

THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

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HAPPY PASSOVER



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Shalom Gears Up**
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Dr. Wendi Harris**
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Wirtschafter**
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Leading Terrorism Expert & Analyst, Brigitte Gabriel Speaks March 30



Prominent media commentator and author, Brigitte Gabriel, a Christian Arab who survived the Lebanese Civil War, will present a public lecture entitled, "The Untold Story," on Monday, March 30, 7:00 pm at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Boulevard in Des Moines. The program, sponsored by the Jewish Federation and JCRC, will include a Question & Answer session. Following the presentation, Ms. Gabriel will sign copies of her books, the New York Times best-selling memoir, "Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terrorism Warns America" and her latest book, "They Must Be Stopped."

Ms. Gabriel's public presentation and her participation in the Teachers' Institute are made possible by a generous gift from Stanley and Gail Richards.

Gabriel is one of the leading terrorism experts in the world providing information and analysis on Global Islamic terrorism. She is a member of the Board of Advisors of the Intelligence Summit and lectures nationally and internationally about terrorism and current affairs. Her expertise is sought after by world and business leaders. She has addressed the Australian Prime Minister John Howard, members of The British Parliament/House of Commons, members of the United States Congress, The Joint Forces Staff College, The US Special Operations Command, the FBI and many others.

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Get Ready For Passover!

First seder: the evening of April 8. On Passover, we tell the story of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt.

Jacob brought his family to Egypt to be with his son Joseph, who had become Viceroy of all Egypt. Over time, the children of Israel multiplied in the land. Pharaoh feared the Israelites were becoming too numerous. He enslaved them. Despite the oppression, the Israelites continued to multiply. So Pharaoh decreed that all male newborns of Jewish mothers be killed.

A Jewish mother saved her newborn son from being killed by Pharaoh's soldiers by placing him in a basket in the Nile River. When Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the Nile she discovered the baby. She called the baby Moses (drawn from the water) and decided to raise him herself in the palace. She hired the baby's mother, Yocheved, to be his nurse. As Moses grew, Yocheved taught him about his Jewish heritage.

When Moses was 80 years old and his brother Aaron was 83 years old, they entered the palace of King Pharaoh to deliver a message: "The G-d of Israel said, 'Let My people go, that they may serve me.'" Pharaoh refused to let the Jewish slaves go free. Moses and Aaron warned him that G-d would punish his people with plagues. When Egypt was afflicted by its tenth plague, all firstborn in the land of Egypt began dying, including the firstborn of King Pharaoh, exactly as Moses had warned. At this point, Pharaoh relented.

The Jews departed Egypt in haste. After three days, Pharaoh started to regret that he had permitted the Israelites to leave. He commanded his army to retrieve his former slaves. He reached them near the banks of the Red Sea.

A strong wind blew all night, and the waters of the Red Sea divided. The Israelites marched along a dry path through the sea until they reached the opposite side in safety. The Egyptians continued their pursuit, but the waters of the sea closed over them and drowned Pharaoh's army. Thus, G-d liberated the children of Israel from the Egyptians.

Federation Working for You

A successful board and community fundraising training session was held at The Caspe Terrace in January. Led by Campaign Consultant, Jeri Mace, we have developed new ways to explain to you WHAT THE FEDERATION DOES FOR YOU! How your dollars change so many lives for the better.

Participants were members of the Federation Board of Directors, Synagogues, Jewish Senior Life Center, Iowa Jewish Historical Society, Des Moines Jewish Foundation, NIFTY and USY: Neil Salowitz, Judy and Larry Deutch, Jake Jacobs, Norman Mandelbaum, Ed Bell, Tammy Abdulghani, Wendi Harris, Barb Hirsch-Giller, Larry Kirsner, Janice Rosenberg, Karen Engman, Kent Rosenberg, Ron Rosenblatt, Juli Margolin, Jody Jacklin, Steve Altman, Alex Fritzler, Jule and Steven Goldstein, Rabbi Levi Goldstein, Stuart Oxer, Elana Schneider, Jami Schnoebelen, Cynthia Shulman, Rabbi David Kaufman, Michael Libbie, David Adelman, Valerie Cohen, David Copeland, Jacob Lederman, Frank Levy, Hannah Rogers, Justin Schoen, Mike Siegel and Kim Waltman.

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY-WIDE PROGRAMS WED. APRIL 22

7:00 PM

**Holocaust Remembrance
Service and Program**

8:00 PM

**Israel Independence Day
program: Shlomo Molla,
Ethiopian Jewish Israeli
speaks**

for more info go to page 16

LOCATION:

**Temple B'nai Jeshurun
5101 Grand in Des Moines**

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To Be Certain of the Dawn, a holocaust memorial oratorio

Music by Stephen Paulus Text by Michael Dennis Browne

Drake Choir

Drake Chorale

Drake Chamber Choir

Drake University/Community Chorus

Heartland Youth Chorus

Drake Student/Faculty Orchestra

Aimee Beckmann-Collier, conductor

Sunday April 19 • 3:00 p.m.

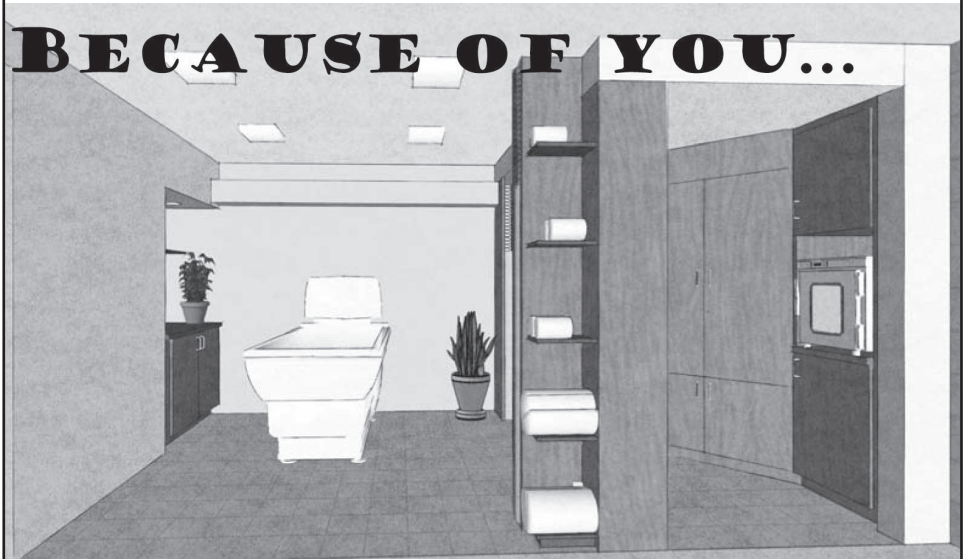
Civic Center of Greater Des Moines

Tickets are \$7 for students and \$15 for non-students. They are available at the Drake Fine Arts Box Office (271-3841), Civic Center Box Office, or charge by phone at 243-1888.



Co-sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

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Through the generosity of our "September Event" Donors, bathing spa construction plans are in progress.

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Did you know that you can designate part or all of your United Way contribution to Jewish Family Services?

The money received through these designations helps the Federation pay for...

Jewish Family Services - Individuals, families, seniors and children

Senior Adult Programs - Senior Adult socialization

Resettlement Program - Case management and health services for seniors

Jewish Family Life Education - Sponsorship of community-wide programs

Volunteer Opportunities - Numerous volunteer projects

Tzedakah - Last year assisted 180 community members in need

Thank you

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



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



Neil Salowitz
President

The war in Gaza is over. Who won?

The Israeli government will say that it sent a message to Hamas: “Stop shelling or face a swift and overwhelming military response.” Hamas will say that the fact that it can still fire rockets at Sderot and Ashkelon proves that the Israelis are powerless to stop them. Both sides claim victory. Who is correct?

Both—and neither.

Although Israel destroyed much of Hamas’ infrastructure, including tunnels used to smuggle weapons from Iran into Gaza, although Israel killed hundreds of Palestinian men, women and children (OK, OK, they were put in harm’s way by their own amoral, craven leaders, but the bullets and bombs came from Israeli soldiers), Hamas remains defiant. There don’t seem to be any moderates left in Gaza. Palestinians mistrust Israelis more than ever.

Although Hamas fired thousands of rockets at southern Israel over the past eight years, although they killed and wounded Israelis (OK, OK, not as many as the number of Palestinians who have died, but even one Israeli dead or wounded is too many), Israel has not been cowed. Despite what some commentators deemed a disastrous result for Israel in the 2006 war in Lebanon, the Israeli deterrent seems stronger than ever. There don’t seem to be any moderates left in Israel. Israelis mistrust Palestinians more than ever.

I’ve tried to understand the ongoing conflict between our Jewish brethren in Israel and the Arab world in general and the Palestinians in particular. I’ve read books and articles; I’ve talked to people on both sides. I’ve tried to put myself in the shoes of the Israelis and the Palestinians. I’ve even tried to understand the twisted collective mind of Hamas. (Believe me, THAT’S almost impossible.)

My conclusion is that peace will not come to the region in my lifetime, and may not come during the lifetimes of my children. The issues (Palestinian “right” of return, the question of Jerusalem, the settlements) are intractable. Only people of extraordinary vision and persuasion—on both sides—will be able to make peace, and make it stick. I don’t see those people on the current scene.

There seems to be no Palestinian peace partner for Israel at present. Hamas is dedicated to the destruction of the Jewish State. The Palestinian Authority is weak and corrupt. There is no Palestinian entity sufficiently strong, cohesive and representative of the Palestinian people to be able to conduct meaningful negotiations.

Unfortunately, there doesn’t seem to be an Israeli peace partner for the Palestinians, either. The recent Israeli elections don’t bode well. At this writing, it’s not clear whether Mr. Netanyahu or Ms. Livni will be asked to form the new government, or even whether either of them will be able to do so. It’s also unclear what role Avigdor Lieberman’s Israel Beitenu (“Israel Our Home”) party will play in any coalition government. What IS clear is that the Israeli electorate has moved further to the right. Given the mood in Israel, can any Israeli government take any risks and offer the Palestinians anything meaningful in exchange for peace?

What, then, will happen? I think the best that Israel can expect is long-term cease-fires with Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and Hezbollah. Even that will require the Israeli government to do things—like talking to Hamas and Hezbollah—that it has so far been unable or unwilling to do. Obviously, Iran and Syria are the unknowns in the equation. As long as they continue to foment trouble, and use the Palestinians as proxies in their conflict with Israel, there can be no peace, or even a meaningful cease-fire.

As the war progressed, we were treated again to the disgusting sight of that brand of anti-Semitism that cloaks itself in anti-Israel sentiment. Both in Europe and in this country, people who were silent for eight years while innocent Israelis lived in terror from rocket attacks suddenly found their voice when Israel defended its citizens. We saw Israeli flags with swastikas replacing the Star of David, posters equating Israel with the Nazis, claims that Israel was perpetrating a “holocaust” (a particularly noxious assertion, given the emotion connotation of that word for Jews) and calls for the destruction of Israel. Some people went so far as to justify Hamas’ attacks on Israeli civilians as the “just” response to Israeli “aggression” against the Palestinians.

After the war, the world was again silent as Hamas stole humanitarian supplies that the U.N. had brought into Gaza. As of this writing, the U.N. has stopped its humanitarian efforts in Gaza because of Hamas’ actions. Where are the protests?

