


THE GREATER DES MOINES **Jewish Press**

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L'Shanah Tovah!
5772

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
33158 Ute Avenue
Waukee, IA 50263-7538

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From left: Aaron, Sarah, Mindy and Ed

“my federation...”

As members of the Des Moines Jewish community, our family both contributes to and benefits from the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. Our children, Aaron and Sarah, have been educated in the Jewish Community School about many aspects of Jewish life. Aaron and Sarah have a strong Jewish identity, thanks in part to the Jewish Community School. The Jewish Federation has contributed to the costs of this education, as it does for all Jewish students in Des Moines.

Camp Shalom has also provided wonderful summer memories for our children as campers and now for Sarah as a junior counselor. They will fondly remember fun summer camp activities just as I remembered them from my camper and counselor days.

As a participant on the Federation’s Tzedakah Committee, Ed has seen first hand how Jewish Family Services aids our community members who experience financial hardship. Providing assistance to those in need has always been a guiding light for Jews and continues to be reflected in the Federation’s mission.

We both strive to keep up-to-date on current events affecting Israel. Over the years, we have attended numerous educational events that the Federation sponsors about Israeli life or Middle Eastern politics. With the media often biased against Israel, these educational presentations are a welcome source of information.

Our family is thankful to be in a community that has an active and engaged Jewish Federation.

– **Mindy Bell**



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES

Thank you for supporting the
All-In-One Campaign

Share your story. Tell us how the Jewish Federation has impacted your life. Send an e-mail to tom@dmjfed.org or call Tom Wolff at (515) 987-0899.

Warm Holiday Greetings To All Of You! L'shana Tova!



Barb Hirsch-Giller
President

As I assume the presidency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, I envision the Federation of the future, of all that is to come and all that is new.

And in this vein, I think of all of you, the Jewish community of Greater Des Moines: children and parents, new residents and life-long community members, Jewish families of all denominations from Reform to Orthodox, families that blend Judaism and another faith—honoring both. Families who carry on intergeneration Jewish tradition with a kosher home and weekly observance at the synagogue; Jews who identify only through blood or certain rituals.

We are, like most Jewish communities in 2011, a blend of all of these individuals who comprise our Jewish communal family. Each of us is of great importance and your presence and voices are vital to the Federation, now and in the future.

I know that my two years as the Federation president will be spent actively engaged in planning for the challenges of changing demographics, financial realities, and ever-increasing demands upon our time and charitable giving. I know that we will need to collectively reflect upon the past and fashion the Federation that will serve you in the best manner possible. We know that we do not look like we did almost 100 years ago when the Federation opened its doors in Des Moines and we know that we “look” very different, our needs are very different, and our priorities must make manifest our realities.

Along with our wonderful congregations, the gathering heart-centers of our Jewish spiritual lives in Des Moines, the Federation has always and will continue to function hand-in-hand with them to provide you essential services, education, information, advocacy, and a helping hand when need is great.

I am honored to serve as your Federation’s president and I ask all of you to help me during these important years. I am filled with hope for the future of our Jewish community. I am inspired by those who came before us who rose to every crisis, at home and in Israel and who laid the foundation of good works to which we aspire.

With these hopeful thoughts, I wish you joy and good health in the coming year.

– Shalom, Barb

EXPERT ON ISLAMIST NETWORKS IN AMERICA STEVEN EMERSON TO SPEAK OCTOBER 26



One of the leading authorities on Islamic extremist networks in America, Steven Emerson will speak **7:30 pm**, Wednesday, October 26 at Point of Grace Church in Waukee, 4.4 miles west of 80/35 off of Hickman Rd, just past Alice’s Rd. Address: 305 Northwest Dartmoor Dr. Waukee 50263.

Emerson serves as the Executive Director of The Investigative Project on Terrorism, one of the world’s largest storehouses of archival data and intelligence on Islamic and Middle Eastern terrorist groups. He and his staff frequently provide briefings to U.S. government and law enforcement agencies, members of Congress and congressional committees, and print and electronic media, both national and international. Since 9-11, Emerson has testified before and briefed Congress dozens of times on terrorist financing and operational networks of Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and the rest of the worldwide Islamic militant spectrum.

Emerson is the author or co-author of six books on terrorism and national security. Nearly every one of the terrorist suspects and groups first identified in his 1994 film have to date been indicted, convicted, or deported.

The program is sponsored by JCRC and JFed Forum. For more information, contact jcrc@dmjfed.org.

SPECIAL PROGRAM AT CASPE TERRACE, SEPTEMBER 11TH

9-11 Commemoration, Ribbon Cutting for the new Jewish Federation Community School wing and Ceremony Honoring Donors

The Jewish community will gather at **9:00 am** at the Caspe Terrace on Sunday, September 11th to mark two special occasions. Befitting the solemnity of the tenth anniversary of the attack on America, our rabbis and cantor will hold a service of remembrance, offering a prayer for our country and its security.

The date also marks the opening of the Jewish Federation Community School year. Join us on the first day of classes to honor the donors and committee for this great gift!

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be followed by an elegant brunch provided as a thank you by JFCS in appreciation of all who contributed to the construction and furnishing of the beautiful school building.

Co-chairs of the dedication are Judy Deutch and Beth Ohringer. RSVPs appreciated by September 7. Contact Tammy@dmjfed.org or call the Jewish Federation at its new phone number, 987-0899 ext. 230. Dietary laws observed.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE
JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD
AND STAFF!**

THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

Published 6 times annually by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines under the auspices of the Jewish Community Relations Committee

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The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press
33158 Ute Avenue
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515-987-0899 jcrc@dmjfed.org

Opinions expressed in The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press are not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, its committees, or its staff. Unsigned editorials express the opinion of the paper’s Editorial Board.

Inserts to the Jewish Press may not necessarily bear endorsement of the Jewish Federation

We are always happy to consider articles and information for publication.

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Vol. 28, No. 1, September/October 2011



JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Jewish Federation Community School (JFCS) is a supplementary Jewish school for students in central Iowa. Our purpose is to help each of our students in LEARNING and DOING as a Jew.

LEARNING includes the age appropriate study of prayer, theology, Torah, Hebrew, holidays, Jewish thought, history, Jewish values and contemporary issues facing the Jewish community and our community at large.

DOING includes participation in worship, holiday celebrations, and a variety of other programs and events. We also emphasize the importance of life cycle events within our tradition.

Each student at JFCS is offered the opportunity to grow as a Jew. Studies have revealed that the more quality Jewish education one receives, the better able the individual is to make critical Jewish life decisions and the better chance there is that the person will remain an active member of the Jewish community. Involvement helps foster a feeling of pride in being Jewish. We hope to set up a pattern of LEARNING and DOING that will continue throughout the life of the student.

We offer a religious school program, on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for three and four year old preschoolers through sixth grade students. A Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon (4:15 p.m. until 6:15 p.m.) religious and Hebrew school program is available for our third, fourth, fifth and sixth graders. Junior and senior high school students (grades seventh through tenth) participate in a Wednesday evening program, including a weekly dinner, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

We are located at The Caspe Terrace, 33158 Ute Avenue near Waukee, Iowa.

Scholarships are available to families in need from the Zuckert Education Fund. If you are new to our community and want more information, or have a young child who has not yet enrolled, please contact our director, Lyanna Lindgren, at (515)987-0899 ext. 232.

Classes for the new year begin on Sunday, September 11, 2011.

- Lyanna Lindgren, Director

Connecting Jewish Youth With Israel And The Jewish People...That Is The Israel ID Program

The Israel ID Program has been in existence in Des Moines for over 30 years. This program was designed to increase the number of Jewish teens visiting Israel by reducing the family's cost. Israel ID is your daughter's or son's passport to have a valuable cultural and religious encounter, an exciting adventure, a reinforcement of Jewish identity during the formative teen years, and an experience which will truly last a lifetime. Israel awakens feelings and emotions deep inside every Jew; this awakening is a major step toward cementing one's commitment to our shared future. Statistics show that this inextricably ties our young people to Judaism, Israel, and the Jewish people.

This program is open to every Jewish child living in the greater Des Moines/Ames area with parents in good standing with the Jewish Federation Community School, AJC Religious School, their synagogue, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. This child must also be enrolled in the JFCS or Ames religious school.

How this program works: Students automatically receive a certificate from the Des Moines Jewish Foundation at the end of their Bar/Bat mitzvah. This certificate entitles this bar/bat student up to \$2,100 towards an approved trip to Israel. Those who apply must be enrolled in the JFCS or Ames religious school programs from third grade through confirmation. The subsidy does not include transportation to point of embarkation.

To apply: Contact the Director of the Jewish Federation Community School (515) 987-0899 ext.232 to receive a subsidy application form. Along with the returned form should be a copy of an invoice that shows this student is enrolled in an authorized trip to Israel. Once approved, the awarded money will be sent directly to the organization being used. If you move away at any time between third grade and tenth grade, the money is forfeited.

The Director of the Jewish Federation Community School oversees this program and will decide if the intended trip meets the appropriate requirements to be considered an approved trip. This certificate expires on your 21st birthday and cannot be used in conjunction with any other paid trips to Israel such as Birthright.

Over the last 30 years, through the generosity of the Des Moines Jewish Foundation, over 100 Iowa students have taken advantage of this opportunity. Below is a note from our most recent traveler to Israel.

THANKS TO THE JEWISH FOUNDATION'S ISRAEL ID PROGRAM

Thank you so much to the Jewish Foundation's Israel ID Program for helping me go to Israel this summer. It was an amazing experience. I traveled from Eilat to the Golan Heights, to Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. I've accomplished many things this summer, that are a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We climbed mountains, ate new foods, saw holy sites, learned of Jewish history, talked with Israelis and swam in the Dead Sea. My favorite thing in Israel was the Negev Desert. We camped there for 3 nights and hiked mountains for 3 days. We got to see Israel in different ways. It was a challenging experience and our group really bonded over that time. We went to the sand dunes there and it was so much fun to roll down and then attempt to get back up. It was really cool to have nine Israelis join our group for a week. We got to know how they live and their differences to us. They were all sixteen and very friendly. We got to go to their homes at the end of the week. It was cool to see how they live and meet their families too. Some unique things we did were: ride a camel, climb Masada at 4:00 a.m., pray at the western wall and raft in the Jordan River. Overall the summer was unforgettable and a life changing experience. Thanks again.

- Sincerely, Brittney Franklin

Fundraising Effort Continues for JFCS

We are not done yet! There are many community members that were involved during this process and with our generous givers this dream became a reality.

Ways You Can Make Your Tax Deductable Contribution Are:

- Engraved Brick in school walkway - \$180
- Engraved Family stone in the school walkway - \$1,000
- Named Mezzuzah for each room - \$5,000
- Computer hardware / software for one classroom - \$10,000
- Students' Desks and Chairs for one classroom - \$20,000
- School and Federation Offices - \$50,000
- Naming a classroom - \$100,000+

For more information or to make a donation, contact The Jewish Federation, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee IA 50263 or call Elaine or Lyanna at (515) 987-0899.

