

JEWISH VOICE

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JANUARY 2017



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JEWISH VOICE TABLE OF CONTENTS

JANUARY 2017

Comm.unity	3
Federation Focus	5
FED IMPACT	10
JCRC In Israel	12
Jewish Scene	16
Agency Update	22
Synagogue News	28
In Israel	31
FEATURE: Happy, Healthy & Jewish	33
In Health	38
Jerusalem Post Crossword	41
Arts & Culture	42
Rabbis' Voices	45
Candle Lighting	46
LifeCycles: Obituaries	47
Community Calendar	48
Reflections	51

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FEDERATION – Today, Tomorrow and TOGETHER

The Jewish Federation of Delaware's 2017 Campaign officially launched last month at the home of Bob Aerenon for our Major Gifts Event. More than 60 of our generous donors attended the memorable evening to hear featured guest speaker, Michael Wilner, Bureau Chief and White House correspondent for The Jerusalem Post.

Every day, Jewish Federation of Delaware supports programs that feed, clothe, shelter, counsel and rescue thousands of people here in Delaware and the Brandywine Valley, in Israel and around the world. We provide opportunities that educate, inspire and celebrate a vibrant Jewish life. It's our responsibility. It's our privilege. It's who we are.

Federation is about the commitment of an entire community to repair the world, care for the vulnerable, ensure a Jewish future and enhance and strengthen Jewish life. It is about building a vital and vibrant community that inspires generations to come. Whether the task is educating our youth, reducing poverty and hunger, rescuing and resettling new immigrants, or spurring Jewish renaissance worldwide, the Federation is the one place that belongs to every Jew, the place where philanthropy, volunteerism and a shared commitment come together to make a difference, every day.

Later this month, our community will come together for **Federation Shabbat** at Congregation Beth Emeth on Friday, January 27, 2017 followed by **Super Sunday** on January 29, 2017. Federation Shabbat showcases the uniqueness of the Delaware Jewish community as our seven state-wide synagogues come TOGETHER for an evening of prayer, celebration and pride. It is an expression of unity as well as a show of support in the power of collaboration.

Federation counts on the generosity and increased support of our community members to sustain the life-saving work that we do. Please help us meet the needs of as many Jews as possible, throughout the region and across the globe by making your **2017 Annual Campaign** gift today.

The Annual Campaign is at the core of what we do, providing essential, unrestricted dollars for the organizations that provide amazing services to our community and to those in need around the world.

It is the Annual Campaign that addresses the most pressing needs and issues at a moment's notice.

It is the Annual Campaign that feeds the hungry, helps the unemployed, supports families with special needs, and funds Jewish education.

It is the Annual Campaign that has been the glue that has held the Jewish community together for more than 80 years and will continue to do so.

While we look back at the amazing feats we've accomplished, we must also look toward the future. We look ahead at the alarming challenges that lie ahead and the daunting obstacles we must overcome.

Please, on behalf of the thousands of men, women, and children who are in desperate need of a better life, commit to the Annual Campaign and become part of the solution. There is no better time to get involved because, through Federation, you can make a world of difference and deliver the gift of hope to those in need.

We are here for the Jewish People...and we will never let them down.

Thank you for your continued support.
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Please generously support the Annual Campaign with your secure online donation at ShalomDelaware.org/donate.



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See article on page 42

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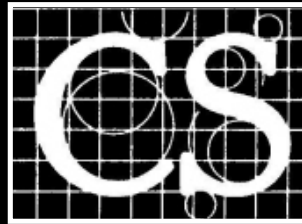


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COMMUNITY:

THE BOTTOM LINE TO MAINTAINING A STRONG JEWISH DELAWARE

By David Margules

Federation Vice President and
Best Jewish Delaware Task Force member

Jewish Federation of Delaware (JFD) has started the *Best Jewish Delaware* process which, in part, will analyze how funds are allocated for local purposes. The current system distributes unrestricted cash to community agencies, relying on the agencies to identify and meet community needs. JFD has little input into how the money is used.

Some Federations are moving toward program-based allocations. Under that model, funding goes to underwrite specific programs meeting specified priorities, rather than to an agency's overall budget. The model assumes a central planning role for the Federation, incentivizing agencies to increase their emphasis on those programs and services that address what are identified as the community's most critical needs. Presumably, most available dollars will continue flowing to existing agencies, but the model also encourages new players to develop innovative approaches to meeting the community's needs.

Revamping Federation's allocations system is a good start, but we need a much more fundamental appraisal of what we want from our community. Program-based funding requires a hard-nosed approach to defining what it means to be a Jewish community, an honest appraisal of what is working and what is not, and a willingness to say no to programs that do not advance the priorities.

The first step is to define the core values underlying a vibrant community. For example, I believe the most important role of

a Jewish community is to provide individuals with opportunities and a desire to develop an intensive connection with their Jewish identity. By contrast, I have friends who argue that our most critical responsibility is to enable Delaware Jews to pursue social justice, through Jewish organizations. Still others contend the most important goal is to provide a welcoming environment for anyone who considers himself or herself to be Jewish, regardless of beliefs, practices, level of Jewish literacy or political affiliation.

Each of these values is important, and none is inconsistent with any other. Funding decisions, however, may be drastically different depending on which value has the highest priority.

The need to prioritize reflects the unfortunate reality that we cannot do all of the things that the community needs. That mismatch between needs and abilities begs numerous questions about how best to use scarce resources. What is the proper balance between programs that reach a broad Delaware audience today, and those that are most likely to lead to a

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

“We can’t head in the right direction unless we first decide where we need to go.”

committed Jewish population in the next generation? Is it better to fund programs that strongly affect a small number of people, or those having a small impact on a large group? How much should be devoted to outreach to populations unlikely to develop a significant attachment to Jewish life? To what extent should community agencies foster the religious and spiritual aspects of Jewish identity?

Regardless of what direction the community takes in terms of its allocation system and its priorities, we cannot be effective unless we are clear about what we want to achieve. We can’t head in the right direction unless we first decide where we need to go.

Identifying and funding priorities is not enough. We must continually evaluate whether funded programs effectively meet those priorities. This requires standards for defining effectiveness, not simply headcounts, and a willingness to defund ineffective programs.

Every member of our community has a stake in the outcome. Whether Delaware has a strong Jewish community in the future will be strongly influenced by the decisions we make today. The more we debate the issues facing us, the more seriously we evaluate what works and what doesn’t, and the more we participate in community-building, the better those decisions will be.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

By Rachel Jacobson
Program Coordinator,
Create a Jewish Legacy



Create a Jewish Legacy is an endowment-building program that enables our community to seize opportunities and ensure long-term stability and vibrancy. In the face of new challenges for our community and world, there is no better time to focus on this collaborative effort. As the second year of the program comes to a close, it is important to reflect on the significant achievements we’ve gained along the way.

Create a Jewish Legacy emphasizes building positive, trusting relationships with donors. Through these strong bonds, Jewish Federation of Delaware and our local beneficiary agencies are working together to provide long-term support and ensure the future of our community for generations to come.

The desire to provide a place for people to discover and nurture their Jewish identity today and for all the years ahead is why in just two short years, we have received more than 425 signed Declarations of Intent by members of our strong community. These commitments have an estimated value of more than \$13 million dollars to sustain our collective future. In addition, each of the ten participating partners received \$10,000 in incentive grants for surpassing their annual goals. This translates to \$100,000 of new dollars in our community thanks to Create A Jewish Legacy with an opportunity of securing additional incentive dollars this year as well.

Today, Tomorrow and TOGETHER... a legacy is forever.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

on how to participate in the Create a Jewish Legacy program, contact Rachel Jacobson at 302-427-2100 or Rachel@shalomdel.org.

BIG NEWS AT PJ LIBRARY

FEDFOCUS



By Jamye Cole

PJ Library and Shalom Baby Coordinator



Sam Caplan

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JAMYE COLE

Our very own PJ Library member, Sam Caplan (Age 9), has been chosen to be a part of the PJ Our Way National Design Team!

The PJ Our Way (PJOW) National Design Team develops most of the content viewed on the PJOW website. The Design Team has early access to PJOW books and creates videos, reviews, polls, quizzes, and blogs for the website. The team meets monthly via video conference. Design Team members gain writing, design, communication, collaboration, and analytical skills. They participate in team-building workshops, form friendships with peers from all over the country, and develop quality content in a safe and fun environment.

We are very excited that one of our young community members has been selected for such a rewarding opportunity. Congratulations Sam!



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FEDERATION SHABBAT

Friday, January 27, 2017

Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington.

5:15 PM PJ Library program

5:45 PM Community Kosher Shabbat Dinner begins

7:30 PM (approximately) Services beginning after dinner

The cost for this fabulous kosher dinner is only:

\$25 per adult

\$10 per child...with a maximum family cost of \$65.

For dinner reservations, please mail your check to:
Congregation Beth Emeth,
300 W. Lea Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19802.

All checks must be received by January 18th and
late registrations or walk-ins will not be accepted.

By JFD Staff

On January 27, walk into Congregation Beth Emeth, and you will witness a marvelous and unique sight – area rabbis, cantors, synagogue presidents and community members from every Delaware congregation joining together for a festive, traditional Shabbat dinner and a collaborative service for our entire Jewish Community.

Delaware's rabbis, cantors, agency presidents and executives and lay leadership will all participate in the evening to celebrate as one unified Jewish community. Rabbi Michael Beals, head of DeReCh (the Delaware association of Rabbis and Cantors) commented, "The annual Friday night Jewish Federation of Delaware Shabbat service is a unique event to this state and indeed for most Jewish communities. As an event that moves from congregation to congregation each year, it allows for the Jewish community to appreciate the many gifts that are within the Jewish community of Delaware.

This year, Federation Shabbat will be held at the Congregation Emeth in Wilmington. I am sure that it will be a different experience from last year, but one with as much holiness (kedushah) and spirit (*ru'ach*). The experience asks of each of us to open ourselves to the variety of religious expression that makes us the tapestry of Jewish life today."

We look forward to seeing you at Federation Shabbat and sharing the ruach of our vibrant community with family and friends!

Please call the CBE office at 302-764-2393 with any questions.

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Super Sunday is taking place on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at the Siegel JCC. Community volunteers will be making phone calls to thank our generous donors and raise the funds so urgently needed to help our Delaware Jewish community survive and thrive. This year we have two phoning sessions to allow greater participation and broader support of Super Sunday from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration is now open on the Jewish Federation of Delaware website and we encourage volunteers to sign up for one or both of the sessions.

Your generous support of the Annual Campaign provides funding to our local beneficiary agencies (Albert Einstein Academy; the Siegel JCC; Jewish Family Services of Delaware; The Kutz Home; and University of Delaware Hillel). The Annual Campaign also supports area teens through BBYO and the Jewish Education Committee.

We will also be helping our fellow Jews throughout the world by working with our international partners – the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). Your dollars also support specific programs in our Partnership2Gether community of Arad including a Youth Outreach Center and the Ethiopian National Project.

The Annual Campaign additionally provides funding for Birthright Israel and brings Israel to Delaware through our Community Shlichah. Every day in so many ways Federation is making a difference in the lives of thousands of people thanks to your support of the Annual Campaign and participation in Super Sunday – a day to make a difference.

This year's Super Sunday Chairs are Barbara Blumberg and Lisa Dadone-Weiner. Wendy Berger, Senior Philanthropy Director for Jewish Federation of Delaware said, "Super Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to have personal conversations with so many caring and giving individuals to thank them for their ongoing support and learn about their interests and inform them of the many ways in which Federation supports our beneficiary agencies, international partners and people in need around the world."

Make the Call and Answer the Call on SUPER SUNDAY

By JFD Staff



Wendy Berger (center) with 2017 Annual Campaign Co-Chairs Lisa Dadone-Weiner and Barb Blumberg

PHOTO BY JFD STAFF

i

**PLEASE MAKE THE CALL AND
ANSWER THE CALL
ON SUPER SUNDAY.**

Register for one of our two phoning sessions by visiting www.ShalomDelaware.org or call 302-427-2100. To join our list of corporate sponsors, contact Wendy Berger at Wendy@ShalomDel.org.

ISRAEL & OVERSEAS COMMITTEE: A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

By Seth J. Katzen
CEO, Jewish Federation
of Delaware

The Jewish Federation is part of the global Jewish partnership with Israel at its heart.

Our relationship with Israel is not strictly one of donor to recipient, but is one of people to people.



Israel & Overseas Committee Chairs
Michelle Margules & Gael Szymanski

Partnership2Gether Chair
Robin Karol

Negev Funding Coalition Chair
Robin Karol

Our solidarity with one another is expressed through financial contributions, as well as various mutually beneficial personal exchanges that serve to educate, celebrate our culture and heritage, and develop a strong sense of identity.

The bond between American Jews and Israel is eternal and constantly evolving. Over the years, the Jewish Agency for Israel has paired Israeli cities with communities in the diaspora. The partnerships share human and financial resources to enhance and improve Israel, its people and Jewish communities throughout the United States.

Federation's Israel & Overseas Committee, chaired by Michelle Margules and Gael Szymanski, serves as an active conduit to our community's connection through a number of global activities;

COMMUNITY SHLICHA – A *shlich*a is an emissary, sent to Delaware through a partnership with the Jewish Agency for Israel that strengthens our community's connection to Israel and the Israeli people. The shlicha provides educational programming for the entire Jewish community and also serves as an advocate for Israel within both the Jewish and broader community.



