

THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

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SHAVUOT begins the evening of May 28



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The Challenge of Tzedakah

by Elaine Steinger, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation

We take up the tasks of Tzedakah because we believe certain things. When we work for Jewish causes because we are Jews, we express our reaching for the holy. Why? Because Judaism has always maintained that the Jewish people are holy. And holiness is not limited to a holy place - a temple, or synagogue, or JCC. The holiness of Israel, the Jewish people, is as a people, a family. What we do contains the potential for being holy. The faith of Judaism bridges the practical things - raising money for Jewish causes, and the spiritual things, like praying or studying Torah.

So I am going to ask you for Tzedakah - to make your pledge or to raise your pledge. As much as the economy has hurt you, more fellow Jews than you can image are in worse need than most of us. Daily we are receiving phone calls at the office asking for assistance, and right now, we have to say "No." So, I am going to ask you to stretch. I am going to ask you to make the synagogues and the Federation in Des Moines your priority - YOUR ONLY giving priority this year and next year - because we only have each other.

Extend your Tzedakah by giving a gift of time and talent as well.

Jewish Federations and our synagogues need your dollars to perform mitzvot. But ... we also need your time to provide a community and leadership. We need to engage you for our boards and committees. We require volunteers to run our campaign and to fill up the chairs and sit at meetings night after night. So, when the phone rings squash these thoughts: "Don't pick up the phone, Doris - it is the Federation again." Instead, consider giving a little of your time to help a lot of your fellow Jews.

When you enter into these meetings, you often enter into relationships of conflict and disagreement about policy, programs, or planning, and may find you have taken on a burden you didn't want.

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MEET AJC'S RABBI DAVID WIRTSCHAFTER



Rabbi David Wirtschafter is the rabbi of the Ames Jewish Congregation in Iowa and the Rabbi-in-Residence at the Amos and Celia Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School. Before these roles he served as the Senior Rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Ana, California, as Associate Rabbi at Peninsula Temple Shalom in Burlingame, CA and Assistant Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Huntington, NY. In all of his positions, Rabbi Wirtschafter has focused on creativity and collaboration which has led to innovations in worship, community involvement, social action, education, pastoral counseling, and programming. He was ordained by Hebrew

Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, and received his B.A. in English Literature from Brandeis University. He is currently working on two book projects: "Ridicule on Rye: A Rabbi Responds to Current Critiques of Modern Religion" and "The Torah They Never Taught You: Examining Bad Stories in the Good Book." David is married to Shana Sippy, a writer and Jewish educator. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in the Religion Department at Columbia University. They have two children, Zachariah and Emanuelle.

Rabbi Wirtschafter graduated from Brandeis University with High Honors in English Literature, also studying Bible, History, and Hebrew in the Judaic Studies Department. As a student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, Rabbi Wirtschafter developed a philosophy of Torah Study that embraces humor as a key to understanding our humanity. His thesis, "The Comedy of Jonah," grapples with the absurd ways anger can lead us to lose sight of God's greatest gifts: forgiveness, love and life itself.

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Register Now For Engman Camp Shalom

Engman Camp Shalom 2008 was a wonderful camping experience for many Jewish children. This year should be even better! Engman Camp Shalom is an eight week program and is located at The Caspe Terrace, 33158 Ute Avenue in Waukee. Our Camp begins on Monday, June 15 and runs through Friday, August 7.



Many exciting new programs will be introduced this summer. Our Camp Director, Kathryn Engebretson, will be returning for another outstanding summer. Jeremy Schwartz, Asst. Dir., and David Copeland will also be returning.

With Kathryn at the helm, our staff has been hand-selected to provide the highest quality of care. We will have one Shlich coming to our camp this summer.

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Hold the Date Sunday, July 12, 2009

Federation's Annual Meeting and IJHS's "Jews Love Baseball" at The Caspe Terrace

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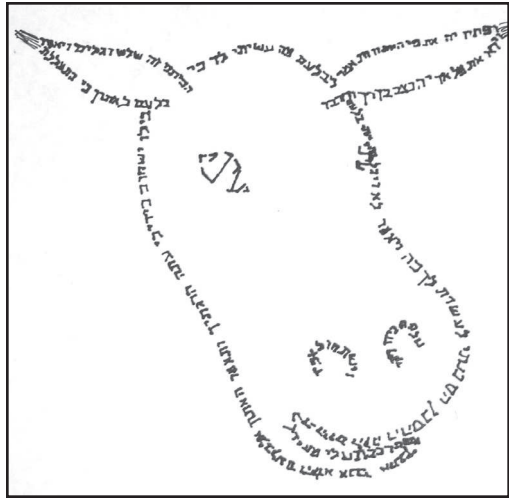
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JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

JEWISH ART



by Rachel Jacobs

Recently the Jewish Federation Community School Jr/Sr High School students spent some time studying two traditional Jewish art forms, micrography and papercutting.

Micrography is a uniquely Jewish art form in which rows of text replace simple pen strokes. The lines of text are used either to draw outlines or to fill in shapes. Originally simple marginal doodles made by bored religious scribes, medieval and modern micrograms are often elaborate full page drawings.

While they lettered, the 9th and 10th grade students learned about the history of micrography, Jewish migration (as seen through the spread of the technique), and Jewish/non-Jewish cross-cultural influences (as evidenced by differences in

style and content). The classes ended with discussions of the modern revival and the effects of mass production on the micrograph market.

The 7th and 8th grade students learned about the art of papercutting. Unlike micrography, traditional papercutting was an amateur activity. Boys would snip out Sukkah decorations or cut out simple shapes to be pasted on the covers of their school books. More elaborate papercuts might be cut by an adult at the kitchen table. Because of this, very few old papercuts survive and some are known only through pre-Holocaust, black and white pictures.

These students cut out religious-themed designs which were then mounted on dark paper. As they worked, they also learned about Jewish migration, Jewish/non-Jewish cross-cultural influences (including the arrival of paper in the Middle East) and the modern revival of traditional Jewish art forms. Both Jr/Sr High School students seemed to enjoy the combined history lesson/craft project sessions. Submitted by I. Pour-El, instructor.

ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM JUNE 15-AUG 7

SHLICHIM BRING ISRAELI CULTURE TO ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM

This year, one Israeli shliach, recommended to us through the Jewish Community Center's summer Shlichim Program, will work at Engman Camp Shalom. The Youth and Hehalutz Department and Jewish Agency's Security Department within the Government of Israel have carefully screened each shliach. 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.

Serving as our Israeli Culture Camp Specialist, the shliach 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 Lior Rottman, who is from Kadima, Israel, and is 21. She comes from a family that has three children, with Lior being the middle child. She went to Haddassim High School, a public school in Israel, majoring in theatre and literature. Her hobbies include singing, dancing, acting, pets, music, movies, and spending time with friends and family.

Besides her experience teaching Israeli culture, she has also taught drama, song leading and general arts and crafts. Lior is described as creative, responsible, caring and full of motivation.

She has had a variety of experiences such as a team leader in a summer camp and was in charge of creative programming and education in the Army. Lior is sensitive and calm and has a great approach to children. She is excited to be coming to the US and looks forward to sharing her skills and knowledge of Israel with our campers.



Scrambled Words For Shavuot

How much do you know about the holiday of Shavuot? Below are scrambled words to help you learn more about this holiday. Once the words are unscrambled, use them to answer the sentences. Shavuot falls on the evening of May 28th or Sivan 5.

ashvtre

pliermaigg

oacdmtnmsmen

cioatfrnmion

mreo

elbtsinz

Shavuot celebrates the year's first _____.

Farm families made a _____ to Jerusalem.

At Mt. Sinai the Israelites received the Ten _____.

_____ shows that a course of study has been completed.

We count the _____ for 49 days.

On Shavuot we eat foods made with milk like _____.

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Meet the Challenge of Difficult Times



Neil Salowitz
President

As I write this, the 2009 Federation All-in-One Campaign is just about over—and the results have been disappointing.

Pledges to the Campaign have dropped by 11% or \$60,300 over last year. If you are giving at the same level you gave last year, thank you. These are difficult times, and we appreciate your sacrifice. If you've been able to raise your gift, a special thanks for your generosity. During the coming months, I urge you to consider increasing your gift to the Federation.

One reason, of course, is the economy. The newspaper headlines and television and Internet news sources paint a dismal picture—layoffs, foreclosures, stock prices falling off a cliff. As I said in an earlier column, even if we're still employed and still have ample financial resources, we feel less well off. As our concern about our own well-being rises, we reason that we need to provide for ourselves and our families before, and sometimes to the exclusion of, anything or anyone else.

I don't think, however, that the economy is completely to blame for our disappointing fundraising results. Despite the Federation's efforts to tell our story, too many of you still don't understand the Federation's "value proposition" for our community.

You know that we run the Community School, which educates a large percentage of our children in the basics of Judaism. You know that we take care of many of our senior citizens of limited means. You're aware that we advocate for Israel and build strong relationships between the Jewish community and the greater Des Moines community. You've heard about the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, which preserves the history of Jewish Des Moines in a museum located at The Caspe Terrace. You may have attended a cultural event or lecture sponsored by the Federation. Despite all of this, we still hear, too often, that, "I don't really know what the Federation does." I'm frankly at a loss as to how to respond.

