

THE GREATER DES MOINES **Jewish Press**

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“my federation...”

Involvement in the Jewish Federation has expanded our horizons. We have been involved in things that interested us, and made us better people. We had this wonderful organization waiting for us when we came. We feel it is our responsibility to perpetuate the Federation into the future, so that other families can have what we had. The Federation changes, programs come and go, but if you are willing to get involved you can work on things that interest you and are important to you, you will receive much more than you can imagine.

Kent and I became involved with the Jewish Federation when our children were very young. We were looking for a community in which to raise our family. We met many wonderful young families at the Jewish preschool, families that wanted the best for their children.

As the years progressed, we began to get involved in many other programs of the Jewish Federation. We helped resettle Jews from the former Soviet Union. We helped some of these families find jobs and acclimate to their new lives. We met many wonderful families who we are still close to. It was an eye opening and unforgettable experience for us.

I spent several years as President of Jewish Family Services. Susan Sandler was our executive back then. Our committee instituted Operation Good Mensch to provide a day of service for our community. We ran the Hanukkah Happening, and looked for other ways to make our community better for us all.

I also was given the opportunity to produce a television show for the Federation. Dana Leman was the host of our cultural program, “Light One Candle.” We featured Jewish musicians, artists, clergy, historians, and authors. I cherish the memories and experiences.

The Jewish Federation sent me to Steven Spielberg’s *Survivors of the Shoah* video testimony training. I was able to obtain the testimony of many of our Holocaust Survivors. These interviews are available at the Des Moines Public Library and at Holocaust research institutions all over the world. With this training, I have also been able to obtain the oral histories of many of our community members.

My current passion is the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. Our Jewish community is amazing and the accomplishments of our people past and present deserve to be highlighted and preserved. We presented “Jewish Women on the Prairie” to over 40,000 people at the State Historical Museum. We have our own incredible museum, board and staff at The Caspe Terrace. We are constantly working on a shoestring budget to maintain, catalog, and manage our collection. We strive to educate the community in fun and interesting ways about many aspects of our Jewish heritage and lives.

We are sure that there will be other experiences and families to meet in our future with the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, and for that, we give thanks.

—Janice Rosenberg



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES

Thank you for supporting the
All-In-One Campaign

Share your story. Tell us how the Jewish Federation has impacted your life. Send an e-mail to tom@dmjfed.org or call Tom Wolff at (515) 277-6321 x 222.



Judy Deutch
President

Friends,

As our population grows older the need for providing services for our seniors is increasing substantially. Jewish Family Services (JFS – an agency of the Federation) has been meeting those needs for many years.

But what has your Federation been doing for seniors lately?

- Jewish Family Services serves roughly 115 active Jewish case work clients in our community. The number of clients is increasing.
- JFS provides 6 – 7 environment modification items (shower grab bars, walkers, emergency response systems, etc.) every month.
- JFS regularly provides help with basic needs (rent, heat, medication, food) for our seniors every month.

Yes, we have experienced an increasing need for JFS's services. And as we shoulder greater demands, our need for volunteers grows as well!

Currently one dedicated social worker, Pat Nawrocki, heads this effort with an army of 28 volunteers. Today I am asking you for your time so that we can continue this important work. You may volunteer as few or as many hours as your would like. Your help is needed throughout the day, both weekdays and weekends.

No matter what skill set you bring, Jewish Family Services welcomes your help. Our biggest on-going need is transportation for our seniors. We also need volunteers to make phone calls, help set up senior luncheons and suggest possible speakers/programs, work on the newsletter, and help with the annual volunteer recognition event.

It's been my pleasure to attend the annual recognition dinner for these volunteers for the past several years. It's obvious that the volunteers, many of whom are seniors themselves, find working with the elderly a unique and rewarding experience. It's an opportunity to do something worthwhile and, at the same time, get to know some very interesting members of our community.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pat Nawrocki 277-6321 x215 or pat@dmjfed.org or myself, Judy Deutch 224-1668 or jmdeu@yahoo.com

Together, we perform the age-old collective mitzvah: Honor Thy Father and Mother. The fact is, we couldn't do it without you! Thank you so much for supporting this important part of our community through your gift to the All-In-One Campaign!

- Shalom,
Judy

**The Federation
offices will move to
The Caspe Terrace
this Spring. Stop in
and say hello!**

**INTRODUCING: NEW
STAFF MEMBER,
TAMMY ABDULGHANI**

Tammy has joined the Jewish Federation's staff as Assistant to the Director. A member of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Tammy has two children, Ameena (13) and Logan (14). Tammy first came to Des Moines in 1984 to attend Drake University. She graduated Drake in 1988 with a B.A. in Sociology and worked in the field of Human Resources for twenty years.

Tammy is an avid reader and a member of two book clubs. She is in a Bunko group of dice players and is learning Mahjong.

Tammy succeeds Julie Seidenfeld Olsasky, who accepted a position in the business world.

Welcome, Tammy! Her e-mail address at the Federation is tammy@dmjfed.org and she can be reached at 515 277-6321 x 224.

BETH EL JACOB HIRES NEW RABBI



Rabbi Aryeh "Leib" Bolel has been selected by Beth El Jacob to be Des Moines' newest Rabbi. Rabbi Bolel was born in Newcastle, in the northeast of England, and raised in neighboring Gateshead. A graduate of Sunderland Talmudical College in England, he then studied in Israel at Yeshiva Ohr Sameach, and earned a bachelor's in Judaic Studies at Tannenbaum College. Rabbi Bolel became a Certified Teacher by the Israeli Ministry of Education, and enjoyed working with high school and college-aged individuals, and feels a strong commitment to providing educational opportunities for

Jews of all ages such that they are more engaged by and into their faith. Rabbi Bolel was ordained as a Rabbi by Rabbi Goldberg, Dayan and Member of the Israeli Supreme Rabbinical Court, and is "honored and privileged" that he has been selected to be the Rabbi of Beth El Jacob. "I look forward to welcoming the community back to Beth El Jacob, into an environment of warm and approachable Orthodox Judaism, and to working together with the wider Jewish community."

Rabbi Bolel is an avid sports enthusiast, spanning the gamut from having played semi-pro cricket in England, to studying kung-fu, and playing soccer, tennis, squash, and currently playing tackle football in the Israeli Football League. He is also a musician, playing guitar and piano, and a fan of blues, jazz and soft rock. Rabbi Bolel, and his wife of nearly 4 years, Devorah, have an 8 month old son, Eitan. The family was pleasantly surprised by the charming calm and warmth exuded by one and all during their recent Iowa visit, and will be moved into the BEJ shul house some time after Purim, and a BEJ seder is being planned for the first night of Pesach. Once settled in Iowa, Rabbi Bolel envisions providing classes on Jewish contemporary issues, classes on the chagim (festivals), and contributing to the Jewish community of Greater Des Moines. Of the newly hired Rabbi, BEJ's Executive Director Valerie Cohen said, "It will be exciting to work with someone who is committed to community, and accessible and meaningful Judaism for all." "Rabbi Bolel is a dynamic and energetic young man, a visionary who I feel will offer great things to Beth El Jacob, and the entire Jewish community," said BEJ President, Ron Daniels.

THE GREATER DES MOINES

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Press**

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

We reserve the right to reject submissions.

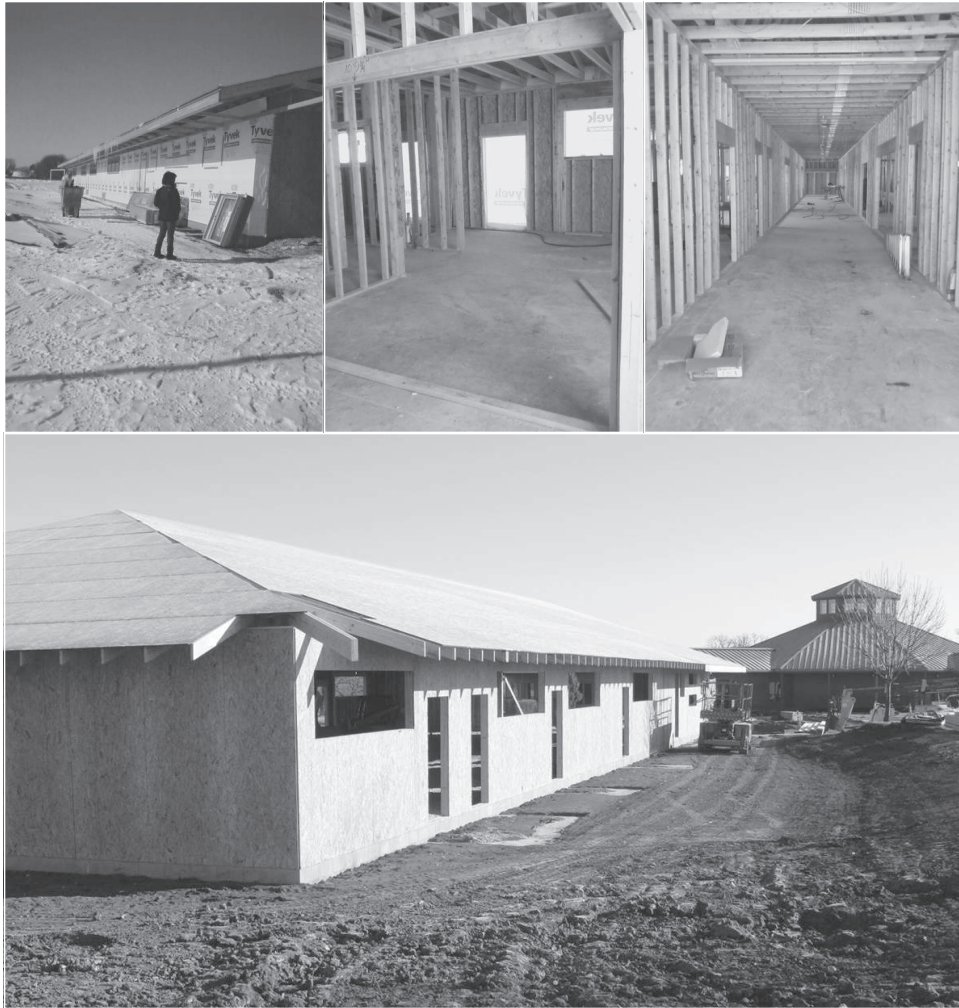
Vol. 27, No. 4, March/April 2011



JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

JFCS Building Progress

Below are recent pictures of our new building at The Caspe Terrace. As you can see, it is coming along nicely. In no time at all, our building will be completed and ready for JFCS to move to The Caspe Terrace. No location changes will be made this school year but in the fall, JFCS will be housed in our new building. To follow along with the progress of our building, go to www.jewishdesmoines.org and click on JFCS. There is a slide show viewing from beginning to current pictures of the progress of this building.



