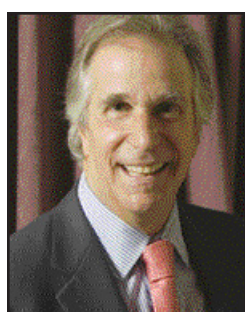




# Jewish Press

Published as a Community Service by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines online at [jewishdesmoines.org](http://jewishdesmoines.org) • volume 23 number 2

## 2007 All-In-One Campaign Opens With Gala Success!

**Henry Winkler**

The Greater Des Moines Jewish community came out in force to greet each other in time for Rosh Hashanah 5767 at the 2007 All-In-One Campaign Opening Gala of the Jewish Federation. Over 330 guests

enjoyed a memorable evening to celebrate achievements in providing essential programs and services, hear how lives have been positively impacted because of the generosity of community members and to be entertained by actor, producer, director and humanitarian

Henry Winkler.

As a result of the event, \$384,699 was raised for the 2007 All-In-One Campaign, with an outstanding 14% overall increase. Included in the results were 20 new gifts.

Prior to the community Gala dinner, Event Chairs Margo and Don Blumenthal hosted a Leadership Gifts Reception for individuals who give annually over \$1250 or couples \$2500. Guests had the opportunity to personally greet and have their photos taken with the guest speaker. "We want to again thank our committee for planning a very special event, bringing the Jewish community together to enhance the lives of Jews locally, in Israel and around the world. We are happy to note that the entire program was covered entirely by private

## Gail Richards Honored Among 2006 Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award Recipients



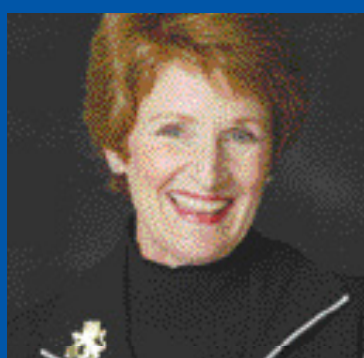
In 2004, National Women's Philanthropy announced the establishment of the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award in recognition of Norma Kipnis-Wilson and Toby

Friedland, founders of the Lion of Judah pin. Introduced in 1972 for the Miami Women's Division campaign, under their leadership, the Lion of Judah pin has firmly established itself as a symbol of commitment to the worldwide Jewish community. This award recognizes extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism in their communities. The Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award was presented at the International Lion of Judah Conference in Washington D.C. **Focus on New Global Realities**

## Des Moines Delegation to Attend GA Nov. 12 - 15

A delegation of lay leaders and a staff representative from the Jewish Federation will participate in the 75th Annual United Jewish Communities (UJC) General Assembly (GA) in Los Angeles, Nov. 12-15.

Spotlighting Israel and the Jewish communal response to today's domestic and global challenges, the largest annual gathering of Jewish leadership in North America will strongly reflect the shared concerns of Jews around the world. GA sessions will also focus on core concerns of the federation system, including fundraising, domestic affairs, Jewish renaissance and renewal, and

**Alex Pomerantz**  
Next Gen - page 18**Debbie Gitchell**  
-chef du jour - page**Christie Vilsak & Toni Urban** - page

## Local Jewish Community Raises Over \$300,000 for Israel Emergency Fund

The past few months have been difficult ones for the State of Israel, as it faced renewed violence and terror by those who wish its total destruction. While the constant barrage of katyusha rockets pounding Israel's northern communities have ceased, the damages are vast and widespread. The effects of the month-long war are clearly evident, transforming much of the countryside into an obvious war zone with damaged buildings, burnt-out cars, and miles of greenery reduced to black, lifeless reminders of the carnage. Many apartments were damaged by direct rocket hits, miles of water pipe destroyed, roadways damaged, schools hit, and businesses and factories closed. Our own Israel Partnership region, the Western Galilee, was particularly impacted, with a direct hit taken by the hospital and the

multi-ethnic city of Acco riddled by scores of rockets. Israel now faces unprecedented challenges and the difficult task of recovery. All of its efforts are now being directed toward rehabilitating those areas most affected.

Toni Urban, President of the Jewish Federation and Neil Salowitz, Campaign Chairman have reported that the greater Des Moines Jewish community has responded and continues to respond to the massive fundraising effort launched at the onset of the war. "What the people of Israel went through is unfathomable. We are pleased to announce that our community raised to-date, over \$314,000, for the Israel Emergency Campaign which will make a considerable difference to Israel's future and well-being. Over 200 families have responded to our request for funds, augmented by a very generous

### [inside]

**2 DM ART CENTER CLASSES AT CASPE**

**3 SALOWITZ ON THE GALA**

**5 LION OF JUDAH CONFERENCE**

**11 NOV. 16 OBSESSION FILM AT CASPE**

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines  
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Des Moines, IA 50312-2297

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## At The Caspe Terrace

# Art Classes Slated for The Caspe Terrace Begin in

Judy Blank and Vicki Givant, Co-Chairs of the Jewish Federation Caspe Terrace Programming Committee are pleased to announce the premiere of two art classes at The Caspe Terrace this winter, in a collaborative partnership with the Des Moines Art Center.

"This partnership will enhance our mission to bring new and quality programming offerings to the entire greater Des Moines community," said Judy Blank. "We especially invite the Jewish community to enroll in these special art offerings that will certainly open new horizons for the participant."

Beginning Tuesday, January 23, for six weeks, 6:30 – 9 pm, the Jewish community's own Cynthia Shulman and her business partner Jill Jensen will offer a fused glass class, Chagall and Glass. Students learn many techniques of glass fusion to create objects inspired by the colors and designs of Marc Chagall. A new project will be introduced each week to expand students' glass manipulation skills. In addition to tuition, a material fee of \$40-\$50 per project is charged. This allows students the opportunity to create up to six different projects depending on their interest and intricacies of their work.

Des Moines Art Center instructor Kathy Glenn will offer Beginning Watercolor, a six-week class beginning

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 – 9 pm. Kathy is a member of the Iowa and Arizona Watercolor Societies and is a retired public school teacher. Students learn the foundations for making successful watercolor paintings, including paper and brush selection and color mixing. An introduction to composition and various techniques is presented. Students furnish their own supplies.

Tuition for each class is \$57 for Art Center members or \$71 for non-members.

These courses will be included in the Des Moines Art Center's Winter/Spring class schedule, available in late November and viewed on-line at [www.desmoinesartcenter.org](http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org). Students ages 16 and older are encouraged to register as soon as possible as class size is limited.

"The Art Center is delighted to bring art classes closer to students living west of Des Moines. Community support has enabled us to provide art classes to children and adults for almost sixty years at the museum site. Offering classes at The Caspe Terrace will reach even more students," said Peggy Leonardo, studio programs director at the Des Moines Art Center.

According to Vicki Givant, "We look forward to announcing additional course offerings, new community partnerships

## Des Moines Art Center Classes at The Caspe Terrace

# Chagall and Glass

**Learn the many techniques of glass fusion to create objects inspired by the colors and designs of Marc Chagall. A new project is introduced weekly to expand your skills at manipulating glass through various techniques as you learn more about Chagall's art.**

**A565** Tuesday 6:30 – 9 pm (6 weeks)

**January 23 – February 27**

**Jill Jensen and Cynthia Shulman**

Limit 12 students

Tuition \$71 (\$57 Des Moines Art Center Members)

Material fee \$40 - \$50 per project, due at class

# Beginning Watercolor

**Learn the foundations for making successful watercolor paintings, including color mixing, paper, and brush selection. An introduction to composition and various techniques is presented. Beginning Drawing is recommended before taking the class.**

**A526** Wednesday 6:30 – 9 pm (6 weeks)

**February 7 – March 14**

**Kathy Glenn**

Limit 12 students

Tuition \$ 71 (\$57 Des Moines Art Center Members)

For a complete Des Moines Art Center class brochure, or to register for a class, call 271-0306, or log-on to <http://www.desmoinesartcenter.org/education>

For further information about programming at The Caspe Terrace located at 33158 Ute Avenue, call Steve Reitman at the Jewish Federation at 277-6321.

## Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

# Honor Roll 2006

Thank you to the Greater Des Moines Jewish community for additional gifts to the 2006 All-In-One Campaign since the publication of the Honor Roll in the September/October Jewish Press.

## Leadership Gifts \$1500-\$4999

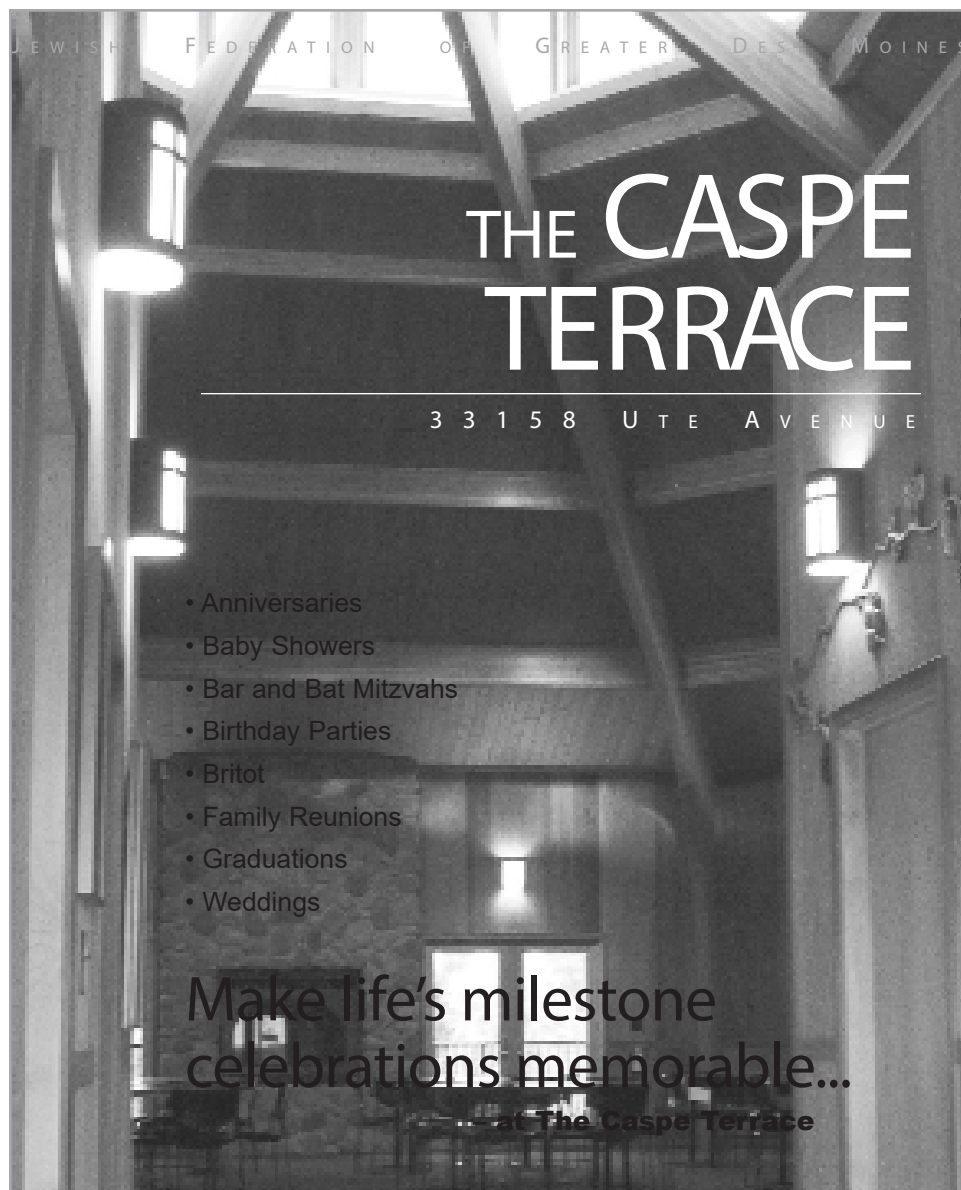
Alice Daniels

Edward and Anne Loeb

## Community Division \$1-\$612

Diane Adler

David Wiczner



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



## A Message from Neil Salowitz, President-Elect



Friends:

The Campaign Opening Gala was a great evening, giving us the opportunity to come together as a community, as K'lal Des Moines, to reaffirm our support for our community and our fellow Jews here and in Israel, through our gifts to the Jewish Federation's 2007 All-in-One Campaign.

Among other things, I'm a storyteller...and I told the following story at the Gala:

There was once an old man, who decided to plant a tree. It was a little tree, no more than a foot tall, with spindly little branches that had no leaves. The old man carried the tree out to his garden and dug a hole, then carefully picked up the tree, carefully placed it into the hole he'd dug and covered the roots with soil.

While he was working, his neighbor, a much younger man, watched him. Finally, the young man couldn't contain himself any longer, and he said to the old man, "Neighbor, I don't mean to be rude, but why are you working so hard to plant that little tree? Forgive me for saying so, but you're an old man. You won't be around to enjoy that tree when it's grown."

The old man looked at his neighbor, then looked at the little tree. "Do you see that tree over there?" said the old man, pointing to a magnificent oak tree, its leaves creating a canopy of shade.

"I see it," said the young man. "So what?"

"My grandfather planted that tree," said the old man. "When I was a child, I played under that tree. I sat with my back against that broad trunk and read books, and in the fall I gathered the acorns that fell from the branches. I love that tree."

The old man looked at his young neighbor and smiled. "You see," he said. "I'm not planting this little tree for myself. I'm planting it for MY grandchildren."

I love that story, because it reminds me of who we are as Jews. We honor the past—our mothers and fathers, our bubbes and zaydes—we take care of our fellow Jews in the present and, yes, we plant trees for the future. That's what this campaign is about—honoring those who have gone before us, helping those who need our help in the present and building for the future.

How many of you have cell phones? How many of you have a Blackberry or other "personal digital assistant"? How many of you have iPods?

We live in a digital age. Our phones and our Blackberries keep us constantly plugged in, constantly connected to our homes and offices. Our days are full; we rush from home to work, to doctor's appointments, meetings, shopping, back home, all the while using our iPods to disconnect from the world, to listen to our own personal soundtracks. I'm not sure that all this rushing around is particularly meaningful. I KNOW that it sometimes causes us to forget to do the things that truly bring meaning to our lives as Jews and as human beings. In our busy lives, we need to remember to do one more thing, that one thing that will be among the most meaningful and satisfying things you will do this year—to reaffirm your commitment to your fellow Jews and to your community here and in Israel, through your financial support of the 2007 Campaign.

In 2006, this campaign raised over \$850,000. That money—your gifts—are doing so much good both here and in Israel. They have provided senior adult services for the older people in our community, our mothers and our fathers. You supported that.

Your gifts have provided support for Jewish education for our children, for the Adult Jewish Leadership Institute, for helping our newest Americans to settle here, for Camp Shalom and for our Israeli shlichim. You supported that.

[thanks]

### Professional Recording Equipment Donated

Thank you to **Zona and Barry Pidgeon** for donating professional recording equipment enabling us to record all our wonderful programming in the Bucksbaum Auditorium at The Caspe Terrace.

Their gift was made in loving memory of Lew and Neece Caspe. Zona and Barry reside in Dallas with their children Steve and Dr. Leslie, Michael, David and Sheryl, and Daniel and Mindy.

### The Caspe Terrace Drive Paved by Generous Contributions

The Jewish Federation offers its sincere thanks to **Jeffrey Caspe** and **Des Moines Asphalt and Paving Company** for their generous contributions enabling the repair and paving of the road that leads to The Caspe Terrace from Ute Avenue. The new road, which will beautify the property, should last many years. For those who may not know, Jeffrey Caspe is the son of the late Bernice and Lewis Caspe, who originally purchased the 46 acres in Waukee for the Jewish Federation and after whom the property is lovingly named.

THE GREATER DES MOINES

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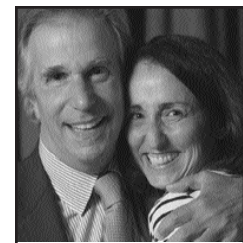
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Paid advertising by candidates for elective office is welcome but does not constitute endorsement by agencies affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

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



[strike a pose]

Thank You to **Laurie Wahlig**, whose photos of the Henry Winkler All-In-One Campaign Gala adorn our center-fold. Her talents as a photographer are outstanding.

## JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL AMES JEWISH COMMUNITY

### JFCS READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In September, JFCS kicked off their new reading program for elementary students. Our program was created to give incentives to students for reading Jewish books. Twice a month, our students will visit the library to hear stories read by Mara Eggherman and to take time looking through the many Jewish books we now have available for them to check out. Students will also have the opportunity to talk about their books during library time. Students may also check out books at any of the synagogue libraries, local libraries or read books they may already have at home.

Our first incentive is if a student reads just ten books by Jewish authors or about Jewish themes, they will receive a five dollar coupon to be used towards the purchase of a book at our Jewish Book Fair on November 19th. A new incentive will begin again after winter break.

There is not a better way than to supplement a child's classroom and home learning about their Jewish heritage than through Jewish literature. "The Jewish people are brimming over with tales to tell. Our history is long and rich and filled with drama. A treasure trove of folklore and literary works explains and defines the varied experiences." Judaism Through Children's Books, ARE Publishing 2001.

Below is our first book review by Sophie Phillips, a second grader at JFCS.

The Matzo Ball Boy by Lisa Sulman – Once there was a bubbe who was lonely so she decided to make a matza ball boy. When she went over to check on him, he came alive. He jumped out and ran out the door. She chased the matza ball boy but she could not catch him. He started singing "run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the matza ball man."

Soon, he came to Schneider. They ran as fast as they could but could not catch him. He passed the yenta and her ten children coming home from the market carrying apples. Then he ran by the Rabbi who was going to the synagogue. The Rabbi licked his lips, but the matza ball boy just kept on running. He yelled over his shoulder, "I ran away from my bubbe and the Schneiders and I can run from you too." And then he started singing, "run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the matza ball man."

They came to a river and they stopped chasing him. The matza ball boy noticed the river and there was a fox behind him. The matza ball boy jumped in and swam away. The fox jumped in, swam a few strokes but could not reach the matza ball boy. He yelled, "swim swim as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the matza ball man."

The matza ball boy was feeling sad. Then a man noticed him and brought him home. "No one should be hungry or cold on Passover!" They went to his warm cottage. The man

### PURCHASE A TREE CERTIFICATE – A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER

**For \$36, a tree certificate will be mailed to the recipient.**

At The Caspe Terrace, your \$36 goes towards the purchase of trees, planting, care, and maintenance. A copy of the tree certificate will be displayed at Caspe Terrace.

For over 50 years, Jews all over the world have helped turn Israel from a desert to a green land that flourishes with forests, olive trees, fig trees, flowers and plants. We now have our own opportunity to make the land at The Caspe Terrace green. Caspe Terrace has already become our backyard where we can meet with our families, have picnics, and celebrate simchas and holidays together as a community.

Why purchase a tree certificate? Here are 10 reasons:

- God commanded us to be "keepers of the Earth."
- Making sure God's creation will be there for future generations.
- Trees will symbolize our growing community.
- To remember a loved one.
- To celebrate a joyous occasion.
- Trees provide shelter for wildlife and prevent soil erosion.
- As windbreaks, trees can be shields against wind and snow.
- Trees add beauty and grace.
- Trees give us food and shade.
- Trees help to make fresh air.

capture lasting memories with  
a gift that lasts forever.

- HONOR YOUR GRANDPARENTS
- WEDDINGS
- BIRTHDAYS
- BIRTHS
- BAR / BAT MITZVAHS
- CELEBRATE YOUR CHILDREN
- REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

"One person cannot plant a forest,  
but a community can plant a forest one t

Purchase a tree certificate – a gift that la



Jewish Federation Community School - 924 Polk Boulevard - Des Moines, IA 50312  
For \$36, a tree certificate will be mailed to the recipient. Your \$36 goes towards the purchase of trees, care and maintenance.

### Religious School News

The children in the religious school recently welcomed Rosh Hashanah with hands-on activities involving the rituals associated with the High Holidays. They rotated their way through stations to learn how to blow a shofar and to make traditional holiday foods. This Sunday morning in late September culminated with a Rosh Hashanah feast from the sweet dishes they had prepared and an assembly in which John Pleasants led them in song.

At one station, the students attempted to sound the three types of Shofar blasts—Tekia, Shevarim and Terua—with varying degrees of success! Jacob Pleasants taught them the special Hebrew blessing recited before the shofar is blown while providing background on what a ram's horn represents. In another station, they conducted a counting game to guess the number of seeds in a pomegranate. Did you know the seeds number between 600 and 625, close to our 613 commandments? The children also made a carrot called Tzimmes, an Eastern European recipe, and ate their own miniature round challahs, which symbolize the cycle of life.

In the regular curriculum, the students in grades 2 through 4 are taking a "tour" of Israel using puzzles and games to learn everything they can about the country. Jessie Svec teaches them again this year. In Hebrew, the pre-b'nai mitzvah students (grades 5 through 7) are focusing on the Shabbat prayer service and the meaning of the prayers. For religious studies, these students are learning about the weekly Torah portions, the D'var Torah and the Jewish life cycle. Their teachers are Adah Ackerman for Hebrew and Ellen Sarlat for religious studies. The older students in grades 8 and 9, who are post B'nai mitzvah, are concentrating on Jewish ethics, exploring controversial issues facing Jews today. Anat Rubin is their teacher. Our confirmation students in

### HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE & EDUCATION PROGRAMMING OFFERED

BY UNI Under the direction of the Office of the Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, the University of Northern Iowa is offering a series of events over the next three semesters dedicated to the themes of Holocaust remembrance and education. The initiative includes lectures, exhibitions, a film series, and performances, all of which will be free and open to the public.

UNI has had a significant involvement in Holocaust Education, offering numerous courses. The University includes the study of the Holocaust among its Humanities requirements and, moreover, ensures that its Education majors are equipped to teach this topic.

Since 2001 the University has co-sponsored an international conference on the Holocaust at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland. For the past four years, a "Holocaust Remembrance" lecture has been broad-

cast to hundreds of sixth to twelfth-grade students over the statewide teleconference facilities. In recent years, UNI has featured lectures by a Holocaust survivor and by historians from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as well as having mounted an exhibition, "Residue of Silence" at the UNI Gallery of Art.

Among the goals of the Committee organizing the events are to honor the memory of those who suffered and died under Nazi tyranny and to encourage Iowans to reflect upon the historical, ethical, and moral issues raised by the Holocaust. They are particularly interested in honoring those Iowans, while they are still alive, who fought for the liberation of Europe from Nazi rule.

Most of the events included in the programming will take place on the UNI campus in Cedar Falls; some will take place at the Hearst Center for the Arts in

### Project Elijah Foundation and Community School Kids Helping Jewish Orphans

**By Janice Rosenberg  
Executive Director  
Project Elijah Foundation**

The Greater Des Moines Jewish Federation Community School students are reaching out to help Jewish Children in need. This year, the students will be learning about and helping the impoverished and orphaned children of Ieladeinu by working with the Project Elijah Foundation.

Ieladeinu (Our Children) is an orphanage for Jewish children in Buenos Aires, Argentina that houses 50 Jewish children who have been separated from their parents by the courts due to abuse and neglect. There is a waiting list for more Jewish Children to come live there. In addition, Ieladeinu feeds and helps another 200 impoverished Jewish children in the area. Ieladeinu has been recognized by Unicef for their model of care in rebuilding the lives of these children.

The Project Elijah Foundation provides resources to help Jewish children who are victims of domestic abuse, family violence and poverty. It was started by Des Moines Jewish Community members Alan and Janice Zuckert. Currently the sole focus of The Project Elijah Foundation are the children of Ieladeinu.

During Yom Kippur of this year, the confirmation classes of Tifereth Israel Synagogue and Temple B'nai Jeshurun helped distribute an appeal from the Project Elijah Foundation for volunteers and donations to help. As the donations come in, the confirmation classes will see how the money is used. They are learning about the lives of the children of Ieladeinu. There will be other projects throughout the year that connects the children of the Des Moines Jewish Community School and Ieladeinu.

To learn more about or if you would like to help with The Project Elijah Foundation and Ieladeinu, please visit



# 2006 International Lion of Judah Conference Drew 1,700 Jewish Women Leaders

**Former President Clinton, UN Ambassadors John Bolton and Dan Gillerman Addressed Delegates on Global Threats; Israel Emergency Campaign Highlighted**

WASHINGTON, DC – Sept. 10, 2006 – The International Lion of Judah Conference of United Jewish Communities (UJC) opened here today, as more than 1,700 women philanthropists from across the continent and around the world gathered to examine critical domestic and global issues demanding response and how to make a difference. Des Moines attendees included Gail Richards, Debbie Gitchell and Elaine Steinger.

The biennial conference, sponsored by UJC's National Women's Philanthropy (NWP), provides women with opportunities to affirm their Jewish identity through philanthropy, act on issues affecting the Jewish community, and inspire other women by example.

"Those who are gathered here are activists and stars in their communities and their families," said Carol Lee Levin, chair of the International Lion of Judah Conference. "Individually and collectively, we have the power to make a difference in addressing needs that are great, and that are growing. We want to make sure that the grandmother in the former Soviet Union knows she is not alone, and that kids in the north of Israel can get away from the danger when rockets are being launched in their direction. We can't for-

get anyone."

Lions of Judah, the name given to women philanthropists who give a minimum gift to the UJC annual campaign, donate approximately a quarter of the campaign's nearly \$900 million yearly total, which supports social and humanitarian services, and strengthens Jewish community domestically and worldwide. Besides supporting the UJA Federation Campaign of UJC, Lions of Judah may also exercise their philanthropy through the Spirit of Israel, a campaign of The Jewish Agency, or Keren Heyesod, supporting Jewish communities beyond North America and Israel.

Significant too is the support of woman philanthropists to the UJC Israel Emergency Campaign, which to date has raised \$284 million for humanitarian, social service and economic needs of Israelis in the short- and long-term aftermath of Israel's recent defensive war, and to Operation Promise, which has so far raised approximately \$70 million to support Falas Mura émigrés to Israel, the elderly in the former Soviet Union and Jewish community building initiatives there.

In opening addresses on Sunday, Ambassador Dan Gillerman, Israeli repre-

sentative to the United Nations, and Ambassador John Bolton, American representative, drew attention to threats facing Israelis, Americans and others, and the responsibility of the world community to address these threats.

The cease fire between Israel and Hezbollah enacted last month "is not the end of the war, this may very well be just the beginning," Gillerman said. "What we saw was just a preview of things to come. The Hezbollah was not just fighting Israel and it was not just the fingers of Hezbollah or the arms of Hezbollah that kidnapped our soldiers and shelled our cities. The Hezbollah is just a proxy, a hired killer, of a far more evil power in the world, and that is Iran.

"The Hezbollah is only the bloody fingers at the end of the long arm and twisted minds of a president who denies the Holocaust while he very diligently prepares the next one and is continuing on his urgent quest for nuclear weapons," Gillerman continued, referring to Iranian president Maumoud Ahmadinejad. "The world is still standing by watching as they make progress toward that horrible end which will allow them to be able to carry out what he claims to be his desire, and that is to wipe Israel off the face of the

map."

Howard Rieger, UJC president and chief executive officer, referred to the war on Israel this summer, the attack on the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle in July, Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, needs of the Falas Mura and the elderly in the former Soviet Union and other challenges that have confronted the Jewish community just within the past year. But he said that the Jewish community, with the support of Lions of Judah, continues to meet them.

"The UJC and Jewish federation system is in its own way stronger than it has ever been," he said. "Yes, we've had challenges, but we've demonstrated that we can respond during times of crisis. We demonstrate that we respond on an ongoing basis with an annual campaign that is reaching toward \$900 million, a huge part of which comes from each of you.

"Each of you as leaders of your communities sets the very highest standards for yourself. As Lions of Judah you've demonstrated that you know what it means to participate. The adrenaline flowing throughout this conference is the best possible barometer of our success. We've always faced challenges. Let's all be ener-

## Jewish Federation Community School Chanukah Celebration

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2006  
10AM—NOON**

**TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN**

**9:00-10:00 AM—Students prepare for Program**

**10:00-11:00—Program—Sanctuary**

**11:00-Noon—Crafts and Snacks**

Parents—Please drop your child(ren) off at the Temple at 9am so they may prepare for their part in the program.

Please join your child(ren) at 10:00am for our program.

## JFCS BOOK FAIR

Choose from over 100 titles • Something for everyone!

**Sunday, November 19, 2006  
Temple B'nai Jeshurun • Social Hall  
9:30 am – 1:30 pm**

Join us for an exciting preview of new books as well as your old favorites plus a selection of games, toys and CD's.

Orders will be taken at this time and will arrive before Chanukah, which begins Friday evening, December 15.

If you are unable to attend but would like an order form or information about our selection, please contact Lyanna Grund, Director, JFCS – 277-5566 or jcsllkg@aol.com

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Happy Hanukkah!

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## senior news

**Luncheon November 9th at the Temple** Come listen to the heart warming voice of Dorothy Clark, a published poet and member of the International Society of Poets. She will present "Moments with D," a motivational/inspirational poetry and prose program.

**At our December luncheon,** brought back by popular demand, we will have the Fat Cat, Jim Wangemann. Come join us and walk down the musical memory lane. He will provide us with a delightful time of Jewish songs, music from Lawrence Welk,



songs from "Fiddler on the Roof." **Online requests are accepted and a very informative and wonderful program on non-medical services they provide in the home.**

## United Way Donors

**Did you know that you can designate part or all of your United Way contribution to Jewish Family Services?**

The money received through these designations helps the Federation pay for...

- Jewish Family Services Counseling - Individuals, Families, Seniors and Children
- Senior Adult Programs - Senior Adult Luncheons and Case Management
- Resettlement Program - Case Management and Health Services to New Immigrants
- Jewish Family Life Education - Operation Good Mensch
- 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

## Hanukkah Postage Stamp Re-Issued for 2006



The U.S. Postal Service's Hanukkah stamp, issued originally in 2004 at the Postage Stamp Mega Show in New York City and valued at 37 cents was

re-issued by the U.S. Postal Service as a 39 cent stamp on October 6.

Art director Ethel Kessler combined

two elements in the design of the stamp: the type in the background spelling out Hanukkah, designed by Greg Berger, and a photograph of a dreidel (a four-sided top), made by Elise Moore. The dreidel is from the collection of Rabbi Lennard and Dr. Linda Thal, who purchased it in Jerusalem.

In 2004, S. David Fineman, Chairman of the presidentially appointed Postal Service Board of Governors, who dedicated the Hanukkah stamp said: "This stamp represents the season, offering a unique moment on the doorstep for our friends, families and customers, who

## ADULT EDUCATION

### January Thaw 2007:

**Adult Education Mini-Courses Examine Spiritual Issues**

Presented by The Des Moines Area Religious Council, The Jewish Federation and St. Joseph Educational Center, the educational series "January Thaw" provides entertainment and informational lectures on a variety of spiritual and community-oriented topics on Tuesday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 23. For the price of \$20, one can attend a class on both of the Tuesdays. Mix and match the courses you wish to attend from among the offerings. The classes will be offered at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines.

Entertainment precedes both sessions, starting at 6:30 pm. On January 23, the Java Jews Klezmer Band will perform. Classes then run from 7 - 9 pm with a brief intermission.

The classes with Jewish content include: On January 16, Rabbi David Kaufman will speak about "Creation and its interpretations in Judaism." On January 23, Rabbi Beryl Padorr will be among the panelists discussing religious perspectives on end-of-life issues; Cantorial Soloist Laura Berkson will conduct a musical program featuring members of B'Yachad, the Temple Choir; and Mark Finkelstein will discuss aspects of the Mitzvot.

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# Planning For The Income Tax Charitable Deduction

A charitable contribution at death provides the donor with an estate tax charitable deduction. On the other hand, a charitable gift made during one's-lifetime serves to eliminate the gifted property from the estate for estate tax purposes, as well as provide for an income tax charitable deduction. Other than an outright gift to charity, the following outlines some techniques that may be used in connection with lifetime charitable giving.

## CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST

The charitable lead trust (CLT) can be structured to provide both a benefit to charity and to the donor's family. Essentially, a CLT is a trust that provides that the "lead" interest (which must be structured as an annuity [i.e., the right to receive a determinable amount] or unitrust [i.e., the right to receive a fixed percent of the fair market value of the trust's assets determined annually]) is payable to one or more charitable organizations, such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, and the remainder is payable to one or more non-charitable beneficiaries. The charitable beneficiaries need not be specifically designated, i.e., the document can permit the trustee to allocate the annuity or unitrust payments among multiple charitable beneficiaries or to select new charitable beneficiaries each year. During the term of the lead interest, payments may only be made for charitable purposes. The annuity interest or the unitrust interest must be paid to the charity in all events, regardless of whether trust growth or income is sufficient to make the payment.

The charitable deduction is equal to the present value of the annuity or unitrust interest determined in accordance with Sec. 7520<sup>1</sup>, which permits the use of the Sec. 7520 rate for the month in which the transfer occurs or the rate in either of the two preceding months. The lower the Sec. 7520 rate, the greater the value of the charitable interest and corresponding charitable deduction and the lower the value of the remainder interest and the smaller the non-charitable gift.

The following illustrates the use of the CLT: Assume a transfer of \$1,000,000 to a 15-year CLT with a 6 percent charitable annuity in July 2006. (Although the July 2006 Sec. 7520 rate is 6 percent, Sec. 7520(a) permits the use of the more favorable May 2006 rate of 5.8 percent).

Annual Payout	\$ 60,000
Present Value of Annuity	\$590,424
Remainder Interest	\$409,576
Charitable Deduction	\$590,424
Amount Subject to Gift Tax	\$409,576
Donor's Deduction as	59.042%

### Percent of Amount Transferred

If the CLT "makes its numbers," - or earns at least 6 percent - the trust income would be sufficient to satisfy the annuity payment to charity, thus leaving the corpus intact for the remainder beneficiaries. If the transferred property returns more than 6 percent, the remainder interest that will pass to the non-charitable beneficiaries at the end of the term will be the \$1,000,000 originally transferred to the trust plus the excess over the 6 percent payable to the charitable beneficiary. If, on the other hand, the CLT fails to produce income sufficient to pay the annuity amount, principal of the trust must be used to make the payment to charity.

For the donor to obtain the immediate benefit of the charitable income tax deduction for the lead interest, the trust must be structured as a "grantor trust." As a grantor trust, the donor would remain taxable on the income subsequently earned by the CLT, with no further charitable income tax deduction. However, if excess income, i.e., income above the annuity or unitrust amount is paid to charity, the donor could deduct the excess income, subject to the general percentage limitations on income tax charitable deductions.<sup>2</sup>

If during the term of the CLT the donor ceases to be treated as the owner of the trust, the donor must include in income in such year a portion of the charitable deduction that was originally allowed, thus "recapturing" some of the benefit of the charitable deduction. This would occur if the donor were to die prior to the termination of the charitable term. The amount subject to recapture is equal to the initial deduction less the discounted value of all amounts that were actually paid to the charity before the time of death.

## Des Moines Jewish Foundation Board:

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The CLT is subject to the restrictions that govern private foundations<sup>3</sup>, and the trust document must include provisions that will prevent the violation of the private foundation rules; i.e., a prohibition against self-dealing as defined in Sec. 4941(d), against retaining excess business holdings<sup>4</sup> as defined in Sec. 4943(c), from making any jeopardy investments so as to subject the foundation to tax under Sec. 4944, and from making any taxable expenditures as defined in Sec. 4945(d). An exception to the excess business holdings and jeopardy-investment provisions applies if (i) the value of the charitable deduction for the lead interest does not exceed 60 percent of the total fair market value of all the interest held by the trust, and (ii) the CLT's entire income interest is devoted exclusively to charitable purposes.<sup>5</sup>

## REMAINDER INTEREST IN PERSONAL RESIDENCE

The most widely known way to benefit a charity with a remainder interest is to create a charitable remainder annuity trust, create a unitrust, or give to a pooled-income fund. There is another recommended method though, which is giving charity a remainder interest in a personal residence. A donor is entitled to an immediate income tax deduction for the contribution not in trust of an irrevocable remainder interest in a personal residence.<sup>6</sup> A personal residence is any property used by the donor as a personal residence and need not be the donor's principal residence.<sup>7</sup>

The value of the remainder interest (and corresponding charitable deduction) is computed based on the Sec. 7520 rate as described above. Using the 5.8 percent Sec. 7520 rate and based on the life expectancy of an individual age 75, the remainder interest is worth 57.523 percent, i.e., the contribution of a residence valued at \$1,000,000 would generate a charitable income tax deduction of \$575,230. In lieu of retaining the interest for life, the donor can retain the right to use the property for a term of years. For example, the charitable deduction for the right to use the property for 10 years, with the remainder passing to charity at the end of the 10 years, would be \$569,041. This method can also be used to obtain an estate tax charitable deduction.

## FRACTIONAL INTERESTS IN ARTWORK

A gift to charity of a partial interest in property will not produce a charitable deduction. However, a donor is allowed an income tax charitable deduction for a gift of an undivided portion of the donor's interest in property.<sup>8</sup> An undivided portion of the donor's interest is a fraction or percent of each substantial interest or right owned by the donor in the property and must extend over the entire term of the donor's interest.<sup>9</sup>

A charitable gift of a fractional interest in art would allow the collector to retain the artwork for part of the year and obtain an income tax charitable deduction with respect to the part of the year the charity is entitled to the artwork. For example, if the donor gives an undivided one-twelfth interest in a painting to a museum, the donor will be entitled to an income tax charitable deduction equal to one-twelfth of the value of the painting. The museum has the use of the painting for one month and the donor the remaining 11 months. A museum will generally accept gifts of fractional interests if it is assured it will eventually receive the remaining interests at the death of the donor.

## CONCLUSION

Charitable giving can be structured in many ways to accomplish the donor's objectives. Lifetime gifts may not only result in tax advantages, but the donor will also have the added benefit of witnessing the gift being enjoyed. Consult with your financial planner for advice about a plan that is right for you.

1. All Sec. references are to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

2. Treas. Reg. Sec. 1.170A-6(d)(2)(ii).

3. Sec. 4947(x), 508(4)(2) and 508(e).

4. Generally, when a private foundation acquires excess business holdings, the foundation has five years to dispose of them.



# Why the Bible

by David Friedgood



Thoughtful people have often asked me if I "believe in the Bible?" The question is straight-forward enough, the answer typically vague and convoluted. What is

meant by "believe"? Are we to accept the words of scripture as the divine infallible will of God? Is the Bible historically and scientifically accurate; its apparent discrepancies the result of our human limitation to fully understand the true meaning of the words? The Bible after all is the foundation of our religion. Belief in its authenticity a prerequisite for "being Jewish." Or is it? How is modern, scientifically trained man to understand the Biblical message?

Historically, belief in the divine nature of Biblical authorship is the main theological principle dividing the three major branches of Judaism. Orthodoxy considers it heresy to even question that the book is not the authentic word of God (though some agree that it was actually written by Moses acting as God's secretary). Reform Judaism considers the book to be divinely inspired but written by men. Its dictates can therefore be interpreted and changed by educated well-meaning people. The Conservative movement considers the Bible to be the product of human beings' encounter

with God (Revelation). It is the basis of Jewish Law (Halakha) which needs to constantly evolve to fit the needs of each new generation of Jews. Rabbis and scholars can interpret God's will, and Halakha is a living body of work. This process of change actually began in the time of Moses and has continued throughout the generations.

The Bible (from the Latin Biblia) is actually a collection of books and book fragments. Its origins are pre-historic - part of the oral traditions of our ancestors. The final form of the Jewish Bible is the Tanach (Torah, Neviim, Ketuvim = Tanach). The Tanach was codified by consensus about the 2nd century CE. The first 5 books Torah (aka: Pentateuch, Humash) traditionally are the words of God transcribed by Moses. Neviim (Prophets) and Ketuvim (Writings) contain a variety of history, prose, and poetry written by different authors and by tradition are divinely inspired. These words represent the encounter of our earliest ancestors with that which is divine - with God. It records the early history of our people in a Theological sense. Our God acts through history as our ancestors' relationship with their deity affected their lives directly. Since its origins, the Bible has profoundly affected each generation of Jews. They taught it to their children and argued incessantly about its meaning. (In fact its influence can be more widely seen as the

basis of Christianity and Islam. It is the foundation of Western Civilization and has influenced other cultures as well.) To argue that the Bible is historically accurate is moot, of no meaning. It is the influence of Biblical ideas that count, not the veracity of the stories. Our people know this book, even as they are often perplexed by its meaning and frequently defiant of it. What does this book have to say to us today? Does it have any meaning in our lives?

The answer to these questions involves consideration of who we are. Each of us are, as Abraham, "sojourners" in this world. Our lives are but a fleeting moment, insignificant in the vast expanse of human history. What gives our existence ultimate meaning is a connection with that which is greater than us. As I read the Biblical stories I see myself part of a people at the dawn of history. I connect with Adam and Eve as they struggle outside the golden confines of Eden. I travel with the fore-fathers and mothers as they began to realize ultimate truth. I suffer in the bondage of slavery and savor freedom with Moses, ultimately standing at the foot of Sinai accepting words which provide direction in our lives. I marvel at the words of our prophets who strove to establish a new world order and shed tears with the Psalmist who in exile on the river Babylon yearns for our Jerusalem home. I know that my life is not only about me. I am required to show restraint in my behavior, my dietary habits, my passions. Yet each human life

is precious and I am obligated to support those in need. This I know and teach to my children so that they can also make the connection. Biblical structure binds me to Jews throughout time who struggled with the same questions I have today. I have some understanding of the anguish of those who suffered over the millennia, but yet kept their faith. I can rejoice in the success of Israel's rebirth and personally fear for her security. In the worst of times I can empathize with Job: "I know that my Redeemer lives; In the end He will testify on earth" (Job 19:25). Finally, I see a wider picture as we are all created in the image of God. Our God is One. There are many paths to the truth in our world, but ultimately we are all part of one entity.

Does this connection signify "belief"? The answer is a vague - 'I don't know'. Like many Jews I struggle with most of the mitzvot (laws) and consistently follow few of them. I often feel like the image of Adam in Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. As I delve into the realm of Biblical truth, I sense my God reaching out, as if to touch His forefinger to my outstretched arm. God is reaching down and I up, but as yet the connection, the final touch, has not been established. Do I "believe?" I cannot yet say definitively, as I am still trying to define the question.

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## From the Encyclopedia Judaica of 1906

# The Shammash

By Joseph Jacobs and Peter Wiernik

Communal and synagogal officer whose duties to some extent correspond with those of the verger and beadle. In Talmudical times he was called "Hazzan;" and then it was also a part of his duties to assist in reciting some of the prayers (see Jew. Encyc. vi. 284-285, s.v. Hazzan). But early in the Middle Ages the term "shammash" was already in vogue; and Rashi almost always renders it for the Talmudical "Hazzan."

### Functions

In the quasi-autonomous Jewish communities of the Middle Ages the shammash was an officer of considerable power and responsibility. "He assessed the members according to their means . . . and . . . was a sort of permanent under-secretary-of-state, who governed while the parnas was supposed to rule." (Jacobs, "Jewish Year Book" for 5658 [1897-98], p. 262, London, 1897). He was the overseer of the synagogue and the executor of the sentences of the Jewish tribunal ("bet din"), in which capacity he also inflicted corporal punishment on those whom the Jewish court condemned to that penalty. In some localities it was part of his duty to announce every Saturday the results of lawsuits and to inform the community concerning properties which were to be sold. He acted also as the public crier, and ascending to a high roof on Friday afternoon, notified the community with a blast of the trumpet thrice repeated at long intervals, that work must cease. In later periods a wooden mallet was substituted for the shofar or trumpet, and notice was given by rapping on the gates that it was time to prepare for attendance at the synagogue. The shammash also made announcements in the edifice itself, sometimes interrupting the prayers to do so. He carried invitations to private festivities, and reminded members of the congregation of their duties, such as leaving their boots at home on the eve of the Day of Atonement and observing certain mourning rites on the Ninth of Ab, in case it fell on the Sabbath.

### Schul- and Stadt- Shammash

In the large communities and in the Jewish cities which developed in Poland in the sixteenth and following centuries, it naturally became impossible for the shammash to perform all the duties which were originally connected with his office in the small communities of the Middle Ages; and many of them devolved upon subordinates or upon special shammashim, while other services were relegated to men who no longer bore the title of shammash. Every synagogue in the Slavonic countries usually has a shammash, who is merely an overseer and is assisted by an "unter-shammash," the latter acting as janitor of the building and performing such manual labor as

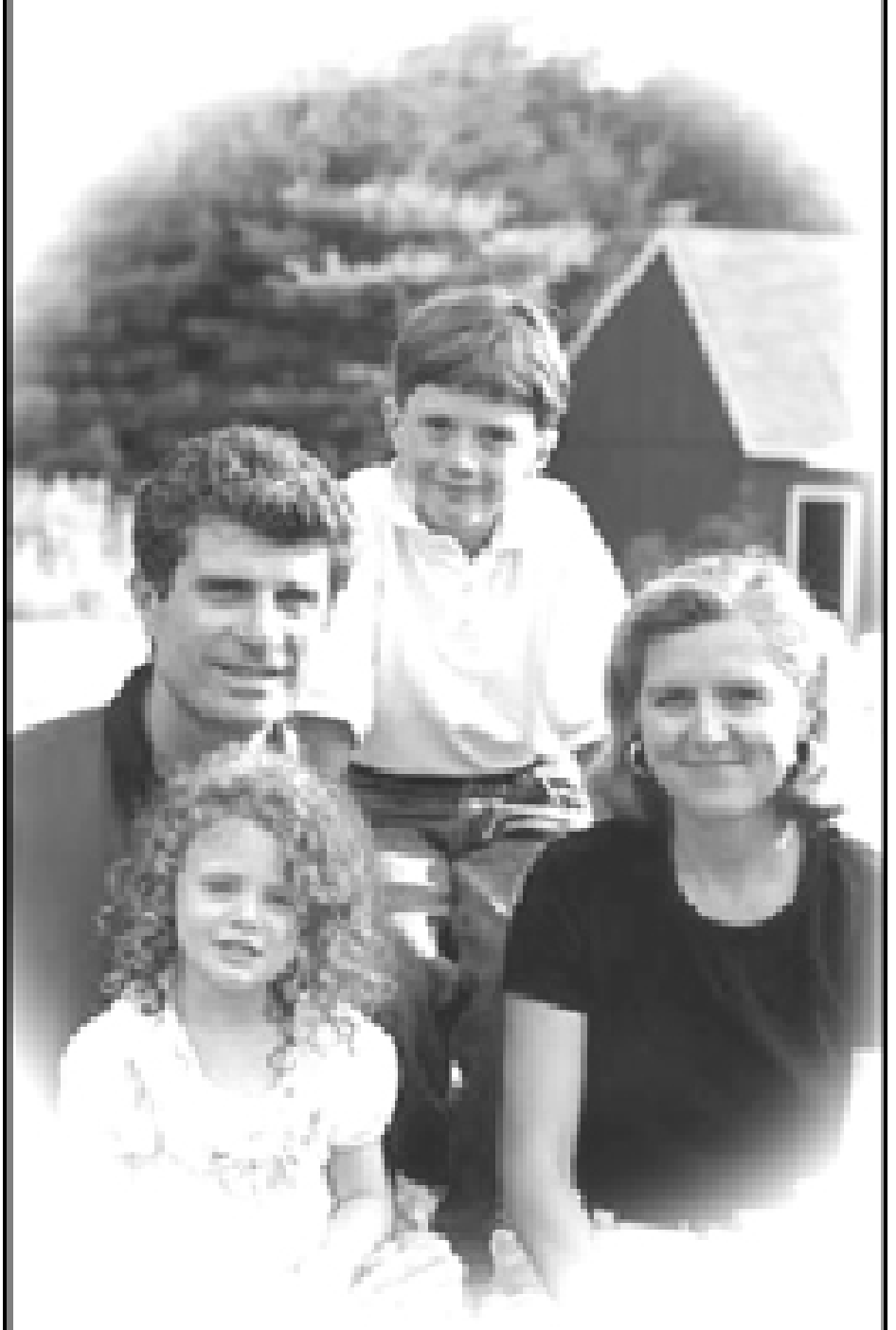
sweeping the floors, cleaning the candle-sticks, etc. The synagogal shammash and his assistant have charge also of the "bahurim" and "perushim," i.e., the unmarried and the married Talmudical students who make the synagogue their home; and the influence of the shammash is exerted to procure "days" for the former, that is, to find seven households in each of which the poor student may be fed on one day in the week. A large community, however, has besides the "schul-shammash," whose duties and privileges are confined to his own synagogue, one or more "stadt-shammashim" or city shammashim, who are under the immediate jurisdiction of the rabbi and the kahal, or of the representatives and leaders of the entire communal organization. The city shammash usually acts as shammash of the chief place of worship, and in very large communities, where there are often as many as eight or ten city shammashim, each of them in turn fulfils this duty for a certain time.

