

THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

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Purim

begins with the Megillah reading the evening of February 27.



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The Federation in conjunction with Des Moines Metro Iowa presents:

"The Barber of Seville" at The Caspe Terrace - Jan 31



The Lions and the Pomegranates are hosting an evening at the opera featuring the most performed opera of all time, Rossini's comedic THE BARBER OF SEVILLE. At \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (5-18), it's a steal and all members of the Jewish community and their friends are invited to join in the festivities. Call Cathie at 515-277-6321 or email cathie@dmjfed.org to order tickets. Ask for a 10% discount when you sign up for "Dish-It-Up" e-newsletter. If available, tickets may be purchased at the door for regular price the night of the performance.

The performance will be 6:15-8:15 pm on Sunday, January 31, 2010 at The Caspe Terrace in the stunning Bucksbaum Auditorium (Bad weather? The Opera will be rescheduled.) Performing will be OPERA Iowa, the award-winning touring program of the Des Moines Metro Opera. "I was blown away by the beauty of the auditorium," says Michael Egel, Director of Artistic Administration for the Des Moines Metro Opera. "It's one of Des Moines' best kept secrets and we can't wait to perform there!"

Comedy ensues as the evening starts with the famous "Figaro" aria; declaring to all that will listen that he is the most resourceful man in Seville (he's right, of course, since barbering is only one of this character's many talents!) Right now, Figaro is helping a beautiful young lady in distress meet the handsome young lad of her dreams ... laughter abounds as misdirection, disguises, and payoffs become only a small part of the fun that comes with this operatic masterpiece!

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines will partner with Metro Opera to present the first public performance of this work at the Bucksbaum Auditorium at The Caspe Terrace operated by the Jewish Federation and 100% endowed by the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. The Caspe Terrace brings social, educational, Camp Shalom and other programs to our Jewish and general community through your campaign dollars.

Purim



Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from annihilation. The word "Purim" means "lots" and refers to the lottery that Haman, the villain of the story in the Biblical book of Esther, used to choose the date for the massacre.

The primary commandment related to Purim is to hear the reading of the book of Esther. The book of Esther is commonly known, in Hebrew, as the Megillah, which means scroll. It is customary to boo, hiss, stamp one's feet and rattle noisemakers (groggers) whenever the name of Haman is mentioned in the service. The purpose of this custom is to "blot out the name of Haman."

On this holiday, we are commanded to eat, drink and be merry. In addition, we are commanded to send out gifts of food or drink, and to make gifts to charity. The sending of gifts of food and drink is referred to as shalach manot, (lit. sending out portions). Among Ashkenazic Jews, a common treat at this time of year is hamantaschen (lit. Haman's pockets). These triangular fruit-filled cookies represent Haman's three-cornered hat.

It is customary to hold carnival-like celebrations on Purim, to perform plays and parodies (Purimspiels.)

From the Executive Director

A New Decade



Elaine Steinger

Can you believe that 2010 has already arrived? Remember when our biggest worry was what would happen to our computers when we hit 2000? The world

was obsessed with it.

In the 10 years since, our personal worries have changed direction many times – and yet here at the Jewish Federation, they've stayed much the same. How can we provide as much as possible to our Jewish community?

We persevere.

We tackle the All-in-One Campaign every year, we strengthen our school, we offer assistance to our seniors and programs and opportunities for our Jewish community to connect with one another through a common cause.

It's hard work.

But as the calendar marks the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the Jewish Federation will continue to do what it's been doing for 96 years. Offer hope, assistance and goodwill to those who need our help.

We invite you to join us. If you have not already done so, please make your gift to the All-in-One Campaign for 2010 and let the work of the Federation continue. Help fill the gap!

Shalom,
Elaine

**2010 ALL-IN-ONE
CAMPAIGN GOAL:
\$760,350**

RAISED TO DATE:

September: \$215,418

October: \$32,051

November: \$58,329

December 10: \$171,344

**REMAINING GOAL:
\$283,208**

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“my federation...”

A little over two and a half years ago my husband and I were asked to be part of the Leadership Forum for the Des Moines Federation. It took some thought on our part to decide. I was not certain we actually would be able to devote enough time to the Leadership group in order to fulfill the requirements that had been set forth. I knew very little about what the Federation did and my husband knew even less.

Over the last two and a half years I have had the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Des Moines Jewish community, programs and events that happen because of the Federation and met lots of wonderful people through the Federation. I am quite certain that had I not agreed to be part of the Leadership Forum I would never have given myself the opportunity to have these experiences. I grew up in Des Moines, volunteered at the Senior Life Center, participated in Operation Good Mensch, and several other Federation sponsored projects. However, I had no idea the huge number of projects that the Federation sponsors. My husband and I were able to go on a Federation sponsored trip to Israel this summer which truly made a huge impact on our lives. Visiting the uniquely-structured Western Galilee Hospital, which serves all the residents in our Partnership region alike, whether Arab, Jew, Christian or Muslim, was particularly meaningful to me. Having been part of the Leadership group and having the chance to experience Israel with my husband and other members of our Leadership group reinvigorated my sense of responsibility to our Jewish community.

– **Randi Schwartz-Carr**



Thank you for supporting the All-In-One Campaign

Looking Towards the Future



Judy Deutch
President

What has the Federation done lately?

- The Jewish Federation Community School is working with the newly formed Des Moines Jewish Youth Group on several upcoming programs.
- In conjunction with a teacher in Harlan, Iowa, the Federation is helping to collect rocks for a Holocaust Memorial, see article on page 15.
- The Board of the Tobis Fund met to allocate funds to their on-going efforts to support individuals in need in our community.

I'm often asked how the Federation has been affected by the economy. Due to the fact that last year's campaign was down by 11% from the previous year and income from the Foundation was down 25%, Planning & Budgeting was forced to make some difficult decisions. We needed to raise tuition for the school. We have less money for tzedakah. We were unable to give any raises to staff. We cut staff benefits. We reduced one full-time position to half-time, and the list goes on and on.

We're hoping that a more successful campaign this year will eliminate the need to make further reductions.

I'd like to thank the many individuals who have helped and are helping with our All-in-One Campaign. Stuart Oxer, campaign chair, and Barb Hirsch-Giller, president-elect, have done an amazing job coordinating this large undertaking. Of course the biggest thank you goes to you, our givers. Your generosity makes it possible for the Federation to do its important work of giving back to the community.

Looking towards the future, some of the Leadership Forum members are involved in an exciting new proposal. They are interested in building a new school wing at The Caspe Terrace. Both the Federation's Board of Directors and the Foundation's Board of Directors are supporting their efforts. This Exploratory Committee is in the process of having architectural and engineering plans developed. They will be communicating with the congregations and potential donors.

Shalom
- Judy

GRANT DOLLARS RECEIVED



The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is deeply appreciative of the \$2,000 grant received from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. These grant dollars were used to create a new development plan for the Federation.

"The Community Foundation's grant is a special one," says Elaine Steinger, Executive Director of the Federation. "Few grants are available to assist organizations in making strategic changes in their processes. We are deeply grateful."

MACE CONCLUDES CONSULTANCY

Through the generosity of the Jewish Federation Endowment and the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, the Federation has had the opportunity to work with Jerilee Mace as a campaign consultant for the past year. She will have wrapped up her work for us by mid-December. We thank her for all of her many contributions towards our new initiatives and we wish her well with many other endeavors in the greater Des Moines community.

The Jewish Federation joins in commemorating



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

honoring the life and legacy
of a true American hero
Monday, January 18, 2010.



THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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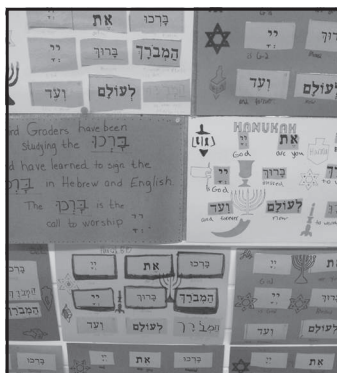
We are always happy to consider articles and information for publication. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space considerations and clarity.

Vol. 26, No. 3, Jan/Feb 2010



JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Prayer Wall - Mrs. Johnson's 3rd Grade class learned the Barchu and that it is the call to worship at the beginning of the service. After the Barchu is said, everyone is ready to pray. In order to learn and understand the prayer, students were given cut up words in Hebrew and English and had to paste them in the correct order, as pictured. Students then reviewed the meaning of this prayer, that G-d deserves our praise and why He deserves our praise and the many things that G-d has given us and that it is a wonderful world in which we live. The Prayer Wall is located outside the 3rd Grade classroom.



Judaeo Home-Ec with Chef David - Students in Mr. Copeland's kindergarten class learned about the difference between Shabbat (regular challah) and Rosh Hashanah (round challah) and the techniques to making challah, like mixing water and egg whites to make your challah have a nice golden shine and to apply many coats. Students practiced braiding or forms of braiding their individual challahs using Rhoads dough and then took them home to share with their families. Yummy Yummy!



JFCS Annual Book Fair - In November JFCS had their annual book fair. This year we raffled off the first American Jewish Girl - Rebecca doll; a set of her books; and a miniature Rebecca doll. Pictured right are our winners. We had a great turnout for the book fair as well as selling many raffle tickets. Our grand prize winner was Sarah in 2nd grade. Her parents shared with me Sarah's reaction once she returned home Sunday afternoon, "This was the best day of my life!" Thank you to all who purchased books, with any additional money going to upgrade our own library, and to all who purchased raffle tickets.

Mezuzot Art Project - In conjunction with their studies of the Shema and the V'ahaftah, students in Mrs. Hjelmaas' 4th grade Hebrew School Class painted these



beautiful ceramic mezuzot and presented them as gifts to their families at Chanukah. (Special thanks to Cynthia and Jennifer Shulman and Cynthia's Kil'n Time Studio).

AMES JEWISH CONGREGATION RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ALIVE AND ACTIVE

The Ames Jewish Congregation religious school has been a lively place filled with learning, music and special events. Currently the school has three classes, spanning pre-kindergarten to confirmation, along with a new monthly program for toddlers called Torah Tots.

Rabbi Wirtschafter meets with the students each month on his visits to Ames and our Cantor John Pleasants leads the children in singing Hebrew songs during school-wide assemblies. The school had a sweet start this fall as the beginning of classes coincided with Rosh Hashanah. The children observed the Jewish New Year in the traditional ways, making Shana Tova cards for the parents, eating apples dipped in honey and listening to the startling sound of the shofar.

In October, the families joined their children for a Sukkot picnic in the AJC sukkah. Later that month, Rabbi Wirtschafter consecrated our youngest six students in a delightful ceremony under a tallit, culminating with a rousing celebration of Simchat Torah and a luncheon. AJC religious school ended the 2009 school year with our annual Chanukah party and a Sunday devoted to Chanukah crafts. The children, from the two year-olds to teens, made clay menorahs and beeswax candles, with the oldest students helping the youngest ones.

Plans are underway for the confirmation class to participate in Project Elijah and to take a confirmation trip to Washington D.C. and New York City during spring break to tour Jewish sites, such as the U.S. Holocaust Museum. The five students—four boys and one girl—and their two chaperones are on board for a great adventure, including a four-night stay at a youth hostel on Manhattan's Upper West Side and visits to Big Apple synagogues.

Other family-oriented school events are scheduled for Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Pesach and Lag B'Omer. Thanks to the teachers, religious school committee and financial support from the congregation and the Federation for enabling us to provide a Jewish education to children in the Ames area. Clifford Bergman, President.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER DES MOINES

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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.

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Who is a Jew? by David Friedgood



Judaism is not a race, absolutely defined by birthright. Judaism describes a community of believers, bound together by our belief in one supreme and holy God for all mankind. We are also united by a common culture, the Hebrew language, and other less significant interests – such as food. Many of us are Jewish because our parents considered themselves Jews. No matter what their level of observance, according to traditional Halachic law, each of us is recognized as a Jew if our mother carried that designation.

Some of us have chosen to be Jews – for a myriad of reasons. As converts we have equal rights, delineated by Jewish law, with those born Jewish. Unfortunately, even in a religious community, ignorance and bigotry exists and converts are not always welcomed as they should be. This prejudice goes back to Talmudic times (4th century) where some Rabbis questioned the worth of proselytes (converts). “Our Rabbis taught: Proselytes and those who molest children delay the advent of the Messiah.” (Niddah 13b) Other opinions in the Talmud support Jews by choice. Rabbi Eleazer believed that the people of Israel were exiled for the specific purpose of winning over converts (Pesachim 87b). The great Maimonides writing in the 12th century addressed this question forcefully. He answered a letter sent by Obadiah, a confused and humiliated convert; a former Catholic priest who was being excluded from some of the ritual life in his Jewish congregation. Maimonides answers with a short powerful statement expounding on the lofty, spiritual conception of Judaism in which biological factors are insignificant. Maimonides quotes the Bible: “There shall be one law for you and for the resident stranger; it shall be a law for all time throughout the ages. You and the stranger shall be alike before the LORD.” (Numbers 15:15) He tells Obadiah to “Go tell your teacher that he owes you an apology. And to forgive him for what he said to you. He must have been intoxicated, and he forgot that in thirty-six places the Torah reminds us to respect the convert, and that in thirty-six places it admonishes us to love the convert.” Both convert and native-born Jew are children of Abraham. We are family – a large mishpacha – all working together for the greater good.

The process of conversion to Judaism has evolved over time. In the Bible, all those belonging to the clan of Abraham and his offspring were accepted as part of the religious community as long as they believed in the true God and followed His direction. The Biblical Hebrew word ger, meaning stranger, has come to be associated with proselyte. To join the community a ger had to take on religious obligations and duties. Men had to be circumcised. The ger was then accepted into the tribe of Abraham whom the Bible refers to as the “father of a multitude of nations”. He and his followers were told by God: “I am El Shaddai (God Almighty). Walk in My ways and be blameless. I will establish My covenant between Me and you, and I will make you exceedingly numerous. (Genesis 17:1-4) Later in the Rabbinical period the administrators took over and the process of conversion

became more formalized. As detailed in the Schulchan Aruch (code of Jewish law) a period of study is prescribed; men require circumcision, and ritual cleansing or immersion in water (the mikvah) is commanded. The convert chants several prayers and the whole process is overseen by a religious ‘court’ of three men. Conservative Judaism accepts women as judges and has adopted an accelerated conversion process in some cases. Some Reform Rabbis have streamlined the process further; a few consider immersion optional.

In Biblical times, boys and girls’ religious status followed their father. Children born to women who were not native to the clan were considered to be Israelites if their father was the same. By the early Rabbinic period the concept of matrilineal descent became codified into Jewish law. Over the last 1000 years or so a child was Jewish at birth only if his mother was a Jew. Children born to Jewish fathers but gentile mothers had to be converted if they were to be recognized as part of the community. In the 20th century, Reform Judaism re-instituted the notion of patrilineal descent. An individual with either a Jewish mother or father could claim to be Jewish by birthright. Understandably these different traditions have led to confusion and ill feelings when the various sects interact. It has become common for well meaning, God fearing Jews from one tradition to be denied ritual services in another Jewish sect. Rabbis have insisted on re-conversion by a more traditional cleric before permitting Bar mitzvah ceremonies or weddings. Individuals have been denied burial rights in a Jewish cemetery. Immigrants to Israel who proudly look back on generations of their ancestors keeping the flame of Judaism alive under desperate circumstance are required to undergo conversion to secure the right to marry. This is not the way for a religious community to behave.

