant

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Congregants and friends celebrate the 125th anniversary of AKSE PHOTO CREDIT: MAX ROSENBERG

asset both for the congregation and the community. Dedicated in 1963, it was designed for a congregation of 500 families. In recent years, however, there has been a growing mismatch between the building and the congregation, which now consists of fewer than 200 families.

In placing our situation in perspective, Jaffe has often reminded us that "we are a congregation, not a building." Rabbi Steven Saks, spiritual leader of AKSE, notes that "families move yet remain intact. AKSE is a family that will do the same." Of course, this will not be the first time the congregation has moved. Founded in 1885, Adas Kodesch bought the Zion Lutheran Church at Sixth and French Streets in 1898, the first synagogue building in Delaware. In 1907, the building was razed, and a

new building was dedicated at the site in 1908. In 1959, soon after the merger with Chesed Shel Emeth, a building committee was formed, resulting in the construction and dedication of our current building on Washington Blvd.

The decision to list our building for sale is actually the result of several years of review and discussion. Moreover, it is only one milestone in our ongoing efforts directed at realizing a new permanent home for the congregation. These efforts must take into account the uncertain nature and duration of the transition to a new home, including the time until the building is sold, when a new location will be ready, and whether temporary facilities will be needed as a bridge. Board member David Epstein acknowledges that we are not alone in this major effort:

SYNAGOGUE NEWS

"We're grateful for the support of the larger Jewish community, which has generously offered important resources to help smooth our transition."

Faced with the need for change, Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth is choosing to create the change rather than have it "happen" to us. Rabbi Saks sums it up this way: "When change rears its beautiful head, embrace it!" V.P. of Education Harriet Ainbinder notes that "although we will be sad to leave our beautiful building, we are looking forward to creating a wonderful future for AKSE." It helps that the congregation is united in this effort, and, like a family, supports one another as we move forward together.

Also, like Judaism itself, the most essential and unique aspects of our congregation are portable. To long-time member Faith Brown, these include weekly Parsha and Pizza sessions, Chug Ivri (Hebrew speaking club), the annual Academy evening of learning, an Israeli dance group, a Klezmer Band, and Café Tamar, the annual musical celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. To Gladys Gewirtz, our former rebbetzin, and to many congregants, what is most important is the "continuity of AKSE's distinct frameworks of prayer, Torah study, religious observance and communal cohesiveness." We look forward to continuing these programs and practices at our new location.



SYNAGOGUE NEWS



Some of the many women who have participated in the annual Women's Simchat Torah Service since 1982 PHOTO CREDIT: ALAN GOLDBERG

WOMEN AT AKSE CONDUCT 36TH ANNUAL SIMCHAT TORAH SERVICE

By Sylvia Wagman Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

A Chai (18) Anniversary is special; a double Chai Anniversary doubles the joy.

This past Simchat Torah, Friday, October 13, 2017, women at Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth celebrated the 36th year of conducting a women's service where women read the Torah and Haftarah and have Aliyot.

This special service came about after Harriet Ainbinder sent a letter to Rabbi Leonard Gewirtz (of blessed memory) pointing out that women were the only ones not able to receive an Aliyah on the holiday. After studying the issue in depth, Rabbi Gewirtz concluded that, if the women held their own service, it would then be permissible under Jewish Law for women to receive an Aliyah.

A subcommittee of the Ritual Committee, led by Harriet Ainbinder and Cynthia Handler, got busy preparing for the service. Women were recruited to read Torah, many of whom then participated in a class in Trope (Torah Chanting) taught by Helen Gordon, a reader since the early years of the service. The service was publicized, and all women were encouraged to attend and to receive an Aliyah. Babysitting was available for just \$1.00 per child.

On Sunday, October 10, 1982, the chapel was full of women performing the mitzvah of their own Torah reading. Some women cried when they were called up for an Aliyah, because many of them had never seen the inside of a Torah scroll up close. The service lasted much longer than the men's service, because almost everyone wanted to have an Aliyah and some time was spent teaching women how to take one. The Kiddush set up for the women's service was elaborate; men were noticed sneaking in to "steal" food and also to see what was going on in the chapel. Everyone was quite proud of having successfully conducted a wonderful service.

Readers over the years included multiple generations with mothers reading alongside their daughters. Mothers would

SYNAGOGUE NEWS

take an Aliyah when their daughters read Torah. Mothers would also proudly bring their preteen daughters up to the bimah with them when they had an Aliyah or read Torah. Teenagers read Haftarah and Torah, and college students returned home to read.

Many of the women that read 35 years ago are still reading today, while others have moved away. Five women who read at the second service (records from the very first service are not available)—Faith Brown, Vivian Goldberg, Ann Jaffe, Gail Tolpin, and Gail Weinberg—read also this year. Over the years, many new readers have participated in the service.

Close to 40 women have received the special honor of *Chatan Torah* and *Chatan Breishit* at the annual service. Honorees received a beautiful personalized certificate designed by Riva Brown. This beautiful piece of art is hanging up in many homes in Wilmington and elsewhere.

Our group has had several names—Heder Shainee, Ezrat Nashim and Women's Tefillah group. Whatever you call it, it is a special group to be a part of! On a personal note, I attended the second service and have been reading Torah since the third service. If only I had gotten married a year earlier and moved to Wilmington then, I could have been in the place where it all started.



Jam out in your jammies!!

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toddlers, and preschoolers to join us
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PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

By Ellen L. Weingart CBS Member



A CBS library display PHOTO BY ELLEN L. WEINGART



Diane Wolf, CBS librarian PHOTO BY ELLEN L. WEINGART

"Make books your companions; let your bookshelves be your gardens, bask in their beauty, gather their fruit, pluck their roses, take their spices and myrrh," the 12th century scholar, Rabbi Yehudah ibn Tibbon, advised his son in his ethical will.

"Keep your library in order so that you will not need to search for a book. Prepare a list of the books on each shelf and place each book on its proper shelf ... Lose no writing and no letter which I leave you ... Cover your bookshelves with beautiful curtains, protect them from water from the roof, from mice and from all harm, because they are your best treasure."

They're words that Congregation Beth Shalom librarian Diane Wolf takes to heart.

"I had a fabulous librarian in junior high school," said Wolf, who spent most of her career as a medical librarian at Christiana Care. "I was friends with one of her children and she overheard us talking about what we'd be when we grew up. She must have seen something in me—she said I should be a librarian."

She became involved with the CBS Library Committee several years ago and was named librarian about a year ago.

As would be expected of a synagogue library, the collection includes books on prayer, Torah, Talmud, Israel, Jewish history, the Holocaust and Jewish holidays as well as Jewish-themed poetry and fiction. There are children's books, including picture books. There are also newspapers, magazines and some CDs and DVDs. The library's collection is catalogued and can be searched online at www.bethshalomwilmington.org/library/

The library is usually available whenever synagogue staff is present. Anyone may use the library, but only CBS members may borrow materials, using self-service checkout.

CBS's annual budget furnishes funds for the online catalogue through PC Card

Catalog, supplies, subscriptions and book purchases. Wolf buys 15 to 20 books a year, relying on recommendations from staff and congregants and reviews from the Association of Jewish Libraries, the Jewish Book Council and The New York Times, as well as looking at the catalogues of other libraries. Recently purchased books include My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew; Have I Got a Story for You: More than a Century of Fiction from the Forward; and The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem. Because funds and space are limited, materials that are easily obtainable from other libraries are not included in the CBS library.

Most of the material is catalogued according to the Library of Congress. Because the Morris family created the library's original children's collection in memory of Jonathan Morris, children's books are labeled MORRIS at the top of the call number. Funds donated in Morris's memory are used to add to the children's collection.

Wolf currently is focusing much of her attention on the congregation's historical record by expanding and organizing the CBS archives, a collection of historic

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

papers, photos, recordings and objects. She has worked with the archives at Christiana and recently attended a Conference at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati to learn more.

"Our process is fairly simple," she said.
"We unbox, remove staples, paperclips and tape, if possible, put each item in an archival quality folder with a brief description of the item on the outside of the folder and file chronologically."

Cataloguing will begin once all the items are in folders. When that process is complete, digitizing will start with the photo or other record linked to the online catalog and accessible to anyone.

"One of the challenges is to identify photos and documents that have no record of who, what, when or where," said Wolf. Wolf would like to see the library get more use. "It's used by people on their journey to Judaism and the Rabbi has classes here which may stimulate use," she said. She has reached out to teens in the congregation's Shalom Corps program with a presentation on the archives, has written articles for the

synagogue newsletter, and is considering presentations at Tot Shabbat and adult services.