JEWISH SPIRIT FOR BACK TO SCHOOL!



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Living the High Holidays by Rabbi Leib Bolel



Taking something at face value can many a time be misleading and at times damaging. With the High Holidays speedily approaching, we have to question ourselves and ask, what do the High Holidays actually mean to me? Is it a time that I go to Synagogue because that's what my parents did and it's embedded in my tradition to do so, or maybe because I want my children to know the importance of the High Holidays. There is a third possibility too as why one would go to Synagogue on the High

Holidays, neither for my parents nor my children, but for myself!

Why would that be the case?

We find a fascinating event in our histories account to the splitting of the Red Sea. When we reached the Red Sea with the Egyptian army on our backs having just been freed from there, in order for the sea to split, the Jews had to enter the water first and through their confidence in G-d, the rest would materialize into a miracle, i.e. the splitting of the Red Sea. There were major disputes between the 12 tribes as who would be the first ones to go in, after all this was potential death that could result if the forecasted miracle did not take place, until the leader of the tribe of Judah, Nachshon ben Aminadav had the courage to walk into the water up till his neck resulting in the immediate splitting of the sea.

Think for a second, the tribes were fighting out of fear of death as to who should take the first steps into the water? This seems inconceivable; G-d had instructed them to enter, why would they be so hesitant? Remember, we are speaking about the generation that had just witnessed the extraordinary miracles of the 10 plagues! To strengthen this argument, we have seen from the first existence of the Jewish people until today, that Jewish people have been willing to die and have actually died for our Religion. From Abraham who showed many times his acceptance of death if it was for G-d, to the Jews in Spain during the Spanish inquisition, to many of our beloved brothers and sisters serving in the Israeli Army who are passionately and vigorously proud of what they do, and who are prepared to give up their life for our Nation, our History and yes, our G-d. How so was it that upon G-d's assurance that the waters will split there was hesitation out of fear as to who would take the first step into the water?

A fascinating insight into this is provided by Rabbi Chaim Shmulevitz (1902 -1979) who explains: had the Jews been commanded to enter the sea in order to give up their lives, they would have gladly done so, but that wasn't the agenda, the reason for them to go into the sea was in order to be saved, in order to live, and that's what created their hesitancy. Excuse me?

continued on page 16

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PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES

senior news

Senior Volunteer Program Are you looking for a way to put meaning back into your life while helping others? **Become a Senior Volunteer and help us reach out and care for someone in need. The rewards are many and the need is great.**

TO LEARN MORE about volunteer opportunities or any of our programs, contact Pat Nawrocki, Senior Adult Project Services Manager, at 987-0899 ext 210.

Upcoming Luncheons:

Thursday, September 8th, 12:00 Noon, at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Come join us and welcome again Sherry Knox, from Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services. She will be presenting on how to create the Holidays "we want" by continuing tradition with "less stress." We are also delighted to have Louise Kaufmann come and entertain us with song styling followed by a sing-along.

Tuesday, October 4th, Trip to Prairie Meadows before the colder weather moves in! Join us for lots of fun with a buffet-style lunch, fellowship and live band music. The bus will leave Beth El Jacob Synagogue parking lot at 11:00 am and we will return at 3:00 pm.



The Ideal Gift To Give Is... Yourself



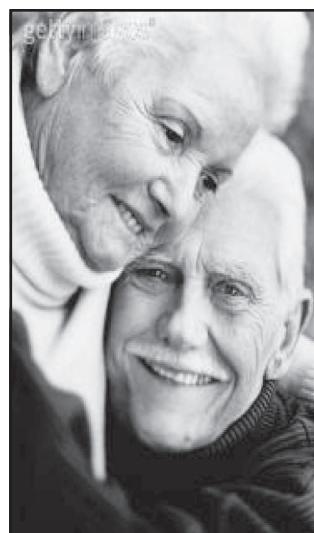
Shirley Berg is a dedicated and supportive volunteer who plays a major role in affirming Jewish life and identity within our community. She strongly wants to assist in maintaining the Senior Adult program and states that as people are aging and living longer the need for the program services will only grow. Shirley has served on many

boards over the past several years, the latest one being the Jewish Federation Board. She feels to volunteer is a "selfish thing" because it makes her feel so good. The program is fortunate to have such a well informed volunteer who contributes her time, energy and talents to a cause she firmly believes in. She truly puts meaning into her life by her devotion to her community and the seniors.

Barb Leventhal-Beckerman states that since Shirley has been a part of the Jewish community she has been the ultimate volunteer. Barb states that Shirley has served the volunteer community in every capacity possible. Her hospitality and warmth have made her an extended family member of almost everyone in Des Moines. She feels very blessed to have Shirley in her life and has enjoyed her friendship over the years.

Charlotte Rausch stated that Shirley Berg is a very special lady that has the knack upon first meeting you of making you feel as if she has known you for years. Her feelings are warm and sincere, and she is always there when you need her. She is sensitive and knows when you are hurting without being told. She always has a good word to say about someone. Shirley includes everyone as her adopted family for the holidays so that no one feels alone. That's what the Senior Adult volunteer program is all about, reaching out and helping someone in need.

— Pat Nawrocki,
Jewish Family Services Manager



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Jewish Family Services - Individuals, families, seniors and children

Senior Adult Programs - Senior Adult socialization

Resettlement Program - Case management and health services for seniors

Jewish Family Life Education - Sponsorship of community-wide programs

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

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Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES

Donor Advised Funds: Maximize the Tax Benefits, Build a Legacy



Elaine Steinger
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

To maximize the full benefit of a charitable gift, the investor's desire for more control over charitable dollars, in some cases, generates the need to create a private foundation. While most individuals may view private foundations as only available to ultra-wealthy families, that assumption is not exactly true. While it is true that these families have more reasons to create a private foundation due to the nature of their financial complexities, it doesn't mean everyone can not have the same access to creating their own foundation.

A donor-advised fund in the Des Moines Jewish Foundation allows any person or family to create their version of a family foundation as a philanthropic fund. The donor gets a full tax deduction for any gift made to their own giving account, such as your Temple or Synagogue, as well as the ability to request charitable distributions to their favorite charities over various time periods. The best part about this is that a donor has no administrative responsibilities related to IRS compliance, as the Des Moines Jewish Foundation takes care of all the related compliance.

A donor's family can create a plan to grow and distribute their charitable assets over whatever time frame they choose, allowing a form of perpetuity. They can contribute annually to their own donor-advised fund, which is fully tax deductible, allowing them, over time, to grow a charitable legacy in which even their children and grandchildren can be involved. Furthermore, it allows for anonymous charitable giving, which for some individual clients is very important.

Call Elaine Steinger at 987-0899 ext. 231 for more information.

MYTH

"Endowment means writing a big check NOW"

"I have to buy a costly insurance policy"

"To create an endowment of my annual gift – known as PACE (Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment), I have to endow my entire gift all at once."

TRUTH

An endowment can be created easily and cost nothing today if done through a bequest in your Will or provision in a Trust.

Insurance is only one way to ensure that your endowment is paid for, but it isn't the only way. However, at certain ages insurance can be inexpensive and, structured properly, the premiums paid can be tax deductible now. Paid up policies can be transferred to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation as a tax deductible gift.

You can endow any amount. To ensure that you are endowing your entire gift, your endowment should be the size of your annual gift multiplied by 20. Example: To perpetuate an annual gift to the Federation of \$1,000, you would put \$20,000 in your endowment. However you can always increase the size of your endowment.

Will – Leave the money in your will – Your Federation can provide sample language

- Pro – Easy, no upfront payment
- Con – No funds until after your long life

Insurance Policy – Buy a policy on your life that Federation owns

- Pro – Premiums tax deductible
- Pro - Young people are inexpensive to insure
- Con – No funds for the Foundation until after your long life
- Con – Requires annual payment unless you buy special policy

IRA/Pension – Name Federation as your beneficiary of your IRA or Pension

- Pro – Easy, tax efficient
- Pro – Can use distributions to buy life insurance
- Con – Might want that money to retire

Gift from your donor designated foundation account – have your private or public foundation make a grant

- Pro – Easy, money to Federation sooner
- Con – Need to have a private foundation under certain circumstances

Charitable Gift Annuity/Charitable Remainder Trust

- Pro – You still get an annuity
- Pro – Large upfront tax benefits
- Con – Need to work with Estate Planning Experts
- Con – Requires having the funds upfront

Of course you can always just write the big check... ☺

DES MOINES
Jewish Foundation

DES MOINES JEWISH FOUNDATION

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Torah Talk

A Talking Donkey by David Friedgood



The 4th book of our Bible, Numbers (Hebrew: Bamidbar - 'In the Desert') contains an extraordinary story. The Jewish people, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land of Israel, were traveling north - on the eastern side of the Dead Sea and Jordan River (modern day Jordan). They had just defeated the armies of two Canaanite tribes that attacked them in the wilderness - the Amorites and the people of Bashan. They were now camped in the Steppes of Moab, across the River Jordan from Jericho. Balak, the King of Moab, was fearful of the Jewish people. He sensed that these descendents of slaves were more powerful than his armies, and were protected by the divine presence. How do you defeat a people favored by God? Balak called on a well-known personality of that time, a non-Jewish prophet by the name of Balaam, from a land by the Euphrates River. If Balaam would only curse these Jews (thereby annulling God's Providence), Balak's army would be able to defeat them. Balaam had secured a good reputation for this type of work: "I know that he whom you (Balaam) bless is blessed indeed, and he whom you curse is cursed" (Numbers 22:6).

Now, Balaam was not without principles. He knew that the success of his mission depended on the acquiescence of the all-powerful master - of God. The Rabbis tell us that Balaam was able to sense God's moods, and thus could time his blessings and curses appropriately. Balak's emissaries were made to wait over night while Balaam communicated with God in his dreams during sleep. God initially told Balaam not to go and not to curse the Jews. At first Balaam listened and turned Balak down; but the King of Moab was persistent, and eventually Balaam set off on his journey to confront the Israelite nation. God was not pleased, but does agree to the trip with stipulations. His will is reinforced in that Balaam is only to utter the words God puts into his mouth. Blessings and curses are clearly the prerogative of the almighty.

