

# THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

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Engman Camp Shalom Campers enjoyed a day outdoors of mock camping at Walnut Woods

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# Jewish Press

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## Looking Back at a Wonderful Year



Jarad Bernstein  
President

I am proud to share that your Federation has had a wonderful year as measured by the amount of programming we have put on, the quality of our programming, and adherence to budget. We have been able to achieve this even in the face of declining contributions to the All-in-One Campaign.

Currently we have a draft budget, which Board Treasurer Dick Kirsner has prepared with Executive Director Sharon Goldford and the staff. It's looking good, but it won't be finalized until our first fall board meeting as we wait on the Foundation's numbers as confirmed by the audit. This is not out of the ordinary and I have every confidence based on where we are right now that final numbers will be quite close to what we have laid out right now.

You are each aware of the Federation's pillars: Education, Family and Senior Outreach, Civic Action and Awareness, and History. Each of these areas has made meaningful progress and impacts over the course of the year.

The Federation's commitment to educating our

children is impressive. We support some of the youngest members of our community with the flourishing Gan Shalom Preschool. This fall we are expecting to enroll more than 40 students! This is due in no small part to the leadership of Anissa and Sophie and the caring and talented staff they have hired. Gan Shalom is exceeding all expectations we had from when we decided to launch the school. The programming for these kids is incredible. For example, thanks to the generosity of the Hurwitz family, these pre-schoolers were able to learn how to play the violin with teachers from the Des Moines Symphony. A few weeks ago, they had a special canine visitor: Drake's live mascot Griff. Some days when I am sitting at my desk at work I wish I had the schedule they do. If you are not following Gan Shalom on Facebook, you are missing out!

In addition to the pre-school, Beit Sefer Shalom continues to perform well. One particular program through Beit Sefer, the Student to Student program led by recent Drake graduate Kyle Grossman, shares the beauty of Judaism with students in Iowa communities that rarely, if ever come across Jews. This program is a long-term and inexpensive investment that leads to greater understanding of our community, and just as importantly, instills confidence in our own students in sharing and expressing their Judaism with pride.



Engman Camp Shalom is now underway! Between camp and pre-school, there will be around 70 kids at Caspe every weekday this summer. We couldn't be happier with the camp sessions that have been planned for the coming 10 weeks.

Support of Drake Hillel also comes from this pillar and I want you to know that we are looking forward to a successful school year starting in the fall. With the need to sell the house on 31st Street, the university stepped up to assist the organization by providing meeting space in a building fronting University Avenue. Hillel will continue to meet in that space this coming year as we plan for an even brighter future. We will have more on that in the coming months once the former home sells.

Lilianna and I had the pleasure of attending the annual volunteer recognition dinner where we sat at a table with some of the seniors who participate in the programming that Jody Ingersoll puts together. The expressions on their faces said everything; this is a highly successful area of Federation work. In addition to meals, we help seniors in need with financial assistance to pay everything from rent and utilities to medicine. From the community survey we completed last year, we know it is of great importance to continue serving seniors at a high level to you as well. It is wonderful when our values and our priorities go hand-in-hand.

The JCRC this year has been active in the key areas of

Israel promotion, Holocaust remembrance, and community engagement. Mark Finkelstein and his board met with and led events involving senior Israeli government officials, Greek Orthodox Church leadership from Chicago, and the year's most tasty event, bringing two Israeli chefs in to prepare a spectacular meal in celebration of Israel's 70th birthday for the community hosted at Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

Finally, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society deserves a huge round of applause. With an invigorated board they have accomplished much this year including recognition from the State of Iowa for a series of events with Holocaust survivor Celina Karp Biniarz, winning grants to help fund a major renovation to the museum's archival space, and securing significant philanthropic dollars that will help the organization thrive for many years to come.

Beyond the day-to-day work of the Federation staff—of which we should all be proud—I want you to know that the board of both the Federation and the Foundation are having important conversations about the future of the Jewish community. Using the results of the community survey and the assistance of Paul Thelen of the University of Iowa's Nonprofit Resource Center, the boards are considering the ramifications of an aging donor base.

We know the community is growing; just look at the success of our education programs. But we also know that some of our most generous

donors will not always be here and we need to plan for that eventuality. That includes cultivating a new generation of donors and having some of our current donors step up their giving to a more sustainable level or planning legacy gifts. It includes responding more than adequately to current and future community needs. And it includes being exceptionally good stewards of the funds that we currently are blessed to have. The work I outlined above, and the additional work that is described in Sharon's report is critical to the present and future of this community. But it is how we as donors, volunteers, and caring individuals respond to the coming challenges that will dictate whether Jews will want to stay in Des Moines and, increasingly important, whether Jews will want to move to Des Moines when they receive a call from a corporate recruiter.

The coming year will once again be full of amazing opportunities for the entire Jewish community to learn, be entertained, and express support for Israel. As our teens in the Student to Student program are learning to be outwardly proud of their heritage, I ask of you the same. You represent this community every day whether you know it or not. I also ask you to help make all of this possible with your annual gift to the All-in-One Campaign. Today is the right day to make a gift for the successful future of Jewish Des Moines.



# A Thriving Community at the Jewish Federation



Sharon Goldford  
Executive Director

It has been a wonderful year at the Federation. There have been so many events that have taken place—our schools are thriving, our camp is going strong, and our seniors are being cared for on a daily basis. Caspe Terrace is such an exciting place to be every day.

The Federation partnered with the Young Artist Workshop to present, “I Never Saw Another Butterfly.” Some of our community either had a part in the play or helped to put on the play. It was shown in Stoner Theater at the Civic Center. The play was very well received and so meaningful to those who attended.

We had movie nights at the Fleur Theater and at Caspe Terrace—two at each! All movies were very well received, and the Federation heard many wonderful remarks about our sponsoring them.

We had the pleasure of partnering with the Greek Orthodox Church in Des Moines as they celebrated and honored the Archbishop of Greece who had saved the lives of many, many Greek Jews.

We were so happy to work

with the Israeli Consulate in Chicago and welcome visits from Israeli Minister of Agriculture and MK Uri Ariel and Deputy Consul General Itay Milner. Governor Kim Reynolds also signed a proclamation in honor of Israel’s 70th anniversary.

This past spring we welcomed two chefs from Israel through Partnership Together in the Western Galilee. We had a wonderful time with them and the chefs cooked a fantastic Israeli dinner for our community in celebration of Israel’s birthday. It was a great way to celebrate, and our community made them feel so welcome that the chefs would really like to make a return visit to Des Moines.

The Jewish Historical Society outdid itself this year with their two events with Celina Karp Biniaz. They won an award from the Iowa Historical society, and they also have remodeled the museum and put in wonderful moveable shelving for the artifacts. Please see Sandi’s report in this booklet for more details.

Gan Shalom was a huge hit this year and is on track for continuing to be great next year as well. With an incoming fall enrollment of over 40 preschoolers, it is time to celebrate. Anissa Deay and Sophie Homonoff and their staff have made Gan Shalom a huge success for the Federation and the community. We have the best teachers, and they receive the highest marks from parents

and students. Beit Sefer had a great year. The “Student to Student” program brought a sense of what Judaism really is to many local high-school students. This program will continue in the fall. Please see their reports in this booklet.

Jody Ingersoll, Director of Jewish Family Services, is a gift—just ask the seniors. Every time I meet with them or attend a senior lunch, they tell me how much they appreciate all she does for them. Jody makes home visits weekly to our seniors and provides them with meals and food baskets. We have also helped seniors stay in their homes by providing financial assistance for paying rent, utility bills, buying air conditioners, recliners, and so much more. Our children and our seniors are two of our most prized community members. Jody built, distributed, and reported on the community survey this year, which showed that we value our children and our seniors and wants the Federation to take care of them. The Federation goal is to “Care for Our Families” big and small, and we have succeeded.

From a building -and- grounds perspective, we have been working with Homeland Security on our security at Caspe Terrace. We have continually upgraded cameras and our fob lock system, and we are working to increase more outdoor lighting. Staff has been trained in all of the different aspects of security by Homeland Security. We have applied for

a federal grant that, if we are successful, will provide funds for new doors at Caspe Terrace that will be fire doors and doors that meet security standards. We have also installed a new mailbox. This might not seem like something that is newsworthy, but the mailbox is also secure—it has a lock that only the mail-delivery person and our office staff can open. It will help us protect the security of our mail.