**PARTNERSHIP
2GETHER**
ARAD
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PARTNERSHIP2GETHER (P2G) – P2G has become the paradigm for successfully partnering global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities—the Delaware/Arad partnership

connects us communally, organizationally and personally. The primary goal of P2G is to develop programs that will build bridges in the area of education, tourism, economic development and volunteerism.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



Suzanne Grant (left) participating in a P2G cooking demonstration with a member of the Arad Women's delegation this past April 2016

PHOTO CREDIT: JFD STAFF.

A PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL PROJECT (ENP) –

The Ethiopian National Project (ENP) impacts the lives of countless advances Ethiopian-Israelis, helping them make the transition to Israeli life and society. ENP provides social and educational opportunities from birth to bagrut (matriculation).



**ISRAEL
ACTION
NETWORK**



ISRAEL & OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

The Israel & Overseas Committee has been engaged in a number of programs and activities in the past year.

- Produced the Delaware/Arad Partnership Cookbook, comprised of recipes from both communities.
- Organized a Global *Hatikvah* Singing Program
- Screened the film, *Brave Miss World*, at the WilmFilm Festival
- Screened the film, *The Village of Peace*, at UD Hillel
- Hosted teen and women delegations from Arad
- Conducted a cooking demonstration with the women of Arad
- Coordinated a Yom Hazikaron program with our local BBYO chapters and Arad teens
- Developed our annual Yom Ha'Atzmaut Community Celebration
- Screened the film, *Jellyfish*, at Temple Beth El in Newark
- *Shlich*a Shabbatons at our state-wide synagogues and weekly visits to UD Hillel

**FED
IMPACT**



NEGEV FUNDING COALITION – Delaware is one of eight participating communities seeking to inspire and support the development of the Negev and contribute to the region's internal and external image. The Coalition is driven by a shared passion for the opportunities the Negev provides for its residents, Israeli society and Diaspora communities. Established in 2011, the Coalition aims to address the region's challenges through joint funding of strategic high-impact projects.

ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK (IAN) – Initiative to specifically address the urgency of responding to a growing assault by governments and NGOs on Israel's legitimacy. Last year, Delaware was selected as one of nine communities to participate in their Community Impact Partnership (CIP) initiative which aims to develop a cadre of superior Israel advocates to represent our community in civil society and engage non-Jewish communal leaders in an effort to operate a network of resistance to the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement.

BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL – Federation continues to support Taglit-Birthright Israel, a successful program that has provided over 500,000 young Jewish adults with the opportunity to explore their Jewish identity and heritage through a first-time, peer group Israel experience. Locally, UD Hillel coordinates two birthright trips that take nearly 100 UD students to Israel annually.



If you would like to learn more about the Israel & Overseas Committee or to get involved, please contact Community *Shlich*a, Dana Berman at 302/427-2100 or dana@shalomdel.org.

BEING CHALLENGED JEWISHLY:

My Jewish Community Relations Journey to Poland and Israel

By Jennifer Steinberg
JCRC Committee member
and JCPA Frank Fellow

In the summer of 2016, I was encouraged by the Jewish Federation of Delaware to apply for an exclusive opportunity from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs' "Frank Fellowship."

The mission of the JCPA is to lead, support, shape, coordinate and represent the Jewish community relations movement in order to advance the interests of the Jewish people, support Israel's quest for peace and security, and promote a just American society and world. This fellowship gave me the opportunity to travel and learn with other up and coming leaders, JCPA board members, and Community Relations professionals from all over the country and I am proud to be the first fellow from Delaware.

My "Frank Fellows" mission began in Krakow, Poland on December 1st where we were joined by Lois Frank to start the Poland leg of our journey. While in Poland, we spent an entire day at Auschwitz and Auschwitz-Birkenau where details like a plaque with "26 March 1942"

(my birthday is March 26th), high heels and cocktail shakers among the effects brought by those who would perish at these camps, and recordings of Nazi speeches would reduce me to tears. A sobering ride home brought us to Shabbat dinner at the JCC Krakow where we met the people who are working to bring Jewish life in Poland back to life. We spent Shabbat walking the city, exploring the Krakow synagogue and the Schindler Factory museum, and getting to know each other. And then we left Poland to join the larger JCPA Leadership Mission in Israel.

We arrived at the hotel in Tel Aviv at dusk, I quickly called my family and followed the sounds of the waves down to the beach in the dark. I said the *Shehecheyanu* because this was my first time in Israel and I knew that no matter what came next, my view of things would never be the same again.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



JCPA mission in the Golan Heights near the Syrian border PHOTO CREDIT: JCPA



Meeting with the Latin and Lutheran Patriarchates PHOTO CREDIT: JCPA

While in Tel Aviv, I had dinner with Aluf Benn, Editor in Chief of Ha'aretz, and received a hug from Lior Ron, Federation's former *Shlichah*. We visited Bialik Rogozin School, a growing state-funded school dedicated to educating the children of refugees and migrants in Israel, and enjoyed lunch with members of the Ethiopian community.

We stayed in Tel Aviv for two nights before heading north for Safed's Ziv hospital. We spoke with Dr. Michael Harari who is the lead doctor working with the Syrians. More than 700 patients have been treated at Ziv since 2013 and on this particular day, they were expecting a busload of Syrian women and children to be seen at their day-clinic. Later that day, we were joined by Lt. Col. (reserves) Marco Moreno and traveled with him to the Golan Heights.

My time in Jerusalem was intellectually challenging – from our trip to the West Bank to see Rawabi, the first planned, western-modeled city in the West Bank and Ramallah for talks with Saeb Erekat, Fatah's chief negotiator and Dr. Nader Said-Foqahaa, a Palestinian pollster to The Knesset, for talks with MK members,

Yair Lapid and Michael Oren. We heard presentations by Jewish advocates and experts in Jewish democracy, high officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and drank tea with the leadership of Israel's Catholic and Lutheran communities. We visited Efrat, the urban center of the Gush Etzion settlement block, and after hearing about what that community is doing to coexist with their Arab neighbors. We continued to visit 'Shorashim' or 'Roots', an NGO active in promoting Jewish-Arab co-existence in the community where we met with co-founder Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and talked more about this organization's efforts to further understanding between Jews and Arabs.

Shabbat afternoon included a guided walk of the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We ended Shabbat at the Jerusalem home of Lois and Larry Frank where I realized that after almost two weeks together, there was officially nothing we couldn't say to/in front of one another. Sunday morning we took a private guided tour of Yad Vashem – which was a fitting bookend for a trip that began at Auschwitz.



At the Foreign Ministry PHOTO CREDIT: JCPA

For those of you who saw me out and about during my first few days home, I know I looked dazed and was not capable of more comment than “it was amazing, challenging and I'm so glad I went.”

Over and over again on this trip I had the opportunity to introduce myself to people throughout Israel and Poland as “Jennifer Steinberg from Wilmington, Delaware” and now that I'm back in Wilmington, I'm putting myself out there – I want to sit down with people and talk about community relations issues that affect both our local and global Jewish community.

Send me an email – jgsteinberg@gmail.com – I want to have coffee, tea, etc. with you.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The author's opinions and views do not necessarily reflect the position or perspective of the Jewish VOICE or Jewish Federation of Delaware.

OUR JSTREET MISSION TO ISRAEL

By Bob and Ellen Meyer

We, along with 11 others, recently spent a week in Israel and the West Bank on a mission sponsored by JStreet, a Washington, DC lobbying group promoting the two-state solution.

“As American Jews we are instilled with a love of Israel, which is very powerful. On this visit...we saw the Palestinian perspective.”

When you are physically in the West Bank (aka Judea and Samaria), you realize how small the territory actually is. For example, the decades-old Jewish settlement of Ariel, which intrudes like a finger across the mid-section of the West Bank, is only 12 miles from the green line (Israel's border) yet is a mere 21 miles west of Jordan. You also realize the vulnerability of planes flying into Ben Gurion Airport to airborne terrorism from the hills of the West Bank.

In order to understand all of the issues involved, our group met with a number of Palestinian and Israeli leaders. We met with Saeb Erekat (a leader of the PLO; chief negotiator during the Oslo Accords), Bashar Masri (an Arab developer in the West Bank), East Jerusalem business leaders, Palestinian entrepreneurs, inhabitants of Palestinian villages in the West Bank, and Palestinians working for peace with the Israelis. We

had lengthy discussions with diplomats, members of Netanyahu's government, and members of the Knesset from Benny Begin (Menachim Begin's son and a member of Likud) to Yoel Hassan (Zionist Union) to Zehava Galon (Meretz) to Merav Ben Ari (Kulanu). We also met with settlers and people active in the peace movement as well as a former member of the Israeli Defense Force (IDF), who joined Breaking the Silence to protest the IDF's treatment of West Bank Palestinians. Finally we heard William Booth, the Jerusalem bureau chief of the Washington Post, tell us of a growing Israeli movement to annex all of the West Bank and the total discrediting of the peace movement in Israel.

Visiting the West Bank we could see the poor treatment of the Palestinians. There are checkpoints where no respect is shown for the Palestinians who must use them on a daily basis. We could understand the Israelis' fear of Palestinian violence and the need for heightened security on the West Bank. However, what we saw was intimidation.

So, too, Israeli settlements occupy prime land on hilltops overlooking impoverished Arab villages. Electric lines and sewer lines are visible skirting the Arab villages and delivering utilities only to the Jewish settlers. We were told that Arab schools, even in Israel proper, are overcrowded and poorly funded when compared to the schools for Jewish children.

Most Israelis seem unaware of these inequities. Their fear of violence has rendered them insensitive to the hardships of the occupation of the West Bank as well as to the lesser treatment of its Arab citizens when compared to its treatment of Jews. We also got the impression from speaking to more moderate members of Israeli society that the relinquishment of Gaza, which then became a launching pad for rockets into Israel, turned whatever

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

Bob and Ellen Meyer moved to Wilmington, Delaware from Saginaw, Michigan in 1972 and have lived here since, raising three children in Brandywine Hundred and the City of Wilmington. Bob grew up in Manhattan and Ellen in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, in a Zionist family. Ellen remembers her parents' joy in 1948 when the State of Israel was declared. She was eight years old. This was Bob's second trip to Israel and Ellen's third.



Rawabi ("Hills" in Arabic), modern planned city for Palestinians on the West Bank, built by developer Bashar Masri

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ELLEN MEYER

JSTREET MISSION TO ISRAEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

moderates who once favored a two-state solution into hardened opponents.

As American Jews we are instilled with a love of Israel, which is very powerful. On this visit, unlike our previous visits, we saw the Palestinian perspective.

Although there have been mistakes made by both sides of the controversy, the Palestinian leadership has been horrendous — until now. Palestinians are desperate to have their own state; time is not on their side. In spite of world opinion, Israel is moving aggressively to populate the West Bank and make a contiguous Palestinian state virtually impossible. Israeli leaders claim they do not have a "partner" in Palestine, but Saeb Erekat's proposal for a two-state solution would give Israel military control over Palestine and on the banks of the Jordan

River. This would make the Palestinian right of return possible only to Palestine or other Arab countries, but not to Israel.

As a result of what we saw and heard, our beliefs were reinforced that if Israel incorporates the West Bank into Israel and gives equal rights to the Palestinians living there, it will lose its identity as a Jewish nation. If Israel continues on its present course of occupying the West Bank (because the Israeli public generally supports the status quo), yet does not give equal rights to the Palestinians living there, it will no longer be a democracy. It will lose its strong American Jewish support and continue to occupy a growing number of hostile Palestinians, thus threatening the very existence of Israel.

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The **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN** funds & supports our five local beneficiary agencies along with our overseas partners to ensure a strong Jewish future locally, in Israel, and worldwide



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2017 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
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SHABBAT BAGS

PHOTO BY STEVE BERNHARDT

Hedy Mintz and Michelle Margules put together Shabbat bags for Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt to take to Christiana Hospital when she visits the unaffiliated Jews of our community as part of JFD's new Chaplaincy program. The bags contain homemade challah, grape juice with a kiddush cup, a challah cover and battery operated "candles." In addition, there are handouts with prayers of healing and instructions for home observance of Shabbat and the blessings.



Hedy Mintz; Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, JCRD Director; Michelle Margules; Connie Sugarman, JFD President

HEC FILM SCREENING

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE GONZER

On November 15, 2016 a screening of HEC Chair, Steve Gonzer's film, *Liberators* was held at the Brandywine Hundred Library, in Wilmington, to honor Delaware members of the United States Army who liberated the concentration camps at the conclusion of World War II. The film is one of five that is included in the *No Denying: Delawareans Bear Witness to the Holocaust* documentary DVD set. It was a packed house. Morris Freschman, a local Holocaust survivor attended and spoke to the audience following the film.



ABOVE: Steve Gonzer introduces audience members to the screening of his film, *Liberators*



LEFT: Audience members at the screening of *Liberators*



BAGELS & BRIEFINGS

PHOTO PROVIDED BY
RABBI ELLEN BERNHARDT

Laura Ben-David, Dana Berman (*shlich*) and Gael Szymanski, Co-Chair Israel and Overseas Committee

MORT MANDEL VISIT

PHOTO BY JFD STAFF

Lay and professional leadership representing Jewish Federation of Delaware, the Siegel JCC and UD Hillel met with philanthropist, Mort Mandel, on November 18th. Special thanks to Richard Stat for building our community's special relationship with Mr. Mandel who inspires us all to live and lead by example.



MAJOR GIFTS EVENT

PHOTO BY JFD STAFF

Federation's Major Gifts Event was held on December 14th at the home of Bob Aerenson and featured Michael Wilner from *The Jerusalem Post*.