As Am Yisrael (the people of Israel) we are a minority, in a sense strangers, in this world. Our mission to be a ‘light to the nations’; to bring a message of unity for all people under the Kingship of the one God - the master of us all - requires that we all work together with a sense of purpose. We need to put the petty bickering aside and recognize that we are all the children of Abraham, responsible one for the other. Look to your roots Israel. Who is a Jew? Those whose lives are illuminated by the divine spark of the Almighty. Those who believe in God, willingly accept the yoke of His covenant, follow in His ways, and work toward the perfection of our broken world. With one united voice we cry out, bringing light to the darkness: Am Yisrael Chai – the people Israel lives.

“But Ruth replied, “Do not urge me to leave you...

For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge,

I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and

your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there

I will be buried...

So Boaz married Ruth;.. she bore a son. They named him Obed;

He was the father of Jesse, father of David.” (Ruth 4:13-17)

Rabbinical Perspective

Beyond Survival Rabbi Edelman-Blank



When people discuss the future of Judaism in Des Moines, they often use the words “survival” and “viability.” Some wonder how long Judaism can survive in Des Moines. Others wonder how long a synagogue will be viable. I understand why members of the Des Moines community employ these terms. They have observed communities in Iowa diminish to the point that they appear to have simply drifted away. They have noticed the challenges that our entire community faces.

I avoid using these terms when talking about Des Moines. I fear that this type of language will send us in the wrong direction. Why? Words such as “survival” and “viability” are surrounded by a sense of doom and panic. These terms suggest that Judaism is on the brink of collapse here in Des Moines.

Moreover, these words only lead us to evaluate our community from a primarily quantitative perspective. Membership rolls are meticulously watched with success defined as an increase in numbers and failure defined by a decrease. Current financial resources are viewed only in terms of what they were in the past, leading to despair if our current finances are not equal or better. It is thought by many that there are demographic changes in our community that indicate a coming collapse. Actually, the numbers appear to be remaining steady. I have heard voices in our community that refer to the need to have “a critical mass” of people without ever defining what this number actually is.

I do realize that the Des Moines community has faced significant difficulties in recent years. Regardless, we cannot let these difficulties blind us from our greatest strength: the very individuals that make up this community. The number of kind and dedicated individuals I have met in synagogue, at Federation meetings, and at the deli is staggering. My wife and I have truly been bowled over by the warm reception we have received here. I have been amazed at how committed many people are to Judaism, Israel, and their own Jewish community. The people of Des Moines are a continual source of hope, optimism, and enthusiasm for me.

Instead of focusing on numbers we should evaluate the strength of our community qualitatively, not quantitatively. Instead of asking about the numbers of people attending an event or a service, we should focus on the quality of what is provided. How deeply are we touching the lives of our community members? Are excellent programs being offered? Are the diverse needs of different community members being met? Is Des Moines still an excellent Jewish community for raising a family? Using qualitative measures like these push us to constantly evaluate the value of what we offer and how we can improve it.

They move us towards innovation and away from simply circling our wagons.

Perhaps it is also useful to remind ourselves why we want Judaism to survive in Des Moines at all. Once we get past feelings of nostalgia and guilt, why is Judaism in Des Moines worth fighting for? Because Judaism provides us a path to meeting our spiritual needs and finding meaning in our lives. Judaism can help us answer our most basic questions. What does it mean to be a good person? Why do bad things happen? Do we have a purpose? Throughout history, Jewish people have endeavored to answer these same questions and connect with God. The tradition we have inherited is full of insights on how we can approach these questions and live more meaningful lives.

Essentially, I believe that the future of Judaism in Des Moines has not yet been decided. Our future as a Jewish community can still be what we make it. If we strive to focus on the spiritual needs of our community and evaluate our efforts using a qualitative, not just quantitative approach, I believe we will realize our goals are still well within reach. Now is not the time to focus on helping our community “survive.” Now is the time to explore how our community can thrive.

[adult education]

Conversational Hebrew?

A new 4-week session begins in January!

Instructor: Mark Finkelstein Interested? Contact jrcr@dmjfed.org
Cost: \$20 donation to Jewish Federation.
Starting in January we will be using *Hebrew Through Pictures*.
Former students welcome at no charge.
For other Hebrew classes, check with your synagogue or Temple!
This class is offered by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

senior news

Upcoming Luncheons:

Thursday, January 7th
12:00 Noon at Beth El Jacob Synagogue.
We will have wonderful musical entertainment which will be provided by the Zarnow Fund in honor of Abraham, Regina, Paul, Sidney, Silvia and Ralph Zarnow. Also our guest speaker Sherry Knox, from Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services, will be presenting on the topic of "Brain Exercise". We all know how to exercise our body but what can we do to exercise our brain? Come join us and find out how to keep a healthy brain!

Thursday, February 4th
12:00 Noon at Beth El Jacob Synagogue.
Once again we are looking forward to having storyteller, Neil Salowitz, entertain us with his delightful talent. It will be a fun and enjoyable time. Also we will have wonderful musical entertainment provided by the Zarnow Fund.

The photos are from our November 13 luncheon, courtesy of Karen Engman.



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Peter Pintus Seeking justice, promoting peace.



Assistant to the Rabbi at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Chaplain Emeritus for the Iowa Health System, and recipient of the Temple's Kavod Award and the Governor's Award naming him an Outstanding Citizen. By the way, Peter also finds time to help transport seniors to and from medical appointments for the Federation's Jewish Family Services program. (Thank you Peter, for helping out the seniors – ed.)

Jewish Press: Peter, many know you as the assistant to the rabbi at the Temple. But few people are likely aware that you are a volunteer mediator in the courts. What's mediation all about, in this context?

Peter Pintus: The purpose of the mediation service, conducted through the Bar Association, is to relieve the judges of cases they need not spend time on. After all, their dockets are full, as it is. The mediators, and there are about ten of us, meet with the defendants and plaintiffs prior to their possibly seeing a judge. We listen to their stories and see if a "middle way" can be agreed upon by both sides. One incentive in going this route is that when a case is resolved through mediation, any decision that is reached will not appear on a defendant's credit record.

JP: You were a hospital Chaplain. How did you come to be a mediator?

PP: I saw a United Way ad calling for volunteers, about two years ago when I retired as a Chaplain for the Iowa Health System, which includes Iowa Methodist, Lutheran, and Blank Hospitals. I had worked very closely with a great diversity of people for twenty-two years on spiritual issues. I had to relate to the clients, talk to them, gain their confidence to help them. And so I felt I could establish a rapport with people seeking mediation. It would be a challenge, I felt.

So I contacted the Bar Association, was interviewed and was accepted. Once accepted, I became a student of Harlan Lekowsky, a highly respected member of our community, who is the senior member on the staff. I listened in to several of his mediations and then was told: fly on your own!

JP: How many cases do you see in any one day?

PP: I can work with between one and ten cases on a four hour workday. Most of the time, the cases can be concluded in one sitting, unless there are extenuating circumstances, say for instance, one of the attorneys doesn't show up. Then the case can be rescheduled.

JP: Do these cases require one to bring an attorney?

PP: Not usually. But sometimes one side might only send a lawyer. Credit card companies will send an attorney to

collect a debt.

JP: You've mentioned cases in which a credit card company will seek restitution. What other types of cases do you see?

