



THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

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**happy
shavuot**
BEGINS THE EVENING
OF TUESDAY MAY 22



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Jewish Federation's Annual Meeting, June 3 "Covering the News from a Jewish Perspective" with JTA's Sue Fishkoff



Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, award-winning journalist and author Sue Fishkoff will be the guest speaker at 5:00 pm at The Caspe Terrace on Sunday, June 3rd for the Jewish Federation's 93rd Annual Meeting. The meeting to install new members of the Board, including a new president, and to honor outgoing members, will be followed by a deli dinner hosted by Toni Urban who has served as Federation President since July of 2005.

Current President-Elect, Neil Salowitz is slated to become the Jewish Federation's 39th president since 1914. Salowitz most recently served as Board Treasurer and the 2007 All-In-One Campaign Chair.

The program for the evening will include Ms. Fishkoff's presentation on "Covering the News from a Jewish Perspective." Our guest speaker serves as the West Coast correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. She covers Jewish identity issues and the Jewish communities of the former Soviet Union. Some of the topics she regularly writes about include conversion, intermarriage, outreach, Jewish ritual, education, congregational life, the movements and new forms of Jewish expression.

Sue is a former staff reporter for "The Jerusalem Post," based in Tel Aviv and New York. She has written for many national Jewish Publications including "Moment," "Hadassah" and "Reform Judaism." She is the author of "The Rebbe's Army: Inside the World of Chabad-Lubavitch" (Schocken Books, 2003) and the recipient of numerous journalism awards.

Her talk will include a look at some of the most emotionally compelling stories she has covered in Israel and around the world. She will provide an analysis of media coverage of the Middle East conflict, and a political update on current Israeli affairs.

For additional information about the event, please contact the Jewish Federation at 277-6321 x224.

Save Darfur, Sure, But Also Worry About Iran

Commentary by Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, Executive Director of The Israel Project

In the past month I have been to more than a dozen Jewish communities, and everywhere I go I see signs and wristbands that say "Save Darfur." Time and again I am touched that our people understand that *tikkun olam* includes taking care of others.

But to be frank, if I go to yet another synagogue that has a sign about Darfur and nothing about the threat of Iran, I think my heart will break.

Worry about Darfur? Yes. But why can't we worry about Iran — perhaps the greatest threat to Israel ever?

There is no silver bullet to stop the threat of Iran. It will take a combination of efforts from a variety of leaders and groups. We need a massive effort to educate world leaders, from a major rally in Washington and meetings at think tanks, to letters to the editor and a full-fledged media campaign.

There are those in the Jewish community who say that because Iran is a threat to far more than Jews and Israel, we should not make Iran a Jewish or Israeli issue. However, when non-Jews hear the president of Iran both deny the Holocaust and say he wants to wipe Israel off the map and then they don't see the Jewish community rising up in protest, they wrongly conclude that Iran must not really be a threat.

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Engman Camp Shalom Begins June 18

Engman Camp Shalom '06 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, 33158 Ute Ave. in Waukee. Camp begins on Monday, June 18 and runs through Friday, August 10.

Many new programs will be introduced this summer. Our Camp Director, Josh Goldsmith, will be returning for another outstanding summer. Josh has over 20 years of camping experience. He grew up in the Midwest and spent his summers at Camp Ramah.

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MAY IS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty. During Jewish American Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich history of the Jewish people in America and honor the great contributions they have made to our country.

So begins the Presidential proclamation in 2006 that, for the first time, formally inaugurated May as Jewish American Heritage Month.

This is all still very new to the American scene, but already there is great interest in exploring the possibilities of having a month annually in which to reflect upon our community's past, present and future. Leading the way, a new coalition has just been formed to showcase the activities being planned nationwide in commemoration of Jewish American Heritage Month. The coalition brings together the United Jewish Communities along with The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the American Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Women's Archives.

Learn more at www.jewishheritage.us

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Connecting Your Questions and Our Answers

A Q&A WITH PETER MARTIN, LMSW, QDCS, SOCIAL WORKER AND PROJECT COORDINATOR, ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

Question: I am in the process of trying to transition my father into my family's home, and I need all the tips and suggestions possible! What do you suggest?

Answer: Transitions are difficult enough for healthy adults, but they can be even harder when the symptoms of dementia enter the scene. In the case of relocating a person with dementia, the move can be eased by solid planning, consistent support and the inclusion of familiar belongings.

Some general guidelines typically work well, but you might want to tailor them to your individual situation since each person with dementia is unique and family dynamics vary. Apply your knowledge about your father, including his condition and his likes and dislikes, to make each tip work best for you.

1. Comfort. If possible, your dad's room should occupy a quiet part of the house with an easy path to a bathroom. Decor should be minimal to help reduce clutter and limit his confusion in a new space. Finish walls in soothing solid colors, not patterned wallpaper, and make sure lighting is adequate but gentle. Provide furniture that is comfortable and without sharp edges. And include elements that would be familiar to your father, such as his favorite chair, photographs or trophies.

2. Safety. Eliminate conditions that currently could result in accidents, and be prepared to promptly safeguard other areas if the need arises. For example, make sure that rugs do not pose trip hazards. Place nightlights in hallways and in your dad's bedroom. Prepare the bathroom by installing grab bars near the toilet and in the shower, and keep medications and cleansers in locked cabinets. Since 60 percent of individuals with dementia wander at some point, you should consider putting in door chimes to alert you when exit doors open, outfitting your dad with several forms of identification, and seeing whether Project Lifesaver International (www.projectlifesaver.org) is available in your community.

3. Attention. During the transition, plan to spend more time than usual with your father. Walk him through all the areas of your house that he will be using and explain any unfamiliar elements. Also provide predictable routines and offer reminders during daily activities.

4. Activities. Experts recommend that individuals with dementia engage in structured and simple activities throughout the day. Examples include singing, looking at photo albums, and doing simple math problems. Even daily routines, like getting dressed, and household chores, such as folding laundry, can count as activities.

5. Nutrition and Hydration. Monitor what your dad eats and drinks to ensure adequate nutrition and hydration, including drinking eight, eight-ounce glasses of water or other non-caffeinated fluids each day. Consult a doctor if your father stops eating or drinking regularly or shows signs of dehydration.

6. Communication. Individuals with Alzheimer's disease often cannot find the words to express their thoughts, cannot remember past conversations, and have difficulty understanding what other people are saying. To boost the chances of better communication, follow what are known as "the five S's": slow, show, simple, smile, stay positive. Speak slowly; show the person what you are saying-don't just say it, and use body language, facial expressions and gestures. Keep things simple with short sentences and one-step instructions. Smile, and stay positive, including talking about pleasant topics. While your dad is living under your roof, you should also be on the alert for changing behaviors and other situations that may require attention.

Becoming educated about Alzheimer's disease will help you in this regard. If you are unsure about how to handle a specific situation, it is always best to consult with your dad's doctor.

HAVE A CAREGIVING QUESTION?

Call Pat Nawrocki

**Jewish Family Services Senior Adult Program
at 277-6321.**

Volunteering at the Jewish Federation:

Planning and Budgeting Committee at Work



The Jewish Federation's Planning and Budgeting Committee convened in March under the chairmanship of Neil Salowitz. This hard working committee met over a number of evenings to hear from agencies subsidized by the Federation and then to propose, for the coming fiscal year,

the expenditure of funds for the essential Jewish programming and services made possible through your contributions to the All-In-One Campaign and the Des Moines Jewish Foundation. Once the committee makes its recommendations, the budget is then sent to the Federation Board for discussion and eventual adoption.

Members of the Planning and Budgeting Committee for 2007 include: Neil Salowitz, Chair, Steve Altman, Judy Deutch, Debbie Gitchell, William "Jake" Jacobs, Sheldon Ohringer, Polly Oxley, Justin Schoen, and Toni Urban.

senior news

Wanting to get out more and socialize?

Needing assistance with transportation to senior luncheons, doctor appointments, grocery store, and other appointments?

Seeking information regarding services you need in the home?

GIVE US A CALL at Jewish Family Services and a staff member or volunteer will assist you with these services. Please call Lois Brown, Transportation Coordinator, at 313-8902 or Pat Nawrocki, OASIS Project Services Manager, at 277-6321.

Upcoming Senior Luncheons:



Thursday, May 10th at 12:00 Noon at Temple B'nai Jeshurun-Join us and learn from Tammy Keiter, Planning Specialist with the Health Department, about the self-management course which will inform you on how to live with your chronic conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, Parkinson's, heart disease and other health issues.

Thursday, June 21st at 12:00 Noon at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Come join us and listen to Rabbi Beryl Padorr's musical program. She will entertain us with her beautiful voice and play the guitar. It will be a great time!



oasis
outreach, activities and services
for independent seniors
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

AIPAC
The American Israel Public Affairs Committee

How are the U.S. and Israel Preparing for Counter Strategic Threats?

*The most important organization affecting America's relationship with Israel
- The New York Times*

Featuring
Brian Abrahams
AIPAC's Midwest Regional Director

Thursday, May 17, 2007
7:30 p.m.

Tifereth Israel Synagogue
924 Polk Blvd
Des Moines, IA 50312



Brian Abrahams
Midwest Regional
Director

Brian Abrahams is the Midwest Regional Director for AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. The Midwest Region encompasses 10 states and 96 Congressional Districts - almost a quarter of the Congress.

Brian's professional career includes work in both the profit and not for profit arenas.

After graduating from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, Brian worked for AIPAC in the D.C. office as Director of Political Outreach. He worked for the national United Jewish Appeal as: Washington Office Director; Assistant to the President; Director of the Young Leadership Cabinets; and Midwest Regional

Director. Brian also served as a consultant to UJC on the national Jewish Leadership Forum program.

Brian has worked in the private sector in national marketing and sales management roles with a number of technology companies. For one of them this included a year and a half living in Brussels Belgium.

Brian is also a writer whose work has appeared in publications including Moment Magazine, the Chicago Tribune, on-line publications, and two non-fiction anthologies. He was born and raised in the Chicago area where he now resides with his wife and three children.

Please RSVP by **April 30, 2007** to Emily Gurwitz in the AIPAC Midwest Regional Office at (312) 236-8550 x23 or via e-mail at egurwitz@aipac.org

AIPAC
THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
America's Pro-Israel Lobby

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Fax (312) 236-8530

All-In-One Campaign in Final Stretch

The 2007 Federation “All-In-One” Campaign is now in its final months of a very successful outreach effort. As of April 1, the annual campaign has raised over \$780,000, a 14% increase overall. This total includes the addition of Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) Funds established over the years by donors to assure that their lifelong tradition of giving continues as described on-line at www.jewishdesmoines.org and link to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation.

On commenting on the status of the effort so far, 2007 Campaign Chair Neil Salowitz sounded a note of thanks to all who have assisted: “While we still have some significant outstanding financial commitments to confirm, I want to take this opportunity now to thank all the special campaign volunteers and workers who have made countless phone calls, attended the Campaign Opening Gala, joined us at Super Sunday, made personal face-to-face visits, attended and encouraged others to attend events, and have cheered us on all the way. I also want to especially thank the community for their positive responses when asked for their increased commitments.”

Shavuot Commemorates the Giving of the Torah

Shavuot, also spelled Shavuot, is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (beginning this year, the evening of Tuesday, May 22). It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer and the day the Torah was given at Mount Sinai. It is one of the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals (shalosh regalim) mandated by the Torah.

Unlike the other two pilgrimage festivals (Passover and Sukkot), the date on which Shavuot occurs is not explicitly mentioned in the Torah. Rather, its occurrence is directly linked to the occurrence of Passover. Beginning on the second day of Passover, the Torah mandates a 49-day (seven-week) counting period (the Counting of the Omer), which culminates in the 50th day, Shavuot. This counting of days and weeks expresses anticipation and desire for the Giving of the Torah. At Passover, the Jewish people were freed from being slaves to Pharaoh; at Shavuot they accepted the Torah and became a nation committed to serving God.

Shavuot has many aspects and as a consequence is called by several names. In the Torah it is called Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:10); Festival of Reaping (Ex. 23:16), and Day of the First Fruits (Numbers 28:26).

In modern Israel and among Reform Jews, Shavuot is celebrated for one day. In the Jewish diaspora outside Israel, the holiday is celebrated for two days, on the sixth and seventh days of Sivan.

Connection with the Harvest

Besides its significance as the day on which the Torah was given by God to the Jewish nation at Mount Sinai, Shavuot is also connected to the season of the grain harvest in Israel. In ancient times, the grain harvest lasted seven weeks and was a season of gladness (Jer. 5:24; Deut. 16:9-11; Isa. 9:2). It began with the harvesting of the barley during Passover and ended with the harvesting of the wheat at Shavuot. Shavuot was thus the concluding festival of the

Of the gifts that have been reported to date, over 50% of the donors have made increases in their giving from the prior year. “These increased commitments are essential to moving beyond our ability to sustain what we currently provide locally, in Israel and around the world. We are looking for opportunities to develop new and strengthen existing programs and services,” Salowitz continued.