The Bible tells us that Balaam travels riding on his donkey, specifically a she-ass. (Perhaps amongst donkeys the female gender is better attuned to the divine presence.) Along the way, the donkey sees her path blocked by an angel of the LORD waving a sword. She swerves off the road into a field. Balaam fails to see what is in front of him and beats the beast with a stick. Two more times the trip is similarly interrupted until God opens the ass's mouth and she speaks: "What have I done to you that you have beaten me these three times?" (Num. 22:28) Balaam threatens the animal and: "The ass said to Balaam, "Look, I am the ass that you have been riding all along until this day! Have I been in the habit of doing thus to you?" And he answered, "No." (Num. 22:30) Balaam's eyes then open and he sees God's angel for himself. After being appropriately reprimanded he continues on his journey and meets with Balak. He proceeds to offer a sacrifice to God on 7 altars and is then taken to a mountain perch overlooking the Israelite camp. This procedure is repeated 3 times, and each time Balaam can only bless the Jewish people using poetic verse. Balak is understandably livid and tells Balaam to desist: "Don't bless them and don't curse them!" (Num. 23:25) Balaam, however, is on a roll and continues to bless the encamped people. One poignant blessing has become part of our daily morning prayers: "How fair are your tents, O Jacob, Your dwellings, O Israel!" (Num. 24:5) Finally Balaam and Balak part ways.

After these events, some of the Israelite people profane themselves with Moabite prostitutes. They sacrifice to the God of Moab - Baal - (in a place called Peor) and participate in orgies. God tells Moses to kill the ringleaders just as an Israelite man and Moabite woman are cavorting in front of the Tent of Meeting. Pinchas (son of a priestly family) grabs a spear and runs it through the bellies of the pair. In the ensuing slaughter of the guilty, the prophet Balaam (an instigator of the Moabite woman), is killed by an Israelite sword.

So what are we to make of a talking donkey (and the life of Balaam) in our holy Bible? One lesson is that God is all encompassing - He is universal. He may speak to Jew and non-Jew alike. God is active in our lives. He attends to those who seem insignificant, and will even influence animals in our universe. Another question is whether this story depicts an actual event or is simply a fable, inserted to illustrate a moral point. The rationalist Jewish Philosopher, Maimonides, states that the speaking donkey was part of Balaam's dream, not part of factual events. In his eagerness to be of service to the King of Moab, Balaam ignored God's true wishes - which were obvious to a beast of burden and should have been obvious to a man of Balaam's intellect. The message is that the divine will is revealed to us in many different ways and forms. It is not difficult to detect, but easy to overlook. With the High Holidays approaching we all need to sharpen our senses so that we may better perceive that which is ultimately true. Balaam was not Jewish, but he was still endowed with a gift of prophecy, able to discern the will of God if he would only open his eyes and soul. He had a great moment, standing on a hilltop and blessing a people camping in orderly rows in the valley below. Unfortunately for him, he was perverted by his evil inclination, looking for power and reward from the Moabite king. Balaam challenged his LORD and paid the ultimate price for his sin. All of us have had to make choices of a similar nature. In the coming season of introspection I pray we find the wisdom to decide wisely for our sake, that of our families, our people, and all humankind.

*"My people,
Remember what Balak king of Moab plotted against you,
And how Balaam son of Beor responded to him...
With what shall I approach the LORD, Do homage to God on high?..
He has told you, O man, what is good,
And what the LORD requires of you:
Only to do justice - And to love goodness,
And to walk modestly with your God. (Micah 6:5-8)*

Being A Jewish Grandparent In The 21st Century

by Jill Marks

I grew up in Los Angeles and lived in a neighborhood where I, as well as all of my friends, had grandparents who lived nearby. My Nanny, who I adored, would frequently keep me overnight. It was a real treat to eat her home baked goodies, go to movies and out to dinner with her, and to stay up as late as I wanted! She was my confidant and my support system against my “mean” parents. She was always there for all of the significant moments in my life, except the birth of my first child. I was her only granddaughter and we had a very special, loving relationship that lasted until the day she died when I was 28 years old. My first child was born a year later.

My Nanny bonded with me immediately, as she was there the day that I was born. She was very often at our home and my brothers and I loved her always being with us. We never knew anything else. We had many family traditions, but the one that sticks out in my mind the most was having her come over every Sunday morning with all sorts of goodies from the local Jewish deli, and our whole family sitting at the dining room table savoring every bite. There is truly nothing like living near grandchildren, as the bond is natural and automatic.

Why am I writing about this? Because this has been on my mind since I became a grandmother on Thanksgiving Day 2009. My precious granddaughter, Ellie, lives a couple of thousand miles away and, to be honest, I hardly know her. I know that I’m not the only Jewish grandmother in Iowa who’s in this position, so I thought that I’d take a look at what can be done to develop a relationship with grandchildren, even if they don’t live nearby.

One of the major complaints I hear most often by those living so far from their grandchildren is that their grandchildren never call them. When I ask them why they don’t call their grandchildren, I might hear something along the lines of, “My children or grandchildren should be calling me,” or “I’m older and it’s their responsibility to call me.”

You might be right, but what does that prove? If you want to nurture the relationship, you must take the initiative. Of course, it’s helpful if your children cooperate with you, but you can’t blame a less than perfect relationship with your children for not having a relationship with grandchildren.

Thank heavens for cell phones and home phones that allow us to call long distance and talk forever without additional charges! It’s so much easier and cheaper for us to call our grandchildren than it was for our grandparents. I figure that I’ve been able to maintain relationships with lifelong friends via phone calls throughout our moves around the country, so why wouldn’t this work with a grandchild? I’ll find out very soon, as Ellie is beginning to talk and I know that I’ll phone her a couple of times a week, if not more, once she is able to converse.

Skype is another great invention and it’s free! Granted, people look kind of distorted on Skype, but it’s a way for a grandchild to see you and hear your voice and, hopefully, he or she won’t go into a screaming fit when you visit and want to hold/kiss him or her! I know that Ellie also enjoys seeing our cats on Skype and she does like our funny faces and stories. We need to use Skype more often. I think it’ll be easier since our kids are now in CA and are awake at night when my husband and I can Skype together.

Babysitting for grandchildren when parents travel is one of the best ways to bond with a child. I babysat for Ellie when my kids went to the Bahamas in February and I had the time of my life. She was “my baby” for almost a week and I enjoyed every minute of it. Don’t pass up an opportunity like this, if you’re asked. Don’t take the attitude, as I heard from a relative that you’re not going to do a favor for a son or daughter-in-law whom you don’t care for. Who are you punishing in the end? YOU, pure and simple. You’re the one who’s missing out on special time with your grandchild. Spending time alone with a grandchild is priceless!

My husband came from a military family, so he only saw his grandparents during the summers when he was in school, but those were the best times of his young life and he has memories for a lifetime. I think that this is a great option for grandparents and I hope to have Ellie stay with us for a few weeks each summer once she’s able to travel easily.

I would make the time with her truly special and plan activities and outings that she would enjoy and remember. Our kids come here about once a year and we try to fly to see them a few times each year. Yes, it’s expensive and hard to plan around work schedules, but you do what you have to do to develop and maintain relationships with grandchildren.

You can’t forget gifts! Who doesn’t like opening presents? Young children are satisfied with candy, a little book, a coloring book, hair ribbons, etc. Send something occasionally so that they have something to open from you! As they get older, they’ll remember that you always thought of them and how important and loved they are by you.

The key to a lasting relationship is keeping connected and the younger generation have their cells connected to them at all times. Our sons do answer their phones, thankfully, but many young people only respond to text messages. I don’t text, as I prefer a live voice, but I’ll do whatever I have to do to stay in touch with Ellie, even if that means texting or whatever else they come up with by the time she’s a pre-teen.

If nothing else, you can send a quick note via email to let your grand kids know that you’re thinking of them, or converse by instant messaging, if they prefer.

Yes, it takes more effort to develop a relationship with a grandchild who lives across the country, but I think, I hope, it can be done!

The Kabbalistic Energy of the Months Elul and Tishrei

by Michelle Garland

I write this article during the period known as the three weeks, (17th of Tammuz until the 9th of Av) which commemorates the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem culminating with the destruction of the Beit H’Mikdash (First and Second Temple). Historically, the 9th of Av has been a terrible day for the Jewish people throughout history. For example, on this day in the year 1290, the Jewish people were expelled from England, from France in 1306, from Spain in 1492, and the deportation to the Warsaw ghetto to Treblinka almost began on this day in the year 1942. These three weeks are an intense time throughout history, even before entering the land of Israel from Egypt. In kaballah, it says when we were wandering in the dessert for 40 years, we learned that every 9th of Av, many people would die. So much in fact, that eventually they would all dig graves for themselves and go to sleep on that evening in their grave. Some would wake up in the morning, others would not. The energy of Tammuz and Av is very intense and many bad things may happen to us. However, it is for us to take a deep look within ourselves, try not to react and know it is all for a greater good and to reflect on how our actions or lack of actions could have contributed to what happened. It is also possible we had nothing to do with what happened, and the obstacles placed before helped us learn how to grow and become stronger from the situation. It may even be that we are being primed for a much worse situation in the future, and what we will learn during this time will help overcome and defeat the challenge of future events.

One major aspect of the three weeks is a transformation of energy from the previous three months, which bestowed miracle after miracle upon us. Now is a time for reflection and to begin the teshuva (repentance) process in preparation for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

The turning point of the challenging and heated energy occurs on Tu’ B’Av, the 15th day of Av. The Midrash records this day was when it became known by the Israelites that the plague was over, because they would dig graves for themselves, but people quit dying and they knew they had not miscalculated the dates because there was a full moon. It became a great time of joy and celebration, and during the time of the holy Temple, women would dance in front of men and with one look, a shidduch (marriage) was made. Tu’ B’Av is forty days before the 25th of Elul, the beginning of creation. The Midrash says soul mates are called to one another 40 days before their birth, and 6 days later, on Tishrei 1, Humankind was created.

Elul marks a time of returning to the inner stillness within change by taking action to do teshuva (repentance or to return) and slichot. It is a time for us to forgive others for wrongs they have done to us in the past, forgive ourselves for errors we may have made, and also a time to ask forgiveness from those we may have offended. Our major goal during this month is to return to a pure state of oneness with H’Kodesh Barachu (The Holy One, Blessed be the Name).

It is also interesting to note, the first letters of the Hebrew verse “Ani ledodi vidodi li” (I am My Beloved and My Beloved is Mine), spell ELUL, which shows us the intimacy Hashem wants to have with us during this month, that we should become one with the Creator.

Tishrei is a time of rebirth, newness, renewal and Oneness with Hashem. It is a time to clarify priorities and make New Years resolutions! For the Jewish soul, this is the new year, not in January. This is the time to make plans and goals for yourself and those you love and the energy of each month will help you achieve your desires.

When you hear the call of the Shofar, may your DNA remember standing at Har Sinai with your brethren and may you be blessed to wake up the molecules in your body to remember the voice of Hashem as we heard the first two commandments (Hashem’s voice was so magnificent, we could only hear the first two commandments and then asked Moshe to receive and translate the rest). May we also be blessed to know we are all Am Israel, and are all connected to one another and the biggest Avera (sin) is to hurt one another, either physically or emotionally. When we love one another as ourselves, we will have peace in this world, and the energy from the Jewish people and how we treat one another reflects the energy in this world and to the other nations. May we all be a light of peace and hope to all Nations.



