



Jewish Press

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volume 21 number 5

**Education News**
- page 4**Beautiful -
Women's Health
Symposium****John Irving
Live Broadcast
Monday, May 9**
- page 15**At Israel Independence Day Commemoration Wednesday, May 11**

"Prospects For Peace After Arafat" Topic Of Ambassador



Dennis Ross, Chief of Middle East Peace Negotiator for Presidents George Herbert Walker Bush and Bill Clinton, will be guest speaker 8:00 pm, Wednesday, May 11, in commemoration of Israel's 57th Independence Day. The program, sponsored by the Des Moines Jewish Foundation, will be held at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Boulevard in Des Moines. General admission tickets for the event are \$10 each and are available from the Jewish Federation (515-277-6321 x 218) or at the door.

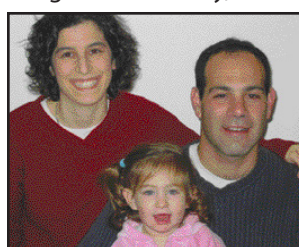
In a major public address here in Des Moines, Ambassador Ross will take a critical look at the current prospects for Israeli-Palestinian peace post-Arafat: Is there a new opportunity for peace? Which steps can lead to peace? What role should the United States play? His presentation will be followed by questions from the audience.

"Everyone interested in the politics of the Mideast, which is at the forefront of much of today's news, should take the opportunity to come hear Ambassador Ross, a person who has been at the center of that news during most of the past 15 years," says Sheldon Rabinowitz, Chair of the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Commission. "Mr. Ross is one of the most highly regarded commentators on the Mideast conflict and its possible solutions. He is frequently seen on TV news and in the Op-ed pages of major newspapers."

Ambassador Dennis Ross, who dealt directly in negotiations with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin and Ehud Barak, is currently counselor and Ziegler distinguished fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. His most recent book is *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*.

Engman Camp Shalom BEGINS ITS 48TH SUMMER OF ADVENTURE, LEARNING, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN

And a Camp Shalom 2004 was a wonderful camping experience for many Jewish children. This year should be even better! Engman Camp Shalom is an eight-week program and is located at The Caspe Terrace, 3320 Ute Avenue in Waukee. Our Camp begins on Monday, June 20 and runs through Friday, August 12.



Many new and exciting ideas and programs will be introduced this summer. Our most exciting news is our new Camp Director, Josh Goldsmith. Josh has over 20 years of camping experience. He grew up in the Midwest and spent his summers at Camp Ramah. Josh's experiences include youth director for informal Jewish programming and director of Camp Edward Isaacs and Berkshire Hills-Emanuel Camps in New York. Most recently, over the last three summers, he has been the director at the New Jersey YWHA Camps in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Josh's wife, Debbie, will also be part of our staff this year. She is no stranger to Jewish camping either. Debbie grew up in Ohio and spent summers at the Cleveland JCC's Camp Wise and Camp Ramah in Wisconsin and Canada.

With Josh at the helm, our staff has been hand-selected to provide the highest

NYC: Next Stop for the Lions &

On May 19 several Lions of Judah and Pomegranates from Des Moines will do a tour of what's Jewish in New York City. Tour chairs, Shelley Brody, Debbie Gitchell and Toni Urban are planning the four-day trip. The Women's Division of the United Jewish Communities has been helpful in putting finishing touches on the long weekend.

The group will go to the UJC headquarters for a welcome followed by a tour of a special exhibit at the Jewish Museum. The group will attend Shabbat services at a Manhattan synagogue, tour the Lower East Side, and go to the Jewish Heritage Museum in the Battery Park area. The group will also attend the Broadway production *Jewtopia*.

The chairs are hoping that this activ-

JFCS STUDENTS TO VISIT GERMANY

The 11th and 12th Grade students from the Jewish Federation Community School have been invited by a German organization that fosters German-American relations to participate in an educational program in Germany this summer. The host organization, Bridge of Understanding, has among its Board members officials from the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, and the chief official for the national council of Jews in Germany, in addition to an array of individuals involved in the civic life of the country.

continued on page 15

Save the date!
Sunday, June
26
Federation's

[inside]

**3 DES MOINES RABBINICAL
STATEMENT**

**5 WOMEN'S DIVISION GALLERY OF
HONOR**

9 PASSING OF JOHN PAUL II

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A black and white photograph of actor Jonathan Silverman. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. He is holding a small, rectangular box in his hands, which is the focus of the advertisement. The box is slightly out of focus compared to his face.

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 **con-**

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
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Jonathan Silverman, actor

ADAS, ADATH, ADAT: MANY VOICES, ONE COMMUNITY

A Statement of Unity From The Des Moines Rabbinical Council

We, the members of the Des Moines Rabbinical Council,

- Believing that it is vital for the health of the broader Jewish community for the rabbis of the three major branches of Judaism in our community to share a common vision and to support one another,
- Knowing that the Jews of Des Moines have cooperated in the functioning and leadership of numerous community based organizations and programs, and
- Wishing to enhance the cooperation between our congregations that is a tradition in Des Moines and which is unique among Jewish communities around the world, have decided to create a Mission Statement to guide us as we work to better our community.

B’yachad, Together, we seek to create a Jewish community that is vibrant, inspiring, nurturing, meaningful and relevant.

B’yachad, Together, we seek to encourage the young Jews of today and those generations of Jews to come to enthusiastically and joyfully raise their children as Jews.

B’yachad, Together, we seek to inspire Jews to want to live in Des Moines and participate in the life of the Jewish community, adding strength to strength.

To accomplish this mission, we will pursue the following goals:

Torah - To do first-rate Jewish educational programming for all ages and including all facets of our Jewish community.

Am Yisrael - To foster connections with our fellow Jews locally, nationally, in Israel and around the world.

Eretz Yisrael - To encourage support and the continued survival of the State of Israel and to personally connect to the Land of Israel through missions, programming, and financial support.

Tikkun Olam - To continue to be a Light unto the Nations, demonstrating the Jewish values of compassion, righteousness, and mercy for all of humankind, in our community and around the world. We support the Federation’s Annual Campaign to help Jews locally, in Israel, and around the world.

Rabbi Baruch HaLevi of Tifereth Israel Synagogue,
Rabbi David Kaufman of Temple B'nai Jeshurun,
Rabbi Aaron Schwarzbaum of Beth El Jacob Synagogue

THANKS

Dear Federation,
Thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to meet with talented Russian (Jewish by origin) actor, director, writer, and lector (Grinnell University) in Caspe Terrace. Hopefully, we shall have such chances in future.
Sincerely,
Mila Verkov

FACT

Fourteen percent of American-Jewish households (549,000 adults and 188,000 children) **are considered low-income**, according to the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01. To help this population, Federations around the country offer services such as food pantries, home-delivered meals, soup kitchens and group meals.

Live Generously.™ It does a world of good.

THANKS

The Jewish Federation thanks the **Des Moines Art Center** for donating four Dell color printers, through Gifts in Kind International. Gifts in Kind International provides nonprofits access to millions of dollars annually in product and service donations from companies world wide.

ISRAEL TRIP

Join the **Federation's Family Israel Mission**, Winter Break, Dec. '05. Substantial Federation subsidies for qualified applicants. For information, call 277-6321x 214 or write to

CORRECTION

We've found that the dates printed in the Jewish Press (p. 7) were incorrect for the "Planned Giving and Endowment Mission to Israel. (This would be for folks who have made a gift to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation.) The correct dates: **Sept. 18, returning Sept. 22** (with possible extensions.)

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Published 6 times annually by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines under the auspices of the Jewish Community Communications Pillar

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Executive Director of the Federation

The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press
910 Polk Boulevard
Des Moines, IA 50312

Phone: 515-277-6321
Fax: 515-277-4069
E-mail: jcrc@dmjfed.org

Opinions expressed in The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press are not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, its committees, or its staff. Unsigned editorials express the opinion of the paper's Editorial Board.

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

RECENT GRADUATES
Share your triumphs! Please send us information and a color photo or high resolution digital image of your recent High School or College graduate for publication in the July/August edition of the Jewish Press. Submissions must be received by Wednesday, April 27, 2005. Mail to: Jewish Press 910 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312 or by e-mail: tom@dmjfed.org

Photos will be returned.

It seems that the new school year started just a short while ago and now we are at the end of our year. This year our students and families were involved in three family education programs, two open houses and several different mitzvah projects. Students learned about their Jewish heritage and culture, including the Alef-Bet, Hebrew, holidays and their celebrations and many of our traditional stories and values. Statistics show that children remember more when they are involved in hands-on activities.