We will be installing a new heavy-duty dishwasher in the Blumenthal kitchen, thanks to Don and Margo Blumenthal and their kitchen fund. The new dishwasher will allow us to do more dishes in a shorter amount of time with proper drainage.

We have installed new water lines down to the new tree garden. We hope you will consider purchasing a tree in honor or memory of a loved one. More to come in the near future on the tree garden.

You probably noticed as you drove in that we have redone the paving in front of Staroselsky. The cement was so uneven that we could not plow it, and it was retaining water. We will need to redo the visitor parking lot, but that will be a project down the road.

We will be painting the inside of the school at the end of the summer prior to fall classes. The school needs other upgrades this year that we will work on as we find the money. We are so grateful to Lou and Marilyn Hurwitz for all they have done for us. They paid to remodel the downstairs of Caspe for improved classrooms and art room. Their donation paid for the new classroom furniture, for the teeter totter to be fixed, for violin lessons from the Des Moines Symphony for our 3-year-olds, for a television for the IJHS for people to view the historical tapes, and so much more. We just can't thank

them enough.

Hillel House is on the market. The new Hillel House is on University Avenue on the Drake campus thanks to the wonderful generosity of Drake. When the former house is sold, the money will be used for Drake Hillel.

All of this and more comes from all of you. Thank you to our wonderful donors; we are so grateful for each of you. If you haven't given to the All-in-One Campaign, please do so today at your tables or go to the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines website.

Finally, I want to thank the terrific staff at the Federation. They are absolutely wonderful and do so much for everyone in our community. I want to thank the Federation and Foundation Boards for all of their support. I want to thank our Rabbis and their boards for being great partners. It is an honor to work at the Federation. Thank you again for all you do every day.

#### The Committee for the

#### Margo and Don Blumenthal Jewish Student Scholarships

are pleased to announce the awarding of scholarships for the academic year 2018 - 2019.

The awardees are:

Ethan Adato	University of Iowa	Dani Lipman	University of Iowa
Hannah Cline	University of Iowa	Meir Lipman	University of Iowa
Jacob Copeland	Iowa State University	Aidan Pearl	University of Iowa
Hanna Kaufman	University of Iowa	Abigail Wahlig	Iowa State University
Kayla Laufenberg	University of Northern Iowa	Annie Weinberg	Luther College

The scholarships were awarded on a competitive basis to Jewish students from Central Iowa who will attend or are attending post-secondary schools within the State of Iowa.

Donations to the Blumenthal Scholarship Fund may be earmarked and sent to:  
The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263

For additional information, contact [jcrc@dmifed.org](mailto:jcrc@dmifed.org)

# Community Report

## Engman Camp Shalom

- Engman Camp Shalom is offering 10 weeks of camp at Caspe Terrace this summer
- Transportation to and from ECS runs daily from Tifereth Israel Synagogue
- 56 different campers are already enrolled in camp this summer
- Scholarships are available for camp through Jewish Family Services
- A new hot lunch program is a huge hit this summer for \$20/week

## Beit Sefer Shalom

- Beit Sefer Shalom educated 131 students ages 2-18 during the 2017-18 school year
- 26 teenagers participated in the Madrichim Program this school year
- Students in all grades used technology in the computer lab to enhance their learning
- Beit Sefer Shalom offered weekly transportation to and from Tifereth Israel Synagogue
- The Student to Student Program was launched in Des Moines through a 3 year JCRC grant
- The 2018-19 school year will begin on September 9, 2018

## Gan Shalom

- Gan Shalom educated 36 students during the 2017-2018 school year
- Prekindergarten completed the Advanced Start Math Program. Children learned place value, adding and subtracting using the abacus
- Des Moines Symphony Beginning Violin Lessons were offered to the 3-year-old class weekly
- Gan Shalom End of Year Celebration was May 24th at 9:30 a.m. in Bucksbaum Auditorium
- Gan Shalom Camp currently has 46 children enrolled
- Gan Shalom 2018-2019 school year will start August 27, 2018. Tours can be schedule at [ganshalom@dmjfed.org](mailto:ganshalom@dmjfed.org) or 515-987-0899 with Anissa Deay

## Jewish Community Relations

- JCRC presided over two meetings of the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education
- A JCRC representative participated in a panel discussion at a local church on comparative religions.
- JCRC attended two Iftar dinners, one at Drake University, the other at a local mosque.
- JCRC members participated in a conference involving the leaders of the South Sudanese community
- A JCRC member represented the Jewish community at the 40th anniversary celebration of a local pastor's service to his church.
- JCRC members responded through dialogue to instances of local anti-Israel activities

## Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- The IJHS received a Certificate of Recognition from the Loren Horton Community History Award Program of the State Historical Society of Iowa, one of the highest awards for history in the state.
- On exhibit for the first time: stained glass windows from the closed synagogue in Oskaloosa and from Beth El Jacob in Des Moines, a new introductory exhibit, and a 1937 census of Des Moines' Jewish community.
- The museum reopened on May 14 after the installation of new movable shelving for artifacts.
- The IJHS co-sponsored a traveling exhibit from the National Museum of American Jewish History with the State Historical Museum of Iowa and related The Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews to Iowa with photographs from our collection.

## Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- In March, we were entertained by "Da capo", a highly selective choir of 16-18 Roosevelt students who study and perform a cappella vocal jazz music. Da capo performs a variety of jazz music throughout the community and at school events.
- In April, Bev Ellis guided us in a card-making project. This was a great opportunity to be crafty and share our creativity!
- The May event was our trip to Prairie Meadows for food, conversation, and gambling.





### Upcoming Senior Events

- **July 19th the senior luncheon will be held at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Students from Engman Camp Shalom will join us for lunch and provide entertainment. Join us to meet our campers!**
- **August 16th the senior luncheon will be at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. Entertainment will be provided by the Midnight Madness, a ladies' barbershop quartet.**
- **August 30th we will have a presentation from the Iowa Jewish historical Society at Caspe Terrace. Lunch at 12:00 and then a special "behind the scenes" tour following.**
- **September 13th we will visit the Iowa Jewish Life Center for our senior luncheon. Lunch will be provided by the Life Center and we will get a chance to visit with Ron Osby, Life Center director, and his staff.**



The seniors enjoyed entertainment during their March luncheon from high school a capella group, "Da capo." The group is made up of 16-18 students from Roosevelt High School. During the April luncheon, seniors got in touch with their crafty side with a card-making project. A big thank you to Bev Ellis for guiding the day's activity!



# The Birkat Hakohanim: A 'Priestly Blessing'

Dr. David Friedgood  
Torah Commentator

*"The LORD spoke to Moses:  
Speak to Aaron and his sons:  
Thus shall you bless the people  
of Israel. Say to them:  
The LORD bless you and  
protect you!  
The LORD deal kindly  
and graciously with you!  
The LORD bestow His  
face upon you and grant you  
peace!"  
(Leviticus 6:22-26)*

The last three lines of the above Biblical passage are the familiar 'Birkat Hakohanim' (Priestly Blessing). This three-fold blessing is one of the older sections of our Torah. Archeologists have found portions of the text engraved on ancient silver amulets discovered south of Jerusalem dating back to the 7th century BCE. This discovery represents the only known physical evidence of the Bible existing prior to the Babylonian exile (586 BCE).

In the Jerusalem Temple the Priests, male descendants of Moses' brother Aaron, would stand in front of the people daily and deliver God's Blessing. It is clear that the Priests only acted as intermediaries. The words are from God, delivered by Priests, but it is the Everlasting Deity who is rewarding His people with His special blessing.

The moment was solemn and magical as the Priests stood before the assembled people, many of whom traveled long distances to receive God's Blessing. Each word uttered by the Priests had multiple levels

of meaning and significance. The recipients deeply believed in the power of blessing, of words, to better their lives. A Holy Blessing could be life saving. Some Orthodox, and a few Conservative congregations today reenact the scene, chanting the blessing as part of the repetition of the Amidah prayer during Shabbat morning services.

I can remember witnessing the ceremony in schul (synagogue) as a young boy. The scene and my sense of awe still resonate with me. In schul several congregates who were members of the Priestly clan (Kohanim), and age 13 or older, had their hands washed by members of the Levite clan. They removed their shoes and stepped on a platform called a duchan (the ritual is referred to as duchaning). They covered their heads with their Tallit (prayer shawl) and arranged their outstretched arms with thumbs separated, second and third fingers and fourth and fifth fingers together with a space in between (just like Mr. Spock giving the traditional Vulcan greeting on Star Trek).