While it is possible to disagree with the actions of the Israeli government without being anti-Semitic, much of what we saw in anti-Israel protests crossed the line. In the marches in Europe, in the vigils held in Des Moines, in the physical attacks on Jews and Jewish synagogues and cemeteries, and in letters to the editor of local newspapers, the viciousness reminded us that we Jews must always remain vigilant. We may consider ourselves to be more or less assimilated into the life of the countries where we live, but too many non-Jews still see us as the “Other.”

The appropriate response is for us to CHOOSE never to forget who we are. We must live Jewish lives, support Jewish institutions and support the State of Israel. In short, the appropriate response to those who hate us and hate Israel is to make real these words: Am Yisroel Chai! The People of Israel Live!
-Shalom, Neil

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

More Merchants From Venice

Dear Editor, Des Moines Jewish Press

Your “Jews Tour Europe” series has reached a new low point with its criticism of William Shakespeare’s “Merchant of Venice.” Mr. Moskowitz’s belief that the Bard was a grizzled anti-Semite who enjoyed depicting the humiliation and conversion of Shylock is simply wrong. Shakespeare loved Jews, as witnessed by some of his lesser known plays: “A Midsummer Night’s Serving of Tsimmis,” “As You Like Davening,” “Julius C. Rosenberg,” and that timeless drama about the troubled prince of kosher dietary rules, “Hamless.” Please try to implement a more-balanced view of this beloved poet and playwright.

Sincerely,
Steve Shakespeare
Chairman, Shakespeare Rehabilitation Society

FREE CARE MEAL AND DELIVERY

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, through Jewish Family Services and in partnership with Maccabee’s Deli and with a grant provided by the David Tobis Fund, is pleased to offer **one free care meal and delivery to a Senior who is discharged from the hospital or an extended care facility**, such as a nursing home.

To receive a meal, please contact Dorothea at 277-6321 ext. 218. See also Senior Care Meals on page 6.

NOTICE: THE COMMUNITY DIRECTORIES ARE HERE

Copies may be purchased at the Federation office at \$12 per book or 3 for \$30.

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press
910 Polk Blvd. Des Moines, IA 50312
515-277-6321 jcrc@dmjfed.org

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Paid advertising by candidates for elective office is welcome but does not constitute endorsement by agencies affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. Inserts to the Jewish Press may not necessarily bear endorsement of the Jewish Federation

We are always happy to receive articles and contributions for consideration. We reserve the right to edit submissions for space considerations and clarity.

Vol. 25, No. 4, March/April 2009



Mazel Tov

To proud grandparents **Susan and Rich Seidenfeld** and parents **Julie and Ben Olsasky** on the birth of **Olive Natalie Olsasky** in Las Vegas on January 10. The baby weighed in at 9 lbs. 2 oz and 21.5 inches.

To **Jacob Lederman and Christina Punelli** (and big brother, Meyer) on the birth of their daughter, **Abigail Jean Lederman** on January 26th.

Let us know...

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

JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL Community Relations Executive Training Seminar (CREST)

On March 4 and 11, the JFCS 10th – 12th graders will attended a special training seminar offered through the FBI. This program was created to increase the number of citizens exposed to the day-to-day operations of very specific parts of the FBI. CREST will serve as a means to exchange information between the FBI and the participating communities.

The purpose of the CREST program is a shorter, more focused version of the Citizens' Academy, conducted in partnership with a community group at an offsite location. Students will learn about the mission, goals, history and internal workings of the FBI, but the sessions are customized to meet the needs of each organization. Some of the specific topics that will be covered are: hate crimes, cyber crime and identity fraud, digital citizenship, domestic terrorism, travel abroad and FBI overseas. CREST will serve as a means to exchange information between the FBI and participating communities. Through this exchange, criminal problems affecting communities will be identified and addressed.

It is the goal of the CREST program to foster a greater understanding of the role of federal law enforcement in the community through frank discussion and education. Once completed, students will receive a special FBI certificate for going through this training.

Jewish Artists@JFCS



On January 21, the JFCS Hebrew High School students began a four week program on Jewish Artists throughout history. Each week a different grade had the opportunity to learn about an art style created by Jewish artists. Two of the four artists covered are mentioned below.

The 10th grade students were introduced to Yaacov Agam. Agam was born into a Russian Chabbad Rabbinical family who relocated to Israel. As Agam was raised with a deeply Jewish identity, he grew into manhood not to find G-d through Rabbinical studies, but by creating a unique art form based on the observance of the Second Commandment. Because of Agam's devotion to not reproduce a graven image of G-d, he has become well known for his spiritual interpretations of the Bible through his magnificent works in optical kinetic art. The students were able to experiment with the "Agam" style by creating a fused glass piece incorporating multi-colored glass into a 4 x 4 base.

The 8th grade class was introduced to the "Father" of the Impressionist Movement, Camille Pissarro. Pissarro, who was born into a Sephardic family, was not raised observantly Jewish due to the way the Orthodox Synagogue shunned his parents' marriage. While both parents (Frederick & Rachel) were Jewish, they were previously related by marriage. Pissarro's uncle died and Frederick moved from France to St. Thomas to look after his aunt (Rachel) by marriage. Over time they fell in love and married. The Rabbinate frowned on this for many years until they finally accepted the union. However, by this time, the elder Pissarro's were disillusioned. Camille was the third of four children.

Camille would find spirituality in his painting. The elder Pissarros instilled a sense of righteousness, "tzedakah," in young Camille, as he would eventually paint the story of the essence of the common workers. He saw the injustice to the poor from the elite and in his paintings, he tried to communicate their plight to preserve for history.

The students were instructed in the painting techniques of Pissarro by trying to incorporate a background, middle ground and foreground in a subject best represented by their painting onto a plate.

-Cynthia Shulman

JFCS Hanukkah Celebration



ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM! "TRAVEL THROUGH TIME" JUNE 15 – AUGUST 7



Get ready to Travel Through Time at Engman Camp Shalom this summer! Together we will spend the weeks exploring how our Jewish ancestors have experienced life, friendship, and the world at large. We will encounter the fascinating people and the remarkable places that have served as landmarks for our Jewish heritage while keeping an eye on the future and how each of us can influence our world. All of this will be in addition to the swimming, sports, Friday field trips and our special afternoon Shabbat that are Engman Camp Shalom traditions.

This summer's theme "Travel Through Time" will take us from Genesis and Exodus, through Ancient Greece/Rome and the Middle Ages, the Revolutionary and Industrial Era, and into the Modern Day and Future. Come join us this summer and meet the new staff, see the old staff, see old friends and make new ones. Come on and join us this summer while we Travel Through Time!

ECS Camp Reunion and Registration Day will be Sunday, April 5, 2009 from 12:30 – 2:00 pm at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Social Hall.

Author Tells Story of Holocaust Survival, Wednesday, April 29

Marion Blumenthal Lazan's unforgettable memoir, "Four Perfect Pebbles," will be the book discussed at a community gathering April 29, Wednesday evening, 7:00 pm, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. All are invited to hear this story of courage, hope and the will to survive.

Following Hitler's rise to power, the Blumenthal Family – father, mother, Marion, and her brother, Albert – were trapped in Nazi Germany. They managed eventually to get to Holland but soon thereafter it was occupied by the Nazis. For the next six and a half years the Blumenthals were forced to live in refugee, transit, and prison camps that included the notorious Bergen-Belsen in Germany. Though they all survived the camps, Walter Blumenthal, the father, succumbed to typhus just after liberation. It took three more years of struggle and waiting before Marion, Albert, and their mother obtained the necessary papers and boarded a ship for the United States. Their story is one of horror and hardship, but throughout their trials they never lost hope.

Marion will recall these devastating years that shaped her childhood. She will also share these memories during her time in Des Moines by visiting with students at local high schools. This evening with Marion Blumenthal Lazan is brought to you by the Jewish Federation of Des Moines and the Jewish Federation Community School. We are so fortunate to be able to offer this opportunity for our Jewish community. Join us on April 29 for this book discussion; Marion will also be available afterwards for book signings. If you would like to purchase a book in advance, please contact the JFCS office at 277-5566.

Purim Word Search

Find and circle the words below.

H	A	L	L	I	G	E	M	G	R	O	F	M	T	G	Z	Z	R
K	G	U	A	O	Y	B	H	N	E	O	C	O	S	T	U	M	E
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U	V	D	C	U	K	F	S	O	E	X	W	M	H	H	R	D	F

ADAR	AHASUERUS	COSTUME
DECREE	ESTHER	FEAST
FESTIVAL	GRAGGER	GALLOWS
HAMAN	HERO	KING
LOTS	MASK	MEGILLAH
MORDECHAI	PAGEANT	PERSIA
QUEEN	SHUSHAN	VASHTI



Elaine Steinger
Executive Director

- Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign -
We can secure the future by planting the seeds today.

So the Des Moines Jewish Foundation will always be there. Even when the world changes.

We have always been there. For many years, the Des Moines Jewish Foundation has helped disadvantaged Jews in our community and around the world, rescued Jews at risk and supported the State of Israel.

We have always been there, but the world is changing. Political upheaval dislocates entire Jewish populations. Socio-economic trends destabilize Jewish families.

The world is changing, but the future is in our hands. Each generation of Jews has planted the seeds to sustain the next.

By building the endowment of the Des Moines Jewish Foundation, today's Jews can help ensure that the Des Moines Jewish Foundation will always be there, even when the world changes.

To learn more about the Des Moines Jewish Foundation, call Elaine Steinger, Executive Director, at 515 277-6321 x211.

A Word on Foundation Investments

Our Des Moines Jewish Foundation invests and makes decisions through an investment committee that works with a strong sense of fiduciary responsibility.

We would like to assure our donors that no Foundation funds are linked in any way with the failed investments that have just made headlines in recent months.



Des Moines Jewish Foundation Board: Don Blumenthal, President; Martin Brody, Vice President; Marvin Winick, Treasurer; Elaine Steinger, Executive Director. Harry Bookey, Suzanne Engman, Debbie Gitchell, Alvin Kirsner, Fred Lorber, John Mandelbaum, Polly Oxley, Sheldon Rabinowitz, Stanley Richards, Ron Rosenblatt, Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan, Don Schoen, Toni Urban

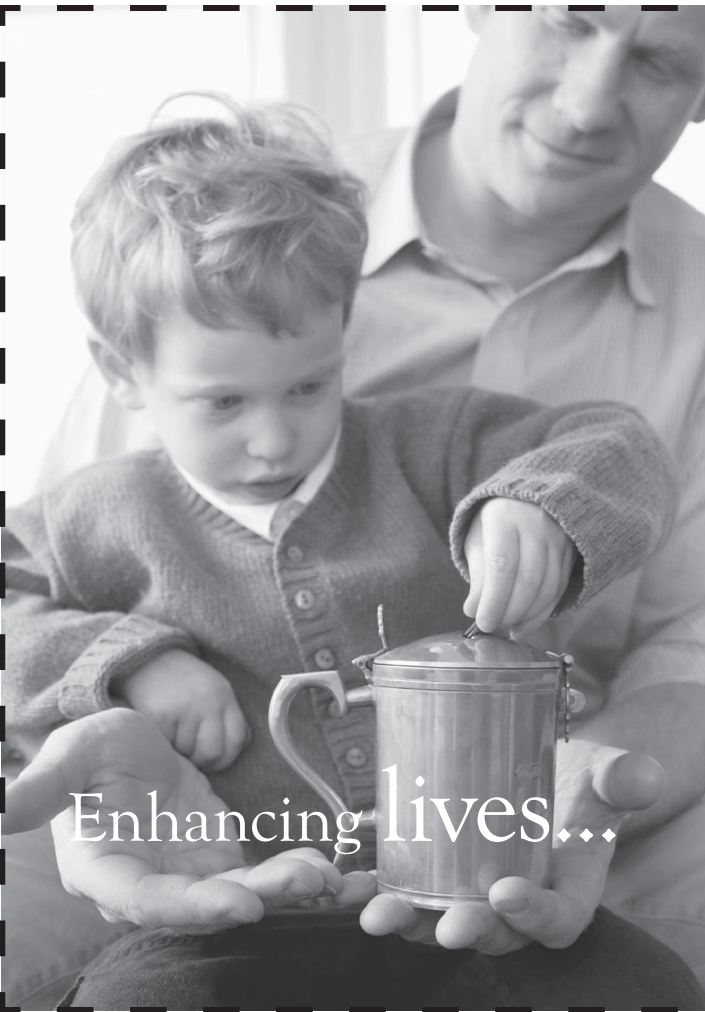
By telling us your story...
you better help us tell ours!

