

THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

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ROSH HaShanah

BEGINS ON THE EVENING
OF SEPTEMBER 29



Senior Picnic
- page 5



**Engman Camp
Shalom** - page 5



**Jewish Federation
Community School**
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A time of self-examination

The Jewish High Holidays



Although the High Holidays themselves—the two days of Rosh HaShanah (the Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement)—occupy three days only, they lie within a web of liturgy and customs that extend from the beginning of the preceding Hebrew month of Elul through Yom Kippur. The focus of this entire period is the process of teshuvah, or repentance, whereby a Jew admits to sins, asks for forgiveness, and resolves not to repeat the sins. Recognizing the psychological difficulty of self-examination and personal change, the rabbis instituted a 40-day period whose intensity spirals toward its culmination on Yom Kippur, a day devoted entirely to fasting and repentance.

The High Holiday period begins on the first day of the Jewish month of Elul. In the Ashkenazi tradition, during this month of soul searching, the shofar, or ram's horn, is blown each morning except on the Sabbath, to call upon listeners to begin the difficult process of repentance. Also in Elul, special haftarot—prophetic portions—focusing on consolation acknowledge the vulnerability of an individual grappling with personal change. During the week before Rosh Hashanah, intensity increases as traditional Jews begin reciting selichot, prayers that involve confessing sins and requesting God's forgiveness and help. On the Sabbath before Rosh Hashanah, the selichot are chanted at night or midnight, rather than their usual early morning hour.

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70th Anniversary Of "Night Of Broken Glass" In Nazi Germany

Kristallnacht THE NOVEMBER 1938 POGROMS

On the nights of November 9th and 10th of 1938, the Nazis unleashed a wave of pogroms against Germany's Jews. In the space of a few hours, thousands of synagogues and Jewish businesses and homes were damaged or destroyed. German city officials, anxious to remove traces of these buildings, often ordered their immediate demolition and forced the Jewish community to pay for the costs.

This event came to be called Kristallnacht "Night of Broken Glass" for the shattered store windowpanes that carpeted German streets.

Synagogues occupy a central place in Jewish religious and communal life. To the Nazis, however, they served as a powerful physical reminder of the Jewish presence in Germany. In the months before Kristallnacht, synagogues in Munich, Nuremberg, Dortmund, and Kaiserslautern were demolished on the orders of local Nazi party officials; in other German towns, anti-Jewish vandalism was common.

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Program to honor our Survivors of the Holocaust, Nov. 5

Past and present survivors of the Holocaust who have resided in Central Iowa will be honored by the Jewish Federation at an educational program commemorating the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Guest speaker will be Neil Salowitz, President of the Jewish Federation. The program will be held 6:30 pm at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. A dessert reception will follow. Donations to benefit the Mischkiet-Spieler Holocaust Education fund of the JCRC will be accepted. Reservations would be appreciated. Call Dorothea at 277-6321 x 218 or e-mail dorothea@dmjfed.org

Dr. Michael Cook Scholar in Residence October 3-5



The Jewish Federation, in cooperation with Temple B'nai Jeshurun and Tifereth Israel Synagogue invites the entire community to participate in an exciting and informative week-end, with guest scholar Dr. Michael Cook.

Dr. Michael Cook is the Sol & Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati campus, and the only rabbi in America with a Full-Professorial Chair in New Testament. In 2003, he was one of seven scholars selected by the Catholic Bishops to assess the accuracy of the advance script of Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ." It was Gibson's reaction to the Scholars' Report that generated the ensuing international controversy.

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Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center TOGA, TOGA, TOGA

No, it won't be a Toga Party, but The Life Center's Big EVENT planned for Sunday, September 14th at The Caspe Terrace will be a celebration to remember.

It's been eight long years since the last Golden Ball, and The Life Center's Board of Directors thought it was high-time to start a new tradition. A tradition which will acknowledge The Life Center's central role in our community, and will renew the 77-year history of strong community support which will serve to ensure the continuation of The Life Center's Mission of Service to our elders and their families.

Being Executive Director of The Home for almost 18 years, I have seen a remarkable number of changes at The Life Center. Changes in our resident population, changes in staff, changes in the economic climate for health care providers, and other changes too numerous to even be brought back to mind. Throughout these changes,

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Learning About Tzedakah

Tzedakah Funds Are Available

Tzedakah funds provide direct monetary help to needy Jews living in our community. The funds serve individuals of all ages and are available for short-term emergency needs.

Funds are paid directly to institutions, doctors, pharmacies, utilities, etc.

Funding is made available through your contributions to the All-in-One Campaign, the David Tobis Fund, the Shalom Home Fund, the Hebrew Free Loan Fund and the Executive Director's Fund.

Your contributions provide:

- **Daycare for a working single mother**
- **CareMeals for ailing community members**
- **Tutoring for immigrants**
- **Transportation for Seniors**
- **Advocacy services**
- **Scholarships for Camp Shalom**
- **Help with medical equipment**

Call Elaine Steinger, Executive Director, Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services, at 277-6321, ext. 211. Confidentiality respected.

Laws Concerning Collection of Tzedakah

**From the Mishneh Torah 9:1-3
Tzedakah by Jacob Neusner**

In every city where Israelites reside, the inhabitants must appoint from among themselves well-known and trustworthy persons to act as charity tzedakah collectors, who collect from the people every Friday. The collectors should demand from each person what is proper for that person to give or what that person has been assessed; and should distribute the money every Friday, giving each poor person enough funds for seven days. This is what is called "the alms fund."

They must also appoint other collectors to gather every day, from each courtyard, bread and other edibles, fruits, or money from anyone who is willing to make a voluntary offering. They should distribute these the same evening among the poor, giving to each poor person their sustenance for the day. This is what is called "the charity tray."



Message from the President



Neil Salowitz
President

Dear Friends,

When I was a young boy, I had a great uncle whom I would see at family gatherings. Passover, Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot—whenever my father’s family would get together, he was there. He was a kindly man, and a wonderful storyteller. I’d sit on his lap and he’d tell me stories from Jewish history, from the Torah, from eastern Europe, where he’d lived until moving to this country in the late 1940’s.

My great uncle usually wore a long-sleeved shirt, but on one hot day, he wore short sleeves. As I sat on his lap, I saw the numbers tattooed on his forearm. A question formed in my mind, but something told me not to ask. He saw me gazing at his arm, and softly said, “Neil, do you want to know why these numbers are on my arm?”

Without waiting for a reply, he began to tell me another story. This one was darker than the others, a story perhaps too intense for a child. He spoke of being separated from his parents and sister, of boxcars, of camps, of cruelty...and of numbers.

“Don’t forget, Neil,” he said, with an urgency I’d never before heard in his voice. “Never forget what they did to us.”

Now, 65 years after the Holocaust, we are losing our living link with that terrible time. Our last connection with the darkest period in our history is being severed. There are few Holocaust survivors left in the Des Moines area. Their experience sears our conscience. As long as they live among us, their memories are our memories. What happens when they’re gone?

Already, most of Europe has forgotten. Anti-Semitic sentiment, couched in anti-Israel rhetoric, pervades the countries where the Holocaust occurred. Worse, most of our children—most of US—think of the Holocaust as ancient history, as a period with which we have no direct connection. In Des Moines, we have been blessed with a group of survivors who have been willing to tell their stories in schools, on video, in meetings, to whomever will listen. Their numbers are dwindling; their voices are being stilled.

We owe these brave men and women a debt that we can never repay. They are living reminders that we Jews have been subject to unspeakable horrors in our history. They are also, however, proof that HaShem redeems His people, and reminders of how precious is our religion and our heritage.

Their numbers are dwindling; their voices are being stilled. As I write this, my friend Charles Anolik is fighting cancer. His prognosis isn’t good. He and his wife Adele have worked for many years to chronicle the experiences of Holocaust survivors who live in the Des Moines area. When Charles is no longer with us, when our other survivors pass from the scene, who will remind us?

Inspired by the example of our survivors, the Jewish Federation has taken several steps to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. We sponsored a Holocaust curriculum which was adopted by the Des Moines Public Schools. We sponsor training sessions for teachers learning to use a new, multimedia curriculum which is the product of a collaborative effort by Yad Vashem, the Shoah Foundation and the Anti-Defamation League. In 2007, the Federation worked with the Waukee Arts Council to produce a multi-faceted program about the Holocaust.

The Jewish Historical Society at The Caspe Terrace has information about Holocaust survivors in the Des Moines area, and their educational contribution to our community. These resources include videotaped reminiscences from many in the survivor community. I hope that people in our community will view them, especially our children. The memories of Holocaust survivors are their greatest gift to us.

Their numbers are dwindling; their voices are being stilled. We must never forget their sacrifice, their courage and the gift of their memories.

Shalom,
Neil

REFUND REQUEST

Dear Editor, Des Moines Jewish Press:

Here in Findlehof Switzerland, in the ski areas surrounding the Matterhorn, we believed that all of America was closely reading the Des Moines Jewish Press and following the saga of the Moskowitz family and their amazing travels through Europe. When we learned that their visit to our mountain-top restaurant was going to be memorialized in your latest issue, and in anticipation of the resulting surge of new customers, we immediately began construction on a new wing on our restaurant (which is still inaccessible by foot). Imagine our disappointment when our roshty sales were exactly the same before the article was published as after! Please reimburse us the full 2 million swiss francs cost of our construction project.

Sincerely,
Franz und Heidi
Findlehof, Switzerland

WHAT DOES THE FEDERATION DO?
ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM!

The camp is wonderful! I enjoyed meeting Kathryn and was very impressed with her long-range planning, creativity, attention to detail, and genuine enthusiasm for the camp and campers. I learned a couple new games that Jeremy was teaching Counselors In Training; I understand he has greatly enhanced Jewish education and “ruach” atmosphere. David (Copeland) has an incredible amount of energy and I’m constantly amazed at the many different hats he wears to improve our Jewish community.

There were so many children and so many great activities! In my short time at camp I observed Israeli dancing, card games, several different craft activities which corresponded with the “Eur-Asia” theme for the week, story time, playground time, etc. I saw happy children who were involved and having fun! I did observe several instances where children were taken aside to deal with a behavior issue. These situations were treated privately and quietly and did not interfere with the other children’s participation in activities.

The CITs and older staff members could not have been more warm and welcoming. It is obvious, they too, are having a great time at ECS!

—Judy Deutch, President-elect

Here are Comparison Numbers:

- 2007-88 total families/106 different campers averaging 35-40 campers per week
- 2008 averaging 60 campers per week
- As a side note, five grandparents sent their grandchildren to Engman Camp Shalom while they were visiting.

The family ratio is 80% Jewish
20% non-Jewish.

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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We are always happy to receive articles and contributions for consideration. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space considerations and clarity.

Vol. 25, No. 1, September/October 2008

 JEWISH
FEDERATION
of Greater Des Moines

Do you...

- Have an interesting story or memoir you’d like to tell the community about?
- Have a secret interest in writing an occasional story for the **Jewish Press**? Don’t wait for us to ask—we won’t know you’re interested if you don’t tell us.
- Know someone in the community with an interesting story (even if you don’t feel up to writing it yourself)?

If you recognize yourself (or someone you know, go ahead, rat on him) here, please email jcrc@dmjfed.org

Jewish Press

JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Vshi'nantam l'vanekha, "and you shall teach them diligently to your children" (Deuteronomy 6.7) The success of our Religious School depends largely on a working relationship between the school, parents and congregations. Together, as partners, we shall teach all of our children the richness of our heritage, help them to achieve a positive Jewish identity and encourage them to actively participate in Jewish life at home, in the community and in the world. We shall continue to provide opportunities to experience relevant aspects of Jewish practice and tradition through active experiences, participation and celebration of holidays. Parents demonstrate the importance of Jewish education by attending services, observing holidays and celebrations in the home, and ensuring regular attendance and participation in school and congregational events.



This year JFCS and the Federation's Jewish Educational Learning Institute (JeLI) will be offering many new parent learning opportunities during Religious School this year. Children witness the highest level of commitment to lifelong learning by observing their parents in study and activities.

As our New Year begins, please take a moment to reflect on your own Jewish identity and how you can share with your

child the wonders of our heritage.

The facilities at TI were such that classroom space was not available for us this school year. Therefore, Elementary school will remain at Temple B'nai Jeshurun (TBJ) and classes will begin on Sunday, September 7. Jr./Sr High School will remain at Tifereth Israel Synagogue (TI) and Wednesday classes will start on September 10. All major holiday celebrations and school events will take place at TI. These events include Book Fair, Community Chanukah Program, 70th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, Purim Carnival, etc.



Our school year will start off with some new faces as well as reacquainting ourselves with old friends. Our staff is: PreK - Cynthia Shulman; Kindergarten - David Copeland; 1st Grade - Juli Margolin; 2nd Grade - Leah Cole; 3rd Grade - Pat Johnson; 4th Grade - Rachele Hjelmaas; 5th Grade - Malkie Rosenbloom; 6th Grade - Rabbis Kaufman & Padorr and Cantors Bletstein & Berkson. Wendy Beckerman and Ben Kaufmann will continue working with our staff and students



perfecting their Hebrew studies.

Throughout the school year you will see the following changes in our program: report cards in December 2008 and May 2009 for each grade; testing throughout our curriculum (Hebrew, Judaics, Bible); homework with additional material being sent home for parents to work with their children. In the upper grades (4th & 5th) students will perfect their prayer Hebrew reading abilities.

As you can see, we want to be accountable to you, our parents, to insure that your child is receiving a top-notch Jewish education throughout each grade. We will also ask parents and students to be accountable to the school by attending class, doing homework, studying for quizzes and



tests, attending services and participating in holiday celebrations. We have your children for such a short time in their life. Our job is to help you raise a Jewish child.

You can register on-line at www.jewishdesmoines.org-education. If you would like to have this information mailed to you or if you have questions, please contact the office at 277-5566.



JeLI: "Taking the Holidays Home"

Jewish Federation JeLI Program presents, "Taking the Holidays Home" as the theme for this year. Our programs will run on Sunday mornings at Temple B'nai Jeshurun during Sunday school classes. The first series will concentrate on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

The program will concentrate on the meaning of the holidays and building our own traditions at home and within the community. As in all things Jewish, there will be a little study, a little food and activities to focus on with our children.