An honor roll of donors to the 2007 Campaign will be printed in the July/August edition of the Jewish Press. “We are anxious to include everyone in this special recognition of all the people who have made a difference in the support of quality programs and services for the Jewish community,” said Steven Altman, Campaign Vice Chair.

Donors who do not wish their names listed in the honor roll should inform the Federation office at 277-6321 x224.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to make your gift, please also call the Federation office at 277-6321.

grain harvest, just as the eighth day of Sukkot (Tabernacles) was the concluding festival of the fruit harvest. During the existence of the Temple in Jerusalem, an offering of two loaves of bread from the wheat harvest was made on Shavuot (Lev. 23:15-21).

Ceremony of Bikkurim

Shavuot was also the day on which the Bikkurim (first fruits from the seven species for which Israel is praised) were brought to the Temple in Jerusalem by each individual. These species are: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives, and dates (Deut. 8:8). In the largely agrarian society of ancient Israel, Jewish farmers would tie a ribbon around the first ripening fruits from each of these species in their fields. At the time of harvest, the fruits identified by the ribbon would be cut and placed into baskets woven of gold and silver. The baskets would then be placed on oxen whose horns were laced with garlands of flowers, and who were led in a grand procession to Jerusalem. As the farmer and his entourage passed through cities and towns, they would be accompanied by music and parades.

At the Temple, each farmer would present his Bikkurim to the Kohen Gadol in a ceremony that followed the text of Deut. 26:1-10. This text begins by stating, “An Aramean tried to destroy my father”—which either refers to Laban’s efforts to weaken Jacob and rob him of his progeny (Rashi on Deut. 26:5) or to the fact that Jacob was a homeless or penniless wanderer in the land of Aram for 20 years (ibid., Abraham ibn Ezra). The text proceeds to retell the history of the Jewish people as they went into exile in Egypt and were enslaved and oppressed; following which God redeemed them and brought them to the land of Israel. The ceremony of Bikkurim conveys the Jew’s gratitude to God both for the first fruits of the field and for His guidance throughout Jewish history (Scherman, p. 1068).

Wikipedia, online at www.wikipedia.org.

THANKS

Dear friends,

We, Russian-speaking members of the Jewish community of the city of Des Moines, would like to express our sincere gratitude to you, employees and managers of the Jewish Federation for your care and kindness to elderly and unhealthy people which make up a considerable part of said community.

These people need special care, and it takes a lot of time and effort to provide proper services for them: making agreements with doctors’ offices for appointments, working according to certain schedule, taking people there and back, constantly keeping in touch with medical personnel and patients, performing a qualified translation during the appointment, and so on.

In some cases, a physical assistance is needed for those who can hardly walk - to help them getting in the car and coming out of it.

In this connection, we want to emphasize the contribution of Milla Verkhov-Karno, our beloved Millochka, who is currently performing all the above services. Her role in our life cannot be overestimated. She performs her duties very conscientiously and at a high professional level. We deeply respect Milla as an official representative of the Jewish Federation but furthermore, we love her as a wonderful, thoughtful, and caring person.

Hearty thanks for your generous work. May God bless you with good luck and sound health!

Sincerely,

On behalf of the members of Jewish community from the former Soviet Union
- Beyaz Malina and Raissa Malina

Jewish Press

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

Vol. 23 No. 5, May/June 2007



MAY 2007 IS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH.

GO ONLINE AT WWW.JEWISHHERITAGE.US OR EMAIL JAHM@JEWISHHERITAGE.US
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

JFCS Concludes Another Successful Year

It seems that the new school year started just a short while ago and now we are at the end of our year. In their classrooms, students learned about their Jewish heritage and culture. In our lower elementary (preK-2nd) they learned the alef-bet, Hebrew, holidays and their celebrations and many of our traditional stories and values.

In our upper elementary grades (3rd-6th), students take their previous knowledge of the Hebrew alef-bet and begin to study, read, recite and chant prayers that are necessary for them to be prepared for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah's. Starting in third grade, students begin to work towards this special life cycle event. We are fortunate to have a wonderful staff that we do to help guide our students to be fully prepared for this family simcha. Along the way, our students learn and discuss the 10 Commandments, the history and ceremony of life-cycle events, and the importance of Israel and how we, as Jews, are tied to this Jewish state.

Statistics show that children remember more when they are involved in hands-on activities. The following are just a few of some of the activities we were involved with this year.

We began the year with a new reading program for elementary students. This program was created to give incentives to students for reading Jewish books. Twice a month, our students visited the library to hear stories read by Mara Egberman and to take time looking through the many Jewish books we now have available for them to check out. Students were also encouraged to check out books at any of the synagogue libraries, local libraries or read books they may have at home.

There is no better way to supplement a child's classroom and home learning about their Jewish heritage than through Jewish literature. The Jewish people are brimming over with tales to tell. Our history is long and rich and filled with drama.

The JFCS Annual Book Fair followed in November. We sold over \$2,000 worth of books, which means we sold over 180 books. I would like to again thank Wendy Adato, Wendi Harris Oxer and Krista Pearl for volunteering to help with our book fair.

Also in November, several of our students volunteered to participate in a Midwest Chanukah Program in Omaha, Nebraska. Directed by Laura Berkson, these students spent many Sunday afternoons preparing for this concert.

On December 17, we held our Chanukah program. It was a wonderful family event where our students participated in a candle lighting ceremony and performed for their family and friends followed with crafts and a special Chanukah gift bag.

Next on our agenda was our Purim Carnival, which was held on Sunday, March 4th at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. Students created and decorated their own Scroll of Esther, played games such as Hangman, Haman's Walk, Haman Kicks the Bucket, and Crown Queen Esther and won prizes. Some students even went fishing in the Shushan pond. Later, we

held a Costume Parade and paraded through the social hall where students received a special prize for wearing a costume. Those wishing to stay were also invited to attend the second showing of the Temple's Purimspiel.

The following Sunday, the community Passover Extravaganza was held. Again, this was a fantastic event and was well attended by our community. Events at this program are explained in another story in this paper.

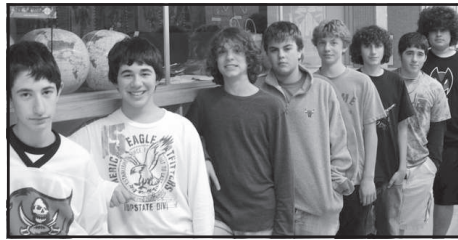
From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank my staff. Our school is successful because we work as a team. Most of my staff has been with our school for over five years. Their commitment to Jewish education and their stability from year-to-year has made the transition between grades seamless. Our school is very fortunate to have this type of commitment from our community.

The JFCS board has been supportive and committed to continuing our goal of pursuing the best possible Jewish education we can offer. Thanks to Peggy Altman and Ed Bell, we have been able to accomplish many wonderful programs for our staff, our families and our students.

And finally, I would like to thank you, the Jewish community, for your financial support through the All-In-One Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. Your pledge covers over 50% of the JFCS budget. Without your support through this campaign, we would not be able to hire the certified teachers we have, order material that helps our teachers teach and students learn, and we would not be able to make learning fun for our students by offering our special holiday events. Your dollars are being used wisely towards the education of the next generation. When called upon for the 2008 All-In-One Campaign, please do your fair share and give generously.

Partnership 2000 Educator Visits

Over the last three years, our JFCS 9th Grade students studied Israel and have corresponded with one of the secular schools in our Partnership 2000 region. This year, students have been sending e-mails and discussing their feelings about Jewish holidays. Recently, Galit Nevo (pictured right), from our region, brought with her



Purim greeting posters from our partner school. In return, our students sent greetings for Yom Ha'Atzmaut, which were displayed at our community program on April 23rd. Left is a picture of some of our 9th grade students.

—Lyanna Grund, Principal

Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

ZAY GESUNT

You **SHOULD LIVE and BE WELL**

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2007

**HOLIDAY INN SELECT AIRPORT
BLOOMINGTON, MN**

Featuring *Arthur Kurzweil*

Editor of

**"The Hadassah Jewish
Family Book of Health
and Wellness"**



For registration information, contact:

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umregion@hadassah.org
www.hadassah.org



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PROJECT ELIJAH



**A Letter from Janice Rosenberg
Executive Director,
Project Elijah Foundation**

Dear Jewish community members and friends,

We have such wonderful children in this community! The Jewish community school children have been so enthusiastic about working with The Project Elijah Foundation to help the orphaned, impoverished and at risk Jewish kids of Ieladeinu in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Recently, Megan and Sarah Mansfield of Temple B'nai Jeshurun celebrated their B'not Mitzvah. The girls decided to dedicate their special day to tzedakah. Megan chose the Project Elijah Foundation to help the kids at Ieladeinu. Sarah chose Lutheran Social Services to help resettle refugees.

Amazing kids!

I have been traveling in my efforts to increase awareness of The Project Elijah Foundation and the needy Jewish Kids at Ieladeinu in Buenos Aires. I flew to Washington D.C. in March to tell our story.

First, I visited American University Hillel. Many of you know my son Reid is a freshman at AU. I had to work this into my trip! I realized Reid had not yet made contact with Hillel. Being a good and resourceful Jewish mother, I had Reid meet me at the Hillel offices with a promise of dinner. AU Hillel promised to show our video and to try to organize a trip to Buenos Aires and Ieladeinu next year.

Next, I visited the offices of Jewish Women International. JWI is a leading innovator in the Jewish world. Communities look to them for the most effective means to champion the safety of women and children; find and heal the (often hidden) victims of abuse; and break the cycle of violence in Jewish relationships and homes.

JWI's network of supporters and partners spans the breadth of Jewish and secular communities. More than 85,000 religious leaders, advocates, like-minded organizations, expert professionals, abuse survivors, community liaisons, and volunteers share their time, money, and expertise for a common goal – safe homes, healthy relationships, and strong women.

JWI embraced the work of the Project Elijah Foundation, and we are now working together to seek solutions to help the kids at Ieladeinu.

I later met with a representative of Latin Jews DC. They are a group of young professionals. They will be doing a "Mitzvah Fiesta" fundraiser for the Project Elijah Foundation. Excelente!

Lastly, I went to visit Deb Finkelstein at Kol Shalom where she is Executive Director (many of you remember Deb from Tifereth). The Rabbi there is Jonathan Maltzman who was a past Rabbi at Tifereth. It was so great to see Deb. She is having so much fun with her growing congregation. She promised to work to create a meaningful fundraiser for the Project Elijah Foundation with the youth of Kol Shalom. Thanks Deb!

I mustn't forget to thank my good friend Heidi Moskowitz for traveling with me to DC. She was a lot of fun and a big help.

Janice
janicerosenberg@projectelijahfoundation.org

PS. Your tax deductible donations can be sent to:
Project Elijah Foundation, 1515 Linden Street, Suite 205
Des Moines, Iowa 50309-3131

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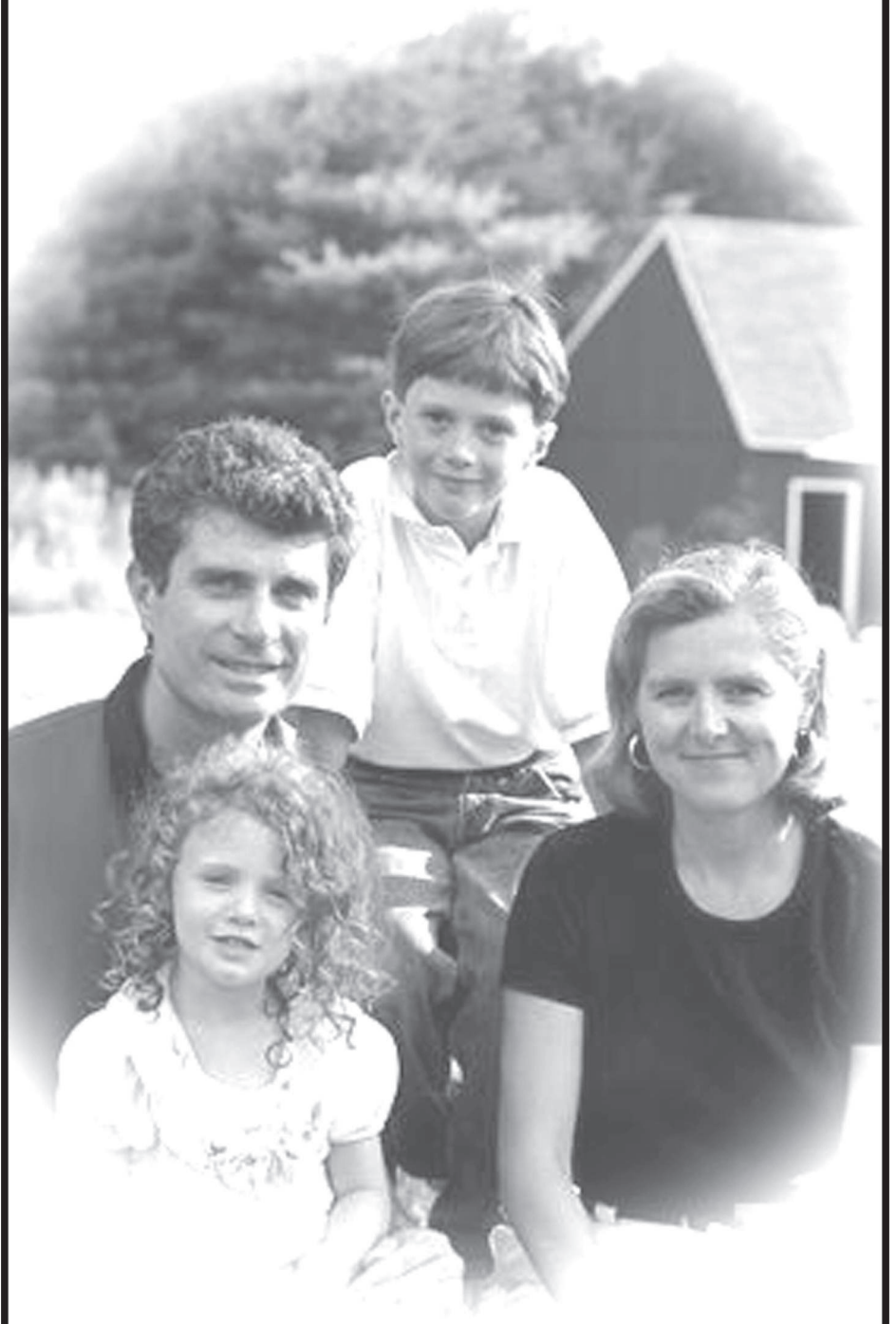
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CELEBRATE YOUR CHILDREN
REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES

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LENDER

The Reproach (Tokhekha) by David Friedgood



From an early age we are taught to do the right thing and then be rewarded for our good deeds. When we are bad we can expect to be chastised, reproached, and punished. Psychologists studying human behavior have identified 'positive reinforcement' as the strongest motivator to change behavior. Reward good deeds and we human beings are most likely to behave appropriately. Our Bible does offer us rewards for good behavior, but is even quicker to punish our misdeeds. Speaking in God's name Moses tells us: "If you follow My laws and faithfully observe My commandments, I will grant your rains in their season.... I will establish My abode in your midst, and I will not spurn you... I will be your God, and you will be my people." (Leviticus 26:3-12) Clearly it pays to be good. On the other hand, significantly more space and considerable detail, is present describing what we are to expect for misbehavior: "But if you do not obey Me and do not observe all these commandments, if you reject My laws and spurn My rules... I will do this to you: I will wreak misery upon you - consumption and fever, which cause the eyes to pine and the body to languish... I will set My face against you: you shall be routed by

your enemies, and your foes shall dominate you... I will go on to discipline you sevenfold for your sins, and I will break your proud glory..."(Leviticus 26:14-19) The next several pages contain graphic detail of the punishment we are to expect. Why this concern with chastisement and reproach? Wouldn't Moses have been more effective delivering God's message with a softer approach, with positive reinforcement? Is all this biblical hell-fire and brimstone really necessary?

The aim of punishment is threefold: retribution, deterrence, reformation. The word comes from the Greek poine (Latin punier) which has a coercive connotation though the Greeks certainly looked favorably on retribution and vengeance for misbehavior. The Bible clearly sees benefit to society using punishment as a deterrent and a means to reform: "If the man who testifies is a false witness... you shall do to him as he schemed to do to his fellow. Thus you will sweep out evil from your midst; others will hear and be afraid, and such evil things will not be done in your midst. Nor must you show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." (Deuteronomy 19:18-21) The prophets were uncomfortable with this focus on retribution and tended to see punishment as a path towards purification, a cleansing of society. "I will turn My hand against

you... and remove all your slag:... After that you shall be called - City of Righteousness, Faithful City." (Isaiah 1:25-26) "I test you in the furnace of affliction." (Isaiah 48:10) They realized that punishment was not an effective way to change bad behavior. Each prophet stood out as a lonely man of faith overwhelmed with the divine reality. God was perfectly good and just. Divine vengeance had to have an ulterior motive - to bring human beings closer to their maker, and ultimately to their salvation. The prophet intimately experienced the awesome power of God and, at the same time, could not comprehend the utter ignorance of the unbelievers around them. "Hear this, O foolish people, devoid of intelligence, that have eyes but can't see, that have ears but can't hear!" (Jeremiah 5:21)

Later rabbinical scholars were concerned that the punishment fit the crime. Compensation for loss of an eye or a limb became monetary and there is no Jewish tradition of mutilation as punishment for a misdeed. The death penalty was available in extreme cases but evidentiary requirements were so stringent that it was rarely imposed. Of greater concern was the effect of wrongful behavior on the functioning of society. The Rabbis saw our sins degrading us, destroying the fabric of our lives. If we are to accomplish our goal in this life

of Tikun Olam - of leaving this world a better place than when we entered it - we need to work towards the day when all people can live in peace and prosperity, unafraid; able to reach their full potential as human beings created in the divine image. We need to overcome our natural stubbornness to see the truth around us. "How abysmal stubbornness can be. Man rears his own despots - idols, lies, perversions; he labors to prepare his own disaster. Is he insane?" (Abraham Joshua Heschel)

Freedom is not a natural right of man, but a gift from God, only acquired when we behave appropriately. We are free when we show concern for those less fortunate, deal honestly with our neighbors and practice the ideals of compassion and mercy. Anything less is self-affliction. We hurt ourselves through misbehavior. It is not God punishing us. We are punishing ourselves.

*"Thus said the LORD:
Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom;
Let not the strong man glory in his strength;
Let not the rich man glory in his riches.
But only in this should one glory:
In his earnest devotion to Me.
For I the LORD act with kindness,
Justice, and equity in the world;
For in these I delight."
(Jeremiah 9:22-23)*

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Putting Your Financial Ducks in a Row



Elaine Steinger
Executive Director

A chronic illness such as Alzheimer’s disease can financially devastate not only the ill person’s estate, but the caregiver’s, whether a spouse, child, sibling, or other loved one. Here are several strategies that can help minimize the financial impact of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or a similar progressive disease.

Put estate planning documents in place. Most adults should have basic estate planning documents such as a will, living will, health care proxy, and financial durable power of attorney. Unfortunately, many don’t. If these documents are not already in place, they should be readied at the first signs of or diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease. Without them, providing care can become much more legally complicated and expensive.

Review financial resources. Talk to your loved one about his or her bank and investment accounts, insurance policies, including life and long-term care, retirement accounts, employee benefits, and sources of regular income such as Social Security and pensions.

This exercise isn’t always easy. A spouse who had given control of the household’s finances to the husband or wife who is now ill may have weak money management skills. Children may face the challenge of obtaining an accurate financial picture from a parent who is reluctant to discuss personal finances or kept disorganized records.

- 76 percent of caregivers worry about the cost of caring for their loved one with Alzheimer’s disease.
- 53 percent of caregivers say their loved one has not made any plans for long-term care.

According to a survey, I CAN: Investigating Caregivers’ Attitudes and Needs, conducted by Harris Interactive for the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America and sponsored by Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Because of anticipated rising expenses, you may want to readjust your investment portfolio in order to keep a larger portion in lower-risk, easily accessible assets such as money markets and short-term bonds.

Start planning immediately. The further ahead you can plan for the financial consequences of Alzheimer’s disease, the better. How much care will family members be willing or able to provide? Will you be able to afford at-home professional care? Visit assisted living and nursing home facilities well in advance of the need to actually relocate your loved one.

Create a spending plan. Once you clarify need and financial resources, create a spending plan that will balance expenses and income. Try to save extra money now for the inevitable rise in expenses down the road.

Be aware of tax deductions. Consult with a tax expert to see whether a child or other non-spouse can claim the person as a dependent if he or she bears a significant amount of care-giving responsibilities.

Review community and government financial resources. Review eligibility rules for Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security disability income, veterans’ benefits, and local public assistance to see if you qualify. Community resources include Meals on Wheels and Visiting Nursing Associations.

Take care of yourself. Caregivers not only make great sacrifices of time and sometimes personal health, but frequently personal financial assets when caring for loved ones. Caregivers should be very cautious here. Cutting back work hours or quitting a job, for example, hampers their ability to save for their own retirement and future health care needs, or to invest in long-term care insurance. Too much financial sacrifice means these caregivers could become a financial burden on other loved ones years later.

Seek professional help. A financial planner can help improve cash flow, identify tax savings, review investments, and provide overall financial planning. You’ll need an attorney to be sure all legal documents are in order. A geriatric care manager can find appropriate living facilities or at-home care.

From FINANCIAL PLANNING ASSOCIATION, the membership organization for the financial planning community. The association has offices in Denver and Washington, DC.

As you plan for the future...

Make the Des Moines Jewish Foundation part of your estate planning. We offer options to care for the future of loved ones such as a Charitable Annuity Trust.

For a free informative brochure on Charitable Annuity Trusts call Elaine Steinger at 515-277-3621. Always consult your own professional advisor when making financial planning decisions.



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[in profile]

Laura Bernstein: A CEO with vision



Considered one of the most dynamic entrepreneurs of the younger generation, Laura Bernstein, CEO of Visionpoint, Inc. in Clive, was recently interviewed by the Jewish Press.

Laura and her husband Howard are members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

Jewish Press: A pleasure to chat with you, Laura. Where did you come from originally and where did you go to college?

Laura Bernstein: Both Howard and I grew up in Detroit. I attended several community colleges and finally obtained my B.S. from Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan.

JP: What did you study?

LB: Computer Information Systems, with a minor in English. I wanted to be a programmer. I also earned an Executive MBA from Northwood University, also in Michigan. I also hold many internationally recognized certifications in the training and development field.

JP: What brought you to Des Moines?

LB: Des Moines sort of found me. I was living in Ohio at the time. It was a good time in my life for a change and I was recruited in April of 2000 to become general manager of a company at that time called American Media. Howard came in September 2000 and he established a specialty wine shop, *Casa Di Vino*, in Johnston. We've been here for several years, and now I'm a Des

Moines person by choice.

JP: Where has your career taken you since coming to Des Moines?

LB: After leaving American Media, I joined Visionpoint, in Clive, and purchased a majority interest in the company.

JP: What does Visionpoint do?

LB: Visionpoint is a training development company and we specialize in ethics and compliance, leadership development and diversity and respect training programs. We have off-the-shelf training kits and also do a lot of custom work for large clients.

JP: How large a company is it?

LB: We have 30 employees

JP: What's the website?

LB: It's www.visionpoint.com

JP: What is your corporate objective?

LB: As CEO of Visionpoint, I am leading what I would like to believe is one of the fastest - growing training and development companies in our industry. It's my objective to do that in a way that allows us to grow not one dollar more than our integrity allows us to, so that I can create an environment that is a place to make money (which is very important) and an environment where people want to come to work and enjoy themselves.

JP: How did you come to that philosophy?

LB: I would attribute that to a couple of things. My mom (who still lives in Detroit) is my biggest hero, because she is someone who had several things happen to her in her life that she could have looked at life in a very negative way and instead, took what life handed her and turned it into everything

positive. And she is somebody who pretty much taught me that I could be anything I wanted, I could influence the world in any way that I wanted to and that I could do it in a way that is uplifting to everybody – not a me versus them, we can both get ahead and everybody wins.

And so, I think my philosophy comes first from the grounding my mother gave me, and then I think the industry I'm in – the development and training industry, which is all about professional growth, personal growth, also lends itself to that kind of philosophy.

JP: And your personal goals?

LB: I'm always striving to create more balance in my life.

JP: You're affiliated with Tifereth. You're an active participant in the congregation ...

LB: On the religious and spiritual side, I personally enjoy chanting the Haftarah whenever I can, and I'm learning to lead the preliminary service.

JP: You're a good singer.

LB: I try to be! (chuckling) And as a matter of fact, both Howard and I are big music fans. We both love world music and attend as many concerts as we can. At TI, I've enjoyed the Klezmer Shabbat services.

And then one of the reasons I joined the congregation, because I've been very busy at work, I didn't have many friends in the community, and we don't have any family in the community at all. So I was looking for a place to meet people on a social level. Happens that I started the Erev Nashim – a "Ladies Night Out" group – purely social.

JP: What are some of your other community activities?

LB: I've done some things for the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and

I've recently joined the Federation's Jewish Family Services Board. I've been a part of the American Red Cross. And actually I've done quite a bit of foster care, in my past, with teenagers who have been physically or sexually abused. I have a special place in my heart for young women in general and I do a lot of mentoring and coaching of young women in Des Moines and elsewhere.

JP: Just fishing... have you been to Israel?