BUY A BRICK

As many of you know, our new school building is paid for and endowed 100%. However, we still need your support to furnish the inside. One way you can help is to purchase a brick that will make up part of the walkway between the school and the playground. For \$180, a 4" x 8" brick with three engraved lines or for \$1,000, an 8" x 8" brick with six engraved lines can be purchased. All proceeds will be used to outfit our new office and classrooms with new desks, chairs, tables, supplies, equipment, etc. What better way to leave your mark than to have an engraved stone with your family name included in our school brick walkway! For information go to www.jewishdesmoines.org and click on JFCS or contact our office at 277-5566. We are counting on all community members and families who have been touched in some way by JFCS. We need you now more than ever. We hope all families attending JFCS will contribute.

- **name our school brick walkway for \$30,000**
- **put your name or message on a 4" x 8" walkway brick for \$180**
- **put your name or message on a 8" x 8" family stone for \$1,000**

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTABLE CONTRIBUTION ARE:

- **name a Mezzuzah for \$5,000; each classroom will have a Mezzuzah**
- **furnish one classroom for \$20,000 with plaque inside**
- **name the School/Federation offices for \$50,000 with plaque inside**
- **name a classroom (your family or in memory of a loved one) for \$100,000 with plaque inside**

As we all consider the future of the Jewish Community in Des Moines, what is more important than the education of our children? Recognizing the importance of this project, a group of donors has already made substantial financial commitments to fully support the building and endowments 100%. It is important that this have broad range community support and I invite you to join with us in insuring the success of this effort.

Please know that if you are not able to contribute to one of the above mentioned ways, any support is accepted. Since I have been the Director of JFCS, 312 families and 488 children have been educated through our school. If each of these families financially supported us in some way, we would be able to fully furnish our school. Please consider these options. I would be very grateful to you as you join me in supporting JFCS.

– Lyanna Lindgren, JFCS Director

Announcing the JFCS Zuckert Education Fund



Alan and Janice Zuckert

The Jewish Federation is pleased and honored to announce the establishment of the Zuckert Education Fund, initiated with a contribution of \$150,000 from Alan and Janice Zuckert to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. With assistance from the Fund, no child will be denied a Jewish education at the Jewish Federation Community School (JFCS) for lack of affordability.

In the words of JFCS Board Chair Brian Pearl and Director Lyanna Lindgren: "Now more than ever, as our economy has declined and some of our community members have lost their jobs, the need today is greater than it has ever been. The Zuckerts have stepped forward with their financial gift to support

all Jewish children in the Des Moines area to have the opportunity to receive a Jewish education through the Jewish Federation Community School... The Zuckert Education Fund could not have come at a better time than now and it will be available next fall, 2011, in our new JFCS building at The Caspe Terrace. Jewish children and education are close to their hearts as they also supported, as you may remember, Project Elijah. They are unselfish and committed to taking care of those who can't. On behalf of our families and students, thank you Mr. and Mrs. Zuckert."

The scholarship program is scheduled to begin in the Fall. For details, contact JFCS Director Lyanna Lindgren at 277-5566 or jfcsdm@gmail.com.

IJHS Receives Gift From The Iowa Foundation For Education, Environment, And The Arts

The IJHS is delighted to announce that it has received a gift of \$3,600 from The Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment, and the Arts to support our efforts in preserving the history of the Jewish people of the state of Iowa and deepening community understanding of Jewish history and culture through educational programming and exhibits.

The Iowa Foundation for Education, Environment, and the Arts (IFFEA) was established by David Belin, who devoted himself to charitable and civic causes throughout his life. The Foundation is a long-time supporter of the IJHS, having donated funds to match a State Historical Society of Iowa Historic Sites Preservation Program grant to purchase display cases for the museum. The creation of the David and Connie Belin Fund to encourage others to join them in funding additional cases for the museum, was an early contributor to the IJHS endowment fund, supported the Society through a bequest that funded the director's position for many years, and has regularly contributed to the Society's annual operations.

The IJHS is deeply grateful for this important gift and for IFFEA's outstanding ongoing support as we work together to preserve and share the important story of the Jewish people in Iowa.

JFCS TU B'SHEVAT SEDER!



Pictured are our JFCS kindergarten through second grade students enjoying their Tu B'shevat Seder that was held on Sunday, January 16, 2011. Officially, Tu B'shevat was Thursday, January 20, 2011.

The Big Jewish Book for Jews: Everything You Need to Know to be a Really Jewish Jew

by Neil Salowitz



For those of us of a certain age, learning to read meant, “Fun with Dick and Jane”. This so-called “basal reader” introduced children from the 1930s to the 1970s to Dick, Jane, Sally and their dog, Spot.

In 2004, Ellis Weiner and Barbara Davilman published, “Yiddish with Dick and Jane,” a wicked parody of the original. The book mixed Yiddish words with an irreverent and hilarious story line:

“Susan is with Dick’s friend Phil.

Phil puts his arm around Susan.

I wonder why they are at that motel,’ thinks Dick.

They must be going to a party to celebrate some simcha.’ ”

Reading the book, you could learn approximately 80 Yiddish words and phrases while laughing until you *plotzed*.

Weiner and Davilman (also the authors of, “Yiddish with George and Laura” and “How to Raise a Jewish Dog”) are at it again. “The Big Jewish Book for Jews: Everything You Need to Know to be a Really Jewish Jew” (New York: Plume [Penguin Group], 2010) is a guide to traditions that once defined American Jewish cultural identity, traditions that are vanishing in our pluralistic, secular society. For the most part, these aren’t religious traditions; they are the *haimishe* things that our *bubbes*, *zaydes* and parents knew, but that younger generations of American Jews have never learned.

The authors assert that “the direst threat to Judaism in the U.S. today is success.... The more Americanized we become...the less Jewish we are.” They’re talking about Jews who “stop eating when they’re full, who respect their children as individuals and accept their fashion choices, who show up for work one day and wonder why the place is deserted; it’s up to the gentiles in the office to explain that it’s Yom Kippur.”

Weiner and Davilman want to save American Jewish cultural tradition by “reminding, educating and instructing...in the traditional ways, the ways of our ancient Hebraic ancestors and of our mothers, fathers and some of our aunts.” The result is both very funny and unexpectedly sad.

They explain the concept of “Just in Case,” as in, “You should get to the airport two hours before the usual two-hour-before-departure time, Just in Case.” “Just in Case” is thus Jewish shorthand for, “You never know what can happen. Something could go wrong.

Kaballah Insights by Michelle Nichole Garland

I am beyond pleased to write a second column explaining the kabalistic energies of the upcoming months, Nissan and Iyar. (Rosh Hodesh Nisan is Monday evening, April 4. Rosh Hodesh is Wednesday, May 4 and Thursday, May 5, 2011.)

Nissan is referred to as the month of the redemption and miracles (*nissim*), and according to our sages, Nisan is also referred to as *nissei nissim* (miracles of miracles).

As we celebrate the holiday of Passover and the Exodus from Egypt by the Mighty Hand of H’Kodesh Barachu, we will be reminded of this *nissei nissim* which happened approximately 2,600 years ago.

Metzrayim, the Hebrew word for Egypt means “narrow straights” and each person should feel as if (s)he is being personally redeemed from our own *metzrayim* within every generation and also from year to year.

One good idea is to write on a piece of paper your personal *metzrayim*, mediate on the meaning to you in your life, how it affects you and how you will feel once you are freed from it. After this personal reflection time, take the paper and rip it in to several tiny pieces and throw it into the wind and be reminded we are all but dust in the wind, and also “The answer is blowing in the wind.” (sorry, couldn’t help myself!)

Although we celebrate the head of the new year, Rosh Hashana, in Tishrei, this is actually the new year for the vessel (our body). According to Torah, Nissan is the original head of the year for our light. If one thinks about it, a baby has it’s *neshama* (soul) 40 days after conception and this soul is present while the vessel is being built. When we left Egypt and received the Torah, it is as if we were given a new soul, especially as our bodies were cleansed and fed manna, which I like to imagine as purifying milk from the breast of Hashem.

The day after Passover we start a period of 49 days known as Counting of the Omer. These days provide us with the environment we need to work personal refinement through building a positive consciousness and removing any negative actions we did in this life time or even in previous *gilgulim* (reincarnations).

I strongly suggest purchasing the book “A Spiritual Guide To Counting The Omer: 49 Steps to Personal Refinement According to the Jewish Tradition” by Rabbi Simon Jacobson as a way to prepare our souls for receiving the Torah. It is a wonderful idea to count the omer and meditate on these 49 steps with a partner.

During the counting of the omer, I also wear essential oils associated with the sefriot of each day. If you are interested in purchasing these oils, go to Avraham Aromotherapy (<http://www.avaroma.com/>).

From the 14th of Nissan, the cosmic time of the Exodus, until seven days after on 21st of Nissan (the day that Moses split the Red Sea) is a cosmic time to break our *Klipot* (shells) of negativity, our barriers, and to do what seems impossible - to create real miracles in our lives. The process of the counting of the omer culminates with the Holiday of Shavuot during the month of Iyar, when we celebrate the receiving of the Torah.

There could be traffic. The car could break down.” In other words, “Just in Case” represents the sum of Jewish all-encompassing anxiety over events out of one’s control.

In chapters entitled, “How to Purchase, Make and Serve Too Much Food,” “How to Order Cantonese Food” (presumably helpful on Christmas Eve, when American Jews traditionally go to a Chinese restaurant and a movie), “How to Give a Backhanded Compliment” (wife to husband, on hearing that he’s gotten a raise: “At least the people you work with act like they appreciate you.”), “The Original BAM! The Basics of Mah-Jongg” and “How to Pack for a Week in Florida,” the authors simultaneously explain and skewer the American Jewish stereotypes that, well, made us American Jews. The result is amusing, both because of the deft writing and because of the shock of recognition.

Interspersed among the parodic chapters, however, are semi-serious sections on the Jewish Temples (not B’nai Jeshurun; the First and Second Temples), how to purchase and mount a mezuzah, how to use the Jewish calendar, how to lay tefillin and keep Kosher. There’s even a chapter that explains the *tallit*—what it is and how to wear it. These subjects are presented with a light touch, but it’s clear that the authors see these topics as knowledge lost to many contemporary American Jews. Unfortunately, they may be correct, and therein lies the sadness I felt when I finished the book. It’s one thing to enjoy the authors’ loving mockery of American Jewish cultural customs; it’s another to realize that the authors are attempting gently to convey some of the Jewish basics to people who have forgotten or who never knew.

A story in the book’s introduction summarizes both its comic intent and the irony within its pages: “A young rabbi, recently installed in a synagogue, is informed by the shamos that the building has rats. They call this exterminator and that exterminator but nothing works. The rats remain. Finally the rabbi, at the end of his rope, calls the previous rabbi, who has retired to Arizona. The young man explains the problem and the elder rabbi says, “Ah, yes. I’ve heard of this problem at a different shul. Here’s what you do. Wait in the sanctuary until the next time the rats come out. When they do, perform a Bar Mitzvah service for all of them. Believe me, after that, you’ll never see them again.”

“The Big Jewish Book for Jews: Everything You Need to Know to be a Really Jewish Jew” is a humorous and instructive read. Give it to your children and your grandchildren...“Just in Case.”





