



THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

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HAPPY CHANUKAH

from the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

**The eight day festival begins the
evening of December 24th**



Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
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Message from the Executive Director The Best Kept Secret



Sharon Goldford, Interim Executive Director

What is the best kept secret you know? Is it personal, does it pertain to family or friends? Is it worth a lot to you financially, or is it worth a lot to you in wanting to take care of it for a long time or both.

The best kept secret for me is the Federation!!!! The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. It is very personal to me. It is made of a wonderful staff that care about their

jobs, care about each other, and we care about all of you. It is very personal because it does pertain to our families and to your families. It is made up of our friends and their friends. The Federation is worth a lot because it provides care for our children, other children outside of our community, and our elderly. This is the mission of the Federation; this is who we are! Everyday Sophie Homonoff, Anissa Deay, and our wonderful teachers Juli Margolin, Lisa Nelson, Raizel Small, Mor Borodovski, Zak Randeis, and Marty Samuels care for the preschool children. On Sunday morning and Wednesday nights approximately 20 individuals plus our wonderful Rabbis and fantastic Madrichim provide an amazing Jewish experience for our community children. Jody Caswell takes meals to our elderly, spends time with the ones that can't get out, and makes sure their needs are being met. This is the mission of the Federation; this is who we are!

We, the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines are one of the best kept secrets in our community. We don't tell you every week or even every month what we are doing. The reason we don't is because we are busy taking care of people, young and old and sometimes in between. It is a wonderful job and all of us love doing this job. However, it takes financial support from all of us. Many believe that they don't need to provide financial support to the Federation because we have a Foundation endowment. That sounds really great, but do you know that, based upon how those funds are established and the restrictions surrounding the funds, we do not have carte blanche to utilize those funds nor should we. Certain funds are for certain uses and not all areas have the ability to use each fund. Our budget is made up of the All in One Campaign as well as approximately 5% from the Foundation Funds. Those funds were established by wonderful people in our community, with the future of the Foundation and the Federation being kept whole for generations to come.

Many of you believe that the Federation may not need campaigns, nor donations or gifts. I appreciate your thoughts, but if we are not here to do the work we do, who will do it? Who will make sure that our elderly who have no family or don't have anyone living here have the essentials they need to live day in and day out. Who will provide funds for food for some of our families that need a little help, or help with rent or the power bill? This is the mission of the Federation; this is who we are!

We are all of this and so much more—the Jewish Historical Society Museum and JCRC. Don't let us down. We need you as our community needs us! We are the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines! We are the best kept secret, but don't keep us a secret!

Sharon Goldford

The JCRC Committee on Outreach presents a brown bag lunch discussion

**Tuesday, January 17, 2017 noon
at Temple B'nai Jeshurun with**

Harvey L. Harrison

Issues of Justice and Racial Disparity in Iowa

A graduate of the University of Iowa Law School and a practitioner of general civil law until his retirement in 2011, Harvey L. Harrison is a member of several social action organizations including the NAACP Legal Redress Committee. Inspired by Michelle Alexander's seminal book: *The New Jim Crow -- Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness*, he has developed a particular interest in "The Iowa Connection" on racial justice issues and what steps are necessary to transform the current practices and policies which result in Iowa having one of the highest levels of disproportionate incarceration of African American residents in the nation. **Contact:** jcrc@dmjfed.org

JEWISH FILM SERIES

SUNDAYS • 2:00 PM

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Raise the Roof

Rivalling the greatest wooden architecture in history, the synagogues of 18th-century Poland inspired artists Rick and Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio to embark on a 10-year pursuit—to reconstruct the elaborate roof and painted ceiling of the Gwozdziec synagogue.

Year: 2015 Running Time: 85 min

2.26.17

Dough

An old Jewish baker struggles to keep his business afloat until his young Muslim apprentice accidentally drops cannabis in the dough and sends sales sky high

Year: 2015 Running Time: 94 min

The Jewish Film series is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines & underwritten through the generosity of Richard Levitt and Sheldon Rabinowitz.

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Message from the President
Happy Hanukkah



David Adelman, President

Hanukkah is a holiday of faith over doubt, triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness; telling a story of a community rising up defend their beliefs. This is a story that has given hope to Jews around the world for thousands of years. As families and friends come together to light the menorah, the candles should remind us to count our blessings, to honor the sacrifices of our ancestors, and to believe that through faith and drive, we can work together to build a better world and, locally, build a better community for generations to come. As the days get shorter let us remember a little light expels a lot of darkness.

As 2016 comes to an end we look forward to 2017 with New Year’s resolutions with hope and optimism. We also reflect on the past year. I have reflected on my 18 months serving as your Federation’s president and have a sense of anticipation of what is in store for the next 6 months. While we are a Jewish community,

our members represent diverse ethnic ties, cultures, sexual orientations, and religious backgrounds. A goal I have for my final 6 months as President of the Federation it is for our community to continue to recognize and value the richness and strength of this diversity. Long term, we are establishing a Strategic Planning Task Force seeking the input of a wide cross section of community stakeholders, subject matter experts and thought leaders. My goal is to achieve a 5 year/10 year community vision. Strategic planning requires making hard choices but these decisions will position our community to grow and thrive.

For those who have yet to fulfill their pledged commitment of the 2016 All-in-One Campaign, please submit your contribution. We need your contribution in order to meet the needs and demands of the Federation. Although our foundation is strong we are restricted in the amount we can withdraw annually; this why your annual contribution is critical. Federation leadership has made thoughtful and disciplined choices that will benefit our entire community: those needing help from it, those participating in it, and those supporting it. We are committed to our goal of being a creative, constructive partner with the ability and resources to help address known and unknown challenges we face in our community.

From my family and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines let us pray that the message of the Hanukkah will illuminate the everyday life of our community, and of society at large, for a brighter life in every respect; materially and spiritually. Chag Sameach.

David Adelman, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

Announcing

The 2017 - 2018 Margo and Don Blumenthal Jewish Student Scholarships
are scheduled to be awarded in the Spring to qualified candidates.

The scholarships will be available on a competitive basis to Jewish students from Central Iowa who will attend or are attending post-secondary schools within the state of Iowa.

Application packets will be available from the Jewish Federation in March 2017.
Submission deadline: April 30, 2017

Community donations to the Blumenthal Scholarship Fund may be earmarked and sent to the Jewish Federation, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263

For additional information or to request an application packet, contact jcrc@dmjfed.org or call the Jewish Federation at 515 987-0899 x 212.

THE GREATER DES MOINES

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We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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Official Delegation from West Des Moines visits Match Asher



The West Des Moines delegation: Phyllis Staplin (Vice Chair of the WDM Sister Cities Commission), Mark Finkelstein (Jewish Federation), Anita Messerschmidt (businesswoman), Rick Messerschmidt (WDM City Councilman), Jeff Lipman (Chair of the WDM Sister Cities Commission), Jim Sandager (WDM Mayor Pro Tem), John Norwood (member of the WDM Sister Cities Commission.)



We visited a social service agency that prepares young adults with disabilities to help others.



Partnership's Tania Ronen discusses her experiences with the Arab and Jewish women's discussion group



At lunch on the shore of the Mediterranean with the leadership of Partnership2Gether and Match Asher.



Baruch Halevi spoke to our group about Israel's high tech orientation at a meeting at the Technion.



Members of our delegation met with the principal of a Bedouin school in Match Asher



Match Asher's director of development, Itai Davidi speaking to our group over breakfast at the Ghetto Fighters' House kibbutz.

An official delegation of West Des Moines City Council members and members of the West Des Moines Sister Cities Commission returned, in September, from a visit to its twinned district, Match Asher in Israel. The delegation engaged in discussions with a variety of business, scientific, multi-cultural, educational, agricultural, medical and governmental officials. The delegation included a representative from the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, a liaison between the West Des Moines - Match Asher Partnership and, as well, Partnership2GETHER/ Western Galilee.

In addition to conducting business and building relationships, the delegation toured the natural beauty and historical sites of the region and enjoyed some marvelous meals!



Visiting the grottoes at Rosh Hanikra.



The CEO of an Israeli hi tech facility that exports precision dental implants shows us around.



The mayor and deputy mayors of Match Asher discuss the goals of their Regional Council.



The Women's Health Care facility, newly constructed at the Galilee Medical Center.



The old Turkish aqueduct at the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum (seen at left.)constructed at the Galilee Medical Center.Fighters' House Museum (seen at left.)

Official Delegation from West Des Moines visits Match Asher



The offices of the Match Asher Regional Council.



Conversing with Match Asher teachers the evening prior to their starting their school term.



At the Western Wall.



A reflective moment on the Sea of Galilee (the Kinneret.)



Mark chatting with representatives of the Church of God in Christ visiting Israel



Jeff Lipman presenting Itai with a Valley High School tee-shirt.



Dr. Benny Soffer, CEO of the technology commercialization department at the Technion.



Learning about the Warsaw Ghetto uprising from the director of the Ghetto Fighters' House.



A crop species laboratory at work.



We visited many Christian holy sites including the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.



Dr. Phyllis Staplin (left) pictured with Shlomit Elad (Education director) and Mayor Israeli.



The coast line of Match Asher.



Learning about the production of bananas.



