



THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

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Rick Recht Rocks at Caspe

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Global Day of Jewish Learning

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Chanukah on Ice

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Sharon Goldford - We accomplish a lot together



Hello, I am Sharon Goldford. I am so pleased to be the Interim Executive Director of the Jewish

Federation. What an opportunity this is to work with such a wonderful staff and meet so many of our community. Thank you so much for all of the support and well wishes you have given me over the past few months. I want to tell you about the Federation staff that supports all of us every-day.

Gayle Brimeyer is the Office Manager. Gayle is amazing and she is a wealth of information about the inner workings and the running of the Federation. We would not be where we are today without her. I think having six children prepared her for all of us.
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Engman Camp Shalom and Camp Gan Shalom prepare for Summer 2016

Looking for camping experiences for children ages 2 -12? Keep the Federation camps in mind! Camp Gan Shalom serves children 2 - 4 and Engman Camp Shalom is for children 5 - 12. Both camps are located at the Caspe Terrace in Waukee, and both will feature an array of exciting and highly-supervised activities throughout the summer. Enroll on a weekly basis or for the entire camping session! See our ad on the back page for preliminary information. For details, contact:
engmancampshalom@dmjfed.org.

Jewish Life Center appoints Ron Osby CEO



After an extensive national search, the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center (IJS LC) is thrilled to announce the hiring of Ronald E. Osby as its new CEO.

Meet and Greet on January 24th

The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center Board of Directors cordially invites you to a reception to meet our new President and CEO Ron Osby. **Sunday, January 24th, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. with a brief program at 3:30 p.m. at the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center.** Attire will be business casual and please relay this invitation to anyone that you think would like to come meet Ron.

Ron brings over 30 years of experience in nursing care administration. He was the Iowa Health Care Association (IHCA) Administrator of the Year in 2009, has served on the IHCA Board since 2010, and was a

Corporate Administrator Leadership Council Member with his last company for several years.

Ron is a native of Des Moines and received an Associate of Arts Degree from the Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny with a major in Nursing Home Administration.

Ron recently said, "I am very happy to be given the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director at the Life Center and look forward to working with the staff, residents, and families to create a thriving facility in which to live and work."

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Thank you for your commitment to the Federation and your gift to the All-in-One Campaign. We look forward to our continued work in the community and providing the important services offered by the Federation agencies.

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Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
33158 Ute Avenue
Waukee, IA 50263-7538

Address Service Requested

Jewish Family Services and Outreach

Jody Caswell Appointed Director of Jewish Family Services



Jody Caswell

Please welcome Jody Caswell as the new Director of Jewish Family Services and Outreach. Jody has been serving as the social worker for seniors at the Federation since September 2013. Prior to that, Jody was employed by the Department of Human Services. For nearly twenty years, Jody worked as a social worker in Polk County with families and seniors. She spent the latter part of her DHS career as a program manager in the DHS Central Administration with responsibility for managing contracts totaling over eight million dollars per year, supporting the state's Child Care Resource and Referral Network and leading the development and implementation of Iowa's Child Care Quality Rating System.

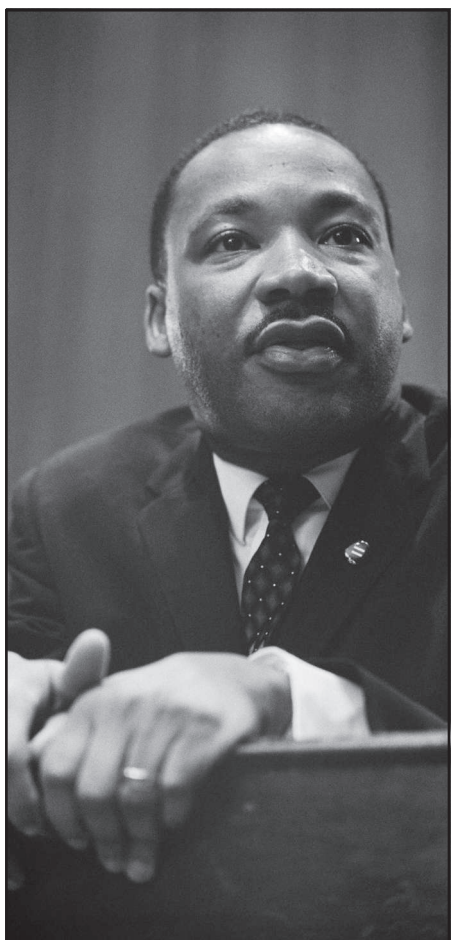
Jody arranges the monthly senior luncheons and activities, provides in-home visiting and case management for seniors and their families, works with volunteers to provide transportation and support to Jewish seniors, and oversees the Tzedukah funds to help those in need. She works with a variety of community projects to increase the visibility and community involvement of Jewish Family Services. These include working with the Department on Aging to advance senior needs and issues, Neighbor to Neighbor foundation to help victims of serious crime, and the Adverse Childhood Experiences project to increase community awareness of childhood trauma and to support efforts to prevent trauma.

Jody has two adult children and a ten month old granddaughter. In her spare time, she enjoys collecting retro furniture and decorating items, cooking, reading, trying new restaurants, spending time with friends, and traveling.



Upcoming JFS Events

- **1/7:** Senior Luncheon at Tifereth Israel Synagogue
- **2/11:** Senior Luncheon at Temple B'nai Jeshurun



The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines honors the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18,
2016

Announcing

The inaugural set of the

Margo and Don Blumenthal Jewish Student Scholarships

scheduled to be awarded to qualified candidates for the academic year 2015- 2016.

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 2016.

Submission deadline: April 15, 2016

Donations to the Blumenthal Scholarship Fund may be earmarked and sent to: The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263

For additional information, contact jrcr@dmjfed.org

Noted author, Holocaust survivor to speak at ISU and Drake February 8 and 9



My Holocaust Story: A Message of Determination, Perseverance, Faith and Hope with Marion Blumenthal Lazan

Mrs. Marion Blumenthal Lazan, survivor of the Holocaust and author of her autobiography, *Four Perfect Pebbles*, will speak **Monday, February 8th at ISU (Memorial Union, Great Hall) and Tuesday, February 9th and at Drake University (Olmsted Center, Sussman Theater.) Both programs are at 7:00 p.m.**

Marion Blumenthal Lazan provides a moving firsthand account of the Blumenthal family's life in Germany from the events preceding Kristallnacht to imprisonment in concentration camps, including Bergen-Belsen, to liberation in April 1945. She was eleven years old when the family finally gained its freedom. She is the coauthor of *Four Perfect Pebbles: A Holocaust Story* and subject of the PBS documentary *Marion's Triumph*. Her story is a life-affirming, inspirational narrative of survival, reconciliation and the limits of endurance, and renews one's faith in humanity.

The lectures are sponsored by a coalition, including the Iowa State University Lecture Series, Drake University's Principal Center for Global Citizenship, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

Let's work on hearing each other



David Adelman, President

The Presidential primary is in full force, the Iowa Legislature has convened, and everyone has an opinion. Words and actions have meaning and are taken seriously. How we deliver our messages makes a profound impact on the people around us. In Judaism, how we treat people is more revealing of our character than how we treat G-d. The Torah teaches that we are created in the Divine Image. Civility is not just a pleasantry, but rather a service to G-d through sensitivity to others. There are many in our increasingly divisive global community who praise G-d, while crossing the boundaries of respectful discourse between people. Every time we turn on the TV, surf the internet or pick up the newspaper, we see the breakdown of civility. We need to reform this discourse by examining our own conduct. Only when we become less selfish and more G-dly in our everyday behavior do we have the legitimacy to demand civility of others.

In the political arena, we witness the politics of personal destruction, the demonizing of opponents and the slandering of large groups of people. Hyper-partisanship is the new normal. While political candidates promise to establish a more civil tone in Washington, they have been unable to moderate. Our children witness the behavior of parents, community leaders, and politicians, and it becomes self-evident why aggressive behavior and bullying has become more prevalent in our schools.

Judaism teaches that each time you embarrass or hurt another, you thereby diminish G-d. Civility grows not just talking the talk, but from walking in G-d's ways by being compassionate, merciful, gracious, kind, and forbearing, all of which are traits that emphasize the well-being of others over that of ourselves.

Whether we are interacting with a spouse or child, parent or co-worker, teacher, or state legislator, we need to listen and respect their opinions above and beyond our own self-centeredness. Then we will walk in the path of a spiritual life, while upholding civility in society.

We have often lost our sense of civility in public discourse, which at times leads to demonizing those who disagree with our particular point of view. Such attacks preclude reasonable discussion of complex and pressing issues and polarize society.

As we enter into a new year, I would like to call upon our community as leaders to always engage in mutual respect. In the year ahead, let us resolve to strengthen our commitment to speak on all subjects and to one another with kindness, compassion and respect. Most importantly, let us be positive examples to our children in our community. Happy New Year!

Shalom, David

Jewish Press Readers Survey 2016

Dear Readers,

As Mayor Koch asked New Yorkers as he visited their neighborhoods in New York City, "How am I doing?" Well we'd pose a similar question to you, dear readers of the Jewish Press. How are we doing? How is the Jewish Press meeting your needs?

