



Jewish Press

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volume 21 number 2

Happy Hanukkah!

First Candle Is Lit The Evening Of December 7

Hanukkah, "The Festival of Lights", begins on the Hebrew date of the 25th of Kislev and lasts eight days, through the 2nd of Tevet. This year, the 25th of Kislev begins the evening of Tuesday, December 7th. The holiday continues until sundown on Tuesday, December 14th.

Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees (led by Judah) over the Hellenistic Syrians in a revolt that took place around 165 BCE (Before the Common Era).

The victory in itself was considered a miracle, but Jewish legend gives an additional explanation for Hanukkah rituals, explained below. Once the Temple Mount in Jerusalem had been reclaimed, the Temple had to be rededicated. According to legend, only one jar of sacramental oil was found, enough for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, thus the eight days of Hanukkah.

The most important Hanukkah ritual is the candle lighting. Jews light candles in a special candleholder called a "menorah" or a "hanukkah". Each night, one more candle is added. The middle candle, called the "shamash", is used to light each of the other candles and it is lit every night. Therefore, on the first night of Hanukkah, two candles are lit (the shamash and the candle for the first night) and on the last night, there are nine lit candles.

The Community Calendar Is Now Online At www.dmjfed.org

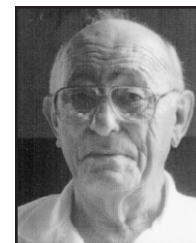
Details about community events are now easier than ever to find. Current information is as close as your computer! All you need do is log on to www.dmjfed.org and click on "Community Calendar." You'll be connected immediately with an online calendar, providing you with daily, weekly, and monthly information about the programs being

offered by our local congregations, local organizations, and agencies of the Jewish Federation. The information will be as detailed as the sponsor of any program wishes to advertise.

Get in the habit of checking the Online Calendar often. It's one way to help you plan your week!

The online calendar is a service pro-

THE TOBIS FUND: HELPING PEOPLE IN NEED



The David Tobis Fund, within the Des Moines Jewish Foundation, was created in 1996, with a \$1,000,000 gift from David Tobis. The Fund has been very active in fulfilling the

charitable mission of its benefactor. The purpose of the Fund is to enhance the health, education and welfare of the Jewish and general community of Des Moines.

The Fund has a constituent committee that processes periodic grant requests and prioritizes needs. The Tobis Fund Committee is comprised of the following members: Michael Tobis, Sam Tobis, Fred Lorber, Brook Rosenberg, and Elaine Steinger.

In November 2003 the Fund made a grant to the Iowa Coalition for Housing and the Homeless to provide relocation assistance for residents facing eviction from a mobile home property. In 2004 the Fund made a grant to Children and Families of Iowa to provide emergency financial assistance to low-income families and a grant to The Tzedakah committee of Jewish Community Services to help people in need. The Fund also provided rehabilitative assistance to a disabled woman and subsequently guaranteed repayment of a loan for vocational retraining that will enable her to become self-sufficient.

As the mitzvot of the David Tobis Fund multiplies, we know he would be pleased with the impact his generosity continues to have on so many lives.



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1654 ~ 2004



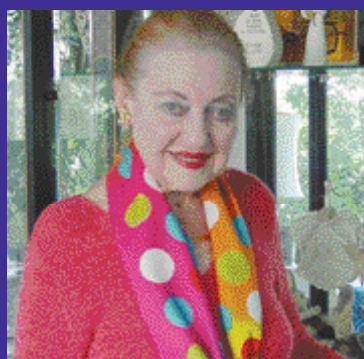
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- Outreach - Baby baskets, welcoming newcomers
- Volunteer Opportunities - Numerous volunteer projects

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.



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

Artistic Cartoonist Katchor Displayed at UNI Art Gallery

Picture-stories and drawings by Ben Katchor were displayed at the University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art, late last summer. Katchor, whose cartoon strips appear in The New Yorker and the Forward, has been lauded for his distinctive style, an imaginative mix of elegant cartooning matched with alternately mundane and surreal dialog. His characters



are typically set within a recognizable "seedy cityscape." One of his strips, "Julius Knipl, Real Estate Photographer," was syndicated 1988-1998. His current strip is called "Hotel & Farm."

Katchor was born in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn College. He was the recipient of an Obie Award, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship and a Rockefeller MAP grant. Solo exhibitions of his work have been staged at The Jewish Museum in New York and the Magnes Museum in San Francisco. K a t c h o r ' s UNI show featured a work called

Senior



Calendar of Events

Klezmer at the November Luncheon

Sunday, November 7, 2004

12:00 Noon at Beth El Jacob

Please note that this luncheon will the Java Jews Klezmer Band will be on a Sunday.

Reservations need to be made to Dorothea, 277-6321, by Thursday, November 4.

Trip to Osceola Lakeside Casino

Sunday, November 14, 2004

Leave Beth El Jacob parking lot at 10:00 am

Bus fee \$4.00 per person.

Lunch and a Movie at Jordan Creek Town Center

Thursday, December 2, 2004

Leave Beth El parking lot at 10:00 am. Nominal bus fee.

December Luncheon at Tifereth

Thursday, December 16, 2004, 12:00 Noon,

\$3.00 per person

Please make reservations for all events with Dorothea at 277-6321.

Wanted:

Bus Driver for Senior outings. Please contact Kady Russell, Senior Adult Coordinator at the Federation at 515-277-6321.

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[in the news]

INTERRELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS RESPOND TO SUPERCESSIONIST REMARKS MADE ON CLEAR CHANNEL KXNO

To the Editor of the Des Moines Register:

I was dismayed to read of the way in which a local sports show host dealt with a "sports" issue regarding a Jewish baseball player who opted not to play on Yom Kippur. Instead of lifting up this player as an unusual model of consistency who connected his faith and his life into a unified whole, the host suggested that the player convert to Christianity and thereby resolve his dilemma. I can't believe the suggestion was made with serious intent but, if it were, I am appalled to think that one would suggest changing religions over such an issue. What is being suggested is that if my religion prohibits me from engaging in a particular activity one day/year or even one day/week, the best resolution is to change religions. How absolutely absurd.

It has evidently not dawned on the sport show host that his suggestion to convert to Christianity is more an indictment of Christianity than it is of Judaism. The reason for conversion, he says, is that if one becomes a Christian he need never encounter those difficult issues of choice, i.e., he "can play any day of the week." Sadly, this indictment hits closer to home than we Christians would care to admit. Unlike observant Jews, we Christians have pretty much made one day the same as any other. Accommodating to the culture around us is so common, few would dare suggest that their faith might prohibit any activity, particularly one as profitable as playing professional baseball. Rather than trying to convert this observant Jew, I would challenge the Christian community to emulate his display of courage to make an unpopular decision in spite of the cost.

Forrest Harms, Executive Director
Des Moines Area Religious Council
Des Moines, IA

To the Editor of the Des Moines Register

October 1, 2004 As clergy and lay representatives of A.M.O.S – A Metropolitan Organizing Strategy – we object to the comments of radio host Steve Deace regarding Los Angeles Dodger Shawn Green's refusal to play baseball on Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement.

Mr. Deace's statement, that if Green converted to Christianity he wouldn't have to worry about playing on Yom Kippur, revealed a total lack of respect for the Jewish religion and traditions. Regardless of his motives, his comments were in extreme poor taste and reflected bias against an entire religious community within Des Moines.

The Christian and Jewish faith communities in Des Moines have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship. Judaism has enriched our common life together and we value that diversity.

The world is in trouble these days. As pastors we feel drawn together to seek a common unity. Such comments expressed by Mr. Deace make the task of community building all the more difficult.

We think Station KXNO (AM-1460) and Mr. Deace owe the Jewish Community and all of us an apology for such crass and insensitive expressions.

Very Sincerely,

Rev. Bill Cotton, AMOS Clergy Synod
Rev. Jim Wallace, Central Presbyterian Church
Rev. Tim Diebel, First Christian Church
Ms. Kay Sabin, ELCA
Rev. David Ruhe, Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC
Rev. Mark Stringer, 1st Unitarian Church
Mr. Greg Cook, Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC
Fr. Larry Hoffman, St. Theresa Catholic Church

Acknowledgement is also made that the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa's Executive Director, Connie Ryan-Terrell, participated in a panel discussion of the topic on KXNO radio.

COMMENTARY

Life Without UNWRA

October 5, 2004, National Post - Canada. The United Nations should disband its main Palestinian aid organization, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA). The agency was conceived almost six decades ago to help Palestinians displaced after Israel's 1948 War of Independence. But it has since become intertwined with some of the most radical elements in Palestinian society. Indeed, UNWRA may in fact be worsening the Palestinian plight by facilitating the four-year-old terrorist war that has so devastated life in the West Bank and Gaza. At the very least, UNWRA's affiliation with terrorists is bringing shame upon the United Nations.

This disgrace has been acute of late. This past weekend, Peter Hansen, UNWRA's commissioner-general, disclosed in a CBC interview that members of Hamas are on the agency's payroll. In May, after Palestinian terrorists killed 11 Israeli soldiers in the Gaza strip, UNWRA ambulances were caught on tape smuggling terrorists out of the area. Late that same month, an Israeli news-cast broadcast footage showing armed terrorists using UNWRA ambulances to flee. And last week, the Israeli army released additional footage that depicts more incidents in which UNWRA relief vehicles have been used to ferry terrorists throughout the disputed territories.

UNWRA's complicity goes beyond terrorist ground transportation. On several occasions, UNWRA-administered schools in Palestinian camps have been found to be teaching anti-Semitism and hatred of Israel. Israeli troops searching Palestinian schools in Ramallah in September, 2002, found classrooms plastered with posters glorifying suicide attacks. The Israeli government and some aid agencies have also concluded that UNWRA turns a blind eye to Palestinian theft of food and medicine destined for refugees from UN warehouses, for sale on the black market.

Mr. Hansen's reaction to such allegations exemplifies the agency's see-no-evil approach: UNWRA may employ Hamas members, he says, but they are not actually terrorists. Rather, they are supposedly from the organization's medical, educational or political wings. It's similar to the line Ottawa used to offer for not outlawing Hezbollah and its fundraisers in Canada: Yes, Hezbollah employs terrorists, the Department of Foreign Affairs would concede, but what Canada is permitting is only fundraising for Hezbollah' "humanitarian" operations, such as its hospitals and schools.

Canada's government eventually disabused itself of such nonsense, and so should the world community in regard to UNWRA: Though Hamas may operate community services to help build support and spread propaganda, its raison d'etre has nothing to do with healing people, but rather killing them. Hamas observes no hard and fast internal distinctions in its operations, and the organization's ultimate goal -- the destruction of Israel -- remains constant. Every Hamas member drawing an UNWRA salary frees up money in Hamas's budget for terror operations.

In the short term, eliminating UNWRA would pose logistical challenges: Other agencies and nations would have to step in to deliver the humanitarian assistance the agency provides. But in the long term, it would be in the Palestinians' own best interests. When the refugee camps were originally established, the world community imagined they would be temporary -- and that neighbouring countries would soon find a permanent home for their occupants. But Arab nations refused to co-operate, preferring instead to keep the Palestinians locked up as an ongoing diorama of Arab victimization. Thus are Palestinians kept in an endless state of dependency and transience, with many still entertaining delusions that they will someday be allowed to return to their ancestral homes in Israel.