Mayor Pro Tem Jim Sandager addressing the Match Asher Council agency directors and mayor.

Chef Du Jour

In the Kitchen for Chanukah

by Karen Engman

Chanukah is a celebration of fried foods like latkes and sufganiyot (Israeli jelly donuts) and other sweets like decorated cookies and cakes. It’s fun to bake and decorate sugar cookies in the shape of menorahs or dreidels with the kids, but it’s also great to have a sweet cake that’s so moist it will stay fresh for all eight nights of Chanukah. This cake was a specialty of numerous bakeries in the St Louis area where I grew up and we always called it GOOEY BUTTER CAKE.

My memories of this delicious cake were reawakened last summer when I attended a talk and book signing by Jocelyn Delk Adams at the Wonder of Words Book Festival in downtown Des Moines. Her cook book is called Grandbaby Cakes and it includes a recipe called Gooley Gooley Cake which is indeed quite similar to my favorite bakery Gooley Butter Cake. Grandbaby Cakes is a wonderful cookbook filled with many old family favorites and some inventive new recipes. I highly recommend it, even in this age of using the internet to find recipes, because Jocelyn Delk Adams has collected unique recipes and done the necessary research (trial and error preparations) to provide her readers with delicious cakes! I’m excited to share this with our Jewish Press readers because I think it’s the perfect cake to bake during a holiday season. It’s easy to prepare, no frosting required, can be frozen before the holiday rush, and it tastes great with cold milk, hot tea or coffee. It can be dressed up with some berries and whipped cream but I still think it’s perfect with just a sprinkle of confectioners’ sugar on top!

If you have a favorite recipe to share or a cooking question I can research, please call me (515-274-3300) or email (karen.engman@gmail.com).



Gooley Butter Cake

(from Jocelyn Delk Adams’ Grandbaby Cakes)

Pan Preparation: Liberally prepare a 9x13 inch baking pan with the nonstick method of your choice. Cut out a piece of parchment paper to fit in the bottom and then grease it.

Bottom Cake Layer:

1 Box Classic Yellow Cake Mix (15.25 ounce) or 1 recipe *From Scratch Yellow Cake Mix (recipe follows)

½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted

2 large eggs, room temperature

Gooley Top Layer:

2 cups confectioners’ sugar (I use 3 cups)

1 (8 ounce) cream cheese, room temperature

2 large eggs, room temperature

½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Pinch of salt

For bottom cake layer:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In large bowl, whisk together all ingredients until combined and thick. Evenly pat the batter into the bottom of the prepared pan.

For Gooley Top Layer:

In the bowl of your stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, beat the sugar, cream cheese, eggs, vanilla and salt over low speed. Once the sugar is fully incorporated, turn your mixer to high. Continue beating until all ingredients are well blended. Pour topping into the prepared pan, on top of the bottom layer, and spread evenly across the batter with a spatula. Bake for 30-35 minutes. The center should still be gooey and will look under-baked. (I wait until it is very lightly brown on top).

Cool on a wire rack for 10-15 minutes. Sprinkle with confectioners’ sugar, cut into squares and serve or freeze.

***From Scratch Yellow Cake Mix**

(I use this recipe instead of a purchased cake mix)

1 ¾ cup sifted all-purpose flour

1 cup granulated sugar

3 Tablespoons unsalted butter, cold

3 Tablespoons malt powder or powdered milk (I use powdered milk)

1 Teaspoon baking powder

½ Teaspoon salt

In a food processor, combine all the ingredients and process until the butter is fully incorporated and fine crumbs form. Use immediately, or transfer to a re-sealable bag to store in freezer until ready to use.

Upcoming JFS Events



- Jan 12 – senior lunch at Temple B'nai Jeshurun –We will learn about a variety of senior living options, including independent apartment, assisted living, and nursing home care from Debbie McAninch of Senior Suites of Urbandale.
- Feb 9 -senior lunch at Tifereth Israel Synagogue - Musical entertainment by Abe Goldstien!
- March 14 - trip to Prairie Meadows

Russian Community trip to Reiman Gardens



PJ Our Way – free book program for kids aged nine to eleven!

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, which sponsors PJ Library, has now added a new reading program designed for kids 9-11. PJ Our Way allows kids to select one of four books every month, giving them more choice on their journey toward being life-long readers while introducing them to Jewish ideas. As part of the program, PJ Our Way participants can create book trailers, videos, quizzes, author interviews, and other media to communicate with peers about the books. The PJ Our Way website – www.pjourway.org –provides these new avenues for discussion.

To register your child, just follow these steps:

- Go to www.pjourway.org
- Click on “New? Sign up!” and follow the instructions to create an account and enroll your student.

If you have any questions please contact Jody Caswell at Jewish Family Services

jody@dmjfed.org or
515-987-0899 ext 210



PJ Library Free Book program for newborns to age eight!

Want to get a free monthly Jewish-themed book for your children?

Hear what one community member has to say about PJ Library:

“PJ Library has been a part of my family's life for the past few years. When we began enjoying PJ Library my son was not yet an independent reader. He looked forward to getting his package from PJ Library, especially since it had his name on it and he knew it was a gift just for him. Each new book became a must-read for bedtime story reading. He would snuggle in my lap, turn the pages, look at the beautiful pictures and enjoy discussing the theme of the story. He loved talking about the holidays, hearing stories about Jewish children from near and far, and learning about Jewish traditions.

Now, several years later, my son enjoys reading on his own, but his joy at getting a PJ Library package has not waned. While he may rip open the package and read the book before I even know it's arrived, we still come together at bedtime to talk about the Jewish-themed stories, the very thing that makes PJ Library books unique as compared to most of the other books he reads from the library or in school.

We live in Iowa where there are not many Jewish children in his public school or after-school activities. But the books from PJ Library have shown my son that there are Jewish people all around the world, Jewish traditions from thousands of years ago that we still follow today and that he is connected to a rich heritage that he can be proud of.”

Sign up for PJ Library!

PJ Library is a national program that provides books for Jewish and Interfaith families with children ages six months through eight years. PJ Library is free of cost to all families who wish to participate and includes books and music CDs that discuss various aspects of Judaism, such as holidays and traditional stories. Books and CDs are sent once a month to families' homes and are specific to the age of the children.

Sign up today and join a growing global community of PJ families throughout North America and Israel. Sign up your own family. Then, invite friends and neighbors to enroll and share in the PJ experience as well. Just go to www.pjlibrary.org and click on “Sign Up”

PJ Library is sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and locally funded by the Larry S. Pidgeon Endowed Fund for Books. Through the Pidgeon's generosity, we are able to offer a monthly book to each child in your family.

If you have any questions please contact Jody Caswell at Jewish Family Services

jody@dmjfed.org or 515-987-0899 ext 210



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

www.pjlibrary.org

Torah Talk

Jewish Myth

by David Friedgood

I retain clear memories, mostly pleasant, of my early years in school. At age five my father dropped me off in front of a large foreboding building on Coney Island Avenue in Brooklyn, NY. I had a nametag pinned on my chest and a lunch box in my hand. I was left with a woman on the concrete playground outside the school building. I soon filed into a classroom with some 20 other boys and girls – each of us outside our usual comfort zones. Our teacher met us just past the doorway, asked our names, and assigned us a seat – alphabetically arranged. I told her my name was David – of this I was certain. She said ‘no’. Your name is Daveed, my Hebrew name that I had rarely heard and never used as a designation. Things got better after that encounter, and over the next weeks and months I was exposed to a world I never knew. It started with stories. Wondrous tales of a time long ago. We learned how the world was created in six days. We marveled at a talking snake, and how the first human beings lost their chance at immortality. Another story recorded the first murder of a man and the murderer’s punishment. We were told of how a great flood engulfed the whole world and of a marvelous boat that saved human kind and all the earth’s animal life from annihilation. Our books even had pictures depicting these great events. All this presented as fact, the gospel truth. As students, we never questioned any element of a story, and our developing brains took in every detail of all we were told. I see the same effect today as my grandchildren are being introduced to their Jewish heritage. I watch as their minds, and their behavior, are slowly being molded. And, I recall the child I was years ago in a similar situation, just as generations of our ancestors were taught what it means to be Jewish, and what it means to be a citizen of

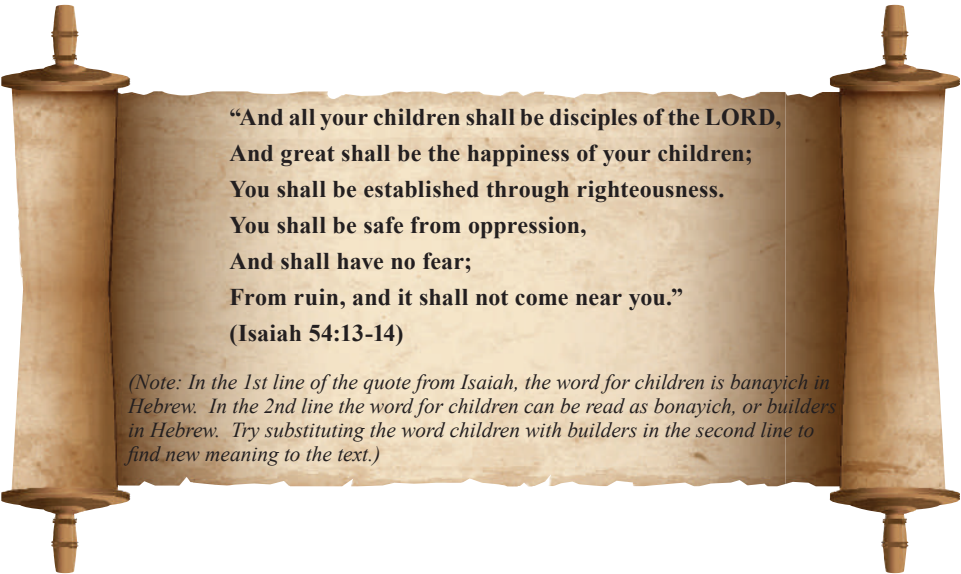
the broader human race.