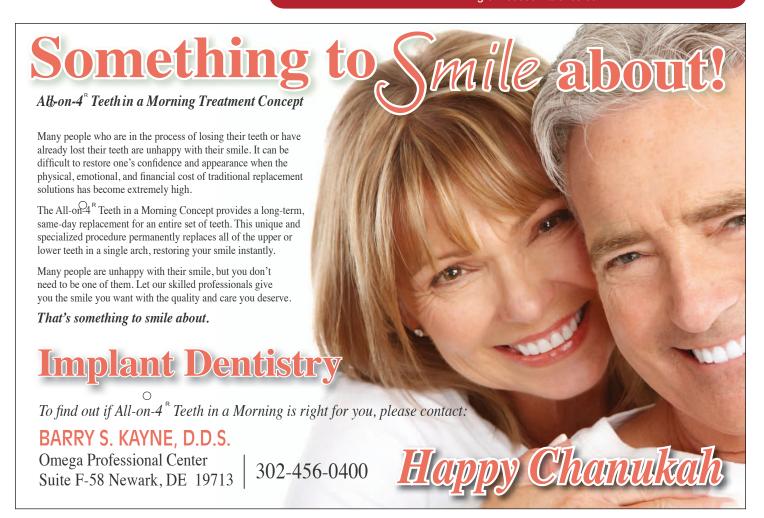
As the 11th century Spanish Statesman Rabbi Shmuel ha-Nagid wrote, "The wise of heart will abandon ease and pleasures for in his library, he will find treasures."



Happy Holidays from the Berman Family

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Should Rabbis give political sermons?

((No! ... and ... Yes!))



My first reaction to this was "No" because in order to keep their tax exempt status, churches, synagogues, and other religious organizations must abide by certain rules. They are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. By breaking this rule, the IRS may deny or revoke the tax-exempt status of the church or synagogue or religious organization.

However, my earlier thinking was too narrow. I was thinking only of political sermons as either endorsement or opposition statements. According to dictionary usage, "political" means "relating to the government or the public affairs of a country" and "relating to the ideas or strategies of a party or group in



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

Have a question? **ASK THE RABBI!**

Send your questions to: AskTheRabbi@ShalomDel.org politics." If that is what the questioner means by "political," then I would say

Looking over two of my own sermons for the past High Holy Days, I recall that I addressed Sinat Chinam, (Baseless Hatred), which seems to be the result of, or at least related to, politics in this country, and "Who is a Jew?," which concerned rabbinic politics in conflict between Israel and the US. Did I endorse or criticize any US candidate? No. Did I take a stand in the "Who is a Jew?" conflict? Well, yes I did, but generally, not specifically. I don't feel that the Orthodox establishment in Israel has the right to deny the Jewish identity of an American Jew whether by birth or by conversion because the person's rabbi does not meet the standards of, or belong to the same group as, the Israeli rabbi making the decision.

And if we widen the definition of political sermon content, I believe a rabbi is obligated to discuss the personal qualities that make a person worthy to bear the burden of leadership. Why Moses? Why Deborah?

In the wise words of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Great Britain's immediate past chief rabbi: "Leaders lead because there is work to do, there are people in need, there is injustice to be fought, there is wrong to be righted, there are problems to be solved and challenges ahead.

Leaders hear this as a call to light a candle instead of cursing the darkness. They lead because they know that to stand idly by and expect others to do the work is the too-easy option. The responsible life is the best life there is, and is worth all the pain and frustration. To lead is to serve the highest accolade Moses ever received was to be called eved Hashem, 'God's servant,' and there is no higher honour."

How do our leaders stack up? Is this a political sermon? You be the judge!

RABBI PETER GRUMBACHER

Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Emeth

From the perspective of raising the dander of a portion of your congregation, the answer is "No." There are some who view anything different from their point of view as "political." This can split the membership just as it can, and has, split families. In this era of divisiveness rabbis should do all they can to avoid unnecessary tension.

But from the perspective of raising the dander of a portion of your congregation, the answer is also "Yes." Sometimes there are issues that really aren't political but are moral and ethical, and rabbis have the right, indeed they have the responsibility, to use our tradition to present the questions and offer answers.

Note that I said, "use our tradition." There are those who affirm "If it ain't

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Jewish, it ain't sermon material," and I agree. Without that textual foundation, what might be effective moral and ethical instruction becomes political. It becomes FOX or MSNBC, not TORAH.

Of course this tends to be subjective. For the holydays I serve a "congregation" made up of people from scattered "Over-50" communities in Jackson, New Jersey. About four hundred attend each service. I delivered a sermon before the 2016 election based on the section of Deuteronomy in which God tells the Israelites what to look for in a king... and what to avoid. Here is a small portion of that sermon:

Amassing wealth... Gei gezinter hayt... It's none of my business.

Nor do I care how many horses he has.

Nor do I care how many wives he's had.

But I do care that our admittedly imperfect country might move backwards in terms of justice and righteousness. Minorities and women, gays and the disabled have labored unceasingly for the equal rights all people are owed. It took a long

RABBIS' VOICES

time. The problem is that in 2016 we shouldn't have a leader who believes as if the days before the fight were better, and conveys through his very concise words something like, "Bring back the good old days," and might do whatever is in his power to accomplish that. Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof! "Justice, justice, shall you pursue!" (from Shoftim, theTorah portion in which this is found)

He speaks so disparagingly about - and often directly **to** - the disenfranchised and the newly enfranchised. Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof!

A small number of the people walked out; most who didn't agree remained seated; and the others, the vast majority, gave me an ovation. The point is that while I never delivered a political speech in the forty-five years of my rabbinate, I could not refrain from offering what I felt was a clear Torah perspective on moral and ethical leadership.

Something tells me that, alas, this "sermon" quandary is not over.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017 Light candles at 4:20 PM Shabbat, December 2, 2017

Shabbat ends at 5:22 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017 Light candles at 4:20 PM Shabbat, December 9, 2017 Shabbat ends at 5:22 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017 Light candles at 4:21 PM Shabbat, December 16, 2017 Shabbat ends at 5:24 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017 Light candles at 4:24 PM Shabbat, December 23, 2017 Shabbat ends at 5:27 PM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017 Light candles at 4:28 PM Shabbat, December 30, 2017 Shabbat ends at 5:32 PM



TO BE A FREE PEOPLE IN OUR LAND

By Dana Berman JFD Community Shlicha

AUTHOR'S NOTE: I originally wrote this in Hebrew, and shared it with my Israeli friends. But I felt like it was important to share it here as well, translated. Because the pain it's causing to so many people is shared.

I admit that if I would have read about the issues regarding praying at the Western Wall for different groups two years ago, I might not have been able to fully understand the meaning of it and the implications it can create.

The Judaism I've always known growing up in Israel is the Orthodox one, led by the rabbinical institute in Israel. I've always been proud of my Judaism, but honestly, I couldn't always relate to all the rituals and traditions. Some of them were beautiful and meaningful, and some of them have challenged me and my personal views. But this has never taken anything from the confidence I had of my Jewish identity, which was built on values, culture, and the memory of the Holocaust.



Dana Berman (left) at the Western Wall PHOTO COURTESY OF D. BERMAN

It is easy to be Jewish in Israel. It's the land of the Jewish people.

So what if I don't observe all the laws or practice them fully? I am Jewish and Israeli and no one can take that from me.

Then I moved here, to the States, as a *Shlicha*. Working on creating conversations and content related to Israel. I have discovered a whole new world of Judaism, from so many different angles. Some of the main ones that were partly or completely new to me were the Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist movements. Each one has its own uniqueness and different take on certain aspects of Judaism.

I've discovered a Judaism that has been through many processes, at times by choice, at times because there was no other choice, given that the surrounding society is a society where the majority is not Jewish, and did not always like Jews.

But they made a conscious effort to maintain their Jewish identity, the same one they share with us, based on the same thousands of years in exile, the same G-d, the same values.

As a part of my job, I got to learn and to teach about the development process of the Jewish identity in Israel versus the development process of the Jewish identity outside of it (and specifically in the U.S.).

For most Israelis, Judaism is a given—we grew up in it. Our calendar, religion classes, and even school breaks, are Jewish. Synagogues are open to us at no cost, and we are the majority here.

Unlike us Israelis, a Jewish person that was born in the States makes a constant choice every day to be Jewish and define him or herself as one.