PP: Most of the cases fall into one of two categories: those, in general, involving money owed and those in which a tenant is, specifically, facing eviction. In both instances, sometimes I can negotiate a payment schedule. If, in an eviction case, a payment schedule cannot be agreed upon – and often they can't for one reason or another, then Iowa law requires me to inform the defendant that he or she will have three days to vacate their premises. Three days is not much to find a new home, to arrange for the move and to vacate. It is unfortunate but after three days the sheriff will come and put one's belongings on the curb. So I invariably see if the landlord can give the defendant some additional time.

JP: How do the cases work out?

PP: Well, in some cases, one of the parties may be firm in their demands and there'll be nothing I can do to effect compromise. In other cases, there may be a legal dispute, which will have to go to court. And in general, either side can call off the mediation at any time and request to go before the judge. About 20% go to court. I solve about 8 out of 10 cases.

JP: Not a bad batting average, if you can resolve 80% of the cases. As to something that may be a problem, what happens when one of the parties does not speak English proficiently?

PP: The court assigns an interpreter. Sometimes a family might bring their children along who speak English and the children help translate. But I've found out that in some of those cases, the translation may not be very accurate.

JP: Peter, have you encountered cases that have particularly touched you?

PP: Yes, just the other week, there was an eviction case in which the landlord said, to the defendant: "I cannot let you stay in the apartment any longer. You have a problem and that is alcoholism." And the man knew that. "And you spend your money on liquor and I don't get the money. So I have to have you out in three days." And, hearing that, the defendant's eyes were so sad, and he begged to stay a few more days. "But," said the landlord, "you have to face your problem. I've worked with you for months. The time has come for you to leave." And here I was, preparing the papers for the man to sign, knowing that I'm putting a person out on the street. Sure he brought it on himself. I realize that. But the sadness on his face was really overwhelming.

JP: Have you been appointed as mediator for a particular period of time?

PP: No, there's no fixed time limit on the appointment. If, however, you really goof up and make the court clerks mad, that's another thing. If the clerks don't approve of a case as I've handled it, the clerks refer the matter to the head of the office, under the Bar Association, to straighten out. If that happens too often, I suppose it would affect one's tenure.

JP: How has the job been?

PP: I have been doing this for two years for four hours a week. *continued on page 15*

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Shirley Berg



Rabbi Marshall Berg



Shirley Berck



Esther Bergh



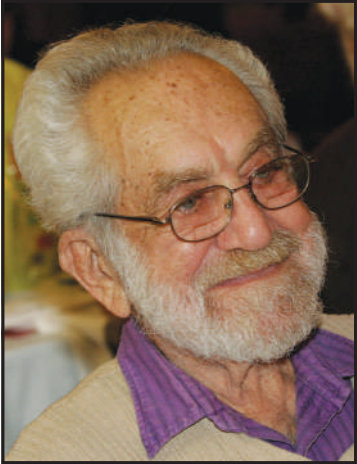
Harlan Lekowsky



Harold Gotsdiner



Jan Houk



Ben Small



Barbara Leventhal-Beckerman



Third Annual Senior Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Eva Pintus



Peter Pintus



Betty Goodside



Linda Fishman



Lois Brown



Dorothy Clark



Charlotte Raush



Warner Bergh



Jake Nagorner

The 3rd Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet to honor and thank our 27 volunteers for sharing their precious gifts of love and giving of themselves was held in October. They put their own wants and needs aside to brighten the day of someone else. They do make a difference in someone's life by making phone calls, assisting at lunches, providing transportation to doctor appointments, grocery stores, serve on boards and much more. They are the heart of the program, they are the glue that keeps the volunteer program together.

As I look at our country today and how we are struggling in so many ways, I realize the importance of just being there for each other and working together. Then I look at our volunteers with pride and feeling blessed and say YES, this is what life should be about. The volunteers are stepping forward and are reaching out to one another. Our volunteers are the CREAM OF THE CROP. They are planting the seeds of good deeds. These seeds have the potential to grow and spread and branch out into the lives of many others. Not only do they add meaning to their own lives but they then put back meaning into the lives of others. Remember that ideal gift is -----YOURSELF, we cannot put a price tag on it. You give hope that someone does care. Thanks to all of you for just being you.

We thank Maccabee's Deli (Chanie Jacobson) for the lovely meal; wonderful music was provided by musicians Frank Cebuhar, Mel Hrubetz and Dan Hartzler in honor of Abraham, Regina, Paul, Sidney, Silvia and Ralph Zarnow; and a special thanks to Barbara Leventhal Beckerman for donating the beautiful centerpieces.

- Pat Nawrocki



Bernard Levine



Ruth Levine



Shirley Wittenstein



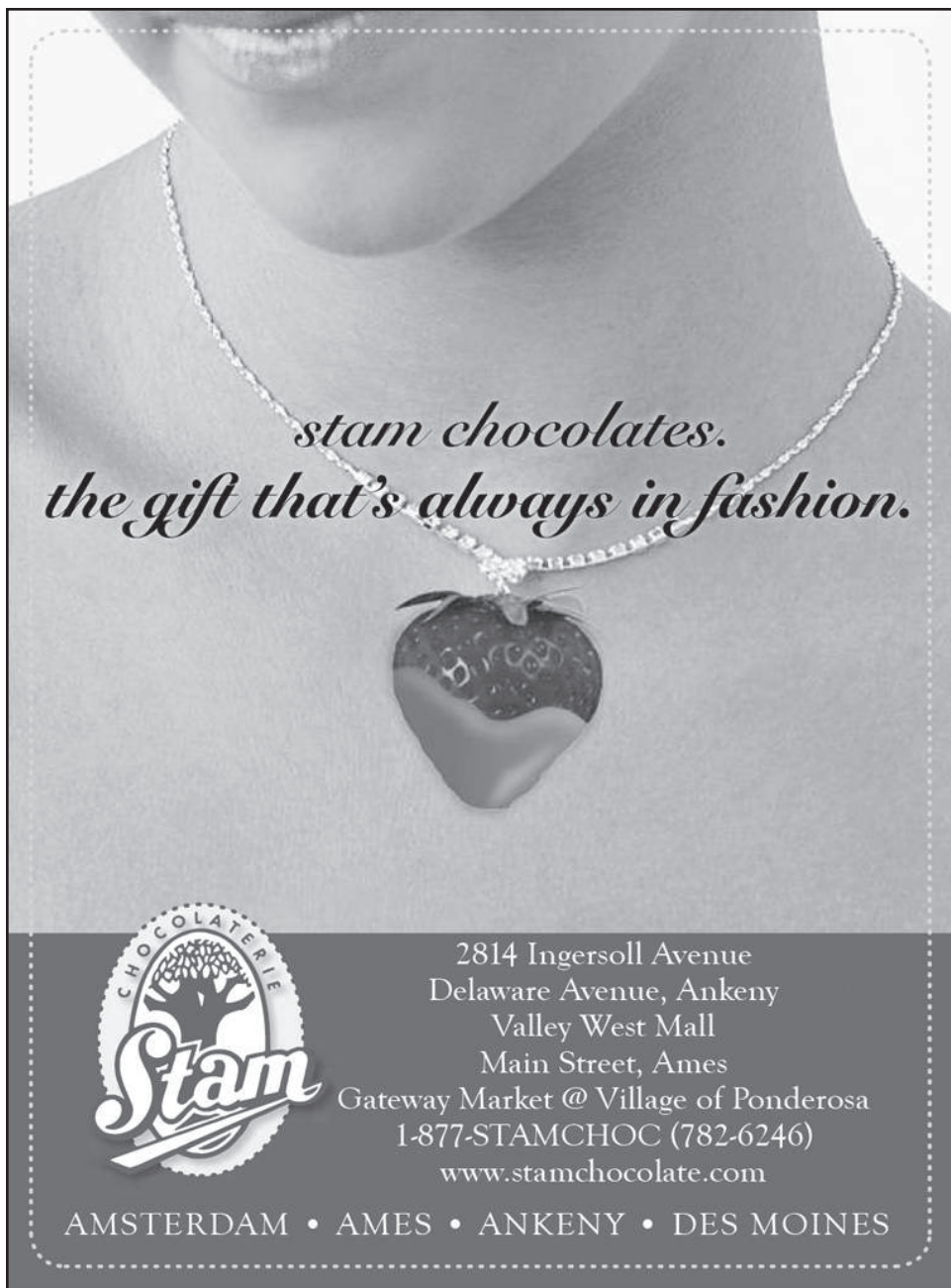
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Surviving The Non-Jewish Holiday Season **By David Moskowitz**