Our collective education begins with myth. We don’t question ‘Is it historically true?’ or ‘Does it matter?’ As children we don’t have these concerns. The term ‘myth’ comes from the Greek word mythos, meaning word. By implication, indisputable fact. It is different from the Greek logos meaning

movement he vilified Hasidic Masters who embraced Jewish myth and mysticism. Hasidism’s founder, Israel Baal Shem Tov (Master of a Good Name) would go off into the Carpathian Mountains to commune with his LORD, while the Gaon of Vilna spent 18 hours daily secluded in the study of Torah and Jewish Texts. Hasidim and Mitnagim eventually settled their major differences

every human being has a common origin. We are all important and each of us, Jew and non-Jew, is precious in our creator’s eye. Mythology teaches models for human behavior, for our institutions, and our universal condition. As the 20th century Psychologist Carl Jung stated: each of us is endowed with a ‘collective consciousness’ that binds us together. Men and women must learn these eternal truths if we are to survive together as fragile beings on this earth. An example is in the book of Genesis. Noah was not Jewish. He lived in a time of severe human depravity, but was the ‘most righteous’ person of his generation. For this reason Noah and his family was chosen to perpetuate the human race after the great flood which destroyed all other people of that time. From our mythical stories, Rabbis over the millennia have outlined the minimal behavior expected of all people. The Law given to the Sons of Noah (all of us) includes prohibitions on idolatry (including substitution of false beliefs and material substance for the Deity), blasphemy, murder, sexual misconduct (incest, adultery, bestiality), stealing, tearing a limb from a live animal. We are also required to set up a fair system of jurisprudence and courts to enforce these laws.

To paraphrase Martin Buber: ‘Myth is the eternal function of the soul. Our Bible stories represent God’s encounter with His people’. As we forge ahead on our collective journey to repair this broken world, it is our mythical past that illuminates our path. It is incumbent on each of us to pass our stories on to the next generation. Only then, year by year and story by story, will human kind flourish on this earth.



inner thought or reason, which can change depending on new insight or information. Myth commonly refers to stories that are designed to explain the natural world and the supernatural – that which is unexplainable. For over 300 years a variety of Jewish scholars have denied the existence of myth in Judaism. Many modern Jews agree, finding Biblical stories little more than fables, not appropriate for educated people. Ours, they claim, is a religion based entirely on the truth; facts which can be proven by observation or philosophical discourse. The great sage Elijah, the Gaon (Genius) of Vilna, dedicated his life in the 18th century to proving this point. As head of the Mitnagim (the opposition)

and recognized each groups’ accomplishments. This truce became critical as they faced a powerful foe in the Haskala (enlightenment) movement. Haskalah was founded by the German Philosopher Moses Mendelssohn in the late 18th century with the aim of a more modern / secular Judaism. Today one only has to read the Biblical stories, or just watch the faces of your children as they encounter these tales for the first time, to know that Jewish myth is alive and thriving in our culture.

Our mythical stories illustrate what it is that Jews believe. We believe in the uniqueness of the one God who created our world and all that is in it. We know that



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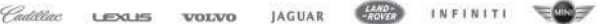
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In Profile

Charles Reznikoff, Poet



Lionel Trilling: "Mr. Reznikoff's work is remarkable and original in American literature"

Charles Reznikoff (1894 – 1976) was an American poet best known for his long work, *Testimony: The United States (1885-1915)*, *Recitative (1934-1979)*. The term Objectivist was coined for him. The multi-volume *Hedigmony* was based on court records and explored the experiences of immigrants, black people and the urban and rural poor in the United States in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He followed this with *Holocaust (1975)*, based on court testimony about Nazi death camps during World War II.

Charles Reznikoff was born in 1894 in a Jewish neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York, the son of immigrants Sarah Yetta (Wolvovsky) Reznikoff and Nathan Reznikoff, who fled the Russian Empire and its pogroms. His Hebrew name was Ezekiel, after his maternal grandfather. His father established a family business of manufacturing hats. He was young when he graduated from high school and had already started writing poetry. He spent a year studying journalism in graduate school at the University of Missouri, where Reznikoff realized he was interested in writing more than reporting news. He entered the law school of New York University in 1912 and graduated in 1916. He practiced law briefly. In 1918 as the United States had entered the Great War, he entered officer training school. He did not see active service before the end of the war. In 1930 Reznikoff married Marie Syrkin, a prominent Zionist and friend and biographer of Golda Meir.

Reznikoff worked for a time for his family's business as a hat salesman. He worked for a legal publishing house, where he wrote summaries of court records for legal reference books. This experience was to prove integral to his later writing.

From his teens, Reznikoff had been writing poetry, much of it influenced by the Imagists. He published his own work, using a second-hand press for which he set the type himself. Throughout his writing life, Reznikoff was always concerned to ensure that his work was published, even at his own expense. This appears to have been inspired by a family story of his grandfather, an unpublished Hebrew poet whose manuscripts were destroyed after his death, for fear of their falling into Russian hands.

In early drafts, *Testimony* was a prose retelling of stories that Reznikoff had discovered while working on court records. Reznikoff found these accounts to give him insight into the story of America between 1855 and 1915, both in its diversity and its violence. Tellingly, he chose to omit the judgements, focusing on the twists and turns of the stories.

Over the following forty years, Reznikoff worked on refashioning these stories into an extended found poem, which finally ran to some 500 pages over two volumes. He tried to express the stories in as near as possible the words of the participants. As a result, his poetry was almost entirely stripped of metaphor and of authorial personality and emotion. In this sense, *Testimony* can be read as the great monument of Objectivist poetry.

The poetic mode which Reznikoff developed in writing this work was invaluable to his work on *Holocaust*. It was based on testimony in court cases related to the Nazi concentration camps and death camps. He also adopted this style for his poetry that reworked stories from the Torah or Old Testament.

Reznikoff lived and wrote in relative obscurity for most of his life, with his work being either self-published or issued by small independent presses. In 1971, he was awarded the Morton Dauwen Zabel Prize by The National Institute of Arts and Letters. Around this time, he found a new publisher, Black Sparrow Press. In the years immediately following his death, Black Sparrow reprinted all his major poetry and prose works.

Adapted from Wikipedia.

Te Deum

Not because of victories
I sing,
having none,
but for the common sunshine,
the breeze,
the largess of the spring.

Not for victory
but for the day's work done
as well as I was able;
not for a seat upon the dais
but at the common table.

By Charles Reznikoff

Source: www.poets.org

Wishing our friends

a

Happy and Healthy New Year!

On behalf of
The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center



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Iowa State University design faculty member brings mother's Holocaust story to school stages

AMES, Iowa — The horrific and hopeful experiences of a young Jewish girl in Europe during World War II, first translated into a book by her daughter — an Iowa State University College of Design senior lecturer — have been adapted for the stage.

Deborah Pappenheimer's book, "My Broken Doll: A memoir of survival of the Vichy Regime," is the story of Beatrice "Bea" (Stern) Karp, who was relocated nearly 20 times before the age of 15 as a hidden Jewish child during World War II.

The play, "My Broken Doll," which premiered at the Jewish Community Center Theater in Omaha in August, is slated to travel to a dozen schools across Nebraska during the 2016-17 academic year.

Published through Blurb in 2014, the book chronicles 13 years of Karp's childhood in war-torn Europe — from her early life in Germany, to the war's end and her departure from Paris to a new life in the United States.

From her home in Lauterbach, Germany, Karp — along with her mother, father and younger sister — was deported to the Gurs and then the Rivesaltes concentration camp in the south of France. The family was subjected to innumerable hardships at the hands of the Nazi regime throughout the war. After Karp and her sister, Susie, were rescued by the French Children's Aid Society (OSE), Karp's parents, Moritz and Rosa Stern, were murdered. The sisters were shuttled between two convents and 14 OSE-operated "hidden chateaus" in France before immigrating to London and then the United States, where they lived

with two aunts and an uncle in Queens, New York. In 1951, Karp married. She and her husband moved to the Midwest where they raised four daughters and eventually settled in Omaha.

While Bea Karp initially did not intend to talk publicly about her childhood trauma, a public speaking course in 1963 gave her the confidence to speak formally about her experiences during the war. For more than 50 years, she spoke -- and she is still speaking -- to community groups and school children across Nebraska and Iowa about her young life on the run and -- perhaps most memorably -- of her broken doll, smashed to the floor while she was forcibly removed from her home. The doll became a symbol of her shattered childhood. Karp also recounted the discrimination and bullying she suffered growing up because she was Jewish.