- **Program Dates: Sept 21, 28, Oct 5 and 12.**
- **Breakfast and Schmooze: 9-10 AM**
- **Class: 10 AM through Noon.**
- **Cost of the program is \$36.00 made payable to The Jewish Federation.**

Please call to reserve your space or with any questions to: Cindy Sherr Statman-277-6321 ext 230 or email cindy@dmjfed.org.

Jews Rock!

Celebrating Rock & Roll's Jewish Heritage Exhibit & Speaker

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Jewish Federation Community School Book Fair

capture lasting memories with a gift that lasts forever...

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- WEDDINGS
- BIRTHDAYS
- BIRTHS
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- CELEBRATE YOUR CHILDREN
- REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

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For \$36, a tree certificate will be mailed to the recipient. Your \$36 goes towards the purchase of trees, care and maintenance.



For more opportunities to volunteer
jewishdesmoines.org

CONNECT WITH THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER DES MOINES

ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM

It is truly amazing how fast the Engman Camp Shalom 2008 summer has come and gone! This summer our theme was “Around the World” with each week featuring a different area of the globe. We made Chinese dragons during Asia week, constructed the towers of Europe, ran the Maccabi games, and went on an African safari! We saw a great jump in enrollment this summer with a 25% increase from the summer of 2007. That means that this summer we enjoyed 450 campers with an average of 60 campers per week!

Some of the highlights of the summer included the addition of our Assistant Director Jeremy Schwartz and our Camp Chef David Copeland. Jeremy created and implemented a Counselor-In-Training program where our 7th and 8th graders participated in leadership, self-confidence and advancement training. Jeremy also brought his 17 years of camp experience with him, and added new songs and dances to our ECS shira and rikud periods. In addition to upholding the Kashrut standards at camp, Chef David led cooking activities with the entire camp three days a week. Throughout the summer, campers made Ethiopian dabo kolo, Russian draniki, French crepes, Aussie chips, and Israeli pita cooked in a homemade taboon fire pit.

ECS also welcomed two Israeli shlichot, Maayan Bliech and Gal Halperin. Maayan and Gal planned Israeli culture activities including writing letters to Israeli soldiers, making our own Western Wall, teaching Israeli dance, molding Shabbat candle holders, and learning Israeli geography. Without a doubt having these two here has increased the campers’ connection to Israel and their desire to visit someday.

To help the camper’s future travel plans, Jeremy and the CIT’s taught ECS new Hebrew words each day. They learned words like fork, (maz-leg), right, (yamin), happiness, (osher), and even ghost, (shade). Hebrew was used throughout the camp day from the simplest things, such as “please be quiet” and “counting to three,” to the more difficult Birkat Hamazon and the Israeli national anthem, Hatikvah.

In addition to Jeremy, David, Gal, and Maayan, ECS had some great staff this year! Andrew Rosenfeld, Julia Gitelman, Jacob Grund, Sydney Wiggins, Sharon Engman, and Laja Olaiya were all returnees to camp. We added several newcomers to Engman Camp Shalom family as well: Shaynna Grund, Trevor Hemedinger, Anna Okulist, Rachel Jacobs, Nathan Kaufmann, Michelle Newman, Natalie Shaw, Moses Sloven, and Sam Weinberg. Our staff helped make camp a great place to be and we look forward to seeing them all again next summer. We also wish to extend a gigantic Todah, (thank you) to all of our volunteers throughout the summer. Lastly, we can’t wait to see you again next summer, because the most important thing about Engman Camp Shalom is our campers!

– Kathryn Engebretson



TRIBUTE PROGRAM

Would you like to acknowledge a recent life cycle event? Do you need to send a condolence card or want to honor the memory of someone special? Would you like to wish a friend a happy birthday or recognize a milestone anniversary?

You can through the Tribute Program offered by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. An acknowledgement card in your name will be sent. You can designate how the gift will be used by the Federation or you can contribute to an existing fund managed by the Des Moines Jewish Foundation.

For more information, call Cathie at 277-6321 x224.

Let someone know that you are thinking of them while supporting what is close to your heart.

Tributes In Memory of

Harvey Rutman from Alan & Vivian Givant

Rose & Isadore Givant from Alan & Vivian Givant

Jeanette & Harry Herowitz from Shirley Herowitz Wittenstein

Sylvia & Will Swerdloff from Shirley Herowitz Wittenstein

Rose Silverstein from Ben & Deborah Silverstein

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Irene Finkelstein from the Federation and Board Members

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Paula Waizman from Jacob Waizman

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Sonny Rovner from Toni & Tim Urban

Rebecca Finkelshteyn from Neil & Debra Salowitz

Oren Talmon from Tamir & Joy Talmon

Wendy Beckerman from Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn

Rabbi Beryl Padorr from Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn

Cantor Deborah Bletstein from Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn

Jewish Federation’s Senior Program from Elizabeth Sherman

To submit your Tribute request online - with a credit card visit jewishdesmoines.org

Jewish Food Pantries Feel Squeeze by Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA) - In her 15 years at the Yad Ezra kosher food bank in Berkley, Mich., Leah Luger has never seen a situation quite as bad.

Michigan has the highest unemployment rate of any state in the nation at 7.4 percent, and Yad Ezra has seen a 30 percent increase in demand over the past two years. With food costs soaring, Michigan's only kosher food bank is struggling to keep up.

Luger, the organization's director of development and co-executive director, says there is "more need, more desperation" than she's ever seen.

Yad Ezra, which was started 18 years ago to help feed an influx of poor elderly Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union, now has a different clientele. Many are younger, working-age Jews who have lost their jobs or been blindsided by economic hardship.

Two years ago, Yad Ezra served 1,000 families per month. Now it serves 1,400.

Rising food costs -- 10 percent in the last few months alone, Luger says -- are compounding the challenge.

“We are really struggling here,” Luger told JTA.

Luger is not alone. Emergency food providers everywhere are struggling, including Jewish agencies.

Organizational officials describe the situation as a perfect storm: Food prices have increased by 10 to 20 percent, gas prices have soared to more than \$4 per gallon, unemployment is rising, growing numbers of Americans are losing their homes to foreclosure, and state and local governments are

slashing funding for social services.

The crunch is coming from both sides of the socioeconomic spectrum of poor, they say. Food stamps, which help the poorest of the poor, simply do not stretch as far as they did a year ago. At the same time, a growing number of working poor and lower-middle-class Americans are being forced to turn to food banks for help for the first time.

“In general, the entire country’s food bank system is facing a crisis, and it is directly affecting all of the emergency food providers throughout the country,” Heather Wolfson, a spokeswoman for Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, told JTA.

Mazon gives as much as \$4 million per year in grants to some 300 organizations that either provide food or work in food advocacy. This year, for the first time, Mazon sent out a special mid-year appeal to its donors asking for more money, Wolfson said.

"There has always been a need, but there is even more now with the economy the way it is," she said. "The unfortunate thing is that we don't see an end to this very soon."

The New York Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, which provides 13,000 families with non-perishable food through its food bank and food vouchers to another 2,000 families to buy perishable goods, has seen a steady increase in middle-class clients in the past three or four months, according to Executive Director William Rapfogel.

Some middle-class New Yorkers hit hard by layoffs as well as the rising costs of rent, food and fuel show up at the Met

Council's warehouse in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. The warehouse is not a distribution center, but about a dozen people a day come anyway because they are embarrassed to seek help closer to home.

Rapfogel says his budget has been slashed by more than \$2.5 million this year by state and city budget cuts. Those cuts have forced the Met Council to trim its food pantry budget and will force the agency to lay off 34 staff members, he said.

For those who receive food stamps, higher food costs mean they can't afford as much food.

“For a household of four that would have been getting the max allotment, by January they were already finding that they were falling \$30 short per month,” said Ellen Vollinger, the legal director for Food Research and Action Center, a national food advocacy group. “The new numbers we think will be more acute.”

Some 28 million Americans receive food stamps, which Vollinger estimates is only two-thirds of the number that actually qualify for the program.

Hopefully the crisis will persuade government officials that they must help more, says William Daroff, the director of the Washington office of the United Jewish Communities Federation umbrella group and its vice president for public policy.

Daroff estimates that the Federation system expends approximately \$240 million annually on food and nutrition services, including food pantries, synagogue meal programs for seniors, Meals on Wheels, and an emergency food and shelter program.

Approximately \$60 million of the budget comes from government sources, he said.

In May, Congress voted to override President Bush's veto of the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, which mandates an additional \$10.3 billion in aid to federal nutrition programs. The UJC pushed hard for the measure, which will raise the minimum benefit for food stamps for the first time in 30 years starting in October.

Jewish Federations support about 100 food banks through the national system of Jewish Family Service organizations, according to the president and CEO of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, Bert Goldberg.

In Jacksonville, Fla., Jewish Family and Community Services partners with the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain to give away 6,000 packages of supplementary food per year.

The group has seen a 10 to 15 percent increase in demand, according to its executive director, Robin Peters. Meanwhile, rising food costs have forced Peters to begin to substitute lower-quality food in her packages. She used to give away cans of beef stew for protein; now it's beef ravioli.

Local Jewish Family Services directors have been holding discussions about how to deal with rising costs and rising needs. While there is no national emergency campaign, Goldberg says most have started their own emergency campaigns to raise funds locally.

“I hear frequently from execs that this is an issue that they don’t know how to deal with,” Goldberg said.

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- Volunteer Opportunities** - Numerous volunteer projects
- Tzedakah** - Last year assisted 180 community members in need

THANK YOU to all who have contributed through United Way. Please remember that your gift to Jewish Family Services through United Way has to be re-designated each year.



JEWISH
FEDERATION
of Greater Des Moines

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is a beneficiary of United Way

senior news

Senior Volunteer Program

VOLUNTEERS-Put meaning back into the lives of others and reach out and show someone they are cared for.

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- Transport seniors to doctor appointments, grocery store, senior luncheons, social activities and other appointments
- A phone call or visit in person



Become a friend to a senior citizen and join the many others whose lives have been enriched by this experience.

We will be having our Second Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet to show our thanks for all the volunteers' time and dedication. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Pat Nawrocki, OASIS Project Services Manager, at 277-6321 x215.

Upcoming Luncheon:

Thursday, September 11, 12:00 noon at Tifereth. We are excited to have Sue Bravard, P.T., M.S., chair for the Physical Therapist Assistant Program for Mercy College of Health Sciences. She will be discussing how to empower yourself by demonstrating simple exercises to incorporate into your daily life that will increase your strength and improve balance to help prevent falls. So come join us and bring your energy and enthusiasm!



Treasured moments from the Annual Senior Picnic in July hosted by Engman Camp Shalom at The Caspe Terrace



**outreach, activities and services
for independent seniors
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES**

Project Elijah Foundation

Change Change Change



Janice Rosenberg

I applaud the Des Moines Jewish Community for embracing the missions and activities of the Project Elijah Foundation. Your support has been incredible. Together, we can CHANGE the world. Tikun Olam.

CHANGE: In our endeavors to emulate the Prophet Elijah by helping Jews in distress, we have learned that there are so many in need, not only in Israel, Argentina, the former Soviet Union and other countries, but in the United States and in our own back yard. While we will continue to help leladeinu, we plan to up our involvement with programs that assist Jews right here in the USA.



Julie Kaufman

If we do not help our fellow Jews, who will? Again, we are grateful to the Des Moines Jewish Community and the Jewish Federation for stepping up to the plate with the Project Elijah Foundation. We have a lot of work to do.

Our Elijah's Kosher Manna program serves 2 purposes:

1. **We use our meals to help fill kosher food pantries.** Did you know that Jewish Federations help support over 100 food banks through the national system of Jewish Family Service organizations?

I have sent a companion article with my column in this issue of the Jewish Press entitled "Jewish Food Pantries Feel Squeeze" by Jacob Berkman (page 6) from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Please read it, you will be astounded.

2. **We use the time with the gathered Manna packaging volunteers to talk about Jews in distress.** The most important thing our Manna program can do is educate Jews about the plight of fellow Jews. Did you know there are places in the United States that take care of abused Jewish children? Did you know there are organizations in the US devoted entirely to helping victims of Jewish domestic abuse? Did you know that kosher food pantries are being swamped in this current economy by working middle class Jews who either cannot make ends meet or who have lost their jobs? Did you know that substance abuse is also a problem in the Jewish community and there are agencies trying to help?

Of course we cannot help everyone, but we can learn, raise awareness, create activists and help find funding and solutions to alleviate suffering.

CHANGE: We have decided to create a new formula of our Elijah's Kosher Manna. The first formula was created for starving people. It is economical and very nutritious. We have found that when our current Manna is eaten by the food insecure (versus starving) Jews, they would prefer a product with more flavor. We are currently working with Iowa State University's Department of Human Nutrition and Food Science to create a better tasting, more American dish. It will still be very nutritious, cost effective and produced by volunteers in the same way. We already have American kosher food pantries clamoring for it.

We plan to unveil our new product this October during the World Food Prize. Mazon President Erik Shockman will return as a featured speaker. As you recall, Mazon has been a big supporter of the Project Elijah Foundation and Elijah's Kosher Manna. They see our Manna Program as a unique and much needed solution to the staggering hunger problem.

CHANGE: The design of our label will be altered to make our Elijah's Kosher Manna more appealing on the food pantry shelf. Manna is brimming with nutrients and protein. We want to entice the clients to make this healthy choice.

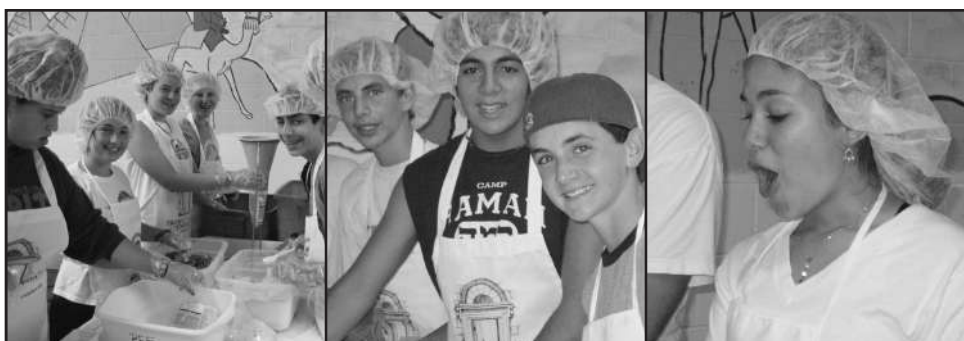
CHANGE: We have been changing and upgrading our website to better reflect what we do. We will begin to profile the agencies and organizations that we are able to help. We plan to create an online donation system. Forgive my pun: Please send us your CHANGE.

