



The gre ATer D e S MOINe S

Jewish Press

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Fun at Gan Shalom - page 10



Purim with Beit Sefer Shalom - page 11



Josh Nelson & Neshama Carlebach - page 15

Annual Federation Meeting and JCRC Interfaith Program Scheduled for June 1



Professor Harold Kasimow



Pastor Carlos Ortiz

Join us Sunday, June 1st, at the Temple for Performing Arts, 1011 Locust Street in Des Moines as we convene for our annual meeting, gather with each other and our interfaith community, and honor Mark Finkelstein for his 18 years of service as Director of Community Relations. The Jewish Federation's 99th Annual meeting will begin at 3:00 pm followed by an interfaith event that is part of the Jewish Federation's 100th Anniversary Commemoration: "Voices for respectful dialogue," sponsored by JCRC. Speakers for this event include Professor Harold Kasimow, professor emeritus of religion at Grinnell College and participants in interreligious dialogue in Iowa and internationally, and Pastor Carlos Ortiz, a leader within the Hispanic American church community and National Hispanic Coordinator for Christians United for Israel.

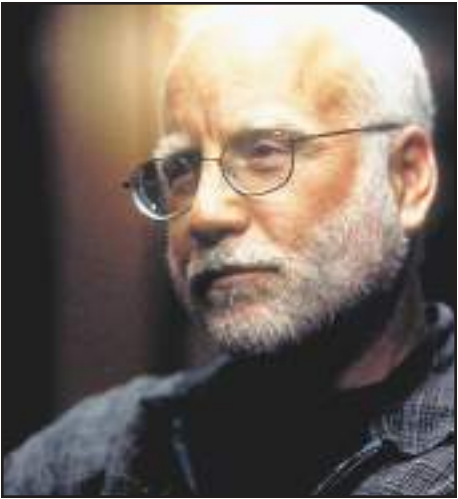
At the Annual meeting, we will hold an election for Federation officers and recognize those whose terms on the Board are expiring. In addition, David Adelman, Chair of the Visioning Committee, will present his committee's report on the proposed Drucker self-study process to be undertaken by the Federation. A list of Board members and officers up for election will be mailed to the community prior to the meeting.

RSVP to Gayle at 515-987-0899 X213 or gayle@dmjfed.org Food and drink will be provided. Kosher dietary laws will be observed.

100th Anniversary Gala Planned for Aug 24

You are cordially invited to join in the centennial celebration of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines for the 100th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, August 24 featuring Guest Speaker Richard Dreyfuss at the Iowa Events Center Grand Ballroom located at 833 5th Ave, Des Moines. Cocktails and dinner will be served.

For ticket and sponsorship information see page 24. For more information about sponsorship opportunities and tickets, please call Gayle at the Federation Office at 515-987-0899 ext. 213. Look for your invitation in the mail!



Engman Camp Shalom JUNE 16 - AUG 8



Engman Camp Shalom is gearing up for another incredible summer of fun and adventure! This year camp will be running from June 16th through August 8th. There will be eight one-week sessions. Activities include swimming lessons, field trips, and exciting themes. *continued on page 21*

Meet New Camp Director Jonathan Dorfberger



We are proud to introduce our new Camp and Recreation Program Director, Jonathan Dorfberger. Dorf, as we affectionately call him, comes to our community from New Jersey. His wife Jennifer and 22 month old daughter Shayna will be joining him here at the end of June. *continued on page 21*

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
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Waukee, IA 50263-7538

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We're Turning 100!

Join us in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Jewish Federation.
To celebrate we're planning activities and events throughout the entire year.
Save the date for all of the festivities!



June 1

**JCRC Interfaith Event
at Temple for
Performing Arts**

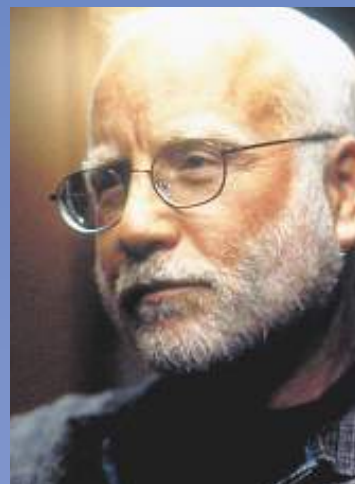
A program on interreligious
dialogue and a festive
commemoration of Mark
Finkelstein's 18 years of service
to the Jewish Federation.



June 11-22

Family Mission To Israel

A community trip with a special
itinerary for teens.



August 24

**100th Gala at the
Iowa Event Center**

Featuring guest Speaker
Richard Dreyfuss.



September 7

Torch Relay

Relay run from the original
Jewish Federation location to
the present site and then join
us at The Caspe Terrace for
food and fun!



October 22-23

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin

To speak in Ames and
Tifereth. Telushkin's book,
"Jewish Literacy: The Most
Important Things to Know
About the Jewish Religion, Its
People and Its History,"
is one of the best-selling
books on Judaism of the
past two decades.



November 2014

**Maccabi Games-Style
Basketball Tournament
at Beth El Jacob**

Team up with your friends
to vie for the title of team of
the year!



December 2014

**Celebration of Israeli
Innovation**

details to come

While we are still in the
planning stage, for more
information watch your
mail. If you have any ques-
tions or would like more
information about any of our
100th Anniversary upcom-
ing events, please contact
Sophie Homonoff at sophie@dmjfed.org
or Mollie Giller
at mollie@dmjfed.org or
515.987.0899 ext. 230 or go
to JewishDesMoines.org.



1914-2014

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES

Moving Forward, Not Moving On



Barb Hirsch-Giller, President

In the famous and lovely poem, “The Chambered Nautilus,” Oliver Wendell Holmes tells the story of how the amazing nautilus labors to move through his spiraled shell, walling off his past each year, growing larger, growing toward newness:

*...Year after year beheld the silent toil
That spread his lustrous coil;
Still, as the spiral grew,
He left the past year's dwelling for the new...*

This is my final column for the Jewish Press after three wonderful years as your president. Needless to say, I am reflective. Decades ago, upon reading “The Chambered Nautilus” for the first time, I felt not only a kinship with the beautiful little creature but also such admiration for the depth of commitment that kept him ceaselessly moving forward. As a parent, I have always counseled my children to make decisions that keep them moving forward. As a social worker, I do the same for those with whom I work. As your president, that has been my creed.

During these last three years, momentous change has come to the Federation. We have new leadership and numerous new staff members; we have excellent new programming for new constituencies. We are reaching more deeply into the greater Des Moines community to address issues of social justice and to have a more significant impact on the terrific area that we call home. More of us are traveling to Israel, and we are supporting Israel in highly effective and very personal ways. Although your Federation has been a model of service for the past 100 years, we continue to adapt to our environment, to meet ever more challenging need, and to move forward.

As we experience the celebrations of 2014, our 100th Anniversary year, we have a reason to be incredibly proud of our past and excited about our future. Our many planned activities are meant to unite the Jewish community and include our non-Jewish friends. Even as we look to the future, we cannot help but note the incredible contribution of the 100 years of this particular Jewish presence in Iowa, and it is totally appropriate that we acknowledge that where there is a Jewish community, life is better for everyone.

It's impossible for me to leave my presidential post without reflecting on what I have tried to do in this position. When I started my presidency, the community was still in the painful aftermath of a failed attempt to share congregational space; we were fractured and hurt. The future seemed a bit worrisome. Nonetheless, the wonderful leaders in this community have stepped forward, and it is my opinion that we are in a different and exciting place today. My deepest hope is that now we are a bit kinder to one another and a little happier with our Jewish lives together.



I am leaving the Federation to the care of our next president, Jule Goldstein. Jule ushers in a new generation and vision and, more importantly, has already proven her leadership and devotion to the Federation as she and her husband, Steven, led the effort to build our wonderful school. David Adelman will join her as her president-elect. The Federation is in excellent hands.

I cannot leave without thanking you, my Jewish friends, for three absolutely wonderful years! I have had a ball. And unlike the industrious little chambered nautilus that leaves his beautiful shell only to die, I intend to pay a bit more attention to my beloved family, friends, and dogs, to sleep a little better, and to continue to nourish this Jewish community in any way that I can.

Barb

RECENT GRADS - MAZEL TOV!

Send a photo and announcement by **May 19**, for publication in the July/Aug '14 edition. Jewish Press, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263-7538 or by e-mail to jcrc@dmjfed.org

THANK YOU, LISA LACHER

The Federation would like to express its sincere thanks to Lisa Lacher for all the hard work she put in crafting the materials advertising our Aug 24 gala. Our thanks are extended, as well, to the agency for which she works, Strategic America. Strategic America is an integrated public relations, web design and advertising agency located in West Des Moines.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SUBMIT YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION & ORDERS NOW!

Updated Directories Coming Soon in Summer 2014!

It is now time for us to update our community-wide directory and there are still many community members who haven't acted. This booklet is published every two years and includes information about our greater Des Moines Jewish community members and synagogues/temple (i.e. name, address, phone, cell, email, etc.). There is no cost to have your information included in this booklet. Many Jewish community members use the directory as a phone book to locate other Jewish families. Information from this form will be used solely by the Jewish Federation and its agencies and will not be sold or reproduced for other purposes.

If you have not done so already, please complete the Directory Information form, which can be found at www.jewishdesmoines.org. You do not have to purchase a booklet to be included.