Once the book became a reality, Pappenheimer wanted to keep her mother's story alive by continuing to share it with school children. With director Fran Sillau and playwright Ernie Nolan, "My Broken Doll" was developed into a live drama, co-commissioned and co-produced by the Institute for Holocaust Education and the Circle Theatre.

"It was difficult for my mother to watch the premiere," Pappenheimer said. "But she was really glad that it was completed. And I think the play will have a life of its own. I'd like it to tour Iowa as well. And eventually I'd like to see a film made out of my mother's experience."

Adapted from the ISU newsletter online with images at <http://bit.ly/2hqAvZk>

Caroline Musin Berkowitz received Samuel A. Goldsmith Awards, given to exceptional young professionals who have shown outstanding performance at a Jewish agency in the Chicago area.

Formerly of Des Moines, Iowa now residing in Chicago, Illinois. Daughter of Jean Hirsch and Howard Musin and Granddaughter of Florence Hirsch.

Musin Berkowitz, 38, is the Director of Volunteers and Outreach at The ARK, recruiting, screening, placing and retaining over 2,000 volunteers. She oversees The ARK's food pantry and has streamlined redundancies and introduced multiple technology resources to increase the quality of communication with volunteers, staff and clients. She helped create, fund and implement volunteer opportunities specifically designed for families with young children. She works closely with and formally and informally mentors future leaders and interns according to their needs and abilities.



Accepting her award, Musin Berkowitz said she makes it a priority to invest in others' learning and growth, whether they are professionals or volunteers.

"Every volunteer experience is an opportunity to educate people about our clients," she said, noting that one project has involved placing labels on holiday food packages for people in need. "By adjusting the frame through which volunteers see their work...they see it as feeding people, not just putting stickers on bags."

"I am honored to continue this sacred work," she said, expressing appreciation for her peers and their contributions to The Ark's clients and the community. (Watch the video of Musin Berkowitz's speech)


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Warren Buffett increases his investment in Israel

“If you are looking for brains, energy, and dynamism in the Middle East, Israel is the only place you need to go.”

JNS.org – American billionaire Warren Buffett organized an event in November that raised \$60 million in investments in Israel bonds.

In Omaha, Nebraska, which is home to the headquarters of Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway conglomerate holding company, the business magnate hosted 43 investors who each made a minimum \$1 million new investment in Israel bonds. Buffett himself invested \$5 million. The bonds are sold through the Development Corporation for Israel/Israel Bonds, a broker dealer that underwrites securities issued by the state of Israel in the United States.

“You can tell prospective investors that I would have taken a perpetual bond if you had offered one. I believe Israel is going to be around forever,” Buffett said at the event, according to remarks distributed to the media.

“If you are looking for brains, energy, and dynamism in the Middle East, Israel is the only place you need to go,” he added.

Buffett’s net worth is \$66.4 billion, according to Forbes, placing him third on the business magazine’s latest list of the 400 wealthiest people in America.

Sunday’s event “tells me that Warren Buffett, famed for his investment expertise, continues to view Israel as a sure bet,” Israel Bonds President & CEO Israel Maimon said in a statement.

AJC: UNESCO World Heritage Committee Obliterates Jewish Roots in Jerusalem

October 26, 2016 -- New York -- AJC deplored the UNESCO World Heritage Committee adoption today of a resolution seeking to erase the age-old Jewish connection to the Old City of Jerusalem. The measure passed by a vote of 10 to 2, with 8 abstentions.

The resolution, “The Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls,” follows the UNESCO Executive Board resolution of October 13 that deleted Jewish references from holy sites in Jerusalem.

“In back-to-back measures, during the holiest month in Judaism, member states of two UNESCO bodies have thrown truth to the wind. Instead, they have succumbed to the pernicious designs of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Arab countries that have long sought to exploit this forum to castigate Israel and deny the indisputable link of the Jewish people with Jerusalem,” said AJC CEO David Harris. “It would be like refusing to recognize Islam’s connection to Mecca and Catholicism’s ties to Rome. This step may be self-satisfying to the Palestinian leadership and its allies, but, let’s be clear, it moves us further away from any prospect of peace and coexistence.”

Over the years, the World Heritage Committee has adopted 50 resolutions providing for the inscription of properties around the world – mostly in countries ravaged by armed conflicts or afflicted by natural disasters and other adverse conditions – on the “List of World Heritage in Danger.” These resolutions have uniformly employed descriptive, technical language.

Conversely, the resolution adopted today, reaffirming the inscription of the Old City of Jerusalem on the “List of World Heritage in Danger” in 1982, is replete with political terms.

Like the UNESCO decision, the World Heritage Committee resolution repeatedly refers to the Temple Mount, Judaism’s holiest site, only by its Muslim name, Al-Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram Al-Sharif, and ignores any Jewish, as well as Christian, connection to this site.

For the record, Judaism -- and the centrality of Jerusalem to Jewish identity, worship, and

history -- predates Islam by millennia, and Christianity, with its linkage to Biblical sites in Jerusalem, predates Islam by centuries. The only time adherents of all three religions have enjoyed complete freedom of worship in Jerusalem has been under Israeli administration.

Laudably, both UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova criticized the October 13 UNESCO action on Jerusalem.

That measure was adopted by a plurality (24), but not a majority, of voting countries, the largest number of whom either abstained (26) or voted against (6). Subsequently, Brazil and Mexico, which voted in favor, voiced regret for their decision, and Italy, which abstained, later said it should have voted “no.”

Ban Ki-moon reaffirmed the importance of the Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls for the three monotheistic religions. “The Al Aqsa Mosque/Al-Haram al-Sharif, the sacred shrine of Muslims, is also the Har HaBayit – or Temple Mount – whose Western Wall is the holiest place in Judaism, a few steps away from the Saint Sepulcher church and the Mount of Olives, which is revered by Christians,” he said.

“Any perceived undertaking to repudiate the undeniable common reference for these sites does not serve the interests of peace and will only feed violence and radicalism,” the Secretary-General added.

“To deny, conceal or erase any of the Jewish, Christian or Muslim traditions undermines the integrity of the site, and runs counter to the reasons that justified its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list,” said Bokova.

Members of the World Heritage Committee are: Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, Tanzania, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe. Voting is by secret ballot.

IOWA HAWKEYES BASKETBALL GAME

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AGES 13 AND UP

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& SOCIALIZING WITH JEWISH
TEENS FROM AROUND THE STATE

\$20 per student
(includes transportation,
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Beit Sefer Shalom is partnering with The Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities and other Iowa Jewish communities to start a Jewish Teen program. Our first event of the year will take place February 5th in Iowa City. We will meet at Caspe Terrace at 9:00 am, taking the van to Iowa City. We will have lunch and enjoy hanging out with other Jewish teens. We will then attend the men’s Iowa Basketball game at 1:00 pm. They will be playing Nebraska.

Pickup at Tifereth Israel Synagogue at 5:30 pm

RSVP is required and spots will be on a first come first serve basis.

Please RSVP by January 29th
to sophie@dmjfed.org or 515-987-0899 x 221

Jewish community represented at NAACP conference



Members of the community participated in the annual NAACP conference held in November. The conference, which featured important speakers including the chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, focused largely on explicit and implicit bias in the judicial system and the over representation of African Americans incarcerated in Iowa prisons. Participating in the conference were William "Jake" Jacobs, JCRC member and Community Relations person for Temple B'nai Jeshurun, JCRC member Ron Jackson, and JCRC director Mark Finkelstein. Pictured: Jake Jacobs with Daniel Zeno, Policy Counsel for the Iowa ACLU.

Presidential Election Discussion at The Caspe Terrace



The Federation presented "A Civil Conversation about the Presidential Election" at the Caspe Terrace on September 29th. Prof. Dennis Goldford, moderator for the program, is flanked in the picture above by Tom Henderson, Chair of the Polk County Democrats (at left) and Matt Strawn, former Chairman of the Iowa Republican Party.

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Iowa Jewish leaders meeting



A number of Iowa Jewish Leaders met at Iowa Hillel in November in Iowa City.

Kever Avot Memorial Service



Our rabbis conducted the Kever Avot memorial service, in remembrance of family members. The service is held annually on the Sunday between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

From the JCRC Committee on Disabilities Chairperson: Melanie Sandler

The work of the Committee focuses, at present, on learning about the prospective bills supportive of Iowans with disabilities being prepared ahead of the state legislative session in January by such associations as the Iowa State Organization of Counties.

At our most recent meeting, we established the functions and roles of the Committee:

The Committee functions to protect our seniors, members of the community who are caring for individuals with disabilities, and community members who themselves have disabilities.

The Committee has defined for itself two roles:

1. to gather and distribute information about pertinent services and funding; and 2. To advocate on those specific issues.

We would be happy to have all who are interested participate in the work of the Committee. **Contact Melanie Sandler at sandhthcon@aol.com.**

Beit Sefer Shalom Visits the Iowa Holocaust Memorial



Beit Sefer Shalom 6th grade class at the Iowa Holocaust Memorial at the Capitol.