The Cantor called out 'Kohanim'. Each word of the three-fold blessing was then called, and repeated in a chant by the Priests. The congregation stood for the ritual. A few turned their backs on the Kohanim as there is a tradition that the Priests are transmuting God, and mortal man can not survive gazing at the face of the Deity (even Moses could only see God's back and sense where He had been). After each verse, the congregates responded with "Amen." The room was otherwise quiet without the usual undertone of conversation typical in an Orthodox schul.

As a boy, I was appropriately

impressed. Also, parents bless their children on Friday evenings with the three-fold blessing. Rabbis and Cantors use it during Bar/Bat Mitzvah and wedding services.

Let us examine the words of the Birkat Hakohanim. The first line is composed of three Hebrew words. The second, five words. The third, seven words. The second word of each of the three blessings is the Holy unpronounceable name of our LORD, which we read as Adonai. The Holy Name is a derivation of the Hebrew verb HAYA – to be. Haya is spoken as an exiled breath, the sound lingering softly in the air. Our God has been, His is now, and He will be.

Also, the numbers three, five, and seven have a special meaning in the Bible (and other belief systems). They are used in particularly important places in Biblical text. For instance, Noah had three sons – Shem, Ham, and Japheth – each of whom fathered one of the races of human beings known at the time. Three angels visited Abraham to announce the birth of Isaac. Jonah spent three days in the belly of a fish. The number five is associated with the number of digits on each human limb. The 10 commandments is composed of two sets of five. The first section of our Bible is the Pentateuch – five books (Greek translation of Torah). Five are the sacrificial offerings (Korbanim) detailed in Leviticus. They include the Burnt offering (Olah), Grain (Minchah), Well-being (Zevah Shlamim), Sin (Chattat), and Atonement (Asham) offerings. Seven is a spiritual number in many mystical traditions. Our world was created in seven days.

The seven-branched menorah has been a symbol of Judaism



for over 3000 years. Sukkot, the harvest festival, which recalls our people's travel during Exodus, is celebrated for seven days. The Omer is counted for seven weeks of seven days from the second day of Passover to the Shavuot (weeks) Holiday when we celebrate the gift of Torah. A Jewish bride (and groom) circles her spouse to be seven times under the wedding canopy, and seven blessings sanctify the marriage. We mourn by sitting Shiva (seven) for seven days for our closest deceased relatives. Three, five, and seven are also prime numbers.


I will let the reader speculate on the significance of that fact.

The number of words increases with each Blessing symbolizing the steady increase in our Maker's benevolence over time. Note too that the Blessings are delivered in the singular. They are for us individually, for us as one people Israel, and for us all as part of the Human Race.

With the first Blessing, our God favors us with wisdom and prosperity. He protects His people so that they may use His gifts wisely. With the second He is kind by allowing His face, His countenance, to shine on us. His grace is the gift of mercy for us imperfect mortal beings. With the third He favors us by literally turning His head in our direction, recognizing each of

us, and our accomplishments. Shalom (Peace) is His ultimate Blessing. Without Shalom we humans cannot function as a society. Shalom enables us to work with and trust our neighbors, and sleep well at night.

Our Prophet Isaiah sees a day when Shalom will prevail in the whole universe, even the animal kingdom: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard lie down with the kid..." (Isaiah 11:6) This is the world we are all working for as we receive the 3-fold Blessing, bestowed by the LORD our God – delivered through the mouths of His Priests.



*“So follow the way of the good,  
And keep to the paths of the just.  
For the upright will inhabit the earth,  
The blameless will remain in it.  
While the wicked will vanish from the land  
And the treacherous will be rooted out of it.”  
(Proverbs 2:20-22)*

## Strong Feelings and a Stark Reality Displayed in Poignant Documentary About Former Jewish Life in Baghdad

Mark Finkelstein  
JCRC Director

This past May, the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines was honored to present a first-run of the historical documentary, *Remember Baghdad* at Caspe Terrace. This documentary, made in 2016, is about the Baghdad that once was, and is no longer, and the longing for the life of a community that settled in Babylonia 2600 years ago. Baghdad was once a city that saw the Jewish community prosper in times of their acceptance and subsequently suffer during periods of intolerance and discrimination. A pogrom called the *Farhud* took place in 1941, and shook the community. Life after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 was tenuous, and shaken again after the 1967 war in which the Arab states

threatened to annihilate Israel, only to be defeated.

Nashi Khalastchi escaped from Iraq through Kurdistan and Iran to Israel. Eventually, he came to Des Moines, Iowa. At the screening, Khalastchi delivered introductory remarks about the history of Jews in Iraq as well as commented and fielded questions after the film. Interestingly, the film presented interviews with five emigres who reflected on their former lives in Baghdad. Some prominent segments included Khalastchi's own relatives and friends — one of whom traveled back to Baghdad from London and was apparently interested in reestablishing, out of hope, a personal presence in Baghdad.

This poignant and detailed film succeeded, I believe, in portraying sharp differences in generational perceptions about "life in the old country." Differences that, of course,



correlate not only with coming of age but with how Jewish life in Baghdad had, over time, eventually become less tolerant of Jews. Viewers of this film cannot help but come away with a sense of sadness at what has become of this once important Jewish community. One that in 1948 had a population of about 150,000 and now, there appears to be fewer than a handful of souls.

To learn more visit <https://www.bh.org.il/jewish-community-baghdad-iraq/>



## Building Bridges

A conference organized by the Nile Institute for Peace and Development was held recently in Des Moines to strategize for the peaceful resolution of the civil war in South Sudan. Rabbi David Kaufman and Mark Finkelstein have worked extensively with the South Sudanese leadership locally and were invited to participate in this bridge building conference.

# Breakthrough Health Techs Emerging from Israel

Nicky Blackburn  
Israel21c.org

ISRAEL21c takes a look at some of the brightest and best new health startups on show at the recent MIXiii-Biomed conference in Tel Aviv.

Below are three out of ten featured startups. To read the complete list of emerging startups visit <https://www.israel21c.org/10-breakthrough-health-techs-emerging-from-israel/>

**1. CorNeat Vision** was one of the joint winners of the startup competition at Biomed, and for good reason – the technology is just so cool. The company is developing an artificial cornea implant, the CorNeat KPro, which could offer a remedy to millions of people suffering from diseases of the cornea.

The early-stage technology is a patented synthetic cornea that uses advanced cell technology to integrate artificial optics within resident ocular tissue. It can be transplanted in a simple 30-minute surgery, according to the company. Ra'anana-based CorNeat plans to move to human implantations sometime this year, and to begin clinical trials in the US.

According to the World Health Organization, diseases of the cornea are the second leading cause of blindness worldwide, second only to cataracts. As many as 30 million people are affected, with around two million new cases each year.

“Unlike previous devices,

which attempt to integrate optics into the native cornea, CorNeat’s implant leverages a virtual space under the conjunctiva that is rich with fibroblast cells, heals quickly and provides robust long-term integration,” said CorNeat’s CEO and VP R&D Almog Aley-Raz.

**2. PixCell Medical** is the second winner of this year’s Biomed startup competition. The company is developing a breakthrough low-cost portable hematology analyzer that performs a complete blood count (CBC) at the point of care.

With just a tiny drop of blood, PixCell’s HemoScreen can analyze 20 standard CBC parameters, including red blood cells and five different white blood cell types, and identify anomalous cells and hemoglobin levels, in just five minutes.

HemoScreen relies on a new microfluidics technology that causes cells to migrate to the center of flow and perfectly align into a single layer. Identification and classification of the cells is achieved using machine-learning and machine-vision algorithms superior to present methods.

**3. NovaSight** has developed a technology based on eye-tracking to help children with vision disorders. The company’s first product is a system called EyeSwift, which it claims can revolutionize diagnosis of strabismus – a misalignment of the eyes, CI (Convergence insufficiency) and reading



disorders.

Strabismus is treated by corrective surgery, but its success is dependent on the accuracy of the misalignment measurement – until now a laborious, inaccurate, manual process that has not changed for decades.

EyeSwift uses eye-tracking technology as well as self-designed active glasses to diagnose visual disorders quickly and reliably while patients watch a short animated video. The system has already received CE approval.

NovaSight, which is based in Airport City in Israel, has also developed another product called CureSight to treat amblyopia (lazy eye) and CI.