The online Directory Information form includes ordering information. **Please remit the directory Form and any orders with a check prior to May 15th, 2014.** There is an option to have your directory mailed to you for an additional \$1.50 per booklet or you may pick up your order at the Jewish Federation office, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee when directories become available this summer.

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Opinions expressed in The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press are not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, its committees, or its staff.

Inserts to the Jewish Press may not necessarily bear endorsement of the Jewish Federation.

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

We reserve the right to edit submissions.

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The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press
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Volume 30, No. 5
May/June 2014

JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL
May 4 Beit Sefer Shalom End of School Celebration

Please join us on May 4 for our last day of Beit Sefer Shalom as we celebrate the years' accomplishments.

8:45-9:15 Catered breakfast with early bird activities

9:20-10 Classroom visits to showcase students' work

10-11 Adult Learning

11-11:30 Family Tikun olam project

11:30-12 Snack and sing-a-long

We look forward to seeing you and your family on Sunday, May 4th at Caspe Terrace
Registration information for the 2014-2015 school year can be found at: www.jewishdesmoines.org

**MUSICAL DRAMATIST FROM ISRAEL TO
PERFORM FOR GAN SHALOM, MAY 14**



As part of the cultural exchange program of our Israel Partnership, Partnership2Gether, we will be welcoming David Cohen (also known as DuDu) to our community on May 14. An art and drama therapist and musician, David is a producer and performer of musical theater for children. His current work is called Dududoom in the Magical Forest. We look forward to having him meet and work with our students in Gan Shalom pre-school.

During the past two years, Cohen was also been working with IsraAid, serving as an expressive therapist teaching social workers and teachers in Sudan and Kenya. David teaches rhythmic lessons, world music, drama and conducts music therapy in medical, rehabilitative and educational settings, including Mizra Hospital, the Neot Hadassah Rehabilitation Center, Nitzanim-Acco Hospital for people with special needs, Nahariya's Lev Ham Daycare program for children with disabilities, the Acco Daycare Center for the blind, and Acco's Atidot daycare center for the mentally disabled.

David has a Master of Arts in Art and Drama and Drama Therapy from Haifa University and a Bachelors of Arts degree in Psychology from Bar Ilan University. He served in the IDF attaining the rank of First Sergeant.

Gan Shalom

The Jewish Center for Early Childhood Development

**Now Enrolling For The
2014-15 School Year**

enrollment for the 2014-15 school year has begun! Gan Shalom accepts children ages 2 years old through Pre-K for half and full day sessions. Located on 47 acres, Gan Shalom offers the highest quality education available for our youngest community members. Children learn important independent skills, social skills, language skills and much more in a nurturing atmosphere with teachers who are committed to helping children grow at their own pace. The Gan Shalom program features healthy and Kosher snacks, daily outdoor play, integrated Hebrew and Judaics, and special activities every month. For enrollment information contact Director of education, Sophie Homonoff at ganshalom@dmjfed.org.

**Accepting Applications For
Preschool Teachers and Bus Driver**

Now hiring teachers and Bus Driver for Jewish-based preschool located at The Caspe Terrace in Waukee. Successful candidates for teacher will have or be working toward a degree in early childhood development and/or have relevant experience working with children ages 2 - 6. All teachers must demonstrate a passion for working with children and be aware and/or willing to learn basic concepts related to Judaism. Successful candidate for bus driver will have commercial driver's license (CDL) with passenger and school bus endorsements. A competitive compensation plan is offered. e-mail letter of interest, resume, and names/contact information of three references to Sophie Homonoff, Director of education at ganshalom@dmjfed.org.

Gan Shalom

we grow children

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Highlight: Beit Sefer Shalom Board Volunteers



Ed Bell

Treasurer, Beit Sefer Shalom School Board
Joined June, 2013

Ed has lived in Des Moines since 1989. He moved here from his home state of Maryland for a teaching position at Drake University, College of Pharmacy. He met his wife here, Mindy Nussbaum-Bell. They have 2 children, Aaron and Sarah. Ed and Mindy are members of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

Ed has been a member of several committees and boards of the Jewish Federation and community over the years he has lived in Des Moines.

His goal for the school year is to contribute to making our local Jewish school the best possible, and a school that our children will enjoy attending, as well as learning.



Tracy Engman Finkelshteyn

At Large Board Member,
Beit Sefer Shalom School Board
Joined June, 2013

A Des Moines native who returned to the area in 2004, Tracy was a student at the Federation Community School from Preschool through her B'nai Mitzvah year. A long time member of Tifereth Israel, she prepared for her Bat Mitzvah under the tutelage of Rabbi Barry Citron and Cantor Pinchas Spiro, of blessed memory.

Tracy is a single mother of two daughters, both of whom have been students at the Federation Community School. Becca, a 2013 Valley High School graduate and current Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music freshman, started at the school when she was a 4th grader and continued through Confirmation. She was an active member of USY and attended Camp Ramah. Anya, a current 7th grader at Indian Hills, began her journey through the school in Preschool, and is continuing with the 7th grade class while in training for her Bat Mitzvah. Anya attended GUCI in the summer of 2012 and then Camp Ramah this past summer. She plans on returning to Ramah next summer. Anya is also an active member of the Tifereth Youth Group.

Tracy has been active in the Jewish community since returning 9 years ago. She has held positions on the Tifereth Board, the Jewish Federation Executive Committee and Board, and is currently the Chair of the Engman Camp Shalom committee, a member of the Visioning Cabinet as well as an At Large Member of the Beit Sefer Shalom School Board. A long time private violin and chamber music teacher, she holds a Bachelor's Degree of Music Education from Northwestern University. Even though her Master's (Yale School of Music) and Doctorate (Northwestern University) degrees are in violin performance, education has always been and continues to be a great source of inspiration. Tracy is deeply committed to the Jewish education of our community and is extremely excited about the new curriculum offered at Beit Sefer Shalom. Kudos to Gabrielle and Laura and Sophie for their wonderful work!



Hannah Rogers

Secretary, Beit Sefer Shalom School Board
Joined June, 2013

Hannah moved to Des Moines to attend Drake University in 1993. While studying at Drake, she met her husband, Will, a native of Des Moines. Hannah and Will live in the Waveland Park Neighborhood with their daughter, Ariella, and attend Tifereth Israel.

Following graduation from law school, Hannah worked as a trial attorney in the Litigation Division of the Nyemaster Goode law firm in downtown Des Moines for six years, before moving to an in-house position at the Principal Financial Group in April 2010. As in-house counsel at Principal, Hannah manages litigation and litigation-related claims, issues, and matters arising in a wide variety of areas across the organization.

Hannah holds a J.D. from the Drake University Law School, as well as a B.A. in Magazine Journalism, also from Drake University.

Hannah's primary goal for the 2013-14 school year, is to support the Beit Sefer Shalom School Board in its efforts to create a comprehensive and exciting Jewish educational environment for our students and their families.



Todd Steinberg

At Large Board Member,
Beit Sefer Shalom School Board
Joined, June, 2013

Self-described as a Renaissance man. An accomplished athlete, photographer, and scientist.

Having grown up in the Des Moines community attending Tifereth Israel Synagogue, he is also a past board member for Temple B'nai Jeshurun. An offspring of Irv and Mary Steinberg, they celebrated their wedding vows over 60 years ago at Tifereth. Todd settled down later in life with Estonian-born and raised Edith, with their beautiful daughter Maria who also now thrives in the Des Moines community.

Todd holds a B.S. degree in Biomedical engineering from the University of Iowa and an M.S. degree in Medical Physics from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Todd holds over 10 patents in cancer treatment technologies, is board certified by the American Board of Radiology in Therapeutic Radiology, and is a member of the International Electrotechnical Commission working group. Todd has been employed the past 9 years at the Mercy Medical Center Radiation Oncology Department.

Todd has been an avid athlete all his life having ridden in the first Tri-Ag Br Al, 30+ years of competitive running, and many other hobbies including swimming, hiking, snow shoeing, and skiing.

Todd's primary passion is his daughter and his photography, which often go hand in hand. He is very engaged in supporting the need for a well-rounded Jewish upbringing for his daughter.

College Scholarships Available Through Pruce Family Foundation

The Pruce Family Foundation is currently offering applications for high school students seeking college scholarships. You may qualify if you are a Jewish student who has completed high school in Polk County and plan to attend an institution of higher learning in Iowa, or, you are a student who lives in Iowa and plan on pursuing coursework in Jewish

Studies to become a Jewish Professional. Should you wish to apply for either of these scholarships, you may request an application from Gayle at gayle@dmjfed.org. The applications are due by **July 1, 2014**. Send to: Pruce Family Trusts, PO Box 1853, Des Moines, IA 50305. Check with your synagogue for other scholarships.

Celebrate With Beit Sefer Shalom May 4

Please join us on May 4 for our last day of Beit Sefer Shalom as we celebrate the years' accomplishments.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8:45-9:15 am | Catered breakfast with early bird activities |
| 9:20-10:00 am | Classroom visits to showcase students' work |
| 10:00-11:00 am | Adult Learning with Eliad Eliyahu |
| 11:00-11:30 am | Family Tikun Olam project |
| 11:30 am-12:00 pm | Snack and sing-a-long with Eliad Eliyahu |

We look forward to seeing you and your family on Sunday, May 4th at The Caspe Terrace
Registration information for the 2014-2015 school year can be found at: www.jewishdesmoines.org

Teen Columnist Different Perspectives by Sammi Sobel



When I started this column about the Holocaust a while back, I thought the task would be simple as pie. I have studied the Holocaust for several years, and I like learning more and more about it each time. For this column, I intended to give an overview about what happened to the Jews, but it turned out to be completely boring. Who wants to read an article from a 16 year-old, repeating the same things that you could read in a book? I sure wouldn't.