The Tu B'shevat celebration was another one of our family education programs that



I would also like to thank my board, who has been supportive and committed to continuing our goal of pursuing the best possible Jewish education we can offer.

We gathered a good amount of donations. They included all the basic needs for a pet and then some. The animal shelter needs all the help they can get so I'm sure they appreciated our donations. She also explained why animals should get spayed and neutered. We have just way too many stray animals out there.



We are quickly approaching the end of our school year. Here are the upcoming AJC Religious School dates: May 7th- Confirmation Service, May 22- Last day of classes
Shalom,



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Suzanne Engman*



Leticia Gordon



Elana Schneider



Tracy Engman-



Lori Long



Patsy Tobis



Eleanor Zeff

Top Twelve Reasons To Create A LOJE Or POME

- 1. To make sure that what I care about goes on forever.
- 2. Because our children’s philanthropy is divided among so many organizations.
- 3. To leave a legacy for my community and to set an example for my children and grandchildren.
- 4. Statistics show that the Jewish population is flat while our needs keep growing.
- 5. I have been giving to the annual campaign for many years. I have an investment to protect.
- 6. I want to choose where my money goes after I’m gone – not the government.
- 7. It’s a great deal for me. I can actually derive more annual income now and reduce my income taxes during my lifetime as well as estate taxes.
- 8. It’s easy to do and it feels good.
- 9. It gives me a second opportunity to make a difference – forever!
- 10. Women control 60% of the wealth – we had better start directing how it is utilized.
- 11. Join Toni Urban, Suzanne Engman and Gail Richards with a **LOJE** (Lion of Judah Endowment).
- 12. Join Polly Oxley and Naomi Mercer with a **POME** (Pomegranate Endowment).

Lions:

Margo Blumenthal
Pamela Bass Bookey
Shelley Brody
Bernice Caspe
Suzanne Engman*
Debbie Gitchell
Leticia Gordon
Marilyn Hurwitz
Jeanne Levitt
Maddie Levitt
RoseLee Pomerantz
Gail Richards*
Elana Schneider
Elaine Steinger
Toni Urban*

Pomegranates:

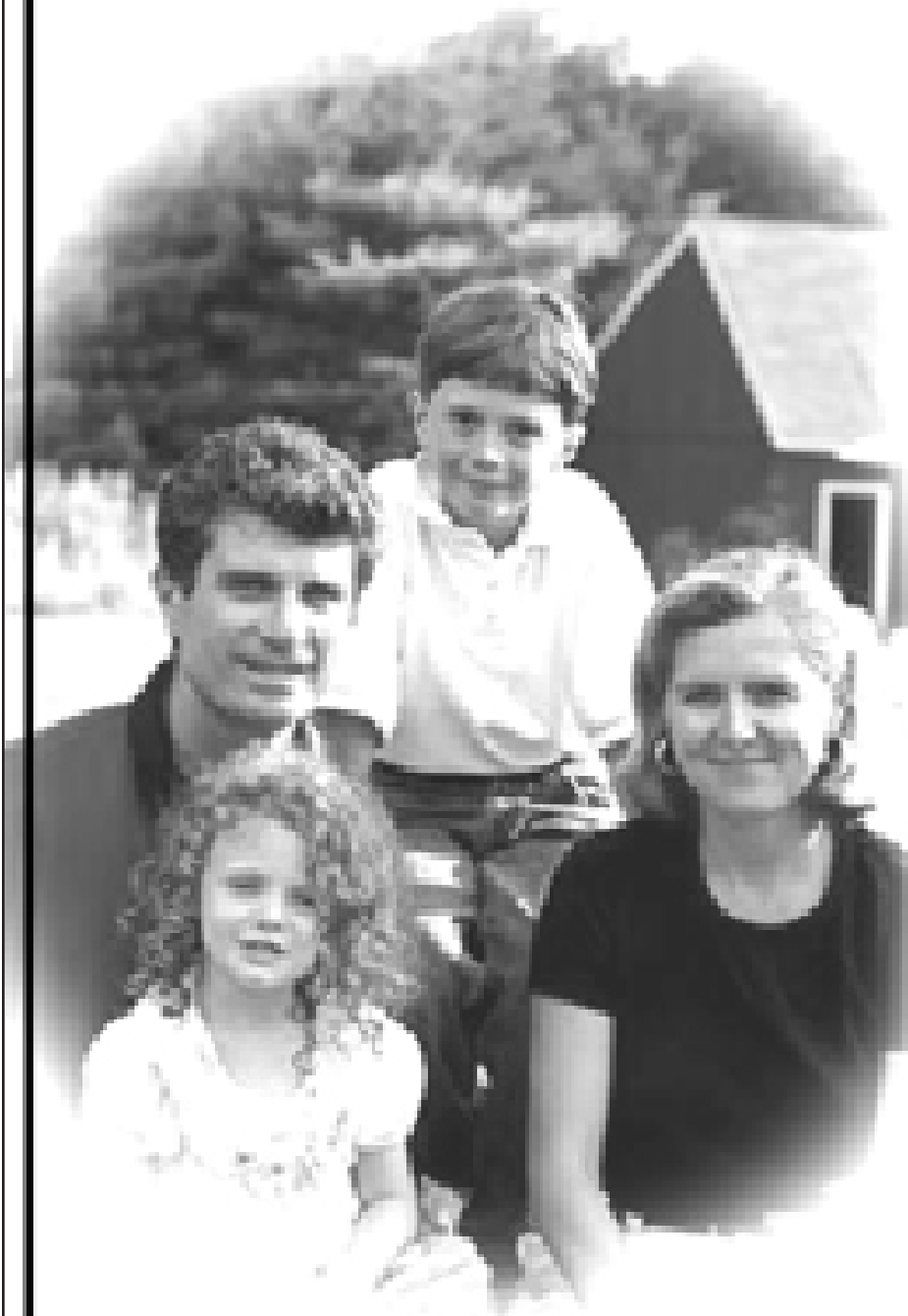
Hadasa Blend
Barb Carlstrom
Sarah Christiansen
Alice Daniels
Shari Engman
Tracy Engman-Finkelshteyn
Alyseann Galinsky
Marcia Gotsdiner Salem
Tali Greenspon
Barbara Hirsch-Giller
Dorothy Hockenberg
Annette Isaacson
Irina Kaplan
Dorothy Kirsner
Rita Loeb
Lori Long
Cyril Mandelbaum
Naomi Mercer*
Evelyn Mintzer
Miriam Mintzer
Polly Oxley*
Mary Jo Pomerantz
Roselind Rabinowitz
Audrey Rosenberg
Molly Sandler
Mary Seidler
Marina Staroselsky
Patsy Tobis
Robbie Winick
Eleanor Zeff
Janice Zuckert

*Endowed.

Pomegranates and Lions not yet pictured:
Lions: Jeanne Levitt, RoseLee Pomerantz
Pomegranates: Hadasa Blend, Alice Daniels, Shari Engman, Marcia Gotsdiner Salem, Tali Greenspon, Annette Isaacson, Evelyn Mintzer, Miriam Mintzer, Mary Seidler, Roselind Rabinowitz, Robbie Winick
Thank you to our Women’s Division leaders.

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In Profile: Laura & Howard

Bernstein



Midwest Couple Brings Flair And Business Acumen To Des Moines

Jewish Press: You are relatively new to the area. When did you come and from where?

Howard Bernstein: Laura and I have been in the Des Moines area for

almost five years now. We're both originally from Detroit, but Laura moved to Des Moines in April of 2000 from Toledo for an employment opportunity, and I arrived from Detroit in September of 2000.

JP: What are your impressions of Des Moines?

HB: We're both impressed by the community spirit, the friendly people and the lack of traffic. We both enjoy discovering local eateries and activities around the city and find it easy to get anywhere quickly and without aggravation. We're both accustomed to the congestion of a major metropolitan area and consider Des Moines to be a refreshing change from the big city hubbub - yet it still has most of the amenities a large city can offer. The only thing Laura misses is the Michigan forests and I would like to be closer to an ocean.

JP: What type of Jewish community activities do you most enjoy?

HB: We both enjoy spiritual events and social gatherings. We recently were married at Tifereth Israel and attend functions as our schedules allow. And most recent-

ly we did a community Kosher wine tasting at the Caspe Terrace. It was a lot of fun.