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My Five Months in Israel by Peter Adelman



A Birthright trip to Israel in 2006 sparked my initial passion for Israel. In July 2010, I returned with a friend for a two-week vacation. After these memorable visits, Israel had become a special place for me. These short trips sparked a desire to spend an extended period of time in Israel in order to immerse myself within the fabric of Israeli life. I was accepted into the MBA program at the University of Texas in December 2010 and decided to leave my job in Chicago and work in Israel until school started in the fall. Unfortunately, I was hitting roadblocks trying to coordinate the logistics of living and working in Israel. I came across an

organization called Career Israel that arranged housing and Ulpan (Hebrew) classes, provided health insurance, and offered me a list of internships that would fit my career goals. In addition, the program included trips throughout the country and a wide range of educational speakers. I put my faith in the program, booked a flight to Israel, and was ready to spend the next five months living in Tel Aviv.

It is said that when you visit Israel, you don't feel like a tourist, you feel like you are coming home. I was amazed at how generous, warm, and hospitable people were. This was evident during the first few hours after I arrived in Tel Aviv. I went to a store to buy sheets and towels for my apartment and began talking to Rachel, a saleswoman at the store. Like every mother, she instructed me to wash the sheets and towels before using them. When I told her that probably was not going to happen, she asked me to come back tomorrow to pick up my linens. I returned to the store the next day to find my recent purchases washed and neatly folded in a bag. Rachel told me to come by every few weeks so she could check up on me and see what I learned in my Hebrew classes. I've never heard of an encounter at Bed Bath & Beyond like that. Rachel was only the first of the many Israeli "mothers" I met who looked after me during my stay in Israel.

I worked for a company called StarTAU, Tel Aviv University's Entrepreneurship Center as their Foreign Relations Manager. We provided assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs starting their own companies. Because StarTAU itself was a newer company, I was given opportunities to start new initiatives. My projects included establishing links with foreign embassies, investors, and companies in order to raise sponsorship money. I helped organize the first International Business Week conference that brought twenty international students to Israel, where they learned about entrepreneurship and Israeli business culture. I also established the Global Networking Forum, which provided a platform for young professionals in Tel Aviv to network with one another. Our first event had over 150 people from 16 countries. My co-workers welcomed me as part of their team, and I quickly learned that "taklas" (to the point) is a key component of the Israeli business culture. My co-workers became close friends. We socialized after work, and I celebrated holidays with their families.

I lived in an efficiency apartment in central Tel Aviv. After a few months in Tel Aviv I felt like a local. Rarely could I get on a bus, go into a bar or café, or walk down the street without running into someone I knew. In my building there were young people from every corner of the world. Discussing Jewish experiences with new friends from Turkey, Russia, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Australia, Canada and England reinforced my belief in the common bonds Jews throughout the world share. Career Israel arranged trips where we had the opportunity of experiencing the entire country together. Some of my favorites included Jerusalem, the Negev, Haifa, Ein Gedi, Sderot, and the Golan Heights.

The most unique aspect of my time in Israel was having the opportunity to see Israel as an Israeli. My Israeli friends invited me out with their friends and into their families' homes. I spent Passover in Haifa, Maimuna and Lag Baomer in Yavne, Shavuot in Hertzilya, and Shabbats in Holon, Netanya, Jerusalem, and Ramat Gan. Being in Israel I saw the sadness of the country on Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and Yom Hazikaron (Memorial for Fallen Soldiers and Terror Victims), and the pure joy celebrated on Yom Haatzmaut (Independence Day). Despite my Ulpan classes, my Hebrew never became very fluent and the English of many of my friends' families were only slightly better than my Hebrew. Despite this obstacle, we would figure out ways to communicate. I would play shesh besh (batgamon) and listen to Mizrahi music with the men of the house. (I attended many concerts over the 5 months. Eyal Golan and Moshe Peretz were two of my favorites.) I would help clear the dishes from the dining room table and give hugs to my friends' mothers and grandmothers which was always a big hit. Learning about the holidays and spending them in Israel was a unique experience that I will never forget.



The walls of Jerusalem and King David's Citadel

When I left my job in Chicago I could have gone anywhere to live and work prior to starting business school. I chose Israel because not only could I gain valuable international work experience, but I could also explore my heritage. After living in Israel for the past five months, I have not only learned more about Judaism as a religion, but also the unique history of the Jewish people.

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The Des Moines Partnership with Western Galilee NO LONGER P2K, PARTNERSHIP WITH ISRAEL BECOMES P2G - PARTNERSHIP 2GETHER!

Despite the stifling heat of summer upon us, our Partnership with Israel committee has endeavored to continue the push to bring a taste of Israel's Western Galilee to our community. The past couple months have been eventful.

The first bit of news from our partners is a name change. We have rebranded the P2K name into P2G, to better express our commitment to our partnership communities. Originally designed to chart our partnership endeavors into the new millennium, the new term, P2G signifies our desire to work in Partnership 2Gether. As a matter of fact, along with the name change, the organization itself recently undertook to revision itself in terms of attaining greater economic efficiency, practicality, and utility to the 16 Jewish American communities and the two Israeli administrative districts in our Consortium. (The Israeli districts are the municipality of Mateh Asher and the City of Acco. Acco is comprised of the ancient port city, a Crusader city acknowledged by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site and the modern residential and industrial city; Mateh Asher encompasses kibbutzim, moshavim, and Arab villages.)

Our June meeting was held over the lunch hour at Gusto's Pizza on Ingersoll. In attendance were 10 members of our community. At the meeting we discussed the Steering Committee meetings coming up in Israel. A veteran leader of P2K, Tim Urban had coincidentally planned a family visit to Israel at the same time and magnanimously offered to be our representative. We are grateful to Tim.

Tim reported back from the Steering Committee meetings at our July meeting. Again we had a "working lunch, at Quinten's on East Grand. Most notably, Tim shared with us the new programming schedule of speakers and groups from the Western Galilee coming to the States. It's our task, now, to see which, if any, of the P2G visitors would be appropriate and feasible to bring to our community. We also took a look at the scope of programming undertaken in the Western Galilee subsidized by your contributions to the Jewish Federation's All-in-One Campaign. (It's your generosity that enables us to help Israel!)

P2G has tremendous potential. Our Jewish community's involvement with P2G also has tremendous potential. To continue to move in the right direction, our Committee members plan to conference with our P2G counterparts in Omaha. We can benefit by knowing what they do well and what they themselves would like to be able to do better.

I'd like to sincerely thank the members of our P2G Committee for their help. And thank you, readers of this column, for your continued interest in our Federation's P2G program. Meetings will continue and your attendance is welcome, your participation in this very colorful and productive project is encouraged! If you'd like to get more involved or if you would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at lederman71@msn.com.

Wishing all a happy and healthy new year,
-Jacob Lederman, Chair of Des Moines P2G

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Cooking With Susan Madorsky at The Caspe Terrace Sept. 18



Susan Madorsky will teach the first Jewish Federation Program at Caspe Terrace this fall. On Sunday, September 18, Susan will lead a cooking class on how to prepare a wonderful Rosh Hashanah dinner with both traditional and non-traditional dishes. **Everyone is invited to attend from 9 am to noon.** Recipes will be provided, and we'll be able to sample the dishes too!

Even though Susan's wonderful cooking skills are already well-known to our Jewish community, I appreciated her taking the time to sit down and tell me a little bit more about her background for the Jewish Press before her upcoming cooking class.

Susan grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, in a family with five brothers. She remembers being interested in cooking and baking even as a child. She left Ohio to attend Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and loved it. She realized as an undergraduate

student that she really wanted to pursue a career in the food industry. She spent some years cooking professionally in restaurants, country clubs, and catering businesses, before procuring a position at the Stanford Court Hotel with the pastry chef Jim Dodge, who became a mentor for her.

It was while she was living in California that she met her husband, Ed Bruggemann, who was a university student at the time. They subsequently moved to Washington D.C. for his career, and their two children, Jake (now age 20) and Dorrie (age 18), were born there. This was a busy time for Susan as she worked as a pastry chef and completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland while they lived there also.

Their family relocated to Des Moines in 1998 when Ed accepted a position at Pioneer. Susan continued to cook and cater professionally, and then about 10 years ago, also became an adjunct teacher at the Iowa Culinary Institute at DMACC. Four years ago, she and her friend Cherry Madole opened their own catering business here in Des Moines, The Tangerine Food Company (www.tangerinefoodco.com), and it has been a very successful venture.

In fact, their business grew so much that a year ago, their home kitchens were no longer large enough to accommodate all their catering needs, and they moved into their own building at 3781 EP True Parkway in West Des Moines.

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Tikkun Olam: Assignment Cambodia, Part 2 by Mark John Conley

In the May/June issue of The Jewish Press, I highlighted my recent opportunity as a three-month volunteer with American Jewish World Service (AJWS) in Kampot, Cambodia.

Now back home, I've been reflecting on my experience, the contributions I made and to what extent, if any, I "repaired" a tiny bit of our world. **WHAT CAN YOU REALLY DO IN THREE MONTHS?**

It's a legitimate question and one posed to me by a well-meaning member of our community shortly before my departure. As an AJWS volunteer, I was required to partner with the non-governmental organization (NGO) to which I was assigned in developing and implementing actionable and measurable goals. These included writing communications and developing communication strategies, editing and improving the staff's English skills.

Looking back, I'm pleased many of my joint goals with the NGO were met and several will be sustained. But, others eluded us, leaving me to dwell on the question at hand.

For all the work I performed, totaling some 1,000 hours, I believe my most valuable and lasting contributions may be those not made at the NGO, but to a couple of individuals. **BRITI SHALOM**

He is a young man whom I befriended at the NGO. Passionate about improving the lives of local families, he directs

the organization's fishery, mangrove and bamboo conservation efforts. Affable and with an easy smile, he is curious by nature. A devout Muslim, he was unfamiliar with Jews, Judaism or Israel before I arrived. As a religious minority in Cambodia, he was surprised what, as a non-Muslim, I knew about Islam. When I explained we shared a common ancestor in Abraham and similar characters and events in our "holy books," he was flabbergasted. Thus began an ongoing dialog about our faith traditions and a deep friendship that, thanks to social media, continues today. Upon my departure from Cambodia, he



confided that while his heart was heavy he thanked Allah for his "Jewish borng bproh" (older brother).

YISRAEL AREIVIM ZEH BAZE

The other individual for whom I may have made a meaningful difference is someone I never met. Riding my bike around Kampot, I often passed a young girl sitting outside her home watching as her older siblings played and went to and from school. *continued on page 16*

fall line-up:

Sunday, Sept. 18 — Cooking Class

9:00 am - Noon Chef Susan Madorsky will share Rosh Hashanah recipes with flair. Cost: \$12 each at door, \$10 each in advance, \$9 each for groups of 5 or more. Reserve your spot. Call Tammy at 987-0899.