1. Sissy Harris and Bob Aerenson 2. Connie Sugarman with Bill Wagner 3. Bob Pincus and Dan Klein 4. Hedy Mintz, Barbara Schoenberg, and Michelle Margules 5. Phyllis Aerenson, Carol Rothschild and Berta Kerr 6. Seth Katzen, Connie Sugarman, Michael Wilner, Bob Aerenson, and Wendy Berger

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GENERAL CONSUL MEETING

PHOTO BY JFD STAFF

The Deputy Consul General of Israel in New York, Amir Sagie, provided a special briefing to Federation leadership on December 8th. Attendees also discussed the consulate's engagement efforts in Delaware with the absence of the Philadelphia consulate.



GLOBAL DAY OF JEWISH LEARNING

PHOTO CREDIT: JULIA FORESTER

At the PJ Library/AEA/Beth Emeth Global Day of Jewish Learning event we learned about kindness to animals. The children had a great time using pine cones and birdseed to make bird feeders.



OUT & ABOUT WITH DANA



Dana Berman with AEA students learning about feelings in Hebrew PHOTO CREDIT: SYLVIA WAGMAN



Dana Berman and UD Hillel Students PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL GORDON



#LET THERE BE LIGHT

PHOTOS BY DONNA HARLEV

RIGHT: Asher Burdeshaw puts up his Menorah to help decorate the Siegel J for Chanukah

FAR RIGHT: Stacey and Emma Weaver create dreidel art at #Let There Be Light





GREENHORN GALA

PHOTO CREDIT: DONNA HARLEV



1. Siegel J staff comes together in preparation for their new Greenhorn Gala fundraiser
2. Guests play Black Jack at the Greenhorn Gala
3. Ivy Harlev strikes her signature pose in front of the Greenhorn Gala backdrop
4. Friends come together for group photos at the Greenhorn Gala
5. Pam Appelbaum, Bethany Kutz, and Jill Flambaum pose together at the Greenhorn Gala

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ABOVE: Einstein 5th Graders as Historical Characters at Valley Forge PHOTO BY ELLY ALEXANDER



TOP RIGHT: Josh Mussaf and Harry Lankenau help their Einstein Gan children make challah during a Parent Education Program PHOTO BY SYLVIA WAGMAN



BOTTOM RIGHT: Einstein student Mai Ziv interviews Kutz Home resident with Iris Vinokur to celebrate Veterans' Day PHOTO BY EINSTEIN STAFF.



VOLUNTEER AWARDS

PHOTO CREDIT: DAN TRADER PHOTOGRAPHY

JFS's Village Volunteers Honored at the Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony



1. Governor Markell Honors BNV Volunteers with Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service
2. Many of BVNs 180+ volunteers attended the Awards Ceremony
3. BNV Volunteer Joshua Renzette shows off the Governor's Award
4. Packed house at the Governor's Volunteer Awards Ceremony



1



3

1. Attendees of Latkepalooza, an annual Chanukah event hosted by Keshet and UD Hillel, enjoyed latkes before comedian Joel Chasnoff took the stage. PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL GORDON

2. UD Hillel's Campus Engagement Interns get in the Chanukah spirit! PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL GORDON

3. Students attended an Israeli cooking class lead by our Sh'l'icha Dana Berman. Berman taught students how to cook a simple Israeli salad following a yoga event. PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL GORDON

4. UD Hillel held student group elections for their seven Jewish groups: Hillel Student Life, Israel U, Keshet, Koach, Challah for Hunger & Project Change. PHOTO CREDIT: NICOLE WASILUS

5. Marketing Interns Falya Salner ('19) and Alyssa Hartstein ('17) prepare to make calls for Giving Tuesday. Hillel raised over \$16,000 to support Shabbat dinners. PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL GORDON



2



4



5

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FINE WINES & BEER



Miriam Platsis and Gavriella Saks journal outdoors
PHOTO BY COURTNEY JAMES

EDUCATING FOR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

By Rabbi Jeremy Winaker

Head of School, Albert Einstein Academy

Mens sana in corpore sano.
“A sound mind in a sound body.”

This aphorism is the unofficial motto of countless independent schools. Having had to suit up in full football gear for 7th grade gym, I can tell you it is certainly a motto at my alma mater, The St. John’s School in Houston, TX, recently ranked the 20th best private high school in the nation. The teaching seems to have originated with the ancient Roman poet Juvenal and is often attributed to the great medieval Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides. The idea is that our mind and body function best when each is conditioned to a healthy level of increased activity. To succeed in the 21st Century, though, our students need more than great academics and athletics.

Most of current educational practice is transactional. Academics are often taught as skill-building for acquiring information and working with it. Like strategies and theorems in mathematics, reading and writing are often taught as finding ideas and their representations and then reproducing them in orderly essays. Even current innovations in education to incorporate collaboration and creativity are input-output oriented. Teamwork is assigned so students learn to negotiate, often with the lesson being that negotiation is required but without learning how to listen to everyone nor how to speak up. Creativity is pushed in maker-spaces and robotics clubs where the hope is that students will learn by failing forward, using iterative processes to improve their work. This creative experience is almost always bounded by an assigned product to be made.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

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



EDUCATING FOR SPIRITUAL HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

The fact that I refer to exercise in school as athletics is no minor message; physical education gets increasingly short shrift today. Whether out of limits in funding, in time, or in the logistics of getting large numbers of students to and through a gym, students seem to be getting less and less P.E.. Even at Albert Einstein Academy, we notice when one gym class each month is used for a health class; the students' energy needs an outlet. In place of physical education classes, schools offer athletics for those who try out and get picked. From the beginning, athletics introduce a winners-and-losers dichotomy. This split is another form of transactional education: you are good, you win; you are unskilled, you lose; etc..

Transactional education has benefits, and some students are transformed by their experiences in it. Transformation could be much more widely a part of education. Why should we not aim for it?

Spiritual education is transformative, and it is readily at hand, especially in the right Jewish educational setting. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel advocated for direct encounters with nature's

beauty and grandeur. He felt that such encounters foster humility, openness to transcending our own egotism, and attaching ourselves to ultimate concerns. These results are large goals for our school's curriculum theme, "Einstein Goes Outdoors," and yet this kind of education does not need particular output. The goal is to teach a student to find meaningful encounters, to realize deeply that humans are not the source of everything, and to open the student to the idea that our purpose is less about making things and more about expressing our unique value.

By including spiritual education, we teach students to be healthy in mind and body for the dimensions of the world we inhabit and to be healthy in spirit for the relationship with the ever-changing aspects of the world which defy plans and actions. Our world is far more complex than we can condense into information, our students must be open to and able to attach themselves to values; that is how they will transform along with the world. By aiding transformation, spiritual education prepares students for the world we will inhabit. That is why Einstein teaches "sound mind in sound body with sound soul."

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What will your Jewish legacy be?



“Suzanne and I have been members of Temple Beth El for over 40 years and have the good fortune to have our children and grandchildren as members as well. The joy watching them develop their love of Judaism and become an integral part of our Jewish community underscores the value in providing a legacy to insure they will always have a second home for reinforcing their heritage.”

– Bob and Suzanne Prybutok



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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

For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Rachel Jacobson, Create A Jewish Legacy Program Coordinator, at (302) 427-2100 or Rachel@ShalomDel.org.

THE VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

By Meredith Stuart
Marketing & Development Specialist,
Jewish Family Services of Delaware

At first, Joshua Stull didn't want to go to a stranger's house to pull weeds or take out the recycling. "I didn't see a valuable point in doing it," he admits.

But when he and his mom Christina Renzette started volunteering with Brandywine Village Network (BVN) two years ago, he began to change his mind.

Brandywine Village Network, a program of Jewish Family Services of Delaware, mobilizes nearly 200 volunteers to help older adults live independently in their homes. Joshua, then 11 years old, and his mom were matched with Gordon Gee. Regular assistance from volunteers is a lifeline for Gordon, who suffered a stroke several years ago that left him with restricted mobility.

Joshua helps with the yardwork and chores around the house. Christina goes grocery shopping for him, and picks up his prescriptions. They take him out to lunch. "We like Gordon," Joshua says. "He's like us in many ways. He has a good sense of humor and likes to joke around."

Gordon lives alone. His wife passed away shortly after Joshua and Christina met him. Christina feels like it was meant to be that they were there for Gordon during that time. "He's like family now," she says.

"It doesn't even feel like volunteering anymore. When I log my hours it feels like cheating. It's like hanging out with an uncle for me – or a grandfather for Joshua."

"I love Gordon," Joshua adds. "He's my buddy. He has amazing stories to tell about his life. And he's interested in what I tell him too."

For Christina, volunteering with her son was an opportunity to teach him to be giving, selfless, and appreciative. "I'm a single mom and I want to make sure our time counts and to teach him everything I can while he's with me," she says. "I felt like he was at a pivotal time to instill those values."

They chose to volunteer with BVN because it fit easily into their lives. "BVN was one of the few places in Delaware where you could be his age and volunteer with a parent,"



Joshua Stull, 13 and his mother Christina Renzette PHOTO CREDIT: MEREDITH STUART

Christina explains. "Once we met with Maggie and found out all about what BVN does I knew this was exactly what we need to do. It's something that easily fits into our schedule."

"We couldn't have picked a better first place to volunteer," Christina adds after a beat.

Now 13, Joshua fully believes in the value of volunteering. "I feel like I have progressed and become more selfless," he says. "I learned to see past me and to focus on Gordon when we volunteer because Gordon is our priority."

"I think he's doing a good job," Christina beams. "I'm proud of who he's becoming. He's not your typical little 13 year old. Can't hide it, I'm very proud of him."



For more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Maggie Ratnayake at (302) 478-9411 or mratanayake@jfsdelaware.org.

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



STAYING FIT ACROSS DIFFERENT STAGES OF LIFE

By JCC Staff



JCC Trainer, Chris Baldwin, and Sharon Brown PHOTO BY JCC STAFF

At one point or another in life, many of us have struggled with weight gain and body changes. Finding the right place to work out, the right motivation, and the right support can be the key to meeting and keeping up with your goals.



JFIT STRENGTH COMPETITION AND FUNDRAISER FOR THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY PROGRAM AT NEMOURS HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

January 4-11, 2017

\$10 members / \$20 non-members

If interested in the competition or supporting the fundraiser, please email Chris at chrisbaldwin@siegeljcc.org.

We could all use some support through life's many ups and downs when it comes to living a healthy, well-rounded lifestyle. To demonstrate how the J helps so many members and to inspire you to either get started, return to the Center, or get motivated to reach your goals this year, we are excited to share with you Sharon's story. Yes, Sharon Brown, our welcoming face at the front desk of the J and a helping hand at Camp JCC during our summer months.

Since 2010—that's right, it's not an instant "fix"—Sharon has dedicated her efforts to finding her routine and support system here at the J for losing well over 60 lbs! Each

year she has found renewed energy and focus on developing her new lifestyle.

We sat down with Sharon and asked her to share her story.

Why and when did you decide to take action?

At the end of 2010, I was tired of having low energy on a daily basis. I am 5'3" and was 215 lbs at my heaviest. As someone with a passion for theater, my weight severely limited the types of roles most directors were willing to cast me as.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

In January 2011, we had a J Staff biggest loser weight loss competition. I made a decision at this point to work on my weight and my lifestyle! I won the 12-week competition and continued to lose over the summer and, by October, I had lost 50 lbs. I was down to 165 lbs and in much better shape.

How did you transform yourself?

My transformation was the result of both support from great people and seeing my health as an investment.

My journey started off slowly with daily walks on the treadmill over my lunch break. Once I built myself up, I started personal training with the J's lead trainer, Chris Baldwin. Eventually, I doubled up on weekly trainings with Chris (and asked him for homework outside of our sessions) and really pushed myself in the J's INSANE Bootcamp/Interval classes on Saturday mornings with AJ

Greenetz. I even entered a secret Facebook weight loss competition (thank you, Katie Glazier!) that required weekly weigh-ins and posting photos of the scale for the whole group to see. It took some time for me to really get my mind in the game, but once I made the mental commitment to getting healthy, I started incorporating fitness and wellness into much more of my life.

What has kept you motivated?

I love working hard on something that fulfills my passions and sustains my new energetic lifestyle. I am now at my health goal weight of 139lbs, with a normal BMI. While I certainly have frustrations over places that will never get toned now that I am older, there are so many aspects of my life that I feel confident about. I can exercise without knee soreness, and an old heel spur hasn't bothered me in months. I have been able to RUN a complete 5k without stopping to walk at all – I was

even able to be a pinch running buddy for the J's Girls on the Run group in November. How amazing is that?

Sharon continues to receive support from friends at the J. Her success has been inspiring to many of her co-workers and J members alike. It's a very exciting thing to observe the journey of such an accomplishment.

During a season when many people are setting new fitness goals, listening to a story like Sharon's is a positive way to help motivate us into action.



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



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KOSHER GOSPEL TO CELEBRATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



PHOTO: JOSH NELSON

By Ellen L. Weingart

Member, Congregation Beth Shalom

Picture a man wearing a bejeweled, tall Buhari kippah and a long, colorfully embroidered tunic singing at a synagogue.

The words are familiar. The music is too, but in a different context. Congregants are clapping along; a few are actually dancing in the aisles.

A new tune welcomes Shabbat.

Meet Joshua Nelson, the creator of *kosher gospel* which blends Jewish religious lyrics and meaning with the sounds of American gospel music.

Nelson, whose Jewish mother was given up for adoption because she was half-black and was raised Jewish by the African-

American couple who made her their own, grew up in his grandparents' New Jersey home with his mother, father and siblings. He says growing up, his family infused African-American culture with Judaism, as Jews have long done with just about every culture they lived in. Cornbread and fried chicken, for example, may replace challah and roast chicken at his Shabbat table.