JP: What do you each do for a living?

HB: Laura is the President & CEO of VisionPoint, a fast-growing company in Clive, specializing in corporate training and custom video production. I'm the owner of Casa di Vino, a new retail wineshop in Johnston.

JP: Please tell us a bit more about yourselves?

HB: During the past 25 years I've spent a good portion of time living and working abroad, including two years in Israel on two different Kibbutzim (Maagan Michael and Na'aran) as well as bartending in Eilat. What I liked most about my kibbutz experience was working as a group for the good of the community. The antiquities and speaking in the language of the Bible were fascinating. I've also lived and worked in France, England, Thailand, and Honduras as well as working one harvest (1991) in the Barossa Valley down in Australia. Another thing I've done is volunteer work in Indonesia.

Laura enjoys music and yoga, as well as mentoring young women. Laura has a passion for helping people be successful and spends personal time coaching and working with women trying to advance themselves personally and professionally. She's also been involved with foster care for teenagers.

JP: It's great to have you in Des Moines.

60th Anniversary Of The Liberation Of The Concentration Camps And The End Of WW



Brief summary:

The Allies overran Germany from the west during April '45, as Russian forces advanced from east.

As Allied troops moved across Europe in a series of offensives on Germany, they began to encounter and liberate concentration camp prisoners, many of whom had survived death marches into the interior of Germany. Soviet forces were the first to approach a major Nazi camp, reaching the Majdanek camp near Lublin, Poland, in July 1944. Surprised by the rapid Soviet advance, the Germans attempted to demolish the camp in an effort to hide the evidence of mass murder. The Soviets also liberated major Nazi camps at Auschwitz, Stutthof, Sachsenhausen, and Ravensbrueck. U.S. forces liberated the Buchenwald, Dora-Mittelbau, Flossenbuerg, Dachau*, and Mauthausen camps. British forces liberated camps in northern Germany, including Neuengamme and Bergen-Belsen. [From the Jewishvirtuallibrary.com]

*Troops of the U.S. 45th Inf. Div. and 20th Armored Div. captured the Dachau extermination camp and freed its surviving 60,000 inmates. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower expressed shock and revulsion after visiting one such camp. Lt. Col. George Stevens and a special film team documented the conditions at Dachau as a record for the rest of the world. And Signal Corps cameramen filmed at Buchenwald on April 18, 1945. Pictures from these sources are found

online at http://mailer.fsu.edu/~jgm8530/color_in_the_camps.htm

On April 25, American and Soviet forces met at the Elbe River. Five days later, Hitler committed suicide in his Berlin bunker. His successor, Admiral Karl Doenitz, sent General Alfred Jodl to the SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) detachment in Rheims to seek terms for an end to the war. At 2:41 a.m. on May 7, General Jodl signed for the unconditional surrender of German forces on all fronts, which was to take effect on May 8 at 11:01 p.m. After six years and millions of lives lost, the Nazi scourge was crushed and the war in Europe was finally over. [From the US Air Force Museum website, www.wpafb.af.mil/museum/history/wwii/veday.htm

General Dwight Eisenhower accepted the surrender for the Allies. May 8, 1945, became known as Victory in Europe (or V-E) Day.

On that date, massive celebrations took place, notably in London where over a million people celebrated in a carnival atmosphere the end of the European war. [In Times Square, in New York City, the crowds rivaled that of New Year's Eve.]

In the United States, President Harry Truman, who celebrated his 61st birthday that day, dedicated the victory to the memory of his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died less than a month earlier, on April 12, because he was committed to ending the war.

Russia and other countries still commemorate the end of the Second World War, known as the Great Patriotic War in

The Des Moines Jewish Foundation

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A Charitable Bequest is among the simplest and most effective giving tools you can use to further the mission of the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. Most people leave an estate when they die, even though they may not have a great deal of wealth. Even an individual with a small estate can arrange to leave a charitable bequest.

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A Charitable Bequest could result in significant tax savings for your estate and for your beneficiaries in the future.

If you would like more information, please call Elaine Steinger at 515 277-6321.

A gift to the Jewish community today will allow you to be there for your family, your community and the Jewish people - whenever help is needed in the future.

DES MOINES JEWISH FOUNDATION BOARD:
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Harry Bookey, Larry Engman, Debbie Gitchell, Alvin Kirsner, Fred Lorber,
John Mandelbaum, Robert E. Mannheimer, Sheldon Rabinowitz, Stanley Richards,
Mary Bucksbaum Scanlan, Don Schoen and Toni Urban
Elaine Steinger, Executive Director

Beautiful

Body, Mind and Spirit

Women's Health Symposium '05 a Day of Celebration



Thank you to all who helped make the Women's Symposium - "Beautiful Body, Mind and Spirit" on April 3rd a resounding success: Dr. Ava Feldman, D.O., Rabbi Baruch HaLevi, Renee Hardman, Barbara Hirsch-Giller, Bruria Kaufman, Susan Madorsky, Linda Railsback, Rita Yablonsky, Alishia Smock, Sara and Rabbi Berel Simpser.

The presentations were well received. Many participants commented on how wonderful the program was and are eagerly awaiting next year's event. Thank you to all the presentors for their time and effort and to Susan Madorsky for the delicious lunch.

Special thank you to Barb Hirsch-Giller, JFSC pillar chair, for organizing the event and making everything look and feel extra special.

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Display Relates to DMPL's Shoah Foundation Project

Letters to Mrs. Fishman Featured at Public Library

Throughout April, examples of letters of appreciation written to local Holocaust survivor Linda Fishman by elementary school students, to whom she had spoken, were on display at the central branch of the Des Moines Public Library. The display correlates with an anti-bias education project the Library is undertaking.

The Des Moines Public Library is one of only two institutions nationally to have received a grant from the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation to participate in its Testimony to Tolerance initiative.

With the materials and funding provided by the Shoah Foundation, the Library has set up a new work station in its reference area, where the public may come to view seventeen visual histories by local Holocaust survivors. Mrs. Fishman is one of those whose personal



Mrs. Fishman with Mrs. Karin Gale, an instructor in the West Des Moines Schools, displays the Yellow Jewish Star her

history is featured in the collection. Later this year, an individual will be employed, through the Library, to help introduce the Testimony to Tolerance curriculum to local schools. Additional details about the project may be found at www.desmoineslibrary.com.



Mrs. Fishman speaking to students at Westridge Elementary School in West Des

CONDOLENCES OFFERED ON THE PASSING OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

Bishop Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S.
Msgr. Stephen Orr
Thomas Chapman, Chancellor
Catholic Diocese of Des Moines

Dear Bishop Charron, Msgr. Orr, and Mr. Chapman:

On behalf of the Jewish community and its clergy, I offer our sincere condolences on the death of Pope John Paul II.

There was a personal connection between his Holiness and the Jewish people, a connection that surfaced many times within his tenure. And indeed we recognize and honor the relationships the Pope, as Karol Wjtyla, had built with childhood friends who were Jewish, in a small Polish town, prior to and during the Holocaust. We understand as well that Pope John Paul II spoke often as a witness to the suffering and destruction of the Jewish people, and we are grateful for that.

Moreover, we are thankful for Pope John Paul II's staunch dedication and personal advocacy of the spirit of Nostra Aetate. It was in that spirit that Pope John Paul II became the first Pope to visit a synagogue, for having rejected anti-Semitism in all its expressions, for having recognized the State of Israel as a Jewish state, and for his moving visit, in 2000, to Jerusalem and its Holocaust memorial at Yad Vashem and the Western Wall. For all these things we are grateful.

As opposed we all were to Nazism, we also admired and were strengthened by Pope John Paul II's stance against Communism, the movement that stripped millions of their spiritual bonds and freedom. For his struggle against such oppression, we are grateful.

Yesterday, Pope John Paul II's name was articulated as the congregation in the synagogue I attended prayed for his recovery. Today, we all mourn together.

We stand with you in your hour of grief, our brothers.

Respectfully,
On behalf of the Jewish Federation and
Rabbi Baruch HaLevi of Tifereth Israel Synagogue,
Rabbi David Kaufman of Temple B'nai Jeshurun,
Rabbi Aaron Schwarzbau of Beth El Jacob Synagogue,

Mark Finkelstein, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

cc: Rabbis, Polly Oxley, President of the Jewish Federation
Elaine Steiner, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation
Sheldon Rabinowitz, President of Jewish Community Relations Commission

Dear Mrs. Fishman,

I want to thank you so much for coming to talk to us! You were so interesting to listen to. I couldn't get over the fact of why humans would treat other humans so cruelly. You and your family and everybody else did nothing wrong! I just don't get it.