Instead of telling the basic history, I chose to reflect on some more personal questions about the Holocaust. I wondered, for example, what it would have felt like to live during that time period? Would I have survived? Who would I have met along the way? In the words of Anne Frank, I found some real insights. Here is a quote from 11/8/1943 about how Anne felt during her hiding period. "At night in bed I see myself alone in a dungeon, without Father and Mother. Or I'm roaming the streets, or the Annex is on fire, or they come in the middle of the night to take us away and I crawl under my bed in desperation."

Wow! This little girl who was so innocent wrote this when living in the annex with her family and two other families. How would you like to go to sleep with this feeling inside you? I think I would have had nightmares. I would be bored out of my mind from not being able to play sports or hang with friends. I would get all snippy due to having to be silent all the time. *continued on page 21*

Adult Services News

Upcoming Events:

May 8: Senior Luncheon at Beth el Jacob Synagogue from 12:00-1:30

May 21: Lecture Series Concert featuring the Potash Twins, co-sponsored by JCr C and Jewish Family Services at The Caspe Terrace at 6:00

June 26: Senior Luncheon at Temple B'nai Jeshurun from 12:00-1:30



Abe playing for the seniors at luncheon



James Blair

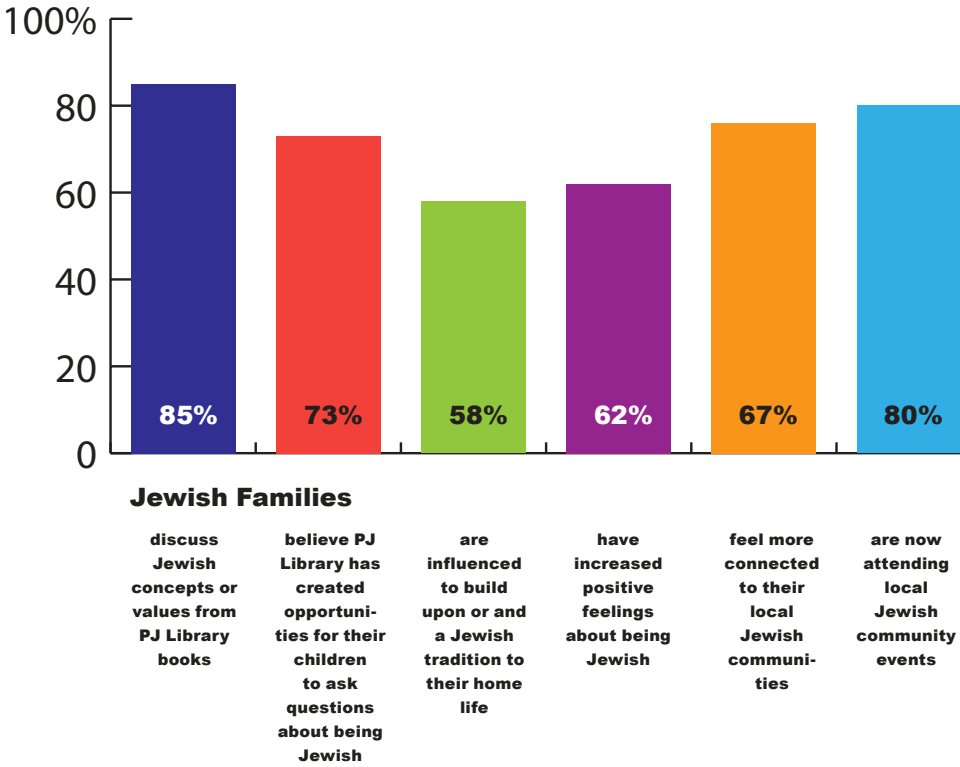


Barb and Jerry Geller

The Impact of PJ Library

PJ Library transforms families raising Jewish children

Recently, PJ Library reached two important milestones nationally. First, in February PJ Library delivered its 5 millionth book since the program was started in 2005. Since then children in over 200 communities around North America (including ours!) receive the monthly books and CDs, and the program continues to grow. Second, the results of the 2013 Harold Grinspoon Foundation Evaluation Study (PJ Library's parent company) were dispersed and showed overwhelmingly that "PJ Library effectively engages families raising Jewish children and increases the capacity and commitment of community partners to serve those families." With over 20,000 families responding to the survey, it's clear that the little book in the big envelope that reaches your homes each month has the power to transform children, families, and communities.



Meet Sara Lee Sloven



Sara Lee was raised in rural North Dakota in a town of 4,000, where her family was the only Jewish family in town. Her grandparents were homesteaders in North Dakota in the early 1900s – coming from Poland, Lithuania, and the Ukraine. Sara Lee and her husband, who were married for 60 years, lived in Bismarck, North Dakota until retirement, running a wholesale plumbing and heating business. They raised five children there and Sara Lee has great memories of “Mother’s Clubs” sponsored by the state extension agency, where women in the community would learn about homemaking and gardening skills.

Following retirement, Mr. and Mrs. Sloven built a home in North Galilee, and for 26 years spent six months in Israel and six months traveling and visiting the States. Sara Lee moved to Des Moines from Sun City West three years ago to be closer to her son and his family. In addition to her five children, Sara Lee has 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. One daughter currently lives in Israel, and her other children live in the Midwest.

Sara Lee has many interests including meditation, exercise, line dancing, and swimming. She is a frequent participant at cultural activities, including performances at the Des Moines Civic Center and the Des Moines Community Playhouse. She belongs to a book club and enjoys historical fiction and stories from Israel. Additionally, she is also a member of Questors, a group that studies antiques and history and also enjoys traveling to visit her family and attend family events.

Mrs. Sloven said she is pleased she moved to Des Moines and is very comfortable in the Jewish community here. She is an active member of Tifereth Israel’s Women’s League and enjoys the many activities they sponsor. She is also a frequent participant in the Jewish Family Services Senior program, attending the luncheons and field trips regularly.

Sara Lee is a very interesting person to get to know, so please be sure to greet her when you see her!

Seniors Enjoy Their Guided Tour of Des Moines Art Center

On February 26, seniors met at the Des Moines Art Center for a guided tour. We viewed a wide variety of photographs, paintings, sculpture, and collage. The pieces ranged from late -1800’s portraits to contemporary sculpture. Of particular interest to one group was a collage of broken porcelain pieces. Our guides

were wonderful – they were all very knowledgeable about the pieces in the Art Center collection and encouraged group questions and comments. Many of us on the tour had been to the Art Center before, but not for quite some time, so it was great to go back again on such a cold winter afternoon!

INTERFAITH SERVICE AT TIFERETH ISRAEL REACHES OUT TO WASIKE FAMILY

On Wednesday February 26, over 200 people gathered at Tifereth Israel Synagogue for an interfaith service of prayer, support, and love for the Mike Wasike family. This commemorated the anniversary of the night one year prior when Mike stopped to help a few teens in need, and was instead attacked during a car-jacking attempt. The night helped to raise over \$3,000 for the Wasike family.

Speakers at the event included Rekha Basu, Dr. Alice Underfer, Pastor Melinda Cree Anthony, Rabbis Steven Edelman-Blank and David Kaufman, as well as Joan Wasike, Mike’s wife. This event also served as an introduction to the new

Neighbor to Neighbor Foundation, which is being formed by a group of individuals who are concerned about the financial and emotional burdens placed on victims of crime and their families. The Foundation is currently being developed and will focus on assisting victims and their families. The program was hosted by Tifereth, the Temple, the Federation and Maple Grove Methodist Church.

For more information about the Neighbor to Neighbor Foundation or ways in which you can help the Wasike family, visit www.teamwasike.org or contact Jody Caswell at 515.987.0899 ext. 210 or jody@dmjfed.org.

FEDERATION AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT THE LIFE CENTER



Pictured from left: Stuart Oxer, Barb Hirsch-Giller, Life Center Exec. Dir. Stephen Blend, Mark John Conley, Jody Caswell, Jule Goldstein and Mollie Giller.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and the Des Moines Jewish Foundation combined to contribute \$80,000 to the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center. In addition to supporting the operating budget of the life center, these funds provided assistance to the memory care unit and also funded the remodeling of a resident room.

A Light in the Wilderness by David Friedgood



The 4th Book of our Bible is B'Midbar (Hebrew = "In the Wilderness"). The English name 'Numbers' derives from the Greek (Septuagint)

translation, and refers to the census Moses took of the Israelite people in the beginning of the book. The Hebrew Midbar is not a desert in the classical sense. Desert is Sh'mama, an appalling, horrific wasteland, devoid of spirituality and unable to sustain life. The Midbar is a region of sparse rainfall, a wilderness that contains sufficient water for grass to grow and places where livestock will find forage. It is a clean land, often associated with sacred happenings. Moses escaped into the Midbar to find his God, and his true calling (as did Elijah, Jesus, and Mohammad millennia later). After their deliverance from Egypt the Israelites were led to Mt. Sinai, which is in the Midbar of Sin. There they received the Code of Law that was to forever change the destiny of the Jewish people. The 4th Book of the Bible covers a mere 38 years in the history of our ancestors (the other two years of wilderness wandering are outlined in Exodus and Leviticus). It was during this brief time that a generation of Egyptian slaves died and a free nation was born – prepared to take their place amongst the civilizations of the world.