We would appreciate your feedback to the following questions:

- 1. How would you most like to receive the Jewish Press?
 - a. In print format by mail.
 - b. By e-mail
 - c. Read on www.jewishdesmoines.org
- 2. What types of articles would you like to see more of in the Jewish Press?
- 3. What sections of the paper do you always read?
- 4. What types of articles are you least interested in reading?
- 5. Other advice:

You can respond to this survey in one of several ways: by mailing your feedback to The Jewish Press, c/o Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263; by email to jodi@dmjfed.org; or by reply e-mail to its inclusion in our e-newsletter. We look forward to your feedback. Thank you for reading the Jewish Press.

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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

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THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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

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

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

The Jewish Press will not accept paid advertisements for electoral candidates or their causes.

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Tevet/Sh'vat/Adar I 5776

Community Report November / December



Beit Sefer Shalom teachers and students singing with Rick Recht.



Beit Sefer Shalom student enjoying lunch at Global Day of Jewish Learning.



Jewish Family Services



Jon Entine speaking at Annual Donor Dinner



BSS students at Brenton Plaza for Chanukah On Ice.

Education

Beit Sefer Shalom / Gan Shalom Preschool / Engman Camp Shalom

- Gan Shalom Music Enrichment Program welcomed Abe Goldstien.
- Gan Shalom enrollment increased by 4 children. Preparing for Gan Shalom Summer Camp.
- Preschool teachers completed the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale Training. Using this self-assessment tool, teachers maintain a high-quality learning environment for preschoolers.
- Iowa KidSight vision screenings offered to children.
- Achieved 2nd 2-year Department of Human Services operating licence.
- Rick Recht rocked the Bucksbaum Auditorium on 10/28.
- Global Day of Jewish Learning educated over 150 people on 11/15.
- Students participated in an Intergenerational Chanukah Party on 12/6.
- Friday night Shabbat Service for Beit Sefer Shalom families was held at Beth El Jacob Synagogue on 12/18.
- Winter Camp 2015 was led by Mor Borodovski.
- Preparations are underway for Summer 2016.
- ECS is looking forward to its first summer as an ACA Accredited camp!

Senior Care & Family Outreach

Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- Delivered Thanksgiving and Hanukkah items to community members and Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center residents.
- Partnered with Beit Sefer Shalom to host Intergenerational Hanukkah party and lunch.
- Worked with Elevate Aging Coalition to inform Iowa Commission on Aging of the concerns of Iowa's aging population and their caregivers.

Community

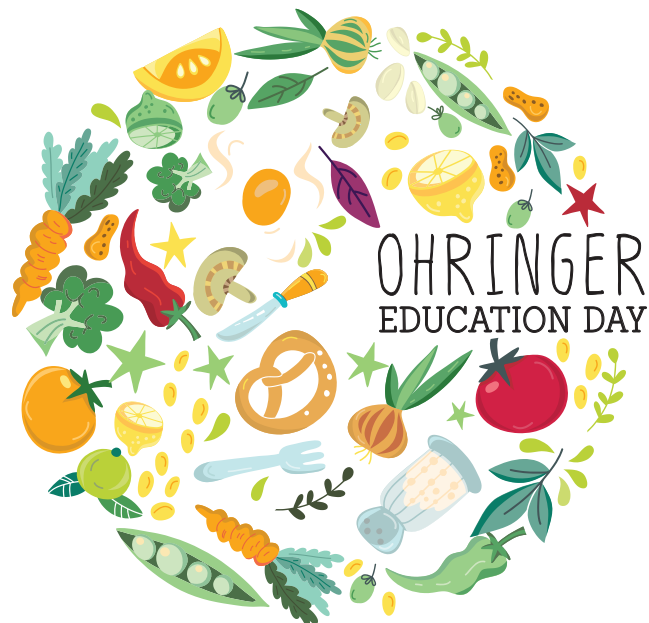
Jewish Community Relations Commission

- Presented a Kristallnacht Commemoration with the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education.
- Represented the Jewish Federation in a disabilities advocacy coalition.
- Implemented programming with a visiting Israeli author, as part of networking with Partnership2GETHER and the West Des Moines – Mateh Asher Partnership.
- Responded to the crisis in Israel through a letter in the *Des Moines Register* and by holding a Skype session with the chief security officer in Mateh Asher.
- Instructed students from Drake University and DMACC about the Jewish community.
- Strengthened relationships with the Bosnian community.

History

Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- More than 60 oral history interviews recorded on audio and video tapes have been digitized. The staff is designing and testing data sheets that will be used to outline the topics covered in each interview.
- The IJHS has also begun raising the funds required to match the HRDP grant. We need to raise a total of \$12,571. Funds raised this far are \$5,800, with \$6,771 to go!
- The IJHS received a large collection of photos relating to the Des Moines Jewish Academy and are now inventorying, sorting and storing the items to preserve this important aspect of the history of the Des Moines Jewish community.
- A group from the Des Moines Christian School held an event at The Caspe Terrace on Friday, November 6, and included a tour of the museum as part of the event. Approximately 40 people toured the museum.
- The IJHS participated in the Global Day of Jewish Learning, with more than 100 students, parents, and grandparents visiting the museum and using a special scavenger hunt to learn about items on display.



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2016

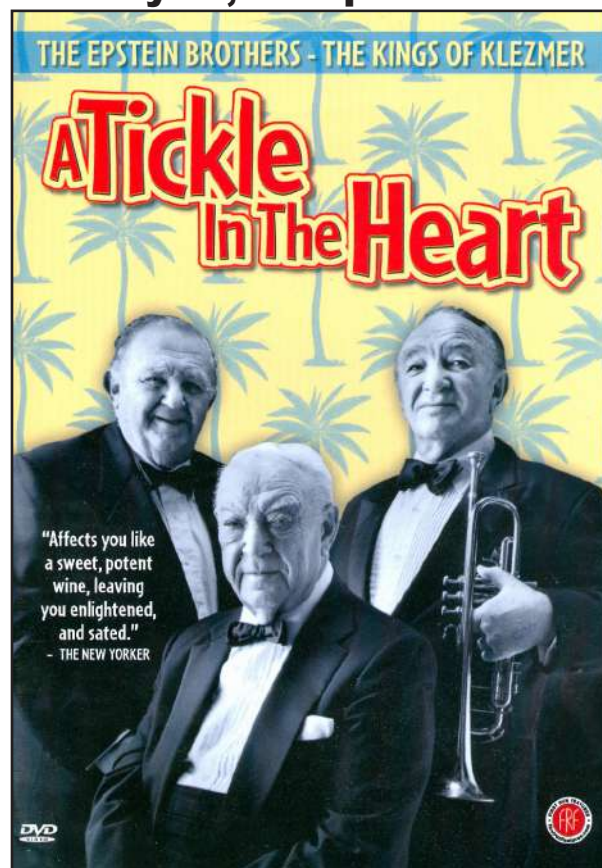
9AM - 12PM : SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SESSION
12PM : COMMUNITY EVENT - TASTING & VOTING

JOIN US FOR OHRINGER EDUCATION DAY 2016!

FOOD IS A CELEBRATION OF WHO WE ARE, AND FOR THE OHRINGERS, WAS A BOND THAT TIED THEIR FAMILY TOGETHER. COME CELEBRATE THE MANY JEWISH FOODS WE KNOW AND LOVE AS WE COMPETE TO SEE WHO IS THE ULTIMATE JEWISH CHEF! PEOPLE OF ALL GENERATIONS WILL COMPETE BY MAKING DIFFERENT JEWISH FOOD DISHES, AND WE WILL ALL BE TASTING AND VOTING ON THEIR DELICIOUS CREATIONS.

CASPE TERRACE 🍊 33158 UTE AVENUE 🍊 WAUKEE

"Kings of Klezmer" film at The Caspe Terrace January 14, 6:00 p.m.



A Tickle in the Heart:
The story of the Epstein Brothers, Kings of Klezmer, January 14 at Caspe Terrace at 6:00 p.m.

"Affects you like a sweet, potent wine, leaving you enlightened, and sated."
(The New Yorker)

"Completely charming!"
(Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times)

"A delightful surprise!... Inspired!" (Boston Herald)

Join us **Thursday, January 14th, 6:00 p.m.** for a

screening at the Caspe Terrace of the award-winning documentary film *A Tickle in the Heart* about Klezmer music legends, The Epstein Brothers. The Epstein Brothers were recipients of the prestigious 1998 National Heritage Fellowship from the US National Endowment for the Arts.

For additional information, contact the Federation at (515) 987-0899 x 212

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In the Winter Kitchen by Karen Engman

Soup is the ultimate comfort food for these cold winter months in Iowa. These two recipes are easy to make and healthy alternatives to meat entrees. Most of the ingredients are readily available and often stocked in most kitchens.

Fresh herbs are probably the most important components of these recipes. Feel free to make substitutions of your favorite herbs for the flavors you like best.

Pair either soup with a green salad and crusty bread and your menu will be complete!

Remember to call me (515-274-3300) or e-mail (karen.engman@gmail.com) if you have a recipe to share or a cooking question I can research.