### The Bet Din Shammash

The Schulklopper (one who calls the congregation to the synagogue by rapping on the gates with a wooden mallet), who is now disappearing even from the most backward communities, and who is only a memory in the larger cities of eastern Europe, and the "better" (inviter), who goes from house to house inviting the occupants to a marriage or a "berit milah," are two of the functionaries upon whom have devolved some of the duties of the shammash, but who have not inherited his title. There remains, however, the "bet din shammash," or shammash of the Jewish court of dayyanim, who is the "sheliah bet din" (messenger of the court) of Talmudical times, and whose office probably always had a separate existence, except in very small communities. There is also the shammash of the hebra kaddisha (burial society), whose duties are analogous to those of a sexton. In the United States every Orthodox synagogue has its shammash, who performs most of the duties of the "schul-shammash" of the Old World. He is as a rule better paid than his confrère in Europe, and often has much influence in congregational matters. The office of bet din shammash is found today only in the large Jewish centers where rabbis establish a bet din on their own account. As there are no separate communal organizations forming municipalities in the United States, the office of city shammash does not exist in that country. In modern Jewish Reform temples the sexton performs all the duties of the original shammash which remain under the new arrangements. The term "shammash" is applied also to the candle by means of which the Hanukkah lights are lighted and which

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A summary of Jewish news prepared for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

## Staging History and the Undermining of Truth

Rabbi David Jay Kaufman  
High Holidays 2006-5767

For some time now, I have been worried about the rise of anti-Jewish sentiments around the world. Many of these feelings of hatred of Israel and the Jews come from Israel's military conflicts. With each death of an innocent, it becomes easier for those who wish to do so to portray Israel as inhuman; and without much difficulty, to apply that to all Jews. Israel is after all, a Jewish state. That Israel does not intentionally target civilians does not matter, nor does the fact that Israel must fight for its survival and military conflicts inevitably affect civilian populations. One picture is worth a thousand words. Sometimes, even when the picture is doctored or fake.

In the recent conflict with Lebanon, Israel was accused of committing several atrocities including the bombing of an apartment building in Qana in the South of Lebanon. In that instance, Israel was accused of slaughtering sixty innocent women and children who had taken refuge from the fighting going on around them. Film crews and photographers huddled around Hizballah press officials and watched as rescue workers paraded corpses past them. There was an outcry against Israel when this news surfaced.

Suddenly calls for Israel to halt its operations in Lebanon gained strength. Hizballah was given a boost of popularity and its fighters emboldened.

At almost the same time that the details began to emerge about what happened in Qana, numerous bloggers, people who write on the internet, noticed that there were significant problems with some of the images coming from Lebanon.

One Reuter's photographer had published a photo of Beirut after an Israeli air raid in which he had embellished the smoke rising from the city and even copied and pasted a burning building in another part of the image to make the damage look more impressive. The revelation that this single photographer had used Photoshop to edit an image led to a flurry of inquiries into photographs coming out of Lebanon. A second picture by the same photographer was discovered that appeared to show an Israeli plane dropping numerous bombs over Beirut. The photograph, however, was actually of an Israeli plane releasing its anti-aircraft defenses. It was not dropping bombs at all. The photographer was eventually fired by Reuters, but not before numerous other discrepancies were discovered.

The bloggers did not relent with the firing of the photographer and instead widened their examination of the media reports. The Qana "Massacre" became a prime target.

Original reports from Hizballah as reported in Western media said that over sixty people were killed, more than half of whom were children. Within a short

period of time, that number had been drastically reduced, in fact by more than half. Furthermore, there were discrepancies over the timing of the collapse of the building, some eight hours after the airstrike that supposedly caused it, as well as concerns about the condition of some of the bodies removed from the building, some of them appeared to have rigor mortis and therefore could not have been killed in the building's collapse. While not being able to confirm their information and with none of the press being free to either approach the site of the building or to examine any of the bodies, suggestions of a staged and or exaggerated event could not be confirmed. However, the bloggers could determine that the photos being taken of the event were staged, including the path that bodies were taken for maximum photographic effect, the people carrying the bodies, and which bodies were carried by hand. It appeared that Hizballah had staged the photographs for the world's media to make the situation look worse and to level a dramatic charge against Israel.

Just yesterday, Emile Lahoud, the President of Lebanon, speaking at the United Nations, held high one of the photos taken in Qana most likely to have been staged for the world's media as evidence of Israel's atrocities in that war. It is the case that the more times a lie is repeated, or in this case the picture of a lie is shown, more people will come to believe it. One cannot refer everyone to the websites showing "Green Helmet" as he is now known, part time rescue worker and full time Hizballah propagandist, directing not only the press, telling them what to photograph, but also directing the other actors in the staged drama to move and act for the cameras. Even carrying the same body from the rubble that another man, who had evidently not been photogenic enough, had carried before them earlier. That picture of Green Helmet was the one held aloft on the floor of the General Assembly of the United Nations yesterday morning.

That all of the bodies shown in photographs, including children, died because of the war is likely and tragic. It is questionable, however, how, when, where and why they died.

As I considered the effects of the staging of "atrocities" by Hizballah in this conflict this summer, it occurred to me that there are broader effects and may be a broader goal, a longer term one, for this manipulation of the media. Certainly, in the short term the impact of creating a Qana is to sway public opinion against Israel and to urge the UN to take action. Kofi Annan stated even amid the discussion of the staging of Qana that Israel may have "committed violations of international law" in its strike there. Sabeel, the Palestinian Christian organization seeking to foster the movement to divest from Israel is now using Qana as further justification to do so, even using the exaggerated death total from the initial reports as well as the staged photographs.

In the mid-term, Israel and pro-Israel

sources can point out that photos were doctored and that pictures were staged, but the impact of these arguments is simply to lessen the severity of the "massacre." Instead of having 60 dead, we have 28 dead. Instead of having 40 children dead, we have 14. That pictures of one or two of those casualties were posed/milked by Hizballah for the press does not negate that they were casualties. In other words, the dead children are still children killed by Israel, unless someone can show conclusive proof that Hizballah collapsed the building on top of them deliberately. Even if you argue that the bodies were gathered from diverse places and placed in that building to create a massacre that never really happened, you still have the bodies of children killed because of the conflict. War is a very bad thing.

Perhaps news outlets will be more careful about what they print and who they hire, I'm sure Reuters will temporarily, but this will be a limited issue. Even weeks, possibly days from now, more staged pictures will appear. None of the media outlets as of yet have admitted that photos were staged. Despite the mounting evidence that Qana was staged for the press, none of the media outlets have discussed the possibility outside of the Israeli media and a few blogs.

Fox News put a disclaimer at the end of its coverage of the story of the Reuters photographer who was fired. It read:

EDITOR'S NOTE: FOX News and FOXNews.com uses Reuters news services, but makes it a policy not to publish their stories until the reporting can be confirmed by FOX News journalists. FOXNews.com does not use Reuters photo services.

In other words, Fox News uses Reuters news reports and does so as soon as its journalists can confirm them. How do they do that? No doubt by asking the Reuters journalists themselves, since it is highly unlikely that Fox News expects that its reporters can confirm events that other journalists witnessed without consulting with those journalists. Its journalists cannot witness the removal of bodies from rubble after they have been removed, for example. They can only confirm that bodies were removed by consulting with the witnesses. What this means is that our "unbiased" reporters, or in this case, "fair and balanced ones," are often simply reporting hearsay; and that, within an environment without a free press or freedom of speech such as Hizballah controlled Southern Lebanon, could easily be propaganda and not factual at all. Thus, even an "unbiased" and "balanced" presentation of events may be a mix of truth and fiction, or even entirely fictional.

We are taught that we must learn from our past. We must learn the lessons of history. One must ask, what is history? The dictionary that I consulted gave these definitions which are pertinent:

1. A story, a narrative of events.
2. A Chronological Record, an account of events.
3. The branch of knowledge that records and analyzes past events.

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Rep. Leonard Boswell (D-IA)  
Chet Culver (R-IA)

\*The individuals listed above explicitly endorsed the statement issued July 13, 2006 by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines condemning the attacks on the State of Israel launched by Islamic ter-

rorists in Gaza and Lebanon and asserting Israel's right to self defense. All office holders and candidates and prospective candidates for president are invited to endorse the statement.

This is a non-partisan effort. No endorsement of any candidate's candidacy by either the Jewish Federation or the JCRC is implied. Neither the Jewish Federation nor the JCRC endorse candidates.

The names are listed above in the order in which the endorsements were received.

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[science]

# Scientists Discover Genetic Code For Organizing DNA

Rehovot, Israel - July 19, 2006 - DNA - the long, thin molecule that carries our hereditary material - is compressed around protein scaffolding in the cell nucleus into tiny spheres called nucleosomes. The bead-like nucleosomes are strung along the entire chromosome, which is itself folded and packaged to fit into the nucleus. What determines how, when and where a nucleosome will be positioned along the DNA sequence? Dr. Eran Segal and research student Yair Field of the Computer Science and Applied Mathematics Department at the Weizmann Institute of Science have succeeded, together with colleagues from Northwestern University in Chicago, in cracking the genetic code that sets the rules for where on the DNA strand the nucleosomes will be situated. Their findings appeared today in Nature.

The precise location of the nucleosomes along the DNA is known to play an important role in the cell's day to day function, since access to DNA wrapped in a nucleosome is blocked for many proteins, including those responsible for some of life's most basic processes. Among these barred proteins are factors that initiate DNA replication, transcription (the transfer of genetic information from DNA to RNA) and DNA repair. Thus, the positioning of nucleosomes defines the

segments in which these processes can and can't take place. These limitations are considerable: Most of the DNA is packaged into nucleosomes. A single nucleosome contains about 150 genetic bases (the "letters" that make up a genetic sequence), while the free area between neighboring nucleosomes is only about 20 bases long. It is in these nucleosome-free regions that processes such as transcription can be initiated.

For many years, scientists have been unable to agree whether the placement of nucleosomes in live cells is controlled by the genetic sequence itself. Segal and his colleagues managed to prove that the DNA sequence indeed encodes "zoning" information on where to place nucleosomes. They also characterized this code and then, using the DNA sequence alone, were able to accurately predict a large number of nucleosome positions in yeast cells.

Segal and his colleagues accomplished this by examining around 200 different nucleosome sites on the DNA and asking whether their sequences have something in common. Mathematical analysis revealed similarities between the nucleosome-bound sequences and eventually uncovered a specific "code word." This "code word" consists of a periodic signal that appears

every 10 bases on the sequence. The regular repetition of this signal helps the DNA segment to bend sharply into the spherical shape required to form a nucleosome. To identify this nucleosome positioning code, the research team used probabilistic models to characterize the sequences bound by nucleosomes, and they then developed a computer algorithm to predict the encoded organization of nucleosomes along an entire chromosome.

The team's findings provided insight into another mystery that has long been puzzling molecular biologists: How do cells direct transcription factors to their intended sites on the DNA, as opposed to the many similar but functionally irrelevant sites along the genomic sequence? The short binding sites themselves do not contain enough information for the transcription factors to discern between them. The scientists showed that basic information on the functional relevance of a binding site is at least partially encoded in the nucleosome positioning code: The intended sites are found in nucleosome-free segments, thereby allowing them to be accessed by the various transcription factors. In contrast, spurious binding sites with identical structures that could potentially sidetrack transcription factors are conveniently situated in

segments that form nucleosomes, and are thus mostly inaccessible.

Since the proteins that form the core of the nucleosome are among the most evolutionarily conserved in nature, the scientists believe the genetic code they identified should also be conserved in many organisms, including humans. Several diseases, such as cancer, are typically accompanied or caused by mutations in the DNA and the way it organizes into chromosomes. Such mutational processes may be influenced by the relative accessibility of the DNA to various proteins and by the organization of the DNA in the cell nucleus. Therefore, the scientists believe that the nucleosome positioning code they discovered may aid scientists in the future in understanding the mechanisms underlying many diseases.

Dr. Eran Segal's research is supported by the Arie and Ida Crown Memorial Charitable Fund and the Estelle Funk Foundation.

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the world's top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the natural and exact sciences, the Institute is home to 2,500 scientists, students, technicians and supporting staff. Institute research efforts

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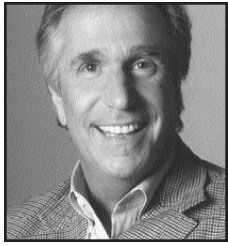
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[in profile]

## An Exclusive Interview with Henry Winkler



Multi-talented Henry Winkler spoke to the Jewish Press prior to his presentation in Des Moines on September 17 for the Federation's All-in-One 2007

Campaign. In the interview, he talks about aspects of his career and his Jewish background.

Jewish Press: First of all, thank you so much for coming to Des Moines. Everyone is looking forward to having you with us.

Henry Winkler: Oh, me too!

JP: Looking over your extensive list of professional accomplishments over the past three decades, I'm struck by three things: the variety of your artistic endeavors, the depth of your involvement and the high quality of your work.

HW: Wow, thank you.

JP: So the question is: to what do you attribute your success?

HW: I don't know! I love my job.

JP: You apparently found the right way to make a living.

HW: Well, you know what? I wanted to be an actor since I was seven. I just knew.

JP: Who were the major influences on your acting?

HW: That's a good question but I'm not sure I have an answer to that. All I knew is that I needed to pursue this job with a ven-

geance.

JP: You went to Yale Drama School....

HW: Yes, but first I went to Emerson College and then, I don't know how I got in to Yale, but I did. Because I was in the bottom three percent of the country academically.

JP: But they saw something in you and they nurtured it. What was it? Was it chutzpah?

HW: Listen, it's always chutzpah. If I were to select one word to live by, I would say it was tenacity. I think that is the beginning and the end.

JP: Did you consider what you were doing an art and a craft?

HW: Always. The job is 5,000 years old and it is unbelievable to be able to tell a story that people are moved by.

JP: Essentially that's what knits together all your professional endeavors, including your writing.

HW: Uh-huh. Yes, well, I love writing. Outside of my family, out of everything that I've done, maybe I'm proudest of the books. We just finished the eleventh novel in the series.

JP: How do you write?

HW: I have a partner and I go to her office and she sits at the computer, because I don't use a computer, and I walk around her rug and then, slowly but surely, we write a novel together.

JP: Do you conceptualize the ending?

HW: We conceptualize the story. We get to the ending eventually, just by writing the

book. Sometimes the ending is completely different than what we had imagined.

JP: In the process of doing this, are you the person who sits down and refines it?

HW: We refine it together. My writing partner is just phenomenal.

JP: Your input then has a lot to do with your insights...

HW: Well, it's my story. Like the eleventh one, that comes out next April is called "The Curtain Goes Up, My Pants Fell Down." In it, I have to get a B+ on a long division test to be in the play – and I get a B. My father holds me to the deal I made with him, and the frustration, the pain, trying to figure out how to 'get to' my father is all very real to me, even today.

JP: Is this autobiographical?

HW: Yes, the frustration of living with a learning challenge, my being dyslexic, is completely autobiographical. The humor, which is the most important part of the book is exaggerated.