It has long been believed that UNWRA would keep operating until Palestinians and Jews made peace. But given the organization's role in abetting terror, the world cannot wait that long.

This editorial appeared online at www.canada.com/national/nationalpost/news/story.html

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish

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The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press
910 Polk Boulevard
Des Moines, IA 50312

Phone: 515-277-6321
Fax: 515-277-4069
E-mail: [jrcrc@dmjfed.org](mailto: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.

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

Vol. 21 No. 2, November/December

NOTABLE QUOTE

“

I am glad to be able to say, in addressing you on this occasion, that while the Jews of the United States, who now number more than a million, have remained loyal to their faith and race traditions, they have become indissolubly incorporated in the great army of American citizenship, prepared to make all sacrifice for their country, either in war or peace, and striving for the perpetuation of good government and for the maintenance of the principles embodied in the Constitution. –President Theodore Roosevelt

”

From a letter by President Theodore Roosevelt to Jacob H. Schiff, Chairman of the Committee on the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Settlement of the Jews in the United States. (courtesy of the American Jewish Historical Society)

CORRECTION

We inadvertently omitted the name of Leticia Gordon from our list of Lions of Judah in the Sept/Oct issue. Please

JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY

Elementary

Our first day of Religious School/Hebrew School classes was Wednesday, Sept. 8th. By now, we have gotten into the swing of attending classes on Sunday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Students have buckled down to continue their Hebrew and Judaic studies.

Our Sunday School students learned some fascinating information about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. They learned about the Jewish calendar and that Rosh Hashanah starts our New Year. And that Rosh Hashanah means "Head of the Year." Yom Kippur is a thinking time; a period of reflection and review about the past year. If we have hurt or wronged someone, we need to ask for his/her forgiveness. If there are things we want to change, this period of times gives us a fresh start.

Some of our children heard the story of Jonah and the Whale and made their own Jonah and the whale. Other special Rosh Hashanah projects were New Year Cards, apple sachets and felt honey jars filled with real honey sticks. To bring in our New Year, we ate apples and honey.

Our students have also learned about Sukkot and Simchat Torah. They learned that Sukkot is an autumn holiday and it is a reminder that God protected the Israelites while they wandered in the Sinai Desert, living in temporary huts as they made their way from slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land of Israel.

Simchat Torah is when we take out all of the Torah scrolls from the Ark and march with them around the synagogue seven times. Each parade is called a hakafah. During each hakafah, we pray, sing, dance and wave flags. On Simchat Torah we read the last words and the first words of the Torah. For Jews, the Torah is a book that has no end.

Jr/Sr High School

On Wednesday, September 29, our Jr/Sr High School students and parents met to celebrate Sukkot together in the Temple's Sukkah. Rabbis Kaufman and HaLevi spoke about the meaning of Sukkot and we all participated in the blessings for being in the Sukkah and for the Lulov and Etrog. After a quick introduction to our program for this year, staff was introduced and each teacher gave a synopsis for their class.

Our students are spending the year exploring a variety of ethical issues with the aid of traditional texts. We are allowing time to discuss the issues along with their own personal views. The theme for this year, encompassing all grades, are the ways in which ethical issues and their own moral and ethical viewpoints affect their lives and the lives of others. Throughout the year, several local Jewish community members will be visiting our classrooms to share some of their experiences with our students.

With Kryss Phillips, our 7th grade students will "study the rites, rituals, and customs

of Eastern European Shtetls with a concentration on early adolescents' roles." At the end of the school year, students will hold a "Cultural Fair," during which Shabbat will be celebrated in the Shtetl, and to share what they have learned about the Shtetl. "Coming of Age during the Holocaust" is the theme for our 8th grade class. This class will be covering Anti-Semitism, Kristallnacht, the Kindertransport, and the Warsaw Ghetto. This class will also look at children's art, music, and poetry.

Jody Hramits will be teaching "Ethics and Values" to our 7th and 8th grades students. During the year these classes will explore the topics of Teshuvah, Pekuach Nefesh, La Shon Horah, Comparative Religion, Art and Judaism, Medical Ethics and R i t u a l s o f D e a t h and Mourning.

Throughout the year, the 9th grade class, taught by Stacie Franklin, will review the basic geography of Israel and become familiar with several of its major cities; discuss the various political views and key political leaders starting with the creation of Israel through our current times; learn about the major historical events of each decade since the 1940's; learn about Israel's culture through music, food, art and people; review and discuss current events impacting Israel today; and develop a personal connection to Israel through "Partnership 2000" with students in a Western Galilee school through e-Pals.

For 10th graders, this is an exciting time in their lives as they go through Confirmation and confirm their Jewish identity and beliefs. Rabbis Ha Levi and Kaufman will be teaching this class. Some of the topics that will be discussed are: Jewish ID, What is Judaism?, Denominations, Life Issues, Race and Religious Relations, Body Ethics and Israel. There are several speakers planned throughout the year as well as four social action projects.



Rabbi HaLevi met with students under the Temple's Sukkah (left). Preschoolers creating their High School students Torah for Simchat Torah (above).




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What is Limmud NY?

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In Hebrew, Limmud means "learning" - and that's what it's all about. It's an opportunity to craft your own Jewish world. To explore your connection to Jewish ideas and tradition. To meet people who share your curiosity and enthusiasm. To relax, reflect and celebrate.

What will happen: From early in the morning until late each night, you'll have an opportunity to choose from an ongoing menu of 8-12 simultaneous sessions on topics ranging from Talmud to psychology, from film to Bible, from drama to Israeli politics. Some sessions will be given by renowned lecturers; others will be discussion groups, artist circles, or workshops.

- Immerse yourself - or dip in - as much as you choose. The learning, in all the ways it unfolds, will be nonstop, inspiring and invigorating.
- Listen: Klezmer to Jazz, Israeli Classics to Hip-Hop
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- Celebrate: Community, Friends and Family
- Relax, Renew and Enjoy!

Cost: Adults \$450. Teens and Full-time students \$300.

Food: Under strict rabbinical supervision; vegetarian and kid-friendly options.

Limmud NY is supported by UJA-Federation of NY through a grant from the Picower Foundation, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Keren Keshet, United Jewish Communities and others. Limmud NY is a resident project of JESNA/UJC's Bikkurim: An Incubator for New Jewish Ideas.

For more information/registration: Call (212) 284-6968 Online at www.limmudny.org

11th and 12th Grade Students: WE WANT YOU!

Calling all 11th & 12th grade Jewish young adults. Whether you have ever been involved in any of our local Jewish religious school programs or not, we want you to become a part of our newly formed high school program. This class is geared towards a variety of different topics that involve our youth today. We will have social events, social action projects, speakers relating to pertinent issues you will face while attending college, and maybe a little bit of Jewish cooking too!

Please come join us. You will see old friends and make new friends. If you have a Jewish friend that has never been involved, bring them along. This is open to any young Jewish adult in 11th and 12th grades.

Our first evening was Wednesday, October 13th. If you were unable to attend our first class, it is not too late to begin. Classes will meet three times per month, Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm, in the school wing at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

Just to give you a "taste" of our plans for this year, some of our speaker topics will be: Current Events in Israel and How It Affects Us, Jewish Identity and Cults, Anti-Semitism in our schools/All around us

Our social action programs will involve volunteering for: Goodwill, Feeding the Homeless, Ronald McDonald House, Hospice of Central Iowa, Argentina Relief

College Programming will include: Hillel Representatives, Israel on Campus, A Contemporary Guide for the Jewish College Student

Many other plans are currently being arranged. This high school program truly has something for everyone who wants to expand their Jewish education, prepare for college life, help others, and just have fun! All that is required is a desire to learn and participate in the Jewish community. If you want to be involved in Judaism, even for the first time, this is the program for you.

If you are interested in this program, please contact Lyanna Grund at 277-5566 and we can discuss the class schedule.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER 17 – 9TH–12TH GRADES – SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT WITH GOOD WILL

NOVEMBER 24 – THANKSGIVING – NO SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 28 – THANKSGIVING – NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER 8 – 9TH – 12TH GRADES – CHANUKAH DINNER PROGRAM WITH RABBIS, STUDENTS INVITE ONE NON-JEWISH FRIEND TO ATTEND

DECEMBER 12 – JFCS CHANUKAH PROGRAM

DECEMBER 19 – JANUARY 2 – WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL

JANUARY 5 – FIRST WEDNESDAY BACK FOR 3RD – 6TH GRADE

JANUARY 9 – FIRST SUNDAY BACK FOR PREK-5TH GRADE

AMES JEWISH COMMUNITY

We Are In Full Swing!

It is easy to tell that school is in full swing at Ames Jewish Congregation. September 12th began another new year at AJC Religious School. We have worked hard getting ready for students to return to Hebrew and Jewish Education. The books have been ordered; the teachers are ready to go and, once again, many fun activities are planned for the 2004-2005 school year.

On our first Sunday, we celebrated Rosh Hashanah together with many fun activities. Many of the kids got a chance to blow a Shofar. They made Rosh Hashanah cards for their loved ones and decorated honey jars to bring home. The day was topped off with a guest speaker, Paul Tunakin. He spoke to us about being a beekeeper. Do you know how many bees are in a swarm or how many different types of honey there are?

Our school focus this year will be on the importance of making Mitzvah in Jewish life. We will be planning monthly school-wide Mitzvah projects and each class will plan mitzvah projects throughout the year. We have many ideas and plan to let the kids create and organize ideas of their own. We are very excited about this school initiative and will keep you informed of our many Mitzvah projects throughout the year.

In September, the students will be supporting the Senior Youth Group project by bringing bags of non-perishable food items to be donated to MICA.

In October, the Social Action Committee asked us to have a clothing drive. Each student will be responsible for sorting through his/her clothing to find clothes that will no longer be worn but are decent. They will bring them neatly folded in a bag to their classroom.

With Sukkot just around the corner, we will wrap up September with the classes decorating the Sukkah. Each class will create special decorations and spend time putting them up for all to enjoy.

Upcoming events at the AJC Religious School include:

October 23- Kevin Svec's Bar Mitzvah;

November 12th- Consecration service for 3 new students at our school:

Evalyn Berleant, Conner Levy and Arik (Ariel) Jacobsen.

For more detailed calendar information click on to **WWW.dmjfed.org**

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Nazi Olympics Exhibit Closes at State Historical Building

Panel Provided Insights into Life in Germany 1936

A highly interesting panel discussion about life in Germany, 1936 was held in August at the State Historical Museum. Personal presentations touching upon growing up in pre-war Germany, life during the Third Reich, and emigration to different parts of the world were given by panelists Warner Bergh, Peter Pintos, Herbert and Ruth David and moderator Fred Lorber.