I also thought that it was amazing you survived all of those camps! You must've been really strong physically and emotionally to keep going.

Your speech really touched me, and I will never forget about what you said to us.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
– Amanda Eicher

Dear Mrs. Fishman,

Thank you for coming and sharing your experiences during World War II. I was really interested in everything you said. I believe that since you came and talked to the sixth grade that I have a new way of looking at World War II and what it did to everyone and their families.

You had interesting things to say that no book or movie can stress, or tell the true story and get people to have the same emotions as you did. I think that someone that didn't go through the same things will never understand how you really felt, but I'll try.

Once again, thank you for coming and talking. You were really brave at coming since it was your first time

VIEW HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES AT THE DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library customers can view seventeen visual histories by Holocaust survivors at a new work station located in the reference area of the Central Library, thanks to a grant from the Survivors of the SHOAH Visual History Foundation. The Shoah Foundation's Testimony to Tolerance Initiative is a new program designed to bring anti-bias education, in partnership with local public libraries, to mid-sized communities in the United States, addressing the need for Holocaust and tolerance education. Des Moines is one of the first communities chosen to share in this initiative. Visit their web site at: www.desmoineslibrary.com for a list of the survivors and further details about the project.

Mrs. Fishman is one of the survivors whose history is featured in the collection. Fishman has shared her

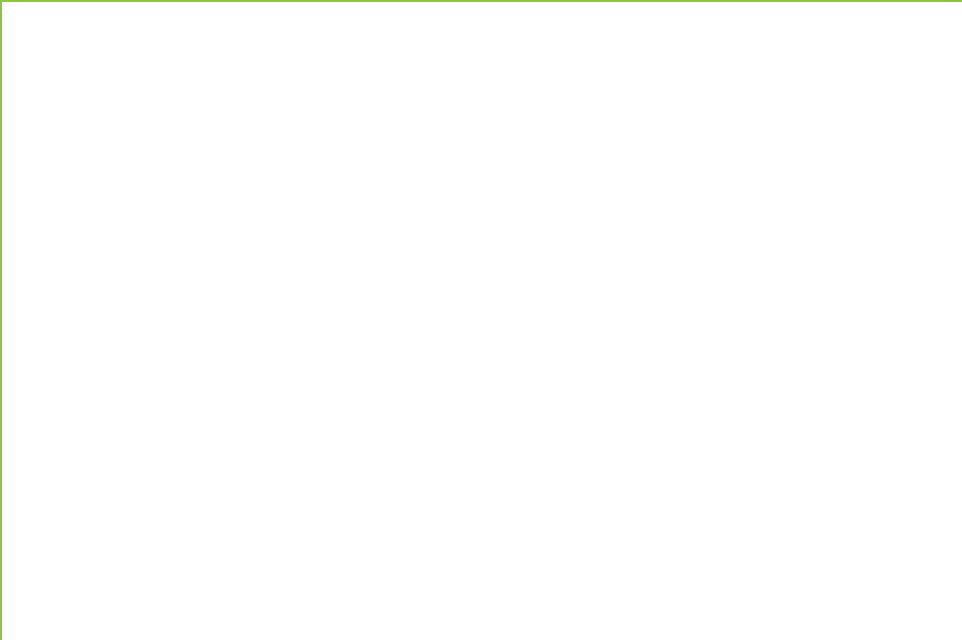
Camp from page 1 One has an extensive background in dance and drama and the other's background is in athletics. Both will also be sharing their knowledge and love of Israel through Israeli Culture.

Some of the new programs we have added include daily instructional athletics where campers will practice teamwork, cooperation and try new sports activities, and campers will be able to find their hidden talents through dance, drama and theater. Thursday mornings will be dedicated to horseback riding lessons or a specialty during the morning and swimming in the afternoon at Valley View Aquatic Center. On Friday, we will continue to have our morning field trips and the afternoon Shabbat Extravaganza.

This year, your campers will do less traveling, specialists will come to our campsite, and campers will spend more time enjoying and using our superb custom-built facility at The Caspe Terrace. Swimming lessons will still be offered at the Y in Waukee, which is only five minutes away. We have added transportation back to Tifereth Israel Synagogue at the end of daycare from The Caspe Terrace. We have added an additional pick-up location at Valley West Mall.

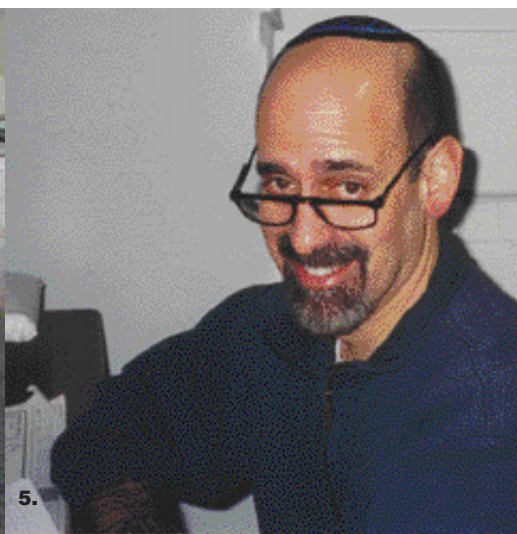
Summer camp is a very special place for a child to relax, grow and flourish in a safe and spirited environment. The priceless summer season equips your child with many social and physical skills. Engman Camp Shalom is a summer alternative that goes beyond recreation; it's where learning and life take place. Make camp an asset to your child's total growth experience. Come be a part of Engman Camp Shalom!

For more detailed camp information click on to www.dmjfed.org



2005 All-In-One Campaign





A heartfelt **Thank You** to the wonderful volunteers who worked on the Jewish Federation's All-In-One Phonathon.

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ISRAELI 'HIP HOP VIOLINIST' WINS GRAMMY



Ben-Ari grew up near Tel Aviv and began her classical music education at a young age. Legendary violinist Isaac Stern saw her potential and recommended Miri for a scholarship from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. During her manda-

Last year, Ben-Ari was signed by Universal Records and her solo debut *The Hip Hop Violinist*, an album featuring her violin with hard-edged hip-hop production, will be released in the coming

A Bisl Yiddish, Farshtaist?

– Anonymous

Nebbishes = A nobody or simpleton
Nebuchadnezzar = A pitiful person or playing the role

Shtkefelecht = Not so terrible

In the Kitchen With Marcie Berkson



As a child growing up in Cleveland, Judaism played a very small role in the life of Marcie Berkson, but as she matured an epiphany has brought religion not only into her life, but it has become a major focus of her life. And of course, with religion comes food and Marcie enjoys a good meal! So we needed no justification in making Marcie our Chef du Jour.

While Marcie was a child her father, Maury Beyer, owned a wholesale bakery and although there was ample opportunity to learn to bake, Marcie insists she was only an eater! Ann and Maury Beyer also had a son, Bruce, a younger brother to Marcie who is married and lives today in Tucson, Arizona. Marcie's mom, Ann, lives in Chicago.

Marcie attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and received her BA in French and Russian and later her Master's degree from New York University in education. She taught briefly but used her Russian skills in various capacities throughout the years. (In Des Moines in 2004 at the Irshad Manji speech Marcie had an impromptu opportunity to interpret as a French visitor from Tunisia spoke and Marcie did a very admirable job on the spur of the moment.)

After school Marcie returned to Cleveland and met Ed Berkson. Ed was from Chicago and had attended the University of Iowa and Loyola Law School in Chicago. Ed's first job was in Cleveland working for Mutual Benefit Life and he was given Marcie's phone number; six months later they were married!

While in Cleveland, Marcie and Ed had their son, Hugh, and then moved to New Jersey to the home office of Mutual Benefit Life where their daughter, Sarah, was born. Marcie rebelled in Jersey and found herself immersed with Caesar Chavez (lettuce and grapes), the Vietnam War and as a draft counselor helping young men obtain a conscientious objector's status. She also taught yoga and meditation.

But New Jersey did not remain home for long and Marcie and Ed moved to a new home office in Kansas City where they lived for three years. Ed's new job with Coopers & Lybrand sent them to Minneapolis for 14 months and, just as Marcie was settling in, they moved to Dallas with Southwestern Life and then Houston.