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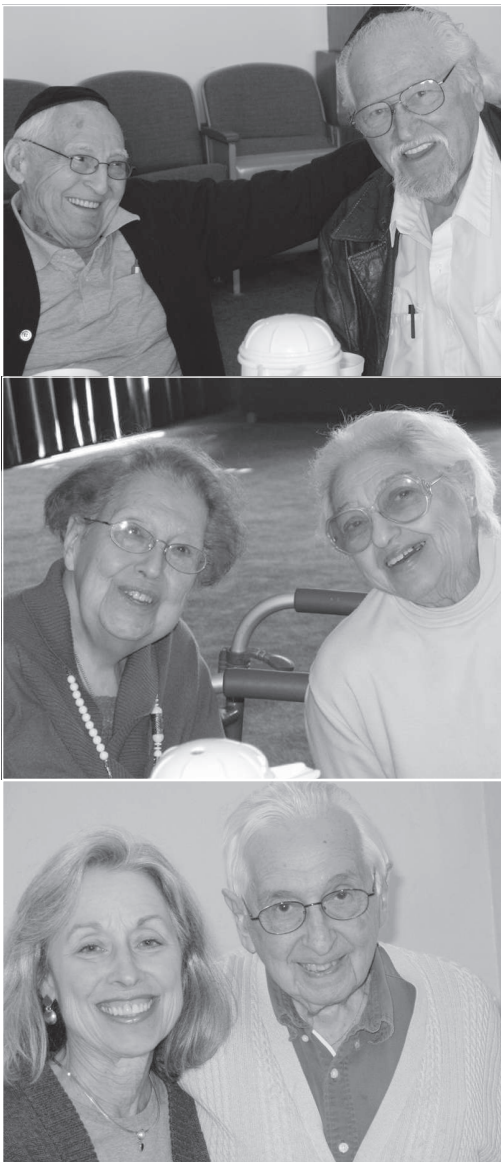
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senior news

Upcoming Luncheons:

Thursday, March 3rd, 12:00 Noon at Beth El Jacob Synagogue- Come and listen to Anne Peters, Director of Home Instead Senior Care, give a presentation on "Activities for the Mind, Body, and Soul: One very important key to maintaining independence as we age is to stay ACTIVE. Learn about some simple ways to incorporate mind, body, and soul "exercises" into your daily routine. Also we again will be privileged to listen to music provided by the Zarnow Fund in honor of Abraham, Regina, Paul, Sidney, Silvia and Ralph Zarnow. Don't miss another musical and informative luncheon.

Thursday, April 7th, 12:00 Noon at Temple B'nai Jeshurun- We will have as guest speaker Sandy Opstad, the owner of SeniorCare Coordination. He will be speaking to us on the challenges many seniors face as they age. Mr. Opstad specializes in assisting seniors that are without family in the Des Moines Area and focuses on living arrangements and medical advocacy. We are also delighted to have Cantor Linda Shivers, who will be providing wonderful musical entertainment and sing Passover songs. Come join us for a musical, informative and enjoyable time, being with friends.



I remember when...

My Early Recollection of Growing Up Jewish In Des Moines

by Sheldon Rabinowitz



My earliest recollections of the distinction of being Jewish was probably around age five. I was born in November 1932. The landscape of where the concentration of Jews lived in Des Moines was much different than now. There were so many Jewish families within a few blocks of where we lived, that I can recall my surprise to find out we were just a small minority in the city, if not the world.

Among the many then living within that two block area, a few of my contemporaries that are still living in Des Moines, are Lou Hurwitz, Stanley and Larry Engman, Jim Marcovis, and Marvin Winick. Marvin and

I started kindergarten together and have maintained our friendship for over 72 years. (He was always late for everything then and little has changed.)

At that time, we had a Jewish population of about 5,000, with a total population of the metropolitan area of about 125,000. Most retail business was centered downtown. Walnut Street had a dominant number of Jewish owned merchants—department, furniture, clothing and other retail stores. Court Avenue also had Jewish owned clothing manufacturers and many wholesalers, including my father's business. Before the big supermarket era, there were small Jewish owned grocery stores all over the city.

There were four Congregations at that time. The three that exist today plus an additional Orthodox congregation on East 6th Street, named Children of Israel. Beth El Jacob had the largest membership of any of the four, and was then located on 5th and University. The JCC was a center of Jewish communal activity at 8th and Forest. The Federation sponsored Talmud Torah was in a building adjacent to the JCC. (It operated Monday through Thursday after school in addition to Sunday morning.) But, the neighborhood was gradually declining throughout that entire era and the Jewish community was moving west.

continued on page 15

The Life Center

Decades of Privilege

"It was twenty years ago today that Sgt. Pepper taught the band to play."

With apologies to Messrs. Lennon and McCartney, my 20th anniversary as Executive Director & Administrator of The Life Center has occasioned me to reflect on that cold February morning in 1991 when I first entered the Executive Director's office and took my seat behind my conference-table desk. So began two decades of travel along the long and winding road of distinct privilege that I have enjoyed at the helm of this venerable institution. An institution whose commitment to community and to excellence in the care of our elders is unparalleled in the State.

During my tenure, I have had the privilege of seeing so many changes in The Home. Changes not only in the programming and physical environment of but also our approach to meeting the growing care needs of our Residents. Twenty years ago, each day saw almost every bed filled with Residents whose physical and/or cognitive impairments brought them to the facility for an average length-of-stay of almost a decade. Today, not only are the physical and cognitive challenges facing the majority of our Residents far more acute, but average lengths-of-stay have plummeted to sub-two-years. In short, today we are engaging with a Resident population vastly different from that of the 1990's.

The changes in our Residents demanded a complete reevaluation of our programming model... an involved process which culminated in the opening of our Boulevard Place Memory Care Unit. We also determined to strengthen many aspects

of staff training and of our overall model of care... a model more closely aligned to responding to the evolving needs of our dynamic Resident population.

Throughout the years, we have sought to provide a physical environment which bespeaks a commitment to offering an ambience which reflects an understanding and appreciation of the aesthetic sensibilities of our Residents, their families and the Community. This is an ongoing effort, and, with the continuing and unwavering support of so many in our Community, this is a goal which guides our efforts towards exceptionalism in long term care services.

There is so much more that can and should be said today. So many individuals should be thanked for their support of our striving to be at the pinnacle of exceptional elder care services: The Life Center Board of Directors, Life Center Staff and our remarkable and strong Community of Support. Without their commitment to our Residents, any leadership I may have offered over these past two decades would have amounted to naught. Thank you, one and all.

It has been my distinct, and enviable privilege to serve as Executive Director & Administrator of The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center for these past decades. Whatever the future may hold, my family has found a home in Iowa, a home which has given me the remarkable privilege to helm an organization committed to fundamental Jewish values which serve as the heart and soul of our commitment to caring and to excellence. Thank you.
-Stephen Blend, M.H.A.



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A Righteous Man

by David Friedgood



“Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age.” (Genesis 6:9) This verse, which introduces the Biblical account of Noah’s life, seems like a back-handed compliment. How good was he? Well, in his time he wasn’t so bad. Compare this to the statements praising other righteous Biblical figures – Abraham and Moses, for example. Rabbinic commentators in Talmudic times (4th to 6th centuries) have two different views of Noah’s righteousness. Rabbi Yohanan saw him as a relatively good man, righteous only in comparison with the overwhelming evil around him. Resh Lakish, on the other hand, praised Noah for upholding moral values in an immoral society. It is interesting to note that Rabbi Yohanan grew up in a privileged background while Resh Lakish spent his childhood in poverty – at one time living in a circus with a band of thieves. These different life experiences likely influenced the commentators’ reflections, Resh Lakish being more sympathetic to Noah. In a larger sense the stories we read, and pass on through the generations, are a reflection on us and our values. Why does our holy Bible spend several chapters recounting Noah’s story, and why do we feel the need to pass these tales along to our children?

Scholars have devoted theses reviewing flood stories in ancient literature. Babylonia /Sumeria (the ancestral home of Abraham) was a land between two major rivers – the Tigris and Euphrates. The natural cycles of flooding and drought controlled the welfare of the people who lived in this Near Eastern land. If the flood waters were controlled the people prospered. Uncontrolled, the yearly flood brought famine with loss of life and property. Many scholars have pointed out the similarity of our Biblical Noah to the hero of the Sumerian Gilgamesh epic. Utnapishtim, the Sumerian hero of Gilgamesh, was a man caught up in the political intrigue of local gods. His rescue from flood waters was not due to his moral worth, but his political acumen (or luck). Our Noah was perhaps not the best he could be, but still a man of some moral stature. The world around him was corrupt and lawless (Hebrew = hamas). God sees no hope in these people and He decides to destroy all life on earth with a great flood. (Fish did not perish in the floodwaters.) Noah and his family were the only people spared. “In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month on the 17th day of the month, on that day – All the fountains of the great deep burst apart, And the flood gates of the sky broke open.” (Genesis 7:11) Human life would start all over again with Noah. Noah builds an ark, stocks it with food and with male and female specimens of all animal life. Noah and

his family live on the ark for over 7 months until the rain stops and the waters subside. Noah then sends out a raven and later a dove as scouts. When finally the dove fails to return, Noah and his entourage safely leave the ark to start life anew on earth.

After the flood, God in His all-knowing wisdom ponders on the moral imperfection of human beings. No man or woman is, or ever can be, perfect. “The LORD said to himself: “Never again will I doom the earth because of man, since the devisings of man’s mind are evil from his youth; nor will I ever again destroy every living being as I have done. So long as the earth endures, Seed time and harvest, Cold and heat, Summer and winter, Day and night shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:21-22) God forges a new covenant, a new relationship, with man. The rainbow, which appears after rain, is seen as a sign of God’s providence. Individuals may suffer but, as long as the earth survives, life goes on.

So, we recount Noah’s tale and tell it to our children. In it we recall the deep-seated primeval anxiety and fear we have of our natural world. Life on this earth is precarious. At any moment a natural disaster, a flood, threatens. As small pieces in the great expanse of the universe, us mortals seem powerless to influence the workings of heaven. But, in Noah we find reassurance. No matter how dangerous our world, no matter how bad or misguided we are, our God reassures us that life will endure. At the end of each storm the rainbow appears and tomorrow starts a new day. Just as Noah in his capacity for righteousness gave God a reason to hope for the ultimate salvation of human kind; so, our God sees past our all too human imperfection to the potential for beauty and goodness inherent in all men and women. Each of us is endowed with a piece of the immortal light of God. Together with our Creator we work towards the perfection of life here on earth.

*“For He who made you will espouse you –
His name is “LORD of Hosts.”
The Holy One of Israel will redeem you –
He is called “God of all the Earth...
For this to Me is like the waters of Noah:
As I swore that the waters of Noah
Nevermore would flood the earth,
So I swear that I will not
Be angry with you or rebuke you.” (Isaiah 54:5,9)*

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The Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions MOVEMENT PROMOTES DELEGITIMIZATION AGAINST ISRAEL

The wave of cancellations by international artists and the increasing calls to boycott Israel are being led by the BDS Movement which under the guise of a progressive liberal movement is in practice promoting delegitimization.