Wednesday, Oct. 5 — Mahjong

5:30 pm & 6:30 pm Bring your board for Mahjong Wednesdays. No Charge.

Sunday, Oct. 16 — Tikkun Olam: Cambodia

9:00 - 10:00 am Presented by Mark John Conley, personal reflections and photo documentation of his moving three-month assignment in Cambodia as a vounteer with the American Jewish World Service. A sampling of Cambodian cuisine will be served. Cost: \$8 each at door, \$6 each in advance, \$5 each for groups of 5 or more Reserve your spot. Call Tammy at 987-0899.

Saturday, Oct. 22 — Wine Pairing Class

5:00 - 6:30 pm Beth Ohringer will lead us in a wine tasting class. Cost: \$12 each at door, \$10 each in advance, \$9 each for groups of 5 or more Reserve your spot. Call Tammy at 987-0899.

Sunday, Nov. 13 — Financial Planning Seminar

9:00 am - Noon Cyril Mandelbaum will speak on financial planning and how to make smart money choices. Bagels and coffee included. Cost: \$12 each at door, \$10 each in advance, \$9 each for groups of 5 or more Seating is limited. Reserve your spot. Call Tammy at 987-0899.

Sunday, Nov. 20 — Hanukkah Bazaar

9:00 am - Noon In conjunction with the JFCS Book Fair, all three synagogues, Maccabee's Deli, and the Jewish Resource Center will participate for one-stop-shopping! Breakfast available for purchase.

Transportation is available. Call Pat at 987-0899.

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Hold the Date!

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

of the Jewish Federation Community School

and Remembrance of the Tenth Anniversary
of September 11, 2001

followed by a complimentary

Elegant Brunch

to honor our donors

Sunday, September 11, 2011
at 9:00 a.m.

at The Caspe Terrace
33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee

Look for your invitation in the mail.

RSVPs appreciated by Sept. 7; call Tammy at 987-0899 ext. 230.
Dietary laws observed.



Hold The Date!

In gratitude for our most important givers,
you are cordially invited to the

President's Club Dinner

of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

Tuesday, September 20, 2011
at 6:00 p.m.

at The Caspe Terrace
33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee

Hosted by Barb Hirsch-Giller, President

Learn how your dollars impact the lives of many others.

Look for your invitation in the mail.



Barb Hirsch-Giller, President



Hold The Date!

Women's Philanthropy Division of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

Luncheon

Sunday, October 23, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.
at the Wakonda Club
3915 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

Chaired by Janice Rosenberg
Contemporary Jewish Music Sensation

Andra London of the trio Visions
will bring passion and emotion in an uplifting program
filled with traditional and contemporary songs.

Look for your invitation in the mail.



Andra London

Andra graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and a concentration in marketing. She now lives in Manhattan and is the Senior Marketing Development Associate at Hillel. Before this role, Andra spent two years at the internationally-acclaimed advertising agency Ogilvy as a

Strategic Planner. During her college career, she served on the boards of Hillel and Emory Students for Israel as well as co-chaired Caravan for Democracy. Andra has performed at Walt Disney World in a leading stage and singing role during college breaks. In April of 2004, Andra won the first annual Campus Superstar competition, an American Idol-inspired event with contestants from nineteen Georgia colleges. She has performed the National Anthem for the Atlanta Falcons, Orlando Magic, Solar Bears, and the Inner City Games. Since her first stage show at age seven, Andra's performing career has included two of her favorite roles as Hodel in Fiddler on the Roof and Anne in The Diary of Anne Frank. She also performed for six years with the Orlando Opera Company Youth Ensemble, appearing in the main-stage performances of Carmen, La Boheme, and the Broadway touring production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.



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[humor]

Travels to Ancient Kingdoms

by David Moskowitz



Editor's note: We have got to talk to our printers. Are they not getting the message? Last issue, we gave specific instructions NOT to print the most recent "humor" by Mr. Moskowitz, yet somehow these articles keep resurfacing in our publication! There are so many valuable things we could do with the space -- and we're not just talking non-critical restaurant reviews and recipes for Aunt Edith's Health Salad, but things like, say, an ad for used mini-vans from Stew Hansen's Dodge City or ... well anything. Why won't anyone get the message and free us from this nightmare? Below is the latest from our Mr. Moskowitz [important note to printer: this time, please delete the following article; we mean it!]. Or at least the space where it used to be printed.

Every few years, I get the desire to ruin my summer by visiting Europe. I turn away wonderful proposals for a peaceful stay on a Caribbean beach or an idyllic mountain retreat, and instead delude myself into thinking that Europe's "fascinating history" and "other crap" is what I need to experience in order to restore my body and spirit. So help me out here: the next time you hear me daydreaming about "Spain" or "Italy" or some other godforsaken place where ham and cheese sandwiches are the primary nutrient of the population, remind me about this column. Insist that I visit Epcot instead, where Europe has the scale and influence it appropriately deserves: somewhere right between Twilight Zone Tower of Terror and Muppet-Vision 3D.

Maybe I am suffering from a particularly insidious form of travel amnesia, or maybe I am just getting older, because I can't ever seem to remember the horrible things about Europe that I swear I am going to remember next time. Every few years, I find myself again sitting in some sorry European cafe trying to select which awful form of jamón I am going to attempt to eat, while flipping through the pages of a newspaper that appears to have been printed on recycled crepe paper where all the contents are in a language I can barely understand and don't want to. We have English. That's enough of a challenge. *Note to self: "Don't come to Europe anymore. You don't like it. There is better food, from every country, in New York City. Plus the baseball scores aren't from three weeks ago."*

I'll give Europe one thing. They completely kick our butts in the toilet department. In even the most primitive towns in Spain, once you walk through the doors of the "toilette," you enter a wonderland of plumbing awesomeness. And I'm not just talking about the obligatory bidet, I'm also talking about super-cool high tech fixtures, hot water, lots of weird illustrations showing how to use the various valves and sprays, rockin' water pressure, the works. Some of the bathrooms I encountered in European gas stations were clearly the product of more design and engineering effort than went into some of the hotels where we stayed.

continued on page 16

[the pesky diner]

Navigating the Iowa State Fair, Kosher Style

by Jarad Bernstein



Local blogger Jared Bernstein is The Pesky Diner, online at www.thepeskydiner.com

Step right up boys and girls, it's time for the greatest state fair there is: The Iowa State Fair! While the fair is known for its treif delicacies (see tenderloin sandwiches the size of a car, foot-long corndogs, and hot beef sundaes), there are plenty of high calorie, deep-fried, and other cardiac arrest-inducing foods for the kosherish crowd to indulge in. This post will give you the

run-down of my state fair food experiences so you can help plan your time at the fair.

FAVORITES

Hard-boiled egg on a stick: The Iowa State Fair is of course known for its foods on a stick and my favorite is the hard-boiled egg. Found in the Agriculture Building, this free treat can be sprinkled with seasoning salt. After you grab your egg, wait in line to see this year's Butter Cow.

Frozen chocolate turtle mousse on a stick: This was a new one for us last year. Lil and I decided we needed a quick cool down, and relief came in the form of this chocolaty dessert. Our shared mousse lasted about 90 seconds.

Honey lemonade: Ready for another cool down? The Iowa Honey Producers Association booth on the top level of the Agriculture Building sells one of the best honey lemonades I've ever had for just a couple bucks.

Deep-fried candy bars: The deep-fried candy stand by the grandstand features Oreos, 3 Musketeers, Snickers, and Twinkies. Of these I can only truly recommend the Snickers and the Twinkies. Both hold up surprisingly well, whereas the Oreos turn into deep-fried cake.

Veggie corn dogs: Just north of the Varied Industries Building you'll find the Veggie Table. This stand sells a vegetarian version of the state fair staple food on a stick, corndogs. These dogs are tasty and worth the hugely marked up price. Trader Joe's sells an outright amazing veggie corndog, but it's not possible to eat one of those while standing in the Iowa State Fair Midway. To round out your meal here, order some deep-fried veggies and marvel in the way that man has turned one of G-d's healthiest creations into a death warrant. Mmmm.

Mini chocolate chip cookies: If you're with friends, go for the bucket. They're tasty, but trust me, you'll want to eat these when they are fresh out of the oven rather than after carrying them around the fairgrounds all day (the chips will melt and the cookies will turn stale).

continued on page 16

In the Kitchen with Larry Kirsner by Karen Engman



Who knew Larry Kirsner could cook? He grew up in Des Moines, attended Hanawalt Elementary School, was in the first eighth grade class when Merrill Middle School was built, and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He still keeps in contact with many of his high school friends and they often meet Saturday mornings at The Chef's Kitchen on Beaver.

He was attending Arizona State in Tempe when he signed up for the Army Reserves. During his senior year, he was called up to active duty. He did his basic training at Ft. Ord in Monterrey, CA, postponing his graduation with a BS in Business Administration until the following January, a semester later.

On February 1, 1971, Larry joined the family business W.P. Johnson Company. His father Alvin bought this metal fabrication company in 1955 when it was

manufacturing metal portable laundry tubs for wringer washing machines. By 1971, they were producing three shelf metal utility tables on casters for discount stores in the continental United States and Canada. At the same time they were manufacturing two, three, and four drawer file cabinets for the new big discount chains. W.P. Johnson grew from 45 employees in 1971 to 450 in 1980. Larry was Vice President of National Sales when it was sold in 1986.

He was too young to retire, so he purchased four optical stores called 1 Hour Optical. He sold them four years later and then became a residential mortgage officer for Norwest Mortgage and then Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

In January, 2010, Larry retired and now enjoys spending time helping out his parents Dorothy (Doie) and Alvin Kirsner, playing golf, visiting his daughter Hilarey (33) who is a free lance television producer in Washington, D.C. and traveling with his significant other of six years Joan Burke. They've had

great trips to Turkey, Morocco and Siesta Key. Larry also enjoys playing pitch with the guys after golf, walking, and swimming.

Larry has served on the boards of Temple B'nai Jeshuran and the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center. He was President of the IJSLC for two years. He also served on The Jewish Federation board and co-chaired the All-In-One Campaign. He was the Greens Committee Chair on the

Wakonda Country Club board and also was a member of the Association of Iowa Manufacturers board.

Larry honed his cooking skills during the six years he served as a cook in the Army Reserves. He once gave me a delicious recipe for a Béarnaise sauce but it served 300! He's proud of his cherry cobbler for 300 but doesn't remember the recipe anymore. *continued on page 16*

Chicken Soup

A Recipe from Larry Kirsner meat

- Whole chicken
- Onion, peeled and quartered
- Celery, 8 -12 stalks
- 12 carrots, peeled and cut in half
- Garlic cloves, peeled
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Chicken bouillon
- Water

Place whole chicken (after washing) in large pot and cover with water. Add onion, half of celery and carrots, garlic cloves and bring to boil. Add salt and pepper and simmer for 2 hours. Remove chicken, strain broth and discard vegetable. Shred chicken after removing skin and bones. Add chicken, rest of raw vegetables and chicken bouillon (for added flavor) to the strained broth. Cook for 1 more hour or until carrots are tender.