“When you have lazy eye the gold standard treatment is a patch covering the good eye,” Liran Adlin, the company’s marketing manager, tells ISRAEL21c. “This can be a great source of embarrassment for children, however, and there’s only about 50% compliance, which isn’t good.

“With our device, children can instead watch videos while we process the content in real time according the momentary direction of the eyes, two or three times a week, and this trains the eye.”



## JCRC News

In June, members of the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education held their working lunch in Grinnell. The Council, facilitated by JCRC, provides teachers with curricular assistance, and shares information about community programming. Pictured, lower row: Prof. Harold Kasimow (Emeritus at Grinnell College), Brad Wilkening, and Bev Ellis. Top: Mark Finkelstein, Prof. Stephen Gaies ( Director of UNI Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education,) and Stefanie Wager ( Social Studies Consultant, Iowa Department of Education.)

## Iowa Council for Holocaust Education



## Thank you to Israeli Chefs Who Helped Us Celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday



Chefs Morris Zrihen and Hadas Hay, along with Tania Ronen came to us through Federation's participation in, Partnership2GETHER (P2G)/ Western Galilee. For more about P2G, see [goo.gl/8CSaq7](http://goo.gl/8CSaq7)

# In the Kitchen For Summer: Cooking for the Heat

Karen Engman  
Chef du Jour Columnist

Because of the summer heat, I prefer to cook in the morning or grill outside. Here's a sample menu of one of my favorite dinners for summer.

Grilled Salmon marinated in Soy Vay's Veri Veri Teriyaki Sauce. I love the description of the Soy Vay way since 1982 (written on the bottle) as "your basic Jewish boy meets Chinese girl story. They couldn't deny their passion for food. So they combined their family secrets and delighted the world with unique sauces..." and so it goes on. Who could resist sampling this sauce. I also love it on chicken.

Wild Rice with pecans and dried cherries is perfect for summer because it's delicious served cold or at room temperature, so that means it can be prepared hours or days before dinner guests arrive.

Green Salad with your favorite vinaigrette is a palate pleaser when tossed with some interesting fruits and veggies. Resist using a bottled Italian dressing and instead "Google" your favorite chef or cooking website for vinaigrette and you'll find some great choices. I like a tablespoon of Dijon mustard in mine.

These three dishes are the basics for a weekday dinner but if you add gazpacho or veggies and dip for appetizers and some

fruit and cookies for dessert, you will be all set for company. This is also a meal you can cook ahead and deliver to a friend who has just moved into a new home or who is recovering from an illness.

I hope you enjoy this combination of dishes and find time to try this rice recipe soon.

Thank you for reading this column and please remember to call/text (515-229-4447) or email (karen.engman@gmail.com) me with your questions and suggestions. I would love to interview you and feature your favorite recipes.

## Wild Rice with Pecans and Dried Cherries

- 1 cup (1/2 lb) raw wild rice
- 5 1/2 cups water or chicken bouillon
- 1 cup shelled pecan halves (break in half)
- 1 cup dried cherries
- Grated rind of 1 orange
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 tsp salt
- Ground pepper to taste

Put rice in a strainer and run under cold water to rinse thoroughly. Place rice in medium size pan and add water or bouillon and bring to rapid boil. Adjust heat to a gentle simmer and cook uncovered for 45 minutes. After 30 minutes, check to see if it is done; rice should NOT be too soft. Drain water and transfer rice to bowl

Add remaining ingredients to rice & toss gently. Adjust seasonings to taste. Let mixture stand for 2 hours to allow flavors to develop. Serve at room temperature.  
Optional: add 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint, parsley or cilantro.



# How Four Notes Created a Love and Career for Sheila Jordan

Legendary jazz vocalist, Sheila Jordan, performed at Caspe Terrace on the evening of June 26, 2018. I was lucky enough to sit down with her before the show and talk about the paths that lead her to her true love, music.

Giovanna Zavell  
Judaic Specialist

“When I was a teenager, in high school, I used to go across the street to the hamburger joint,” says Jazz Vocalist, Sheila Jordan. “I put the nickel in [the player] and heard Charlie Parker. I heard four notes and I said ‘that’s the music I’ll dedicate my life to; whether I sing it, teach it, support it, whatever, I love it. It thrilled me.’ And that’s how it started.”

Jordan says she has been a singer since she was a little kid. Growing up in a poverty-stricken home in Pennsylvania, she was often unhappy. But there were two things that made her feel better; music and singing. She was always singing. She performed multiple times on Uncle Nick’s Amateur Hour and other radio shows. Music filled her life, until one day she stopped singing.

“I got heckled and bullied,” Jordan says. “I quit singing for a while because I couldn’t take the making fun of me when I pass by. It was all jealousy, now I understand that, but at that time I didn’t.” Jordan was in eighth grade when she quit, and it wasn’t until she was in high school did she find her way back to music, thanks to a very clever teacher.

Jordan’s high school piano teacher, Mr. Rusher, heard her on the radio and knew the talent she held. He asked



Sheila Jordan and Cameron Brown | Photo By Guy Smith

Jordan to sing a duet with another student, to which she agreed. A short while after, the duet partner stopped showing up. Jordan later found out Mr. Rusher told the duet partner to stop singing. Jordan, on the other hand, continued singing, and hasn’t looked back since.

From a young age, many of Jordan’s influencers were instrumentalists, not singers. She is attracted to the what improvising instrumentalists do over singers. Charlie Parker, of course, was an instrumentalist and inspired a lot of her music. A singer Jordan truly loved was Billie Holiday because of the emotion and improvising skills she had.

At the age of 18, Jordan left home to take on the next chapter of her life. She moved to New York, got a job working part time in an office and did everything she could to be immersed in the music. She moved to New York because that’s where the music was;

that’s where Charlie Parker and all the Be-Boppers were. “I wanted to be around the music fulltime,” she says. “I worked in an office five days a week and then went to the clubs on the weekends to hear this incredible music.”

Jordan was always on the scene, meeting well-known artists and making many friends along the way. She met Charlie Mingus while looking for a teacher, and he connected her to Lennie Tristano, who Jordan studied with for some time.

The jazz world brought her to her husband, Duke Jordan, who played the piano with her idol, Charlie Parker. The two dated and ended up getting married and had a daughter. Unfortunately, the marriage didn’t last because of Duke’s substance abuse, which was common for artists in those days. “It was sad, but you know, they didn’t know how dangerous it was.” But as they say, the show must go on.





**Shelia and Cameron at Caspe Terrace on June 26, 2018**

For a long time, Jordan worked in an office to support her music. The money she made from singing in clubs was not enough to support herself and her daughter. But music was never about money for her. “I always found a way to do the music,” Jordan says. “Even though it didn’t pay for my rent, I didn’t care. It didn’t pay for my food, I didn’t care. I just had to find a place to sing.”

It wasn’t until 1963 when Jordan released her debut album, “Portraits of Sheila,” which was produced through Blue Note. Jordan was the first singer to put out an album through Blue Note. But Jordan admits, she has never been excited about recording. “I feel confined,” Jordan says. “In a studio, I feel uptight, I feel closed in, boxed in. That’s why I haven’t recorded anything lately,” she says laughing.

Bass and voice has always been a style Jordan loves, in fact, she is the originator of the style. For her first album she wanted to do bass and voice, but producers weren’t sure if audiences were ready for that. But that didn’t stop her. Jordan loved the bass and kept working and practicing with the various bassists. She worked with Harvie Swartz for a while until after 18 years, he wanted to explore new opportunities. Lucky for Jordan, her first-pick bassist, Cameron Brown, was free and the two have been playing together ever since. “How can we go wrong if we are doing something we love?” Jordan says. “The bass and voice is special.”

Jordan’s style is unique in the fact that it is a part of her. “The music I sing is the life I’ve lived and the stories I’ve experienced,” she says. “What I have to say musically comes

from very deep inside of me, my heart and soul. I have my own sound and my own story to tell.”

When she isn’t singing or performing, Jordan keeps the music alive through teaching. She loves to teach and says it is the only way to keep the music going. “I just want to give people the courage, strength and hope,” she says. “I get the same spirits. The same feelings I get when I sing takes over when I teach.”

The music has always kept Jordan going, and continues to. “It’s my life, it’s what I am, who I am and I love to share it with my brothers and sisters,” she says. “The music was given to me to share with anyone who comes to hear the music.”