Public schools here in the U.S. do not teach religion classes, and there are very few private Jewish schools, which usually come at a cost that is not necessarily affordable to all families. Membership at a synagogue has a fee, and getting Jewish

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

education for a child means giving up part of your day on Sunday if you want them to learn about their religion and to associate with fellow Jews. Families and individuals alike are making an active choice and efforts every day to maintain their Jewish Identity.

We can write a separate article (or a book) about the challenges that world Jewry is facing. And one can write about how different they see things from the Judaism as we see it in Israel. Whether it would be mixed sitting, women doing Aliyah to the Torah, acknowledging gay rights or other issues.

But, those different movements in Judaism also recognize and emphasize their connection as Jews to Israel; praying for the State of Israel every week, sending over delegations, holding events for important days, staying involved, asking, following up, donating and

supporting Israel – mentally, economically and spiritually.

It is our common ground, keeping Israel at our hearts.

And what do they ask in return? A room in Israel's heart.

They do not ask to take from anyone's place or rights. But to have their own part, in which they can pray the way they believe is right for them. A father with his daughter, a mother with her son, or partners-together. In the way that is equal and right for them, as Jews.

In the Delaware community where I live, there are seven congregations from different affiliations: Orthodox, Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, Mesorati, and unaffiliated.

When you meet Jews in the States, you're

often being asked "Which congregation do you belong to?" Upon my arrival, as a non-practicing Jewish Israeli, I would usually answer that I do not belong to any of congregations. But throughout the past two years, each and every one of them gave me the opportunity to look at Judaism from a different vantage point, giving me the ability to accept, to argue, to love, to challenge and to appreciate. In the way I think about being Jewish, how complicated and fulfilling it can be and how much it affects who you are outside of this identity as well. And yes, of course there are differences as well, but I respect all of them and enjoy learning from them with great respect.

Today when I'm being asked which congregations I belong to, I answer I belong to all of them.

And so does Israel.

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Marvin Cytron often contributes Jewish family life articles to the Jewish Voice.

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A Hanukkah Gift PHOTO BY JAIDY SCHWEERS

A few years ago, during a family Hanukkah celebration, my grandsons asked me about the best Hanukkah gift I ever received. Without a moments hesitation I told them this story:

I am the son of immigrants to America, my father arriving from Czarist Russia in 1911 after a six-week ocean crossing. My mother coming to Ellis Island in 1922 from Jerusalem! With my two younger brothers we lived over our father's store Cytron Dry Goods in St. Louis. And no, this store was NOT like the Wilmington Dry of years past, on Market Street, and did not sell popcorn! Perhaps an explanation of a dry goods store is in order, as few, if any, dry goods stores exist today.

Imagine a miniature Target store without food or drug store items. Cytron Dry Goods was one floor, 50 feet wide and 125 feet long, wooden floors, polished wooden counters and shelves, art-deco light fixtures, a big brass cash register, a decorative tin ceiling, and best of all, a raised office in the back of the store, with a big desk! The store offered a little of almost everything one needed for day-to-day living. Ladies, men's, and children's ready to wear: socks, undergarments, shirts, work pants, hats, simple dresses, aprons, children's clothing, diapers. Sewing supplies, patterns, cotton and linen rolls of fabric to make clothing. School supplies, toys, simple hardware items, window shades, sheets, towels, blankets, cooking and household items, even kerosene lanterns and coal buckets.

We lived in an area of North St. Louis known as "Butcher Town", with three or four slaughterhouses nearby. Often a bull or cow got loose from the cattle pens and wandered past the store. Great fun! A working class area, nearby were breweries, defense plants turning out weapons and armaments for WWII, shoe factories, automobile factories, and bakeries. In the center of all this was Sportsman's Park, a 30,000 seat baseball stadium, home of the St Louis Cardinals and the hapless St. Louis Browns. The Browns were the worst team in baseball. We used to refer to St. Louis as "First in Shoes. First in Booze and Last in the American League." In the 1950s the Browns moved to Baltimore as the Orioles!

Our neighbors, a potpourri of newly arrived Americans: Italian, Polish, Irish, German, along with African American "refugees" coming North from Mississippi Alabama, Louisiana, all striving for the American credo of "Life, Liberty, and The Pursuit of Happiness." Numerous Catholic, Protestant churches nearby, and one small synagogue, as most of the Jewish community of 50,000 was located some 40 blocks away. By 1947 St. Louis was the fourth largest city in America with a population of 750,000.

Preparation for Christmas was the highlight of the business year. Months earlier my father would place orders for winter clothing, holiday decorations, gifts and toys for the big shopping season. We would love to help unpack the toys and games and we had a family rule: We three boys would be able to pick out ONE toy or game as a Hanukkah gift AFTER the Christmas holiday. This year, 1945, my father had stocked six Monopoly Sets. Monopoly was the biggest selling game of that era. Monopoly sets were \$2.49 in 1945, about \$35.00 in today's dollar. (And a new Monopoly set today is about \$25.00).

Every day when I came home from school, I "checked the inventory" of the Monopoly sets. By Christmas Eve there was one set left, hooray! Alas, about an hour before closing a man came in looking for "one more" gift for his two sons. Yep! He picked up that last

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Rose Bloom

) FEATURE HANUKKAH

A SPECIAL HANUKKAH GIFT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41



Cytron Dry Goods 1930-1965 PHOTO COURTESY OF M. CYTRON

Monopoly set and took it over to the counter for payment and gift-wrapping. My father looked at my crestfallen face and then asked his customer about the recipient(s). Learning the game was intended for two young lads he walked over to the toy counter and picked up a big red Radio Flyer wagon, price \$5.99. He then told his customer he could buy the wagon instead for \$2.49!

Wagon sold and wrapped, the Monopoly set placed under the counter. Santa Claus never had a bigger smile or brighter twinkle in his eyes as our father had that Christmas Eve. The next day, Christmas Day, no movie and Chinese food for this Jewish family! Instead, a belated Hanukkah dinner with corned beef and pastrami sandwiches along with potato latkes and the Cytron boys playing Monopoly!

So my story is not about a dry goods store or a Monopoly set, but a father that loved his family, treated all he met with honesty, respect, and fairness. As one would say in Yiddish... a mensch. "One who is upright and honorable, one to be admired."

Postscript. I still have those metal game pieces: shoe, auto ship, and cannon, along with many memories to share and lessons for my grandsons!

HOMEBUILDER • DEVELOPER



By David Udoff Member, Jewish VOICE Committee

It's the holiday season in America, and of course that means . . . Christmas!

Christmas everywhere. Black Friday. Commercials for holiday sales at Best Buy, Target, and Walmart, along with all the customary tree and street light decorations, tinsel, and shimmery-stuff galore. Every song you hear is a Christmas song. Even Jewish musicians have been in on the whole Christmas thing, having written and performed many of these songs themselves.

As you can probably guess, it didn't take long for me to become keenly aware of my status as a religious minority when I was growing up, even in suburban New York.

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■ FEATURE HANUKKAH

TINSEL AND LATKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

When we were kids, my sister got so annoyed with the abundance of Christmas specials on TV and the absence of Chanukah programming that she wrote and sent a letter to NBC demanding that it show Chanukah cartoons (for good measure, she even asked the network to tell ABC and CBS to do the same).

Being Jewish during the holiday season in America has meant being mostly invisible, at least to the marketing executives and advertisers (fortunately, for us, New York had lots of movie theaters and Chinese restaurants to choose from whenever Christmas Day arrived).

It was a feeling that was encapsulated hilariously and brilliantly by the comedian Adam Sandler 22 years ago when he recorded *The Chanukah Song*. Yes, sometimes you really do feel like you're

You'd think that a holiday that resulted from a great miracle, involves eating latkes and jelly doughnuts, and lasts longer than Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day combined would get more love...

the only kid in town without a Christmas tree. And it's a feeling that persists to this day (which is probably why Sandler has since recorded three more versions of *The Chanukah Song*).

Even on Sirius-XM radio, which has music channels for just about every genre and subgenre of music imaginable, there are three "holiday" (ahem, Christmas) music channels that run from the beginning of November all the way through New

Year's Day but only one channel that plays Chanukah music, and even that channel is played only during the eight days of Chanukah itself.