The story of what it was like to liberate a concentration camp in 1945 was told by Dick Peterson, now a retired U.S. District Court judge, then a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The program began with a brief video of contemporary film footage and still pictures, made by the Iowa State Historical Society under Jerome Thompson. The State Historical Society recorded the program and has provided a copy to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

The program related to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's touring exhibit, Nazi Olympics: Berlin 1936, which was on display from April through September at the State Historical Building. The exhibit may be viewed online at www.ushmmc.org/museum/exhibit/online/olympics.

Thanks are extended again to sponsors of the exhibit, including Rose Lee and Marvin Pomerantz, the Iowa State Historical Society, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, the Jewish Federation, Goldstein Family Foundation, Iowa Jewish Historical Society Foundation, The Jewish Federation of Greater Des



M o i n e s , Jewish Welfare Fund of Cedar Rapids, Jim and Jane Arenson, Jack and Gail Bernstein, Blank Family Foundation, Don and Margo Blumenthal, Jim and Patty Cownie, Bud and Dorothy Hockenberg, Thomas Juckette, Chuck and Jennifer Larson, John Kline, Abbott and Joan Lipsky, Josh Lederman, Bill and Wicker Van Orsdel, Stan and Gail R i c h a r d s , Alan and Janice Zuckert, Jim Autrey and Lt. Gov. Sally J. Pederson, David and Jeannette Bear, Lee and Cyndi Bircharsky, The Caspe Foundation, Dr. James and Dr. Sarah Christiansen, Jeff and Kerrie Holland, Stan and Shari Engman, Louis and Marilyn Hurwitz, Hubbell

MISCHKIET-SPILER FUND SUPPORTS HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

Proceeds from the Mischkiet-Spiller Holocaust Education Fund, administered by the JCRC, are used to support a variety of projects promoting Holocaust education.

The Fund was created in 1981 by Helen Mischkiet-Edell, who grew up in Des Moines, from the estate of her late parents who were survivors of the Holocaust. In doing so, Helen and her family wished to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust are remembered and to honor the memory of Helen's parents, Fela and Monek Mischkiet and their dear friend and fellow Holocaust-survivor Selman Spiler.

Many in our community will remember Fela, Monek, Helen, and Selman (Sol). Fela and Monek came to Des Moines in 1951, sponsored by the Des Moines Jewish Federation. Selman, who had befriended Monek in Dachau, came a year later. In 1969, PBS produced a documentary about the Mischkiet's life during the Holocaust, they being among the earliest of the survivors to be willing and able to reflect upon their experiences. Monek worked as a tailor until his death in 1980. Selman was a dental technician and served as president of the Des Moines Jewish Culture Club. He passed away in 1979.

A grant from The Mischkiet-Spiller Fund enabled the development and publication of the Holocaust instruction-

al curriculum approved for use by the Des Moines Public Schools and used elsewhere in Iowa and around the country. The 1982 committee that worked on the project included the late Rabbi Robert J. Addison, Executive Director of the Federation's Bureau for Jewish Living, whose Ph.D. was in Holocaust studies, Carol S. Brown, Social Science Supervisor, Des Moines Public Schools, David Goldman, Chair of CRC, and Elaine Steinger, CRC Director.

In the past, the Fund has been used to provide copies of Gerta Klein's book "Promise of a New Spring" to area elementary schools, and for the public commemoration in 1995 of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps, for which a booklet profiling local survivors was authored by Adele Anolik. The Fund has also been used recently to provide teachers with copies of videotapes of local Holocaust survivors speaking to student audiences and to subsidize the cost for teachers on the Summer 2003 trip to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Appreciation is extended to Ms. Helen Mischkiet-Edell for her generous provision of funding and for her initiative on behalf of Holocaust education and to those who have subsequently contributed to the Fund. Contributions to the Mischkiet-Spiller

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Des Moines Jewish Foundation

Older Brides and Grooms Face Important Questions

Prospective brides and grooms in their 60s or older may not have to select china or silverware patterns, but they still have issues to resolve:

How finances will be combined - A couple may decide to keep the bulk of their estates separate to make estate planning easier. Check with an attorney about state laws governing property rights and the need for a prenuptial agreement. A special trust (QTIP) allows the surviving spouse to receive income for life, with assets then passing to children or grandchildren from a previous marriage.

Where to live - A single homeowner can exclude up to \$250,000 of gain on the sale of a primary residence, as often as every two years, provided he or she has lived in the home at least two of the last five years. A married couple can exclude up to \$500,000. It may be more tax advantageous to sell one home over the other, depending on the appreciation in the homes. Or rent the extra home for additional income.

Retirement plan beneficiary designations - Under federal law, a surviving spouse is automatically the beneficiary of certain qualified retirement plans (not including IRAs), regardless of the beneficiary designation.

A spousal consent can be signed following the marriage that will permit retirement assets to pass instead to family members.

Wills, trusts, health care directives - Existing wills and estate planning documents may become obsolete upon marriage. Check with a lawyer about changes needed to protect the newlyweds and other family members. Determine who should make financial and life-prolonging decisions in the event of disability.

Before exchanging vows, senior brides and grooms should consider their estate planning goals. A trip to the attorney prior to saying "I do" can help achieve their objectives.

Retirement Plan Do's and Don'ts

don't...

- just rely on your employer's beneficiary designation form;
- automatically begin withdrawals from an employer's plan at age 70 - 1/2 if you're still working;
- think a prenuptial agreement guarantees your 401(k) will pass to your children, rather than your new spouse, at your death;
- forget that you can name a charity or a charitable remainder trust as a beneficiary, thereby saving income taxes owed on retirement plans.

do...

- have your attorney or financial planner prepare a form that provides for contingent beneficiaries;
- take all mandatory withdrawals from IRAs and employer plans to avoid the 50% penalty. However, if you're still working, you may be able to postpone distributions from your 401(k)
- have your spouse sign the required waiver following your marriage if you intend for other family members to receive your 401(k) benefits. Waivers are not required for IRA beneficiary designations;
- see an attorney and call our office for ideas on how your retirement plan can provide continuing support for our programs while also benefiting family members.

Call Elaine Steinger at the Des Moines Jewish Foundation, 277-6321, for more information.

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[religion]

IJCR* SURVEY SHOWS SHARP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF AMERICANS WITH NO RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

Study also finds that many raised with multiple religions have no religion as adults.

When asked to name their religion, sixteen percent (16%) of American adults, or 34 million people, now decline to choose a church or denomination, up from less than ten percent (10%) in the early 1990s. That is, nearly one in every six Americans now answers "none" or "no religion," or describe themselves as secular, humanist, ethical-culturalist, agnostic, or atheist. Furthermore, at 16%, non-identifiers make up the third largest religion-defined group in the country, trailing only Catholics (24%) and all varieties of Baptists (17%), according to a new report, "The Decline of Religious Identity in the United States," released by the Institute for Jewish & Community Research.

Dr. Gary A. Tobin, the president of the Institute and author of the study, along with Sid Groeneman, explained the significance of the survey: "Although it is too soon to know if this evidence will mark the start of a long-term trend – or exactly what the decline implies – if it persists, these numbers clearly contradict the notion that all Americans are becoming more religious. While some Americans are becoming more religious, a significant number are moving in the other direction."

Tobin speculated that there may be long-term political implications of the move away from religion, since "other research shows that less religious individ-

uals tend to be more liberal and moderate politically."

The trend seems especially strong among the young. Fully one-quarter of 18-24 year-olds fail to identify with some religion, compared to only 5% of those 65 and older. This pattern persists steadily across the age spectrum. Commented Tobin: "Some of these young people may identify with a religion when they are older and some may not, especially those raised in households where more than one religion is present."

Consistent with the popular belief that children of mixed-marriage parents raised in multiple religious traditions are less likely to maintain any religious orientation as adults, the survey indicates that fully 26% of those with multiple religious origins are current non-identifiers. Among those raised in a single religious tradition as children, in contrast, only 11% have become non-identifiers as adults.

Gender and geography are also associated with the tendency to identify with a religion. Women are less likely to be non-identifiers (13%) than men (20%). Regionally, persons living in the West are more likely than those in other areas to be non-identifiers: 24% of Westerners vs. 14% of those in other parts of the country identify with no church or denomination. Only residents of the six New

England states come close to Westerners in their rate of non-identification (21%).

Those who do not affiliate psychologically with a religion are far from being purely "secular." More than one-third of them (36%) reported attending a religious service in the past year. About one-quarter (26%) said they probably or definitely expect to take up a religion sometime in the future. Fewer than half of this group (45%) are current service non-attenders and also do not plan to adopt a religion in the future. Commented Tobin: "Many in the group we've labeled 'non-identifiers' could also be characterized as 'unsettled' in their religious identity – some of them searching or experimenting with religious practices and belief systems. How many of them will find a suitable fit and how many will continue to seek and sample is impossible to guess."

The survey consists of 10,204 telephone interviews in the Continental U.S. The survey was conducted in the second half of 2001 and the first half of 2002. Percentage estimates based on the full sample are accurate within 1%. As in all surveys, other factors besides the sample size and design can affect the accuracy of the results.

Full text of the report can be found at <http://www.jewishresearch.org/v2/media.html>

The findings cited in this release come

[science]

ISRAELI PROFESSORS SHARE NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

Distinguished Professor Avraham Hershko and Distinguished Professor Aaron Ciechanover from the Technion are the winners of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for 2004. They won the prestigious prize together with Professor Irwin Rose from the University of California-Irvine.

Professors Hershko and Ciechanover, from the Technion's Bruce and Ruth Rappaport Faculty of Medicine, are the first researchers to identify the Ubiquitin system, responsible for the dissolution of proteins within the cell, thereby producing a breakthrough in research in cancer, degenerative brain diseases and many other diseases. Their discovery caused a profound change in scientific grasp of processes within cells.

The President of the Technion, Prof. Yitzhak Apeloig, expressed his great delight and satisfaction, in the name of all the members of the Technion family, on the historic achievement of these Technion researchers. "This is a mark of distinction for Israeli science generally and for the Technion in particular" he said.

Distinguished Professor Aaron Ciechanover was Prof. Hershko's student and together they succeeded in

[history]

Artifact containing the Priestly Benediction dates from 7th - or 6th- Century BCE

Ancient amulet contains earliest Biblical text yet documented

A text written prior to the exile of Israelites to Babylonia in 586 BCE is now considered the earliest Biblical passage extant. The physical text is 400 years older than those preserved in the Dead Sea Scrolls. This finding, postulated by archeologists, has been confirmed by experts in ancient handwriting. According to reports in the New York Times, the artifacts, two silver amulets, were found in 1979 in a burial cave west of Jerusalem's Old City. New photographic and computer techniques have only recently enabled scientists to improve the readability of the text, enabling the handwriting experts to do their job.


There is apparently unanimous agreement among the archeologists involved as outside referees as to the dating of the amulets. Thus has ended speculation that the amulets were written after the Israelites were exiled. That the text is now believed to have existed during the period of the Monarchy seems to refute those scholars who believe that the Bible was written after the exile to justify the authority of the new, post-exilic Israelite rulers.

