

# THE GREATER DES MOINES **Jewish Press**

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## HANUKKAH 5771

THE FIRST CANDLE  
OF HANUKKAH IS  
LIT THE EVENING  
OF WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 1



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# “my federation...”

I have many joyous memories of my Jewish upbringing here in Des Moines during the mid-seventies. I attended Wednesday afternoon Hebrew school every week and enjoyed living in a Jewish environment in which the synagogues were full on the holidays.

It is now 2010 and much has changed. I am now a proud single father of a great 5-year-old son, with whom G-d has blessed my life. I feel that Hashem has reasonable expectations of all of us to carry out our tradition and G-d's written word for all of mankind's eternity. We as a Jewish community strive to pass on our fundamental beliefs as Jews and strive to live by Hashem's word.

This brings me to my final point. The Jewish Federation of Des Moines and our congregations are made up of many good people dedicated to educating the next generation and ensuring that we as Jewish people continue to thrive for generations to come. I am fortunate to have everyone at the Federation, the great spiritual leaders -- our rabbis, cantors -- and especially parents -- that contribute to this effort !

I am grateful to all our community members who have committed to provide a beautiful new learning environment for the next generation to pass on the traditions of Judaism. It is a testament to our community that we are able to come together for our current and future generations to build a new, modern, state-of-the-art educational facility at The Caspe Terrace. I would like to thank everyone who has sacrificed their time, energy and resources to ensure that my son, along with all the children in our community, has the opportunity to become a great Jewish adult. Thank you!

– **David Hurkin**



Thank you for supporting the All-In-One Campaign

**Share your story. Tell us how the Jewish Federation has impacted your life.** Send an e-mail to [tom@dmjfed.org](mailto:tom@dmjfed.org) or call Tom Wolff at (515) 277-6321 x 222.



# Who Does The Federation Serve?



Judy Deutch  
President

**Your Jewish Federation Serves:**

- our seniors who don't have a ride to the doctor
- our children who attend the Jewish Federation Community School
- our local teachers who learn from speakers regarding anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and other topics of educational interest at our annual Teachers' Institute
- community members who want to celebrate holidays together
- newcomers wanting to connect with our Jewish community
- people in need through the Tobis Fund
- our college students involved in Hillel
- residents of the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center
- parents who wish to participate with their children on Ohringer Family Education Day
- our seniors who don't have enough resources for food and medication
- our young adults interested in a Birthright trip to Israel
- our campers who need a scholarship to attend Engman Camp Shalom
- people who have lost their jobs and need help
- individuals who want to support Israel
- community members who have personal issues with anti-semitism and the separation between religion and state
- individuals who want to hear national speakers
- our seniors who are offered kosher meals after a hospital stay
- all of us who need information regarding Israel and the Jewish community worldwide
- new Americans wishing to learn about their Jewish heritage and opportunities in Des Moines
- visitors to the Iowa Jewish Historical Center

If this describes you or any member of your family, please generously support our Campaign. We can't do these things without you!

- Shalom, Judy

## Hold the Date! JFCS Groundbreaking Event

**Sunday, November 7, 2010**, at 11:00 am, the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines will hold a ceremonial groundbreaking at The Caspe Terrace for the new Jewish Federation Community School building.

Stay as our guest for a kosher hot dog lunch. RSVP to [julie@dmjfed.org](mailto:julie@dmjfed.org) or call 515-277-6321 x224 by Nov 4.

## OMISSION

The Jewish Press failed to note in the September 2010 edition that David Gradwohl's book review of *The Liberation of the Concentration Camps, 1945: The Des Moines, Iowa Survivors* by Adele Anolik was reprinted from *The Annals of Iowa*, volume 69, No. 3, Summer 2010, with permission of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The 1995 booklet by Adele Anolik was originally published by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

## 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** - Individuals, families, seniors and children

**Senior Adult Programs** - Senior Adult socialization

**Resettlement Program** - Case management and health services for seniors

**Jewish Family Life Education** - Sponsorship of community-wide programs

**Volunteer Opportunities** - Numerous volunteer projects

**Tzedakah** - Last year assisted 180 community members in need

**THANK YOU** to all who have contributed through United Way.

Please remember that your gift to Jewish Family Services through United Way has to be re-designated each year.



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

THE GREATER DES MOINES

# Jewish Press

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The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press  
910 Polk Blvd. Des Moines, IA 50312  
515-277-6321 [jrcr@dmjfed.org](mailto:jrcr@dmjfed.org)

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

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

We are always happy to consider articles and information for publication. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space considerations and clarity.

Vol. 27, No. 2, Nov/Dec 2010





JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

We are now well into our fall religious school days and holidays. With our families, we celebrated and welcomed Rosh Hashanah, the birthday of the world, and ate apples and honey to bring in a sweet new year. For Yom Kippur, we examined our behavior over the last year and apologized to those we have hurt. During this time, we also thought about choosing new and better ways to behave. As you can see from the pictures, our next holiday was Sukkot. We are commanded to take the etrog and lulav in the sukkah and rejoice with them as they are waved in six directions: north, south, east, west, up and down. This signifies that God and all God’s blessings are everywhere. Simchat Torah was the last of our four fall holidays and the most joyous of them all. This holiday emphasizes family and, especially, children’s participation. There is a custom of dancing with the Torah and the seven processions in the synagogue, rejoicing in the conclusion of the Torah reading cycle, and starting a new year. Simchat Torah is a time for children to have a good time and the opportunity for them to taste for themselves how “sweet” the Torah is and to celebrate the beginning of Jewish education. That is why, during this holiday, our Consecration ceremony is held where all Jewish children enrolled in Kindergarten at the Jewish Federation Community School are blessed by their Rabbi, receive a special certificate, and are given their own miniature Torah. I can still find the Torah I received, can you? We at JFCS hope your fall holidays gave you time to rejoice, reflect, and remember how sweet and meaningful it is to study Torah.

CHANUKAH

It’s almost December, with all the dilemmas, potential shopping obligations and many festive gatherings. What choices will your family make this year about getting presents and affirming your Jewish practices?

Chanukah offers some of the greatest challenges and opportunities to infuse our homes with Jewish values. As holiday spirit pervades everything, this is a great time to welcome neighbors and classmates into our homes. When we join together for blessings, songs and games, we are reminded about the power of light as a transformative force which is able to overcome bigotry, racism, and tyranny.

We are each a candle. We can reach into ourselves and out to each other to shed light and dispel the powers of darkness. Our minds and heart can illuminate each other. Each of our actions matters. Like the flap of a butterfly wing, our individual actions can influence the future of the world.

Chanukah is a minor festival with important themes. The Maccabees were fighting for the right to be different and the right to practice our own traditions. We can be modern Maccabees by affirming our dedication, faith, hope and spiritual light. It’s a holiday that says: “Never lose hope.”

Chag sameach (happy holidays) and best wishes for a joyous, enlightening, family-filled Chanukah – Lyanna Lindgren, Principal

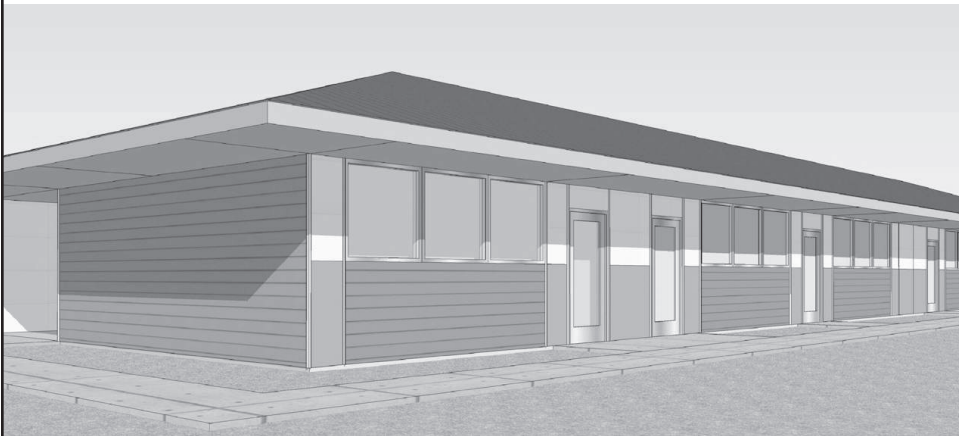
**Jewish Trivia** – During one of your family Chanukah dinners, discuss and see if you can answer the following questions: 1 – How many days do we celebrate Chanukah? 2 – What does the Hebrew word Chanukah mean? 3 – Who was the Syrian-Greek ruler who tried to pull Jews away from Judaism? 4 – What was the name of Matityahu’s son who led the Maccabee’s fight against the Syrian army? 5 – What is the name of the spinning top that children play with on Chanukah? 6 – What type of foods do we specifically eat on Chanukah? 7 – What is another name for potato pancakes that we eat during Chanukah? 8 – What is the name for the jelly donuts that we eat during Chanukah? *Answers on page 15*

Sukkot 2010



Building the Foundation for Generations to Come

Coming 5772 The New Jewish Federation Community School at The Caspe Terrace!