Gingered Yellow Split Pea Soup

- 1 package yellow split peas
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 5 large carrots, sliced or 1 small bag cocktail size
- 7-10 cups chicken or vegetable bouillon or broth
- 1 Tablespoon fresh ginger (grated from the root)
- Salt
- 3 Tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro for garnish

- Optional Topping:**
- ½ cup plain yogurt
 - 1/8 tsp turmeric (ground)
 - 1/8 tsp coriander (ground)
 - 1/8 tsp cumin (ground)
 - Salt and pepper

- Rinse peas under cold water and remove any stones.**
- Put split peas, onions, carrots & broth in pot and bring to boil.**
- Reduce heat and add fresh ginger & salt**
- Simmer until carrots & peas are tender**
- In several batches, put soup in blender until smooth or use an immersion blender.**
- Reheat and serve with topping on individual bowls and cilantro for garnish.**



Carrot Soup

- 2-3 Tablespoons olive oil
 - 2 onions, chopped
 - 8 large carrots, chopped or sliced
 - 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
 - Salt, pepper
 - Thyme leaves tied together with string
 - Chopped green onions or chives for garnish
- Heat oil in large pot, add onions and carrots, then cook for 10 minutes, covered. Add broth and thyme. Cook until carrots are done, then remove thyme and use immersion blender to blend soup to desired consistency. Can also blend in blender or food processor in batches. Salt and pepper to taste.**
- Optional: sweeten with sugar if carrots aren't sweet enough!**



Goldford Continued

continued from front page

Jodi Larson, is the Administrative Assistant in the office. Jodi is the “glue” to the office. She holds everything and everyone together. David Copeland is our technology/media and Jewish Press person. If you have any questions about your computer, AV equipment, and many other things, he is your guy. Besides all of that, he teaches in our school and is a heck of a cook. Mark Finkelstein is the Community Relations, JCRC, and go-to for Israel updates. Mark is in touch with so many different people around the world any day of the week.

We are a small group, but we accomplish a lot together. I have learned so much from these individuals about how our community works. As congregants, we too often become siloed in our spiritual homes. It is cozy and safe in our own synagogue or Temple. Being at the Federation opens up a new world, a world that, as we know today, may have pain and suffering in it but also so much happiness and joy. When there is a need to help and reach out, we have Jody Caswell, Jewish Family Services. Every day she calls our seniors at home, she goes to them, and takes meals. We sent Thanksgiving baskets and Hanukkah baskets to many of our seniors that could not be with family and friends.

We take care of our children. Sophie Homonoff, Anissa Deay, and our teachers take care of the needs of our children in Gan Shalom and Beit Sefer Shalom Schools. Our schools are amazing and our children are not only learning Hebrew and the Torah, but how to live with others and be kind to one another. Our world will be a better place because of our children and our teachers.

Have you been to the Jewish Historical Society at Caspe Terrace? It is amazing. The people of our community who care enough to preserve our heritage have done a wonderful job of displaying it for us. The museum is beautiful, a showcase of lives that make a difference. Did you know that you can come to Caspe and have an event? You can bring your MahJong group, play in Bookey Lodge, and go to the museum for cookies and coffee. We do have something for all of you. They also have wonderful cookbooks for sale. They will love to see you.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is here for you. We count on all of you for your support and ideas. We can't do it without you. Thank you so much for all you do for us and please let us do for you as well.

Shalom, Sharon

You Can Help! Caspe Terrace Needs To Replace It's Ash Trees

by Tivon Feeley



Emerald Ash Borer is a small green invasive wood boring beetle that attacks and kills all ash trees. The adults live on the outside of ash trees feeding on the leaves during the Summer months. The larvae look similar to white grubs and feed on the living plant tissue underneath the bark of ash trees during Fall, Winter, and Spring. The ash trees are killed by the tunneling activity of the larvae under the tree's bark, which disrupts the flow of water and nutrients.

The metallic green beetle is native to East Asia and was imported to the United States within the wood of shipping crates from China. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was first discovered in North America near Detroit, Michigan in 2002. Since the first discovery, it has also been found in 26 states and Canada.

EAB attacks native ash trees of any size, age, or stage of health. Millions of ash trees have already been killed in infested areas. EAB has now been confirmed less than five miles away



from Caspe Terrace. Caspe Terrace will start the process of removing some of the ash tree and replanting with native trees to diversify our grounds to prevent future pests from killing our trees.

In addition, some of the ash trees will be treated with chemicals to prevent EAB from killing some of the ash trees, allowing them to continue to provide shade while the newly-planted trees become established. This is a long-term effort as we strive to diversify our tree population to promote tree health. The average price to buy, plant, mulch and maintain a tree is \$250.00. Caspe Terrace has over 40 ash trees to remove and replant. Please contact **Gayle Brimeyer at 515-987-0899 ext. 222** if you would like to sponsor a replacement tree to keep Caspe Terrace beautiful.

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First Annual Donor Dinner

On October 25th, 2015 the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines held its first annual donor dinner. With over 100 people in attendance, the evening was a great success. It was an opportunity for the Jewish Federation to say *thank you* to contributors who are true stakeholders in our mission. Through their generosity, the Jewish Federation is able to strive to fulfill our mission. To those who attended this special event and to those who were unable to attend: Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your confidence in helping us attain our potential in service to the community.



Ben and Joyce Swartz



Larry and Susanne Engman



Barb and Dr. Tom Carlstrom



Dennis and Sharon Goldford



Simma and Dr. Michael Stein



Maddie and Don Schoen



Cyril and John Mandelbaum



Elizabeth and David Adelman



Janice and Kent Rosenberg



Marvin and Robbie Winnick



Dr. Glenn and Florence Purnell



Dr. Steve Adelman and Dr. Kathy Elsner with Pam and Harry Bookey



Gail and Stanley Richards



Don and Margo Blumenthau

Torah Talk

Rachel

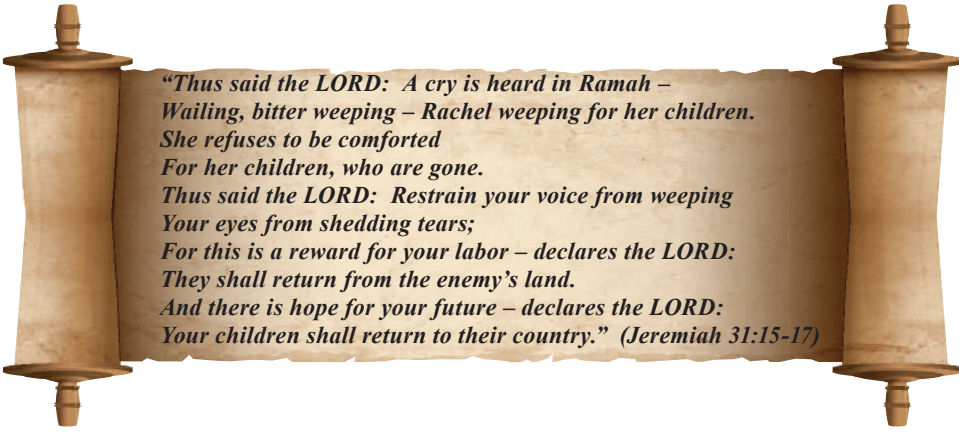
by David Friedgood

Writing after the destruction of The Great Temple in Jerusalem, our prophet Jeremiah records a loud wailing sound heard in the town of Ramah (just north of Jerusalem). The Babylonian armies of King Nebuchadnezzar had just destroyed the Temple built by King Solomon. The sound was the bitter cry of a mother, our mother, the Matriarch Rachel, who had died millennia earlier after a difficult childbirth. Yet she could be heard crying for her children being forced into bitter exile. After her death, Jacob, Rachel’s husband, could not wait to bury her in the family burial ground – the Cave of Machpela near Hebron. One Rabbinical commentator Sforno suggests that Jacob was too distraught and overcome with grief to make the necessary arrangements and buried Rachel where she died, on the roadside. He regretted that decision the rest of his life. She lay dying as she delivered her son, “But as she breathed her last – for she was dying – she named him Ben-ami (son of my sorrow); but his father called him Benjamin (son of my right hand, my strength). Thus, Rachel died. She was buried on the road to Ephrath – now Bethlehem.” (Genesis 35:18-19) The bereaved husband built a pillar to mark her grave, which is present to this day. As the Jews of Jerusalem staggered off to Babylon, they passed the Tomb of Rachel. According to Midrash, Rachel, in her distress for the fate of children, cries out to God on their behalf. The Lord appreciates her heartfelt tears and responds favorably. About 50 years later, the exiles begin their return to Jerusalem to build a new Temple. Even today, Rachel’s tomb is a destination for Jewish pilgrims paying tribute to their mother Rachel and praying for her to intercede with God on their behalf.

Let us take a moment to reflect on who Rachel was and how her influence became so great.

Rachel was born in Padan Aram. Her father, Laban was Rebecca’s brother, making Jacob and Rachel first cousins. (Even today, there is no prohibition in Jewish Law forbidding the marriage of cousins.) Jacob had to flee his home to escape

the wrath of his brother Essau, who threatened his life. His parents sent him to stay with his uncle Laban, to live and search for a wife, until it was safe for him to return home. On arriving in Padan Aram, Jacob met Rachel as she set about watering her father’s sheep. He was immediately attracted to her: “Then Jacob kissed Rachel and broke into tears”. (Gen. 29:11) Initially, Jacob was welcomed into Laban’s house, and he agreed to work for his uncle. His wages for seven years labor was



to be Rachel as his wife. “Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older one was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah had weak eyes; Rachel was shapely and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel.” (Gen. 29:16-18) After seven years Laban deceived Jacob and substituted Leah on his wedding night. Jacob worked another seven years for Rachel and preferred Rachel over his first wife Leah. One tradition suggests that Rachel, who deeply loved Jacob, knew of her father’s deceit, yet did not warn her fiancé Jacob. Years later, she used this action to bargain with God. Just as Rachel showed compassion for her sister Leah, not wanting her to be shamed, so Almighty God might show compassion for His people being forced into the shame of Babylonian exile. (B Megillah 13b) Jacob will father 12 sons with his 2 wives and concubines: Six sons with Leah and the youngest two, Joseph and Benjamin, with Rachel.