The text that was found in the amu-

lets includes the Priestly Blessing from the Book of Numbers 6: 24-26: "May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and grant you peace." The Priestly Blessing is among the best known texts of the Bible and are included in both Jewish and Christian services.

The amulets containing the text were worn to ward off evil. One of the amulets measured four inches by one inch, the other an inch-and-a half by one-half inch. The words were written on thin silver plates which were then rolled to make a small scroll.


It was Dr. Gabriel Barkay from Bar-Illan University who discovered the amulets and conducted the research in conjunction with a team of scholars based at the University of Southern California. The team included professor of Semitic languages Dr. Bruce Zuckerman, Hebrew Bible specialist Dr. Marilyn J. Lundberg, and Biblical Historian Dr. Andrew G. Vaughn of Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. The group's report appeared in The Bulletin of the American Schools

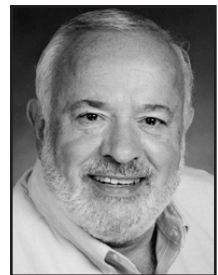
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DMARC Program Highlighted “The Golden Rule”

By Mark Finkelstein

A program organized by the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) brought together individuals from different faith traditions, in September, to focus on what is called, The Golden Rule, a moral imperative embraced by many religions. Dividing up the participants into small groups permitted each person to give examples of how he or she tries to live out, or be faithful to, the precept.

As stated in Judaism, the Golden Rule is: “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn.” The statement is attributed to the sage Hillel and is found in the Talmudic tractate, Shabbat, page 31a. Similar sayings are found in Confucianism (“Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself”), Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, and Hinduism. In Christianity, it is phrased “In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” And in Islam: “Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for

yourself.”

First and foremost, it came as a surprise to most of the participants that the Golden Rule is common to so many religions. Then, in telling their own stories, it became apparent that living by the Golden Rule requires us to pay closer attention to the needs of others. For example, one gentleman said that he assumed responsibility for an aged relative because that is how he would hope to be taken care of in old age. In another case, someone explained that to him, following the Golden Rule meant removing impediments for others, because he himself did not like to be tripped up by artificial impediments, whether they be literally physical impediments or hindrances that played upon weaknesses within one’s character. It was concluded that the world would be a better, more humane place, were the Golden Rule brought to mind more often.

Thanks are expressed to the Jewish community members who participated as facilitators at the event: Dick Brown, Robin and Peter Karney, Peter Pintus,

Jewish Bloggers ‘byte’ back

By Mark Finkelstein

It’s a hot topic these days. Blogs, bloggers, and blogging. Are you hip with the lingo? The word blog is an abbreviation for Web Log, an online diary of sorts, that others can respond to. There are literally thousands of blogs, of all types.

It should not come as a surprise that there is a plethora of Jewish blogs. For example, one popular blog (logging 35,000 ‘hits’ over the past year) is called Aidel Maidel, describing itself as “Just what it sounds like. A nice [Orthodox] Jewish girl in NYC.” (aidelmaidel.blogspot.com)

In one recent submission, Aidel Maidel asks: “Why do people come here? To this blog? What is it that attracts them? I have nothing brilliant to say on the state of affairs in the world. I am mostly clueless about politics. I’m pretty clueless in regards to the greater issues in the frum world. I just like to rant and rave and talk about stupid stuff and my boring day-to-day life. In fact, I even thought this morning about writing about flossing my teeth. What do I say that resonates with people? Because if I was reading this c*** on other people’s blogs I would be bored stiff. Just wondering.”

To which someone replied: “You know, I talk with people all day long. Sometimes we talk business, other times we talk belly lint. Most people don’t get enough opportunities to talk about the trivialities of everyday life. I sort of look at you as another person with whom to compare belly lint.”

But that’s just one example. Another interesting one in the same genre may be found at belledejew.blogspot.com

A very fine blog, dealing with issues about Judaism, the Middle East, and other topics is called Keshar Talk at <http://www.hfienberg.com/keshar> (Keshar means connection). Some of the postings draw comments from read-

ers, others don’t. One posting mentioned that the Israeli Army is re-designing its uniforms and included a link to the web article. Another submission, under the heading “Three day yom tovs and other esoteric weirdnesses of 5765” includes the following: “RECORD NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE MUSAF DAYS: In the Diaspora we say Musaf on 10 consecutive days, from Thursday 15 Tishrei through Shabbat 24 Tishrei. This is a record number of consecutive days, and this is the only scenario in which it occurs. Note that in Israel it is not even possible to have 9 consecutive Musaf days. The most there can be is 8.”

You never know when you need that information.

One final example. There is one called “The Velveteenrabbi [get the allusion? – MF]: a passionate, idiosyncratic un-Orthodox look at contemporary Judaism,” containing a very lengthy yet interesting reflection about how the blog-owner spent Yom Kippur. (velveteenrabbi.blogs.com/blogs)

Each of the blogs tends to provide links to many, many others. Bloggers tend to identify with each other and promote each other’s sites.

Blog readers can either pull up their blogs online or can subscribe and receive current material through e-mail. Readers can then take the initiative and respond to any given submission and have their comments posted for others to read.

How do you find blogs? We have a link on the Federation website www.dmjfed.org that will lead you to Keshar Talk, and from there you can link to many other blogs. You can select among blogs on www.somethingjewish.co.uk/jewish_blogs/ or you can go to www.bloglines.com and search for the type of blogs that might interest you.

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Developing New Niches for Tourism in the Western Galilee

Partnership 2000 promotes people-to-people relationships between the Western Galilee, Des Moines and 12 additional communities in the central US through cultural, social, educational and economic development programs.

"It was a hot, sunny summer day and an expensive car pulled up in front of the orchard's entrance and a gentleman dressed in a business suit and a beautiful woman dressed in her finest clothing got out of the car", relates Shmuel, the owner of the orchard in Moshav Ben Ami in the Western Galilee. He asked how he could help the couple, what kind of fruit they wanted and offered to spare them the trouble of picking it themselves in the scorching sun. The couple insisted on entering the orchard, dressed in their expensive outfits and pick the fruit themselves. After a few hours, they came back to the gate with burnt red cheeks; their clothes stained with fruit juices and huge smiles. They told Shmuel, "We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and we don't often get a chance to have such a unique experience." On the way to their car, the couple left Shmuel with a business card; his guest was none other than one of the country's most senior heart surgeons on the staff of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Picking fruit at the exotic fruit farm is one of a variety of family tourist entertainment attractions developed in Matteh Asher to bring more (primarily) domestic tourism to the region. Developing new

niches of tourism in the Western Galilee and increasing the occupancy in the Bed and Breakfasts of the region are the primary goals of the Matteh Asher Tourism project funded by the Partnership for Israel (Partnership 2000) and the 13 other Central Area Consortium communities. The Tourism project together with "Shukran" project in Akko are the two components of the Regional Development task force project of the Partnership, intended to be a catalyst for the growth and development of the Western Galilee.

"The purpose of the Regional Development task force of the Partnership is to have one element of the budget provided by the 13 communities which directly and exclusively helps the Western Galilee develop and flourish," explains Simcha Stein, the Israeli co-chair of the task force.

Yael Kastel and Shmuel Landau have operated their two-acre fruit farm for the past nine years. They are the founders of the Israel Exotic Fruit Growers Association and grow some 40 types of exotic fruits such as Feijoa, Surinam Cherries, mulberries, raspberries, passion fruit, guava, lichee and a variety of other unique species coming directly from China, Thailand, Vietnam, Chile, Mexico, Cuba and Brazil. They constantly conduct experiments pertaining to the assimilation of new fruit strains, their development and adaptability to various growth regions as well as nurturing a unique branch of tourism

that enables the general public to become acquainted with these exotic fruits by picking the fruit themselves in season.

The picking season begins in May and continues through the end of August. Each fruit is picked during its individual ripening season and the general public is invited to join in on the adventure on an individual, couple, and family or group level. The admission fee includes enjoying "all you can eat" of the fruit within the orchard's boundaries. Larger amounts may be picked and purchased at an additional charge. You can come either alone or as part of a group of up to 100 people, although Yael and Shmuel usually adhere to a "separation of forces" by hosting groups during the week and families primarily on the weekends. The couple is also happy to conduct guided tours throughout the orchard with illustrative stories and explanations concerning the various fruit trees and organic methods of cultivation.

The entire orchard is organic which means that the cultivation of the area and pest control is done by achieving a balance between insects and their predators, through the producing of these predators in an artificial laboratory setting and then using them in the orchard. At the nursery it is possible to purchase any of the tree types that Yael and Shmuel cultivate for one's home and garden with the appropriate advice and instruction

according to the climatic conditions of the tree's new home as well as how to make organic jams with the fruit.

Paw Paw Fruit Significant in Cancer Treatment

Among the many trees grown in Yael and Shmuel's orchard are paw paw trees that have stimulated significant interest in recent years. Indigenous to Northern America and first cultivated by Native Americans, the deciduous tree produces a long, elliptical, edible fruit with a brilliant green coloring. The Indians utilized all parts of the tree; the fruit for nutrition and the bark for medicinal purposes. Research teams from various American universities began to study the subject. Among the scientists was an Israeli researcher, formally a resident of the Western Galilee, who six years ago gave Shmuel the first paw paw seeds for use in a preliminary cultivation experiment. Together with a consultant from the Israel Ministry of Agriculture and in cooperation with Northern Research and Development, Shmuel began the acclimatization process.

For a number of years, American scientists have conducted a series of clinical studies examining the cancer healing related qualities of the paw paw tree. Recently researchers studying the tree's medicinal applications have received some unprecedented results. They found that compounds from the tree's bark had significant success in destroying drug

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Irshad Manji (2nd from left) makes a point.



"Faith is secure enough to handle challenging questions; dogma is inflexible," is how Irshad Manji, host of Toronto's weekly TV show "Big Ideas", explains her nuanced approach to religion. In a speech sponsored as a kick-off event for the 2005 All-In-One Campaign, Irshad Manji addressed an energized audience the evening of October 5 on religion, diversity of opinion, womens' empowerment, and the essential differences between living in societies that tolerate dissent and those in which dissenters are literally subject to loss of life or limbs.

A Pakistani from Uganda, Manji's family immigrated to Vancouver in 1972. The Manjis are practicing Muslims. As a child, Irshad, a bright, precocious and articulate youth, brought her questions to her Religious School teachers and met head-on with what she now characterizes as intolerant responses. At that point, she had choices: accept traditional answers, withdraw from the community or continue to engage with it. She has, through the years, chosen to re-engage. And she does it based on a principle, found within Islam, called Itjihad. Itjihad is defined, by Manji, as the struggle to make religious tradition bloom with new and creative approaches, loyal to the essence of the religion. As explained by Irshad, this creative principle was nudged out of Islam toward the end of the 11th Century, signaling the beginning of the end of the Golden Age of Islam in Spain. From then on until today, she argues, Islam valued 'imitation' over 'innovation.' Thus was lost the impetus of loyal debate, dissent, revision and reform.