Judy Blank provides background information about the Memorial with volunteer Bev Ellis (left)



6th grade students work on a research assignment

Fun and Learning at Gan Shalom Preschool





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Fun and Learning at Gan Shalom Preschool

At Gan Shalom, we are always looking for new and exciting ways to interact with our families to provide helpful resources that will continue children’s learning outside the classroom. One of these new resources is our Pinterest page (Gan Shalom Preschool), where families can find ideas for not only Hebrew learning, but also crafts and activities that work the minds and muscles of their child. Some of the boards featured include Jewish Holidays, Lunch Ideas, Sensory activities and, of course, Hebrew. One other board includes “STEAM” (Science, Technology, Engineer, Art, and math) project ideas, which is also a curriculum currently being introduced into classrooms.

Our school is fortunate enough to have a surface tablet and hologram machine that was kindly made by a parent volunteer. This table-sized tablet allows the children to learn with the use of new technology. The preschool is also discussing the purchase of a 3D printer to help bring the children’s creations to life. This printer, along with the tablet and hologram machine, gives children the tools to fabricate their drawings into physical, three-dimensional objects. The initiative is just one of the many ways Gan Shalom is incorporating STEAM into daily learning. One other way we are looking to incorporate technology into our classrooms is investing in small, handheld computers for the children to use.

Gan Shalom has also taken to Instagram to showcase the smiling faces of our students and the daily activities they partake in. Parents are encouraged to follow our account (@ganshalompreschool) to stay up-to-date on the go.

While the summer may seem far away, especially with the cold winter temperatures quickly approaching, camp registration will open soon as well as registration for preschool classes next year. Both camp and preschool registration will be an easy and simple online application and to new and current families. Our ten-week camp is focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) and a whole lot of fun. Children last year took part in documenting insects and spiders found on nature walks as well observing a caterpillar change into a butterfly. Campers are able to not only play in nature but also learn while doing so.

With the holiday season approaching, Gan Shalom will be holding a fundraiser in order to raise funds for future activities for the kids. We will be selling honey and tea for \$5, a great way to combat the cold weather with something warm. We will also have our Hanukkah party on Dec. 23 where children and their parents are invited to come celebrate the holiday of lights. Our program hosted a Family Get Together on Dec. 3rd. This gathering is for parents to meet other parents and children to play. It is the children in our classrooms that are making the lasting friendships, so this is a great way for parents to plan future play dates.

- Giovanna Zavell



This year at Beit Sefer Shalom



Greetings! We had a busy start to our school year with first day of school festivities and parent orientation, and we didn't stop there. From the outstanding Israel lessons created and delivered by Gil and Brenda Coosner; to the Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot lessons and activities; our Open House, the Kristallnacht program, and our Shabbat service at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, the educational fun just keeps rolling. Our Intergenerational Chanukah Party on December 18 was enjoyed by several generations. We hope to see you at Caspe Terrace soon!



Global Day of Jewish Learning 5777



The Global Day of Jewish Learning on November 20th at Caspe Terrace was an incredible morning of learning for all ages. We joined 500 communities in 40+ countries to learn about this year's theme: Under the Same Sky: "The earth is full of your creations". We explored nature in various ways throughout the morning. Josh Mandelbaum led a fantastic session of adult education about Water, David Friedgood taught about Healing, and Rabbi Damsky (Ames Congregation), Rabbi Edelman-Blank, and Rabbi Kaufman led a panel about Shmita: A Cycle of Rest, Release and Ownership. Children ages 2-18 used PJ Library curriculum as well as Global Day resources to study about trees, planting, Kindness to Animals, the Importance of Conserving and Protecting Nature and so much more. Copeland Catering served a delicious Israeli lunch in Bookey Lodge to finish the morning strong. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the morning so successful.



Community Report

Education

Beit Sefer Shalom / Gan Shalom Preschool / Engman Camp Shalom

- Engman Camp Shalom offered “Winter Camp” from December 26-30
- Engman Camp Shalom 2017 will run 10 weeks this summer from June 12-Aug 18
- Engman Camp Shalom Party at Caspe January 29th from 12-2. You won’t want to miss it!
- Beit Sefer Shalom held class at Tifereth Israel Synagogue on November 9th including a Kristallnacht Program for the community
- Thank you to Dennis Goldford, Sally Frank, and Allison Wolf who have all been guest lecturers in our Upper School Program this year
- Beit Sefer Shalom students participated in the Global Day of Jewish Learning on November 20th at Caspe Terrace
- Beit Sefer Shalom students led Friday night Services at Temple B’Nai Jeshurun on December 2nd
- Beit Sefer Shalom students joined community members on December 18th for a wonderful Multigenerational Chanukah Party
- Gan Shalom touring prospective families for the 2017-2018 school year. Planning is underway for summer Gan Shalom Camp 2017.
- Gan Shalom Teachers attended the Iowa AEYC Fall Institute conference, completed the new Essentials Preservice 11 hour training series.
- Rosh Hashanah Basket Fundraiser was successful and will be an annual event.
- Israeli Dancing and ZumbaKids have been included to Gan Shalom’s enrichment program. Parent volunteers have lead Israeli cooking activities, Hebrew songs and dancing classes, and more.

Jewish Family Services & Outreach

Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- August 11 – Abe Goldstein and Laura Sparks entertained at the senior luncheon held at Temple B’nai Jeshurun. The group really enjoyed the fun musical entertainment!
- Sept 13 – Traveled to Prairie Meadows where we enjoyed the buffet, live music, and gambling.
- Sept 19 – Traveled with Milla Verkhov-Karno, Jewish Family Services Russian outreach worker, and a group of Russian seniors to Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University. Enjoyed the butterfly exhibit and the beautiful gardens.
- October 13 – The senior luncheon was held at Tifereth Israel Synagogue with Louise Kaufmann providing entertainment and a fun sing-a-long.
- November 17 – HyVee dietician Amanda Hagenow provided information on healthy eating as we age. She was very informative and we learned a lot! We enjoyed a pasta meal and conversation at Tifereth Israel Synagogue.
- Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, 25 Rosh Hashanah baskets were provided to our seniors.
- Gan Shalom Preschool and Jewish Family Services donated an “education” basket to Temple B’nai Jeshurun for their silent auction. The basket contains PJLibrary books and other educational items.
- Delivered in-home meals to elderly and disabled clients.
- Delivered “welcome” basket to family new to the community.
- Delivered condolence baskets to families that have recently experienced a death.
- Continue to participate in Elevate Aging, a collaboration of organizations with a focus on improving the quality of life of aging Iowans and their caregivers.

Community

Jewish Community Relations Commission

- JCRC facilitated and staffed the West Des Moines delegation trip to Match Asher and is assisting with the follow up.
- JCRC participated in instructing Beit Sefer Shalom students whose class visited the Iowa Holocaust Memorial, and actively maintained the Memorial’s page on Facebook.
- JCRC’s Outreach Committee members attended the NAACP’s Iowa Summit On Justice & Disparities and helped schedule a follow up presentation for January 2017.
- JCRC made presentations about modern antisemitism to community organizations and continued its monitoring and analysis of anti-Semitic incidents nationally.
- JCRC members from the Food Insecurity Committee were among the participants at the Iowa Hunger Summit.
- JCRC members represented the community at the reflective interfaith program held in memory of the local police officers who lost their lives.
- JCRC’s Holocaust Education committee assisted in planning the program commemorating the anniversary of Kristallnacht.
- JCRC represented the community at a program and discussion on interfaith cooperation conducted by the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa.
- JCRC convened and conducted a mini-conference of Iowa Jewish leadership on an array of topics of interest to the communities.
- JCRC participated in a celebration of religious communities held at Drake University to further interfaith relations.

History

Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- JHS received a gift of \$1 million from Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan in Memory of her mother Melva Bucksbaum, kicking off IJHS’ \$1.5 million 20th Anniversary Fund Drive. To recognize Mary’s generosity, the Arts Wing is being renamed the Melva and Martin Bucksbaum Arts Wing.
- IJHS began a year-long celebration of our 20th Anniversary on Sunday, September 18 with a dinner and program. Our keynote speaker was Rabbi Barry Cytron, who most Central Iowans remember as the rabbi at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. See the article inside for pictures of the fun-filled evening.
- IJHS participated in the Global Day of Jewish Learning with Beit Sefer Shalom students and parents visiting the museum as part of this special learning experience.
- The IJHS has loaned an 1870 prayer book to the Old Capitol Museum and Museum of Natural History. It was of special interest because the pages are written in German and Hebrew next to each other. The prayer book will be on display as part of an exhibit on Germans in Iowa that will run through January 20, 2017.



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April 30th, 2017
11am-2pm
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Food, Music, Dance, Crafts,
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Iowa Jewish Historical Society

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary with Gift of \$1 Million from Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan in Memory of her Mother, Melva Bucksbaum

On September 18, nearly 100 people from a three-state region enjoyed an elegant dinner and a thought-provoking, inspirational speech by Rabbi Barry Cytron to celebrate the Iowa Jewish Historical Society’s 20th anniversary.

Keynote speaker, Rabbi Cytron, who served as the congregational rabbi at Tifereth Israel from 1972-1983, spoke on the importance of preserving the nearly 200 year-old history of Iowa Jewry. He personalized the meaning of that history through people he knew whose stories are preserved for generations to come in the museum—Irvin and Phyllis Karp, who survived the Holocaust by being placed on Schindler’s list and came to Iowa “for a better tomorrow,” David Belin, and many more.