He was eight when he came across his grandparents' copy of an album by Mahalia Jackson, the Queen of Gospel. He fell in love with her singing and spirit. By his teens, he was making a reputation for himself as a gospel singer.

While on a two-year joint Temple University-Hebrew Union College study and kibbutz program in Israel, Nelson visited The Great Synagogue in Jerusalem, where the choir reminded him of Jackson's singing. After returning from Israel, he began to bring together his Jewish and African-American heritage to create "kosher gospel," Jewish liturgy set to the music he so loves.

Nelson, known as "Prince of Kosher Gospel," will help the community

commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., at an interfaith service hosted by Congregation Beth Shalom. The service is co-sponsored by CBS's Rabbi Jacob Kraft Education Fund and the Interfaith Ninth Ward Association.

Although one of the definitions of "gospel" is Christian teaching, the word, based on a Greek word meaning good news, predates Christianity. The musical style, arising from the sounds of several African tribes, has its origins in the spirituals sung by slaves in the United States as they labored.

"Nelson is the very embodiment of the cultural, religious bridge-building for which Dr. King was known — which is why he is the perfect person to headline the Martin Luther King Shabbat," said Rabbi Michael Beals, spiritual leader of Beth Shalom. "His fusion of Jewish liturgy with gospel music is uplifting to both Jewish and African-American cultures — as well as anyone with a beating heart."

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., INTERFAITH SHABBAT

January 13
8 PM

Congregation Beth Shalom
1801 Baynard Blvd, Wilmington

Having Nelson at the Interfaith Martin Luther King, Jr., Shabbat Celebration fulfills Rabbi Beals' three main goals for the service. "I want to elevate observance of Martin Luther King Day, I want to bring Jews into the observance and I want to create fresh and exciting bridges between the African-American and Jewish communities," he said.

His desire to do more with Martin Luther King Day dates back to his time as a young rabbi in Los Angeles in the late '90s. "King was a game changer about how we think about social justice. Our own Jewish social justice hero, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, marched with King in Selma," said Rabbi Beals. "Jews and African Americans used to be in alliance with a shared passion for social justice."

Using the collected writings of King and Heschel, Rabbi Beals created a dialogue for his first interfaith MLK Shabbat at B'nai Tikvah Congregation in LA. He co-acted the play with the only African-American minister in the area at the time. When Rabbi Beals came here 13 years ago, the MLK Shabbat came with him, spreading beyond Beth Shalom. Congregation Beth Emeth hosted it last year.

Nelson has sung around the world, performing for congregations, music festivals, presidents—and Oprah Winfrey. His *Mi Chamocha* album, recorded with his Kosher Gospel Band, features Nelson singing with Aretha Franklin and with the Klezmatics.

"I'm the Ku Klux Klan's worst nightmare," exclaims Nelson at the beginning of the 2001 biographical documentary, *Keep on Walking*. Maybe. But his heritage and talents make him an ideal choice for the community's interfaith service commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.

BASIC JUDAISM

Why be Jewish? How to be Jewish?

I have a confession to make. I like Christmas. I like Christmas because our fellow Americans go out of their way to make a big deal out of the Jewish holiday that happens to fall around the same time of year so we don't feel left out. While it is true that Chanukah is considered a "minor" holiday because it is post-biblical, the idea of non-Jews making a big deal out of a Jewish holiday so we feel included in the December holiday season stands as testament to America's inclusiveness and philo-Jewish nature.

Not only are non-Jews welcoming of Jews, but many want to learn about Judaism and consider Jews to be their "elder brothers in the faith of Abraham" as Pope John Paul II put it. Why are so many non-Jews thirsting to learn about Judaism? For that matter, why should we Jews be thirsting to learn about our own teachings? The answer is quite simple: In this age of uncertainty and despair Judaism offers hope. Judaism believes that it is within our power to make our world a better place.

G-d declares to Moses at the Burning Bush that his true name is Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh, which is often mistranslated as "I am what I am." The correct translation is "I will be what I will be." The difference between the two translations is enormous. "I am what I am" is the answer we would expect from a G-d who views himself as the deistic deity. Deists believe that G-d created the world and then stepped back and let nature take its course. G-d would reason, if people want to treat each other with cruelty, so be it. However, the name "I will be what I will be" denotes that G-d has not yet completed his creating of this world and is still active in it. In other words, G-d has unfinished business



BASIC JUDAISM Why be Jewish? How to be Jewish?

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All are welcome

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to do but needs a nation to help him perfect the world. Therefore he stepped into history to liberate a people who understood the danger of tyranny all too well and gave them his Torah (which literally means teachings). The Torah teaches us how to improve the world.

One would expect that the Torah would have been given in the Land of Israel. Rather, it was given in the barren wilderness, a no man's land, intentionally. The message is that, though it was given to the Israelites, the Torah's wisdom is for everyone; Israel has been charged with the task of spreading G-d's message

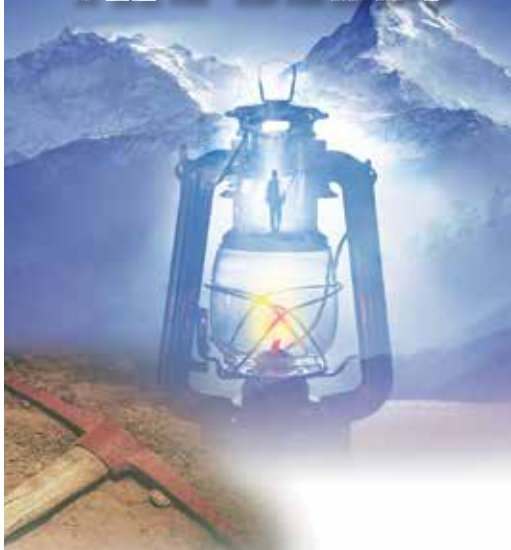
In this spirit, I would like to invite Jews and non-Jews alike to join my Basic Judaism class. We will be learning about Jewish thought, laws, custom and history and together discovering how we can partner with G-d to improve our world, thereby narrowing the gap between G-d above and our world below.

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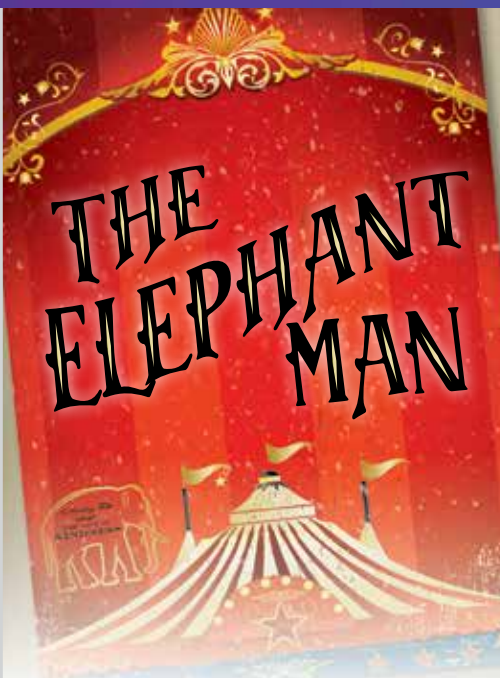
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A REFLECTION ON ISRAEL:

Classroom without Borders Rabbinic Mission

By Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein

Temple Beth El

As the day began in Nazareth, nine U.S. rabbis—women and men from across the spectrum of religious practice, age, and geography—came out of our mini-bus and began collecting kohlrabi in a field.

The previous night we visited a mosque to dialogue with the leaders and *muazzin* (the caller) and a young woman who was a teacher and a feminist activist within the Islamic community. This morning we were in the fields of a moshav with mud beginning to cake on our shoes. We had gathered to do the biblical mitzvah of *leket* or collecting food for distribution. The project was part of the Israel National Food Bank “Leket Israel” program that provides food to 140,000 hungry Israelis each week. As we picked, brushed the dirt off, and tossed our vegetables into a large container, we talked about the past few days of our shared, unique adventure. We sang a few songs, a couple in Hebrew, and, of course, we could not resist the first line of The Who’s “Baba O’Riley” (“Out here in the fields...”). We spoke about the power of working together for a goal of helping people. Of course it was a symbolic gesture given all that it takes to bring food from farm to table, but we began to better understand this positive act. In that moment, we also began to discuss the core idea of our unique rabbinic mission—how to bring such a bonding hands-on experience to our own communities in the United States as well as the intersection of Israeli life and culture that creates this effort.

Why were we in Israel? We had come together at the invitation of the Pittsburgh-based organization *Classrooms without Borders*. The mission was to bring a diverse group of rabbis to Israel to experience places, people, and conversations that we might not have otherwise discovered on our own. To open our hearts



Group shot at Knesset PHOTO BY JOE FRIEDMAN

and minds in ways that we would not have on our own. Our rabbinical group included Modern Orthodox, Chabad, Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist rabbis. We all worked together to understand and be open to one another’s perspective and practices, even pushing ourselves to understand how we can at times celebrate and pray together.

The program helped us to see and acknowledge the diverse ways we each honor Jewish life and the land of Israel. For myself, hearing from a member of Knesset who believes in building a third temple or visiting the occupied land in Gush Etzion opened me to previously unappreciated aspects of Israel. For others, hearing a world-respected Palestinian journalist speak eloquently about the real need for the country of Palestine to exist and the deep sorrow

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

This inspiring mission was partially subsidized by Jewish Federation of Delaware’s Jewish Education Committee.

A REFLECTION ON ISRAEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

he has over a lack of Palestinian leadership and a vision to get there was new. He told us the “blame Israel” approach is not helpful to gain a Palestinian homeland. We learned he was a proud Israeli, one who enjoys freedom in Israel. When speaking of the BDS movement, he was bewildered. Israel is not perfect, but it is a place where democracy can be lived out. Similarly, the young woman in the mosque declared, “Israel is my country, I am proud to be a citizen. It is not to say that I am not critical or have concerns about my education, healthcare, or infrastructure. But I am glad to be here in this place where I can be a part of the conversation about making it better even if it is not yet what I envision.”

Most of us on the trip chose to attend the monthly Women of the Wall prayer service at the Kotel. Here, too, the idea of growing freedom that is not yet achieved in Israel echoed true. Our Western Wall experience that morning included joyful singing and praying, but also verbal assaults, grabbing at Torah scrolls, and pushing attendees to leave. While in the U.S. we enjoy “freedom from” and “freedom to” religion, in Israel there is freedom from religion, but there is not yet a working understanding of the

freedom to religious worship that allows for non-traditional modes of worship. In the face of this tension, it was powerful to witness the first successful reading from Torah scrolls in the Women’s section.

A personal highlight was my trip to Haifa and Daliyat El Karmel. I visited the Leo Baeck School and met with the head rabbi and music teachers and reconnected with the Galilean Steel Drums Peace Project students for a rehearsal. What a joyful experience! I was warmly welcomed to the group. The students, who have grown and matured in many ways, were eager to demonstrate their playing skills. The school is a special place that integrates a variety of children from all of Israel’s ethnicities and cultures, learning abilities, and religions.

That evening I was blessed to stay in the home of the Gadban family in Daliyat El Karmel, an amazing historic Druze village. I clearly sensed their pride of living in Israel. Several of us were taken on a private tour to see the surrounding hills, eat some amazing local dessert, and visit a few of the historic places. We visited a special building in the middle of a square. One half of it was dedicated to the Druze soldiers of the city who lost their lives in defense of Israel since pre-state times. It was an honor to witness as a Jew and as a rabbi. Looking at the other half, I was asked, “Did I know

who Naftali Imber was?” I said, “Of course, he was the person who wrote the words for “Hatikvah.” “This was his house and it is now our museum,” they said. “He wrote Hatikvah on this porch. This is a museum dedicated to his life and work. His vision of Israel, that he wrote while looking out from this view, atop this very mount.” What a deep national pride that it is in this Israeli Druze city that Naftali Imber wrote the words to the Israeli national anthem!

Then I was off to the home of a few musician friends. They knew I was also a musician, and so they had arranged a memorable night of playing music and drinking coffee until very late. I was blessed to listen to the oud and classical guitar played in the Arabic style for hours. Of course, when we played together and figured out how to intertwine the rhythms and notes, it was a special experience to connect across language and cultural borders to find a place where we can all meet. There was magic in that living room on that night.

This trip opened my eyes to the deep complexities of Israel. It was with a great deal of sadness that I learned only two weeks after I returned that fires ravaged Israel, and particularly Haifa. The area around the school was damaged, and the forests that I was shown around Daliyat El Karmel were scorched. Yet, it was with joy that I learned that the students collected clothes, food, and anything needed for those who lost their homes. The Leo Baeck school worked together to collect and sort what was needed to help. And out of such a disaster comes a stronger resilience and determination to live together.

As I return to the U.S., perhaps the most important message I can bring home are prayers that we too in the United States can become stronger in our resilience and determination to live together at this time of adversity for us.

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ISRAELI'S RANKED HIGH ON HAPPINESS

By Dana Berman | Community Shlichah

Most every person that has visited Israel has expressed to me at one time or another their observation of the warm and welcoming, general vibe and vividness of the people. Israelis are happy people.

Although I don't disagree (we do have the best parties), I find it to be an interesting statement.

If you think about it, we have a couple (or more) reasons to get worried or stressed quite often. One might mention Iran, the conflict, terror (in some periods at higher volume than others, and yet always in the background) or even the mandatory service in the army for both men and women (you can ask my aunt, who had four sons in the army, how happy she was about that; I mean, she was proud, but definitely a little stressed).