LB: Yes, both of us have. Howard, who is a world traveler, was there in the late 1980s. He lived on two kibbutzim for almost two years and then bartended in Eilat. Me, personally, I was in Israel in February of 2000. There was fighting at the Lebanese border at the time and the furthest north I traveled was up to Sfat. I spent quite a bit of my three weeks in Israel in Jerusalem, more of a pleasure trip. I went with my aunt. I have a lot of cousins in Israel. So I went to visit. Jerusalem is one of my favorite cities in the world. I just absolutely loved it. It is sort of like walking into the Bible.

JP: Do you have any hobbies?

LB: I play the piano. I read incessantly. I have an eclectic taste. I read several journals for business but I generally read books that make me smile. I read mystery, I read romance, satire...all kinds of things. I've just finished reading a book called "The Eyre Affair," which was bizarre. And I'm in the process of reading "Religion As A Natural Phenomenon: Breaking the Spell."

JP: Who is your favorite author?

LB: Dr. Seuss.

JP: Thank you so much for the interview, Laura. Continued success for both you and Howard.

LB: You're welcome.



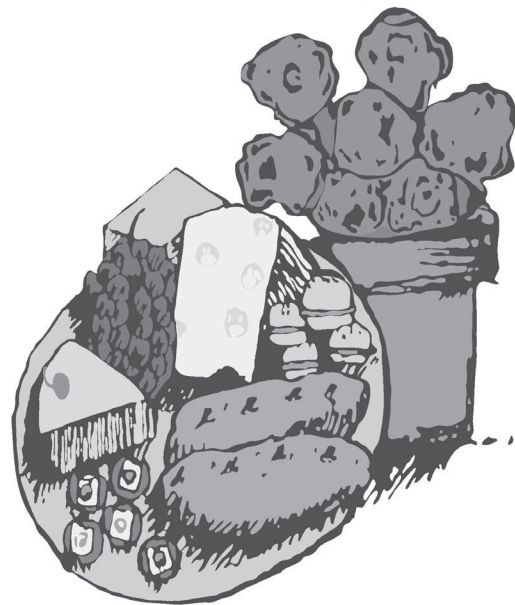
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American Israel Public Affairs Committee AIPAC Conference Draws Crowd

This year's AIPAC Policy Conference held in March in Washington, D.C. brought together over 6,000 grassroots supporters. Including a very strong showing from Des Moines, with 15 in attendance, the participants came from different political perspectives but had in common the desire to see the relationship between the United States and Israel remain strong.

A special treat was to view a video segment honoring the role played over many years by Des Moines resident Bud Hockenberg in fostering the U.S.-Israel relationship. The video was screened at a full plenary session, to appreciative applause.

- Comments from some of the participants:

"It is astounding to be in a room with more than 6500 Jews and non-Jews in advocacy for Israel and to be addressed by America's top leadership. It is electrifying. Everybody who is anybody in politics was in attendance, including the Vice President to the leaders of the Senate and the House, as well as a number of the presidential candidates.

The expertise of the presenters at the break-out sessions was excellent and the issues discussed were most informative and challenging. I think every concerned

Jewish person should attend an AIPAC conference at least once in their lifetime." -Fred Lorber

"My first experience at the national AIPAC conference offered me, first, the opportunity to be truly educated about the multifaceted political and strategic issues that drive our support for our homeland and, second, a vehicle for that support. With a clear view of the important choices facing Israel and the United States, we lobbied on Capitol Hill and we committed to bringing that energy back to our home communities." - Barbara Hirsch-Giller

"Meaningful, qualitative improvement in conference programming! Big Tent inclusion of diverse political, religious, ethnic, and racial groups focused on AIPAC's leadership role to guarantee the eternal existence of a Jewish nation!" -Bud Hockenberg

We hope you will get involved with local AIPAC activities and will plan to attend the next AIPAC Policy Conference June 2-4, 2008. The next AIPAC Program in Des Moines will be on Thursday, May 16. See page 2.

AIPAC is online at www.aipac.org. For additional information contact egurewitz@aipac.org



A. Bud Hockenberg, Marty Rosenfeld, Fred Lorber, Tim and Toni Urban, and Barbara Hirsch-Giller
B. Edward Hockenberg, son, Marisa Vrona, granddaughter, Marni Hockenberg, daughter, Bud Hockenberg, Lisa Hockenberg, daughter-in-law and Dorothy Hockenberg
C. Neil Salowitz, Elaine Steinger, Rabbi Beryl Padorr, Marty Rosenfeld



SSRI Study Reconsiders Jewish Demographic Data

Study Identifies Larger, More Diverse American Population

"The needs for education, religious and cultural services, along with philanthropy to support communal work, have been underestimated [because the Jewish community is larger and more diverse than was previously believed]" - a conclusion from the 2007 Steinhardt Social Research Institute study.

Review by Mark Finkelstein

For the last few years, sociologists have been mulling over flaws within the National Jewish Population Study (NJPS) of 2000-01, which seemed to indicate a significant reduction of the size of the community as surveyed in 1990. Incorporating suggestions for improving the methodology of taking a Jewish census, as it were. The Steinhardt Social Research Institute (SSRI) at Brandeis University released its study in January, estimating that the American Jewish population is 17 - 20 percent higher than indicated by NJPS 2000-01. The newly estimated total number of Jews in the United States is likely at least 6 million and possibly as high as 6.4 million.

The 2007 SSRI study was based on a reanalysis of the NJPS figures and a synthesis of independent national studies (such as conducted by the Pew Charitable Trusts) that included measures of religious and ethnic identity. Some 31 studies conducted between 1998 and 2006 were included into the SSRI data bank.

Incorporating the independent national studies revealed (or rather confirmed) an undercount of the non-Orthodox Jewish

population. Interestingly, SSRI surmises that NJPS 2000-01 "drew from only a limited portion of households that included Jews born from 1946 to 1964 [and that] as a result of recent changes in the telephone system [alluding to the use of cell phones], it became more difficult to reach this population, particularly non-Orthodox Jews." When we include the undercounted cohort back into the data, one thing found is that the Jewish population is somewhat younger "less gray" than previously indicated.

The researchers drew a number of implications based on their findings. Their concern is that the community adequately serve the needs of the population, which is now estimated to be larger and more diverse than previously described. Of specific interest will be the needs of those who identify as Jewish but do so without a religious component in their Jewish identity, and in tracking the Jewish engagement of intermarried families. As they state: "There is increasing evidence that more intermarried families are choosing to raise children Jewishly [and] if that trend continues, it portends an increase in the Jewish population."

The full report is online at cmjs.org/ssri.

National Jewish Leader to Speak at Interfaith Alliance Dinner May 17

Rabbi Jack Moline, a national leader in the Conservative Jewish tradition, will provide the keynote speech for The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa's Annual Award Dinner on Thursday, May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Olmsted Center at Drake University.

The 2007 Interfaith Award will be presented to former Governor Tom Vilsack during the Award Dinner in honor of his efforts to protect all children with anti-bullying legislation, to expand the Iowa Civil Rights Code to include sexual orientation and gender identity, and his commitment to maintain the separation of church and state during his two terms as Iowa's governor.

Rabbi Jack Moline is the current chairperson of The Interfaith Alliance (national) and has been the rabbi at the Agudas Achim

Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia since 1987. He was formerly co-chair of the Social Action Committee of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and is currently chair of the Social Action Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly. Moline served as President of the Washington Board of Rabbis and is past chair of the Alexandria Interfaith Association.

Rabbi Moline has advised and written for many public figures, including President Bill Clinton, for whom he composed much of President Clinton's memorable eulogy for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. He has also written two books, "Growing Up Jewish," and "Jewish Leadership and Heroism."

For more information call The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa at 279-8715 or www.tiaiaowa@dw.com

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United Way



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Lion of Judah

In the Bible (Genesis 49:9), Jacob's fourth-born son, Judah, is described as a lion's whelp, poised to spring at his enemies in defense of his people. The courage that made Judah a noble leader is symbolized in *Aryeh Yehuda*, the Lion of Judah.

Long a symbol of strength and majesty in the Jewish world, the Lion of Judah is the international group of Jewish women who make a minimum commitment of \$5000 in their own name to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign. Wearing the Lion of Judah pin is a dramatic reminder that it is each woman's responsibility and privilege to stand among her people—committed to her family, her community, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

A History of the Lion of Judah Society

Introduced in 1972 for the Miami Women's Division campaign, the Lion of Judah pin has established itself as a symbol of commitment to the worldwide Jewish community.

The diamond inset 14-karat gold pin was created for the woman making a personal pledge to the annual campaign of \$5000 or more. In 1980, guidelines developed by leaders of the Miami and the UJA National Women's Campaign enabled other communities to participate in the program. In 1983, a national logo was created for the pin. In 1985, a Lion of Judah pin with a Ruby inset was established in recognition on an individual woman's personal commitment of \$10,000 or more to the annual campaign. As the 1980's ended, the program was extended to recognize even higher levels of women's giving, with insets of Sapphire, Emerald, Canary Diamond, Cognac Diamond and Black Diamond stones representing their commitment.

Women's Campaigns have assumed an increasingly significant role in raising funds for the Federation. Today, more than 13,000 women from communities throughout the world proudly participate in the Lion of Judah program. Inspired by Jewish tradition, the Women's Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is dedicated to strengthening the Jewish people here at home, in Israel and around the world.

Those who participate in women's philanthropy play a major role in

enhancing and implementing the programs and projects of the Federation. Women's philanthropy offers every woman the opportunity for education, personal enrichment, community outreach and leadership development. It provides opportunities for every woman to affirm her Jewish faith and spirituality, to take a stand on issues that affect her community, and to inspire other women by example.

Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE)

The Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) is a powerful statement of a donor's commitment to *tzedakah*, and provides a legacy for family and community. LOJE funds provide a solid on-going support for local and worldwide Jewish communities. Every woman who contributes \$5000 or more to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign should consider establishing a LOJE, and add the prestigious *Or LAtid* (light unto the future) flame to her Lion of Judah pin. The flame announces to the Jewish world a woman's commitment to Jewish life – a commitment that goes beyond her own generation, and beyond her children's commitment to the eternal well-being of the Jewish people and to an historical legacy of loving kindness and social justice.

The Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE) allows you to help secure a strong and vibrant Jewish community for your children and grandchildren to enjoy. And provide for the needs of the Jewish poor, assist the elderly, rescue Jews facing hardship and peril around the world, fight anti-Semitism and help protect Israel, decades from now and for generations to come. Join the over 2500 women who have established a LOJE, which you can create to fit your philanthropic and financial goals with a gift of \$100,000 or more. Federation President Toni Urban was Des Moines' first endowed Lion of Judah. Locally, joining Toni, are Suzanne Engman and Gail Richards who have endowed their gifts to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation.



Lion of Judah



Margo Blumenthal



Pamela Bass Bookey



Shelley Brody



Suzanne Engman*



Debbie Gitchell



Leticia Gordon



Marilyn Hurwitz



Maddie Levitt



RoseLee Pomerantz



Gail Richards*



Elana Schneider



Elaine Steinger**



Toni Urban*

not pictured:
Jeanne Levitt



Barb Carlstrom



Alice Daniels



Charlotte Elmetts



Tracy Engman-Finkelshteyn



Alyseann Galinsky



Vicki Givant



Barbara Hirsch-Giller



Janet Hockenberg



Irina Kaplan



Julie Kaufman



Dorothy Kirsner



Lori Long



Cyril Mandelbaum



Evelyn Mintzer**



Heidi Moskowitz



Kay Myers



Polly Oxley**



Mary Jo Pomerantz



Roselind Rabinowitz



Audrey Rosenberg



Molly Sandler



Patsy Tobis



Eleanor Zeff



Janice Zuckert

not pictured:
Hadasa Blend
Shari Engman
Judy Flapan
Tali Greenspon
Annette Isaacson
Miriam Mintzer
Mary Seidler
Robbie Winick

* LOJE Lion of Judah Endowment
** POME The Pomegranate Endowment Program

Pomegranates

The Pomegranate Symbol

Ita Aber, in *The Art of Judaic Needlework*, writes: "As a Jewish symbol, the pomegranate is recognized as one of the most perfect spheres in nature."

With close to having 613 seeds, the pomegranate represents the number of commandments referred to in the Bible.

The Pomegranate Division

The Pomegranate Division is a community within the Jewish Federation for women whose individual giving begins at \$1500 to the All-In-One Campaign. As with the Lion of Judah, Pomegranates are recognized throughout the Federation community for their leadership roles and are distinguished by wearing the unique silver Pomegranate pin. Rubies are added to the pin each year as their commitment continues. Belonging to the Pomegranate Division connects them to a unique group of Jewish women and allows them to meet other women who are committed to bringing Jewish values to life through tzedakah, righteous giving. Pomegranate programs provide an opportunity to develop bonds with other committed women and to develop a more tangible understanding of how your Federation gifts touch thousands of lives worldwide.

The Pomegranate Endowment Program (POME)

The Pomegranate Endowment program (POME) is a component of the Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment

(PACE) program...a permanent restricted fund dedicated to endowing the Federation "All-In-One" Campaign. We are proud that Naomi Mercer, Evelyn Mintzer, Polly Oxley and Elaine Steinger have made commitments to ensure the continuity of their annual giving.