We recently had 100 Ramah campers join us in an Elijah's Kosher Manna Packaging event. We were able to spend some time informing them about Jewish Hunger and distress. This group then packaged 10,000 meals. Thanks to Rosalind Rabinowitz, Lyanna Grund, Cindy Statman and our loyal crew of high school "supervisors" for assisting in this endeavor.



Don't go CHANGIN'
(Sorry about that)

Janice Rosenberg
Executive Director
Project Elijah 515-246-8001



Camp Ramah visits Des Moines and Packages with the Project Elijah Foundation

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What did I do wrong?

by David Friedgood



Judaism is a celebration of Life and all its possibilities. "I have put before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life..." (Deuteronomy 30:19) Only through living can we fulfill our destiny as human beings: Tikun Olam – the ultimate perfection of our world. Death is a contradiction. Even though all human flesh must pass, our tradition sees death as something to be put off, to fight off, as long as possible. There is no redemption in the grave. As the Psalmist (King David) wrote over 2000 years ago: "The dead cannot praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence. But we will bless the LORD now and forever, Hallelujah!" (Psalm 115:17-18) We strive to overcome our ultimate demise and in the end of days messianic tradition holds out the hope that death will be abolished altogether. "He will destroy death forever. My LORD God will wipe the tears away from all faces, and will put an end to the reproach of His people... (Isaiah 28:9) We celebrate life, even in death. When a Jew dies, his or her mourners rise to recite Kaddish – a prayer praising God and His gift of life: "Let there be abundant peace from heaven, with life's goodness for us and for all Israel. And let us say: Amen." (Mourner's Kaddish) Also, recall the cry of Koheleth (traditionally the aged King Solomon): "For he who is reckoned among the living has something to look forward to – even a live dog is better than a dead lion." (Ecclesiastes 9:4)

So why is it, as pointed out by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, that every year during the Days of Awe (Yamim Noraim) we gather together in schul (synagogue) and focus attention on our mortality? If we are a people celebrating life, why on the holiest days of our calendar, are we concerned with our pending demise? The Days of Awe run from the first day of Rosh Hashanah (New Year) to Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). On these days our very lives are balanced on a heavenly scale. Who shall live and who shall die. In schul on Kol Nidre night (Yom Kippur eve) a dramatic scene is set. We are all participants at a heavenly court. All the Torah scrolls are removed, the ark is opened, we stand as Cantor sings the soulful solemn Kol Nidre melodies, and our lives are judged. Traditional Jews wear a pure white kitel (literally a shroud) and we don't eat or partake in any of life's pleasures. It is as though we are already gone, on the brink between our eternal rest and this fleeting moment – Life. In desperation we approach our end. We pray to our creator, confess our sins, and extol the glory of our existence. Finally our redemption is heralded by the T'keah blast of the Shofar heard at the end of Yom Kippur – the Neilah service. Only then are we saved.

[rabbinical thought]

Listening to Life's Messages - The Accountant

by Rabbi Levi Goldstein



A businessman must periodically take inventory, balance his accounts and determine his financial standing. Regular accounting procedures keep a business running smoothly, and are a pillar of successful commerce.

However, most of his time is spent engaged in commercial activity. He pauses only to evaluate a particular transaction, to ascertain if it will be profitable and to determine the best approach. The examination of the overall status of his business is conducted far less frequently, usually only once a year, for were it to be done every day, there would be no time to conduct any actual transactions.

We should follow the same procedures in our service to G-d, which is our "business." Most of the time - our "business year"

- we "deal" in the "commodities" of Torah and mitzvos. Only the month of Elul, which precedes Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, is the time for a "general financial review" - when we concentrate on introspection, stocktaking and spiritual accounting.

For the rest of the year, we should pause only briefly for specific, short-range assessments. For example: upon reciting the Shema each evening before retiring, we sum up the credits and debits, the achievements and deficiencies of that day; before Shabbos, we examine the accounts of the previous week; and before Rosh Chodesh (the beginning of a new month), we balance the account for the preceding month. Then, in the last month of the year, we make a comprehensive analysis.

Some people believe that to proceed with Torah and mitzvos, they must know exactly where they stand at every moment and constantly reexamine whether they are proper candidates for spiritual service, with the accompanying detailed introspection. In reality, this approach is merely a ploy by the yetzer hara (evil inclination) to deflect a person from appropriate action by involving him in obsessive self-analysis. He can instead proceed on his course with confidence, leaving aside this activity until its proper time.

Rabbi Levi Goldstein is an affiliate of the Judaic Resource Center of Des Moines/Chabad of Iowa.

Renewed after all that davening (prayer) we go off to feed our Jewish soul - figuratively. "Go, eat your bread in gladness, and drink your wine in joy; for your action was... approved by God." (Ecclesiastes 9:7)

On Yom Kippur day we read about the strange ritual of the scapegoat in the morning torah reading (Leviticus 16). The High Priest would take two male goats from the Israelite flock and by lot assign one to the LORD and one to Azazel. The Lord's goat was sacrificed and used to atone for communal sin and to purify the people. The one destined for Azazel was sent off alone into the wilderness (or perhaps thrown off a cliff). (Azazel is the name of an ancient Canaanite demon and also a rocky mountain in the desert. The goat for Azazel may have been a bribe so the demon would not speak ill of the Israelites before the heavenly court on judgment day.) The Israelite people mourned the loss of the scapegoat, and through it collective forgiveness was won for their sins. In later years the scapegoat became a symbol of the Jewish community's tragedy in exile (R. Greenberg).

Perhaps we need to face our mortality to truly appreciate the value of our lives. We mortals can easily become complacent and take what we have for granted. During the Days of Awe we come face to face with the reality of our fragile existence. The rituals of our tradition serve to show us who we really are, to put us in our true place in the great scheme of God's universe. Just as our souls are chilled by the dark void of nothingness, we are warmed by the light, the ineffable breath of God's creation. Perhaps it is by ritually facing our death, and by confessing our individual and collective sin, that we can appreciate the gift of our lives and find within ourselves the ability to truly honor and praise our creator. "Then the LORD your God will open up your heart and the hearts of your offspring to love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul, in order that you may live." (Deuteronomy 30:6) On this coming Day of Atonement may you have an easy fast and find strength in this time of redemption and renewal – L'Chaim To Life!

"... O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus said the LORD GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you and you shall live again. I will lay sinews upon you, and cover you with flesh, and form skin over you. And I will put breath into you, and you shall live again. And you shall know that I am the LORD!" (Ezekiel 37:4-6)

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER DES MOINES

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Usage of The Caspe Terrace is limited to the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, its employees, Jewish Federation Members and to United Way affiliates. Events are limited to Federation community programming; for Members of the Federation for occasions that are significant life stage events and religious in nature. A maintenance fee shall be charged to individuals to cover costs incurred of these events.

... As You Plan for Your Future



Elaine Steinger
Executive Director

Unless you have a valid will or other arrangements in place, others may have to decide who will manage your affairs should you be unable to do so. Without any plans, it may be necessary for state laws to automatically transfer your property in to your nearest relatives, regardless of your wishes.

Regularly Update Your Plans. Out-of-date wills, trusts, and other plans are often no better than not having plans at all. Many things can make your will and other plans obsolete, including changes in your family (marriages, births, deaths); the nature and value of your property; changes in state and federal tax laws; or a move to another state. The needs of your loved ones can also change over time.

Consult an Attorney. There is no substitute for the advice of an attorney when making a will and other estate plans. An attorney can suggest ways to avoid settlement delays and also reduce estate taxes, probate costs, and other expenses. Choose an attorney who is knowledgeable in the area of estate planning. Attorneys will discuss fees ahead of time so you will know the approximate cost.

Provide for an Alternate. Your plans should name the person or financial institution you would like to manage the settlement of your estate. It is wise to choose someone who is knowledgeable in managing finances. It's also a good idea to name an alternate in case your first choice is unable to serve for any reason. If you do not, a court may name a close relative or someone you may or may not have selected.

Name Final Beneficiaries. If none of the persons named in your will survive you, by law your estate could be given to one or more distant relatives you may not even know. After you have listed all the people you want to remember, ask yourself, "What if one or more of them are not alive to receive their inheritance?" Many persons name one or more charitable interests to receive funds in such a case.

Honor Others. To commemorate the life of a special friend or loved one, consider including a memorial gift in your will or other long-range plans. Your advisors can assist you in arranging an appropriate memorial. If you wish we will be pleased to assist as necessary.

Keep Plans in Balance. Most people have no way of knowing the exact value of what they may own at the end of their lifetime. To be sure their charitable gifts remain in proportion to other legacies, many designate that all or a certain percentage of their estate be devoted to charitable use after first providing for loved ones. You may want to consider this when making your plans.

Remember Other Assets. Do not forget to consider life insurance or retirement plan assets when thinking about your long-range plans. Beneficiary designation forms you completed in the past may not reflect your current wishes. Such forms may take precedence over your will and other documents, so be sure to review them as part of your planning.

Maintain Flexibility. Include charitable gifts in your plans. Remember that an organization's future needs may change. For this reason, it is usually best to make your gift flexible. Generally, if you are less restrictive, funds can be used where they are needed most when received. When you include gifts for charitable purposes, consider informing the recipient. They may have specific needs that would fit your giving plans precisely, or suggestions that would enhance the net value of your estate and your future gift.

Secure tomorrow for the Des Moines Jewish community. Make a charitable gift to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation to carry on your Jewish legacy.



Des Moines Jewish Foundation Board: Don Blumenthal, President; Martin Brody, Vice President; Marvin Winick, Treasurer; Elaine Steinger, Executive Director. Harry Bookey, Suzanne Engman, Debbie Gitchell, Alvin Kirsner, Fred Lorber, John Mandelbaum, Polly Oxley, Sheldon Rabinowitz, Stanley Richards, Ron Rosenblatt, Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan, Don Schoen, Toni Urban

[in profile:]

Cindy Statman

A Newcomer Calls Des Moines Home



JP: Cindy, I understand that your family has come to Iowa from Florida. How long have you been in Des Moines?

CS: My husband Evan, my 5 ½ year old son Jacob, and I have been here for one year.

JP: How have you all been doing?

CS: We're doing very well. We're affiliated with Tifereth. Jacob attends the Jewish Federation Community School and attended Engman Camp Shalom for the whole summer.

JP: Did Jacob enjoy Camp Shalom?

CS: He loved it, as did my two step children, who attended Camp Shalom as well. They didn't want to leave.

JP: That's great! Where have you made your home?

CS: We live on the eastern edge of Waukee. It's a nice community.

JP: What brought your family to Iowa?

CS: My husband and my father-in-law started up a bakery manufacturing company in Boone and have an additional plant in Burlington. My husband is the director of purchasing. He buys all the commodities and sets up all the contracts.

JP: So you have two plants to manage.

CS: The Boone plant will be producing cookies, cakes, and brownies. And the Burlington plant now produces bread, rolls and donuts.

JP: Tell us a bit about your own activities.

CS: I've practiced law for seventeen years in Florida and currently, I'm the coordinator for the Jewish Federation's Jewish Education Learning Institute.

JP: We'll get to JELI in a moment. Let me ask you, first, what prompted you to get involved with the Jewish community?

CS: Well, I moved from South Florida, where there is a very large Jewish community.

JP: Did you bring them with you?

CS: No, but I wish I could have brought at least a thousand of my friends with me to Des Moines. The Des Moines area would be perfect. But when I was here, I found that I missed being around Jewish people, so I got involved as quickly as possible, starting with the Community School, and it got to the point that when I went to the grocery store, I saw people I knew and knew they were Jewish.

JP: So besides everything else that you do, you are now on the Jewish Community Relations Commission...

CS: I'm on JCRC and on the board for the Federation Community School.

JP: Do you enjoy both those functions?

CS: I do; they are two different realms. I think my attraction to JCRC comes from having been around my father. He was always involved with politics, when I was a child in Minneapolis. He was one of the friends of Hubert Humphrey, so passion for justice has

always been close to my heart –and that's why I went to law school as well.

JP: Where did you go to law school?

CS: The University of Miami School of Law after I graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

JP: What did you major in at Wisconsin?

CS: Journalism.

JP: And where in Minneapolis did you grow up?

CS: In no where else but St. Louis Park.

JP: Do you still have relatives up there?

CS: I do.

JP: Do you have any relatives in Iowa?

CS: Just my father-in-law. But my grandfather was born in Council Bluffs and grew up in Sioux City.

JP: So you have an interesting connection to this fine state.

CS: Oh, yes. But I'm really thrilled that my son gets to grow up in so healthy an environment where he is able to go out and play and not have to live under the lock and key of the gated communities in Florida. And it feels much more like the Twin Cities when I was a child. It's such a thrill for him to just go play in the neighborhood and for me not to be worried all the time.

JP: What surprised you about Iowa?

CS: What surprised me... other than the worst winter ever? (chuckling). You know, growing up in Minnesota and going to school in Wisconsin, I don't think I was so surprised about anything in Iowa. But what surprised me the most was really how small the Jewish community is. But what also surprised me was how friendly the Jewish community is and how willing they are to embrace new people.

I'd like to tell people that when they speak to people who are considering relocating to Des Moines, that they shouldn't be afraid – that the Jewish community, while it may be small, is vibrant and it's a great place to live and to raise a family.

Cindy's work with The Jewish Education Learning Institute

JP: Ok, so now... tell us about the Jewish Education Learning Institute.

CS: Well, we have a little different focus, in JELI this year. We're focusing on families and educating families. And our theme for the year is: Taking the Holidays Home. We're going to run a few different series of courses – and they'll run at the same time as religious school on Sunday mornings. At 9 am. on those Sundays, we'll eat a little, we'll schmooze a little, we'll enjoy each other and get to know each other. And from 10 – noon, we're going to learn a little about the holidays, cook a little, get some new insights, learn games and have stories to bring home to our families. The idea is to create new traditions for our homes and our community.

JP: How can people get involved with Taking the Holidays Home?

CS: Folks can contact me at the Federation. Please call 277-6321 x230.

JP: You've brought a lot of creativity and enterprise to your tasks. It's wonderful that you are so involved with different aspects of the community. Thank you very much for the interview, Cindy, and all the best to your family.

CS: Thank you.