Marcie started making jewelry, mostly silver,

while in New Jersey and continued making and selling jewelry in Kansas City and Minneapolis where she attended craft shows. In Dallas she worked in a needlepoint shop and designed needlepoint for individuals as well as doing needlework for sale. In Houston Marcie's interests changed and she became a proofreader of depositions in court at a time when the cases were about oil and gas, asbestos and tobacco. Marcie enjoyed learning about these contentious issues and loved her job.

Sarah was a Senior in High School in the spring of 1988 when Ed moved to Des Moines leaving Marcie in Houston until Sarah's graduation. Ed came to Iowa with Equitable Life of Iowa as Vice President of Marketing and became President of Locust Street Securities, the brokerage division of Equitable, until his retirement in 2000.

Marcie and Ed found a wonderful life in Des Moines. Although religion had not played an important role in their lives, they joined Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

Sponge Cake

A recipe from Marcie Berkson Pareve

6 eggs, separated

1-1/2 cups sugar

1/2 cup hot water, mixed with 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract and 1/2 tsp. almond extract

1-1/2 cups cake flour, mixed with 1/2 tsp. baking powder and 1/4 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 325.

Beat egg whites until stiff enough to slide out of bowl in one piece.

In separate bowl, **beat** egg yolks and sugar until creamy and lemon colored.

Slowly **add** hot water mixture alternately with flour mixture.

Fold in beaten whites.

Pour into tube pan and **bake** for one hour.

Absolutely wonderful served with whipped cream and sliced strawberries.

This cake can also be frozen.

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[view from Israel]

In the Jewish Heart

By former Areiva to Des Moines, Ayelet Kleinman



Shalom,

Here I am again, writing to you all in The Des Moines Jewish Press. By the time you read this, it will be Israel's 57th Independence Day, though today, as I write, it is Purim.

To be honest, I didn't celebrate Purim this year, since I was too busy writing a paper for school, but it was definitely nice to go out to the streets and see all those kids and their parents wearing their costumes.

But back to Independence Day.....Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, there has been a special theme selected for every year. The theme is one that is dealt with during the entire year; schools all over Israel study and practice it, IDF soldiers have classes about it; television shows present documentaries on the subject and on the day itself, it is the subject discussed all over Israel. The events for this year's celebration of Independence Day are in the spirit of "Brith Achim" - making friends, a single fate and a common future.

If you think about it, it's a pretty mundane theme. Don't we all want to make new friendships? Don't we all want to be loved by our family and friends? Don't we all want to believe in a common and a better future? Mundane and yet, the Prime Minister's Office has decided that this is going to be the theme for this year. What needs to be asked now is why this theme? There must be a good reason for that. Maybe the questions are not that obvious, or maybe the questions are obvious, but the answers to them in times like this, are not.

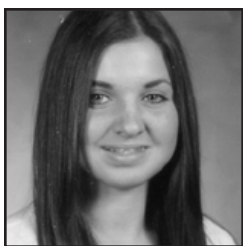
"Brith Achim" in English means "The Fellows' Covenant." I think that this really summarizes everything: It speaks to our mutual commitment as Jews one to another, wherever there are Jews. It means that Jewish people will do everything in their power to meet other Jews (knowing that on the broad scale, Jews are a diverse lot,) to make friends with them, to have them over for Shabbat dinner or invite them to a service in the synagogue. To get familiar with their beliefs, their culture, their way of life and their fears and desires. To forgive your family and friends if you got hurt by them. To feel that you are part of this big nation, Israel, and to take an active part in it. To come and visit Israel, to send your kids to visit, to listen to the news about Israel, to show that you care. No matter where you are. To know that Jewish people have one history and they will for all intents and purposes have one future. The fact that Jews in need know that there are other Jews who will come to their rescue. To be united, to have a Brith, a covenant, unwritten on paper, but written in the hearts of millions of Jews all over the world to live as brothers, as fellows.

As it says in HaTikva - The Hope, Israel's National Anthem: In The Jewish heart a Jewish spirit still sings. And may I add my hope for the 57th anniversary of the State

[next generation]

Sarah Cramer

By Robin Bear



Sarah Cramer's leadership skills are in high demand these days. The March of Dimes recently chose Sarah to represent their organization as Youth Advocate State Chairman during the 2005/06 school year. As chairman, Sarah will be traveling to Washington, D.C. this summer for training and an opportunity to participate in lobbyist activities. After she returns to Des Moines, her focus will primarily be promoting student involvement and raising funds on behalf of the March of Dimes.

This year Sarah has taken an active role in USY, United Synagogue Youth, at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Currently she serves a board position as Co-Vice President, attending board meetings and helping to plan activities and fundraisers.

As a junior at Roosevelt High School, Sarah is challenged by her advanced placement courses, Varsity Show Choir and her participation in Track. She spends her morning taking classes at Roosevelt, and then commutes to Central Academy for the remainder of the school day.

Sarah loves being involved in the Varsity Show Choir. Spring is the busiest time of year for the 58-member select voice choir. Hours are spent practicing, traveling and competing. Sarah explains that she used to act when she was younger and now Show Choir is her primary outlet for singing and performing.

In the past, Sarah has been very involved in theater. She has had lead parts in productions of The Secret Garden, Little House on the Prairie, and Annie. One summer she sang in the Des Moines Metropolitan Opera.

During the early months of spring, Sarah runs track at Roosevelt where she excels in short distance running. She is Co-Captain of the hurdle squad.

Sarah has lived in Des Moines with her parents, Yvette and Michael and younger brother, Zvi, for the past seven years. Originally from Canada, and proud of her Canadian heritage, Sarah has vivid memories of her life in London, Ontario, living in a farmhouse until the end of her fourth grade year, when her family made their move to Iowa.

Sarah feels a special connection to the country of her birth. With only one year of high school remaining, she is considering attending college in Canada and has already

[short takes]



• Former Israeli Knesset member, diplomat and author **Zeidan Atashi** spoke at Iowa State University in February. He spoke about the Druze community, to which he belongs, and its situation as among the minority groups in Israel. The talk was sponsored by the Iowa State University Lectures Program, ISU Hillel, Israel Education Committee of the Ames Jewish Congregation, Jewish Federation, and the Israeli Consulate.

• Kashrut certification on behalf of the Orthodox Union (the familiar, circled U found on many kosher products) is conducted in Iowa by **Rabbi Levi Goldstein** and his wife **Miriam** came to Des Moines in September 2004. Affiliated with Lubavitch and the Judaic Resource Center, Rabbi Goldstein grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan, was ordained in New York City, and taught at the Yeshiva in Postville, IA. Mrs. Goldstein was raised in Los Angeles. As mashgiach, Rabbi



Goldstein supervises 70 food processing plants. Local clients include Anderson Ericson and Tone Spice.
• Our Israel Partnership 2000 guests **Beth Zuriel** and **Damon Rose**



meet with Des Moines P2K committee and Mayor **Frank Cownie** prior to his trip to Israel with the National Conference of Mayors. Members of the **Drake Hillel** attended the P2K Program on campus.

• **Jan Kaiser** (DM Public Library), **Roselind Rabinowitz** (Chair of the

B'nai Mitzvah

Nathan Andrew Kaufmann

Saturday, May 7, 2005

Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Please join us as Nathan Andrew Kaufmann, son of Ben & Tracy Kaufmann, celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 7, 10:00

a.m. at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. A Kiddush lunch will follow.



Arielle Marie Lipman

Saturday, May 14, 2005

Beth El Jacob Synagogue

Please join us as our daughter, Arielle Marie Lipman, celebrates her

Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. at Beth El Jacob Synagogue. The Jewish community is cordially invited to a Kiddush luncheon following services.



Kuper Bergman

Saturday, May 28th, 2005

Ames Jewish Congregation

Kuper is a seventh grader at the Ames Middle School. He has a black belt in tae kwondo. He is the son of Cliff Bergman and Marilyn Vaughan.