More and more in the coming months, you will find the Federation answering a question we hear from time to time "What does the Federation do?" It's a question that a generation ago didn't need to be answered, but now, with the passage of time, it deserves to be revisited.

One way the Federation is doing that is by telling its own stories better and by asking you for yours. As you can see, we've included the front and back image of a note card that will be given to those we know the Federation has helped in some way.

But there are many stories we never hear. If you have one to tell, please cut out the note card and send us your story. You can send it anonymously or, if you'd prefer (as we would), you can sign your name. In either case, we will take your story and affix it to the back of one of our note cards. The note cards will become like pieces of a puzzle – the Federation picture becomes clearer the more pieces it has.

Tell us your story..



through
your Federation
gift.

Please share your story:



Pesach

by David Friedgood



Before the dawn of human civilization people looked up to the heavens with wonder. They questioned: what is out there amongst the stars? What place do we have in the vast expanse of all that exists? Life on earth is fragile and always too short. Here we are endowed with consciousness and a mind clearly superior to the creatures about us, yet we have limited control of our environment. Our very existence often appears as an accident - subject to the cruel whims of chance, pestilence, trauma, and unpredictable natural disaster. Our ancestors saw logic in the recurrent patterns of nature; the ever-changing seasons, and cyclical movement of heavenly bodies. They marveled as to its meaning. What is the place of man and woman in the vast entity of this universe? Our forbearers were curious beings. They had many questions, and actively sought answers to life's mysteries. As they gazed upward at the evening sky filled with the bright patterns of stars and luminant bodies, the first religious questions were raised. As answers developed, the dawn of religious thought emerged, eventually codified as organized religious movements.

I imagine the developing human religious consciousness ontologically similar to the emerging mind of a child. My 2½-year-old granddaughter Hailey Rose is ever curious about her environment. After her basic needs are satisfied, she spends her days poking and probing, constantly stimulating her senses and testing her limitations. Now that she can speak she is always questioning. No answer completely satisfies, but each leads to more questions. As I watch this child I can almost see the expansion of her mind as she develops a conscious awareness of her environment. Such is our religious awareness. We progress from simple concerns to examining the profound mysteries of our existence. Like Hailey, early man wanted to know who he was. Where did I come from? Who will take care of me in times of need? Over the millennia the questions became increasingly complex. Who was there before me? What happens to my conscious soul once my body is gone? How can I influence my destiny, and how am I to interact with the world around me, both for my benefit and the welfare of my family? These are the questions which religious traditions address as they raise humans from individual beings each looking to survive as best they can in a chaotic universe, to an organized society with common goals and aspirations. (Definitive answers are the realm of science, which throughout most of our history developed alongside religious thought.) Just as my granddaughter is evolving towards adulthood our civilization is advancing, always reaching for better, more sophisticated, answers to the basic questions of life.

We are about to celebrate the holiday of Passover (Pesach). This festival is one way our tradition addresses the question of who we are and why are we here on this earth.

We start with a story. A simple tale, which can be interpreted on many levels. It is a story that can be appreciated by the mind of a child and also by the scholarly philosopher. Our religious kinsmen at the dawn of Jewish history had to move from their homeland to a strange land. Mitzrayim (Egypt) was a narrow place, filled with distractions, rewards, and pleasures. Initially Jacob, Joseph and the other brothers, were welcomed and treated royally. But, "a new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph" (Exodus 1:8). As strangers the Israelite nation was enslaved and degraded. Yet they kept their faith, never completely giving in to their dire consequences. Eventually a leader, Moses, emerged who spoke with God panim al panim (face to face, Exodus 33:11). Our people marched out of the dark narrows of Mitzrayim to the open opportunities of a bright new world. "A mixed multitude went up with them" (Exodus 12:38) and the religious teachings, which developed out of their experience, have become the bedrock of western civilization - the foundation of three great religious traditions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam). As the result of our historic experience as slaves delivered to freedom, we know the place of all mankind in our chaotic world. "You shall not subvert the rights of the stranger or the fatherless; you shall not take a widow's garment in pawn. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and that the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore do I enjoin you to observe this commandment" (Exodus 24:17-18).

Our world is an imperfect place as pointedly described by Rabbi Greenberg in The Jewish Way. People suffer. Injustice is rampant. But, we know that this is not normative; it is not the way things are supposed to be. Because of our historic experience, relived each year during Pesach, we know that there is a better way, a proper way for the world to function. Our existence on this earth is but a spark in the light of history. But each of us is important, human life is infinitely valuable. Every human being is charged with working with our creator to repair our broken world - one mitzvah at a time, "in order that 'each of us' may fare well and have a long life" (Exodus 22:7). This is the true message of our tradition that we trace back to our ancestral stargazers at the dawn of history. It falls on us to illuminate the message, enrich its meaning, and pass it along to the next generation. This is ultimately the best hope for mankind. Hag Sameach.

*"He has told you, O man, what is good,
And what the LORD requires of you:
Only to do justice
And to love goodness,
And to walk humbly with your God;..."
(Micah 6:8)*

Senior Care Meals

Kosher Meals
from Us to You

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, through Jewish Family Services and in partnership with Maccabee's Deli, the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center, and with a grant provided by the David Tobis Fund, is proud to introduce Care Meals.

Care Meals for seniors is a service provided when you return from a hospital stay, are sick, homebound or shut-in due to ice and snow.

Upon your request, frozen or hot, delicious, nutritionally balanced, Kosher meals can be picked up at the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center, Maccabee's Deli or delivered to your home. Most meals can be prepared according to dietary health restrictions, such as reduced sodium, fat or sugar.



Senior Care Meals Menu

PREPARED BY MACCABEE'S DELI

- **Soup and 1/2 Sandwich (Meat)**
Soup of the day, with your choice of deli meats or vegetarian.
- **Salad Plate (Parve or Dairy)**
Choose from Egg or Tuna Salad, Baba Ganoush or Hummus, Challah Roll included.
- **Shabbat Dinner (Meat)**
Includes Chicken or Brisket with Vegetable, Soup with Matzo Balls, Kugel, Challah, Dessert, Grape Juice or Wine, Candles and Shabbat Blessing Sheet.
- **Chicken Breast Dinner (Meat)**
Entrée, Rice and Vegetable
- **Baked Salmon Dinner (Parve)**
Entrée, Couscous and Vegetable
- **Desserts (Dairy)**
Choose from Assorted Fruit, Cakes or Cookies

Senior Care Meals

PREPARED BY
IOWA JEWISH SENIOR LIFE CENTER

You may request Care Meals be prepared by the IJSLC. In those circumstances, menu selection will not be available, but instead will be according to the IJSLC's pre-scheduled menu.

Meals may be picked up at the IJSLC, if ordered 48 hours in advance.

To Order

Call Dorothea

277-6321 x-218

48 Hour Advance Notice Required

- **Cost Based on Individual Financial Circumstances**
- **Donations Accepted**
- **Confidentiality Respected**

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FREE CARE MEAL

The Federation, with a grant provided by the David Tobis Fund, is pleased to offer **one free care meal and delivery** to a Senior who is discharged from the hospital or an extended care facility.

Call Dorothea at 277-6321 ext. 218.

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Barb Hirsch-Giller, chair
Dr. Edward Bell; Laura Bernstein; Carol Mau;
Miriam Mintzer; Neil Salowitz; Justin Schoen;
Elaine Steinger, Executive Director

David Tobis Fund Committee
Sheldon Rabinowitz; Elaine Steinger;
Michael Tobis; Sam Tobis; Toni Urban

Project Elijah Foundation

Project Elijah Foundation is Really on the Move



Julie Kaufman

Project Elijah Foundation is headed for NFTY! We are excited to announce that on February 15, 2009 we will be packaging 50,000 meals with the NFTY youth attending the national convention in Washington D.C. This will be the first packing of our newly reformulated Elijah's Kosher Manna. This Manna was reformulated to meet the needs and tastes of our American Jewish food insecure. Many thanks to Iowa State University's Health and Human Nutrition Department for all their assistance in helping us reach this goal.

These meals will be used by the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty in New York to help provide food for the 1,400 families they feed each month. Be sure to look at their website: www.metcouncil.org to see all of the amazing things that this agency does. We are proud to have formed a partnership with the Metropolitan Council and hope that together we can indeed improve the lives of our fellow Jews.

The NFTY convention will be our largest packing to date. What exciting times. In addition to the NFTY national convention we are in the process of discussions with BBYO to hold a packing at one or more of their summer regional conclaves. Knowing that hundreds of teenagers will be participating in, and learning about helping others in need, is a wonderful and heartwarming feeling. These teens can really make a huge difference and I know they can make the world a better place.

In addition to the efforts here in the United States, we now have over 140,000 meals ready to be sent to the Red Argentine Food Pantry in Buenos Aires. We are working with requests to help provide meals in other areas such as Israel and Latvia. Here in the U.S. Rabbi Roberts of the New York Board of Rabbis is helping us make arrangements to supply the American Red Cross and Salvation Army with our Manna for use during their disaster relief efforts.

So as you can see many, many great things are happening here at Project Elijah Foundation. We thank you for all of your support. Your efforts have helped to make all of this possible. The Jewish community of Des Moines is truly very special indeed.



As always, thank you for your continuing support of the Project Elijah Foundation. Without you, our work could not be done.

Julie Kaufman, Executive Director, Project Elijah Foundation
515-246-8001 www.projectelijahfoundation.org

senior news

Senior Volunteer Program Are you looking for a way to put meaning back into your life while helping others? Become a Senior Volunteer and help us reach out and care for someone in need. The rewards are many and the need is great. To learn more about volunteer opportunities or any of our programs, please contact Pat Nawrocki, OASIS Project Services Manager, at 277-6321 x215.



Angie and John Burger, Administrator and Director of Accessible Home Health Care of Des Moines, gave a very informative presentation on How to Choose a Good Home Health Provider.