Irshad's critique, of course, can be leveled at any of the world religions. Every religion, she says, has its 'literalists'. In her thinking, however, Islam is the only one of the religions in which 'literalism is still mainstream.' Hence her book, "The Trouble with Islam," the title of which she candidly wishes she could change to: "The Trouble with Islam, Today." Her implication: the religion has many fine attributes and should not be denigrated. Manji points out, however, that due to pressures from within, Islam has made it near impossible to revise out of contemporary Islam what she identifies as negative tendencies, the maintenance of ill-treatment of women, Jew-baiting and bashing, and slavery as practiced by Islamist regimes. The emphasis, of course, is on the word 'Islamist,' differentiated as it is from the practitioners of Islam as a whole. As she says, it is only a very thin minority of Muslims who are terrorists, but there is a passivity, denial, and complacency in the face of Islamist terrorism that threatens the well being of Islam in the modern world. Despite her critique, she remains a Muslim, and despite the threats leveled at her by some Muslims, she remains a critic. Her book, she says, was intended to create conversations and it has begun to do so, involving younger Muslims particularly, even if cannot always do so publicly.

The audience at her talk embraced her warmly and empathetically and enjoyed not only her thoughtful, nuanced presentation but her vital personality and keen sense of humor. They identified with and admired Irshad's uncompromising support for universal Human Rights. Among the topics covered, the audience was very interested in hearing Irshad's impressions about Israel, which she has visited twice. Indeed, she voices criticisms of certain Israeli policies, as detailed in her book. But, she concedes, she was "surprised" about the openness of Israeli society and commends neighboring Arab states to emulate its strengths.

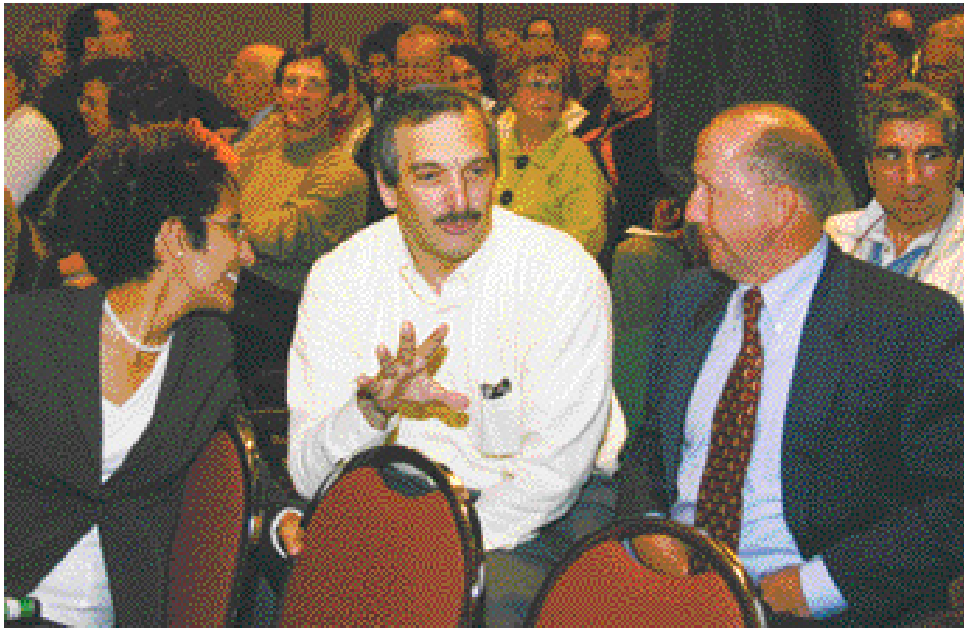
We were fortunate to have Irshad Manji with us that evening, prior in the day at the Pomegranates and Lions of Judah luncheon, and at the special dinner for major donors to the All-In-One Campaign. Those who attended any of these splendid events will not forget her soon.– Mark Finkelstein

Vibrant Talk Show Host, Winner of Oprah's "Chutzpah " Award for "boldness and conviction", gives Public Address

Irshad Manji

Advocates For Religious Pluralism A





Lions of Judah

- Margo Blumenthal
Diamond
- Pamela Bass Bookey
Diamond
- Shelley Brody
Diamond
- Bernice Caspe
Sapphire
- Suzanne Engman
Lion of Judah Endowed
- Debbie Gitchell
Diamond
- Leticia Gordon
Diamond
- Marilyn Hurwitz
Diamond
- Jeanne Levitt
Diamond
- Maddie Levitt
Emerald
- Rose Lee Pomerantz*
Diamond
- Gail Richards
Lion of Judah Endowed
- Elaine Steinger
Diamond
- Toni Urban
Lion of Judah Endowed

Pomegranates

- Hadasa Blend
- Barb Carlstrom
- Sarah Christiansen
- Tracy Engman-Finkelshteyn*
- Alyseann Galinsky
- Barbara Hirsch-Giller
- Dorothy Hockenberg
- Julie Howald
- Annette Isaacson
- Irina Kaplan
- Dorothy Kirsner
- Rita Loeb
- Lori Long*
- Cyril Mandelbaum
- Ingrid Mazie
- Naomi Mercer - Endowed
- Evelyn Mintzer
- Miriam Mintzer
- Polly Oxley - Endowed
- Mary Jo Pomerantz
- Roselind Rabinowitz*
- Audrey Rosenberg
- Marcia Gotsdiner Salem
- Molly Sandler
- Elana Schneider
- Mary Seidler
- Marina Staroselsky
- Dr. Eleanor Zeff
- Janice Zuckert

*New in 2005

And Tolerance

Quote Busters

by Ricki Hollander, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, online at www.camera.org

lated, unaccountable sources has boosted the proliferation of misinformation and bogus quotes. And when they are repeated by journalists, albeit those with radical anti-Israel agendas, few are willing to search deeper.

The CAMERA staff has researched many of the alleged quotes. Part I of our series on misquotes examines quotes that fall into three categories: 1) fabricated; 2) misattributed and 3) taken out of context.

FABRICATED

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

I don't know something called International Principles. I vow that I'll burn every Palestinian child (that) will be born in this area. The Palestinian woman and child is more dangerous than the man, because the Palestinian child's existence infers that generations will go on, but the man causes limited danger. I vow that if I was just an Israeli civilian and I met a Palestinian I would burn him and I would make him suffer before killing him. With one hit I've killed 750 Palestinians (in Rafah in 1956). I wanted to encourage my soldiers by raping Arabic girls as the Palestinian woman is a slave for Jews, and we do whatever we want to her and nobody tells us what we shall do but we tell others what they shall do.

Source given: Ariel Sharon in an inter-

view with General Ouze Merham in 1956 Investigation: This quote was found on hundreds of Arab Web sites, and indeed, seems to be a staple of anti-Israel propaganda. It cannot be found, however, in any text book, news article, or published record, nor is there any mention or record of a General Ouze Merham anywhere else. (Another giveaway is that the term "Palestinian" was not in use in 1956. It only came into vogue in the 1960's.)

Student columnist Mariam Sobh used the quote in her December 11, 2003 Daily Illini column, but later had to apologize. Summary: Fabricated quote, fabricated source.

Former IDF Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan

We declare openly that the Arabs have no right to settle on even one centimeter of Eretz Israel... Force is all they do or ever will understand. We shall use the ultimate force until the Palestinians come crawling to us on all fours.

Source given: Rafael Eitan, Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces, in articles by Gad Becker, Yediot Ahronot April 13, 1983 and in New York Times, April 14, 1983

Investigation: The quote does not appear in either article. While both sources discuss comments made by then-outgoing Chief of Staff Eitan, there is nothing remotely resembling this quote. A wider search of the New York Times archives

also turns up nothing.

Summary: Fabricated quote, incorrect source

MISATTRIBUTED

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

- You can call me anything you like. Call me a monster or a murderer.... Better a live Judeo-Nazi than a dead saint...
- Even if you prove to me that the present war in Lebanon is a dirty immoral war, I don't care...
- Even if Galilee is shelled again by Katyushas in a year's time, I don't really care. We shall start another war, kill and destroy more and more until they will have had enough...
- Let them tremble, let them call us a mad state. Let them understand that we are a wild country, dangerous to our surroundings, not normal, that we might go crazy if one of our children is murdered, just one! If anyone even raises his hand against us we'll take away half his land and burn the other half, including the oil. We might use nuclear arms...
- Even today I am willing to volunteer to do the dirty work for Israel, to kill as many Arabs as necessary, to deport them, to expel and burn them, to have everyone hate us.... And I don't mind if after the job is done you put me in front of a Nuremberg Trial and then jail me for life. Hang me if you want, as a war criminal...
- What you don't understand is that the dirty work of Zionism is not finished

yet, far from it.

Source given: Ariel Sharon in an interview with Amos Oz, Davar, Dec. 17, 1982 Investigation: The source is found on Arab propaganda and Marxist Web sites. It gained credibility when Rocky Mountain News international editor, Holger Jensen, included it in an April 2002 column attacking Israeli Prime Minister Sharon. Four days later, Jensen was forced to recant, admitting he had "made a grievous error in not verifying the authenticity of 20-year-old quotes attributed to Ariel Sharon." And shortly after that, Jensen "resigned to pursue other interests."


In fact, Amos Oz has confirmed that he never met nor interviewed Sharon. The so-called "interview" was a literary device taken from Oz's book In the Land of Israel. In the English version, the interviewee's identity is not revealed, and is referred to as Z (Flamingo/Fontana 1983). Apparently, Palestinian propagandists substituted Sharon's name for Z in the Davar interview. The description of Z does not fit Sharon, and at one point Z himself refers to Sharon, Begin and General Eitan.

Summary: Quote from an anonymous character in book is falsely attributed to Ariel Sharon.

TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT

President Moshe Katsav

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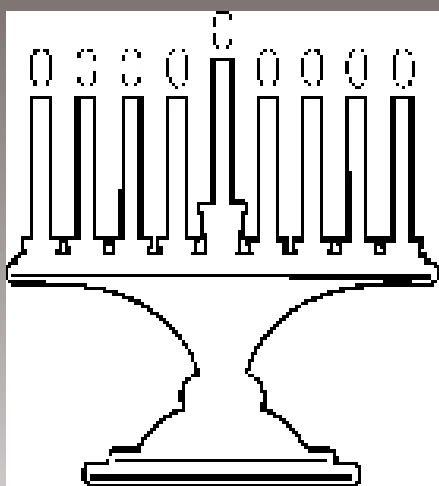
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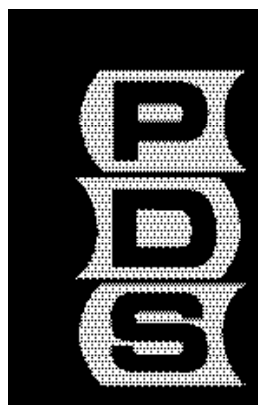
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IJHS Fall Event Showcased Lasansky's Art

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society Annual Fall Event included a Patron Dinner and presentation by Phillip Lasansky, son of Iowa City artist Mauricio Lasansky. The

evening's guests and speaker were welcomed by new IJHS President, Joyce Swartz. The evening's presentation, The Life and Art of Mauricio Lasansky, consist-

ed of a lecture by Phillip Lasansky and the showing of the Emmy Award nominated film The Nazi Drawings. A description of his father's life and art, the feeling behind it, and its eventual expression through this film were movingly described by Phillip Lasansky, co-creator and content advisor for the film. The Nazi Drawings were created by Mauricio in response to his profound disgust and outrage after viewing a US Military documentary showing the victims and aftermath of Nazi atrocities.