In theory, the BDS Movement promotes human rights, international justice and peace. In practice, it advances the delegitimization of the State of Israel by undermining, explicitly or implicitly, its right to exist as a Jewish democratic state.

Since Operation Cast Lead in early '09, there have been increasing efforts within global civil society to isolate Israel. The BDS Movement, an umbrella organization composed of loosely coordinated non-governmental organizations and individuals stands behind these attempts to isolate Israel. These efforts, which consist of pressure on individuals and organizations to economically or culturally boycott Israel, institutions and organizations to divest from Israel and governments to sanction Israel, spiked in the aftermath of the flotilla

affair in May, '10 but continue unabated.

It is probable that many, and maybe most, BDS supporters do not consider themselves to be delegitimizers, and genuinely aim to criticize Israeli policies. Their association with the movement results from a purposeful effort advanced by the BDS Movement catalysts [left-wing activists] to depict it as apolitical and akin to progressive human rights movements, in order to harness the liberal European and North American elite and enlist wide public support.

However the BDS Movement Catalysts are clear delegitimizers, in many cases stated outright, and in others demonstrated by their: consistent singling out of Israel, efforts to undermine Israeli-Palestinian cooperation, promotion of the right of return, and comparison between Israel and apartheid. In addition, as far as BDS Movement catalysts are concerned, even selective or partial boycotts serve the overall goal of delegitimization.

The Reut Institute of Israel, June 2010.

DEPAUL HILLEL STUDENTS COMBAT DEMONIZATION OF ISRAEL

Since late November, an anti-Israel student group at DePaul University has promoted a campaign to boycott Sabra brand hummus. That campaign, part of an ongoing national effort, is only one component of efforts to delegitimize and demonize Israel on DePaul's campus.

In response, the Chicago Jewish Federation's Israel Education Center and Hillel along with national partners, including the Israel Action Network, Stand With Us and the Anti-Defamation League, are working with the Jewish students to combat the anti-Israel messages being offered on campus.

Des Moines Partnership With Israel

Hello, Friends,

This is my first report to you as Chair of the Des Moines Partnership With Israel. My hope is that you will become as enthusiastic about this project as I am and that you will eventually come see for yourself the tremendous job our Consortium of 15 American Jewish communities is doing in tandem with our Israeli partners in the Western Galilee. The Partnership is a 'living bridge' between our community and Israel. The municipalities of Akko and Mateh Asher, the Arab villages, and the many kibbutzim are truly our 'home away from home' in Israel. Moreover, through our financial contributions and hands-on committee work – in which you are invited to join me, community members throughout the Central U.S., and in Israel – our Consortium has successfully conceived of, funded, built and operated dozens of high quality projects. Some projects help young entrepreneurs get started in business, other projects bolster tourism, meet social service needs for both Jewish and Arab students, create art, music, dance, develop leadership, learn from each other, bring together physicians and first-responders to emergencies, and much more. Funded by Jewish Federations and the Jewish Agency For Israel, the Partnership is of vital importance in the development of Jewish identity on both sides of the ocean! Come, let me share with you a little at a time about this amazing project.

Each year, the Partnership holds two steering committee meetings – one in the U.S., the other in Israel. The winter meeting was held in Dallas, January 9-12, 2011. I attended this meeting with Mark Finkelstein, the Federation's staff person assigned to the Partnership. In Dallas, at the Dallas Jewish Federation, I met the other communities' chairpersons for the project and also the Partnership's staff from Akko and Mateh Asher. This was my first chance to meet these people, Mark has been involved with Partnership for a long time. I think we are in great company! These are wonderful people.

We discussed the objectives of the initiative, along with past programs and future programming opportunities that would be available throughout the year. As with all organizations we discussed financing and ways we could help control costs for programming. In terms of saving money, I believe we might take advantage of an opportunity close by. Omaha, which is in our Consortium, does a fair amount of Partnership programming on its home turf. Perhaps until we build our program to a higher degree, we can enable folks from Des Moines to go to their events (incurring only transportation costs and entry to the event) to learn from their Israeli visitors and local leadership what might, in fact, work in our own community. This is an initial thought, something we will consider in greater detail.

In the meantime, I invite you to follow up on my report by checking out more information about the Partnership on <http://jewishdesmoines.org> and <http://westerngalilee.org.il>. In addition, I look forward to hearing from anyone regarding our Partnership efforts! Write to me at Lederman71@msn.com.

Shalom,
Jacob Lederman

Meet Jacob Lederman, Chair P2K



I was born in Waterloo, Iowa, attended UNI after high school, then Creighton University. I returned to Iowa to work with my 3 brothers in a surety insurance business we started in 1992. I moved from Cedar Rapids to Des Moines in 2000. Shortly after I moved here I met my wife, Christina and we had our first child, Meyer, in 2003. We had a daughter, Abigail, in 2009 and we are expecting again in June.

I am currently working toward an instrument rating for my private pilot's license (if anyone is curious about that they can visit my website (I do not sell anything

on the site) Cardinal-Aircraft.com. I read, run occasionally, am active in my son's school's PTA and enjoy just playing with my kids.

I have always been active in the Jewish community, no matter where that community has been. I am happy to assist our community with the Federation's Partnership 2000 (P2K) effort. P2K is our community's involvement with the city of Akko and the county of Mateh Asher in Israel. In addition to that area we are also connected to 15 other communities in the US. I think that P2K is a great opportunity for our community to strengthen our ties with Israel and I am looking forward to working with our partners to that end. To get started, you will find in our Jewish Press an article each month about our partner area in Israel, Mateh Asher and the city of Akko or news from our Partnership.

I encourage everyone to visit jafi.org.il to find more information about P2K. In the future you will be able to find similar information on the Federation's website.

If anyone has a question about our involvement in P2K or is curious about ways to get involved themselves, please contact me at Lederman71@msn.com or call me at 515-280-6511.

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Saying “Shabbat Shalom” Is Not Enough! by Jill Marks

I don't have the magic formula for making newcomers feel welcome at a synagogue, but I do know what has helped me. We've been associated with about eight synagogues, from coast to coast, some more welcoming than others.

A very prominent Protestant minister, who was the keynote speaker at a large Jewish convention a few years ago, spoke about how his mega church successfully welcomes newcomers weekly. He described how church members greet people when they exit their cars in the parking lot, accompany them into the church and sit with them during the service. They answer questions, explain rituals, introduce them to other members and do everything possible to make them feel comfortable and valued.

A couple of years ago, I attended a synagogue that attempted to incorporate some of the minister's ideas. They had board members and others, eleven people in all, lined up from outside the front door of the synagogue up to the sanctuary to wish congregants a hearty “Shabbat Shalom.” I attended one Friday night with my son, who was visiting, and I happened to know personally all eleven people who greeted us. I soon realized that I left my sweater in the car and my son offered to get it for me. He came through the front door, for the second time, and was greeted with “Shabbat Shalom” by the same eleven members.

Did any of the greeters know him or did he know any of them?...of course not! Did any of them stop him to find out who he was or if he was new to town or visiting?...No Way! Hearing “Shabbat Shalom” from a bunch of strangers is meaningless because it's not enough!

I feel at loose ends when I enter a new synagogue for services and find no one at the entrance to the sanctuary to welcome me, to tell me which prayer book to take or to hand me a program. It's not only necessary, but also nice to be greeted by a friendly face. Ideally the greeter should introduce him/herself to people who he/she doesn't know, get to know a little bit about them and try to seat newcomers with friendly congregants. It would also be helpful if the greeter would introduce new people to the rabbi and cantor before the service, if possible.

Some people may feel uncomfortable with the practice, but I think that it's a good idea for the rabbi to point out new people at the end of the service to give congregants the opportunity to meet and greet them. At the Oneg Shabbat, wish new people a Shabbat Shalom, but please don't stop there and walk away! Tell them a little bit about yourself, ask them where they're from, what brought them to town and most importantly, if possible, please invite them to your home or to join you for a meal in a restaurant, or make definite plans for a future date.

If newcomers appear to be standing alone, I would encourage the rabbi to step up and introduce them to congregants. Believe me, the new congregant may seem upbeat at the Oneg or luncheon, but it's quite a different story when you're home alone!

Being new to town right before the

High Holy Days is especially difficult, but this is the time of year when many people relocate. Just imagine walking into a synagogue Rosh Hashanah morning and not recognizing a single person! Imagine not having a holiday lunch or dinner to look forward to with family or friends!

Most newcomers have no place to go after services. I found it most helpful and thoughtful when we joined synagogues that arranged for congregants to be able to dine together in a restaurant after services. All it takes is for someone to select a restaurant that takes separate checks, speak to the manager and give him an approximate time, publicize the event in the synagogue bulletin and ask for reservations so that the restaurant manager will set aside enough space for the group. We've met new members, as well as longtime congregants, at these lunches who became good personal friends. This could also work, of course, in someone's home.

One of the best ways to meet people and develop friendships is to share dinner and conversation with them. I started Shabbat after 6:00 in Des Moines, copied from another Reform synagogue that we belonged to, because my husband and I wanted to meet new people. I select a different restaurant monthly, send e-mails to interested people and they let me know if they plan to attend. This is a great way to build community and to really get to know people.

It's a wonderful idea for synagogues to have Shalom Committees, but members of these committees should be willing to actively engage with new members. Ideally the committee should consist of people of all ages, married and single, Gay and straight, who the rabbi can count on to help new members feel comfortable in their new city and new synagogue.

Of all of these suggestions, the one that is perhaps the most important is the role that the rabbi plays in welcoming people into the synagogue family. A couple of our former rabbis phoned us, set a date to meet with us personally, learned what we're interested in and had the appropriate people contact us, i.e., the directors of the religious schools in California and Minnesota who encouraged me to teach on Sundays, the Sisterhood president, the Hadassah President in town, gentlemen who golf regularly with my husband, etc. Meeting with these rabbis truly set us on the path to becoming fully integrated into the synagogues and cities.

What can longtime congregants do to make newcomers feel welcome? For one thing, you can open your homes to new people for any Jewish holiday. I know that many people think of the holidays as family holidays, but try stepping out of the box and invite someone new to your holiday dinner! This is a bigger mitzvah than you'll ever know!

Best Wishes for a Happy Passover!

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Judy Deutch, Barb Leventhal Beckerman and Pat Nawrocki

Volunteer Recognition Dinner



Abe Goldstien



Frank Cebuhar, Dan Hartzer and Mel Hrubetz

We had our 4th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet on October 19, and honored our 26 Volunteers for sharing their precious gifts of hope, encouragement, love, caring, time and the greatest gift of all: they give of THEMSELVES, unselfishly. They send the message to others how important he or she is by providing transportation to doctor appointments, grocery store, make telephone calls, assist at luncheons and Volunteer Recognition banquet, serve on boards and much more. As I have said before, they are the heart of the program, they are the glue that keeps the OASIS Volunteer Program together.