With God’s help, the family prospers, and Jacob returns to his home in Canaan with many children

and a wealth of livestock and other possessions. Jacob reconciles with Essau and settles in Canaan to advance the work of his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham. After having fought with God’s Angel his name is changed to Yisrael (wrestled with Go,d) or Israel. This man Jacob who was forced from home after deceiving his brother, and spent over 14 years accumulating wealth, has changed. He is now a Patriarch, the head of a great nation, which will soon change our world. He dedicates his life to the one true God of all humankind and struggles to follow his Lord’s plan to perfect our world. In this effort, he had a strong collaborator in Rachel. After being barren for years, Rachel bore a first son – Joseph. Jacob favors Joseph over his 10 older brothers. Just as God identified Jacob to be the one who would carry the legacy of Abraham into the world, bypassing his older brother Essau, so Jacob recognized Joseph (and ultimately Joseph’s second born Ephraim) to be his primary heir. As he nears the end of his life, Jacob prepares to bless Joseph’s two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. First Jacob formally adopts

Joseph’s sons as his own: “And, Jacob said to Joseph “El Shaddai (God Almighty) appeared to me ... in the land on Canaan, and He blessed me, “I will make you fertile and numerous, making of you a community of people; and I will assign this land to your offspring for an everlasting possession”. Now your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt..., shall be mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine...” (Gen. 48:3-5) At this moment Jacob recalls the love of his youth. It is Rachel who motivates Jacob and worked with him to continue with his life’s work. “I do this because when I was returning from Padan, Rachel died, to my sorrow..., and I buried her there on the road to Ephrath”. (Gen. 48:7) Jacob blesses Ephraim, Manasseh, Joseph and his 11 other sons. Before he dies Jacob asks one thing from his family. He asks to be buried in Canaan, in the Cave of Machpelah, alongside Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, and Leah. “When Jacob finished his instructions to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed and, breathing his last, he was gathered to his people.” (Gen. 49:33)



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The Community Kristallnacht Commemoration

The anniversary of Kristallnacht, the organized pogrom of the Jewish communities in Germany in November 1938, was commemorated by the community at Beth El Jacob synagogue on November 8th. Pnina Luban, pictured, presented an overview and commentary on Kristallnacht, the event which is widely seen as signaling the beginning of the Holocaust. The program was planned in conjunction with the Iowa Council on Holocaust Education.



How Hummus is made

Demonstrating for students at Gan Shalom, community member Gil Coosner shows how fresh hummus is prepared. And it was indeed very tasty!



Yom Kippur accepted as an official UN holiday

On December 17th 2015, the United Nations Secretariat accepted Yom Kippur as an official UN holiday. The Jewish holiday joins the 10 official religious holidays previously recognized by the UN, including Christmas and the Muslim holiday, Id al-Fitr. According to the Jerusalem Post report, the acceptance came after US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power prevented the anti-Israel majority at the UN from blocking the resolution.

Iowa Council for Holocaust Education Meets

Some members of the Council came to Des Moines for a lunchtime meeting and were joined by friends. Front row: Prof Dorothy Pisarski (Drake University), Prof. Stephen Gaies (University of Northern Iowa), and Prof Harold Kasimow (Grinnell College.) Standing: Bev Ellis, Michael Wolnerman, Michael Kuperman; and (behind Kasimow,) Prof. Dan Reynolds (Grinnell.) Not pictured: Mark Finkelstein



Israel Consul General visits Iowa

The state of Israel is represented in the United States by an ambassador who heads the Israel embassy in Washington, D.C. and consul generals, heading the nine consulates across the country.

Israel's Consulate in Chicago connects with constituencies in eleven midwestern states, including Iowa. In mid- December, Consul General to the Midwest Roey Gilad visited Des Moines, hosted by the Jewish Federation's JCRC.

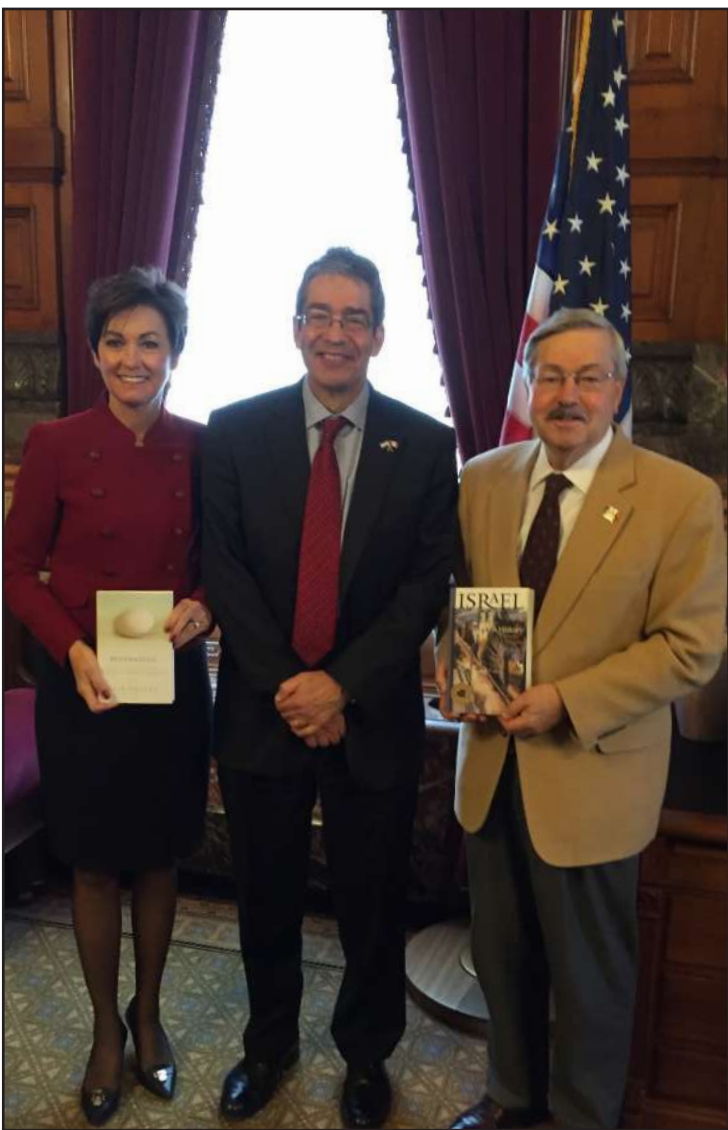
On this trip, Mr. Gilad's itinerary including conversations with elected officials, the media, and the members of the community.



Consul General Gilad met with West Des Moines mayor Steven Gaer (at right) and members of the Jewish community and West Des Moines Sister City Commission with regard to the West Des Moines - Match Asher Partnership Project.



Consul General Gilad addressed members of the Jewish community and the bi-partisan group Iowans Supporting Israel over a JCRC breakfast at Beth El Jacob Synagogue.



Mr. Gilad met with Governor Branstad and Lt Governor Reynolds.

Match Asher Author Visited Des Moines

As part of Partnership2GETHER programming, Israeli author Diana Bletter visited Des Moines in November. Diana, whose new book, *A Remarkable Kindness*, was published this past summer, resides in Match Asher, West Des Moines' Sister City. Diana participated in the community Kristallnacht commemoration held at Beth El Jacob Synagogue and instructed classes in Creative Writing at Valley High School. She is pictured here teaching a class and joined by Valley High principal Tim Miller and JCRC's Mark Finkelstein.



Visiting the Jewish Federation of Omaha

There are many commonalities we share with our friends from the Omaha Jewish Federation. Recently Sharon Goldford, Mark Davis, and Mark Finkelstein, spent time at the Omaha Federation with our colleagues discussing matters of mutual concern. Here, pictured in front of their Federation's Israel Partnership2GETHER wall, are Alan Potash, executive director (second from left), and Jan Goldstein, P2G director (4th from left.)



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Third Annual Celebration of Global Day of Jewish Learning

Ames. Des Moines. Waukee. Everyone in between! Generations learning, eating, creating together.

For the third year in a row, Caspe Terrace welcomed over 150 community members of all ages to participate in the The Global Day of Jewish Learning on November 15th, 2015. The theme of this year's global event was: Love: Devotion, Desire and Deception. The Global Day of Jewish Learning brings the entire community together once a year to celebrate our shared Jewish texts through community-based learning. The guiding values of the Global Day of Jewish Learning are: fostering Jewish unity, empowering individuals through increased Jewish knowledge, and creating meaningful shared experiences. Students utilized the PJ Library curriculum provided by the Global Day of Jewish Learning and adults enjoyed sessions led by our local rabbis. A delicious lunch catered by Copeland Catering ended an incredible day of learning. Thank you to everyone who participated in this wonderful morning at Caspe. We joined over 500 communities in more than 42 countries to participate in this year's Global Day of Jewish Learning.