Capping the evening off was the announcement of a gift of \$1 million made by Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan in memory of her mother, Melva Bucksbaum.

Mary has long been a major supporter of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and the Federation, having previously given the funds to create and endow the Martin Bucksbaum Arts Wing.

In making the gift, Mary said: “I made this gift in memory of my mom to honor her love of Des Moines and all of her wonderful friends who are part of this Jewish community. No matter where she was, this was always the place she considered her home. This gift will help preserve the history of Des Moines and the statewide Jewish community that she loved.”

In recognition of Mary’s extraordinary gift, the Martin Bucksbaum Arts Wing is being renamed the Melva and Martin Bucksbaum Arts Wing.

Mary’s gift was made to kick off a year-long \$1.5 million fund drive to ensure that the Historical Society has a solid base for ongoing preservation and education projects as well as special projects that the board and staff identify in the coming years.

Co-President Robbie Winick expressed the Historical Society’s appreciation for Mary’s generosity:

All of us on the board of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and everyone who enjoys visiting the museum and participating in its programs are so thankful to Mary for this gift. She has helped us kick off our \$1.5 million fundraising campaign that will secure the future of IJHS and enable us to connect with new audiences, provide even better care of the treasures in our collection, and preserve the history of the Jewish people in Iowa for future generations.



The late Melva Bucksbaum

The interest from Mary’s gift will help with annual projects and staffing. We must raise the additional \$500,000 to complete the special projects that will enable us to create exciting new exhibits, build specialized storage areas for our collections, record new oral histories of our statewide Jewish community, and so much more.

The IJHS is very grateful to everyone who attended this event or supported it financially and Rabbi Cytron, the IJHS Board and staff, the Federation staff, and Susan Madorsky, all of whom worked so hard to make this event such a success.





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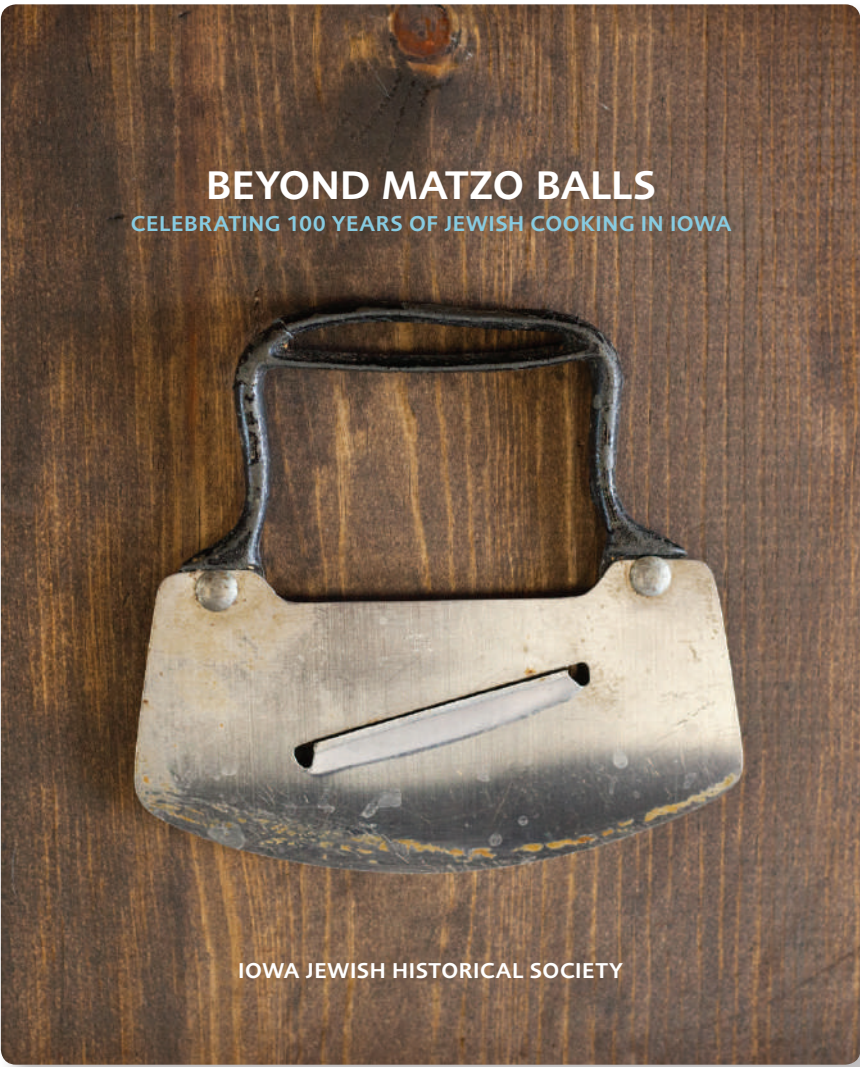
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Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used for the preservation and education activities of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. Thank you.



Iowa Jewish Historical Society

By Request: The Text of Rabbi Barry Cytron's Speech at the 20th Anniversary of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

“God, it’s great to be home.”

That’s how I opened a Rosh Hashanah sermon given at Tifereth Israel just days after 9/11. This evening, fifteen years later, those words still echo within.

To be sure, there is a certain conceit in those words, too, for though Iowa, especially this embracing community, WAS our HOME for eleven years, literalists would dispute the claim. After all, though we are both bona fide Midwesterners, we’ve lived, not here, but in the Twin Cities, for nearly three and a half decades. To top it off, just last month, **we went shopping for our eventual permanent residence**....Not on 48th (or is it 49th?) and University, in the Glendale Cemetery, but rather a measured plot of earth, just a stone’s throw from Minnehaha Creek that intersects south Minneapolis. If that is the ultimate, eternal designator of home, then I admit to overstatement in calling this community, and yours, **OURS**.

But still, when our family took its seats on that Rosh Hashanah in 2001, during a brief interruption in rabbinic presence on Polk Boulevard, we felt right at home. And when we walked into THIS space in mid-July – walked through the exhibits and scanned the memorabilia, photos, letters - it was as if **we were back where we belonged**. Perhaps, then, to be more precise about how we feel about being with you to honor the Iowa Jewish Historical Society this evening, it would have been more correct to begin this way: “**Gosh, it’s great to be among FAMILY.**”

Whenever Phyllis and I break open the incredible treasure trove of photo home albums of our years together, we are thunderstruck by the enduring impact of this Iowa community. Last month, in preparation for this evening, we sat amid a half dozen of those albums and were again taken aback by the presence of so many of you in our lives, and at our simchas, over these last 44 years - since we first arrived here.



Among all those photos, one set, in particular, caught our eye, several snapshots especially noteworthy for this evening. It was these, of Phyllis and Irvin Karp, who were [perhaps I can say, on some enigmatic, transcendent level, even though deceased, STILL ARE] the godparents of our youngest daughter Naomi.

Because of their intimate connection to our family, no object in the museum meant as much when we first walked in as this one. This - the cup which Phyllis Karp used during that astonishing time in her and Irvin’s, and their daughter Celina’s, days, those months of work, fear, hope, panic, darkness and deliverance that the world now acclaims in the story of Oscar Schindler.



I, for one, will never forget when I first heard the Karps’ story. It was a study group one morning during the early 70’s. Some in attendance, it seemed clear, had heard bits and pieces. It was a first for me. And not only about their European lives, but about that Nazi party member who saved them. When she finished speaking, one of those present

asked a question that went something like this - “Would you be willing to share how that has shaped your religious life? Your Jewish faith?” Phyllis’ response was dramatically penetrating. “It’s not,” she said, “that I lost faith in God. But I did lose faith in man.”

The bleakness of her answer punctured all of us that morning. Personally, it was one of several critical moments here that forced me to confront, more directly than ever before, the Holocaust and its living witnesses, those many survivors who then lived here. That story returns to consciousness every few years, as it will again this coming spring, in teaching my regular course at Macalester entitled AFTER THE HOLOCAUST.

The class is devoted to exploring the AFTERLIFE of that horrific event, as we seek to understand how the Shoah became inscribed, so etched, in American life, especially American Jewish life. In some ways, the course seeks to make sense of this graph, one of the most startling from the recent PEW study on American Jewish life.

The research that produced the 2013 PEW report is the most comprehensive, important measurement we have of where American Jews locate themselves today. Of how we live, believe, and in what ways we connect to faith and the Jewish people across the world and in Israel! And as this slide dramatically illustrates, for American Jews, the SHOAH stands at the very heart of Jewish self-understanding in the early 21st century.

What’s Essential to Being Jewish?

% saying _____ is an essential part of what being Jewish means to them	NET Jewish %	Jews by religion %	Jews of no religion %
Remembering the Holocaust	73	76	60
Leading an ethical and moral life	69	73	55
Working for justice/equality	56	60	46
Being intellectually curious	49	51	42
Caring about Israel	43	49	23
Having good sense of humor	42	43	40
Being part of a Jewish community	28	33	10
Observing Jewish law	19	23	7
Eating traditional Jewish foods	14	16	9

Source: Pew Research Center 2013 Survey of U.S. Jews, Feb. 20-June 13, 2013. Q.5a-1.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Some of my rabbinic colleagues – MANY, in fact – were dismayed by this graph and what it showed. Why, they puzzled, was so much weight assigned to REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST in the overall metrics of Jewish identity? Why it, more than ritual observance, or study, more than bonding with Israel or worldwide Jewry? Though there was a lot of handwriting among Jewish professionals about this graph, it wasn’t all that surprising to me.