Now don't get me wrong. I love Christmas, and I realize that Chanukah is not even a major Jewish holiday. But it probably deserves more respect, or at least more recognition. After all, it's not like Chanukah involves any strict rituals or

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sacrifice. We don't have to fast (actually, we're encouraged to pretty much stuff ourselves until we explode), and we don't have to eat unleavened bread. Heck, we're not even really required to attend synagogue. It's just a fun holiday that just happens to coincide with the Christmas season, and it lasts eight days and has a nightly candle-lighting ceremony with a short and easy-to-memorize prayer.

You'd think that a holiday that resulted from a great miracle, involves eating latkes and jelly doughnuts, and lasts longer than Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day combined would get more love than this. But no.

My daughter, of course, is facing issues similar to what I faced growing up, except her challenge is even more acute, being raised Jewish in, of all places, Kent County, Delaware, and having to explain what being Jewish means to the non-Jewish kids at her school, which is to say, all of them (I think). Although we still live on the East Coast and not far from some of the big Jewish population centers like Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, in reality, Jews are not exactly a visible presence in the First State. Even Wilmington, where this magazine is published and where there are a good handful of synagogues and Jewish Community Centers, is just far enough from us that we do not consider ourselves to be living in a heavily Jewish area. And we certainly cannot escape the

rows of houses that get decked out with Christmas lights, manger scenes, and life-size figures of snowmen, elves, and reindeer.

But we're trying. And by all accounts, I think we're succeeding.

By the end of this year, we'll have completed our fourth full year of membership at Seaside Jewish Community in Rehoboth Beach, whose membership has been growing. Our daughter's religious school teachers are constantly telling me how great she is doing with her Hebrew (not to brag or anything). And we continue to have our more modest decorations and celebrations inside our house. And what a glorious time that is.

On that first night, as the sun is going down, we've got Chanukah Radio streaming on Pandora (see? Pandora gets it!), and my wife is making latkes. It's usually cold outside, which means the condensation forms on the sliding door and first floor windows of our house as

dinner is being made. Somehow this, coupled with the aroma of the latkes, always creates a warm feeling inside the house. In those moments, the holidays belong to us, and it's just the three of us, reveling in our Jewishness. Even my wife, who was raised Catholic, has embraced it all (and did I mention that her latkes are really good?)

So, while that endless search for Chanukah candles at the Target in Dover or the Walmart in Camden may seem like trying to find a needle in a haystack, rest assured that our family is doing just fine as far as carrying on and even putting some new twists on its Chanukah traditions.

So, here's to another successful Chanukah and a wonderful holiday season, no matter where you are, and no matter how or even what you celebrate.

By the way, if all else fails, you can buy Chanukah candles on Amazon now. It's true. Look it up!



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All poetry

WHY DO WE EAT **DOUGHNUTS** (SUFGANIYOT) AT **HANUKKAH?**

By Jaidy Schweers, Editor



This deep-fried doughnut, filled with jelly or custard and then topped with powdered sugar is that delicious, sweet treat we enjoy at Hanukkah to observe the custom of eating fried foods (like latkes too!) in commemoration of the miracle associated with the Temple oil.

My kids love gobbling these up after our big dinner. And, if you don't have the time to follow the recipe below, I've provided a short cut:

Buy a tube of small, original-style biscuits (not the fancy flaky kind). Heat up some oil. Fry each biscuit on both sides until golden brown. Remove from oil and drain on paper towels. Use a medicine syringe and fill with your favorite jelly (nothing too lumpy). Inject into the side of the doughnut (kids are great helpers here) and then dust with powdered sugar! Easy peasy.

Or, go for the gusto and make your own dough below:

INGREDIENTS:

2 oz yeast

1 cup warm water

1/2 cup sugar 1 tsp. vanilla

1/2 cup margarine, melted

3 eggs 5 cups flour jelly for filling powdered sugar

DIRECTIONS:

Mix all ingredients into a soft dough.

Let rise for 2 hours.

Punch down and roll out.

Cut into 3-inch rounds.

Fill half the rounds with jelly, and wet

the edges.

Top with another circle and seal well.

Let rise at least 20 minutes.

Fry in very hot oil.

Lift out with a slotted spoon and drain.

Dust with powdered sugar.

Recipe From "Adventures in Bubby Irma's Kitchen," by Irma Charles, Targum Press

This poem was written after visiting the Henry and Verna Schenker Holocaust Memorial Garden in the courtyard of Temple Beth Emeth. Surrounded by names of concentration camps and statuary I noticed the star-shaped calyxes of the roses that seemed to glow in the cold winter sunlight. That is when the idea for this poem began to germinate.

REMNANTS AND REBIRTH

By David Brown

Cold air swirls in the winter garden Sound is sharp as crystal Star shaped sepals Are all that remain of once lovely blooms remnants of flowers now gone Reminders that roots lay dormant And that new life will return

Stars look up at their sisters in the night sky Sepals glow white in the darkness The roses are gone,

But stems remember

Each calyx bears witness

"I will make you as numerous as the stars in the heavens" The Holy One promised Avraham

Millions of flowers cut down in their prime

Blossoms and beauty lost...

Underground

A secret hiding place of life

Keeps vigil

Waiting for warmth and rebirth

For each star - a rose will bloom again

Until then

Cold and lovely kochavim

Look up from the starlight garden

They mirror their brethren

That rose from earth

To the eternal sky

David Brown is a science and environmental studies teacher at Springer Middle School. He also teaches Judaics to 5th grade students at Temple Beth Emeth. David and his wife Riva have three children, Emma, Robert and Tess. Riva is the education director at the Claymont Stone School.



CHILDREN FROM THE 3s AND 4s CLASS AT THE ECC HELPING TO MAKE MENORAHS

NOW ON

There's nothing like lighting the menorah for the eight nights of Chanukah!

It's such a fun tradition that the kids really get into. Why do we light it for eight nights? When the Maccabees came to rededicate the Temple after being victorious in war, they found only one flask of oil with which to light the Menorah. It was such a small amount of oil, that it was truly a miracle that it lasted for eight days and nights! So now we commemorate this miracle by lighting our own menorah and placing it in the window of our homes for all to see.

In preparation for Chanukah, we did this fun menorah craft with the 3 and 4-year-old children at the ECC this year. We then turned their works of art into a delightful display of almost 100-star shaped menorahs. Come see the stunning display on the window in the ECC lobby. Happy Chanukah to you and your families!

BY JENNIFER SIMON + JULIA FORESTER PHOTO CREDITS: J. SIMON AND J. FORESTER HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN MENORAH



Take three craft sticks and glue together STEP 1 in the shape of a triangle. Repeat for the second triangle.

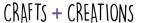
Paint the sticks with colorful paint.

- 6 Jumbo 8" wooden craft sticks (or try the wavy ones for some extra flair)
- Glue (use a glue gun if you have one otherwise Elmer's works ok if you apply it liberally)
- 10 3/8" Hex-Nuts from your local hardware store
- Glitter acrylic craft paint
- Glitter, beads, or metallic decorative sprinkles of your choice
- Standard menorah candles



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ShalomDelaware.org





Glue decorative sparkles on the painted craft sticks.



Next, glue the two triangles STEP 4 together in the shape of a Jewish Star.



Once dry, glue on the eight Hex-Nuts.

Stack two nuts together and glue them to the top point of the star making the shamash candle holder ("The helper" candle).

Once dry, put in candles. *NOTE: Do NOT leave lit candles unattended. Craft sticks could be flammable.



CUPCAKE MENORAH



PHOTO CREDIT: JENNIFER SIMON

Here is an easy, but festive way to decorate your table for the holiday. Bake 8 mini cupcakes... or better yet, BUY your favorite ones from the bakery! Line them up in any pattern you'd like to create your menorah. Put a large cupcake in the center as your shamash. Insert Chanukah candles in each cupcake, light them.... and CELEBRATE!