# A First-Timer's Experience at AIPAC 2018



Giovanna Zavell  
Judaic Specialist

Since I was a little girl, I remember hearing all about AIPAC from my grandma—she told me all the great things that happened at the annual conference and how thousands of people gathered for a weekend, all for the love of Israel. My grandma, Dolly, had never attended AIPAC herself but the way she spoke about the Conference you would think she had. When I told her I would be attending AIPAC 2018, she nearly plotzed.

Even though I grew up hearing all about AIPAC, I still had no idea what to expect when I landed in Washington D.C. I had never even been to D.C. before and only knew three other people from the Des Moines area that were going. But I was ready to learn and take advantage of any and every opportunity that came my way. With my notebook and pen in hand, I was ready to make the most of my 72 hours in the Nation's Capital.

Two of my favorite breakout sessions were about the DNA of the Jewish people and reviving the Hebrew language. Learning about how the DNA of Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews differ—but more so how they are similar. What was even more interesting was how almost identical the Jewish DNA is to those of other groups in the Middle East.

Reviving the Hebrew language was lead by panelists Gil Hovav and Professor Adi Stern. Gil Hovav is a well-known TV personality and the great grandson of Eliezer Ben Yehuda. He had quite the stories about his great grandfather and his quest to bring Hebrew to the world. Hovav was very honest in his stories about his great grandfather, saying more than once that he was not a very nice man. He told a story of how Ben Yehuda's first wife, Devora, was seen with bruises all up and down her arms. Those bruises were from Ben Yehuda pinching her every time she didn't speak Hebrew. Hovav also told the audience that when Devora passed away, Ben Yehuda married her sister, Hemda. It was fascinating to hear these stories about a man I had studied at various times throughout my life from a living relative.

General sessions were full of guest appearances and innovation spotlights. Even though we arrived a little late to morning sessions because of stopping to get coffee on the way (caffeine is a must during

these busy three days), general sessions were a great way to start the day and end the day. And after the evening general session let out, it was time to grab a quick bite and get to know other people my age at various gatherings around the city.

Between jam-packed days, late nights and early mornings, I was able to soak in everything AIPAC had to offer—with the expense of not sleeping very much, but it was totally worth it.

None of this would have been possible without the support and generosity of Bud Hockenberg, Sharon Goldford and the Federation staff and Rabbi Emily Barton. And I couldn't forget my roomie and guide for the weekend, Rebecca Perl, who introduced me to all her friends at the Conference and welcomed me to join in all their activities.

When I landed in Des Moines, my grandma was the first person I called to tell her all about my experience. I was even able to bring her back a lanyard and pin that said "My First AIPAC." I personalized it with her name and the title "honorary attendee." Who knows, maybe next year her and I will be able to attend together.

# Growing and Learning from AIPAC 2018



Rebecca Perl  
Drake University Hillel President

For the second year in a row, I was blessed with having the opportunity to attend the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. Israel has always been an important part of my life, from the time my grandparents started telling me stories of their experiences fighting in the 1948 War of Independence to my gap year when I lived in the country for a year and even still today, on Drake's campus.



Perl and friends with Tzipi Livni | Photo Courtesy of Rebecca Perl

For the past two years that I've been able to attend, I have learned so much in just a

few short days, whether it be through a breakout session on 50 years since 1967 with Tzipi Livni on the panel (who my friends and I had the chance to take a selfie with afterward) or a general session on the latest Israeli innovations, I've taken important lessons from sitting in the Washington Convention Center back to Drake.

I consider myself to be pretty progressive when it comes to politics of any sort - including the politics surrounding Israel. One of the great things about AIPAC Policy Conference is being able to find like-minded people to bounce ideas off of on how to bring Israel back to campus. One way I've been able to do this has not just been through Hillel programs, but I've also been able to establish myself within various circles on the "person to go to when you have a question or need to talk about Israel." AIPAC Policy Conference has given me new knowledge to share with curious people. It takes a lot of time to change minds, but much less to enhance knowledge - that can be done in split seconds.

One of the coolest opportunities about AIPAC Policy Conference is lobbying day on the Hill. I had the incredible opportunity to discuss important issues regarding Israel with Iowa Senator Joni Ernst and Senator Chuck Grassley's foreign relations assistant. The yearly dose of real-world lobbying experience invigorates me for months in my goal to one day be

a lobbyist.

I would not have been able to attend AIPAC Policy Conference without the generous help of Sharon Goldford, Rabbi Barton and Bud Hockenberg. I would not have been able to navigate D.C. (or the convention center) without the generous help of Anna Zavell. I owe my deepest gratitude to all of these people along with the rest of the Des Moines Jewish community for being so incredibly supportive of the young, passionate members of the Jewish community. AIPAC Policy Conference, I hope to see you next year. For now, I'll continue to learn and grow from this year's experiences.



Perl and Senator Joni Ernst  
at Capital Hill | Photo  
Courtesy of Rebecca Perl





# Mazel Tov Graduates!



**Zippy Naggar**

She wants to be a cook. Zippy said that the best thing about Gan Shalom is her teacher. "She is the best."



**Sawyer LaPalm**

Wants to be an astronaut. Sawyer's favorite thing at Gan Shalom is playing outside and visiting with the Nature Lady.



**Alton Calahan**

Wants to be on TV when he is an Olympic Athlete completing in Bob Sledding. His favorite thing to do at Gan Shalom is looking for rocks.



**Henry Koopmans**

He wants to be an astronaut. His favorite thing at Gan Shalom is the crawfish they have in their classroom.



**William Follett**

Wants to protect the country. His favorite thing is the Menace Soccer visits with their soccer players.



**Griffin Cronin**

Wants to be a police officer. His favorite thing in Gan Shalom is watching the crawfish in the classroom.



# Summer Time Fun at Gan Shalom

Our Gan Shalom Camp has started with new friends and new staff. We welcome Kitty Banks, Kenya Williams, Clarine Ford and Gabby Jones to our Gan Shalom team. The teachers and staff set up water play with sprinklers and water tables. The kids enjoyed visiting with the Nature Lady, Waukee Library, Menace Soccer Club, Blank Park Zoo and DramaTykes. The best part is coming to Gan Shalom in swimsuits ready for water play.





# Engman Camp Shalom

we create spirit



## Campers are Very Busy Having Fun This Summer

It's been a fun summer so far at Engman Camp Shalom. We have so many exciting changes this year as our camp continues to grow. One major focus for us this summer has been to make sure to teach our children good Jewish values in a fun way. We incorporate being a Mitzvah Mensch daily into the fun activities that campers do. Our days begin with playing outside, followed by our morning gathering where campers and staff recite the pledge of allegiance and Hatikvah followed by some fun songs. A favorite has been

The Wizard Song, a song about a Jewish wizard who travels the world learning to read the Torah, light the menorah, and dance the hora, but finally ends up at Camp Shalom to get some ruach. After that our campers participate in chugim, where they choose between three activities, usually a sport, craft, or music/dance/cooking. Every Tuesday we head out to a field trip. So far we have been to Get Air, Adventureland, and Sleepy Hollow Sports Park. We've also traveled to local parks and to the Valley View Aquatic Center. Certain weeks feature

a mini camp run by Menace Soccer or swim lessons at the Walnut Creek YMCA. This year our camp has added a kosher hot lunch option, which our campers (and parents) have really enjoyed! Camp Shalom has been such a happy place for everyone this summer. We can't wait for all of the excitement in the weeks to come!

Haven't signed your child up for camp yet? Don't worry, there is still room for more campers for weeks 5-10! Sign up today, your kids won't want to miss out on all the excitement at Camp Shalom this summer.









# From Camper to Camp Administrator: Julia Minnehan

Giovanna Zavell  
Judaic Specialist

## When did you first start going to Engman Camp Shalom?

I started camp when I was five, when I was going into kindergarten. We moved here from Russia and my parents, someone they knew sponsored me. So I went there from when I was five until I aged out. I took two years off and then I came back and worked from when I was 14 up until I was 21. Then I came back again three years ago. So it's been a long time.

## What was your favorite camp activity?

We used to do a lot of cooking and I always thought that was really fun. I remember one time we went to a pasta factory and they taught us how to make pasta. It was called Viva La Pasta.

## Did you ever think one day you would have a role in planning camp?

No, definitely not. I always thought it would be really cool to be director when I was a counselor. But I am really excited to be able to do it now.

## How have things changed since you were a camper?

It's really different. We used to be in this little shed behind Dowling High School in the middle of an open field. We were outside all the time and there wasn't really any shelter. If we had to take shelter, we would have to walk to the high school to hide out there. It has definitely evolved a lot. We have

a much nicer facility now.