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Leg Number Four: Home Sweet Prague by David Moskowitz



In our last episode: Heidi and David and family follow ancient Jewish tradition and flee France, but not before (a) visiting many castles, (b) admiring French highway service areas, and (c) saying farewell to fellow French tourist Leonardo Da Vinci, felled by a wayward croque monsieur [Editor's note: You promised!]. The family arrives in Switzerland where they see lots of watch stores, eat roshty, climb every mountain, ford every stream, scout out future fleeing locations, and eventually find their dream (which it turns out was a bus trip to the Zurich airport).

Prague! Ancient capital of the Roman Empire (okay, maybe just for an hour and to fend off the invading Swedes)! This was what we were waiting for: the sweet air of ... Eastern European freedom (everything is relative)! As our family piled into a



Strolling Medieval Prague

cab at the Prague airport and headed towards the ancient spires of this incredible medieval city, some of us felt like we were going home again.

But first: getting to Prague was half the fun. Most travel agents might be daunted by a request to transfer 16 people from

Zermatt, Switzerland to Prague, but for us it was as simple as cake. Simply pile your 300 bags onto the Glacier Express train platform in Zermatt (which despite the cost of tickets, boards on a first-come, first-served basis); battle 500 Japanese tourists to get seats on the train during the 4 seconds it stops in Zermatt (Americans rule the world at merging onto freeways but have no clue about boarding trains); and enjoy the 8-hour ride to Saint Moritz, a town that shares with Zermatt the fact that they are both nowhere near the Zurich airport.

The Glacier Express is a glass-enclosed train that traverses hundreds of Swiss rivers, mountain passes, tunnels, and valleys, traveling 200 incredibly scenic miles from

one jet-set Swiss ski resort to another jet-set Swiss ski resort. The train is booked a year in advance and takes all day. Five-year olds on tricycles speed by the Glacier Express. Everyone will tell you that time flies by during the ride due to the beauty of the

surroundings, but if you take the ride on a day that the entire country is enveloped by an impenetrably dense fog, it's safe to say that you will learn little about the Swiss countryside and lots about the Nintendo DS. The Glacier Express taught me that

I need the blue harp and golden flute if I want to open up the secret gateway to Zelda's castle.

Oh yes, Prague! While it is true that Things Ultimately Turned Out Bad for the Jews of Prague, we couldn't wait to retrace the steps of Franz Kafka as he walked across the Charles Bridge to Prague Castle. Our first stop was the main square of the medieval city. Walking down narrow cobblestoned alleys lined with hundreds of shops selling glassware, we made our way to the famous astrological clock (see inset picture).

The spectacular and enormous Prague Astronomical Clock (sometimes known as the "Orloj") is more than 600 years old and depicts the earth, the sky, and the planets in their never-ending waltz of time and gravity. The symbols of the zodiac, etched in gold, move across the sky, in a remarkable display of craftsmanship and artistry. We loved the clock until the crowd gathered to see the noon-time show. As the clock sounded the twelve hourly chimes, a tiny door opened and the bearded figure of a Jew (according to the brochure, representing "greed") paraded across the face of the clock, shaking his bag of gold at the onlookers. The tourists absolutely loved this display, and applauded the familiar international symbol of "things that were despised at the time of the clock's making." Gulp. They couldn't go with the accountant or Hollywood movie mogul stereotypes?

Note to self: on the count of three, jump into a cab and immediately FLEE!

Instead, we decided to walk over to the Jewish quarter (the "Josefov"), a popular tourist attraction that featured the Jewish Town Hall (and its clock that, in true Hebrew language style, runs counterclockwise) and the 700



Prague Astronomical Clock

year old Old-New Synagogue. Now that's more like it! A temple that is a tourist attraction! We could march down the street proudly displaying our Jewishness; at last we were home! Bring out the matzoh ball soup! This is our town baby; Franz Kafka wrote The Metamorphosis here!

But things for the Jews of Prague were not the way they seemed on the surface. And come to think of it, The Metamorphosis is about an ordinary person who wakes up one day to discover that he has been mysteriously transformed overnight into an enormous cockroach. Maybe that was Kafka's metaphor for Jewish life in Prague ... sounds like he was having some profound self-image problems of his own.

continued on page 19

Spotlight on Hadassah and Des Moines

Hadassah has a long and rich history in Des Moines. Link your name to the future of Israel and the future of the Jewish people. Become part of Des Moines' new Hadassah!

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 5769

September 14th: Brunch and Focus Group for Women under 45

September 14th: Book Club - Read Nicole Krauss' *The History of Love* and join the discussion

January 2009: "One Book, One Region" discussion of Lucette Lagnado's *The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit*

May 2009: "One Book, One Region" discussion of Geraldine Brooks' *People of the Book*

...and more coming your way!



If you, or someone you know, would like Hadassah's rich history in Des Moines to continue into the future, contact Stephanie Sargent at sssmn@comcast.net or (952) 936-0329 or Laurie Rosenwasser at lrosenwasser@hadassah.org or (888) 924-4999.



The Sarah Wetsman Davidson Inpatient Tower, a state-of-the-art facility, at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, scheduled to open in 2012, the Hadassah Centennial. **We're Building It!**

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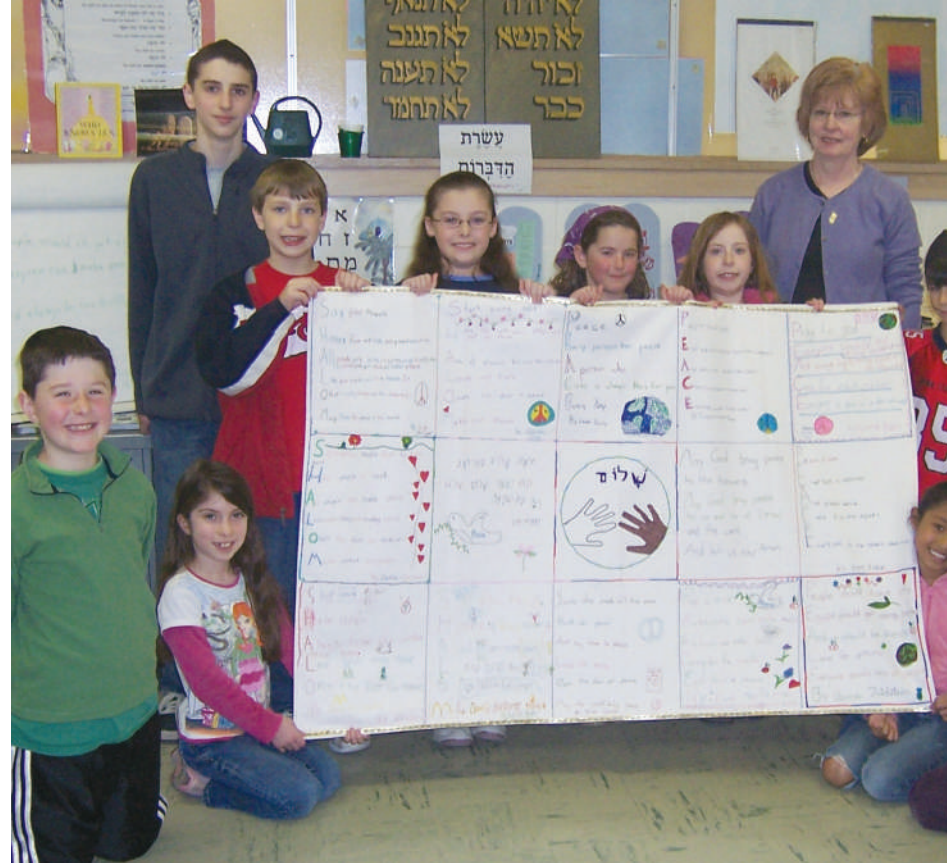
Partnership 2000

In honor of Israel's 60th Anniversary, the Jewish Federation Community School participated with the Jewish Agency for Israel and our Israel Partnership with Western Galilee to participate in an interpretive art project entitled "Lights of Peace."

The goal of this program was to give all children a strong sense of togetherness and partnership. The goal was for us to teach the same curriculum with a final product. The classroom activity dealt with the topic of tolerance as a means of achieving peace. Students were taught that understanding that peace is a goal and that the way of realizing it is through tolerance.

The final class project was to design a pictorial representation of what tolerance meant to them. Grades first through fifth participated. Pictured are photos of each class displaying the canvases they created along with a description and additional canvases that schools in Israel created.

All Partnership 2000 cities as well as those in Israel, have sent their completed canvas pictures to the Jewish Agency for Israel. These will be displayed and pictures of each canvas will be on-line through the Agency. Once canvases are returned to JFCS, we will display these in each classroom.



Lights of Peace



1. First Grade – Mrs. Margolin – “Shalom” – Like people, each “Shalom” is unique. They are different colors, going in different directions, and some are even backwards but, much like the people who live in our world, that is okay. Even though we are all different, we want the same thingpeace.

2. Second Grade – Ms. Cole – Our canvas represents our idea that all people around the world should have peace and be friends.

3. Third Grade – Mrs. Johnson – Our “Lights of Peace” canvas pieces together 12 original poems for peace, written by our students to form a quilt. In the center, hands of different races are reaching for “Shalom.” Although each poem is unique, the overall concept is very clear: We need to love and care for others in order to have a peaceful world!

4. Fourth Grade – Mr. Eggherman – “Seeds of Peace” is about the continual planting of seeds to grow peace. When you plant seeds, they need to be cultivated. Over time, through hard and easy times, peace will mature. This canvas shows peace planted in the ground, grows into a tree, houses a bird and leaves form the word “Shalom.” Let’s continue to plant the seeds for peace now and into the future.

5. 5th Grade – Rachele Hjelmaas – “Shalom Rav” - Peace, Peace, Peace - Grant peace to all of us. The symbols represent the students’ thoughts and ideas of peace.

Canvases Received from Israel

6. Heart in the middle “Yasmin” kindergarten from Akko concentrated on the “language of love” as a basis for “lights of peace” theme.

7. “Peace Graffiti” – The three people represent a Jew, an Arab and a Christian, who together write the word “Peace” in three languages (Hebrew, English and Arabic)

8. Menorah – “Haoren” kindergarten class from Akko, concentrated on the State of Israel symbol, The Menorah light and the olive leaves which symbolize peace. Together it is ‘Lights of Peace.’

9. Another World – An Arab and a Jew are standing against the background of the planet Earth and are opening a zipper, behind is Jerusalem – the center of controversy between Jews and Arabs in the Land of Israel. Holding hands together, against the background of Jerusalem expresses the hope of reaching an understanding and an agreement and mediating the differences of opinion.



The Israel Project

The Israel Project (TIP) is a non-profit bi-partisan organization that provides journalists and leaders from around the world with accurate information about the Middle East. From its U.S. headquarters in Washington, D.C., Laura Kam, Senior Advisor to TIP shares some information with the Jewish Press about this new organization.

Jewish Press: Laura, The Israel Project came into existence only five years ago. What created the need for it?

Laura Kam: It was during the second intifada that Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, who founded The Israel Project, discerned that Israel was being subjected to the most savage terrorist attacks and was still receiving undeserved negative media coverage. Analyzing the situation, she believed the coverage could and should reflect reality.

JP: What was wrong?

LK: The problem was that Israel's message was not being understood primarily because it was not being communicated clearly by Israeli officials and supporters of Israel. The information, although perhaps correct in substance, was not being expressed in a way that people could grasp what was actually happening.

JP: OK. The problem has been identified. How does TIP help?

LK: TIP's approach is to utilize basic communication strategies to clarify Israel's message. Sometimes, it's not what you say, it's how you say it. In a way, we help Israel make its case. We do three basic things.

One, we work directly with Israeli government officials and spokespeople, many of whom, as you know, are not native speakers of English. Two, we work with Jewish organizations across the U.S. and Europe engaged with helping explain the situation in Israel. And three, we deal directly with journalists.

JP: Tell us about the journalists you do work with. Where do they come from?

LK: We work with journalists from around the world, literally from Australia to India and beyond. We communicate with about 30,000 journalists on a regular basis, providing them with background information that might help them write factual stories. That's all we ask, that their articles are factual.

JP: Now, you work with journalists in their own countries and in Israel itself. Can you tell me about how TIP works directly inside Israel?

LK: Sure. The Israel Project has an office in Jerusalem as well as a satellite office in Sderot. We work with journalists that come in to write particular stories and we work with the 400 journalists that are permanently posted to Israel and who may, in fact, cover the Middle East using Israel as their base.

JP: How does TIP expand their conceptions about Israel?

LK: Well, TIP has a unique project called the Intellicopter Tour. This is a two-and-a-half-hour aerial tour of Israel, covering the security boundary from north to south and landing in Sderot, which is the Israeli town

that has been targeted for repeated rocket and mortar bombardment from Gaza. In Sderot, we do a ground tour, visiting with residents and holding security briefings about what is currently going on between Sderot and the Gaza Strip. To date, some 700 journalists have taken the Intellicopter Tour.

In addition, in both the U.S. and in Israel, we provide briefings for the media with Israeli decision makers such as officials and people from think tanks -- just to give journalists as wide a view as possible about the challenges facing Israel.

JP: Let's talk a little bit about an important aspect influencing the Israel - American relationship: American public opinion. How does the American public see the Arab-Israeli conflict?

LK: The American public is, thankfully, very supportive of Israel in the conflict. They understand that Israel is a democracy, a country that wants peace, and is a country that is working to defend its citizens. And by the way, these are values that we cherish as Americans and we know that Americans, like ourselves, see those values mirrored in Israel.

To keep current with what Americans are thinking, TIP does monitor public opinion, and we know that right now, support for Israel is at its highest levels ever at 71% support for Israel. And we know these numbers have risen dramatically over the past five years, since TIP has taken accounts of public opinion.

JP: Is TIP, as it functions in the U.S., bi-partisan?

LK: Yes, it is a legal requirement, in fact, that we operate on a bi-partisan basis in all endeavors. First of all, we have a board of advisors that includes members of Congress from both parties. Moreover, we sponsor events in which both Democrats and Republicans speak on topics of importance to the Jewish community and specifically, we hold debates in which supporters of candidates present themselves and answer questions. We also have programs where journalists will come and speak -- and they are willing to do so because they know we are non-partisan.

JP: Speaking of programs, TIP recently held a stimulating program with Israel's UN Ambassador Daniel Gillerman. It was broadcast on C-Span.

