

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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celebrate shavuot

BEGINS THE EVENING OF JUNE 8



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FEDERATION'S ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 22 Nonie Darwish to Speak



The Jewish Federation's annual meeting, 6:30 pm Sunday, June 22 at The Caspe Terrace will feature author and media commentator, Nonie Darwish. Interviewed in the documentary "Obsession: Radical Islam's War Against the West," Ms. Darwish has been lecturing and writing on behalf of moderate Arabs and Arab Americans, informing Americans to the harsh realities of the Middle East.

Born in Cairo, Nonie was later raised in the Gaza Strip. In the 1950s, Egypt occupied Gaza and Gamal Abdel Nasser, who later became Egypt's president, appointed her father to lead the fedayeen guerilla operations, whose sole mission was to destroy Israel. As Nasser rallied the Arab world to wipe out the Jewish State. Arabs throughout the Middle East flooded into Gaza to join the fedayeen headed by Nonie's father, Lt. Col. Mustafa Hafaz. The fedayeen became the model for modern terrorist organizations.

Growing up in an environment of intense hatred, Nonie witnessed firsthand the death and destruction Fedayeen operations caused. By attending Gaza elementary schools, she and her siblings were indoctrinated in anti-Semitism at an early age.

Jews, she said, were portrayed as evil enemies of Islam who had no right to be in the region at all. "We were never told of the Middle East roots of Judaism and Christianity," Nonie says. Jews also were to be hated and feared. "I was told not to take any candy from strangers since it could be a Jew trying to poison me," Nonie recalls. Another common teaching in Nonie's upbringing was that Israeli soldiers, upon seeing a pregnant Arab woman, would bet on the sex of the child and then kill the woman and split open her womb to find out who had won.

"I learned that hate, vengeance and retaliation are important values to protect Islam and Arab honor," Nonie says, recalling her education as a young girl. "Self-criticism or questioning Arab teachings and leadership was forbidden and could only bring shame, dishonor and violence upon those who dared try."

The Federation will honor Rabbi Marshall and Shirley Berg at this year's Annual Meeting

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Shame on Us! by Elaine Steinger, Executive Director

In 1905, when our community forefathers and mothers had the good sense to begin planning for the future of our community, they created Jewish Family Services. Back then, they didn't need to tell the Jewish community about where their money was needed most. It was evident by the young hungry, homeless, immigrant children wandering the streets of Des Moines. It was easy to see where their hard-earned dollars were spent; they were saving lives.

Over the years, The Settlement House became the Jewish Community Center. There, our families learned English and vocational skills to help them become self-sufficient members of our community. The JCC provided daycare for many immigrant families. In World War I and World War II, it was the home-away-from-home for Jewish veterans. The JCC helped facilitate adoptions and became the heart of the Jewish community. JFS provided these services.

One hundred and three years later, we're still here, and with your help, we're still saving lives and families. Over the years, more and more silence has fallen over exactly what role the Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services takes in our community. SHAME ON US for not telling you how your All-In-One Campaign dollars impact many, many individuals in the Des Moines community. You should know that you are saving and changing lives.

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Israel's 60th Birthday Party, May 4

THE BIRTH OF THE STATE of Israel on May 14, 1948 fulfilled a Jewish dream that had endured for almost two thousand years of exile. The nation's development has been both turbulent and exhilarating—filled with wars, crises, celebrations, and seeming miracles too. Celebrate Israel's 60th with crafts and learning, messages of support from your elected officials, our students' art project on display, and a special tree planting, 9 am – noon, Sunday, May 4 at The Caspe Terrace. An Israeli lunch available for \$5 per person.

The Jewish Federation Community School will plant six trees at The Caspe Terrace in honor of Israel's six decades of independence. Contribute to the project and have your name listed in the commemorative certificate. You might also like to purchase a tree for \$18 to be planted in Israel by JNF and receive a tree certificate for the person being remembered or honored. To contribute to either fund, send your donations to JFCS, 924 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA, 50312 and specify ATTN: Israel@60 Trees or JNF.

WALK FOR ISRAEL SUNDAY, MAY 18

The Afikim Foundation, in solidarity with Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, has implemented a global project in celebration of Israel's 60th Anniversary – a first-time event designed to foster worldwide unity in support of the cherished homeland of the Jewish people.

A Des Moines community-wide "Walk the Land" event will be held on Sunday, May 18, at noon. Lunch will be available at 11:30 a.m. for \$5. The one mile walk will begin at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. The event is free. Across the country, all registrants 18 years of age or older will be entered into a post-walk drawing for one of ten tickets to Israel. Purchase an official T-shirt, water bottle and sling backpack with the "Walk the Land" logo for only \$5. Quantities are limited.

For more information contact Lyanna Grund at (515) 277-5566 or by email at jcsllkg@aol.com

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Learning About Tzedakah

Who Comes First?

A poor person who is one's relative has priority over all others, the poor within one's household have priority over other poor within one's city, and the poor within one's city have priority over the poor of another city, as it is stated, "To your poor and needy brother, in your land."

The proof text, again from Deuteronomy, refers to "your ... needy brother, in your land." This is taken as a warrant to help the poor nearby before turning to the needs of the poor in distant places. Since, in our own setting, "poor" stands for the needs of the Jewish community at large, the message is not difficult to translate.

The law is clear and unequivocal. Help the poor nearby before the poor far away: relative, household, city, and outward from there. The principle is less obvious than it seems. It is easier to feel sympathy for starving people somewhere else than to care for those who slip between the cracks of our own community. Out there, beyond the town you live in, are people without flaw and in need. But here where you see who needs and why, you may not find the matter pressing.

So we have a psychological motive to prefer to spread our generosity over hills and across oceans, to treat the poor near at hand as though they were not poor at all, but somehow inadequate. Life is easier when we do not see the nearer problems; if the poor may become invisible, we may go about our business with an easier conscience. For the poor make the rest of us uncomfortable. They bring out conflicting emotions: generosity, but also superiority; concern, but also a sense of power. These other feelings, superiority and power, leave us with a further sense - that of guilt. So it is easier to ignore the whole matter, at the same time giving generously for someone far away. That way seems to resolve all problems. Jewish law prohibits it.

Tzedakah Funds Are Available

Tzedakah funds provide direct monetary help to needy Jews living in our community. The funds serve individuals of all ages and are available for short-term emergency needs.

Funds are paid directly to institutions, doctors, pharmacies, utilities, etc.

Funding is made available through your contributions to the All-in-One Campaign, the David Tobis Fund, the Shalom Home Fund, the Hebrew Free Loan Fund and the Executive Director's Fund.

Your contributions provide:

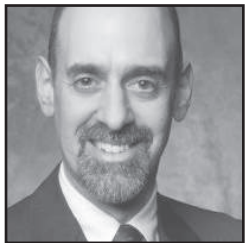
- Daycare for a working single mother
- CareMeals for ailing community members
- Tutoring for immigrants
- Transportation for Seniors
- Advocacy services
- Scholarships for Camp Shalom
- Help with medical equipment

Call Elaine Steinger, Executive Director, Jewish Federation and Jewish Family Services, at 277-6321, ext. 211. Confidentiality respected.

 **JEWISH**
FEDERATION
of Greater Des Moines

Message from the President

We Need Each Other



Neil Salowitz
President

Dear Friends:

The recent vote of our Reform and Conservative congregations to reject a proposed shared facility uncovered deep divisions in our community. Unfortunately, much of the discussion, both in public forums and in private conversations, focused on the negative aspects of sharing a facility. Underlying the debate was an ugly sense of “us versus them.” I heard too many people from both congregations talk about the other congregation and its members as if they were, truly, the “other,” instead of fellow Jews. The attitude seemed to be, “We don’t need them; they need us.”

We live in a very small community of Jews. Demographic forces have already reduced our number in the Des Moines area. The number of active Jews (defined as those who regularly attend religious services, serve on synagogue or Federation boards or committees or volunteer in Jewish organizations and institutions) is no more than a few hundred. We simply cannot afford to engage in internecine warfare.

What, then, can we do to rebuild a sense of community, not just between the members of B’nai Jeshurun and Tifereth Israel, but among ALL of our people—Chabad, Conservative, Orthodox and Reform (listed in alphabetical order, so as not to offend anyone)? If there is one thing on which we can all agree, it’s that we all disagree when it comes to level of observance and our relationship with halacha, of Jewish law. We need to respect each other’s ways of worship and levels of observance, even if we don’t agree with those fellow Jews whose practice is different from ours, but that respect isn’t enough to bring us together. That means, for example, that it will be difficult (though not impossible) to hold joint religious services that embrace all of our needs.

Short of an attack on Israel (G-d forbid), which always seems to unite Jews of every persuasion, two possible ways to bring us together are Jewish culture and Jewish tzedakah. We can, as a community, listen to Jewish music, watch Jewish films, hear Jewish speakers and read books with Jewish themes. We can, as a community, feed our hungry, clothe our naked and house our homeless—here, in Israel and around the world.

There is another way that we can rebuild our sense of community. We can host each other in our places of worship. I’m a member of Tifereth Israel, but when I attend services at B’nai Jeshurun or Beth El-Jacob, or sit at Reb Yossi’s table during Purim and drink until I don’t know the difference between “blessed be Mordechai” and “cursed be Haman,” I feel welcome, spiritually enriched and strengthened in my Judaism. Have you considered stepping out of your comfort zone and visiting a congregation other than your own for a service or social event? I think you’ll find it spiritually nourishing. (Physically nourishing, too, probably; since we’re Jews, there are very few events in this community that don’t include food.)

In all of this, I believe that the Jewish Federation has a special role to play. Our mission transcends denominational differences to embrace the entire Jewish community. Our facility at Caspe Terrace is open to all of our congregations. We sponsor cultural events (such as the recent Andy Statman concert) that appeal to all Jews. We also help put into practice those Jewish values set forth in Isaiah 58. (Don’t know what Isaiah 58 says? Look it up. It’s good stuff.)

However we do it, we need to strengthen the bonds of Jewish brotherhood and sisterhood among all of us. We need to feel like mishpacha again. I have always believed that the things that unite us are much more powerful than the things that divide us. Let’s work on it together.

Shalom,
–Neil

NEWS FIX TO GO

Need a quick update on news in Israel? Go to jcommunitynews.blogspot.com Or request an e-mail subscription from jcrc@dmjfed.org.

Connect to news and local Jewish community resources from JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

Modigliani Heralded

MADRID (EJP)—The exhibition “Modigliani and his Times”, which concluded recently at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in Madrid, brought together over 120 works which not only displayed the work of the Italian-Jewish artist but aimed to analyze and frame his oeuvre within the time-frame of his relationships with other artists, friends, lovers, dealers and critics during one of the most fruitful years of early 20th Century European art.

Amedeo Clemente Modigliani was born in 1884 in Livorno, Tuscany, in northwestern

Italy into a Jewish family. He began his artistic studies in Italy before moving to Paris in 1906. He died in the French capital of tubercular meningitis at the age of 35.

The curator of the Madrid show, Francisco Calvo Serraller, went to great lengths to illustrate how the young painter was influenced by the Salon d’Automne in Paris 1907 with the work of Gauguin, Cezanne and Lautrec.

Serraller explained how Cezanne had managed to resolve the conflict between Old Masters and the avant-garde to the academically trained Italian.

Picasso’s African-inspired work, followed by that of the Romanian Brancusi, gave rise to Modigliani’s sculptures which were to occupy him for almost five years.

The next phase were his many portraits which included those of the Mexican artist Diego Rivera, Juan Gris and the Jewish writer and intellectual Max Jacob.

Moise Kisling and Chaim Soutine were friends and this group from the so-called Ecole de Paris appeared to have influenced each other’s output.

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

APPALLED

Dear Editor,
I am appalled at the article you published in last month’s Jewish Press, written by my nephew David Moskowitz. The article contains the implication that my husband, Uncle Raymond [last name withheld] used a medieval scepter to shoo away wretched refuse on the New York City subway. Nothing could be further from the truth. He used a brand new Wretched Refuse-Matic Scepter, which allowed him to travel to his sewing machine factory in peace. Please correct this inaccuracy.

–Sincerely,
Aunt Harriet [last name withheld]

THE GREATER DES MOINES

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. 24 No. 5, May/June 2008



CAMP SHALOM Shlichim Bring Israeli Culture To Engman Camp Shalom

Two Israeli shlichim, recommended to us through the Jewish Community Center's summer Shlichim Program, will work at Engman Camp Shalom this summer. The Youth and Hehalutz Department and Jewish Agency's Security Department within the Government of Israel have carefully screened each of our shlichim. Each one goes through an extensive interview process, has references checked and participates in a week long shlichim orientation seminar. Their purpose at our camp is to impart a love of Jewish culture to campers and serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Jewish State.



