

The gre ATer D e S MOINe S

# Jewish Press

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# HANUKKAH 5772

THE FIRST CANDLE  
OF HANUKKAH IS  
LIT THE EVENING OF  
DECEMBER 20

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[inside]

- 7 **TORAH TALK BY DAVID FRIEDGOOD**
- 11 **CASPE PROGRAMMING FALL LINE-UP**
- 14 **THE LIONS AND POMEGRANATES**
- 18 **THE PESKY DINER: JARAD BERNSTEIN**
- 19 **CHEF DU JOUR BY KAREN ENGMAN**

# The President's Club Dinner

photos by Laurie Wahlig



Jewish Federation Community School children



Barbara Hirsch-Giller, President



Dr. Wendi Harris and Stuart Oxer



Kent and Janice Rosenberg



Lexi and Beth Ohringer



Marilyn and Louis Hurwitz



Gwenn and Steve Copple



Evelyn Mintzer and Marilyn Hurwitz



Larry and Judy Deutch



Dr. Harvy Giller and Barbara Hirsch-Giller



Jule and Dr. Steven Goldstein and family



Sheldon and Roselind Rabinowitz, Stan Richards, Robbie and Marvin Winick



Alan Zuckert, Mary and Stan Seidler

Message from the President

Happy Hanukkah and a Joyous, Healthy New Year to You!



Barb Hirsch-Giller  
President

On September 20, 2011, the Jewish Federation held its 1st Annual President’s Club Dinner. It is our belief that we have not done as well as we could to thank each member of our community for creating an environment that embraces the very fundamental Jewish tradition of mitzvot—the commandment to accomplish good works. This event’s primary purpose was to honor our largest givers, those who donate over \$2,500 per year. My heart swelled with pride as I surveyed the guests and my passion for the work of the Federation just increased 10-fold.

I want to take this opportunity to share with you the words that I spoke to the members of that assembly because whether you give \$10 or \$10,000, **we only ask that you give according to your means.** YOU have a part in the amazing work of this organization, its history of compassion and care for Jews and non-Jews alike. We thank you and honor you and would just *love to see you* at the 2nd Annual President’s Club Dinner next year!

\*\*\*\*\*

“Man has three friends on whose company he relies. First, wealth which goes with him only while good fortune lasts. Second, his relatives; they go only as far as the grave and leave him there. The third friend, his good deeds, go with him beyond the grave.”  
– The Talmud

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines has existed for nearly 100 years. This has been possible because, and only because, of the amazing generosity of every single donor who has opened their hearts and offered their treasure for the benefit of the Jewish community—locally and throughout the world.

Years ago, you built a safety net for Jews—in every aspect of life—because the world could and would not accept our presence and insure our future. You created the Federation. You involved yourselves in the creation of the Jewish homeland, you sent money to young pioneers who farmed and fought in our ancient but infant land; you sent life-saving funds at every crisis and in every war. You resettled Immigrants from Russia, have supported every disadvantaged child and isolated elder in our area in a manner that mirrors the values that our faith and tradition demand. You have helped survivors of crime, survivors of natural disaster.

Everyday, we thank God for you, our donors. But tonight we recognize and pay tribute to you, our most generous givers—you who have given stunning amounts of money for the dire needs that our community has faced throughout the last century. But that is not all you have done: you created an environment for growth and prosperity about which this Jewish community could only have dreamed those many years ago. Do you realize what you have done? You have left your footprints on the life of every Jewish man, woman and child who passed through our little corner of the world. Tonight, we thank you from the bottom of our collective Federation hearts and hope that you remember that, as the Talmud sentiment expresses, your deeds will be your legacy of love for all time.

– Barbara Hirsch-Giller

*\*We offer our special thanks to those listed for their generous contributions. This amount represents the total of your accumulated gifts between 1989 and 2010. It includes All-In-One, Operation Exodus, Special Israeli Campaigns, Des Moines Jewish Foundations gifts and pledges, gifts to Jewish Federation Community School and Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center.*  
*This amount does not represent the additional millions of dollars given by other community members to the All-In-One Campaign, to synagogues and other Jewish causes.*

We apologize to anyone who we may have inadvertently left off this list, please contact me and we will include you in the next edition.  
– Elaine Steinger, (515) 987-0899, ext 231.

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THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

Vol. 28, No.2,  
November/December 2011

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OF GREATER DES MOINES

Many in our community are out of work and out of hope. Thanks to donors like you, he isn't one of them.



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Jewish Federation  
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## JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Sunday, September 11, was a beautiful, sunny morning to begin our first day of Sunday school in our new school building at The Caspe Terrace. With our families and other members of the community, we started with a short memorial led by Barb Hirsch-Giller, Federation President, honoring the Tenth Anniversary of 9/11 in our Richards Pavilion. Students were then lined up for our ribbon cutting ceremony. Once the ribbon was cut by Steven Goldstein, students were the first to officially walk into the school wing. Rabbis Bolel and Kaufman and Cantor Shivers participated in blessing and hanging our first four mezzuot. Parents then escorted their children to the classroom. While students took time to meet their new teacher and learn about their school year, parents and community members enjoyed a brunch in the Bookey Lodge catered by Chani Jacobson. The brunch was in honor of the six leading givers to our school building. JFCS would also like to thank those givers; their generosity helped make this happen. Those donors are: Stan & Gail Richards, Larry & Suzanne Engman, Dick & Jeanne Levitt; Stan & Mary Seidler, Don & Margo Blumenthal, and the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. We would also like to recognize and thank Alan & Janice Zuckert for their generous donation to create the Zuckert Educational Fund for those families in need of financial support.



David Copeland's Kindergarten class on first day of school

We were happy to see so many returning faces eager to start in our new building and the number of families entrusting their children with our experienced educators. We appreciate the support and understanding that these parents show towards the value of a Jewish education in their

children's lives. Most of our teachers have made a long time commitment to ensure that each student who crosses their threshold is learning not only Torah stories and history, but also their Hebrew Aleph-Bet and siddur skills. Our teachers take the training of all these skills seriously. For our staff, the lessons taught aren't only seen as something to be used only for each child's b'nai mitzvah, but also throughout their lifetime as a Jewish adult. Additionally, it is a good experience for our youth to see and interact with our families and adult members who are active in our community on a regular basis. This contact gives them real life opportunities to see Jewish adults living in a Jewish way. They also gain the insights of interacting with Jewish peers. They say it takes a village to raise a child and JFCS is that village.

We are also excited to let you know that ten new families have registered their children with the school for the New Year. Many of the new students are preschoolers, but we have also added students in Kindergarten, first, third and fifth grades to our rosters. We want to welcome all of them and their families into the JFCS community and hope that they find the experience informative and engaging in the upcoming years.



5th Grade with Ms Feuer

As we look towards the future, there are so many opportunities at The Caspe Terrace. Students have enjoyed playing on the Kirsner Playground, classes have been held under the Richards Pavilion; parents have lounged in the Staroselsky Room; our student-led practice services are held in the Buchsbaum Auditorium using our beautiful ark that was created by Sticks and donated to the Federation. For inside play during winter, our younger grades will use the Urban Activity Room and the Hurwitz Craft Room, which are also used by Engman Camp Shalom during the summer.

On November 20, we will hold our annual book fair that allows our community and our JFCS families to not only add to their Jewish libraries but also support the school's efforts to create a viable and ever-growing selection of books for the school's library available to our students and their families. Our book fair will be held in the Bookey Lodge from 9:30am - 12:30pm. In addition, there will be a vendor fair held by the synagogue/temple gift shops to make it a one-stop shop morning.

With the upcoming holidays, we have even more opportunities to connect our children to their Jewish roots through class participation and holiday celebrations in the synagogue/temple, with family and friends, and at home. Be sure to check with the schedules of each so that you don't miss out on the wealth of community events available to everyone.

For your information, to allow our families to create lasting moments, there will be no classes from Wednesday, November 23 and Sunday November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our winter break, which coincides with the public school schedule, will begin Wednesday, December 21 through Sunday, January 1. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4 with Sunday school beginning January 8.


## Fundraising Effort Continues for JFCS

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

### Ways You Can Make Your Tax Deductable Contribution Are:

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


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



**provides free education and support for women of other religious backgrounds who are raising Jewish children.**

This course, being offered through the Jewish Federation Community School, will meet twice a month throughout the school year at The Caspe Terrace on Sundays during morning religious school classes. The Mothers Circle creates comfortable spaces for women to learn about Judaism, explore Jewish holidays and rituals, discover how to enrich their families' Jewish experience, and deepen their connection to the religion of their husbands and children—and to do so with peers so they're not all alone. Come be a part of this warm and nurturing environment and feel empowered to take on the responsibility of raising children in Judaism. Mothers in all family constellations are welcome and participants do not have to be affiliated with a Jewish institution or have any prior knowledge.

**The Mothers Circle will begin Sunday, Nov. 6,** at 9:30 am in the Staroselsky lounge. The Mothers Circle is a program of the Jewish Outreach Institute and is made possible locally by the Jewish Federation of Des Moines. We are pleased to announce that Julie Kaufman will be the facilitator for this course. If you are interested, please contact Lyanna Lindgren at (515)987-0899 ext 232 or jfcsdm@gmail.com.



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# senior news

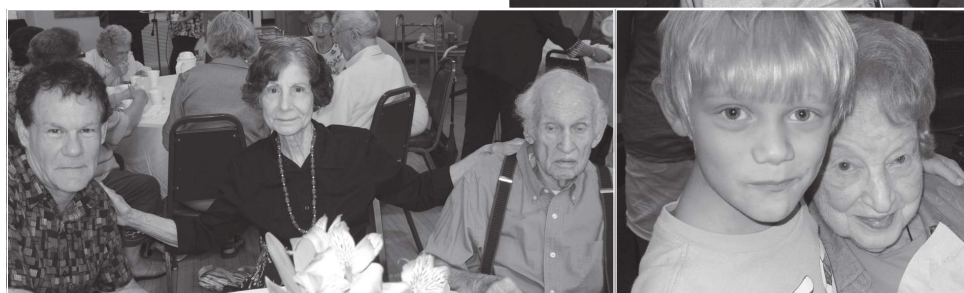
**Wanting to get out more and socialize? Needing assistance with transportation to senior luncheons, doctor appointments, grocery store, and other appointments? Seeking information regarding services you need in the home?**

**GIVE US A CALL** at Jewish Family Services and a staff member or volunteer will assist you with these services. Please call Pat Nawrocki, Jewish Family Services Manager, at 987-0899 ext 210.

## Upcoming Luncheons:

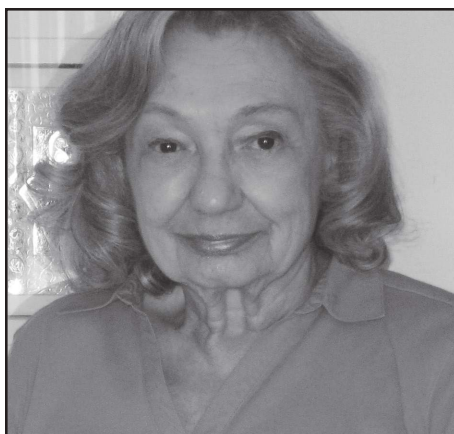
**Thursday, Nov. 3, 12:00 Noon**, at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Join us for fellowship, good food, entertainment and an informative luncheon. We will have Anne Peters, Director/Owner of home Instead, inform us about the challenges of medication management. Also we will be entertained by Jim Wangeman's wonderful music.

**Thursday, Dec. 1, 12:00 Noon**, at Beth el Jacob Synagogue. We will have an early start to h anukkah with r abbi l eib Bolel playing h anukkah songs for us on the piano and guitar. We are delighted to have music provided by the Zarnow Fund in honor of Abraham, r egina, Paul, Sidney, Silvia and r alph Zarnow. Come join us for wonderful entertainment, good food and fellowship.



Recent activities included lunch with the Engman Camp Shalom campers.

## The Ideal Gift To Give Is... Yourself



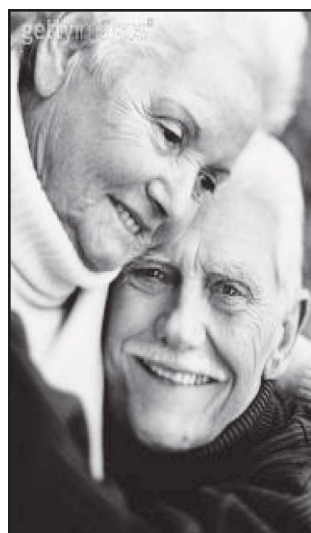
**Barbara Geller** has joined the Senior Adult Program as a volunteer telephone caller. She is a person who has such a sincerity and determination that when she supports a program's mission she puts her whole heart into it. h er role as a telephone caller with the Senior Adult Program is very important to make sure our Seniors are

reminded of the different events we offer (luncheons with educational speakers and music, operas, plays, Prairie Meadows and other activities). The Seniors are very appreciative of these calls, because like most of us today with our busy life schedules, might have forgotten and missed an event. Also these phone calls offer a time for good conversations and a time to have someone listen to them. Barbara is a great asset to the program. With her soothing voice and charming personality she has brought aboard new clients to the program!