What do we need to do to get you to support your Federation enthusiastically? What is it about the Federation that you don't understand? If there is anything we can do to help you better to understand how the Federation works to serve EVERY Jew in our community, please contact me. As you can see, every remaining gift is essential. We most likely cannot make up the \$60,300 lost, but we desperately need the remaining \$106,363 to be committed.

Because of the decrease in pledges, we expect to be forced to curtail or eliminate funding for programs we've supported in the past. We will do everything we can to maintain funding for our core mission of helping seniors, educating our youth, supporting Israel and building the relationship between the Jewish community and the greater Des Moines community.

In previous columns, I've talked about Shabbat. I'm going to do it again, because in these difficult, stressful times, one can never get enough Shabbat.

A couple of months ago, Beth El-Jacob held a "Shabbos Challenge," a weekend retreat in which Shabbat was celebrated from sundown Friday to Sunday morning. Away from the distractions of every day life, people came together to pray, to sing and, of course, to eat.

I was out of town that weekend, and unable to attend, but I understand from people who took part that it was a wonderful, enriching experience. It got me wondering what would happen if everyone in the community took the time to celebrate Shabbat as it was intended to be celebrated.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the great scholar and one of the leading Jewish theologians of the 20th century, described Judaism as a religion of time, not space, and said that the Sabbath symbolizes the sanctification of time. Shabbat allows us to put aside "regular" time, with its distractions, stresses and worldly concerns, and bids us enter into a world outside regular time, a world of peace, contentment, rest and renewal.

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College Scholarships Available Through Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services [JFS] has applications and information for high school students seeking college scholarships. Within the Des Moines community, there are scholarships available with specific guidelines. Should you qualify for any of the scholarships listed below, you may request an application from JFS, 910 Polk Blvd., Des Moines, IA 50312, 515-277-6321. The applications are due by **May 15, 2009**. All applications will be forwarded to scholarship committees that are independent of the Jewish Community Services pillar and the Jewish Federation. Check with your synagogue for other scholarships.

Sidney Pruce Memorial Scholarships	Jewish students who have completed high school in Polk County and plan to attend an institution of higher learning in Iowa	Academic Achievement Leadership. Interested in Jewish Affairs. Financial need.
Abe and Libby Pruce Memorial Scholarship	Meritorious students of the Jewish faith in Iowa	Must pursue course of education in field of Jewish interest. May be used for institutions within the State of Iowa, the U.S. or abroad.

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

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

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

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Recent Grads

Send a photo and announcement by May 25, for publication in the July/August '09 edition. Jewish Press, 910 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312 or by e-mail to jcrc@dmjfed.org

Let us know...

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

senior news

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



Upcoming Luncheons:

Thursday, May 7, 12:00 Noon, at Tifereth Israel Synagogue

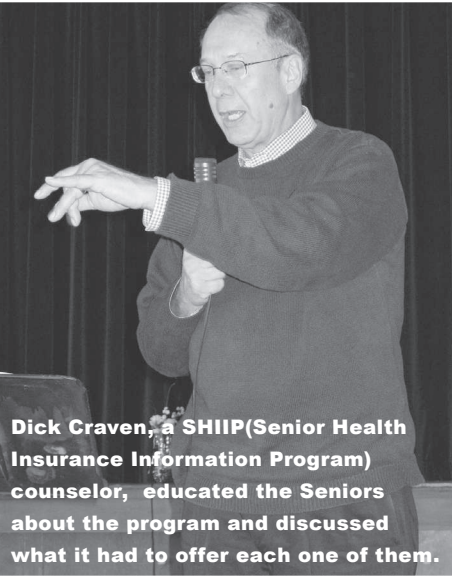
Once again we will have a wonderful performance by the Roosevelt Chamber Chorale. The Roosevelt Chamber Chorale consists of twelve select and auditioned singers who represent Theodore Roosevelt High School at many functions and concerts around the Des Moines Metropolitan area. Truly, these singers are ambassadors for the school! These students audition for the Iowa All-State Chorus in the fall, participate in the fall musical, prepare a winter concert, as well as take part in state contests in the spring.

The Roosevelt Chamber Chorale is under the direction of Mr. James McNear, Jr.

Thursday, June 18th, 12:00 Noon, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Join us for another informative session with Ed Bell, who is a professor in the College of Pharmacy at Drake University. He will be speaking on common problems when taking medication, how to choose your pharmacy and misconceptions about side effects of medicine. Ed teaches several classes in the pharmacy college, including classroom-based courses and clinic-based internships. He received his bachelor and doctorate degrees from the University of Maryland, and completed a residency in pharmacy practice at the University of Nebraska. Please feel free to ask questions at any time.

Blood Pressure checks will be available at each luncheon by nurses from the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center.



Dick Craven, a SHIIP(Senior Health Insurance Information Program) counselor, educated the Seniors about the program and discussed what it had to offer each one of them.



The Ideal Gift To Give Is...



Youself

Isn't it thoughtful! Esther and Warner Bergh were getting ready to go out for supper to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary. Their phone rang and it was Jacob Waizman, a client for whom they both volunteer. He was being discharged from the hospital and he and his wife Paula needed a ride home. So the Berghs, always putting others before themselves, put their own evening plans on hold to meet the needs of another. This is what it is all about: - that deed of kindness. Reaching out and helping someone in need. Making them feel loved and valued. These volunteers, along with many of our other volunteers, are assisting seniors with TRANSPORTATION, one of the biggest barriers to receiving adequate health care. Last year our Volunteer Program gave 1,276 rides to Seniors to grocery stores, doctor appointments and pharmacy trips ... that's about 25 rides per week. Thanks again to all of you volunteers for all your time and caring. You are the VOICE, HANDS AND HEARTS of the Volunteer Oasis/ Senior Adult Program.


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for independent seniors
JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

Setting the Standards in Retirement Living

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United Way Donors

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

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

Jewish Family Services - Individuals, families, seniors and children

Senior Adult Programs - Senior Adult socialization

Resettlement Program - Case management and health services for seniors

Jewish Family Life Education - Sponsorship of community-wide programs

Volunteer Opportunities - Numerous volunteer projects

Tzedakah - Last year assisted 180 community members in need

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



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



Elaine Steinger
Executive Director

Build a Legacy

WHY DO I NEED A WILL? It's a mistake to think that only the wealthy need wills. In fact, a will is the best way to guarantee that your assets - regardless of the size of your estate - are distributed exactly as you would like. Your will involves important decisions for you and your family. It answers questions about who will inherit and how much. And, most importantly, a will allows you to determine how your estate will be administered.

HOW DO I GET STARTED? You'll probably want to meet with an attorney, but before you do, you'll need to:

- Take inventory of your assets, noting their value and how they're owned
- Make a list of your important documents
- Decide which family members, friends and charitable institutions you would like to provide for in your will.

To simplify this process, we've created an estate worksheet to help meet your needs. To request a Will Kit, contact UJA-Federations' Department of Planned Giving & Endowments at 1-800-997-5266, ext. 20, or visit our website at www.planned-giving.org.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A WILL? Without a will, there is no way to guarantee that your loved ones will have access to your assets after your death. Without a will, the state will make all the decisions about your estate. Family, friends, and charitable institutions may not benefit from your generous intentions.

HOW CAN I CREATE A CHARITABLE BEQUEST? A bequest to the Des Moines Jewish Foundation offers you the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping to touch the lives of millions of people in Des Moines, in Israel, and throughout the world. Start by preparing your will today. Build a legacy for tomorrow's Jewish community and help ensure that your family, friends, and the institutions that matter to you benefit according to your wishes.



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

Endowment Reality Check

Endowments are often misunderstood. Just because the Federation has an endowment does that make it the "be all and end all" of financial stress on the organization this year? No and here's why.

First, the Federation endowment fund has been affected by the stock market and its overall holdings are down 25% this year. That means ALL earned interest is down and ALL programs will suffer.

Second, over 90% of the funds in the endowment were given with restrictions attached. That means the interest they earn can only be used for the purpose the donor made clear at the time of the gift. Because of donor designation, some programs will be cut less in these economic times; others that are not supported by an endowment will suffer severe cutbacks.

Why? It is only the last 10% in unrestricted endowment funds where earned interest, in a good economy, can be used to stretch support to help fund all the remaining Federation programs. The principal (the original dollars given by the donor) in these funds is untouchable. Even in a good year, which this has not been, it means that the Foundation must rely on its "All-in-One" Campaign to provide the majority of the funding it needs to support essential programs to the Jewish Community.

Please understand if you decide (or have already decided) to reduce your gift to the 2009 "All-in-One" Campaign this year by \$10 or by \$10,000 it means this ... either someone else has to accept the responsibility of making a new/larger gift or programs get cut. By fiscal policy, the Federation cannot simply take additional money out of the principal of its endowment to make ends meet.