Trust me, those things alone keep us on our toes 24/7. We are a country that broadcasts news on radio and TV every single hour with extra screen time for "Breaking" news. Israel can be a very high stress environment, and almost every Israeli has lost a friend or a family member in an operation, war, or terror attack.

And yet, we are happy.

And it's not just me saying this, Israel is ranked 11th on the World Happiness Report. Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway dominate the list, Canada is 6th, with the United States running close behind at 13th.

WHAT IS THE WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT?

The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness. The first report was published in 2012, the second in 2013, and the third in 2015. The World Happiness Report 2016 Update, which ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, was released in Rome in advance of UN World Happiness Day on March 20th. Leading experts across fields – economics, psychology, survey analysis, national statistics, health, public

policy and more – describe how measurements of well-being can be used effectively to assess the progress of nations. The reports review the state of happiness in the world today and show how the new science of happiness explains personal and national variations in happiness. They reflect a new worldwide demand for more attention to happiness as a criterion for government policy. (<http://worldhappiness.report/overview>)

The facts and findings are there for you to explore. I'd like to offer you my guess, however, as an Israeli, as to why we have such a nice spot on the rankings (because unlike Switzerland, it certainly isn't due to our chocolate).

I believe one of Israel's greatest strengths comes from its people. When someone needs help— with an urgent surgery or medication—people jump on board without thinking twice. When a terror attack happens in a public place, you can be sure you'll find a mass of people coming in the days after to support local businesses or cheer up those who are in the area. And when someone, unfortunately, leaves us, we spend seven days together, telling stories and reconnecting with old friends or distant family, recreating old bonds and supporting one other.

One of my favorite Hebrew sayings is, *I came to strengthen and I left stronger.*

This is one of the things I appreciate the most about being Israeli—our resilience. The fact that no matter how bad things get (and they can get pretty bad), we will never let it keep us down, we will never stop appreciating each other, nature, or the kindness of others.

And we will continue to say: *Yihie Beseder*—It will all be ok.

A STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

Forging Ahead Towards a Fulfilling Jewish Life

By David Udoff, Jewish VOICE Committee Member

Being Jewish in America has always meant — to one degree or another — being aware of my status as a religious minority. And at no time in my life has that been more acute than the time I’ve spent living here in Kent County, Delaware.

When I relocated here four years ago, my identity as a Jew had inadvertently lost its prominence, lingering faintly in the background. How was I to act; how could I keep my guard up; how was I to explain when my daughter told one of her neighborhood friends at the bus stop that she was going to a Seder and the friend asked me what that is; or how not to overreact when explaining to someone that we couldn’t be somewhere because of High Holy Days and they’d ask what religion that is.

Essentially, how was I to be Jewish, in a region with very little Jewish?

Mostly, it was the little things, like *(insert fake Yiddish accent here)*: “What is this? Why can’t I find a decent bagel joint around here, or any Manischewitz products at the local Food Lion or the Target on Route 13 when it gets close to Passover?”

These are the things I thought about since the time my family and I picked up and left Montgomery County, Maryland, in 2012 and settled just outside of Dover, of all places, after my wife’s workplace got transferred here. I grew up in the New York suburbs and spent a good portion of my adult life in the Washington area and thus had little trouble finding a synagogue or other Jews with whom I had shared experiences or found common cause with. It was just something I never had to worry about, and because of that, perhaps being Jewish in America was something I had taken for granted my whole life, regardless if life at this time of year has always seemed like an endless stream of decorations, lights, commercials, songs, and other things commemorating Christmas.

But upon moving to Delaware — and to a fairly rural part of it no less — and noticing the plethora of churches but the utter dearth of synagogues, Jewish organizations, and well, Jewish people, throughout the area, I started to become keenly aware of what it means

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

“Living in seemingly isolated areas does not have to mean the end of Jewish connectivity.

In fact, as my own experience has proven, it can intensify existing identities.”

STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

to be a religious minority. In addition to feeling like a fish out of water, I began to wonder: How does one keep in touch with and continue to practice his/her religion in some form or other, when the general, everyday lifestyle doesn't seem to accommodate for religious differences?

Well, an interesting thing happened. As it turned out, there was indeed an opportunity to connect with Jewish life here . . . if I was willing to go slightly out of my way to find it.

I did some searches online, and then I visited a couple of synagogues in Delaware before finally finding the Seaside Jewish Community, a small congregation of some 450 members in Rehoboth Beach.

Not only did I sign my family up to be members of Seaside, I found a commonality and a comfort level with the people of that community in a way that I never did in any other congregations that

I had been a member of; perhaps I never could have, given the sheer size of those greater communities, coupled with my own tendency to be relatively invisible in large groups. Before I knew it, my wife and I were enrolling our daughter in the religious school there and attending various services and synagogue functions, and now I teach religious school and serve as Secretary of the Board of Directors at Seaside. And most recently, I was invited to represent the Jewish community in lower Delaware by joining the *Jewish VOICE* Committee.

Ironically enough, there is something about living here that has not only enabled me to live life as a Jew but to be more involved in, and more connected with Judaism than I've ever been in my adult life. Maybe even more so than when I was growing up in New York, where I went to Hebrew school, had my bar mitzvah, belonged to a Jewish youth group, and had lots of Jewish friends. How does that even happen?

Of course, there will always be plenty of reminders of my minority status living here — the aforementioned lack of bagels and Manischewitz products; the

sheer number of churches in the area; the relative isolation of the Delmarva Peninsula from areas with larger and more established Jewish communities like those in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and even Wilmington.

But living in seemingly isolated areas does not have to mean the end of Jewish connectivity. In fact, as my own experience has proven, it can intensify existing identities, paving the way for refreshingly new beginnings.



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'LAUGHTER HEALS' IS MESSAGE OF UNLIKELY JEWISH-MUSLIM COMEDY ACT

By Maayan Jaffe JNS.org



Comedians Rabbi Bob Alper (left) and Ahmed Ahmed. PHOTO CREDIT: LAUGH IN PEACE.

“Both Jews and Muslims have a lot in common. What are we fighting over?”

Jews and Muslims don't eat pork, we don't celebrate Christmas, we both use 'ch' in our pronunciation, and we are both hairy creatures of God,” says comedian Ahmed Ahmed. “The only real difference between Jews and Muslims is that Jews never like to spend any money and Muslims never have any money to spend.”

So goes one of the dozens of jokes featured in the *Laugh in Peace* comedy routine of Ahmed and Rabbi Bob Alper. It's one Arab, one Jew, one stage. The unlikely duo's show will be coming to Israel (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa) and the Palestinian territories (Ramallah) for the first time from Aug. 12-17. Together, Ahmed and Alper have performed more than 150 times during the last 14 years—throughout the U.S., Canada, and England—at synagogues, churches, mosques, theaters, and college campuses.

Their story began as a gimmick by a savvy publicist, says Alper, a Reform rabbi who spent more than a decade at pulpits in New York and Philadelphia—or as he calls it, “14 years of performing in front of a hostile audience.” Alper admits he was at first

resistant to the idea of the combined show.

“My publicist calls me one day and says, ‘Bob, why don't you do a show with an Arab comedian?’ I said, ‘Do you have any other ideas?’” he says.

Ahmed was skeptical, too.

“I got this call, ‘My name is Bob Alper and I am a Reform rabbi.’ ... He says, ‘I have an idea. I thought it would be great to do a show together.’ ... Well, I said, ‘That sounds good, where do you perform?’ He says, ‘Well, I perform in synagogues.’ ... I thought someone was playing a joke on me,” Ahmed laughs.

But the timing was right. In 2001, at the height of the terrorism of the second Palestinian intifada (uprising) in Israel, people were primed for comic relief. Alper says when people are tense or sad, “comedy is even more important.”

Over time, the two have been more than just a successful and sought-after show. They've become good friends. The women

in Alper's small Vermont town fell in love with Ahmed through his visits and regularly inquire about his wellbeing. Alper has eaten in Ahmed's parents' California home.

“Ahmed's dad asked about my family,” Alper recalls. “When I told him my wife would be having shoulder surgery the following month, he looked gravely at me and ordered, ‘You must stop twisting her arm.’”

They also believe they've played a role in breaking down barriers between Muslims and Jews. On college campuses, where Jewish-Muslim tension and anti-Semitism run rampant over the issue of Israel, Ahmed and Alper perform for mixed audiences. Jewish males wearing yarmulkes and females in hijabs sit side-by-side, smiling and laughing.

“When people laugh together, it is hard to hate each other,” says Alper, recounting how at the University of Arkansas it occurred to him that they were guests of the “Razorbacks”—a Muslim and a Jew performing at a school whose mascot is a pig.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

They keep their shows apolitical, though they do touch on their personal religious experiences in the 90-minute performances, which generally are divided between solo acts of 30-35 minutes and a joint opening and closing. The closing includes stories from their travels.

"When we begin a show, we say we really are an odd couple. Ahmed is 45 and I am 70. He lives in Metro LA, I live in rural Vermont. He's Muslim, I'm a Jew. But both of us are incredibly good looking," Alper quips.

Alper, who holds a doctorate from Princeton Theological Seminary, got into comedy in 1986 when he entered the "Funniest Jew in Philadelphia" contest. He says his comedy remains "appropriate for being a rabbi. In other words, it's clean." "The reason Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac at the age of 12 and not 13,

is because at 13 it wouldn't have been a sacrifice," says Alper.

Ahmed, who was born in Helwan, Egypt, and raised in Riverside, Calif., became an actor before a comedian. After playing "a lot of terrorist roles, cab drivers, and sleazy, dark Arabs," Ahmed quit out of frustration and turned to comedy. But his recent role in the three-year series "Sullivan & Son" (2011-2014), in which he played an unlucky-in-love tow-truck driver, made him the only Arab-American actor playing a non-stereotypical role on a comedy sitcom. His comedy is also "squeaky clean family fun," though Ahmed admits one joke did get him banned from Dubai for a year.

Occasionally, Rev. Susan Sparks, senior pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, joins Alper and Ahmed for a show to make for a Jewish-Muslim-Christian comedic triumvirate.

Muslim-Christian comedic triumvirate.

"I'm a true believer that laughter heals, and that comedy can bridge the gap between communities across the world," says Ahmed. "We just lead by example."

Though Ahmed and Alper have certainly contemplated their own plan for peace.

"In terms of the terrible rift between our people, we've come up with one idea, one way that might be able to help heal the divide. That would be if all of us together—Jews and Arabs, Arabs and Jews—if all of us together could simply learn," says Alper.

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THE CYCLE OF EATING OUT

By Michael Rowland
JCC Association, New York

The noisy rhetoric of the election drowned out an important shift in consumer habits over the past couple of years.

With little fanfare, spending on gasoline has gone way down, in effect rearranging the average household's daily budget, according to US government data.

A lot of that gas windfall went to food – but not groceries, which actually declined in cost. No, a large chunk of the 'saved' money went straight into eating out, which increased by almost \$500 per household last year on average.

Eating out is the No. 1 expense that Americans blow their budgets on, according to the Principal Financial Group's annual Financial Well-Being Index. Their analysis

of wastefulness calculates that 25% of Americans eat out 'too much', compared with 17% on clothing for example.

Cheaper gas leads not only to more eating out but also more obesity, since a typical meal out incurs about 200 calories more than eating in, and involves more time in the car. Still, most Americans, including fitness center users, are eating out more.

Can the rise in fitness tracking devices break this vicious cycle? FitBits, Jawbones, AppleWatches and the like were among the hottest holiday gifts, with 32 million now in use in America. '10,000 steps' has become a

pop culture daily routine.

It's not just about exercise inside the gym. One fitness chain is now setting aside reserved parking spaces for regular customers as far from the front door as possible. The idea is to get people moving before they even come in, so they've got a few more steps on the clock prior to working out.

Paradoxically, the cheaper it is to drive, the more people are prepared to pay to be nudged to move more . . . whether at home, work . . . or at the JCC.

HADASSAH CONTINUES LEADING-EDGE RESEARCH IN BREAST CANCER DETECTION

By Robert Gluck
JNS.org

INHEALTH



One of the leaders in the fight against breast cancer is Dr. Tamar Peretz Yablonski, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, whose tenacity and determination to find a cure inspires her and countless others.

“My parents always taught me to fight, to look on the bright side,” Yablonski, director of Hadassah Medical Center’s Sharett Institute of Oncology in Israel, told JNS.org.

As Hadassah continues its important research work in finding a cure, the organization celebrates 20 years since its researchers discovered that the risk of carrying the BRCA1 gene mutation – which is tied to increased cancer risk – is 1 in 40 for Ashkenazi women, compared to 1 in 100 for the rest of the population.

Following this discovery, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) developed a simpler blood test to detect the presence of these genes, the organization reported.

Hadassah’s findings have had a major impact on breast cancer management, according to Yablonski. “We now know this mutation in the BRCA gene predisposes to the development, not only of breast cancer, but also to the development of ovarian, colon, pancreatic, prostate in males and other diseases,” she said.

Genetic testing has potentially saved the lives of an untold number of women whose examples are often highlighted in news accounts, such as Hollywood actress Angelina Jolie, who famously in 2013, touted the benefits of genetic testing and surgery to prevent hereditary breast cancer.

POTENTIALLY LIFE SAVING

Breast cancer survivor, Maxx Schube, who lives in Atlanta, and her two grown daughters, Rochelle and Alana, all tested positive for the BRCA genetic mutation, which helped them individually decide their best course of action.

“After my sister’s death from ovarian cancer and my breast cancer diagnosis, my doctors suggested I undergo genetic testing,” Schube said. “I tested positive for the BRCA1 mutation.