Gal Halperin



Maayan Blich

Serving as our Israeli Culture Camp Specialist, the shlichim will help lead daily "hatifka" (cheer), Hatikva (Israeli National Anthem), and a Hebrew word of the day. Other duties include: planning Shabbat on Friday afternoons, teaching Israeli culture and crafts and helping with all of the other camp programs.

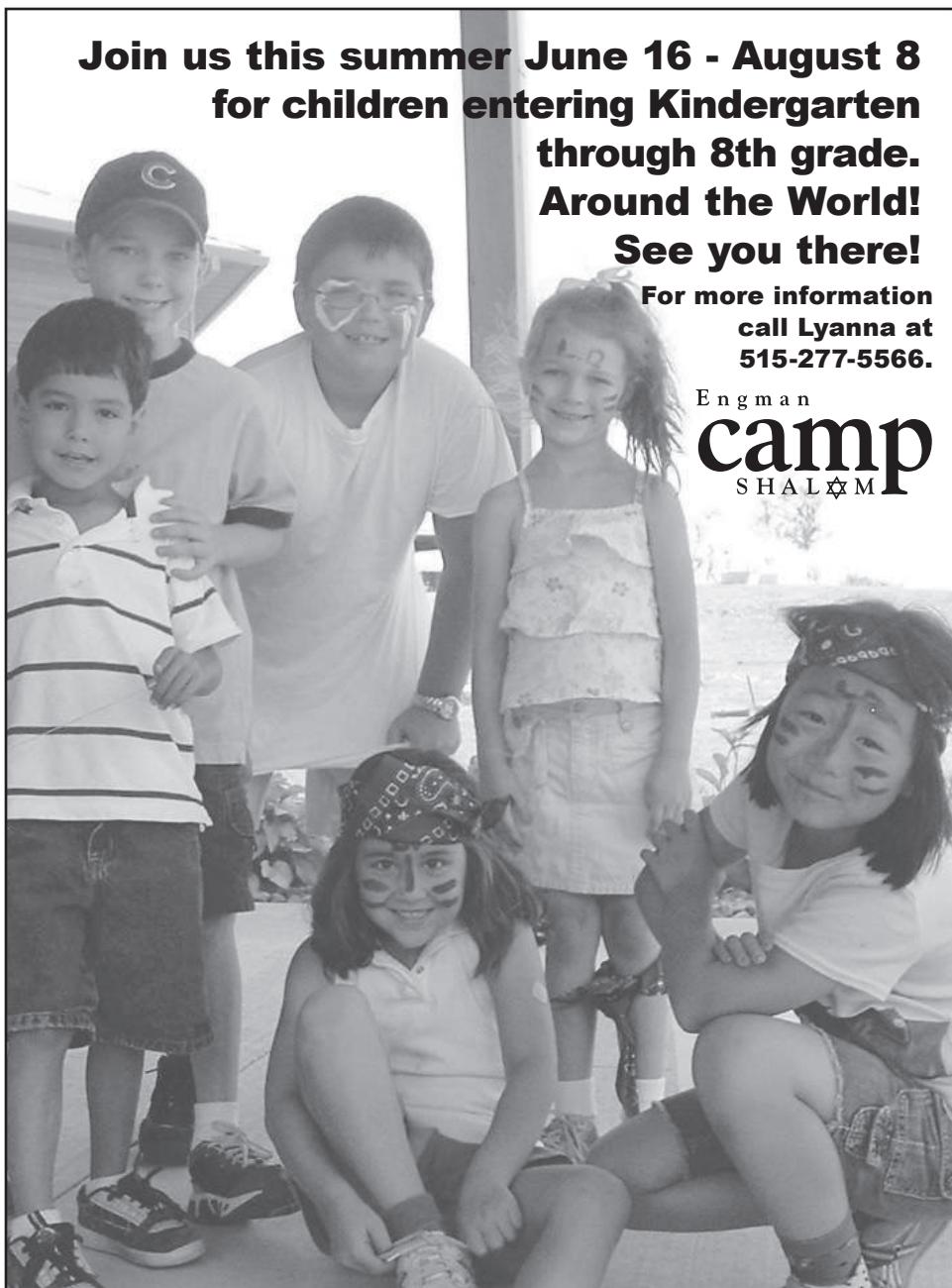
In June, we will welcome Gal Halperin, who is from Hod Hasharon, Israel, and is 20 yrs old and Maayan Blich from Gedera, Israel, who is 21 yrs old. Both girls have had experience as campers and counselors and have worked with a variety of different age groups. Gal enjoys music, plays the piano and likes to cook. She was a counselor in the Youth Council and the IDF (Israel Defense Force). She is secular yet defines herself as "connected to the religion." During her interview process, they summed her up as fun to be around, creates a sense of happiness and comfort and maintains high enthusiasm. Gal has a dual citizenship - Israeli/American. Her father is American. When she was younger, she visited America many times. She is looking forward to being with us this summer.

Maayan enjoys jazz, painting, making jewelry, and being outdoors. She was a camper and a counselor at Maccabi Zaair Youth Movement. She graduated from Regional Aare - Gedera in drama and literature. One of her commanding officers in the IDF said "she is peaceful, has a good heart and sees the cup as half full." While in the IDF, part of her responsibility was lifesaving work in the medical corps of the troops in the West Bank. In 2007, she received the "High-Command Decoration for Excellence."

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L'TAKEN CONFIRMATION TRIP TO D.C.



Pictured: front row - Rabbi Padorr, Lyanna Grund, Rabbi Kaufman back row - Nathan Kaufmann, Gabe Sandler, Eli Wolnerman, Jacob Grund, Adam Bailin, Congressman Leonard Boswell.

From March 28 through March 31, five JFCS 10th grade students flew to Washington, D.C. to attend the L'Taken Seminar. They joined nearly 250 other teens from the Reform Jewish Movement to participate in a four-day program focused on Jewish values and social justice. This program is sponsored by the Religious Action Center (RAC), the legislative office of the Union for Reform Judaism whose 900 congregations across North America encompasses 1.5 million Reform Jews and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), whose membership includes over 1800 Reform Rabbis.

Project Elijah Foundation



Janice Rosenberg

The (Jewish) New York Hunger Summit and Other News

The Project Elijah Foundation reached an important milestone this last February 20, 2008. We sent our first shipment of Elijah's Kosher Manna to Jewish families in need. These meals are the same meals that were packaged by volunteers from the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and by volunteers in a separate packaging event at Temple Israel in Minneapolis.



Julie Kaufman

The 44,000 meals of Elijah's Kosher Manna were delivered to the food pantry of the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty in Brooklyn, New York. The Met Council is very thankful for our donation and hopes that we can send more. They are servicing 14,000 Jewish Families each month!

Our Chairman and founder Alan Zuckert, Julie and I are so pleased with the outpouring of generous support from the Federation, families, and other organizations that have supported the cause. The Project Elijah Foundation with our Kosher Manna is positioned to make a real

difference for Jewish families in need around the world. Rest assured, we continue to do everything we can to help Ieladeinu, the Jewish orphanage and care center for Jewish Children in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

On March 12th, Julie and I traveled to the UJA of New York City to attend The (Jewish) New York Hunger Summit. We were invited by Dr. Eric Shockman, the President of Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. The Summit was convened to bring together the Jewish leadership, Rabbis and agencies who were all dealing with Jewish hunger in New York. We were included so that we could introduce Elijah's Kosher Manna.

Guests of the Summit included Former US Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, who is currently the CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America and Kate Houston, Deputy Under Secretary of Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services from the US Department of Agriculture.

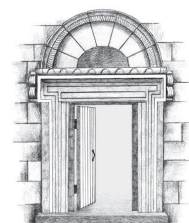
I was most struck by the words of the Hon. Dan Glickman. He said that, "we are at an end to the era of low cost food." He said as the masses of China enter the middle class, they are going to be changing their diet to include meat. To produce meat, you need grain. China will be unable to produce the food in China to meet the massive demands. This of course will raise food prices around the world. Families, who are just getting by, will be unable to keep up.

We listened as many spoke about the problems they face trying to feed the hungry. The Project Elijah Foundation with Elijah's Kosher Manna, was there to provide a new weapon in the fight. We made many interested contacts.

We continue to go forward. As we go to press, we have a scheduled packaging sponsored and funded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines at our warehouse on April 2nd.

I am truly excited to announce that The Hillel of the University of Iowa has scheduled a packing on April 13. They will be the first Hillel in the country to package Elijah's Kosher Manna. Congrats to them!

Thank you again for your continued support.



Janice Rosenberg
Executive Director
Project Elijah
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Adult Education

Jewish Learning Institute RECIPE FOR SHABBAT SHALOM

The Jewish Learning Institute's (JeLI) Recipe for Shabbat Shalom class brought together families of Jewish Federation Community School students to learn about ways to bring more of Shabbat into their homes. For many Jewish families, it is the case that Judaism is something to get to if they have time, which they often do not. Jewish life often begins and ends at the threshold of the Synagogue or Temple. The goal of Recipe for Shabbat Shalom was to encourage people to break that habit, to help them understand what to do and how to do Jewish things beyond that threshold.

The program culminated with an educational mock Shabbat dinner in which families were able to learn how to better bring the holiness and joy of Shabbat into their homes and onto their Shabbat dinner tables.

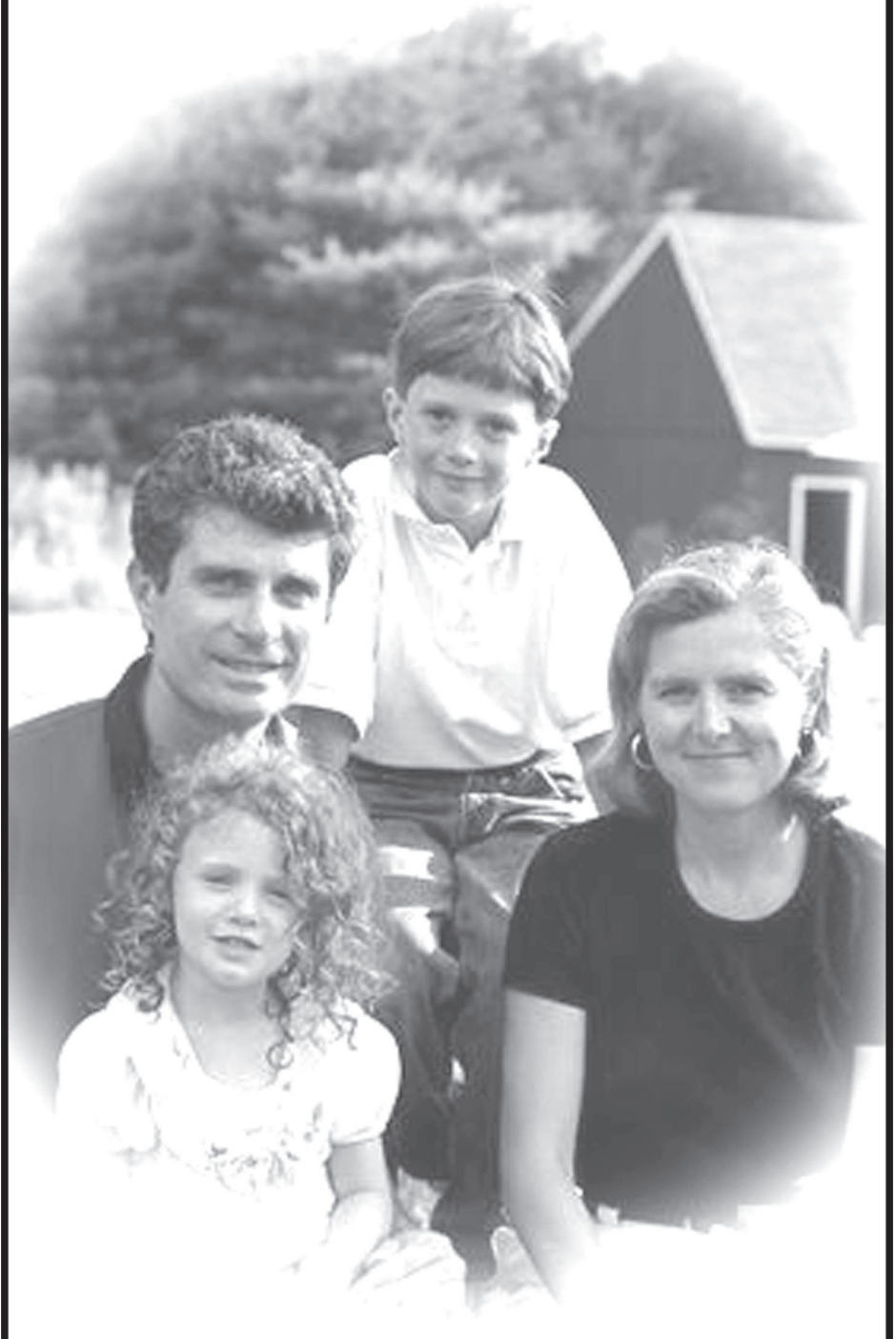
The three week class took place in January on Sunday mornings at the Temple. Thanks go to Jake Jacobs and Laura Berkson for sharing their wisdom and ruach with the class.