A long time friend, Barb Beckerman-I eventhal, stated: "Barbara has been one of the most valued and productive volunteers for Beth el Jacob over the years." She has been President and Treasurer of Sisterhood and has also served on the board of directors for many years. h er strong leadership skills and business sense helped yield the highest fund raising dollars in Sisterhood history. Barb was also instrumental in the building of the Sally Pruce Kitchen.

Charlotte r aush, a good friend and a senior who Barbara contacts, says that she needs to be called. "It's good to be reminded about the upcoming events and it's good to be reminded by such a friendly and warm voice. It's great to know that someone is thinking about me and really cares." Charlotte said that when she chats with Barbara not only does it make her feel special but also feels that Barbara is getting enjoyment from their conversation. That's what the Senior Adult Program is all about, deeds of kindness, reaching out and helping someone in need.

– Pat Nawrocki, Jewish Family Services Manager



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

**Volunteer Opportunities** - Numerous volunteer projects

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

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



Jewish Federation  
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Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER DES MOINES

But, is it true? by David Friedgood



I was at a party several months ago talking to several friends with a beer in my hand. The chitchat suddenly turned to a more serious discussion of religious belief. One woman professed a disbelief of any religious philosophy. The Bible, she said, is a nice book of stories “but, is it true?” The question is raised often. It defies a quick answer, but that night I quipped – “it doesn’t matter.” As is the nature of such gatherings, little else of importance was said and our conversation drifted to lighter themes. Her statement, however, is still in my head. Is what we read in our sacred texts factual; is it true? And, the retort – does it matter?

Historically the answer is straightforward. The first line of the Bible states: “When God began to create heaven and earth...” (Genesis 1:1) God exists. No proof of His existence is required. Everything else that exists – heaven and earth along with all its contents – is created by God. Further, we are told that God revealed Himself to our ancestors. He nurtured Abraham and his extended family. Ultimately on Mount Sinai, God revealed Himself, His rules and laws, to all the people Israel (and future generations). “Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke, for the LORD had come down upon it in fire... the whole mountain trembled violently... As Moses spoke God answered him in thunder. The LORD came down upon Mount Sinai... and Moses went up.” (Exodus 19:18-20) Collectively, we all accepted God’s providence: “Moses went and repeated to the people all the commands of the LORD and all the rules; and all the people answered with one voice, saying, ‘All the things that the LORD has commanded we will do!’ Moses then wrote down all the commands of the LORD.” (Exodus 24:3-4) The traditional (orthodox) view is: 1) God exists. 2) He has created us and all that exists. 3) He revealed Himself and His plan for His creation to us. 4) The information was written down by Moses. Generations of Rabbis have painfully documented the transmission of Moses’ writing to us today through the Torah – the first 5 books of the Bible. The Bible, then, is the word of God, and we all agreed to obey.

Christianity and Islam also elaborate a record of revelation and the transmission of God’s word to the faithful. Adherents of these traditions also believe that they possess the one true faith. All others (Jews included) are misguided. It all comes down to what you believe. In the 8th century, Muslim warriors fanning out of the Arabian Peninsula conquered the world of Western civilization. Islamic scholars became enamored with the ideas of Greek Philosophy and the notion of rationalism. Ideas, according to Aristotle, could be proven by logic to be valid or false. Over the next few centuries these Islamists

invested their lives in proving, by logic, the existence of God and the authenticity of Islam, the one true religion. Not to be outdone, Christian and Jewish scholars wrote treatises ‘proving’ theirs to be the only true way to God. (A read of the texts from various faiths show proofs using similar logic and analysis come out with different results.) The most prominent Jewish Theologian from this period is Saadia Gaon (born 882). His Book of Doctrines and Belief argues for the authenticity of Judaism and the appropriateness of using logic to study the nature of God and religion. Traditionalists of the time (and today) reject this line of study as heresy. Belief, according to them, is paramount. The only legitimate object of study is the Bible, to more accurately interpret God’s word as articulated in the Torah – the infallible word of the Supreme Being. Later Rabbis, such as Maimonides (born 1135), argue that Judaism has to be rational if it is to have meaning. They recognize that the reasons for much of our tradition are hard to explain. The rules are never the less valid. Some need to be reinterpreted to fit changing times. Others must be followed on faith, as our human intellect can never fully understand the meaning and wisdom of God’s decrees. Judah Halevi (born 1086) authored a wonderful treatise entitled Kuzari. He describes a heathen tribe whose king, after hearing logical arguments from three religious experts, decides to convert to Judaism.

Thinking began to change about the 13th century with the advent of Jewish mysticism and the Kabbalist tradition. God’s will, according to the mystic, defies logic and is often hidden. The goal is to sublimate rational thought and immerse ourselves deep into the meaning of the universe. By slowly peeling away the layers of concretions that separate our souls from ultimate truth, the adherent can become closer to the divine. Through study and discipline, we can begin to heal our broken world.

The 18th century brought in the Enlightenment. Western Jews began to experience greater rights and freedom. They benefited from increased access to secular education and assumed greater roles in society. Again rationalism became important. For religion to have meaning in their lives it had to be based on reason. Belief and revelation were not good enough for these modern people. In his pursuit of ultimate rational thought, the Jewish Philosopher Baruch Spinoza used logic to deny the immortality of the soul. He saw an abstract, impersonal, ecumenical God and viewed Biblical law as optional. In 1656 a rabbinical court in Amsterdam excommunicated him.

The ebb and flow of religious thought continued and by the 20th century many Jews (along with believers in other faiths) felt the need for greater spirituality in their lives. Thinkers like Martin Buber (born 1878) and Abraham Joshua Heschel (born 1907) embraced a philosophy known as Existentialism.

continued on page 21



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# Meet Karen and Jerry Borowick



**Jewish Press:** I understand that you have just recently relocated to Des Moines. Welcome! Karen, what brought you and Jerry to Des Moines? And where had your family resided?

**Karen Borowick:** We moved to the Des Moines area from Overland Park, Kansas. Jerry's promotion to Office Managing Partner of KPMG LLP was the genesis of our transfer. Prior moves included Dallas, Texas; Tel Aviv, Israel; and Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Our journey began with our move from Louisville, Kentucky where we both grew up.

**JP:** Had you both been active in your

previous Jewish community?

**KB:** Our recent life in Kansas City included completing the two year Melberg Leadership Program that included a trip to Israel. We were also members of Federation's Ben Gurion Society. At our synagogue I was co-chair of the Hessed Committee, a Sisterhood member, organizer of the semi-monthly synagogue Mah Jongg group and the synagogue's first Bams for Mams, and volunteered in various other capacities. Jerry served on the Lead Rabbi Rabbinical Search Committee, The Audit Committee, and volunteered in various other capacities. Jerry was also on the Jewish Community Center's Health and Wellness Committee and a Board Member and Treasurer of the University of Kansas' Hillel.

**JP:** What areas served by the Federation are closest to your hearts?

**KB:** Closest to our hearts are community trips to Israel and fund allocation. I am also interested in meeting with Senior Citizens.

**JP:** Karen, please tell us a bit about your family.

**KB:** We began dating at a B'nai B'rith Youth Organization (BBYO) AZA Social.

We went to college together and got engaged while finishing college at the University of Louisville. We got married in 1985. Our first son, Jeremy, was born in 1990, and our second son, Andrew, followed in 1993. The four of us have lived in three different countries and five different places. Jeremy and Andrew are currently attending the University of Missouri-Columbia. Jeremy will graduate in May of 2012 with his Masters in Accountancy and has accepted a position with the Big 4 Accounting Firm KPMG LLP in Kansas City. Andrew is a sophomore studying Accounting, as well and he will be living in Waukegan between school sessions. His anticipated graduation date is May of 2015. Andrew is looking forward to meeting other Jewish young adults in the Des Moines area.

**JP:** Where'd you both go to school and what did you study?

**KB:** Jerry majored in Accounting and graduated from the University of Louisville with a BSBA in 1984. I majored in Finance and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Louisville in 1984. I then earned an MBA from Bellarmine College in 1988.

**JP:** What are some of your family's favorite pastimes?

**KB:** We both enjoy exercising, particularly Indoor Spinning (Cycling), travelling to foreign countries, reading and meeting interesting people. I'm interested in finding a daytime Mah Jongg group to join.

And we enjoy spending time with our nine-year-old Pomeranian, Lady, who usually travels with us.

**JP:** What are your initial impressions about Des Moines?

**KB:** So far we like everything we have seen. Des Moines is a great mid-western place to live and raise a family. The people are warm, friendly, and welcoming to their community. We've particularly enjoyed getting to know the synagogues in town.

**JP:** Any final thoughts you'd like to share with readers?

**KB:** Yes. We would like to meet members of the community. We hope that folks will come and say hello when they get a chance at community events.

**JP:** Thank you for that kind invitation, Karen, and thank you for the interview. We're glad you and Jerry are here! All the best.

- advertisement -



# THANK YOU PRESIDENT OBAMA FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

## THE TOP ISRAELI POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS HAVE PRAISED PRESIDENT OBAMA:

### Michael Oren - Israeli Ambassador to the US:

"I think we are closer today in our two positions than we have been probably any time before. We agree on the principles of moving forward. The Obama administration is committed to a two state solution based on direct negotiations and dealing with all the core issue. That is precisely the Israeli position-we see totally eye to eye on that." (CNN, The Situation room, September 16, 2011)

### Prime Minister Netanyahu:

"The United States has provided invaluable diplomatic, moral and military support. Diplomatic support, in our quest for a negotiated peace, which is the only way to achieve it. A peace grounded in security but grounded also in mutual compromises that can only be achieved in face-to-face negotiations. America is very, very clear on this point. And I think President Obama has spoken eloquently about this. Military support, we just had a successful deployment of the Iron Dome system. And we've intercepted seven missiles that were fired over the skies of Be'er Sheva and Ashkelon and this was made possible by generous American military support. Funding that was approved by the Obama Administration." (June 30, 2011)

### Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon (formerly Ariel Sharon's top foreign policy advisor):

"I can tell you in a very categorical way, and I believe also an authoritative way, that we have not had a better friend than President Obama." (September 9, 2011)

### Defense Minister Ehud Barak :

"Our countries are good friends. And I'm the minister of defense, I can tell you that I can hardly remember - I was in uniform for decades - I can hardly remember a better period of support, American support and backing and cooperation and similar strategic understanding of events around us than what we have right now." (Fox News interview, August 3, 2011)

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN DES MOINES WHO HONOR THE ROLE OF OUR PRESIDENT IN HIS UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

## Get Educated! by Jill Marks

What would you do if you were attending a party and all of a sudden the person standing next to you blurts out, "If it weren't for the G...D...Jews, we wouldn't be losing billions of dollars and thousands of American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan? After all, the Arabs hate us because of our government's love of Israel!" Would you be paralyzed, unable to utter a sound? Would you be afraid of reprisals from others in the group? Would you ignore the comment, or would you be willing and able to answer the comments in a coherent, logical manner?

While this situation is less likely to occur at a house party, it's far too common on many college campuses. Why? One reason, which you may not know, is that over the past decade or so, The Saudis have sought to influence what is taught about the Middle East by contributing funds and endowing chairs at our most elite universities. Many Middle Eastern studies professors are demonstrably teaching a slanted curriculum ~ slanted against Israel. At its worst, such as at Columbia University or at some of the campuses of the University of California, the anti-Israel rhetoric has become very blatant and challenges to the viewpoints taught have subjected Jewish students to derision by the professor. Moreover, at a number of universities, pro-Israel speakers, including Israeli diplomats, have had their presentations interrupted by demonstrators.

Yes, universities, of all places, should be bastions of free speech and divergent ideas, and students should learn both sides of an issue, but the anti-Israel forces on campus seem to have their act together far better than do the Jewish faculty and students. Adversaries to Israel seem to attract larger crowds at pro-Palestinian rallies on campuses than Jewish students draw to pro-Israel events. Funding issues aside, there are reasons why Jewish groups remain in the background on our campuses. There basically is a factor of intimidation that has to be considered. It is, frankly, not popular to be supportive of Israel on many campuses, and students have to develop thicker skins, to begin with, when facing overt hostility toward Israel ~ specifically the denial of Israel's right to exist. (Not one of us should be concerned with general criticism of Israel. That's not what we're talking about. The Israeli press is full of self-criticism on a daily basis.)

Turning again to the academic side of the matter, I've been baffled by the fact that a fair number of Jewish professors decline to rebut arguably anti-Semitic remarks made by their pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel colleagues. What are they afraid of?

One of the main reasons why anti-Semitic remarks are barely rebutted on many campuses is because many Jewish children, our own children, do not have the education

or knowledge to feel comfortable enough to separate legitimate criticism of Israel from 'criticism' that hides underlying motives to delegitimize, demonize, and ultimately remove Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people.

This is the sad truth all over this country. Jewish education itself has always taken a back seat to secular studies with most of us. The problem is that today many Jewish parents place little, if any, value on Jewish education, which should include more about Israel, why it exists, and what its true values are.

The problem isn't just that our kids don't know enough about the issues. Too many adults don't know very much about the history and ongoing saga of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict either.