During their wilderness wanderings, our ancestors were guided by their LORD. They carried with them an Ark, a wooden cabinet, containing two stone tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments. Moses brought the tablets down from the heights of Sinai, where they were inscribed (or dictated) by God. B'Midbar contains a detailed description of the Ark's construction: "Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood... He overlaid it with pure gold, inside and out; and he made a gold molding over it round about. He cast four gold rings for it... He made poles of acacia wood, overlaid them with gold, and inserted the poles into the rings on the side of the ark for carrying the ark. He made a cover of pure gold... He made two cherubim of gold... One cherub at one end and the other cherub at the other end... The cherubim had their wings spread out above, shielding the cover with their wings. They faced each other; the faces of the cherubim were turned toward the cover." (Exodus 37:1-9) The Cherubim, which stood over the Ark, are usually described by the Rabbis as winged creatures. Maimonides referred to them as 'angelic hosts', and a few commentators pictured them as having the faces of young children, usually one of each sex. A curious Talmudic legend describes the Cherubim in Solomon's Temple, standing guard in front of the Ark, as male and female. They were often interlocked, as in sexual

position. This was felt to be a miraculous representation of God's love for Israel: resembling the love of man and woman. During their marches in the wilderness, the people easily recognized the Ark. It stood out in the brown and gray colors about them, covered in blue cloth: "They shall lay a covering of dolphin skin over it and spread a cloth of pure blue on top..." (Numbers 4:5) The Ark was about 3.75 feet long, 2.25 feet wide, and 2.25 feet tall. One commentator suggested that its weight probably exceeded 10 tons. It was to be carried by the Levites. But, not to worry - as the presence of the Holy One is uplifting, it thus decreases the weight of the Ark. As it is stated: "the Torah carries those who carry it."

The Ark stood as a tangible reminder of God's presence in the lives of the new Israelite nation. When the people saw the Ark, they sensed that which is Most Holy. As the "Ark of the Covenant" it symbolized Eternal God providing a "cloak of protection" over His people. It also reminded them of their responsibilities, as Israel's claim on God's providence was directly dependent on their following the Law, starting with the Ten Commandments laid out on the tablets within the Ark. Moses was God's intermediary with the Israelites. He would go to the Ark to converse with the LORD: "When Moses went into the Tent of Meeting to speak with Him (God), he would hear the voice addressing him

from above the cover that was on top of the Ark of the Covenant between the two cherubim..." (Numbers 7:8-9) When the community moved through the wilderness, the Ark was always present: either in their midst or leading their columns. Moses' "Song of the Ark" is today part of our synagogue's Torah Service: "When the Ark was to set out, Moses would say: 'Advance, O LORD! May Your enemies be scattered, And may Your foes flee before You!' And when it halted, he would say: 'Return, O LORD, You who are Israel's myriads of thousands!' (Numbers 10:35-36) In battle, the presence of the Ark ensured Israel's success, while its absence resulted in defeat. (Numbers 14:43, 31:6) The Ark was the people's standard, their flag. It was always with them as they forged a new life for themselves, their children, and for us.

The Israelite people evolved as they wandered through the Midbar. They became a Nation of men and woman dedicated to a common destiny, a "Light onto the Nations." This evolution was guided by their leader Moses, always overseen by the Presence of their LORD, illuminated by the "Holy Ark of the Covenant." When the people settled in the Land of Israel the Ark initially moved about. Later King Solomon established a permanent home for it in the Temple he built on Mt. Moriah in Jerusalem.

continued on page 21



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Israel Partnership News



Our community was visited by Eliad Elyahu Ben Shushan on February 12th. Eliad who serves as an emissary [Shaliach] for both the Omaha Jewish community and our Israel Partnership consortium, is an accomplished musician, with his first CD, "Shirat Hael," hitting the top of the charts in Israel. He was born and raised in Akko. While in town, Eliad taught a new song to our children at Gan Shalom



and was our main speaker at a dinner hosted by Partnership2Gether [P2G] that evening at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. The dinner was very well attended and we learned more about P2G and the activities of this wonderful program we are involved with, with an emphasis on the projects undertaken by P2G's Education Task Force. He spoke about such initiatives as the Educational Twinning Programs, Educators' Seminars, Family-pairing programs, and College-based workshops.

There is plenty to get involved with in P2G, whose goals are to build Jewish identity and to strengthen ties and connections between the communities in the States and Israel. To get involved, contact jcrc@dmjfed.org.

A special note: Many Thanks to Sharon Goldford for her help with promoting this program featuring Eliad.

Join us at the next Israel Partnership Dinner Thursday, May 15 at 5:00 pm

For details contact Mark at jcrc@dmjfed.org or call 515-987-0899 ext. 212

Noted expert on the Crisis in Egypt to speak May 1



Eric Trager from the Washington Institute of Near East Studies will lecture on "The Rise, Fall and Future of the Muslim Brotherhood" 7:00 pm Thursday, May 1 at Sussman Theater, basement of Olmsted Center, Drake Campus, sponsored by JCRC and Drake University's The Principal Financial Group Center for Global Citizenship. Details are incomplete at the present time. This program is made possible by a grant from the JFed Forum Fund. For information call Mark at 515-987-0899 x 212.

Eric Trager, the Esther K. Wagner Fellow at The Washington Institute, is an expert on Egyptian politics and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. He was in Egypt during the 2011 anti-Mubarak revolts and returns frequently to conduct firsthand interviews with leaders in Egypt's government, military, political parties, media, and civil society. His writings have appeared in numerous publications, including the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Foreign Affairs, the Atlantic, and the New Republic.

Dr. Trager is an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania, where his doctoral research focused on Egyptian opposition parties. From 2006-2007, he lived in Egypt as an Islamic Civilizations Fulbright fellow, where he studied at the American University in Cairo and received his M.A. in Arabic studies with a concentration in Islamic studies. He served as a research assistant at The Washington Institute from 2005 to 2006 upon graduation from Harvard University with a degree in government and language citations in Arabic and Hebrew.

JCRC News



Part of JCRC's mission is to educate about topics of interest to the Jewish community. Here, JCRC Director Mark Finkelstein is pictured instructing a class about the elements of modern Jewish identity and Judaism at Upper Iowa University in West Des Moines

Interfaith Relations

Rabbi David Kaufman and JCRC's Mark Finkelstein participated in services encouraging the peaceful resolution of the internal conflict within the new state of South Sudan. Organized by the United Sudanese and South

Sudanese Communities Association, an interreligious organization, the prayer and unity services have been held recently at Cottage Grove Presbyterian Church and St Ambrose Cathedral.

Consul General to the Midwest visits Des Moines

The Consul General to the Midwest, stationed in Chicago, Mr. Roey Gilad, visited our community recently and spoke to a variety of groups. Among other activities during his short visit, Mr. Gilad addressed the JCRC at a breakfast held at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, enjoyed a working lunch with staff from the Iowa Economic Development

Agency, met with administrators and spoke with students at Drake University, viewed the Iowa Holocaust Memorial, was interviewed on a radio program, and met with officials including Governor Terry Branstad and Congressman Bruce Braley. Mr. Gilad's visit was organized and accompanied by members of the JCRC.



Consul General Gilad ponders the text of the Iowa Holocaust Memorial attentively.



During his visit to Des Moines, Israel's Consul General to the Midwest Roey Gilad met with Iowa Congressman Bruce Braley. Mr. Gilad presented Congressman Braley with a book by Anita Shapira chronicling the history of the State of Israel.

2014 Iowa AIPAC delegation

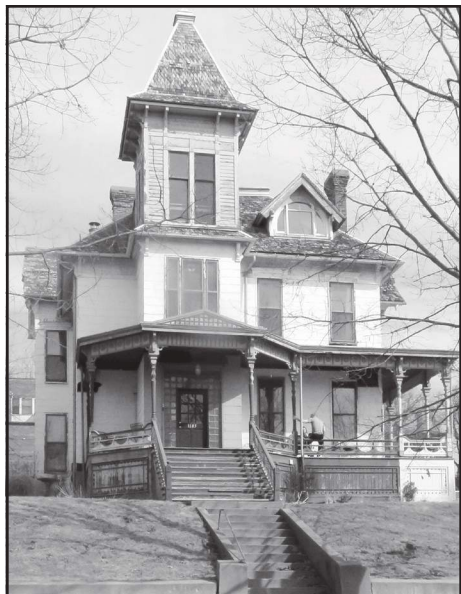


Pictured, the 2014 Iowa AIPAC delegation taken with Senator Chuck Grassley. The delegation also met with each of Iowa's members of Congress or their representatives to bolster the U.S. - Israel relationship.

From left: Stuart Oxer, Barb Hirsch-Giller, Denise Bubeck, Diana Cummins-Bates, Randall Kane, Jacob Wasserman, Rabbi David Kaufman, Sen. Charles Grassley, Bud Hockenberg, Harvey Giller, David Adelman (head of delegation), Mark Finkelstein.

The Leopold Sheuerman Family - 1605 Woodland Avenue

By John Zeller



Leopold Sheuerman built in 1884 the beautiful Queen Anne's house that stands at 1605 Woodland Avenue. He lived in it for thirty of the thirty-seven years he spent in Des Moines as co-owner, and later, president of the Capital City Woolen Mills.

Sheuerman was born and raised in a small Jewish settlement in the town of Binau in the northeast corner of the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, close to the city of Heidelberg. He was the second son of Manassa and Sara Sheuerman, born on December 16, 1837, four years younger than his brother Abraham.