This program was funded by the Steven Blank Memorial Fund and your All-In-One Campaign dollars.

Julie Kaufman,
JeLI Program Director
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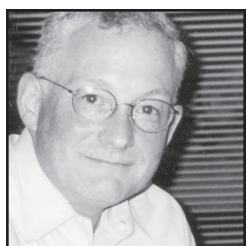
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Mystery of the Red Cow

by David Friedgood



Our Bible is filled with wondrous stories and parables. In most of them, the moral message is obvious and we use these tales to teach universal truths to our children and ourselves. Some Biblical messages are more obscure and for some no apparent explanation can be found. As children we are told these are God's laws and rules. We are rewarded for our obedience and punished for transgression. No other reason need be given: Listen up, pay attention, follow the rules and be rewarded. This system fits well into the world of the juvenile mind, but how well does it work for us as adults? Can our modern scientifically trained adult brain accept all the Biblical parables, rules and laws at face value? Are we supposed to blindly follow and perform as many mitzvot (good deeds) as possible; or does our creator expect us to question and delve deeper into the meaning of our tradition? Is there some rational explanation for that which seems utterly without reason? Does it matter?

Take the mystery of the Red Cow (Red Heifer) as an example (Numbers 19). I first read this Biblical chapter in fifth grade and found the descriptions

of the strange ritual incomprehensible (though at the time it was not unusual for me to lack understanding of a particular subject.) In the Yeshiva this was not a problem. Our job as students was to learn the story, the mitzvah. Understanding was not necessary. My teachers carefully reviewed the details of the law: The red cow was a very rare and special animal. Only a few ritually pure ones had ever been found and certified. Just two black or white hairs would disqualify the cow ritually. She could have no defect and could never have been used for secular purposes. The cow is removed from the camp and ritually slaughtered. The Priest then dips his finger in the animal's blood and sprinkles it seven times toward the holy sanctuary in camp. Then the carcass is burned completely along with its dung, strong cedar wood, aromatic hyssop, and a crimson thread. The Priest performing this ritual (and his assistants) becomes ritually unclean by contact with the ashes. They have to wash themselves and their clothes in pure running water and cannot enter the camp until evening.

Ashes from the sacrifice are mixed with water and used to purify people who have become unclean by contact with a corpse, or by being in a tent with a corpse, or by any contact with someone who is impure. The unclean are not to have

contact with the Lord's Tabernacle and are cut off from the community. Jews can contaminate each other and non-Jews can also be defiled. Water and ashes are sprinkled onto the ritually impure on the 3rd and 7th day of their impurity thus rendering them clean. Unclean tents and utensils present in the tent where someone had died are also cleansed by sprinkling. This water/ash mixture can purify the unclean, but look at the paradox. The same substance that purifies those defiled also contaminates those who prepare and handle it. What is all this supposed to mean? Could it be analogous to people we know who in their effort to be good and virtuous contaminate themselves with vile actions or associations? Several politicians come to mind. Those that seek a righteous outcome using unclean means to get there.

The rite of the Red Cow disappeared after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Talmud tells us some ashes were preserved for several centuries until the supply was extinguished. Today all of us are ritually impure as we have either been in contact with a corpse or have had contact with someone who has. Some Orthodox Jews will not tread on the site of the Temple in Jerusalem fearing their contamination could disturb the Holy of Holies. If the Temple is to be rebuilt and ritually restored, a pure red cow has to be found to purify

the workmen. At least one group is actively searching for such an animal.

So what are we to make of all this? Is this ancient ritual of any concern to us and our religious practice today? The same ashes and water that purify can contaminate. What are the consequences of our chronic state of ritual impurity? I find myself agreeing with King Solomon (always a good decision) – 'the mystery of the Red Cow is beyond human understanding.' Or you can agree with Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai – 'the corpse does not defile, nor does the ashes and water cleanse. The rite of the Red Heifer is a decree of the King of kings who said: You are not permitted to transgress my decree.' I can read the narrative and speculate as to what my forbearers had in mind when they laboriously followed the mysterious ritual. Finding the cow, preparing it properly, avoiding undo contamination, and appropriate sprinkling. They must have been amazed and in awe of the wonder of it all. Perhaps that is the point!

"We have all become unclean
And all our virtues like a filthy rag.
We are all withering like leaves,
And our iniquities, like a wind carry us off."
(Isaiah 64:5)

the list

Celebrate Israel at 60

Yom Ha'atzmaut/ Ohringer Family Day - May 4

Come out for fun, tree planting, learning, and enjoy an Israeli lunch (falafel/Israeli salad and more) for a nominal fee.

PLANT A TREE IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

We will plant six trees at The Caspe Terrace in honor of Israel's six decades of independence. We need to raise \$1,500 to purchase these trees. A tree certificate will be housed at The Caspe Terrace with the names of those who contributed. Send donations to JFCS, 924 Polk Boulevard, Des Moines, IA 50312 – Attn: Israel @ 60 Trees. In addition, through the "Tu B'shevat in the Schools" program with the Jewish National Fund, we have pledged 60 trees for 60 years. Help us meet this goal. Participants will receive a tree certificate for the person they are honoring or remembering, and JNF will also plant a tree in their honor or memory. These trees may be purchased for \$18 per tree.

Israel Film Festival at The Caspe Terrace - May 11



"USHPIZIN" A heartwarming and soul-stirring film. Moshe Belanga is down on his luck, so he and his wife Malli pray passionately for a miracle. Their prayers are answered...in the form of a large sum of money that mysteriously lands on their doorstep. But the great "gift" leads to two uninvited ushpizin, and Moshe and Malli are left wondering...have they found God's favor or is this just a test of their devotion?

Walk the Land for Israel @ 60 - May 18

Sunday, May 18 noon. This is a first-time ever event designed to foster a sense of worldwide unity in support of the cherished homeland of the Jewish People. Our one mile walk will begin at TBJ and continue east on Grand Ave. All registrants across the country will be entered into a post-walk drawing for one of ten tickets to Israel. Be the first to purchase for \$5 "Walk the Land" T-shirt, water bottle and sling back sack to have during our walk.

Israel Film Festival at The Caspe Terrace - June 8



KOMEDIANT The glory days of the Yiddish stage are brought to life in this funny saga of a legendary theatrical family, the Bursteins. Smoothly incorporating rare archival footage and interviews with Yiddish stage veterans (including Fyvush Finkel), this tightly edited, briskly paced documentary is as richly bittersweet – filled with laughter and tears, schmaltz and grit – as the Yiddish theater itself.

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Marvels of Western Galilee

by Rabbi David Jay Kaufman, Temple B'nai Jeshurun



February 8, 2008
Over the past few years, I have spoken many times about the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Tonight, having just returned from nine days in Israel on a Rabbis and Presidents Mission in which I visited Des Moines' partnership region, the Western Galilee, I thought that I would talk a bit about that trip and about something that I believe gets too little attention, namely how Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs get along.

Our Partnership 2000 region consists of an area called Matei Asher, which is basically the equivalent of a county and consists of a number of villages and a small city, Akko. The region is about 50% Jewish and 50% Israeli Arab of which there are relatively equal numbers of Druze, Christians, and Muslims. In our partnership region, Jews and Arabs have to get along and do so reasonably well.

There are many programs that seek to bring Israeli Jews and Arabs into dialogue. Unfortunately, Israel does not do a very good job of letting people know about those efforts, which tend to occur in the periphery of the country where Jews and Arabs live together. The media is often all too quick to seize upon conflicts while ignoring peaceful coexistence.

"Periphery" is a word that we heard quite often on our trip. The people in Matei Asher, the Northwestern-most region in Israel, feel

not only that they are on the border of the country and mean that sense of the word "periphery," but also that the boundaries are a bit blurred where they are, and mean that sense of the word as well. Boundaries between Jews and Arabs, between Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druze are all much more blurred in the Western Galilee than they are in many other parts of the country.

In the last Lebanon War, Jews and Arabs were equally affected. The Ketushah rockets did not discriminate between Jewish villages and Arab ones. One very good example of this is the story of the Western Galilee Hospital.

The Western Galilee Hospital, which is the primary medical center in the Western Galilee and serves all of Matei-Asher as well as the city of Naharia next to which the hospital is located, was hit by Ketushah fire in the last Lebanon War, heavily damaging the Ophthalmology Wing of the hospital, but fortunately injuring none.

Why were none injured? The hospital, unique in the world, is actually a double hospital with a complete facility located underground into which patients in the above ground hospital may be evacuated and treated during time of war. Thus, when the ketushah hit the hospital, it struck an evacuated room.

That hospital is today directed by an Israeli Arab Christian doctor, Masad Barhoum. In a letter written to our community by Dr. Barhoum in November, prior to the "Night to Honor Israel" program at which over \$6,000 was raised to help the

Western Galilee Hospital build an underground emergency room for use during times of war, he wrote of the hospital:

It is a place of great hope with over 6300 Israeli babies born here each year (Jews and Arabs). The hospital provides service 24/7/365, even when under fire, and its staff and patients reflect the diversity of the people who live in the region. This is a demographically mixed population of close to a half-million people: 50% Jewish and 50% Christian, Muslim and Druze... Stretching along the Lebanese border in the north, this area was heavily impacted by the war in 2006. Four thousand rockets struck northern Israel. Over 800 rockets fell on the city of Nahariya alone in 34 days.

The Western Galilee Hospital is a prime example of Jewish and Arab coexistence in Israel, yet far from the only one in the Western Galilee alone.

At Western Galilee College, no small percentage of the students are Israeli Arabs from local villages. The director of the college told us that the college has to work its course schedule around the religious and social needs of the Arab population including making certain that classes end no later than 8 pm so that Arab women may be home at a respectable hour. This concession to social mores enables their families to allow them to attend the school. Seventy five percent of the Arab students are women.

The director of the community centers in Matei Asher, funded by the regional council, oversees not just centers in Jewish neighborhoods, but in Arab neighborhoods

and has board members from several Arab villages on his governing board.

We visited a program called Hafuch al-Hafuch. "Hafuch" is a "latte" in Hebrew, but also means turned over. It is a program that helps teens in need. The location in Akko which we visited during our mission, opens after school and remains open well into the evening. The program, which is funded by many Jewish organizations including ultimately the Jewish Federations of Greater Des Moines and other cities in our partnership, caters not only to Jews, but in large part to local Muslim and Christian teens. The night we happened to visit the center was "Arab Student Night" and about 30 Israeli Arab teens were the only ones in attendance being helped by Israeli Jews who were providing a safe environment for them to act like kids. There are numerous Arab board members helping to oversee the program and working alongside their Jewish partners.

We visited a program called "Wings" that helps disabled teens learn to live independently as much as possible. The program takes place in several locations in the Partnership region, including at least one Arab village.

We visited Ort High School in Akko and met with students and teachers participating in a program called Tri-Wizard, after the Harry Potter story in which Israel Jewish teens and Israeli Arab teens dialogue with American students and even visit their schools in the states to learn about and teach about co-existence. continued on page 17

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Proceeds benefit Roosevelt High School's \$10 million renovation, including a new music and fine arts wing. Tickets & sponsorships are tax deductible contributions.

Leg Number Two: France and Beyond by David Moskowitz



Our story thus far: Heidi and David arrive in Paris, have their luggage stolen by Lufthansa German Airlines, and eat croque monsieurs until they are blue in the face. They view the giant bolts holding the Eiffel Tower to its base and miss every other memorable Parisian landmark, with the exception of the Jewish Museum of Paris (which, as cool as it is, certainly strains the definition of a "landmark").

Bordeaux: Even though we were having fun viewing the Louvre from three blocks away and trying to operate an ATM with incomprehensible instructions, it was time to say au revoir to our beloved Paris. This was an incredibly emotional and heart-wrenching farewell to our beloved Paris, city of Stolen Luggage (Editor's note: the previous sentence contains dangerously elevated levels of sarcasm). We met up with the rest of our family (son Michael, brother Jason and family, sister Linda and family) and boarded the train to Bordeaux. Our plan was a simple one: let's live in a castle and tour vineyards and see how long it takes for the local gendarmerie to find us and deport us.