Jewish Press Assistant Editor's note to Jewish Press Editor: I have an idea. Why don't we just tell Moskowitz that we are printing his inane articles, but then not actually print them? There is no way he will ever find out (it's not like the number of reader letters he gets will be going down) and think about how much happier our readership will be if we spare them from his drivel. Together, we can make life better for readers of the Jewish Press!

Happy Holidays everyone!

By "Holidays," I am not talking about the days of awe that surround the "real" holiday season of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I am talking about the "other" non-Jewish holiday season that centers around Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day (and its devil spawn, New Year's Eve).

THANKSGIVING

Of the three primary non-Jewish holidays this time of year, my favorite is obviously Thanksgiving. This holiday is the secular holiday that bears the most similarities to our own Jewish holidays. Thanksgiving is all about staying home and eating and cooking and cleaning up afterwards and getting irritated by your relatives. In essence, all you have to do to convert Thanksgiving to Passover is substitute bread for matzah and Detroit Lions football for generating new grievances about your in-laws. Of course, if Thanksgiving really were a Jewish holiday, we would somehow ruin it. We would celebrate the wonders of the seasonal harvest by doing something counterintuitive like purposely not eating turkey. Or we would commemorate the Jews' arrival in the New World by observing a "no football" day to recreate our years in the non-football Diaspora. Buzz kill stuff like that. (Let's face it: Jews do not excel at creating frivolous, fun-filled holidays without ominous overtones. Even Purim, our own version of a craven, costume-bedecked Mardi Gras, still incorporates the obligatory reenactment of a murderer's genocidal plans for our people. Party on!)

Most Thanksgivings are tryptophan-driven blurs to me, which is another reason Thanksgiving is so wonderful. Nothing goes better with a houseful of relatives than a dose of sleepy forgetfulness built into every numbing slice of turkey. But let's face it; any holiday highlighted by the presence of all of your Jewish relatives, particularly ones armed with a lifetime of grievances and a bellyful of turkey, and who spend time with each other only sporadically, is a recipe for disaster. The catalyst that converts a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday into a disaster, the canary in the coalmine, is usually something innocuous and seemingly meaningless.

Most lifelong feuds between Jewish relatives are sparked by trivial and poorly remembered Thanksgiving incidents. Here is my list of Important Non-Jewish Holiday Mistakes To Avoid. If you avoid these landmines, you have a chance of spending next year's holidays together (assuming it's not too soon for you to even think about next year's holidays). Do everything in your power to prevent the mistakes below from happening. Become an expert in conflict avoidance.

1. Never discuss the obvious child-raising weaknesses of your relatives. This especially includes criticism of the quasi-musical or other embellished artistic abilities of anyone's children. And above all, never mention a relative's halfbaked medical or political beliefs (particularly if they believe in drug company conspiracies or voted for Ralph Nader). Safe alternative: Discuss the football game you are watching (but don't take sides).
2. Never discuss who currently owns any of your grandmother's possessions. Right or wrong, this kind of discussion is a path that will lead to disaster. Safe alternative: Discuss the halftime show of the football game you are watching (but, again, don't take sides).
3. Never fail to help clean up the kitchen. Safe alternative: Lend a helping hand, even if you have not previously experienced clean-up crew reciprocity. Safer alternative: Fall asleep watching the football game you are pretending to be interested in. Jews who are sleeping get complete immunity during family disputes.
4. Leave early. You're tired anyway. Get out of there before things go wrong. There is nothing wrong with leaving before the meal is served, if that helps you avoid a discussion of your brother's recent investment advice. Safe alternative: If you leave early, you can watch the football game from the safety of your own recliner.
5. No drinking. We can't handle alcohol and don't really enjoy it anyway. Safe alternative: Tryptophan. Embrace the warm and numbing embrace of turkey-flavored nirvana.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

My second favorite of the non-Jewish Holidays is New Year's Day. This holiday seems superfluous, and, honestly, somewhat provocative, since everyone already knows that New Year's Day occurs on the first day of Tishrei, not "January" whatever that means. (Editor's note: January takes its name from Janus, the "God of the Doorway.") (Author's responsive note: Who has a God of the Doorway? Was that next in line after the driveway and the pantry? I am sticking with Tishrei as the true New Year's Day, since Tishrei means The Beginning. Now that's a month-name that I can get comfortable with.)

Why would anyone want to celebrate a fake New Year's Day three months after the real New Year's Day? My only guess is that non-Jews prefer to blow the shofar while watching the annual Rose Bowl game, as opposed to blowing it during early season college football contests which, let's admit it, have measurably less impact on the BCS standings.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Jews have no idea what "New Year's Eve" is supposed to be. It sounds like a deranged and dangerous party you have in the middle of the night on the day before non-New Year's Day; I guess the idea is that people are simply so excited about welcoming non-New Year's Day and terminating another year that they want to welcome the day personally at the stroke of midnight. Jews simply don't participate in this activity, beyond halfheartedly peeking at TV's Ryan Seacrest (a poor man's Dick Clark) as he counts down the non-New Year's ball in frigid Times Square.

continued on page 15

In the Kitchen
with Jami Schnoebelen by Karen Engman



Jami Schnoebelen is the daughter of Alan and Vicki Givant. She grew up with her brother Todd in the greater Des Moines area, attending Crossroads Park Elementary, Stilwell Jr High and Valley High School. She went on to attend Iowa State and Stephens College in Missouri. She and her husband Peter have been married for fifteen years. Peter is an engineer with Goodrich Engine Components. They have three kids; Zachary is a freshman at Valley Southwoods, Megan is in the sixth grade at Jordan Creek Elementary and Jacob is in third grade there too. Having just completed the Federation's Leadership Forum, Jami is active in the Jewish community. She is a member of the Federation's board of directors. In high school, she worked at Camp Shalom

and while in college, she was the USY advisor at Tifereth Israel Synagogue and also taught Sunday School. Jami is the general manager for Wrench-N-Go and is the past president of the Iowa Automotive Recyclers Association. In her spare time she likes to work puzzles with her youngest son Jacob, read or scrapbook. She learned how to play mah jong in her mother's "game" and now has a regular group of her own. She's very involved in her kids' activities, volunteering at their schools on her days off and serving on the PFC (Parent Faculty Council) at Valley Southwoods. Even though I know she took cooking lessons as a child from master baker Thelma Kardon, Jami wanted to share her mother's recipe for mandel bread. Her mom, Vicki, wanted us to know this is actually Meriam Rosenthal's recipe. They all love it because the mandel

bread turns out very crisp and tastes great dipped in coffee or tea! The Jewish Press thanks Jami and Vicki for sharing this mandel bread recipe with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or a question I can research, call Karen (515-274-3300) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com).