Julia Forester is the Art Teacher and Admissions Director at Albert Einstein Academy in Wilmington. She is Mom to Annabelle and Ava. Julia. Forester@einsteinday.org

Jennifer Simon is the owner of her own Wilmington based business, Simon & Co. www.Simonandco.com - specializing in unique gourmet food gifts for all occasions. She is Mom to Harrison. Jennifer@SimonandCo.com

JERUSALEM POST CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THE EMPIRES STRIKE

koshercrosswords@gmail.com

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: Medium
SOLUTION APPEARS ON PAGE 56

ACROSS

- 1. Name of a star in "10" or "The Ten Commandments"
- 6. Yam ___
- 9. Cohn and Jacobs
- 14. Glazer of "Broad City"
- 15. "Borei ___ hagefen"
- 16. Reading the Torah with no mistakes, e.g.
- 17. They conquered the Kingdom of Israel
- 19. Look closely and you can see the glass between this snake and Harrison Ford in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"
- 20. Flamethrower fuel
- 21. Herzl or Sinai
- 23. ___ ayin hara
- 24. End of Proverbs?
- 25. Empire that conquered Judah (and 17-Across)
- 29. Pais or The Boston Garden
- 31. El Al competitor, once
- 32. They allowed the Jews to rebuild the Temple
- 35. Husband of Sarai
- 39. Pasta option
- 40. Famous ballerina (or a dessert named after her)
- 42. Loeb and Bonet
- 43. Empire the Maccabees fought
- 44. Casual attire
- 46. They might have a siddur or kosher app
- 47. Ryan Braun and Ted Williams, for two: Abbr.
- 50. Empire that destroyed the Second Temple
- 52. "Danny and the Dinosaur" author Hoff
- 55. Aaron's son and successor as high priest

58. Candy dish raider

14

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- 61. Video's counterpart
- 62. Empire that took control of the Holy Land after 50-Across
- 65. Famous Howard
- 66. Letters that might be forgiven during the jubilee year
- 67. Filled pastry shells
- 68. To the point
- 69. Site and show that's big on lashon hara
- 70. Torah and exam

DOWN

- 1. 12-Down did not like her
- 2. Disney's Queen of Arendelle, and others
- 3. Talks like Harvey Fierstein
- Irish singer who became a star under Geffen records
- 5. First name in Communism
- 6. Carmel Forest, for one
- 7. Where Jewish remains should not be put?
- 8. Suspicious
- Zapped (the cold kugel)
- 10. Major simcha
- 11. Chasidic title
- 12. Rhea Perlman's "Cheers" role
- 13. Killed, like Goliath
- 18. Words from one needing a restful Shabbat
- 22. El Al reading: Abbr.
- 26. Screen legend who married comic legend Mel

- 27. Some YU degs.
- 28. What the city of Shechem is called today

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- 29. Words after "Save me" or "Have"
- 30. Prepare to have bread
- 32. Seth Rogan to James Franco, e.g.
- 33. High Priest with disappointing sons
- 34. Some rural rtes. in the Negev
- 36. The Eden ___ (hotel)
- 37. Jewish name or a video file
- 38. Neuman's magazine
- 40. Salt-N-
- 41. Actress Masterson of "The Walking Dead" (with a name similar to 14-Across)
- 43. Card for visiting Israel?
- 45. Period for each of the empires in this puzzle
- 47. "...from the even to the greatest" (Jer. 42:8)
- 48. Champagne glass
- 49. Exodus commemoration
- 51. Comet's path
- 52. Notable Shabbat of "song"
- 53. She put the "she" in yeshiva, according to Homer Simpson
- 54. ___ up (make like 53-Across, essentially)
- 56. Lays out (like cloths in Eilat)
- 57. An eruv creates one, simply
- 59. "And we held ____ each other like brother to brother." (Billy Joel)
- 60. David has a famous one
- 63. HaZikaron
- 64. Ancient Jewish coin

SPELLING BEE

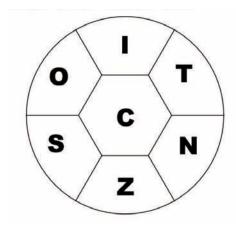


By Yoni Glatt

SPELLING BEE

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

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



SCORE:

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

RATING:

14 = Good

20 = Excellent

25 = Genius

Here is a list of some common words (Yes, we know there are more words in the dictionary that can work, but these words are the most common): Jewish Answer: ZIONISTIC. Other Answers: CISTS, COINS, COSTS, ICONS, TONIC, ZINCS, SCION, SCOOT, SONIC, STOIC, COTTON, ICONIC, SCOOTS, STOICS, SONICS, TICTOC, CONSIST, COTTONS, TICTOCS, ZIONIST, INCISION, INSTINCT, ZIONISTS, CONCISION, INCISIONS, INSTINCTS, CONCISIONS

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS: email Yoni at koshercrosswords@gmail.com

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Jordan Appelbaum
PHOTO SUBMITTED BY P. APPELBAUM

BAR MITZVAH

JORDAN APPELBAUM

Jordan Appelbaum is a 7th grade honor roll student at Garnet Valley Middle School. He is the son of Pamela and Brian and the little brother of Rachel Shayna. Jordan will be called to the Torah as Bar Mitzvah on December 16th, 2017, following the traditions of his parents, grandparents and those before them.

Jordan is an avid Lacrosse player, in the middle position. He also plays basketball. His true passion is anything with speed—Dirt bike riding, go kart, skiing, snowboarding, skimboarding, surfing – you name it, if he can move, he will try it!

For Jordan's Mitzvah project, he is supporting Israel Lacrosse, whose goal is to elevate the sport in Israel. While the sport is growing with great excitement, there are currently no lacrosse stores in Israel. That's where the Israel lacrosse organization comes in. Jordan has been collecting gently used lacrosse gear and donations in order to bring the equipment to these eager kids. He will also be matched up with an Israeli child of the same age to share experiences.

Share your simcha

- Submit a three to six sentence paragraph celebrating your simcha.
- Send your paragraph along with a high resolution .jpg photo to Jaidy@ShalomDel.org.
- Remember, simcha announcements are free of charge!





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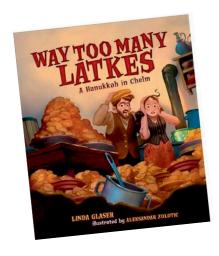
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12/17

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Children's Books: HANUKKAH GIFTS THAT KEEP GI

By Deborah Fineblum | JNS.org



Hanukkah and children's books go together like latkes and applesauce.

In fact, Hanukkahs of old often included a book, its pages spotted with droplets of candle wax. In its pages the brave Maccabees once again defeat the Syrian Greeks, a tiny cruse of oil keeps the temple's menorah aglow for a miraculous eight days, children spin dreidels for chocolate gelt (money) and you can almost smell the sizzling latkes.

These days, the marketplace overflows with books that can warm up the coldest Hanukkah night. The books reflect both the holiday's miracles and the nuances of growing up Jewish in the 21st century.

"We're seeing an exciting diversity in kids' Hanukkah books now," says Joy Getnick, director of Jewish life at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center of Greater Rochester. One of the best parts of her job: funneling children's books into the JCC's preschool, books Getnick test-drives with her 2-year-old son.

Experts say there's a certain quality of magic in the best of these books making them the kinds of gifts that keep giving.

"They have to celebrate being Jewish in a diverse world and transmit powerful values to the new generation," Getnick tells JNS.org.

"They have to give Jewish children a sense of pride and inclusion," says Rachel Kamin, a book reviewer, judge and editor who directs the Joseph and Mae Gray Cultural & Learning Center at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El in Highland Park, Ill.

Hanukkah-themed children's books "help us see how the miracles in our own lives reflect the miracle" of the holiday, says Meredith Lewis, director of content and engagement for the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's PJ Library program, which distributes nearly 200,000 Jewish children's books to families in the U.S., Canada and elsewhere.

As of press time, publishers were still rolling out new Hanukkah releases, but several titles had already surfaced. Among them are "Little Red Ruthie: A Hanukkah Tale," by Gloria Koster, a spin on "Little Red Riding Hood;" and "Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas," by Pamela Ehrenberg, featuring a family celebrating with spicy Indian food.

"You can smell the curry coming off this wonderful new book," says Lewis, noting that "Queen of the Hanukkah Dosas" and "Little Red Ruthie" made it into PJ Library's fall lineup. Other notable new releases include "Judah Maccabee Goes to the Doctor," by Ann Koffsky; "Way Too Many Latkes: A Hanukkah in Chelm," by Linda Glaser; and "The Missing Letters: A Dreidel Story," by Renee Londner.

But tried-and-true Hanukkah classics continue to delight.

"If I had to pick one Hanukkah book to read to my kids every night, it would be Eric Kimmel's brilliant 'Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins," says Kamin. She also loves Kimmel's lesser-known goblin story, "Zigazak! A Magical Hanukkah

Night" and his "The Hanukkah Bear," in which an elderly latke-maker mistakes a bear for her rabbi.

For those looking for a dramatic children's book, Louise Borden's "The Journey That Saved Curious George" features Hans and Margret Rey's escape on bicycles from the Nazis during World War II—taking children's book manuscripts along for the journey.