The bullet train ride south to Bordeaux was incredible! It was just like my childhood Conrail train rides from suburban New Jersey into New York City, except this train was packed with French people who seemingly had no reason to travel anywhere, let alone from Paris to Bordeaux. The Train

Riders Of France spend their time immersed in four ritualistic activities: (a) reading thirty year old dog-eared mystery novels that are unreadable since they aren't in English, (b) "accidentally" disembarking at the wrong train station, leaving their children on the train, (c) waiting in line for two hours for a train food service guy to make them another croque monsieur (for all the French snobbery around haute cuisine and wine, they sure seem to spend a lot of time eating stale ham and cheese sandwiches), and (d) daydreaming about what it might be like to have a job that required them to travel to Bordeaux for an actual reason. It struck me that average Americans, always criticized internationally for their "work ethic" and "energy," stuck out like sore thumbs every time they ventured outside before noon.

We arrived at our castle north of Bordeaux in a scenic town called Mirambeau. The town looked exactly as it must have looked during World War II, when the main activities of the townspeople were (a) eating croque monsieurs, (b) surrendering to the Germans, and (c) stocking their drug-stores with things that resembled Tylenol but must have been laxatives. The Chateau Mirambeau castle (see inset picture) was phenomenal: an architectural gem with hidden passageways, scenic meadows, marble staircases, and a staff of chefs who could make anything taste delicious, with the obvious exception of croque monsieurs. Here our family met the legendary wine expert and tour guide Eddy Gravemaker. His job

was to drive us to Saint Emilion (another excruciatingly beautiful medieval town with old buildings and vineyards and places to sell wine, along with restaurants that were only superficially separate, as they shared the same tables, chefs, menus, and ... final reference, wait for it ... croque monsieurs) and help us experience the wonders of Bordeaux wine and cuisine.

We all loaded into a van and headed to the freeway. Eddy promptly headed towards Paris, the wrong direction. He had to rely on his vanload of "American Idiots" to find Saint Emilion at all, and his subsequent futile efforts to find the vineyards at Chateau D'Yquem and Chateau Smith Haut Lafitte were at least comical and at worst suspicious. The peace of these remarkably beautiful Bordeaux and Pessac-Leognan wine chateaux appeared to have never been disturbed by this particular wine expert. In fact, at the exclusive Chateau D'Yquem, where a single bottle of prized dessert sauternes costs \$1000, we were allowed entry notwithstanding the fact that Eddy admittedly "had never been allowed in there before." What was going on here? The locals seemed uncomfortable with Eddy's presence, he had difficulty communicating with the French in French, he couldn't locate vineyards, and he seemed to have no knowledge of wine whatsoever (actual Eddy Gravemaker quotes: "How do they get the wine in the bottle?" and "I didn't know that stacking wine bottles was even possible - it's amazing that they don't break!"). Plus, he apparently didn't own a wallet.

It began to occur to us that we were being surreptitiously filmed for that week's episode of a popular French television show called "L'Idiots Americain." Eddy was the Belgian host of the show, and each week played the part of a penniless tour guide who would guide unsuspecting American tourists around France, with the idea of provoking laughter at the misadventures and cultural gaffes of the ridiculous Americans. The French absolutely love this activity and, in our family's case, there was plenty of material to keep them in stitches. (FRENCH TV PROMO: "Watch the American Idiots drive the wrong way to Bordeaux!" "Honey, come in here and check this out: Eddy is going to get the American Idiots to drink red wine out of a champagne glass!" "Don't miss this week's episode where Eddy takes the American Idiots to a winetasting and then drinks the wine himself! You'll laugh your socks off as you watch the American Idiots pretend to like snails!"



Chateau de Mirambeau



Stephane Apelbaum

continued on page 17

Jewish Family Services

senior news

Upcoming Luncheons:

Thursday, May 22, 12:00 Noon at Temple B'nai Jeshurun- We are looking forward to having another walk down the musical memory lane with the delightful selections of songs by "The Fat Cat" Jim Wangemann. Come join us for music, food and good memories.

Thursday, June 12, 12:00 Noon at Tifereth- We are delighted to have Cantor Deborah Bletstein entertain us with a special musical program.

Remember that blood pressure checks by nurses from the Senior Life Center will be available at the luncheons.

Mark your calendars for July 17. We will be having the Federation Annual Senior Picnic at The Caspe Terrace with Camp Shalom campers. Watch your mail for more details.



Stanley Miller, a docent at the Des Moines Art Center for 10 years, provided us with information on Mary Cassatt and the Impressionists.

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Jewish Family Life Education

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Tzedakah - last year assisted 180 community members in need

Thank you

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



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

Sara Coleman Veteran Educator and Still Blossoming



A member of Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Sara Coleman combines a love of people with all she does, whether as an educator of 21 years or as a musician, or on her study

session in Israel last summer with fellow science educators. We are happy to present Sara as the May 2008 person in profile.

Jewish Press: Thank you for chatting with the Jewish Press. Where are you from originally, Sara?

Sara Coleman: I was born and raised in Sioux City, graduated from its North High School and then went to the University of Iowa.

JP: Where did your academic career lead you?

SC: I received a BS in biology from the University and fortunately it was late in my program that I tried a science education course. After two jobs in small towns, I ended up in Norwalk.

JP: How did you come to Norwalk?

SC: It was one of those life altering decisions one makes every now and then. Frankly? I answered a Des Moines Register ad. I was looking to move to a larger city and was fortunate to have three job offers on the same day! West Branch, Pella and Norwalk. Norwalk seemed to be the best job at the time and ended up being a wonderful choice.

JP: Very interesting. Let's turn to a more personal topic for a moment. Perhaps, as a

person, Sara, community members might know you best for your performances with the Temple Choir and as an award-winning high school science teacher. You are a people-person. When did this aspect of your personality come forth?

SC: Well, I have always tried to find ways to work with people. I was in Girl Scouts through college, spent three summers as a camp counselor. My favorite role was song leader and I still can sing Girl Scout songs for three hours straight without repeating! I have always had a musical outlet of some sort. Lately, that has been the Temple choir. I have been a clarinetist with a polka band, a piano accompanist for various middle school and high school events, and a pianist in a jazz band for a while.

JP: So where do you think your inclination to community service comes from?

SC: I suppose my community involvement comes from my family.

JP: By means of digression, you do have a diverse background, Sara.

SC: I do. On my dad's side, my great uncle came from a shtetl in Russia in the late 1890's to Sioux City. After helping the rest of his brothers and sisters come here, some settled in Minneapolis and some in Sioux City. My great grandfather Harry Cohen was the first Jewish businessman in Onawa, Iowa and later bought into a business in Sioux City. My dad sold out in the early 1990s after three generations in business.

My mom's side, being Swedish, settled in

the Sioux City area as farmers. Many of my family members still farm most of the original acres on what is now a century farm.

JP: So your sense of community involvement comes from your family.

SC: Yes. I worked at my dad's clothing store in Sioux City from the 7th grade and learned a great deal about customer service from the people who worked for him. But I also had an aunt that received a volunteering award from the State of California for her thousands of hours of community work. My mother's family always found ways to serve in their church via church choir, board service, and circles. My parents served on governmental boards for the City of Sioux City, and my mother was treasurer for the Sisterhood at Mount Sinai Temple, in Sioux City, for almost 20 years before taking a turn as president. I count four relatives who have been president of Mount Sinai Temple (now Beth Shalom) including the first woman president in the 1970's.

There were so many examples around me of relatives providing community service – in many different capacities – that it seemed a natural that I would dedicate my life to one of the most important services one can give. Be an educator.

JP: And as an educator, you continue to grow.

SC: Well, after teaching 5 years I completed a MS degree also at Iowa. I recently gained my administrative endorsement for PK - 12 principals.

JP: What about that principal's endorsement?

Any plans for a job change?

SC: As far as following the principal's track, that is a possibility, but I don't have the desire to leave the classroom as yet. I still feel innovative, students are doing well and I enjoy the classroom. One of the reasons I pursued the administrators track is because as an administrator you have the opportunity to influence many more students. Over 1,000 students have passed through my door in my 21 year career. As an administrator the numbers of students could be in the tens of thousands.

JP: And there is something special you've received in professional recognition that we'd like to mention.

SC: It was nice of you to have recalled that. I was honored with the National Educators Award from the Milken Foundation in 2003. This has opened many doors on the state, national and now international level for me. The best part about this award is that it cannot be applied for. It honors not only good work, but the potential to make an impact on education into the future. The award is a total surprise to the recipient, and believe me, it was a huge surprise!

JP: And not many people know that you spent part of last summer in Israel among fellow science educators. What was that like?

SC: Yes, this was an opportunity to study with colleagues and professors at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. The opportunity came to my attention through the Federation, along with its offer of sponsorship.

continued on page 17



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In celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary, we are pleased to present a selection of mementos from community members who have spent time in Israel. Thank you to all who submitted material on this special occasion.

Israel at 60

The Declaration Of The Establishment Of The State Of Israel

We are going to Israel this coming October. Although we have been there about 45 times, I always enjoy being there and am thrilled to see the continual improvements and new construction in the country.

I remember my first trip to Israel in 1969, and how shabby so much of it looked, along with junk littered roadways. Those same roadways today are neat and clean, along with beautiful flower gardens and manicured grass decorating the boulevards. There has been continual improvement that has turned Israel into a beautiful country.

Over the years, so many people have seriously asked me, Jews and non-Jews alike, especially during time of conflict—"Aren't you concerned about your safety going to Israel now, with all of the terrorism?" My response has always jokingly been, "not as long as I don't stay overnight in New York."

There is a great deal to see there—a lot of history, museums, archeology, universities—and more new things all of the time. I hate the plane ride, but it is worth it once you are there.

—Sheldon Rabinowitz

On May 14, 1948, on the day in which the British Mandate over Palestine expired, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and approved the following proclamation, declaring the establishment of the State of Israel. The new state was recognized that night by the United States and three days later by the USSR.

ERETZ-ISRAEL [(Hebrew) - the Land of Israel, Palestine] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim [(Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.



counter clockwise: On the tennis court - Roselind and Sheldon Rabinowitz (at right) with Leah and Yithak Rabin, during Rabin's first term as Israeli Prime Minister, c. 1975; Julie Rabinowitz with Israeli PM Golda Meier, c. early 1970s; Roselind and Sheldon's daughter, Joy Argaman, with her son Dan, at his induction into the IDF, about four years ago

How I spent my summer vacation, 1965

I was sent to Israel in the summer of 1965, as was typical for so many Jewish teens in the mid 1960s. Because Des Moines did not have any regular groups of teenagers making Alyiah, I flew from here to connect with a group of 16-19 year olds leaving from New York City. For four weeks we studied Israeli history and toured the state in buses, staying in kibbutzim and youth hostels, and often running into other groups doing the exact same thing in a different geographical order. Of course, the trip was amazing, and I swore to return again.

My most vivid memories are of the hills behind the modern city of Jerusalem. Just a few feet from paved roads, behind the new, ten year old buildings, one could wander without hindrance through the ancient hills. The feelings that washed over me, the silence, and the sacredness - the Biblical-ness of the whole experience is still the most vivid of my memories. The solemnity of Yad Vashem, the incredible (then newly displayed) find of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the seeming casualness of the soldiers walking around with rifles slung over their shoulders - these are the memories that bubble to the surface as I share these 43 year old photos with you.

These pictures do not show Israel's main attractions now; the Western Wall, the Old City, Masada. I saw none of these- they were not a part of Israel in 1965.

—Judy Kagin

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE DAY OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN ERETZ-ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel".

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream - the redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE "ROCK OF ISRAEL", WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).



What seems like a long time ago, Mark Finkelstein (center, standing) went on a Volunteers for Israel trip, an excellent program which places people alongside Israeli soldiers on a low-tech army base. His job was to repair brakes on trucks. During his time on the base, he watched soldiers repair vehicles sometimes with only such things as paperclips. Amazing. Here, his group is shown commenting on the quality of army food.

10 Minutes of Torah is designed to present a diversity of editorial viewpoints from Jewish papers. The following editorial is from the Thursday March 6, 2008 issue of The Jewish Daily Forward.