## What are you looking forward to most this summer?

I am really excited about all the field trips we are going on. They are going to be a lot of fun. We are doing a lot more outdoorsy things. We went mock camping one week at Walnut Woods. The kids learned how to pitch tents and build fires and make kosher smores.

## What is the best part of your job?

I love watching all the kids have fun. I really like interacting with the staff too, we have a very close staff. A lot of the staff members were my campers back in the day so it is really cool to watch them in the next phase of their lives. A lot of our campers return year to year so it's fun watching them grow up.

## What is the hardest part of your job?

Organization. Especially when the weather doesn't cooperate or field trip places don't get back to me as quickly as possible. It's all about making the pieces fit together. It's a challenge but it's so worth it.

## If you could go back and tell your camper self one thing, what would it be?

I would say to enjoy all the experiences and friends you are going to make. Be really present in the moment and remember everything. I feel like a lot of the time when I was little I just wanted to be home with my mom but I did a lot of cool things at camp.

## What makes Engman Camp Shalom so special?

We have a really cool environment here; it's just a big family. It is such a positive place. We get to teach kids all the great Jewish values all while having fun. The kids get to try new things and build relationships and friends.

## Is there anything you would like to add for campers and their parents?

For the parents, thank you for sharing your kids with us. I am a parent, and it's kind of hard to trust other people with your kids sometimes. I appreciate the parents for sending their kids to be here with us. For the campers, even if you think you aren't going to like an activity, at least give it a try. You might find that you like to do something new.



Julia (in yellow) and previous Engman Camp Shalom counselors | Courtesy of Julia Minnehan

# Beit Sefer Shalom

we grow minds



## Celebrating the End of the Year And Looking Forward to the Next

Giovanna Zavell  
Judaic Specialist

What a year it has been! There was never a dull moment in the halls of Caspe Terrace. From the two and three-year-old class all the way up to the madrichim, everyone was busy playing, learning and growing.

We are all so lucky to have such great friends here at Caspe and have come together to celebrate the hundreds of accomplishments from the 2017-18 school year. After spending one last hour in their classrooms, students then went to the Bucksbaum Auditorium where their families filled

the seats. Each grade level performed a few short songs and dances they had learned throughout the school year. Then it was really time to party.

The weather was perfect; no rain and sunny skies. Students and their families found their way to the backyard for a yummy hot dog picnic lunch. There were also a few surprises waiting for the students; bounce houses, blow up obstacle course and a Nintendo game truck. Now that was a hit with all the students who love to play video games.

We would be lying if we said there weren't a few tears shed

when it was time for students to go home. But, in just a few short months, the halls of Caspe will once again be filled with our Beit Sefer Shalom students. Everyone will be a little older, and a little taller, but soon the Beit Sefer Shalom family of students, teachers and parents will once again be united for another great year ahead!

We can't wait for the first day of the school year on Sunday September 9. If you have not yet registered for Beit Sefer Shalom 2018-19 school year, please email [anna@dmjfed.org](mailto:anna@dmjfed.org) and I would be happy to help enroll your child.



Beit Sefer Sha**o**m The Jewish Federation Community School April 22, 2018 End of Year Party

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### Beit Sefer Sha**o**m

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018-19

SUNDAYS 9AM - 12PM	WEDNESDAYS 4:30PM - 6:30PM
September: 9, 16, 23, 30	September: 26
October: 7, 14, 21, 28	October: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
November: 4, 11, 18	November: 7, 14, 28
December: 2, 9, 16	December: 5, 12, 19
January: 6, 13, 27	January: 9, 16, 23, 30
February: 3, 10, 24	February: 6, 13, 20, 27
March: 3, 10, 31	March: 6, 13, 27
April: 7, 14	April: 3, 10

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Iowa  
Jewish  
Historical  
Society

# The Iowa Jewish Historical Society Wins One of the State's Highest Awards for History



Left to right: IJHS Board Members Ellen Arkovich, Susan Jackson, Lt. Governor Gregg, IJHS Board Member David Arkovich, IJHS Director Sandi Yoder, IJHS Board Members Linda Bremen, Jan Hockenberg, Board Secretary Loretta Fingert, Governor Reynolds, and IJHS Curator/Manager of Collections Sarah Carlson



Presentation of a copy of the Certificate of Recognition to Celina Biniaz  
Left to Right: Susan Kloewer, Administrator, State Historical Society of Iowa; Robbie Winick and Melanie Sandler, Co-Presidents of the IJHS Board; and Celina Karp Biniaz

On April 11, Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg presented the state's highest awards for history at a special ceremony in the State Capitol.

Overseen by the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees, the Excellence in History Awards recognize individuals, organizations and communities who have made outstanding contributions to the study and practice of Iowa history.

I am proud of our state and passionate about its history," Reynolds said. "So, it gives me great pleasure to recognize this year's recipients of the Excellence in History Awards.

they have shown in preserving and sharing the history of our state and congratulate them on this outstanding achievement.

I congratulate all of our recipients for sharing the stories of Iowans both past and present," said Tova Brandt of Harlan, chair of the State Historical Society of Iowa's Board of Trustees. "This year's award winners have made significant contributions to our understanding of Iowa's rich and diverse history and are highly deserving of this recognition.

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society was recognized as the winner of a 2018 Loren Horton

I appreciate the dedication

Community History Award Certificate of Recognition for the series of six programs that we presented across Central Iowa featuring Auschwitz Survivor and Schindler Juden Celina Karp Biniaz.

On May 22, the IJHS Board presented Celina with a copy of the Certificate of Recognition during a personal visit she made to The Caspe Terrace to show her family the museum. Celina was in Iowa to give the commencement speech for Grinnell College and was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree "for her tenacity during hardship, for her courage in telling her story, and for her grace and optimism throughout her life."

# Helga Krongelb: IJHS Research Changes History

IJHS Staff are continuously doing research about the items in our collection. In the archives we have a collection of papers, photographs, and objects from Helga (Lindemann Levy) Krongelb. Routine efforts to clarify information about Helga and her family meant checking the list of Shoah victims in the central database of Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust Memorial and Research Center. Staff found that Helga was listed as having perished in the Holocaust along with her parents, first husband, and brother. All the biographical information matched up--date of birth, place of birth, parent's names, location of ghetto they were sent to, etc. We were confident that it was the same Helga who came to Des Moines who had been wrongly listed as being killed with the rest of her family. Yad Vashem's names database is a work in progress and additions and corrections are welcome. IJHS submitted a correction with copies of some of the papers we have verifying Helga's identity and that she lived through the war and came to Des Moines.



**Helga Krongelb, pictured back row, center, outside a Judisches Altersheim, (Jewish Home for the Aged) in Bremen, Germany in 1947.**

According to their website "Yad Vashem, together with its partners, has collected and recorded the names and biographical details of millions of victims of systematic anti-Jewish persecution during the Holocaust (Shoah) period. Four and a half of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices are commemorated here. This database includes information regarding victims of the Shoah: those who were murdered and some whose fate has yet to be determined."

In 1942 they were deported, along with her father and

brother to various concentration camps. Only Helga survived. She escaped from Stutthof just before it was liberated and hid in Poland until the end of the war. After searching for surviving family members with no success she returned to Bremen, where she opened a Jewish Home for the Aged. In 1951 she came to America, where the Federation assisted her in finding work at the Iowa Jewish Home for the Aged. She worked there until retiring in 1975.

Now, there is one less name on the list of people who died in the Holocaust—and the name of one more person who lived through the Shoah--because of the artifacts that were donated to the IJHS and the research work done by our staff.



**Helga and Paul Levy before WWII. Helga and Paul were married in 1939.**



# Gems from the IJHS Oral History Collection: Standing Up for Civil Rights in Everyday Life

In the following two excerpts from a recently digitized video, 100 Years A Jewish Community: 1896-1996 Cedar Rapids, Harold M. Becker recalls his family's grocery business and Bert Katz shares a story about an incident at the store that involved Harold's mother. Harold's parents were Orrie Lewis Becker and Anna Dorothy (Glatstein) Becker.



**Harold M. Becker:** In 1925 my father had the only cash and carry store in the town. All the rest of the grocery stores in town in that era were charge and delivery. And these merchants were having difficulties because they couldn't collect their accounts in the '30s when the Depression came on. You must remember, well, I remember the Depression in the 30s as a young child very vividly. And we were in a preferred position because we would only accept cash. It was cash and carry. As a result, we were cheap! Our prices were much lower than anyone else's in town. And my father made a

real success out of that theory!