Why Should Every Woman Make a Personal Gift to the Jewish Federation?

From generation to generation, Judaism has emphasized tzedakah, acts of kindness and charity, not as an option but as an obligation of being human, and of being a Jew. Passed down from our matriarchs, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, the legacy now lives on in you. When you join us in the Women's Philanthropy, you'll find a place where you can help ensure the importance of tzedakah both to your children and those in your extended family, the family of the Jewish community.

By giving your time and support, you take your place in the long line of women who have carried on this fine and fundamental Jewish tradition. And by doing so, not only will you honor their lives, but your own as well.

As women, in general, increase their share of authority over America's wealth, Jewish women in particular are setting the standards for creative philanthropy and commitment for future generations. Locally, our women's division represents more than one-third of the total annual campaign dollars!

“Power, Faith and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present” by Michael Oren

By Dean Barnett

This sentiment will probably sound familiar: “It was written in the Koran that all Nations who should not have acknowledged the Muslims’ authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon whoever they find and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Mussulman who should be slain in battle was sure to go to paradise.”

If you think the speaker is an addled Ayatollah or some other modern-day mayhem loving Jihadist, you’re forgiven. It’s an understandable mistake.

If, however, you know that the speaker was the Pasha of Tripoli and that he was addressing an audience of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams who had journeyed to Tripoli in 1785 hoping to find some solution to Barbary piracy, put yourself at the head of the class. You know your American history; you also probably know that the Barbary Pirates weren’t nearly as lovable as the Pirates of the Caribbean.

IN HIS MAJESTIC AND MAGNIFICENT “Power, Faith and Fantasy – America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present,” Michael Oren offers scores of similarly fascinating snippets from 230 years of American involvement with the Middle East. His thesis is a simple yet a provocative one: Since the birth of our nation, our relationship with the Middle East has been

dominated by three recurring themes. The first relates to power and other matters of realpolitik. The second involves the fact that America’s religious faith and ideals have routinely found a means for expression in the Middle East. The third theme centers on our pernicious habit of substituting our fantasies for the Middle East’s far less satisfying realities.

“Power, Faith and Fantasy” is a groundbreaking tract. No previous book has attempted to tell the story of America’s complete history in the Middle East. What makes “Power, Faith and Fantasy” such a great accomplishment are the themes that Oren extracts from America’s various engagements with the region. Every page offers details of American adventures in the Middle East. And every single one of these adventures falls into the conceptual software that Oren lays out at the start – each one reflects America grappling with a matter of power, faith or fantasy.

The fantasy strain is the most dominant and the most maddening. Since the founding of the Republic, Americans have desperately wanted to see the Middle East as the magical land of Arabian knights and spiritual bounty. For over 200 years, these hopes have been reliably dashed. Scores of American tourists, intellectuals, missionaries and leaders have repeatedly been disappointed by both the Middle East’s squalor and its customs.

One of Oren’s unique contributions in putting together such a narrative is that he has documented how durable these fantasies have been even in the face of a consistently conflicting reality. 230 years after Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were rudely disabused of their hopes for peace by Tripoli’s ranking pasha, Americans are still routinely shocked by the region’s religion-inspired beligerence and other disconcerting facts on the sand that belie our fantasies.

The other pillars of Oren’s thesis are equally sturdy. One of the reasons the Middle East had a hold on the American imagination since long before we went digging for oil there was because the region is inextricably linked to America’s religious faiths. Christian missionaries made many large-scale yet futile efforts to win converts in the region; Christian pilgrims trekked to the region to walk the land that Jesus had. Although the missionaries failed to make any inroads in bringing their faith to the Islamic world, they did leave their mark on the region by developing the Middle East’s finest schools and hospitals; these became the facilities that educated and cared for the Arab elite.

America’s Jews, including a young girl born in Milwaukee who grew up to become Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, had their own religious interests in the Middle East. American Jewry’s passion for developing a Jewish homeland was mirrored by innumerable Christian “restorationists” who had a

religious passion for the same cause, albeit for different reasons.

Then of course there are matters of power. The crisis with the Barbary Pirates forced the newly born United States to create a Navy to project its power and safeguard its treasure around the world. At some points during America’s infancy, the amounts in tribute demanded and received by the Barbary Pirates exceeded 20% of the federal government’s budget. The young nation had to decide if this was an acceptable state of affairs. The country decided it wasn’t.

Oren also fascinatingly describes the times when these separate realms have clashed. For many Americans, the founding and on-going safety of Israel has been a matter of faith and morality. The early 20th century Arabists who populated the State Department (the “striped-pant set” as Harry Truman derisively referred to them) preferred a more “practical” approach than supporting a potentially destabilizing Jewish state. This tension continued throughout the 20th Century, as it does today.

OREN PUT TOGETHER “POWER, FAITH AND FANTASY” with an almost astonishing amount of skill. Because his book had no organic plot and had few characters who stuck around for more than a dozen pages, there was a chance it could suffer from a lack of narrative thrust.

continued on page 19

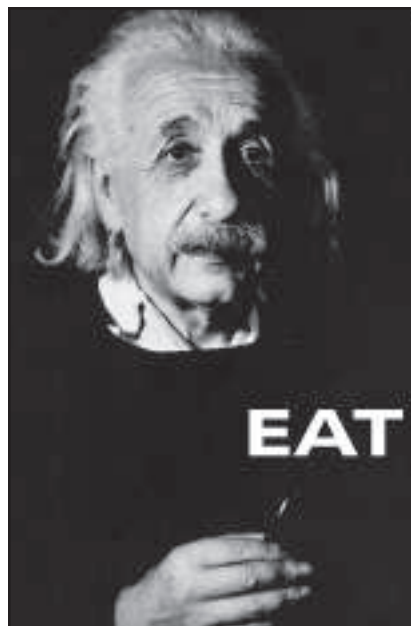
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In the Kitchen With
Hanna Gradwohl
by Karen Engman



Hanna Rosenberg Gradwohl was born in Coburg, Germany. In 1937, when she was less than two years old, her family immigrated to the United States. She grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she and her future husband David met as small children. Their first date was to a costume party. David wore an antique Mandarin Chinese robe and loaned Hanna a blue and white kimono. She even remembered wearing two white pompom mums in her hair.

Both David and Hanna attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He received a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Edinburgh. They became engaged after he started graduate school in anthropology at Harvard. Then David was drafted so they married in December, 1957 and shipped out to Crailsheim, Germany.

It was there that Hanna learned to cook many German culinary specialties like spaetzle and rouladen (meat) from her landlady. In fact, Hanna said she could only bake the brownie recipe from The Settlement Cook Book* at that time.

When they returned to Boston, Hanna

worked as a social worker at Jewish Family Services. They next moved to Ames, where David finished his dissertation and taught at Iowa State University. Hanna then finished her MSW (from University of Iowa) at Drake University.

Hanna and David have a son and two daughters and six grandkids. Steven Gradwohl, an internist at the University of Michigan Clinic, lives in Ann Arbor with his wife Lisa Mann and their two daughters Alexandra (15) and Kelsey (13). Jane Gradwohl Nash, a psychology professor at Stonehill College in Easton, MA, is married to Justin and they have two daughters also, Hanna (12) and Sara (10). Kathryn Gradwohl Flaminio teaches aerobics and yoga in St Paul, MN. She's married to Tony, an accountant and comptroller and they have a daughter Sophia (5) and a son Joshua (3).

The Gradwohls were co-founders of the Ames Jewish Congregation and Hanna served as the first female president of a Jewish congregation in Iowa. She's a retired social worker from Heartland AEA #11 but is still very busy with her volunteer activities. She currently volunteers for Hospice and reads the Ames Tribune once a week for IRRIS (Iowa Radio

Reading Information Service). Hanna loves to read, garden, and cook. She has served on the boards of the Ames Children's Theater and the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center.

Hanna says this is a very good recipe to make during August and September when the blue plums are available in Iowa. She says the cut plums look like flying black birds.

The JEWISH PRESS thanks Hanna for sharing this third generation Apfelkuchen recipe with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or want the PRESS to find a particular recipe, call Karen Engman at 515-274-3300 or

email aengmandsm@yahoo.com.
*NOTE: The Settlement Cook Book mentioned by Hanna for its brownie recipe was a standard in many Jewish homes. I know I learned to cook from its many recipes and still use it today as a cooking resource. It was originally written by Mrs. Simon Kander (Lizzie) in 1901 to teach young Jewish immigrant girls to cook nutritious "American style" meals for their families.
The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is looking to display some of these older Jewish cookbooks. Contact Karen Engman or Kryss Phillips (515-277-6321 Ext 217).

German Apfelkuchen A Recipe from Hanna Gradwohl Dairy

- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 cups flour, sifted with 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 egg
- Mix by hand and throw the dough onto countertop 15 times. Press over bottom, sides of 18"x12"x1" jellyroll pan
- 8-10 apples (Jonathan, preferred)
- ½ cup or more raisins
- ½ cup sugar
- Cinnamon
- ¼ cup lemon juice

Peel, core and thinly slice apples. Sprinkle with lemon juice and sugar as you slice to keep apples from discoloring. Arrange slices, slightly overlapping in rows across width of the crust.

Sprinkle with cinnamon and scatter raisins over the apples.

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 2 cups half & half
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2-3 Tbsp lemon juice
- ¼- ½ cup sugar
- Mix above ingredients until well blended. The custard should taste tart but sweet. Carefully ladle over apples to cover.
- Bake 1 hour @ 350 until custard is set and beginning to brown. Cool and refrigerate several hours or overnight before serving..
- ZWETSCHEGE KUCHEN
- For Italian prune plums, wash, halve and halve again without cutting through completely, remove pits. Arrange in rows on same dough as above, spreading the plums apart a bit. Omit cinnamon and raisins. Cover with custard and bake as above. Hanna calls this "Black Bird Pie" because the plums resemble birds in flight

[next generation]
Elliot Bear

by Robin Bear



Elliot Bear is an avid outdoorsman. He spends as much time as his schedule allows hiking and camping, canoeing and kayaking. He enjoys fishing and hunting and being outdoors with friends.

Last month Elliot traveled to Colorado with the Valley High School Outdoor Club. He loved the opportunity to be snowboarding the mountains of Winter Park with his friends. The group of about 30 students traveled with two teachers to and from Colorado by train and spent three days snowboarding and skiing.

Elliot lives in West Des Moines with his parents, Phil and Robin Bear and his younger brother, Mason. His older sister, Chelsea, attends college as a freshman at University of Colorado in Boulder. Elliot and his entire family, including his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins are all members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

This year Elliot is co-president of USY, United Synagogue Youth, with his co-chair, Tali Simon. Together they have planned and participated in events such as trips to the Science Center to view IMAX, a sushi and hamantashen dinner to celebrate Purim, a Chinese dinner followed by a movie on Christmas eve, and for Passover they cleaned the kitchen in preparation for the seder.

Elliot has always had a passion and talent for art and he has enjoyed taking art classes at the Des Moines Art Center, especially in ceramics. He has had several pieces chosen by his art teacher placed on display at the Central Iowa Metro League Art Show and he continues his art classes this semester at Valley High School.

Elliot is a senior at Valley High School where he has participated in tennis, ultimate frisbee, Outdoor Club and the Silver Cord Program. The Silver Cord program promotes community service by asking students to participate in 40 hours of service for each of the four years that they are in high school. Students who accumulate 160 hours of community service adorn their graduation robes with a silver cord to signify completion of the program. Elliot is working to complete his final 40 hours this spring. Elliot believes the program has been beneficial to the Des Moines community.

For the past two summers Elliot has worked as a counselor at Camp Thunderbird, a summer camp in Bemidji, Minnesota. He plans to work there again this summer as both a counselor and a lifeguard. Currently, Elliot works part-time at Scheels All Sports where he has been a cashier and salesman for the past two years.

With graduation close at hand, Elliot is busy making decisions about a choice of college this fall. He has narrowed his choice to the University of Iowa or the University of Colorado. We wish him good luck this fall.

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[history]

Abir-a Biblical Martial Art Fighting Technique of Israelite Warriors

Origin of the Name and System

Abir is a Hebrew word meaning powerful, a warlord, palace guard, protector of royalty, warrior, bodyguard, or a defender. It is derived from a three letter Hebrew root which means to soar above protectively. Biblical references for the word include the following sections of the Tanakh: Genesis 49:24, Psalms 76:6, and Psalms 68:31.

While complete records with exact details of a martial art of actual moves and system of fighting forms are not extent in Judaic historical accounts, the biblical account testifies to fighting and combat strategies used by the ancient Israelites as well as legendary accounts of Israelite combatants.

For example, in the Sefer HaYashar 56:9 among the last words of Jacob to his son Judah: Only teach thy sons the bow and all weapons of war, in order that they may fight the battles of their brother who will rule over his enemies.