The Kids Are Alright

Fears of American Jewry disappearing, drifting into a velvet oblivion of assimilation, have given rise to a cottage industry of research, outreach and alarm-ringing in recent years. Most of this activity is aimed at maintaining the loyalty of the next generation of Jews, to save them from vanishing from the fold. It's a complex job; it entails measuring the pace at which young Jews are truly bolting the barn, diagnosing the sources of their malaise and finding creative new cures. Practitioners generally view their enterprise as a rear-guard action to delay the inevitable disappearance.

For all that, measuring the Jewish attachment of the young has become one of the primary arenas of organized Jewish activism, second only to defending Israel. To community insiders, this activity is the sacred call of history. To outsiders, it often looks like a mob frenzy as staged by the Keystone Kops.

The latest example of this ongoing panic is the recent release of two new studies, both measuring the attachment of young Jews to Israel. The two studies were conducted separately by two different groups of researchers at the same time, probing the same topic, asking the same questions, using the same sets of statistics. Both purport to be objective, scientific analyses of the numbers. And yet, curiously, they reach opposite conclusions.

As reported this week by our Anthony Weiss, both new studies seek to explain the steady decline in Jewish attachment from oldest to youngest Jewish adults. Both studies rely heavily on the annual survey of Jewish opinion conducted by the American Jewish Committee. Both ask what causes the generational decline in attachment.

Is it a long-term decline, propelled forward by the weakness of each new generation's identification with the Holocaust and Israeli independence? Or is it a reflection of the modern Jewish life cycle, in which engagement with Judaism and Jewish affairs goes up as adults grow older and settle down?

The truth is that there's evidence in both studies to support either conclusion. Both teams, one from Brandeis University, the other from the Andrea and Charles

Bronfman Philanthropies, marshal impressive numbers to disprove the other's thesis.

The Bronfman team, led by Steven M. Cohen, believes the decline is a long-term historical shift. Inter-marriage and greater societal acceptance lead to more personalized forms of Judaism that have little room for ethnic loyalties.

The Brandeis team, led by Len Saxe, notes that the gradations of attachment, from young to old and low to high, remain steady over the decades. The disengaged 25-year-old of 30 years ago is now a highly involved 55-year-old. There's nothing, they claim, to indicate that this year's disengaged 25-year-old won't be a highly engaged 55-year-old in another three decades, as past generations have found.

There's one correlation that isn't mentioned in either study: the link between the authors' conclusions and their temperamental dispositions. Cohen has emerged in recent years as a leading voice of caution and pessimism regarding the future of American Jewish identity. His pessimism is shared by many of the most visible and prolific students of Jewish belief and behavior.

Saxe, by contrast, is developing a reputation as a leading debunker of Jewish doomsday scenarios. It was his team that produced last year's study of population trends, indicating that the much-publicized American Jewish population estimate of 5.2 million was off by at least a million, and that American Jewry was increasing, not disappearing. His new department, the Steinhardt Social Research Institute, is fast becoming a leading spark plug of optimism in a field of Jewish population studies that generally seems to be dominated by alarmists.

Only time will tell who is right, and we'll all be gone by then. In the meantime, there's enough work to go around for everyone. For some, it's bolstering programs like Birthright Israel, which have a proven record of strengthening participants' emotional ties to Israel and Judaism. For others, it's building a welcoming community, so that those disengaged Jews who are truly drifting away can find their way back.

An editorial viewpoint from the Forward

WAUKEE'S HOLOCAUST-THEMED EDUCATIONAL SERIES CONCLUDES

In December, The Waukeew Public Library received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to promote "The Big Read." This program is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and bring the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. The Waukeew Public Library chose "The Shawl," a story that takes place during the Holocaust, by noted Jewish author Cynthia Ozick.

The Waukeew Area Arts Council, Waukeew Public Library, Waukeew Community School District, with enthusiastic support from the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, co-sponsored these six weeks of Holocaust education in February and March.



Linda Fishman



Dr. Harry Brod

The events were held at The Caspe Terrace, the Waukeew Public Library, Waukeew High School, Point of Grace Church, Barnes and Noble, and Chitn-Chat Coffee House. In addition, students from Waukeew Public Schools recorded Ozick's text for broadcast on public access Cable TV, and entered an essay and video contest on the topic.

At the kickoff event at Waukeew High School, Jewish community member Linda Fishman, a survivor of the Holocaust, spoke about her experiences during the Holocaust. Her presentation was followed by a psychological glimpse into Ozick's novella by University of Northern Iowa professor Harry Brod. On display was a moving exhibit entitled "The Tragedy of Slovak Jews," on loan from the Cedar Rapids Historical Society. Additional

members of our Jewish Community, including other Holocaust survivors, participated in a book discussion at the Waukeew Library. Thank you to Peter Pintus, Esther and Warner Berg, and Joanne Brown for their participation. Participants in additional programs included accordionist Abe Goldstien enacting a tale for children and the Java Jews Klezmer Band.

The Attic Door Theater Company performed two sold-out performances at The Caspe Terrace. Three short plays were performed by children ranging in age from 3rd to 12th grade. The children and their director Jacki Pleggenkuhle demonstrated great sensitivity and skill at retelling the stories of so many that were lost in the Holocaust.

An amazing performance by the "Life in a Jar" troupe was also held at The Caspe Terrace, retelling the life efforts of Irena Sendler, a righteous gentile who smuggled Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto and then either arranged the adoption of them into the homes of Polish families or hid them in convents and orphanages. She made lists of the children's real names and put the lists in jars, then buried the jars in a garden, so that someday she could dig up and find the children to tell them of their true identity.

During the concluding event, the Jewish Federation presented the Waukeew Public Library with a copy of The Holocaust Chronicles and the Waukeew High School with certificates enabling two teachers to participate in a visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. to be arranged by the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Commission.

The Jewish Federation applauds the Waukeew Area Arts Council, Waukeew High School, and the Waukeew Public Library in their efforts to make sure this period of history is never forgotten.

A Consumer Advisory Bulletin

from the Office of the Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller

Hang Up on Telemarketing Fraud!

When it comes to telemarketing calls, two things sometimes trouble Iowa consumers: unwanted solicitations, and flat-out fraud schemes.

Under new federal regulations that took effect December 31, it is illegal for any telemarketer to call before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. – and it is illegal for them to call you back if you tell them, "Do not call us again." These are basic measures that will help all of us avoid unwanted calls.

Fraud schemes are harder to tackle because con-artists ignore the rules. They lie, cheat and steal – mostly from older Iowans. That means two things: consumers need to be on their toes to avoid schemes, and our office will continue its highly effective undercover telephone "sting" that is putting the crooks in jail.

Telephone con-artists can be extremely clever and completely unscrupulous. We know of at least a dozen Iowans who have lost more than \$50,000 apiece to scams.

Here are some tips to avoid telemarketing fraud:

- Just hang up! Don't be so polite if you suspect a scam.
- Resist high pressure. Con-artists want you to send money before you think.
- Take your time. Insist on written information in advance. Avoid promotions that demand immediate payment, especially by cashier's check or courier service.
- Never pay for a "prize." Phony prizes are the number one hook for scams.
- Keep your accounts private. Don't give out bank account or credit card numbers unless you know who you are dealing with.

Telemarketing fraud is declining in Iowa, in part because our office has been extremely tough on the crooks. We route the phone lines of former victims into our office, listen to the "pitches" of con-artists, then go after them with criminal charges. We will do all we can to stop telemarketing fraud, but citizens need to keep on the alert, too.

If you think you may have been cheated by a telemarketing "scam," contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at the Hoover Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. The telephone number is 515-281-5926.

Additional consumer advisories are available online at www.IowaAttorneyGeneral.org

Drake Hillel's
Israel at 60
Celebration
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008
Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm
Location: Morehouse Ballroom
(Drake University)
Come and learn about the state of Israel
enjoy free food and win fabulous prizes!

Three of the Federation's Leadership Forum Members Honored by Des Moines Business Record with "40 Under 40" Award



David Adelman

Attorney, Brick, Gentry, Bowers, Swartz & Levis P.C.

Age 28

David Adelman has worked with presidential candidates in two caucus cycles, drafted state legislation, invested in the local National Basketball Association Development League team and, just to top it all off, became a partner in the Dos Rios restaurant. Not bad for someone who planned to leave Central Iowa behind.

"I was thinking after high school I would probably never come back here," said Adelman, who became a Des Moines resident at the age of 2. "Some circumstances brought me back, and I fell in love with it."

Adelman graduated from Roosevelt High School, then received a bachelor's degree in marketing, finance and business law at Miami University in Ohio. "After college, my friends went to New York, Chicago or Washington, D.C.," he said. "I figured that was the path I would take and get involved in business."

Instead, he came home, got involved with Sen. John Kerry's run for the presidency and graduated from Drake University Law School. "I didn't decide I wanted to be a lawyer until my junior year in college," Adelman said. "I became interested in law as an avenue to help people."

As a young attorney at Brick, Gentry, Bowers, Swartz & Levis P.C., Adelman started the firm's lobbying and government relations section. Among other duties, he represents clients to legislators and executive branch officials on legislative and regulatory proposals.

In 2004, he spent some time working for the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C. During the recent caucus season, "I did some work with Sen. (Chris) Dodd, but mostly just assisted campaigns by lining them up to talk to certain people," Adelman said. "In D.C., unless I worked on the Hill for many years, I would be stuck in back rooms doing research."

Adelman serves on the Des Moines Playhouse board of directors, is co-chair of the Des Moines Jewish Federation Emerging Leader Institute and is a member of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute's class of 2007-2008.

As someone who spent his college summers in Colorado, guiding whitewater rafters and fly fishermen, Adelman also appreciates the outdoors. He golfs, he's preparing for his second Hy-Vee Triathlon and in December he traveled with family members to Argentina, where they tackled the rivers of Patagonia.



Jennifer Jaskolka-Brown

Shareholder/attorney, Sullivan & Ward P.C.

Age 34

Jennifer Jaskolka-Brown is the type of versatile professional who not only provides free legal advice to Ballet Des Moines, but also serves on its board of directors and performs in its productions.

Jaskolka-Brown, who has practiced with Sullivan & Ward P.C. since 1999, was named a shareholder in the firm in March 2006. "I'm particularly proud of that fact because I think it shows the trust the firm has placed in me," she said.

She's also a former professional ballet dancer. "Even now I continue to take lessons," she said. "It's ingrained."

Originally from New York City, Jaskolka-Brown also lived in Washington, D.C., and Columbia, Mo., before moving to Lincoln, Neb., where she earned a political science degree and a law degree at the University of Nebraska. "I kind of had a nomadic experience; my father is from Israel and he's always been compelled to make a better life for his family," she said. "So he just pursued opportunities (in corporate technology) that were best for his family."

She specializes in providing employment-based immigration services to a variety of local and national technology, engineering and professional services companies, bringing that expertise as well as a family law practice to the firm.

In addition to providing ongoing pro-bono legal services for indigent clients through the Volunteer Lawyers Project, she has routinely served as a judge for junior high and college mock trial competitions.

A 2005 graduate of the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, Jaskolka-Brown was also a founding board member of the Young Professionals Connection and remains active with that organization. She was chosen to participate in the 2007-2008 Greater Des Moines Jewish Federation Leadership Institute program. "Its focus is to allow us to meet new faces, get involved in the Jewish community and make sure we're a vibrant resource for years to come," she said.

At Ballet Des Moines, she has been active in efforts to create a permanent professional ballet company. The group's goal is to increase the troupe's size to between 14 and 24 resident dancers and increase its schedule to four or five productions a year. "I'm drawn to that dream and share in that passion," she said. "Luckily, we've gained some pretty solid backing and support in the Greater Des Moines area. Every year we're closer to our dream of bringing a professional ballet company back to Des Moines."

Jaskolka-Brown and her husband, Sean Brown, have two children: Aiden, 5, and Sophia, 3



Justin Schoen

Director of online sales and operations, G&L Clothing

Age 27

Justin Schoen's interest in music and radio eventually led him to a career in marketing.

"It mostly started when I got involved with the radio station at Valley (High School in West Des Moines)," said Schoen, who is the director of online sales and operations for G&L Clothing.

His involvement carried through to college radio and Schoen began to move into the marketing aspect of music through concert promotion. While in college, Schoen worked as the manager and promoter of a Midwest rock band and as the director of finance for Scope Productions, the University of Iowa's Student Commission for Programming and Entertainment.

"Part of it was that I had always wanted to go into some form of business; I have always had an entrepreneurial spirit," Schoen said.

Schoen, a West Des Moines native, earned his bachelor's degree in business administration in marketing with concentrations in communication studies and religious studies from the University of Iowa. He said that among the university's business programs, marketing allowed for the "most freedom and creativity."