We need to take time and honor and thank our own Jewish Community "heroes" in the Volunteer program. In Yiddish, the term we use to describe someone who does good deeds is a Mensch. Our volunteers are Menschen. How blessed we are to have them. They help us go into the New Year with a new attitude and a healthier outlook on life. They help to enrich and improve the lives of others. Remember the ideal gift is...yourself. We cannot put a price tag on it. They give hope to our clients that someone does care. Thanks to all of you for your valuable service to the community and for just being you!

Special thanks to Maccabee's Deli (Chanie Jacobson) for the lovely meal; the wonderful music that was provided by musicians Frank Cebuhar, Mel Hrubetz and Dan Hartzer in honor of Abraham, Regina, Paul, Sidney, Silvia and Ralph Zarnow; Abe Goldstien and his delightful talent of storytelling, photographer Mike Kroloff with great pictures and special thanks to Barbara Leventhal Beckerman for her beautiful centerpieces and goodie bags.

- Pat Nawrocki, Project Services Manager
For volunteering opportunities call Pat at 277-6321 x215



Allison Nawrocki



Shirley Berck



Sally Luftman

Not pictured: Shirley Berg, Roy Clark, Charles W. Dickson, Jr., LuGene Isleman, Louise Kaufmann, Harlan Lekowsky, Ben Small. We remember with affection Linda Fishman and Peter Pintus for their many years of dedicated volunteer work.



photos by Mike Kroloff



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[attempted humor*]

Jewish Cable TV Channel Draws Viewers by David Moskowitz

**not approved or sanctioned by the Editors of the Jewish Press and in fact disparaged by them*



"All Jewish, All The Time." At least that's what the brochure says. Imagine that, a brand-new channel has been unveiled on cable television that focuses exclusively on providing Jewish content. In my opinion, it's about time!

There are already channels for every other specialty interest: TruTV (features shows with video clips of people doing really stupid things and then getting horribly injured but not killed), OWN (features shows about Oprah Winfrey talking about other shows on the OWN Network), Univision (features shows in Spanish, but most importantly soap operas where it appears there was a limited budget for women's clothing), Spike TV (features shows designed to attract a predominantly male audience, which means an almost-fetishistic focus on testosterone-driven activities like punching, fighting, and conquering the lands of others), and Lifetime (features shows designed to attract a predominantly female audience, which means an almost fetishistic-focus on non-testosterone-driven activities like relationships, social connections, and conquering the lands of others).

It's called J-Tv. My guess is that J-Tv stands for Jewish TV. The channel appears to highlight shows that focus on issues and problems confronting Jews in America. I can't imagine a non-Jew watching any of these shows for more than 30 seconds. But to me, all of the shows are awesome. Talk about reality TV, this is Jewish Reality. Here are my favorites:

1. **Your Sister Is Crazy:** This show takes place in an affluent community in Any City, USA and tells the story of a typical Jewish husband and wife and the crazy antics of the husband's non-medicated sister Stacie. With incidents ranging from Stacie's decision to host a lavish bat mitzvah party despite the fact that her daughter knows not a single word of Hebrew ("But look at that gorgeous dress!") to Stacie's black widow attitude towards her long-since-defeated husband ("As soon as the girls go to college, I am leaving you!") to Stacie's desire to convert her talent-free, jewelry-festooned teenage daughters into a Jewish version of either (a) the Kardashians ("Do your model poses girls! Hands on hips! Arch your backs!") or (b) Miley Cyrus ("Listen to my angel sing! She is going to take Broadway by storm!"), the laughs never stop ... or start! Monday night at 9 central.

continued on page 15

[the pesky diner]

Big City Burgers and Greens

By Jarad Bernstein



Local blogger Jared Bernstein is The Pesky Diner, online at www.thepeskydiner.com

From the moment I saw the press release announcing Big City Burgers and Greens in October, I knew I'd love it. I had recently returned from a trip to LA where high-end, uber-customized burgers are quite the trend. My friend took my wife and me out to Twenty Five Degrees in Hollywood and we were impressed. 13 different kinds of cheese! 13 different sauces to top burgers with!

You even have your choice of green chili or Hatch green chili!

What did Des Moines' incarnation bring? Nine kinds of cheese! More importantly for this pesky diner, two very different veggie burgers and a tuna burger. Oh, and six amazing looking salads, plus dozens of ingredients and dressings to custom build your own. Impressive.

Unfortunately BCBG, located in the Capital Square Building in Downtown Des Moines, is only open for lunch, otherwise I think I would have eaten there about a dozen times by now. It's tough going out for lunch these days when I have to make it home in time to walk Wilbur, by far the cutest puggle in the world. At this point I have been lucky enough to escape for two meals.

My first time out I enjoyed the Tuna Burger. This seared tuna delight comes with red and green chilies, along with an orange ginger vinaigrette jicama slaw. I know, sounds awesome. And it was. This sandwich is inventive – where else in town can you get orange ginger vinaigrette jicama slaw?

I had to try the Big City Fries, as they are a house specialty. These fries feature asiago, white truffle oil, and Italian parsley. Here I was slightly disappointed, but it wasn't BCBG's fault. The asiago came off a little strong for my taste buds. I am sure that is a big draw for some. I like to douse my fries in ketchup for the most part, but the Big City Fries were not designed for this.

My second time out I was tempted to go for the tuna again, it was that good. How could I pass up two different veggie patties though? I decided to go for the Garden Burger.

The Garden Burger is a portabella cap with sautéed peppers, onions and goat cheese. There's also grilled tomatoes, lettuce, and chipotle mayo in this sandwich. It is tough to go wrong with this set of ingredients, but I decided to one-up it by adding avocado. The result was delicious! I also decided to get a side of giardiniera. My wife and I agreed that it wasn't that great. All of the great giardiniera I have had before provides a nice layer of heat. This version was bland. Lesson learned.

Given my prior experience with the Big City Fries, I decided to tone it down with just the French fries. I know, plain Jane.

continued on page 15

In the Kitchen with Amy Brody

by Karen Engman



Amy Brody has fond memories of celebrating holidays in her hometown of Rochester, New York. Her mother's Passover Jam Knish Bread recipe from the Rochester Hadassah Cook Book is one of her favorites. She loves to make holiday foods since many of the recipes were handed down from her grandmother and great grandmother.

Amy attended the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego and then the Rochester Institute of Technology, majoring in business. Meanwhile, Brad Brody was managing the Central Tractor store in Batavia, NY. He decided to attend a young Jewish singles mixer in Rochester where he met Amy Greenberg. One year later they were engaged and on their way back to Des Moines. They married in 1985 and have a son Zachary (23)

and a daughter Brittany (21). They also have two dogs; Charlie, a four year old Golden Doodle and Bentley, a two year old Maltese.

She has volunteered at Iowa Methodist Medical Center, served on various Tifereth Israel Women's League committees, co-chaired one of the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center's Golden Balls, and currently serves on the Iowa Jewish Historical Society board.

Amy likes to read, bike, play Mah Jongg, and knit. She's made Norwegian ski sweaters for the kids, cashmere sweaters, and scarves with intricate patterns. She told me that knitting is like meditating for her because it's so relaxing. She loves to knit for thirty minutes every morning and she wouldn't think of leaving on vacation without packing at least one knitting project. Traveling is also one of her favorite activities. She loves the ocean and enjoys accompanying her family when they go deep sea fishing. The best of all her trips was three

years ago when her father in law Elliot Brody took their family to Israel.

Her mother Marsha Greenberg still lives in Rochester so Amy visits several times a year and especially looks forward to her June trips when she reconnects with high school friends too.

Amy enjoys cooking for her family and finds new recipes online but treasures

old family recipes like this one for knish bread, which remind her of her childhood.

The Jewish Press thanks Amy for sharing her recipe for Passover Jam Knish Bread with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or a question I can research, call Karen Engman (274-3300) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com).

Passover Jam Knish Bread (Komishbrodt)

A Recipe from Amy Brody *parve*

- 3 eggs
- 1 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups Passover cake meal
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1 cup oil
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- Jam
- Cinnamon and sugar

Beat eggs and sugar until fluffy. Add cake meal, salt and oil and stir well. Add nuts and refrigerate 20 minutes. Grease cookie sheet.

Divide dough into 4 rolls. Wet hands and shape in long strips, making a ridge down the center of each.

Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven and put a different flavored jam in ridge down the center. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake 25 minutes longer.

Cut when cool.



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Views on the Tuscon Shooting Massacre, Followed By Libel

by Charles Krauthammer, Wednesday, January 12, 2011

The charge: *The Tucson massacre is a consequence of the “climate of hate” created by Sarah Palin, the Tea Party, Glenn Beck, Obamacare opponents and sundry other liberal betes noires.*

The verdict: *Rarely in American political discourse has there been a charge so reckless, so scurrilous and so unsupported by evidence.*

As killers go, Jared Loughner is not reticent. Yet among all his writings, postings, videos and other ravings - and in all the testimony from all the people who knew him - there is not a single reference to any of these supposed accessories to murder.

Not only is there no evidence that Loughner was impelled to violence by any of those upon whom Paul Krugman, Keith Olbermann, the New York Times, the Tucson sheriff and other rabid partisans are fixated. There is no evidence that he was responding to anything, political or otherwise, outside of his own head.

A climate of hate? This man lived within his very own private climate. “His thoughts were unrelated to anything in our world,” said the teacher of Loughner’s philosophy class at Pima Community College. “He was very disconnected from reality,” said classmate Lydian Ali. “You know how it is when you talk to someone who’s mentally ill and they’re just not there?” said neighbor Jason Johnson. “It was like he was in his own world.”

His ravings, said one high school classmate, were interspersed with “unnerving, long stupors of silence” during which he would “stare fixedly at his buddies,” reported the *Wall Street Journal*. His own writings are confused, incoherent, punctuated with private numerology and inscrutable taxonomy. He warns of government brainwashing and thought control through “grammar.” He was obsessed with “conscious dreaming,” a fairly good synonym for hallucinations.

This is not political behavior. These are the signs of a clinical thought disorder - ideas disconnected from each other, incoherent, delusional, detached from reality.

These are all the hallmarks of a paranoid schizophrenic. And a dangerous one. A classmate found him so terrifyingly mentally disturbed that, she e-mailed friends and family, she expected to find his picture on TV after his perpetrating a mass murder. This was no idle speculation: In class “I sit by the door with my purse handy” so that she could get out fast when the shooting began.

Furthermore, the available evidence dates Loughner’s fixation on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords to at least 2007, when he attended

a town hall of hers and felt slighted by her response. In 2007, no one had heard of Sarah Palin. Glenn Beck was still toiling on Headline News. There was no Tea Party or health-care reform. The only climate of hate was the pervasive post-Iraq campaign of vilification of George W. Bush, nicely captured by a New Republic editor who had begun an article thus: “I hate President George W. Bush. There, I said it.”