A special thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Beit Sefer Shalom students



Karen Engman and Marsha Miller



Scott, Alison and Sam Reister



Asher Lipman



Stacie Franklin, Todd and Maria Steinberg



Zara, Jenny and Mia Blumberg



Leah and Gabby Jones



Students in a learning session



Rabbi David Kaufman and Wendy Beckerman

Jewish Learning Brings Community Together



Ariella and Hannah Rogers



Allison Ohringer and Raizel Small



Mor Borodovski helping on GDJL



David Goldman and Larry Blumberg



Students in a learning session



Students in a learning session



Students in a learning session



Sharon Goldford and Rabbi Yossi Jacobson



David Adelman and Sophie Homonoff

Rick Recht Rocked at The Caspe Terrace

On Wednesday, October 28th, 2015 Rick Recht brought his unique brand of high-energy, interactive Jewish rock music to Caspe Terrace for an all-ages family concert. This extraordinary, inspirational, and moving experience featured on-stage participation from Beit Sefer Shalom and Gan Shalom students as well as local community singers and musicians.

“The stage is my home,” said Recht. “The energy and voices of the audience, whether they’re little kids, teens, or adults, are indescribable. For me, it’s a dream come true to create and share in these amazing experiences.”



Chanukah On Ice at Brenton Skating Plaza.

On Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 Beit Sefer Shalom students participated in Chabad's Chanukah On Ice at the Brenton Skating Plaza. 3rd-12th graders enjoyed a fun evening of skating, an impressive ice menorah carving, wonderful Jewish music, and delicious Chanukah treats.



In Profile: Yiddish Poet **MALKA HEIFETZ TUSSMAN (1893 – 1987)** by Kathryn Hellerstein in Jewish Women's Archive

Although she declared the natural rhythms of speech and breath as her poetic credo, at the peak of her powers the Yiddish poet Malka Heifetz Tussman introduced into Yiddish one of the most rigid verse forms, the triole, and mastered another, the sonnet corona. A teacher of Yiddish language and literature in the Midwest and the West, Tussman was awarded the Itzik Manger Prize for Yiddish poetry in Tel Aviv in 1981.

Born around the holiday of Shavuot, Tussman herself disputed the exact year, stating it variously as 1893, 1895, or 1896. She considered May 15 her American birthday. Her father was the third generation of the Hasidic Heifetz family to manage an estate in the village of her birth, Khaytshe or Bolshaya-Chaitcha, in the Ukrainian province of Volhynia.

The second of eight children, Malka, like her siblings, was educated in Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, and English, initially by private tutors and later in the Russian schools in the nearby towns of Norinsk and Korostryen. As a young child, she began to write poems in Russian about the poverty of the neighboring peasants.

She immigrated to America in 1912 and joined family members in Chicago. "Under terrible conditions she pursued her learning," as Tussman once wrote about herself. Her first Yiddish short story appeared in 1918, and her first poem was published in 1919. She also wrote in English for the Chicago anarchist publication Alarm in 1914.

After her marriage to the cantor Shloyme Tussman, when she was eighteen years old, and the birth of her two sons (in 1914 and 1918), the family lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1924, Tussman began to teach in a Yiddish secular school; at the same time, she studied at the University of Wisconsin. She also studied briefly at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1941 or 1942, the family moved to Los Angeles, where Tussman taught Yiddish elementary and high school students at the Workmen's Circle School in Boyle Heights. In 1949, she became an instructor of Yiddish language and literature at the University of Judaism. After her husband's death in 1971, she lived for a year in Israel. Upon her return, she moved to Berkeley, where she resided until her death.

Although she lived far from the centers of Yiddish letters, Tussman's poems, short stories, and essays appeared in the leading Yiddish newspapers and journals from 1918 onward. These publications included the New York papers Fraye Arbeter Shtime and Der Vokh, as well as the journals Oyfkum, Inzikh, Yidisher Kemfer, Svive, Kinder Zhurnal, and Di Tsukunft, the Warsaw weekly Literarishe Bleter, the Toronto literary magazine Tint un Feder, and the Tel Aviv quarterly Di Goldene Keyt. Her poems were represented in collections of

Yiddish poetry, such as Antologye—Mitvest Mayrev [From Midwest to North Pacific] (1933) and Amerike in Yidishn Vort [America in Yiddish literature] (1955). She published six volumes of poetry between 1949 and 1977. Until her death, Tussman continued to work on a seventh, Un Ikh Shmeykhl [And I smile], which is unpublished.

Throughout her career as a poet, Tussman sustained literary friendships and extensive correspondences with Yiddish writers in the United States, Canada, Poland, France, and Israel, including the poets Kalman Marmor, Yankev Glatshteyn, H. Leyvik, Rokhl Korn, Kadya Molodowsky, Melekh Ravitsh, and Avraham Sutzkever. She read poetry of many languages, modern and ancient, and exercised her poetic voice by translating poems by writers as various as Yeats, Rossetti, Auden, and Tagore into Yiddish. By maintaining a ferocious poetic independence from any school or movement, Tussman achieved a compressed lyrical style noted by the critic M. Littvin for its elliptical syntax and free verse rhythms that render the strophe inconspicuous but dense. Avraham Sutzkever praised her poetry for asserting an ever more flexible, youthful voice, the older the poet herself grew.

Tussman has significance as a woman poet in Yiddish. Although she did not believe that poetry should be read or written in terms of gender, her poems are fueled by an explicitly female sensuality. Denying any feminist orientation, she nonetheless acknowledged how difficult it was for women writing poetry in Yiddish, even in the heyday of Yiddish poetry in America, to publish their poems in periodicals or to find sponsors for the publication of their books. In an interview she expressed her sense that women who excelled in writing poems for children, such as Kadya Molodowsky, were often categorized by the Yiddish literary establishment as "merely children's poets," so that their other work remained unacknowledged. In her later years, she taught informally and befriended a number of younger poets, many American-born and writing in English, who helped disseminate her poetry through their translations, including Eli Katz, Marcia Falk, Kathryn Hellerstein, and Daniel Marlin. She also served as a mentor for some younger Yiddish poets, of whom an Israeli recipient of the Manger Prize, Rokhl Fishman, was the best known. Malka Heifetz Tussman thus served as a bridge between the generations of Yiddish poets who emigrated from Eastern Europe and of those American-born Jewish poets who have taken up the task of making Yiddish poetry known to a readership that knows little Yiddish.

Malka Heifetz Tussman's Poem (1949)

With Teeth in the Earth

*My cheek on the earth
and I know why mercy.*

*Lips to the earth
And I know why love.*

*My nose in the earth
and I know why theft.*

*Teeth in the earth
I know why
murder.*

*What are words
compared to
teeth in the earth?*

*What is shouting
compared to
teeth in the earth?*

*And nothing is enough,
and nothing is now
and nothing is ever
like this.*

*I know clearly,
I know why
the man
who digs the earth with his teeth*

*And he
who tears himself from the earth
will always
Oh, always
have to weep for himself.*

(Translation by Kathryn Hellerstein.)

Malka Heifetz Tussman, Yiddish poet, My Mentor and Friend

Announcements

Engman Camp Shalom earned accreditation through the American Camping Association. We are one of only 75 camps that earned this prestigious accreditation this year.

The American Camp Association is a community of camp professionals who, for over 100 years, have joined together to share our knowledge and experience and to ensure the quality of camp programs.

The main purpose of the ACA accreditation program is to educate camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff.



On December 8, 2015 Gan Shalom passed the Iowa Department of Human Services Licensing 2 year Renewal for Preschool. "We continue to provide high quality service to our families" says Anissa Deay, Preschool Director.



Osby Continued

continued from front page

"I also look forward to having everyone in the Jewish community become more involved at the Life Center, in whatever capacity they feel comfortable in doing so. Please feel free to stop by and see us at the Life Center anytime."

"I am proud to say I have been married 35 plus years to my wife Susie and have a son Jeffrey who is married to Krysten, with two children, Grant 6, and Cabe 3, who live in Newton, Iowa. We love to visit and enjoy our grandchildren, going to many sporting and school events. Susie and I have been proud members of Tifereth Synagogue since 1987."

The Life Center Board of Directors is confident that Ron will be a strong asset to the home in the ever-changing landscape of medical care delivery.

Please stop by The Life Center and introduce yourself. Ron's door is always open! Jon Fleming M.D., Chair of the Board IJSLC

No Need For Guilt or Apology by Rabbi Leib Bolel



The Jewish people have to be one of the most diverse groups in the world, at least from a per capita standpoint. Be it diverse in observance, philosophy, race or other. We are unique in many ways which at

times can challenge us to standing up for what we believe is right.

There are times that acting on one's beliefs is accompanied by either reluctance due to guilt or guilt itself. What do I mean?

Take for example, pulling our children out of school to celebrate Jewish Holidays, insisting our children attend Jewish summer camp, or defending and standing up for Israel. These examples are a sample of where we are inclined to do something, but the something goes against the trend, and, depending on the community one lives in, can many-a-time be looked down upon.

Being a skeptic isn't necessarily a bad thing. Skepticism gives us a chance to access and ponder either circumstance or statement. When we hear a leader of another faith talk about their religion, our subconscious is aware that they are on a mission and that is why they are saying x,y and z. The same applies to politicians and CEO's..