After graduating, Schoen decided to try a different type of professional field for a little while. He "winged it" and moved to Steamboat Springs, Colo. Schoen, who learned to ski at age 11, worked as a ski instructor. And he also kept up his marketing skills, working as a promoter assistant for Great Knight Productions.

Since returning to Greater Des Moines, Schoen has been with G&L Clothing, where he "started somewhat from scratch" and built an industry-leading Web presence for the company. Now, online sales have grown to account for 18 percent of the store's sales. Schoen said the company went from probably five to 10 shipments week to a peak week of distributing 2,300 packages.

Schoen was a founding board member of the Greater Des Moines Music Coalition and currently serves as the vice president and chair of the development/fund-raising committee. He volunteers for other causes and serves on boards, such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa Shelter and Services.

When he is not spending his spare time volunteering for the various nonprofit organizations he is involved with, Schoen is renovating a 90-year-old home he bought.

"I am trying to do as much as possible myself, and if not," he said, "find people that can teach me how."

Thanks are extended to the Des Moines Business Record for their kind permission to reprint the above material. The Business Record – Central Iowa's Weekly Business Journal is online at www.businessrecord.com.

Science

Gene Mutations Linked to Longer Life Spans

Mutations in genes governing an important cell-signaling pathway influence human longevity, scientists at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University have found. Their research is described in the March 4 issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The report is the latest finding in the Einstein researchers' ongoing search for genetic clues to longevity through their study that by now has recruited more than 450 Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews between the ages of 95 and 110. Descended from a small founder group, Ashkenazi Jews are more genetically uniform than other groups, making it easier to spot gene differences that are present. In 2003, this study resulted in the first two "longevity genes" ever identified—findings that have since been validated by other research.

The present study focused on genes involved in the action of insulin-like growth factor (IGF-I), a hormone that in humans is regulated by human growth hormone. Affecting virtually every cell type in the body, IGF-I is crucially important for children's growth and continues contributing to tissue synthesis into adulthood. The IGF-I cell-signaling pathway is triggered when IGF-I molecules circulating in blood plasma latch onto receptors on the surface of cells, causing a signal to be sent to the cell's nucleus that may, for example, tell that cell to divide.

Animal research had shown that mutations to genes involved in the IGF-I signaling pathway cause two effects: Affected animals have impaired growth but also longer life spans. So the Einstein scientists reasoned that altered signaling in this pathway might also influence human longevity. To find out, they analyzed IGF-I-related genetic variations in 384 Ashkenazi Jewish centenarians. And since plasma levels of IGF-I do not reflect their levels at a younger age, the researchers also looked at two other groups: the children of these centenarians, and a control group consisting of Ashkenazi Jews the same age as the centenarians' children but with no family history of longevity.

Remarkably, the female children of the centenarians had IGF-I plasma levels that were 35 percent higher than female controls—perhaps a sign that the body was compensating for a glitch in IGF-I signaling by secreting increased amounts of the hormone. That suspicion was strengthened by two other findings: the daughters of centenarians were 2.5 cm shorter than female controls; and when the researchers analyzed the gene coding for the IGF-I cell-surface receptor molecule to which the IGF-I hormone binds, the receptor genes of centenarians and their daughters were much more likely to have a variety of mutations than were the receptor genes of the controls.

continued on page 17

graduates 08



Aviv Luban, son of Marshall and Prina Luban of Ames, will be receiving the B.A. degree (cum laude) in May 2008 from Brandeis University (Waltham, MA)

with a major in Judaic Studies and a minor in Philosophy. Aviv's family are members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue and the Ames Jewish Congregation.

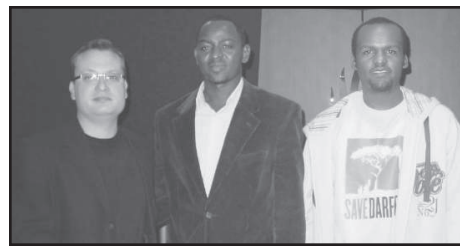
We are proud to announce that our daughter, **Jessie Pratt**, will be graduating on June 8, 2008 from AIB with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration, with High Honors and 4.0 GPA

—Kenneth & Diane Pratt

Recent Grads

Send a photo and announcement by May 28, for publication in the July/August '08 edition. Jewish Press, 910 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312 or by e-mail to jrcr@dmjfed.org

Darfur Important to Jewish Community



The humanitarian situation in Darfur, Sudan, is of deep concern to the Jewish community conscious that such tragedies as the Holocaust never be repeated. Pictured: Rabbi David Kaufman, a leader within the Des Moines Interfaith Coalition on the

Crisis in Sudan, meets with Abdu Ashur, President of the Darfur People's Association of Iowa and Abdelmaged Yousif, former Secretary General of the Association. A program about Darfur was held in March at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, after which the Darfurian spokesmen discussed the situation in Sudan with students of the Jewish Federation Community School. For more information about the crisis in Darfur, see Preventing Genocide on the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's website: www.ushmm.org. To get involved, contact jrcr@dmjfed.org

History

Emmy Noether, Mathematical Genius



Amalie Emmy Noether (March 23, 1882 – April 14, 1935) was a German-born Jewish mathematician, said by Einstein in eulogy to be "[i]n the judgment

of the most competent living mathematicians, [...] the most significant creative mathematical genius thus far produced since the higher education of women began." Almost universally known as Emmy Noether, she had penetrating insights that she used to develop elegant abstractions. One of her contributions to theoretical physics is known as the Noether's Theorem, which expresses the direct correspondence between symmetries and conservation laws.

She was born in Erlangen, Bavaria, Germany. Her father, Max Noether, was a distinguished mathematician and a professor at Erlangen. Fritz Noether was her younger brother, and the statistician Gottfried E. Noether was her nephew. Noether did not show any early precocity at mathematics — as a teenager she was more interested in music and dancing.

Although Erlangen did not allow women to enroll, Emmy was able to sit in various classes. When Erlangen finally permitted women to enroll in 1904, Emmy immediately enrolled as a mathematics student. She received her doctorate in 1907 under Paul Gordan, and she quickly built a reputation from her publications. She moved to Göttingen, Germany in 1915,

but the University of Göttingen refused to let her teach. Her sympathetic colleague, David Hilbert, advertised her courses in the university's schedule under his own name. A controversy ensued, with her opponents asking what the country's soldiers would think when they returned home and were expected to learn at the feet of a woman. Allowing her on the faculty would also mean letting her have a vote in the academic senate. Said Prof. Hilbert, "I do not see that the sex of the candidate is an argument against her admission as a Privatdozent. After all, the university senate is not a bathhouse." She was finally admitted to the faculty in the year 1919. Edmund Landau declined to describe her as the daughter of Max Noether; but rather stated, "Max Noether was the father of Emmy Noether. Emmy is the origin of coordinates in the Noether family."

Emmy fled Germany in 1933; she had been forbidden from teaching undergraduate classes by the Nazi racial laws. She joined the faculty at Bryn Mawr College in the United States. She died at Bryn Mawr on April 14, 1935. Her doctor told her that she needed an operation, and she scheduled it during a college break at Bryn Mawr, without telling anyone. She perished during or shortly after the surgery. Emmy never married, and she had no relatives in the USA. Emmy was buried in the Cloisters of Thomas Great Hall on the Bryn Mawr Campus.

Adapted from the Wikipedia, online at www.wikipedia.org

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In the Kitchen With
Barbara Sherman

by Karen Engman



As I sit down in late March to write this article for the May/June issue, I still have Passover on my mind, so I naturally think of my dear friend Barb Sherman because we usually compare our seder entrée choices. Barb is a terrific cook and hostess so she's the perfect choice for a Chef du Jour column.

Barbara Sherman, known long ago as Bobbi Jo to her family, was born in Des Moines but always had strong ties to Omaha where her mother Dolores (Doie) Sklar Robinson was raised. Her father Marty still lives here in Des Moines and they are very close.

Barb graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1967, then went off to the University of Oklahoma, finishing her elementary education degree at Drake University. She moved to Minneapolis to teach kindergarten. There she met her future husband Bruce Sherman who was a friend of her cousin Jeff Robinson.

It turns out there were numerous connections between Barb's family and the Shermans. The sisters of each of their fathers were best friends. In fact, Barb has

a childhood photograph of herself with Bruce's Aunt Elaine Menzer. Even before that, Bruce's mother Doris stayed with Barb's mother Doie at the University of Iowa while visiting her boyfriend Eddie Sherman.

After four months of dating, Barb and Bruce were engaged and then married in December of 1972. They eventually moved to Des Moines to raise their family. Daughter Amy (31) is married to Darren Goldstein of Kansas City and they are the parents of Sam (2½) and Jake (7 months) and they live in Milwaukee. Son Andy (29) lives in Denver and will be married there this summer to Kirsten Ryerson.

Cooking, entertaining, reading, Pilates, gardening, and walking their dogs Chloe and Ridge are some of her favorite pastimes. She has served on Temple B'nai Jeshurun's board, been president of Crossroads PTA, parent group chair at Indian Hills and been involved with the parent

board at Valley High School. Barb is in charge of securing the artists who craft the brassiere masterpieces for the "Bras for A Cause" evening. She still does fundraising for Variety Club and is working on the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center's special event scheduled for next September.

Her most favorite activity, besides a passion for chocolate, is babysitting and visiting her grandsons. Barb also stays busy with her business Barb Sherman Stationery and traveling with her husband Bruce, who

is co-owner with David Lettween of P.D.S. Inc, a packaging company.

Everyone seems to have a lemon bar recipe but Barb swears that she "dreams about these delicious bars after she eats them!" Ina Garten's BAREFOOT CONTESSA cookbooks have wonderful recipes and the JEWISH PRESS thanks Barb for sharing this one with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or a cooking question, call (274-3300) or email(aengmandsm@yahoo.com) Karen Engman.

Lemon Bars*

A Recipe from Barb Sherman

(20 squares or 40 triangles)

Crust

- ½ lb unsalted butter at room temperature
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/8 tsp kosher salt

Dairy

Filling:

- 6 extra large eggs at room temperature
- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 2 Tablespoons grated lemon zest (4-6 lemons)
- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

Confectioners' (powdered) sugar for dusting

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. For the crust, cream butter and sugar until light in the bowl of an electric mixer with the paddle attachment. Combine the flour and salt and, with the mixer on low, add to the butter until just mixed. Dump the dough onto a well-floured board and gather together into a ball. Flatten the dough with floured hands and press into a greased with cooking spray 9x13x2 inch baking pan (pyrex is fine), building up a ½ inch edge on all sides. Chill.

Bake crust for 15-20 minutes, until lightly browned. Let cool on a wire rack. Leave oven on.

For the filling, whisk together the eggs, sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice and flour. Pour over the crust and bake for 30-35 minutes, until the filling is set. Let cool to room temperature.

Cut into triangles and dust with confectioners' sugar.

* from Ina Garten's BAREFOOT CONTESSA PARTIES, page 200

{ Rethink your drink. }

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BETH EL JACOB PARTNERS WITH SEARCH FIRMS

Over the past two years Beth El Jacob – The Orthodox Congregation of Des Moines, has been active in an attempt to interest young Orthodox Jewish families to make a life in Des Moines. Direct mail efforts and advertisements have targeted a number of areas in New York, Chicago and Baltimore. Rabbi Schwarzbaum has been overseeing the effort. “While over 44 families have responded to the idea of making a home in Des Moines, our major obstacle has been finding jobs. Even though people within state government tell us Iowa will be in need of 150,000 skilled workers by 2010, finding those jobs has been frustrating.”

Enter Terry Myers. Myers, a business consultant who has been involved with the

shul, learned of the problem and has facilitated a system to intake resumes and applications and then send them to select individuals within the Des Moines business community. “Our goal,” says Myers, “is to get additional eyes on many of these very well qualified individuals. We think we can do that by using our contacts with various professional recruiters we’ve engaged over the years.”

The first step has been to adjust the Beth El Jacob website to allow individuals to know how their applications and resumes will be handled. “We’ll continue to use every possible tool we can consider to build and maintain a vibrant Orthodox Community here in Des Moines,” says Schwarzbaum.