In 1852, at the age of nineteen, Abraham immigrated with one sister to the United States. They settled in Muscatine, Iowa, where Abraham started a dry goods store. In 1856, after the death of his father the previous year, Leopold reunited the family by coming to Muscatine with his mother and two sisters in tow. In 1859 the entire family relocated to the young town of Marengo, the county seat of Iowa County, where the brothers continued running a general store. The family was very successful in their new home in Iowa. All the siblings married and started families. The boys built houses and Leopold became vice-president of the Marengo Savings Bank. In 1865 the brothers bought the Marengo Woolen Mills and ran it successfully for seventeen years, in a period in which most Civil War era Iowa woolen mills were failing.

Two events in 1879 contributed to the Sheuerman brothers' decision to relocate the business and their families to Des Moines. First was the death of their mother Sara on January 19, 1879 at their sister's, Mrs. M. Stern's home in Vinton, Iowa. To provide a Jewish funeral and burial they had to take her body to Chicago. This highlighted the difficulty of living as Jews in such an isolated rural setting. Des Moines, however, by that time had a growing Jewish business class that had built a synagogue and purchased land for its own burial ground next to Woodland Cemetery. Many of the Des Moines' German-Jewish settlers had moved as a group from Keokuk and had already established Jewish clubs and an active social community.

The other pivotal event of that year was an opportunity to acquire industrial real estate in Des Moines after the failure of

a start-up corn syrup or "glucose" industry on the west side of town. After erecting in 1879 a substantial four-story brick factory at the south-east corner of Eighth and Vine Streets, the company floundered, failed, reorganized and then failed for good. Not the least of their problems was the stench that the plant produced. Des Moines tolerated smelly packing plants and rendering houses on the east side of the river, but the glucose factory situated two blocks from the court house and nearby newspaper offices was very bad press.

For the Sheuermans Des Moines offered everything that Marengo didn't: a Jewish community, a new factory for sale at a good price, railroad connections in any direction, access to state government and a large potential labor pool and market. Even so, the town of Marengo was stunned when the Sheuerman brothers announced in November 1881 that the Marengo Woolen Mills was becoming the Capital City Woolen Mills in Des Moines. "...their great store and woolen mills which have been the pride of the city and the county, are to be closed up- the whirl of the busy spindles will be heard no more," the Marengo Democrat lamented.

On the final day of 1881 the brothers arrived in town and hired a guard to stop local boys from breaking out the remaining factory windows. By late spring, the factory was up and running, producing piece work and blankets, and the families had moved into rented houses. At the start of the building season in 1883 the leader announced that Abraham Sheuerman was moving apple trees and an old house off the two lots he had bought at the northeast corner of High and Fourteenth Streets in preparation to build "the largest and finest residence in the city." The Register added that contractor John Woods had the contract for the \$11,000 home. The elder brother lived in this house for twenty years until his death in 1904.

The start of the 1884 building year found Leopold Sheuerman buying a house lot just west of Hoyt Sherman's home on Woodland Avenue on land recently available after the move of the Des Moines University to North Des Moines. The paper notes that the new house "will be 50' x 75' in size and the plan will be much the same as the home his brother just completed on the corner of 14th and High Streets." (The brothers' homes were only three blocks apart, just a five-minute walk.) By March 25 it was reported that Foster and Liebbe, the architects for the new \$11,800 house at 1605 Woodland, had chosen "Mr. Weitz" as the contractor. By June readers learned that the house was nearing completion but the family didn't move in until mid-October. The firm of Emerick & McIvor frescoed the walls in May of 1885.

The decorators had just left when the last of the Sheuermans' big family, Selma was born in June, 1885. The state census-taker that visited the house that summer found parents, ten children and two servants, fourteen in all, living under its roof.

The first of the girls to be married in

the spacious parlor was the second daughter Bessie, to Maurice Becker on Tuesday, June 8, 1897. Sixty family and relatives crowded the house, which was described in the Saturday Review as "most beautifully adorned with palms, ferns, pink and white carnations and roses. The ceremony was performed in the front parlor before the mantle, which was a bower of beauty, being banked in palms, asparagus ferns and roses. A smilax curtain across the mirror completed the picture." After the ceremony the couple "went immediately to housekeeping at 1616 Woodland Avenue" (located just across the street).

In the summer of 1882 the Register noted that the Sheuermans had just added an even one-hundred souls to Des Moines with the birth of Leopold's son Henry and arrival of ninety-nine employees and family who moved with the company from Marengo. The Capital City Woolen Mills grew rapidly in Des Moines. It added a three-story showroom and finished goods warehouse in 1889. Other additions followed in 1903 and 1914 that brought the manufacture of pants and dresses. Expansion out of Des Moines included branch factories in Marshalltown and Newton. The Sheuermans employed hundreds of workers and were the largest employer of Jewish immigrants in Iowa. But above all, the woolen mill was a family business. Every one of the Sheuerman brothers'

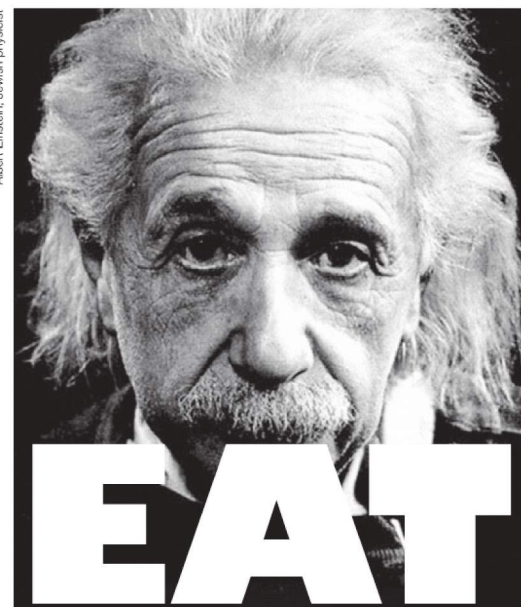
ten sons worked for the firm, six of them for their entire lives. The other four left Des Moines to run a pants factory in Kansas City and dry-goods stores that sold Sheuerman Brothers woolen goods.

With the final illness of the older brother Abraham in 1902 the founders dissolved their partnership and formed a family incorporation. Leopold continued on as president, with the cousins sharing in the management of the new firm. In September of 1904 both Leopold's wife and brother, his business partner of forty-four years, died, just eleven days apart. Their oldest child Yetti, who never married and had always lived with her father at 1605 Woodland Avenue, took on the duties of running the household. She was with him in 1917 when he died on vacation in California.

Today the family remains close, even in death. The brothers Leopold and Abraham lie in Sherman Hill, resting in Emmanuel Israel Cemetery, together with their mother, whose remains were brought back to Iowa from Chicago. Around them lie their wives, ten of their seventeen children and two sisters.

Today, the Capital City Woolen mills and Abraham Sheuerman's mansion at 1323 High Street are just memories. Only the Sherman Hill mansion of Leopold and Matilda Sheuerman at 1605 Woodland Avenue remains as a testament to this remarkably resilient and industrious clan.

Albert Einstein, Jewish physicist



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Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Temple B'nai Jeshurun, 5101 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Order tickets by calling 515-274-4679 or visiting www.jewishfoodfair.com

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Fun in the Snow at Gan Shalom



Purim

On Sunday, March 9th Beit Sefer Shalom celebrated Purim by hosting a day filled with food, fun and friends for students! The day began by creating Purim gift baskets called mishloach manot. Mishloach manot are gifts of food given to relatives or friends on Purim to ensure everyone has food to enjoy for their Purim feast. The students then rotated through craft and game stations run by Drake University Hillel student volunteers. The festivities concluded with the whole school coming together to eat brownie hamantashen and sing Purim songs. Sunday, May 4th is our last day of Sunday school this year and will include a wonderful display of our students' work. You won't want to miss it!



Engman Camp Shalom 2014

June 16 - August 8, 2014
Pre K - 6th Grade
9:00 am - 4:00 pm at The Caspe Terrace





Register Now for Engman Camp Shalom 2014!

Fees

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Bus leaves Tifereth at 8:30 am
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After Care at The Caspe Terrace 4:00-5:30 pm - \$25/week

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Valley West Mall pickup at 8:40 am (parent must stay with child until bus arrives) \$10/week
PM Transportation
Valley West Mall pickup at 4:15 pm (late pickup fees apply) \$10/week
Tifereth pickup at 4:30 pm (late pickup fees apply) \$10/week
Roundtrip Transportation
Tifereth: \$15/week
Valley West Mall: \$15/week

Registration at www.jewishdesmoines.org

Contact engmancampshalom@dmjfed.org or call Dorf at 987-0899 x 232.



Bus Tour of Historic Jewish Des Moines



While many were bundled up inside on the frigid afternoon of March 2nd, 30 or so of us kept warm on a bus as we toured around the historic and present-day sites of Jewish Des Moines. As Kent and Janice Rosenberg narrated our route, Sophie Homonoff served up snacks, beer, and wine. The tour ended at the site of our present Federation home, The Caspe Terrace, where we toured the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and school wing.

Due to the positive response we received from our tour in March, we will be planning another bus tour, scheduled for May.

Hot Pstromi Brought Unique Talents to The Caspe Terrace

Children from our Beit Sefer Shalom were part of the audience in March when Yale Strom and members of his band Hot Pstromi performed in the Bucksbaum Auditorium. What they heard were bits of Jewish history – klezmer music direct from Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans – played by three world-class musicians.