JP: Do you write on a daily basis?

HW: During the time I can set aside professionally, I do. It takes us about two months to write a novel, and that is writing every day for those two months.

JP: Do you relish the thought of getting back to writing?

HW: Yes. We have sixteen novels to write and we have only written eleven. We've already mapped out the next one, which is called: "Barfing in the Backseat – a Zipser Family Roadtrip."

JP: Your main character....

HW: He started in the first book as a fourth grader and he graduated to the fifth grade in the ninth novel. Teachers use the books in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades – because we did not write down to the kids. They're not namby-pamby. The books are funny, they're emotional, and kids see themselves in them.

JP: What attracts you to writing for that age level audience?

HW: I don't know.

JP: Do you see yourself as essentially a big kid?

HW: I'm sure that for the most part, I do.

JP: Do you bounce some of the story ideas off your own family?

HW: No, I don't.

JP: Well, you do other work as well.

HW: I produce and act. I just did a movie in Montana that I finished in August.

JP: What is the difference between producing and acting?

HW: This is my metaphor. Producing is like holding sand in your arms. Directing is like taking all that sand and putting it into one box. And as an actor, I get to play in the sand.

JP: Do they choose you for a part because they know you can mold it?

HW: Sometimes I choose it because I feel I can play it.

JP: And you have some sort of interaction with a director that will allow you to play it the way you want?

HW: Well, there's a different interaction with every director. Ultimately you have to

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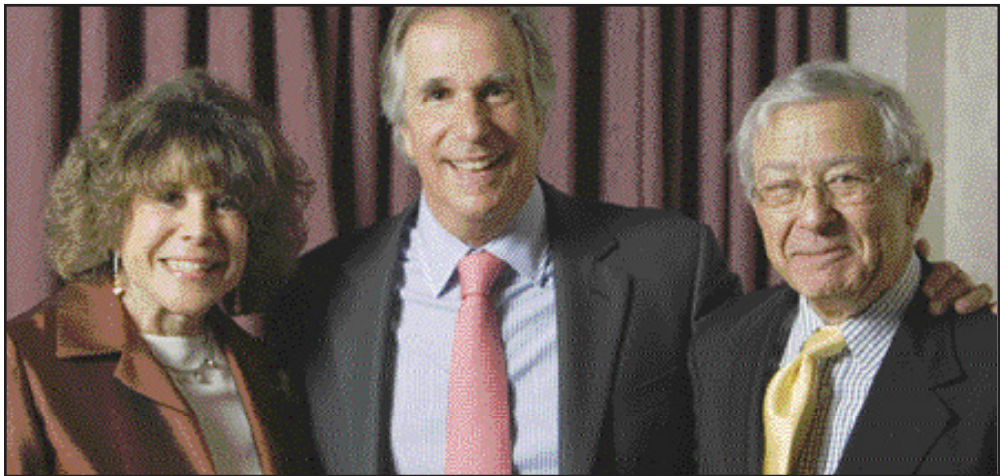
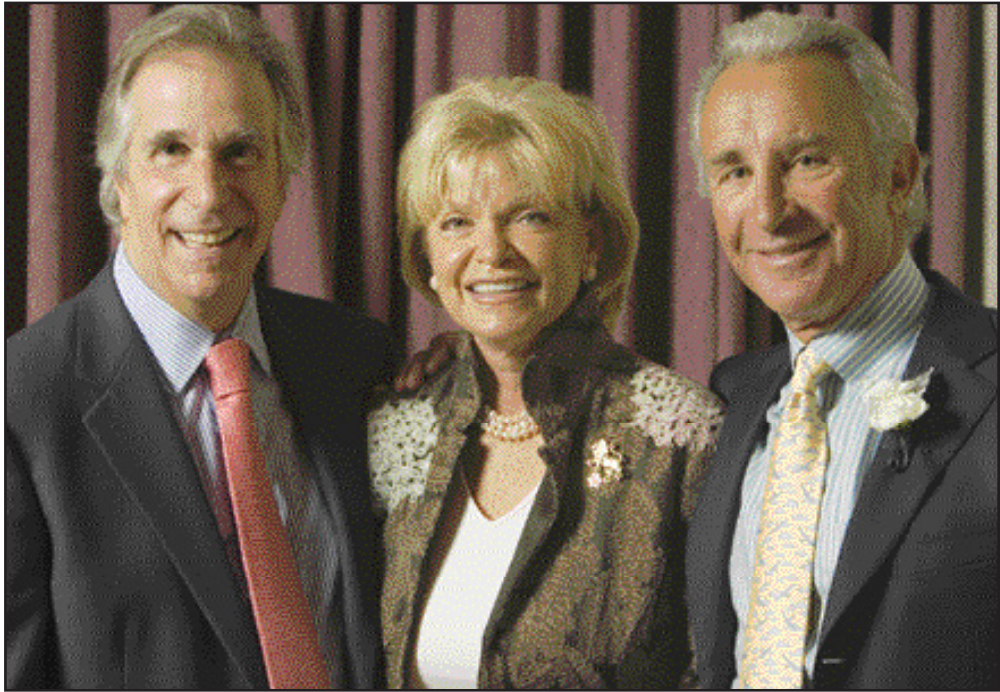
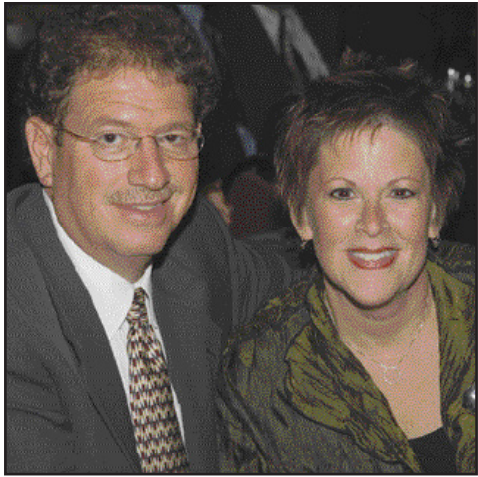
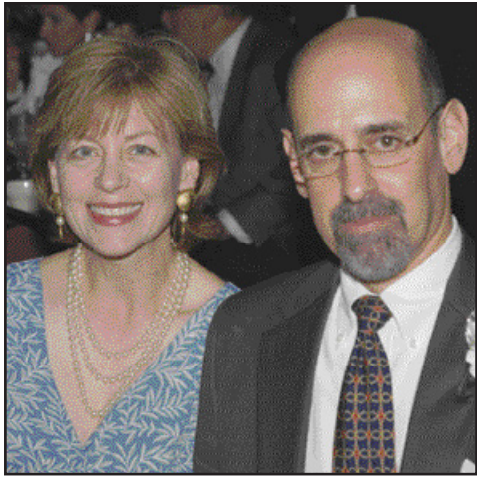
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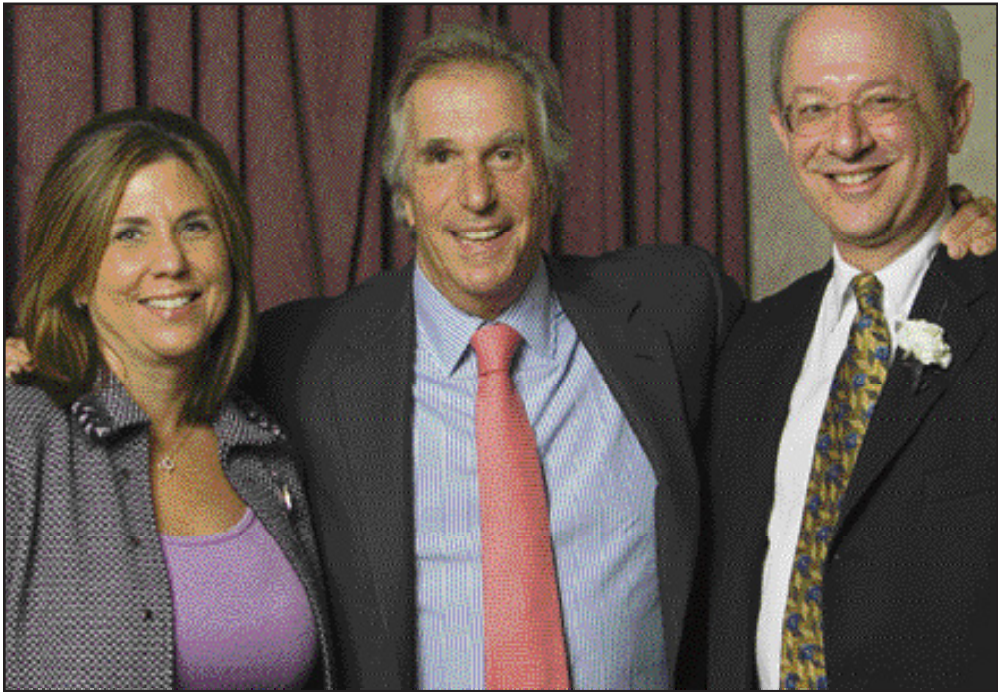
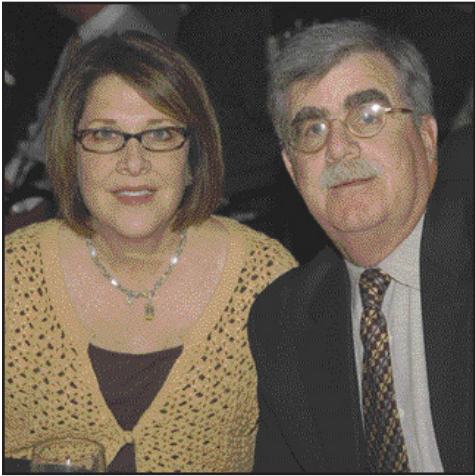
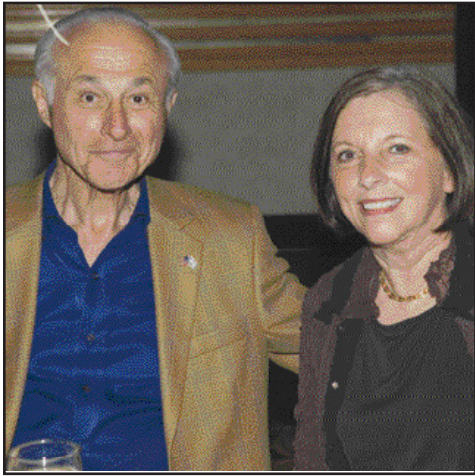
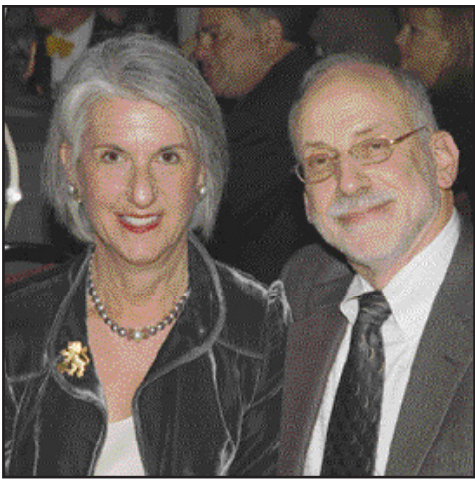
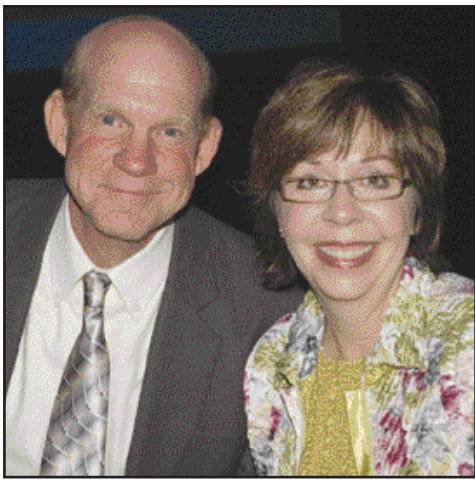
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photos by Laurie Wahlig

# All-In-One Campaign Gala

The 2007 Campaign Opening Gala was a celebration of the Des Moines Jewish community. Over 330 community members joined together to hear how the Jewish Federation has time and again shown how we as a people rise to so many occasions. We live generously, we groom future leaders, we invest in our children, we demand justice for those who cannot advocate for themselves, and we fund quality programs and services. Over \$384,000 was raised in this wonderful evening with a 14% increase!

Actor, Producer, Director and Humanitarian Henry Winkler engaged the audience with his personal story, humor





[israel partnership]

# Ghetto Fighters' Museum Continues Service During

**An important institution in our Israel partnership region sustains \$250,000 in damages during the war with Hizb'Allah. The Ghetto Fighters' Museum in the Month of the War**

The Ghetto Fighters' Museum, founded by survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943, situated on the grounds of Kibbutz Locahamei HaGhettaot, is one of the gems located in our Israel Partnership region. Director of the Museum Simcha Stein files the following report about how the institution operated during the recent war with Hizb'Allah.

The unnamed war, which everyone calls "Lebanon 2", has come to an end, and we hope that despite all the predictions and forecasts for continued hostilities, "the day after" will bring peace in its wake to all the citizens of Israel in general, and to the north in particular.

I would like to share the Ghetto Fighters' Museum's involvement and actions during the month of battle with all our friends.

First of all, on the first day of the war we decided that the Ghetto Fighters' Museum would remain open every day, no matter what. This decision stemmed from the feeling that the museum, which symbolizes all the aspects of Jewish resistance, must function as a lighthouse showing the way, and serving as a light in the darkness. Consequently the museum was open, waiting for the visitors that didn't come.

There was a lot of work, because we served as a source of encouragement to

all our friends throughout the world who expressed support and the desire to help, and at the same time we also kept in touch with all the museum staff, those who remained in bomb shelters with their families and those who wandered to safer places.

## **The Ghetto Fighters' Museum at the Service of the IDF**

After the first week we found ourselves drafted to the framework of the IDF. First of all we acceded to the request of the Home-front Command to open the bomb shelter in the "Ungar School" as a center for the treatment of trauma victims in the Western Galilee. Regretfully, this center was very much in use, and the medical staff was extremely busy. After a katyusha attack the ambulances brought many trauma victims daily.

As I have stated, the museum was open and empty, and we felt bad, because the months of July and August this year were meant to be full and busier than ever before. During the first week a bus arrived and parked in the empty parking lot, and a group of a few dozen dusty and tired soldiers got out.

The museum staff members were certain that the soldiers wanted to rest and get organized, but the two young officers introduced themselves as fighters in the "Maglan" unit, which is a Special

Forces unit that was among the first to go into Lebanon. The unit took part in the battle and it suffered casualties. The officers had a request that warmed everyone's heart. They asked to tour the museum exhibitions that deal with the subject of the ghetto uprisings and the heroic battles of that time. After a two-hour tour the unit returned to the front, and we felt that just for such a moving experience it was worth keeping the museum open during the war.

And so throughout the entire month of fighting, army units came to visit the museum, for spiritual reinforcement. Both combat units and Home-front Command units came to the museum. In addition, we placed the Yitzhak and Zivia Study Center dormitory at the service of the combat units, who came for rest and relaxation. In this way we hosted Battalion 601 of the Combat Engineers Corps and Battalion 51 of the Golani Brigade.

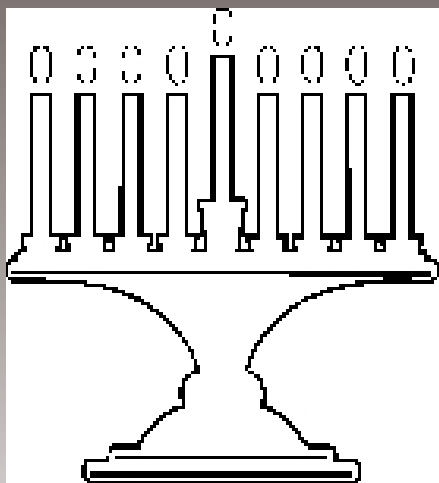
## **The Days after the War**

We are now engaged in rehabilitating the visits to the museum. We are renewing our appeals to the schools in the north, at the same time that the educational system is working on new programs relevant to the new situation that touch on the children of the north who went through several hard weeks, with the assumption being that the fallout

and the feeling of being a refugee will continue for a long time. We are renewing our appeal to schools from the center of Israel to come for tours, both as a token of support and solidarity with the north and to take part in the new educational programs.