Beth El Jacob - “The Orthodox Congregation of Des Moines” For Updated News & Events: BethElJacob.org

- Daily Minyan: Part of the luxury of having an Orthodox Congregation in the city is the opportunity for men and women from any tradition to experience a daily minyan. Our morning minyan is held weekdays at 7am and afternoon and evening services begin at 7:00pm. Shabbat and Sunday morning at 9:00am.
- BEJ School: Beth El Jacob has a daily pre-school through third grade program starting at 9am. For more information – Janice Schwarzbaum – 515-274-1551.
- Every Tuesday: Contemporary Issues Through Torah Eyes – A review of the hot social topics of the week and a look at the answers in Torah – Rabbi Schwarzbaum – No Charge – 7:30pm
- Every Sunday: “Ask Janice” - An engaging and entertaining discussion about the relationship between women, aspects of our faith and how in the world do you cook for NINE people every day?? Babysitting is available and the entire community is invited to participate. It’s a fun, informal opportunity to visit, nosh and enjoy. Janice Schwarzbaum leads this new program each Sunday morning at 10:00am in the Pruce Library. – No Charge
- May 2: Congregational Dinner – Come experience a traditional service and a full Shabbat Meal with stories and singing. For reservations – 515-274-1551
- May 11: BEJ Sisterhood Mother’s Day Luncheon – Ladies and Gentlemen make plans to attend the event. For reservations and details – 515-274-1551
- May 22: Lag b’ Omer BBQ – Everyone is welcome to come, learn and nosh a little. The event kicks off right after Ma’riv or about 7:30pm.
- June 6: Congregational Dinner – Come and celebrate Shabbat but please make reservations as we fill up quickly.
- June 8: Shavout Dinner – A special Holiday...a special meal!
- June 9: Shavout Lunch – Follows services – Reservations please.

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Texas Hold’em/ Game Night at Tifereth Israel Synagogue May 4 from 5pm to 8pm. There will be a silent and live auction featuring fabulous items. Pizza and snacks will be served. The cost is only \$15.00. The event is open to the community. For more info and to RSVP contact the Synagogue office at 255-1137.

capture lasting memories with a gift that lasts forever...

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For \$36, a tree certificate will be mailed to the recipient. Your \$36 goes towards the purchase of trees, care and maintenance.



Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center Have You Seen It?

Have you been by The Life Center lately? Have you seen how the continuing generosity of our community of donors has transformed the environment of the building? If you haven’t taken the time to drop by The Life Center to see how Project Renewal has been actualized, then you’ve missed the opportunity to see how dollars and cents have been transformed into beauty and love.

While some may see the transformation of our Resident rooms as the end of the process which started with the development of our Memory Care unit, the truth is that the process of reinventing the environment and programming of The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center is evolutionary and, at times, revolutionary.

Memory Care at Boulevard Place has exceeded every hope, every preconceived notion we had for this extraordinary dementia-care facility. As the last of its fourteen

beds was filled this past November, we barely had time to draw a breath before embarking on Project Renewal - a facility-wide redecoration/renovation. Now, as the final phases of that major undertaking draw to a close, we turn our attention to actualizing other ideas which will bring us closer to our ultimate goal of making The Senior Life Center more of a “Home” and less of an institution.

As we look to the 14 of Nisan and the beginning of Passover, we want to invite the entire community which is served by The Life Center to come by and see what they have wrought through their generosity and, furthermore, to ask that community to join with us in imagining a future where the vision of an extraordinary “Home” committed to serving the needs of our elders and their families can continue to grow and evolve.

With warmest Regards
–Stephen P. Blend, M.H.A.
Executive Director

B’nai Mitzvah



Leah Kitsis
Saturday, June 14
Temple B’nai Jeshurun
Mr. and Mrs. David Kitsis are pleased to announce the Bat

Mitzvah of their daughter Leah on June 14, at 10:00 am, at Temple B’nai Jeshurun. The congregation is invited to a Kiddush Luncheon immediately following the Bat Mitzvah service.



Brian Daniel Wahlig
Saturday, June 28
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
Joseph and Laurie Wahlig are pleased

to announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son Brian on Saturday, June 28 at 9:00 am, at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. The congregation is invited to a Kiddush Luncheon immediately following the service.

Jewish Motorcyclists Ride to Omaha for Holocaust Education Fundraiser, May 22

The Jewish Motorcycle Alliance, a national organization that annually raises funds to support Holocaust education, has announced it will hold its “Ride to Remember” fundraiser this year to benefit the National Holocaust Education Fund, a non-profit organization affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Omaha.

Hundreds of motorcyclists are expected to converge on Omaha on Thursday, May 22. The weekend program in Omaha will start with a dinner. The next morning the group will ride to the Nebraska Holocaust Memorial and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln before heading back to Omaha for optional Shabbat services. There are optional events on Saturday prior to a night on the town. Information and the registration form may be found at www.jewishbikersworldwide.com.

Mazel Tov

Dr. Marshall Luban has been selected as a Fellow of the American Physical Society, the leading organization of physicists in the US. Selection is restricted to less than half of 1% of the membership. The citation for his selection reads “For long-term significant contributions to condensed matter theory, including pioneering work on the Lifshitz multicritical point, on Bloch oscillations of electrons in semiconductor superlattices, and the modeling of magnetic molecules.” The Luban family are members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue and the Ames Jewish Congregation.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Edward Frankel
Ruth Gordon
Shirley Hiersteiner
James F. Levy
Maurice Naggat
Phillip Peshkin
Leonord Lipsey Pidgeon

Ross Daniels inducted as DMARC President



Ross Daniels begins his term as president of the Des Moines Area Religious Council. Ross, from Temple B’nai Jeshurun, is the second member of the Jewish community to head the interreligious council. The late Larry Myers, from Tifereth Israel Synagogue, served as president previously.

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Shame from page 1

SHAME ON US for not telling you that every day, your campaign dollars, along with the dollars from endowment funds, are literally making the difference whether people eat, whether they can fill their prescriptions, obtain necessary medical equipment or to even get their car repaired so that they can go to work to feed their children and pay their electric bill. SHAME ON US for not telling you how many mitzvot you are performing each and every day!

Beginning in the 1970s, Jewish Family Services became – as did many Jewish Family Services throughout the United States – an agency that dealt with family and individual counseling and new immigration from the former Soviet Union. Immigration, resettlement, counseling and Tzedakah necessitated more and more confidentiality, as we helped deal with private issues that befell the many members of our community who were, and continue to be, in financial or emotional distress.

In the last fiscal year, \$65,000 was spent on Tzedakah for 181 individuals or families. Our Senior Adult Program OASIS, supports our seniors living in the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center and our elderly New Americans that immigrated from the former Soviet Union. This was done with monies from the David Tobis Fund, the Shalom Home Fund, the final year of the federal grant from the Federal Agency on Aging, a small grant from United Way and, most significantly, your gift to the Federation's All-in-One Campaign.

Of the 600 members of the Jewish community who are retired and widowed and over 65-70 years old, approximately 380 live near or below the federal poverty line. This is not because they did not work hard and save their money. They expected to be able to live on their Social Security and modest savings, but the world has changed! What was true for their parents' generation did not hold true for them. If the 1999 high-tech market did not do their finances in, the current markets have now reduced their savings even further.

The majority of our seniors live in their own homes because they are paid for, even though their homes may no longer be appropriate for their physical needs. They live on modest incomes, their medical needs are increasing and Medicare often does not cover those needs or necessary prescriptions.

A second group of seniors, our seniors from the former Soviet Union, many who live in a HUD-subsidized project and receive only \$661 a month through Social Security. JFS has a part-time case worker who provides trips to the hospital and doctors and translates for them. Due to extremely harsh living conditions in the former Soviet Union, they have not aged well and have many health problems. The third site that JFS is involved with is River Trace, a HUD-subsidized complex. Seventy-six percent of these seniors are African-American and all are considered low income.

This year, ninety-three seniors had individualized in-home assessments because of their multiple needs. These clients received case management with continued follow-up visits and phone calls. We provide Medic Alerts for many so that they can reach emergency services quickly. Due to poor coverage by Medicare and insurance (Iowa is number 50 in the U.S. for reimbursements), if not for JFS, these seniors would be unable to afford items

such as eye glasses, hearing aids, prescription drugs, tub chairs, grab bars, walkers, monitors and emergency response systems to keep them healthy and safe in their own homes.

Some of our seniors have to choose between a high drug co-pay and food. Some may not be able to afford Part D prescription insurance – and this is where you come in. No one should have to choose between food and medication.

In the last six months, 121 seniors received transportation to doctor appointments, pharmacies, grocery stores and social activities from 19 volunteers who graciously serve in our Volunteer Drivers Program.

Every month our Senior Adult Social Worker, Pat Nawrocki, plans a lunch for between 50 and 70 of our Jewish Seniors. Many are picked up by our aging van, which is unfortunately not handicapped accessible. The lunch site alternates between the three synagogues. At each lunch a nurse from the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center takes blood pressures and answers medical questions.

Our participants have enjoyed many guest speakers at these luncheons over the last two years. Healthcare programs for seniors is important and the seniors have enjoyed a wide variety of speakers and topics, such as: "Memory Changes" and "Routine Body Maintenance" with Patrice Weber; Cedar Valley Medical Monitoring; Pharmacist Michael Wolnerman; Home Instead; "Memory Care" with Karel Roush from the IJSLC; "Chronic Conditions" with Tammy Keiter from the Polk County Health Management Services and information about the Peer Advocate Program on Medicare.

Entertainment is also very important and the seniors enjoyed a wide-variety of programming, such as: "The Magic Flute" and "Orhella" operas at Simpson College; "The Foreigner" at the Playhouse; music by Rabbi Padorr, Laura Berkson, Jim Wangemann and David's Music Show Experience; storytelling with Neil Salowitz; Magician "Doc" Anderson; trips to Prairie Meadows for musical performances and dancing; poet Dorothy Clark; a picnic with Engman Camp Shalom kids; Roosevelt Chamber Chorale; a Des Moines Art Center Docent talked about Impressionists; the Valley High School Mime Group and "Clickette the Clown!"

Next month, read about how your dollars help individuals and families.

Marvels from page 7 The Tri-Wizard program operates out of both Jewish and Arab schools in the region and has staffing from both. Student representatives from both the predominantly Jewish High School, ORT Darski, and the predominantly Arab High School, ORT Hilmi-Shafi, spoke to us about some of the many things they learned in their interactions.

We toured the Old City in Jerusalem and shopped in the Arab Christian and Arab Muslim Quarters. Hebrew speaking Israeli Jews were both touring in large numbers and also shopping and buying from the Muslim and Christian Israeli Arabs in the Shuk (the market) who were alternately speaking Hebrew and Arabic to one another.

Israeli Jews learn to speak Arabic as well as English. Most native Israelis are relatively fluent in Arabic and Israeli Arabs can speak Hebrew and English well. The current economic interaction between Israeli Jews and Arabs in the Old City is something that people could not remember occurring over most of the last two decades. One could actually find

Judaica being sold all over the Muslim Quarter and there was virtually no concern of violence anywhere. One guide told me that it is now not a big deal for Jews to enter the Old City through the Damascus Gate! There were years, in fact most of the last two decades, when even the suggestion of entering the Old City that way would have sent shivers down the spine of most Israeli Jews, a time when stab-bings were commonplace. Now, one can find Hebrew speaking Israeli tour groups walking through the Muslim Quarter and buying from shops that a decade ago they would never have approached.

I visited the Barakat Antiquities Gallery on the Via De La Rosa in the Old City. I mentioned to the man there that I had visited his family's stores in Scottsdale, Arizona. They own several jewelry stores and other stores including a restaurant in Old Scottsdale. He asked me if I had visited their family's store on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills.

Right now the Israeli economy is booming, especially in Jerusalem and on the central coast, and many of those Israeli Arabs living there have become very wealthy as have many Jews. Up in the Western Galilee, things are more difficult financially for both Jews and Arabs, but it was abundantly clear that where Jews and Arabs worked together, they were finding success.

I hope that in the not too distant future, we can arrange a trip to the Western Galilee on which many others could attend and see places where Jews and Arabs can actually get along and how they go about doing it.

In the words of Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav, "Kol ha-olam kulo, gesher tsar meod. V'ha-ikar lo l'fa-ched klal." "All the world is a very narrow bridge, but the key is not to be afraid." Reaching out and exploring coexistence may certainly feel like crossing a very narrow bridge, but the key to accomplishing it is not to be afraid to try. It was nice to see so many narrow bridges being constructed and crossed in Israel today.

–Shabbat Shalom.

France from page 8 "I love this next part, where the American Idiots pretend to taste the difference between the cheap wine and the expensive wine!" We were celebrities in France. Everywhere we went people apparently recognized us as television stars and intentionally ignored us. ("Jacques, here comes those famous American Idiots! Try not to speak to them.") We think they were just trying to respect our privacy. The French are just like that.