As we all consider the future of the Jewish Community in Des Moines, what is more important than the education of our children? To address this concern, a group of parents of religious school pupils initiated the current campaign to build a new, modern, state of the art facility at The Caspe Terrace. Recognizing the importance of this project a group of donors have already made substantial financial commitments. It is important that this have broad range community support and we invite you to join with us in insuring the success of this effort.

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE:

- Brick in school walkway - \$180
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- Named Mezzuzah for each room - \$5,000
- Computer hardware / software for one classroom - \$10,000
- Furniture for one classroom - \$20,000
- School and Federation Offices - \$50,000
- Naming a classroom - \$100,000

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## Jewish Community Relations Commission

### Center To Work With JCRC

## UNI TO LAUNCH NEW CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE EDUCATION

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa -- Iowa has long been a haven for refugees from genocide and other humanitarian crises. UNI's newly created Center for Holocaust & Genocide Education (CHGE) will provide educational programming and resources to the state of Iowa and beyond.

The CHGE will be directed by Stephen Gaies, professor of English at UNI. Gaies has been co-chairing UNI's Holocaust and Genocide Education Committee (HGEC) for the last four years. "This new center will advocate for a prominent role for Holocaust and genocide education in the curriculum of Iowa's schools," said Gaies. "In line with UNI's mission to be known as leaders in Pre-K through 12 issues, we intend to make the CHGE the primary information, resource and technical support center for Holocaust and genocide education in Iowa for teachers, school administrators and students."

One of UNI's goals focuses on educator-preparation programming and also expanding the network of partners involved in such programs. The CHGE is in the planning stages for several teacher workshops and seminars.

Joel Haack, dean of the Colleges of Humanities and Fine Arts and Natural Sciences at UNI, says that having a center, instead of merely a committee or program, will institutionalize this important work on UNI's campus. "The creation of the CHGE follows four years of presentations and activities such as the Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremonies, which provide our students and community with an important educational opportunity," said Haack. "The knowledge we gain about the Holocaust and other genocides will strengthen our resolve and ability to confront these threats in the future."

According to Gaies, the CHGE has a very ambitious but feasible set of activities this first year. The center will continue programs of various kinds including lectures, workshops, film series and exhibits. The inauguration of an electronic newsletter will also serve as a tool for individuals and groups in Iowa with a strong interest in education about the Holocaust and other genocides. The center will also work to develop educational and other initiatives in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area and throughout Iowa.

## Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State

By Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu



*Excerpts from remarks made on October 10, 2010 --* The State of Israel is a Jewish and Democratic state.

In 1896, Theodor (Binyamin Zeev) Herzl wrote: "The Jews who are seeking a state will have a state. Finally, we will live as free people on our own land."

Fifty-one years later, on the eve of independence, David Ben-Gurion wrote: "The state that will be established will be Jewish in its purpose, designation and objective; not a state of those Jews who reside in the country but a state for the Jews, for the Jewish People."

Our Declaration of Independence says: "We hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in the Land of Israel, to be known as the state of Israel."

In 1992, the Knesset, in Basic Law:

Human Dignity and Liberty, determined: "The purpose of this Basic Law is to protect human dignity and liberty, in order to establish in a Basic Law the values of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state."

This is the essence of the Zionist vision, of the Declaration of Independence and of the structure of administration in Israel.

The State of Israel is the national state of the Jewish People and is a democratic state in which all its citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish, enjoy fully equal rights.

To my regret, today, there are those who are trying to blur not only the unique connection between the Jewish People and its homeland, but also the connection between the Jewish People and its state. Democracy is the soul of Israel and we cannot do without it. No one can preach democracy or enlightenment to us. Zionism established an exemplary national state, a state that balances between the national needs of our people and the individual rights of every citizen in the country.

There is no other democracy in the Middle East. There is no other Jewish state in the world.

The combination of these two lofty values expresses the foundation of our national life.

## Get it on Twitter

- For important news, read J-NewsLine, the JCRC's InfoBlog online at [jcommunitynews.blogspot.com](http://jcommunitynews.blogspot.com). On Twitter at [twitter.com/jewishnewsblog](http://twitter.com/jewishnewsblog)
- **jewishdesmoines.org** for Updates on Federation programs, location, date or time changes, or have it sent to your cell phone by Twitter: [twitter.com/updatej](http://twitter.com/updatej)



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*Thank you, Hadassah!*

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# Converting Your Traditional IRA to a Roth? Charitable Planning Can Help



**Elaine Steinger**  
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Successful retirement planning involves a carefully considered initial strategy as well as the ability to recognize and take advantage of new opportunities when they arise.

Converting a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA that allows tax-free withdrawals is a new opportunity now available to anyone regardless of his or her income.

Whether you should take advantage of this opportunity depends in part on your current financial resources, your projected retirement needs and your objectives for your beneficiaries.

Those with significant philanthropic goals may find that incorporating their charitable plans in their retirement deliberations may be beneficial to themselves, their family, and charity.

Sincerely,  
Elaine Steinger

### Life Stage: 40+ How Having a Will Empowers You

The right to plan your estate is a priceless privilege.

#### With a will you can:

- Determine how, when, and to whom you will distribute your assets
- Name the executor who will manage your estate according to your wishes
- Create trusts for the benefit of your spouse, children, or others
- Reduce the burden of the federal estate tax
- Provide for charitable organizations to which you are devoted

#### Your Charitable Interests

Gifts by will have become an integral part of the American philanthropic tradition. Our tax laws encourage the support of charitable institutions through income-tax deductions and estate-tax savings.

Organizations you have assisted during your lifetime, such as the Jewish community, will certainly miss your help when you are gone. However, through your will, you can continue to be a part of their work.

You can tailor charitable bequests to meet your specific personal and financial objectives. Those objectives may very well change over time. It is important to review the charitable bequests you have made to see if they continue to reflect your present intentions.

#### IRA Basics

The chart below illustrates the basic differences between the two types of individual retirement accounts.

Characteristics	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA
Contributions are deductible	x	
Withdrawals are tax-free		x
Withdrawals required after age 70-1/2	x	
Additional contributions allowed after 70-1/2		x
Distributions are taxable to beneficiaries	x	

#### Special Roth IRA Benefits to Note:

- No required withdrawals after age 70-1/2. Unlike traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs are not required to distribute a minimum amount each year after the account owner turns 70-1/2. This is a tremendous benefit for those who don't need additional income for retirement.
- Contributions are allowed after age 70-1/2. If you meet the income requirements, you can continue to make contributions to a Roth IRA after you turn 70-1/2.
- Roth IRA distributions are income tax-free to you and to your beneficiaries.

#### A Charitable Way to Maximize Retirement Income

Are you fully participating in all retirement plans open to you but want to save even more for retirement? You can do so by addressing your retirement and charitable goals together.

**How might this work for you? A method of giving that pays you income.**

You decide to contribute \$20,000 for each of the next 15 years to a charitable trust that will pay 5% of its annual value each year for life. Because you don't need any additional income right now, you include special language in the trust agreement to limit your payout to only the interest and dividends earned by the trust each year for the next 15 years. After 15 years; the trust will start paying you the full 5% annually.

You can deduct a significant portion of your annual contributions to your trust-about \$104,000 over the next 15 years. How much would you save? Approximately \$36,000 in the 35% federal tax bracket.

If the trust averages a total return of 6% per year, it will pay you more than \$23,000 annually - and it will increase each year if it earns more than a 5% payout.

Bottom line: If you are 50 years old you will receive approximately \$484,000 over your life expectancy; and more than \$562,000 will pass to the Jewish community to create your personal legacy.

#### Who Should Consider Converting to a Roth IRA?

- A person who ...
- Can afford to pay the conversion tax and do so from sources other than the IRA. Otherwise, the whole purpose of the conversion is defeated.
  - Does not expect to be in a lower tax bracket in retirement.
  - Will probably not need to touch the Roth for living expenses until much later, if ever.
  - Is younger, although this could work well for an older person in good health.
  - Wishes to provide for beneficiary(ies) who will stretch benefits over life expectancy(ies).

#### Offset Additional Taxes on Roth Conversion with a Gift to the Jewish community

The conversion of your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA will likely propel you into the highest tax bracket of your lifetime. If you determine that a Roth IRA conversion is the right move for you, strategic charitable giving can offset some of the additional taxes you will incur. This is because charitable gifts are most beneficial from a tax-saving standpoint when you are in a high income tax bracket.

#### Maximize Your Gifts in the Year of the Conversion

By accelerating your giving and making as many gifts as possible in the year you make the conversion, you will maximize your tax savings.

For example, if you wish to convert a traditional IRA valued at \$50,000 and normally make charitable contributions of \$10,000 per year to support the Jewish community, you could accelerate five years' worth of future gifts to equal the amount you are converting to a Roth IRA to offset the tax liability resulting from the conversion.