Upcoming Luncheons:

Thursday, March 19, Noon at Beth El Jacob Synagogue We are pleased to have Dick Craven, a SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) counselor who will be educating us about the program and discuss what it offers to all of you. SHIIP provides private, confidential, unbiased information about health care insurance for people on Medicare or about to be on Medicare. Dick will discuss who they are and what they do, what the various insurance options are for people on Medicare, open enrollment periods and Long Term Care needs and options.

Tuesday, April 21st, PRAIRIE MEADOWS HERE WE COME! Time: 10:30a.m. until 2:30p.m. The bus will depart from the Tifereth Synagogue parking lot at 10:30a.m. We will enjoy a well-deserved trip to Prairie Meadows after a cold, snowy winter. Free Buffet style lunch, live band music and dancing, and, of course, all are welcome to play slot machines.

2009 All-In-One Campaign What Does the Federation Do?



Judy Deutch,
President Elect

The next time you're asked that question, here are a number of stories that represent just the tip of what the Federation accomplishes. Next time you're asked to support the Federation, consider the depth and breadth of what the Federation does to serve the Jewish community in Des Moines. Be proud.

Over 150 students in grades K-12 attend the Jewish Federation Community School. All receive a 50% subsidy for tuition which totaled over \$45,000 in 2008. On top of that, those students in financial need receive additional dollars that can provide up to full scholarships. The school also provides one-on-one assistance for students with special needs; an incredible gift to the Jewish community and to those students and families who need extra help with NO additional cost to the families.

The Federation provides a Russian interpreter who spends 17 hours a week transporting senior Russians Jews, who speak no English, to medical appointments. She schedules the appointments, interprets the doctor's diagnosis, and makes sure these seniors have the proper medical care they need. These people depend 100% on this Federation interpreter to help them through their daily lives. She is literally their lifeline in America.

In 2008 just 29 volunteers, through the OASIS program, provided 1,275 car rides to frail seniors for doctor appointments, grocery shopping or trips to the pharmacy for medications. These seniors would be totally housebound without their help. This amounts to approximately 25 car trips a week.

The Federation handles the need of over 300 seniors annually, helping them attain and access services that fulfill basic needs such as legal aid, psychiatric or medical care, complete needs assessment, case management, an emergency response system, environmental modifications, volunteer interaction, social luncheons, Care Meals through the Tobis Fund, educational speakers, entertainment, bus trips and transportation - all with little or no cost to the seniors.

The Federation provides additional support for 72 individuals who live out their lives in dignity at the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center, the highest rated nursing home in the state of Iowa. The facility is full with a long waiting list, a testament to the need as well as to the quality of care provided there. The Center also provides facilities for those who need rehabilitation following a hospital stay or illness. It is a beacon of hope for many.

The Jewish Community Relations Commission hosts the renowned Teachers' Institute that has served over 5,000 teachers during the past 29 years. Topics have ranged from Holocaust Education to Israel, to basic concepts in Judaism, and to Church-State relations. The 30th Anniversary of the Teachers' Institute will be held on March 30th this year and is organized by your Federation staff.

continued on page 16

Helen's Story



In 2007, Helen (left), with OASIS volunteer Barb Galinsky, was presented with a certificate in which a tree was planted on the grounds of The Caspe Terrace in honor of her 100th birthday.



In May of 2008, Governor Culver presented Helen Barmish with the First Annual Governor's Conference on Aging Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes Iowa's oldest citizens who have reached (or passed) the age of 100! Congratulations Helen!

"I am a 101 year-old lady who is legally blind, due to macular degeneration. I live with my son in an apartment, but he works and I was feeling very lonely and isolated.

I was matched with a volunteer who takes me to doctor appointments, out to lunch every week and also to the monthly senior luncheons. Due to my being alone during the day, and since I've had several falls, the Federation assisted with an emergency response system, which makes me feel much safer and more secure when I am alone.

I am so thankful for my volunteer, who gets me out of the apartment and makes me feel "like a loved person." I call my volunteer a sister. The Federation recognized me on my 100th birthday at a senior luncheon, planted a tree in my honor and presented me with a certificate. I am delighted."

— Helen Barmish



Venice this trip going to end? by David Moskowitz



In our last episode, Heidi and David burst into the dazzling sunlight of Venice, Italy, a city renowned for the welcome it extended to the Jews in the wake of the Spanish Inquisition (that is, until the time came to crack out the yellow armbands and build the first ghetto). From the amazing fireworks and festivities of the Festa del Redentore to the throngs of people and pigeons at the Piazza San Marco, Venice marks the end of our European journey. And not a second too soon, because, let's face it, at this point I think everyone has just about had their fill of this series.

[Editor's comment: What?]

Venice is the end of the trip, which means it's the end of this series of columns. Time for me to journey off into the sunset. You can replace me with a column about latke recipes from South America. No one will even know the difference.

[Editor's argumentative response: You can write about anything you want! Frankly, we have all begun to lose interest in your travelogue anyway. In today's economy, most people aren't planning lavish European vacations, and your columns are just making us feel bad about ourselves. Our summer 2009 recession-era vacation plans center around a drive to the Amana Colonies and dinner at the Ox Yoke (the crummy one on the interstate, not the slightly better one in Amana itself). So write anything.]

Like what?

[Editor's persuasive response: Well, your columns appear on the Internet under the name www.insaneworld.org. Why don't you write about the multitudinous other examples of insanities that appear in daily life? For example, from your perspective in the inner circle of a Large Financial Institution, couldn't you write about the insanity that has befallen our economy? If not, there is plenty of insanity to write about. Think of something.]

Okay. But before I do, I owe it to my vast readership to bring this baby home. And there was plenty of insanity in Venice yet to come.



Goodbye to Venice and Europe!

The famous Casino in Venice bore no resemblance to any casino I have ever seen. Where was the enormous floor space filled with thousands of ringing, whirring, exploding slot machines? Where were the vast restaurants with waterfalls and \$100 appetizers? Or the arenas with one of fifty inexplicable Cirque du Soleil performances (on that note, I have completely lost track of

these Cirque shows. I was able to keep up for the first three or four, but now they have started geometrically increasing in number. During my last trip to Las Vegas, I think the show at my hotel was called "Flurb" or "Le Flurb" or something French Canadian and the theme seemed to be people dressed as electronic rodents who had figured out how to jump through windows onto turntables made of cheeses. Is it me or is it time to say enough to Cirque? These productions make me nostalgic for the emotional power and relevance of "Cats." So I say to the producers of Cirque du Soleil: I beg you. Please stop.)

None of that Las Vegas glitz existed at the Venetian Casino. This place was definitely old school. After passing through security checks that were more strenuous than the checkpoints at Ben Gurion airport, we entered a casino that could hold only 100 people (about the same size as the men's room at the Bellagio) and was decorated with chandeliers and red velvet. It was divided into little rooms where people were involved in very intimate games of chance. People were all dressed in black tie formal wear, and the games were all completely incomprehensible. I have no idea what the rules were to play "L'Occitane" but I know that it involved guessing a number, pointing to the green felt, and then watching your wallet become lighter. I remember that moving my arms meant I owed \$100 euros to the non-English speaking lummo next to me. The protocols, rules, and traditions



The actual Casino of Venice is behind this giant picture of the Casino of Venice.

of this casino were all beyond me, so I tried to keep my arms to myself, avoid eye contact, and just observe. The goal was to avoid losing everything I owned within 15 minutes.

That's why my arrest for international monetary theft came as something of a surprise. It turns out that the rule is that you aren't allowed to touch the arm of an unoccupied slot machine. In Venice, patrons are apparently permitted to load up their slot machine with coins, and then go to the bathroom for an hour, hoping that some rube from America will "drop the arm" while you are gone. We Idiots fall for this every time.

Here is a partial transcript of my interrogation by Interpol in a darkened room in the bowels of the Venetian casino: INTERPOL OFFICER: L'abbiamo sul nastro. Confessare. [Translation: We have you on tape. Confess.]

continued on page 16



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Federation Commemorates the JCRC Teachers' Institute On Its 30th Anniversary

Ask community members to cite the most effective JCRC program that reaches out to the general community and you are most likely to hear named the Teachers' Institute. This year is the 30th presentation of the Institute, which has served over 5,000 public and parochial school teachers, bringing them information and insight into world issues. Held most often in a synagogue, affording teachers an opportunity to see a Jewish house of worship, the Teachers' Institute has variously been devoted to the study of the latest methods and materials for teaching about the Holocaust, Israel, interfaith relations, constitutional issues regarding the separation of State and religion, Judaism, and cultural tolerance and pluralism – topics which are of prime importance to the Jewish community.

Out of the Teachers' Institutes has come the impetus for JCRC's Holocaust Curriculum which has been taught in Des Moines and other cities, the initiative to send teachers to participate in Holocaust education workshops in Poland, and Israel, and on study tours of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Among the clinicians who have taught at the Institutes have been the noted author and Holocaust survivor Gerda Klein, US

peace negotiator Dennis Ross, tolerance and pluralism spokesperson Irshad Manji, Director of Religion and State issues for the American Jewish Congress, Marc Stern, Middle East studies professor and think-tank analyst Dr. Walid Phares, the Chief

Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court who explained how the Nazis systematically removed existing legal protections, Interfaith Relations Director for the American Jewish Committee, Rabbi Jim Rudin, and a teacher who had helped implement the famed "Paperclips" Holocaust memorial project in Kentucky. This year's clinician Brigitte Gabriel will address threats posed to American democracy.

One important component of the Institute has always been the meal served to teachers prior to a concluding instructional segment. During dinner the teachers are joined by members of the Jewish community who are there to meet the teachers and answer their questions.

"The Teachers' Institute is an important part of the Federation's outreach



Amb. Dennis Ross



Teachers enjoy Israeli dinner

to the greater community," noted Federation president Neil Salowitz. "We Jews understand the value of education, and I'm delighted that we've been able to provide education on Jewish topics to so many teachers over the years."

How did the Teachers' Institute come into being? The idea and much of its implementation is credited to Roselind Rabinowitz, who has been involved with all of the Institutes over the past thirty years. "The first Institute was hatched on my porch in the summer of 1979, she relates. Roselind was Chair of the Jewish Community Relations

Commission back then, and continues her work with JCRC as do most of the past Chairs. "Our meeting consisted of four people: Elaine Steinger, on her first day of work as Director of JCRC, two public-school teachers, and me. After we presented an outline of our proposed project, one of the teachers excitedly endorsed it. The second teacher asked me: How many teachers do you think you could attract to attend? I responded that I thought 100 would be a very good beginning. He replied



Irshad Manji (r) and Prof. Young



Co-chairs Roselind Rabinowitz and Barb Hirsch-Giller with Dean Griffith, Simpson College

he thought that was an impossible goal. Being a bit stubborn yet optimistic, I bet him lunch that we would reach that goal. It so happened we welcomed 105 teachers that year. He lost; I won. But I never collected lunch."

Asked to assess the legacy of the Institutes, Roselind indicated that she hopes that the program sponsored by the Jewish Federation has in some way provided teachers with insight into some complex issues and that they, in turn, have helped their students to become better informed citizens. She looks forward to this year's Institute. The

30th Anniversary Institute will be co-chaired by Barbara Hirsch-Giller and, of course, Roselind, for whom it is a labor of love.