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Holidays from page 5 They hesitated to save themselves? Yes, we as Jews are very much prepared to die for our religion, but the pivotal question is, are we prepared to live for it?

Coming back to our original question of as to what the High Holidays mean to us, it means living our religion, it means tapping into the highest spiritual level one could attain all year long. To attain this spirituality we begin the Jewish calendar year with Rosh Hashana where we recognize and proclaim the ultimate of spirituality, G-d as King, not only do we proclaim him as King but as “Our Father Our King,” referring to G-d’s precise running of the world, dealing with us like a King does for his country, treating his countrymen exceptionally well, as well as a Father who will deal with us out of love, but not in ways we may appreciate, but nevertheless, good for us.

We live in a society where self-reflection is a rare phenomenon, using the High Holidays to reflect on the past year, reflecting on it because G-d gave us life to use, is a focus point on these days. A point I must encourage is for us not just to go to Synagogue on these days and read from the Siddur, but at least some preparation of reading and understanding the High Holiday prayers well beforehand will drastically turn our High Holidays into something that will stick with us, at least until next year. This is part of living our religion.

To end off, I wish you all a “Leshana Tova,” a year where we shall be written and sealed in the book of life and in the books of health, prosperity and joy.

—**Rabbi Leib Bolel**, Beth El Jacob

Madorsky from page 11 In addition to a professional kitchen, this site also has enough space for them to teach classes and run a carry-out business. Clients may schedule dinners and other catered events in the dining room on-site, as well. Susan plans to continue expanding their business, and would like to offer more carry-out food and more cooking classes in the future.

Susan’s family is transitioning and changing in the next few months. Susan and Ed’s son Jake will begin his third year at Rice University this fall, and their daughter Dorrie will start her freshman year there as well. Although Susan’s business is busy and expanding, she also finds time to pursue other interests such as gardening and traveling, and also participates in a book group. Recently, she began a two-year term as Sisterhood President at Temple B’nai Jeshurun.

Susan’s current culinary interests center on healthy cooking with fresh vegetables and herbs, and she is emphasizing more middle-eastern and Mediterranean influences in her dishes. Fortunately, she still loves baking pastries and desserts though too!

I am so looking forward to her cooking class in September, and I’m thankful that such a busy and talented member of our community will teach us! Again, the class is Sunday, September 18, from 9 am until noon. The cost is \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance, and \$9 per person for groups of 5 or more. Please call Tammy at the Federation to reserve a spot, 515-987-0899. Hope to see you there!

— Wendi Harris, Caspe Programming Co-Chair

Cambodia from page 11 Developmentally disabled, she cannot walk nor feed herself. After seeing her a few times, it became evident she also didn’t attend school. Through contacts I made in the community, she now attends a British-run vocational arts school for the disabled near her home.

SHARING MY REFLECTIONS



In all, I travelled more than 46,000 miles and photographed over 4,000 images in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and India. Generously, The Caspe Terrace Programming Committee has invited me to share some of my experiences with you. On Sunday, October 16 beginning at 9:00 am, I’ll be presenting memorable moments and images from my assignment and related travels. I hope you will be able to attend or to view my photo exhibit in Caspe Terrace’s Staroselsky Clubhouse October 16 through December 18.

Chef Du Jour from page 15

Once when Larry was feeling sick, he decided to fix some chicken soup from “scratch” so instead of bothering his mother, he googled it online. Here’s the soup that cured his cold. He also mentioned that he makes homemade matzo balls. He shared that his secret is in separating the eggs and whisking the whites until they are very frothy.

The Jewish Press thanks Larry for sharing his chicken soup recipe with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or a question about a recipe I can research, call Karen Engman (515-274-3300) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com)

Humor from page 14 Just add a bed and a TV to an Italian bathroom and I would gladly vacation there.

Let’s see, where do I start. Well, this is the Jewish Press so maybe I’ll start with my usual obsession with the woeful status of Jews in Europe. In fact, the experience of this trip taught me that we are more respected and esteemed in an Islamic country like Morocco than in Christian Europe. But I’ll get to that.

OK, let’s take the example of Rome. From the perspective of riches and treasures, Rome has it all, starting with the Vatican. Walking the halls of the Vatican Museum, past the Sistine Chapel and into St. Peter’s Basilica, I developed the following simple plan for curing cancer and all the other ailments afflicting the human race:

- Hire a few mercenaries, soldiers, assassins, whatever.
- March them into the basilica and take by force a single golden pillar or statue. Trust me, conquering the Vatican by force will take little more than five minutes and a well-timed sarcastic comment about those lame costumes worn by the Swiss Guard.
- Melt pillar into 5 million gold bars.
- Take the gold bars to the nearest Cash4Gold store.

- Take the resultant \$500 billion and use it to easily fund the cost of curing every disease.

Prior to 1850 the Jews of Rome were rounded up and forced to live in the obligatory ghetto. The concept of the Jewish ghetto seems to be almost entirely universal in Europe. Every country has one (except Monaco which is more of a nice French hotel than a country). Practically every European country spontaneously came up with the identical plan for dealing with the Jewish enemies of Christianity: round them up, take their stuff, and develop some onerous laws to suppress our rights. If you think about it, universal agreement on how to manage Jewish ghettos were the closest thing to shared European political policy until ... well, the European Union.

In 1850, Italy unified into one country and felt so bad about its Jewish ghetto that it embraced the Jewish community and invited it to build a new synagogue ... in the Jewish ghetto. It is a beautiful place to this day, designed by the best Catholic architects of its time. Its tall steel fences and daunting security gates are somewhat foreboding at first sight, but when you think about how ineffective those security measures were in holding off the Germans during World War II, you feel substantially less threatened. In the words of the Holocaust survivor who showed us around the synagogue, “if anyone tells you that the Vatican or anyone else said a word when we were rounded up and sent to Auschwitz, they’re lying. No one said anything. I was one of the five Roman Jews who survived and came back after the war to tell you the truth.” The synagogue is in the center of a reviving Jewish quarter in Rome, filled with a number of ethnic delis serving Jewish food and ham and cheese sandwiches, Europe’s universal food of last resort. [Author’s note: Not including Iowa’s own La Quercia which is awesome.]

Next let’s take Marrakesh, the vibrant and colorful center of Morocco in Northern Africa. In 1776, Morocco was the first country in the world to recognize the newborn United States of America. By Islamic standards, Morocco is considered prosperous and pro-Western, although we had a few nervous moments, with thoughts of Egypt passing through our heads, when we learned that there was going to be an election while we were there. Hmmm ... I hope that goes well or it’s fleeing time again. We had heard that King Mohammed VI was extremely popular, but ya never know what might happen in Northern Africa these days. Just ask Qaddafi.

I could write a book about our adventures in Marrakesh (hot air balloon crash in the Berber desert anyone? Women in burkas riding motorcycles with 5000 eggs balanced on their backs? Cooked beef skulls? Accidentally voting in the election?) But for now I will stick with a few Jewish-related observations. I had heard that Morocco was a cultural center for Sephardic Jews and had its own vibrant Jewish quarter. In fact, in the 1950s, Morocco was fairly heterogeneous and approximately 15% of the population was Jewish.

Those people are long gone. Left in their wake is the not-Jewish-at-all “Jewish quarter” (nothing Jewish there) and the old synagogue (an Islamic grocery store

with a Star of David on the side of the building but nothing remotely Jewish inside. The only remotely recognizable thing they had was orange soda and Chiclets). Our translator Ouidad told us that the Jews were “very smart people” but, besides tourists, she had never met one, although she had heard rumors of a “smart man” who sold conical piles of spices. Oh yeah, we rule Morocco, if by “Morocco” you mean “place where Jews would never live unless they were insanely suicidal.” Like Europe, the Jewish history of Morocco has been buried by the history of other religions. We are the Aztecs, a vanished people who left behind some mysterious artifacts.--

The next time someone asks me about traveling to Morocco, I will tell them of my plans to stay at the Grand Floridian at Disney World. That’s right near Epcot, where we already have a Morocco. One that’s plenty good enough for me. I love America.

Author’s note: My plan is to tell you more about our family trip to Europe (Italy: Siena, Florence, Rome, Santa Margherita Ligure, Portofino, Pisa) (Spain: Madrid, Sevilla, Ronda, Córdoba, Marbella), Gibraltar, and Morocco. If the idea of being asked to read through this story upsets and bores you just thinking about it, please ask the editors of the Jewish Press to do a better job of asking the printers to delete these columns. They will try their best. In the meantime, the address to not write me remains: iowadavid@me.com).

Pesky Diner from page 14

ALMOST FAVORITES

Deep-fried pepper jack on a stick: I’m a major pepper jack cheese fiend, so I was excited to taste this last year. I know the title of this section is “almost favorites,” but you might want to consider spending your money elsewhere. The cheese fell apart, had no peppery bite, and tasted like I was eating hardened oil. What’s another name for hardened oil? Oh yeah: fat.

Tater ribbons: I like my fried potatoes crunchy whether they come in chip, fry, or ribbon form. I’ve ordered these three times and each occasion left me wondering why. Order these and you’ll have a basket full of soggy, oily, potato-y mess that even a gallon of Heinz couldn’t help salvage.

Giant pickle: My favorite mass-produced pickles are made by Claussen. They’re crunchy, tangy, and most important, tasty. The giant pickles sold at the state fair tend to taste like the ocean. If you’ve ever swallowed seawater, you’ll know that’s not a compliment.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

The 2011 Iowa State Fair featured a bevy of new food items that tempted even the most audacious eaters...

Fried butter on a stick: Butter dipped in a honey flavored batter and fried golden brown on a stick. This might be a ticket straight to the hereafter.

Chocolate covered fried ice cream on a stick: My favorite part about going to Garcia’s growing up was the fried ice cream.

Red Velvet Funnel Cake: If you just read that and didn’t have the sudden urge to drive to the East Side for a sample, have someone check your pulse.

If you’d like to read more of my impressions of the fair food selections, head on over to thepeskydiner.com. While you’re there, be sure to leave a comment with your favorite veggie state fair food, what you think I need to try, and what I got wrong.



AIPAC Iowa brought Avi Issacharoff, Palestinian and Arab Affairs correspondent for Ha'aretz, to speak in July. He's pictured here with Barbara Hirsch-Giller. Among the attendees, Beth Oringher and Sapir Swisa, the shlichah for Engman Camp Shalom, and Lilianna and Jarad Bernstein.