Post Biblical Accounts

According to a number of accounts there have been for some time, Middle Eastern and Asian Jewish communities who were either known for their fighting prowess or were said to have maintained specific fighting techniques.

HALÉVY'S 19TH CENTURY OPERA “LA JUIVE” PERFORMED AGAIN IN PARIS

PARIS (EJP)–“*La Juive*” (The Jewess), was a renowned 19th-century opera by French composer Halévy performed in Paris. Created in 1835, “The Jewess” marked a whole generation of French musicians and drew praise from masters such as Wagner and Berlioz.

The 19th-century composer and music teacher Jacques Fromental Halévy is the author of numerous works, including 22 operas that went on stage in Paris. He is best known for his monumental opera, “The Jewess,” which received wide acclaim in Paris.

It was performed 562 times before being dropped from the repertoire and gained worldwide popularity.

The story is set in early 15th-century Switzerland, during a period of religious upheaval, and deals with the history of an impossible love between a Christian man and a Jewish woman.

The work is also a real plea for tolerance and thus is very topical today.

On the musical level, “The Jewess” is especially known for the aria “Rachel, quand du seigneur,” especially written for tenor Adolphe Nourrit, who interpreted the role of Eléazar.

[people]

Pinchas Kehati (1910-1976) is the author of the “Kehati Mishnayos” which is a popular commentary and elucidation on the entire Mishnah, the first recording of the oral law.

Pinchas Kehati worked as a teller in the Israeli Bank, Bank Mizrachi. He was not a rabbi. Even though he was a Religious Zionist, his works are still accepted in Haredi (ultra-Orthodox) communities.

Kehati wanted to spread Torah throughout the world, so he sought to write clear, concise and easy-to-read explanations on this classic text for individual and academic use. He wrote his commentary in modern Hebrew,

The Habbani Jews

In 1912 Zionist emissary Shmuel Yavnieli came into contact with Habbani Jews who ransomed him when he was captured and robbed by eight Bedouin in southern Yemen. Yavnieli wrote about the Jews of Habban, describing them in the following way: “The Jews in these parts are held in high esteem by everyone in Yemen and Aden. They are said to be couragous, always with their weapons and wild long hair, and the names of their towns are mentioned by the Jews of Yemen with great admiration.”

The Jews of Tirdirma

According to a West African Arabic record called the Tarikh el-Fetash, in 1402 in Tirdirma, near the Niger river, lived a community of Jews known as the Bani Israeel who were said to have seven rulers, 333 wells, and a well trained army. The record suggests that their presence there had preceeded the rise of Islam.

It is believed that any fighting techniques maintained by Jews would most likely have been similar to the Egyptian wrestling as well as grappling and weaponized fighting styles used in the Middle East for centuries.

Based on an article from wikipedia.com

Halévy was born in 1799 in Paris to a German-Jewish father and a French-Jewish mother, 10 years after the French Revolution.

He grew up under the early years of the Napoleonic regime, a time of great freedom for Jews and he assimilated entirely into society.

Napoléon offered French citizenship to all Jews in his empire no matter where they lived and he tore down all ghetto walls.

The goal of the libretto was to re-evaluate the status of the Jew in society, as some novels of the time did (for example Balzac’s “the Human Comedy”).

Once considered to be one of the masterworks of the French lyrical theatre, “La Juive” has been neglected in recent years, mainly because of its subject matter – Roman Catholic religious intolerance and anti-Semitism in medieval Europe.

It is, for example, no coincidence that the piece was never shown during the 1930s, during the rise of fascism in Europe.

Halévy’s ‘La Juive’ was performed at the Opéra Bastille in March.

Courtesy of the European Jewish Press, online at www.ejpress.org

which is spoken in both the Religious Zionist and secular communities in Israel.

Between 1955 and 1964, he published a weekly pamphlet which was hand-delivered to 5,000 subscribers. In each pamphlet, he explicated 14 Mishnayos (two per day), two laws from the code book of Jewish life (Shulchan Aruch), two laws from Maimonides, and a selection from the Hebrew Bible (Tanakh.) After a few years, his pamphlets were published as books and many editions were printed.

The Kehati commentaries online at www.moresheet.net/oldsite/mishna/archiveshabbat.htm

State Law Mandates Targeted Divestment from Sudan

Owing to the severity of the ongoing victimization by the government of Sudan of its own people, actions which have been termed genocide by the U.S. government and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, legislation was introduced into the Iowa General Assembly calling for divestment of certain public funds from companies doing business in Sudan by the treasurer of state, public retirement systems in Iowa, and the state board of regents.

On Wednesday, April 4, Governor Culver signed Senate File 361, Iowa’s targeted divestment legislation, into law. Iowa thus becomes the eighth state to have passed such legislation.

On the national level, American Jewish World Service worked closely on this bill with the Sudan Divestment Task Force,

JCPA reaffirms its Commitment to Combat Iran’s Quest for Nuclear Weapons

WASHINGTON, DC At its annual Plenum in Washington, DC, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) underscored its commitment to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. At a resolution session during the four-day conference, JCPA members vowed to develop a comprehensive and strategic approach toward activism on the issue that would best utilize the expertise, assets, and relationships of a system with 13 national agencies and over 100 community-based organizations.

A related JCPA taskforce will hold an expedited session in the coming weeks to discuss the appropriate strategy for the organization. The task force will explore utilizing a variety of mechanisms, including divestment.

“Preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons has emerged as the community’s top priority, and our objective is clear,” said Rabbi Steve Gutow, JCPA’s executive director.

ISRAEL PRIZE GOES TO UJC FEDERATION PARTNER, JDC-ISRAEL

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee-Israel (JDC-Israel) has won the coveted Israel Prize, the Jewish state’s equivalent of the Nobel Prize, for its work helping to solve Israel’s most pressing social challenges.

The JDC, and the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), are the primary partners of UJC/the Federations of North America in meeting the needs of Jews in Israel and around the world. Federations, through UJC, fund JDC and JAFI programs.

JDC-Israel was awarded the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement and Special Contribution to Society and the State of Israel. Israel’s Prime Minister, Ehud Olmert, presented the prize on Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Independence Day, on April 24, in a state ceremony in Jerusalem, along with Israel’s president, the chair of Israel’s Knesset and the chief justice of Israel’s Supreme Court.

“This honor recognizes the way in which JDC has become such a deeply woven part of the Israeli social fabric ~ something which could not have been possible, of course, without the generosity and leadership of the Jewish Federations of North America and their supporters,” said Steven Schwager, executive vice-president of the JDC.

“We at JDC, both lay leaders and professionals, believe this award is for JDC and its strategic partners. JDC could never do its job

which had established an Iowa office. AJWS reports that every Jewish institution in the state was called and asked to support the bill. Locally, the Jewish Community Relations Commission took part in the needed advocacy, along with the Des Moines Interfaith Coalition on the Crisis in Sudan and DesMoinesforDarfur.

Support for the similar legislation has been advocated by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which passed a resolution at its national conference in February calling for such measures to be taken, given the seriousness of the situation in Darfur. JCPA’s resolution may be found online at www.jewishpublicaffairs.org.

The text of the Iowa bill, SF 361 can be accessed online at www.legis.state.ia.us.

“We are working to arouse the political will of the international community to take vigorous economic and diplomatic measures, not to punish the Iranian people, but to persuade the regime in Tehran to desist from its quest for nuclear weapons,” Rabbi Gutow said. “We view this as an existential threat not just to Israel but to the entire civilized world.”

The taskforce will work to incorporate a variety of essential elements into the strategy including developing a framework for educating and mobilizing the Jewish community and its allies in the broader community; creating vehicles for communicating with senior representatives of the Administration, members of Congress and officials in state and local governments; and working to influence key foreign governments and their leaders.

More information on JCPA’s work can be found at www.jewishpublicaffairs.org.

without the support of the UJC/Federation system. Please consider this award as recognition for our entire system,” he added.

“Your leadership has been there for us for generations. We look forward to working together for the Jewish people in Israel and around the world for generations to come.”

UJC President and CEO Howard Rieger echoed Schwager’s comments. “This is a wonderful honor for our federation system and for the great works we support through JDC-Israel, our valued collaborative partners on the ground in Israel and across the global Jewish community,” Rieger said.

Toni Young of Delaware, chair of UJC’s Israel & Overseas Pillar, said the award reflected the lasting impact of JDC-Israel, in its works with the elderly, new immigrants, at-risk youth and other groups, and the strategic partnership behind those works involving JDC and UJC/Federations.

The Israel Emergency Campaign, to help the Jewish state recover from last summer’s Second Lebanon War, was just the most recent example of that partnership, she added. “Whether bringing activity kits to children in bomb shelters during the Second Lebanon War, or providing trauma counseling for the war’s victims, the JDC ~ and our system ~ has extended a helping hand to those in need,” she said.

ANOLIK'S QUANGO NAMED NO. 10 "BEST SMALL COMPANY TO WORK FOR IN OREGON"

David Anolik, son of Charles and Adele, grew up at Tifereth Israel Synagogue and graduated from the University of Iowa School of Art; he set up their animation equipment prior to graduation.

A Place for Hard Work — and Naps

By Abraham Hyatt, Oregon Business Magazine, March 2007

It's mid-morning in Quango's cramped offices in Lake Oswego. The design and marketing company is slowly getting ready to move and boxes are scattered between cubicles.

In the office of vice president and creative director Dave Anolik, a handful of the company's 18 employees are gathered around his desk, drooling over posters for the Portland Jazz Festival, one of Quango's clients.

They're gorgeous: handmade by a third-generation letterpress printer in Minnesota. On some, the printer brushed across the still-wet ink, creating deep texture in the orange-ish background. They're individually unique works of art, made for framing, not phone poles.

Off to one side stands a small, 23-year-old woman with a cheek-splitting smile. Ashley Carter designed the posters and just came back from three days in the Midwest, where she took part in the printing process. Carter bubbles with excitement when she talks about the trip and her shock when Anolik asked her if she wanted to go. She's so

blissful that it's not hard to believe her when she says it was the best experience of her professional life — which started six months before with an internship at Quango.

Thirty-six-year-old president Sean Henderson started Quango six years ago. Two years later Anolik, 44, came on board. The two of them are almost as excited as their employees. Anolik came from Intel and a small design company; Henderson's done nearly every job in the industry, from pressman to executive account director at an ad agency. Both say their job at Quango — which billed for almost \$3 million in services last year — is to be mentors to a creative group of employees.

And since they've hired 100% of their interns, that mentoring starts soon after they begin perusing candidates from the nation's top design schools. It's a paid, highly competitive program that requires interns to be ready to work on big-name-company projects right off the bat. There are no menial tasks, only the expectation to play a significant role in a company whose clients range from Hewlett-Packard and Dell to Adidas and Lego.

Quango doesn't just mentor its interns. Henderson and Anolik describe how they try to turn even the most mundane job for a client into a teaching experience. Their goal is to give designers the tools they'll need for whatever work they do at Quango or beyond.

The company also intentionally takes on jobs that let its staff designers grow creatively, like the Portland Jazz Festival. "One reason we're doing this is because we're big music lovers, but this lets people spread their wings," says Anolik. "It's also very public: national magazines, the web, posters, banners."

And it lets someone like Carter, who joined Quango as an intern in July last year and was hired in October, fly to Minnesota to hang out with a typesetter who uses printing equipment that's more than 100 years old. She says the friends she graduated with are jealous of the work she's doing and the environment she works in.

"We can wear what we want, we can have blue hair," she says. "They don't have jobs that have this kind of creativity."

But it's not all fun and blue hair at Quango. Henderson says the amount of



David Anolik and his mom Adele

benefits they offered from the first day made it much harder for the company in its early years. He and Anolik know it'll be a challenge to maintain the company's creative culture as the need for a human resource director and employee handbooks looms.

But the men are radiant when they talk about their future growth. And soon the company will have a new space near downtown Portland. The offices have four decks overlooking the Willamette River and a nap room — a must for those working the occasional 80-hour week.

From Oregon Business Magazine, online at www.oregonbusiness.com

Darfur from page 1

It is up to the Jewish community to do its part to educate American and European audiences about the frightening dangers posed by a radical regime in Iran aggressively pursuing nuclear weapons. We need to do this because the United States and its European allies must adopt smart policies to confront this danger to the world.

Our task is all the more challenging and pressing because the deteriorating situation in Iraq makes people wary of another Middle East involvement. Instead, they prefer to stick their heads in the sand.

American Jews were far too quiet during the Holocaust, and millions of Jews, including most of my family in Europe, died as a result. We cannot repeat these mistakes now, when once again millions of Jews and non-Jews are at imminent risk. The Jewish community cannot allow the phrase "never again" to become meaningless.

Americans and Europeans must first understand the danger if they are going to support smart policies that can stop the threat of Iran without military action. We need to push hard for real sanctions and economic leverages against Iran so that war can be avoided later.

We don't have a moment to waste. Nothing is more menacing than the prospect of an Iran with nuclear weapons. Those of us who love Israel — regardless of whether we are from the left or the right — need to put aside our internal bickering and work together.