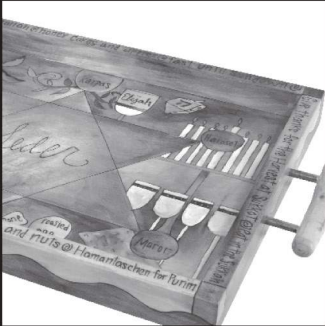
Why is it important for us to know what's going on? For one, we are Jews and it's important to know our history. What would life be like for Jews in the U.S. or Western Europe if there were no Israel? Would you like to venture a guess about how our lives might change? The most obvious reason is because this topic is front and center in the news: on TV, in the newspapers and magazines and on the Internet. The Palestinians, as I write, are making their case in front of the UN for statehood. The U.S. will veto their bid, but what would be the outcome if most of the countries vote in their favor, as they are likely to do? Will recognition of a Palestinian state before making peace with Israel itself create peace? What difference does all of this make to you and me?

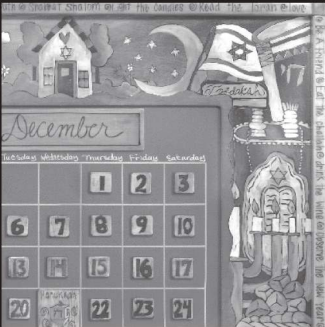

A compelling reason to be educated is so that we can explain and defend the Israeli position intelligently against half-truths and anti-Semitic remarks. The more that a lie about Israel is repeated uncontested (and indeed some of what is out there are lies); the more people will believe it. Think about it: You hear an anti-Semitic speaker spew his venom on a college campus. (The evidence is available on YouTube.) You see students with placards and hear cheers. What do onlookers think when nobody counters what was said? We, and our children, have an obligation to speak up when we hear lies about Jews and/or Israel!

How do we accomplish this? It starts with a commitment and education. We have to commit to becoming knowledgeable on the issues, and then we have to get the education needed to find the truth in all its complexity and to ultimately support Israel, searching as it is for peace, willing to make necessary compromises for peace.

It's obvious that commitment and education must be a priority for the Jewish community. It's time to stop being apathetic about the history unfolding around us.

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## Jazz Pianist Peggy Stern Presents The JOY Of Music - Nov. 5

An Evening Dedicated To The Music Of Jewish Composers



Take a close look at the liner notes on hundreds of jazz recordings and chances are you'll find names like Berlin, Gershwin, Bacharach, Bernstein, Rogers & Hart and Kern. These are just a handful of Jewish composers and lyricists who have inspired generations of jazz musicians.

On Saturday, November 5, local jazz fan Abe Goldstien and his wife, Jackie Garnett, are pleased to present jazz pianist/composer Peggy Stern at The Caspe Terrace in an evening of music by Jewish composers and lyricists. "I didn't realize how many tunes I have played over the years that were written by Jewish composers," comments Stern, who is a composer in her own right.

Stern was encouraged to perform at The Caspe Terrace by bassist Rich Syracuse, who appeared with pianist Lee Shaw on the Bucksbaum Stage at The

Caspe Terrace in May 2011. "Every aspect of that concert was incredible—the venue, the piano, the audience, the hospitality—everything," remembers Syracuse who will be accompanying Stern on her November 5 concert.

### A Musical Conversation Between Two Friends

"This will be an evening of wonderful songs as Rich and I share the joy of tunes that have inspired us since we began our careers," said Stern, who in addition to recording jazz standards and her original compositions, recorded a CD that featured jazz versions of traditional Hebrew songs. Stern began playing classical piano at an early age, continuing her studies at the Eastman School of Music, and finishing a Masters Degree, still in Classical music, at the New England Conservatory. Then she moved to New York, absorbing the piano stylings of the greats, such as Jimmy Rowles and Tommy Flanagan. Peggy has worked and toured with many wonderful musicians: Lee Konitz, Diane Schuur, David "Fathead" Newman, Bud Shank, Thomas Chapin, Stanley Turrentine, and Gerry Mulligan to name a few. Here is how the music critic from the Sydney Morning Herald describes Stern's playing: "Luminous lyricism...the piano more caressed than played...with subtlety, nuance, warmth, effortless swing, beauty of line, and sophistication of harmony and dynamics." *continued on page 21*

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER DES MOINES

## THE CASPE TERRACE

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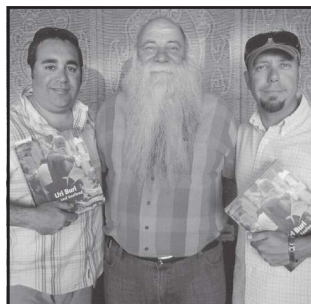
## Make life's milestone celebrations memorable...

— at The Caspe Terrace

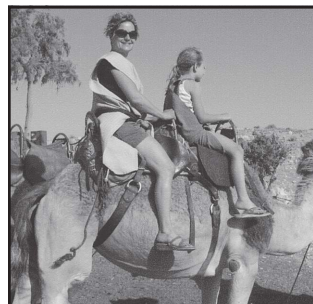
Usage of The Caspe Terrace is limited to the Jewish Federation of greater Des Moines, its employees, Jewish Federation Members and to United Way affiliates. events are limited to Federation community programming; for Members of the Federation for occasions that are significant life stage events and religious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

## TRIP TO ISRAEL ENJOYED BY THE URBANS!

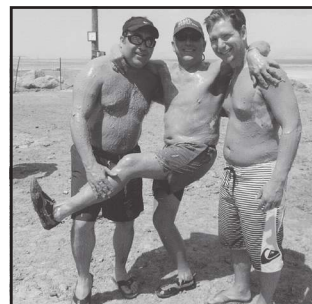
This was a trip of a lifetime for the entire Urban Family to share the adventure of a trip to Israel together. Twelve Urbans enjoyed ten days in Israel in June, spending five days in Jerusalem, two days visiting our Partnership Region, Western Galilee, and the last two days in Tel Aviv. Our guides shared history, politics, economics and the beauty of the country with us. For our daughter-in-law and son-in-law who had not been to Israel the trip was an awakening to a fabulous country. For the young children it will be long remembered for digging at a "Tell" (an archeological site), riding camels, swimming in the Dead Sea and rolling in the mud and running down Massada or perhaps it will be the Gondola ride at Rosh Hanikra and the grotto or the torpedo boat on the Mediterranean. For each of us the memories will be long remembered.



Max Holtzman, Uri Buri and Andy Urban - Akko at Ure Buri's restaurant at the waterfront holding copies of Uri's new cookbook (It isn't very kosher)!



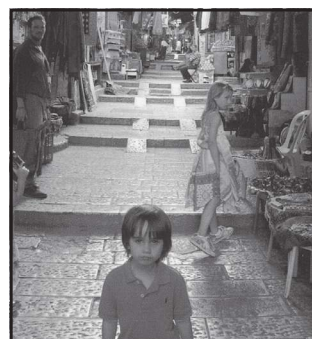
Carrie and Rachel Urban on camels at the Land of Genesis where the family rode camels.



Max Holtzman, Tim Urban and Jonathan Urban after they smeared themselves with mud at En Gedi at the Dead Sea.



Back Row: Heather Urban, Mina Holtzman, Max Holtzman, Jonathan Urban, Tim Urban, Andy Urban and Carrie Urban Front row - Toni Urban, Rachel Urban, Mackenzie Urban, Lily Urban and Beck Holtzman



Beck Holtzman at the Arab Market in Jerusalem

## Caspe Line-Up: Cyril Mandelbaum on Financial Planning, Nov. 13



Cyril Mandelbaum has a lot of information to share with us during her presentation on financial and estate planning, which is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, at The Caspe Terrace. She literally wrote a book on this subject, which will be published during the next year.

It is the first book Cyril has ever written, and she wrote it to address an unfortunate information gap that she has seen in many people as they try to plan for their financial future. "This is the information that the attorneys don't deal with as people do their estate planning, and people really need to know about it," she explained to me recently, as we met in her office in West Des Moines. When

it is published, her book will also include worksheets for people to fill out to help them in their financial planning.

In her talk on November 13, she will try to address many of the issues that she covers in her book, including personal and family history, medical history, how to distribute personal property, financial, business, and insurance information, end-of-life directives, and notification letters, among others. There will also be time for questions from the audience.

Cyril had a wealth of experience to draw on as she wrote her book. She began her career as a CPA in 1969, and has been an active and accomplished member of the Des Moines community ever since. She has worked in several well-respected accounting firms in Des Moines, and now runs her own firm, located in West Des Moines, 4500 Westown Parkway, phone 222-6203. Cyril concentrates on three main areas of accounting in her firm—taxes, litigation support, and business valuation. She was appointed to several past Iowa economic advisory committees by Governors Ray and Vilsack, and was Senator Harkin's past appointee to the White House Conference on Small Business, as well.

*continued on page 21*

## TONY AWARD-WINNING "PARADE" COMES TO STAGEWEST AND THE CASPE TERRACE, DEC. 22

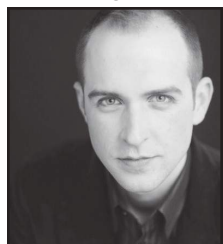
The centerpiece production of StageWest's 15th anniversary season is the Iowa premiere production of *Parade*, a historical musical depicting the legal and social anguish of a Brooklyn-raised, Jewish factory manager in 1913 Atlanta. With a book by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Alfred Uhry (*Driving Miss Daisy*), and music/lyrics by the critically-acclaimed young composer, Jason Robert Brown, the original production was directed by Broadway icon Harold Prince. It won Tony Awards for Best Book and Score of a musical, as well as six Drama Desk Awards (Best Musical), plus the New York Drama Critics' Award for Best Musical.

The story accurately dramatizes the story of a Jewish Northerner (Leo Frank) who managed an Atlanta pencil factory. Frank was accused of the murder of a 13-year-old employee, Mary Phagan, a crime that occurred, ironically, during Georgia's annual Confederate Memorial Day Parade. There were major doubts about Frank's guilt and charges that false testimony helped convict him. But Frank quickly became a convenient scapegoat in a South still reeling from Civil War losses, and rife with anti-Semitism.

At the trial, Frank received the death penalty, which was later commuted to life imprisonment by Georgia's governor. But on August 17, 1915, the prisoner was kidnapped from his cell and hanged from an oak tree by a group of men. The well-publicized incident spurred the formation of the Anti-Defamation League and a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan.

In the StageWest production, the lead role of Leo Frank will be portrayed by Andrew Ryker, voice teacher at Drake

University. With a Master of Music degree in vocal performance from the New England Conservatory, Andrew



**Andrew Ryker**

has recently moved to Des Moines and, in addition to his position at Drake, works with the Des Moines Metro Opera and served as music director for two StageWest productions.

From Ron Lambert, StageWest's Producing Artistic Director: "The production of *Parade* is a signature event in our 15-year history and we are so honored to have the support of the Jewish Federation. The production is proudly sponsored by Larry and Suzanne Engman, plus West Bank, the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and the Des Moines Area Religious Council. I would also like to thank Kay Myers for her tireless efforts to bring this production to life. This is what great theatre can do – provide a collaborative environment to engage artists, audiences and communities in a conversation about the human experience. As with all of our shows, we promise a story brought to life with passion, honesty and integrity."

**Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 PM** – the cast of 16 actors will present a musical preview of the Tony Award-winning score at The Caspe Terrace, a score that combines pop-rock, folk, R/B and gospel. Following the musical performance, the directing team and several actors will hold a conversation with the audience and answer questions about the production, the play, the historical significance and social issues.

## fall line-up:

### Wednesdays — Mahjong

**5:30 pm & 6:30 pm** Bring your board for Mahjong Wednesdays. No Charge. Call Tammy at 987-0899 for more information.

### Saturday, Nov. 5 — Peggy Stern Jazz Concert

**7:30 pm** An Evening Dedicated To The Music Of Jewish Composers Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Mention you read about the concert in the Jewish Press and get \$5 off your advance ticket purchase. Tickets can be ordered by contacting Goldstien at 515-279-6452 or via email at abe@trilixgroup.com.