With the knowledge acquired from BRCA genetic research, we realized, I could have passed it on to my children. So, when they were in their 20s, it was suggested each one be tested. Both daughters tested BRCA1 positive, my son was spared. Hadassah

developed the blood test that can detect if a healthy woman carries the BRCA mutation. When my 23-year-old daughter felt a lump in her breast, she wasn’t taken seriously until she revealed she was BRCA positive. I shudder to think she might have been overlooked.”

When Schube speaks at Hadassah’s breast cancer awareness campaign events – including those in October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness month – she tells audiences that cancer doesn’t discriminate based on a woman’s age.

“We emphasize that even in college, when you are busy with school or focusing on your future, there is no future unless you keep up with your health, medical checkups or do a thorough breast self-examination,” Schube said. “For us, genetics is our cure. Having the knowledge of our strong BRCA genetic family history saved my younger daughter’s life. With that BRCA knowledge, my older daughter underwent a prophylactic mastectomy at

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

BREAST CANCER DETECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

age 28, so she does not have to wait for the ax to fall.”

While detecting breast cancer early is part of the battle against the disease, more research is needed, Yablonski said, and the current testing model that detects the gene mutation needs to change.

LOOKING AHEAD

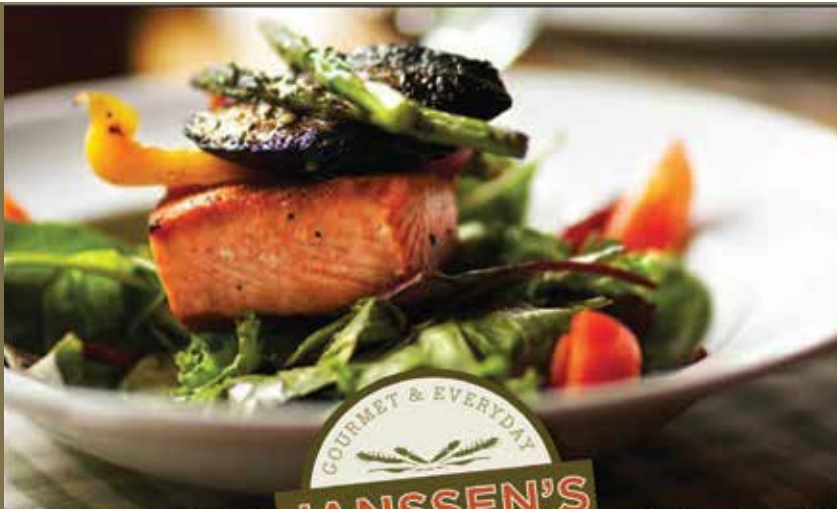
“There were many questions on how we should proceed since about half of the women diagnosed with breast cancer in Israel are non-Ashkenazi,” Yablonski said.

“The general thought was women of any ethnic origin should be aware of the possibility of developing breast cancer on the background of genetic predisposition. It was suggested the medical [insurance] coverage, as it exists today, will allow women from all ethnic groups to be tested for BRCA.

There was also the question of whether other genes were involved, and this is one of the points of the research we are doing today.”

New studies show that other genes should not be ignored in the diagnosis of breast cancer.

“If we look at the prevalence of any mutations in women who develop breast cancer on a background of genetic predisposition only 40 percent – 50 percent will have the BRCA,” Yablonski said. “The rest will have other genes that are involved. It may be a mistake to test only for BRCA. In the last two years, we’ve researched other genes that are involved in the development of breast cancer. We identified specific mutations in the gene, called p53 [a tumor suppressor protein], which predisposes to the development of breast cancer at a very young age. We know there are at least 26 genes that are involved in the predisposition of breast cancer.”



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Yablonski stressed treatment too. “How genetic predisposition affects treatment is important,” she said. “Those with the BRCA1 and BRCA2 are more sensitive to a specific chemotherapy drug [platinum-based]. If a woman is suffering from breast cancer, we know this drug should be used and is effective.”

While breast cancer is no longer an automatic death sentence, it remains a serious illness.

“We should be very cautious in deciding to give therapy or not and be very precise and personal on what kind of treatments to give, the dosage, the possibility of side effects, close follow-up and when to stop,” Yablonski said. “Newly diagnosed patients and those carrying the mutated gene face a bewildering array of treatment options and opinions. This will change. Treatment will become increasingly personalized, structured according to the many factors involved, from genetic to emotional. Decisions will be easier and results will be better.”

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

By: Yoni Glatt

koshercrosswords@gmail.com

Difficulty Level: Easy

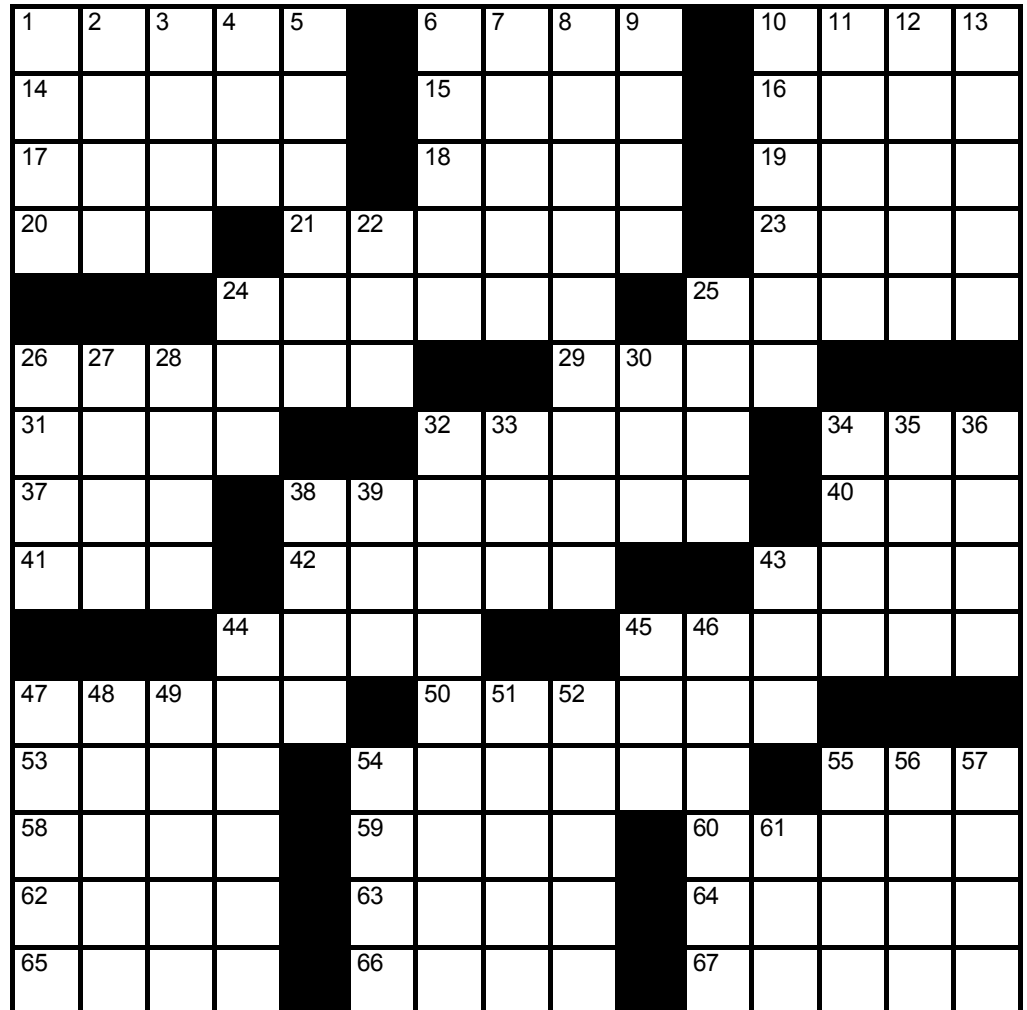
SOLUTION: page 46

ACROSS

1. Dina
6. Great Talmudic Rav from Sura
10. Most readers of this paper
14. Baggage ____ (Ben Gurion locale)
15. Skewed view, for Ginsberg or Kagan
16. Israel's airline
17. Rhea (Perlman) played her on "Cheers"
18. "Your old road is rapidly ____, please get out of the new one if you can't lend your hand" (Dylan line)
19. Judah Friedlander's "30 Rock" co-star Fey
20. Show where 19-Across rose to fame, for short
21. Zipporah
23. Israel's Zin or Ara
24. Breaks the 10th Commandment
25. Leah
26. Actress Dane or Bloom
29. What Esau hunted
31. Jochebed
32. Billy Joel line
34. Golden Girl Arthur
37. I, in Israel
38. Bithiah
40. Start of Lag Ba' (62-Across)?
41. One of Mark Cuban's players, for short
42. Like Chagall
43. Michal
44. Solomon, for one
45. "Halevai..."
47. Tamar
50. Piece of schnitzel
53. Moshe Ya' ____
54. Ivanka
55. ... "Y'hay, sh-may rah- ____ ..." (Kadesh response)
58. Adam, to 22-Down
59. Say, say
60. Scarlett in Selznick's "Gone with the Wind"
62. See 40-Across
63. Screech, e.g.
64. Stan Lee's early publications, compared to his later work
65. Like a yenta
66. The IDF, e.g.
67. Miriam

DOWN

1. Jewish gyms: Abbr.
2. Former Fed chairman Greenspan
3. Lewis who showed the Nazis a thing or two
4. Hanukkah liquid



5. Scale one might try playing "Have Negilah" in (using only the black keys)
6. What a rocking simcha will eventually do
7. Enhanced sense for a prophet?
8. Musical with Tracy Turnblad
9. "There ____ there there" (Gertrude Stein)
10. Connector to a door on a 16-Across plane
11. David's oldest brother
12. Title name of the fish in a Kevin Kline comedy
13. Struck down, biblically
22. She didn't have a grandmother?
24. How Josephus might write 102
25. ____ Lecha
26. Tref chowder morsel
27. Headey on Benioff's "Game of Thrones"
28. Tel ____
30. Where Yarden Gerbi made Israel proud
32. One who arrives to services for "Aleinu"
33. 1948 and 2016, e.g.: Abbr.
34. Cholent morsel
35. The last month
36. America, to Israel
38. Gave shekalim
39. Shabbat as 25: Abbr.
43. A shikur
44. Herzog or Golan
45. Many at Terem
46. Indiana Jones' hat
47. He played Private Ryan for Spielberg
48. Crockett's last stand or an American alternative to Eldan
49. Picks (Likud)
51. Take away an uzi
52. One who is 32-Down
54. Partner of David Duchovny's Fox on "The X-Files"
55. "Roseanne" star
56. Israel's is 8,019 mis
57. It can be caused by violence or saying Lashon Hara
61. Meat not on the kosher menu



Soon, Stir Fry by Riva Brown PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE COLOR!

Still Life Paintings by Riva Brown
at the Siegel JCC ArtSpace

By Kerin Hearn
Siegel JCC ArtSpace Committee

The dismal grey months of January and February will be brightened by the colorful still life paintings of Riva Brown in the Siegel JCC ArtSpace.



At the Siegel JCC ArtSpace

January through the end of February

IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE COLOR Still Life Watercolor Paintings

by Riva Brown

In the Showcase:

Small works with calligraphy; prints and paintings

Reception to Meet the Artist:

Sunday, January 8, 2017

12 noon-2 pm

During the Siegel JCC
Membership Open House
Wine & Refreshments
Free & open to the public

The Siegel JCC ArtSpace is located across from the front desk in the main lobby. Visit the exhibition during regular lobby hours. Artists or artist groups interested in exhibiting at the Siegel JCC ArtSpace or in the Showcase should contact Katie Glazier at 302-478-5660 or katieglazier@siegeljcc.org.

It's Always About the Color will feature her sometimes intense, sometimes subtle, but always beautiful watercolors on the walls, while prints of her smaller works with calligraphy will be in the Showcase.

Always About the Color, Always Wilmington

Artist Riva Brown, who is known for her calligraphy and watercolors, is a rarity these days—a native Wilmingtonian. She was born and raised in the city where her father ran Jack's Market at 6th and Union; attended city schools from elementary to high school (Lore, Shortledge, Harlan and P.S. DuPont). She wandered as far as Newark to study art and art history at the University of Delaware, where she met her husband Bill. After college, they moved to Wilmington where even now, they maintain a home and studio, not far at all from her father's market so many years ago.

Her mother remembers her drawing at age three and her first "commission" in first grade when a fellow student asked

her to draw a kidney for a report. Though a rebellious teenager, she did belong to art clubs and studied with Ed Loper, Jr. at the Christina Cultural Art Center. Her mother encouraged her to "just go" to the University of Delaware where she could take art. It was through the art history program that she discovered and fell in love with old illuminated manuscripts. She was fascinated with the various styles of hand-lettered calligraphy and its combination with beautiful decorative art.

Riva's first job out of school was at the old Wind Bell crafts store. Because she had a lot of free time on her hands, she taught herself calligraphy. In the mid-70s if you could letter, there was work as artists were needed to make posters and corporate flip charts, address envelopes, and make certificates.

At about this same time Riva attended Adas Kodesch Synagogue. One day Rabbi Leonard Gewirtz, who knew she did

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

ABOUT THE COLOR!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 42

calligraphy, asked her to do a ketubah for a bride who wanted one. She accepted the challenge of figuring out how the words and art could fit together into something the couple could treasure. She learned to write in Hebrew and thus began her long career in Hebrew/Judaic calligraphy and artwork.

She was inspired by the Weekly Torah Portion to combine art and calligraphy to portray stories such as the Ram in the Thicket, Adam and Eve and the Serpent and Miriam Dancing with the Women. Her thriving business in ketubahs and certificates for bar mitzvahs, Quaker marriages, wedding anniversaries, the honoring of significant people and other special occasions grew to the point that her husband joined her in the Living Letters Studio.