Gabriel Kenneth Sandler

Saturday, June 11, 2005

Tifereth Israel Synagogue

We invite you to join us as Gabriel Kenneth Sandler, son of Peter and Melanie Sandler and brother of Keilah, becomes a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 11, at 9:15 am. at Tifereth Israel



In Memoriam

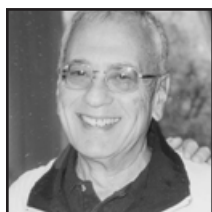
We note with sorrow

Myron Blank
Charlotte Carmel
Frances Cheris
Samuel Jacobs
Marvin Leibow
Herbert Rosenberg
Esther Small
Paul Wyner

JWV To Provide Memorial

The Jewish War Veterans (JWV) can post a flag at the grave of veterans, for families who have not done so for Memorial Day, May 30. To avail oneself of this service, a family member should call Jerry

Oslo Euphoria? by Sheldon Rabinowitz



There is an air of optimism about Middle East peace prospects going around that is reminiscent of the few years following the '93 Oslo Accords.

The renewed optimism started with the death of Arafat, the selection of Mahmoud Abbas as a new leader of the PA, and the subsequent cease-fire agreement. We heard much from a few rose-colored columnists that peace was around the corner, and many have begun to believe it because of the greatly reduced number of terrorist incidents.

There are a few things we should remember before we conclude that anything has improved, beyond a temporary lull.

- Abbas was an important PLO lieutenant for over 20 years as well as a Holocaust revisionist. His background must speak for itself.
- While what Abbas does is far more important than what he says—so far there are no indications that he will disarm the terrorists. In fact, he is attempting to make them part of his police organization, where they will remain well armed.
- The much vilified fence/wall that Abbas demands be torn down has had a major effect in reducing the number of potential Arab terrorists that can get through. While there has been only one suicide bombing, as of this column, since the cease-fire went into effect, there have been other attempts that were foiled, mainly by Israel security.
- There have been isolated deaths from terrorist acts each month since Abbas announced the cease-fire. They are duly reported in the Israeli press, but

downplayed by the American media.

- Abbas has made it abundantly clear that he will not attempt to disarm Islamic Jihad or Hamas. Those two terrorist organizations let him know, when they killed two of his bodyguards within his sight, that they could kill him whenever they wanted, should he go beyond their acceptable limits. Those two terrorist groups are still committed to removal of the "Zionist entity"—Israel.
- Additionally, there is good evidence that during this cease-fire Hamas and Islamic Jihad have brought in rockets through the tunnels from Egypt to Gaza that are capable of hitting Israel's refineries and population centers. They have apparently brought in stinger missiles capable of taking down aircraft.
- Hizbullah sits on Israel's northern borders with plenty of armaments supplied by Iran via Syria, and is reported to have close to 10,000 rockets capable of doing major destruction to northern cities in Israel.
- The Islamic Fundamentalists continue to control the culture and the minds of a large segment of the populace. In their culture, becoming a martyr is considered an achievement to be proud of in their fight against the infidels. This does not appear to be readily changing.

I would suggest that you read the English edition of the Jerusalem Post, subscribe to their e-mail edition, or at least look at their website regularly. It is one of the few ways, I believe, one can know what is really going on in Israel today. You cannot expect to form an intelligent opinion or be adequately informed if your information comes only

JOHN IRVING CONCLUDES '92ND STREET Y' SPRING BROADCAST SERIES MAY 9

The Spring Series of live broadcasts from New York's Jewish Cultural Center, the 92nd Street 'Y', concludes Monday, May 9, 7:00 pm, at The Caspe Terrace, with the celebrated author John Irving.

"John Irving is an abundantly and even joyfully talented storyteller," The New York Times Book Review has said. Irving, whose works include *The World According to Garp* and *The Fourth Hand* and *Imaginary Girlfriend*, returns to the stage of the 92nd Street Y, which he depicted in his novel *A Widow for One Year*.

Price \$12 per ticket (+ \$2.00 S & H if mailed) or \$15 at the door at The Caspe Terrace, 3320 Ute Avenue, Waukee, Iowa.

Order your tickets by phone! To purchase tickets (have your credit card ready), call 515-277-6321 x218.

Doors open 30 minutes prior to show time. No reserved seating. No refunds. All programs are subject to change by the 92nd Street Y. In the unlikely event that a program is can-



celed by the 92nd Street Y, tickets can be exchanged for another show based on ticket availability. Any scheduling changes will be posted on <http://www.dmjfed.org> and on our phone line, 277-6321.

Park & Ride transportation is available with 48 hours notice. Call 515-277-6321 x218. Rides depart from Beth El Jacob Synagogue, 954 Cummins Parkway, Des Moines, 30 minutes prior to show time, at a cost of \$5.00 per person.

The Spring Series of live broadcasts has been offered at reduced prices through the sponsorship of: Gail and Stan Richards, Roselind and Sheldon Rabinowitz, Nussbaum Adult Lecture Fund, Charles S. Steinger and Milton Liebman Memorial Fund, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, Des Moines Jewish Foundation, and through your contributions to the All-In-One Campaign.

We look forward to presenting a new and exciting series of broadcasts in the Fall. It's instantaneous, informative, hot-topic entertainment and just a lot of

Germany from page 1 The program continues to be supported by the German Foreign Office, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Bavarian state government. The office of the Coordinator for German American Cooperation continues to provide support.

Bridge of Understanding invites young Jewish Americans to encounter modern Germany and its contemporary Jewish community firsthand. Since its inception in 1994, the program has welcomed over 500 participants from all walks of American Jewish life.

Make no mistake about it, there is substance to the program. "The people who plan and conduct the program are very aware, going in, that there is an indelible legacy of the Holocaust that is on the table the whole time a group of American Jews visit," said JCRC's Mark Finkelstein, who along with community member David Goldman participated in a week-long Bridge trip to Berlin in March. "It is not about being scared; I'll say it bluntly: it is about realizing that one is walking on ground drenched with Jewish blood. Certainly there are other aspects to be studied, such as the current attitudes of Germans to American politics or to the status of immigrants to Germany in general. But even when it is not articulated at any given moment, the questions that hover constantly have to do with how could what happened under the Third Reich have occurred - here - to my people - and how has the person I'm conversing with, now, continued to deal with that legacy? It is fair for participants on the programs to ask those questions, and you'll get answers. And you'll have to listen very carefully and weigh those answers for yourself. The fact is that there are very few simple answers, neither from young Germans who obviously were not alive at the time of the Holocaust, nor from a very small subset of Germans, members of the Jewish community in Germany. Not every encounter needs be intense, but there are lots of challenges, and that makes for a very interesting learning experience; a life changing experience as important in its own way as going to Israel. It is a distinct privilege for our community in Des Moines to have been invited to plan a trip tailored to our high school students."

David Goldman participated in the recent trip to Germany as Chair of the Federation's Education Pillar and as former President of the Jewish Community Relations Commission. These are some of his perceptions: "While I was in Berlin in March 2005, I was constantly aware that I was in a very modern, sophisticated and cultured place surrounded by many kind and educated people. Of course, that is the exact impression I would have had in the 1920's. It was good to meet and converse with Germans who were aware of the more difficult and deeper issues raised by the Shoah. Whether German culture and society will, in the long run, develop in positive ways because of the Shoah remains to be seen. How long and how deep a profoundly self-critical reflection can be sustained is a real issue. What happened, and how it could have happened in the way it did, where it did, remains deeply disturbing to anyone who considers it. It is good to know that there are many Germans who do not back away and hide from the truth. Whether that can be sustained over

time remains an open question. There is already a tendency among the younger generation to respond to further talk about the Holocaust beyond the basics covered in school with an attitude of "enough already." It is not a denial, but it is a resistance to focus or dwell on it. A determination not to repeat and a determination to understand may not completely overlap one another. The present Jewish community in Germany is made up primarily of two groups. The first group consists of German Jews and their children who were survivors, those who returned, and those of Germany ancestry who have moved to Germany (totaling perhaps 20,000). The second group consists primarily of immigrants from the former Soviet Union (totaling anywhere from 80,000 to 180,000 of whom only 80,000 are officially counted). It is a stressed and fractured community with an uncertain future. The internal dynamics of the community are problematic, to say the least. I could not help thinking, at times, that in some ways the Germans have now found a way to appreciate Jews and Judaism - as something of the past to now praise and even glorify, even as their attempted destruction is lamented. In the end, it something that is celebrated/commemorated in two ways: museums and memorials on the one hand and support for the State of Israel as a Jewish state on the other. In any event, the Jews are not much present as a living reality in Germany. In Germany today there is much that is different, there is much that is the same, there is some that is ironic, and there is a lot that remains mysterious. It is worth seeing and studying while there is still a conscious effort to grapple with the past."