**To learn more** about converting your traditional IRA to a Roth call Elaine Steinger, Executive Director, at 515 277-6321 x211



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER DES MOINES

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## What is in a Name by David Friedgood



"A moment that will change the course of history." Such statements have become all too common, and thus meaningless. How often, after all, is an event truly that noteworthy? The Biblical Book of Exodus does record a true world-changing moment. An encounter between Moses and his deity - when Moses learns the name of God: "Now Moses, tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro... drove the flock into the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. An angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire out of a bush. He gazed, and there was a bush all aflame, yet the bush was not consumed." (Genesis 3:1-2) Moses was overwhelmed by this sight. He hid his face, afraid to look at his God. Through this encounter with a manifestation of the Divine, Moses receives his life's calling. He is to spend the rest of his days as a shepherd to his people. His inspired teachings are preserved in our Bible. They form the basis of three great religions, and are the foundation of Western civilization. Yet Moses does not willingly accept his call. He has to be prodded and dragged into his new profession: "But Moses says to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites from Egypt?'... 'When I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?' God answers Moses' concerns by alluding to His name: 'And God said to Moses, 'Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh'... 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you: This shall be my name forever. This My appellation for all eternity.' (Exodus 3:11-15) With this information, the knowledge of God's name, Moses starts out on his journey of liberation.

What is in a Name? What difference does it make as to how God wishes to be identified? Wouldn't the generic 'God' suffice?

Moses realizes that his fellow Israelites will relate to their deity much as they relate to their neighbors. They are simple folk, oppressed by generations of servitude. To truly know someone these people needed to know a name. They were not much different than us. When we meet someone new, exchanging names gives our relationship a more personal meaning. A name becomes the essence of a person, distilled from his or her real being. It is, in a sense, a conduit to their soul. On the other hand, stripping a person of their name degrades them as human beings. Pharaoh "forgot" the name of Joseph and thus found it easier to enslave and degrade his descendents. One of the first acts of Nazi monsters was to remove their victim's names, designating them with numbers - often tattooed into their skin. These nameless individuals were no longer people. They became property, numbered specimens, to be dealt with accordingly.

Moses needs God's name to bring home to his people the personal nature of this God who is to forever be part of their lives and the lives of their families.

But, what a name! 'Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh' defies translation. It comes from the verb HYH (hayah) which means 'to be', or 'to exist'; and the word asher, meaning 'that.' According to the Rambam, God's name is an expression that God exists. Not in the ordinary sense of existence. He (God) is the existing Being that is existence. In other words - His existence is absolute. God has never been, or will never be, without existence. This name evokes the familiar Tetragrammaton - YHVH - the holy unpronounceable name of God used throughout our liturgy. YHVH is the gender free name of God that Moses is instructed to use after his revelation in the wilderness. To paraphrase Martin Buber, God is telling Moses 'I am that I am'. The name is a whisper, delivered as a softly exhaled breath. Through this name our God is delivering his uncompromising promise. He is present in our lives. He always has been present. He always will be present. I am that I am. I will be what I will be.

YHVH, of course, is only one of God's names in the Bible. Over 90 other names are used to identify His holy presence. According to Nahmanides the whole Torah is a series of divine names. The mystical Kabbalah extensively reviews God's names and their meanings. (YHVH is recorded 6,823 times in the Bible.) For the most part the other names are common nouns derived from action verbs. They typically describe properties of the Deity - recording a small sense of that which is indescribable. For example: El = the strong, Elohim is plural = strongest, Elyon = the highest, Shaddai = all mighty, Eyn Sof = without end, etc. YHVH is the one name that is all-inclusive. None of us mortals knows how to pronounce it accurately. (In ancient times only the High Priest possessed this knowledge.) In the context of prayer we speak the word as Adonai - meaning my Lord. Fearing blasphemy, some will not write the letters down in order. They use the term Ha-shem (the name) when referring to YHVH outside of prayer.

What is in a name? It is, after all, only a few letters strung together. A consonant, a vowel; perhaps a short phrase. Or, is it more? Is it who we are? The very essence of us and our people? When we know God's name, are we closer to that which gives true meaning to our finite lives on this earth? Does the knowledge of God's name change who we are? As Moses states just before his death on Mount Nebo overlooking the Promised Land: "this is not a trifling thing for you; it is your very life..." (Deuteronomy 32:47)

*"And the LORD shall be King over all the earth;  
In that day the LORD alone shall be worshiped  
And shall be invoked by his true name." (Zechariah 14:9)*

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PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES



# senior news

## Upcoming Luncheons:

**Thursday, November 11,** at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, we are pleased to have Kristi Miller, Director of Visiting Angels, and Jan Collins, Community Liaison Specialist. They will be informing us about the Visiting Angels Program. Other topics: winter safety tips, fall prevention and holiday stress releasers. Also we are delighted to have Louise Kaufmann entertain us with song styling and a sing-along. Join us for a great time!

**Thursday, December 2nd,** at Beth El Jacob Synagogue. Come and celebrate Hanukkah with music provided by the Zarnow Fund in honor of Abraham, Regina, Paul, Sidney, Silvia and Ralph Zarnow.



Volunteer telephone callers for the OASIS program, Shirley Berck, Esther Bergh, the late Linda Fishman, Betty Goodside, Sally Luftman, Eva Pintus and Shirley Wittenstein, deserve much appreciation for their time and dedication. They have the important task of reminding our Seniors of upcoming events such as luncheons with educational speakers and music, operas, plays and Prairie Meadows. Seniors are appreciative of these calls. Like most of us with our busy schedules, they might have forgotten and missed an event. These calls offer a time for conversations. The Seniors comment that it makes them feel good to receive these calls because they realize that the OASIS program cares and they are missed when absent from the activities. These events offer great socialization time for the Seniors to visit with friends, enjoy good food, entertainment and become informed on beneficial topics.

Volunteers have shared their feelings how making those phone calls makes them feel:

- 1) more connected with the Jewish community;
- 2) felt it brightened up their day;
- 3) gave a great sense of personal satisfaction contributing in some way to help others;
- 4) I feel good about the OASIS program and what it has done for myself and others in the community. I wanted to give back, so I decided to be a telephone volunteer.

The time and dedication of Volunteers who make these phone calls are vital for the success and continuous growth of the OASIS/Senior Adult Services. This is what it is all about, that deed of kindness. Reach out and help someone.

– Pat Nawrocki, Project Services Manager.

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## Rabbinical Perspective

### Several Iowa Rabbis Sign On In Support Of A New Israel Advocacy Group: **WeAreForIsrael.org** by Rabbi David Kaufman



This Summer, a new Israel advocacy group was formed called Rabbis For Israel. I became one of its earliest supporters and then its primary American contact person. As rabbis by the dozens from around the world were signing on in support of its Mission Statement, many others contacted us inquiring as to why we should limit ourselves to rabbis alone. Those of us leading Rabbis For Israel, Rabbi Micky Boyden from Israel, myself, and a couple of others, decided to found We Are For Israel. We consider ourselves to be "Centrist Advocates for Realistic Peace." Among the rabbis signed on in support of the group's Mission Statement are almost all of the progressive rabbis of Iowa including myself and Rabbi Edelman-Blank from Des Moines, Rabbi Jeff Portman of Iowa City, Rabbi Henry Karp of Davenport, Rabbi Stanley Rosenbaum of Waterloo and Rabbi Howard Stein of Grinnell.

Everyone can offer their support, whether Jewish or not, and receive important and timely information about what is going on in the peace process by email. Many have already signed on in support and you can too at [WeAreForIsrael.org](http://WeAreForIsrael.org). Why all the fuss? What is We Are For Israel?

We Are For Israel is a forum of people who support Israel, who are deeply concerned by the drift in much of world opinion that has made it legitimate to single out Israel for blame and censure in respect of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. While we recognize that Israel shares some responsibility for the current state of affairs, we believe that the roots of the conflict and its broader dimensions are much more complex than is generally presented.

Attempts by Israel's detractors to lay the blame for the lack of progress toward peace at her door while pressing her alone to make concessions are not only unjustified, but frequently motivated by political interests, naivety, ignorance, misinformation or even anti-Semitism.

We are particularly concerned by the manner in which some organizations within the Jewish community, which profess to care for Israel and her well-being, advocate that pressure be applied upon her to make unilateral concessions. Similar demands are not made of the Palestinians to respond in kind if at all. We believe that such advocacy, which results in intransigence and increased demands from the Palestinians, does not advance the cause of peace. In discrediting Israel publicly, such organizations not only weaken support for her but also serve the interests of her detractors and enemies.

At a time when it has become fashionable to castigate Israel for unrest in the Middle East and elsewhere, we appeal to Jews everywhere to respond to criticism of Israel with support and to advocate on her behalf.

#### WE ARE FOR ISRAEL - MISSION STATEMENT

##### A Lasting and Secure Peace for Israel

- We, the undersigned, believe that Israel has a legitimate right to exist as a sovereign, democratic Jewish state in the historic homeland of the Jewish people. We support a peaceful and just resolution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that will recognize two independent states, a Jewish state of Israel and a Palestinian state, living side by side in peace, security, and prosperity.
- We call upon the Arab and Muslim world to accept unequivocally and publicly Israel's permanent right to exist in peace.