**Bert Katz:** Not many people know that Harold's mother was really something! When we worked in the grocery there, there was a fellow, a young man by the name of Olin Gibson, a black man. And one day we were in the store and Harold's mother was the cashier that day. And this woman came in and she had shopped and she bought some groceries. And ... uh, she said to Olin, the black person, she says "Carry these groceries out for the lady." And this woman said to him, "I don't let any n----- carry my groceries." And Harold's mother said, "Just a minute." And she reached into the drawer and she says, "Here's your money back. And until you apologize to this young man, I don't ever want to see you in my grocery store!" She went out but she turned around and came back and she apologized. That, you know, that really said something to me. You know, you gotta stand up.



## A Birthday "Gift" and Wallenberg "Pass"

In the spring of 1981 Kathy Harpster interviewed Erika Goldberg about her family,

WWII, living in Hungary through the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, and how she came to America. Both her parents were arrested after the Nazis clamped down on Hungary in the latter part of WWII. Her mother was released, but her father was sent to a labor camp. He died there. This excerpt is about Goldberg's Shoah experiences and memories.

**Kathy Harpster:** You were pretty young then, did you understand?

**Erika Goldberg:** No, no. I remember when I became 6, the rule was that every Jew has to wear a yellow star, 6 years and up. So, April 20th of um, let's see, '44, my grandmother sewed on the star of my coat. And I remember they made it ...I was happy about it because my mother and grandmother made kinda fun of it. 'Oh, you're six now. You can wear the star!' So I didn't have any bad feelings about it. But then a few months later there was another experience and I realized for the first time there was something bad about it.

**Kathy:** Can you tell me about it?

**Erika:** I remember one time that I was walking in the street with my grandmother and there were SS on every 2 blocks or so with guns. And I was holding on to my grandmother's arm and was holding on to her and the SS came up and hit my grandmother with their gun. 'Don't cover your star, you dirty



Jew!' Because partly her arm was covering the star. So, umm this is, you know, now that I look back I understand what anti-Semitism, what it meant. But when you're 5 years old and these things are happening, as long as you're with your family, you don't really realize what goes on.

**Kathy:** It sounds like your family tried to protect you from

the reality. ...

**Erika:** You probably heard about Wallenberg lately, Raoul Wallenberg. He was in Hungary. Mother had gotten us onto him by the time he had set up the Swedish Red Cross homes. Mother had, mother was able to get us into one of these Red Cross homes, so that's how we survived the end of the war.

## On Exhibit for the First Time at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

A stained glass window from the Jewish synagogue in Oskaloosa, Iowa is now on display in the museum. The window was donated to the museum in 2002. Marty Grund cleaned and stabilized the window, which now hangs in a window in the museum.

Oskaloosa had Jewish residents as early as the 1880's. The first congregation was established in 1895, and a synagogue was built in 1916 at the corner of South H Street and High Avenue. In 1910 William Handler took over as Oskaloosa's full-time Rabbi and he served until his death in 1965. By that time only a handful of Jews remained in Oskaloosa.



## Preserve Iowa's Jewish Heritage

Join online now at [www.ijhs.online](http://www.ijhs.online) or complete this membership form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Levels

Membership Year: July 2018 through June 2019

Lifetime	\$5,000	_____
Benefactor	\$1,000	_____
Sponsor	\$500	_____
Supporter	\$180	_____
Institution	\$100	_____
Patron	\$100	_____

Individual or Gift Membership \$36 \_\_\_\_\_

In addition, I want to make a donation to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make your check payable to the IJHS and send it to

33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263.

For more information: (515)987-0899 ext. 216 or [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org)



Iowa Jewish Historical Society

# Thank You To Our Federation Supporters

I want to thank you for supporting the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. The work that is being done at the Federation is so important. Our goal is to support our families, whether they consist of ten people or one person. We provide that support in so many ways--by providing religious education to our children, having a great summer camp for them to attend, or taking care of the preschoolers on a daily basis. Jewish Family Services meets the needs of our families and elderly by furnishing them with meals or with a ride to the Doctor's office or the Senior luncheon where they get to be with each other. The Iowa Jewish Historical Society preserves the Jewish history of our families for years to come. We go to the movies together or we attend an educational program brought by the JCRC.

The Federation does for our community what no one else can do: "We take care of our community on a daily basis." Please continue to support the Federation by making your yearly donation to the All-in-One Campaign. It has never been more important for you to donate to your community than it is today.

Sharon Goldford  
Executive Director  
JFGDSM



Next rabbi weekend: August 17–19 (details TBA).

No rabbi-led services are scheduled until mid-August. Monthly lay-led traditional services are planned during the summer; dates will be sent out by email. Please send a message to [ajciowa@gmail.com](mailto:ajciowa@gmail.com) if you would like to have a minyan present or a service held during the summer.

## Chabad at ISU Flashback



Deli & Parsha Class, Students enjoy making and learning about Challah, Celebrating Purim with a Megillah Reading and Party, Receiving Special Passover Care Packages.



# Big Plans for the Incoming School Year at Drake Hillel



**drake  
hillel**

This edition's Hillel update will be brief because school is out and summer vacation is in! Our members are everywhere - from Israel to various Jewish summer camps to Des Moines - we know they're making great impacts wherever they are! At Hillel HQ, we're getting ready for a fall semester full of High Holy Day programming, ways to make an impact on the community (Drake and Des Moines) and food. This summer, our plans include working on our kickoff BBQ, Rosh HaShanna dinner, Holocaust Education Week and a Hanukkah party. We thank the Des Moines Jewish community for being our biggest cheerleaders and we can't wait to be back in the Fall!

## Federation Staff Volunteers at Boys and Girls Clubs

The Federation staff once again had a busy morning packing bags of food for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Iowa. This year, we had a strong team of nine; Jody Ingersoll, Katelyn Durbin, Sophie Homonoff, David Copeland, Sandi Yoder, Anissa Deay, Henry Chen, Sarah Carlson and Anna Zavell. Each year, staff members take time out of their day to lend a helping hand to the great people that make up

the Boys and Girls Clubs. Not only is it great bonding time for us, but we also get to learn a lot about how the organization is helping hundreds of children in our community.

On the morning of June 13, the Federation team packed 115 bags of food. Each bag contained two entrées, a can of fruit, a can of vegetables, cereal and snack items. Once in the groove, the well-oiled assembly line we created moved quickly

and efficiently. Empty boxes piled high by the time we were finished. And the shelves were lined with bags of food, ready to go to a child in need of a little extra help.

There is a lot of growth happening at the different club locations. From serving hot meals to building a brand new location at Drake University, there isn't any shortage of excitement at the Boys and Girls Clubs.

**Save the Date! Mah Jongg  
Tournament of the Tiles at Tifereth Israel Synagogue  
Sunday, November 4, 2018  
11 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.**

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., Explanation of rules begins at 10:45 a.m.  
Registration fee: \$40  
Get together with a group of smart, friendly and fun players for an exciting afternoon of mah jongg, prizes, laughter and food.  
All players are welcome!

Put the date on your  
calendar  
—  
There is no such thing as  
too much mah jongg  
—  
Great networking  
opportunity with friendly,  
sociable players  
—  
This is going to be FUN

Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Blvd.  
For more information and registration materials contact Vicki Givant  
515.222.2702  
alvivgiv@gmail.com



## Local Congregation Information



### Come Join Our Growing Synagogue

[www.tifereth.org](http://www.tifereth.org)

### Recurring Events

#### Minyan

- Tuesdays, 7:15 a.m.

#### Services

- Shabbat Evening Services  
Fridays, 6:00 p.m.
- Shabbat Morning Services  
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.
- Shabbat Cafe, 11:30 a.m.
- Shabbat Lunch and Learn  
(after Shabbat Café) with Rabbi  
Emily Barton, 12:30 p.m.