Riva's paintings surrounding and woven into her certificates are not just ordinary detailed representations. First of all, she feels watercolors are prettier than other media plus their hydro action makes them unique. She loves to take what she calls "gooshy" wet paint, drop it onto wet paper, and watch it move and become something alive. She loves the medium and is still mesmerized by its action in water. She calls the moment when the color works magic a "passage." She can sense when a passage is coming up and is willing to paint an entire painting for that one perfect passage.

Riva uses these same techniques on her full watercolor paintings of still life, people, and landscapes. Her rich, saturated colors, whether a vibrant autumn red or cool purply, pooling blue or luscious fruity yellow fill her paintings with a joyful exuberance that matches her personality! Dramatic contrast brings out the beauty of the color.

And, always somewhere on the picture occurs that passage that makes it a Riva Brown painting. To her, whether it's a watercolor painting or a certificate, it truly is always about the color!



Riva Brown in front of her calligraphy
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST



Reds of Autumn by Riva Brown
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Your Kosher Deli's January Menu

Partial January Menu Selections Change Every 2 Weeks

- Lemon Pepper Salmon
- Stuffed Flounder Florentine
- Apricot Glazed Chicken
- Turkey Meatloaf
- Italian Style Turkey Meatballs
- Buffalo Chicken Salad
- Rotisserie Chicken Salad
- *Mashed Golden Potatoes
- *Roasted Farm Vegetables
- *Green Beans w/Roasted Garlic
- *Steamed Spinach & Garlic

Available by the Pound or Build a Meal

- \$9 Build a Meal- Choose one meat (8 oz) and 2 sides* (6 oz each)
- \$12 Build a Meal- Choose one fish (8 oz) and 2 sides* (6 oz each)



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COMMUNITY RABBI RELEASES *KOSHERDAWG: Jewish Newgrass Jamboree*

By JFD Staff

Temple Beth El's Rabbi Micah Becker-Klein recently released a new CD entitled, *Kosherdawg: Jewish Newgrass Jamboree*, featuring 11 inspiring tracks arranged on acoustic instruments and sweet harmonies of prayers and psalms. The songs are new, exciting, and moving.

"This project has been evolving for a few years as I have been bringing together the American Bluegrass sound with Jewish liturgical and life cycle moments," says Rabbi Micah.

The musical support and help from Rabbi Micah's friends and family during the making of this creative journey helped to produce an amazing soundscape. Guests include harmonies with members of the original *Shabbat Unplugged*, his soul-song-

friends: Shawn Israel Zevit, Margot Stein, Juliet Spitzer, and Geela Rayzel Raphael. The support of his great companions in *The Soggy Matzah Boys*: Jay Luft on bass, Eric Aber on banjo, and Chris Fullerton on percussion. Jack Kessler laying down some additional bass. George Holt of the *Grassdawgs* on mandolin on a few songs. Plus special guest soul-brother, Eric Lindberg, on dobro, guitar, and a little banjo, and encouragement from soul-sister, Doni Zaslov, of Jewish bluegrass group, *Nefesh Mountain*. Amir Avraham Wise from Israel on flute on a few pieces. Plus, the blessing of the voices of Reuben Becker-Klein and Sophie Becker-Klein.

The sound and soul present in *Kosherdawg: Jewish Newgrass Jamboree* affirms Rabbi Micah's artistic purpose: spreading love and peace through music.



i

KOSHERDAWG TRACKS
can be heard online at:
www.rabbimicah.hearnow.com

To hear full tracks, click on "buy now" and select "Spotify" to listen to any track you want.

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2016 represents several very special events in my professional career and personal life as I celebrate my 40th year in real estate.

Caryl and I have the distinct pleasure of officially welcoming our daughter Pamela Meissler and our son Mark Stape into our family business. Pam and Mark are carrying on both the Stape and Marcus legacies as 3rd generation realtors in the State of Delaware and are off to an impressive start! Caryl continues to be the glue that holds us together, using her business acumen and her design talents to manage our ever-growing real estate portfolio.

We at Stape & Associates are extremely proud to partner with the #1 real estate agency in the State of Delaware, Patterson-Schwartz Real Estate! Our partnership allows us to provide you with cutting edge technology, state of the art marketing tools, and the professionalism associated with being some of the top realtors in the state.

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Q ■ What changes in Liberal Judaism have impacted you the most?

A ■ RABBI ELLEN BERNHARDT
JCRC Director

The women's movement and my Jewish life converged.

Growing up at Adas Kodesh Shel Emeth here in Wilmington, Delaware, it never occurred to me that women could become rabbis; I never imagined that I would someday become one. I attended the AKSE Talmud Torah, and loved coming to shul every week, often both Friday night and Shabbat morning. When it came time for my Bat Mitzvah, AKSE was revolutionizing its policy to allow girls to read the Haftorah on Friday night, without saying the blessings. Rabbi Gewirtz (z"l), taught me the Haftorah *trup* himself. Where did he find the time and why "waste" it on girls? I wish I could ask him that now.

I attended Gratz Hebrew High School, which my parents helped found, here in Delaware. After moving to Philadelphia, we attended an Orthodox synagogue and then a Conservative one. Things were starting to change for Jewish girls, reflecting the changes in the women's movement. I graduated from Gratz Hebrew High School, served on the staff of Camp Ramah in the Poconos, and was a Jewish Studies minor in college. I attended Hebrew University in Jerusalem for my Junior Year of College and lived a very traditional Jewish life, but, for the first time, was exposed to women who had a participatory role in their synagogues.

I continued graduate studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in NY, receiving a masters in Jewish Education as I pursued a masters in Social work first at Columbia and then at Bryn Mawr. I

had every intention of becoming a social worker and making Aliyah; I loved to study Judaica and continued to do so. Even after I started having children, I took a course every semester in Bible, Talmud, etc. at the nearby Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, as I continued to work part time as a social worker. JTS was not, as yet, admitting women—only HUC (Reform) and RRC (Reconstructionist) were ordaining women at that time.

I served as a teacher at Camp Ramah for several summers while my children were young, and there I befriended Dr. Judy Hauptman, a Talmud teacher of mine from JTS. She was studying for her PhD in Talmud at JTS, the first woman to receive it. We spent a great deal of time together, studying and talking. It was she who first opened my eyes to the possibility of my becoming a rabbi. "We need you," she said, and "Don't wait around for the Conservative Movement to begin admitting women—do it now."

All of my interests converged at that moment and my life's direction became a reality. Having daughters, and a son, who grew up in a liberal congregation (Adath Jeshurun in Elkins Park), Solomon Schechter Day School, and at Camp Ramah, they saw girls as well as boys read Torah, lead the service, as equal partners with boys in the Jewish world. I kept on taking courses at RRC and, in 1988, I was ordained.

Looking back, when Rabbi Gewirtz taught me Haftorah *trup* on Shabbat afternoons, that was the pivotal moment that would lead to my unquenching desire to study Jewish texts and to serve the Jewish people. He told me much later, when he learned that I was in Rabbinical School, that he was very proud.

RABBI PETER GRUMBACHER

Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Emeth

My very first speaking engagement in Wilmington in 1972 was held at Congregation Beth Shalom in October of that year. The topic was *Peter's Principles*. I recall vividly stating, "In twenty-five years it will be difficult to distinguish between Reform and Conservative Judaism." I believe I heard a snicker somewhere in the auditorium, but I think even the "snickerers" would agree that in certain respects that this prediction came true.

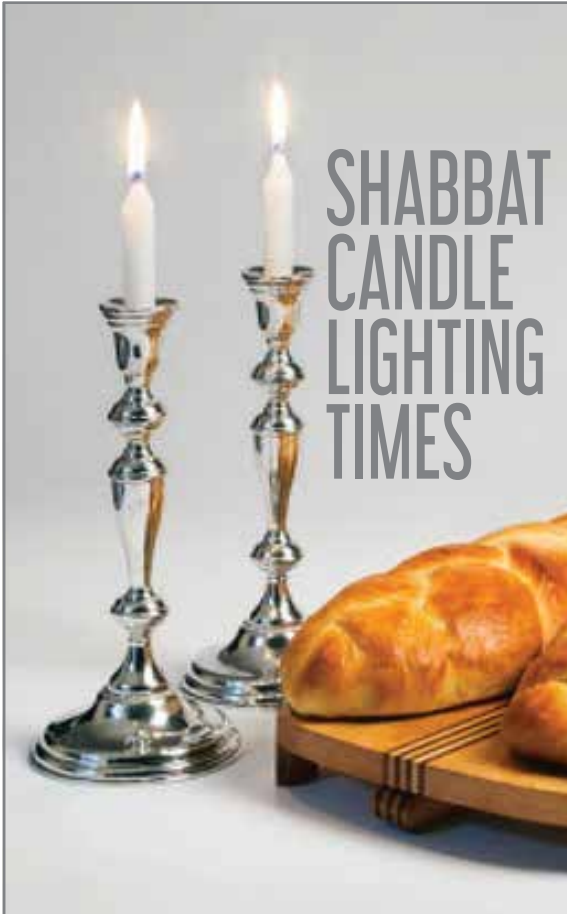
While early Reform and Conservative had obvious differences with respect to the State of Israel, Hebrew in the worship service, liturgical music, Jewish education, and other matters of importance, it didn't take twenty-five years to virtually eliminate the differences. I hate to say it (not really), but I was correct. Over the years people have commented how difficult it is to distinguish between worship, for example.

But differences still remain.

It is the very touchy subject of intermarriage that has impacted my rabbinate. So many of my colleagues around the country officiate; many who did not when I was ordained do so now. While I still do not officiate, I'm not certain I wouldn't if I were entering the rabbinate today, not to "keep up with the Joneses," as it were, but because there might be a better chance to keep the flame alive if a rabbi connects with the couple. "Might" be a better chance"... the jury's not in yet.

The ritual life of liberal Judaism has moved in a more (both upper case and lower case

MORE ON NEXT PAGE



SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017
Light candles at 4:35 PM
Shabbat, January 7, 2017
Shabbat ends at 5:38 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 2017
Light candles at 4:42 PM
Shabbat, January 14, 2017
Shabbat ends at 5:45 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017
Light candles at 4:50 PM
Shabbat, January 21, 2017
Shabbat ends at 5:52 PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017
Light candles at 4:58 PM
Shabbat, January 28, 2017
Shabbat ends at 6:00 PM

RABBIS' VOICES

“c”) c/Conservative direction. A highlight of Reform Judaism for example was our focus on Prophetic Judaism, that the message of the prophets emphasized the ethical over the ritual. I have no real problem with ritual; I brought *talit* and *kipah* to Beth Emeth and I increased the amount of Hebrew taught in our school and used in worship. I do however feel that the thrust of the prophets is on the back burner, not a whole lot because we do see some very significant programs that emphasize a better society, a more ethical society. Therefore, we see it but I think we have to teach it as well. Some might believe that the deed is better than the word, and this is absolutely true. Nevertheless, the fire of Isaiah, Amos and Micah, for example, has to be brought to the attention of students, both young and old. What better way than in the classroom and sanctuary!

For example, our current prayer book, *Mishkan Tefilah*, is far more spiritual. Former *siddurim* stressed prophetic concepts in their adaptations of traditional Hebrew prayers. This new one is far more poetic, shall I say “touchy feely”?

Twenty-first century Judaism is different on many levels. I’ve mentioned that in other “answers” in this monthly column. There are greater challenges for liberal Jews and liberal Judaism. May we be able to meet those challenges to keep our faith and our people alive and thriving.

JERUSALEM POST CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION

WHO’S YOUR DADDY?

Puzzle is located
on page 41

1	J	2	A	3	C	4	O	5	B		6	A	7	S	8	H	9	I		10	J	11	E	12	W	13	S
14	C	L	A	I	M					15	B	I	A	S						16	E	L	A	L			
17	C	A	R	L	A					18	A	G	I	N					19	T	I	N	A				
20	S	N	L			21	J	22	E	T	H	R	O						23	W	A	D	I				
						24	C	O	V	E	T	S						25	L	A	B	A	N				
26	C	L	A	I	R	E								29	P	30	R	E	Y								
31	L	E	V	I						32	L	Y	R	I	C					34	B	E	35	A			
37	A	N	I			38	P	39	H	A	R	A	O	H					40	E	L	L					
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47	D	48	A	49	V	I	D			50	C	51	U	52	T	L	E	T									
53	A	L	O	N						54	D	O	N	A	L	D				55	B	56	A	57	H		
58	M	A	T	E						59	A	M	A	R					60	O	61	H	A	R	A		
62	O	M	E	R						63	N	E	R	D					64	R	A	R	E	R			
65	N	O	S	Y						66	A	R	M	Y					67	A	M	R	A	M			

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FAE-LEE BAILIS

May 1941 – November 2016

Survived by her sister, Claire; brothers, Abraham and Michael; and many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

GERALD ZORACH (JERRY) BERKOWITZ

Age 84, passed away after a cruel struggle with age, Alzheimer's and sepsis on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 in Wilmington, DE.

He was born April 5, 1932 in Wilmington, DE to Samuel and Dorothy Berkowitz. He married Alene Samuels on September 11, 1960. Jerry was a successful attorney; a lion in the courtroom and fierce advocate for his clients. He was also a talented jazz musician and avid tennis player. He was loyal to his employees, and generous and kind to his friends and loved ones. A lover of life, his favorite slogan was "every day's a holiday, every meal's a banquet."