This can happen to us too. As Jews when we speak about how great our people are, it can sound somewhat biased and narcissistic. In truth we should consider anyone's claims whether they are an "insider" or an "outsider," but outsiders' views do pique our curiosity. Let us consider a few thoughts from non-Jewish thinkers:

John Adams (2nd President of the USA, 1735-1826)

[John Adams to F.A.Vanderkemp, 16 February, 1809, The works of John Adams, ed, C.F.Adams, vol.9, pp. 609-10.]

"I will insist that the Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation.

If I were an atheist, and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the great essential instrument for civilizing the nations.

If I were an atheist of the other sect, who believe or pretend to believe that all is ordered by chance, I should believe that chance had ordered the Jews to preserve and propagate to all mankind the doctrine of a supreme, intelligent, wise, almighty sovereign of the universe, which I believe to be the great essential principle of all morality, and consequently of all civilization."

Leo Tolstoy: (Russian icon, author and social reformer, 1828-1910.)

"What is a Jew? This question is not at all so odd as it seems. Let us see what kind of peculiar creature the Jew is, which all the rulers and all the nations have together and separately abused and molested, oppressed and persecuted, trampled and butchered, burned and hanged...and in spite of all this is yet alive.

What is a Jew, who has never allowed himself to be led astray by all the earthly possessions which his oppressors and persecutors constantly offered him in order that he should change his faith and forsake his own Jewish religion?

The Jew is that sacred being who has brought down from the heaven the everlasting fire and has illuminated with it the entire world. He is the religious source, spring and fountain out of which all the rest of the peoples have drawn their beliefs and their religions.

...The Jew is the emblem of eternity. He whom neither slaughter nor torture of thousands of years could destroy, he whom neither fire nor sword nor inquisition was able to wipe off the face of the earth, he who was the first to produce the Oracles of G-d, he who has been for so long the guardian of the prophecy, and who transmitted it to the rest of the world--such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is as everlasting as is eternity itself.

Mark Twain (aka Samuel Langhorne Clemens, American author and humorist, 1835 – 1910),

If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous dim puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly the Jew ought hardly to be heard of; but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his commercial importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great nations in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine, and abstruse learning, are also way out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world, in all the ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself, and be excused for it.

The Egyptian, the Babylonian, and the Persian rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed, and made a vast noise, and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have vanished. The Jews saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no

decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind.

All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?

Thomas Cahill (Bestselling author, The Gifts of the Jews)

"If we had lived in the second millennium BC, the millennium of Abraham, and could have canvassed all the nations of the earth, what would they have said of Abraham's journey? In most of Africa and Europe, they would have laughed at Abraham's madness and pointed to the heavens, where the life of earth had been plotted from all eternity ... a man cannot escape his fate. The Egyptians would have shaken their heads in disbelief. The early Greeks might have told Abraham the story of Prometheus ... Do not overreach, they would advise; come to resignation. In India, he would be told that time is black, irrational and merciless. Do not set yourself the task of accomplishing something in time, which is only the dominion of suffering. On every continent, in every society, Abraham would have been given the same advice that wise men as diverse as Heraclitus, Lao-Tsu and Siddhartha would one day give their followers: do not journey but sit; compose yourself by the river of life, meditate on its ceaseless and meaningless flow."

"The Jews started it all—and by 'it' I mean so many of the things we care about, the underlying values that make all of us, Jew and Gentile, believer and aethiest, tick. Without the Jews, we would see the world through different eyes, hear with different ears, even feel with different feelings ... we would think with a different mind, interpret all our experience differently, draw different conclusions from the things that befall us. And we would set a different course for our lives."

Friedrich Nietzsche (German Philosopher, 1844 - 1900)

"The Jews, however, are beyond all doubt the strongest, toughest, and purest race at present living in Europe; they know how to succeed even under the worst conditions (in fact better than under favorable ones) by means of virtues of some sort, which one would like nowadays to label as vices-owing above all to a resolute faith which does not need to be ashamed before "modern idea..."

It is certain that the Jew, if he desired-or if they were driven to it, as the antisemites seem to wish-could now have the ascendancy, nay, literally the supremacy, over Europe; that they are not working or planning for that end is equally sure... The resourcefulness of the modern Jews, both in mind and soul, is extraordinary..."

Paul Johnson (Author, A History of the Jews, pg. 585-6)

"For the Jewish impact on humanity has been protean. In antiquity they were the great innovators in religion and morals. In the Dark Ages and early medieval Europe they were still an advanced people transmitting scarce knowledge and technology. Gradually they were pushed from the van and fell behind, by the end of the eighteenth century, they were seen as a bedraggled and obscurantist rearguard in the march of civilized humanity. But then came an astonishing second burst of creativity. Breaking out of the ghettos, they once more transformed human thinking, this time in the secular sphere. Much of the mental furniture of the modern world too is of Jewish fabrication."

Lets us not apologize nor feel guilt with the decisions we make, regardless of people's reactions or perceptions. It is the correct decisions we make that will propel the next generation to carry on from the examples set by their previous generation us.

DMARC Interfaith Program, January 31

Expand your religious horizons at our new half-day conference! Participate in a unique opportunity to sample new traditions and histories, make new connections, and learn about Iowa's diverse religious history.

The Iowa Interfaith Exchange is a gathering of people from all faiths and belief systems, coming together to find our commonalities and share our differences. The theme of this inaugural event is Exploring Our Religious Landscape.

We will be joined by Peter Manseau, author of *One Nation, Under Gods*, which examines the history of the United States from the perspective of religious minorities. American culture has been significantly influenced by non-Christian religions, and Manseau will explore historical figures who helped shape the course of our nation's spiritual life.

We also have six breakout sessions with local/state topics.

You can find out more at www.iowainterfaithexchange.org

Kindling Lights, Chanukah and Discrimination by Rabbi David Kaufmann



On August 21, 1790, President George Washington wrote a letter in response to one written by the leader of the Hebrew Congregation at Newport, Rhode Island. Moses Seixas (pronounced Say-Shas) had written to the President in concern about how his small religious minority group of Jews would be treated in the newly-founded nation, having journeyed to America to escape religious persecution in other lands. Seixas wrote:

“Deprived as we heretofore have been of the invaluable rights of free Citizens, we now (with a deep sense of gratitude to the Almighty disposer of all events) behold a Government ... which to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance.”

President Washington responded in perhaps the most eloquent words ever used to express the nature of the United States of America:

“It is now no more that toleration is spoken of as if it were the indulgence of one class of people that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights, for, happily, the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.”

America is a nation significantly comprised of people whose ancestors, if not they themselves in this generation, journeyed to seek security, freedom, prosperity and happiness from lands of suffering, oppression, and persecution. As American Jews, we remember the strangers in our midst because we were not just strangers in the land of Egypt, we were and often still are strangers even in America.

Our ancestors journeyed by boats and planes to reach this land and

the journeys were often very difficult. The Statue of Liberty was later constructed as a symbol of America’s nature as a land that both shines forth the beacon of liberty into the world and shines the beacon of welcome. It bears the words of Emmas Lazarus’ poem, The New Colossus, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free!”

It is this history and these values that lead us to respond to discrimination against immigrants and religious minorities with concern and even condemnation. While we are certainly concerned with the security of our communities and that of our nation, we continue to value America’s welcoming of immigrants from places of distress.

On the Shabbat during Chanukah, as we gazed upon the lights of Chanukah, lights of hope amid the darkness, I offered the reminder that it is up to us to kindle lights. In some ways, each of us is a shamas. Each us has the ability to kindle the light of hope in others. Working together we can make the world a much brighter place.

Thus, in a spirit of friendship and solidarity, that Friday afternoon, I reached out to Imam Nijaz Valjevic of the Ezan Bosinian Mosque and invited him, along with his wife Dinera, to join our congregation on that evening of hope, in solidarity with those who face oppression everywhere, and in solidarity with our Muslim friends here in Des Moines. I closed my sermon that evening with the words of blessing that President George Washington shared with the Jews of Newport 125 years ago and which remain our hope:

“May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in this land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants — while everyone shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid.”

May the father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in His own due time and way everlastingly happy.”



JCRC's Mark Finkelstein and Rabbi Kaufman along with Imam Nijaz Valjevic and his wife Denira at Shabbat evening services at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

Light Your Own Candle by Rabbi Yossi Jacobson



Photo: Ambassador Yehuda Avner at a meeting of Prime Minister Begin with the Rebbe.

With Chanukah behind us, the candles are still very much part of our own lives, the following personal encounter is a guiding light in how to see yourself.

Late one night, two hours into an audience with the Lubavitcher Rebbe, the Israeli diplomat Yehuda Avner asked, “Rebbe, what is it that you seek to accomplish?”

“Yehuda,” said the Rebbe to Avner, “look over there, on the shelf. What is it that you see?” “A candle,” he replied.

“No, it’s not a candle; it’s just a lump of wax with a string down the middle. When does this lump of wax become a candle? When you bring a flame to the wick.”



The Rebbe continued in a Talmudic sing-song: “The wax is the body of the human being, and the wick is the soul. The flame is the fire of Torah. When the soul is ignited by the flame of Torah, that’s when the person becomes a candle, achieving the purpose for which he was created.”

“This is what I try to do—to help every man and woman achieve the purpose for which they were created.”

An hour later, with the sun about to rise and the meeting drawing to a close, Avner asked, “So has the Rebbe lit my candle?” “No,” answered the Rebbe quietly. “I have given you the match. Only you can light your own candle.”