In light of our experience during the month of war, we are now busy with developing a value-based educational-cultural school center in the north at the Ghetto Fighters' Museum, which will bring the outlying areas and the center together, as now more than ever we are aware of the relevance of the museum's message to the young population in the country. This initiative comes not only from the museum staff but is a direct request from the field: from schools, from the army and from the leaders of educational groups from abroad.

Above all, we ask our friends everywhere in the world to come on solidarity and support visits, and to organize groups to hear about the museum's work and its future goals. At the same time we appeal to all the museum's friends throughout the world, and to our government ministries to increase donations so that we can adhere to our goal of a balanced budget for 2006, on the assumption that the direct and indirect damage of the war to the Ghetto Fighters' Museum is approxi-



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[next generation]

## Alex Pomerantz

By Robin Bear



Alex Pomerantz plays competitive tennis and makes it look easy. On the court he's quick and focused; he has natural ability and spends a lot of time working to refine his skills.

This past summer Alex spent up to six days a week on the tennis court but now that school has started he's cut back to four or five days to make plenty of time for school work and studying.

Alex is a junior at Valley High School and he especially enjoys World History and Geography. He currently takes a literature class that allows students to choose which books they want to read. When Alex finds a book he enjoys he often finishes reading it the same day. Currently, he's reading the book, "Requiem for a Dream," by Hubert Selby.

His favorite pastime is watching the Iowa Hawkeyes and hanging out with his friends.

He also makes time for after-school activities and his favorite activity at Valley is Outdoor Club. This February, the Outdoor Club will be traveling to Colorado for a ski trip and Alex is planning to go. His family has taken ski trips together since Alex was six years old.

Alex says one of his favorite family vacations was in Hawaii when he was ten. Someday he wants to visit Israel but he'll probably wait until he's eighteen to make the trip.

Alex lives in Clive with his parents, Jeff and Melodee Pomerantz and his eighth grade sister, Ariel. His family belongs to B'nai Jeshurun Temple. Alex is the third generation of Pomerantz's living in the state of Iowa and the third generation to belong to B'nai Jeshurun.

Alex says his dad, Jeff, enjoyed playing tennis competitively when he was younger and encouraged Alex to learn to play. Alex first began playing when he was ten. This past summer, Alex was chosen as part of a team of twenty boys and twenty girls selected from five states, known as the Missouri Valley, to play in his first national tournament. He says it's his favorite tennis experience so far.

Drew Rosenberg, Alex's good friend, began playing tennis about the same time Alex began and both share a love for tennis. Alex and Drew played doubles together in the number one spot for the Valley Varsity Tennis team their freshman and sophomore year and went to State. This spring Alex plans to play singles for Valley.

With a calendar full of tournaments and weekends spent traveling to compete, Alex uses his free time selectively. Last summer he spent his available time working at Echo Valley Country Club, with Drew, assisting the tennis pro in teaching tennis les-

[arts]

## Israel Hadany an Expressive Sculptor



The picture accompanying this article is a wonderful environmental sculpture by Israel Hadany entitled "In Memory of the pianist Artur Rubinstein." It is set among the heights in Jerusalem, facing the Judean Hills.

A resident of Jerusalem, the award-winning sculptor Israel Hadany was born in 1941 on Kibbutz Beit Hashita in Israel. He studied painting and sculpture at the Anvi Arti Institute in Tel Aviv and then at the post graduate level at Hornsey College of Art in London. Since 1971, Hadany has taught sculpture and design at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem. His work has been exhibited worldwide.

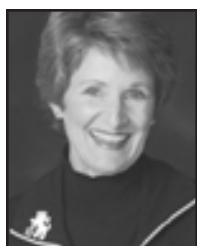
A quote: "In general, my works, seen as 'emotive constructs' can be divided into sculpture with an environmental context, and sculpture viewed as an adventure and search for pure art. Although they are clearly within a contemporary framework, there is a conscious avoidance of being bound by trends, fashion or styles in the art world; an approach which permits an open, creative mobility, whose resources stimulate a vitality, which stems from life itself but goes beyond to the realm of timelessness."

An appreciation: "A first viewing of Israel Hadany's works is experienced as a fresh encounter with the past, not the personal and private, but the collective, universal past. This new meeting with an old acquaintance reaches far back into the cradle of culture and bears on aesthetic values and religious feeling rooted in ancient cultures. Hadany's work features on the one hand, basic aesthetic elements such as balance and rhythm, and, on the other hand, elements related to such deep emotional experiences as enthusiasm, sorrow and happiness." – Ruth Ofek.

A selection of his works may be found on [www.israelhadany.com](http://www.israelhadany.com)



## In the Kitchen With Debbie



Debbie Gitchell grew up in Rock Island, IL. But attended the University of Iowa where she first met her husband Bob at the end of her freshman year. They were each selected by different student organizations to co-chair Freshman Orientation for the following year. They actually didn't start dating until their senior year, though she thought he was "pretty cool" from the start.

She spent a year at University of Michigan earning a masters degree in Hospital Administration while Bob started medical school at Iowa. Then they married and she worked for St Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids. While Bob interned at Los Angeles County Hospital, Debbie worked in their administration department. After Bob completed his orthopedic residency at Iowa, the U.S. Air Force sent them to Colorado Springs. They now had two children, a son Joe and a daughter Sarah and Debbie fondly remembers forming many friendships there. The opportunity to begin his practice in Ames, IA was very attractive to Bob and Debbie since their mothers lived in nearby Davenport and Cresco.

The Gitchells have been married for

41 years and still live in Ames while Joe and his wife Elizabeth Mumford and their two daughters live in Chevy Chase, MD and Sarah Gitchell and husband Gary Dorfman reside in Philadelphia, PA with their daughter. So Debbie has three wonderful granddaughters who all love her poppy seed Hanukkah cookies.

Debbie was very excited talking about this cookie recipe... "it's easy, delicious and everyone in my family makes it!" She thought the use of poppy seeds in baked goods came from Eastern Europe but the addition of frosting is more likely pure American. These cookies could certainly be made year round, but cutting the dough into star and menorah shapes render them perfect for Hanukkah. Debbie prefers them plain but Bob and all the kids love the blue and white frosting. In fact, Bob did all the frosting himself last year.

Hanukkah parties are also a tradition in the Gitchell household. The kids used to invite their friends to sample the latkes, brisket and special poppy seed cookies. Now if their son or daughter's families can't attend, Debbie and Bob still entertain their

friends with these traditional Hanukkah treats.

Besides her love of cooking, Debbie is a Story County Master gardener and volunteers her time in a project called "Plant a Row." This is a Biblical reference to sharing a portion of one's harvest with the hungry. So Debbie collects the unsold produce from the Ames area farmers markets and delivers it to four shelters for the needy. Last year, "Plant a Row" delivered over 4,000 lbs of produce. Of course, she adores tending her own

garden which was primarily shade loving plants until she created a new walled area for her roses, perennials and special grasses.

She's certainly been a busy lady as the current chairperson of the Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa Foundation (she was also a former board chair) and as a neighborhood organizer. She and her neighbors petitioned the city to allow bow hunting in numerous Ames parks in order to curb the number of deer. Evidently the Gitchells' neighborhood has twice as many

## Poppy Seed Cookies

A Recipe from Debbie Gitchell Pareve

1 cup unsalted butter or unsalted margarine (for pareve cookies)  
1 cup sugar  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 tsp. baking soda dissolved in 1/4 cup water  
2 tsp. baking powder  
4 cups flour  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 cup poppy seeds

**Cream** butter/margarine, add sugar. Add eggs. Mix well. Add vanilla. Sift flour with baking powder and salt. Set aside. Mix baking soda in tepid water. Alternate the addition of the flour mixture with the water and soda. Add the poppy seeds and mix well.

**Roll** dough on floured board. Cut into Hanukkah shapes or circles. Place on greased baking sheets. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 10 minutes. You will get about 5 dozen cookies per batch. When cool, you can frost them if you wish.

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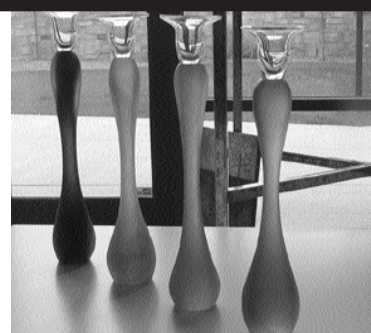
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## Professional Baseball Coming to Israel

Starting next year, the Israel Baseball League will begin play with six teams starring players who have gone through the Israel baseball "system" or who have played ball in other countries—including Jewish ballplayers from the United States. Municipal soccer stadiums that can accommodate professional baseball will be used.

Running the IBL are Daniel C. Kurtzer, former US Ambassador to Israel, who serves as league commissioner, and managing director Larry Baras. Dan Duquette, former General Manager of the Boston Red Sox, is the league's director of player development, and will oversee a planned sports training academy in the country. Advisors to the IBL include

Professor Andrew Zimbalist, an accomplished baseball economist; Marvin Goldklang, minority owner of the New York Yankees; and Marshall Glickman, former president of the NBA's Portland Trailblazers.

In collaboration with the Israel Association of Baseball (the country's official baseball federation), the Israel Baseball League has already notified Major League Baseball authorities of its intention to apply for representation in the 2009 World Baseball Classic. Additional news and information on the IBL is located online at [www.israelbaseballleague.com](http://www.israelbaseballleague.com).

The games will be broadcast on Shalom TV, a mainstream Jewish cultural

## Yale Creates Center to Study Anti-Semitism

New Haven, Conn. — Yale has just established the first university-based institute in North America dedicated to the study of antisemitism. The new center, the Yale Initiative for Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism, will be directed by Charles Small and based at the Institution for Social and Policy Studies.

"Antisemitism has reemerged internationally in a manner that many leading scholars and policy makers take seriously," Small says. "This unfortunate contempo-

rary development is happening at socio-economic and cultural levels in a rapidly changing world. Because of this, there is a need to establish a high caliber, interdisciplinary, non-partisan, scholarly institute, so that students and faculty can engage these issues fully."

The Yale Initiative for Interdisciplinary Study of Antisemitism will run a seminar series, "Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective." A list of seminar speakers and their topics is online at [www.yale.edu](http://www.yale.edu).

### Medical News

## SENSORS AND SECURITY

A tiny sensor that uses organic molecules to detect problems from asthma to hidden explosives has been developed at the Weizmann Institute by Prof. Ron Naaman of the Chemical Physics Department, along with Prof. David Cahen of the Materials and Interfaces Department and Prof. Avraham Shanzer of the Organic Chemistry Department.

Known as MOC SER (MOlecular Controlled SEmiconductor Resistor), the sensor can detect miniscule amounts of substances, as low as just a few hundred molecules. These tiny quantities, however, can yield mountains of information. Levels of nitrous oxide (NO) molecules in exhaled breath, for instance, can reveal whether a person is having an asthma attack. The same molecules, detected in air blown across a person's clothing, can divulge the presence of explosive materials. In the brain, changes in NO levels

may indicate certain types of damage or activity.

The NO sensor has recently been developed as an easy to use, accurate asthma detector that can help to diagnose the disease or predict attacks. Other uses are currently being investigated. The part of the sensor that detects NO is made of organic molecules that are attached to the MOC SER surface at one end, leaving the other free to latch on to any NO molecules wafting by. The chemical change that takes place in the organic molecules as they bond with the NO is then translated to an electronic signal.

The sensor is so small that 28 can fit onto a standard electronic chip. MOC SER sensors can be produced inexpensively and, by tweaking the organic molecules, might be designed to detect all sorts of substances, including harmful pollut-

## THE DARFUR REPORT

### From the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

The September 17th rally and Global Day for Darfur brought out hundreds of thousands of people from around the world calling for the immediate deployment of a U.N. peacekeeping force to Darfur. Individuals of all faiths, races and ethnicities joined religious leaders, entertainers and diplomats in a united voice demanding an end to a genocide that has taken the lives of over 400,000 men, women, and children since February 2003. The government-sponsored genocide has driven 2.5 million civilians from their homes and left more than 3 million individuals reliant on international humanitarian aid. If the

international community does not act soon, millions more will lose their lives. Our call for an end to genocide and for peace in the region does not end here. We applaud President Bush's commitment to get U.N. peacekeepers into Darfur and his appointment of Andrew Natsios to be his Presidential Special Envoy to Sudan during his address to the United Nations. But we must increase pressure on the Sudanese Government to accept the already authorized UN peacekeeping force.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs, online at [www.jewishpublicaffairs.org](http://www.jewishpublicaffairs.org), comprised of Jewish community rela-

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[recognition]

## Iowa Judiciary Honors Harlan Lekowsky



Seven court officials and Harlan Lekowsky, a volunteer mediator, were recognized last June as the recipients of the 2005 Judicial Branch Awards. In addition to local ceremonies, the recipients were honored by the Judicial Council and Supreme Court at a ceremony and reception in the Judicial Branch Building.

Harlan Lekowsky, a volunteer mediator with the Polk County Small Claims Mediation Program for over 19 years, was the recipient of the Amicus Curiae Award for 2005. The purpose of this award is to recognize persons who contribute to the administration of justice or who have contributed to building public support for the judiciary.

"Harlan is a gifted mediator - a natural peace-maker - and during his tenure he has faithfully served one day a week

for 19 years," said Judge Carol Coppola. "Each week he handles from three to twelve cases, and has a resolution rate exceeding 90%. Also, over 90% of people who answer the program's customer surveys rate Mr. Lekowsky's skills as excellent."

Because of his exceptional mediation skills the court assigned Mr. Lekowsky to mediate other types of court cases involving sensitive or volatile disputes. According to Judge Coppola, Mr. Lekowsky mediated a dispute between two sisters over a failed business venture. Before the mediation the sisters hadn't spoken to each other in months. Within 45 minutes, Mr. Lekowsky had the case settled and the sisters "walked out of the courthouse, arm-in-arm."

In addition to his work for the Polk County program, Mr. Lekowsky has been instrumental in establishing other small claims mediation programs around the

[commentary]

## Conversion Counts

By Sondra Krueger Feldstein

Like Vipin Gupta ("My Opinion: Mixed Families Count," Spring 2006), I too have pondered the status of non-Jewish members in a Jewish institution. Unlike Mr. Gupta, however, I chose to convert, and so my own perspective is different.

Several years ago, when I was president of my Sisterhood, the issue arose: Should our non-Jewish members be allowed to become officers? Like all volunteer organizations, our Sisterhood was not inclined to turn down a willing body, and a number of willing members were not Jewish. For years, our congregation had welcomed interfaith couples with open arms. So no one questioned whether non-Jews could belong to Sisterhood; if the family belonged to the Temple, non-Jewish wives could belong to Sisterhood. But could a non-Jew potentially lead our Sisterhood?

As president and moderator of the discussion, I listened closely to the arguments. There was strong sentiment both ways.

Several members who felt that exclusion was appropriate in this circumstance pointed out that the Sisterhood of a synagogue is, by definition, a Jewish organization and therefore should not be led by non-Jews. Others added that non-Jewish members should not expect to hold leadership positions in a Jewish organization any more than Jews would expect to hold such positions in a church or mosque.

There were also excellent arguments for inclusion, among them the recognition that often the decision not to convert is based on a desire to avoid hurting parents' feelings; and the fact that in many mixed marriages it is the non-Jewish mother who sees to it that her children go to Hebrew school. Everyone recognized that non-Jewish

spouses were valuable members of our community. Our Sisterhood was also very sensitive to the impression our decision would convey to non-Jewish members or potential members. Several members argued passionately that inclusion had to mean full inclusion - if it meant a non-Jewish Sisterhood president, so be it.

As I listened, I came to my own conclusion. And finally, I spoke up.