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LIFECYCLES OBITUARIES

MAY GOD CONSOLE YOU AMONG THE **OTHER MOURNERS OF ZION AND JERUSALEM**



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

ADELE KESSEL

Age 89, passed away peacefully in her sleep surrounded by her family on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Born July 12, 1928, she spent her childhood in Sheepshead Bay, NY and Coney Island in Brooklyn, NY. Adele was a homemaker, mother, and dear friend to those who she readily let into her heart. She died as she had wished lucid until she fell into a final sleep. Her family wishes to thank those who were fortunate to know her for the love that they brought into each other's lives.

Preceded in death by her husband, William; parents, Joe and Anna Potemkin; brothers, Sol and Leon Potemkin; Adele is survived by her son, Ken Kessel (Margaret Ngunang); daughter, Barbara Kessel; grandsons, Micah and David Kessel and their mother, Kim Kessel.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in her name be made to Hadassah (www.hadassah.org).

JEROME S. "JERRY" HEISLER SR.

AGE: 91 • Wilmington, Delaware

Jerome (Jerry) S. Heisler, Sr. died peacefully on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at the age of 91. Born in Wilmington, Delaware on October 31, 1926 at the former Delaware Hospital, to the late Morris and Sadie Heisler. Jerry grew up in Wilmington on West 23rd Street and attended the now closed Primary #30 School, then Warner Junior High followed by P.S. DuPont High School, graduating in 1944 during World War II.

After graduating High School, Jerry attended Temple University for six

months before entering Basic Infantry Training with the U.S. Army. With the invasion of Okinawa, Jerry volunteered to serve overseas joining the 10th Army on Okinawa until the War ended.

In the early 1950s, Jerry learned of a new plastic that the government had released from being "Top Secret" during the War to the public. The plastic was Polyethylene. At the time, plastic was only available in pellet form and could not be made into a liquid to coat the interior of steel containers. The Heisler brothers and their team spent three years trying to develop a coating while the National Research Laboratories were also attempting to develop the same solution. The brothers and their team were the first to succeed and a number of patents for processes, product and design followed. The brothers opened plants in Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston and South Brunswick, New Jersey. In Wilmington, the brothers bought the Pullman Rail Car plant on East 12th Street.

In 1964, the companies merged with Containers of America (CCA) one of the world's largest international paper board manufacturing and packaging company. Jerry became the division Vice President and spent 20 years with CCA of which 10 years was with Mobil Oil which acquired CCA.

Later in life, Jerry went to the Stanford University Business School and graduated from their Executive program. In 1986 Jerry and his brother Albert purchased the Delaware Industrial Park. They then purchased the Briggs Mobile Home Company and incorporated it into a new company, "The Reybold Group of Companies."

Through the years, Jerry served on numerous Industry and Civic Boards. He served on the Boards of the Delaware Art Museum, The Leukemia Society of Delaware, Rodney Square Club, The Jewish Community Center, The Business Council of Prescott College, The Kutz Home for the Aged, National Conference of Christians and Jews, the 2000

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

HAPPY CHANUKAH from the Entire Staff of Schoenberg Memorial Chapel



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Condominium Association, the Zoological Society of Palm Beach, The Jewish Federation of Delaware, and others.

Jerry met Leslye Mathes, who was from St. Louis, on a blind date. Six months later they married. The two were married for 63 years until Leslye's passing on October 22, 2013.

Jerry is preceded in death by his wife, Leslye Mathes Heisler, his son, Leslie "Skippy" Heisler, and his brother, Albert Heisler. He is survived by his daughter Carla Graeff (Stephen) of Chevy Chase, Maryland, and his son Jerome S. Heisler, Jr. (Dr. Rebecca Jaffe) of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, grandchildren Jennifer Graeff of New York, New York, Katherine Bristow (Adam) of Edwards, Colorado, Joshua Heisler and Rachel Heisler of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

ELVA M. LEVINE

Age 86, of Leisure Village in Camarillo, CA, formerly of Wilmington, DE and Fox Hill Farm in Chadds Ford, PA passed away Monday, October 6, 2017.

She was born July 8, 1931 in Wilmington, DE to the late Harry and Freda Klein.

Known to most as Bubby, Elva's keen intelligence, quick wit, and clever game playing kept everyone on their toes and surrounded by adoring friends wherever she went. She loved to dance and celebrate and was a willing foil in the "whodunit" mystery dinner event for her 80th birthday. Her boundless and unconditional love for family will be forever in our hearts.

Preceded in death by her husband, Allen; son, Ron; son-in-law, Tim Lucas; and brother, Charles; Elva is survived by her beloved daughters, Susan Polmanski (Ted), Dr. Phyllis Levine (Dr. Larry Bornstein) and Marcy Lucas; adored grandchildren, Jacob Bornstein (Stefania Mesoraca), Zachary Bornstein, Sammy Lucas (Holli), Monica Lucas (fiancé Beau Davis); Hayley Polmanski Oakes (Matthew); step-great-grandson, Parker; sisters-in-law, Naomi Klein and Ruth Seidel and many dear friends and

extended family around the US and abroad.

Elva was an active member of Congregation Beth Shalom, participating in its morning minyan, Temple Ner Ami in Camarillo, CA, City of Hope, Hadassah and participated in many clubs in the Village. She was also a member of Mensa since 1980 and was the former co-owner of Concord Yarn Bar.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Congregation Beth Shalom, 1801 Baynard Boulevard, Wilmington, DE 19802, City of Hope (www.cityofhope.org), or Camp Ramah in the Poconos (www.ramahpoconos.org).

JOAN LEVITHAN

Age 84, passed away Thursday, November 2, 2017.

She was born April 20, 1933 in Wilmington, DE to the late Charles and Anne (nee Kleiman) Solomon.

Joan worked for the Delaware Lung Association for 25 years before retiring to Delray Beach, FL. For the last 2 years, she resided in Wilmington, DE. Joan was loved very much and will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Preceded in death by her husband, Leonard, and brother, Marvin Solomon; she is survived by her sons, Scott Levithan (Ellen) and Michael Levithan (Amy); and

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

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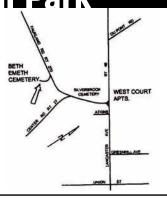
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THE EMPIRES STRIKE

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OBITUARIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55

grandchildren, Brett, Courtney, Alex, and Rachel.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Abramson Center for Jewish Life, 1425 Horsham Avenue, North Wales, PA 19454.

MIRIAM ROGOL SILVERSTEIN

AGE: 90 • Del Ray Beach, FL

Miriam Rogol Silverstein of Del Ray Beach, FL, formerly of Wilmington, DE, passed away on October 23, 2017. Miriam is survived by her children, Heidi Rubin, Fred (Denise) Silverstein and Stuart (Marlene) Silverstein, and blessed with many grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her loving husband Norman, and her son Jeffrey.

Contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

HENRIETTA WEINRIB

AGE: 93 • Wilmington, DE

Henrietta H. Weinrib, age 93, of Wilmington, DE, passed away on November 12, 2017.

Born in 1923, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Mildred (Mitchell) Himber. Henrietta was a graduate of P.S. DuPont High School Class of June 1942. She worked as a Secretary for the Wilmington Board of Education. She was a lifelong member of Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington.

Henrietta is predeceased by her husband Herman Weinrib. She is survived by her sisters Carolyn Rose of Atlanta, GA and Myra Rosner of Marietta, OH, 9 nieces and nephews, 9 great nieces and nephews, and 12 great great nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Kutz Home or to the American Cancer Society.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR i



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

THROUGH DECEMBER 29 Art Exhibition - Let's Face It!: Paul Simon's Portraits From Volunteering

Blue Streak Gallery 1721 Delaware Avenue Wilmington, DE 19806 A gallery show of BVN and RISE volunteer Paul Simon's pastel portraits. For more information, (302) 478-9411 or jgrinberg@jfsdelaware.org.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1- DECEMBER 15 Chanukah Market

Siegel JCC Main Lobby Stop by the JCC to get all your Chanukah supplies. We have wrapping paper, dreidels, gelt, and of course, candles!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 TGIS Family Shabbat Experience

10:45 AM - 12:30 PM Chabad Center for Jewish Life Come explore and celebrate Shabbat with the family! There will be fun and educational kids programs for all ages, Special Prayer 101 class for the adults to make the prayers more meaningful, uplifting and relatable sermon, full kiddush buffet spread and social. Your kids will beg you to come back! Come together with the community. Have a meaningful and fun experience. Leave inspired and connected. Thank G-d It's Shabbat! TGIS Family Shabbat! This program is FREE and open to the entire community regardless of affiliation, background or level of observance. Kindly register before Shabbat at ChabadDE.com/register.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, **Sunday Family Funday**