##### Sovereignty

- We believe that any resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict will require Israel to cede sovereignty over most of the West Bank and will need to address the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians concerning Jerusalem, a city that is holy to three religions.
- Palestinian claims for a right of return will need to find their resolution within the Palestinian state once established.

##### Teaching Tolerance and Peace

- We call upon Muslim and Christian religious leaders to establish frameworks in their own communities to oppose messages of hatred and violence against Israel, to work toward developing a spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and peace with Jews, and to encourage the strengthening of peaceful relationships and partnerships between Israelis and Palestinians.
- We call upon the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and their agents to cease using the media, mosques and textbooks to foster and incite hatred against Israel and the Jewish People.

##### Support for Israel

- We call upon leaders in the Jewish community to support Israel in their public statements and express any concerns they may have with great caution and considerable forethought given the manner in which their views are likely to be manipulated to Israel's detriment by those who use every opportunity to vilify her.

##### The Use of Violence

- We call upon Palestinian political and religious leaders to denounce the use of violent Jihad, and demand that the Palestinian Authority, Hamas and their agents cease all forms of support, complicity and participation in or glorification of terrorist activities.

##### Moral Equivalency

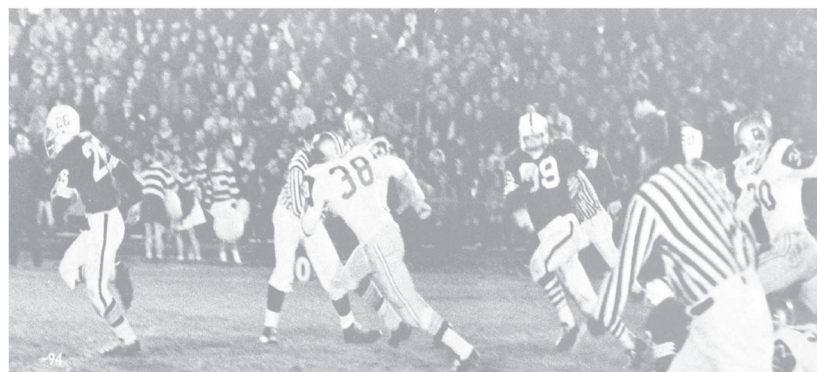
- We recognize Israel's moral right to defend her citizens against attacks emanating from the Palestinian territories. To demand that Israel forgo the right to defend her citizens in order to improve the lot of the Palestinians, without the latter abandoning their call for violent resistance, is neither moral nor ethical. As such, we reject the moral equivalency that some would draw between the suffering of the Palestinians and the lasting psychological trauma not to mention literal endangerment of life with which Israelis have to contend.

*continued pn page 15*

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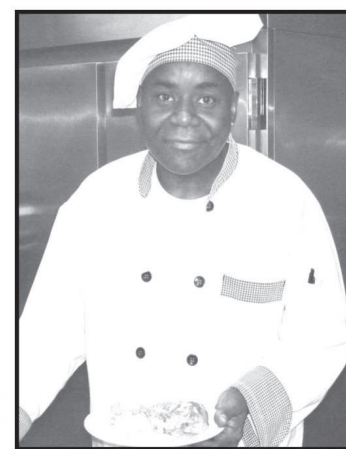
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## Seeing Our Future Together Campaign Kick-Off

On Sunday, August 29, The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines opened the 2011 All-In-One Campaign with TV and stage celebrity Sidney "The Seer" Friedman at the Downtown Marriott. Chairpersons for the event were Judy and Larry Deutch, Barbara Hirsch-Giller and Harvey Giller and Jule and Steven Goldstein. Renowned mentalist and best-selling author Friedman mesmerized guests for a fun filled event!

Special thanks go to:  
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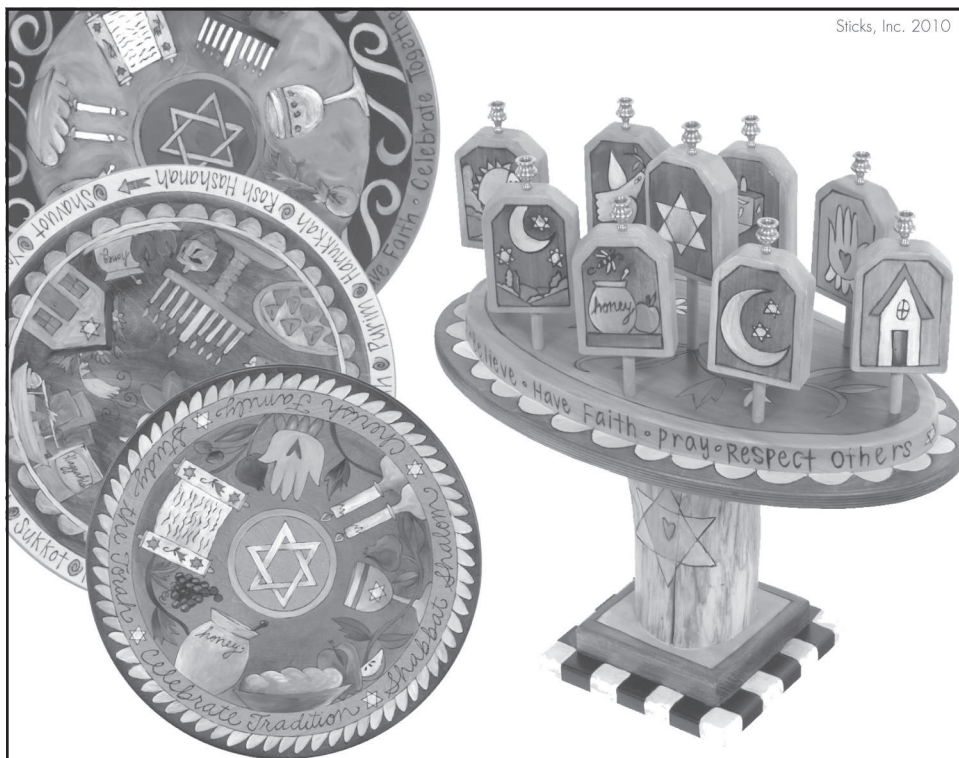
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## Things To Look For In Our Next Host Country

Satire by David Moskowitz



Dear America,

Can you feel it? Seems like we're about due for another Diaspora. Thank you America, it has been a good run, but let's face it, it's just about time for us Jews to hit the long and wandering road and seek out our next host country. It's in the air.

But it's just another in a long list of relationships gone sour for Jews and this column is the "Dear Chaim" letter we Jews are leaving America on the nightstand as we head out for the 6 a.m.

Walk of Shame. Every relationship starts with the passion and excitement of infatuation, and for Jews and America, it was no different. Remember those thrilling days? Building Hollywood, Hank Greenberg, Milton Berle, Gershwin, Sandy Koufax, Groucho Marx, Albert Einstein, Mark Spitz, every Broadway play, every Nobel prize, Seinfeld (*Editor's note: remember to apologize for Jerry Lewis*). We were crazy about each other. We were John Lennon to your Yoko Ono. We knew we were the "smart one," and we were blind to the fact that maybe, without us, the world would figure out that you weren't really that talented. O America ... our love did turn you on.

But the infatuation stage is eventually followed by the stability stage, frequently characterized by the two partners settling into an extended period of domestic tranquility ~ mixed with quiet tolerance of the other's intolerable quirks. Jews on America: "You don't appreciate us. You took away our delis. You schedule your high school football games and senior proms during our holy days." America on Jews: "You got a secret early warning about 9/11. You control the media. You took away our Christmas pageants. You are responsible for all the world's wars." That's how it starts. It ends with President Mel Gibson (*Editor's note: I thought he was Australian; doesn't that make him ineligible to be the American Hitler? No. He was actually born in Peekskill, New York so ... fear him*).

That period of tranquility is often followed by poorly disguised revulsion and, at least 50% of the time, by a painful breakup and division of property. You can see all the warning signs in the debate about the so-called "ground zero mosque:" a willingness to (a) blame an entire culture and religion for the acts of a small band of criminals, (b) toss out the First Amendment's protections in the name of "national security," (c) ignore the fact that the other businesses on the hallowed ground of Park Place in lower Manhattan include the Amish Market (famous for serving cheap ethnic gifts that are immediately discarded by their recipients) and Bengal Curry Halal (famous for serving cheap ethnic food that is even more immediately discarded by its recipients), and (d) pass a law requiring members of a religion to wear special identification armbands. OK, that last one didn't happen. Yet.

Remember America: when we go we are taking our stuff with us. That means you will have to say goodbye to things we know you have grown fond of, things like music, literature, legal and accounting services, and any semblance of professional medical dental care. We will let you keep your fast food, hip-hop artists, and the entire NFL. Say goodbye to both your mental and dental health. Say hello to the coming American Idiocracy.