Think carefully, plan appropriately and give generously (or even make a second gift to the 2009 All-in-One Campaign) while planning ahead, now, to make your gift to the 2010 Campaign your first priority next year.

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West Des Moines Urbandale Kaleidoscope Ingersoll



Come and listen as Jewish women artists tell their stories of how art and Judaism have influenced them in their professions. Find out how they express themselves through their art and how this has impacted their lives. Find out how you might be transformed to show your "other" self through the arts. Artists from a variety of disciplines, including photography, drawing, painting, dancing, sculpting, printmaking, and music will be session presenters.

Hee Yotzeret - "She Creates"

A day to honor Jewish women artists and their work

Sunday, May 17, 2009

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Rabbi

by David Friedgood



I have been thinking a lot about Rabbis lately. Particularly: How do we define Rabbi? What function do they serve in our community? And, how do we attract a good one to serve in Des Moines? The English word 'Rabbi' is derived from the Hebrew verb meaning 'to become great' or 'abundant'. In the Bible, Rav refers to a chief or important man: "Then the King ordered Ashpenaz, his chief (Rav) officer..." (Daniel 1:3). Moses is often referred to as our greatest teacher, but never a Rav, in the Bible. "And now, O Israel, give heed to the laws and rules that I am instructing (melamed) you to observe." (Deuteronomy 4:1) Moses, the first human to instruct us in the nuances and meaning of religion, was a melamed, a simple teacher. Only posthumously was he recognized as a great man – a Rav. The term Moshe Rabenu (Moses our great teacher) is now in common use.

Rabbis evolved as the Temple in Jerusalem was being destroyed. If Judaism was to survive in exile we needed teachers, learned individuals, to guide us in the observance of our rituals. Rabbis were men who after years of rigorous training and study were ordained by smeicha - a laying on of the hands. This rite harkens back to Moses laying his hands on Joshua – passing along the mantle of leadership to his protégé. "He laid his hands upon him and commissioned him – as the LORD had spoken through Moses." (Numbers 27:23) Prior to the modern era, trained rabbinic scholars served their communities without remuneration. Most earned their living in the professions. Maimonides, for instance, was a full time physician. Historically the terms Rav and Rabbi were honorific. An even greater distinction was to be called Rabbenu – our Rabbi, or Gaon – literally genius. The ultimate was to be referred to by a single name without qualification – such as Hillel. The title of Rabbi only came into popular use over the last several hundred years as a professional class of Rabbis emerged after the expulsion from Spain. Jews following Ashkenazi tradition ordained their Rabbis only after a period of study, followed by specific examination. The title Rabbi then is equivalent to a graduate degree, which may be offered at a secular university. Today, most new Rabbis in this country are trained in rabbinical schools or universities. Each major Jewish movement has their own schools. As Rabbis they are qualified teachers of Judaism and are able to render decisions concerning questions of Jewish Law.

Today we have professional Rabbis. Men and women who are paid to lead and guide their congregants. They provide the traditional services of a teacher and expert on Jewish law. As the community expert, Rabbis render the final decision on questions of law and ritual. They bless the cycles of our lives, presiding over birth and death, Bar and Bat mitzvot (ritual coming of age), marriage and divorce. The modern Rabbi, however, is expected to be more than a religious scholar. They need to be entertaining speakers – valued for their

oratory, particularly on holidays and Shabbat. The Rabbi is our representative before the larger, secular community. We look for them to lift our spirits. They help us navigate the uncertainties of our existence and to see beyond our limited horizons, offering us a glimpse of what is truly eternal. We expect our Rabbi to be a model of decorum. They are to provide us with a moral compass, an anchor in turbulent seas, comforting and reassuring, even as we often ignore their advice and admonitions. The Rabbi comforts us on our sick bed and reassures our family that, no matter how dire the circumstances, everything will be all right. They provide counseling services, easing the turbulence and fears common to our lives. They do all of this and much more. Indeed, it is hard to imagine a modern Jewish community functioning without rabbinic leadership.

Our tradition, however, has always had an ambivalent attitude to the extent of rabbinic authority. Just as Rabbis frequently disagree, congregants often quarrel with rabbinic leaders. For all their training, Rabbis are lay people. As individuals they have no special standing theologically. They serve at the grace of their congregants. Our greatest Rabbi, Moses, is purposefully not even mentioned at the Passover Seder, even though the entire service glorifies his accomplishments. As Jews we serve only one master, our eternal LORD, who is one, indivisible, and His name is one. No Rabbi, no matter how great, stands directly between us and our creator. If he or she is to succeed, our Rabbi is dependent on congregational support. As the Rabbi supports our soul, we need to nourish our Rabbi. The most eloquent sermon is empty of meaning if it falls on deaf ears (or if none are there to listen). In a sense, each community gets the Rabbi they deserve. For us to move forward as a supportive, spiritual community, we need to elevate rabbinic leadership. Our Rabbis need to feel that they are working with us, in partnership, united together in the task of tikun olam – perfecting our world. "You stand this day, all of you, before the LORD your God – your tribal heads, your elders, and your officials, all the men of Israel, your children, your wives, even the stranger... to enter into the covenant of the LORD your God..." (Deuteronomy 29:9-11) We are all in this world together. We need Rabbinic leadership for our individual and community well being. And, our Rabbi needs our support to thrive and prosper in these difficult times. To quote Rabbenu Moshe, speaking to us over the millennia, from his final sermon to the Jewish people before his death: "For this is not a trifling thing for you; it is your very life..." (Deuteronomy 32:47)

"...the LORD said to Samuel: 'Pay no attention to his appearance or his stature for I have rejected him. For not as man sees does the Lord see; man sees only what is visible, but the LORD sees into the heart.'" (I Samuel 16:7)

In Profile: Orli Gil

ISRAEL'S CONSUL GENERAL TO THE MIDWEST



Ms. Orli Gil became head of the Israel Consulate in Chicago in summer of 2008. A career diplomat with twenty-two years of service, her previous posts have included heading the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Division of UN Specialized Organizations (2004-2008), Consul in charge of Israel activities nationally on U.S. college campuses (1999-2003), and Deputy Chief at the Israel Embassy in Oslo (1990-1993).

The Consul General, whose Consulate serves eleven states, came to Iowa in March and, among other activities, at the request of the Jewish Federation, gave an update on the situation in Israel at Beth El Jacob Synagogue and an interview to the Jewish Press.

Jewish Press: Consul General, thank you so much for visiting Des Moines.

Consul General Orli Gil: My pleasure. It was really a good experience for me as well.

JP: How long have you served as Consul General at the Chicago Consulate?

OG: My tenure began in July of 2008 and I

will most likely serve a usual term of three or four years.

JP: What prepared you best for your current position?

OG: Besides my prior experience in the diplomatic corps in general, I benefited from having been taken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to many sites in Israel to learn as much as possible about the current situation. Among the places, I gained greater knowledge about our high-tech industries, the city of Sderot, where I saw what harm has been done by rockets fired from Gaza, and our command centers.

JP: Who are some of your heroes in Israel's history?

OG: I think they were the ones never afraid to speak out, even if they were not very popular. Like the philosopher Yeshayahu Leibovitz, like former Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who was thinking about the effects of occupation. He was not popular at the time but many Israelis have come to appreciate how wise he was. These kinds of people, like David Ben Gurion who had the courage to create The Land, and Menachem Begin who said we can afford to give up land for peace.

JP: What is the message you came to deliver to Des Moines?

OG: It is that we would like you to visit Israel, the real Israel of culture and science, the Israel of good life. And that we would very much like your support when it comes to the threats that Israel faces, like Hamas, like Iran. This is the main thing and also to get to know the State,

its people and its Jewish community.

JP: How important is it to you that Israel is both Jewish and democratic?

OG: Those are both very important. I don't think I would take the trouble living there if those ingredients were missing. If it weren't Jewish, there are other places that are far easier to live in, and if it weren't democratic then I don't suppose I could live there. These two principles are really the essence of Israel, I think. It's a key to our culture and the vitality of this country, the tangible feeling that everything must be pushed forward constantly.

JP: What in your estimation is the best way to keep the country both Jewish and democratic?

OG: Right now I see no other option than to divide the land and build a two-state solution. Two countries for two peoples. There will be hard negotiations, and I don't want to talk about the boundaries and the borders. But what I would like to say is that probably we have to say goodbye to another nation and be left with the Jewish nation alone.

JP: What's the best way do you think that Israel can get there?

OG: The only way is through negotiations with our partners, the Palestinians, whether we like it or not. This is the only way of reaching this solution.

JP: Is there a reliable Palestinian partner to deal with?

OG: We do have a partner. He is not as strong as we would like. He has very severe problems with Hamas. But I do

believe that the mainstream or average Palestinian wants to live in peace in his own state, just as much as we do.

JP: What is the most pressing issue facing Israel at the present time?

OG: I think that an imminently-nuclear Iran poses a real threat to Israel's existence. This is something we cannot just ignore, because Israel is too small to be able to afford any trial and errors in this context. Another problem, of course, is terrorism and on-going hostilities, but these are not existential threats.