Our sincere thanks are expressed to all who have participated. We extend a special thank you to Carol Brown, former Social Studies Coordinator for the Des Moines Schools. Carol has served many years as our Educational Consultant and was instrumental in developing the JCRC Holocaust Curriculum.

-- Mark Finkelstein, JCRC Director

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Leadership Forum graduate



David Adelman



Chris Carr



Randi Carr



David Copeland



Jule Goldstein



Rachel Garnaas



Emily Kruse



Terry Kruse



Brian Pearl



Krista Pearl



Hannah Rogers



Will Rogers



Ken Waltman



Kim Waltman



Allison Wolf



Missy Wolnerman

tes



Christine Copeland



Dr. Steven Goldstein



Jacob Lederman



Frank Levy



Justin Schoen



Mike Siegel

Also, graduating, but not pictured are: Jenny & Phil Blumberg, David & Valerie Cohen, Warren & Nicki Kruger, Jami Schnobelen and Laura & George Sparks.

Photos courtesy of Laurie Wahlig

Beginning in April 2007, at the home of Toni and Tim Urban, the Jewish Federation kicked off the first Leadership Forum program this community has sponsored in the last 12 years.

This Leadership Forum seeks to prepare the next generation of leaders to address the needs of our evolving Jewish community. The focus of the program was to create a bond among future leaders, while exposing them to exceptional intellectual programs, social opportunities and other Jewish experiences.

The participants in this 18-month program were between the ages of 25 and 40, live in the Des Moines area, and have been designated by Jewish institutions as potential leaders by demonstrating a commitment to build a stronger, local Jewish community. They also want to learn from local and national leadership, mentors and peers and have a strong commitment to Israel.

The first leadership meeting was with speaker and correspondent with the Jewish Telegraph Agency and former staff reporter for the Jerusalem Post, Sue Fishkoff. Her presentation included a discussion of post denominational synagogues, Jewish ritual exploration and the changing priorities and energies of the American Jewish community.

Our second formal meeting was a bus tour of historic Jewish Des Moines, beginning at the 1880 Jewish cemetery in East Des Moines and taking us through to modern Jewish institutions of Des Moines. This program proved to be one of the favorites of the leadership attendees.

Other programs included a Shabbat Potluck, a series of leadership development classes, informal social gatherings, a book review of the book by Rabbi Aden Steinsaltz, "We Jews - Who are We and What Should We Do?" and a private meeting with internationally renowned moderate Muslim leader, Ms. Irshad Manji. In July 2008, the forum members met with other Jewish community leaders and mentors who made remarks to the forum participants on their motivation for participating in leadership roles in the Des Moines community. There were many questions and answers following these presentations.

The culmination of the programs was a unique Scholar-in-Residence learning experience, the weekend of October 3-5, 2008, with special guest, Dr. Michael Cook, from Hebrew Union College. Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Tifereth Israel Synagogue, and the Jewish Federation Leadership Forum experienced a weekend of studying with Dr. Cook on his book "Modern Jews Engage the New Testament - Enhancing Jewish Wellbeing in a Christian Environment." Besides speaking at the Temple and Tifereth, the forum participants experienced a Shabbaton retreat at Cathy and Tom Goldman's farm with Dr. Cook, where they observed Mincha and Havdallah. On Sunday Dr. Cook addressed junior and senior high students at the Jewish Federation Community School.

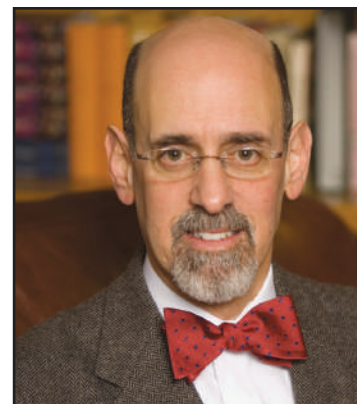
This 18-month experience will conclude on June 11th, with a 10-day trip to Israel with the following forum participants: David Adelman, Chris & Randi Carr, David & Valerie Cohen, David & Christine Copeland, Steven & Jule Goldstein, Jacob Lederman, Brian & Krista Pearl, Justin Schoen, Mike Siegel and Ken & Kim Waltman.

Our lasting gratitude goes to the leadership advisory committee David Adelman, Steve Altman, Shelley Brody, Judy Deutch, Stacie Franklin, Alan Koslow, Michael Libbie, Paulee Lipsman, Polly Oxley, Neil Salowitz, Justin Schoen, Bruce Sherman, Toni Urban, Aaron Weinberg, Missy Wolnerman and with special thanks to Judy Blank, who has helped fund this wonderful program through the Steven Blank Memorial Leadership Fund in the Des Moines Jewish Foundation.

The forum class was mentored by incoming Federation president, Judy Deutch, and community leader, Bruce Sherman, who guided it skillfully through the last 18 months and will continue to do so through the next series of four classes for those who will be participating on the Israel mission.



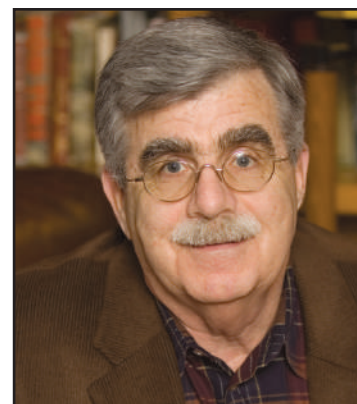
Deb Salowitz, Graduation Host



Neil Salowitz, Graduation Host



Judy Deutch, Mentor



Bruce Sherman, Mentor

Jewish Community Relations Commission

Holocaust-Themed Oratorio Performance at Civic Center, April 19

Drake University's four choirs, a faculty/student orchestra, soloists, and singers from the Heartland Youth Choir will present "To Be Certain of the Dawn," a Holocaust memorial oratorio, on Sunday, April 19, 3:00 p.m., at the Civic Center of Greater Des Moines under the direction of Aimee Beckmann-Collier, Director of Choral Studies at Drake. Stephen Paulus, composer of the work, and Michael Dennis Browne, librettist, will present a pre-concert lecture at 2:00 in the East Lobby. Drake's yearly performance of a major choral/orchestral work is made possible by the gift of an anonymous donor. This year's concert, which is the first time the Drake Music Department has presented a piece by a living American composer, is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and will serve as the commemorative event for Yom HaShoah.

"To Be Certain of the Dawn" was commissioned by Rev. Michael O'Connell and the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis as a gift to Temple Israel and Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps and the 40th anniversary of the Vatican document Nostra Aetate. The work evolved over a four-year time period, beginning with the idea that Christians must own and teach about the Holocaust as much as or more than Jews and that a work of enduring art could be a powerful vehicle for carrying this message to individuals and communities far

into the future. The oratorio takes its title from a quotation by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel: "This is the task: in the darkest night to be certain of the dawn, certain of the power to turn a curse into a blessing, agony into a song."

The work is written as a triptych. Renewal, the first section, reveals Christian contrition for all the centuries of "the teaching of contempt" as well as a desire to return to spiritual roots and to seek a new beginning as partners with Jews. In Remembrance, the middle section, four "meditations upon the faces," based on images in Roman Vishniac's "Children of a Vanished World," a collection of haunting photographs of Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the Shoah, provide the inspiration for the music. Visions, the final section, brings the listener to present time with a layered emphasis on Jews and Christians desiring to walk together "in the country of justice," the human face as the reflection of the invisible God, the voices of Holocaust survivors, the voices of children, now graduated from the simple blessings they sang earlier in the piece to some of the most resonant verses in the Hebrew Scriptures, the return of the theme "You should love your neighbor as yourself," and the sounding of the shofar, with which the work began.

Composer Stephen Paulus has written more than 350 works and has been commissioned to create pieces for many of America's major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, the

Cleveland Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, the Des Moines Metro Opera and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. Librettist Michael Dennis Browne is Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of English at the University of Minnesota.

Tickets for the concert are \$7 for students with ID and \$15 for non-students.

They may be purchased on or after April 1 at the Drake Fine Arts Box Office (271-3841) or the Civic Center Box Office (243-1888). Tickets will be available at the door. For further information, contact Dr. Aimee Beckmann-Collier, at 271-2841 or aimee.beckmann-collier@drake.edu.

See ad on page 2

Drake University Group Visits US Holocaust Memorial Museum



Last Spring, Aimee Beckmann-Collier, Director of Choral Studies at Drake University, approached JCRC and the Federation with some exciting news: the Drake Music Department would be performing a major work on April 19, Stephen Paulus' Holocaust oratorio, "To Be Certain of the Dawn." The title is drawn from the writings of the venerated Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The Federation was interested and has subsequently co-sponsored the performance to be held at the Civic Center. Dr. Beckmann-Collier was interested in having her students learn more about the Holocaust to help make the performance more meaningful. The Federation was happy to oblige and offered to conduct a trip under the auspices of JCRC to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for a small delegation from Drake. The visit was held in early January. Participants, as pictured, included JCRC Director Mark Finkelstein, students Jess Hoffert and Jessica Shalita, Dr. Beckmann-Collier, Special Assistant to the Director of Education of the National Institute for Holocaust Education, Dr. Ann Millin, who guided us through the exhibit and choir member Susan Wickham. Above, Dr. Beckmann-Collier provides information about the upcoming performance, followed by a reflective composition from Jess Hoffert on the next page. [In our next edition, we shall provide the fine reflective commentary submitted by Jessica Shalita and Susan Wickham. — ed.]

The Jewish Federation is proud to co-sponsor the performance of "To Be Certain of the Dawn" on April 19, and recommends that community members attend the performance, at 3:00 pm that afternoon, as part of our community's observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day.



Happy Passover!

Jim and Shirlee Marcovis
Nashi and Bobbi Khalastchi and family
Frank and Janel Marcovis and family
David Marcovis

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Preserving Humanity

What the Holocaust Museum Taught Me About Life
by Jess Hoffert

I am a bystander. As wars rage on around me and my fellow brothers and sisters look for a hand to lift them out of despair, I worry about my own future and often forget that no one, not even myself, can be certain of the dawn to come.

In my darkest moments, I feel hopeless and forget that there are those who would give their lives to live a life such as mine.

As I get ready for the day, a warm shower wakes me up and refreshes as I think about all the work that needs to be accomplished before the night comes again. I forget that there were those who took one last horrible shower before facing an eternal departure from the lives they knew.

I take for granted my nutritious meals and access to clean water. If I haven't eaten in a few hours, I say, "I'm starving." I forget that there are those who really starve and that during the Holocaust, many pricked their fingers and smeared blood on their cheeks to look healthy in attempts to live just one more day.

Sometimes, I forget that I am one of many. Other times, I forget how small we are as a human race. When I look at recent space images of the thousands of visible galaxies and see that we are just one small prick in our own little Milky Way speck, I remember our fragility, and then I wonder.

I wonder why we are constantly fighting. I wonder why we kill off our own race. I wonder why we are bystanders.

Hitler's Nazi regime was the champion of propaganda, but no one was brainwashed. As our tour guide told us at the museum, brainwashing is when an individual is tortured and locked up and literally forced to follow orders. As long as there is no brainwashing, there is a choice. We are not dumb. We have not been brainwashed. Therefore, we have a choice. Will we be bystanders or not? Educate yourselves as to what's going on in the world today. That's the first step. Find a way to take action. Step out of your comfort zone if you need to.