If any one scholar-musician can be credited with bringing the lost music of European klezmer to life, it would have to be Yale Strom. Strom has dedicated a lifetime of work to visiting the tiny communities in Europe where Jews and Gypsies still perform the repertoire of old. He has documented their music, preserved it along with all their unique performance techniques, and plays this most colorful music accompanied by his talented band members, bringing the tunes – and the stories that accompany the tunes – to life, replete with the fanciful sorts of improvisational episodes based on the authentic modal scales that give this music its distinctive sound.

The concert was part of the JCRC/Jewish Family Services Lecture Series. Appreciation is expressed to Abe Goldstien, through whom we contacted the group.



The Potash Twins

Jazz musicians Adeev and Ezra Potash have taken New York by storm...now they're coming to The Caspe Terrace.

**6:00 PM
Wednesday, May 21.**

Adeev and Ezra Potash are entertainers from the Jewish community in Omaha, NE. Guided by jazz legend Wynton Marsalis, they have performed around the country at notable venues such as Jazz at Lincoln Center and First Avenue, and festivals like South By Southwest.

The concert is free of charge as part of the JCRC/JFS Lecture Series. Seating is limited. For more information contact mollie@dmjfed.org or call (515) 987-0899 x 230.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES

Josh Nelson and Neshama Carlebach Rock the Rafters!

Special thanks to Susan Brown, Sophie Homonoff, David Copeland and Mollie Giller for coordinating the great event!



photos by Laurie Wahlig



It's Personal For Me – Prof. Harry Brod, UNI

Organized by JCRC and Professor Stephen Gaies, Director of the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education has members from across the state of Iowa. Among its efforts, the Council, with funding from the Jewish Federation, has issued a set of essays intended to help orient visitors to the Iowa Holocaust Memorial at the State Capitol. In the coming editions of the Jewish Press we will reprint the essays, written by members of the Council. Our first installment is authored by Professor Harry Brod of the University of Northern Iowa.

I was struck by the waves.

That's what those low winding walls of the new Iowa Holocaust Memorial looked like to me as I walked up the hill for the Memorial's dedication. The impression of ocean waves was probably reinforced by their sloping hillside setting. That led me to picture those walls as waves carrying transport ships, taking ravaged refugees from Europe to the US and taking liberating soldiers from the US to Europe. Then the image broadened for me, and I visualized waves of history crashing down on those swept up in one of recent history's most powerful tidal waves. They're all represented here: the victims to be memorialized, the liberators to be thanked, the survivors to be honored.

I've seen those walls described as ribbons of steel. Ribbons? Like those black ones affixed to the clothing of observant Jews and then torn as part of mourning the dead according to Jewish tradition? Or like those color-coded, looped ribbons worn as reminders of dedication to some

just cause? Not festive, celebratory ribbons, surely. Military decorations? Perhaps, but potentially a double-edged sword here – we would intend that they celebrated the heroism of those who fought the good fight, but they were proudly worn on the other side too. The phrase was intended merely to describe the memorial, but a ribbon of steel in another meaning also refers to railroad tracks. And that of course puts my mind on the transport trains with their cattle cars headed to the concentration camps. Is that inevitably the nature of a site like this, where architectural intent meets submerged memory, and every aesthetic component leads our imaginations back to the camps?

At the Dedication ceremony, survivors and families of survivors were asked to stand. I don't get that many opportunities to publicly stand in honor of my parents, and I was proud and moved to be able to do so here. For I am a child of Holocaust survivors. Or, as I've spoken and written about this elsewhere, I am a child of what I call temporary Holocaust survivors, by which I mean that although my parents survived the war years themselves, they both died younger than I think they would have had they not had to endure the hardships and traumas of those years, my mother at age 48 and my father at 58.

The subject of the Holocaust is a component of courses I now teach at the University of Northern Iowa. When appropriate I share some of my family history with my students. My father was a Polish Jew who survived the war years in the forests near his home town of Lejansk;

continued on page 21

Iowa Council for Holocaust

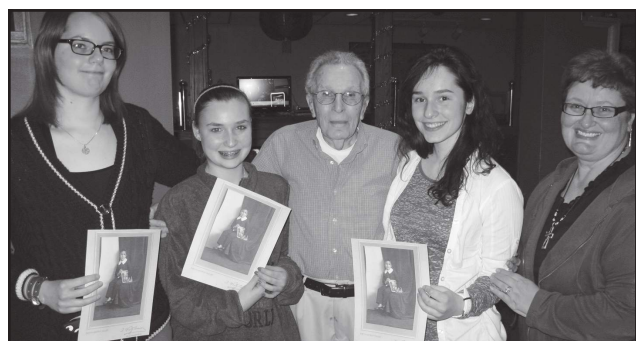
Organized by JCRC and Professor Stephen Gaies, Director of the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education has members from across the state of Iowa. Among its efforts, the Council, with funding from the Jewish Federation, has issued a set of essays intended to help orient visitors to the Iowa Holocaust Memorial at the State Capitol. In the coming editions of the Jewish

Press we will reprint the essays, written by members of the Council. Our first installment is authored by Professor Harry Brod of the University of Northern Iowa.



Some members of the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education met recently over dinner in Des Moines.

BIOGRAPHY OF FRED LORBER TO BE PRODUCED BY STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS



A group met recently to begin work on a student-authored and -illustrated biography of Des Moines resident Fred Lorber,

originally from Vienna. The project, funded by the Jewish Federation, is part of a series produced by Iowa Council member Deb Bowen about Holocaust survivors and liberators called ABookByMe. Pictured: Illustrators Elizabeth Oser and Hanna Kaufman, Mr. Lorber, author Shirah Jacobs, and Mrs. Bowen. Mrs. Sheila Hudson who teaches in the West Des Moines School District will help the students with their project, as well.

JFNA and JCPA Opinion

Beating Back The Assault On Israel's Legitimacy

By Rabbi Steve Gutow, president and CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and Jerry Silverman, president and CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Leaders of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement say they are protesting Israel's policies in the West Bank. They are doing far more than that.

BDS advocates routinely oppose a two-state solution and seek to delegitimize the sovereign, Jewish State of Israel. In some cases, BDS becomes the latest form of anti-Semitism.

The BDS movement aims to isolate and punish Israel, using the same techniques applied to apartheid South Africa. Not hesitating to misrepresent facts and ignore context, these Israel bashers take advantage of ignorance and naïveté within civil society circles, mostly in Western Europe, to advance their anti-Israel agenda.

BDS advocates view the situation in the West Bank through a one-way lens, seeing only a single perspective. They cite, for example, the security checkpoints that make life difficult for Palestinians but conveniently overlook the reasons for those checkpoints. They ignore the fact that hurting Israel's economy would also hurt Palestinians who earn their livelihoods from Israeli-owned businesses.

BDS backers don't bother to protest the many countries that have horrific human rights records, instead singling out the world's only Jewish state, often based on false or misrepresented information.

A tipping point for the Jewish community's response to BDS came in 2009 when a number of anti-Israel groups called for a boycott of the Toronto International Film Festival because one of its themes was Tel Aviv's 100th anniversary. The Toronto and Los Angeles Jewish federations joined forces and, with

the involvement of major figures in the entertainment industry, fashioned an effective response.

With calls for BDS escalating in the mainline Protestant churches, on college campuses and elsewhere, Jewish community leaders realize that the situation calls for more than an ad hoc approach: Local communities need a strategic approach with national support and coordination.

In 2010, the Jewish Federations of North America, representing more than 150 local federations, allocated significant resources so that the Israel Action Network could serve this purpose. The Jewish Council for Public Affairs – with its 16 national member organizations, including all four of the religious movements, and 125 Jewish community relations councils, which work with non-Jewish coalition partners on a range of international and domestic concerns – was the JFNA's obvious partner.

One principle that guides this work is that we should understand our audiences. And when we speak with others, we should do so with a respect for the sensitivities of that constituency so that our important messages are authentically heard. Whether on a campus, in a church or speaking with an LGBT group, we should always be clear that we stand as partners, sharing the goal of a future with peace and security – not one of conflict and BDS.

Experience and research demonstrate that what works best with these audiences – mostly made up of political and religious progressives – is not an all-good-vs.-all-bad characterization of Israelis and Palestinians. Instead, a more nuanced narrative is the one that is likely to defeat the one-sided and hostile stance of those seeking to delegitimize Israel. *continued on page 21*

Holocaust – Themed Exhibit On The White Rose Displayed At U of Iowa During May

The White Rose exhibit to be on open public display at the University's College of Public Health, commemorates the actions of Hans and Sophie Scholl and seven core members at the University of Munich, who launched a non-violent resistance movement in 1942. The members of the White Rose group were arrested and executed after distributing leaflets calling for passive resistance to the Hitler Nazi regime and to end the war and atrocities against Jews.

This exhibit is designed to remind today's youth of their critical role on the local and individual level in protecting human rights within a society and within a democracy. The exhibit will help students to reflect on the courage of the White Rose members who stood up against an omnipresent and brutal dictatorship. The exhibit does not only pose the question, "What was it like?", but "What does it mean today?" In order to maintain the legacy of the White Rose, the planning committee is making special efforts to

involve and engage young people in the community, including students of the University of Iowa, as well as high schools in Iowa City and vicinity.

The exhibit is presented as part of the annual Holocaust Memorial Concert at Agudas Achim Congregation. The organizing committee, which includes University of Iowa volunteers from the Center for Human Rights, the German Department, the Biology and the Department, the College of Public Health, as well as community organizations in the Iowa City area. Sponsors include Agudas Achim Congregation in Iowa City Coralville, Hillel, the University of Iowa of College of Public Health, the Center for Human Rights, the Thales Foundation and the Jewish Federation. The exhibit is recommended by the Consulate Generale of the Federal Republic of Germany in Chicago, the Goethe Institute, The Holocaust Education Center at the University of Northern Iowa, and the German Heritage Museum Davenport.