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Temple Youth Group Update

Shalom! By the time you read this, it might actually feel like winter. I say “might” because the weather seems to be far nicer than usual! Assuming that it is actually cold, you might be reading this while warming up over a delicious bowl of matzoh ball soup. The youth group, of course, has been and will continue to be busy as ever. In November, we started off our series of Teen Talks, events where we meet with the Rabbi at a restaurant and talk about current events and Jewish topics. At our first Teen Talk of the year, we met at Gusto Pizza Co. and had a great afternoon. I hope that we can continue to have great lunch discussions with great attendance!

I cannot write an article at this time of year without mentioning Hanukkah, which is perhaps the most exciting holiday for Jewish kids today. I myself have wonderful memories of lighting the candles on the menorah, and frosting cookies at Hanukkah Happenings. On November 22nd, DMTYG had great fun making Hanukkah happen (pun intended!) at the Temple’s annual Hanukkah Happenings! Games, food and music made it so fun for all the kids who came and for all of us who helped out!

Now, as I write this, Joe Biden is speaking at the URJ Biennial 2015. Although I wasn’t there, I watched

the video feed, and for me, the most memorable part of his speech was his excitement as he talked about “meeting the president of NFTY.” He was so excited to hear the cheering from our peers who had traveled across the country to be there. To quote him, “NFTY is why the URJ you’ve worked for your whole life is gonna live on...They’re not only the future of the URJ, they’re the future of the country. I’m inspired by your commitment [to NFTY.]” Joe Biden is so right. Our youth are the future of Judaism, and the future of the country. The support we have from our community is impressive not just to me, but is just as impressive to the Vice President of the United States of America.

In terms of upcoming events, the NFTY-MV Junior Youth Group chavurah is

February 26-28. I know it still feels a while away, but it’s so important that I wanted to start mentioning it now. The DMTYG Board wants to make sure we have more Junior Youth Group involvement, and this chavurah is a great opportunity to get involved with NFTY. Our board has already started calling parents about it because we are so excited to bring more Temple youth into the fold. According to NFTY, this chavurah “is an opportunity to give our youngest members of NFTY a taste of what’s

to come when they reach high school. It is a weekend long event designed to allow Reform Jewish students from all over the Missouri Valley to meet each other, and engage in a weekend of socialization, fun and Jewish learning.”

In short, we’ve had an exciting year so far, and we’ve got even more cool events coming up. Thank you to the DMTYG Board, the Temple, and our community as a whole for continuing to support DMTYG in everything we do. As Joe Biden said at least ten times, “I’m being sincere.”

We’ll see you at the next DMTYG event!

Michael Adato

DMTYG President

Current DMTYG Board:

Religious and Cultural VP:

Andy Kaufmann

Membership/Publicity VP:

Ethan Adato

Programming VP:

Hanna Kaufman and Josh Sobel

Social Action VP:

Sarah-Rose Ballard

JYG Representative:

Ellie Kaufman

Drake Hillel Elects its new Board

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Ian Miller

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Vice President of Holidays and Traditions:

Tali Eisenstadt

Vice President of Recruitment:

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Building Community Cohesion By Martin Raffel

Martin J. Raffel served for 27 years as Senior Vice President at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs

You all know the nursery rhyme about Humpty Dumpty who had a great fall. While the Iran deal is finally behind us — Congressional approval, not the implementation — I believe that we, as a cohesive community bonded in our love of and support for Israel, have fallen. Rather than encouraging inclusivity and striving for consensus, too often we accentuate our differences and demonize those with whom we disagree. Some have shown zero tolerance for dissenting viewpoints. Too often we fail to inject a sense of Ahavat Yisrael (love of Israel) in our gatherings and communications. We have allowed political partisanship to invade our relationship with the Jewish State. In the nursery rhyme, Humpty Dumpty can't be put back together again. But I believe we can put our communal cohesion and bipartisanship back together, but it requires four main ingredients.

The first is knowledge. If you want to be taken seriously in Israel discourse you really have to know stuff. I was amazed by how many people took firm positions for or against the Iran deal last summer, but actually had very little understanding of what it entailed. Hardly anybody took the time to read it cover to cover. We are not all going to be Middle East scholars, but it is vital to be informed, at least on the basics. As the saying goes, you are entitled to your own opinion, but not to your own facts. Too often there is a tendency to spread misinformation, and the Internet certainly makes this form

of mischief easy to achieve.

We also benefit from solid analysis or interpretation. Here, too many of us only follow people and organizations with which we agree. But to be knowledgeable also means to challenge ourselves with contrary points of view. It is natural to want to receive information from those organizations you support. But I believe it's important for AIPAC supporters to read analyses from J Street and vice versa. Those who follow Bret Stephens ought to take the time to read Peter Beinart, and vice versa.

We have a core concept in Judaism reflected in the saying "these and these are the words of the living God." This famous phrase spoken by God in the Babylonian Talmud is in response to an argument between the followers of Hillel and Shammai. Multiple and divergent opinions, we are taught, can reflect holiness, righteousness and insight.

The second ingredient is humility. Even if we are well informed, these are hard judgment calls. On the Iran deal, who can say with utmost certainty whether it will leave Israel and the United States more or less secure than the absence of an agreement? This is a question that in all likelihood we will only have an answer to in 10 years, probably longer. And even then we won't know for sure because the path of no deal will remain an unknown. I am always amazed by people who seem one hundred percent sure one way or the other. And we experienced wildly inappropriate hyperbole. Those who opposed the deal too often were accused of being "warmongers" and those in favor of it as "appeasers."

The same is true with the Palestinian issue. There are those who argue Israel is doomed if it doesn't get out of the West Bank quickly, while others argue that withdrawal would be national suicide. I like the formulation of my friend Yossi Klein Halevi who says he fears creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank as an existential threat to Israel, and he equally fears the failure to create a Palestinian state as an existential threat. The noted Israeli academic Asher Susser refers to "current" security — which requires immediate measures to deal with the violence emanating from East Jerusalem and the West Bank — and "basic" security that will only be achieved when Israel separates from the millions of Palestinians living in those areas. How does Israel grapple with this dichotomy? There are no simple answers.

I referred to the Talmudic passage about the houses of Hillel and Shammai. The Talmud chooses Hillel's halacha or law over Shammai's, not because the decisions were better, but because the authorities of Hillel's school were "kindly and modest and studied both their rulings and those of Shammai's." This teaches that he who humbles himself is raised up by the holy one.

The third ingredient is courage. It is easy to take on the opposition. It is harder to confront those with whom we basically agree — people in our own political camp — who may be straying into extreme posi-

tions or hurtful attacks against the other side that tear at the cloth of communal civility. The moderate, responsible political right should be challenging the far right; and the moderate, responsible left should be challenging the far left. We need a strong center-right/center-left coalition that may not agree on all issues, but can agree on the need to maintain the civility of our discourse and the desirability of reaching consensus positions, which are so necessary when communicating with decision-makers and opinion-molders.

The fourth ingredient is leadership. Those in the political center who value civil, reasoned debate and community unity often find it easier and more comfortable to sit on the sidelines, while the extremes do battle. But this is a huge mistake. These centrist entities charged with the responsibility of building and bringing the community together, like the Federation, should be hyper-active now. If they are not, the vacuum will be filled with less responsible actors.

The great Rabbi Hillel, about whom I spoke before, beseeches us to Ohev Shalom and Rodef Shalom to love peace within the house of Israel/ Shalom Bayit and to actively pursue it day in and day out.

If we diligently heed Hillel's sage advice, then I believe we will fulfill our role as Or La'goyim, a light unto the nations.



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Iowa Jewish Historical Society

A Family's Treasure

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society has more than 7,500 items in its collections—historic photographs, family memorabilia, business papers, religious items from synagogues, and stories, images, and artifacts from Iowa Holocaust survivors.

One of the challenges of collecting historical artifacts is that many of them come to us showing the wear and tear of their age. Yet, the history that each artifact represents to a family, a business, or a synagogue and to the history of the Jewish people in Iowa is worth the extra care needed to ensure that the special item survives to be seen and treasured by future generations.



Before conservation

One such family treasure is now on display for the first time since it was restored—a Jewish Wedding quilt donated by Alice Daniels, who came to Des Moines in 1952 to attend Drake University and became an active member of the Jewish community until her death in 2014.

The quilt was made by the



Back of quilt after conservation

Sisterhood of Temple Beth Israel in Portland, Oregon, in honor of the wedding of Rabbi Julius Grossman and Agatha Mellis, Alice Daniels' grandparents, who were married on December 28, 1884. Each square was designed and handmade by members of the congregation. The quilt has extra meaning, as Alice was named in memory of her grandmother.

When Alice brought the quilt to the IJHS, the top was in good condition, but the back was showing wear and tear. The fabric had split in several places, seams were frayed, and it needed special care before it could be safely housed in the museum or be put on display. Alice very generously donated the funds to have the quilt restored.

To stabilize the quilt and hold it together, the textile conservator used ecru nylon tulle fabric to encase the entire back of the quilt. Cotton thread, matched to the colors of the quilt, was used to stitch the tulle to the quilt. It took hours and hours of delicate stitching to repair the back and stabilize the entire quilt. It is still a delicate item, but with proper care, it will last for many more generations. To ensure that it does, the quilt will be on display for only a short period of time to protect it from exposure to too much light.