"I converted before we were married," I said, which came as a surprise to some who had assumed I was born Jewish. "And it seems to me that by saying it doesn't matter whether someone is Jewish, you're saying my conversion was meaningless. It's not that I converted just so I could become Sisterhood president [laughter]. Conversion should mean something. Why else would we bother with conversion classes and a formal ceremony? Why not just say that anyone who walks in the door can consider herself Jewish? Yes, some people choose not to convert because it will hurt their parents' feelings, and I will never question that decision. But I made a choice too, and it was not without causing my non-Jewish family pain."

Indeed, we recently celebrated our elder son's bar mitzvah, and while my church-going parents, brothers, and cousins all made an effort to participate in the service, I know my parents would have preferred to see their grandchildren take Christian confirmation. I don't fault them. Don't Jewish parents hope for Jewish grandchildren?

Ultimately, our Sisterhood decided that non-Jews could be committee chairs, and by virtue of that position serve on the board, but they could not become officers. Our congregation has chosen a similar path for its board.

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[from our congregations]

## TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

**United Synagogue Youth (USY)** Kinnus in Des Moines on November 23-26. Kinnus is the region's largest annual convention where more than 400 USYers get together to celebrate Thanksgiving and Shabbat, in our own USY style. There will be projects benefiting communities, times for study and discussion, and extraordinary evening programs filled with lots of ruach. This year's convention will be in Des Moines, Iowa. This is the biggest and best event to attend. You are guaranteed an awesome weekend!

For more information, please contact Mike Siegel at Tifereth Israel Synagogue – 515-255-1137.

### Memorial Service for Ed Berkson

Sunday, Nov. 5 10:00 am.

## TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

### Hanukkah Happening at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Sunday Dec 17

Temple B'nai Jeshurun invites the community to the annual "Hanukkah Happening" on Sunday, December 17 from Noon until 2pm. Come and take part in an array of carnival-style games, win prizes, sing songs and taste delicious treats. The Temple Sisterhood will run crafts activities, the Brotherhood will prepare the food and the Temple Youth Group will run the games. It's an event for all ages to enjoy.

## COMMUNITY BASKETBALL GAMES

Sunday Morning Men's Basketball 1/2 Court Pick-Up Games. Approximately 9:45 am - 11:30 am at the Beth El Jacob Synagogue gym. For more information, contact Phil Sobel at sobelphil@hotmail.com or call Sheldon Ohringer at 331-0560.

## THE GREAT PLAINS HANUKKAH CONCERT UNITES COMMUNITIES FROM FIVE STATES

Children in grades pre-K through 6 from the Des Moines area Jewish community will join with children from the Jewish communities of Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota, and South Dakota to perform a program of Hanukkah music in an unprecedented regional celebration of community and song. The Great Plains Hanukkah Concert: Rededication to our Children will take place on Sunday, November 19 at 4:00pm at Beth El Synagogue, 14506 California Street in Omaha. An instrumental ensemble will accompany the performance and the cantors and cantorial soloists from the participating communities will sing two songs together during the afternoon program. They also will join the children for the concert's finale. The concert will be followed by a reception, hosted by the Sisterhoods and Brotherhoods in Omaha.

The Great Plains Hanukkah Concert is sponsored by the synagogues and Jewish communal organizations of Omaha, and has been planned by two Omaha area Cantors, Wendy Shermet of Temple Israel and Gaston Bogolomoni of Beth El Synagogue. All proceeds from the concert after expenses will go to the Child Savings Institute in Omaha and to "Wings" in Israel. "Wings" cares for teenagers with disabilities and the organizers hope that the funds generated by the concert will help to complete a safe room for them.

Temple B'nai Jeshurun's Cantorial Soloist, Laura Berkson, is coordinating the Des Moines area participants. She will also sing with the cantors and cantorial soloists ensemble during the concert.

Members of the Des Moines Jewish

## CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE 2006 COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

### Additions:

Supporter

- Dr. Dana and Ronit Simon
- Dr. Richard and Ellen Caplan  
701 Oaknoll Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52246-5168; 319-466-3098

Friend

- Jerome and Sari Bassman

### Corrections:

- Jewish Federation Community School  
JFSchool@dmjfed.org
- Tifereth Israel Synagogue phone 255-1137
- Kerty Levy cell phone 490-7741
- Richard and Lois Brown  
1938 NW 126th Street, Clive, Iowa 50325-8164 same phone: 225-3898
- Steve and Penny Bassman phone 223-9269.
- Friedman, Annette 252-7418  
12605 Woodland Parkway #176; Clive, IA 50325-8701
- Friedman, Deena Davidson 279-3838  
3000 Grand Avenue #917; Des Moines, IA 50312-4256

Directories are still available for \$10 per book or 3 for \$25.

## B'nai Mitzvah



### Nicholas Dimenstein

Saturday, November 11  
Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Irina & Boris Dimenstein invite the community to come share our excitement and love when their son Nicholas

Dimenstein becomes a bar mitzvah on Saturday, the eleventh of November, two thousand and six. Service at ten o'clock at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. A Kiddush luncheon will follow.



### Leah Bailin

Saturday, November 18  
Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Audrey Porter & Steven Bailin invite you to join them when their daughter, Leah Bailin, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, November 18, 10:00 am at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. A Kiddush luncheon will follow the service.

## In Memoriam

We note with sorrow

Shirley Bassman  
Judi Berck  
Ed Berkson  
David Fishel  
Stanley Isaacson  
Boris Pshonik

## [short

### Noted author

**Gerda Weissmann Klein**, whose autobiography, "All But My Life," was made into an Academy Award-winning documentary about her survival during the Holocaust, spoke recently in Des Moines pictured with her good friend **Roselind Rabinowitz**



## [wanted]

**Seeking Jewish Athletes** to represent the United States at International Maccabi Games. Rome, July 2007 and Buenos Aires, December 2007. For more information, visit [www.maccabi-usa.org](http://www.maccabi-usa.org)

## Mazel Tov

## wedding



**Margo Suzanne Levine** and **Rafael Jaramillo** were married on July 2, '06 at

The Hotel at Gateway Center in Ames, Iowa with Rabbi James Davis and Cantor Pinchas Spiro officiating. Parents are **Elyse** and **Howard Levine** of Ames and **Wendy Covell** and **Benjamin Jaramillo** of Brookline, Massachusetts. Levine is a doctoral student in Applied Mathematics at Northwestern University. Jaramillo is a doctoral student in Physics at the University of Chicago. The couple honeymooned in Greece and live in Chicago.

## new baby

**Wendy Beckerman** and family on the birth of a grandson, **Jayden** on September 16. The proud parents are **Amy and Jamie Flugge Smith**.

## b'nai mitzvah

**Alexander Sean Arenson** son of **Laura and Ira Arenson** was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 7, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

**Samantha Zuckerman** daughter of **Rosalie & Irwin Zuckerman** was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 14, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

**Sam Weinberg** son of **Kathleen & Roger Weinberg** was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on October 28, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

## SUCCESS

**Don Schoen**, CEO and President of MediNotes Corporation, which for the second consecutive year, has been named as one of the 500 fastest growing privately-held companies in the country by Inc Magazines. Ranking 374th for 2006, MediNotes, a provider of electronic medical record systems, posted an impressive growth of 380% over a three year period.

**Abe Goldstien** for producing the vibrant Trio-X jazz concert for a large audience at The Caspe Terrace.

**Ben Witten**, who has been honored



**The Java Jews Klezmer band performed at the 2006 Iowa State Fair with Rabbi Beryl Padorr as vocalist.**



**Gala** from page 1

At the dinner, Program Sub-Committee Chairs David and Heidi Moskowitz introduced the evening, which included singing of America the Beautiful and Hatikvah by Cantorial Soloist Laura Berkson and an invocation and prayer for Israel by Rabbi Beryl Padorr.

After the meal, Federation President Toni Urban paid tribute and dedicated the 2007 Campaign to the memory of beloved community leader Harry Simon, who was to be the 2007 Campaign Chairman. In her remarks, Toni recalled Harry as a "man who brought tremendous integrity, decency and responsibility to the task at hand." Harry's wife, Suzann and sons Mitchell and Morgan accepted a beautiful Tzedakah box from the Federation as a symbol of acts of loving kindness and justice which truly exemplified Harry's life. Toni also introduced Neil Salowitz who has graciously accepted the role of 2007 Campaign Chair. "We feel blessed as a community to have had an outpouring of individuals who said they would help. One such individual was Neil Salowitz who has been a devoted volunteer to the Federation for a number of years," she continued.

Salowitz and Federation Jewish Family Service Pillar Chair, Barb Hirsch-Giller presented the case for increased giving to the 2007 Campaign. Three members of the Jewish community, Recil Arenson, Sherrie DeShetler and Julia Gitelman shared their personal and moving stories of how the Jewish Federation has made a meaningful difference to their lives. After a brief video presentation called "One More Thing," Campaign Chair Salowitz requested everyone to do that 'one more thing' by making their annual commitments with the idea that a million dollar goal is achievable, so that the Federation can enhance so many more lives. The outpouring of support was wonderfully surreal as everyone responded so generously.

Event Chairs Don and Margo Blumenthal introduced guest speaker Henry Winkler whose personal theme of "If you will it, it is not a dream," inspired the audience. Following question and answers, Program Sub-Committee Chairs closed the evening with a fun door prize raffle. All who made a gift to the Federation during the evening were eligible to participate. Henry Winkler himself added to the festivities by drawing and announcing the winners.

Many in the community are asking how the Federation can top this wonderful evening next year...We'll have to wait and see...For now, there is still much to be done to meet the continuing needs of our community.

**Salowitz** from page 3

Your gifts have provided community outreach, community relations with the greater Des Moines community and Jewish advocacy. Your Federation makes sure that anti-Israel and anti-Semitic propaganda is countered quickly and forcefully. You supported that.

This year, we also raised more than \$300,000 for the Israel Crisis Fund, from individuals and a generous gift from the Jewish Foundation. The Europeans, the Arabs, the United Nations are all helping

to rebuild Lebanon after the recent war. Who is helping the Jews of northern Israel to rebuild their homes and businesses after the damage wrought by thousands of Katyusha rockets? Nobody—except other Jews. Nobody—except us.

Your gifts to the Israel Crisis Fund go toward helping the most vulnerable populations in Israel's north, chiefly children, seniors, the disabled and new immigrants. Des Moines has earmarked funds from the Israel Crisis Fund for our Partnership 2000 Region in the Western Galilee which was particularly affected by the war. You may have seen news reports of Western Galilee Hospital after it was hit by a Katyusha rocket and the patients had to be moved underground, where there were facilities to keep the hospital running and the patients safe. You supported that.

All of these things are possible only because of your caring, because of your concern, because of your generosity.

Seven years ago, I moved to Des Moines from Connecticut. It was interesting to see people's reactions when they learned that I had "made aliyah." They would ask, "How do you like Des Moines?" Then they would almost cringe, as if they were afraid of the answer. I would say, "I love Des Moines," and I could see them relax.

I DO love Des Moines, and I'm proud to say that I'm an Iowan. I love it here not because everything in Des Moines is within 15 minutes of everything else, not because of the State Fair, where it is possible to purchase all manner of fried "treif" on a stick. No, I love Iowa, and Des Moines, because of Iowans. Iowans are wonderful, warm, concerned, caring people. And Jewish Iowans are the best Iowans of all.

And because we're Iowans, and because we're Jews, we know that the word "Mitzvah" means not just "obligation," but "opportunity"—the opportunity to serve our fellow Jews here and in Israel, through our gifts to this Campaign.

And so I ask you to go beyond generosity when you contribute to the 2007 Campaign. You have an opportunity to do something very special—to make a sacrifice in the service of K'lal Des Moines and K'lal Yisrael—the community of Jews in greater Des Moines and in Israel.

If each of us makes a little bit of a sacrifice, and pledges to contribute a little more, we can have a million dollar campaign. That's a lofty goal, but one that I believe is worthy of this community.

And so...it's tachlis time. Or as my father says, "Tuchas afen tish", which, loosely translated, means, "Put your ideals on the table." Take the time to consult your conscience, consult Hashem, and make a pledge that's bigger than you expected to make. The need is great... and the time is now.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Board of Directors and staff of the Greater Des Moines Jewish Federation, thank you for your generosity and for your sacrifice.

—Neil Salowitz

(Adapted from Neil Salowitz's remarks delivered at Campaign Opening Gala, September 17, 2006)

**History** from page 10

In the long term, what is in jeopardy when photographers and newspapers are caught forging or staging the news, or even suspected of having done so, is not the coverage of the conflict in question nor the reliability of the particular media outlets, nor even the public's trust in journalists in general; what is at stake is the historical record, not just of this conflict, but very much longer term. This got me thinking even more.

For those anti-Israel forces out there, there is a specific time period that is seen as resulting in the creation of the nation of Israel. They argue that it is because of the guilt felt by Europeans over the reported history of this time period and by Germans in particular that Israel came into existence. More importantly and more relevantly, these opponents of Israel's existence argue that the history of this particular time period has been manipulated and exaggerated.

Their case that the Holocaust did not happen or happened to a lesser degree than claimed by Jews is strengthened every time they are able to manipulate the media into reporting a "massacre." After all, if they can with limited resources manipulate the media and world opinion into believing that there was a Jenin massacre and a Qana massacre and eventually make that manipulation public, how much easier would it be for the wealthy Jews who "control the world's media" and the US government to use their resources to fabricate the Holocaust, and September 11 as well for that matter, for which numerous conspiracy theorists blame Israel, the US, and the Jewish Cabal seeking to control the world.

What else becomes questionable? There are more than a few people out there who offer detailed arguments about why the words "That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind" were spoken by Neil Armstrong from a sound studio at an undisclosed military installation.

It may be that I am thinking too far ahead and that any possibly staging of "massacres" during recent conflicts

between Israel and its opponents were purely for the purpose of forcing the UN to impose ceasefires in the conflicts. That certainly is a possibility. Yet, I also know it to be the case that the supporters of Al Qaida, Hizballah, Hamas and others see this conflict, not as one that will conclude in their own lifetime, but as a conflict that has been and will take place over centuries. The slow erosion of historical accuracy, the creation of doubt alongside the strengthening of Jewish hatred and hatred of the United States and Britain will exponentially increase the belief in the manipulation of historical events by the West and Jews in particular at the expense of the Arab world, especially if what is "remembered" is the fiction, Qana, Jenin, and not the truth.

When we look at events solely at the micro level, we may be missing the bigger picture. Efforts to discredit specific media reports or photos lend credence to those wishing to discredit others. Doing so may unwittingly help the greater cause of our enemies, who are not only enemies of the Israel and the free world, but enemies of history as told by the West.

I am not sure how to address the chicken and the egg problem. Certainly, we cannot let Hizballah and other entities get away with manipulating facts to suit their goals, but we must be aware of the fact that when we challenge those facts, we do not challenge them alone, but the broader historical record. Truth and fact become far less than absolute. History, the recorded sequence of events, always being subjective and not truly objective, becomes our story versus their story and it becomes impossible to discern the truth.

Determining truth then becomes increasingly reliant on believability and the confidence placed in the story teller by the learners. Suddenly fact becomes opinion and it is not long before all of western history is seen as manipulation by the West, controlled by Zionists and Crusaders, of Arabs and Muslims in general. Arabs, rather than suffering because

## Lions and

**Iowa's First Lady Christie Vilsack spoke to the Lions and Pomegranates recently at a tea hosted by Federation president Toni Urban. Mrs. Vilsack reminisced about her and the Governor's recent trip to Israel.**



# HAMAS - Terrorists In Control of Palestinian

Hamas, Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya or "Islamic Resistance Movement" is a Palestinian Sunni Islamist organization that currently forms the majority party of the Palestinian National Authority.

Created in 1987 by Shaikh Ahmed Yassin of the Gaza wing of the Muslim Brotherhood at the beginning of the First Intifada, Hamas is known outside of the Palestinian territories chiefly for its suicide bombings and other attacks directed against Israeli civilians, as well as military and security forces targets. Hamas' charter (written in 1988 and still in effect) calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and its replacement with a Palestinian Islamic state in the area that is now Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

Hamas is listed as a terrorist organization by Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Israel, and the United States, and is banned in Jordan. According to the U.S. State Dept, the group is funded by Iran, Palestinian expatriates, and private benefactors in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states. In a 2002 report, Human Rights Watch stated that Hamas' leaders "should be held accountable for the war crimes and crimes against humanity" that have been committed by its members.