Pot for a Sick Friend by Joanne Brown

The case for legalizing or prohibiting the sale of medical marijuana makes regular headlines, and now that Colorado has made pot available to the general public, not just medical pot, the headlines are more frequent than ever. In Iowa, the issue is dead for now, as announced a year ago and summarized in a Register headline: "Iowa House hearings clear: No medical pot" (*Des Moines Register*, 2/1/13). This outcome was hardly surprising, given the conservative bent of the Statehouse. However, although I have never experimented with pot, I am not a stranger in obtaining it. My illegal drug dealings would have been unnecessary under different circumstances.

Jane (as in Jane Doe, not her real name but one of my closest friends) was violently ill from her chemotherapy treatments aimed at treating her aggressive breast cancer. Normally a sunny and energetic woman, now she was nauseated and exhausted.

Her oncologist suggested marijuana. There was research showing that this illegal drug had helped many patients from the debilitating effects of chemotherapy.

"Where would I get it?" she asked me one January afternoon. This was late 1979, when drug use was hardly rare. Unlike many people who had come of age in the '60s when apparently everyone else was getting stoned, she (like me) had never tried any mind-altering drug. She didn't even smoke tobacco. "You want some pot?" I responded. "I can get it for you."

The next day at lunch I approached some colleagues in the college cafeteria. "Who would sell me some pot?" I asked during a lull in the conversation. A chorus of welcoming, if surprised voices responded. "Joanne! I didn't know you used!" said one much younger friend. Another announced, "I have some great stuff from Columbia." "Mine comes from Mexico," chimed in a third, "and it's the best!" Although I earnestly tried to clarify that I was buying the pot for someone undergoing chemotherapy, my explanation was met with skepticism. "Aren't you the little Florence Nightingale," one friend teased.

But by the end of lunch hour I had arranged to buy some marijuana. The next day I met my connection in the hall. "I've got the stuff," she said, holding up a small brown paper bag.

"What stuff?" I asked.

"You know. The stuff," she repeated. I wrote her a check, and in the blank

following the word "For____" I wrote "The stuff."

When Jane's next chemo session was scheduled, she baked a liberal amount of marijuana in some brownies, but it only resulted in a panic attack once she reached the hospital where she received her treatments. She learned later—too late—that the drug tends to intensify whatever mood the user is harboring, and her oncologist advised her to smoke the stuff instead of baking it so that she might have more control over the amount used. That presented another hurdle: where would she get the necessary pipe? Again, I offered help and obtained the pipe from the same source who had supplied the pot.

One more problem: where would she go to indulge? Her next chemo treatment loomed one afternoon when one of her children was home ill from school (she was the mother of five children, and there was usually a sick child home in the winter). So she donned snow boots, a heavy coat, scarf, hat, and mittens and went upstairs, where a shallow balcony, meant only for architectural enhancement, opened off the master bedroom. She would smoke her pipe there. On the way up, she encountered her son Jerry (again, an alias), coming down from his sickbed to look for a school assignment for English class. He, of course, wanted to know where his mother was going, dressed for sub-zero weather but not headed outside. Jane said she was going to get some fresh air by standing on the little balcony, an answer that, of course, made no sense to Jerry, but he let his mother pass with no further questions.

This time the pot helped, and Jane continued to use it each time a treatment approached. She lived only a few months more, but she was never again so sick from the chemotherapy.

Only years later, when I joined all her children who had gathered one summer weekend in Des Moines, did I share this story. Jerry remembered seeing his mother in winter garb on her way upstairs, and we all, some of us teary, laughed. I still miss Jane, but I also recall our drug dealings with some frustration. Why was marijuana not made easily available to her so that she (and I) could have avoided criminal activity but also, under a doctor's supervision, she could have been instructed in its use? Today, more than forty years later, those questions still linger for those who need "the stuff."

Come say ...

Happy 66th Birthday, Israel!

Sunday, May 4

Israel Independence Day Celebration At The Caspe Terrace

With



Eliad Eliyahu
Israeli recording artist and
Omaha's Community Shaliach

10:00 am A Taste of Israeli History
11:30 am Music, Music, Music! With Eliad
12:00 pm Israeli lunch and Israeli dancing
Free of charge! RSVP for lunch to Gayle@dmjfed.org

Israel Business Lunch Hosted by the Greater Des Moines Partnership

In March, a lunch organized by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and hosted by the Greater Des Moines Partnership presented Daniel Blumenthal, Deputy Director of the Israel Economic Mission to the Midwest as guest speaker about the Free Trade Agreement which encourages business ventures between the U.S. and Israel. Mr. Blumenthal surveyed the sectors in Israel's booming economy that American firms might consider affiliating with as trade partners or as partners in

research and development. Such areas include the fields of energy, homeland and cyber security, medical and agricultural equipments, telecommunication, and tourism. In addition, information was presented about the academic and corporate based industrial and agricultural funding programs available to prospective applicants. More information about programs can be obtained at iowaeconomicdevelopment.com and itrade.gov.il/us-chicago/



From left: Tim Urban, Partnership2Gether; Kathy Hill, Marketin Manger of Iowa's International Trade Office; Daniel Blumenthal, Israel Economic Mission; Jay Byers, CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership; and Mark Finkelstein, JCRC.

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[culture]

The Poetry of Alter Esselin



Alter Esselin (1889 – 1974) was a Russian-born American poet who wrote in the Yiddish language. He was born in Tchernigov, Russia. Over the course of his lifetime, he wrote and had published several hundred poems in major Yiddish language publications and was highly acclaimed. His work is discussed in Sol Liptzin's *A History of Yiddish Literature* and is included in Nachman Mayzel's *America in Yiddish Vort*.

In 1954, The Jewish Book Council awarded Esselin the Kovner Award for his third book of poetry, *Songs of a Hermit*. In the same year, the distinguished Yiddish critic, O. Rapaport praised Esselin's unique poetic voice, a bittersweet voice that Rapaport says emerged from his effort to overcome suffering.

In October 1969, Esselin appeared on "The People of the Book," a weekly television program devoted to Jewish culture on WTMJ, Milwaukee. Audio excerpts from the program, with Esselin reading one of his poems in both Yiddish and English and speaking in retrospect about his career are available online.

While still in Russia, Esselin's widowed mother reluctantly sent him, the eldest, out to work—to serve a five-year apprenticeship to a carpenter, an occupation that he followed the rest of his life. Esselin came to the US as a boy of fifteen in 1904. He joined the Carpenter's Union under the name Artur (in honor of Artur Rubenstein, the pianist, and with the surname Solomon (the wisest man). Later, when he began writing poetry, Esselin, originally named Orkeh Serebrenik, adopted his pen name: Alter—the old one—in following the custom among Ashkenazi Jews of renaming the eldest surviving son in event of a father's early demise as a way of asking the Angel of Death not to bother the family again; and Esselin, using the consonants in Solomon.

Esselin began to compose poetry of his own, but oddly enough, his first publication was in Polish. He had settled for a while in Canton, Ohio, and was befriended by a young Jewish woman, an immigrant from Poland. When he showed her a poem he had written, *Di fodim fun gloibn* (The Thread of Belief) she was so taken with it that she insisted on translating it into Polish and got it published in a local paper that covered the Polish-Jewish community.

He was so encouraged by this that he sent several poems to the Detroit Yiddish newspaper, *Der veg* (The Jewish way). When the second poem appeared in the paper, it was accompanied by a boxed notice from the editor that said that he

regarded Esselin's poetry as the emergence of a new literary star, and that he hoped the star would shine for a long time.

Esselin moved to Chicago and lived there for a few years becoming an active member of Chicago's Yiddish literary world and there met his second wife, Becky. After a year or two they moved to Los Angeles and lived there till 1925.

In 1926, Esselin and his family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where he spent the rest of his life, working as a carpenter in the daytime and composing his verse at night...although if an idea came to him on the job he would scribble it down.

Esselin's poetry often dealt with themes that are thought to be morbid and pessimistic...loneliness, the bite of conscience, the scourge of poverty... themes that came directly from his life experiences. When his son, Joseph, once asked him why he chose such dark subjects, his answer was that when he began to write poetry he asked myself what he should write about, and the answer was simple: to write about themes that troubled him the most—in order to defy them, and thus to overcome them.

In 1969, *The Forward* (Forverts) published an article by Yitzok Perlov "In Celebration of the Eightieth Birthday of Alter Esselin" which detailed the events of his career and evoked the eloquent bittersweet tone of his poetry. Earlier that year, Jacob Glatstein in *Der Tag Yiddish Journal*, praised the publication of the translations into English—the collaboration of Esselin with his son, Joseph—in book form, as a worthy tribute to Esselin's accomplishments.

All through Esselin's lifetime his work has been favorably reviewed by major Yiddish critics, but he is remembered after his death as well. Thirty years after his death, Mikhail Krutikov wrote a retrospective article in *The Forward* (Forverts) Esselin's life and celebrating his unique poetic voice.