10 AM - 12 PM

Siegel JCC Gymnasium Join us in the Gymnasium for active gym time for young kids, including free play, developmentally appropriate CATCH games, obstacle courses, and FUN! For children up to 5 years of age with adult supervision. For questions, contact Beth Ann Short at bethannshort@siegeljcc. org.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 16 **ASK - Alphabet Soup Kids**

11:15 AM

A JFS-sponsored support group for kids ages 12-18 that identify as GLBTQ+. Please contact Sharon at cztwins@hotmail.com to register.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 Israel, the Palestinians and the Settlements

9:30 AM breakfast

10 AM speaker Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Please join us for a delicious buffet breakfast and a provocative talk. Our speaker is AKSE member Chanan Smith, who is a reserve lieutenant in the elite Special Forces Givati Unit of the Israel Defense Forces. He is especially qualified to present his views about the settlements since he grew up in one and, while in the IDF, served in the West Bank and Gaza. Whatever your views on the settlements, please come to listen and to engage Chanan with your questions. The cost for breakfast is \$7 with a reservation

made by contacting the synagogue office at 302-762-2705 or office@AKSE.org by December 1. Without a reservation, the cost is \$9. Payment is made at the door.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 FED TALKS with Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester

8:30 AM Siegel JCC

The congresswoman will update the community. This program, coordinated by the JCRC is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Ellen Bernhardt Ellen@ShalomDel.org.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 **TBE Sisterhood Annual Cookie Exchange & Auction**

7 PM

Temple Beth El, Temko Building Bring 2-dozen cookies to share. No need for new members to bring cookies. Bring a wrapped mystery gift, \$15-\$20. Provide a brief hint/rhyme for what the gift may be. It will be auctioned to the highest bidder. All proceeds collected will be donated to a local charity.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 **Shabbat Dinner for Teens**

4 - 9 PM

The Flikshtein Residence Enjoy a relaxing & 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 **MORE ON NEXT PAGE**

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 Youth Social Guide: YouTube Challenge Night

6:30 – 9 PM Siegel JCC

Participate and compete in popular YouTube challenges as teams. Hilarity will ensue. Participants need clothes they don't mind getting messy. Grades 6 – 8. Cost: \$10/Member, \$15/Non-members. For more information or to register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact Dan Metz at danmetz@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017 GAN Children's Program

10:30 – 11:30 AM Temple Beth El

Temple Beth El of Newark, DE offers a free monthly program for children aged 2 to 4 years old complete with Jewish tradition and culture, music, crafts and lots of laughs! GAN is a parent and me program and is held once each month on

Sundays from 10:30-11:30. Please contact the TBE office for additional information and to RSVP 302-366-8330.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 Inside Einstein: Latke Fest

11 AM - 12 PM

Albert Einstein Academy
Join Einstein and PJ Library staff for a fun, family activity! Warm latkes will be ready to eat, plus discover how these delicious treats are made. Festivities include dreidel games and Chanukah stories. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Julia Forester, Director of Admission at 302-478-5026 or julia. forester@einsteinday.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 Home Depot Menorah Workshop

Home Depot, 601 Naamans Road 12 – 2 PM

Stop by for this beautiful event in which the first 50 kids to register online will be able to build their very own Menorahs with the guidance of the staff at The Home Depot! Each child will also receive their very own Home Depot worker's apron as well. Jewish music, refreshments and a fun atmosphere will be sure to get the kids (and the parents) into the Chanukah spirit! This event is

FREE. Parents must be in attendance. Make sure to register to reserve your spot at ChabadDE.com/register. Please contact RabbiMotti@ChabadDE.com for any further questions.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 CHAI Event with Ambassador Ron Dermer

6 – 9 PM

Hotel Dupont

Ambassador Dermer will speak about U.S.-Israel relations and any updates on issues such as the Kotel and Conversion decisions, the Arab-Israeli conflict and what we as American Jews can and should be doing to support Israel. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. All dietary laws observed. This event is open to households making a \$1,800 minimum household gift to the 2018 Annual Campaign.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 Einstein Open House

9 – 4 PM

Albert Einstein Academy
It's school decision time. Take a look at
Einstein and see our amazing program
for yourself. For more information,
please contact Julia Forester, Director
of Admission at 302-478-5026 or julia.
forester@einsteinday.org.





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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 Chanukah Family Fun Festival, Public Menorah Lighting, and Delicious Chinese Buffet!

 5 PM - Registration, moonbounce, face painting, crafts
 5:30 PM - Public Menorah Lighting followed by Chinese Dinner and Entertainer

Chabad Center for Jewish Life
Bring the family to enjoy this incredible
party, which will feature a public Menorah
lighting, a professional entertainer, a
delicious Chinese buffet dinner, a moonbounce, games, Chanukah crafts, festive
Jewish Music, face painting, prizes and
more! For more information and/or
registration, please visit ChabadDE.com/
ChanukahEvents.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 Einstein's Chanukah Matinee Performance: Star (of Judah) Wars

10-11 AM

Siegel JCC Auditorium
Cheer on the light side of the force as
the Maccabees take on Darth Antiochus
in a delightful presentation of the
Chanukah story, Star Wars-themed, with
songs throughout. Free and open to the
community. For more information, please
contact Rabbi Jeremy Winaker, Head
of School at 302-478-5026 or jeremy.
winaker@einsteinday.org

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 Einstein's Chanukah Evening Performance: Star (of Judah) Wars

7 - 8 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium
Cheer on the light side of the force as
the Maccabees take on Darth Antiochus
in a delightful presentation of the
Chanukah story, Star Wars-themed, with
songs throughout. Free and open to the
community. For more information, please
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 Party Limo Ride to a Teen Chanukah Celebration in Philly!

Join other CTeen chapters from New

6 – 9:45 PM Siegel JCC

Jersey and Philadelphia with this incredible teen party in Philly! The night will feature a delicious Chinese buffet, a live entertainer, great energy and connecting with other amazing teens from around the region! Limo rides will be provided, departing from the Siegel JCC at 6PM. Space is limited to 30 teens, so register now! Visit ChabadDE.com/register to reserve your place, or call 302.529.9900 Ext 4. Price is \$30 per teen. For more details about this exciting party, visit CTeen.com/delawarevalley. For more information about CTeen, which is open to all teens, and a calendar of events go to CTeen.com/Delaware.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 Chanukah Shabbat & Community Candle lighting

7 PM

Temple Beth El Musical Shabbat Service. Bring your Menorah and five candles. Activities, dreidel games, latkes, and sufganiyot!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 Healing Hearts Co-Parenting Seminar for Divorcing Parents

9 AM – 3:30 PM JFS Wilmington

This six-hour certified program, taught by certified instructors and required by Delaware's Family Court, educates parents about the psychosocial and emotional issues of separating and divorcing parents and children. For more information and/or to register, please contact Jody at 302-478-9411 ext. 134 or jgrinberg@jfsdelaware.org.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 Tot Shabbat PJ Party

11 AM—12 PM

Temple Beth El

Babies, Toddlers and Preschoolers! Come join PJ Library, Albert Einstein Academy, and Temple Beth El for a Chanukah themed Tot Shabbat Pajama Party. Musical guest, Reece Ratliff, will entertain the crowd with sing-along songs. Don't forget to wear your PJs! Free and open to the public. For more information email Jamye Cole at jamye@shalomdel.org.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 Hanukkah Sing-a-Long

7 PM

CBS of Dover

Cantor George and Carole Mason and the Beth Sholom Choir will conduct Friday Shabbat services and A Hanukkah Sing-a-Long. All are welcome.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 Youth Social Guide: Latkes & Lights

6:30 - 9 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

We'll start with a glow party in the dark, then light the giant electric menorah and enjoy latkes with lots of toppings.

Cost: \$5/Member, \$10/Non-Member.

Grades K–5. For more information or to register, please visit siegeljcc.org or contact Becky Stahl at beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 Chanukah Brunch

10 AM - 1 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium, Gym

& Senior Lounge

Enjoy a delicious breakfast along with all the Chanukah favorites like latkes and sufganiyot (donuts). If you're feeling extra festive, pour a little champagne into your OJ! For those of you not bringing children or ear plugs, pop into our adults-only lounge. Cost: \$5/person. For questions, contact Beth Ann Short at bethannshort@siegeljcc.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 Car Menorah Parade Through the Streets of Wilmington!