Mauricio worked intensively for six years to create the series, which consists of thirty individual pieces and one triptych. The figures in the drawings are life-size and larger in dimension.

Since their completion, The Nazi Drawings have been exhibited in many prominent art museums, and have received widespread public attention. In 1967, The Nazi Drawings, along with shows by Louise Nevelson and Andrew Wyeth, were the first exhibits installed at the new Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

Lines wrapped around the block with people awaiting entrance to the exhibition. Articles were published about The Nazi Drawings in Time and Look magazines as well as The New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. The Nazi Drawings continue to connect on a highly visual and deeply emotional level with observers of


all ages.

The Richard Levitt Foundation purchased The Nazi Drawings in 1969, and they now reside at The University of Iowa Museum of Art. They continue to travel to other museums every few years and occasionally can be seen on display in the Lasansky Gallery at the Museum. The Drawings were just recently on exhibit at the Cedar Rapids Museum.

The Nazi Drawings Documentary, released in April of 2000, was produced by Iowa City filmmaker Lane Wyrick, in collaboration with Phillip Lasansky with grants from the University of Iowa Foundation, Richard & Jeanne S. Levitt, Marvin & Rose Lee Pomerantz and Webster & Gloria Gelman of Iowa City. For more information visit www.lasanskyart.com


1. Toni and Tim Urban 2. Sylvia Wolff, guest speaker Phillip Lasansky and IJHS President Joyce Swartz 3. Patsy Tobis, Bud Hockenberg and Janice Rosenberg 4. Stan Richards and Ben Swartz





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THE TALENTED RACHEL BAILIN

By Robin Bear



On weekdays, Rachel Bailin can be found in classrooms at Valley High School, but outside school hours life is different for this talented eighteen year old musician. On weekends and occasional week-nights Rachel can be found playing electric bass guitar with her band, Antiggenre, in bars and venues around Des Moines. House of Bricks, Vaudeville Mews, churches and sports bars are a few of the spots you can hear Rachel's music during hours when alcohol is not being served.

"It's basically my whole life right now", says Rachel, describing her involvement in music. Her musical talents are diverse. Rachel plays piano, electric bass guitar and upright bass guitar. She currently is enrolled in two theories classes and a jazz class, and has background playing the trumpet. With all these activities, Rachel still finds time to squeeze in a couple practices with the band each week to prepare for upcoming gigs.

About twelve years ago, Rachel and her family moved to Des Moines from Minneapolis. She lives in Urbandale with her parents and younger siblings, Sam, Adam and Leah. Her family belongs to Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

Both sets of Rachel's grandparents live in South Dakota so her family travels often for visits. Each year her father's side of the family holds a family reunion. One of the most memorable reunions for Rachel was held in the beautiful Lost Coasts of Northern California. Other travels for Rachel include two trips to Italy, once during her sophomore year and another last summer when she spent ten days touring with the Valley High School Orchestra. Exposure to Italian culture and history made these two trips a favorite. She also hopes to visit Spain and Israel in the future.

Cross country, Art Club, Gay-Straight Alliance, philosophy club, and creative writing club are all activities Rachel participates in, as a senior, at Valley. She also enjoys entering creative writing pieces in essay contests.

A part time job has been educational as well as financially rewarding. Rachel says she's surprised how much she's learned since beginning work six months ago at the Earl May Garden Center. She can identify many species of plants and determine how to treat them when they aren't healthy.

Reading is a passion for Rachel who finds time to read every day. She enjoys the work of Chuck Palahniuk and has read many of his popular books geared towards teenagers. She describes William Faulkner as a brilliant writer and mentions that his book, The Sound and the Fury, is one of her favorites.

Rachel has begun her search for a college and is looking at schools in Chicago and New York to continue her studies in music and writing. Spending time with Rachel



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Mazel Tov

Aviv Luban graduated from Ames high school on May 21, 04. Aviv, his parents Pnina and Marshall, and siblings Dekel, Sarit and Barak are members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue in Des Moines and the Ames Jewish Congregation. In honor of his graduation and 14 years of music making, including four years as a member of the Iowa All-State Orchestra, Aviv presented a graduation cello recital in Ames on May 28. Aviv will be attending Brandeis University in Boston in the fall as a Presidential Scholar. He is planning to double major in Jewish Studies and possibly history and minor in music. Aviv is also one of 34 Iowa high school graduates awarded a National Merit Finalist Scholarship.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow
the recent passing of

Dr. Harry B. Elmets
Dorothy Lederman
Mildred Sherman
Linda Weindruch

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B'nai Mitzvah



Adam Bailin
Son of Steven Bailin and Audrey Porter, was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 23, 2004, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.



Isaac Poole
Elise Poole is happy to announce the Bar Mitzvah of her son, Isaac Poole, on October 29, 2004, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.



Sam Bassman
Sue & Ronald Bassman invite you to share in their happiness at the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Sam, on November 6, at 10:00 a.m. at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. A Kiddush luncheon will follow.



Noah Steimel
Noah Steimel, son of Betsy Rubiner and Dirck Steimel, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah at 4:30 p.m. on November 13, 2004, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.



Jordan Shrago
Jordan Shrago, son of Nina & Steve Shrago, will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah on November

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[view from Israel]

A Time to Reflect

By former Areiva to Des Moines, Ayelet Kleinman

Dear Friends!

I can hardly believe that it is Fall and the high holy days are over. For me, the high holy days, other than the religious meaning they have, are a time to be with my family. I remember when I was a child, I used to dress up nicely, go to the synagogue and then we all came home for dinner – after all, it is a Jewish holiday.

Unfortunately, since my grandmother passed away, the high holy days, for me, are different. My grandparents were the ones that made sure we would celebrate the holidays, sing the songs, go to synagogue – and it is kind of strange to do it without my grandmother.

But actually, that is not what I wanted to share with you this time.

There is something I had been meaning to do for a number of years now, and that is to document my grandparents’ histories. I wanted to tape their recollections so that we, the young generation and the ones after us, would have it to remember them by. There was a time when I could have tape-recorded each of my four grandparents; now I only have one left, my grandfather.

I remember, whenever I was asked in Junior High school to write an essay about someone I admire, it was my grandfather I wrote about. Of course, the essays were lengthier as I matured, but the main idea stayed the same: I believed then, just as I believe now, that my grandfather is actually “a walking history” of the State of Israel. He served in the Israeli defense forces before it was officially an army; he helped people making Aliya to Israel even before the state was declared; his friends were important Israelis; he and my grandmother were pioneers [Chalutzim] and helped establish a few new places in Israel, and so much more.

A few weeks ago, when he turned 80, I had a long conversation with him. We spoke about the past and the future of our family and that of The State of Israel. He told me he never even in his worst dreams imagined Israel would be in its “present situation.” He said his generation envisioned a totally different future for their land and for its people. After hearing these words, I now feel compelled to question my grandfather even further, if for no other reason than to preserve for others a first-hand account of a pioneer and the idealism of his generation.

So during the Succoth vacation in October, I plan to talk with my grandfather and record his life story. And I promise to tell you, in the next edition, what I learned from him about these broad historical issues. Till then.

Shalom!

Yours, Ayelet.

Pop Icon, Leonard Cohen Turns 70

By Mark Finkelstein Hard to believe, but one of music’s most popular icons, bal-ladeer Leonard Cohen has turned 70. The romantic Bohemian of Montreal, whose bleak music with vivid (and some say, unparalleled) imagery has spanned more than three decades, released a new CD at the end of October.

Cohen grew up in Westmount, a middle class suburb of Montreal and he includes information about his Jewish upbringing and his neighborhood in his 1963 novel, The Favorite Game, through the persona of the main character, Breavman. Despite forays into Zen, Cohen, who reportedly entertained the Israeli troops during the 1973 war, identifies as Jewish. To one questionnaire of Jewish identity, for example, he epigrammatically quotes a fragment of Psalm 137, “If I forget thee” when asked if he retains his Jewish teaching. And he summarizes his upbringing as having internalized the values of maintaining “just balances, just weights.” Another indicator is that one of his most beautiful songs, “Who by Fire,” plays off the structure and content of the famous text, “How many shall leave this world and how many shall be born into it...” from the Yom Kippur service. He reprises a version of the Akedah in his composition, “The Story of Isaac.”

Cohen first attracted attention as a poet while an English major at Montreal’s McGill University. In addition to two novels, he now has 15 albums, the first of which appeared in 1968. His music has been recorded by many artists, including Judy Collins. Although his vocal quality

has changed over the years (it wasn’t so great to begin with and is now deep and raspy – almost a whisper,) he still sings better than William Shatner. And no, his fans are not known as Cohanims.

An early compilation, Best of Leonard Cohen, contains his most popular songs like “Suzanne,” “That’s No Way to Say Goodbye,” and “Bird on a Wire.” More Best of Leonard Cohen includes “Anthem,” whose lyrics are excerpted below. Cohen’s lyrics are generally unsuitable for children. Comprehensive information about Leonard Cohen may be found online at www.leonardcohenfiles.com

Anthem
The birds they sang
at the break of day:
“Start again,”
I heard them say.
“Don’t dwell on what
has passed away
or what is yet to be.”

You can add up the parts
but you won’t have the sum
You can strike up the march,
there is no drum.
Every heart
to love will come
but like a refugee.

Ring the bells that still can ring.
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything.
That’s how the light gets in.
That’s how the light gets in.

Excerpts from Leonard Cohen’s song,

18 The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press

november/december 04

Meet Dorice Bassewitz



At the age of 6 in 1929, Dorice immigrated to the United States with her mother, Leah Markman, and her older brother, from Vilna, Poland. Her father, Isadore Markman, had immigrated years before immediately after Dorice's birth, to establish a new life for the family. Her father settled in New London, Wisconsin, near relatives, and opened a little grocery store. Leah's family was in Sheboygan, nearby, and so, at the age of 6, Dorice with her mother and brother, Harold Markman, was reunited with the father she hadn't known. He prepared well for his family and they luxuriously came to the States on cruise liner, Ile de France.

Dorice was raised in New London and in 1942, ventured off to the University of Wisconsin in Madison where she majored in economics and minored in marketing. While she was at Wisconsin, she returned home for the High Holidays where she met her husband to be, Max Bassewitz, in synagogue. Max was home on a visit from the service; he was from Sheboygan.

After their marriage in 1947, Max, a practicing attorney, and Dorice lived in Sheboygan for 5 years, but in 1952, when Max went into a family business,

a department store in New London, Dorice and Max moved there. Son, Jim, was born before the move to New London and daughter, Barbara, was born afterwards. Jim's death in 1966 was a profound loss for the family.

In 1978, Max suffered a heart attack and left the family business to again practice law full time. Dorice became his legal secretary. Max passed away in 1987.