### Sunday, Nov. 13 — Financial Planning Seminar

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

### Sunday, Nov. 20 — Hanukkah Bazaar

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

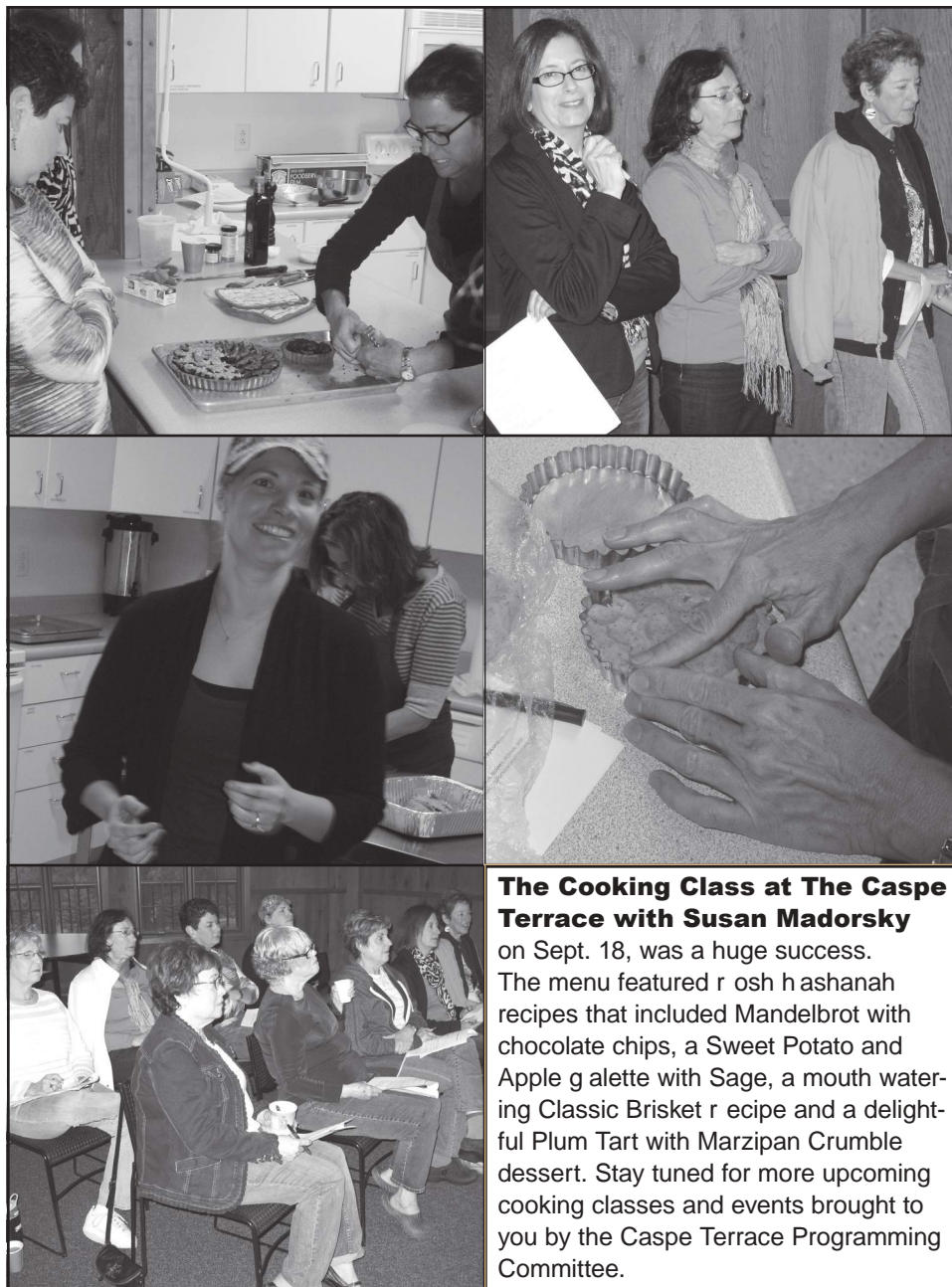
### Thursday, Dec. 22 — PARADE

**StageWest presents musical selections from PARADE live**

**7:30 - 9:00 pm** An exclusive intimate live performance of musical excerpts from the Tony Award winning musical PARADE, conversation with the director and dessert reception with the cast. Cost: \$16 each at door, \$12 each in advance. Reserve your spot for this rare opportunity. Call Tammy at 987-0899.

**Transportation is available. Call Pat at 987-0899.**

# THE CASPE TERRACE



### The Cooking Class at The Caspe Terrace with Susan Madorsky

on Sept. 18, was a huge success.

The menu featured r osh hashanah recipes that included Mandelbrot with chocolate chips, a Sweet Potato and Apple g alette with Sage, a mouth watering Classic Brisket r ecipe and a delightful Plum Tart with Marzipan Crumble dessert. Stay tuned for more upcoming cooking classes and events brought to you by the Caspe Terrace Programming Committee.

# Finding Moshe Pomerantz by Elyse Rabinowitz

Elyse Rabinowitz was born and raised in Des Moines. She and her husband Jim Porter reside in Minneapolis and are the parents of two college age children.

This past July, I was one of a group of forty North Americans and Israelis on an educational tour of Poland. We traced many pathways in one of the most prolific Jewish communities in history, which on the eve of World War II, numbered three and a half million Jews. This kind of program is not unique – indeed its importance has grown as thousands of Jews make a similar journey year-in, year-out to discover the core of this rich center of Jewish life, to behold the grounds of its destruction and to honor the spiritual, physical and redemptive resistance of Jews and Righteous Gentiles alike.

Several years ago I heard a lecture by a curator from Yad Vashem, herself the child of survivors. She proposed that our knowledge of the Holocaust must go beyond graphic numbers, for the ideologically motivated murder of one Jew – because he or she is a Jew – is a tragedy of great magnitude. Nor can we only focus on how the Nazi's bureaucratic machinery made the murder of millions of Jews possible. Her call to action was to examine and recount Jewish memory – which is Judaism's particular way of understanding history. Figuratively speaking, she prompted us to fill in the color of black and white family photos; to build our understanding of the multi-layered world of European

Jewry: its synagogues, yeshivot and youth movements; the legacies of great sages, Yiddish writers, Zionist pioneers, learned and ordinary men and women. Our task, she urged, is to illuminate lives lived, lives saved, and ultimately, lives lost. It is in this spirit that I went to Poland.

Perhaps ironically, my search for lives lived in Poland began by going to a cemetery. The Warsaw Jewish Cemetery is the resting place of over 250,000 Jewish souls dating back to 1806, including my maternal Great-great-great Grandfather Yisroel Yaacov Pomerantz, Great-great Grandfather Moshe Pomerantz, and Great Grandmother Chava Shafir Landau. It was my good fortune to locate their gravesites, fulfilling part of my quest in going to Poland. To behold the names of my family's progenitors on their matzevot—headstones was a touchstone moment, a time to proclaim he'neni, here am I, standing as a free Jew. Most significantly, it was a tribute to seven generations of unbroken faith and devotion and to my Great Grandparents' and Grandparents' prophetic dream of a better life by making aliyah from Poland to Iowa and Minnesota in the early 1900's.

From the Warsaw cemetery I travelled through Poland's pastoral countryside to the town of Ticocyn, once known as the shtetl of Tiktin. Seventy years ago, in August 1941, the 2,000 Jewish residents of Tiktin were assembled in the town's market square for "relocation" and then marched and trucked by the Nazis into the nearby Lupochowo forest. Save for only a few that escaped, the SS Einsatzkommando

executed every Jewish resident of Tiktin before open pits, extinguishing 400 years of continuous Jewish life.

The Tiktin synagogue, originally built in 1642, is now a museum. The aura of its sanctuary is without equal, as the tefillot we most commonly recite are painted in richly colorful calligraphy, surrounding us from floor to ceiling, wall to wall, and from above the aron kodesh and bima. My sense of connection to this place is heightened by the fact that my paternal Grandfather, Jacob Rabinovitz, lived a part of his boyhood in Tiktin and my Great Grandfather, Rav Chaim Rabinovich, served as shocket in the Tiktin shtetl before he and his family made their way to Duluth. Notwithstanding the power of imagination to fill the Tiktin shul with prayer and remembrance, it rings a deeply dissonant chord to be in a shtetl made judenrein – free of Jews.

And so it happened on my first morning in Poland, roughly a century after my Grandparents and Great Grandparents left for Ellis Island, I stood in the very places where they lived, worked, prayed and buried their family. I did so with a debt of gratitude and the luxury of historical hindsight – for had they not left Poland their fate would have been sealed to encounter Nazi brutality with little to no chance of survival.

Over 100 relatives in my maternal family genealogy did not share the freedom to immigrate to the U.S., nor pre-state Israel, or elsewhere, and were murdered at the hands of the Nazis: among them my



mother's uncle, Ben Landau, a member of the French Jewish Resistance, who was arrested and deported from Paris in June 1942, and murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau; and her first cousins, Yurik and Esther Winogren. Yurik, a 21 year-old university student, was killed in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Esther was a biochemist and worked as an assistant to Dr. Janusz Korczak in the Warsaw Ghetto children's orphanage. She was seized on the street in the first days of the liquidation of the ghetto. After Korczak was unable to gain her release from a transport, he wrote the following in his diary: *continued on page 21*

## TEDx Youth@DesMoines

x = independently organized TED event

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**Nomination closes:** November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
**Event Date:** April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Des Moines Playhouse

Speakers and performers will have the opportunity to:

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**The world needs to see and hear young Iowans' under-celebrated stories, underground talents or under-implemented ideas.**

This project has been endorsed by Des Moines Public Schools, Central Academy, Character Counts, Young Leaders of Character, National Council on Youth Leadership, Youth Leadership Institute, RandomKid, CULTUREALL, Community! Youth Concepts, The Culture Buzz, Foundry Co-Working, the Des Moines Playhouse, and The Ovation Effect.

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## ENTHUSIAST FOR GARDENING PROMOTES PEACE THROUGH GARDENING

Marc Daniels was at one time a resident of Des Moines. At age 56 he is the eldest grandson of Ross Daniels, the inventor of the Ross Root Feeder, a product that brought millions of nature lovers closer to nature. Based on his family heritage, life experience and educational research, Marc Daniels has developed a special project introducing young children to gardening. It is a project in which children metaphorically weed hate out of their lives by physically weeding their gardens and planting seeds of peace. He sees this action as renewing the environment, impressing upon children the need to nurture the environment, in addition to symbolically remedying the poisoned racial, religious, and ethnic tensions that have afflicted too many societies since time immemorial.

Daniels has elaborated on his project in his newly published German language book, *Der Himmelsgarten*. In July 6th of this year, Avenir Shalev, the Director of the Yad VaShem Holocaust Museum accepted the book in the library for historians to review. The inspiration came after visiting the Dachau Concentration Camp three years ago, in which he tried to envision

a symbolism as positive as the Holocaust was negative. Chapter 23 portrays his dream of the President of the United States to stage a White House gardens Weed Out Hate event in which every child in the world would be called upon to extract a symbolic weed, for expressing the global desire to root out hate once and for all. The concept is steeped in the deepest roots of the Jewish holiday of TuBeshvat: "For the Tree of the Field is Man". The idea is beginning to catch on: As of this date, Iowa Governor Terry Brandstad, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, mayors, Cownie-Des Moines, Rahm, Emanuel-Chicago, as well as the late Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin have each issued Weed Out Hate Day proclamations. Folk singer Peter Yarrow invited him to New York City, to discuss applications for his Operation Respect Anti-Bullying initiative.

It is with the greatest pride that he dedicates this book to his grandparents, Ross and Ethel Daniels, and all members of his extended family. "My Des Moines roots run deep, my Jewish roots run much deeper; it is my fervent desire for society to derive sustenance from these roots."

[p2g]

## Israel Partnership News



Jacob Lederman

Welcome to our Partnership! The Des Moines Jewish Federation has an established connection with the Western Galilee in Israel and 15 other Jewish federations in the Central US through Partnership 2gether (P2G) and I am here, bringing you the skinny.

This past couple months have been immensely busy with a great effort to bring Akko and Des Moines closer together as sister cities. We're working on it along with the encouragement of the Des Moines Sister Cities Commission and the mayor of Akko.

The port city of Akko is truly amazing: historically, scenically, and features a mixed population that gets along well together. It's developing, "greening," and attracting many new facilities. I will say that just recently the new beautiful Azrieli Mall opened in Akko. So don't forget to shop there on your next visit. Don't forget our community member's own efforts to put a 5 star hotel in Akko, The Khan al-Umdan. We have information, if anyone would like, regarding the development of this first-of-its-kind hotel in Akko. The project is very exciting. It will most certainly attract tourists who would otherwise not travel to our partnership region. If you'd like information for investing, let me know and I will get your information to the right people.

I thought that our community could benefit from learning about how other partnerships do their thing so last month I arranged a trip to Omaha (home of the P2G USA chair) to meet with them. Mark Finkelstein came and we toured the fine facilities of the JCC in Omaha, had a wonderful discussion and sharing of information and ideas, and had lunch with the P2G leadership and their new Federation Executive. It was a great experience. Not only did we learn new ideas for our P2G committee, but the relationship with our Omaha P2G colleagues was strengthened.

Within our Consortium, there are many interesting programs in the works. One that you might find interesting is the First Responders Exchange. Currently the P2G coordinator in Israel is preparing a team of Western Galilee firefighters who will come to College Station, TX for specialized instruction and will then visit our partners in the Austin and San Antonio communities. They will share their experience of fighting the recent, devastating Carmel fire. This is a timely and instructive exchange insofar as at present there are forest fires raging in Texas.

Thank you for your continued interest in our Federation's P2G program - it's the most personal way to get to know and to strengthen Israel. Our local meetings will continue and your attendance is welcome, your participation is encouraged.

- Jacob Lederman, Chair, Des Moines P2G

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# Lion of Judah

Long a symbol of strength and majesty in the Jewish world, the Lion of Judah is the international group of Jewish women who make a minimum commitment of \$5000 in their own name to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Wearing the Lion of Judah pin is a dramatic reminder that it is each woman's responsibility and privilege to stand among her people—committed to her family, her community, and tikkun olam (repairing the world).