LK: Yes, that is a good example of the kind of work TIP does. We present events that we know journalists will be writing about or at least taking the messages about what an Israeli is saying and using them in a story, if not making that a story in and of itself. We give journalists an opportunity to put in Israel's message, of wanting peace -- because it is important for people to know that Israel genuinely desires peace.

JP: Let's look at how TIP deals with one current issue. Let's take Iran. What is The Israel Project's thoughts on how to deal with the Iranian problem in terms of getting Israel's message out, helping people to

Sharp Rise in Immigration in Israel



100 South African olim at the Western Wall, after the first-ever chartered flight from South Africa, organized by the Jewish Agency

The number of immigrants to Israel from South Africa is expected to nearly double this year, as 100 olim arrived in Israel Monday (July 21). They traveled on the first chartered flight for immigrants from South Africa, organized by the Jewish Agency and the South African Zionist Federation. Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski and Minister of Immigrant Absorption Eli Aflalo greeted the group at a special welcoming ceremony Tuesday at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Since the middle of 2007, South African Jews have expressed increased interest in aliyah, resulting in part from a growing political instability and rising levels of violence and crime in the country. The number of people contacting Jewish Agency representatives in South Africa

with requests to open aliyah files or with questions about aliyah has increased significantly over the last year. The Jewish Agency estimates that more than 300 South African Jews will make aliyah this year, up from 178 in 2007.

Meanwhile, the influx of French immigrants remains steady, with 450 newcomers arriving in Israel Wednesday (July 23) on three special flights, organized by the Jewish Agency and the French organization AMI. Jewish Agency Chairman Zeev Bielski and Minister of Immigrant Absorption Eli Aflalo were at Ben Gurion Airport to greet the newcomers. France, with a population of some half a million Jews, the largest Jewish population outside Israel and the United States, has seen nearly 20,000 Jews emigrate to Israel since 2000; and the numbers are expected to remain steady at up to 3,000 olim per year.



The Jewish Agency facilitated the arrival of 450 new immigrants from France

From the The Jewish Agency which is supported by founding constituent partners: Keren Hayesod, United Jewish Communities and Jewish federations around the world.

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An interview with AIPAC Iowa Co-chair, Barbara Hirsch-Giller upon returning from the annual AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C.

Jewish Press: Barb, you are co-chair of AIPAC Iowa. How long have you been co-chair?

Barbara Hirsch-Giller: I've been co-chair along with Bud Hockenberg for about a year. During this time I've attended two annual AIPAC Policy Conferences.

JP: Was there something about this conference that inspired you or surprised you?

BHG: The conferences are particularly inspiring on so many levels. This one perhaps more so because of the political climate in the country and the excitement about the election, as well as the very critical issues we're dealing with right now. But the overall excitement of every conference is the passion of people that surrounds one subject specifically, the welfare of the Jewish state of Israel. And what we witness are not only Jewish constituents but also an amazingly diverse community of people, all equally concerned for Israel.

JP: How large was the conference attendance this year?

BHG: There were 7500 people this year, which makes it the largest conference ever to be held. There were over 1200 students

from campuses all over the country and from abroad, as well. These are student activists. In many instances they may be student body presidents and folks who are active in student government. The students who attended the Policy Conference come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some are Latino, others may be African-American, and many come from the Christian community. This is true as well of all who attended. There has been a tremendous increase in the diversity of AIPAC members, in general.

JP: How large was the Des Moines delegation?

BHG: We had eleven members. A number of others indicated they would have attended if their schedules had permitted.

JP: Why was it important for them to attend this particular year?

BHG: It is really important for members of congress to see their constituents and I think that everyone there feels the urgency of the issues we are dealing with this year.

JP: Barb, what are some of the issues that came up at the conference?

BHG: Terrorism was the focus of the conference with urgency in addressing the issues that pertain to Iran and their enrichment of uranium – that is not only of concern to Israel but that it is seen as a worldwide threat. We heard from many elected officials including our Presidential candidates, Senators McCain and Obama.

JP: What was their "take" on the Iranian issue?

BHG: Across the board, without any equivocation, every member expressed bipartisan support for addressing these issues immediately as well as the critical nature of what is happening there.

JP: Who are some of the elected officials and candidates you heard from?

BHG: We heard from all three of the presidential candidates (at the time). We heard from House Majority Leader Harry Reid, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Minority Leader John Boehner.

JP: Were they upbeat?

BHG: Absolutely. The thing that amazes me is that the highest elected officials in our country and in Israel consider AIPAC to be absolutely crucial to the welfare not only of Israel but also to the welfare of our country and to the world. They are really genuinely thrilled to be present at Policy Conference.

JP: Which officials from Iowa attended the keynote dinner this year? I know that all of the Iowa Congressional Delegation does attend, if their schedules permit.

BHG: We enjoyed the company of Senator Grassley and Congressman Braley. Congressman Boswell was in Des Moines, as the Democratic Primary was held in Iowa that day, but he attends regularly.

JP: Were there other people from Iowa there?

BHG: Yes. Rabbi Guy Greene from Sioux City was there.

JP: What were some of the other issues that were top on the agenda, other than Iran?

BHG: The issue of dealing with Hamas was a very significant issue. Our concern is that Hamas, which has wrested control of Gaza, be accountable for following the international community's Road Map to peace.

JP: What would your hopes be for building AIPAC here in Iowa?

BHG: AIPAC must reinvent itself to remain relevant to our community. Our community is small and people feel overwhelmed by their busy lives. Leaders in our community are called upon constantly for involvement and not only for Jewish issues. AIPAC, whether in Iowa or elsewhere, is consummately a grassroots organization – it does not exist or function without people, person by person – taking an interest. It's the same principle that operates at the highest levels of government. When people – one by one – become involved in organizational life, great things can be accomplished. And as many of the speakers at the conference told us, including Israel's prime minister: AIPAC is the greatest vehicle for the protection of Israel that exists today.

JP: What specifically should we know about AIPAC?

BHG: Well, readers should note that AIPAC is not a partisan organization and does not endorse candidates. We have Democrats, Republicans and Independents as members. I myself am a liberal Democrat. It is an organization for everybody from students to scholars, for members of any religious denomination. *continued on page 19*



Happy New Year!

Jim and Shirlee Marcovis
Nashi and Bobbi Khalastchi and family
Frank and Janel Marcovis and family
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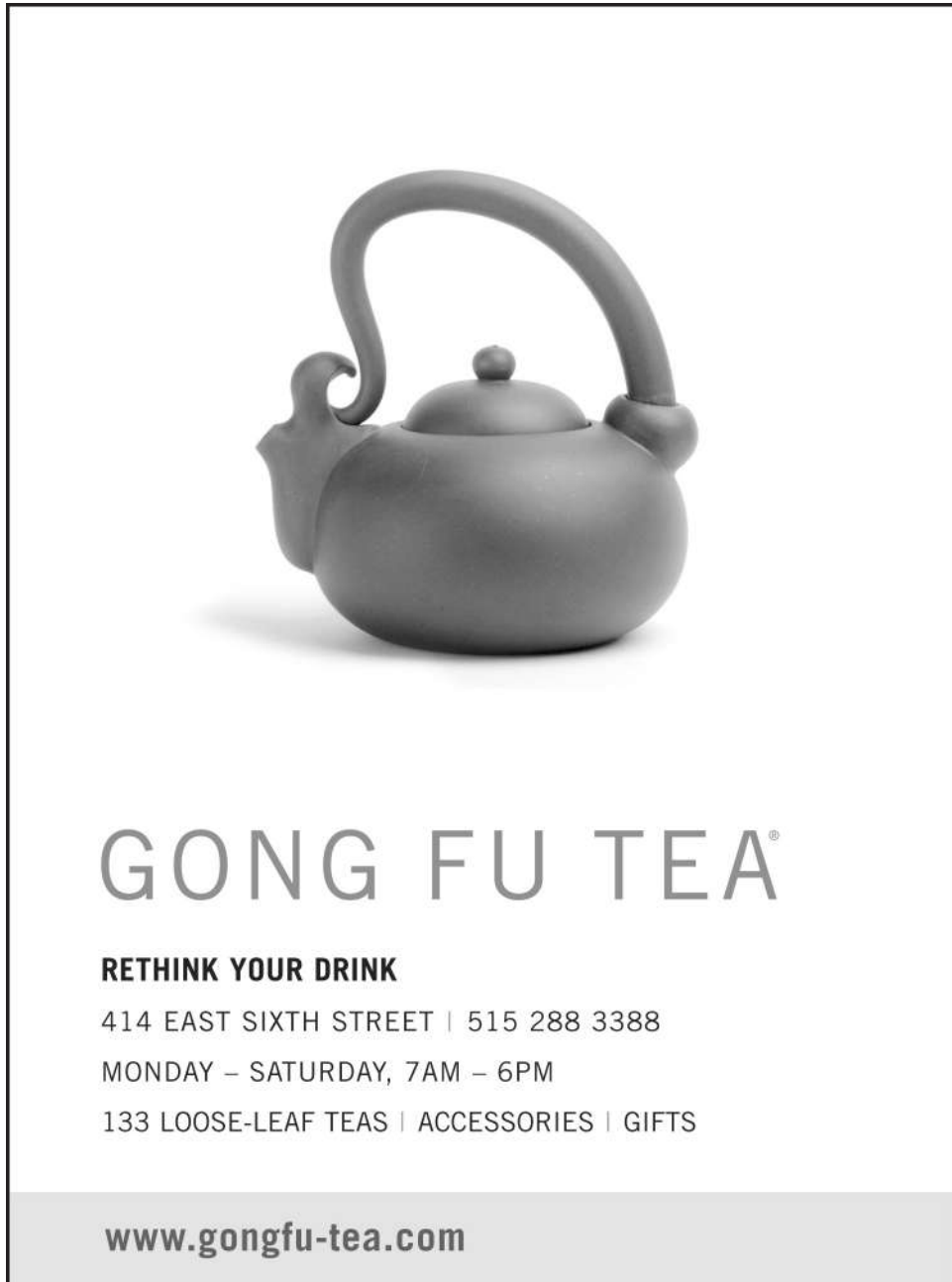
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[leadership forum]

Meet the Mentors



Larry and Suzanne Engman graciously opened their home to the first “Meet the Mentors” session for the Federation’s Leadership Forum on Sunday, July 13. This provided an opportunity for the forum to sit down with established members of the Des Moines Jewish community to discuss the role of this generation of young leaders. Mentors included Suzanne and Larry Engman, Toni Urban, Stan Seidler, Debbie Gitchell, and Bud and Dorothy Hockenberg.

Each of the mentors spoke about their personal reasons for becoming and staying involved in the Jewish Community and shared their experiences about the various volunteer opportunities and leadership roles they have had in their lives.

Suzanne and Larry Engman spoke of their trip to Israel in 1965 establishing a sense of responsibility to Jews at home and abroad. Dorothy and Bud Hockenberg also spoke of the same trip to Israel and of the wonderful time they had. They told of when, at the end of the trip, they expressed their gratitude to one of their Israeli hosts. In response he questioned “What are you going to do about it?” They took it upon themselves to get involved locally and nationally, to make sure they were a part of the discussions and decisions pertaining to the greater Jewish community. This sentiment was echoed by the other mentors present.

Stan Seidler expressed his belief in “giving back to the community” as motivation for volunteerism and leadership. When Stan lived in Cedar Rapids, he owned a small business and could only afford to pay minimum dues to the synagogue there. His involvement has been a way for him to pay back others in the Jewish community who are in the same situation today.

Both Toni Urban and Debbie Gitchell expressed the importance of working on things you feel strongly about. “What is your passion? Find it and volunteer for something you feel passionate about!” said Toni. Debbie echoed that sentiment when she said that leadership is passion and that taking on leadership roles in the community shows that you care. Both women are passionate about the many causes in which they are involved.

In a sense, this meeting was the beginning of the passing of a torch. The experiences shared by each of the mentors and the work done by so many more for the Des Moines Jewish community has laid a tremendous foundation, but we mustn’t rest on their successes or laurels. We as young, up and coming leaders are challenged with strengthening this foundation and building upon it and continuing to ask the question when the challenges arise, “What are we going to do about it?”

– Jenny and Phil Blumber

FEDERATION ANNUAL PICNIC ‘08



In the Kitchen With
Gwenn Copple

by Karen Engman



Ask anyone and they will tell you that Gwenn Copple is the RUGELACH “maven” of Des Moines. It is really a treat that she is willing to share this pareve pastry recipe with us. She has prepared 1500 rugelach for Temple B’nai Jeshuran’s Jewish Food Fair. That’s 24 batches of dough! Gwenn told me she gets motivated sometime in March and prepares four recipes a day until she has enough for the food fair. Her recipe is a combination of a dairy recipe from Judy Weinstein and a pareve version from a cookbook that Rabbi Steven Fink’s mother helped to assemble for the Brandeis University’s National Women’s Committee (West Broward County).

Gwenn was born in Bayonne, New Jersey and moved to Des Moines with her parents Gertrude and Dr. Solomon Greenhill when she was still a baby. She attended Greenwood Elementary School,

Callanan Middle School and Roosevelt High School. She graduated with a degree in Spanish from Brandeis University and a Masters in Spanish from Columbia University. She taught Spanish first in New Jersey and then moved back to Des Moines in 1973 to teach at East High School.

Her first date with Steve Copple was to Jesse’s Embers restaurant on Ingersoll. They were married August 1, 1978. They are both retired now, Gwenn from teaching and Steve from the City Supply Corporation, a plumbing and heating supply business, so they have lots of time to travel. In the winter, they like to take cruises or spend a few weeks in Aruba or Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Once they took a trip to Sturges, SD on Steve’s motorcycle. They also participated in the first three years of Motor loway, an antique car road rally across the state of Iowa. They drove Steve’s 1973 Mercedes 450 SL convertible. I would guess

that Gwenn’s favorite trips are to Las Vegas because she loves to play black jack. In fact, when Gwenn was teaching, Vegas used to be her last “get-a-way” trip of the summer before school was back in session.

Some of her hobbies are “pulling weeds” (not gardening), cooking, knitting, reading, and playing golf. She told me that playing 18 holes of golf is “an excuse to have lunch.” She adds that living on the grounds of Glen Oaks Country Club makes both golf and lunch very convenient.

Gwenn is a dedicated volunteer at the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center. She does manicures for the residents every Monday morning from 9-11 am. She has also chaired the Golden Ball, been president of the Guild and served on the Life Center’s Board of Directors.