So the honeymoon is over and it's time for us to go shopping for our next host country. But let's look on the bright side: there's nothing Jews love more than shopping! Here is a list of countries for us to consider as our next host. I'm guessing we'll pick our next host based on which one puts together the best bargain:

- 1. New Zealand.** Sounds perfect to me. Beautiful scenery. Already speaks English and it will be easy for us to adopt the ridiculous New Zealand accent. After all, we picked up the New York accent in a few quick generations, so how hard could learning to speak like Christchurch natives be? (*Editor's note: I know what you're thinking ~ but this time just let it go.*) New Zealand is a geographically isolated island, so it will be difficult for our enemies to target us with their Katyusha missiles. And the existing Jewish population of New Zealand is only 7,000 so the likelihood of homegrown anti-semitism is low. But let's be super cool this time: no outlandish facial hair and 18th Century costumes. Let's have better explanations for our holidays to avoid confusion. In fact, let's lose a couple of our more extraneous holidays like Lag B'Omer. Another learning: let's avoid stereotypical jobs and industries this time. Let's stay away from diamond merchant, moneychanger, kosher meat factory hiring manager, and media mogul. Let's try out goat farmer (*Editor's note: That didn't work out too well in Eastern Europe*), football player, supermodel, flea market entrepreneur, and professional golfer. And let's not bring along any of our food "issues." Let's just eat whatever crap they already serve in New Zealand, and let's shut up and like it. Chances are it will include shellfish, and it's about time we corrected that historical error anyway. And another thing: why do we schlep our historical foods with us to our new countries anyway? Our food stinks, as anyone who has ever seen a stuffed kishka will agree. Let's lose the gefilte fish and embrace the much healthier and easier-to-explain swordfish. Time to let it go people. Think low profile. Good enough should be good enough for us.
- 2. Madagascar.** The African island of Madagascar was once considered by the Third Reich as a potential site for relocating the Jews. To the Germans, every single thing about Madagascar was guaranteed to drive the Jews crazy: (a) everyone spoke French, (b) no air conditioning, and (c) with per capita income of around \$900, the closest thing to a Bloomingdales in Madagascar was a thatched hut selling walnut shell fragments that had been previously rejected by bamboo lemurs. That, plus the existence of 20 million soon to be irate Malagasians, all of whom think the French are awesome. On the plus side, Madagascar is an island like New Zealand, which means we don't have to build walls to keep the neighbors out.
- 3. Vietnam.** Yes, Vietnam. In 2005, the Vietnamese government told Israeli officials that Ho Chi Minh and Moshe Dayan had discussed a plan to invite Jews to live in Vietnam. Further research reveals that there is already a Jewish community in Hanoi that has intermarried with Vietnamese and conducted bar mitzvahs in the city. *continued on page 15*

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# In the Kitchen with David Adelman

by Karen Engman



Everyone seems to know David Adelman. He always has a smile and a handshake ready for strangers or friends. He grew up in Des Moines graduating from Roosevelt High School. His parents are Kathy Elsner and Steve Adelman.

David earned a B.S. in Marketing and Business Legal Studies from Miami University and a certificate in International Business while studying in London, England. He then returned to Des Moines and received his law degree with a Legislative Practice Certificate from Drake University Law School.

In 2004, David worked in Washington, D.C. at the Democratic National Committee where he helped to design the voter protection campaign as a member of the legal team of the Kerry-Edwards Presidential Campaign.

He finished that campaign by returning home to Des Moines where he assisted in the establishment of the legal protection network for the Iowa Democratic Party.

David then clerked for the State Senator who co-chaired the Health and Human Services Appropriations Sub-Committee, worked with the Department of Justice, in the Iowa Attorney General's office, and clerked at the McEnroe Law Firm in West Des Moines.

He then joined Brick Gentry, P.C. as an Associate, where his practice focused on Government Relations, Legislative Law, PAC Compliance and Strategic Advising, and Election Law. David joined Cornerstone Government Affairs this past year, leading the firm's operations in Iowa by managing the Des Moines office and providing state government relations and business consulting services.

David is active in the Iowa Democratic Party, serving two terms on its Central Committee. In

2008, The Des Moines Business Record selected David to be part of the class of Des Moines' Forty Under 40 community leaders. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Des Moines Playhouse.

He is a busy guy but always has time for his favorite activity of spending time with his wife Elizabeth Rodgers and baby son Michael.

When asked for a recipe to share, David had this to say about his mother Kathy's dessert: "Cranapple Crisp seemed to be served for every special occasion growing up; whether it was for a birthday celebration, Rosh Hashana dinner, part of the Break the Fast at Yom Kippur or the first night of Hanukkah.

*continued on page 15*

## Mom's Cranapple Crisp

A Recipe from Kathy Elsner

dairy

- 3 quarts apples, peeled & cored & cut up
- 1 pound fresh cranberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 ½ cups flour
- 1 cup quick or regular oats
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1-2 TB cinnamon
- ½ cup butter, melted
- dash of salt

In 9x13" roasting pan combine cranberries and apples. Mix sugar and ¼ cup flour. Mix with fruit in pan. Combine oats, remaining flour, brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle over fruit and then pour melted butter on top

Bake in pre-heated 400 oven for 40-60 minutes. Watch so it doesn't burn on top...may need to cover

Serves 12-15 (probably more like 8-12)

Serve with ice cream.

Great with other fruit combos



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[in profile]

## Nick Rieser



*Nick Rieser and family members Riki Saltzman and Eva, 11, are members of Temple B'nai Jeshurun. Nick is well known around town as an excellent jazz pianist. He was also Musical Director for the 2010 Purimspiel! We're pleased to feature Nick as this month's person In Profile.*

**Jewish Press:** Nick, you're a terrific jazz musician and some of our readers may have heard you perform during Jazz in July or elsewhere around town. Where did you come from originally?

**Nick Rieser:** I was born in New York City and grew up in Connecticut. After attending Oberlin College in Ohio, I lived for almost thirty years in the Chicago area. At Oberlin, I earned a degree in Urban Planning, and worked in that field along with computer data programming in Chicago, all the while playing piano and teaching music. As the Information Technology field got more and more unstable, I did more performing with different ensembles.

**JP:** How did you get into music?

**NR:** It was totally on my initiative. I just knew I wanted to play piano. Fortunately my parents provided me with a piano and lessons early on. I studied classical piano for a long time and in high school I played in a Dixieland jazz band and branched out from there.

**JP:** Who was your musical hero back then?

**NR:** When I was young, I liked Knuckles O'Toole (AKA Max Morath, the aficionado of ragtime.) My interest in modern jazz didn't really flower until I was an adult.

**JP:** So you were living in Chicago. What brought you to Des Moines?

**NR:** Well, Riki brought me to Des Moines. We happened to meet, interestingly enough, on J-Date.

**JP:** I think a lot of readers will appreciate that!

**JP:** With whom and where do you perform?

**NR:** I am a member of the Community Jazz Center big band. We play at Java Joe's coffee house the third Sunday of the month, from 2 pm - 4 pm. In fact, people can learn how to swing dance on Thursdays at Java Joe's. Lately, and I'm very happy about this, I've been working with singers a lot. Max Wellman, Gary Jackson, Heather McClennan, and Fred Gazzo. It's a partnership thing - you perceive what a singer is trying to do and then you try to complete their thoughts musically. I've done this for a long time.

**JP:** And you teach.

**NR:** Yes, I teach piano privately, out of my home and at a studio in West Des Moines. I teach both classical piano and jazz, along with theory and ear training, and I have a range of ages and abilities, including beginners. Parents who hear me play sometimes approach me to arrange lessons for their children. I love teaching, and you know you're on the right track when you see your students develop a passion for playing! Learning an instrument is one of the best things possible for the maturing brain.

It's hard for me to imagine myself only teaching or only playing. There are not enough opportunities in Des Moines to play full time. But I teach and play, and they feed off each other. When you teach, you have to know your stuff, and forcing myself to learn something cold, in order to teach it, helps my playing, and my playing helps my teaching. It's a really good mix.

**JP:** Is there another way you supplement your income?

**NR:** Yes. I hold a certificate to substitute teach in the public schools, which I do periodically. What I like the most is to teach middle school- or high school- band and orchestra or jazz band. But I have also taught Spanish and Math as a sub.

**JP:** As to your own musicality, you display a great fluidity when you play. Do you depend a lot on your ear?

**NR:** Yes, but these days, to learn the tunes, you have to study the tunes as in some very fine modern "fake books." You depend on your ear to learn the vernacular, to learn how to solo.

**JP:** Who are some of the jazz pianists, your role models, who have influenced your own style?

**NR:** At this point, the influences are subliminal, but I've incorporated bits and pieces from a number of musicians, beginning with Oscar Peterson, although of course he is an awful lot better than I am. I might also mention Bill Evans, Lenny Tristano, and Bud Powell. A bunch of things from different people will enter into my playing at any given moment. I like to think I have a little bit of George Shearing, once in a while, although his technique is hard to duplicate. I may incorporate a bit of Chick Corea or McCoy Tyner too. The key is to find and develop your own style!