**A History of the Lion of Judah Society**

Introduced in 1972 for the Miami Women's Division campaign, the Lion of Judah pin has established itself as a symbol of commitment to the worldwide Jewish community. The diamond inset 14-karat gold pin was created for the woman making a personal pledge to the annual campaign of \$5000 or more. In 1985, a Lion of Judah pin with a Ruby inset was established in recognition on an individual woman's personal commitment of \$10,000 or more to the annual campaign. As the 1980's ended, the program was extended to recognize even higher levels of women's giving, with insets of Sapphire, Emerald, Canary Diamond, Cognac Diamond and Black Diamond stones representing their commitment.

Women's Campaigns have assumed an increasingly significant role in raising funds for the Federation. Today, more than 13,000 women from communities throughout the world proudly participate in the Lion of Judah program. Inspired by Jewish tradition, the Women's Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is dedicated to strengthening the Jewish people here at home, in Israel and around the world. Those who participate in women's philanthropy play a major role in enhancing and implementing the programs and projects of the Federa-

tion. Women's philanthropy offers every woman the opportunity for education, personal enrichment, community outreach and leadership development. It provides opportunities for every woman to affirm her Jewish faith and spirituality, to take a stand on issues that affect her community, and to inspire other women by example.

**Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE)**

The Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) is a powerful statement of a donor's commitment to tzedakah, and provides a legacy for family and community. LOJE funds provide a solid on-going support for local and worldwide Jewish communities. Every woman who contributes \$5000 or more to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign should consider establishing a LOJE, and add the prestigious Or L'Atid (light unto the future) flame to her Lion of Judah pin. The flame announces to the Jewish world a woman's commitment to Jewish life – a commitment that goes beyond her own generation, and beyond her children's commitment to the eternal well-being of the Jewish people.

The Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) allows you to help secure a strong and vibrant Jewish community for your children and grandchildren to enjoy. And you provide for the needs of the Jewish poor, assist the elderly, rescue Jews facing hardship and peril around the world, fight anti-Semitism and help protect Israel, decades from now and for generations to come. Join the over 2500 women who have established a LOJE, which you can create to fit your philanthropic and financial goals with a gift of \$100,000 or more. Federation Past President Toni Urban was Des Moines' first endowed Lion of Judah. Locally, joining Toni, are Suzanne Engman and Gail Richards who have endowed their gifts to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation.



## Lion of Judah



Margo Blumenthal ♦



Shelley Brody



Suzanne Engman\* ♦



Debbie Gitchell



Marilyn Hurwitz



Jeanne Levitt ♦



Rose Lee Pomerantz ♦



Gail Richards\* ♦



Elana Schneider



Elaine Steinger\*\*



Toni Urban\* ♦

not pictured:  
Mindy Galinsky  
Mary Seidler



Barb Carlstrom



Judy Deutch



Charlotte Elmets



Karen Engman



Jan Farber



Tracy Engman-Finkelshteyn



Vicki Givant



Jule Goldstein



Barbara Hirsch-Giller



Jan Hockenberg



Annette Isaacson



Dorothy Kirsner



Lori Long



Anita Mandelbaum



Cyril Mandelbaum



Evelyn Mintzer\*\*



Heidi Moskowitz



Kay Myers



Polly Oxley\*\*



Mary Jo Pomerantz



Roselind Rabinowitz



Audrey Rosenberg



Melanie Sandler



Robbie Winick



Eleanor Zeff



Janice Zuckert

not pictured:

Jeanette Bear

Robin Bear

Linda Carpenter

Janice Rosenberg

Jami Schnobelen

### The Pomegranate Division

The Pomegranate Division is a community within the Jewish Federation for women whose individual giving begins at \$1800 to the All-In-One Campaign. Pomegranates are recognized throughout the Federation community for their leadership roles and are distinguished by wearing the unique silver Pomegranate pin. Rubies are added to the pin each year as their commitment continues. Belonging to the Pomegranate Division connects this unique group of Jewish women and offers opportunity to develop bonds with other women committed to bringing Jewish values to life through righteous giving. Pomegranate programs aid in developing a more tangible understanding of how your Federation gifts touch thousands of lives worldwide.

The Pomegranate Endowment Program (POME) is a component of the Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) program...a permanent restricted fund dedicated to endowing the Federation "All-In-One" Campaign. We are proud that Naomi Mercer of blessed memory, Evelyn Mintzer, Polly Oxley and Elaine Steinger have made commitments to ensure the continuity of their annual giving.

Judaism emphasizes tzedakah, acts of kindness and charity, not as an option but as an obligation of being human, and of being a Jew. Passed down from our matriarchs, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, the legacy lives on in you. You can help ensure the importance of tzedakah both to your children and the Jewish community.

Jewish women are setting the standards for creative philanthropy for future generations. Our women's division represents more than one-third of the total campaign dollars!

\* LOJE Lion of Judah Endowment

\*\* POME The Pomegranate Endowment Program

♦ Lion of Judah Ruby

# 2011 All-In-One Campaign Pledges Received



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Thank you for your support! Thoughtful gifts of all sizes make a tremendous difference in our ability to care for our fellow Jews – from our children to our seniors.

As is customary practice in Jewish and non-Jewish non-profit organizations, donors to the All-in-One campaign are listed to recognize and thank those who have stepped forward to support the important work of the Federation. The list includes gifts received to date in support of the 2011 All-in-One campaign.

### Lion of Judah \$5,000 and up

Margo Blumenthal  
Shelley Brody  
Suzanne Engman  
Mindy Galinsky  
Debbie Gitchell  
Marilyn Hurwitz  
Jeanne Levitt  
Rose Lee Pomerantz  
Gail Richards  
Elana Schneider  
Mary Seidler  
Elaine Steinger  
Toni Urban

### Pomegranate \$1,500 to \$4,999

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Robin Bear  
Barbara Carlstrom  
Linda Carpenter  
Judy Deutch  
Charlotte Elmetts  
Karen Engman  
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Tracy Engman-Finkelshteyn  
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Jan Hockenberg  
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Evelyn Mintzer  
Heidi Moskowitz  
Kay Myers  
Polly Oxley  
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Roselind Rabinowitz  
Janice Rosenberg  
Melanie Sandler  
Jami Schnobel  
Robbie Winick  
Eleanor Zeff  
Janice Zuckert

### Major Gifts \$5,000 and up

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### Leadership Gifts \$1,500 to \$4,999

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We apologize to anyone who we may have inadvertently left off this list, please contact me and we will include you in the next edition.  
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[the pesky diner]

## All French Restaurants Should be Django-fied by Jarad Bernstein



Local blogger Jared Bernstein is The Pesky Diner, online at [www.thepeskydiner.com](http://www.thepeskydiner.com)

Although it has only been around since 2008, Django feels like a Des Moines classic. This should be no surprise to anyone familiar with George Formaro's chef-ing talents or Orchestrate Management's restaurant management skills. This restaurant is a class act, but how does it stand up to the Pesky Diner's limited menu? Astoundingly well for a French restaurant (but not so shocking if you know anything about Chef Formaro's penchant for veggie cuisine.)

Each section of the somewhat ambitious menu has something a semi-kosher diner would be pleased to have on their plate – other than the steak and shellfish sections that is. What follows is a recap of what I've tried. Or you can stop reading after the following sentence: If you haven't been here yet, it's worth your while to make reservations.

**House Caesar with Salmon:** A decently sized, perhaps slightly overdressed Caesar with a perfectly broiled filet of salmon placed on top. I have ordered salmon main courses at restaurants where the piece of fish was smaller. Here you get that nice piece of fish and the salad for \$9. Such a deal! The croutons are pretty amazing too, which isn't surprising considering they are made from South Union bread. The Manchego cheese is a nice touch, but the fresh black pepper the server so nicely cracked on my salad came out finer than the contents of the shaker on the table. Try loosening the screw at the top, bub.

**Tuna Nicoise Salad:** A classic dish done well. Perfectly seared tuna with all the fixings. You can't go wrong ordering Django's classic preparation of this dish.

**Grilled Salmon:** This place knows how to cook their fish! The whipped potatoes are pretty magical here, and if you're lucky enough to visit in early spring, you'll get some fresh, locally grown asparagus to boot!

**(Not surprisingly I haven't tried the) Beef Bourguignon:** Lil has tried this and gives it high marks, along with the freshly made egg noodles it's served on. They are able to make this dish without bacon, so just ask. If you ask really nice, I bet they'll serve you a plate of egg noodles.

**Wild Mushroom Crepes:** Three mushroom filled crepes, just like mama used to make... if you grew up in Paris. Ok, so none of you had this childhood experience I'm guessing. The closest I came were the crepes served at the French restaurant my friend's family owned while growing up. They had just moved from Spain by way of France and the crepes starred prominently at their brasserie, Café de Paris. Django's are just as good and are topped with a beautiful roasted red pepper béchamel. Oh and filled with goat cheese. You can't go wrong with goat cheese.

**Mushroom Faux Poivre:** This vegetarian take on Steak au Poivre, peppercorn steak, was fantastic. Two seared Portobello mushroom caps are slathered in a creamy peppercorn sauce atop sautéed vegetables. Order this dish and you will understand how one can increase their girth whilst being a vegetarian. Served with dauphinoise potatoes – translation scalloped – this meal proves you can be fully satiated on vegetables (and full-fat dairy) alone. Django also serves a sandwich featuring the mushroom and sauce, which I can only imagine is also a goodly choice.

**George's Veggie Burger:** Why would you go to Django and order this? Order basically the same sandwich at Gateway Market's café and save a few bucks. It is nice to see it though, I guess.

**Grilled Cheese (for grown-ups):** To be honest, I have yet to order this. I recently enjoyed a similar dish at Centro, which is also driven by Chef Formaro. If they are at all similar, this is well worth ordering. I know, it's weird going out to a fancy shmancy restaurant and ordering the grilled cheese, but dang it was good at Centro.

### Other notes:

- Check out the cheese plates, as they are pretty stellar.
- No corkage fees, ever. Hop on down to Trader Joe's, pick out one of their 5 kosher wines, and save \$30+. Or, if you choose to go with one of Django's wines, you can use the restaurant's iPad to match your meal to the perfect in-house wine.
- George Formaro knows how to make French fries. They're better here than they are at his new Zombie Burger joint across the river.

## Documentary Puts Spotlight on Anti-Semitism, November 15

"UNMASKEd Judeophobia" is a new documentary by the producer of "The Case For Israel." The film presents the current political assault against the State of Israel as a war against the Jewish people and their right to self-determination. The film was premiered in late October. It will be screened free of charge 7:00 pm, Tuesday, November 15 at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, 5101 Grand Avenue in Des Moines. Sponsored by the JFed Forum and JCr C. For additional information, contact [jcrc@dmjfed.org](mailto:jcrc@dmjfed.org).

In the Kitchen with Karen Engman by Karen Engman



During the busy holiday season, it's nice to have some shortcuts for some of the recipes that require more attention. Risotto is a rice dish that fits this category. I have two alternate recipes for our readers that decrease some of the preparation time.

Risotto is derived from the Italian word for rice, "riso" and Arborio is the type of rice used to make it.

According to "The Food Lover's Companion" by Sharon Tyler Hearst, Risotto is "...an Italian rice specialty made by stirring hot stock into a mixture of rice (and often chopped onions) that has been sautéed in butter. The stock is added ½ cup at a time and the mixture is stirred continually while it cooks until all the liquid is absorbed before more stock is added. This labor-intensive technique results in rice that is delectably creamy

No Stir Risotto

A Recipe from Karen Engman

- ½ stick butter, melted
- 3-4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 cup Arborio rice (or long grain)
- 3 cups broth (chicken, vegetable or bouillon)

- ½ cup grated parmesan/r omano cheese
- 1 can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- Salt & pepper to taste

Melt butter and add crushed garlic and rice. Sauté rice until just starts to brown then add 3 cups boiling broth or bouillon. Stir in cheese and water chestnuts. Bring back to boil then reduce heat to low, cover and cook until liquid has evaporated. Approximately 30 minutes.

Oven Baked Risotto

A Recipe from Karen Engman

dairy

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 large portabella, sliced small or any mushrooms will do
- 3-4 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped

- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth or water
- 1 package spinach (6-12 oz)
- Salt & pepper
- 1 ½ - 2 cups Arborio rice
- 1 cup grated parmesan (or r omano or mixed)

Preheat oven to 400.

Sauté onions, mushrooms, salt, pepper & garlic in olive oil in a covered pan until soft, then add red pepper.

Meanwhile, grease 4-quart dish\* with cooking spray and add rice and cheese. Boil broth (or water) and add spinach, cook until wilted. Add both hot mixtures to the rice and stir.

Bake 30-45 minutes in oven until liquid is absorbed and rice is tender. After first 20 minutes stir rice, since spinach will rise to the top...you may have to cover or add more liquid later.

\* can use deep dish or 9x13 glass dish

while the grains remain separate and firm..."

I grew up in St Louis and my best friend's grandmother, fondly called Mamo by all, baked a delicious rice dish with water chestnuts called "Rizzuto Rice".

continued on page 21



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# Israel's Top 15 Greatest Inventions

By Abigail Klein Leichman  
September 26, 2011, Israel 21c

One of Israel's sources of pride is the enormous number of inventions and innovations that have taken root on its soil over 63 years – despite challenges of geography, size and diplomacy. The ever-churning Israeli mind has brought us drip irrigation, the cherry tomato, the electric car grid, the Disk-on-Key and much more.