Barbara ventured to school to Drake University in Des Moines where she met her husband, David Lettween. So, in 1989, Dorice moved to Des Moines to be closer to Barbara and enjoy her two grandsons, Joe, now 26 and Peter, 23. Joe now lives in Minneapolis and Peter attends the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Dorice's life has been filled with volunteer responsibilities, so when she moved to Des Moines it was not a surprise when Barbara involved her in GIVS, Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services, where she narrated and produced fashion shows for any organization willing to pay for them.

As a volunteer at Goodwill, Dorice also repaired and dressed used dolls for resale.

Tifereth Israel activities were also part of Dorice's life with her. She co-chaired Chanukah dinners and lunch groups for seniors.

For 12 years Dorice could be found at the Discovery Shop at Clocktower Square as a volunteer for the Cancer Society.

Although Dorice's eyesight is failing, she continues to make afghans for the

residents of the Jewish Senior Life Center and in the past has made dozens of afghans for the Linus Society for ill children.

On the ship coming to the United States, Dorice viewed her first film and today is a true movie buff. She has learned to play Mah Jongg and regularly plays bridge. Her traveling has ceased but her activities certainly haven't.

Max came from a family of nine children and Dorice has always remained close to them. Cooking for large num-

Food Processor Potato Latkes

A recipe from Dorice Bassewitz

Pareve

1 20 ounce bag of shredded hash browns, not frozen	1/4 teaspoon white pepper
1/2 cup flour	4 eggs
1 teaspoon baking powder	1 small onion
1 teaspoon salt	Oil for frying


In food processor pulse one small onion until finely chopped. Add all of the additional ingredients above, pulsing on and off but leaving the consistency lumpy.

Place oil in frying pan and drop a quantity of the potato batter in the oil the size of a pancake and fry until golden brown. When finished pat with paper towel.

Latkes may be topped with applesauce or for a dairy meal, sour cream.


The potato latkes can be easily frozen after frying by placing them in the freezer on cookie sheets until frozen and then placing them in baggies.

To reconstitute after freezing, place the latkes on a cookie sheet for 15 minutes at 375 degrees.



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November 5 8:00 p.m. Shabbat Services, lay led

November 6 Movie and refreshments for adults. More information to follow.

November 12 8:00 p.m. Services led by Rabbi Rosenbloom. An Oneg to follow.

November 13 10:00 a.m. Shabbat morning services and Torah study with Rabbi Rosenbloom; 2:00 p.m. Adult Education with Rabbi Rosenbloom

November 19 8:00 Shabbat services, lay led

November 26 No Shabbat services: Thanksgiving vacation

December 3 8:00 p.m. Shabbat services, lay led

December 10 8:00 p.m. Shabbat services led by Rabbi Rosenbloom; an Oneg will follow.

December 11 10:00 a.m. Shabbat services with Torah Study led by Rabbi Rosenbloom; 2:00 p.m. Adult Education with Rabbi Rosenbloom; Chanukah party in the evening. More information to come.

December 17-December 31 No services: Winter vacation

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January 23, 2005 – "Parents and Children" Obligation and Opportunity"

February 2005 (Date to be determined) - "A Community of Meaningful Relationships"

April 10, 2005 – "A Relationship to Ourselves"

"Rabbi's Table Dinners" November 5, 2004, Featuring Tifereth member Dr. Allan Scult, speaking on his most recent book; February 4, 2005

"Movies and Midrash" will be in the evenings on weekends with food, a movie and discussion on the following dates: November 13, 2004; January 15, 2005; March 5, 2005

"The Book Club" November 22, 2004; December 13, 2004; January 17, 2005; February 21, 2005; March 22, 2005 (Tuesday); April 18, 2005; May 16, 2005

Tifereth Israel Women's League cordially invites you to A Torah Fund Brunch

at 11:00 a.m. on November 7th, 2004 in the Social Hall; Adults: \$7.50 and Children under 12: \$5.00; For your entertainment there will be a program of nostalgia featuring THE FACES OF OUR CHILDREN. Taped 18 years ago in 1986, this charming video stars the children of our Community Religious School.

Note: Moms, Dads, Grandmas and Grandpas, if your children or grandchildren attended the Community Hebrew School held at Tifereth Israel during 1986, don't miss this chance to "qvell" as you watch this delightful program. Prepaid Reservations Requested. Please mail your check made out to Tifereth Israel Women's League by Friday, October 29th to: Janel Marcovis 12156 Sunset Terrace, Clive, Iowa 50325 (224-4143)



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Aviv Luban's Essay on Holocaust Remembrance Accorded Prize

Aviv Luban of Ames was one of ten winners in the 2004 National Holocaust Remembrance Project Essay Contest for high school students sponsored by Holland and Knight Charitable Foundation. From some 3200 entries, ten winners were selected and granted an all-expenses-paid 6-day trip to Washington D.C. that took place in mid-July. They were accompanied by the organizers as well as several Holocaust survivors and educators from across the country. The trip included visits to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other historic sites as well as many educational sessions. The trip ended with a banquet where General Wesley Clark was the invited speaker.

The trip was an unforgettable educational experience. The winners were also awarded college scholarships.

Aviv is the son of Pnina and Marshall Luban of Ames. He is currently a Freshman at Brandeis University in Boston and he thoroughly enjoys the vibrant Jewish life this university offers. The Luban family are members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

The website <http://holocaust.hklaw.com> includes full information about the annual contest. To read the winning essays of the past 10 years, click "winning essays"

Remembrance: Our Obligation To The Dead And The Living

By: Aviv Luban

"It was the closing days of World War II 1945. After being driven through death marches, we wound up in a camp called Guttendorf. People were dying left and right from hunger. We were sleeping on bags and lying on boards. And every morning when we woke up, there would be more dead bodies all around us.

"A good friend of mine was sleeping next to me, his name was Misha. One night, he woke me... and said to me, 'I don't think I'm going to make it through the night. Please, remember what they did to us. Keep telling the world that the

worst crime is indifference to the pain and suffering of others.' Misha and a thousand more like Misha make it our obligation and responsibility to not let the world ever forget what was done to our people."

These haunting words were spoken by Steven Springfield, a survivor and President of Jewish Survivors of Latvia, at the remains of Riga's Gogol Synagogue, which was burned to the ground (along with several hundred Jews seeking refuge within) by the Nazis and their Latvian collaborators in 1941. He was speaking to an audience of several dozen Latvian Holocaust survivors, their children and grandchildren. I was among them.

I visited Latvia with my grandmother, aunt and cousin in June, 2001 as part of a

reunion of Holocaust survivors from Latvia. During the week-long trip, we visited surviving remnants of Latvia's once-vibrant Jewish communities: An old, empty synagogue, neglected cemeteries, and the childhood home and school of my grandmother. We also visited ghetto and extermination sites. Some of them had names which were vaguely familiar to me: Rumbuli, Smerle, Aizpute. At these sites, some of the greatest crimes in history were perpetrated in the name of Der Fuhrer and the Fatherland.

Before my trip, I was never able to fully comprehend the mind-numbing events of the Holocaust and the harrowing experiences of my grandparents, separated from me by oceans and decades. But my experiences in Latvia shattered this sense of distance. Returning with my grandmother to the sites of Latvian Jewry's annihilation completely changed my understanding of the Holocaust. As powerful as this was, nothing during the trip moved me like the story of Misha and his simple message. To me, Misha's words, uttered on his deathbed, encapsulate the Holocaust's greatest lessons: Never grow callous to human suffering. Tell the world what happened. Remember.

Hitler's victims were robbed of their possessions and posterity, their dignity, their lives. The horrors of the Holocaust, that tremendous human conflagration, cannot be reversed. The events of the past are beyond our control. But it is up to us whether the memory of the victims of the Final Solution will live or die. By telling their stories, documenting their experiences, speaking their names, thinking of them, and ultimately making them a part of our lives, we the living can ensure that they are not dealt a second death.

While writing about her experiences in the camps, my grandmother made it a priority to mention as many names as she could (Harpak). She explained that perhaps this was the only evidence that these people ever existed. She also attempted to include as much information about her experiences as possible, since the compelling desire to tell the world about what she had endured is what empowered her, like so many other Holocaust survivors, with the will to live.

But remembrance has more than just symbolic value. By remembering, by sharing the story of a survivor, one has the potential to touch people's hearts, hopefully preventing such horrors from ever happening again.

Following the war, the world declared "Never Again" to xenophobia and anti-Semitism. Yet in just six decades, it appears that many have forgotten that promise. In what one commentator has described as "a half-life of tolerance" (Lauder), the outrage over the Nazi atrocities, and the desire for tolerance that resulted, are waning in certain parts of the world. In recent years the world has witnessed a disturbing increase in expressions of anti-Semitism, in the form of thinly veiled vitriol and hate speech, and in some cases, open acts of violence. Synagogues have been attacked in Turkey and France, with deadly results

(Davis). Cemeteries have been desecrated, and Jewish day schools have been firebombed in France and Canada. Even in the US, a Holocaust museum in Terre Haute, Indiana was recently burned to the ground by arsonists.

Many who remember the Holocaust say that the last time Europe was so ripe with hatred towards Jews was 1938. In the halls of power, in academic circles, in the media and on the street, "anti-Semitism is alive and well" (Wiesel).

With this resurgence of anti-Semitism, and survivors dwindling in number, recalling the lessons of the Holocaust could not be timelier. By telling the stories of survivors, by conveying the humanity of the victims, we can teach young people the importance of tolerance and the dangers of hatred, and hopefully inculcate in them respect for all people. Many efforts are currently underway to document the atrocities of the Holocaust. Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial museum, is currently building a database of the names of all the victims of the Holocaust (Martyrdom 8). Filmmaker Steven Spielberg has collected hundreds of thousands of hours of documentation and footage of survivors describing their experiences. One Holocaust survivor from my grandmother's hometown of Liepaja produced a memorial book containing information on all its Holocaust victims and survivors (Anders).

There is much that students and young people can do along these lines. As a fluent Hebrew speaker, I personally plan to translate my grandmother's Holocaust memoirs into English, and add my own chapter as an epilogue, describing the Latvia reunion. Such personal projects, however modest, can help ensure that memory endures.

Near the end of our Latvia trip, we visited a place called Skedes, outside of Liepaja. Today, it is a large, idyllic field by the sea, with rolling sand dunes mimicking the nearby ocean waves. In 1941, when the Einsatzgruppen passed through Liepaja, all the city's Jewish women and children, numbering in the several thousands (including my grandmother's mother, grandmother, and younger sister), were rounded up and shot in Skedes in a day of frenzied killing, and buried in mass graves (Anders, Harpak). Those sand-covered graves lay beneath our feet. More than any place that we visited, at Skedes the awful past was readily palpable, within physical reach. Standing at the site of my family's extermination, I was as close to my people's history as time and space could allow.

Before leaving Skedes, we recited Kaddish, the ancient Jewish prayer of mourning. Through this small act of remembrance, we declared to Misha and the Six Million, we remember: Never Again.