Meriam Rosenthal's Mandel Bread

A Recipe from Jami Schnoebelen Parve

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup pecans, chopped
- cinnamon/sugar mix

Mix well and set aside: eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla. Mix together: flour, baking powder and salt. Add pecans to above dry ingredients. Add the wet and dry ingredients together. The dough will be sticky so you may need to flour or oil your hands to form into long rolls (logs) on a cookie sheet or jelly roll pan. This recipe forms 3 long rolls on a standard jelly roll pan or 5 shorter rolls on 2 smaller cookie sheets. (Note: Vicki said that Meriam used foil to separate her rolls on the sheets, since they spread as they bake) Bake @ 300 for 40-45 minutes until lightly browned. Cut rolls on the diagonal then roll slices in the cinnamon and sugar mixture. Lay slices on cookie sheet and bake 10-15 minutes until lightly brown and crisp. Store in covered containers.

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IT SURE LOOKS LIKE ISRAELI CONCESSIONS ARE NEVER 'ENOUGH'

Nov. 26, 2009 Abridged

With the patience of a taxi driver at a red light about to turn green, the Palestinian leadership responded to Wednesday's announcement of an Israeli moratorium on new settlement building with: "It's not enough!"

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's unprecedented moratorium is both substantive and symbolic - the appropriate response to a Palestinian settlement freeze demand that is both emblematic and a red-herring.

THE DISPUTE between Palestinians and Israelis is not about settlements. It hinges on whether the Arabs are willing to recognize the legitimacy of Israel as the state of the Jewish people within any boundaries. Some find it convenient to imagine that the clash between the Zionist and Arab causes has transitioned to a non-zero sum game. That is hardly the dominant view in Israel.

In 1920, the international community gave Britain the responsibility of establishing a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. But a year later London turned over eastern Palestine to Emir Abdullah and Transjordan was born. The Arab response? "It's not enough."

In 1937, the Peel Commission recommended dividing Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The Zionists consented. The Arabs... said no.

In 1947, the UN General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Again, the Jews agreed. The Arab response was: "It's not enough" and they tried to throttle the newborn Jewish state. Israel survived while the Arabs took the West Bank and Gaza. Did they then form a Palestinian state? Of course not, because these territories alone were "not enough."

In 1967, the Arabs failed to push an Israel living within the 1949 Armistice Lines into the sea and the West Bank came into Israeli possession. Magnanimous in victory, Israel offered peace. The Arab response? "No peace, no recognition, no negotiations."

In 1977, Egypt's Anwar Sadat courageously embarked on the path of peace. Israel withdrew from all territory claimed by Egypt, and Menachem Begin,

moreover, offered the Palestinians something they had never enjoyed - autonomy. Israeli forces would have been re-deployed as a prelude to final status negotiations. The Arab response? "It's not enough."

"The dispute between Palestinians and Israelis is not about settlements. It hinges on whether the Arabs are willing to recognize the legitimacy of Israel as the state of the Jewish people within any boundaries"

As a result of the 1993 Oslo Accords, the PLO leadership was invited to return from Tunis and set up a Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza. But a double-dealing Yasser Arafat never genuinely embraced this historic opportunity for reconciliation. Hamas intensified its terror campaign which claimed dozens of Israeli lives (well before the Baruch Goldstein Hebron massacre in February 1994). Ehud Barak twice - at Camp David (July 2000) and at Taba (January 2001) - offered Arafat a Palestinian state accompanied by extraordinary territorial and political concessions. The Arab response? "It's not enough."

When Israel unilaterally pulled its settlers and soldiers out of the Gaza Strip in 2005, the Arabs again said: "It's not enough."

In 2008, Ehud Olmert offered Mahmoud Abbas 93 percent of the West Bank, plus additional territory from Israel proper. Abbas did not even deign to say "It's not enough" - he just walked away.

Then in June of this year Netanyahu, following in the footsteps of his predecessors, unequivocally accepted a demilitarized Palestinian state. The Arab response? "It's not enough."

Generation after generation, decade after decade, Israeli concession after concession, the Palestinians have never missed an opportunity to say, "It's not enough."

The discouraging message that comes across to Israelis who want an agreement [will continue to be] that no matter what we do it will never be "enough" for the Arabs.

The Jerusalem Post in online at jpost.com.

Jewish Groups to Political Parties: "Please Move Iowa Caucuses"

PLANNED DATE FORCES JEWISH VOTERS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FAITH, CIVIC DUTY

A note from JCRC:

As you may know, both the Iowa Democratic Party and the Iowa Republican Party have scheduled their January 2010 caucuses on a Saturday afternoon in January. In the past, the caucuses were held on days other than Saturdays and Sundays. The parties state that the decisions to move the caucuses to a Saturday are motivated by a desire to have more Iowans participate. They believe having the caucuses on a Saturday will make it easier for Iowans to attend.

Convening the caucuses on the Jewish Sabbath (Shabbat) is displeasing to some observant members of the organized Jewish community. This was conveyed by our JCRC in letters to both parties. In those letters, the JCRC suggested that the caucuses be re-scheduled: (i) to a day other than Saturday or Sunday; or (ii) to Saturday evening in which event the caucuses would not interfere with not only observant members of the Jewish community who do not perform menial tasks on the Sabbath but also Seventh Day Adventists as well. In addition to the JCRC protest, seventeen Jewish American organizations, spearheaded by the umbrella group, Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), have lodged protests with both parties regarding the Saturday caucuses. Nevertheless, both parties have declined to re-schedule the January 2010 caucuses. However, the parties have indicated that having moved the event to a Saturday in a year that will not involve a presidential election does not necessarily mean that the caucuses will be held on the Jewish Sabbath for the next presidential election year in 2012. It is also possible that if there is not a significant increase in attendance at Saturday caucuses, the parties may revert to their prior practice of having them held on days other than Saturday and Sunday.

That the national Jewish organizations thought it important enough to endorse JCPA's protest signifies their concern that the parties may be insensitive to the Jewish community regarding this issue. The fact that this issue was not addressed broadly enough when the 2008 presidential caucuses were placed on Shabbat in Nebraska and several other states has probably been a factor in the scheduling of the Iowa 2010 caucuses. The Iowa Jewish community should seriously consider whether or not this issue deserves further attention. Our hope is that when the matter comes up again, the caucuses will be scheduled on a more suitable day.

- Steve Schoenebaum, Chair of JCRC

-Mark Finkelstein, JCRC Director

September 18, 2009

Calling the decision "utterly inconsistent with the values of our pluralistic democracy," the Jewish community's statement, which follows, calls on Republican and Democratic Party Chairs in Iowa to "reverse this ill-considered move."

"Dear Mr. Kiernan and Mr. Strawn: "A central premise of American politics is the enfranchisement of every citizen. The Jewish community has actively campaigned for fair and equal representation for the voices of majority and minorities alike, the protection of civil rights of all people and unencumbered access for all to the processes that choose our elected leaders. Our nation has thrived because of the tremendous opportunities afforded to people from diverse racial, ethnic, religious and other backgrounds. For this reason, we are distressed to learn that the Democratic and Republican parties of Iowa have decided to hold their 2010 caucuses on a Saturday.

"The decision to move the Iowa political party caucuses to a Saturday effectively disenfranchises members of the Jewish community. Jews who observe the Sabbath could not work on caucus day to support their candidates

of choice. Worse, since caucuses do not allow for absentee voting, there would be essentially no opportunity to participate in this important process. This is utterly inconsistent with the values of our pluralistic democracy.

"Voting and participation in the electoral process is a cornerstone of any democracy. It is the highest civic duty most people ever undertake. Saturday caucuses will force members of the Iowa Jewish community to choose between their faith and their civic duties.