**JP:** How would you tell the average person how you improvise?

**NR:** It has to do with the unity of the melody, the harmony and the rhythm. You get an idea from what's "in your ear" and what you're feeling at the moment. At the outset, the expression of the idea is rhythmic. The rhythm melds itself around the harmony. You may do something with the melody or even invent a new melody. But improvisation is primarily rhythmic and harmonic. It has to be in your own voice or it becomes imitative and derivative - or it just won't come off. And it has to fit your technical abilities, which may vary: are you warmed up? Have you been playing much in the last few days? All these things will affect your improvisation. Improvisation is a very fluid, a very immediate, vital thing and changes from person to person, not to mention from musical style to musical style.

*continued on page 15*



**Trivia** from page 4 Answers: 8 days; dedication; Antiochus; Judah; dreidel; oily; latkes; sufganiyot

**Advocacy** from page 9

#### Israel's Defense

- We call upon the international community and media to recognize that any resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict will demand that Israel's very real security concerns be addressed, particularly in the light of the key role played by Iran and Syria in arming and training Israel's enemies.

To offer your support of We Are For Israel's Mission Statement, visit the organization's website at [www.WeAreForIsrael.org](http://www.WeAreForIsrael.org) and click on the "How Do I Sign On?" tab.

**Adelman** from page 13 A recipe like this is one that I would like to pass along to my family."

I make this recipe all the time and have passed it along to my kids. It's great to share at potlucks and it's so versatile since you can substitute any fruits in season such as nectarines and blueberries in the summer.

The Jewish Press thanks David for sharing his mother's delicious fruit crisp with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or a question I can research, call Karen Engman (515-274-3300) or email ([aengmandsm@yahoo.com](mailto:aengmandsm@yahoo.com))

**Rieser** from page 14

JP: Are you aware if and when you make a mistake during improvisation?

NR: I make mistakes all the time! So sometimes you have to incorporate the mistake. I thought that was cheating, but then I read that Liszt once was performing a keyboard-long run and

ended up on a prominent wrong note - so he started a new run, based on that, and swung up and hit the right note! There's an expression "there aren't any wrong notes in jazz."

JP: You were Musical Director for the Purimspiel last year.

NR: I loved it. That was such fun - really getting into the show, and helping the kids and the adults, who may feel insecure at times, to overcome their shyness. If you see their shoulders straighten and a smile comes on their face and they seem more confident, well, you know you've done your job. And I loved ultimately coordinating the performers with the band.

JP: Thank you so much for the interview, Nick. It's been a pleasure.

NR: You're welcome.

**Moskowitz** from page 13 And good shopping if you like drinking tea and nothing else, or if you are working on expanding your collection of expended machine gun cartridges. Sounds good so far, right? And that's without even thinking of all the great Vietnamese restaurants for us to visit on Sunday nights! But maybe Vietnam is not ready for us. With the French influence, it sounds a little like Madagascar, just without the protective water on all four sides.

4. **Sitka, Alaska.** Michael Chabon (*The Yiddish Policemen's Union*) wasn't the first one to think of the idea of resettling Jews in Alaska. In the wake of Kristallnacht, Franklin Roosevelt's administration sponsored a report that concluded that moving vulnerable Jews

to Alaska would help fend off a possible Japanese attack on the west coast. But Jews weren't crazy about the idea, and neither were Alaskans. The Jews preferred to visit Alaska by viewing it from the deck of a cruise ship and the Alaskans preferred visiting Jews while the Jews were viewing Alaska from the deck of a cruise ship. Plusses: Great relocation site if you are fan of herring or smoked meats. Lox headquarters of the world. Minuses: no reason for air conditioning to be invented.

5. **Mars Exploratory Station MES-1.** Haven't you heard? The Bush Administration secretly established the first permanent human colony on the surface of Mars until the Obama Administration pulled the plug on the funding. But it's up there and I can't think of a better place for the Jews. In the plus column, Mars has the benefit of 60 million miles separating it and its Jews from everyone on Planet Earth. Additional plusses: the recent discovery of two drops of water means Mars may have more water than Israel. High levels of frozen atmospheric carbon dioxide means refrigerating our cottage cheese and leftover Chinese food will be economically feasible. Low levels of the element Krypton in the Martian atmosphere mean that Superman will not lose his powers if we need him to come rescue us. (Editor's note: Where was Superman during World War II or 9/11? I am starting to think that he headed back to his home world and left us to our own devices. Or even worse, that he is still on Earth, but stinks at everything truly "super"

except rescuing cats in trees.) More plusses: Low level sunlight reduces possibility of skin problems (bad for dermatologists, good for grandma), canals provide great real estate opportunities, local Martian aliens willing to work for reasonable wages (and have promised not to "immediately" kill us with their acid-filled venom spikes), low level gravity means less need for expensive plastic surgery. This place sounds like Jewish paradise!

6. **North Korea.** I'm surprised this one hadn't occurred to us by now. What do we need, an engraved invitation? North Korea is essentially a family business being run into the ground by a bunch of lunatic relatives. That's exactly *our* specialty! This country has no resources other than nuclear weapons, loves Asian food when it can get any, has a ginormous paranoid chip on its shoulder, and is hated by all of its neighbors. It sounds like it's *already* Jewish. We should pack our stuff, book the next flight to South Korea, swim over the border to Pyongyang, and get the citizenship process going. Important reminder: bring enough rice to last five years. Yes it's true that by the year 2110, we will be driven out of the Prosperous Future North Korea that we helped create, but I am sure that by then, the methane atmosphere on Saturn will make it look like a land of unlimited Jewish opportunity.

So to America: check please!

Write the author at [iowadavid@me.com](mailto:iowadavid@me.com) and receive a complimentary witty remark personalized for your needs.



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## JAZZ AT THE CASPE TERRACE NOV 16

Experience the beauty and diversity of jazz. Working in conjunction with The Caspe Terrace and the Waukee Area Arts Council, local jazz enthusiasts Abe Goldstien and his wife, Jackie Garnett, are pleased to feature the final concert of the fall series.



**Benjamin Herman Quartet** Although his father and brother are rabbis in Europe, Benjamin Herman decided to preach with his saxophone. He'll present an evening of music dedicated to Dutch jazz pianist Misha Mengelberg as well as several jazz standards. Herman, who studied with Iowa-born jazz musician Dick Oatts, will be joined by guitarist Anton Goudsmit (who thrilled the audience last year in Waukee with trumpeter Eric Vloeimans), bassist Ernst Glerum and drummer Joost Patocka.

Join us at The Caspe Terrace in Waukee, 33158 Ute Avenue, a venue ideally suited to the intimacy of jazz. The Waukee Area Arts Council hosts a "Meet The Artist" dessert reception following the concert. **The Concert will run 7:30 – 10 PM** Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Student discounts are available. For more info, call Abe Goldstien at 515-279-6452 or email at [abe@trilixgroup.com](mailto:abe@trilixgroup.com).

## TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE CANTOR HITS THE GROUND RUNNING



Last month Cantor Linda Shivers became the new cantor at Congregation Tifereth Israel. She arrived in Des Moines August 25 –exactly two weeks before Rosh Hashanah. Cantor Shivers was able to move into her new home the following week.

"Moving and getting ready for Rosh Hashanah at the same time was a little meshuganah (crazy) but somehow it all worked out great," said Cantor Shivers. She is now officially an Iowan.

Praise for the new cantor was universal. "I am so impressed at her knowledge and desire to serve our community," said Rabbi Steven Edelman-Blank. "Her dedication and energy is inspiring." Tifereth president, Steve Weiss added, "We're delighted to have come to an agreement to hire such an experienced cantor, and a pioneer among female cantors in both the Conservative and Reform movements.

Cantor Shivers will be teaching Torah trope to sixth graders in the Jewish Federation Community School as well as seventh grade and eighth grade in the JFCS Jr./Sr. High School program. The seventh graders will spend the year studying mitzvah and each student will be required to design and carry out his or her own social project. The eighth grade class will focus on Jewish music – its theory and history, with plenty of time for listening.

Despite having just arrived in Des Moines in August, Cantor Shivers hasn't wasted any time reaching out to the community. Right before Yom Kippur, Cantor Shivers sang a program of Yom Kippur liturgy for some of the Residents of the Life Center, became an official chaplain at Mercy Hospital and is teaching bar and bat mitzvah students.

Cantor Shivers graduated from the Jewish Theological Seminary and was one of the first women to finish the cantorial studies program. For 24 years she was the cantor at Congregation Neveh Shalom in Portland, Oregon and just before arriving in Des Moines, she was the religious school principal at P'nai Or, Portland's Renewal congregation.

Cantor Shivers is a member of the cantors' organizations in both the Conservative and Reform movements. She was a founder of the Women Cantors Network and also a founder of an interfaith group, Clergy Women United. She is active with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and was a producer of the annual Portland Jewish Performing Arts Festival as well as many other programs for adults and children.