What I’ve learned from these years of teaching that course, and reading all those specialists, says to me that the PEW survey makes a good deal of sense – in this way: Nothing – NOTHING -- has more to teach us about moral choices and justice, bigotry and fairness, human evil, on the one hand, and humane and heroic resilience and heroism, on the other, than the Holocaust. Nothing more profoundly, ashamedly shows us the evasion from accountability that characterized most everyone and most every nation during that era, and by contrast, no other single event better summons us to a shared moral responsibility and to international human rights—than the Shoah.

And this cup Phyllis Karp saved, her story and those of so many Holocaust survivors lovingly preserved for the coming generations in this space is one of the many, many reasons this IOWA JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY is to be treasured and supported. For who else, where else, how else will their story of perseverance, valor, and hope be better immortalized except here on The Caspe Terrace?

The Twin Cities Jewish community, 15 times larger than yours here, has **nothing comparable, no permanent venue that does what you have sought to shape here**. That the curators have so sensitively honored the Karps’ story is a source of rich consequence. And in doing so, it brings honor to all those others, beleaguered and scattered across the globe, who found their way, and **THEIR HOME** here, shaping all our lives in the process. Whether it was Fred Badower,

or the Mischkeits, David Fishel or Charles Anolik, Fred Lorber or Ingrid Mazie, and so many more! That the Historical Society has protected, told and celebrated these stories for generations to come should bring all of you, as the Hebrew has it—*sipuk nefesh*—unending fulfillment. And not only that these stories will be cherished here!



There’s a second, commensurate commemoration within the museum, about Iowa Jewry and its nearly two hundred year old story. It’s the story, told in display case after display case, of the community those immigrants found—the remarkable, caring, nurturing, able, proud Jews of Iowa, who made space at their tables, provided a job offer in their business or a seat in their congregations to insure those rescued Jews a path to a new life, ultimately empowering

them to print a permanent marker on our hearts.



That relationship is exquisitely evident in a fascinating coincidence we noted this summer. As we were reading the placard identifying Phyllis’ “Schindler cup,” our eyes happened to pivot just a tad to the left, and suddenly we found ourselves staring at the Korean Army helmet of David Belin.



Maybe that positioning was just a coincidence. **MAYBE**—though religious mystics insist that nothing really, ever, happens **TOTALLY** by chance. Of this much I am certain! The placement of the cup and the helmet in such close proximity reminded us of an extraordinary moment in the life of Des Moines Jewry, and what is so uncommon about this place called home.

In 1994, the Steven Spielberg film version of *Schindler’s List* was about to be released nation-wide. In those first months of availability, David Belin made arrangements for the entire Jewish community to be his guests at a private screening, so that you could come – as a community, as **FAMILY** – to watch that premiere and pay homage to the Karps. We recall being told shortly thereafter about David’s gesture, and with a little bit of research, and then the help of your historical society, we uncovered an article, from the *Register*, confirming those recollections.



When we first heard that story, our first thought was: “*Yes, that figures. Only in Iowa!*” Only here, could, and would the Jewish community think of itself as a family. Denominational labels and religious

affiliations – to be sure, they mattered. But what mattered more was the Jewish community as a COHESIVE WHOLE, the individual congregations and members committed to a unified collective. Only here -- I hope it is still the case – did a Jewish community come together, regardless of party label, and religious badge, to share one voice, to hear one’s another story.

That’s what we saw, in our years here, when this community regularly threw aside denominational divisions and personal preferences, as it regularly joined hands: for *Yom HoShoah*, for Israel Independence Day, even for *Simkhat Torah*, as well as when summoned to extraordinary causes, as in the days following the Munich Olympic massacre and the Yom Kippur War. And, no doubt, there have been many other occasions over the years which have demonstrated that same resolve. When we lived here, we just assumed this is the way every community comported itself. We should not have.

This sense of **COMMUNITY** was one of the great stories about Iowa Jewry we were reminded of last July. And that story is ultimately the result of, perhaps, **the most important truth about the Jews of Iowa** so evident in the museum, one which might be phrased this way: This beautiful land of rolling hills and breath-taking farm vistas, bounded between the Mississippi and the Missouri, has had one **absolutely amazing interdependent relationship** with the Jews who settled here. **In simplest terms, Iowa has been good for its Jews, and they have been good for Iowa.**

The businesses those Jews established, the enterprises that arose as a consequence of their hard work, inventiveness and moxie is astounding. Finance, manufacture, real estate, commerce, media, entertainment! On the land, in the worlds of law and medicine, education, engineering and technology; in profession after profession, with imagination, grit and courage, the Jews came here and they prospered.

And they did more. They helped Iowa prosper! Think of all those domains forever touched by the generosity of these Iowa Jewish families: in medical care, the arts, higher education; from Iowa City to Sioux City, from Drake University to Grinnell College; in the Midwest and across the nation; in behalf of communal and religious life, for the betterment of their fellow Jews and their fellow Iowans. Throughout this land, they opened their generosity and shared their philanthropic visions.

Best to think of it this way. On the one hand, this is a quite modestly sized Jewish community, smaller by significant degrees than the memberships of a single synagogue or temple in the Twin Cities, or any of our larger metropolitan areas. And yet, it thinks and acts as if it were as substantial as any Jewish community in the nation. You have built and funded every aspect of Jewish institutional and religious life existing in those larger cities. And with two signature qualities, too, ones especially highlighted by Michael Bell, former history professor at Grinnell.



In his thoughtful study of Iowa Jewry, completed in the early 90’s, he emphasizes two traits which have been trademarks: that the smaller, often isolated Jews of the state knew they could traverse those Iowa highways, at any time and for every need, in search of religious and Jewish cultural nourishment, and would **always** find a home in the larger towns, be it Des Moines,



Sioux City or the Quad Cities. And just as crucially, he notes, the formidable power and the enduring leadership in most every venue was to be found, routinely, in the hands of **WOMEN**. In many ways more than men, Professor Bell underlines, the Jewish **WOMEN** who came here built and sustained much of what makes Iowa Jewry so uniquely noteworthy. Women such as Julia B. Mayer and Ann Badower, Maddie Levitt and Jeanette Bear, may their memories be for a blessing. And women such as Shirley Berg and Elaine Steinger, *yibadel l’hayyim, may they bestowed length of days*, exemplars of generations of women, including many exceptional women present here in our midst this evening, who have lastingly shaped the agencies and institutions that so deeply fostered this nurturing environment.

At the start of this evening’s remarks, I called attention to that **Oscar**, named **Schindler**, who bears decisive responsibility for the Karps landing in Des Moines. By way of conclusion, there’s another Oscar worth highlighting, the first Jew appointed, and for a long time, **THE ONLY Jew ever tenured** in Harvard University’s history department. His name was **Oscar Handlin**. In the space of three years, he published two ground breaking books about those lives celebrated in this museum.

The first, titled *THE UPROOTED*, won the Pulitzer Prize, and was a smash best seller book – and for the record, Harvard professors don’t write many best sellers. Here are the opening words of that really famous book:

Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America. Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.

Three years later, in 1954, to mark the tercentenary of those first JEWISH immigrants to land on these shores, Oscar Handlin authored a still well regarded summation of American Jewish history, which he introduces this way:

Diversity, voluntarism, equality, freedom, and democracy—these were the products of three centuries of the Jewish experience in America. In their attainment, the Jews shattered the closed ghettos of the Old World and replaced them with voluntary communities of free citizens.



These galleries, with their archives, photos, memoirs, ledger books; with their letters, diaries, newspaper clippings, testimonials, attest to the stirring story of what one group of Jewish immigrants, who fortuitously made their way here to the heartland, found and created, discovered and built, learned and bequeathed.

The structure and content of this museum brings to life Oscar Handlin’s perceptive, ever pertinent observation about our nation’s singular, signature quality -- **America as home to the world’s refugees**, including our forebears, who by ones and twos, and then by the thousands and hundreds of thousands, sought out a new life on these shores, and thrived, beyond imaginings, in this nation, and markedly so upon this magnificent, fertile Iowa landscape.

In a deeply moving, even mystical manner, the museum not only encapsulates, in both structure and exhibit, that inspiring history; it rehearses Phyllis Karp’s own words when she set out for her home among us. At the conclusion of that *Des Moines Register* essay about her and Irvin, here is what she says, when asked why she insisted on taking that Schindler cup with her, as she prepared to leave a heartless Europe for the promises of new beginning in America:

This will remind me, every day, that there is a better tomorrow.



She remembers packing it when she left Germany. The woman the Karps lived with asked why she would want that pot, when there would be such nice cookware in the United States. And Phyllis told her, “This will remind me, every day, that there is a better tomorrow.”

The Jews who ventured here found that better tomorrow. A thousand better tomorrows! For themselves and their progeny! For their own and for others!