Most of all, be thankful. Don't feel guilty that you've lived such a full life. Rejoice in it! But always remember that with great power comes great responsibility.

If everyone in our society remembered that, our fragile humanity may be preserved for just a little while longer. We have the means to stop another genocide and make "never again" mean something. But to make that happen, we must never forget the Holocaust.



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THE LEGENDARY DEBBIE FRIEDMAN performed with the assistance of children from our community and the Kol B'yachad Choir, including Cantors Berkson and Bletstein. This amazing concert was sponsored by Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Tifereth Israel Synagogue and the Jewish Federation. Photos courtesy of Todd Steinberg.

Best Wishes for a Happy Passover!

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Dave Lettween
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[in profile:]

Stuart Oxer and Dr. Wendi Harris

Helping Students Succeed Is New Venture For Local Couple



Stuart Oxer and Dr. Wendi Harris, along with their children Grant and Elizabeth, are members of Temple B'nai Jeshurun, and Stuart and Wendi are on the Federation Board.

Jewish Press: Stuart, it is a pleasure to chat with you. I understand that you and Wendi are in a new educational enterprise?

Stuart Oxer: Yes. Wendi and I opened a Huntington Learning Center. The Center, in West Des Moines, is geared to helping kids who are either struggling in school, or who want to get ahead in school, and those who would like to improve their scores on the ACT and SAT college entrance exams.

JP: This is a change of direction for both of you.

SO: Yes. Wendi retired from practicing pediatrics about three years ago, and I had been in manufacturing my whole professional life and we just wanted to

do something a little different. Before entering the medical field, Wendi was preparing in grad school to be an English professor. I have my undergraduate degree in mathematics and statistics, and I went to graduate school in business.

JP: I'm sure you thought very hard and long before shifting your careers. What convinced you to make the change?

SO: Two things. One: quality of life, the other, viability in a changing marketplace. Wendi left pediatrics to spend more time with the children as they got older, so this was a good opportunity. Now she can work part-time teaching ACT and SAT prep. For me, I've been in manufacturing, and with the US economy moving away from that area, I felt it was good to get into a new industry – and I've always loved education. When Wendi and I joked, what would I do when I retire, I've always said I'd love to teach math to little kids. Now I can fulfill that dream without retiring.

JP: What age level children do you work with?

SO: We work with kindergartners up through twelfth graders.

JP: When does instruction take place?

SO: We are open seven days a week.

JP: Do you hire other instructors?

SO: Yes. All the instructors are state-certified teachers. Some are retired teachers, and some are still teaching in the schools, and working for us part-time. For

the ACT/SAT, our teachers must have at least a bachelor's degree and at least a "33" – which is the top 1% -- in the section of the ACT they intend to teach.

JP: Where is the Huntington Learning Center located?

SO: Our Center is located in West Des Moines, at 6305 Mills Civic Parkway, right next to the Starbucks, across from the Super Wal-Mart.

JP: When did you initiate the project?

SO: We opened the franchise in May 2008 and we opened our doors at the end of August.

JP: What type of feedback have you been getting?

SO: Very positive. Children who have been struggling in school, have, after a few months, started performing a lot better in school. And for our ACT students, we've had very fine success in getting them into the college of their choice.

JP: How do you personally feel about it?

SO: I love it. Coming from a manufacturing background, where I was working with plastic and metal, each day was about trying to reduce costs and headcount. Here, you are actually doing something with your life and seeing the teachers work with the children to improve their performance in school, and talking to the parents, with their being so frustrated with their children, and a lot of times being at the end of their rope, to see a change after a month or two where

the kids are doing better in school and are no longer fighting with their parents about grades. It is very rewarding to see the situations progress.

JP: What are the particular topics you enjoy teaching?

SO: Wendi teaches science, math, English, and reading for the ACT/SAT.

JP: Tell us a bit about your own children.

SO: Grant is 14 and Elizabeth is 12. Grant's Bar Mitzvah was last year, and Elizabeth's Bat Mitzvah is this June. They both like school and like their video games. We have fun.

JP: Have either of them been involved with the Center?

SO: Yes. One of the reasons that we learned about Huntington was that Elizabeth was having some struggles with math in school. She entered the program at Huntington, and has improved tremendously.

JP: How can folks learn more about the Huntington Learning Center and what it has to offer?

SO: If someone would like more information, they can call me or our staff at Huntington Learning Center. Our Center's number is 515-440-1583.

JP: Stuart, thank you for the interview. Lots of good luck to you both. It sounds like a great project that is very rewarding in terms of helping students and their parents. Keep up the good work!

SO: Thank you.



The Tradition Continues

Over the years, a transition of ownership has taken place at the Betts Auto Campus. In 1988 we began a process to purchase the dealership from the Betts family. That process was completed in 2000, and the name of the dealership officially changed to the Willis Auto Campus earlier this year.

Today, in my 36th year at the dealership, and with our sons Jason and Matt now in the business, our commitment to our customers remains the same. We strive everyday to continue our tradition of providing exceptional customer service.

Rich Willis, Dealer Principal

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In the Kitchen With Tali Greenspon

by Karen Engman



Tali (Goldberg) Greenspon was born in Tel Aviv, moving back and forth between Israel and the United States while her father completed his medical studies. Her family moved to Chicago when she was ten.

She attended Drake University where she met David, a graduate student from Indiana. They were friends for at least ten years before they started dating. Tali moved back to Chicago and received a paralegal degree from Roosevelt University, thinking she might pursue a law degree. Instead she returned to Des Moines to work for David at his new company Competitive Edge.

Competitive Edge was originally a marketing and research business but now is a specialty manufacturing company. Tali still works there full time as an account executive.

David and Tali have a 5 ½ year old daughter named Ellie and they are expecting twin sons in May. Ellie attends The Academy in Greenwood Park where she takes Mandarin Chinese lessons after school.

Tali, who is a Federation Pomegranate, tries to visit her many relatives in Israel every two or three years. She spoke enthusiastically about her cousin Yudi Guberman who is a tour guide. She said he had to take a comprehensive four year course covering archaeology, Jewish history, and Old and New Testament studies. His business is called Travel Yudi and numerous visitors from Des Moines have hired him. He can be reached at www.travelisrael.co.il

Working in the family business doesn't leave Tali with much time to cook, read or walk for fun and exercise. She does enjoy going to the theater and spending time with family.

Tali has shared

a terrific and easy recipe for Cranberry Chicken. She admits that she doesn't use recipes but rather "cooks by taste." It sounds like a great recipe for company or a week night meal because the preparations are simple.

The JEWISH PRESS thanks Tali for sharing her recipe with our readers.

Remember if you have a recipe to share call Karen Engman (274-3300) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com).

Cranberry Chicken

A Recipe from Tali Greenspon

Meat

8-12 pieces of chicken
(with bone in, but can be skinless)

Catalina Dressing (16oz)

Italian Dressing package

Ocean Spray Whole Cranberries in can

Place the chicken pieces in a casserole dish.

Mix together the dressings and cranberries and pour over chicken pieces.

Bake uncovered in preheated 375 degree oven for 60-75 minutes.



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Campaign from page 1

All of these organizations came together to learn how to tell “their” story to their donors and connect our donors to the wonderful changes these gifts make in people’s lives. Together we heard stories about students, seniors, teachers from Drake visiting the Holocaust Museum, a single mother receiving scholarships for Jewish pre-school, and a member of the Leadership Forum who will soon be traveling to Israel and then chairing a Federation committee.

After some interactive activities, everyone had the opportunity to solicit each other and the gifts pledged that evening increased by 13%.

Four new Pomegranates joined our group of 36! Welcome to Jami Schnoebelen, Janice Rosenberg, Judy Deutch, and one anonymous donor. This is an enormously successful beginning to our campaign. NOW MORE THAN EVER with this down economy, we are all worried about our futures. Many of us have seen our assets cut in more than half, and feel very vulnerable about our jobs. But now is the time for the Jewish community to step up and prioritize our synagogues, the Federation and our other institutions with their dollars. **There are many people in the Des Moines area to help all the other wonderful charities, but only 3,000 members of the Jewish community to be responsible for our own needs. NOW MORE THAN EVER stretch and reach as we have done so many times to help those in need.**

Every Gift Gives Back to Our Community

- \$15—Cane
- \$25—English as a Second Language Tutor
- \$35—Blood Pressure Cuff
- \$50—Bath Tub Rail
- \$54—Emergency Response Button
- \$60—Anxiety Meds for Uninsured, Unemployed Community Member
- \$100—Medical Insurance for Dependent of Single Mother in Community per month
- \$130—Toilet Seat Riser/Bath Chair
- \$140—Food for a Family of Four/Two Weeks
- \$169—Walker with Seat
- \$260—An hour of Psychiatric Care for Community Member
- \$15—Purchase the book “Myths & Facts—A Guide to Arab/Israel Conflict” for educational purposes
- \$20—Total cost to Federation to join private phone conference call for an extra update on Israel!
- \$25—Duplication of DVD with Survivors’ testimonials for public school classes
- \$105—Three hours of police protection during a community program
- \$300—Community Relations breakfast with Des Moines influentials on current events
- \$450—Partial subsidy for Des Moines educators to visit Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C.
- \$40—An hour for Hebrew Tutoring for a Learning Disabled Child
- \$80—Book fee for Bar/Bat Mitzvah for each 4th, 5th and 6th Grade student
- \$400—Scholarship for Camp Shalom 1 student/1 summer
- \$800—Scholarship for 10th grade student for Washington D.C. conformation trip

Gabriel from page 1

In addition, Gabriel is a regular guest

analyst on Fox News Channel, CNN, MSNBC, ABC and various radio stations across America. Gabriel began her career as news anchor for “World News,” an evening Arabic news broadcast for Middle East Television seen throughout Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Cyprus and Lebanon. She covered the Israeli security zone in Lebanon and the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank. Her work is of international scope having brought her in contact with world figures such as Margaret Thatcher, George H. Bush, Queen Nour El Hussein, Itzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres.

With a passion and vigor hailing directly from profound experience ~ the opening salvos of Islamic jihad towards the Western world in the Middle East ~ Gabriel offers a poignant account of a remarkable upbringing.

A native of South Lebanon, as a pre-teen she survived the first attack of the Lebanese civil war in 1975: a barrage of Muslim rockets that exploded in her house and left her wounded and buried under the rubble. Gabriel and her family then spent the next seven years in subterranean hiding while Lebanon was under Islamic attack.

Fiercely articulate and passionately committed, Gabriel outlines mistakes the West has made in underestimating the single-mindedness with which radical Islamists have pursued their goals for the past 30 years. A political hawk on international policy, she discusses the threat of radical Islam to world peace and national security.

For further information contact jrcr@dmjfed.org. Ms. Gabriel is represented exclusively by Greater Talent Network.

Molla from page 1

A member of the World Zionist Organization’s Board of Governors, Shlomo Molla is a Jewish Israeli with a story to tell Americans. Come meet Shlomo Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 pm at Temple B’nai Jesuurun as he addresses us on the occasion of Israel’s 61st anniversary of its establishment.

Born in Ethiopia, Shlomo decided to walk to Sudan in hopes of getting to Israel. He walked 780 km. Shlomo was held in jail and tortured for three months before his rescue in 1984 by an Israeli military operation.