Through December at the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem, 45 indispensable Israeli inventions are being displayed and demonstrated. Curator Varda Gur Ben-Sheetrit tells ISRAEL21c that hundreds of ingenious inventions were considered for Inventions, Inc., which offers visitors a chance to learn more and try their own hand at coming up with something new.

She emphasizes that many other Israeli inventions are deserving of being included. "We were, of course, constrained by space limitations, and also not every company we invited to exhibit responded," she says.

Another feature of the exhibition is the Transparent Studio, where graduates of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design conduct a course on innovation in the area of light and lighting design. Visitors can observe their work-in-progress and share their ideas and suggestions with the designers.

Here are 15 of Israel's top 45

inventions highlighted at the exhibition, in no particular order.

1. Given Imaging, a world leader in developing and marketing patient-friendly solutions for visualizing and detecting disorders of the GI tract, is best known for its PillCam (aka capsule endoscopy), now the gold standard for intestinal visualization.
2. Netafim is a worldwide pioneer in smart drip and micro-irrigation, starting from the idea of Israeli engineer Simcha Blass for releasing water in controlled, slow drips to provide precise crop irrigation. The kibbutz-owned company operates in 112 countries with 13 factories throughout the world.
3. Ormat Technologies designs, develops, builds, owns, manufactures and operates geothermal power plants worldwide, supplying clean geothermal power in more than 20 countries.
4. Pythagoras Solar makes the world's first solar window, which combines energy efficiency, power generation and transparency. This transparent photovoltaic glass unit can be easily integrated into conventional building design and construction processes.
5. Hazera Genetics, a project of two professors at the Hebrew University Faculty of Agriculture, yielded the cherry tomato – a tasty salad fixing that ripens slowly and doesn't rot in shipment.
6. BabySense is a non-touch, no-radiation

device designed to prevent crib death. Made by HiSense, the device monitors a baby's breathing and movements through the mattress during sleep.

7. EpiLady, the first electric hair remover (epilator), secured its leading position in the international beauty care market and since 1986 has sold almost 30 million units.
8. 3G Solar pioneered a low-cost alternative to silicon that generates significantly more electricity than leading silicon-based PV solar modules at a lower cost per kilowatt hour.
9. MobileEye combines a tiny digital camera with sophisticated algorithms to help drivers navigate more safely. The steering system-linked device sounds an alert when a driver is about to change lanes inadvertently, warns of an impending forward collision and detects pedestrians. MobileEye has deals with GM, BMW and Volvo, among others.
10. Leviathan Energy innovated the Wind Tulip, a cost-effective, silent, vibration-free wind turbine designed as an aesthetic environmental sculpture, producing clean energy at high efficiency from any direction.
11. Rav Bariach introduced the steel security door that has become Israel's standard. Its geometric lock, whose cylinders extend from different points into the doorframe, is incorporated

- into doors selling on five continents.
12. BriefCam video-synopsis technology lets viewers rapidly review and index original full-length video footage by concurrently showing multiple objects and activities that actually occurred at different times. This technology drastically cuts the time and manpower involved in event tracking, forensics and evidence discovery.
13. GridON makes the Keeper, a three-phase fault current limiter developed at Bar-Ilan University. The device, which blocks current surges and limits the current for as long as required to clear the fault, won an Innovation Award from General Electric's Ecomagination Challenge and is of interest to major utilities companies around the world.
14. Better Place electric car network, Israeli Shai Agassi's brainchild, is implementing the Israeli pilot that will provide a model for a worldwide electric car grid.
15. Intel Israel changed the face of the computing world with the 8088 processor (the "brain" of the first PC), MMX and Centrino mobile technology. Israeli engineers at Intel in the 1990s had to convince skeptical bosses to take a chance on MMX technology, an innovation designed to improve computer processing. It's now considered a milestone in the company's history. [www.israel21c.org](http://www.israel21c.org)

## [milestones]

### B'nai Mitzvah



Dr. Michael and Melissa Jacoby and r ayma Vinyard-Jacoby are pleased to announce the Bat Mitzvah of our Daughter **Simone Jacoby**

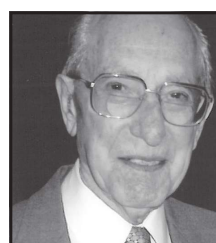
on **December 10, 2011** at 10:00 am at **Temple B'Nai Jeshuran** located at 51st & Grand in Des Moines. A Kiddush Luncheon will follow the service. The community is cordially invited to attend.

### THANKS

**Bob Singer** extends a community thank you to all who provided items for his daughter hannah's Bat Mitzvah in September. Your generosity helped to make the Simcha wonderful and is greatly appreciated. A sheynem dank.

### Mazel Tov

#### Dr. Henry Corn 100th Birthday



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

The community is invited to celebrate with h enry!



**In Support of Israel's Safety and Security.** Christians United For Israel's Iowa State Director Tom McGovern conversed with Rabbi David Kaufman and David Adelman prior to CUFI's September 19th program. The well-attended event was held to voice opposition to the Palestinian leadership's quest to pursue a unilateral declaration of independence at the UN. The program was sponsored by Iowa Christians United For Israel, JCRC and the JFed Forum.

### In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Adele Anolik,  
Sheryle Ruth Cohen  
Velma Cohen  
Robert "Bob" Kreamer  
Molly Lasky  
William Silver  
Jack Silverstein

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**True** from page 7 They saw the Bible as a reflection of human experience. Words are not as significant as the experience behind the text. Sinai has influenced generations of Jews over the millennia. It is the experience of God revealing Himself at Sinai (and ultimately how we respond to it in our lives) that gives the Bible its authenticity. Human beings can never know what is ultimately true. Our sense of holiness varies with each generation. Each of us, individually, brings our experiences, our feelings, to bear in interpreting that which we learn – what we know to be true. Buber sees life as a series of encounters, or ‘I – Thou’ moments. This is outlined in his famous philosophical poem I and Thou. Heschel sees us experiencing life as a progression of wonderful events. He is quoted: “An hour ago the greatest event in human history took place. The sun set!” Revelation as outlined in the Bible is a record of divine will experienced and interpreted by man. The modern Jew needs to experience these events daily through knowledge of religion, its sacred time, its sacred space. Heschel forges a middle road between fundamentalism and the spiritual austerity of rationalism.

So – ‘is it true?’ What actually is truth? The answers are not easy and often illusive. I think the beauty and satisfaction in religious belief is not in finding the answers. It is in the journey. Enjoy the ride.

*“Pass through, pass through the gates!  
Clear the road for the people;  
Build up, build up the highway, Remove  
the rocks!  
Raise a banner over the peoples! See, the  
LORD has proclaimed  
To the end of the earth: Announce to  
Fair Zion  
Your Deliverer is coming!” (Isaiah 62:10-11)*

**Stern** from page 10

Order Your Tickets Now

The special jOY of Music concert featuring Peggy Stern and Rich Syracuse is scheduled for Saturday evening, November 5, at The Caspe Terrace in Wauke. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. when Stern and Syracuse will be happy to answer questions from the audience about her career, improvisation and the music of Jewish composers. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m., followed by a reception hosted by the Wauke Area Arts Council. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Mention you read about the concert in the Jewish Press and get \$5 off your advance ticket purchase. Tickets can be ordered by contacting Goldstien at 515-279-6452 or via email at abe@trilixgroup.com.

**Mandelbaum** from page 11

Cyril has also been heavily involved in volunteer and community service activities in Des Moines over the years, including the Des Moines Public Library Foundation, the Junior League of Des Moines, the Des Moines Symphony Board, and the Des Moines Community Playhouse Board. She has been especially committed to helping the Jewish community, serving on the Jewish Federation Board, the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center and the Temple B’nai Jeshurun Boards.

Cyril’s family is also incredibly important to her. She grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Her family was one of only 90 Jewish families in the

town at that time. She then attended the University of Colorado, and met her husband John in Hillel there, when he was a student, too. They married after graduation and moved to Des Moines, where he is from. Their three sons are Chad, Sean, and Justin, and now Cyril and John have four grandchildren too. Cyril is grateful that her career as an accountant and CPA allowed her the flexibility to be actively involved in her children’s lives as they were growing up.

Mark your calendar for an informative and practical presentation from Cyril Mandelbaum on Sunday, November 13, at The Caspe Terrace, at 9 am. The cost is \$12 at the door, \$10 in advance, and \$9 each for groups of 5 or more. Call Tammy to reserve a spot at 987-0899. Coffee and bagels will be provided, and bring your questions about your financial future and estate planning. Hope to see you there!

**Pomerantz** from page 12

“If she does not come back here now, we shall meet later somewhere else. I’m absolutely sure she will serve others in the meantime in the same way as she used to distribute goodness and make herself useful here.”

In August 1942, at age 27, Esther Winogren was deported to Treblinka, where she was murdered in a gas chamber, as were Janusz Korczak, the children they cared for and 800,000 Polish Jews.

After destroying the core of Polish Jewry in four death camps – Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec and Chelmno, the Nazis expanded their capacity for extermination of European Jewry at the Auschwitz camp, which sat at the nexus of a vast railway system coming from all corners of occupied Europe. By 1943, Auschwitz II, known as Birkenau, had four state-of-the-art gas chambers and crematoria, killing over one million Jews from Poland and across the European continent. Today, Birkenau is preserved in more or less the same state it was found at liberation in 1945. Its barracks, latrines and processing site for prisoners’ personal effects still stand. Its gas chambers and crematoria are in ruins, blown up by the Nazis as they retreated from advancing Soviet troops. These ruins serve as a graphic reminder that Holocaust denial began during the Holocaust.

Seeing Treblinka, Majdanek, Auschwitz, Birkenau and mass graves in once serene forests offers no insight to the nature of evil required to murder children in front of parents and to gas and burn one, let alone millions. Nor can I reconcile the silence of neighbors as Jews were stripped of their homes and dignity, marched and shipped to their death in plain view. The magnitude of violation of a human being and humanity, b’tselem elohim, made in the image of God, remains well beyond comprehension. And so by default – perhaps a latent call to end this demonic evil – my thoughts turned to questioning the actions – or inactions – of the Western world.

The Roosevelt administration remained virtually silent to the constant daily slaughter of Jews well after the tide of the war had shifted. Their unresponsiveness continued after extermination camps were known to exist and operate, after the Allies possessed aerial photographs of Auschwitz and after the Nazis shifted their war effort from a military goal to expediting Jewish

genocide. Though petitioned to do so, FDR would not order bombing sorties, even as American pilots used Auschwitz chimneys as orientation points, when war materiel was ample and when other targets were bombed with near pin-point accuracy – only five miles away. In my view, to the disgrace of the United States, her responsible officials refused, with the excuse that such a bombing was “impracticable” and “diversionary” from the war effort.

As we made our way through the once vibrant Jewish communities of Warsaw, Tiktin, Lublin, Tarnow and Krakow, we often explored historian Raul Hilberg’s framework of deception, dehumanization, concentration and destruction of Polish Jewry. In his groundbreaking book, *The Destruction of the European Jews*, Hilberg identifies the Nazi genocide program as a system whereby each step in the process was more extreme and necessarily deceptive than the last: first Jews were defined as enemies of the state, then boycotted and discriminated against, dehumanized, they had their property vandalized then expropriated, were moved into ghettos and, finally, were transported to their deaths.

Although contemporary methods differ, I cannot overlook that certain themes and patterns of anti-Semitic ideology reverberate – sounding all too familiar today:

- When prejudice is directed solely at the Jewish people, now demonized as intruders in their historic homeland.
- When Iran, Hamas and Hezbollah un-categorically threaten genocide against the Jewish people.
- When dehumanization has morphed into delegitimization of the Jewish state in diplomatic, academic, cultural and religious arenas, best illustrated by the pernicious Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.
- When enemies surround Israel on nearly all sides and are actively committed to her demise, as demonstrated by unending terrorism and the firing of rockets from Gaza, now reaching deeper into Israel.
- When Palestinian leadership, that is considered to be moderate, makes repeated statements in Arabic calling not for peaceful co-existence, but to make Palestine “judenrein.”
- When the United Nations appeases those who seek Israel’s isolation and destruction.

Unlike the period of the Shoah, these actions are hardly deceptive – the Israeli press and media organizations such as MEMRI (The Middle East Media Research Institute), the Israel Project and CAMERA consistently document such events. However, I suspect we here in the Diaspora, myself included, can all too easily slip into complacency or maybe deceive ourselves, wishing it were not so. Nevertheless, prejudice and murder of Jews – because they are Jews – is happening in our day. Every death, every explosion, every missile is a calculated assault on the security and existential survival of Jews in Israel, the epicenter of Jewish life and our historic national homeland.

At the root of Torah, Jewish history and memory are intertwined: in each and every generation we are compelled to act, ke’ilu, as if, we were brought out of Egypt,

brought into and given a land flowing with milk and honey. On Chag Shavuot, the Jewish people collectively, throughout history, stand at Sinai. Each year, we tell the master narrative of the Jewish people to renew our understanding and memory of the seminal events in our history as a nation, faith and people.