The program and the invitation from the Executive Director of Bridge of Understanding, Dr. Dagmar Weiler, was brought to our attention by Mr. Mark Schlenker, the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Germany, who grew up in Des Moines and now practices law in Indianola. In addition to bringing us together with Dr. Weiler, Mr. Schlenker also taught one of the preparatory sessions to our JFCS class of potential trip participants. About the trip, Mr. Schlenker commented: "What a great act it is for an American Jewish young man or woman to visit Germany! What better way to prove the Nazis failed than to walk the same streets from which the Nazis removed their ancestors and family members from a generation ago. The Nazis are gone but the Jewish community is still there and free."

Other preparatory sessions have been given by Dr. David and Hanna Gradwohl, and by Mr. Peter Pintus and Mr. Warner Bergh. And an introductory session was conducted in December by Eugene DuBow. A consultant now for Bridge of Understanding, Mr. DuBow recently retired from the American Jewish Committee, having served for 30 years. He had established AJC's office in Berlin, had worked in conjunction with the Bridge program, and has been decorated by the German government for his efforts in interfaith relations. Additional preparatory sessions are being scheduled.

Susan Madorsky, who is President of the Jewish Federation Community School and has been involved in the planning of the trip, has worked with parents of student participants and has helped arrange

AMES JEWISH CONGREGATION

Services

Friday, May 6th	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat services led by Rabbi Rosenbloom. Graduating high school seniors will be honored at this service. An Oneg will follow the service.
Saturday, May 7th	10:00 a.m.	Confirmation service led by Rabbi Rosenbloom.
Friday, May 13	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat services lay led.
Friday, May 20	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat services lay led.
Friday, May 27	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat services led by Rabbi Rosenbloom.
Saturday, May 28	10:00 a.m.	Bar Mitzvah of Kuper Bergman. The Shabbat Morning Service will be led by Rabbi Rosenbloom and Kuper Bergman. A Kiddush luncheon will follow.

Mazel Tov to:

Dorothy Hammond upon her engagement to Erv Luedder, also of Ames. The couple is planning a June wedding in Ames. May they share a lot of happiness together in the years to come.

ISU Hillel students who are graduating this May: Becky Heller of Ames, with a Bachelor of Science in Economics, Sean Bowmer of Ft. Dodge with Bachelor of Science in Education

Becky Heller of Ames who will be marrying Dave Chenover, also of Ames, on June 5th. The couple will be getting married in Ames. Becky is the daughter of Don and Molly Heller of State College, PA formerly of Ames.

Stacey Arkovich, who competed in the NCAA Zone D regional diving competition in College Station, Texas March 11-12th. Stacey is a junior at Southwest Missouri State University and majoring in Hospitality Restaurant Administration. She is the daughter of Ellen and Dave Arkovich of Ames.

Kuper Bergman on his Bar Mitzvah Saturday, May 28th at Ames Jewish Congregation. Kuper is a seventh grader at the Ames Middle School. He has a black belt in tae kwondo. He is the son of Cliff Bergman and Marilyn Vaughan.

Howard and Elyse Levine of Ames, Iowa, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Margo, to Rafael Jaramillo, son of Benjamin Jaramillo and Wendy Covell of Brookline, Massachusetts.

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20th Anniversary Jewish Food Fair - Sunday May 15

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Music Shabbat Confirmation Service

The Confirmation Class of 2005/5765 cordially invites you to attend the Music Shabbat Confirmation Service Friday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. Your presence will make this important occasion even more meaningful.

The Confirmands are:

Sam Bailin, Audrey Porter & Steven Bailin, Josh Buchsbaum, Mary Kay & Bruce Buchsbaum, Jordan Shkolnick. Judy & Stuart Shkolnick, Greg Stern, Randi & John Stern

Annual Meeting

Make plans now to attend the Annual Meeting, which will be held Friday, June 10, 2005 beginning at 6:00 p.m. with Hors D' oeuvres. Shabbat Service will follow at 6:00 p.m.

MAY AND JUNE EVENTS AT TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Friday, May 6	5:45 pm	YAD Kabbalat Family Services and Dinner
Saturday, May 7	10:00 am	Joy of Judaism 101 with Rabbi HaLevi
Sunday, May 8	5:00 pm	Annual Meeting and Deli Dinner
Saturday, May 14	10:15 am	YAD Shabbat Schmooze
Monday, May 16	12:00 pm	Book Club Meeting
Wednesday, May 18	10:00 am	Iowa Jewish Historical Society Meeting
Saturday, May 21	9:15 am	Bar Mitzvah of Jacob Fuller
Saturday, May 28	10:00 am	Re-thinking Judaism with Rabbi HaLevi
Friday, June 3	6:00 pm	Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Hollander
Saturday, June 4	9:15 am	Shabbat Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Hollander
Confirmation	10:15 am	YAD Shabbat Schmooze
Saturday, June 11	9:15 am	Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Sandler
Monday, June 13		Shavuot - Synagogue office closed
Tuesday, June 14		Shavuot - Synagogue office closed
Friday, June 17		YAD Kabbalat Family Services and Dinner
Saturday, June 18	10:00 am	Re-thinking Judaism with Rabbi HaLevi
Wednesday, June 22	10:00 am	Iowa Jewish Historical Society Meeting

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VERNON TOTT OF SIOUX CITY, LIBERATOR AND AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER OF NAZI LABOR CAMP, HONORED, DIES

Knowing that a Sioux City war veteran, Vernon Tott, suffering with cancer, would not likely live to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Nazi labor camp he helped to liberate, the Sioux City Jewish community hastily prepared a ceremony in his honor last February. Marilyn Cohen, Executive Director of the Sioux City Jewish Federation had described the effort to arrange all the details to honor Mr. Tott at Beth Shalom Congregation, where, at a special Holocaust memorial service on February 18, survivors he had liberated presented him with a silver kiddush cup.

The event came almost sixty years after Mr. Tott helped liberate Ahelm Labor Camp, outside Hannover, Germany, on April 10, 1945 as part of the 84th Division. The story is that not only had Mr. Tott virtually stumbled across the hidden labor camp, but that he happened to have with him a second-hand camera he had purchased prior to joining the army. With that camera, Mr. Tott took nineteen photos of what he scarcely could believe he saw in the camp, documenting the conditions and recording on film the faces and bodies of forty-five survivors.

After the war, Mr. Tott stored the photos in his basement, where they remained untouched for over fifty years.

It wasn't until a chance encounter brought him in touch with one of the

survivors, who had recalled that some GI took photos upon the liberation of Ahelm, that Mr. Tott began a personal crusade to find and befriend as many of the survivors pictured as possible. For this task, the survivors he located have called him the "Angel of Ahelm." And, according to sources, the University of Florida's Documentary Institute is in the process of producing a film called "Angel of Ahelm," described as "a story about hope and how one man changed his life and the lives of a handful of Holocaust survivors by choosing to bear witness to man's inhumanity and to reach out to strangers and offer them undeniable and irrevocable images of the most seminal moment in their lives."

The photos themselves are online at www.jou.ufl.edu/documentary/prod/Ahelm/album.

Over the past number of years, Mr. Tott had spoken about the Holocaust in schools in Sioux City and had even participated in a Federation program here in Des Moines. Most recently, Mr. Tott had traveled to the 60th anniversary commemoration, last August, of the Liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto, many members of which had been sent to Ahelm. His reunion with two survivors in Sioux City last February was given picture and text in the New York Times on Sunday, February 20, 2005 (and anyone interested in reading that account can

Iowa AIPAC News

AIPAC members from Ames and central Iowa met with Congressman Tom Latham on March 22 at the home of Pnina and Marshall Luban. The special meeting provided a unique opportunity for an informal, cordial and honest discussion on Israel and current events in the Middle East. Congressman Latham represents the fourth congressional district in Iowa, which includes Ames and Story County. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Latham has consistently voted in favor of foreign aid for Israel and has cosponsored a number of other resolutions in support of Israel and the peace process.

Arrangements are being made for a similar meeting this spring or early summer in Des Moines with Congressman Leonard Boswell. Boswell represents the third congressional district, which includes Polk County. Boswell has also been a good friend of Israel, supporting foreign aid and

cosponsoring numerous AIPAC supported resolutions.