"Given the important role Iowa has in our nation's electoral contests and their leadership position in serving as a role model to other states, we respectfully ask and hope the Democratic and Republican parties to reverse this ill-considered move."

The Jewish community coalition was organized by The JCPA, which unsuccessfully advocated to Nevada's Democratic and Republican party leaders to reschedule its 2007 caucus meetings from the Sabbath. JCPA is committed to ensuring Jewish and other minority voters across the country, regardless of their political affiliation, are given every opportunity to participate in the electoral process.

The Jewish coalition statement was endorsed by The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA); American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; Anti-Defamation League; B'nai B'rith International; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Hadassah; The Women's Zionist Organization of America; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish Reconstructionist Federation; Jewish War Veterans; National Council of Jewish Women; National Jewish Democratic Council; ORT America; Orthodox Union; Rabbinical Assembly; Republican Jewish Coalition; Union for Reform Judaism; and United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism.



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Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Southfield, MI



Cantor Deborah Bletstein
Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Des Moines, IA

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CANTOR MEIR FINKELSTEIN is one of the best-documented composers of contemporary Jewish music. He has composed over 100 settings for the liturgy, and his compositions are sung in synagogues worldwide, his most famous being "L'Dor Vador."

TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

Three Stars Beit Cafe Temple B'nai Jeshurun invites the community to come and enjoy its new monthly cultural arts venue, the Three Stars Beit Cafe. The inspiration of the Temple's Cantorial Soloist, Laura Berkson, the Beit Cafe (coffeehouse) debuted in November, featuring three performers: Nick Rieser, jazz pianist; Sam Miller, jazz, blues and ragtime guitarist and vocalist; and Laura Berkson, singer/songwriter, featuring her secular folk repertoire. Drawing on the talents across our community, both within and outside the Jewish community, the Beit Cafe will present musicians, poets and other artists in the monthly venue through May. December's Beit Cafe featured the vocal artistry of Cantor Deborah Bletstein; pianist Bob Dutich; Kol B'yachad, the Temple's choir, performing some Hanukkah music; and an open mic, hosted by Laura Berkson. The Three Stars Beit Cafe will be open on Saturday, January 9, featuring a "Jazz in January" program with pianist Jason Danielson and others, and on Saturday, February 6, the Beit Cafe welcomes the freilach music of the Java Jews klezmer band. All are welcome to drop in to the Temple's Beit Cafe any time between 7:30 and 10:30pm to enjoy good music, board games with friends, and refreshments (some free, some "small plates" for sale at \$1.00 each). An open mic is featured at each Beit Cafe. Anyone interested in giving a short open mic performance may call Laura Berkson at the Temple, 274-4679, or sign up on the evening of the Beit Cafe. The Three Stars Beit Cafe is a family-friendly venue, and admission is free.

Save the Date: January 8, 2010 for the "Most Excellent" B'nai Mitzvah for John Ziemann (left) and Mark Conley.



Everyone in the community is invited. Due to the amount of invitations this would take, please consider this your invitation. We hope to see you there, and look forward to sharing this special day with you.

The Sisterhood Havdalah is going to be: January 16, at 6:00 p.m. Bring children's pajamas to be donated to a local charity. We will be serving soup and dessert, and of course friendship and good conversation.

BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

January 8th Shabbos Congregational Dinner (after Ma'ariv) 9th Melaveh Malkah (6:30 PM, \$18 family)
January 16th Rosh Chodesh Shevat Celebration Lunch (1:00 PM) 30th Tu B'Shevat Celebration Lunch (1:00 PM)
February 12th Shabbos Congregational Dinner (after Ma'ariv)
February 13th Melave Malkah (6:30 PM)
February 14th Rosh Chodesh Adar Celebration Breakfast (after Shacharis)
February 27th Megillah Reading (after Shabbos)
February 28th Megillah Reading Purim Party and Seudah
Find us on the web at: <http://www.betheljacob.org/>

TIFEREETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Thursday, January 7th: New Moon Women, 7:00 p.m. in the Atrium
An evening of reflection, relaxation and sisterhood, led by Barb Hirsch-Giller
Nourishment for soul and self Honoring all that we are connecting to each other and the universe
We promise a deeply spiritual and comforting experience that will both calm and energize you and connect you to G-d in powerful new ways. Please join us. Call the Tifereth office for more information at 255-1137.

Thursday, January 14th: Erev Nashim, 6:30 p.m. India Star Restaurant, 5514 Douglas, Des Moines. New to Erev Nashim? This is a purely social gathering of multi-generational women in the Jewish community. We dine at local restaurants, schmooze and share what's new in our lives. It's a great way to meet and get to know other women. This monthly outing is one of Tifereth Israel's most popular programs and is open to all women in the Jewish community. Please invite your friends and if you would like to be added to the e-distribution list, contact Laura Bernstein at lbernstein@visionpoint.com. RSVP by leaving Laura a message at 515-201-7001.

Sunday, February 7th: Book Club, Borders Bookstore, 4:00 p.m.
Please call the Tifereth office for more information at 255-1137

TBJ/TI Purimspiel February 27th and 28th, both performances will be held at Tifereth Israel Synagogue Saturday, February 27th at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, February 28th at 1:00 p.m. Dinner available prior to the performance. Time and details TBA. For more information, please call Laura Berkson at 515-865-6123 or Cantor Bletstein at 515-991-1819.

Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center's
In Tune With Life



A Jazzy Little Event in Celebration of Project Transformation '09 Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009

1. Bruce & Barb Sherman
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3. Marty & Shelley Brody
4. Alan Zuckert, Suku Radia
5. Bruce Sherman, Ron Feder, Marty Brody
6. Dennis & Sharon Goldford
7. Irv & Sheila Robinson
8. Judy & Marshall Flapan
9. Judy Blank, Alan & Janice Zuckert
10. Chuck Kuba & The IA Diamondtaires

Photos by Laurie Wahlig

Fall Event

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society wishes to say a special thank you to the following people and organizations for making our 2009 Fall Patron Dinner a success!

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Special thanks to Pomerantz Events and to Mary Miller Smith

photos courtesy of Karen Engman



From Distant Places to Dubuque's Shores: 175 Years of Jewish Presence

at The Caspe Heritage Gallery, through April 30, 2010

This exhibit is on loan from Temple Beth El in Dubuque. It tells the story of Alexander Levi, a French Jew of Spanish descent who immigrated to the United States and arrived in Iowa in 1833—the same year Dubuque was founded. Levi's story parallels that of many immigrant entrepreneurs of different nationalities who made good and then took leading roles as philanthropists in their communities. What makes his story unique is the fact that Levi was the first foreigner to become a naturalized citizen of Iowa.

The exhibit includes illustrated panels and two audio-visual stations featuring a tour of Linwood Cemetery and selected Jewish music. The State Historical Society of Iowa is also lending numerous pieces about Levi that are in its collections.

Please contact Sandi Yoder at ijhs@dmjfed.org or 515-205-0379 for museum hours.

Iowa Jewish Historical Society:

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[calendar]

Sunday, Jan 3

Wednesday, Jan 6 4:15 pm

Friday, Jan 8 6:00 pm

Saturday, Jan 9 7:30 – 10:30 pm

Sunday, Jan 10 9:00 am

Sunday, Jan 17 10:00 am

Saturday, Jan 30

Sunday, Jan 31 6:15 pm

Saturday, Feb 6 7:30 – 10:30 pm

Monday, Feb 15 4:30 pm

Saturday, Feb 27 7:30 pm

Sunday, Feb 28

Sunday, Feb 28 1:00 pm

Winter Break, NO School

Classes resume

Adult B’nai Mitzvah at the Temple

Three Star Beit Café at the Temple

Classes resume

Federation Board of Directors meeting at the Temple

Tu B’Shvat

Opera “Barber of Seville” at The Caspe Terrace

Three Star Beit Café at the Temple

Federation Executive Committee meeting at Federation

Joint TBJ/TI Purimshiel at Tifereth

Purim

Joint TBJ/TI Purimshiel at Tifereth

A Tribute To My Son Morris



Where do I start to talk about my beloved son who passed away suddenly at the young age of 58? How can I say goodbye to someone I love, who is still a part of me, who was not supposed to leave this earth before me? I was always proud he was my son. He touched so many lives in ways that will live on forever.