Iran is already the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism. Iran was behind the bombing of a Jewish center in Argentina and the attack on American soldiers at the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia. Iran funds, trains and arms Hezbollah, which provoked a war with Israel last summer, firing more than 4,000 missiles into Israel's north.

Iran is also behind the groups that have shot more than 1,300 missiles toward

Israel from the south since Israel left Gaza. And Iran is attempting to build up Hamas and prepare it to wage the same kind of war against Israel that Hezbollah did.

While Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is repeatedly denying that the Holocaust happened and threatening to "wipe" Israel "off the map," he is also declaring that a world without America is "attainable" and "surely can be achieved." Subscribing to a radical strain of Islam, Ahmadinejad believes it is his religious destiny to provoke a violent confrontation with the West to help bring about the return of the "Twelfth Imam," or "Mahdi," a messianic figure who will, in turn, announce the end of the world.

Does Ahmadinejad really believe this? His actions indicate that he does. As president, Ahmadinejad gave some \$20 million to the mosque from which the Mahdi supposedly will emerge, and he proposes to shape all his economic, cultural and political policies around the Mahdi's return.

Previously, as Tehran's mayor, he ordered an urban reconstruction project so the city would be more presentable to the Mahdi when he arrives.

All that is frightening enough. But the radical regime over which Ahmadinejad presides is seeking the one tool that could turn his apocalyptic vision into reality: nuclear weapons. Just imagine what would happen then.

Iran could arm its missiles with nuclear warheads and fire them at Israel, as well as at European and Middle Eastern countries. Iran could share its nuclear weapons with Hezbollah, Hamas, Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups that seek to destroy Israel or to bring down the United States or Western civilization. Or Iran could merely threaten to launch nuclear weapons itself or via its proxies against Israel, the United States or Europe in order to get its way.

The United States and its European allies have tried to convince Iran to drop its nuclear program, a program Iran kept

secret for 18 years until a dissident group brought it to light in 2002. These attempts have led nowhere. During negotiations over the past several years, Great Britain, France and Germany offered Iran a wide variety of incentives, including fuel for a peaceful, civilian nuclear program. Iran scoffed and pushed ahead.

The United Nations Security Council is finally starting to take Iran seriously. However, experienced leaders around the world are encouraging a dialogue with Iran in order to help solve problems in Iraq. But what price will Iran exact in order to offer assistance?

No one knows for sure when Iran will have the technology to develop nuclear weapons. Some intelligence sources estimate that it could be only a year away. But with each passing day, the Islamic Republic is making progress toward that goal.

Even without nuclear weapons, Iran is wreaking havoc in Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Afghanistan. What will Iran be like with nuclear weapons?

Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi is founder and president of The Israel Project. www.theisraelproject.org

Camp from page 1 Josh's experiences include Youth Director for informal Jewish programming and Director of Camp Edward Isaacs and Berkshire Hills-Emanuel Camps in New York. Previously, Josh had been the director at the New Jersey YWHA Camps in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

With Josh at the helm, our staff has been hand-selected to provide the highest quality of care. Josh also hand-picked our two returning Israeli Shlichim for this summer - Liat Dahan and Omri Tzanani. Both will continue to share their own individual skills and experiences as well as sharing their knowledge and love of Israel through Israeli Culture.

By now you should have received our brochure. If not, please contact our office at 277-5566 and we will be happy to send one to you. Our themes for this summer are:

Week 1 - Teamwork; Week 2 - Children's Garden; Week 3 - Money Makes the World Go Round; Week 4 - Maccabee Games; Week 5 - Fitness; Week 6 - Story Week; Week 7 - Architecture and Design; and Week 8 - Fashion. Besides our themes, our daily schedule includes instructional athletics where campers will practice teamwork, cooperation and try new and exciting sports activities. Campers will be able to develop their hidden talents through dance, drama and theater. Thursdays will be dedicated to horseback riding lessons or a special activities in the morning and swimming in the afternoon at Valley View Aquatic Center. On Fridays, we will continue to have our morning field trips and in the afternoon continue with our Shabbat Extravagaza.

This year, our campers will 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 Waukeg, which is only five minutes away. We will continue to offer transportation back to Tifereth Israel Synagogue at the end of daycare from The Caspe Terrace and will continue with our morning transportation to The Caspe Terrace from Tifereth Israel Synagogue with our second 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 children 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!

We are looking forward to seeing you this summer! If you have any questions, please call Lyanna Grund at 277-5566 or e-mail her at jcskkg@aol.com.

BETH EL JACOB

Sunday May 6 - Sisterhood Meeting - BEJ Library
Sunday May 6 - Lag B'Omer
Sunday May 20 - Parent's Day Brunch 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
Tuesday May 22 - Shavout
Tuesday May 22 - Congregational Dinner
Tuesday May 22 - Shavuot Learning - ALL NIGHT
Thursday May 24 - Shavout
Thursday May 24 - Yizkor
Sunday June 3 - Sisterhood Meeting 10:00 a.m. BEJ Library
Sunday June 10 - Annual BEJ Dinner & Gala Event,
Award of Merit honorees are Harlan and Helen Lekowsky

SHABBOS KIDUSHIM - Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush Lunch in memory of a loved one, Yahrzeit, a Birthday, Anniversary, or any other special event; or even as a way of showing gratitude to Hashem for all the wonderful things he is doing for us. Whatever the reason, please call the office or the Rabbi to reserve your special date.

BEJ LIBRARY NEWS - Beth El Jacob is happy to announce the creation of a new section in the Pruce Library; The Rabbi and Shirley Berg Children's Section will serve as a symbol of our love and appreciation for the more than thirty-six years of teaching and leadership that the Bergs have given and continue to give.

If you wish to share in the building and growth of this section of our library please contact Sue Lekowsky or the shul office.

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP had a brief hiatus for the Pesach holiday, and we hope, B'Ezrat HaShem, to start up again. The group meets regularly on Sunday and Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the library. Sundays we discuss things primarily related to the Torah portion, Halacha, and the Siddur. Tuesdays we discuss "Strive for Truth," by Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler. No prior study or knowledge is needed, only your presence and your insights. Please join us as often as you can. If you want to own a set of the books we are using, contact Marcie Berkson at 223-1036 and leave a message. She will be ordering more books, and we should have what we need by the time we meet again. Also, please let her know your e-mail address if you have one, so she can contact you about last minute schedule changes, should that be necessary.

COME BE A PART OF A WORLDWIDE ORGANIZATION - ANEINU
This organization provides groups with complete sets of Tehillim (Psalms) booklets, and just celebrated their 13th year of existence. Beth El Jacob has been a part of this wonderful endeavor for over 18 weeks. Come and join the women of our community in reciting the whole book of Tehillim (Psalms) every Shabbat afternoon thirty minutes after morning services. The Book is divided into small booklets, and we all read what we can in Hebrew or in English, at our own pace to ourselves, until all the booklets have been read each week. This usually takes about a half hour, and is dedicated each week either to healing, in memory of someone, for a shidduch, or all of the above. All women are welcome to participate in this worthwhile and beneficial project that benefits our Des Moines community.

Please remember to contact the office or Rabbi Schwarzbaum if you or your loved ones are hospitalized, in a nursing home or care facility, or wish home visits. Do not assume the "word of mouth" will provide us with this information. With the advent of the new privacy laws, we only receive your name if you release the information yourself.

THIRD ANNUAL TRIBUTE DINNER & GALA, JUNE 10
Beth El Jacob will hold its Third Annual Tribute Dinner and Gala, but this year with some major changes. Recently the Board of Directors re-named their Community Service Award after Rob Borsellino, the former Des Moines Register columnist and recipient of the first award given by the congregation in 2005. In announcing the change, Board President Barbara Leventhal said, "The congregation was moved by Rob's commitment to many of the same ideals we hold to be important with regard to service to the community at large as well as the sense of justice and fairness that he exhibited in his work. We felt compelled to honor him by renaming our award." The congregation also adopted the following set of guidelines as they make plans to honor the 2007 award recipient.

- That the nominee have a history of speaking on behalf of people and individuals who, in their own right have little voice or political power.
- That the nominee have a history and focus on quality of life and human life issues.
- That the nominee have a positive relationship with the Jewish Community.
- That the nominee has a history of active community life.

In addition to The Beth El Jacob / Rob Borsellino Community Service Award the congregation board also created a new award known as the **Friend of Beth El Jacob Award** of Honor. This award is intended to recognize individuals who are not Jewish but who have demonstrated their willingness to offer their time and financial assistance to the synagogue. The third award is the Award of Merit which is given to an outstanding member of the congregation and recognizes their work on behalf of the synagogue.

The award recipients for 2007 are: Judge Odell McGee – BEJ/Borsellino Community Service Award; Ben & Sue Khan – Friend of Beth El Jacob; Harlan & Helen Lekowsky – Annual Award of Merit. The recipient of the 2006 Community Service Award was First Lady Christie Vilsack, recognized for her work in literacy and children's learning programs.

Beth El Jacob was founded in 1881 and is one of only two Iowa based synagogues affiliated with the Orthodox Union. For more information visit www.BethElJacob.org

B'nai Mitzvah



Anna Zilbermints
Saturday, May 5th
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Viktor and Viktoriya Zilbermints invite you to share in their happiness when their daughter, Anna, is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah Saturday, May 5, 2007, at 9:00 am at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. A Kiddush Luncheon will be served following the Morning Service.



Zvi Isaac Cramer
Saturday, May 19
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
With the richness of tradition and with the promise of tomorrow we invite you to share this special moment as Zvi Isaac Cramer becomes a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 19, 2007, at 9:00 am at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. A luncheon will follow Services. Michael and Yvette Cramer



Moses Sloven
Saturday, May 26th
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Please join us as our son, Moses Jonathan Sloven, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 26, 2007. Services begin at 9:00 am and all are invited to a Kiddush luncheon following. – Rose and Dan Sloven



Tommy Stern
Saturday, June 9th
Temple B'nai Jeshurun
John and Randi Stern invite you to celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of their son Tommy on Saturday, June 9th at 10:00 am. The community is invited to a Kiddush luncheon following the service in the Temple Social Hall.



Louis Bassman
Saturday, June 16
Temple B'nai Jeshurun
Ronald and Susan Bassman are pleased to announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Louis Bassman, on June 16 at 10:00 am at the Temple. The community is cordially invited to a Kiddush luncheon following services.



Stephen Wahlig
Saturday, June 30th
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Laurie and Joe Wahlig invite the Jewish Community to join the celebration as their son, Stephen, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, June 30th at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. A Kiddush luncheon will follow the service.

Annual Tribute Awards and Gala Dinner

Honoring

Judge Odell McGee

Beth El Jacob / Rob Borsellino Community Service Award

Harlan & Helen Lekowsky

Award of Merit

Ben & Sue Khan

Friends of Beth El Jacob

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Reception 4:30PM

Beth El Jacob

Des Moines • 954 Cummins Parkway

Dinner & Greeting \$75

Dinner Only \$54

RSVP – 515-274-1551

WEDDING



Natalie Rosenfeld daughter of Dr. Martin Rosenfeld and Dr. Beverly Kanawati of Des Moines IA and **Christopher Kurtz** of Raleigh, NC were married Jan. 3rd in Raleigh NC.

GRADUATE



Rachel Salowitz, daughter of proud parents, Debra and Neil Salowitz, is graduating with high honors from Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT in May. She majored in English and Theatre, and plans to pursue an acting career after college.

THE JUDAIC RESOURCE CENTER

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Come and hear the reading of the Ten Commandments for the 3,319th time. An experience for the whole family. Become a sworn in Jew for the coming year, by proclaiming, **"I will do and I will hear."**

Schedule of Services

Tuesday, May 22nd:

8:15pm Mincha

9:15pm Maariv Followed by Chassidic melodies

12:00am Tikun Lail Shavuot

Wednesday May 23rd:*

9:00am One-on-one learning

11:00am Aseret Hadibrot – The Ten Commandments

10:00am Shacharit

8:20pm Mincha - Kabbalah Class

9:30pm Maariv

Thursday, May 24th:

10:00am Shacharit

11:30am Yizkor

8:20pm Mincha followed by Maariv

Wednesday, June 23rd

***A Dairy Kiddush with Ice cream, Cheese cake, Blintzes and more.**

The Judaic Resource Center 943 Cummins Parkway Please R.S.V.P. 515-277-1718

Mazel Tov

Rabbi David Kaufman gave the invocation to the State Legislature on March 27.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Abe Clayman

Adeline Jacobs

Murray Lipsman

Robert E. Mannheimer

STAY CONNECTED

Send your new e-mail address to jcrc@dmjfed.org

RECENT GRADUATES

Share the good news! A photo and announcement of graduations can be submitted by May 30, for publication in the July/August '07 edition. Send to: Jewish Press, 910 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312 or by e-mail to jcrc@dmjfed.org

JWV to Place Flags for Memorial Day

Memorial Day is commemorated Monday, May 28. If you know of a grave of a Jewish war veteran in Glendale Cemetery that needs an American flag, please contact JWV representative Jerry Geller at 276-3222.

Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center Twenty Years and Counting

By Stephen P. Blend, M.H.A.

In case you haven't heard, on May 6, 2007 there will be a celebration at The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center. A Celebration? What Gives? Well, I'll tell you. It's time to say THANK YOU to everyone who gave of themselves and their treasure to make Memory Care at Boulevard Place a reality. While the new Alzheimer's/Memory Care unit has been open since November, 2006, it won't be until May 6 that we formally dedicate the new unit and thank those magnanimous donors - big and small - that made this long-dreamt of facility a reality.

But this celebration is more than that. It also affords the opportunity to acknowledge the generosity of all of our other donors who have shown their support of The Life Center during the past year.

Last, but certainly not least, we will also be acknowledging the gifts of those remarkable donors whose gifts made The Life Center on Polk a reality. Yes, as hard as it may be to believe, this May marks the 20th anniversary of the opening of The Jewish Home's "new home" on Polk Boulevard.

Those visionaries and planners who over two-decades ago saw the need to bring into existence a new, modern elder care facility and whose energy and philanthropy made The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center a reality deserve to, once again, be thanked for their remarkable accomplishment. Calling to us individually, and collectively, to take a moment to reflect on the love and respect which imbues the mission of The Life Center and on the countless ways in which The Life Center has served its community.

Whether to meet "traditional" needs such as for long term care, or for exceptional rehabilitative services, or for respite care to give brief pause to the responsibilities of caregivers, or to enhance the life of individuals with cognitive impairment, The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center continually strives to adapt and grow in its abilities to maintain its unwavering commitment to serve.

Come join The Celebration on Sunday, May 6, 2007/18 Iyar 5767 from 2:00-4:00 P.M. to honor all those whose generosity has made such a difference in the lives of so many.

Community Explores Biomedical Issues

Forty-five Des Moines area Jewish health professionals and attorneys gathered at the Clive home of Dr. Jeff and Jan Farber for a special brunch and presentation on ethical issues in biomedical law on Sunday, February 18. The presenter was Israeli Prof. Daniel Sinclair who served this winter as a visiting faculty member at Fordham University in New York. The program, co-chaired by David Adelman and Dr. David Friedgood was sponsored by the Federation's "All-In-One" Campaign.

Later that same afternoon, another 45 members of the Jewish community came to The Caspe Terrace to hear Professor Sinclair's presentation exploring Jewish ethical issues related to stem cell research and assisted reproduction. The program was co-sponsored by The Caspe Terrace Programming Committee and the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

Prior to the presentation, participants had the opportunity to be guided through The Iowa Jewish Medical Community: Heritage of Healing exhibit in The Caspe Heritage Gallery. The exhibit highlights Iowa's proud medical tradition featuring medical professionals from throughout

the state. Iowa Jewish Historical Society Board Member Melanie Sandler served as chair of the event.

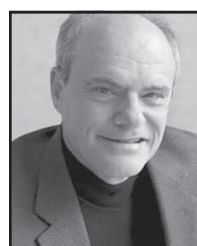


Pictured with Prof. Sinclair are: Neil Salowitz, Federation's President-Elect and David Gradwohl



L-R: Toni Urban, Federation President; Prof. Daniel Sinclair, Neil Salowitz, and Melanie Sandler

Middle East expert Stein presented at ISU and Des Moines in March



In March, Dr. Kenneth W. Stein, Professor of Contemporary Middle Eastern History, Political Science and Israeli Studies at Emory University presented a formal lecture on the challenges of constructing American policy in the Middle East at Iowa State University. Stein, who served as an academic aide to former president Jimmy Carter, co-authored a book with Carter, and was the first Executive Director of the Carter Center, also spoke earlier in the day in Des Moines about Carter's recent book about the Middle East. Stein criticized Carter's

book for its historical "omissions, falsehoods, and gross inventions" and not for Carter's expression of opinion. (Former president Bill Clinton has since come out questioning where Carter came up with his information and conclusions.) Subsequent to his visit to Iowa, Stein was among the speakers at the AIPAC Conference in Washington, D.C. Stein's presentation at ISU was sponsored by the ISU Lectures Program, the ISU Hillel and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. His appearance in Des Moines was sponsored by the JCRC.

An article by Ken Stein, "My Problem with Jimmy Carter's Book," may be found online at www.meforum.org/article/1633.

for all you need to know
jewishdesmoines.org

CONNECT WITH THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER DES MOINES

The "EWAHS"

-Written and submitted by Joel Bassman of West Des Moines



From left: Sammie and Rae Grund; Phil and Betty Epstein; Abe and Beverly Rosenfeld; Morrie and Shirley Bassman; Davey and Gertrude Bassman; Julius and Lillian Epstein; Ray and Doris Chrenen

In 1944, a group of dear friends in Des Moines formed a "club" that met every Sunday night. At these gatherings, the couples would alternate homes each Sunday night, where each host and hostess would prepare a lavish meal. After the meal, all the women would play mah-jongg; the men would play poker. They never missed a Sunday night.

Abe Rosenfeld (pictured) was the patriarch of the group and named the group "The

EWAHS." This group was active until 1970.

This picture was taken on May 14, 1950, in the clubhouse at Tifereth Israel Synagogue in Des Moines, Iowa. The occasion of the picture was that all of the pictured couples decided to host a huge party for all of their friends. According to my mom, Shirley Bassman, approximately 225 people were in attendance.

The name EWAHS stood for: E-very W-eek A-nother H-ost.

THANKS:

IJHS gratefully acknowledges the Blumenthal Oral History Project's generous allowance which enabled us to copy over 30 oral history VHS tapes to DVD. Included in this collection are testimonies from Iowa's Holocaust survivors, local philanthropists, and other well-known community members.

If you would like to view a DVD from the IJHS collection, please call Krys at (515) 277-6321 x217 to make an appointment.

WANTED:

The IJHS needs your help! We are seeking donations of metal fire-proof file cabinets for some of our precious documents. Please call (515) 277-6321 x217. We are happy to provide tax documentation for your donation.

TRIBUTE FUND

Remember your dear ones with a tribute card from the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. Minimum \$5 donation per card. Contact Trudi Rosenfeld (515) 277-7521, 13537 Village Court, Clive, IA 50325-8503

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Please give the GIFT of a membership to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society! Gifts are tax-deductible. Membership in the IJHS will help to preserve the history and irreplaceable treasures of the Jews in Iowa. A gift membership includes The Chaiowan, a bi-annual newsletter packed with information and interesting items concerning the activities of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and Caspe Gallery and the history of Jews in Iowa.

Membership Levels:

- Individual \$36
- Patron \$100
- Sponsor \$500
- Benefactor \$1000
- Lifetime \$5000 (includes a case in the Caspe Heritage Gallery)

Please make checks payable to: Iowa Jewish Historical Society; 910 Polk Boulevard; Des Moines, IA 50312 For more information: (515) 277-6321 x217

David Kreamer, Sandy Pomerantz, Louise Sandler, David Rabinowitz, Dennis Kardon (on floor), Mrs. Safier (teacher/director), Helen Mischkeit, Bob Waldinger and Lynn Silverstein.

The IJHS extends great thanks to Joel Bassman for solving our puzzle.

The people were cast members in a play called *Come Blow Your Horn*, presented by Des Moines Jewish Community Center at Beth El Jacob synagogue in 1966.



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[calendar]

may/june

Tue, May 1	7:30 PM	Naomi Rosenblatt Lecture at The Caspe Terrace
Thu, May 3	7:00 PM	Learning Institute Classes at The Life Center
Sat, May 5	9:00 AM	Anna Zilbermint's Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sun, May 6	3:00 PM	Tifereth Annual Meeting
Thu, May 10	12:00 AM	Senior Adult Lunch at the Temple
Sun, May 13		JFCS End of School Program
Wed, May 16		Yom Yerushalayim
Thu, May 17	7:30 PM	AIPAC Community Event at Tifereth
Sat, May 19	9:15 AM	Zvi Cramer Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sun, May 20		Jewish Food Fair
Sun, May 20	10:00 AM	Beth El Jacob Parents' Day Brunch
Mon, May 21	7:00 PM	JFed Bd of Directors Meeting at Caspe Terrace
Sat, May 26	9:15 AM	Moses Sloven Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sun, June 3		Federation Annual Meeting at The Caspe Terrace
Sat, June 9	10:00 AM	Thomas Stern Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Sat, June 16	10:00 AM	Louis Bassman Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Thu, June 21	12:00 AM	Sr. Lunch at Tifereth, Musical program with Rabbi Padorr
Sun, June 24	5:00 PM	Beth El Jacob International Dinner
Sat, June 30	9:15 AM	Stephen Wahlig Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth

Oren from page 12

But by building his book around recurring themes, Oren created a work reminiscent of Shelby Foote's magnificent Civil War trilogy (which itself was reminiscent of "The Odyssey.") What made Foote's work both so memorable and so readable is that through roughly 3,000 pages of Civil War tales told often in excruciating detail, his story never flagged because each of those tales deftly illuminated certain timeless though unexpressed themes. In that regard, Oren's work is of course a more modest exercise. Oren's themes are limited, and his 600 page book isn't on the same scale as Foote's epic project.

Yet "Power, Faith and Fantasy" is by any normal literary scale an extremely ambitious endeavor, and Oren executed it with a skill comparable to Foote's. Each tale and every little vignette brings a compelling and often amazing story to the reader's attention. Figures as varied and as fascinating as Stephen Decatur, Ulysses S. Grant, Lew Wallace, Mark Twain, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt dance across the pages illuminating Oren's three themes. In spite of having no protagonist and little by way of conventional narrative thrust, "Power, Faith and Fantasy" is nearly impossible to put down.

2007 is still young, yet it is quite possible that the year will not see a better book.

Reprinted with permission of the author, Dean Barnett, who invites comments at soxblog@aol.com. Barnett's review originally appeared online February 11, 2007.

The timeline features a central horizontal line with various historical events marked by dates and illustrations. Above the line, from left to right: 1657 (Jews granted right of citizenship), 1870 (First Yiddish newspaper), 1886 (Statue of Liberty arrives in US), 1911 (Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire), 1964 (Jewish civil rights activists killed), and 1998 (Google founded). Below the line, from left to right: 1654 (23 Jews arrive in New Amsterdam), 1730 (First synagogue built in the US), 1883 (Emma Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus"), 1907 (Warner Brothers found film company), 1916 (First Jewish Supreme Court Justice), 1948 (State of Israel established), 1965 (Sandy Koufax ends streak), 1978 (Camp David Accords), 1993 (US Holocaust Museum opens), and 2006 (May is proclaimed Jewish American Heritage Month). Illustrations include a ship, a Star of David, a newspaper clipping, the Statue of Liberty, a factory, a baseball player, a film camera, a Supreme Court building, a portrait of a man, a group of people, and the Holocaust Museum.

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Passover Expo Sets Stage for Holiday

In March, the long-awaited Passover Expo brought over 200 children and adults to The Caspe Terrace for a festive program to highlight the Jewish celebration of freedom. A spirited assembly began the day with Passover songs led by Cantorial Soloist Laura Berkson and a presentation by our favorite local storyteller, "Nina Mouse." There were children's activities, Passover workshops and the opportunity to conveniently purchase Kosher-for-Passover foods, wines and gifts. A Model Matzah Factory was a huge hit where children explored the mitzvah of making, baking and tasting Matzah. Another popular activity was the ceramic studio, where Cynthia Shulman led families in painting seder plates and Elijah cups.

While the children were kept busy, the adults explored workshop topics such as: *The Last Supper and the Passover Seder* with Rabbi David Kaufman; *Why is this Night Different?* with Rabbi Beryl Padorr; *Freedom and The Message of Passover* with Rabbi Aaron Schwarzbau; *A Psycho-Kabbalistic Journey through the Seder Night* with Rabbi Meir Klein; *A Passover Dessert Cooking Demonstration* with Susan Madorsky; *How to Set A Beautiful Seder Table* with Robin Karney; and *Songs for your Passover Seder* with Laura Berkson.

It was a wonderful day for all who attended! The extravaganza was co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation Community School and its annual Ohringer Family Education Day, and The Caspe Terrace Programming Committee, in cooperation with area congregations.

Many thanks to the Passover Expo Committee: Tammy Abdulghani, Wendy and Alan Adato, Tracy Engman Finkelshiteyn, Lyanna Grund, Janelle Jaskolka, Silvia Klein, Andi Lipman, Frank Levy, Beth Ohringer, Shari and Steve Reitman. Also many thanks to: The Synagogue Gift shops of Beth El Jacob and Sue Lekowsky; Tifereth Israel Synagogue and Andi Duitch; Temple B'nai Jeshurun and Valerie Cohen; Chabad of Northeast Iowa, The Java Jews, Kil'n Time Studio, Kosher Express, and Maccabee's Deli.