He is survived by his wife and devoted life partner of 56 years, Alene; his loving children, Robin and Ned Berkowitz (Jodi); and his beloved grandchildren, Noah and Joshua.

ADELE (RUBIN) WEINER

AGE: 88 • Brandywine Hundred, DE

Adele Weiner, 88 years young, passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 14, 2016 at Foulk Manor North, where she had resided since relocating from Florida back to the Wilmington area in 2012. Adele was happy and healthy until her unanticipated but peaceful death.

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



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

Born in Manhattan, New York on August 14, 1928, Adele was the daughter of the late Isadore and Yetta (Hockman) Rubin, who had relocated their family and family business from the lower east side of New York City to Wilmington in 1932. Rubin's Delicatessen and Catering was a favorite Wilmington restaurant serving locals and out of towners alike for many decades until her parents' retirement in 1954.

Adele was a 1947 graduate of P.S. Dupont High School and thereafter attended Goldey-Beacom College. She left college in 1949 to marry Jack Weiner, her sweetheart and handsome World War II vet.

After their October 12, 1949 wedding, Jack and Adele built a beautiful home together in West Chester, PA. There they raised their three sons, Bob, Steve and Larry. In August 1964, the family moved to Brandywine Hundred, where Adele reunited with many of her Wilmington area childhood friends. Adele also made many new friends in the Arden community, and where Adele renewed her lifelong passion for dancing at the Arden Guild Hall.

Adele was imbued with a sharp wit and an enduring smile. She loved aerobics and exercise. She would exercise every day on

her stationary bike at Foulk Manor North. The family would like to thank Foulk Manor North for their skillful and loving care.

Adele adored her family; especially her grandchildren Kevin, Amy, Ellen, Rachel, Jordan and Hailey. Adele is survived by her children Robert (Lucinda), Steven (Sandy), Larry (Cynthia), brother Milton (Sarah) Rubin, sister Jean (Rubin) Sachs; 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to a favorite charity.

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 -11

Strength Competition

Siegel JCC Fitness Center
Join the J for a J fit Strength Competition! Compete based on total weight lifted in the Barbell Squat, Barbell Deadlift, and Barbell Bench Press. Collected sponsorship money will be donated to Nemours and the J. For more information, contact Chris Baldwin@siegeljcc.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Tot Shabbat

5:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner
6:30 PM Tot Shabbat
Congregation Beth Shalom
Join us for a community Pot Luck Dinner at 5:30 PM by bringing a dairy/parve meal to share with others. At 6:30 PM preschool age children and their families are invited to experience Shabbat through stories, songs and prayer. A more traditional service will begin at 7 PM. Free parking. For more information, call 302-654-4462.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Gourmet CTeen Shabbos Dinner!

4:30 PM Candle lighting and services
5:30 PM Dinner
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 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 www.CTeen.com/Delaware. You can also contact Rochel, CTeen Facilitator at: Rochel@ChabadDE.com or Zack Horowitz, CTeen President at: horowitzz17@ucfsd.net

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Fifth Annual Community Game Night

7-10 PM
Congregation Beth Shalom
Mark this date on your calendar and enjoy a fun filled night! Bring your friends and your own favorite games. Bingo, Trivia, Poker, Mah-Jongg, Monopoly... you decide. A light supper is included in the admission of only \$15 by Dec. 30th, or \$18 at the door. Cash bar for Beer & Wine. This event is cosponsored by AKSE, CBE, CBS, and TBE. For more information, please contact Laurie Hazen at Sisterhood@bethshalomwilmington.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Open House

10 AM- 2 PM
Siegel JCC
Come see the Siegel JCC facility and learn about the benefits of joining our community while receiving a special one-day discount offer of two free months of membership! For more information, contact Cindy Goldstein@siegeljcc.org.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

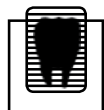
ArtSpace Opening

3 - 5 PM
JCC ArtSpace
Join us for Riva Brown's beautiful watercolors in the ArtSpace and Showcase. For more info contact KatieGlazier@siegeljcc.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

CTeen Session - Social and Community Service Program for Teens

7 - 8:15 PM
Siegel JCC
Check out the awesome CTeen Kickoff! Find out what all the hype on CTeen is about while enjoying a delicious pizza dinner! Come have a great time meeting and hanging out with other Jewish teens, get into great discussion based on the theme of the month, and get community service hours - all in one session! For more information about CTeen and a calendar of events go to www.CTeen.com/Delaware or find the Facebook group CTeen



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COMMUNITYCALENDAR

JANUARY 2017

Delaware. Please contact Rochel Flikshtein for more information at: Rochel@ChabadDE.com or Zack Horowitz, CTeen President at: horowitzz17@ucfsd.net.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13
Martin Luther King Shabbat

8 PM

Join Congregation Beth Shalom for Shabbat Service and be inspired by the Joshua Nelson Band as we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King in a time when our world needs peace.

Free of charge. Sponsored by Kraft Education Foundation. For more information, call 302-654-4462.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
Jewish History Series

10 AM

Congregation Beth Shalom
Dover, DE. 19904

The World of Biblical Israel: Lecture 10-Politics and Economy of a Centralized Cult: In this class we look at state-sponsored sanctuaries and explore the critical economic role in the Temple at the time of the development of a monarchic state. These classes are open to anyone who has an interest in Jewish history! No, you do not have to be Jewish to learn from, and enjoy these classes. These classes are about Jewish history, not religion, so everyone will be comfortable in attending and participating. Please contact Burt Brenman, the moderator of the class, at burtrehab@gmail.com, in order for him to prepare sufficient handouts for new class members.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15
7-9th Grade Game Night

4:30 – 6 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Gather around our projector screen to play your favorite Wii games and board games with friends! For more info contact: DanMetz@siegeljcc.org

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18
Great Jewish Book Club Meeting

2 PM

Siegel JCC

Join us for a discussion on the book The Grammar of G-d by Aviya Kushner. For more information contact AnnaSaul@siegeljcc.org

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
AKSE Academy – An Evening of Jewish Learning

6 - 9:30 PM

Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth

The community is invited to participate in an evening of Jewish learning and light refreshments. Topics of classes include Being Black and Jewish in America; AIPAC, Washington DC and the U.S.-Israel Relationship; Growing up Jewish in the Soviet Union; What Makes Jewish Music Jewish? and The Role of a Jewish Chaplain. The fee for the evening is \$12 at the door, \$10 if preregistered by January 19. Please contact the AKSE office at 302-762-2705 for more information and to preregister.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21
Kids Klub Movie Night

7 PM – 9 PM

Siegel JCC

Join us for a special kid friendly movie showing for K-5th graders along with snacks in our auditorium. For more information contact BeckyStahl@siegeljcc.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
7-9th Grade Winter Community Service & Hangout

4:30 – 6 PM

Siegel JCC

Join us with your friends for an evening of giving back and hanging out. We will be making blankets to donate along with a book drive while listening to music and enjoying hot coco, snacks, and apple cider. For more information contact DanMetz@siegeljcc.org

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25
Einstein Curriculum Showcase

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Siegel JCC Auditorium

Perfect for prospective families and supporters! Not just a science fair about the outdoors, see how Einstein students learn about the outdoors in every subject! For more information, contact Rabbi Jeremy Winaker at 302-478-5026 or jeremy.winaker@einsteinday.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2017
Federation Shabbat

5:15 PM – 9:00 PM

Congregation Beth Emeth

Join our state-wide synagogues from Wilmington, Newark, Dover, and Rehoboth Beach at Congregation Beth Emeth for a PJ Library Shabbat Program, and Shabbat dinner with services to follow.

Reservations for dinner are required and must be received no later than January 18th, 2017. To RSVP, please send a check to CBE, 300 W. Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802

For more information and to sign up, please contact Lori with any questions at lorianw@cbe.comcastbiz.net or 302-764-2393

GOOD NEWS?

SHARE IT!

- Submit a 3 to 6 sentence paragraph celebrating your simcha.
- Send your write-up with a high resolution .jpg photo to Jaidy@shalomdel.org.
- Remember, simcha announcements are free of charge!

JEWISH VOICE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

Super Sunday

9 AM – 12 PM &
3 PM – 6 PM
Siegel JCC

Volunteers from Delaware and the Brandywine Valley come together to make calls to donors thanking them for their previous support and asking for their continued commitment to Federation's 2017 Annual Campaign which funds and supports our five local beneficiary agencies along with our overseas partners to ensure a strong Jewish future locally, in Israel, and Worldwide! Volunteer for one of two phoning sessions. For more information, visit ShalomDelaware.org or call 302-427-2100.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Camp Reunion

2 – 4 PM
Siegel JCC

Join us for a special Camp reunion! Come

see your friends from the summer and get together for some camp fun.

For more information contact AdamCook@siegeljcc.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

CTeen Session - Social and Community Service Program for Teens

7 - 8:15 PM
Siegel JCC

Check out the awesome CTeen Kickoff! Find out what all the hype on CTeen is about while enjoying a delicious pizza dinner! Come have a great time meeting and hanging out with other Jewish teens, get into great discussion based on the theme of the month, and get community service hours - all in one session! For more information about CTeen and a calendar of events go to www.CTeen.com/Delaware or find the Facebook group CTeen Delaware. Please contact Rochel Flikshtein for more information at: Rochel@ChabadDE.com or Zack Horowitz, CTeen President at: horowitzz17@ucfsd.net.

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Moshe and Tiran PHOTO BY MEIR LAVI PHOTOGRAPHY

A STORY OF A DREAM COME TRUE

A special Israeli firefighter story

By Tiran Attia
blogs.timesofisrael.com

I always wondered why most firefighters decide to become firefighters.

Maybe at some point in their lives, young boys and girls want to become firefighters. The thrill of the red lights, the sound of the sirens, and the ‘hero factor’, all play into their aspiration.

MORE ON NEXT PAGE

Lt. Col. (Res.) Tiran Attia is the director of Special in Uniform, a very unique program, operating in partnership with Jewish National Fund (JNF) to integrate young people with autism and other disabilities into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and, in turn, into Israeli society. Tiran was born in Israel in 1967. During a distinguished 28-year career in the IDF, he was IDF tank commander, commander of the IDF's Technology and logistics forces training program for army logistics cadets. His last position in the IDF was as a Commander of the Sar-El program for army volunteers.

REFLECTIONS

Some of us had a childhood encounter with firefighters that opened our eyes to the possibility of being a real-life superhero. In fact, I think, that it may play a major role in their first few years of employment. Deep down, firefighters are born with a desire to serve the community.

I would like to share with you a Special Firefighter Story, a story of a dream come true. It is about Moshe, a young man with an intellectual disability. He was born in Ethiopia and immigrated to Israel as a young boy. Moshe had always wanted to become a firefighter. He dreamed of being a firefighter. As a child, he had always waved to fire trucks when they drove by.

When his sister Hadas enlisted in the army, Moshe decided that despite everything, he wanted to enlist too, in order to follow in his sister's footsteps. His mother and sister gently attempted to dissuade him so he wouldn't be disappointed by a possible rejection. But Moshe was determined, and he said, "I want to serve in the army. I want to serve my country!" But, when Moshe first approached an officer in the IDF enlistment office at the age of 18, he was immediately told that his disability would

prevent him from serving. Moshe was devastated and felt depressed, as if he was useless, worthless. Eventually he moved into a high risk street life and it was difficult for social workers and related professionals to engage him.

One day we got a call from Moshe's social worker to try to take him to the Special in Uniform program. Special in Uniform is a very unique program now operating in partnership with Jewish National Fund (JNF) and integrates young people with autism and other disabilities into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and, in turn, into Israeli society.

Moshe was very happy for the opportunity to enlist as a volunteer. After a short process of evaluation and assessment by our professional team, we decided to include Moshe in the program and he began a three-month course of life skills and occupational skills training. On the pre-induction training program course, the soldiers are integrated into a variety of jobs as a part of the military manpower; Moshe asked to be part of the army's fire crews, and is now serving in the IDF, and guess what his job is? He is a firefighter at an Air Force base!

Thinking about Moshe reminds me of the story about an old man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit

of walking on the beach every morning before he began his work. Early one morning, he was walking along the shore, after a big storm had passed, and he found the beach littered with starfish as far as the eye could see, stretching in both directions. Far away, in the distance, the old man noticed a little boy approaching. As the boy walked, he paused here and then. As he came closer, the man could see that he was occasionally bending down to pick up an object and would throw it into the sea. The boy came closer and closer, and the man called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The young boy paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean. The tide has washed them up onto the beach and they can't return to the sea by themselves," the young boy replied. "When the sun gets high, they will die unless I throw them back into the water."

The old man replied, "But there must be tens of thousands of starfish on this beach. I'm afraid you won't really be able to make much of a difference."

The boy bent down, picked up yet another starfish and threw it as far as he could into the ocean.

Then he turned, smiled and said, "It made a difference to that one!"

Join Your Community

2017 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS:
Barb Blumberg
Lisa Dadone-Weiner

JANUARY 29, 2017

Super Sunday

VOLUNTEER 9 AM-NOON
for 1 of 2 Phone Sessions or 3 PM-6 PM

To volunteer or for more information, visit
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Please support the Annual Campaign and Create A Jewish Legacy so Federation and our local agencies and overseas partners can continue improving our world **Today, Tomorrow and TOGETHER.**



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FEBRUARY 1-19

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7PM	2 7PM	3 8PM	4 8PM
5 2PM	6	7	8 2PM	9 7PM	10 8PM	11 2PM 8PM
12 2PM	13	14	15 2PM	16 7PM	17 8PM	18 2PM 8PM
19 2PM	LIMITED SEATING					

written by

BRUCE GRAHAM

directed by

BUD MARTIN

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