5 PM

Sendoff at the Siegel JCC
Kickoff the Car Menorah parade with a
special Parade send-off and Menorah
Lighting Ceremony, which will feature
entertainment and yummy jelly
doughnuts. Join the Parade of light
as Menorah Mobiles will travel North
Wilmington escorted by police cars and
a fire truck! Some car Menorahs will be
available for use. Even if you do not have
a car Menorah, you are invited to come
and join the procession as we bring the
Festival of Light to the streets of North
Wilmington. Leaving from the Siegel JCC.
Event is free!

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2017 Einstein Oasis Family Fun Night

6 - 8 PM

Oasis Family Fun Center - Glen Mills Celebrate the 7th night of Chanukah at Oasis: games, activities, and more with proceeds going to support Albert Einstein Academy. Open to the community, fee TBD. For more information, please contact Rabbi Jeremy Winaker, Head of School at 302-478-5026 or jeremy. winaker@einsteinday.org

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 Jewish Great Books Meeting

2 - 3:15 PM

JCC Boardroom

Join us for our monthly Jewish Great Books meeting! November's book: Moonglow by Michael Chabon, winner of multiple awards and described as, "An exuberant melt of fiction and family history." For more information, contact Anna Saul at annasaul@siegeljcc.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 CTeen Jr. Chanukah Chocolate Gelt Factory and Party for 6 - 8 Graders

Siegel JCC

7 - 8:30 PM

Get ready to have a blast at this Chocolate Gelt Factory, where you will transform Cocoa Beans into chocolate coins! Grind, melt and mold your very own Chocolate Gelt Coins for Chanukah! While your chocolate hardens, learn the engineering techniques to wire your own electric menorah. For questions or more information, please contact Rochel@ ChabadDE.com. To register, please visit ChabadDE.com/register.

DECEMBER 22, 26, 27, 28, 29 Winter Camp 2017

7:15 AM - 6 PM Siegel JCC

When schools are closed for winter break, Camp JCC is in session! Our indoor facilities provide a Winter Camp experience regardless of the weather. From rock climbing to swimming to arcading to fun and games to entertaining shows, your child is sure to be wowed by our camp program. Offsite field trips for 2nd-7th graders include Pinnacle Parkour and Sahara Sam's! For more information, visit our website at siegelicc.org or contact Adam Cook at adamcook@ siegelicc.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24 Jewish History Class with Burt Brenman 10 AM

CBS of Dover

"The Yiddish Theater." DVD Movie with discussion to follow. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 **Congregation Beth Sholom of Dover** Christmas Dinner to the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing

10 AM

Congregation Beth Sholom of Dover will prepare and serve Christmas Dinner to the Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing. Donations of food and toiletries, snacks and like new men's clothing are requested to be dropped off at the synagogue by December 20. 340 N. Queen Street, Dover. 302-734-5578.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25 December 25th Brunch

10 AM - 12 PM

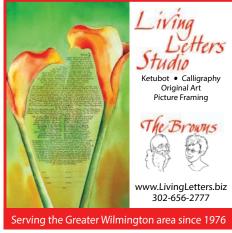
Siegel JCC Auditorium & Gymnasium Enjoy a delicious hot breakfast and open gym time to get some morning energy out. Cost: \$5/person. For questions, contact Katie Glazier at katieglazier@ siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 New Year's Eve Camping Party

6:30 PM - Monday, JAN 1st, 10 AM Siegel JCC Auditorium Join us as we ring in the New Year

with an indoor camping party! Enjoy a delicious dinner, sit around the fire pit making s'mores in the outdoor courtyard, celebrate with a midnight toast, and finish the experience with a campfire breakfast. Bring your own tent. Cost: \$45/Family (Members), \$55/Family (Non-members.) For questions, contact Becky Stahl at beckystahl@siegeljcc.org.







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LET THERE BE LIGHTS

By Jaidy Schweers

Editor

I have never been to Israel, and am envious of anyone who has. Someday. With my husband and children in tow. It will be grand.

Until that time, I live vicariously through the literature I read and the stories I absorb, from the many voices, of the many experiences.

Something that I read recently, as it related to Chanukah, was the detailed imagery of Chanukah as experienced in Jerusalem, particularly with regard to light.

Heddy Abramowitz, an American born artist living in Israel said, "It was a revelation to me when I got to Israel, that part of Chanukah celebrations was the public display of the miracle of the holiday. I grew up in a Jewish home, one of the very few, in an overwhelmingly Christian, southern Maryland suburb, close to the border of Washington, D.C. We just didn't do that."

Abramowitz's parents were Holocaust survivors, who opted to light their menorah candles on the small Formica table away from the big bay window located at the front of their house; their light concealed, their birthright muddled from view.

"Drawing attention to our Jewishness was probably the last thing my parents would be interested in. And I get it. Now."

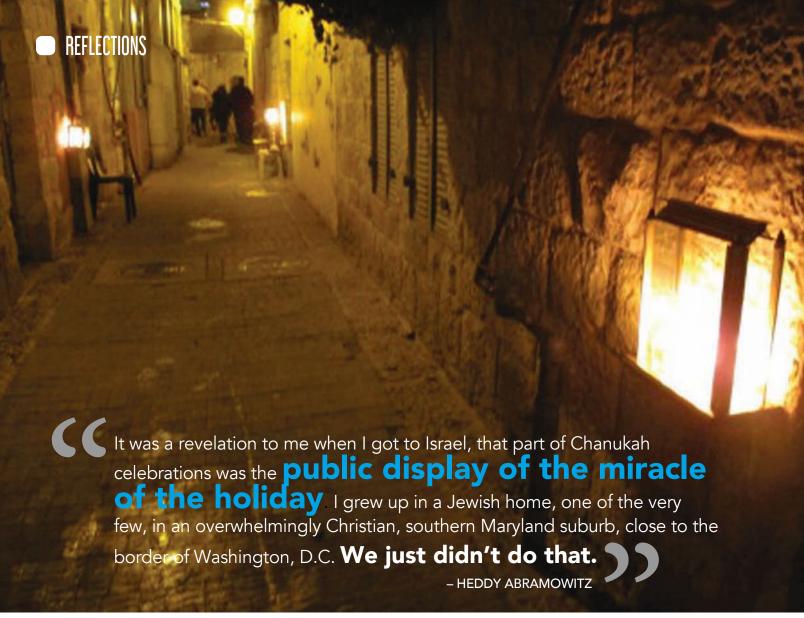
So, for Abramowitz, it was something of a whole new world to observe her first Chanukah in Jerusalem in 1979, where lighting candles in the most street-facing window was common practice.

Fast-forward to Wilmington, DE, 2017; the feeling of our community is one of pride. Most people I know would hold the Israeli flag high, and wear a t-shirt that says "Proud and Jewish" any day of the week. Some people hold Chanukah parades with giant menorahs stuck to the rooftops of minivans. I even know someone who has the Star of David tattooed on his arm.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



Chanukah lights of Jerusalem © 2014 BY HEDDY ABRAMOWITZ



Chanukah lights of Jerusalem © 2014 BY HEDDY ABRAMOWITZ

LET THERE BE LIGHTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 63

I was fortunate to hear Alan Cooperman, the Director of Religion Research at PEW Research Center carrying on at the American Jewish Press Association banquet about how trendy it is to be Jewish in the United States these days.

So, I doubt that people are placing their lit menorahs in a corner at the back of the house anymore. Every winter, my children rummage through the boxes of Chanukah decorations, searching for our cool midcentury, electric menorah. But every year, they also ask if we could put up more

lights like our Catholic neighbors.

This is where I struggle.

If only we lived in Jerusalem! Where any lights that are displayed throughout the streets are never misunderstood to be a symbol of Christmas. I love light. And I love the story of Chanukah. But the reality is this: as whole and united as we are as a community, I go home at the end of the day, and we're still the only Jews in the neighborhood; we only make up 1.6% of the population in Delaware. And that's okay; there is something very attractive about a heterogeneous environment. But someday I want to experience being

where we all are. In one place. As one people. If for just a moment.

Until then, I look at the beautiful pictures by Heddy Abramowitz in the picturesque neighborhood of Nachloat, and the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem. They certainly are inspiring.

I eagerly begin to fantasize about what my next menorah moniker will look like as it takes shape on a little woodsy street in North Wilmington.

Chanukah Sameach.

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DECEMBER 2018.





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