Once in Israel, Molla lived in the Zefat absorption center. Through hard work, Shlomo earned a BA in Social Work, from Bar Ilan University and a LLB Law degree from Kiryat Ono College. Prior to his current position, Shlomo was the Head of the Ethiopian Division of the Aliyah & Klitah Department in the Jewish Agency for Israel. Currently, he heads the WZO Department for Zionist Institutions. Mr. Molla ran for the Knesset in the Kadima Party in 2006.

This program is sponsored by the 2009 All-In-One Campaign.

Federation from page 7

The new Leadership Forum is engaging the next generation of Jewish leadership in issues and concerns that face the Des Moines Jewish population. This group of 25-40 year olds has spent the past 18 months developing their leadership skills and increasing their knowledge of your Jewish Community and the global community.

These stories go on and on! You’ll be hearing more and more in the weeks ahead. Next time you’re asked, “What does the Federation do?” you’ll have great answers.

Be proud, be passionate, be proactive

in sharing these stories with the people you come in contact with on a daily basis and by financially supporting the great work that The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines does to continuously and comprehensively serve your community.

– Judy Deutch

Venice from page 8

JEWISH AMERICAN: What? I don’t speak Italian. I was just dropping the arm on that unused slot machine. I didn’t even win anything. You’re hurting me.

INTERPOL OFFICER: Dunque lei ciò ammette sono il Dropo infame criminale? [Translation: So you admit you are the famous criminal Dropo?]

JEWISH AMERICAN: What?

INTERPOL OFFICER: Saremo forzati per inviarla al ghetto. [Translation: Now we will be forced to send you to the ghetto.]

JEWISH AMERICAN: What? Would \$90 help things along?

INTERPOL OFFICER: Liberare Dropo subito! [Translation: Free Dropo immediately.]

JEWISH AMERICAN: What?

As you can see, the specter of the ghetto hangs over even the most mundane of Venetian interactions. But justice prevailed for Dropo, which taught him that it was time to visit the site of the historic ghetto in person.

Getting to the Ghetto of Venice requires you to take one of Venice’s water taxis (“vaporettos”) down the Grand Canal to the Cannargio Sestiere area of Venice. Keep an eye out for the mezuzah and shabby clotheslines and make a right on the corner of Calle del Ghetto del Vecchio and you can’t miss it. Ghetto has two parts: the Ghetto Nuovo (the “New Ghetto”) which is actually the old ghetto, and the “Ghetto Vecchio (the “Old Ghetto”), which is actually the new ghetto. Welcome to Italy.

Winding your way down numerous alleys and past buildings that, unlike the rest of Venice, rise to six stories in height (they are called the “skyscrapers” of Venice), you eventually wander into the central square of the Ghetto. The Ghetto is surrounded by water and reachable only by crossing one of two footbridges. For much of its history, these bridges were manned by Christian guards who were there to protect and isolate the Jewish inhabitants of the Ghetto. Five ancient synagogues, all of which are on the upper floors of buildings that serve other purposes, still stand. Upon Napoleon’s arrival in Venice in 1797, the Jews were free to live anywhere in Venice, but by the time of the Nazis departure from Venice in 1944, there were only eight living Jews who made it back to Venice.

In a way, the Ghetto today eerily resembles the Lower East Side of New York. There is a Holocaust memorial, Orthodox Jews, a kosher restaurant (“Gam Gam”) that is owned by Jews from New York, and an overwhelming sense of sadness. The only thing missing is the IRT subway. We all thought it would be interesting to get lunch at a kosher restaurant in the middle of the Venetian Ghetto, but one look at the unidentifiable treats displayed in the window prompted us to keep walking. As a reform Jew, there is much I have to learn about Orthodox traditions, which became even clearer when I was scolded for taking a picture inside one of the local Judaica shops. Maybe the owner was simply concerned when he recognized the infamous thief Dropo walking around his shop.

On the final day of our trip, we all decided to take a boat ride to the ultimate Venetian tourist destination: the glass-making island of Murano. People from around the world travel to Murano to watch the ancient traditions of glass making and glass blowing come to life. Your guide ushers you in to a sooty room filled with ovens and flames and lifelong traditions and lots of tiny broken pieces of glass. Everything gets hazy after that.



This



... leads directly to this Murano glassware shop.

This is around the time you start feeling the subliminal obligation to buy something, a feeling that is enhanced when your guide escorts you to the next stop on your tour: an enormous gift shop filled with beautiful and ridiculously over-priced glassware that you don’t need. But the whole situation becomes very confusing, the room starts to spin, crazy colors and voices and display cases and foggy conversations with the owners’ daughter and the next thing you know, you are standing outside on a Murano sidewalk, having just spent an unbudgeted fortune on a delicately beautiful glass candelabra. Did that just happen?

Yes, the candelabra was beautiful, but like most husbands, I really have no idea how I wound up buying it. [Then, three weeks later, a Miracle of Murano occurred. The Fedex box arrived from Venice with our candelabra. But when the box was opened, the carefully packed candelabra was in pieces! Hello insurance claim and big refund, goodbye candelabra!]

The next morning, we packed our things and took the boat ride to the airport. We were headed home from our European adventure. As we waited for our flight, we got a bite to eat at an airport coffee shop. I ordered a cup of coffee and a muffin, and reached into the penny cup so that I could provide exact change to the cashier. She looked at me with hatred and said, “Dropo, why you steal from me?” It turns out that what I thought was a penny cup was really a tip cup. Dropo was leaving Italy with one final theft on his record.

Heidi, I think it’s time to go home.

In our next episode: something completely unrelated to our European trip. Insanity resides in every nook and cranny of our society and world, so I hope to continue to present it to you.

[Editor’s note: We’ll see.]

For more pictures of the Jews in Europe, including humorous captions and stories, check out www.insaneworld.org. Write to the author at iowadavid@me.com.

AMES JEWISH CONGREGATION



The Ames Jewish Congregation has appointed Rabbi David Wirschafter as its rabbi. Ordained by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Rabbi Wirschafter leads services at AJC one Friday evening and Saturday morning each month. Rabbi will be with the Congregation March 27-29 and April 24-26. For additional information, contact the AJC at (515) 233-1347. The Jewish Press will include more about Rabbi Wirschafter in the next edition.

BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Iowa Jews: Let’s Learn! Beth El Jacob is offering you two learning opportunities to expand your Jewish knowledge and help you make educated choices about your faith.

The Shabbos Challenge On March 13, 14 & 15 you are invited to an all inclusive Jewish Retreat at the Quality Inn and Suites, downtown Des Moines as we present The Shabbos Challenge – 2009. This event is designed to give your family the opportunity to celebrate Shabbat with a full experience. Included in your family fee of \$50 (no, that’s not a typo) is two nights lodging, the Friday Night Meal, two meals on Shabbat and the Sunday breakfast. We’ll also hold services, have lively discussion groups and participate in learning, games, singing and enjoying.

The “Challenge” part? We challenge you to come and experience a Shabbat the way G-d has asked and then come away from the weekend with the same mindset as you did when you entered the experience. Imagine, Jews....acting Jewish on Shabbat! We challenge you. Winter Blahs? Not in Des Moines! Make your reservations now by calling Beth El Jacob at 515-247-1551.

Private Jewish Learning So, you’re Jewish huh? How much time do you spend studying Torah, Talmud, The Ethics of the Fathers...with a teacher? Get into it by dedicating one hour a week to one-on-one Jewish learning with Rabbi Schwarzbaum. Whatever Jewish topic you wish. All you need to do is call the Beth El Jacob office with your time request. Put in on your calendar and show up. Rabbi Schwarzbaum will dedicate that hour each week to your needs and learning level. Beginning? No problem! Advanced? Hey, we’re up for it! If you are serious about being Jewish and learning, we’re making this offer to you. Invest an hour a week and grow in your knowledge. Beth El Jacob – 515-247-1551.

Purim Party with Music after Megillah reading 8:00 March 9, 2009
Purim Seudah (meal) 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Shabbos Challenge March 13, 14 & 15th at Quality Inn & Suites. Only \$50 per family, includes food and lodging.

Pesach Sedareem First Seder - Wednesday, April 8, 2009, 8:30 p.m.
Second Seder - Thursday, April 9. 2009, 9:00 p.m.
\$36.00 per person, Reservations required, Lunches will be served after services on Thursday-\$18.00 and Friday-\$18.00; Friday night Dinner-\$18.00

JUDAIC RESOURCE CENTER OF IOWA

Pesach Schedule

- April 8th – Wednesday Night**
Mincha/Maariv 7:30 pm; 1st Seder 8:30 pm
- April 9th - Thursday** Shacharis 10:00 am;
Mincha and Maariv 8:00 pm; 2nd Seder 9:00 pm
- April 10th – Friday** Shacharis 10:00 am;
Mincha and Maariv 7:30 pm
- April 12th – 14th Sunday – Wednesday - Chol Hamoed**
Maccabee’s Deli will be opened 11:00am – 2:00pm
- April 11th - Saturday** Shacharis 10:00 am;
Mincha and Maariv 7:30 pm
- April 14th – Tuesday** Mincha and Maariv 7:30 pm
- April 15th – Wednesday** Shacharis 10:00 am; Mincha and Maariv 7:45pm
- April 16th – Thursday** Shacharis 10:00 am; Yizkor 11:30 am; Mincha 7:30 pm Followed by the feast of Moshiah.

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Passover Service Schedule

- Wednesday, April 8** Erev Pesach No Services - First night Seder in your home
- Thursday, April 9** First Day Pesach Begin Counting Omer 9:00 a.m. Services in the Bookey Chapel; 5:00 p.m. Second night Seder in the Tifereth Social Hall (by reservation)
- Friday, April 10** Second Day Pesach 6:00 p.m. Services in the Bookey Chapel
- Saturday, April 11** Shabbat Hol Hamoed Pesach, 9:00 a.m. Services in the Bookey Chapel
- Sunday, April 12** Hol Hamoed Pesach 9:00 a.m. Services in the Bookey Chapel
- Monday, April 13** Hol Hamoed Pesach No Services
- Tuesday, April 14** Hol Hamoed Pesach No Services
12:00 p.m. TI/TBJ Women’s League Passover Lasagna Luncheon at Tifereth
- Wednesday, April 15** Seventh Day Pesach, 9:00 a.m. Services in the Bookey Chapel
- Thursday, April 16** Eight Day Pesach; Yizkor 9:00 a.m. Services in the Bookey Chapel

Purimspiel Fundraiser Dinner for DM Jewish Youth Group March 7

The Purimspiel dinner returns this year for all cast, crew and audience members who wish to have dinner together before the evening performance of our annual Purimspiel. This year the dinner has been dubbed the “Green Eggs and HAMantashen” dinner (we doubt there will really be green eggs -- but who knows? OK, it’s a no-meat pasta meal with a fun twist here and there...). The meal will be coordinated by David Copeland and Mike Siegel, TBJ’s and TI’s youth advisors, with the teens as a fundraiser for the Des Moines Jewish Youth Group, a combined project of TBJ and TI.

Cost of the dinner is \$11 for ages 13 and up, \$8 for 12 and under. ONLINE SPECIAL! \$33 per family. To get in on the discount family price, please go to www.DMJEWES.com. Deadline for the spiel dinner reservations is March 3.