The JEWISH PRESS thanks Gwenn for sharing her delicious recipe for rugelach with our readers. If you have a recipe to share, call Karen Engman (274-3300) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com)

Rugelach – Gwenn’s Way

A Recipe from Gwenn Copple

Parve

- Ingredients:
- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ¼ cup warm water | 2 Tbsp sugar |
| 1 pkg yeast | 2 sticks margarine (softened) |
| 2 tsp sugar | 2 eggs |
| 3 cups flour | |
| 1 cup chopped walnuts | |
| 1 cup sugar | |
| 2 tsp cinnamon | |

Dissolve yeast in water with 2 tsp sugar and set aside to foam. In food processor, combine flour, 2 Tbsp sugar, softened margarine, and eggs. Add yeast mixture. Process until a ball is formed. Remove dough and form a ball and cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 350. Combine nuts, sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Sprinkle ¼ of mixture into an 8” circle on work surface. Divide dough into quarters. Place 1 quarter of dough on top of nut mixture. Roll out into a circle 9-10” in diameter, lifting dough as you roll and pushing nut mixture back underneath. (I use a little of the mixture sprinkled on top or I also flip the dough over so that the nut mixture will be on the top and the bottom). Cut the circle into 16 wedges. Roll each triangle up from the outside edge to the point. Transfer to an ungreased cookie sheet. * Bake 15-20 minutes until golden. Repeat with remaining dough.

* Place the point side down on the cookie sheet



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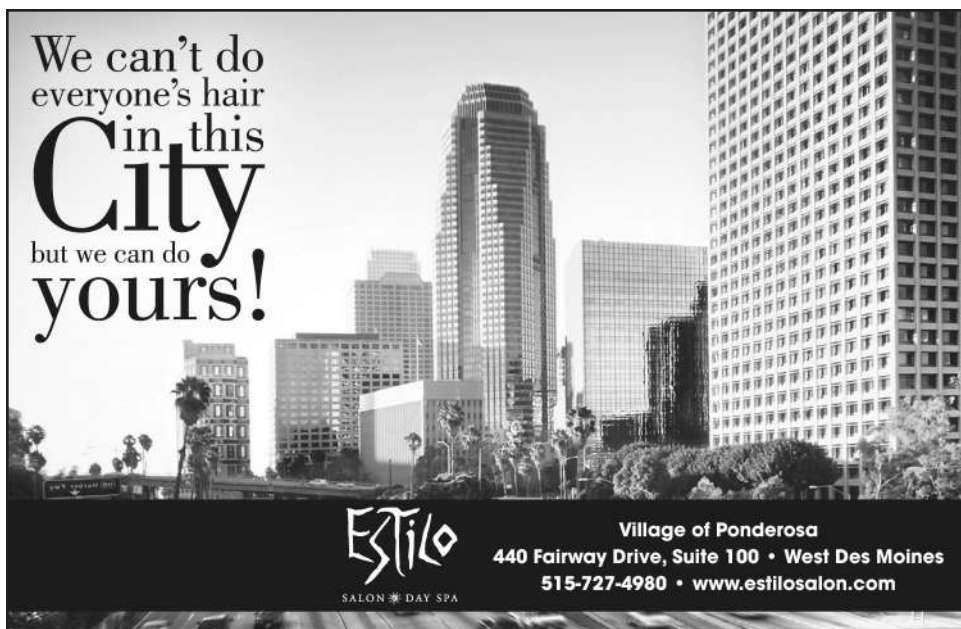
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Sukkot

...On the fifteenth day of this seventh month is the Festival of Sukkot, seven days for the L-RD.
-Leviticus 23:34

The Festival of Sukkot begins on Tishri 15, the fifth day after Yom Kippur. In 2008, the holiday begins on Monday evening, October 13.

It is quite a drastic transition, from one of the most solemn holidays in our year to one of the most joyous. Sukkot is so unreservedly joyful that it is commonly referred to in Jewish prayer and literature as Z'man Simchateinu, the Season of our Rejoicing.

Sukkot is the last of the Shalosh R'galim (three pilgrimage festivals). Like Passover and Shavu'ot, Sukkot has a dual significance: historical and agricultural. Historically, Sukkot commemorates the forty-year period during which the children of Israel were wandering in the desert, living in temporary shelters. Agriculturally, Sukkot is a harvest festival and is sometimes referred to as Chag Ha-Asif, the Festival of Ingathering.

The word "Sukkot" means "booths," and refers to the temporary dwellings that we are commanded to live in during this holiday in memory of the period of wandering. The Hebrew pronunciation of Sukkot is "Sue COAT," but is often pronounced as in Yiddish, to rhyme with "BOOK us." The name of the holiday is frequently translated "Feast of Tabernacles," which, like many translations of Jewish terms, isn't very useful. This translation is particularly misleading, because the word "tabernacle" in the Bible refers to the portable Sanctuary in the desert, a precursor to the Temple, called in Hebrew "mishkan." The Hebrew word "sukkah" (plural: "sukkot") refers to the temporary booths that people lived in, not to the Tabernacle.

Sukkot lasts for seven days. The two days following the festival, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, are separate holidays but are related to Sukkot and are commonly thought of as part of Sukkot.

The festival of Sukkot is instituted in Leviticus 23:33 et seq. No work is permitted on the first and second days of the holiday. (See Extra Day of Holidays for an explanation of why the Bible says one day but we observe two). Work is permitted on the remaining days. These intermediate days on which work is permitted are referred to as Chol Ha-Mo'ed, as are the intermediate days of Passover.

From Judaism:101.

Holidays from page 1

The culmination of the High Holiday period occurs during the Ten Days of Repentance, which begin on 1 Tishri with Rosh Hashanah and end with Yom Kippur. During this period, human beings have the chance to tip the scales of divine judgment in their favor through repentance, prayer, and tzedakah (performing righteous deeds and giving money to charitable causes).

Not only is Rosh Hashanah the Jewish New Year, which commemorates God's creation of the world, but also the Day of Judgment, when God remembers and judges all human deeds. Except on Shabbat, services are punctuated with the call of the shofar, which according to Maimonides, is saying, "Awake, you sleepers, from your slumber...examine your deeds, return in repentance, and remember your Creator." Human beings are believed to be in mortal danger at this time, with their lives hinging on the decision to repent. Only those who choose to forego sin are inscribed in the symbolic "book of life" that is a central liturgical image of Rosh Hashanah. On the afternoon of the first day of Rosh Hashanah, the theological bent of the morning services is reinforced in a concrete way during the Tashlikh ceremony, during which individuals symbolically cast away their personal sins by throwing breadcrumbs into a flowing body of water. This action is accompanied by the recitation of biblical verses that evoke the human capacity for repentance and the beneficence of Divine forgiveness through the metaphor of casting sins into depths of the waters.

The Sabbath between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is called Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath of Return, or Repentance, after a verse from the haftarah declaring "Return O Israel to the Lord, your God" (Hosea 14:2).

The transition to Yom Kippur begins in the hours preceding the evening onset of the festival with the recitation of the first vidui, or communal confession of sins, at the afternoon service. Some Jews choose to

go to the mikveh, or ritual bath, to purify themselves before the holiday.

The striving toward inner purity is also reflected in the white outfits traditional for the day. In traditional congregations, men will don a white robe called a kittel over their holiday clothes. In some liberal congregation, both men and women might choose to wear white garments to symbolize this quest for spiritual purity.

Within the Ten Days of Repentance, Yom Kippur is the pinnacle of intensity, moving toward the decisive moment at its close when God is imagined as sealing the books of life and death. The day's total focus on spiritual concerns is exemplified by fasting and abstaining from everyday activities such as bathing, sexual relations, and the wearing of leather shoes.

The liturgical day of Yom Kippur, known as the Sabbath of Sabbaths, begins with the Kol nidre service immediately prior to sunset. The heartrending poems and prayers of the Machzor, the prayer book used for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which express the themes of repentance, human frailty, and humility before God, combine with the nusach, or musical style of the service, to express the momentousness of the day.

Liturgical elements that distinguish the Yom Kippur services include a recounting of the Temple service on Yom Kippur, a description of the suffering of rabbis martyred by the Romans, and the reading of the Book of Jonah. The day closes with the Neilah service, during which penitents pray before the open ark, with one last chance to repent before the Book of Life is sealed. The very name of the service, Neilah (locking) refers to the imagery that the gates of repentance, open during the High Holidays, are now shutting. A lengthy sounding of the shofar, called a tekiah gedolah, releases the Jew back into the realm of the everyday bolstered by a final echo of the call to repentance.

Courtesy of www.MyJewishLearning.com.

Kristallnacht from page 1

On the night of November 9, the violence became nationwide. The pretext for the violence on Kristallnacht was the November 7 assassination of a German diplomat in Paris, Ernst vom Rath, by Herschel Grynszpan, a Jewish teenager whose parents, along with 17,000 other Polish Jews, had been recently expelled from the Reich. Though portrayed as spontaneous outbursts of popular outrage, these pogroms were calculated acts of retaliation carried out by the SA, SS, and local Nazi party organizations.

During the pogroms of November 9 and 10, 1938, Stormtroopers killed at least 91 Jews and injured many others. For the first time, Jews were arrested on a massive scale and transported to Nazi concentration camps. About 30,000 Jews were sent to Buchenwald, Dachau, and Sachsenhausen. Hundreds died within weeks of arrival.

In many ways, Kristallnacht is seen as "the beginning of the Holocaust."

Adapted from material from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, online at www.ushmm.org.

Toga from page 1 The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center has maintained its fidelity to its central role in our community. Such centrality of purpose would never have been possible without the strong and enduring support of the community. The same support that brought into being The Life Center on Polk Boulevard.

This year's EVENT heralds a new beginning of reminding the Community of the essential importance of its support of Life Center programming. Whenever the need has arisen, the Community was there. Despite the vast and far-reaching changes which have shaped a new role for The Life Center, the essential mission and purpose of The Life Center have not changed and neither has The Life Center's need for you to commit your resources to maintaining our Commitment to Excellence.

When the invitation for the September EVENT reaches your hands, don't cast it aside as just another plea to attend a "fund raiser." Remember that, without your much needed help, there will be diminishment of all that The Home has and can mean to you and to our community.

Come and celebrate the achievements of The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center. Come and spend an evening with friends, old and new, to recognize the importance of The Life Center to our Des Moines community. Come and share a "renaissance" event, that reaffirms our community's commitment to those whose needs can and should be met by those who truly care. - Stephen P. Blend, M.H.A.

Executive Director

Cook from page 1 Cook's numerous publications treat evolving Jewish views of Jesus and Paul; studies on the various Gospels and studies on a wide spectrum of specialized subjects including the trial of Jesus; images of Judaism in Christian art; the history of anti-Semitism; the role of Passover in modern Christianity, and how Jews may attempt to neutralize missionary encroachment.

He travels widely, addressing Jewish and Christian audiences, including congregations as well as university academicians, clergy, and seminarians throughout North America.

He has served as a member of the Executive Board of the Central Conference

of American Rabbis, has five children, and he and his wife spend a major portion of each summer working with Jewish youth at the UAHC camp in Zionsville, IN.

He has a major new book out entitled "Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well-Being in a Christian Environment" (Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2008). Dr. Cook also has composed a "Manual for Managing the Millennium," and produced with his students the popular video, "Missionary Impossible."

Dr. Cook will speak after a joint Friday night service, October 3rd, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. The service begins at 6:00 p.m. and Dr. Cook's presentation, "Jewish Gospel Dynamics: Why We Must Renounce Our Ignorance," will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Saturday morning, October 4th, Dr. Cook will lead text study following a joint service at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. The service begins at 9:00 a.m. and Dr. Cook's study, "Talmud on Jesus: Addressing its Abiding Legacy" will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Atrium.

Dr. Cook will be addressing high school students and their parents, Sunday morning, October 5th at 10:30 a.m. at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. This presentation, which is open to the community, is entitled "Neutralizing Missionary Encroachment: Jettisoning Failed Strategies."

Dr. Cook's book, "Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well-Being in a Christian Environment," will be for sale at the Federation office, 910 Polk Boulevard, Thursday, October 2nd and Friday, October 3rd. Books will also be for sale Sunday morning in the Tifereth Atrium. Book cost is \$29.99.

Project from page 14

LK: You've picked an important issue. Iran is the main existential threat to Israel because they are building a nuclear weapon and they are the only government to say that they want to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. Israel has a number of enemies, but the others are, at present, not going quite that far in their pronouncements. So indeed a nuclear Iran is a strategic issue to be dealt with and we are surely interested in having the public understand what a nuclear Iran means to world peace. TIP is very hopeful that international economic sanctions can be effective in preventing a military confrontation. However, we believe it is extremely important for people to understand why there may be a necessity for military confrontation. Obviously we hope it doesn't come to that.

JP: Laura, what are some of the events TIP will be involved with during the summer and into the fall?

LK: By the time this edition of the Jewish Press is delivered to your readers, we will have worked at the party conventions and will have run pro-Israel ads during the conventions on the cable news channels. Following the conventions, TIP will be sponsoring a series of debates across the country prior to the general election, with advocates of both candidates speaking to the community and the media on issues of concern. We think it is very important that these issues are on record.

JP: As a young organization, TIP has an impressive record in working with journalists. How can people learn more about your organization and possibly contribute to it?

LK: People can come to our website at www.theisraelproject.org. There are

many pertinent things to read there. As to contributions, readers should know that contributions to TIP are tax deductible. All our funding comes from individuals and foundations. We are not connected in any way to any government.

JP: Thank you very much for the interview, Laura Kam, Senior Advisor to The Israel Project.

LK: You're welcome.

Tour from page 11

While the streets in the Josefov were lined with crowded souvenir shops selling postcards of the various ancient synagogues, menorahs, images of Jews praying ... where were the actual Jews? We asked one of the workers in the Old-New Synagogue (where the original story of the Golem supposedly was first imagined) and she said she had never met one. It seems that visiting Jewish historical locations in Eastern Europe was a lot like visiting Mayan pyramids in Mexico: there are a lot of ruins and evidence we lived here, but let's face it, our people figured out a long time ago that it was safer on Long Island. As far as the Czechs are concerned, Jewish history is no more than good business. Anyone interested in a book about the Golem or a thousand crown menorah?