Several AIPAC members from Des Moines are planning to join thousands of Jews from across the country at the AIPAC Conference in Washington, D.C. The AIPAC conference will be held from May 22 - 24. Among the confirmed conference speakers are Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Hillary Clinton, Israel Minister of Justice Tzipi Livneh, Israel Minister of Interior Ofir Pines-Paz, Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean and Republican National Committee Chair Ken Mehlman. The conference will conclude with the annual day on the Hill, when AIPAC members meet with congressional delegations to discuss issues of importance to Israel and the

Filmmaker Seeks Families

Award-winning filmmaker Bruce Sinofsky is currently developing a feature-length documentary about the experiences of children and their families from across the United States as they prepare for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. As the primary symbol of a Jewish teen's coming of age, and a pillar of Jewish life, the Bar or Bat Mitzvah is also a socially revealing process, illuminating the emotional challenges and joys we experience as individuals, as family members, and members of our larger community. By following the Bar/Bat

Mitzvah of several children from diverse backgrounds, the film seeks to capture this transformative experience from a variety of Jewish perspectives.

We are currently looking for families to participate in this project by sharing their Bar or Bat Mitzvah preparations and experience with us. We are especially sensitive to the religious practices and needs of each family, and will not film under any circumstances - on Shabbat, for example - without the express consent of the participant. If you are interested, please contact Danny Stolzman at



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Israeli company, Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics has developed a method of treatment for Parkinson's disease that utilizes a patient's own bone marrow stem cells to produce the dopamine chemical needed to restore motor capabilities. The ability to use a patient's own bone marrow prevents problems of rejection and incompatibility. Brainstorm Cell Therapeutics has enjoyed successful initial tests for its treatment thus far. To read more about this company and its efforts to combat Parkinson's, please visit Israel21C at

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From Peddlers to Grocers and Financiers: Jewish Businesses of Iowa



The IJHS is assembling an exhibit devoted to the history of Jewish businesses in Iowa. We need your artifacts and history. Celebrate your family history by displaying it in the Caspe Heritage Gallery.

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Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Mickey Marcus: Israel's American General

David Daniel "Mickey" Marcus, a tough Brooklyn street kid, rose by virtue of his courage and intelligence to save Israel in 1948 and become its first general. After a distinguished career in military and public service to the United States, the 46-year-old Marcus wrote his name forever in the annals of Israeli history.

Born to immigrant parents in 1902, Marcus grew up in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn where, to defend himself against neighborhood toughs, he learned to box. His high school athletic and academic record earned him admission to West Point in 1920, from which he graduated with impressive scores. After completing his required service, Marcus went to law school and spent most of the 1930's as a Federal attorney in New York, helping bring "Lucky" Luciano to justice. As a reward, Mayor LaGuardia named Marcus Commissioner of Corrections for New York City.

Convinced that war was imminent, in 1940 Marcus voluntarily went back into uniform and, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, served as executive officer to the military governor of Hawaii. In 1942, he was named commandant of the Army's new Ranger school, which developed innovative tactics for jungle fighting. Sent to England on the eve of D-Day, he decided to voluntarily parachute into Normandy with the troops of the 101st Airborne Division. Marcus helped draw up the surrender terms for Italy and Germany and became part of the occupation government in

Berlin. Admiring colleagues identified him as one of the War Department's "best brains." He had a bright future ahead of him as a member of the Army's top brass.

In 1944, Marcus's consciousness of himself as a Jew took a dramatic turn when he was put in charge of planning how to sustain the starving millions in the regions liberated by the Allied invasion of Europe. A major part of his responsibilities involved clearing out the Nazi death camps. Here, Marcus met the survivors of Nazi atrocities and saw the piles of uncounted Jewish corpses in Europe's death camps. Marcus was subsequently named chief of the War Crimes Division with responsibility for planning the procedures used at the Nuremberg trials. Through these experiences, Marcus came to understand the depths of European anti-Semitism. Though never previously a Zionist, Marcus became convinced that the only hope for European Jewry's remnant lay in a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

In 1947, Marcus returned to civilian life. A few months later, the United Nations authorized the partition of Palestine and the eventual creation of a Jewish state. Within days, David Ben Gurion asked Marcus to recruit an American officer to serve as military advisor to Israel. Failing in his attempts to recruit one of his friends, Marcus decided to volunteer himself. The U.S. War Department consented reluctantly on the condition that Marcus not use his own name or rank and disguise his American military record.

In January 1948, one "Michael Stone" arrived in Tel Aviv to assume command of the Israeli forces and confront an apparently impossible situation. The widely separated Jewish settlements in Palestine were surrounded by a sea of hostile Arabs. Israel would have seemingly indefensible borders. Its military had no air power, a few tanks and ancient artillery pieces and almost no arms or ammunition. The Haganah and Irgun were effective underground organizations but had no experience as a regular national army. Facing the Israelis were well-supplied Arab armies determined to drive the Jews into the sea. The pro-Arab British administration in Palestine tried to prevent the Israelis from receiving imported military supplies.

Undaunted, Marcus designed a command structure for Israel's new army and wrote manuals to train it, adapting his experience at Ranger school to the Haganah's special needs. He identified Israel's weakest points as the scattered settlements in the Negev and the new quarter of Jerusalem. When Israel declared independence and the Arab armies attacked in May 1948, Israel was ready, thanks to Marcus. His hit and run tactics kept the Egyptian army in the Negev off balance. When the Jewish section of Jerusalem was about to fall, Marcus ordered the construction of a road to bring men and equipment to break the Arab siege just days before the United Nations negotiated a cease fire. Israel had withstood the Arab assault

with its borders virtually intact. In gratitude, Prime Minister Ben Gurion named Mickey Marcus Lieutenant General, the first general in the army of Israel in nearly two thousand years.

Tragically, Marcus did not live to see the peace. Six hours before the cease-fire began, while headquartered in the village of Abu Ghosh near Jerusalem, Marcus could not sleep. He walked beyond the guarded perimeter wrapped in his bedsheet. A Jewish sentry saw a white-robed figure approaching and, not understanding Marcus's English-language response to his challenge, fired a single, fatal shot. Marcus's body was flown to the United States for burial at West Point, where his tombstone identifies him as "A Soldier for All Humanity." Hollywood would later immortalize Marcus in a movie, "Cast A Giant Shadow."

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Wednesday, May 4
Thursday, May 5
Friday, May 6

Saturday, May 7
Sunday, May 8

Monday, May 9

Tuesday, May 10

Wednesday, May 11

Thursday, May 12

Saturday, May 14

Sunday, May 15

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Wednesday, May 18

Thursday, May 19

Saturday, May 21

Sunday, May 22

Monday, May 23

Tuesday, May 24

Thursday, May 26

Thursday, June 2

Sunday, June 5

Tuesday, June 7

Friday, June 10

Saturday, June 11

Monday, June 13

Wednesday, June 15

Monday, June 20

Tuesday, June 21

Wednesday, June 22

Saturday, June 25

Tifereth

Sunday, June 26

Tuesday, June 28

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Community Yom HaShoah program at the Temple
Melton Classes
YOM HASHOAH

Temple Family Potluck
Nathan Kaufmann Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
JFCS - Israel Independence Day Program
BEJ Sisterhood Mother's Day Brunch
Temple B'nai Brith Sports Night
Live from the Y: John Irving at The Caspe Terrace
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer
Temple: Lunch with the Rabbi
Temple Exec. Board Meeting
Temple Board of Trustees Meeting
JCRC: Teachers' Institute
Public Presentation: Dennis Ross at Tifereth
Israel Independence Day
Melton Classes

YOM HA'ATZMAUT
Arielle Lipman Bat Mitzvah at Beth El Jacob
Temple: Food Fair
Tifereth Book Club
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer
JFCS - LAST DAY OF Wednesday SCHOOL
IJHS Board Meeting
Lion of Judah & Pomegrante Trip to NYC - through May 23
Melton Classes

Jacob Fuller Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
JFCS - LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
AIPAC National Policy Conference
Beth El Jacob Annual Dinner
AIPAC National Policy Conference
Federation Exec. Committee Meeting
Fed. Board of Directors Meeting
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer
AIPAC National Policy Conference
Tifereth Board Meeting

Melton Classes
Melton Classes
Beth El Jacob Testimonial Dinner
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer
Temple Annual Meeting
Gabriel Sandler Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
SHAVUOT through June 14
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer

Temple Exec. Bd Mtg
Temple Bd of Trustees Mtg
AIPAC Council Meeting
Engman Camp Shalom starts at The Caspe Terrace
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer
IJHS Board Meeting
Gabiella Soria-Dunn and Lucca Soria B'nai Mitzvot at

Federation Annual Meeting
Tifereth: "Beginning" A Moment of Prayer



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