JP: What time frame are we talking about with regard to Iran's development of nuclear weapons? And what steps to deter Iran should we all be considering?

OG: The Israeli estimates are that by the end of 2009 or the beginning of 2010 Iran will have its first nuclear bomb or will have enough uranium to create its first bomb together with its first technical abilities – missiles and rockets. I think it is very feasible that they would have the ability to destroy Israel by the end of this year.

JP: What should Americans know about the situation in Iran that doesn't come through the media very well?

OG: I think Americans should think about ways of putting more pressure on Iran, like when it comes to big insurance companies for oil tankers, when it comes to harbors for the tankers, like when it comes to stopping the importation of goods to Iran, goods that could have a dual use – that is both innocent and non-innocent uses. *continued on page 13*

Project Elijah Foundation

NFTY Teens Make a Difference



Julie Kaufman

I'm back from the NFTY National Convention in Washington D.C. and all I can say is WOW! Over 600 teenagers from across the country helped to package nearly 40,000 meals on February 15, 2009. It was truly an amazing experience. I had no idea that one room could be so loud or that teenagers could have so much fun packaging food to help people in need. Before each packing session Rabbi Elliot Kleinman, Chief Program Officer for the URJ spoke to the teenagers about poverty in America and the rising number of Americans who are now finding themselves food insecure. In a country that is so prosperous it is shocking to realize that over 36 million Americans suffer from hunger, or live on the edge of hunger every day. By the end of the afternoon several teens had told me that packing Elijah's Kosher Manna was one of the best social action experiences of their lives, and many wanted to bring the project to their local temples and synagogues. It really is amazing to see how in one afternoon these teenagers became inspired to make a difference in their communities.

I must thank MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, NFTY, and Washington Hebrew Congregation for making all of this possible. MAZON helped with the financial aspect of this very large food packing. At a time when all charitable organizations are struggling, MAZON was there to step in and help make this happen. The staff at Washington Hebrew Congregation went above and beyond to help us set up, clean up and make everything run smoothly. If it weren't for their efforts this would not have happened. Indeed, a special thank you must go to the leadership of the NFTY convention for allowing us to share this program with their teenagers.



All of the meals at the NFTY national convention were then sent to the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty in New York City. This agency feeds over 13,000 households each month and provides more than 4.5 million pounds of kosher food annually to the New York area.



I am also happy to announce that Elijah's Kosher Manna will now have the OU kosher symbol on its label.

Thank you for all of your support. Together we really can make a difference.
—Julie

The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center

QUALITY OF CARE - WITHER GOEST THOU

A new year, a new administration in Washington, and unprecedented budget problems for Iowa and the Nation. How these new realities will affect The Life Center have not fully revealed themselves and may not do so for some time to come. Nonetheless, we must be agile in our responses to the growing economic challenges.

The Life Center can fully anticipate significant changes in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement. Changes which certainly do not bode well for our ability to maintain the programs which our Residents need and deserve. As the political dramas play themselves out in Des Moines and Washington, we will be mightily challenged to maintain our organizational flexibility.

Those changes aside, there will undoubtedly be put forth new ideas to restructure our overburdened national health care system. There are no good choices for policy makers. Certainly none which will not, at least initially, mean pressures to control costs while at the same time endeavoring to mitigate the impact of those cost controls on the quality of care provided to the most vulnerable amongst us.

Is health care rationing in the future? Will doctors be rewarded on the basis of outcomes rather than process? For now, those questions have no easy answers. At least not answers that the American public has yet been willing to face.

It has been posited that there should be created a Federal Health Board which would establish standards on which medical tests and treatment are appropriate and should be reimbursed. As already alluded to, this is nothing more than rationing. While the savings would be undeniable, so would the outcry that such a program would inevitably be fatally flawed and ultimately unworkable.

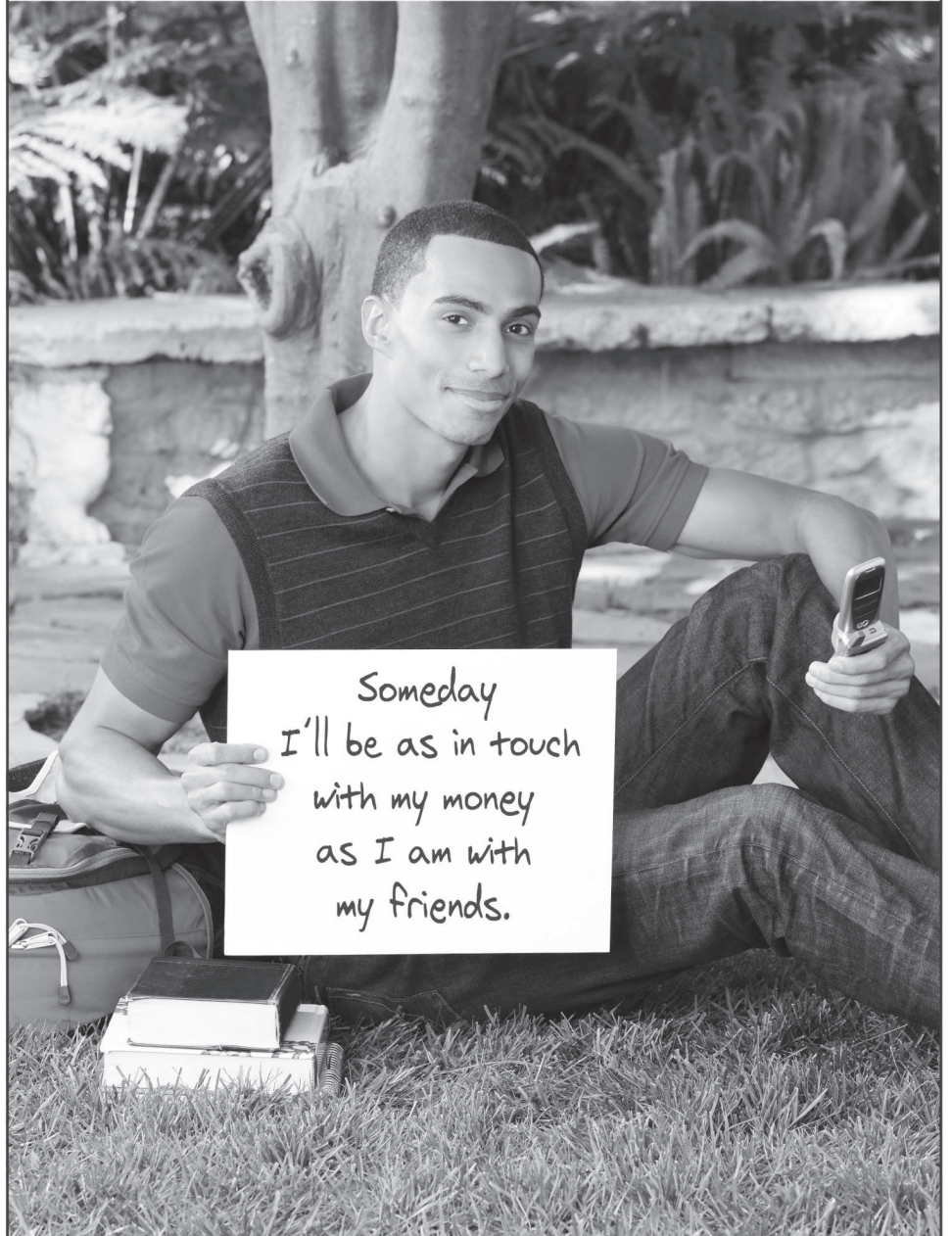
A broader, integrated approach to controlling the costs of our health care system is that of the "medical home." Incentivized primary-care providers would be differentially rewarded for their management and coordination of the care of chronically ill patients. The idea here is to reduce the incidence of expensive hospitalizations. But what of those patients who need to be hospitalized to avert a major health crisis?

These, along with what will undoubtedly be myriad other plans and programs will be brought forth in the coming months. None of these will be without pain to the consuming public.

It is precisely at this moment in history that The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center is most in need of your strong support. If this institution is to survive, with its Commitment to Excellence intact, our community of support must step forward with its own commitment to ensuring that a three-quarters-of-a-century long Mission of Service will remain undiminished in an uncertain future.

May you live in interesting times,
Stephen P. Blend, M.H.A.

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The Thirtieth Anniversary



y Teachers' Institute



the 1st Institute



Founded by the Jewish Community Relations Commission, the Teachers' Institute has provided over 5,000 teachers an opportunity to encounter and deepen their insights into topics of importance to the Jewish community and American society. The Institutes have focused on the Holocaust, Israel, interfaith relations, religion and state, basics of Judaism, and the present threat of radical, militant Islam. Over the years, the Institutes have featured many fine speakers, including US peace negotiator Ambassador Dennis Ross, Holocaust survivor and author Gerda Klein, and advocate for tolerance and pluralism Irshad Manji.

The 2009 Teachers' Institute featured Rabbi Padorr, who spoke about the Biblical injunction to welcome the stranger, Brigitte Gabriel (pictured in the large photo at left) a Christian Arab who survived the Lebanese Civil War, who highlighted the need to learn more about radical Islam and the danger it poses to America. Carol Brown, former Social Studies Supervisor for the Des Moines Public Schools, facilitated a discussion with the teachers based on the materials presented.