Collectively, the progression of generations after the Holocaust carries a unique responsibility and challenge. Surely, only those who were present can bear witness, offer testimony and reconcile their fate. We do not act ke’ilu, as if, we too, once stood in the Shoah. And yet, there is a clear call to follow in their footsteps – whether by seeing Poland or by experiencing museums, literature and film illuminating Holocaust history and remembrance. We’re obligated to give voice to the testimony and lives of Righteous Gentiles, survivors and those who’ve perished. We’re obligated to impart the consequences of prejudice, intolerance and indifference to the Jewish world and world at large. It is our duty to challenge prevailing patterns of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. It is our responsibility to convey memory and meaning from a once prolific home of Jewish life and from one of the darkest places ever known to Jewish and human experience.

On my last afternoon in Poland, as I approached the end of the Auschwitz museum, I scanned a wall cataloguing Nazi photographs of prisoners – dehumanizing mug shots – and I came across the photo of a young man, 16 years old, prisoner number 23104, wearing a striped uniform and shaved head, who survived in Auschwitz all of 29 days. Yet, in an instant he became familiar to me, no longer the subject of a photo taken through a Nazi lens. His name was Moshe Pomerantz, the very name of my Great-great Grandfather, whose headstone and memory I sought out five days earlier in the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery. It is not possible to know if the pictured young Moshe Pomerantz and I are directly descended from the same michpacha Pomerantz. I do know that he was a son, Moshe ben Berek v’Ruchla, likely a brother, surely a friend. And with certainly, I can say this Moshe Pomerantz and I are both part of Am Yisroel. Zichrono livrecha, may his memory be for a blessing. *e.rabinowitz@comcast.net*

**Chef** from page 19 At least that’s what we called this wonderful creamy rice with the great garlic and cheesy flavor. Originally the recipe called for long grain white rice and Kraft grated parmesan in the can. Now that I know this was an imitation (or “Americanization”) of risotto, I have switched the rice to Arborio and the cheese to a coarsely grated parmesan/Romano mixture. This recipe is a stove top recipe but can also be cooked in the oven.

My second recipe is oven baked and just as easy to prepare. I don’t remember the exact origins of this version (most likely from a newspaper column I read while out of town) but my guests always ask for the recipe when they learn it doesn’t require constant stirring. I make this recipe with lots of vegetables. Hope you enjoy these rice dishes and find them easy to prepare.

If you have a recipe to share or a question about a recipe I can research, call Karen Engman (515-274-3300) or email me (aengmandsm@yahoo.com)

BETH EL JACOB

November December Shabbat Times

	Candle lighting	mincha	shachris	mincha	end of shabbos
Nov 4th "I ech l echa"	5:48pm	6:00	9:30	5:30	6:48
Nov 11 Vayera	4:40	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:42
Nov 18 "Chayei Sara"	4:34	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:36
Nov 25 "Toldos"	4:29	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:33
Dec 2 "Vayetzel"	4:27	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:31
Dec 9 "Vayishlach"	4:26	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:31
Dec 16 "Vayeshev"	4:27	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:33
Dec 23 "h annuka" -Miketz	4:30	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:36
Dec 30 "Vayigash"	4:35	5:00	9:30	4:30	5:41

BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

7th Annual Awards Dinner & Gala

hONOr ING

DAVID & SUSAN LEKOWSKY

Annual Award of Merit for long-standing and substantial service to our congregation.

SALLY PEDERSON

Beth El Jacob / Rob Borsellino Community Service Award named for its' original honoree who personified the very definition of community service.

ESTHER SANDLER & LOUISE KAUFMANN

Friend of Beth El Jacob Award in recognition of their on-going support of our congregation through tremendous hours of volunteerism.

Sunday, November 6, 2011 • 9th Cheshvan, 5772

Reception 4:00 • Presentation 5:00 • Dinner 6:30

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TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

Hanukkah Happening - The Temple will be having its annual h anukkah h appening Sunday, December 4, from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Featured will be h anukkah games led the by the TBJ youth group, latkes, and a vendor fair. Food, fun, and early shopping for h anukkah will lend to the festive atmosphere. To be a part of the vendor fair, please contact the office at officemanger@templebnaijeshurun.com for reservations.

Lock In - The TBJ youth group will have a lock in at the Temple Saturday night, December 3, through Sunday morning, December 4. Please contact Wendy Beckerman or Amy Flugge-Smith. tropemave@yahoo.com, afluggesmith@yahoo.com.

Rabbi's Taste Of Judaism Class - r abbi Kaufman will teach his ever popular series, "Taste Of Judaism" classes. From 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursdays, November 3- Streams of Judaism in Perspective, 10- Jewish Textual Traditions, 17- Worship and Prayer, and December 1- h olidays, 8- l ife Cycles. The class is open to all. You need not be interested in conversion to attend these five Taste of Judaism sessions. There is a suggested donation of \$18 to Mazon- A Jewish r esponse to h unger. Contact the Office at officemanager@templebnaijeshurun.com or rabbi Kaufman at rabbi@templebnaijeshurun.com to reserve a place in class.

Wine, Cheese, And More - All Shabbat services at TBJ this year will be preceeded by Wine & Cheese at 5:30 p.m. A non-dairy, non-alcohol option is also available for the Wine & Cheese social time. Services are at 6:00 p.m. Following all services this year will be a kosher style pot luck Shabbat meal. Check our website at www.templebnaijeshurun.com for menu updates.

Service Outline - Monthly Shabbat Services at Temple B'nai Jeshurun will follow this format unless there is a special holiday service. The first Shabbat will be family Shabbat running concurrently with Classic Shabbat. The second Shabbat will be r abbi Kaufman's special Connections Service. The third Shabbat will be Music Shabbat. The fourth and fifth Shabbat's will be erev Shabbats, or specials. Shabbat morning services are always 10:00 a.m. and feature the r abbi's Q&A torah reading.

Beit Café Still Hot - This year TBJ will feature Beit Café's on select Saturday evenings 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. It is drop in format with refreshments and drinks. Upcoming dates of the Beit Café are November 5, December 3, January 7, and February 4. Come and listen to great music, sit back and relax at the Beit Café.

Scholar In Residence - r abbi l arry h offman will be scholar in residence April 13, 14, and 15. h e is a well known author who has written or edited 33 books. And he has a distinguished career at several prestigious academic institutions. We look forward to his visit.



"Don't cry because it's over,  
smile because it happened."

-Dr. Seuss

To do true justice to her memory in a printed obituary would be against her own very practical sensibilities, and a "big fuss" contrary to her humble nature. We miss her, and hope to share with you how truly special she was in her full obituary at [www.ilescares.com](http://www.ilescares.com).

Sheryle Ruth Cohen

Apr. 29, 1946—Sept. 16, 2011



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TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE
November 2011

Thursday, November 3rd – Senior Luncheon at Noon
Friday, November 4th – YAD Potluck Shabbat – 6:00 pm
Saturday, November 12th – Tot Shabbat & YAD Shabbat Café
Sunday, November 13th – Sababa Concert – 3:00 pm
Monday, November 14th – erev Nashim – 6:30 pm – Lucky Dragon
Saturday, November 19th – Women’s League Shabbat Services
Thursday, November 24th – Thanksgiving – Tifereth Offices closed
Friday, November, 25th – Tifereth Offices closed
Shabbat evening Services – 6:00 pm
December 2011
Friday, December 2nd – rock Shabbat Services – 6:00 pm
Friday, December 16th – YAD Shabbat Services – 6:00 pm
YAD Hanukkah Celebration
Saturday, December 17th – Shabbat Morning Services – 9:00 am
Saturday, December 24th - Fiddler on the Roof Sing-a-long 7:00 pm
Recurring Events:
Minyan:
Sundays 9:00 am
Tuesdays 7:00 am
Services:
Shabbat evening Services – 6:00 pm
Shabbat Morning Services – 9:00 am
The Rabbi’s Study – Saturdays following Shabbat Café

S.T.E.P. led by Michael Kuperman
Sundays 10:00 am

Adult Education Classes:
Rabbi Edelman-Blank: Following Saturday Shabbat Café. First Section will explore, discuss and contemplate a different topic each week; afterlife, various life Cycle events, Jewish ethical opinions and Jewish Mysticism. Second Section – lessons in beginning Hebrew
Cantor Shivers: Wednesdays at noon November 2nd – December 14th – The Art of Tifereth Israel Synagogue – Cantor Linda Shivers and Des Moines Art Center Docent, Stanley Miller. History of the Artists, Story of the Art and Analysis of the wonderful collection of art pieces at Tifereth
Thursdays at 5:30 pm – November 3, 10, 17 and December 1, 8: Shabbat Shacharit – Cantor Linda Shivers – At look at the meanings and significance of this part of the Shabbat services and how to lead it.

DRAKE HILLEL...UPDATE!
It is hard to believe that first semester is already nearing an end at Drake! The Drake hillel has been so busy, we’ve hardly noticed the time flying by. For the first year ever, Drake hillel has provided constant, weekly programming on Sundays. The Sunday activities have ranged from bagel brunches on campus to joining the Des Moines community to raise money in October’s hunger hike. One week, we even made our own “Pez-zuzahs” (mezuzahs made out of pez dispensers)! They have been proudly hung in the doorposts of several dorm rooms!
If you are only getting your updates on Drake hillel from the updates in the Jewish Press, you’re not keeping up with us fast enough! Did you know Drake hillel now has an email newsletter for Des Moines community members, parents, and alumni? You can sign-up for it at www.drakehillel.org. It’s the best way to stay in touch with the Drake hillel community— plus, you’ll get to see pictures of our activities. It will be worth your while just to see what exactly a “pez-zuzah” looks like!
Coming up later this month, several hillel student leaders will travel (for the second year in a row) to the Jewish Federation’s general Assembly conference. This year’s conference is in Denver, CO. The students will learn about Jewish leadership, Jewish community issues, and Israel advocacy while interacting with Jewish college students from all over the country. We are very excited to be developing future Jewish community leaders through Drake hillel!
So far, the school year has overlapped with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Simcha Torah, and of course many weeks of Shabbat. We have observed the holidays both with the Des Moines community and created our own traditions on campus. In the past, we have loved welcoming the Des Moines Jewish community to campus for our annual Hanukkah party, but this year Hanukkah falls during winter vacation so the hillel students will be home with their families. However, we’re already planning our Hanukkah shopping and think that our new hillel T-shirts would make great presents for you to give! If you’re interested in buying a T-Shirt to benefit Drake hillel, fill out the order form in this update. Our T-shirt is a fundraiser that will support future hillel programming and maintain that we can have an equally fun, busy, and fulfilling 2nd semester!
– Elianna Bernstein

SAVE THE DATE - NOV 13!



Sababa!
cool jewish music

This exciting concert will be held on November 13th in Tifereth Israel’s new sanctuary space and is not to be missed!
Sababa is Steve Brodsky, Scott Leader, and Rabbi Sherwin. The powerhouse trio in Jewish music! Steve, Scott, and Rabbi are all accomplished songwriters, performers, and recording artists. They have joined forces to create a great rockin’ new Jewish sound. Outstanding songwriting, masterful musicianship, and impeccable harmonies make Sababa “Jewish music’s coolest rockin’ trio.” For pictures and music samples, look online at www.sababamusic.com.



Drake Hillel T-Shirt Fundraiser

Looking for a perfect gift to give for Hanukkah? How about giving a Drake Hillel T-Shirt!? 100% of the profits from this fundraiser will support Drake Hillel programming.

Order Form –Orders are due by November 15!!!

Form with fields for Name, Street Address, City, State, ZIP Code, Telephone (home), Telephone (Cell), and E-Mail.

Drake Hillel has a new email newsletter that is sent to alumni, parents, and Des Moines community members a few times a semester with Hillel updates. Can we add you to our mailing list using the information provided above? Circle one: Yes or No

T-Shirt information: Please indicate how many T-shirts you want to order in each size. T-Shirts are \$18 each.

- Extra-Small
- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Extra-Large

Total # of T-Shirts x \$18 = Total amount enclosed: \$

Please make checks payable to: Drake University Hillel

Mail order form and money by November 15. We will contact you when your order is ready to be picked up:
Drake University Hillel
Olmsted Center; Student Life Office
2507 University Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50311

Thank you for supporting the Drake University Hillel!

## Iowa History Day Special Awards



On April 29, 2011, as part of Iowa's National History Day Senior Division competition, Ms. Taylor Beitzel of Princeton, Iowa was awarded the first-ever Iowa Jewish Historical Society Special Award for her exhibit entitled "Diplomatically Debating the Details of the Final Solution: The Wannsee Conference."

Taylor, a high school sophomore at the time she won the award, has participated in the Iowa National History Day competitions since the 7th grade. She has always chosen topics related to the Holocaust because she believes that public schools "do not teach this topic well enough and that students and the general public need to be educated about what really happened."

The Wannsee Conference, which was held in 1942 in a suburb of Berlin, Germany, was a diplomatic debate among fifteen leading Nazi officials about the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question." In Taylor's words:

"The Conference discussed the most efficient way to accomplish Jewish genocide, what made a Jew, and how to regard 'part Jews' and mixed marriages. The Wannsee Conference also used diplomacy in a hateful, destructive manner, debating the annihilation of an entire people, not just in regions under Nazi control, but Europe collectively. Although the Conference was not held between multiple countries, the men who attended regarded one another with respect and politeness all the while debating the death of eleven million Jews."