As one ex-pat in your midst, forever in love with what we found here, I applaud, resolutely, your determination to preserve these stories, to telling the generations to follow what Iowa meant and means, and all those promises here fulfilled. So now, then, won’t you join, in showing our collective appreciation to those who began this work 20 years ago, and who aspire to build on that legacy for the better tomorrows sure to follow.





Recurring Events:
Minyan: Tuesdays 7:15am

Services: Fridays— 6:00pm Shabbat Evening Services
Saturdays- 9:30am Shabbat Morning Services
11:30pm Shabbat Cafe
12:30pm Shabbat Minchah Meditation

Special Events for January and February 2017

January 2017

Saturday, January 7th	Havdalah, Potluck & Game Night
Friday, January 13th	Acoustic Shabbat
Saturday, January 14th	YAD Disco Party
Saturday, January 21st	Karaoke & Lip Sync Night
Saturday, January 28th	Tot Shabbat
Tuesday, January 31st	Women's League Mahjong Night

February 2017

Friday, February 10th	Mishpacha Shabbat
Saturday, February 11th	Valentine Date Night & Babysitting
Sunday, February 19th	YAD Family Activity
Saturday, February 25th	Tot Shabbat

Adult Education:

Miller Introduction to Judaism Program – Rabbi Edelman-Blank:
Contact the Tifereth office for more information 515-255-1137

Spirituality Study and Discussion Group - Patrick Courtney:
Saturdays after Meditation (1:30pm)

S.T.E.P. (Sunday Torah Education Program) - Michael Kuperman:
Sundays at 10:00am

Adult Hebrew for Beginners – Patrick Courtney
Sundays at 3:00pm



To our wonderful Des Moines friends.

We were so happy to see those of you who attended The I lovely tea that the federation held on oct. 9th We were and are overwhelmed at this community's exceptional generosity..

During the 46 years we have lived in Iowa, we have spent many hours together..

In August, we found a lovely jewish retirement complex in Chicago. We moved in October and are happy there.

We hope that those of you who happen to travel our direction will come see us if possible.

We have loved being with you all for more than two generations.

Thank you all for good wishes and kind thoughts.

Fondly.

Rabbi Marshall and Shirley.

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Saturday Night Dec 24th 7:00pm

Sunday Dec 25th 5:00pm

Monday Dec 26th 5:00pm

Tuesday Dec 27th 5:00pm

Wednesday Dec 28th 5:00pm

Thursday Dec 29th 5:00pm

Friday Dec 30th 2:30pm

Saturday Night Dec 31st 7:00pm



Hot Latkes or Doughnuts will be served each night
Lively Music will be playing too!

BEJ & JRC Chanukah Dinner

Monday - 3rd night of Chanukah - December 26th 2016

BEJ 954 Cummins Parkway Des Moines, Iowa 50311

6:00pm

A Menorah made from Cans will be lit

Please bring cans with you to help build the menorah, the cans will be donated to the Food Bank!

Scrumptious Chanukah meal served - Lively Chanukah music - Children's activities - Fun for the whole family!

Maccabee Sponsor \$360 - Dreidel Sponsor \$180 - Candle Sponsor \$100

Cost: Adult \$12 Children 12 & under \$8

(Please make check out to JRC of Iowa)

For more info and to RSVP please call Chanie or E-mail 515-277-1718/Jrcspark@msn.com



YOU ARE LOVED

by Rabbi Robin Damsky, Ames Jewish Congregation

On my November visit to Ames Jewish Congregation, I was so touched by the chalk paintings in the front of the building, that I chose to write a blog post on them. They bore a beautiful pre-Thanksgiving message that is just as important now. We are in the darkest days of the year in December, urgently awaiting Hanukkah to bring us light both physical and spiritual. In January, we commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr, and commit to continue his work of civil rights and equity for all. In these short and cold winter months, may we hold close to us the warm message of loving outreach gifted to us by our Unitarian neighbors. And may we find in our hearts the strength and compassion to give our own hesed - loving kindness - to others, all the more so when our first impulse is to do the opposite.

Posted by Rabbi Robin Damsky on November 21, 2016 in Caring for the Soul, Kindness

On Friday, November 18, I arrived to my part time congregation in Ames, Iowa, in the frigid cold to see chalk paintings on the walks leading up to the country-feeling congregational building. I thought to myself, How lovely. The religious schoolteachers must have brought the children outside to make chalk drawings. I remember that as a child, drawing peace signs was a common pastime.

The next day, sitting at a lunch and learn, the topic of the drawings came up. Someone told us that they were not the creation of the school's children, but rather the artwork of children from the local Unitarian church. In response to the election, they felt very strongly that they needed to inform all minorities that they were not only welcome, but belonged to our American community fabric. And so the children went to the local mosque and Jewish congregation and drew these colorful and loving drawings that adorned both the entry walkways to the building.

The first to catch one's eye was a peace sign with the words "hope" and "love" inside it, and a heart. Further toward the building were the words, "We all belong." On the second walkway was a circle surrounded by alternating stick figure people and hearts, enclosing the words, "One world of love." Finally, wrapped around the stairway in very large letters, was: "YOU ARE LOVED."

Even as I write this, I am moved to tears. It is not unusual for us to comfort those we love who are in pain, or respond to someone's need when they ask. It is much less common to offer an unsolicited outreach of love, a random act of kindness, because it speaks to the soul to do so.

Our country and our world are in a time of change. For many, fear seems to overpower kindness and love. Yet to transform the feeling of fear into the feeling of love takes a simple act of kindness. May we reach out to others this Thanksgiving season to increase the love in our world, finding ways to make people feel included, appreciated and valued. And may we allow the loving kindness of others to penetrate into our hearts and our souls, reminding us that we are all one human family.



****NEW** SUNDAY MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP**

In January, we will be starting a monthly discussion group. This group will be open to anyone in the Jewish community who would like to meet to discuss topics of Jewish interest. The topic for each meeting will be announced ahead of time; suggestions for topics are welcome. We envision discussions to be wide ranging. Meetings will be held one Sunday morning a month. The first meeting is scheduled for Sunday, **January 15 at 10:30 a.m.**

FRUIT AND WINE PARTY: Saturday, February 11, 8:00 p.m. (details to be announced)

SERVICE SCHEDULE

After Winter Break, regular Shabbat services will resume on Friday, January 13 (all Shabbat services begin at 8:00 p.m.). Shabbat services other than those on the weekends when the rabbi is in town (see below) are lay led.

Rabbi visit weekend schedule: January 13–15 and
February 10–12

Friday evening

8:00 p.m. – Shabbat services; oneg following
Saturday

10:00 a.m. – Shabbat morning services with Torah Study

12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. – Adult education (topic to be
announced)

Sunday

10:00 a.m. – Family service





WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 16	JANUARY 14
5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social	9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study
6:00 p.m. Music Shabbat	10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service
7:00 p.m. Sisterhood / Brotherhood Game Night	10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study
DECEMBER 17	JANUARY 20
9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study	5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. Camp Shabbat Service
10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study	7:00 p.m. Sisterhood / Brotherhood Game Night
DECEMBER 23	JANUARY 21
5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social	9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study
6:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service
DECEMBER 24	10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study
9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study	JANUARY 27
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service	5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social
10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study	6:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service
5:00 p.m. Temple Chinese Dinner	JANUARY 28
DECEMBER 30	9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study
5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social	10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service
6:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study
DECEMBER 31	FEBRUARY 3
9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study	5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. Family and Classic Shabbat
10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study	7:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner and Potluck
JANUARY 6	FEBRUARY 4
5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social	9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study
6:00 p.m. Family and Classic Shabbat	10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service
7:00 p.m. Shabbat Dinner and Potluck	10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study
JANUARY 7	FEBRUARY 10
9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study	5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social
10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service	6:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service
10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study	FEBRUARY 11
JANUARY 13	9:00 a.m. Weekly Text Study
5:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese Social	10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service
6:00 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service	10:35 a.m. Rabbi's Torah Study

Rabbi's Events

Rabbi's Round Table for Introduction to Judaism at 6 pm at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11

Rabbi Kaufman's Adult Education Classes at 7 pm at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Jan 5, 12, 19, 26

Feb 16, 23

Mar 2, 9

Rabbi's Tish at 10am at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Jan 7 - Jews and Civil Rights

Feb 11 - Jews and Christians 2017

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 7th -9th, 2017!

TBJ is having a Scholar in Residence that weekend, Ron Wolfson. He is an educator and beloved and inspirational speaker on spirituality and Jewish life. He will be here on Friday April 7th..... come for Shabbat and meet him. He will have two sessions on Saturday the 8th and will have a Sunday morning program on April 9th, and a lecture that afternoon. We'll keep you updated on the details of the weekend, with specific times and topics. In the meantime, any chores or trips you can do the weekend before or after...please do that! You won't want to miss this intelligent, engaging, warm, and funny man.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Lawrence L. Ladin	Berenice Reinhold
Belle Bestor	Armand Gonzalez
Joseph Starr	Harlan Dubansky
Lois Copple	Ruth Levine
Charles Silver	Ilya Ben Aaron Mendele
Larry Rothman	Rabbi Stanley Rosenbaum
Ronald Feldstein	



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