The Des Moines area Jewish community was well represented at the 2011 Iowa Jewish Leadership meeting in Cedar Rapids: (from left) Krista Pearl, Barbara Hirsch-Giller, Rabbi Steven Edelman-Blank, Brian Pearl, Cantor Linda Shivers, Mark Finkelstein, Paulee Lipsman, Ron and Susan Jackson from Ames, and Steve Weiss. Not pictured: Jarad Bernstein.



Harry Galinsky

June 9, 1912 - May 9, 2011

Harry was a fun loving, happy man
who made everyone he knew happy.
He was a man of his word and helped all
of his many friends and family without question.
Everyone he knew loved him.

How grateful I am to all of you for the contributions made in
Harry's memory, and also for the comforting sympathy cards.

— Alyseann

B'nai Mitzvah



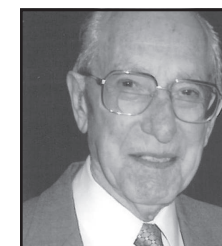
Pete and Jami Schnoebelen would like to invite you to join their family in celebration as their daughter **Megan Schnoebelen** is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, Sept. 3rd**. A Kiddush luncheon will be held immediately following the 10 am service.



Hannah Lee Singer will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on **Saturday, Sept. 17**, at 9:00 am at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Robert and Kelly Singer invite the Jewish community to join their family in celebrating this special occasion.

Mazel Tov

Dr. Henry Corn 100th Birthday



Dr. Henry Corn will celebrate his 100th birthday at Tempe B'nai Jeshurun on Friday, October 28, 2011. 5:30 pm wine and cheese; 6:00 pm

service. Reception following. The community is invited to celebrate with Henry!

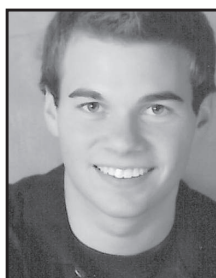
In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Betty Shindler

Annette Siegel

Recent Graduates



Mason Bear



Dekel Luban

Mason Bear graduated from Valley High School and will be attending the University of Michigan in the Fall. Proud Parents are Philip and Robin Bear.

Dekel Luban graduated from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, with a Master's degree in political science.

Sarit Luban graduated in May from Brandeis University in Waltham MA, Cum Laude, Bachelor's degree (Major in political science; minor in music). Proud parents are Pnina and Marshall Luban of Ames.

Mathew Marcus graduated from Valley High school in May 2011. His parents are Rick and Bridget Marcus of West Des Moines. He will be attending the University of Chicago in the fall.



Sarit Luban



Mathew Marcus

NEW MATERIALS AND INSIGHTS TO ENLIVEN ISRAEL CURRICULUM AT JFCS SAYS DIRECTOR LYANNA LINDGREN



After the conclusion of religious school this spring and before assuming her on-site responsibilities at Caspe Terrace as administrator for Engman Camp Shalom, director of the Jewish Federation Community School Lyanna Lindgren attended a weeklong Teacher Workshop in the History, Culture and Politics of Modern Israel at Emory University in Atlanta. The workshop was conducted by Atlanta's Center for Israel Education and Emory University's Institute for the Study of Modern Israel. It was underwritten by The Avi Chai Foundation.

Lyanna described the workshop, devoted to providing Jewish educators with a comprehensive foundation for teaching about modern Israel, as the most thorough and well organized Jewish professional development opportunity in which she had ever participated. In addition to Dr. Kenneth Stein, Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History and Israeli Studies at Emory University and members of the Department of Religion and Jewish Studies at Emory, her other professors, she said, were from the International Relations and Political Science departments from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Lyanna was among the sixty Jewish educators in the group. Together, she said, the teachers, along with an Educational Researcher, collaborated in curriculum design incorporating what they had learned about Israeli history, politics, and culture. "We all came home with 'ready-to-use' lesson plans," said Lyanna, a plus she identified as one of the highlights of the conference. Lyanna noted she'd look forward to sharing the insights and materials with her colleagues at the Jewish Federation Community School to help enliven how the topic of modern Israel is taught to our students in Des Moines.

AMES JEWISH CONGREGATION

Schedule Of High Holy Day Services

Rabbi David Wirtschafter; Cantor John Pleasants

Rosh Hashanah Services

Wednesday, September 28

8 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, September 29

10 AM Rosh Hashanah Service

2:30 PM Children's Service (for children under age 10)

3 PM Tashlish

Friday, September 30

10 AM 2nd Day Rosh Hashanah Service

Yom Kippur Services

Friday, October 7

8 PM Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 8

10 AM Yom Kippur Service

3:30 PM Children's Service (for children under age 10)

4:30 PM Afternoon Service

5:45 PM Yizkor Service

6:15 PM Neilah

6:45 PM Havdalah

Also note,

Saturday, September 24

8 PM Social

9 PM Selichot Service (led by a member of the congregation)

BETH EL JACOB

The High Holidays: Its Prayers, Meaning and Relevance.

Wednesday Sept 14, 2011, 6PM at Beth El Jacob

Rabbi Bolet will be discussing the High Holidays as an opportunity for all to feel equipped to experience the uplifting and meaningful services. Everyone is welcome!

Erev Rosh Hashanah- Sept 28

Extended Selichos followed by Shachris 6:30 AM

Mincha 6:20 AM

Candle lighting 6:44 PM

1st Day Rosh Hashanah- Sept 29

Shachris 9:00 AM

Torah Reading 10:30 AM

Rabbi's Sermon 11:00 AM

Shofar Blowing 11:15 AM

Tashlich, followed by Mincha/Maariv 5:00 PM

Candle lighting 8:12 PM

2nd Day Rosh Hashanah- Sept 30

Shachris 9:00AM

Shofar Blowing 11:00AM

Mincha/Maariv 5:15PM

Candle lighting 6:40 PM

Shabbos Shuva- Oct 1

Shachris 9:00 AM

Mincha 6:00 PM

End of Shabbos 7:37 PM

Fast Of Gedalia- Oct 2

Fast starts 5:50 AM

Shachris 9:00 AM

Mincha 6:30 PM

Fast ends 7:37 PM

Kol Nidre- Oct 7

Selichos & Shachris 6:45 AM

Early Mincha 1:30 PM

Candle lighting 6:28 PM

Kol Nidre 6:15 PM

Rabbi's Sermon followed by Maariv 6:40 PM

Yom Kippur fast begins 6:45 PM

Yom Kippur- Oct 8

Shachris 9:00 AM

Torah Reading 10:30 AM

Yizkor 1:00 AM

Mincha 4:45 PM

Neilah 6:00 PM

Fast Ends 7:26 PM

TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

Saturday, September 24th - Selichot

9:00 a.m. Torah Study

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service

6:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

Wednesday, September 28th - Erev Rosh Hashanah

6:00 p.m. Family Service

8:00 p.m. Professional Choir Service

Thursday, September 29th - Rosh Hashanah

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service

11:00 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Choir Service

3:30 p.m. Tashlich & Tot Service

Sunday, October 2nd - Kevor Avot

12:30 p.m. Woodlawn Cemetery

1:15 p.m. Community at Glendale

Friday, October 7th - Kol Nidre

6:30 p.m. Traditional Service

8:30 p.m. Traditional Service

Saturday, October 8th - Yom Kippur

8:30 a.m. Traditional

11:00 a.m. Interlude

12:30 pm. Second Service

3:00 p.m. Torah Service

3:30 p.m. Children's Service

4:15 p.m. Healing Service

5:15 p.m. Yizkor, Ne'ilah, Havdalah followed by Break the Fast

Sunday, October 9th

9:30 a.m. Sukkah Raising Party

Wednesday, October 12th - Erev Sukkot

4:30 p.m. Sukkah Decorating

6:00 p.m. Service in the Sukkah

Friday, October 14th

6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service in the Sukkah

Wednesday, October 19th - Erev Simchat Torah (Reform)

6:00 p.m. Consecration Service

Thursday, October 20th - Simchat Torah (Reform date celebrated)

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Sunday, October 16, 2011

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TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

September - October 2011 Weekly Activities

Sundays: 9 am – Minyan; 10 am – S.T.E.P. Class with Mike Kuperman

Tuesdays: 7 am – Minyan
7:30 am – Meditation

Fridays: 6 pm – Services

Saturdays: 9 am – Services

Special Events - September:

Thursday, Sept. 8 Senior Luncheon at Tifereth – 12 noon
Friday, Sept 9 YAD – Potluck Shabbat
Saturday, Sept 10 Fiddler on the Roof Sing-A-Long – 8:30 pm
Saturday, Sept 17 Hannah Singer's Bat Mitzvah – 9 am
Saturday, Sept 24 Tot Shabbat – 10:30 am
Selichot Services & Program – 8 pm
Sunday, Sept 25 Community Dedication of New Facility Open House 9:00 am-Noon
Wednesday, Sept 28 Erev Rosh Hashanah Service – 6:45 pm
Thursday, Sept 29 Rosh Hashanah Services – 9 am
Tashlich Service with the Temple Greenwood Park – time TBA
Mincha/Ma'ariv Services – 5:15 pm
Rosh Hashanah Services – 9 am
Friday, Sept 30

Special Events - October:

Sunday, Oct 2 Kever Avot Services – Glendale – 1:15 pm
Friday, Oct 7 Kol Nidre Services 5 pm - DMARC Food Drive
6:15 pm - Services
Saturday, Oct 8 Yom Kippur
Services - 9 am
5 pm - Mincha, Neila followed by Break the Fast
Sunday, Oct 9 YAD Decorate the Sukkah & Pizza Party – 12:30 pm
Thursday, Oct 13 Sukkot Services – 9 am
Friday, Oct 14 Sukkot Services – 9 am
Friday Night Live – 6 pm
Sunday, Oct 16 Sushi in the Sukkah – 5 pm
Thursday, Oct 20 Shemini Atzeret Services – 9 am
Simchat Torah Services – 6 pm
Simchat Torah Services – 9 am
Friday, Oct 21 Tot Shabbat – 10:30 am
Saturday, Oct 29 Tifereth Israel Synagogue & Tifereth Women's League
Sunday, Oct 30 Israeli Brunch, Speaker & Movie – 11 am

DRAKE HILLEL...UPDATE!



The Drake University Hillel has continued its growth spurt into the new school year, welcoming many new Jewish freshmen to campus and a new upperclassmen board of leaders! The beginning of the year calendar was packed with activities for the Hillel students including Shabbat dinners, our annual ice cream social, bagels and cream cheese, and Sunday programming on campus!

Perhaps our most exciting event so far this year has been the "Jewish Des Moines" tour of all the synagogues and The Caspe Terrace. On August 28, the Hillel loaded up the Jewish Federation bus and road tripped across town so that the students could meet the Rabbis and see the different buildings for themselves. All of our Hillel students are new to the Des Moines community, so this event helped introduce these students to the Jewish community that they are now becoming a part of. Please continue to welcome Hillel students in your synagogue when you see them during the upcoming High Holidays. The Jewish Drake students are the most likely population to someday stay in Des Moines after college graduation and renew the young, Jewish community in Des Moines!