Co-chairs for the 2009 Institute were Barbara Hirsch-Giller and Roselind Rabinowitz, whose initiative brought the Teachers' Institute into being.

An evening public presentation by Ms. Gabriel drew an audience of over 500. Both of her presentations were made possible through the generosity of Stanley and Gail Richards.

Photographer: Laurie Wahlig



Gail and Stanley Richards with Brigitte Gabriel



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[jews tour europe]

American Options by David Moskowitz



Editorial update: As a loyal reader of Mr. Moskowitz's musings about his not-all-that-recent trip to Europe, we assume you have been wondering what will happen now that the trip is mercifully over. The answer? No one really knows. Maybe you, the loyal reader, should decide. This month's column presents a number of options for future columns, and we ask you to select your favorite. Your Jewish Press editorial staff is dedicated to providing you with the finest in written information and entertainment, so once the votes are tallied, and despite the fact that future articles will still be written by

Mr. Moskowitz, your reading enjoyment will be at least somewhat assured.

Option #1: Continue with more travel articles but, due to the recession, they will focus on absurd local destinations of little interest and, let's face it, no Jewish relevance whatsoever.

The idea behind this option is to continue writing travel articles, but with a post-recession twist. Instead of Paris, Venice, and Prague, imagine Altoona, Spencer, and Peoria. In each article, the author would seek out local Jewish landmarks and attractions ... before being horribly disappointed. This series of travel articles would culminate in a trip to New York where there are plenty of Jewish things to write about, from the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, to the Carnegie Deli, to the Eldridge Street Synagogue.

Option #2: Drop the tedious travel theme entirely, and replace it with an especially unhelpful Jewish "advice" column.

The idea of the "Tell David" column is straightforward and elegant. Wouldn't it be funny if there was an old-school "advice to the lovelorn" column modeled on the likes of Dear Abby or Ann Landers ~ where none of the advice was helpful at all. This idea is amusing but can become repetitive very quickly. That won't matter if it's funny. It will matter if it isn't.

Option #3: Ditch the two preceding ideas, and substitute a blatant, albeit amusing, Des Moines-based rip-off of "The Onion." We could even call it something slightly more Jewish, like "The Kugel."

This option could be amusing. Everyone enjoys the hilarious fake news headlines and stories of The Onion. (For those of you not familiar, here are some sample headlines: "Rural Iowan Not Sure He Could Handle Frantic Pace of Des Moines," "Your Honking Has Shown Me The Error Of My Ways," and "Obama Still Getting Bush's Mail.") We could even include some "Onion-ish" charts and tables, horoscopes, and letters. I think the idea is to make some gentle jokes at the expense of the tiny Midwestern city we lovingly call home.

Please contact the writer at iowadavid@me.com and let him know what you think. If you actually write him, it will mark the first e-mail he had received in response to the entire series of articles. So let's make things interesting: the first person to provide feedback will receive a special prize!

[culture]

AN ARTIST OF NOTE: Jack Levine



and detailed satirical portraits of biblical figures. Shown here is his portrait of King Hezekiah which is displayed at the Hirshhorn Museum.

Levine studied at Harvard from 1929 to 1933. It is said that his early work from this period, was most influenced by the prominent expressionist artists Georges Roualt, Oskar Kokoschka and Chaim Soutine. From 1935 to 1940, he was employed by the Works Progress Administration. In 1939, upon the death of his father, Levine launched into a series of paintings of Jewish sages.

A satirical painting about the army, in which he served from 1942, got Levine entangled in the House Un-American Activities Committee proceedings which was engaged in identifying potential Communists.

Following the death of his wife in the 1980s, Levine developed a renewed interest in painting on themes from the Hebrew scriptures.

Levine's works are displayed in many public collections, including those in Chicago, New York, and Washington D.C. A retrospective of his work was presented at the Jewish Museum in New York in 1978.

Jack Levine was born in Boston in 1915 to Lithuanian Jewish parents. Growing up, he observed the immigrant culture of his neighborhood along with its poverty and societal ills. All these aspects he blended into his art, characterizing him as a member of the American Social Realist school. Much of his work takes the form of satire, and among his works are the very beautiful

In the Kitchen With
Audrey Rosenberg by Karen Engman



When I called to interview Audrey Rosenberg, she was in a condominium elevator in Longboat Key, Florida. I must have caught her by surprise (on her cell phone) because after exiting the elevator, she had trouble unlocking the door to their rented condo. It turns out she was on the wrong floor!! So after a few laughs, she found her way back to the condo and her husband Harlan Rosenberg.

Audrey and her sister Ruth (Engman) were born in Omaha but moved to Des Moines in 1941 with their parents Betty and Sam Krantz. She and Ruthie remain close even though Ruth has moved to Florida. Both sisters graduated from Roosevelt High School and Audrey still lives in the area on Grand Avenue.

She met her future husband when she was 14 years old by inviting him (that cute boy from the eastside) to her party so she

would have the same number of guys as girls. She said he “hung around” Marty Brody’s visiting cousin all summer but as soon as she left, Audrey had Harlan in her sights. She’s been with him ever since that fall, eventually following him to the University of Iowa.

They married after Audrey’s second year at Iowa and then she went to work in their Ophthalmology Department, taking over the job of Sylvia Musin (Charlotte Elmet’s sister) while Harlan finished medical school.

Their son Steve was born in Los Angeles, CA while Harlan interned at LA County Hospital. Harlan then joined the Air Force and was stationed for two years in Oklahoma City, where their daughter Sharon was born. They returned to Iowa City for Harlan to complete his Urology residency.

Steve Rosenberg is married to Tracy and followed in Harlan’s footsteps by becoming a urologist and joining his medical practice. Sharon is married to Dick Fuller

and works at Roosevelt High School.

Audrey has three grandkids and two step grandkids and speaks very proudly of all of them.

Audrey learned to cook from her mother Betty Krantz but more importantly, she fostered her interest in volunteering in the community. Her mother used to sell these “sponges” for the Des Moines

Symphony Guild wherever she was, raising thousands of dollars for the orchestra. Audrey followed in her footsteps by serving on the Des Moines Symphony Board of Directors as President and is currently on its foundation board. She also was active in Des Moines Children’s Choruses and the Women’s Medical Auxiliary.

continued on page 13

Betty Krantz’s Banana Bread

A Recipe from Audrey Rosenberg

Parve

- 2 eggs
- 1 ¾ cups flour
- 1/3 cup shortening
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 ¼ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ¾ tsp salt
- 1/3 -1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- * 1 cup mashed bananas (about 3 medium)

* sprinkle bananas with lemon juice and mix in orange and lemon rind

Mix all ingredients together

Pour into lightly greased loaf pan

Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes



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[world news]

RUPERT MURDOCH: THOSE WHO SUPPORT PEACE AND FREEDOM SHOULD SUPPORT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

Excerpts from remarks delivered on March 4, 2009 by Rupert Murdoch, the Chairman and CEO of News Corporation, to the American Jewish Committee.

I am humbled by the honor given me by the American Jewish Committee.

[While] your good work has helped bring real and lasting changes to our world, [and] while some threats [to the Jewish people] have been defeated, new [threats] have taken their place.

In Europe, men and woman who bear the tattoos of concentration camps today look out on a continent where Jewish lives and Jewish property are under attack – and public debate is poisoned by an anti-Semitism we thought had been dispatched to history’s dustbin.

In Iran, we see a regime that backs Hezbollah and Hamas now on course to acquire a nuclear weapon.

In India, we see Islamic terrorists single out the Mumbai Jewish Center in a well-planned and well-coordinated attack that looks like it could be a test run for similar attacks in similar cities around the world.

Most fundamentally, we see a growing assault on both the legitimacy and security of the State of Israel.

This assault comes from people who make clear they have no intention of ever living side-by-side in peace with a Jewish state – no matter how many concessions Israel might make. The reason for this is also clear: These are men who cannot abide the idea of freedom, tolerance, and democracy. They hate Israel for the same reasons they hate us.

As I speak, the flashpoint is Gaza. For months now, Hamas has been raining down rockets on Israeli civilians. Like all terrorist attacks, the aim is to spread fear within free societies, and to paralyze its leaders. This Israel cannot afford. I do not need to tell anyone in this room that no sovereign nation can sit by while its civilian population is attacked.

Hamas knows this better than we do. And Hamas understands something else as well: In the 21st century, when democratic states respond to terrorist attacks, they face two terrible handicaps.

The first handicap is military. It’s true that Israel’s conventional superiority means it could flatten Gaza if it wanted. But the Israeli Defense Forces – unlike Hamas – are accountable to a democratically chosen government.

No matter which party is in the majority, every Israeli government knows it will be held accountable by its people and by the world for the lives that are lost because of its decisions. That’s true for lives of innocent Palestinians caught in the crossfire. And it’s also true for the Israeli soldiers who may lose their lives defending their people.