The Purimspiel dinner will be held prior to the spiel performance at Tifereth Israel Synagogue on Saturday, March 7 at 6:00 pm.

For those not attending the dinner, the doors will open at 7:00 pm for the show only. A free dessert reception will be open to all following the performance.

For more information regarding the dinner, please call either the TBJ or TI office.
Youth Group offers Purimspiel Lunch, too!

Sunday school dismisses at noon, and the Sunday performance of the Purimspiel begins at 1:00 pm on Sunday, March 8. Come early and have lunch before the show! While supplies last, the Des Moines Jewish Youth Group will serve pasta lunch prior to the Purimspiel performance on Sunday. Cost will be \$5.50 for ages 13 and up, \$4 for 12 and under. There is no family special offered for Sunday.

If you wish to bring your own lunch to TI on Sunday, please be sure to honor the synagogue’s kashrut policy and bring a vegetarian meal.

A free dessert reception will be offered after Sunday’s Purimspiel performance.

Original Jewish Music, Rock, and Pop Highlight Cantor Bletstein’s Concert, April 26



Cantor Deborah Bletstein



Cantor Randy Herman

Cantor Deborah Bletstein teams up with Cantor Randy Herman in concert, 7:00 pm, at a fundraiser for Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Sunday April 26th. Tickets to “Meet Me on 110th Street” including original music and some fun surprises are \$18 in addition to patron tickets at \$100. Advance tickets available by cash or check at Tifereth or at the door. For ticket information call 255-1137. A dessert reception will follow the performance. CDs will be available for sale at the concert.

Bletstein and Herman began their collaboration in 2004 when they performed together in Jerusalem at a sell-out concert when they were both in the JTS Cantorial Studies program. After returning to New York to continue their studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the two happened to live on 110th Street, near the school, on the Upper West Side, and both derived inspiration from the scintillating Jewish and cosmopolitan environment in which they lived.
Cantor Randy Herman, a fabulous keyboardist, singer, and composer, is now in his first year of serving Bet Torah Synagogue in Mt. Kisco, NY, in the Westchester area. Cantor Bletstein joined Tifereth Israel Synagogue in mid-2007. The concert will feature original music written by both performers. “There will be traditional Jewish music, some rock and roll and pop in this concert, some Israeli music in honor of Israel Independence Day, and something you might call ‘Jewish Gospel’ music,” says Cantor Bletstein with a smile.

“Randy and I have been performing together now for five years and we think that what we do together is kind of magical,” she says. “We hope that people will come out for the show. You really have to see us live to appreciate the dynamic of the two of us performing together. It’s a show for music-lovers of all ages – there’s something in it for everyone.”

“Just plan to come out and have a good time!” she adds enthusiastically. And with the combination of two young creative talents, it’s a sure bet.

Jewish Food Fair
May 17, 2009
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
TEMPLE B’NAI JESHURUN

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of
Dr. Kenneth Aronow
Rita Loeb
Mary Robinson
Arthur Stein
Claudia Tucker

NOTICE:
Keep in touch, the Community Directories are here!
Copies may be purchased at the Federation office at \$12 per book or 3 for \$30.

Jews Love Fun!

By Janice Rosenberg, President, Iowa Jewish Historical Society

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society knows that Jews love fun. We are currently working on three programs to be presented during the next year to entertain and involve the entire Jewish Community.

Jews Love Baseball:



Mark your calendar for Sunday July 12th and join us for a baseball extravaganza at The Caspe Terrace this summer. We plan to host an 1870's baseball game with Living History Farm's Walnut Hill Blue Stockings. The Blue Stockings will challenge our community members to an afternoon game of good fun played according to "gentlemen's rules"—no bunting, stealing, bad language, and the pitcher will ask each batter whether he wants a high pitch or low pitch! Please let us know if you want to play on our 1870's baseball team.

Jews love baseball—especially fellow Jews who made it into the Major Leagues. Come see an exhibit of 134 Jews in Baseball profiles obtained from the American Jewish Historical Society. Bring your own Iowa Jewish Community sports photos and memorabilia, so that we can continue to grow our incredible archive of the lives of Iowa Jews.

This family event will have a festival atmosphere with Chicago Dogs and ballpark food. We will have games, films, workshops, and a lot of laughs. If you are interested in helping plan this event please call Janice Rosenberg at 987-2374 or drop me an email at jtrose11@mchsi.com. If you have special artifacts that you think should be displayed, don't hesitate to call.

Jews Love Jews:

Last November, Interim Director of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society Sandi Yoder, Heidi Moskowitz, Susan Seidenfeld, and I drove to Dubuque to see the exhibit; "From Distant Places to Dubuque's Shores: 175 Years of Jewish Life." The exhibit not only highlights Dubuque's Jewish History, it takes an in depth look at the life of Alexander Levi, Iowa's first naturalized citizen and a prominent Jewish leader of the area.

The IJHS plans to bring the exhibit to Des Moines this fall, and host its curator Karin Pritikin at our Fall Patron Dinner. Karin is currently the vice president of Temple Beth El in Dubuque. We found her fascinating, funny, driven and brilliant. I know you will enjoy her story, and the exhibit is so well done.

Jews Love to Laugh:

Next winter we plan to host several comedy films and possibly live comedic performances. Jews have had a long and exceptional history of comedy, wit, irony, and entertainment. If you have ideas, please let me know.

Jews Love their Heritage:

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society has been working hard to provide a first class home for our heritage. Our budget relies on your donations and memberships. With the worsening economy, more historical artifacts to care for, and the goal of reaching out to our community with exciting new programs, we need your support. We need you to renew your yearly membership or annual donation—or join for the first time. We always need new members who want to preserve our heritage for this and future generations.

One of the perks of membership is the CHAlowan, our twice-yearly newsletter featuring interesting and personal stories that make our history come alive. This month we are including the CHAlowan in the Jewish Press as an open invitation to join the Historical Society. There are membership and donation forms on the back. Enjoy the articles! Please send us your donation soon!

For more information about the IJHS contact Sandi Yoder, Interim Director, at 515-205-0379.



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[calendar]

Sat March 7	6:30 pm
	7:30 pm
Sun March 8	1:00 pm
	5:00 pm
Tues March 10	
Sat March 14	10:00 am
March 16 – 20	
Mon March 23	7:30 pm
Sun March 29	9:00 am
Mon March 30	7:00 pm
Sun April 5	12:30 pm
Thurs April 9	5:00 pm
April 10 – 16	
Tues April 14	12:00 pm
Sun April 19	3:00 pm
Wed April 22	7:00 pm
	8:00 pm
Sat April 25	10:00 am
Sun April 26	11:00 am
	7:00 pm
Wed April 29	
Sat May 2	10:00 am
Sat May 9	9:00 am

Purimspiel Dinner to benefit DM Jewish Youth Group
TBJ/TI Purimspiel at Tifereth
TBJ/TI Purimspiel at Tifereth
Temple Board Meeting
PURIM
Esther Swartzendruber Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Spring Break
Federation Board of Directors at The Caspe Terrace
TBJ Sisterhood volunteers at PP Book Sale, Lunch to follow
Brigitte Gabriel Public Address at Tifereth
Engman Camp Shalom Reunion at Tifereth
Second Night Seder at Tifereth
PESACH
TBJ/TI Sisterhood joint Passover Lunch at Tifereth
Drake Orchestra Holocaust Oratorio at the Civic Center
YOM HASHOAH program and service followed by
Israel Independence Day program with Shlomo Molla
at the Temple
Shirah Jacobs Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Temple Sisterhood Membership Brunch
Cantors' Concert at Tifereth
YOM HAATZMAUT
Samantha Blatt Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Rafael Seroussi Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth

B'nai Mitzvah



Esther Lillian Swartzendruber

We are honored to announce the Bat Mitzvah of Esther Lillian Swartzendruber, named after her great-grandmother, Lillian

Barsky, OBM, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

B'ezrat Hashem, Esther will bless us with a traditional reading of the torah on Shabbos Ki Tetza, March 14, at 10:00 a.m.

Esther will stand in the same place where the torah has been passed down through four generations of her family.

Please join us afterwards for a kosher kiddush luncheon.

Esther is the daughter of Michelle Garland and Todd Swartzendruber, and the step-daughter of Menachem Stern and Anna Swartzendruber. She is also the grand-daughter of Steve and Sandy Garland.



Shirah Judith Jacobs

April 25th, 10:00 am at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

Gail Klearman and William Jacobs invite you to share our joy

when our daughter, Shirah Judith, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah, on April 25, 2009, at 10 a.m., at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. The community is cordially invited to join us for a kiddush luncheon following services.



Stuart Alexander

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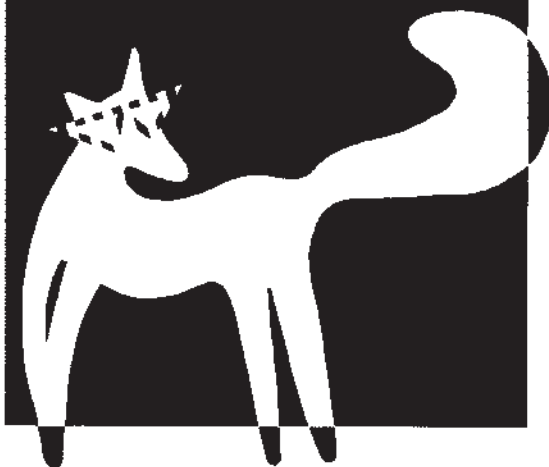


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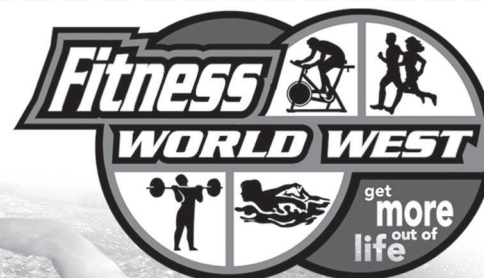
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super sunday



Super Sunday? Super Bowl? Super Volunteers? ... No question about it! February 1st was a jam-packed day. Team spirits were high. After a group huddle where strategies and game plays were reviewed, over a dozen enthusiastic and highly motivated individuals each took the ball and ran with it, scoring more touchdowns than Ben Roethlisberger!

From 10:30 to noon and 12:30 to 1:30, these volunteers executed their assignments with flash and panache. Team roster included Debora Markevich, Alex Fritzler, Ed Bell, Frank Levy, Judy & Larry Deutch, Cliff Bergman, Jake Jacobs, Krista Pearl, Kim Waltman, Justin Schoen, Laurie Bishop, Jonathan Neiderbach, Juli Margolin, Mark Finkelstein, Elaine Steinger, Pat Nawrocki, Jeri Mace and Cathie Jensen.

Hundreds of calls were made and successes were posted on the scoreboard. Unlike the Super Bowl, however, the Jewish Federation is just in its first quarter. The success of Super Sunday was a great start, but we need to stretch for the goal line. \$12,000 was raised in one day.

Kudos to the following Super Sunday callers:

- Most calls completed:
Debora Markevich
- Most new calls completed:
Tie between Ed Bell & Larry Deutch
- Most increases, card-for-card:
Frank Levy

With no time outs and the clock ticking, the Federation needs to keep the momentum going. When you get your call, don't stay on the bench. Join the team and make your contribution today!