The Drake Hillel has also formed an official Mitzvot/Tikun Olam committee. It is their goal to do at least one service project a month through Drake Hillel. If you have an idea for a mitzvah project, please email duhillel@drake.edu.

If you're looking for a great way to give back to the Jewish community, consider volunteering for a Drake Hillel program. Contact the Hillel adviser at lilianna.bernstein@drake.edu to find out how you can get involved!

SAVE THE DATE - NOV 13!



Sababa!

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This exciting concert will be held on November 13th in Tifereth Israel's new sanctuary space and is not to be missed!

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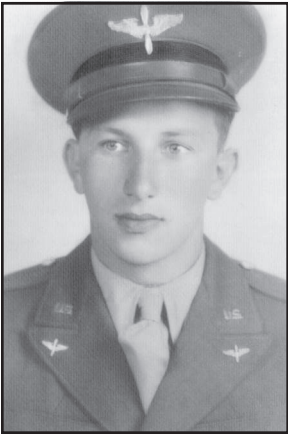
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Charles Lipson



Abe Robinson



Ben Witten

Iowa Jewish Historical Society Veterans Project: We Need Your Help! December 7, 2011 marks the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the entrance of the United States into World War II. Unfortunately, World War II was not the last war that Americans would be called on to fight. During the next 70 years, millions of men and women served our country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Among them were numerous men and women from Iowa's Jewish communities who are still alive to tell their stories.

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is joining with the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines to honor the service of our Jewish veterans and to record their memories so that they and their stories are never forgotten. To do that, we need your help. Please let us know if you, a friend, or a relative served in the armed forces during these wars by sending an email to ijhs@dmjfed.org or calling 515-987-0899 ext. 216 to give us your name and contact information. We do have a list of most of the Jewish veterans in central Iowa but we want to make this a statewide project and we must make sure that no one's story goes untold!

JOIN NOW!
Become a New Member or Renew Your Membership in the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Help us preserve the precious history of the Jews of Iowa and continue our excellent programming.

Membership includes a subscription to IJHS newsletter The CHAlowan filled with fascinating original articles and photographs of Iowa Jewish history. Your application form is below or you may join online at www.jewishdesmoines.org.

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In addition, I want to make a donation to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society \$ _____. Please make your check payable to the IJHS and send it to 33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263. For more information: (515)987-0899 ext. 216 or ijhs@dmjfed.org

IJHS Awarded \$22,128 Grant for Inventorying and Cataloging Society Collections

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is delighted to announce that it has received a grant of \$22,128 from the REAP/Historical Resources Development Program (HRDP) administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa. The grant does require a 50% cash and/or in-kind match.

The grant funds will be used to do a complete inventory of the estimated 7,500 – 10,000 items in the Society's collection. Each artifact will be physically examined, catalogued, and numbered; evaluated for conservation needs (are there tears to be repaired, pages or pieces missing, scotch tape to be removed, etc.), photographed

and/or digitized; placed in acid-free file folders or boxes for long-term protection; and the information about each artifact entered into a computerized collections database. In addition, the storage area will be reorganized to make it as easy as possible to find items and to make sure that all the artifacts are stored safely. The last phase of the project will be to make the information about the artifacts available to the public on the Iowa Jewish Historical Society's website. The information will also be used to update current exhibits, design new exhibits, and develop traveling trunks and outreach materials for schools.

The grant funds will be used to hire a part-time collections assistant (12 hours/week), expand the collections manager's position from 8 to 12 hours/week, and purchase preservation materials—acid-free file folders, boxes, etc. This project builds on the pilot project begun in the fall of 2010 with a grant from the Beverly Blank Perry Foundation to digitize the entire Blank Family Collection and to put the information on the website. The equipment purchased for the Blank Family project and the lessons learned from the process will be key parts of the HRDP grant.

This is a very important project for

the Society as the IJHS collection is the key to understanding the history and contributions Jewish Iowans have made to the history of our state, our nation, and the world. During the past three years, the IJHS has received numerous requests for historical information pertaining to the history of various synagogues, the Jewish community, local businesses, community leaders, and genealogy. Completing the inventory, updating the database, and making this material available on the website will enable the Society to respond to local, national, and international research requests much faster and in more depth.

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Friday, Sept 9 6:00 pm
Saturday, Sept 10 10:00 am
 8:30 pm
Sunday, Sept 11 9:00 am
Thursday, Sept 15 10:00 am
Saturday, Sept 17 9:00 am
Sunday, Sept 18 9:30 am
 5:30pm
Tuesday, Sept 20 6:00 pm
Sunday, Sept 25 9:30 am
Wednesday, Oct 5 4:30 pm
Sunday, Oct 9 9:30 am
 12:30 pm
Wednesday, Oct 12 4:30 pm
Friday, Oct 14 6:00 pm
Sunday, Oct 16 9:00 am
 5:00 pm
Wednesday, Oct 19 6:00 pm
Friday, Oct 21 6:00 pm
Saturday, Oct 22 4:30 pm
 5:00 pm
Sunday, Oct 23 1:00 pm
 6:00 pm
Thursday, Oct 27 5:15 pm
Friday, Oct 28 5:30 pm
Sunday, Oct 30 11:00 am

Bat Mitzvah of Megan Schnoebelen at Temple
Senior Luncheon at Tifereth
YAD Shabbat at Tifereth
Bat Mitzvah of Emma Bernstein at Temple
"Fiddler on the Roof" Sing-a-long at Tifereth
Ribbon Cutting for Jewish Federation Community School
Professionals Meeting
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Singer at Tifereth
Cooking Class with Susan Madorsky at The Caspe Terrace
Fund raiser for Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center
President's Dinner
Renovation Celebration at Tifereth
Mahjong starts at The Caspe Terrace
Sukkah raising at Temple
Sukkah decorating at Tifereth
Sukkah decorating at Temple
Friday Night Live at Tifereth
Mark Conley presentation at The Caspe Terrace
Sushi in the sukkah at Tifereth
Consecration at Temple
Bar Mitzvah of Chuck Kuba at Temple
Bat Mitzvah of Hannah Cline at Temple
Wine Tasting at The Caspe Terrace
Women's Campaign Kick-Off luncheon at Wakonda Club
Men's Campaign Kick-Off Dinner at the Caspe Terrace
Federation Board Meeting
Dr. Corn's 100th Birthday Celebration at Temple
Israeli Brunch at Tifereth

Israel from page 10 All of our ancestors continued to practice their beliefs and customs despite hardships because they felt it was important to carry on the Jewish traditions. I heard first hand from families that had lived in Morocco, Iran, and Iraq for generations leaving their homes to escape persecution, and literally walking to Israel. Hearing stories like these, I have become even more passionate in my support of Israel as a safe Jewish state.

My experience in Israel vastly exceeded my expectations. The view walking down Bograshov of the Mediterranean Sea, the night sky and quietness of the Negev, the openness of the Golan, and the rush I felt walking up to the Western Wall are all experiences I will never forget. I can say with full confidence that leaving my job and traveling to the other side of the globe without knowing many people was the best decision I have ever made. Culturally, religiously, socially, and professionally I grew as a person. My experience gave me a firm understanding of the political situation in Israel and the Middle East, and a better grasp of the religious, cultural, and historical aspects of Judaism. Along with all of this, I have made life-long friends and had a blast. I would encourage anyone to jump at the chance of a similar life-changing experience.



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Engman Camp Shalom



It's hard to believe the summer is over and it is time for school to start! Summer 2011 just flew by! Campers kept very busy doing all sorts of activities. This year, our theme was "Heroes & Values," where each week campers learned about a new hero and value. Summer 2011 also brought about a lot of exciting changes at Engman Camp Shalom. Our former assistant director, Jeremy Schwartz, became our camp director! Campers were overjoyed to have him here again this year. Jeremy brought with him some really great, new programs and ideas such as the Hadracha program. This allows campers who have completed two years of the CIT program to have a little more responsibility. Hadracha had more of a leadership role and less of a camper role. The program was created to give that final transition from camper to counselor. Chugim (choices) was another new activity this year during our daily activities. Each week, campers chose a different chugim to participate in. Activities included in Chugim were sports, arts & crafts, and even some very random (and fun) options such as "What Not to Do at Camp."

Camp started off on the right foot by focusing on respecting others and ourselves during Week 1. Values discussed during the summer also included leading by example, learning from our mistakes, doing your best, and never wasting a moment. Some of the heroes were Sandy Koufax, Esther, Jonah, Moses, and The Thing.

Jeremy planned an all-camp activity each week for campers to learn more about our heroes. Campers made their own irrigation systems when Yitzhak Rabin was our hero. Richard Feynman taught us how to measure the playground using only a 12" ruler and string. They even "parachuted" eggs like Hannah Senesh.

In addition to new programs, campers still were able to participate in old favorites. Maccabia (color wars) is a much-loved activity at camp. Campers were divided into four teams (red, blue, green, and white) to compete in many competitions including the Messy Olympics, a car wash race, Shoe Golf, Jeopardy, and Gaga. This year we washed more cars than ever before. The day ended with a celebratory ice cream sundae bar!

Chef David was back again showing campers how to make even more delicious food! Campers started off the summer with the basics, "Perfect Pairs." They made caramel apples (caramel and apples), corn on the cob (salt and pepper), and bread (flour and water). He taught them about good eating habits with delicious veggies: asparagus, broccoli, and eggplant. Keeping with the healthy theme, they even made veggie eggrolls.

ECS "traveled" to Israel during Week 2 for Kibbutz Day. Campers went to three Kibbutzim and learned about what each one does. At the end of the day, they made their own market to sell their wares: chocolate, red algae, and bird-watching tourism! In Week 5, campers visited Israel for a second time on Israel Day. They explored different cities where they "made" candles, Star of David mobiles, and even went fishing!

One ECS tradition is the overnight. The Giborim and Ruach campers and CITs had fun sleeping in tents and making S'mores. They played counselor hide n' seek, the ominous box game, and had a blast at Sapir's Mini-Salon. On Friday morning the campers sat back and relaxed while the staff made them a scrumptious breakfast of eggs, cereal, oatmeal, toast, and bagels with cream cheese!

Every Friday, before our Shabbat BBQ, campers went on a field trip. The favorite field trip is always Adventureland! Campers visited the Picket Fence Creamery where they fed cows and watched how milk is produced and bottled. At the Science Center they made air rockets, traveled through time at the Historical Building, and got their groove on at Skate West.

Summing up ECS 2011 in a short article was definitely a challenge, but not an impossible one. Overall this was a great summer and Jeremy did a great job in his first year as ECS Camp Director. He really brought new energy to camp with all of his ideas. Thanks to all the camp families and staff and of course, Larry and Suzanne Engman. Without all of you this year would not have been as amazing of a summer!

- Shayna Grund

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