As for her plans in Des Moines, "My first priority is the bar/bat mitzvah program. Secondly, I plan to offer a series of classes to help lay people learn many of the parts of the regular services including chanting Torah and haftara, P'sukei d'Zimra for Shabbat, and the weekday morning service. I'm excited about starting a Jewish meditation group on Tuesday mornings from 7:30-9:00 am and also reviving the choir tradition at Tifereth. Last but certainly not least, I hope to be able to be innovative in making all worship services at Tifereth a meaningful and uplifting Jewish spiritual experience."

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BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Kol Ha K'vod! It's all honors at Beth El Jacob on the evening of **November 7th**. Has it been a year already since Beth El Jacob's Annual Awards Dinner and Gala? Yes, it has. The Sixth Annual Awards Dinner will be honoring some of Central Iowa's very finest individuals, for service to Beth El Jacob, Des Moines Jewry and the world we are all a part of. Tikkun Olam, exemplified, ladies and gentlemen!



Nearly 12 years ago, the members of Beth El Jacob threw a fancy affair honoring Rabbi Marshall Berg and rebbetzin Shirley Berg on the occasion of Marshall's retirement, after 28 years of service. Today, we find ourselves honoring the Bergs, yet again, because they never truly retired. It is our pleasure to honor the Bergs for 40 years of service to Beth El Jacob, and indeed to the entire Jewish community of Greater Des Moines. The incredible and ongoing commitment of Rabbi and Shirley Berg is absolutely beyond any words, as their brand of leadership, stewardship, friendship and support are unparalleled. Rabbi Berg still presides over lifecycle events, reads Torah in services, and has numerous private students learning with him weekly. Shirley is still on the Beth El Jacob board, involved in sisterhood, and serving in numerous volunteer capacities. Together, they are a duo beyond dynamic.



The Rob Borsellino Community Service Award was named for its original honoree, as he personified the very best in community service, as does this year's honoree, Dr. Alan Koslow. A board-certified vascular surgeon by profession, Dr. Koslow's truest calling is in advocacy for the under-represented, with a special passion and attention toward healthcare. When in the U.S., Dr. Koslow works ardently toward the betterment of healthcare, through giving voice to its many concerns on his radio shows, and in government realms when assisting in the creation of legislation. He has served on the Governors Task Force for Early Childhood Care, and on the board of the Central Iowa chapter of the American Diabetes Association. Dr. Koslow is also a veteran of numerous medical missions around the world, having provided care to the desperate in Brazil, El Salvador, Israel and Haiti.



The Friend of Beth El Jacob Award celebrates the contributions non-Jews make to Beth El Jacob, and the Jewish community of Greater Des Moines. As General Manager of Dunn's Funeral Home, John Wild has become routinely known as the consummate example of attentive service and care. Under the direction of Mr. Wild, Dunn's Funeral Home has met the needs of the Jewish community bereaved, and indeed has gone above and beyond. The recent facility upgrades made at Dunn's truly illustrate the care of Mr. Wild and his staff, in that they were made with the specific needs of the Chevra Kadisha (Jewish burial preparation society) in mind. Mr. Wild, daily working with families at their most difficult times, serves the Jewish community with a warmth and excellence so many have come to be eternally grateful for.

Community Chanukah Celebration at BEJ

1:00 PM Sunday, December 5th – Food, Fun & Friends: ... details to follow.

TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

**Special Music Shabbat** Friday, Nov 19, at Temple B'Nai Jeshurun at 6:00 p.m. The Kol B'Yached Choir will be joined by the St. John's Lutheran Church choir and an orchestra. The joint choir will sing "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" from the Brahms Requiem and "We came to Sing in Jerusalem." A musical surprise will be featured at the end of the service. Join us for this unique worship and musical experience.

**Chanukah Happenings** Nov 21, 12:00pm-3:00pm Come for fun, stay for lunch!

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

**Jewish Choices** Thursdays 7:00-8:00 p.m. with Rabbi Edelman-Blank  
A look at contemporary issues through a Jewish lens. Upcoming Topics:  
Sex & Intimate Relationships      October 14 — November 18  
Social Justice      January 27 — March 3  
War & National Security      March 17 — April 21

There is a fee of \$25 for each of the three topic sections to cover the cost of texts and snacks. To register, please call 255-1137 or office@tifereth.org

**S.T.E.P.** Torah Education Program Formerly known as Perek Yomi. Most Sundays at 10:00 a.m. with Mike Kuperman. We are going to remain Torah study based as we explore different texts and media about Jewish life. Our informal study sessions will be on a variety of Jewish readings and topics including: Night, Day, and Dawn by Elie Wiesel; The Gift of the Jews by Thomas Cahill; Everyday Holiness by Alan Morinis.

**Jewish Views on Aging** Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 a.m. with Rabbi Edelman-Blank Dec 1 - 22 and Jan 5 - 12. A special adult education class for seniors. We will discuss a variety of topics connected with the process of aging.

**Introductory Hebrew Class** Thursdays 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. with Simma Stein. October 14 - November 18

**Learn to Chant Torah** Tuesdays 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. with Cantor Linda Shivers, starting October 5th (Class times will be changed when Board Meetings occur.)

**Rabbi Home Delivery** Rabbi Edelman-Blank is still delivering! Tifereth members are asked to host an evening for their friends (both members and non-members). The hosts only need to provide coffee and dessert. Rabbi Edelman-Blank comes to your house and teaches about a topic of your choosing. All topics are open for discussion. The evening will be both fun and educational. For more information call 255-1137

DRAKE HILLEL...UPDATE


The Drake Hillel would like to invite the entire Des Moines Jewish community to their annual Chanukah party on the Drake campus— an event that has evolved into quite the all-campus tradition! Join Drake students as we play dreidle, light the menorah, and eat latkes in the Olmsted Center on December 2 (second night of Chanukah) at 8PM. The Hillel will also be observing Chanukah with menorah lighting on the other seven days of the holiday at the Hillel House (28th and University). More details on daily menorah lighting and the Chanukah party can be found at [www.drakehillel.org](http://www.drakehillel.org).

Outside of Chanukah, the Hillel is also busy planning for Shabbat dinners, campus events, and mitzvot projects. It has been a very busy semester with an increase in participating Jewish students and an active social calendar of programs! Drake Hillel is very proud that in the first week of November, we sent three of our student board members to represent Drake at the Hillel General Assembly Conference in New Orleans! The leadership skills and programming ideas that they brought back from the conference will be wonderful investments for the Drake Hillel community!

The Hillel would also like to remind Drake Alums in the Des Moines Jewish community that we are trying to put together an alumni database. We'll send you holiday cards, keep you updated on Hillel events, and invite you to our programs! Our alumni are important to us! Please stay connected! Visit [www.drakehillel.org](http://www.drakehillel.org) to get on our database.

Happy Chanukah! from the Drake University Hillel Board

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# The Shawl - And A Blizzard In Council Bluffs, Iowa by Elaine Mayer Gradwohl

Actually it was not a thing of beauty but with its twin magic, it has been a joy forever in my memory. At first it was just the huge brown shawl that was kept in a flour bin and came into the light only when it was wrapped about a huge crock of dough. We always associated it with freshly baked breads and rolls.

I never saw the actual bundling of the crock. This was done some time long after I was in bed. All I remember is that when I came down to breakfast there was a huge shawl-wrapped mummy on the pantry shelf and that the kitchen had a warm yeasty fragrance and the promise that my mother and I would sneak into the kitchen later in the day and eat the heels of warm bread with good country butter and sugar.

Our forays used to infuriate poor Martha [the maid], who was sure it ruined bread to cut into it when it was still hot. Later Martha decided to appease the hungry gods and still keep her loaves intact until cool. This she did by baking her two adoring thieves a small "sampling loaf" in one of my toy bread pans.

I should have known that the shawl was not of my mother's choosing. It was a hideous gray-brown and coarse fringe sagged around the entire square. Mother had such a feeling for color and would never have chosen a dull and unsightly thing even for the bread dough. But I loved the sight of it and to this day I can think of a dull old shawl and taste and smell the breads, and remember back far enough into the days when buying bread was as much a sin as wearing petticoats without ruffles.

I really loved the shawl before I knew its history, but when I found out from where it came, it

became my dearly-beloved shawl. I was much fonder of it than my grandmother's paisley one that was aired spring and fall, sprinkled with moth-balls, and stowed away again in the attic. I thought it much finer than the lace mantilla in which we were allowed to play Spanish Lady if we were very careful with it and the accompanying comb. There was also a white embroidered one that was eventually dyed and sent away to be made into a lamp-shade, a nasty lamp-shade that looked for all the world like an inverted tulip. Then there was the gray one with the very long fringe, the kind of fringe that snarled and knotted. This wasn't really a very good shawl at all and it was only the second choice for Spanish Lady, and the comb worn with that one was smaller too. But the bread shawl, which I never handled or wore, was my darling.

We had a good old Midwestern blizzard to thank for that shawl. Our parents were on the last lap of their trip home from New York with two weary little girls when their train was stalled in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The station there now leaves much to be desired and I am sure it must have been even worse in the days of coal stoves and spittoons.