Finally, the charge that the metaphors used by Palin and others were inciting violence is ridiculous. Everyone uses warlike metaphors in describing politics. When Barack Obama said at a 2008 fundraiser in Philadelphia, “If they bring a knife to the fight, we bring a gun,” he was hardly inciting violence.

Why? Because fighting and warfare are the most routine of political metaphors. And for obvious reasons. Historically speaking, all democratic politics is a sublimation of the ancient route to power - military conquest. That’s why the language persists. That’s why we say without any self-consciousness such things as “battleground states” or “targeting” opponents. Indeed, the very word for an electoral contest - “campaign” - is an appropriation from warfare.

When profiles of Obama’s first chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, noted that he once sent a dead fish to a pollster who displeased him, a characteristically subtle statement carrying more than a whiff of malice and murder, it was considered a charming example of excessive - and creative - political enthusiasm. When Senate candidate Joe Manchin dispensed with metaphor and simply fired a bullet through the cap-and-trade bill - while intoning, “I’ll take dead aim at [it]” - he was hardly assailed with complaints about violations of civil discourse or invitations to murder.

Did Manchin push Loughner over the top? Did Emanuel’s little Mafia imitation create a climate for political violence? The very questions are absurd - unless you’re the New York Times and you substitute the name Sarah Palin.

The origins of Loughner’s delusions are clear: mental illness. What are the origins of Krugman’s?

letters@charleskrauthammer.com

Refrain From The Game Of Victim And Villain

“Although I do not believe that the shooting in Tucson can be blamed with certainty on the lack of civility in political discourse, I do continue to feel that the climate of incivility in America, fostered by so many on all sides of the political divide, makes events like the one in Tucson more likely. I implore everyone to refrain from the game of victim and villain, avoid rhetoric fraught with historical significance or violent connotations, and set us back on a path towards a society where none of these acts are imaginable.”

Rabbi Steve Gutow,
President, Jewish Council on Public Affairs,
January 12, 2011

Who By Fired Upon: Gabrielle Giffords

by Harry Brod

“Who By Fire, Who By Water” opens the list of possible ways one might die in the beautiful poem and prayer Un’taneh Tokef at the center of the High Holy Days liturgy, in which we contemplate what fates might await us in the coming year, words spread to the general public by the Leonard Cohen song. Next year I will expand my thoughts to consider who died or came close to it not just by fire but by being fired upon, and I will think of Jewish Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the other victims fired upon by Jared Loughner, who listed *Mein Kampf* among his favorite books on YouTube, right along with *The Communist Manifesto* in the incoherent confusion and conflation of diametrically opposed political philosophies that’s become typical of the right wing in this country.

Suspicion of anti-Semitic motivations for the targeting of Giffords are strengthened by the inclusion in his rantings about “mind control” and “brainwashing” conspiracies and his warnings about the control of “currency,” a staple of paranoid anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

Discussion of this tragedy’s political background is complicated because there’s no direct line between the political conversation and this attempted assassination of a political figure. This was the act of a deranged individual, not directly acting on behalf of any political ideology. But his violent madness wasn’t random; he didn’t target schoolmates, family, or neighbors, but his political representative. We cannot afford to be willfully blind to the likelihood that his personal unreasoned rage was channeled this way by the irresponsible rhetoric of unreasoned and gun-toting anti-government political rage now permeating our airwaves, coming overwhelmingly from the right. As this rhetoric has escalated so have documented threats and attacks on government figures. It’s not a “blood libel” to connect the dots; it’s bloody foolish and dangerous not to do so.

Analysts therefore correctly connect this incident to the violent political rhetoric that’s been spewing from the right, with their talk of “targeting” people

in their “crosshairs,” of “reloading” and “second amendment” solutions to political problems. It’s always tempting to attribute such acts to lone crazed individuals. Those who deny any collective responsibility for these killings are the same people who shout most loudly that on 9/11/2001, the birthday of Christina Taylor Green, the youngest victim, we were attacked by “Muslims,” not just a group of individuals. To those politicians and pundits who disavow any connections between their words and others’ actions, one need only ask “Then why are you still talking to us?” Clearly words have consequences, otherwise one would remain silent.

I’m someone who scans bookshelf titles at people’s homes, looking for clues to their personality, so I’m drawn to consider Loughner’s list of favorite books. It’s mostly standard fare, leaning toward adolescent fantasies, and one suspects he lists as favorites some he knows only as films (*Gulliver’s Travels*?). *The Old Man and the Sea* reminded me where I’d seen that on another list. Years ago I taught at Kenyon College in Ohio, where a student’s paper on college history informed me that one of those who died in the 1970 Greenwich Village Weather Underground townhouse explosion of a bomb they were making had been a former Kenyon student. In the College archives was Terry Robbins’ application for admission, and for “favorite books” he had included *The Old Man and the Sea* and *The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner*. I was struck by the incredible feelings of isolation expressed here. Such are the young men inflamed by inflammatory rhetoric.

Gabrielle Giffords is the first Jew elected to the US House of Representatives from Arizona. A member of her Tucson synagogue, Congregation Chaverim (“Friends”), “Bryan Kaplan, who helps resettle refugees in the Tucson area, said Ms. Giffords would write a personal letter thanking every employer who hired a refugee,” reports the New York Times. It strikes me as a very Jewish act, and an inspiring one.

Harry Brod is Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at the University of Northern Iowa

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Recollection from page 6

It seemed that our family's Jewish life revolved around Beth El Jacob and the JCC until I was an early teenager. The JCC began to have a tougher non-Jewish crowd around that intimidated the Jewish youth. Tifereth built a youth center in the lower level of their old clubhouse in about 1946 or 47, and Jewish youth activities began to move toward that location. To my recollection there was less mixing of the children from the Temple in that era in Jewish youth organizations.

AZA was clearly the big center of activity for Jewish boys. It started at age 14 and went through high school with monthly meetings and many activities. We had conventions each December and June within our region—which included two chapters in Omaha, plus a chapter in Council Bluffs, Lincoln, Sioux City, Waterloo and Des Moines. There were basketball or softball tournaments depending on the season, ping-pong, debate, oratory and a big dance at the convention. We knew many people from all over the area because of our mixing with other kids at the regional conventions - many of those friendships still lasting. AZA was the main boys Jewish related youth activity, but it began to decline as USY and the Temple youth group began to grow - probably in the 50's, a little after my era.

People often refer to “the good old days,” but for sure that was not true economically for most of the Jewish community. We have certainly declined in size, have less Jewish identification and are more integrated into the total community than when I was growing up.

IYAR

The month of Iyar is commonly referred to as the month of natural healing because Iyar (aleph, yud, yud resh) is an acronym for the words Ani Yud Yud Reofecha, (I am God your Healer). While spending time in Postville and discussing this energy with a Rebbitzin Schimmel, I was told her mother would always collect and drink the rain water during the month of Iyar. She wasn't exactly sure why, but this is what her mother did. After mentioning this, and know of research conducted by Masuro Emoto, a connection was made for me as to why her mother collected and drank the rain waters of Iyar!

In his book, “The Hidden Messages in Water,” Dr. Masaru Emoto describes the ability of water to absorb, hold, and even retransmit human feelings and emotions. Using high-speed photography, he found that crystals formed in frozen water reveal changes when specific, concentrated thoughts are directed toward it.

Dr. Emoto also found that water from clear springs and water exposed to loving words shows brilliant, complex, and colorful snowflake patterns, while polluted water and water exposed to negative thoughts forms incomplete, asymmetrical patterns with dull colors.

While attending a lecture with Shoshana Herrari (<http://almondblossomcafe.com/files/consultation.html>), I learned when we say the bracha over water, the molecules change into the shapes of Magen David! Just imagine, if we say the bracha (blessing) we are filling our body with Judaism! So think of the rain water of Iyar as our

manna being sent from heaven to purify our body and soul.

The focus of Iyar is the rectification of our animal souls by refining each of our innate character traits, which we work on as we continue to count the Omer, which started in Nissan.

TV from page 12

2. Who Took The Ring? This is a game show pitting one side of a hopelessly divided Jewish family against the other side. Contestants are shown a picture of a family heirloom or otherwise readily identifiable personal possession. Each family is then given the opportunity to explain why the object belongs to them. Sample dialogue: “Daddy gave that ring to me before he died. GIVE IT BACK TO ME! I HATE YOU!” to “I never gave you that painting. I loaned it to you and YOU STOLE IT AND I HATE YOU!” to “Mom told me she was going to give me that car so what right do you have to simply drive off with it! I HATE YOU!” In the bonus rounds, a single object is placed on a podium and the families have 30 seconds to convince a panel of non-Jewish judges that they have the winning ownership claims for the object in question. It's like “Survivor,” except without a survivor. Tuesdays at 8 central. Parental discretion advised.

3. Doctor In The House. This drama/comedy tells the story of the Rubenstein family who appear to be disproportionately afflicted with a number of real or imaginary health problems. Leonard and Rachel, along with Leonard's parents Sheldon and Tessie (who live next door), spend each episode complaining about their various ailments and then comically misdiagnosing them. There are laughs galore when Tessie ridiculously tells Leonard that his complaints about a sore toe are actually warning signs of a looming problem with his gall bladder, but those gentle laughs are balanced by painful tears when Leonard's swollen pancreas turns out to be a sign of a broken toe. The Rubenstein family never learns its lesson and spends each episode with tales of their hypochondriac-fueled ailments, gossip stories of the ailments of their friends, and the imaginary medical diagnoses they read about in Reader's Digest. Thursday nights at 9 central.

4. The Better College. Each week, this show features a different pair of Jewish families who, on the surface, are friends but secretly maniacally competitive with each other. The families share superficial activities like carpooling to Hebrew school, friendly backyard barbecues, and serving on the local PTA together. But as soon as their doors close, the families separately spin off into bitter debates and comparisons of each other's success, and prepare imaginary scorecards of their respective accomplishments. They figure out which family has more money, they calculate which family flaunts that money more conspicuously, they question the philosophy and ethics behind each purchase of an automobile, and they rate which family's vacations are the

most exotic and expensive. The highlight of each episode is the time each family spends comparing the academic accomplishments of each other's children. Sample quotes: “Northwestern is better than Wash U! Anyone who spent anytime comparing SAT scores and acceptance rates would know that!” “Jonathan would have gone to Penn but he just didn't like the campus so I don't why the Goldsteins think something is wrong with Upper Iowa. Feh on them!” “Yale only accepts five Valley High School students each year, and my Shari was number six, so her second choice of Graceland makes complete sense.” The real theme is a classic one: scratch the surface of a Jewish friendship and you will find a bitter rival. Friday nights at 8 central.