### Special Events for July and August 2018

#### July 2018

- Wednesday, July 4  
Tifereth office closed for 4<sup>th</sup> of  
July Holiday

- Friday, July 6, 6 p.m.  
Acoustic Shabbat
- Saturday, July 7, 9:30 a.m.  
Dvar Torah on Israel by Heidi  
Schnieder
- Thursday, July 12, 5 p.m.  
Tifereth Tribe at Peace Tree  
Brewing
- Friday, July 13, 6 p.m.  
Mishpacha Shabbat & Potluck
- Saturday, July 14, 9:30 a.m.  
Contemplative Shabbat Service
- Saturday, July 14, 10:15 a.m.  
Torah Service begins
- Thursday, July 19, 12 p.m.  
Senior Luncheon at Tifereth
- Sunday, July 22, 10 a.m. Tisha  
B'Av Service – Learning & Film
- Tuesday, July 24, 6:30 p.m.  
AIPAC – Iowa Event at Tifereth
- Saturday, July 28, 10:30 a.m.  
Tot Shabbat / Children's  
Service

#### August 2018

- Wednesday, August 1  
USY on Wheels Visit – Host  
families needed
- Sunday, August 19, 1 p.m.  
Shelter Dinner Preparation
- Sunday, August 19, 4 p.m.  
YAD Barbeque at Caspe
- Friday, August 24, 6 p.m.  
Acoustic Shabbat
- Saturday, August 25, 10:30 a.m.  
Tot Shabbat / Children's  
Service

### Adult Educations

- Shabbat Lunch and Learn –  
Rabbi Emily Barton  
Saturdays after Shabbat Café at  
12:30 pm
- S.T.E.P. (Sunday Torah  
Education Program) - Michael  
Kuperman:  
Sundays at 10:00 am

**TBJ**

TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN



Lori and David Hurkin are happy to announce that our son, Grant Charles Hurkin, will be called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah on September 15, 2018 at 10am at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. The community is invited to join us for the service and a luncheon to follow. We look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with you!

### Special Summer Outdoor Services!

July 6 and August 3 at 6 pm, we will be outdoors for Shabbat under the Stars. Our largely singing service will be followed by burgers and hotdogs! We have plenty of camp chairs, but if you have your own, please bring them or a blanket to sit on if you would like. In case of rain, we'll hold the service indoors, but we'll still have burgers and hotdogs!



### Pet Shabbat Service

Saturday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m. will be our Pet Shabbat Service outside on the Temple lawn. Bring your family pet and introduce him/her to everyone. "Horsing" around required!

## The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center



THE LIFE CENTER  
Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center

900 Polk Blvd; Des Moines, IA 50312-2225

(phone) 515.255.5433

(fax) 515.277.8898

[www.seniorlifecenter.org](http://www.seniorlifecenter.org)

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## 2018 Graduation Celebrations



Hanna Kaufman, daughter of Rabbi David and Julie, is a senior at Roosevelt High school. She is very involved and is currently in Varsity Show Choir, Acapella Vocal Jazz Choir, Chamber Choir, Bridges 2 Harmony Gospel Choir, Thespians, Color Guard, and Swim Team. She is the choreographer for JV show choir and the student director

for Varsity Show Choir as well. Hanna will be attending the University of Iowa's Honors Program in the fall, and will be majoring in Human Health and Physiology and potentially double majoring in Music Therapy. Hanna would like to be a physical therapist when she graduates. This summer she will be a lifeguard, as her passion is helping others get better.



Dahlia Callistein is the much-loved daughter of Gabrielle and Steve Callistein and the fabulous big sister of Benjamin. She simultaneously graduated from the International

Baccalaureate Program at Central Academy and Roosevelt High School. She will be attending a small liberal arts college in the Northwest, but is yet undecided on which one! Her varied interests and talents include the visual arts, Spanish, violin, Central American life and culture, intersectional feminism and creative writing.



Elizabeth Kirsner, daughter of Richard and Mary Kay Kirsner, will graduate from Roosevelt High School on May 26, 2018. Elizabeth has been active in various musical programs at Roosevelt participating in the Show Choir and is a member of the Chamber Choir and the Bridges 2 Harmony gospel choir. She is a captain of the Roosevelt 2018 Varsity Women's Tennis team. In addition to her academic studies, Elizabeth has continued to study the piano and is a previous 1st

Place Winner, State Level D2, of the Iowa Music Teachers Association's competition. Elizabeth plans on studying Environment Science in college with a minor in music performance. She has been accepted by several colleges and will make her choice later this Spring.



Colin Silverstein, son of David and Andrea Silverstein, will graduate from Waukee High School on May 21, 2018. Colin has participated in Waukee's APEX program, where he studied Finance and Banking as well as Exercise and Sports Science. Colin plays hockey for the Des Moines Oak Leafs. He will attend DMACC Ankeny in the fall.



Andrew Kaufmann, son of Benjamin Kaufmann, plans to attend DMACC for two years and then will decide whether to transfer to a University or to go to work after that. As of the fall, he will be working at G and I Clothing part-time and going to school. He does not yet know what he wants to major in.



Asher Bergman graduated from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in international studies and linguistics with a minor in Korean. He is moving to Seattle this summer to join his girlfriend Angela Zhang.



Ben Stone, son of David and Wendy Stone, is a student at Roosevelt High School. During his time there, he was involved in swimming, band, drumline, theater, show choir band, pit orchestra, and National Honor Society. Ben plans on attending the University of Iowa next year and double majoring in Computer Science and Percussion Performance.



Kayla Laufenberg, daughter of Cathie and Lonny Laufenberg and granddaughter of Don and Ronna Pochter, is graduating from Valley High School on May 27, 2018. Kayla plans to attend the University of Iowa in the fall of 2018. Kayla will pursue a degree in nursing. During her years at Valley, Kayla was on the Valley track team. She was also a cheerleader for Valley football, basketball and wrestling.



Spencer Laufenberg, the son of Cathie and Lonny Laufenberg and grandson of Don and Ronna Pochter, is graduating from Valley High School on May 27, 2018. Spencer plans to attend the University of Iowa in the fall of 2018. Spencer will major in Business Administration and Accounting. During his years at Valley, Spencer took numerous business and entrepreneurial classes with business mentors and hands on experience.



Gabrielle Rose Dubansky, daughter of Robert and Peggy Dubansky, will graduate from Valley High School on May 27th, 2018. Gabbi has been active in Model UN, Silver Cord, Best Buddies, photography, writing, and art. She will start her first year of Iowa State University this fall and plans to study English, Environmental Science, and Art.



Josh Sobel, son of Marla and Phil, graduated early from Johnston High School in December of 2017. He enjoyed playing on the tennis and basketball teams at various times during his high school experience. He plans to continue working in his current position.



Jacob Pleasants and his fiancée, Anna Slavina, both received their Ph.D.s in May. Jacob's area of interest is science education, and Anna's is the psychology of human-computer interaction. Jacob will be doing a one-year post doc at ISU, so we will have him in the AJC choir for one more year.



## 2018 Graduation Celebrations



Marc and Cynthia Shulman are proud to announce that Mitchell Shulman will be graduating from Ames High School on May 27, 2018. Mitchell is a National Honor Society member, as well as, Alternate Captain of the Ames High Little Cyclone Hockey Team. He will be playing hockey at the Junior level for the next year, so that in the future he may play college hockey while attending an Aerospace Engineering program.



Jacob Copeland, son of David and Christine, graduated from Waukee High School on May 21st, 2018. Jacob was a member of the Varsity Show Choir and A Capella - Waukee's Varsity Concert Choir. He will be attending Iowa State University in the fall and plans to study Graphic Design and Business.



Jordana Jones is the daughter of Leah Jones and the older sister of Nathaniel, Gabby & Avi Jones. In May, she graduated from Iowa State University's College of Human Sciences with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology and Public Health. After recently finishing a semester long internship with The Wellness Council of the Midlands, Jori has relocated to Omaha, Nebraska and is seeking employment in the public health field.



AJ Pearl, son of Brian and Krista Pearl of West Des Moines, graduated from Valley High School. This fall he will attend the University of Iowa Honors Program to pursue his interest in human genetics.



Abigail Rose Wahlig is graduating from West Des Moines Valley High School in May. Her plans are to study animal science at Iowa State University.

## In Memoriam

Edward Aaron Sheppard  
Larry Cotlar  
Louise Davidson Weiss  
Carolyn A. Rosenfeld

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Phone: 515.419.1269

Email: [anna@dmjfed.org](mailto:anna@dmjfed.org)

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**The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines,  
33158 Ute Ave. Waukee, IA 50263**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_



A SPECIAL EVENT FROM  
THE JEWISH FEDERATION  
OF GREATER DES MOINES

OCTOBER  
15  
2018  
—

Caspe Terrace  
33158 Ute Avenue  
Waukee, IA 50263

More Information  
to Follow!

# SAVE THE DATE

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