In this kind of war, Hamas does not need to defeat Israel militarily to win a big victory. In fact, Hamas knows that in some ways, dead Palestinians serve their purposes even better than dead Israelis.

In the West we look at this and say, “It makes no sense.” But it does make sense.

If you are committed to Israel’s destruction, and if you believe that dead Palestinians help you score a propaganda victory, you do things like launch rockets

from a Palestinian schoolyard. This ensures that when the Israelis do respond, it will likely lead to the death of an innocent Palestinian – no matter how many precautions Israeli soldiers take.

Hamas gets away with this, moreover, because they do not rule Gaza by the consent of those they claim to represent. They rule by fear and intimidation. They are accountable to no one but themselves.

This is the chilling logic of Gaza. And it helps explain why even a strong military power like Israel can find itself at a disadvantage on the ground.

The second handicap for Israel is the global media war. For Hamas, the images of Palestinian suffering – of people losing their homes, of parents mourning their dead children, of tanks rolling through the streets –create sympathy for their cause.

In a battle marked by street to street fighting, the death of innocents is all but inevitable. That is also true of Gaza. And these deaths have led some to call for Israel to be charged with war crimes by an international tribunal.

But I am curious: Why do we never hear calls for Hamas leaders to be charged with war crimes?

Why, for example, do we hear no calls for human rights investigations into Hamas gunmen using Palestinian children as human shields? Why so few stories on the reports of Hamas assassins going to hospitals to hunt down their fellow Palestinians? And where are the international human rights groups demanding that Hamas stop blurring the most fundamental line in warfare: the distinction between civilian and combatant?

I suspect the answer has to do with the same grim logic that leads Hamas to provoke a military battle it knows it cannot win. Whether Israel is ever found guilty of any war crime hardly matters. Hamas gets propaganda simply by having the charge made often and loudly enough.

In this, Israel finds itself in much the same position the United States found itself in Iraq before the surge. There, al Qaeda realized that it was in its interests to provoke sectarian violence between Shia and Sunni – no matter what the cost to innocent Iraqis. That is the nature of terror. And what we are seeing in Gaza is just one front in this much larger war.

In the West, we are used to thinking that Israel cannot survive without the help of Europe and the United States. I say to you: Maybe we should start wondering whether we in Europe and the United States can survive if we allow the terrorists to succeed in Israel.

In this new century, the “West” is no longer a matter of geography. The West is defined by societies committed to freedom and democracy. That at least is how the terrorists see it. And if we are serious about meeting this challenge, we would expand the only military alliance committed to the defense of the West to include those on the front lines of this war. That means bringing countries such as Israel into NATO.

I do not pretend to have all the answers to Gaza. But I do know this: The free world makes a terrible mistake if we deceive ourselves into thinking this is not our fight.

continued on page 13

[community news]

TEMPLE B’NAI JESHURUN

Service Schedule

May 1 - Friday Night
Family Shabbat in Sanctuary - 6:00 PM
Classic Shabbat in Chapel - 6:00 PM
Potluck Following Services

May 2 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Samantha Blatt Bat Mitzvah 10:00 AM

May 8- Friday Night
Erev Shabbat Service 6:00 PM

May 9 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

May 15 - Friday Night
Music Shabbat 6:00 PM

May 16 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

May 17 - Sunday
JEWISH FOOD FAIR 12 Noon - 5 PM

May 22 - Friday Night
Confirmation Service 6:00 PM

May 23 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

May 29 - Friday
Classic Shabbat 6:00 PM

May 30 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

June 5 - Friday Night
Family Shabbat in Sanctuary - 6:00 PM
Classic Shabbat in Chapel - 6:00 PM
Potluck Following Services

June 6 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

June 12 - Friday Night
Annual Meeting - 5:00 PM
Erev Shabbat - 6:00 PM

June 13 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

June 19 - Friday Night
Erev Shabbat 6:00 PM

June 20 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Elizabeth Oxer Bat Mitzvah 10:00 AM

June 26 - Friday Night
Erev Shabbat 6:00 PM

June 27 - Saturday
Torah Study 9:00 AM
Shabbat Service 10:00 AM

[announcements]

Graduation



Anna Okulist
Mr. and Mrs. Anatoly Okulist of West Des Moines are pleased to announce the upcoming

graduation of their daughter, Anna Okulist, from Valley High School.

Anna is going to study chemistry at the University of Iowa, where she is a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship.

We are very proud of all of Anna’s achievements during all these years and sure that she will have a very bright future!

Recent Graduates

Send photo and announcement by May 25, for publication in the July/August edition. Jewish Press, 910 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312 or e-mail to [jrcrc@dmjfed.org](mailto:jcrc@dmjfed.org)

Birth



Laura and Howard Bernstein
of Urbandale, Iowa are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, **Sanya Jaye**

Bernstein on March 27, 2009.

Sharing in their joy are grandparents Bernice Barris of Waterford, Michigan and Marvin Bernstein of Livonia, Michigan. Sanya Jaye was named in honor and blessed memory of her paternal grandmother, Sharon Bernstein and maternal grandfather, Jack Moore.

B’nai Mitzvah



Samantha Leigh Blatt
Linda Blatt and family invite you to celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Leigh Blatt at Temple B’nai Jeshurun on Saturday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us for the service and the kosher kiddish luncheon afterward.



Asher Bergman
son of Cliff Bergman and Marilyn Vaughan of Ames, will become a Bar Mitzvah at Ames Jewish Congregation on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m. A kiddush

luncheon will follow the service.

Asher is a 7th grader at Ames Middle School. His parents are both long-time AJC members.



Elizabeth Oxer
Stuart Oxer and Wendi Harris invite the community to join them in celebrating their daughter Elizabeth’s Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am,

at Temple B’nai Jeshurun. A Kiddush luncheon will follow and all are welcome.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Burrell Rubenstein

Hannah Hacker

Tzedakah from page 1

However, you cannot sit on a committee - at least a Jewish one- without entering into points of discord, and the interplay between persons and personalities.

But, conflict creates community and the Jewish community has been best described as a family - with all that implies. We live and survive because we interact with one another. We give because we care. We participate as Jews, otherwise, we do not need all the trouble.

So, I have an odd question for you. Would you put on a kippa when you come into the Federation office or to Federation meeting? When you give money to help fellow Jews in need, are you participating in a secular or holy act?

We need your time, talent, and your checks. It is not so difficult, after all, to be a little holy every day.

Adapted in part from "Tzedakah" by Jacob Neusner, 1982

Wirtschafter from page 1

During these years at HUC, he was awarded the Prize for Pastoral Excellence for his work at the Deaconess Hospital in Brookline, MA, counseling patients and families battling HIV/AIDS, organ failure and other illnesses. Having lost his father, Dr. Jonathan Wirtschafter to ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Rabbi Wirtschafter is not only professionally but personally aware of what families need from their congregation and community in times of crisis and change.

The fourth of five children, David sees his own family as a microcosm of the Jewish world. Born in Lexington, Kentucky and later moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota, he was enriched by both small and large Jewish communities and his family was active in Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist congregations. The process of a sibling coming out as gay, and the choice of another to intermarry have both proven to be journeys of truth telling and acceptance that have strengthened the family as a whole. Helping congregations to be inclusive and guiding communities as they navigate the complex terrain of these challenges remains an enduring passion for Rabbi Wirtschafter.

A love for the land and people of Israel was instilled in Rabbi Wirtschafter during his formative years. His family's sabbatical in Israel, from 1973 to 1974, began with the Yom Kippur War. Rabbi Wirtschafter returned to Israel to attend the Leo Baeck High School in Haifa, an experience that inspired him to pursue the rabbinate. Seven years later he went to Israel as a rabbinical student. During this year, he worked for Youth Who Sing a Different Song, a Jewish-Arab relations group that promotes tolerance and trust among teenagers from opposite sides of the political conflict through education and team building. Rabbi Wirtschafter continues to work with a broad range of Jewish and Zionist organizations to offer Israel programs and initiatives.

Another focal point of Rabbi Wirtschafter's work is tikkun olam through social justice and interfaith programming. He has taken public positions supporting full rights for Gays and Lesbians, and has worked on issues such as the widening gap between rich and poor, environmental reform, and gun control. Most recently his efforts in this regard have focused on the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as the humanitarian crisis in the

Sudan. He has brought a community wide Civil Rights service to every congregation he has served, coordinated several interfaith 9/11 memorial services and has worked on the Orange County Jewish-Latino seder. He has been a guest speaker at synagogues and churches and has worked to foster interfaith understanding and coalition building.

Rabbi Wirtschafter is devoted to the entire range of the pulpit rabbinate and the multi-faceted nature of congregational work. To move in the course of a given day from playing violin for preschoolers to studying with b'nai mitzvah students, from counseling a family in grief to leading a community in prayer is what lends a sense of meaning and purpose to his life. He loves the work and the work has loved him back.

Camp from page 1

Her name is Lior Rottman. She will share her own individual skills and experiences as well as sharing her knowledge and love of Israel through Israeli Culture.