Taylor used primary and secondary sources for her research. She contacted historian Mark Roseman, Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, whose book "The Villa, The Lake, The Meeting. The Wannsee Conference And The 'Final Solution'" (2002) is seen as a "reinterpretation of one of the most symbolic events of the 20th century" and even spoke with a leading Holocaust denier to ensure that she considered all viewpoints. Taylor spent eight months researching and refining her exhibit.

In a recent phone interview, Taylor said that "My involvement with the Iowa National History Day competitions are more than research projects: they have made me what I am. It's fun to do because I'm so passionate about history. I get so much out of it because I can dive so much deeper into a chosen topic."

When asked about what surprised her most about her research, Taylor said she was surprised at how well planned the Wannsee Conference was—these were educated men, many with doctorates, who took only 1 ½ hours to discuss the annihilation of more than 11 million people, and that many of them did not receive harsh sentences during their trials in Nuremberg.

The Board of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society established the Iowa National History Day Special Award to support students and Iowa National History Day and to encourage research on Jewish history in the Midwest as well as research on the Holocaust. This new award also creates awareness of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society across the state and our role in preserving and educating fellow Iowans about the lives and contributions of Jews in Iowa, the nation, and the world.

### Iowa Jewish Historical Society Veterans Project: An Update and a Request for Help



Circle Sunday, April 22, 2012 in bright red on your calendar and plan to join the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines in celebrating the service of Iowa's Jewish veterans. While we're still finalizing all of the details, plan to come to The

Caspe Terrace for a very special program and luncheon honoring Iowa's Jewish men and women who served in all branches of the service during war and peace.

As part of this special project, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society will be creating a Book of Honor that will list the names of as many of Iowa's Jewish service men and women that we can identify. This is where we need your help. We have several lists of Jewish veterans from central Iowa that we are in the process of combining and verifying the names on the list. But we know that this list is far from complete. We want this to be a statewide list and to do this we need your help. Please let us know if you, a friend, or a relative served in the armed forces. We must make sure that no one goes unrecognized. The information we need is listed below.

Veteran's first, middle, and last name; Date of birth  
Branch of Service (includes Iowa National Guard and the Iowa Guard); Rank; Dates served; Military assignment(s) and Awards; If living – current address, telephone number, email address if available  
If deceased – date of death, place of burial

Please contact executive Director Sandi Yoder or Collections Manager Lindsey Smith at [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org) or by calling 515-987-0899 ext. 216 or contact Board President Melanie Sandler at [sandhthcon@aol.com](mailto:sandhthcon@aol.com) or 515-224-1996.

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# [calendar]

[biography]

## Isaac Bashevis Singer, Author

The crowning moment in Isaac Bashevis Singer's life was when he received the Nobel Prize for literature in 1978. This recognition of Singer's writings also glorified the beauty and power of the Yiddish language.

Born in Radzymin, Poland, on July 14, 1904, in a long lineage of rabbis, Singer was one of four children. His parents were Rabbi Pincus Menachem and Bathsheba (Zylberman). Singer's young life in the Jewish shtetls of Poland was steeped in Hassidism. He was educated in the Jewish schools and at one time he was enrolled in a rabbinical seminary. When he was four, his family moved to Warsaw where his father, a Hassidic scholar, established a Beth Din (rabbinical court).

In the early 1920s, Singer went to Warsaw to join his older brother, Israel Joseph, who was to write such works as The Brothers Ashkenazi and Yoshe Kalb.

By 1926, Singer was writing book reviews and short stories. In 1932, he became co-editor of Globus, a Yiddish literary magazine. In 1935, he left his first wife, Rachel, and his son, Israel, to immigrate to America to join his older brother in New York City, where he became a freelance writer for the Jewish Daily Forward. Many of his novels were serialized in the Forward and, in 1950, his novel The Family Moskat was translated into English by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Singer became instantly famous and he received the Louis Lamed Prize. An Italian translation, in 1968, won him Italy's Bacarella Prize.

Many of Singer's writings have reflected his experiences as a youth in Poland. The shtetl, mysticism, folklore, the supernatural and religion were his themes. He also wrote stories for children and was acclaimed for Zlateh the Goat and Other Stories, a children's book about animals, children, and supernatural creatures.

Singer died on July 24, 1991, at the age of 87.

**Thursday, Nov. 3** 11:30 am  
**Saturday, Nov. 5** 7:30 pm  
**Sunday, Nov. 6** 9:30 am  
**Sunday, Nov. 13** 10:00 am  
**Sunday, Nov. 13** 3:00 pm  
**Friday, Nov. 11** 7:30 pm  
**Tuesday, Nov. 15** 7:00 pm  
**Sunday, Nov. 20** 9:00 am  
**Thursday, Nov. 24**  
**Thursday, Dec. 1** 11:30 am  
**Sunday, Dec. 4** 9:30 am  
**Tuesday, Dec. 6** 5:15 pm  
**Saturday, Dec. 10** 10:00 am  
**Sunday, Dec. 18** 9:30 am  
**Wednesday, Dec. 21** 6:00 pm  
**Thursday, Dec. 22** 7:00 pm

**Senior Luncheon at Tifereth**  
**Peggy Stern Jazz Concert at The Caspe Terrace**  
**Mother's Circle at The Caspe Terrace**  
**Financial Planning Seminar at The Caspe Terrace**  
**Sababa Music Concert at Tifereth**  
**Mark Conley slide presentation of Cambodia at Temple**  
**Screening of movie "Judeophobia" at Temple**  
**Hanukkah Bazaar & JFCS Book Sale at The Caspe Terrace**  
**Federation Offices Closed for Thanksgiving**  
**Senior Luncheon at Beth El Jacob**  
**Mother's Circle at The Caspe Terrace**  
**Federation Board of Director's Meeting at Senior Life Center**  
**Bat Mitzvah of Simone Jacobi at the Temple**  
**Mother's Circle at The Caspe Terrace**  
**Chanukah on Ice at the Brenton Skating Plaza**  
**Stage West "Parade" preview at The Caspe Terrace**



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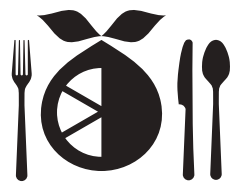
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# The Jewish Federation Community School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

photos by Laurie Wahlig



September 11, 2011, Judy Deutch, immediate past president of the Jewish Federation

A few years ago we had a dream. Some of the young families here today participated in a Federation sponsored trip to Israel. We talked about the school facilities and said to ourselves “wouldn’t it be great if we could build a brand new school at Caspe?” The talks continued back in Iowa, Steven Goldstein was “volunteered” to chair this undertaking...plans were drawn and revised...money was raised...construction began...and today that dream is real. As of today our beautiful new Jewish Federation Community School is open for business.

This school would not have been built without the support of the Federation Board, the Foundation Board, the Temple’s Board and Tifereth’s Board. Leaders of both congregations saw the wisdom of coming together because true collaboration is when the whole is greater than the sum of each part. I’m pleased that President-Elect Sharon Goldford is here today representing the Temple and Co-president(s) Sheldon Ohringer and Steve Weiss are representing Tifereth.

First, a special shout out to Jule & Steven Goldstein who did an awesome job in seeing this project through completion. It was a huge undertaking and we are so grateful for all of your hard work. There are so many others to thank and you know who you are...you helped with presentations to the community, fundraising, phone calls, polling the parents, working with architects and suppliers and took care of the endless details. Todah rabbah.

I’d also like to thank my wonderful co-chair, Beth Ohringer, who was very helpful in the overall planning of this event.

The unsung heroes of today’s celebration are the teachers of the Jewish Federation Community School. Your long-term dedication to educating our children and your remarkable flexibility in moving your classrooms between TI & TBJ every two years for the past several decades is so appreciated. Now I’d like all the teachers to raise their hand, so we can thank you for all you do. One more special thank you to Lyanna and Janelle for all you have done for our school.

And, a heartfelt thank you to Elaine & the entire Federation staff. As of this summer, the Federation Administrative Office is now also at Caspe. The staff managed this move on top of their day-to-day responsibilities. Thanks again.

Back to the dream...

We could have just dreamed the dream and packed our boxes, but without the support of our incredibly forward-thinking and generous donors, we would not be here today.

Everyone here today has helped make our Jewish Federation Community School at Caspe a reality. However, for today’s ribbon cutting, we are paying special tribute to six patrons who fundamentally have made our dreams come true.

These donors have already given so much to build the Des Moines Jewish community. But, they were not content to rest on their accomplishments. They understood that our community could not stand still. We must keep growing, and we could not build without their financial support. None of these terrific donors have children in this school and most do not even have grandchildren in the school. They are remarkable and committed pillars of our community. We are deeply appreciative of their generosity and on behalf of the 123 students starting classes in this wonderful new facility and the hundreds who will follow, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. On a regular basis these students will enjoy the Kirsner Playground, Richards Pavilion, and Buchsbaum Auditorium.

All donors are wearing nametags but you will see some individuals wearing white nametags decorated with a big blue dot. These generous patrons gave \$100,000 or more to the building fund, in addition to their annual Federation pledge. Now I’d like to recognize:

Margo and Don Blumenthal  
Suzanne and Larry Engman  
Jeanne and Dick Levitt  
Gail and Stan Richards  
Mary and Stan Seidler  
and Janice and Alan Zucker who funded scholarships.  
You are all amazing. Thank you.

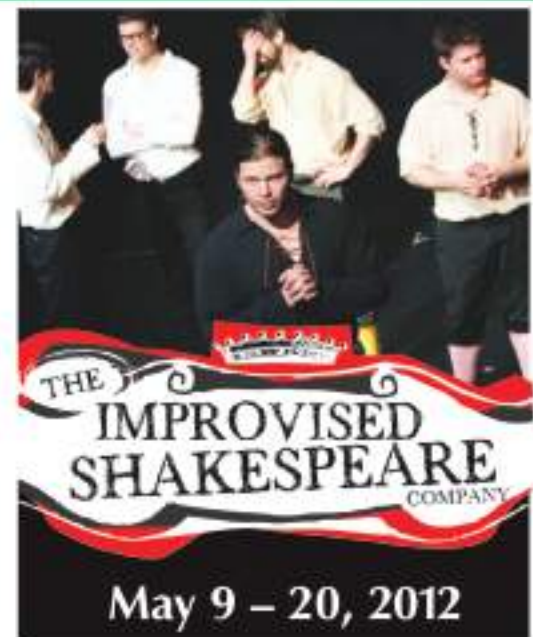
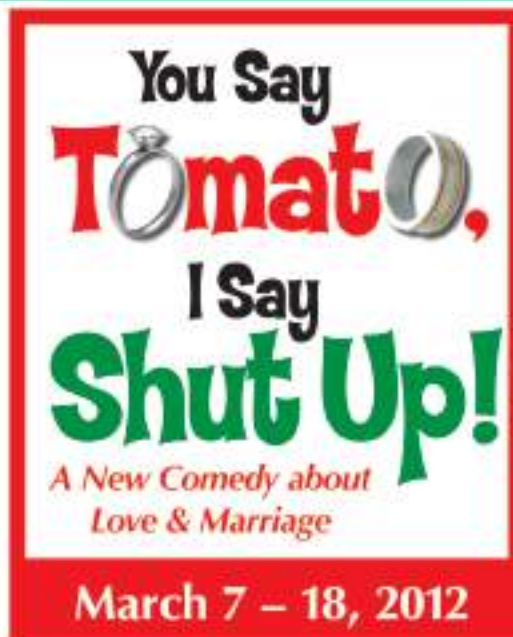
Back to the dream...

Today is all about our future, our children, our students, tomorrow’s leaders. In just a few moments Steven Goldstein will cut the ribbon to officially open the 2011-2012 school year.

Our new classrooms are well constructed, safe – a comfortable learning environment. That’s exactly what we dreamed of and right now that dream is our reality.

Thank you.

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## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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\*Limited quantities available. Seventy dollar ticket package available for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday matinee performances only. Prices, programs, dates, times and artists are subject to change. In the event of an unavoidable change, the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines reserves the right to present a substitute.

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## The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center Fall Event

The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center hosted its 4th Annual Fall event on Sunday, September 18th. It was a wonderful opportunity for our Community to come together in support of a great cause – Project Transformation. Our Community of Donors contributed over \$50,000, enabling The Life Center to continue aesthetic improvements on resident spaces. We would like to extend a very sincere thanks to The Wittmack, Inn, & Peak Families for their \$5000 gold Patron gift In Appreciation of the Staff. We hope all our donors understand what their continuing generosity means to our residents and their families.

We would also like to extend a very special thank you to Chuck Kuba and the Iowa Diamondtaires for providing musical entertainment for the evening. We are also appreciative of Imre and Matt from The embassy Club for making the event so special.

**Pictured left to right: Margo & Don Blumenthal; Cathy, Brad, Tami, & Tom Goldman; Hadasa & Stephen Blend; Sarah Farnsworth & Alan Zuckert; Joyce & Ben Swartz; Fran Fleck & Terry Greenley; Chuck Kuba; Iowa Diamondtaires Band Members**