5. JSPN. On weekends, J-Tv turns its attention to the world of sports and rebrands itself as JSPN (the Jewish Sports Programming Network). The contracts to acquire the broadcast rights for football or basketball proved to be inordinately expensive, so JSPN focuses on sports that are uniquely within the athletic capabilities of the majority of the Jewish community. The shows appear to vary by season, but we are now in the part of the sports schedule that highlights winter sports of interest to Jews. Sample shows: “Football Showdown” (a show about contractual drafting, cap management, and cut-throat negotiating tactics on behalf of football players who are not Jews), “February Madness” (a show about the countdown to the Annual Awards of the American Academy of Tax Accountants). Remember gentlemen: no wagering, even though everyone just assumes that Morris Edelman, CPA will take the trophy at the Final Four ceremony at the White Plains, New York JCC.

6. The Biggest Schmoozer. Instead of competing for the honor of the biggest weight gain, Jewish contestants on this reality show compete for the honor of the “biggest schmoozer.” The winner is the contestant who, over the course of the season, breaches the most confidences, passes along the most unsubstantiated and hurtful gossip, and sustains the longest-winded dialogues with other contestants. Unwatchable. Wednesday mornings at 10 central.

7. Medium Well. Unlike its namesake show about psychic mediums, this reality show instead focuses on Jews' efforts to irritate and insult the owners of fine restaurants. Instead of following the expertise of the world-famous chefs who have perfected their culinary crafts in these restaurants, the Jews read menus, listen attentively to the “daily specials,” but still insist on making their own ridiculous changes to every order, thereby triggering explosive anger in the chefs but fun hijinks for viewers. Sample discussion: “Our special today, madam, is the pecan-encrusted filet of sole, served with yellow chanterelles, sautéed wild nettles, and accompanied by a raisin/jalapeno relish.” “I'll have that, it sounds great, but instead of the sole, could you substitute a medium well-

done salmon, hold the pecans and the relish, and instead of the chanterelles and nettles, could you please substitute a fruit salad but make sure it doesn't have any melon or grapes or berries and could you substitute gluten-free pasta for your handmade pasta and please cook the fish without any cooking oil?” Hold onto your hats fellow restaurateurs - this could get interesting! Saturdays at 9 central.

8. South Shore. It's like Jersey Shore, but instead of following the antics of a group of Italian-Americans in Seaside Heights, New Jersey, it centers on a group of spoiled Jewish-Americans from Bellmore, Long Island and their summer antics at Jones Beach. Characters include JWitz, Marvin “The Accountant” Hershkowitz, and the appallingly popular train wreck: Schnurri. Sundays at 8:30 central.

9. Seinfeld. Appears to be a reality show about Jews in New York who sit around a coffee shop and complain, critique every word spoken by other characters, and get themselves into bizarre situations due to their deep-seated neuroses. Not sure this one will catch on. Tuesdays at 9:30 central.

10. Who's Jewish? Another game show, this time featuring a giant board with photographs of various celebrities. Contestants are asked to guess whether the celebrity is a Jew, or not a Jew. Things start out easy (Larry David? Barbra Streisand?) but as each round progresses, the degree of difficulty increases (Scarlett Johansson? Jake Gyllenhaal? Mila Kunis?). In the season finale, contestants realize that all of the musicians, artists, actors, directors, poets, writers, scientists, and Nobel laureates who were featured during the course of the season were all Jewish. Monday at 10 central. (Answer key: All Jewish.)

So set up your Tivo, park yourself on the couch, and prepare for an evening of Jewish-centric television goodness. Goodbye HBO, hello J-Tv!

Diner from page 12 It ended up being pretty tasty, actually. In an attempt to try more of the menu, I got sides of the house-made Big City Sauce and Big City Steak Sauce for the fries. While both sauces were good, I am now a devoted fan of the Big City Sauce. It's heavy on the garlic and mayo, and reminded me of my favorite French fry dip from my trip to Belgium nine years ago - garlic mayo. I'm sure my officemates appreciated that stench after lunch, but it was worth it.

So what is this review missing? Salad. I have not yet had the opportunity to try the salads, but I am excited to do so. Topping options include fried onions, jicama (Mexican potato as Hy-Vee calls it), scallions, and seasoned marinated tofu. The Pesky Diner will return for this, along with dressings like Cilantro Lime Vinaigrette, Creamy Roasted Red Pepper Garlic, and Orange Ginger Vinaigrette.

Here's the low-down: I will be back and often. If you work downtown, this place is a no-brainer (they even offer online ordering). If you work in the burbs, this is well worth the 15 minute drive. My wishes: stay open for dinner and offer custom sliders so I can have the two veggie burger options and the tuna in one sitting.

Legendary Dutch Jazz Band At The Caspe Terrace April 9



The Caspe Terrace is quickly earning a modest international reputation for outstanding jazz programming. Just ask one of jazz's oldest and most prestigious jazzcooperatives—TheInstantComposers Poll (ICP) from the Netherlands. Including The Caspe Terrace on their upcoming U.S. tour was a must after hearing reports of receptive audiences, great hospitality and incredible food.

The ICP Orchestra will perform at The Caspe Terrace on Saturday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m.

How rare is it that a group like ICP would make the trip to Iowa? "Very rare," says Abe Goldstien, a member of the Jewish community, who has been the driving force behind the world-renowned Jazz at The Caspe Terrace concerts. "When they do make it to the U.S., you usually find them playing in cities like New York, Chicago, Seattle and Philadelphia. Having them come to Central Iowa is a real coup."

About The ICP Orchestra

ICP was founded as a label and group concept in the late '60s when reedist Willem Breuker and drummer Han Bennink self-released a duo recording on a label they named ICP. Fellow Dutch musician and collaborator, pianist Misha Mengelberg became the third equal member of ICP, having recently come up with the term "instant composing" to use in "improvising's" stead. Mengelberg

and Bennink will be joined at The Caspe Terrace by a group that features some of the most prominent players from the Dutch jazz scene. "My guess is that none of them have ever been to Iowa, so we are anxious to welcome them to our community," says Goldstien.

What To Expect When ICP Takes The Stage

Trying to describe the music of ICP is a bit difficult, because the band blends so many different jazz styles into a singular approach to the music. The best description comes from jazz trumpeter Dave Douglas who says, "These musicians can swing like mad when they want to, and can play the most sensitive cafe ballad at the drop of a hat. They also compose their own fantastic repertoire, and play a passel of Misha Mengelberg tunes, many dating back to the fifties. But the crux of what they do, as the name implies, is improvisation. And they do it as well as anyone out there."

Make Reservations Today

Goldstien has already fielded calls from jazz fans in Kansas City, Omaha and Minneapolis, who plan to make the trip to The Caspe Terrace to experience the ICP Orchestra. You can reserve your tickets by contacting Goldstien at 515-279-6452 or abe@trilixgroup.com. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. The concert will be followed with a reception hosted by the Waukee Area Arts Council.

Programming Committee Announces Fall Line-Up at The Caspe Terrace

The Caspe Terrace Programming Committee is very excited about the programs we have planned for fall! We are planning interesting and fun programs, many of which will occur during Hebrew School so that parents of schoolchildren can attend them after dropping their kids off for school on either Sunday morning or Wednesday afternoon. Of course, everyone in the community is cordially invited to attend, not just the parents of our schoolchildren. We will also provide free transportation for seniors to these events.

There will be more details to follow, but here are a few of our upcoming events....

Sunday, September 18, 2011—Susan Madorsky will teach us how to prepare wonderful new Rosh Hashanah recipes.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 - Bring

your board for ongoing Mahjong on Wednesday evenings.

Wednesday, October 26, 2011—Beth Ohringer will lead us in a wine tasting class and take the mystery out of selecting the right wine. (Sorry no Mahjong)

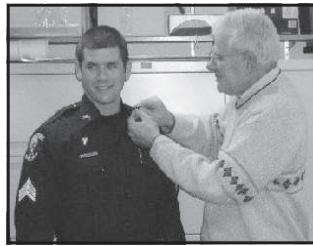
Sunday, November 13, 2011—Cyril Mandelbaum will teach us all about financial planning and how to be smart with our money choices.

Sunday, December 11, 2011—Hanukkah Bazaar with all three synagogues, Maccabee Deli, and the Jewish Resource Center participating.

We look forward to enjoying these events with you!

Sincerely,
Wendi Harris and Julie Olsasky,
The Caspe Programming Committee Co-Chairs

[mazel tov!]

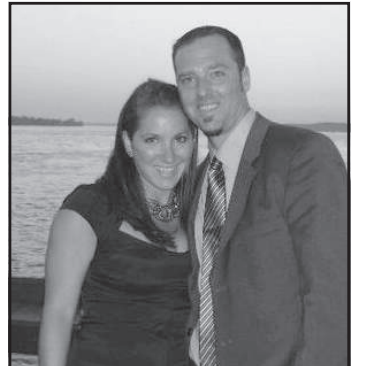


Dave Arkovich (retiree of the Ames PD and father of Mike) pinning on Mike's Sgt. pins

Mike Arkovich of the Ames Police Department was promoted from Patrol Officer to Sergeant on December 17, 2010. Mike has been on the Ames Police Department since August 2005. Before joining the Ames Police Department he was on the St. Petersburg, FL Police Department from December 2002 until May 2005 when he and his wife Crystal moved back to Ames. Arkovich is a 2002 graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Liberal Studies Degree and graduated from Ames High in 1998. Mike and Crystal have a three year old son named Cooper. His parents are **Ellen and Dave Arkovich of Ames.**

David and Ellen Arkovich, of Ames, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, **Stacey Deborah**, to James Dillon, the son of Mr. Lee Dillon and Mrs. Kathy Jordan of Wooster, Ohio.

Stacey is an Ames High Alum and graduated from Missouri State University in 2006. She currently works as a Sales Manager for Embassy Suites Columbus Airport in Columbus, Ohio. James is a 2003 graduate of Capital University (Bexley, OH) with a degree in Business Management, and currently works as a Human Resources and Operations Director for Theratrust, Inc. in Newark, Ohio.



Stacey and James will be married November 2011 in Columbus, Ohio.



Congratulations to **Matt Fryar**, investment banker for the Jewish Foundation. As reported in the *Business Record*, Matt Fryar of Wells Fargo Investments LLC was named Bank Investment Consultant magazine's top bank representative in its Top 50 survey released today. Fryar works at Wells Fargo's Des Moines office. Bank Investment Consultant produces the rankings based on a production-to-branch deposits ratio. "In this challenging market environment, the ranking validates our focus at Wells Fargo

Investments on building the strongest relationships with clients by working together with them to help plan for all their financial goals and proving exceptional service, advice and solutions every step of the way," Fryar said in a press release.

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TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

Save the Date

Adult Purim Festival! March 19, 2011 at Bergman Mansion. Megillah reading & party. Babysitting at the Temple. Watch calendar for more details.