Our theme for this summer is "Engman Camp Shalom Travels Through Time!" From the very beginning, we will explore contributions Jewish people have made to some of the greatest advancements known to man.

The theme for each week will be: Week 1 - Genesis; Week 2 - Exodus; Week 3 - Ancient Rome/Greece; Week 4 - Middle Ages; Week 5 - Revolution; Week 6 - Industrialization; Week 7 - Modern Day; and Week 8 - Into the Future.

Besides our themes, our daily schedule includes instructional athletics where campers will practice teamwork, cooperation and try new and exciting sports activities, and campers will be able to develop their hidden talents through dance, singing and cooking. On Thursdays, campers will enjoy the afternoon swimming at Valley View Aquatic Center. On Fridays, we will continue to have our morning field trips and expand in the afternoon with our Shabbat Extravagaza.

Swimming lessons will still be offered at the Y in Waukeg, which is only five minutes away. We will continue to offer transportation back to Tifereth Israel Synagogue at the end of daycare from The Caspe Terrace and will continue with our morning transportation to The Caspe Terrace from Tifereth Israel Synagogue with our second morning pick-up location at Valley West Mall.

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

You should have received our brochure. If not, please contact our office at: 277-5566 or email engmancampshalom@dmjfed.org and we will be happy to send one to you.

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

Gil from page 6

JP: Outside of the problems you've outlined, an undeniable topic is that of the Jews who currently live in the West Bank. Where does that lead?

OG: It's too early now to speak about that. The whole question of how many

Jews would stay there, where would they stay, whether the Israeli government would mandate their removal, this I would leave to the negotiating teams to deal with. It's very clear, though, that if we're talking about the two state solution, some of the settlers would have to be moved. JP: How important to you is the topic of Zionism?

OG: That's the essence of my being in Israel. Just like when you asked me about Jewish/democratic. The topics relate to why we are there, and the only reason we are there is because we are Zionists, because we feel that Israel is the place, the only place for the Jewish nation to exercise its right of self-determination. This is Zionism!

JP: What have we missed discussing, Consul General?

OG: I would certainly like to invite all Iowans, and especially the Jewish community, to visit Israel and fall in love with the places - see what it's really about. And I'm sure that after they would spend time in Israel, they will never forget their visit and would like to come again.

JP: Thank you so much, Consul General Gil.

OG: You're welcome.

Rosenberg from page 11

She's been a member of Tifereth Israel's Foundation Board and a past president of the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council). She did much of this while working at Badowers as the women's clothing buyer.

On Thursdays, you'll find her playing mah jongg at Java B Good's and on five mornings a week she's working out at Curves. She and Harlan love to travel and they've been all over the world. Their next trip this summer will probably be to England with a cruise to Iceland on the return home.

Audrey says she no longer cooks except for the Jewish holidays and Thanksgiving when the family all gathers at their home. She does continue to bake her mother's recipe for banana bread for the grandkids so we are very lucky she has shared it with the readers of the Jewish Press.

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

President from page 3

"But wait," I hear you object. "I don't have time to celebrate Shabbat. I have things to do on Saturday. I work during the week, and I need to run errands (play tennis, go shopping, watch basketball, pay bills, etc., etc.) on Saturday.

No, you don't. You have exactly the same number of hours in your week as every other human being on the planet. You CAN set aside 24 hours in your week to take a break. Think of it as a "mental- and spiritual-health day."

Still not convinced? Try this. Pick a Friday evening this month. Prepare a special dinner. Roast a chicken, cook a brisket, grill some veggie burgers. Set the table with your finest linen, china and silver or your finest placemats, stoneware and stainless. Buy (or, better yet, make) a challah; get some Kosher wine. (Forget the Manischewitz; there are some amazing Kosher wines available at places like Casa di Vino in Urbandale, Maccabees Deli, or other wine vendors in the area.) Gather together some people you love-family and friends. Recite the brachot over the wine and the bread. Eat. Talk. Laugh. Enjoy each other's company. Don't rush; savor

each moment. Feel the warmth and love around your table.

Now imagine 24 hours like that. That's Shabbat.

I'm convinced that if you celebrate-truly celebrate-Shabbat, and allow yourself to be enveloped in its healing power, you will be happier, healthier, wiser and sexier. OK, maybe not sexier, but an evening spent with someone you love, free from the distractions of your normal routine, can lead to good things.

In the interest of full disclosure, I have to tell you that Shabbat does require some sacrifice. The Mishnah describes 39 categories of activities that are prohibited on Shabbat. These activities include ploughing earth, sowing, reaping, binding sheaves, threshing, winnowing, selecting, grinding, sifting, kneading, baking, shearing wool, washing wool, beating wool, dyeing wool, spinning, weaving, making two loops, weaving two threads, separating two threads, tying, untying, sewing stitches, tearing, trapping, slaughtering, flaying, tanning, scraping hide, marking hides, cutting hide to shape, writing two or more letters, erasing two or more letters, building, demolishing, extinguishing a fire, kindling a fire, putting the finishing touch on an object and transporting an object between the private domain and the public domain, or for a distance of four cubits within the public domain. There are many more forbidden activities on the Shabbat; all are traced back to one of the 39 prohibited activities.

So you'll have to give up shearing wool, flaying and scraping hide for the day. Can you manage that? At some point, you may also want to give up watching TV, driving and doing many of the other things that make up life in the real world-but that's sort of the point, isn't it?

You may have noticed that I haven't mentioned G-d in all of this. That's because I think that Shabbat is less about G-d than it is about us. Of course it's appropriate to be thankful for the many gifts we have been given. Shabbat allows us the opportunity to do that, too. Many of us don't pray three times a day, but all of us can manage to set aside time on a Friday evening or Saturday morning for introspection and for giving thanks. You can do it individually, or communally by attending services. Although I know that some people will disagree, as far as I'm concerned, it's all good.

Genesis teaches that in six days G-d created the world, and that on the seventh day G-d rested. You may not believe that the world was literally created in six days, but the timing is not important. The point is that at the end of the work, at the end of the creation of the things of this world, there was rest.

You don't get enough rest. You owe it to yourself to recharge once in a while. You owe it to yourself to celebrate Shabbat.

Murdoch from page 12

In the end, the Israeli people are fighting the same enemy we are: cold-blooded killers who reject peace ... who reject freedom ... and who rule by the suicide vest, the car bomb, and the human shield.

Against such an enemy, I will not second-guess the decisions of a free Israel defending her citizens. And I would ask all those who support peace and freedom to do the same.

AJC is online at www.ajc.org

Jews Love Baseball:

A July 12 Fund Raiser for the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Take me out to the ball game, take me out with the crowd...

Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,

I don't care if I never get back...

Pack your family in the car and come to The Caspe Terrace for a summer afternoon of baseball history and fun presented by the Iowa Jewish Historical Society!

For more than 130 years—since 1871 when Lipman Pike played outfield in the National Association of Professional Baseball Players (America's first professional baseball league)—Jews have played baseball. Since then, more than 160 Jews have played in the major leagues, many setting records and helping to shape today's game.

Learn more about the history of Jewish Major Leaguers from our special guest for the day - Dr. Martin Abramowitz, "America's custodian of Jewish baseball memory." Martin is the part-time CEO of Jewish Major Leaguers, a Boston-based not-for-profit organization whose goal is to document American Jews in America's Game. In "real" life, Martin holds a Doctorate in Social Welfare from Brandeis University and held Jewish communal professional leadership positions in Jerusalem, Montreal, and Boston.

Join the crowd in the Martin Bucksbaum Auditorium for Martin's highly interactive presentation. Handle photos of Jewish professional ballplayers. Listen to the stories of these ballplayers' lives. Learn new baseball trivia. Listen to Martin share a little serious reflection about how baseball reflects the Jewish experience in America. After the formal presentation, hang out with Martin, listen to additional stories, and share your baseball stories and memories with him.

See the special souvenirs Martin is bringing with him—the 2009 set of commemorative baseball cards documenting the Jewish record setters as well as a few sets of the 2008 Hank Greenberg edition. The 50-card Record Setters set combines photos and "stats" of all current Jewish players in the major leagues plus a large grouping of Jewish Baseball "record-setters" and "firsts," updated cards of "Career Leaders," and a complete all-time roster of Jewish players. Art Shamsky's four consecutive home runs; Moe Berg's record for consecutive errorless games, Phil Weintraub's 11 RBI game, and Jake Pitler's 15 putouts at second base, are just a few of the special achievements honored in this edition of Jewish Major Leaguers baseball cards. These sets were produced in association with the American Jewish Historical Society and licensed by Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Players Association, and the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

The 2008 Hank Greenberg Edition marked the 75th Anniversary of Hank Greenberg's rookie year. As baseball's first Jewish all-time Great, Greenberg attracted a whole generation of American Jews to baseball, and it was their children and grandchildren who have gone on to become owners, coaches, players, executives, sportswriters, broadcasters, statisticians and, most of all, fans. No player has had a greater historical impact on the attachment of American Jews to America's Game.