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The Kings of Copper

The Hendricks family of New York helped lay the foundation for the Industrial Revolution in America. Their pioneering production of copper was vital to the growth of the American economy and the nation's military might. When the company closed in 1938, Hendricks Brothers was the oldest continuous privately held Jewish family business in the United States.

Uriah Hendricks, the patriarch of the family, was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1737 and emigrated from London to New York City in 1755. In New York, he opened a dry goods store and became an active member, and eventually parnas, or president, of Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue. The congregation served as the unifying institution of the New York Jewish community, which numbered about 200 people. In 1764, Hendricks established a metals business, importing copper and brass from England, which discouraged manufacture of these commodities in the American colonies. On his death, Uriah's only son Harmon took over the metals importing company, as well as the family role in leading Shearith Israel, where he too served as parnas from 1824 to 1827.

Recognizing that the United States could never attain true independence so long as it was dependent on overseas production of essential products such as copper, Harmon Hendricks helped transform the United States from an importer to a manufacturer of copper. In 1812, during the American war with England, Hendricks

and his brother-in-law Solomon Isaacs built one of the nation's first successful copper rolling mills in Soho, New Jersey. Historian Maxwell Whiteman observed that Hendricks became "his own metallurgist at a time when the secrets of the science of refining metals were jealously guarded by the English." Because of his skill, Hendricks made possible the use of copper rather than iron in the manufacture of steam boilers, a development that allowed boilers to be heated to higher temperatures without cracking.

One of Hendricks's most important copper customers was Paul Revere, the famous patriot and metalsmith who lived in Boston and who became a friend. The American Jewish Historical Society's archives contain letters between the two men. Another good customer was the fledgling United States Navy. The Hendricks firm produced the copper used to sheath three Navy vessels in New York harbor at the same time that Revere was cladding a fourth, the Constitution, now ironically

known as Old Ironsides, with copper probably supplied by Hendricks. These copper-clad ships helped the United States fight the British to a standstill in the War of 1812. Hendricks made another

contribution to the war effort by subscribing the then-considerable sum of \$40,000 to government issued war bonds.

Robert Fulton, credited with inventing the steamship, was another frequent customer of Harmon Hendricks's copper. In the spring of 1807, Hendricks supplied the copper used to build the boiler for the Clermont, the first inland steam driven

packet boat in the world. The shipping of goods and passengers by Fulton's steamships and their successors dominated interstate travel and commerce until the invention of the railroad.

When Harmon Hendricks died in 1838, he had helped transform American industry. His advocacy of the use of copper in shipbuilding made America a naval power. His technical knowledge, engineering skill and willingness to invest in

advanced techniques of copper manufacture set a standard for American industrial innovation. His three sons and four grandsons succeeded him in the business. The last member of the family to operate the business was Harmon Washington Hendricks, who died in 1928. Hendricks Brothers closed its last copper mill in 1938.

Just as Harmon Hendricks was able to build a business that his descendants maintained, he was able to continue a tradition of religious commitment that his father, Uriah, had bequeathed to him. Each of Harmon's children found a spouse among the families at Shearith Israel. Son Henry joined his father-in-law, Tobias I. Tobias, as an officer of one of the earliest Jewish charities, the Society for the Education of Poor Children and Relief of Indigent Persons of the Jewish Persuasion, which was founded in 1827. In 1833, Henry joined his brother-in-law, Benjamin Nathan, as a founder of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, which was modeled after a similar organization established in Philadelphia by Rebecca Gratz. In 1852, Henry Hendricks and eight others founded Jews' Hospital, now Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City, the oldest Jewish medical institution in the United States.

Isaac Leeser, editor of The Occident, the leading American Jewish newspaper of the pre-Civil War era, was often critical of what he considered the aloof and uncharitable attitudes of the Sephardic "grandees." To quote Maxwell Whiteman, however, Leeser "singled out the liberality of the Hendricks family as an exception... Modesty and reserve continued to govern the family attitude in matters of philanthropy, and the practice of keeping such activity from the public eye, begun by Harmon Hendricks, was maintained by his descendants."

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The Constitution, or "Old Ironsides", which helped the US fight the British to a standstill in the War of 1812, was reinforced with copper provided by the Hendricks Brothers, the oldest continuous privately held Jewish family business.

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calendar

november/december

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday	11/06/04	10:00 AM	Samuel Louis Bassman Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Sunday	11/07/04		Beth El Sisterhood Rummage Sale
Sunday	11/07/04	11:00 AM	Women's League Torah Fund Lunch at Tifereth
Sunday	11/07/04	12:00 PM	Senior Lunch at Beth El Jacob, Java Jews entertain
Tuesday	11/09/04	10:00 AM	Women's Study Group at Tifereth
Tuesday	11/09/04	4:30 PM	Temple Executive Committee
Tuesday	11/09/04	5:30 PM	Temple Board Meeting
Thursday	11/11/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at the Temple
Saturday	11/13/04	4:30 PM	Noah Steimel Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Saturday	11/13/04	6:00 PM	Movies and Midrash at Tifereth
Sunday	11/14/04		Beth El Sisterhood Rummage Sale
Sunday	11/14/04	10:00 AM	Women's League Meeting at Tifereth
Wednesday	11/17/04	10:00 AM	IJHS Board Meeting at Tifereth
Thursday	11/18/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at the Temple
Saturday	11/20/04	10:00 AM	Jordan Tyler Shrago Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Sunday	11/21/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Investment Club Meeting
Sunday	11/21/04	9:00 AM	Bagels and Beliefs at Tifereth
Monday	11/22/04	12:00 PM	Tifereth Book Club Meeting
Tuesday	11/23/04	10:00 AM	Women's Study Group at Tifereth
Tuesday	11/23/04	7:00 PM	Tifereth Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday	11/25/04		THANKSGIVING - NO MELTON CLASSES
Thursday	12/02/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at the Temple
Saturday	12/04/04	10:00 AM	Aaron Frederick Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Monday	12/06/04	6:00 PM	Federation Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday	12/07/04		First candle is lit
Thursday	12/09/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at the Temple
Sunday	12/12/04	5:30 PM	Sisterhood Hanukkah Dinner at Beth El
Monday	12/13/04	12:00 PM	Tifereth Book Club
Tuesday	12/14/04	4:30 PM	Temple Executive Committee
Tuesday	12/14/04	5:30 PM	Temple Board Meeting
Wednesday	12/15/04	10:00 AM	IJHS Board Meeting at Tifereth
Thursday	12/16/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at the Temple
Sunday	12/19/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Investment Club Meeting
Thursday	12/23/04		School Winter Recess - NO MELTON
Thursday	01/06/05	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at the Temple

Quote continued from page 15 The remains of Kobi Mandel and Yossi Ish-Ran, who had played hooky from school to explore a cave, were found on May 9, 2001. The Jerusalem Post clearly placed Katsav's words in that context:

- President Moshe Katsav said yesterday that Israel would never stoop to the brutality the Palestinians displayed in the stoning to death of two Tekoa teenagers this week.
- "There is a huge gap between us and our enemies - not just in ability but in morality, culture, sanctity of life, and conscience," Katsav told reporters at Beit Hanassi.
- "We would never stoop to the kind of brutality inflicted on the victims in Tekoa and Ofra," he added. "They're our neighbors here, but it seems as if at a distance of a few hundred meters away, there are people who don't belong to our continent, to our world, but actually belong to a different galaxy."
- Katsav said Israel must change its approach to the Palestinians, but stopped short of voicing exactly what that new approach should be -- although he appeared to imply that retaliation is at times necessary.
- "Force is no solution to anything," he said, "but sometimes it's essential."
- Referring to the brutal murders of two young boys from Tekoa, Katsav said he is sure there are Palestinians and other Moslems who oppose ter-

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What To Do For A Loved One At Home Who Has Alzheimers

By Rose Epstein

- **Keep lights on in your home so it will look cheery all of the time.**
- **Have locks put up high on the door leading to the outside of your home so your loved one cannot walk outside.**
- **Remove locks on all of the bathroom doors.**
- **Bathe loved one every day.**
- **Manicure nails and toe nails often.**
- **Take them to the bathroom often.**
- **Change their sleepwear often.**
- **If a man, shave him often. If a woman, wash her hair weekly.**
- **Serve dessert every day.**
- **Read your loved one the comics all the time.**
- **Take your loved one to the dentist to make sure their teeth are okay.**
- **Have radio music in the house.**
- **Take a walk every day.**
- **Make sure your loved one is wearing a wander band on their wrist with their name, address and phone number.**
- **Go for a ride in the car.**

Rose Epstein

A Leader in the Fight Against Alzheimers

By Mark Finkelstein

There is a charm and graciousness, apparent to anyone who carries on a conversation with Mrs. Rose Epstein, that is simply captivating.

Despite her age – she happens to be 93 – Mrs. Epstein remains articulate and vitally concerned about others. Her passions she shares with others. She loves the arts; her apartment is adorned by the works she has painted under the tutelage of her famed teacher in Des Moines, Dimitar Krustev. The paintings are outstanding. She reads the Des Moines Register daily and clips pertinent articles to discuss with friends. The day we visited, Mrs. Epstein had on display the Register's article about the 350th anniversary of the Jewish community in America – this illustrating her deep and abiding Jewish identity. She enjoys playing Mah Jongg twice a week with friends. And at the forefront of all else, Mrs. Epstein helps educate others on how to care for loved ones suffering with Alzheimers.

Mrs. Epstein's good and practical advice, printed below, comes hard won. Her beloved husband Joe, to whom Rose was married for fifty-five years, passed away twelve years ago after having degenerated from Alzheimers. And as we talk about how best to assist individuals afflicted with the disease, Mrs. Epstein guides me around her apartment, showing me the specific accommodations she made that protected and comforted Mr. Epstein, the best that one could. Her additions to the apartment and to its environment make a lot of sense, and to actually see how a house can be set up to contend with the realities of Alzheimers makes a deep impression.

"I just love to take care of people, to help people," she says.

"Sixty-eight thousand people in Iowa are afflicted with Alzheimers," she comments. "So many families in small towns or on farms don't know what to do for their loved ones." Through the wide distribution of her basic list of things that may be done, Mrs. Epstein will surely have an impact.

What has already made an impact has been the library of the Alzheimers Association, named for Mrs. Epstein's late husband. The Joseph Epstein Memorial Library had been established at Lutheran Hospital and has now been transferred to the Association's new home at 1730 28th Street in West Des Moines. The library has room to sit and read materials and space for families or professionals to view videos from the library in private. Its hours are Monday-Friday, 8 am – 4:30 pm.

Mrs. Epstein would encourage members of the Jewish community to become actively involved in the Alzheimers Association and its mission to find a cure for this disabling disease and to help families contend with the realities of life under duress. The Alzheimers Association may be contacted at 440-2722, online at www.alz.org/greateriowa.

Mrs. Rose (Tabach) Epstein was born in Waterloo, Iowa. She and her husband owned eleven Arnolds and Sterns 'ready to wear' fashion shops. Mrs. Epstein has six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren (with another on the way). She notes with joy that her grandchildren call her every week. Her sister, Sheila, has modeled a number of her paintings on famous pre-existing works. Several of her renditions are pictured at right.