I was the baby, the one who was cold and my father trudged through the snow to a store and brought back the shawl to wrap me in. I remember hearing them tell about their huddling around the stove with the baby wrapped in the big brown shawl. I was on my mother's lap and she had her feet up on the fender of the stove and kept them there until someone smelled burning leather. I was the one for whom they had bought the shawl. I was the one who was passed from lap to lap because the floor was so cold. I was the one for whom father had waded through the snow. The story of the shawl, which I heard over and over, was always a true testimonial of my importance. And as I became older, it was the symbol of my having been blessed with not only good fresh bread but love and security.



**Postscript and historical context by David Mayer Gradwohl:** This undated essay was in the personal effects of my mother, Elaine Mayer Gradwohl (1907-1983), which I found in 1988 when my brother, John Mayer Gradwohl, and I closed down our parents' home in Lincoln, Nebraska, following the death of our father (Bernard S. Gradwohl, 1905-1985). I was delighted to discover this essay among some of my mother's other writings even though the brown shawl about which she wrote had been dispatched to the rag bin many years before I was born. Among my mother's other memorabilia, however, was her grandmother's paisley shawl, the fancy tortoise shell combs, and the Spanish mantilla also referred to in the essay.

Even more interesting to me, having lived in Iowa since 1962, were the reference to the Mayer family's being marooned in a blizzard in Council Bluffs. The year was 1909 and my mother would have been 20 or 21 months old. Her father, Solomon Gabriel Mayer (1866-1928) owned the Star Clothing Company in Norfolk, Nebraska, and took his family back to New York City via train to buy merchandise for his store. The trip was also an occasion to visit relatives in the city where "Sol" was born and where his wife, Rachel Rosenbaum Mayer (1877-1953), grew up after being orphaned as a child in Raleigh, North Carolina. Accompanying my grandparents and mother on this trip was my mother's older sister, Jeanette, who would have been almost seven years old at the time. A photograph of my mother in a wicker pram was taken at the studio of G. Morgenweck, 168 East 110th Street in New York City just before the Mayers' trip back west into the Midwestern blizzard. This event in Council Bluffs was not my grandfather's first experience in Iowa. In the early 1880s, as a 16 year old, Sol came to Indianola to apprentice in the clothing store owned by his eldest sister and brother-in-law, Julia Mayer Schlesinger and Henry Schlesinger. Later he worked for a short time in Sac City and then moved on to Nebraska.

*The CHAIowan Newsletter of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society Volume Seven, No. 1, Fall 2004/5765*



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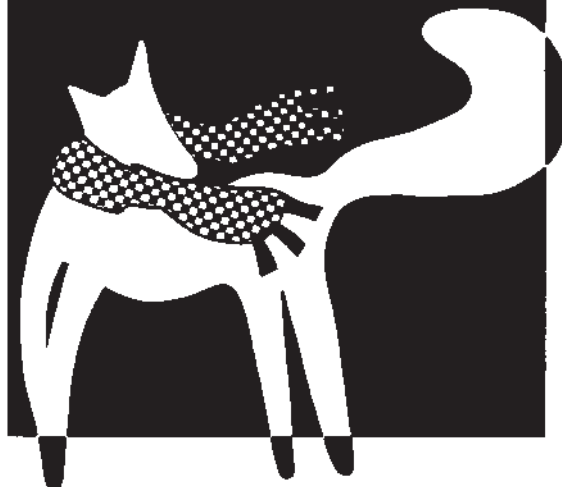
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# [calendar]

**nov • dec**

<b>Saturday, Nov 6</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Ameena Abdulghani Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov 7</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>JFCS Groundbreaking Ceremony at The Caspe Terrace</b>
	<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Beth El Jacob 6th Annual Awards Dinner</b>
<b>Thursday, Nov 11</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Senior Luncheon at Temple B'nai Jeshurun</b>
<b>Saturday, Nov 13</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Jack Wahlig Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov 13</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>	<b>Tifereth Woman of the Year Program</b>
<b>Tuesday, Nov 16</b>	<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Federation Executive Committee at The Caspe Terrace</b>
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Federation Board of Directors at The Caspe Terrace</b>
	<b>7:30 pm</b>	<b>Abe Goldstien Concert at The Caspe Terrace</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov 21</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Chanukah Happenings at the Temple</b>
<b>Thursday, Nov 25</b>		<b>THANKSGIVING DAY</b>
<b>Tuesday, Nov 30</b>	<b>Evening</b>	<b>AIPAC Event</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec 2</b>		<b>First day of CHANUKAH</b>
	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Senior Luncheon at Beth El Jacob</b>
	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>Drake Hillel Chanukah Party at Olmstead Center</b>
<b>Sunday, Dec 5</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Community Chanukah Celebration at Beth El Jacob</b>
<b>Thursday, Dec 9</b>		<b>Last day of CHANUKAH</b>
<b>Saturday, Dec 25</b>		<b>NATIONAL HOLIDAY</b>

## [milestones]

### B'nai Mitzvah



**Ameena Abdulghani** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, **November 6, 2010** at 9:00am

at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Tammy invites the community to the Kiddush luncheon following the service.



**John (Jack) Wahlig** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, **November 13, 2010** at Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

Laurie and Joe Wahlig invite the Jewish community to join their family in celebrating this special occasion. A Kiddush luncheon will be served following services.

### Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to **Yael Sivi-Beier and Yosh Beier** in NYC on the birth of their baby **Noah Itzak Beier** on August 10, 2010; Grandparents: **Marti Sivi and Isak Sivi**, Des Moines and Christa and Karl-Heinz Beier, Berlin

## Let us know...

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

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

## In Memoriam

*We note with sorrow the recent passing of*

Arthur Bergman

Linda Fishman

Harlan Neiman

Norma Silver

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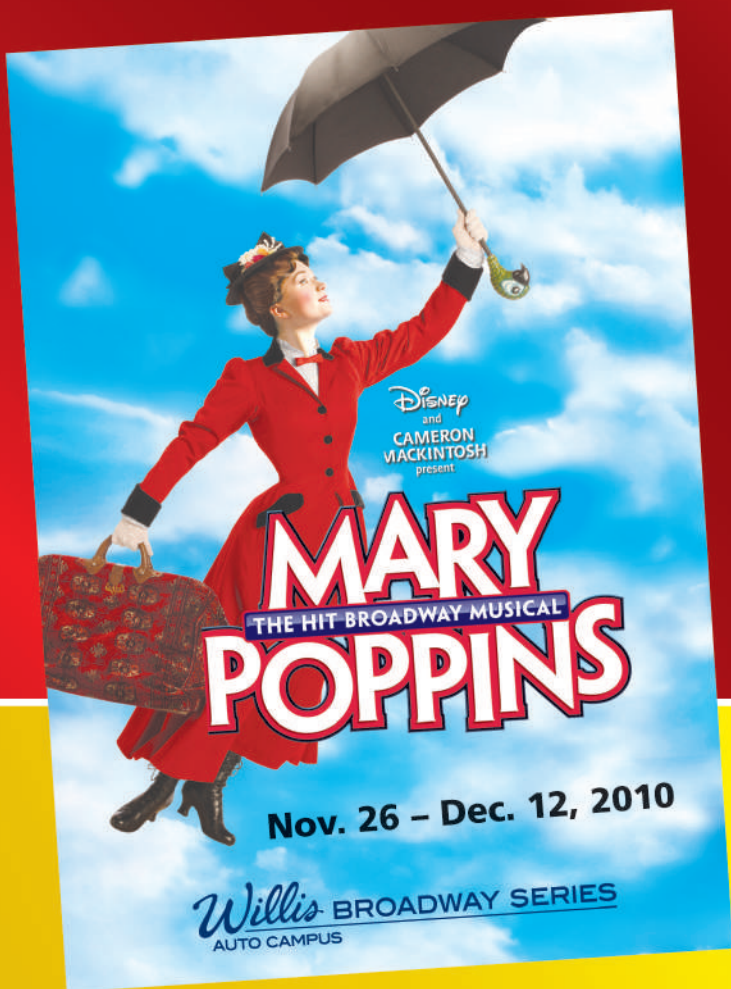
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## The Life Center Homecoming Fundraiser

The Life Center hosted its 3rd annual fundraiser on October 3rd. The theme of the event was "Homecoming." It was a wonderful opportunity for our Community to come together in support of a great cause -our Transformation Project - the long-awaited renovation of Resident rooms and common areas. Our Community of Donors contributed almost \$60,000, enabling The Life Center to continue Resident room renovations. We hope that our donors now better understand what their continuing generosity means to our Residents and their families.

We would like to thank our Event Committee members: Barb Sherman, Sharon Goldford, and Hanna Gradwohl for their input in making this such a successful event. We also express our appreciation to Shelly Brody, Board President, for her tremendous leadership. A very special thank you also goes to Chuck Kuba and the Iowa Diamondtaires for providing musical entertainment for the evening.



photos by Lauri Wahlig