To commemorate the anniversary, Pulitzer-Prize winning sportswriter (and Greenberg biographer) Ira Berkow wrote 10 Hank Greenberg cards, covering his career and life, including his years as a minor-leaguer, his World Series and All-Star Game records,

his military service, the Yom Kippur story, his life as a baseball executive, and his encounter with Jackie Robinson. You may recognize some of the photographs and be amazed by some others.

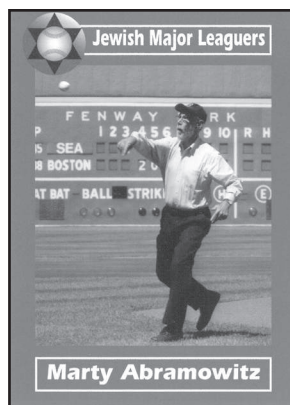
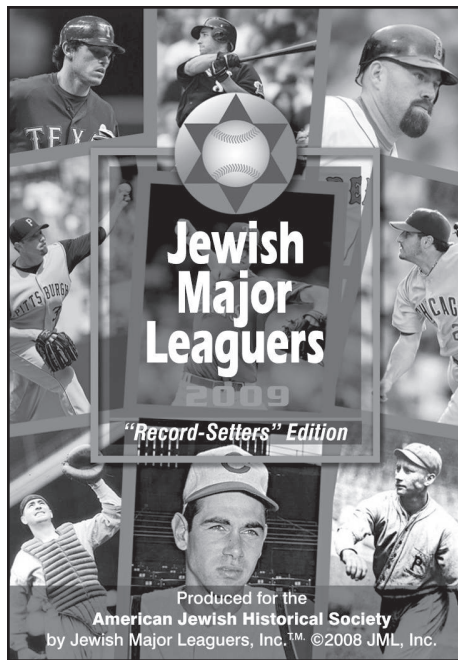
Martin has very generously volunteered to donate \$10 to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society for every set of cards that is sold at the regular price of \$35.00!

Later in the afternoon, see baseball history come to life in a game between the Walnut Hill Bluestockings from Living History Farms and IJHS' own gallant team of ballplayers. Both teams will follow the 1870s rules for the "gentleman's game" of baseball that had first reached Iowa in the 1850s but really spread after Civil War soldiers returned to their hometowns and formed Baseball Clubs.

Come see the differences between modern baseball and the early form of the game where there is no overhand pitching, sliding, spitting,

arguing, running outside of the baseline or interfering with the fielders. Pitching is done underhand with both feet on the ground. The hurler (pitcher) delivers the ball where the striker (batter) requests it and the players do not wear ball gloves. It's a fascinating game to watch and enjoy!

The day wouldn't be complete without a Chicago Dog and other ball park style food for lunch, a chance for the kids to try their hand in a pitching contest, and an opportunity for the family to tour the museum and to bring your sports memorabilia to the museum for possible donation. There will be other surprises for an afternoon of family fun!



Save The Date July 12, 2009

Watch your mailbox for a detailed schedule and ticket sales. This is a fun fundraiser to help the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. Preserve the history of Jews in Iowa.

Lipman Pike--Not only was Lip Pike one of the first Jews to play professional baseball, he was one of three players who tied for the crown in the first "home run derby" with just four home runs in the entire season!

19th- Century Baseball Terms

"Match" – the game

"Cigar Box" – a small field

"Monkey Suit" – the uniform

"Club Nine" – the team

"Hurler" – the pitcher

"Striker" – the batter

"Lads" – teammates

"Cranks" – the fans

"Three Hands Out" – the side retired

"Nubber" – a lucky hit

"Sky scraper" – a high-flying ball

"Daisy Cutter" – a line drive hit close to the ground

"Paste One" – a hard hit ball

"Leg It" – run to base

"Aces" – runs scored

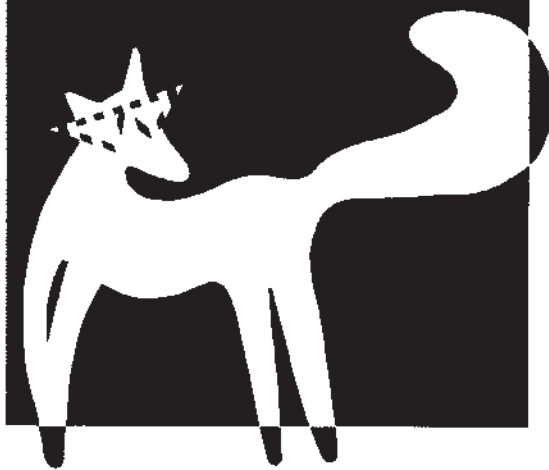
Thank You!

To **Lori and Brad Long** for kicking off the support of "Jews Love Baseball" with their donation towards the cost of bringing Dr. Martin Abramowitz to Des Moines for this event.

To **Kent and Janice Rosenberg** for their donation of the funds needed to purchase a new computer for the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

The new, faster computer and 22" flat panel monitor are critical to keeping our database of artifacts—manuscripts, books, religious objects, business records, etc.—that members of the Jewish community have so generously donated to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

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[history]

30th Anniversary of the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty Commemorated



On March 26, 1979, the historic peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was signed at the White House in Washington D.C.

Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat shook the hand of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and, under the patronage of US President Jimmy Carter, a new era began in the Middle East. Even today, the peace treaty is considered a watershed event in the geopolitical situation in the Middle East, opening the gateway to peace between Israel and the Arab world, and ushering in a new agenda of diplomatic relations in the region.

The signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was a result of the courage shown by two leaders. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin stretched out his hand in peace, and Egyptian President Sadat accepted it in a gesture that put the years of war behind them. President Sadat visited Israel on November 19, 1977, and addressed the Knesset. The open-armed reception and hearty applause by both the Israeli government and public were harbingers of a relationship that has known more years of peace than of conflict and strife. Both countries have benefited from their ability to cooperate and to engage in open dialogue.

Today, thanks to the vision of the Israeli and Egyptian leaders, the two countries cooperate on a wide range of issues, meeting in joint committees on various matters.

Saturday	May 2	10:00 am	Samantha Blatt Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Saturday	May 16	9:00 am	Sophie Baresh Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sunday	May 17	12:00 Noon	Temple Food Fair
Monday	May 18	7:30 pm	Federation Board of Directors at The Caspe Terrace
Wednesday	May 20	12:00 Noon	Luncheon & Beautiful Fashion Show at Tifereth
Friday	May 22	6:00 pm	Joint TI/TBJ/JFCS Confirmation service at the Temple
Friday	May 22	7:00 pm	Yom Yerushalayim congregational dinner at Beth El
Saturday	May 23	10:00 am	Asher Bergman Bar Mitzvah in Ames
Sunday	May 24	9:00 am	Rosh Chodesh Sivan Brunch at Beth El
Monday	May 25		MEMORIAL DAY
Friday	May 29		SHAVUOT
Friday	May 29	7:00 pm	Shabbos Yom Tov Dinner at Beth El
Saturday	May 30	12:00 Noon	Shabbos Lunch at Beth El
Saturday	June 20	10:00 am	Elizabeth Oxer Bat Mitzvah at the Temple
Sunday	June 21	12:00 Noon	BEJ Men's Guild Father's Day Antique Car Show & BBQ
Thursday	June 25	7:00 pm	AIPAC Annual Event at The Caspe Terrace

Jewish War Veterans

We have been relatively successful in accumulating names of local Jewish veterans. If you have additional names of Jewish veterans interred at Glendale, Woodlawn, or Sons of Israel cemeteries, please contact Ted Block, at (515) 223-9476.

The 2009-10 Planning and Budget Committee



From Left: Stuart Oxer; Barb Hirsch-Giller; Linda Vander Hart; Elaine Steinger; Missy Wolnerman; Judy Deutch, Chair; Mike Siegel; Norman Mandelbaum; Neil Salowitz; Frank Levy; not pictured: Polly Oxley and Consultant: Bud Hockenberg



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education

Our youth is our future. It is our responsibility to provide opportunities for them to develop into responsible Jewish adults. Many educational opportunities are available through the Federation and Foundation. Consider designating your gift to: Engman Camp Shalom, Hebrew Tutoring Scholarships, Community School book fees, the Student Scholarship for Trips to Israel or the Jewish Learning Institute.

senior care

Our seniors are the threads that weave the tapestry of our history and rich traditions. You can earmark your gift to offer social activities or help ease the burden of many of the challenges our seniors face: Social Outings (movies, plays, community events), Transportation to Doctor or Pharmacy, Groceries for a Week, In-home Safety Modifications, Adult Programming or the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center.*

community

Our community's boundaries extend to faraway places such as Israel, Darfur and Russia. You can provide needed funds locally and abroad for programs such as: The Project Elijah Foundation's* Kosher Manna Program for feeding disadvantaged Jewish people worldwide, Partnership with Israel, Iowa Jewish Historical Society, The Caspe Terrace Tree Fund, Des Moines Jewish Foundation's various funds (please call 277-6321 x211 for more information), General Community Tzedakah Fund, Mischkiet and Aliber Holocaust Education Funds or Community Interfaith Relations.

*Independent organizations

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