We invite you to come to the museum and see this special family treasure that travelled long distances to become a treasured part of Iowa's Jewish history.



After conservation



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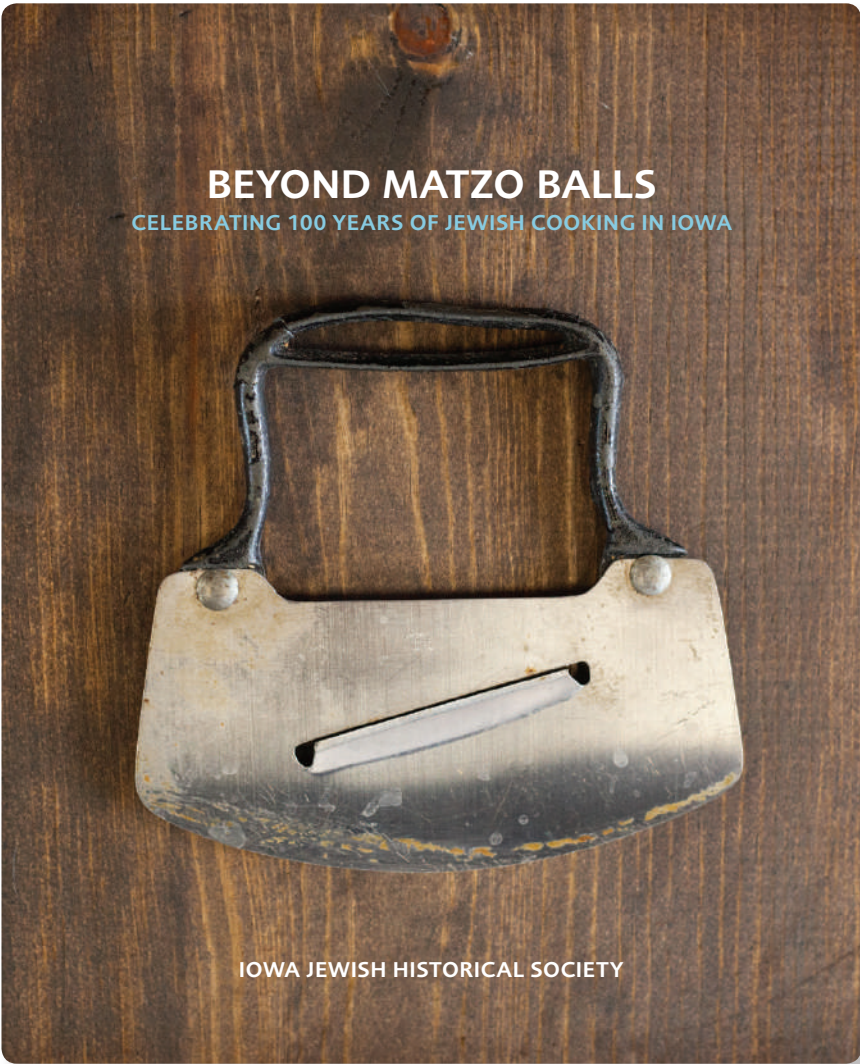
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Whether you are a recent arrival in Iowa or have lived here all your life, the artifacts, photos, manuscripts, and other treasures that the Iowa Jewish Historical Society collects and preserves are **your history**. They are the irreplaceable record of the accomplishments, contributions, and personal stories of Jews in Iowa.

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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 2016

January 2016

Saturday, January 9th – 6:00pm YAD Havdalah, Potluck & Disco Night

Saturday, January 30th – 10:30am Tot Shabbat, Children Service and Junior Congregation

February 2016

Saturday, February 6th – 6:30pm – Havdalah, Potluck & Game Night

Friday, February 12th – 6:00pm – Mishpacha Shabbat

Saturday, February 20th – 9:30am - Meyer

Lederman Bar Mitzvah

Saturday, February 27th – 10:30am – Tot Shabbat, Children's Service and Junior Congregation

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 Bar / Bat Mitzvah Class – Patrick Courtney

Sundays at 3:00pm & 6:30pm

Teen Torah Reader's Club – Patrick Courtney

Sundays at 4:00pm



At Shabbat services on Friday, December 11, the Ames Jewish Congregation celebrated the world premiere of the choral arrangement of cantorial soloist John Pleasants' original composition of V'Shamru, sung by the AJC choir. The choral arrangement was commissioned by AJC in honor of John's 30 years of service at AJC. Although AJC members and guests have enjoyed John's unique melody for several years, either as a solo piece or as a duet, this is the first time that the new choral arrangement was heard by the congregation. The arranger of the choral version, Elaine Hagenberg of Des Moines, accompanied the choir on piano. The choral piece was also performed by the Ames Chamber Artists on Saturday, December 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames.



JRC's Rosh Chodesh Women's Group Challah Baking Class

Rosh Chodesh Shevat / Monday January, 11th 2016 At the JRC – 6:30pm

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RSVP is a must. Jrcspark@msn.com/515-277-1718

Suggested Donation \$5.00 a person



Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Adult Education Calendar for January and February, 2016

Thursdays 7:00-8:30 pm at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Jan 7 What is going on in the Middle East???

Jan 21 Reform Jews and The Muslim Reform Movement

Feb 4 Jewish Concepts of God

Feb 18 Salvation, Atonement, and Forgiveness

Saturday Rabbi's Tish 10:00-11:30 am at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Feb 13 The Afterlife in the Jewish Tradition

Sunday Rabbi's Symposia 4:00-5:30 pm

Jan 10 Dealing with Bigotry [Meets at Rock Bottom Brew Pub in West Des Moines]

Feb 14 Do We Believe That? Take 2 [Confluence Tap Room in Des Moines]



Governor Terry Branstad and Rabbi Yossi Jacobson

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Jan Sudak

Sandra Kay Smeltzer

Paul Mann

Phyllis Fingerman

Robert Harvey Siepmann

Jerry Geller

Rabbi Marshall Maltzman

Faina Chernets

Barbara Edelman

Katie Goldstien



Morning Minyan Times:
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.
 Monday: 6:45 a.m.
 Tuesday: 7:00 a.m.
 Wednesday: 7:00 a.m.
 Thursday: 6:45 a.m.
 Friday: 7:00 a.m.
 Shabbat: 9:00 a.m.

Daily after morning minyan: Two study groups to choose from that will study a range of Jewish topics, from the Weekly Torah portion to Mishna & Talmud and Jewish Law.

Tuesdays:
 RIE Family Hebrew Program at 4:00 p.m.- provides children and

parents with advancement in Jewish knowledge and identity, enabling the children to build a solid Jewish foundation with strong parental support. Please contact the office to attend.

The "Shiur" at 7:00 p.m. – covers Jewish learning on self-improvement, interpersonal relationships, weekly portion and current events. Please contact the office to attend.

Thursdays:
 Jewish Business Ethics at 12:00 p.m. - covers Jewish business practices on a variety of subjects. Please contact the office to attend.

Shabbat Ruach



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Feb. 22	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 10px;"> <p>NISSIM (D. BLACK) - THE RAPPER THAT CHANGED TRACKS SEATTLE RAPPER NISSIM, KNOWN AS D.BLACK BEFORE HIS RECENT CONVERSION TO JUDAISM HAS AN INCREDIBLE STORY TO TELL. AN HOUR OF HIP HOP, RAP AND INSPIRATION.</p> </div> </div>
Feb. 29	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>ALIZA BULOW "TEACHING OUR CHILDREN" ALIZA BULOW HAS BEEN A JEWISH EDUCATOR FOR OVER TWENTY FIVE YEARS TEACHING PRACTICAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY, BASIC JUDAISM AND TEXTUAL LEARNING SKILLS.</p> </div>  </div>
Mar. 7	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>SAUL BLINKOFF  DIRECTOR & ANIMATOR "MY SEARCH FOR CLARITY" COME HEAR HOW JUDAISM PROVIDED A SPRINGBOARD FOR SAUL TO REACH HIS GOALS & NAVIGATE A SUCCESSFUL HOLLYWOOD CAREER. **CHILD CARE PROVIDED**</p> </div> </div>
Mar. 28	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> <p>RABBI BENZION KLATZKO "THE HOLLYWOOD RABBI" RADIO SHOW HOST, VISIONARY & LEADER IN JEWISH TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES</p> </div>  </div>
Apr. 4	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p>DR. BERND WOLLSCHLAEGER "SON OF A NAZI" THE SON OF A HIGHLY-DECORATED WWII TANK COMMANDER AND NAZI OFFICER. HE EVENTUALLY CONVERTED TO JUDAISM, AND SERVED IN THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES AS A MEDICAL OFFICER.</p> </div> </div>

Unmarked Jewish Veteran Graves

We have reports of Jewish Veterans graves that don't have a U.S. Veteran Grave Marker. If you have a relative who was a veteran and should have a marker, please let us know so they can be honored when volunteers are placing flags at our veterans' graves. Contact Gayle at gayle@dmjfed.org or call 515-987-0899 to share your information.



Bar Mizvah

We note with joy the upcoming celebration of



Meyer Lederman, son of **Jacob and Christina Lederman**, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at **Tifereth Israel Synagogue** on **Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.** A Kid-dush luncheon will follow the service.

IT MAY BE COLD OUTSIDE, BUT WE'RE THINKING ABOUT

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