Since the death of former PLO leader Yasser Arafat, Hamas' political wing has

entered and won many local elections in Gaza, Qalqilya, and Nablus. In January 2006, Hamas won a surprise victory in the Palestinian parliamentary elections, taking 76 of the 132 seats in the chamber, with the ruling Fatah party trailing on 43. Vehemently anti-Israel and according to many anti-Semitic, Hamas's militant stance has found a receptive audience amongst Palestinians; many perceived the preceding Fatah government as corrupt and ineffective, and Hamas's supporters see it as a legitimate resistance movement fighting the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. Hamas has further gained popularity by establishing extensive welfare programs, funding schools, orphanages, and healthcare clinics, throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Since Hamas has taken control, the Palestinian territories have experienced a period of sharp internal conflicts, known as Fauda (anarchy), in which many Palestinians have been killed in internecine fighting.

## **Allegations of Anti-Semitism**

Anti-Semitism is a recurring theme in the Hamas Covenant and speeches of its leaders. The Covenant cites The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, describing it as "the embodiment of the Zionist plan to usurp Palestine." Other examples of Anti-Semitism in their Covenant include:

Introduction: Our struggle against

the Jews is very great and very serious. It needs all sincere efforts. It is a step that inevitably should be followed by other steps. The Movement is but one squadron that should be supported by more and more squadrons from this vast Arab and Islamic world, until the enemy is vanquished and God's victory is realised.

Article 7: ... the Islamic Resistance Movement aspires to the realisation of God's promise, no matter how long that should take. The Prophet, God bless him and grant him salvation, has said: "The Day of Judgement will not come about until Muslims fight the Jews, when the Jew will hide behind stones and trees. The stones and trees will say O Muslims, O slaves of God, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him. Only the Gharqad tree would not do that because it is one of the trees of the Jews."

Article 28: ... when the Jews conquered the Holy City in 1967, they stood on the threshold of the Aqsa Mosque and proclaimed that "Mohammed is dead, and his descendants are all women." Israel, Judaism and Jews challenge Islam and the Moslem people. "May the cowards never sleep."

Hamas categorizes the Freemasons, Lions Club, and the Rotarians as organizations promoting "the interest of Zionism." It accuses those organizations, and the "Zionist invasion" in general, of

being "behind the drug trade and alcoholism in all its kinds."

Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, co-founder of Hamas, reiterated beliefs of Holocaust denial as recently as one year before his 2004 death, contending that the Holocaust was a Zionist - Nazi collaboration for the purpose of encouraging emigration to Israel.

In 1998, Esther Webman of the Project for the Study of Anti-Semitism at the Tel Aviv University wrote: "...the anti-Semitic rhetoric in Hamas leaflets is frequent and intense. Nevertheless, anti-Semitism is not the main tenet of Hamas ideology. Generally no differentiation was made in the leaflets between Jew and Zionist, in as much as Judaism was perceived as embracing Zionism, although in other Hamas publications and in interviews with its leaders attempts at this differentiation have been made."

According to Meir Litvak's 2003 study, "In Hamas' literature, anti-Semitism became almost dominant. Earlier anti-Semitic motifs are developed time and again in their magazine Falastin al-Muslama. Almost every issue contains anti-Jewish articles using elements from the Islamic tradition. Judaism is presented as a religion based on lies, which from its origin called for aggression against others and their exploitation."




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MARY MERRILL-HILLIS TREE II PAPER AND ACRYLIC PAINT © 2005





**Israel** continued from page 1

The Israel Emergency Campaign is a system-wide effort, spearheaded by the United Jewish Communities, to bring urgent and on-going relief, support and assistance to the people of Israel. Over \$300 million has been committed so far nationally. The Israel Emergency Campaign is built upon a comprehensive and coordinated partnership between the Jewish Federations of North America and their overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Initially, the campaign's objective was to bring children out of the north to safety and meet the basic needs of the population. The campaign's objective is now geared toward creating a more secure future with the reconstruction and recovery of the north, with funds allocated to trauma care and counseling services for victims and their families, temporary housing for the uprooted, vocational counseling for the newly unemployed, specialized assistance for new Israelis, the elderly and those with special needs, and re-equipping community facilities. The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is also committed to send at least \$50,000 of what is raised directly to its Partnership Region of the Western Galilee which was particularly affected during the crisis.

Nearly 4,000 rockets fell across northern Israel in 34 days, 1.5 million Israelis lived under fire, 160 Israelis killed, 5,000 wounded, 400,000 Israelis displaced from their homes as they sought safer refuge, 90,000 small businesses suffered devastating interruptions. Estimates to rebuild and re-stimulate the Israeli economy are in the billions of dollars. "The Greater Des Moines Jewish community is proud to do its part by raising funds for a vast network of social services in Israel. Many thanks to all who have provided support and will continue to do so," said Neil Salowitz.

**Richards** from page 1

Gail Richards has been active in the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines for more than 40 years. She has been a board member, campaign worker, major

gifts chair, and major events chair. She has been a Lion of Judah for 11 years, created a Lion of Judah endowment in 2004, and became a Ruby in 2005. She has brought important speakers to the city, hosted events, and taken major gift cards both in the women's and general campaign divisions.

Gail and her husband have made a \$2 million commitment to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation that includes PACE, LOJE, Israel, their synagogue, and Jewish education.

Gail also has served on the board of the Jewish Federation of Palm Springs and Desert Area for the past two years and has co-chaired a Lion of Judah event in the desert. Gail's other community volunteer activities include serving on the board of the Des Moines Art Center and the Contemporary Art Council of Desert Museum Board of Palm Springs.

Gail was a professional fundraiser for other non-profits, including Children and Families of Iowa, where she created the very successful annual "Kids Fair."

**GA** from page 1

New this year will be the framework of the closing day of the GA when delegates will join in the forging of a communal agenda for action.

"This GA provides an opportunity for our community to come together at a challenging moment," said UJC President & CEO Howard Rieger. "This is not the first time that Jews have faced risks. Throughout our history, we have known good times and difficult times, but we have always been able to draw upon our faith in order to persevere. In unity there is strength."

"The response of the UJC/Federations of North America to the crisis in Israel has demonstrated that Jews throughout our continent continue to look to us as the most viable place for them to respond effectively," Rieger continued, referring to the Israel Emergency Campaign of UJC and the Jewish Federations of North America. "This GA will be a time for us to reflect on this response, determine what we can learn from it, and consider how we may be able to reposition our organi-

zations so that we can maintain the unity that will be required for us to carry on for generations to come."

Every GA features a wealth of cultural events. Of special note, at the 2006 GA, the Los Angeles Philharmonic will perform selections from the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music. The GA will also feature special guest soloists in a celebration of Yiddish theater.

Our delegation will include the Federation's President Toni Urban, President-Elect Neil Salowitz, Federation Secretary Jake Jacobs, Judy Flapan, Tim Urban, and Assistant Director Steve Reitman.

**Gitchell** from page 19

Debbie is a former president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, past chair of the JCRC and Debbie and Bob co-chaired the All-In-One Campaign together. She is especially proud of helping with the landscaping of Caspe Terrace. Just check out the wild flowers along the winding entrance road!

We concluded our interview with a lengthy discussion about challah after Debbie mentioned she won a ribbon at the Caspe Terrace competition, where I presided as the judge. She's an expert at braiding her loaves!

The JEWISH PRESS thanks Debbie for sharing her family's treasured cookie recipe passed down from her grandmother. I know I can't wait to try it! Remember if you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers, just call or email Karen Engman at (515-274-3300) or (aengmandsm@yahoo.com).

**Winkler** from page 13

JP: You've done Neil Simon. Do you have the ability to improvise?

HW: Yes. I improvised with Neil. You don't improvise the words, you improvise physicality. The words, unless you have a problem and discuss it with him, are sacrosanct — because he is the most prolific playwright in the universe.

JP: Are you a method actor?

HW: I've studied with a lot of different teachers and you just absorb the best of everybody.

JP: How do you figure out how to play a role?

HW: Well, the writer tells you who the character is, he tells you from what you say and from what other characters say about you. And then it is how you feel about what is happening, and that may be your personal interpretation of a play that may have been performed for four hundred years.

JP: I take it that you enjoy the classics as well, then?

HW: That is not my forte.

JP: What's upcoming for you?

HW: Well, I'm going to London in November to play "Peter Pan" — in a theater that is 200 years old.

JP: What's the longest you've been on Broadway?

HW: Nine months.

JP: How does it feel to re-enact the same character day after day?

HW: You know, that's your job as an actor. That's your responsibility. How I do it? I enjoyed every moment of it.

JP: Has there been a production you've been in where the entire cast just jelled?

HW: So many, I can't tell you. Happy Days, for one. The Neil Simon play....and when I did "The Practice," that particular cast was incredible. "The Third Watch," those people were great.

JP: Your Jewish identity. Has it been important to you for a long time?

HW: I guess since I was a little boy. I was born in 1945 and grew up in New York City. My parents were German Jews who escaped Nazi Germany in 1939. (We did, by the way, speak about the Holocaust when I was growing up.) We were Conservative. My parents helped found a Temple that still exists in New York, on 66th Street between Broadway and Central Park West, Congregation HaBonim.

JP: What languages were spoken in your house?

HW: German and English.

JP: What stuck with you about your early Jewish education?

HW: That Hebrew school was really difficult, being a dyslexic kid. If it was tough for me to learn English, it was impossible for me to learn Hebrew. I learned my haftarah phonetically. I was very proud that I was bar mitzvahed, but it was a trying experience. And now, I am very proud that my children were bat- and bar mitzvahed.

JP: In terms of the message you're bring-

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## Galveston Movement Roots?

# We Want Your Story!

Did your ancestors come to America through the port city of Galveston, Texas? Did they arrive by ship from Bremen or Naples or Liverpool between 1907 and 1914? Were they part of an organized movement of East European Jews who were brought to America through Texas and settled in cities throughout the American Midwest? Did they have stories of the journey to America by ship, or a loved one left behind, or an "angel of mercy" who met their ship and smoothed their transition to America? Do you still use a pair of candlesticks or a Kiddush cup that your ancestors brought with them to America to begin a new life here? If your answer is "yes" to any of these questions we want to hear from you!

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is planning a major traveling exhibition that will explore the history of Galveston Island as a significant port of

immigration into Texas and America from 1845-1914. The exhibit is scheduled to open in 2009 and travel to other museums during 2010-2011. One section of the exhibit will highlight "The Galveston Movement," an internationally organized movement of more than 10,000 Jews who were recruited in Eastern Europe to come to America through the port city of Galveston. Immigrants to the US through this movement settled in one of a dozen cities in the American Midwest and South. Agents and representatives from the Movement helped them with jobs, places to stay, and connections for school, language study and other necessities for getting by in a new land.

In the coming months, Museum staff members are planning to travel to major railhead cities in Texas and the Midwest to collect the stories and scan photographs from descendants of Galveston

immigrants who were routed to these communities through the Galveston Movement. Individuals who immigrated to Texas through Galveston--or descendants of those individuals--will be invited to bring in family photos and record family stories of their journey to America through Texas.

If you or your parents or grandparents came to America via Galveston between 1907 and 1914, please send an email to Anya Rous, Project Intern, at galvestonproject@aol.com, or leave a phone message at 512-463-9930. We will make contact with you by phone or email so that your family story can be included in the archive of images, objects and stories of the Galveston Movement that we are gathering in connection with our upcoming traveling

## We Need You!

**Please become a member of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society!**

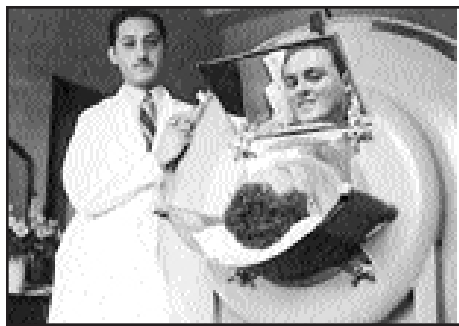
Your annual membership in the IJHS will help to preserve the history and irreplaceable treasures of the Jews in Iowa. With your membership you will receive the Chaiowan, a bi-annual newsletter packed with information and interesting items concerning the activities of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and Caspe Gallery and the history of Jews in Iowa.



**Above: IJHS Board members Karen Engman and David Gradwohl display t-shirts from the Ragbrai promotion: Heritage, Helmets and Highways Iowa Museum**



**Awareness Tour, which featured the Caspe Heritage Gallery. Right: IJHS volunteer Jody Kolmen adjusts the Jewish War Veteran's Flag in the Caspe Heritage Gallery.**



## IJHS Fall Event

On October 29th, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society opened its latest exhibit: The Iowa Jewish Medical Community: Heritage of Healing.

Pictured is Dr. William "Bob" Krigsten, a Sioux City native, with the nation's first iron lung. The picture was taken in Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri.

Don't miss this exhibit's fabulous photos, medical documents, instruments, patents, awards, clothing, and histories from the Iowa Jewish Medical Community.

During the winter months, the gallery is open by appointment. To make an appointment, call Kryss Phillips at

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Sun, November 5	10:00 AM 6:00 PM	Memorial Service for Ed Berkson at Tifereth U of Iowa Hillel Major Donors' Dinner with Tom Friedman Contact: Dr. Jerry Sorokin, Hillel Director
Thu, November 9	12 Noon	Senior Lunch at the Temple
Sat, November 11	9:00 AM	Nicholas Dimenstein Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Sun, November 12	1:00 PM	Women's League Show: Kids Dessert Theatre at Tifereth Israel Synagogue Contact: Lora Lee 515-279-8792, pllspiro@aol.com
Spiro, Thu, November 16	7:30 AM	"Obsession," movie at the Caspe Terrace, see: www.obsessionthemovie.com Contact: Mark Finkelstein, 277-6321 x 214, jcrc@dmjfed.org
Sat, November 18	10:00 AM	Leah Bailin Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Sun, November 19		In Omaha: Children's concert, Contact: Lyanna Grund, jcsllkg@aol.com
Sun, November 19	9:30 – 1:30	Jewish Federation Community School Book Fair at the Temple
Mon, November 20	6:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting at Federation Office
Thu, November 23 – Nov. 26		USY Kinnus, Contact: Mike Siegel, 480-2313, masiegel@mchsi.com
Thu, December 14	12 Noon	Senior Lunch at Tifereth
Fri, December 15	5:30 PM	Chanukah Dinner & Klezmer Shabbat at Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Sun, December 17	12 Noon 5:00 PM	Hanukkah Happening at the Temple BEJ: Community Hanukkah Dinner at Beth El Jacob Synagogue Contact: Marcie Berkson, imun@qwest.net

## KISS Sends Video to Wounded Soldier

Associated Press Aug.26, '06 The flamboyant, Israeli-born rocker Gene Simmons has sent a televised message of support to an Israeli soldier seriously wounded in fighting in Lebanon, calling him his "hero."

Simmons, 57, founded the heavy metal band KISS in the '70s and became famous for white and black face make-up, spitting fire and sticking out his tongue.

Simmons, the band's bass player, was born Chaim Witz in Israeli city of Haifa before emigrating to New York as a child.

Simmons sent a video message to Ron Weinreich, an Israeli soldier and die-hard KISS fan, who was seriously wounded in Israel's 34-day fight with Hizbullah guerrillas in Lebanon. Weinreich remains hospitalized and is paralyzed from the chest down. Above his hospital bed, a KISS poster is spread across the wall.

Weinreich's brother had his wedding relocated to the hospital, so his brother could attend. At the wedding, the surprise recording was played.

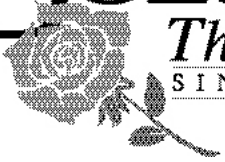
"Hi Ron, this is Gene Simmons. I'm talking to you from my home. I can't tell you how proud I am of you, and how much the world and Israel owes you a debt of gratitude," he said. "From the bottom of my heart, you are a real hero, you are everybody's hero, you are my hero and I wish I could be there with you."

Suddenly switching to confident Hebrew, Simmons added: "My name is Chaim, I was born in Haifa."

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