The Old Jewish Cemetery was even worse. This cemetery dates back to 1439 and it is estimated that there are approximately 12,000 graves there,

including the graves of Mordechai M a i s e l and David Oppenheim. Was it just me, or did anyone



Jewish Cemetery upon learning the sad history of this place? Our Jewish ancestors were buried "hundreds deep" on top of each other in this tiny haunted patch of land (see inset picture), surrounded by crowds selling tee-shirts. Maybe that's how Eastern Europeans prefer their Jewish culture.

The Charles Bridge, the 700 year old structure that spans Prague's Vltava River, is one of the most photogenic locations in the world. Closed to vehicular traffic, this arched stone bridge pre-dates Shakespeare



The Charles Bridge

by 200 years and each day is home to hundreds of artists, strollers, beggars, thieves, and tourists, all of whom are trying to walk in the steps of King Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor (he was also Good King Wenceslas's dad, for those of you who, like me, grew up being forced to sing Christmas songs in New Jersey elementary schools). During my time in Prague, I took to walking this amazing bridge at dawn, before the crowds and gawkers arrived, to contemplate the 30 medieval statues of Christian saints and martyrs that

somberly line the bridge. What were they trying to say to me? Was it "walk in peace"? Or perhaps "Moskowitz? Is that you? Never thought you'd make it here!"

My best guess is that the statues were saying: "on the count of ten: run for your life."

Next issue: More fun in Prague, including dinner in a cave and a puppet show version of The Marriage of Figaro that would frighten even Mozart's kids. Then on to Venice, home of the annual Festa d'Ritorno and that famous Shakespearean Merchant, as well as a Jewish ghetto on an island named Getto that was the ancestral home to us all. Hmmm...

AIPAC from page 15 Together, we can make an enormous difference. For the record, membership in AIPAC requires a financial contribution. Neither the membership contribution nor subsequent contributions are tax deductible.

JP: What are some of the benefits of joining AIPAC?

BHG: The single most important benefit of membership is the individual's ability to make a serious impact on the policies and actions of our country, with many opportunities requiring relatively little effort. The other thing is that by availing yourself of AIPAC's educational resources, you can really obtain an accurate picture of what is happening in the Middle East, including, obviously, what is happening with Israel and the continuing peace negotiations and how what occurs in the Middle East affects us in the United States.

Without a doubt, the most important thing that everyone came to understand at Policy Conference is that whatever problems Israel faces are not problems that impact Israel alone. These are problems that will directly affect everyone. Particularly as we consider Iran, what every leader in our country stressed was that the issues that threaten Israel threaten every one of us, literally threaten our survival. These issues are not to be ignored, labeled as Jewish problems or wrongly assigned to the Israelis alone.

We lobbied for sanctions to be increased on Iran to try to deter it from acquiring nuclear weapons for military use.

We also educated officials about the significant change in the foreign aid provided to Israel. There is now no economic assistance included. It is now all vital military aid, with the requirement that most of the funds be spent in the United States.

JP: When is the next Policy Conference?

BHG: It will be held May 3 - 5, 2009, again in Washington, D.C.

JP: Barb, what are some of the events that will happen this year in Des Moines organized by AIPAC Iowa?

BHG: There will be a fall event which will be an ingathering of supporters and will promote understanding of what AIPAC does.

JP: How can people learn more about AIPAC?

BHG: People can keep informed by reading AIPAC's website, www.aipac.org and those with additional questions or a desire to join the organization can contact me. Please call me at 996-2322.

JP: Barbara Hirsch-Giller, thank you very much for the interview and best of luck developing AIPAC Iowa along with your co-chair and committee members.

BHG: Thank you.

Leadership at Beth El Jacob, the Orthodox Congregation of Des Moines and Iowa, are making plans for a Winter Shabbat Challenge. The premise, according to Rabbi Aaron Schwarzbbaum is to give members and non-members a glimpse of Orthodox Judaism and destroy common stereotypes many have of the oldest Jewish movement. "Our goal" said Schwarzbbaum, "is to educate and invigorate Des Moines Jewry with what Orthodoxy is and isn't. Far too often, even our own members fail to have a solid sense of who and what the Orthodox believe. This event will answer questions about how we worship in the 21st Century. We'll talk about things like women in Orthodoxy, modern Jews and modern issues, Orthodoxy and science, common barriers to understanding and the importance of the Sabbath. "We'll encourage Jews from all walks of life and enjoy a Shabbat experience."

5768/5769 High Holiday Schedule

Daily Minyan:	7am & 7pm Except Sunday and Holidays when Morning Services generally begin at 9am. There are High Holiday Changes below.
Erev Rosh Hashanah:	29 September - 6:30pm
Rosh Hashanah:	30 September – 8:30am – Shofar – 10:00am – Evening 6:15pm
Rosh Hashanah:	1 October – 8:30am – Shofar – 10:00am – Evening 6:15pm
Fast of Gedaliah:	2 October
Shabbat Shuvah:	4 October – 8:55am
Kol Nidre:	8 October – 6:15pm
Yom Kippur:	9 October – 8:30am – Yizkor – 11:00am – Break the Fast – 7:45pm
Erev Sukkot:	13 October
Sukkot:	14 October – 9:00am
Sukkot:	15 October – 9:00am
Shmini Atzeret:	21 October – 9:00am – Yizkor – 11:00am
Simchat Torah:	22 October – 9:00am

TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

September 20: Selichot Joint Service TI/TBJ

September 29: Erev Rosh Hashanah
5:30 p.m. Children's and Families' service with child-oriented Torah Service;
No Sermon and abbreviated Shofar Service.
8:00 p.m. Main Rosh Hashanah Service with High Holiday Quartet and volunteer
choir; and Sermon.

September 30: Rosh Hashanah
8:30-10:30 a.m. Service with the Professional Choir and Organ
11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Service with the Volunteer Choir, Piano and Guitar
4:00 p.m. Young Children's service followed by Tashlich at Raccoon River Park
Nature Lodge

October 3: Rabbi Michael Cook, Author, Scholar, Keynote Speaker, Joint Service with TBJ at TBJ

October 4: Shabbat Shuvah & Day Two of Rabbi Michael Cook, Joint Service with TI at TI

October 8: Erev Yom Kippur - Kol Nidre
5:30 p.m. Children's and Families' Service with child-oriented Torah Service - Reading; Jonah and story on Yom Kippur theme, no Sermon.
8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre; Main Yom Kippur Service with High Holiday Quartet and Volunteer Choir with Sermon

October 9: Yom Kippur, Yizkor

8:30-10:00 a.m. Family Service with Shortened Torah Service and story on a Yom Kippur theme - no Sermon

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Full morning service with both choirs, musicians and sermon

1:30-2:45 p.m. Interlude Program - Music and Study

3:00-4:30 p.m. Torah Service and Healing Service

4:30-6:15 p.m. Yizkor, Neilah , and Havdallah

6:15 p.m. Break the Fast

October 13: Erev Sukkot

October 14-19: Sukkot

October 17: Joint Service with TBJ and TI

October 20: Erev Simchat Torah; Consecration

October 21: Simchat Torah & Yizkor

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

with Rabbi Beryl Padorr and Cantor Deborah Bletstein

Saturday, September 20 - Selichot
9:00 p.m. Community Selichot Services - Services will be held at
The Caspe Terrace (Carpool will be arranged)

Sunday, September 28 - Kever Avot
12:30 p.m. Community Kever Avot, Emmanuel Cemetery (in Woodland)
1:00 p.m. Community Kever Avot, Glendale Cemetery

ROSH HASHANAH (SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 1)

Monday, September 29 - Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:00 p.m.	Apples and Honey Service for families and children
8:00 p.m.	Traditional Ma'ariv Service

Tuesday, September 30 - Rosh Hashanah Day 1
8:30 a.m. Traditional Services in Sanctuary
Preliminary Services
Shacharit Services
Torah Service/Youth Service in Brody Youth Lounge/Shofar
Service/Alternative Service in Bookey Chapel
Mishebeirach Readings
Musaf/Concluding Service

4:00 p.m. Meet at Synagogue and walk to the Greenwood pond behind the Art Center or join us at the pond for Tashlikh

4:30 p.m. Tashlikh Service and Z'mirot (singing) at the pond behind the Art Center

6:00 p.m. Mincha/Ma'ariv Services at Tifereth Israel Synagogue

Wednesday, October 1 - Rosh Hashanah Day 2
8:30 a.m. Traditional Services in Sanctuary
Preliminary Services
Shacharit Services
Torah Service/Shofar/Sermon
Musaf/Concluding Service

YOM KIPPUR (OCTOBER 8 - 9)

Wednesday, October 8 - Kol Nidre

6:00 p.m. Food Drive - Drop donations off in the circle drive of the synagogue

7:00 p.m. Traditional Services in Sanctuary
Sermon
Message from Marty Rosenfeld, Synagogue President

Thursday, October 9 - Yom Kippur Day

9:00 a.m. Traditional Services in Sanctuary
Preliminary Service
Shacharit
Torah Service/Sermon/Alternative Service in Bookey Chapel
Yizkor/Memorial Service
Musaf/Avodah Service

2:00 p.m.	Spiritual Side Trip
3:00 p.m.	Spiritual Side Trip
4:00 p.m.	Spiritual Side Trip
5:00 p.m.	Mincha Service
6:00 p.m.	Neila Service
7:30 p.m.	Concluding Ma'ariv/Havdalah - glow lights will be provided for the children. BRING YOUR SHOFAR!
	Break the Fast!

You are cordially invited to attend the Break-the-Fast following the conclusion of Yom Kippur. Please note: All times listed above are estimated. Babysitting will be provided for above services. Please call the Tifereth office at 255.1137 for more information. To ensure that we will be properly staffed, it is recommended that you call the office to RSVP.

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Sometimes it Does Take a Village!

by Valerie E. Cohen



Sometimes from small starts, big things grow. On June 13th the first local flood evacuations went into effect, and the principal at Callanan Middle School found himself with a dozen people who were waiting it out, hungry in his gym. Maccabee's Deli was there, that evening before Shabbos, with meals.

Days later, as the floods came and then receded, the next logical thing was continuing to feed people. The residents of the Birdland area were scattered, some living with family or in hotels with FEMA assistance, while others lived in cars. With the help of donations from Agriprocessors, Loffredo Produce, Rotella's Bakery, Sam's Club, The Baking Company of Boone, The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, and countless generous donors and volunteers, Maccabee's jittered with a constant hum of activity often well into the night, as over 5,000 meals were sent out to the flood victims and workers. Allowing residents and workers to focus on ripping out the molded and muddied, Maccabee's made door-to-door deliveries in the Birdland area for weeks after the flood.

As July rolled in, so did the next phase of recovery. Through the generosity of Penske Truck Leasing, a large box truck was donated in Omaha, and brought here by Chabad friends, Joshua and Cynthia Follick of Omaha. This truck, parked behind Maccabee's Deli, served as a collection point so that when collection efforts were announced, through the Federation e-mail system and the DSM area ReUseIt group, there was a place to hold all of the much needed items. A cargo van packed to the gills by generous Jews in Chicago, through the vision of Berry Chill CEO Michael Farah, arrived in Des Moines at 4:45am July 3rd to help stock our trucks for the flood recovery. In the end, with the help of Irwin at Park Avenue Laundry Services (P.A.L.S.), two truckloads of donated goods were transported to Union Park, and distributed to flood victims July 2nd and 3rd. Following the July 3rd giveaway, the Follicks came back through Iowa, and brought the Penske Truck out to Temple Judah of Cedar Rapids, where Chabad of Iowa had placed a POD Storage unit. The full truck was unloaded there, and Temple Judah col-

lected additional items, and distributed to their local flood-aid entities.

As August rolled in, the greatest need was homes. As news of the city buy-out plan began to emerge, Chabad of Iowa contacted Prudential agent Haim Naggar, who made the introductions that enabled Chabad's partnership with Prudential Realty First Homes of West Des Moines. Prudential Realty has real estate agent volunteers, like Haim Naggar, who have agreed to help the flood victims put down new roots, taking only a \$500 flat fee for expenses, rather than the traditional 3% commission. What happens with the rest of the typical fee? Broker Jake Stanton has agreed to charge no broker fees, and his agent volunteers will donate commission monies above the \$500 back to flood relief! Quite simply, these families are living a nightmare few of us can fully imagine; when one thinks of moving, there is always the dread of packing and shifting and shitzing and hauling, but can you imagine what it would be like to move with nothing? These families have lost virtually everything they owned, and once they again have roof and walls to call their own, they'll be faced with filling it, from "square one."

So, as you might have gathered, the flood recovery is not over... it has only just begun. Whether a family is being bought out, or rebuilding, Chabad of Iowa's Judaic Resource Center remains committed to the



flood recovery. Individual and corporate donors and sponsors are still being sought, for everything from drywall and lumber, to dehumidifiers and ultimately, furniture. It has been amazing to see what our community can do, when we band together! Visit www.JewishFloodRelief.com to help, or learn more!

Federation Supports Flood Relief Efforts

The recent floods in Iowa have affected many lives throughout the state. As part of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines' networking, we were in contact all along with local relief agencies and the Jewish communities in Iowa. On a local level, the Federation, on behalf of the community, contributed financial support to agencies working to alleviate the humanitarian crisis. Through the Tobis Fund, support was provided to the Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Center, and Children and Family Urban Ministries. The Federation, as well, contributed to enable the Judaic Resource Center to do its fine work in feeding those displaced by flooding in the Birdland area of Des Moines. Moreover, the Federation's Tzedakah fund made it possible to help a Jewish individual directly whose compensation from FEMA did not go far enough in efforts to repair his house in the Birdland area.

On a regional level, the Federation was able to help ascertain the degree of damage sustained by the Jewish communi-

ties in Eastern Iowa. Data regarding such damage was collected during a statewide meeting of Iowa Jewish leadership in June, the details of which proved useful in channeling funds to where they could do the most good. The Federation was instrumental in directing individuals from out of state who wished to help the communities and the Federation itself was able, through our Tzedakah Relief Fund, to assist in repairs to the Temple in Dubuque which was heavily damaged. In addition, the Federation has made recommendations for additional funding to the United Jewish Communities which has established a fund to provide flood relief.

In the aftermath of the crisis, the Federation maintains a connection to the local committee of social service providers dealing with long term recovery.

We hope that all whose lives have been disrupted by the floods can find comfort and hope and that their living conditions can return to normal as soon as possible.