Contractually-obligatory Jewish-related observations: We decided to complete our tour of Bordeaux without Eddy, and found our way to the lonely Chateau Quercy. Located on the outskirts of Saint Emilion, Chateau Quercy earned the honor of our visit because of its two unique qualifications: it was the only vineyard open on the day we wanted to go to a vineyard, and it was located 50 yards from the World War II border of Vichy France and "Free France." As we walked amongst the beautiful rows of grapes, wine-master/owner Stephane Apelbaum explained the history of the vineyard and its precarious location mere yards from where German panzers stopped their advance into southern France. Being a well-known American Idiot, the un-French name "Apelbaum" compelled me to ask: "Hey Apelbaum, is it possible you are Jewish like us?" "Yes I am, but that's not something you talk about around here too much." Apparently, it doesn't help your wine-growing and selling business to tell any of the

French locals that you happen to be Jewish, what with the Bad History Together and all that. The Apelbaum family must have felt safe from the Germans once they were 50 yards beyond their grasp, but when it came to choosing vineyard sites, they were obviously playing with fire. But in Stephane's honor, we can proudly recommend Chateau Quercy, and its Vignobles Apelbaum, especially the delicious Grand Cru, which can be found at select fine wine stores and on the internet at www.chateauquercy.com. Make sure you say hello from the American Idiots.

Next issue: The family travels through rural France on its way to Switzerland and the Czech Republic. Lots of unbelievable, funny, and somewhat inappropriate Jewish references along the way. Especially in Prague, where the Jews are like the Aztecs. Feel free to provide feedback to the author at iowadave@mchsi.com. A personal response is guaranteed.

Coleman from page 9 After investigating the program, there were three reasons that I wanted to go. First, the reputation of the Weitzmann Institute preceded itself. It has been on the cutting edge of science education for decades, so that was attractive professionally to me. Second, the opportunity to meet with teachers from other countries was enormous. One of the major conversations we are having on the national and state level is how to help our schools be globally competitive. Discussing education with other highly talented professionals gave me the opportunity to really understand what we need to be working towards. And third, while I had visited Israel previously as a tourist, this was an opportunity to work directly with Israelis, on their home turf, in an area I am very passionate about, education. The chance to work with, eat with, and enjoy these people was too good to pass up. I hope I get chance to return to Israel and to the Institute at some point, the experience was that valuable. I'm thankful to the Federation for the professional stipend it granted me to attend the conference.

I finished the program with a much greater insight in how education is conducted in other countries, understanding that as educators we struggle with many of the same problems. Who establishes the education agenda and accountabilities (whether local, state, or national) appears to have a tremendous influence on academic success. And probably most important of all, kids are kids wherever they may live. We have far more commonalities than differences.

JP: Thank you for helping us to get to know you a little better, Sara. Continued best wishes for success.

SC: You're welcome.

Mutation from page 14

"Our findings suggest that, by interfering with IGF-I signaling, these gene mutations somehow play a role in extending the human life span, as they do in many other organisms," says Dr. Nir Barzilai, senior author of the study and director of the Institute for Aging Research at Einstein.

Dr. Barzilai notes that a drug that decreases IGF-I action is currently being tested as a cancer treatment and could be useful in delaying aging. "Since the subjects in our study have been exposed to their mutations since conception, it is not clear whether people would need such a therapy throughout life or if it could help people who received it at a later time." Besides Dr. Barzilai, other Einstein scientists involved in the study were lead author Yousin Suh, Gil Atzmon and Mi-Ook Cho.

Jewish Community Relations Commission

How Your Federation Dollar Changes Iowa Classrooms

29th Annual Teachers' Institute Draws 300 Area Professors, College Students and School Teachers



Dr. Patricia Woodward-Young and Irshad Manji

The Teachers' Institute, which has over the years reached more than 5,000 area educators, this year focused on "Critical Thinking in a Global World."

Keynote speakers were Irshad Manji and Dr. Patricia Woodward-Young. Manji, from New York University, is the author of "The Trouble with Islam Today." Dr. Woodward-Young is professor of education at Simpson College, which co-sponsored this year's Institute and brought over 120 students and professors to the event.

Over the years, the Teachers' Institute has focused on a variety of subjects, including: American/Israeli Relations; Judaism; Anti-Semitism; Holocaust education; Diversity; Church/State Relations; Terrorism and this year, "how to teach students critical thinking in a quickly changing, global world."

We have had many highly renowned national speakers who have interacted with teachers from all over Iowa, and have had enormous influence on the education and perceptions of Iowa children. This is just yet another example of how your gifts to the campaign are used to make our community, and even our state, a more civil, educated and respected environment for the Jewish community.

Cantor Deborah Bletstein of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, where the program was held, explained to the attendees the

symbols of the sanctuary. Co-chairs for the Institute were JCRC's Barbara Hirsch-Giller and Roselind Rabinowitz. The dinner was catered by Susan Madorsky and table hosts from the Jewish community welcomed our guests.



Co-chairs Roselind Rabinowitz and Barbara Hirsch-Giller with Dean Steven Griffith of Simpson College

Iowa Jewish Historical Society

"The Sparks Fly Upward" to Premier November 8

The Sparks Fly Upward Foundation is an Iowa non-profit corporation, the purpose of which is to educate people about the Holocaust, genocide and tolerance through theatrical presentations, ancillary educational displays, exhibits, and accompanying materials and curricula, while paying tribute to the victims and heroes of the Holocaust.

"The Sparks Fly Upward" is a musical drama/opera that follows three German families in Berlin, two Jewish and one Christian, through the Holocaust, beginning in the autumn of 1938. The story is told completely through music and is based on years of research in many Holocaust archives. "The Sparks Fly Upward" was written and composed by Cathy Lesser Mansfield.

"The Sparks Fly Upward" will premiere in Des Moines on November 8, 2008 – the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the first major Nazi attack on Jews in Germany and Austria. The premiere will feature members of the Des Moines Symphony and Joseph Giunta, the Des Moines Choral Society and a multi-media component, in which story-appropriate images from Berlin and from the Holocaust, selected with the help of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will be projected on the stage during the piece. Education about the Holocaust in conjunction with the production will be achieved in a number of ways, including through a companion curriculum, a footnoted libretto, a dress rehearsal in front of a student audience, a continuing education class through the Des Moines Jewish Federation and displays available at the performance venue about other genocides.



Cathy Lesser Mansfield is a Professor of Law at Drake University Law School in Des Moines, Iowa. She teaches a variety of Consumer Law courses. She is the Chair of the Board of Directors of Americans for Fairness in Lending, has served on the Board

of Directors of the National Association of Consumer Advocates, and has worked as a consultant for the National Consumer Law Center. She lectures nationally about consumer law issues. Her publications include Literacy & Contract, 13.2 Stanford Law and Policy Review 233 (2002)(with Alan M. White) and The Road to Subprime "HEL" was Paved With Good Congressional Intentions: Usury Deregulation and the Subprime Home Equity Market, 51 S.C.L. REV. 473 (2000).

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[calendar]

Thursday, May 1	12:00 Noon	Women's Friendship Luncheon at Tifereth with First Christian Church
Saturday, May 3	10:00 am	Benjamin Weinberg Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Sunday, May 4	9:00 am	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Program at The Caspe Terrace
	2:00-5:00 pm	Israel's 60th Birthday
	5:00-8:00 pm	Leadership Forum at Beth El Jacob Synagogue
Friday, May 9	6:00-8:00 pm	Tifereth Game Night
Saturday, May 10	9:00 am	Confirmation Ceremony at Temple B'nai Jeshurun
Sunday, May 11	9:00 am	Tifereth Women's League Shabbat
Sunday, May 18	1:00-4:00 pm	Israeli Film Series at The Caspe Terrace
Sunday, May 18		Temple Youth Fundraiser
Sunday, May 18	12:00 Noon	Walk for Israel at the Temple
Monday, May 19	7:15 pm	Federation Board of Directors Meeting at Beth El
Tuesday, May 20	5:00 pm	Life Center Board Meeting
Thursday, May 22	12:00 Noon	Senior luncheon at the Temple
Saturday, May 24	9:00 am	Aaron Bell Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sunday, June 1	1:00-2:00 pm	Life Center Donor Event
Thursday, June 5	5:00-7:00 pm	Pomegranate Event at the East Village Book Store
Sunday, June 8	1:00-4:00 pm	Israeli Film Series at The Caspe Terrace
		Shavuot Begins
Thursday, June 12	12:00 Noon	Senior Luncheon at Tifereth
Friday, June 13	5:00 pm	Temple Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 14	10:00 am	Leah Kitsis Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Monday, June 16	9:00 am	Engman Camp Shalom begins
Saturday, June 21	10:00 am	Alex Newman Bar Mitzvah at the Temple
Sunday, June 22	6:30 pm	Federation Annual Meeting at The Caspe Terrace
Saturday, June 28	9:00 am	Brian Wahlig Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sunday, June 29	12:00 Noon	Marriage Ceremony of Deborah David at Tifereth

For the most up-to-date schedule go to jewishdesmoines.org

Darwish from page 1 Peace was never an option and never mentioned as a virtue." A line from a popular song children sang at recess was, "Arabs are our friends and Jews our dogs."

"The severe indoctrination is devastating on children," Nonie says. "Those who end up as terrorists are simply the ones who took their education and upbringing seriously and did what they were told."

In 1956, when Nonie was eight, her father was assassinated by the Israel Defense Forces. He became a national hero, a "shahid," and a symbol for the resistance against Israel. Nonie believes the culture of hatred and jihad caused his death; as a young girl, she began to question the society and traditions in which she had been steeped.

Her family later moved back to Egypt where Nonie earned a bachelor's degree in sociology/anthropology from the American University in Cairo. She worked as an editor and translator for the Middle East News Agency and attended several international conferences. This exposure motivated her to leave Egypt and move to the United States in 1978.

After moving to the United States, Nonie increasingly began to realize the extent and impact of the indoctrination of her formative years in Gaza and Egypt. Despite the risks to her own personal safety, Nonie decided she had to speak out. As a mother and a proud Arab woman, she decided she didn't want to see future generations of Arab children programmed to hate and to be intolerant.

Nonie's message is not about disloyalty but love for her culture of origin. She blames Arab leadership and the media for the endless rage and violence of the Arab street.

"Hate speech cannot only be blamed on schools, since it starts and is spoon-fed to Arab children from birth and continues throughout life - inside the family, in mosques, radio, TV, cartoons and newspapers," Nonie says. "The social pressure for hatred and anti-Semitism results in a mob mentality that is hard to escape. That is the mechanism Muslim society uses to guarantee a constant flow of a Muslim army ready for jihad."

Nonie believes there is a solution. That solution, she says, must begin with soul-searching by Muslims both in the Middle East and the United States. Looking inward, says Nonie, is the first step to restoring Arab culture to its original greatness. Ultimately, she hopes to see a reformation in the Islamic world similar to that experienced in Christianity and Judaism centuries ago.

Nonie is married and the mother of three children. She is a freelance writer, public speaker and an interpreter. Her articles have been published in the U.S. and international media and she lectures regularly, bringing her positive message and call for change to audiences across the country.

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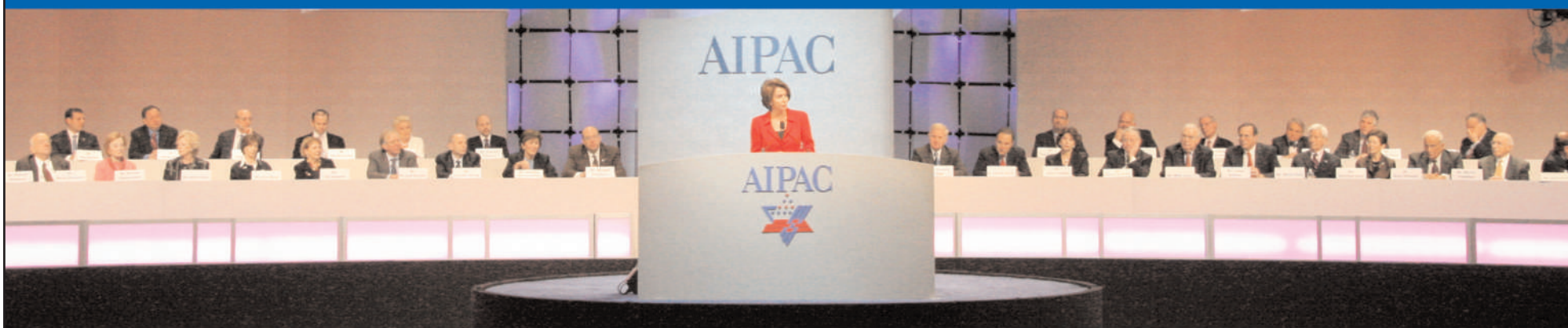
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