April Beit Café

April 7th 7:30-9:30 p.m. Louis Dean "The Singing Gourmet"

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Rabbi's Adult Education Class:

Beginning Thursday, March 17th – Thursday, April 21st "How to Study Torah" (Knowledge of Hebrew not required) 8:00 p.m. each Thursday

Cantor's Adult Education Class:

Beginning, Thursday, February 24th – Thursday, March 31st
Varieties of Jewish Meditation 7:00 p.m., Tifereth School Wing, Room 9

Morning Meditation – Jewish Meditation – Tuesday mornings
7:45 a.m. – 8:50 a.m. – Bookey Chapel (enter front Sanctuary doors)

Tifereth Adult Choir Practice – Tuesdays 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Cantor's office, School Wing - Room 9

Saturday, March 19th – 7:30 p.m. Purim – Megillah Reading & Costume Parade

Sunday, March 20th – 9:00 a.m. Purim Morning Minyan

Saturday, March 26th 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. - Tot Shabbat
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. - Junior Congregation

Sunday, April 10th – YAD Chocolate Seder 12:30 p.m. School Wing, Room 6

Passover Schedule:

Monday, April 18th	7:00 a.m. Ta'anit Bekhorim (Fast of the First Born) Study Session Erev Pesach
Tuesday, April 19th	First Day Pesach Services 9:00 a.m. Bookey Chapel Second Night Seder – Tifereth Social Hall
Wednesday, April 20th	Second Day Pesach Services 9:00 a.m. Bookey Chapel
Friday, April 22nd	6:00 p.m. Shabbat Evening Services Bookey Chapel 7:00 p.m. Women's League Passover Family Dinner
Saturday, April 23rd	9:00 a.m. Saturday, Shabbat Services Jewish Senior Life Center
Monday, April 25th	Seventh Day Pesach 9:00 a.m. Services Bookey Chapel
Tuesday, April 26th	Eighth Day Pesach / Yizkor 9:00 a.m. Services Bookey Chapel

[milestones]

B'nai Mitzvah



Baruch Hashem, we are blessed to announce a son of Israel, **Aaron Swartzendruber**, will become a Bar Mitzvah on Nissan Gimmel (April 7,

2011). Bezerat Hashem, Aaron will be called to the Torah on Nissan Hay (April 9, 2011) at 10:30 am at Agudath Israel in Postville, Iowa.

The entire community is invited to join in the celebration. If you need shabbos accommodations, please call Michelle Garland at 515-450-5625, there are many families in Postville who would love to have you as their guests for the weekend. All are encouraged to come. Friends, family, and people we have never met, please join in our simcha!

Aaron is the son of Dr. Michelle Garland and Todd Swartzendruber, the grandson of Sandy and Steve Garland and great-grandson of Lil and Ned Barsky, OMB.



Sarah-Rose Ballard will be called to The Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 30, 2011, at 10:00 am at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

The Jewish Community is cordially invited to celebrate this special occasion with us.

All are welcome to join the Kiddush Luncheon immediately following.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Joseph Barricks
Mary Jane Bear
Rose Gurner
Boris Kuperman
Joseph Maged
Louise Stern
Bertha Tucker
Bernice Waltman

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Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m., at Temple B'nai Jeshurun
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While not a complete dinner, this will be a great opportunity to learn about Jewish traditions and the stirrings of Christianity. Participate in communal fellowship, literally breaking bread—matzah—with people from all around our community.

**\$20 per person. Proceeds benefit the Temple's Youth Fund
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A Member Of The Diaspora

Ruth David, author of "A Child of Our Time" wrote of her life in Nazi Germany. The following is an excerpt from an article she wrote for the Spring 2001 issue of The CHAlowan.



Ruth and Herb David

So how did it come about that I have lived in Germany, Britain and Iowa? My story is not untypical for a Jew. I had foolishly thought that each of my locations was to be permanent. First Germany, where I was born (Frankfurt/Main). My family, the Oppenheims, lived in Hessen. They seem to have lived there forever, but I was to learn as a very young child, that we were no longer wanted.

When Hitler came to power I was 4 years old and though not old enough to understand the prevailing politics, I was aware that there was anxiety in the household. My parents had serious worries. Father's work had ceased. In fact his factory was in process of "aryanisation." There was talk of "Auswanderung" (emigration), a word that frightened me. Who wants to leave home voluntarily? What head of family is willing to give up everything he has worked for, to leave for the unknown? To face a new language?

As I grew I learnt that we had much to fear. I understood what Hitler meant for Jews and what many Germans thought of us. They had been told that we were inferior, worthless, evil and they had accepted this teaching. I was expelled from our local school at the age of six. A Jewish school was set up in a town 15 miles away for all the Jewish children of the region. We were not many and conditions for our education were primitive, our classrooms two little dark rooms at the back of the synagogue in the little town of Hochst. We made the journey in an old car whose seats had been taken out and replaced by wooden benches on which we perched. We were attacked on the way to school.

November 9th, 1938 arrived in all its horror. No more school. The synagogue had been destroyed. Local thugs broke into our home that night and vandalized its contents. My father and eldest brother were beaten, then taken to the local police cells on their way to Buchenwald. They arrived there in grim conditions with 20,000 other Jewish males arrested that night. We could no longer exist in a place where everyone knew but spurned us. We were unable to buy basic necessities as shops bore notices: "Juden ist der Eintritt verboten." We moved to the anonymity provided by a larger city, Mannheim in our case, where my mother found work as the director of the remaining Jewish orphanage.

I had five siblings. My eldest brother was released from Buchenwald when the SS saw the American visa in his pocket. He left for the USA and tried desperately to bring us out. The second brother had left earlier for Argentina and made the same effort. Neither succeeded. My parents realized that their younger children should also leave. With very little notice I heard that I was to make for England. I was appalled. I knew we were in danger but at the age of ten I did not want to face a new life anywhere and certainly not alone in an alien country. I was often told later how grateful I should be that my life was saved. If at that time I had been given the choice, which fortunately I was not, to live in England or to die with the rest of the family in Nazi occupied Europe, I am sure I would have chosen to stay. Children should not be made to feel that they owe a debt of gratitude for managing to stay alive.

I came to England in June 1939, not long before the outbreak of war in Europe, as part of the Kindertransport. For the next seven years my home was a refugee hostel in Tynemouth, in the North of England (and then to Northwest England)...Times were indeed hard for everyone. We survived, but traumatically as we waited for news of our dear ones in unreachable places. Gradually there had been fewer messages. We did not know that they had all died well before the end of the war. We had to face this truth later. It overwhelmed us. My parents were deported from the Camp de Gurs in southern France to be murdered in Auschwitz in August 1942.

England however was good to me. I managed to receive an education against all the odds and scholarships to London University. I spent my working life in Britain and with children of my own there, would have been happy to stay for the rest of my days. But I met a widower from Iowa, Herbert David, professor at ISU. Not really a chance encounter. We had much in common. He too was born in Germany and had also lived on different continents. Flight had taken his family from Dusseldorf to Australia in the summer of 1939. He intended to stay in Australia but an invitation to a university post brought him to the USA. Moreover, as a refugee child in Britain, I had met his first wife (Vera Reiss David), another refugee, from Prague...I consider my self fortunate to have landed in Ames, Iowa.

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[calendar]

march • april

Thursday, March 3	12:00 pm	Sr. Lunch at Beth El Jacob Synagogue
Saturday, March 5	7:30 pm	Purimspiel at the Temple
Sunday, March 6	1:00 pm	Purimspiel at the Temple
Saturday, March 19		Adult Purim Festival
Sunday, March 20		PURIM
	11:00 am	BEJ & TI Purim Palooza Carnival at BEJ Gym
Tuesday, March 22	7:00 pm	Federation Board of Directors at The Caspe Terrace
Saturday, April 2	7:30 pm	Beit Café at the Temple
Thursday, April 7	12:00 pm	Sr. Lunch at the Temple
Saturday, April 9	10:30 am	Aaron Swartzendruber Bar Mitzvah at Agudath Israel in Postville, Iowa
Sunday, April 10	3:00 pm	Educational Seder at the Temple
Tuesday, April 19		PESACH
	6:00 pm	Second Seder at the Temple
Friday, April 22	5:30 pm	Tifereth Passover Shabbat Family Dinner
Saturday, April 30	10:00 am	Sarah Rose Ballard Bat Mitzvah at the Temple

CHILD HUNGER BILL PASSES WITH HELP OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has commended specific agencies of the Jewish community, along with other faith-based organizations, with helping to pass the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act. The bill, which strengthens the safety net against hunger, was signed into law by President Obama in December. It will increase the number of eligible children enrolled in the school meals programs and will provide more meals for at-risk children nationwide by reimbursing providers of after-school meals in all 50 states. This bill also updates nutritional standards for school meals so that they include more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy – and less sodium, sugar and fat.

Secretary Vilsack thanked The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) and Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. Mazon provides critical support to organizations that serve those struggling with hunger. And JCPA and their chapters hosted Child Nutrition Seders around the country to raise awareness and helped to spearhead the interfaith effort, “Fighting Poverty with Faith.” JCPA’s Rabbi Steve Gutow said, “This bill is an acknowledgement that in a nation as bountiful as ours, no child should worry about when their next meal will be.”

In addition, Secretary Vilsack thanked the Jewish Community Centers of North America (JCCA) for joining. Let’s Move!, the First Lady’s program to end childhood obesity and hunger. *Learn at mazon.org*

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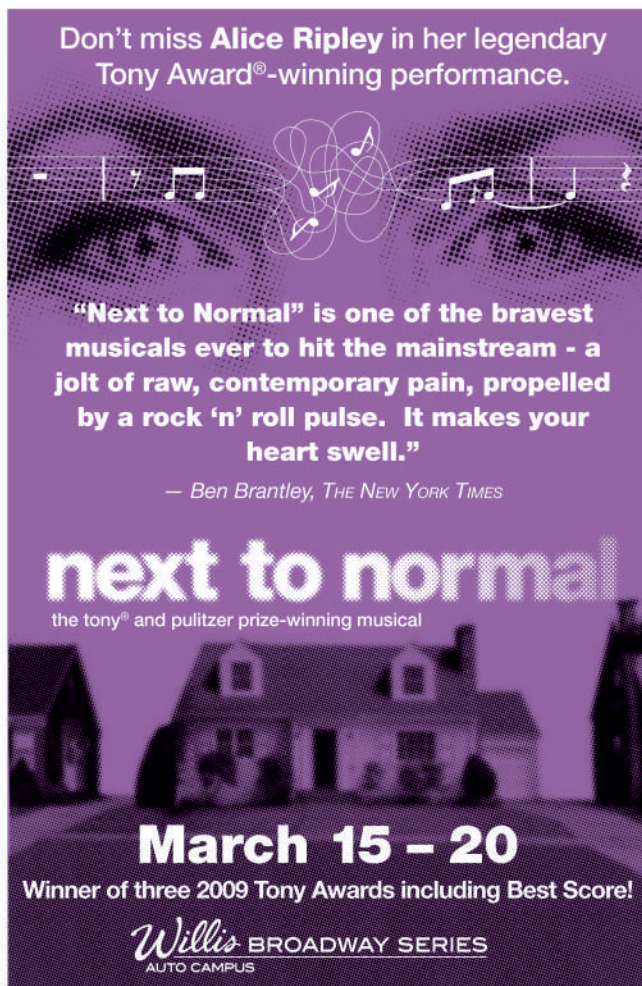


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