B'nai Mitzvah



Sam Feldstein

Saturday, Sept 6

Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Sondra & Stuart Feldstein are proud to announce their

son, Sam Feldstein, will become a Bar Mitzvah at Temple B'nai Jeshurun on September 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us in sharing this special day with Sam and his family and friends.



Nim Kaufman

Saturday, Sept 20

Tifereth Israel Synagogue

Please join us as Nim Kaufman is called to the Torah as a Bar

Mitzvah on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Services begin at 9:00am and a Kiddush luncheon will follow.

Benjamin, Bruria, Hagar, and Noa Kaufman



Aden Finkelstein

Saturday, Nov 1

Tifereth Israel Synagogue

We are delighted to announce that our

son Aden Raviv will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah for sedra Noah. Please join us for the service at 9:00 am and for the Kiddush luncheon that follows.

-- Jody Hramits and Mark Finkelstein

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Anna Asarch

Betty Dubansky

Evelyn Kramer

Marvin Pomerantz

Alan Rapaport

Mazel Tov

Noa Kaufman, daughter of Benjamin and Bruria Kaufman has graduated from Valley High school. This fall she will be heading to Israel to participate in the Israel Gap Year program known as "Tenufa for stronger Israel." Noa will work as a volunteer with kids in low income neighborhoods in Ber-Sheva or Haifa and will attend the physical therapy program at the University of Iowa the following year.

To proud parents **Natalie (Rosenfeld) Kurtz** (previously of DSM) & **Christopher Kurtz** of Raleigh, N.C. on the birth of **Estella Tru Kurtz** on August 8, 2008, at 12:20pm in Raleigh, NC. Measurements: 6 lbs, 11 oz, 20 inches long. Proud Uncle Andrew Rosenfeld.

Let us know...

Has your family had a celebration? A Bar/Bat Mitzvah? How about sharing with the community? We'd all love to see a photos of your anniversary party, new grandchild, son's wedding, or any simcha.

The **Jewish Press** is **your** community newspaper and we'd like to publish more local news, but you need to tell us about it. Please help us to sharpen our local focus with your news. Send photos, information, stories, to jcrc@dmjfed.org.

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra will be performing at Stephens Auditorium in Ames on Sunday, November 9, 2008, 7:30 pm.

Tickets for the concert are available through Ticketmaster.

Music Director: Leon Botstein

A website provides information about the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra http://www.jsco.co.il/history_english.php



Part One of a Three Part Series

Two-Gun Cohen By Marvin Tokayer

As featured in SASSON 2007, reprinted with permission. SASSON is an annual Canadian Luxury publication geared to a Jewish demographic. SASSON functions both as a lifestyle magazine and an upscale resource for Jewish celebrations and can be found at www.sassonmagazine.com.

This is one of those "truth is stranger than fiction" stories. A ne'er-do-well son of impoverished Polish Jewish immigrants residing in England near the turn of the 20th century achieves success and prominence in a role no Jewish parent has ever envisioned for his offspring: A Jewish general in the Chinese army? A personal bodyguard to a prominent world leader? A street named Cohen Road in the fashionable French Concession district of Shanghai?

This tale has all the elements of an implausible Hollywood screenplay: high drama, brutal violence, heart-wrenching poignancy, political intrigue and a boy-makes-good triumph of the human spirit over all manner of adversity. But this is no Hollywood fantasy. This is the little-known - but absolutely true - account of Morris Cohen, a naturalized Canadian, frequently referred to in the press as the "uncrowned Jewish king of China," who, in travelling the uncharted course that his life took, arguably changed the course of history.

Morris (Moishe) Abraham Cohen was born in 1887 into a large, Orthodox Jewish immigrant family who had settled in London's East End. The crushing poverty his family endured was probably a factor in his becoming a tough street kid, earning his stripes as a petty thief and conman. Grossly overweight even at the age of eight, Moishe became known as Fat Moishe and often used his ample girth to his advantage in the boxing ring. But Fat Moishe never entered the ring on Friday night, as he was always present at the family's Shabbat table.

Moishe's exploits ultimately landed him in Hayes Industrial School, a juvenile reformatory, at the tender age of 13. Even there, as a repeat felon, runaway and truant, he was pegged a troublemaker. At one point, Moishe seemed to turn

the corner under the mentorship of Israel Ellis, the school's headmaster. Nonetheless, upon his release a few years later, Moishe, still an embarrassment to his family and the London Jewish community, was shipped overseas to Canada where a family friend was to take him under his wing and introduce him to the "gold-paved" streets of the New World. With five British pounds in his pocket, Moishe arrived in Canada. His father's friend, who was penniless himself, immediately dispatched Moishe by train to Saskatchewan, which, at the turn of the century, was very much the Wild West.

Moishe found work on a farm near Wapella, Saskatchewan. In addition to the skills acquired as a farmhand, he also learned to shoot and play cards. After a short time, Moishe began wandering through the western provinces, earning money as a carnival barker, gambler and peddler of fake jewelry. He also acquired an interest in real estate, which proved to be quite lucrative in the developing western provinces.

Before long, Moishe - now known as Morris - succumbed to the world of gambling and womanizing. His old habits resurfaced as he elevated his proficiency at cheating into an art form. Cohen worked with loaded dice, marked cards and hidden mirrors, and lived by the motto "Do unto others, but do it first." His lifestyle required that he be skilled with a gun, which he didn't hesitate to use to protect his life and dignity.

In the early part of the 20th century, western Canada was home to a vulnerable, disenfranchised, discriminated-against minority, the immigrant Chinese, who had come to Canada to pan for gold in British Columbia and help build the Canadian Pacific Railway. Persecuted in many ways, they were often robbed and cheated, even by the authorities. But Morris Cohen had a soft spot in his heart for the local Chinese. As a Jew, he identified with their ancient culture, their exile and their proud ancestry, and sympathized with them as casualties of hatred and discrimination, foreigners who were relentlessly persecuted and misunderstood. *To be continued in the Nov/Dec edition.*

FALL EVENT

Please put Saturday, Nov 8th, 2008 on your calendar as a MUST ATTEND event. This will be an evening of dinner and Cathy Lesser Mansfield's opera, "The Sparks Fly Upward."

"The Sparks Fly Upward" is a musical drama/opera that follows three German families in Berlin, two Jewish and one Christian, through the Holocaust, beginning in the autumn of 1938. The story is told completely through music and is based on years of research in many Holocaust archives. "The Sparks Fly Upward" was written and composed by Cathy Lesser Mansfield.



Cathy Lesser Mansfield

is a Professor of Law at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa, and is also a classically trained musician. She teaches a variety of Consumer Law courses. She is the Chair of

the Board of Directors of Americans for Fairness in Lending, has served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Consumer Advocates, and has worked as a consultant for the National Consumer Law Center. She lectures nationally about consumer law issues.

Join us November 8

Cost is: \$125 for dinner only

\$150 for dinner and presentation of Cathy Lesser Mansfield's, "The Sparks Fly Upward"

We won't be selling opera tickets without the dinner, as the single ticket cost is \$47 each (so they are a bargain at \$25 if you come to the dinner).

Reservations need to be in by Sept. 15. Call Karen Engman at 515-274-3300 or email aengmandsm@yahoo.com.

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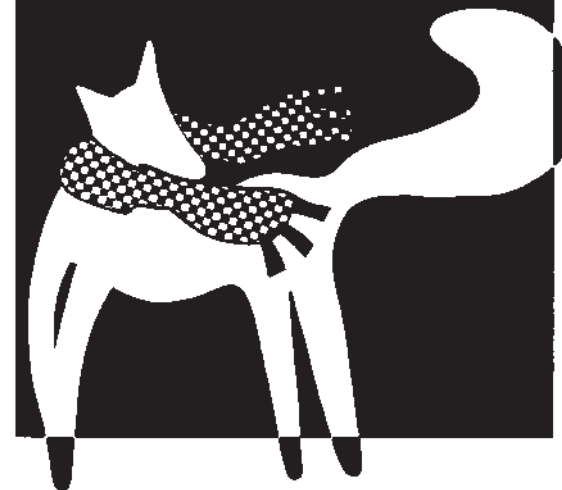


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[sept • oct calendar]

Monday, Sept 1

Saturday, Sept 6 10:00 am

Thursday, Sep 11 12:00 Noon

Saturday, Sept 13

Saturday, Sept 13 9:00 am

Sunday, Sept 14 5:00 pm

Monday, Sept 15 7:30 pm

Saturday, Sept 20 9:00 am

Saturday, Sept 20 9:00 pm

Sunday, Sept 21 8:00 am

Tuesday, Sept 30

Wednesday, Oct 1

Thursday, Oct 2

Friday, Oct 3 6:45 pm

Saturday, Oct 4 11:00 am

Sunday, Oct 5

Thursday, Oct 9

Tuesday, Oct 14

Wednesday, Oct 15

Friday, Oct 17 5:00 pm

Monday, Oct 20 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Oct 21

Wednesday, Oct 22

Saturday, Nov 1 9:00 am

Saturday, Nov 8 10:00 am

Saturday, Nov 8 6:00 pm

LABOR DAY

Sam Feldstein Bar Mitzvah at the Temple

Senior Luncheon at Tifereth

Temple Raffle

Aaron Pour-El Sacks Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth

Life Center Gala at The Caspe Terrace

Federation Board of Directors Meeting at The Caspe Terrace

Nim Kaufman Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth

Community Selichot Service at The Caspe Terrace

Yard Clean-up at Tifereth

ROSH HASHANAH

ROSH HASHANAH

TZOM GEDALIAH

Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael Cook at the Temple

Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael Cook at Tifereth

Scholar-in-Residence Dr. Michael Cook

YOM KIPPUR

SUKKOT

SUKKOT

Temple/Tifereth joint Sukkot Under the Stars

Federation Exec. Committee Meeting at Federation office

SHMINI ATZERET

SIMCHAT TORAH

Aden Finkelstein Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth

Sarah Margolin Bat Mitzvah at the Temple

IJHS Fall Event at Hoyt Sherman Place

How To Tell If You Are Jewish

You know you're Jewish when....

- You know how to spell yarmulke
- You know the difference between Ashkenazi, Sephardic, Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, MoDox, Reconstructionist, etc.
- You know that Jews for Jesus aren't really Jews
- You've been to sleep-away camp
- You know a plethora of Yiddish words but can't define them in any language but Yiddish
- It doesn't matter if you're religious or not, you know some of the Birkat HaMazon
- You live in NY, Cali, or South Florida... or have a family that do
- There's no better way to break a fast than bagels, lox and cream cheese
- Your grandma makes the BEST matzo ball soup, no matter what anyone else says
- You're related to at least one doctor, lawyer and accountant
- You can identify even the most 'closeted' celebrity Jews (Harry Potter and Sean Paul!!!)
- You have at least one relative with the name Ruth, Rose or Murray
- You have a Pavlovian response to 'Sheket b'Vakasha!' (hey!)
- You love a bargain
- You have excellent Jew-dar
- For girls: You've accepted the fact that you either are or will be a Jewish mother someday
- Challah is Hashem's gift to mankind
- You love that OJ Simpson isn't a Jew
- You love that Natalie Portman is
- You say 'Oy vey' constantly



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ZANZIBAR'S
Coffee Adventure

2723 Ingersoll, Des Moines 515-244-7694

TRIBUTE

PROGRAM

education

Our youth *is* our future. It is our responsibility to provide opportunities for them to develop into responsible Jewish adults. Many educational opportunities are available through the Federation and Foundation. Consider designating your gift to: Engman Camp Shalom, Hebrew Tutoring Scholarships, Community School Book Fees, the Student Scholarship for Trips to Israel or the Jewish Learning Institute.

senior care

Our seniors are the threads that weave the tapestry of our history and rich traditions. You can earmark your gift to offer social activities or help ease the burden of many of the challenges our seniors face: Social Outings (movies, plays, community events), Transportation to Doctor or Pharmacy co-pay, Groceries for a Week, In-home Safety Modifications, Adult Programming or the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center.*

community

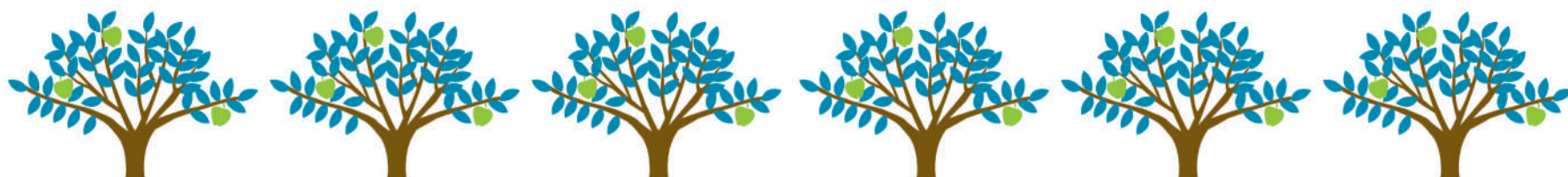
Our community's boundaries extend to faraway places such as Israel, Darfur and Russia. You can provide needed funds locally and abroad for programs such as: The Project Elijah Foundation's* Kosher Manna Program for feeding disadvantaged Jewish people worldwide, Partnership with Israel, Iowa Jewish Historical Society, The Caspe Terrace Tree Fund, Des Moines Jewish Foundation's Various Funds (please call 277-6321 x211 for more information), General Community Tzedakah Fund, Mischkiet and Aliber Holocaust Education Funds or Community Interfaith Relations.

*Independent organizations

For more information call Cathie at 515-277-6321 x224.



What do you hold close to your heart? Special moments in time create lifetime memories. You can honor one of life's simchas or remember a loved one through the TRIBUTE PROGRAM offered by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. An acknowledgement card in your name will be sent. You designate how the gift will be used by the Jewish Federation or you can contribute to an existing fund managed by the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. Let someone know that you are thinking of them while supporting what's close to your heart.



Please Join Us!

Sunday, September 14th 2008 — 5:00 pm

for a benefit in Celebration of the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center

A Fine Affair in the Fresh Air

In Tune with **Nature**, In Tune with **Life** —
an evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing
at Caspe Terrace in Waukee, Iowa

Attire is Dressy Casual



For information or to arrange
roundtrip transportation from The Life Center:
contact Sarah Farnsworth at (515) 255.5433

sfarnsworth@seniorlifecenter.org
[www.seniorlifecenter.org/current events](http://www.seniorlifecenter.org/current%20events)