I watched him grow from a beautiful, happy baby into a fine young man, a loving husband, a wonderful father, and a great friend. He achieved professional and financial

heights that few succeed in reaching – all with a smile on his face and an endlessly giving heart. This big, warm, wonderful heart, so loved and admired by everyone who knew him, stopped beating suddenly on Friday, September 11th, and my life will never be the same.

Morris was an Iowa boy. He graduated from the University of Iowa, and even though he lived in many different places throughout the United States, his loyalty for the Iowa Hawkeyes never wavered. My Morris was bigger than life. He was passionate about his family, about his friends, about his job, about life in general. When Morris did something, it was always done to perfection.

Morris was such a generous and loving son. His phone calls always started with “Hi, Mom, it’s your number one son.” He was my firstborn son. How difficult and inconceivable it is to now write about him in the past. I still cannot believe that he is not with us anymore. I do not think I will ever be able to believe it, or accept it, for the rest of my life.

Morris had many titles behind his name: FSA, MAAA, CLU, FIMI, FCA, President and CEO. He was highly respected among his business colleagues and very successful in the vast array of businesses and companies he started and led. But, to me, he will always remain a wonderful, fun-loving, dedicated and devoted son. It is the little gestures that keep surfacing in my mind. Once when I was recuperating from a bone fracture at Manor Care, Morris surprised me with a visit. It was so wonderful to see him, and I know this helped me heal faster. I remember that Passover was just over and I mentioned to Morris that I craved a bagel with lox. He immediately got up, told me he’d be right back, and in no time at all a big tray of Jewish delicacies appeared in my room. This gesture was classic Morris – anything big or small that he could help out with, for anyone, he would – without ever thinking twice. He was here for every surgery I went through and always brought a smile to my face with his many phone calls, endless gift baskets and beautiful, large bouquets of flowers he sent me.

My heart was broken and a part of me has died with Morris’s passing from this world. He was and always will be loved by me, his family, his friends and everyone whose lives he has touched. I thank G-d for the privilege of having been his mother. I know I will see him again. All my love forever, my beloved Morris.

– Linda Fishman

This is a privately sponsored tribute

The Harlan Rock Project

A first installment of 203 rocks was delivered to Harlan, Iowa in October. The freshman English class is attempting to collect 6 million rocks in memory of those who perished in the Holocaust. Included were rocks from Israel, Germany, Switzerland, West Virginia and Maine, as well as Elkhart, Indianola and Des Moines in Iowa.

Randi Daniels, the teacher whose class conceived the idea early last year, took possession of the rocks and proudly showed off her classroom. Two walls have good-size rocks piled against them. A large display shows clippings of newspaper articles and letters as well as a running tally in big numerals, which read 2191.

The collection of rocks is truly impressive, with many decorated and inscribed in bold colors. All letters received are preserved with photos of the stones.

Keep supporting this worthwhile project. Wherever you go pick up a rock and bring it back. Drop one in a collection box at school, your synagogue or the Federation office every time you stop by and we will make sure they get delivered. You may send rocks, with or without a letter, directly to Harlan Community High School, Daniels/Bruck Rock Project, 2102 Durant Street, Harlan, IA 51537.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Frances Adelman

Sheldon Adelman

Richard “Dick” Brown

Julius Epstein

Mary Hockenberg

Marty Robinson

Raymond Rosenberg

Harry Wolk

Pintus from page 7 It has been extremely satisfying to bring people together in a peaceful way. I have had cases where friends have been divided by disputes. If I can get them to shake hands at the end of a case and help reestablish their friendship, that is very satisfying. I love the job. I feel I am successful in it and so I hope I can continue in it as long as I am able to do so.

JP: Very good. By the way, have you really retired as a chaplain?

PP: Well, I officially retired. But in actuality, I still work two or three days a week as the Jewish chaplain for the Iowa Health System. Speaking of that, you know, with all the regulations, we are not allowed to visit patients who don’t declare themselves to be Jewish on the hospital form. So if you find yourself in any hospital and would like a visit from a member of the Jewish clergy, please remember to indicate your religious preference on the form.

JP: Thank you, Peter, for this informative interview. May you go from strength to strength.

PP: Thank you.

Holidays from page 10 We like the enormous ball itself, especially because it appears to be festooned with expensive jewels, but the idea of standing outside in a blizzard and freezing our butts off in the middle of a drunken crowd is incomprehensible to us. Once that ball hits the bottom of the tower, our own internal Jewish timer starts to run and we are normally unconscious by 12:30 am.

CHRISTMAS

In many ways, Christmas is the perfect non-Jewish Holiday. Businesses are largely closed, and families have no excuse but to gather and engage in traditional Jewish holiday activities like eating Chinese food and waiting to go back to work the next day. Oh, and serving the needy. That’s important, too. If we think carefully about Christmas, we will accept it for what it is: a Jewish birthday party for a relative who lived a long time ago. The day of the birthday party can best be spent celebrating the pending demise of the outlandishly imposing Christmas lights that your neighbors have erected, hoping for a “greener” world where the much-more-subtle Jewish approach to a Festival of Lights takes precedence, and saving money at all the after-Christmas sales.

One thing I know for sure is that our “real” Jewish Holidays have persisted for thousands of years, through triumph and tragedy. Our holidays are not greeting cards driven non-Holidays sales events like Administrative Assistant’s Day; they have stood the test of time and generations. So when you want to learn how to survive the Holiday season, you should take it from us ~ the experts. If we have any knowledge to share with the world, it’s how important it is to maintain peace during the Holiday season.

“That doesn’t explain why your sister wore my grandmother’s necklace to Thanksgiving! It’s my necklace! I hate you!”

“I can’t believe Penn State missed that field goal ...”

Happy non-Jewish Holidays everyone!

(Please write to the author at iowadavid@me.com.)

Project Elijah Foundation

Thanks

The hundreds of volunteers who packaged, donated and distributed **354,348** meals of “Manna” during 2009.

970 meals/day

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52 weeks/year



Manna packaging events took place at, or were sponsored by, the following:

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Washington Hebrew Congregation, Washington, DC

Klearman/Jacobs Family, Des Moines, IA

– In honor of Shirah Jacob's Bat Mitzvah

Agudas Achim Congregation, Iowa City, IA

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

Theodore Hertzfel Day School, Denver, CO

– In honor of Daniel Hennes & Alana Kaufman's B'nai Mitzvah

Meals from the Heartland Volunteers, Des Moines, IA

B'nai Shalom Synagogue, Waterbury, CT

Temple Israel, Minneapolis, MN

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

– Valley Alliance

Temple Bet Shalom, Minnetonka, MN

Through the generosity of your time, energy and resources, meals were given to hungry Jews in Argentina, Israel and America.

For those of you who have helped, and who will continue to help, and for those of you who will join this ongoing program during 2010, please know that when you go to sleep tonight, somewhere a Jewish child or adult will also go to sleep, but this time, without the relentless pangs of hunger.



Thank you again,
Alan Zuckert, Chairman
Julie Kaufman, Executive Director