Ballad Of An Outsider's Life

*Life came and rapped upon my door
Not knowing whom he was looking for.
But when he spoke his tone was dire:
—Lives he here who was afire?
—Was afire? And if yes, what then?
—If yes, my friend, I must ask you when
You'll pay what's due for time gone by.
—Oh my rich, beloved life—I cannot lie.
I have nothing left to give you back.
True, of good things there was no lack.
Though I guarded them—they wore out.
Life clapped, and there was a thundercrack.
—"Plead not; my partner with the almanac
Demands: it's time, it's time you paid
your fare."*

*And then he was not there.
Since then I've walked with measured tread
Knowing not where my steps have led.
Smoothing the dust of earlier days,
Avoiding women and the marketplace.
And what I see, and what I hear
Wells from deep within the sphere.
And somewhere there is a joy and light,
But around me only a grimmer plight
And also love—but more of hate—
And on that, too, my payments late.*

This and other poems by Alter Esselin are online at www.esselin.com. Article excerpted from Wikipedia.

In The Kitchen with Ronna Pochter by Karen Engman



Ronna Shapiro moved to Des Moines when she was only two. After graduating from Roosevelt High School, she attended the University of Iowa but finished her education at Drake University after her three children were born.

She has been married to Don Pochter for 51 years and they have their younger sisters to thank for their union. As the story goes, they were each waiting for their sisters delayed train to arrive so they started talking. They discovered that both their families attended Beth El Jacob Synagogue but they had never met. Evidently, it was a good match because they are still together and have three grown children. Andi is the oldest; she and husband Jeff Lipman have four kids while her sister Cathie and husband Lonny Laufenberg have three. Scott is single and lives in Denver. Ronna

feels fortunate that both her daughters and their families live within a few blocks of her and Don's home in West Des Moines.

Ronna worked over 25 years for Iowa Foundation for Medical Care (now known as Telligen). Among other things, this company developed an international data base on healthcare for researchers, which is still used today.

She has been the president of Beth El Jacob's board several times and is a current board member on the Iowa Jewish Historical Society and her synagogue again too. Now that she has retired, Ronna has time for her hobbies of knitting and crochet and has also learned how to quilt.

Ronna has an appetizer recipe to share with our readers that can make entertaining easier this summer. My mother use to make similar Cheese Puffs but I never knew they could be frozen and stored for future use. Thanks so much for sharing this recipe, Ronna.

Remember if you have a recipe to share or a cooking question I can research, call Karen Engman (515-273-3300) or email me (karen.engman@gmail.com)

Cheese Puffs

A recipe from Ronna Pochter

Dairy

2 (8 oz) packages cream cheese
6 Tbsp mayonnaise
5 green onions chopped fine
1 cup parmesan cheese

Cut 90 small circles from regular sandwich bread.

I have a small cutter but you can use a shot glass to cut 70 circles.

Toast circles on one side under broiler.

Put about a tsp of mixture on the untoasted side.

Place on cookie sheet and freeze.

Move to plastic bag to store when frozen.

When ready to use put under broiler until hot – about 5 minutes.



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AMES JEWISH COMMUNITY

RABBI VISIT DATES- Below are dates that Rabbi Wirschafter will be visiting Ames for the rest of this year. Please contact Ellen Arkovich (arkovichia@aol.com; 232-0448) at least one week before a visit if you wish to host the Rabbi for dinner or make an appointment with him during one of his visits.

April 25–27 (please note date change)

May 16–18

June 20–21

BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

Minyan Times:

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

Monday: 6:45 a.m.

Tuesday: 7:00 a.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 a.m.

Thursday: 6:45 a.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Shabbat: 9:00 a.m.

Daily after morning minyan: Two study groups to choose from that will study a range of Jewish topics, from the Weekly Torah portion to Mishna & Talmud to Jewish Law.

Wednesdays: Lunch & Learn Parsha Class 12:30pm – An hour session we get to eat lunch as a group followed by insights into the week’s Torah portion. All are welcome **but please RSVP if you will be joining for lunch.**

April 29: Hebrew reading recap Part 2 - 7:30pm

April 30: Holocaust remembrance program featuring former Neo-Nazi and skinhead Frank Meenick; From hatred to harmony at 7:30 pm co-sponsored by the Des Moines Area Synagogues

May 2: Shabbat Ruach- Israeli Style; in theme and celebration with

Israel Independence Day

Tot Service - 6:00pm – 6:20 p.m.

Tot Dinner - 6:20 – 7:00 p.m.

Adult Service - 6:20 – 7:00 p.m.

Adult Dinner & Tot playtime with babysitters- -7:00 p.m.

June 2: Hebrew reading recap - 7:30 p.m.

Pesach Times:

April 14: Burning Chometz in Beth El Jacob Parking Lot 11:45 a.m.

Candle lighting : 7:36 p.m.

April 15 and 16: Services 9 a.m.

April 18: Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:40 p.m.

April 19: Shabbat & Chol hamoed Services 9:30 a.m. Shabbat ends 8:44 p.m.

April 20: Last Days of Pesach- Candle Lighting 7:42 p.m.

April 22: Services- 9am YIZKOr 10:30 a.m.

Shavuot Schedule:

June 3: Candle Lighting 8:26 p.m. - Classes and workshops on Torah Study will be running from approximately 10:00 pm until 1:00 p.m.

June 4: Services 9:00am

June 5: Services 9:00am- YIZKOr 10:30am

TEMPLE B’NAI JESHURUN

Brotherhood Weekly Lunches - We’re starting a Weekly Wednesday Lunch group. If you are interested in joining us each week, please RSVP to the Temple Office at (515) 274-4679 so that we can make an appropriate reservation. All men of the congregation are welcome to join us!

Adult Education Classes at Temple B-nai Jeshurun Spring 2014 - Rabbi Kaufman will be teaching about Social Action and Tzedakah on Thursday, May 1 from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Speaker Alex Cicelsky of Kibbutz Lotan - Monday, May 5 at 7:00 pm Alex Cicelsky will speak on ecology in Israel and Progressive Judaism at Temple B’nai Jeshurun. This event is sponsored by AZR A, Tifereth Israel, and Temple B’nai Jeshurun.

Senior Recognition - Our Senior Recognition Night is Friday, May 2 at 6:00 p.m. This special event recognizes the high school seniors in our congregation. Please e-mail a picture of yourself to Sarah at: office@templebnaijeshurun.com, as well as a brief paragraph discussing your future plans after graduation by Friday, April 25th. We can’t wait to honor all you have done and will continue to do!

We will also have the Junior and Senior Youth group members help lead service.

Teen Talk - Teen Talk for students in grades 9-12 is an opportunity for students to meet with Rabbi Kaufman and their peers to learn about and discuss issues related to Judaism and modern Jewish life. It’s a bit of Torah, Jewish Practice and Belief, Social Action, good food and friends. We’ll meet from 5:00-6:30 pm on Sunday, May 11 at Gusto’s Pizza Co. (Des Moines). Please RSVP to the Temple Office at: 515-274-4679.

Food Fair May 18 - Make sure to mark our calendars for the Food Fair Sunday, May 18 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. We are excited to have a few different ways to get your \$14 tickets this year:

- 1. Purchase and pick up tickets from the Temple office during their normal business hours prior to May 15.
- 2. Purchase tickets through the Temple office prior to May 15 and pick up at a will call desk on the day of the event.
- 3. Purchase tickets on our website, www.jewishfoodfair.com and pick up at the Temple office prior to May 15.
- 4. Purchase tickets on our website, www.jewishfoodfair.com and pick up at a will call desk on the day of the event.
- 5. Purchase tickets on the day of the event when you enter.

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at foodfair@templebnaijeshurun.com or call the Temple office at: 515.274.4679.

Shavuot

Tuesday, June 3 beginning at 6:00 pm we will have a family dinner of pizza and ice cream. We will also be featuring both a kid and adult movie, which are TBD.

Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 am will be our Shabbat Service with Yizkor for Shavuot.

Israeli and Palestinian Narratives Class

Rabbi Kaufman will teach about different Israeli and Palestinian narratives concerning the land, the conflict, and the peace process in a three part series. Classes will meet from 7:00-8:30 pm, Thursdays May 15, 22, and 29 at Temple B’nai Jeshurun and are open to the public. There are many ways to view the present situation as well as the history of the conflict. Come and learn!

TIFERETh ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Lots happening at Tifereth. We hope you’ll join us. www.tifereth.org

Recurring Events:

Minyan:	Sundays	9:00 am
	Thursdays	7:00 am
Services:	Fridays	6:00 pm Shabbat evening Services
	Saturdays	9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

Special Events for May and June 2014
May 2014

Thursday, May 8th	7:00 pm	Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 10th	9:30 am	Jacob Goldstein's Bar Mitzvah
Friday, May 16th	6:00 pm	Mishpacha Shabbat & Barbeque
Friday, May 23rd	6:00 pm	Rock Shabbat
Saturday, May 31st	10:30 am	Junior Congregation & Tot Shabbat

June 2014		
Saturday, June 7th	9:30 am	Anya Finkelshteyn's Bat Mitzvah
Sunday, June 8th	10:30 am	USCJ Regional Conference at Tifereth
Wednesday, June 18th	6:00 pm	Women's League Fashion Show & Dinner

Adult Education:

Rabbi Edelman-Blank:
Conversion Class – Contact the Tifereth office for more information 515-255-1137

Community Conversations:

Thursday, May 22nd	6:00 pm	“What is Faith”
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Des Moines Area Synagogues
Presents a Holocaust Remembrance Program:

From Hatred to Harmony

The Story of a Recovering Skinhead

With Author Frank Meenick

April 30 7:30pm

Beth El Jacob Synagogue 954 Cummins Pkwy, Des Moines, IA

For more information please contact office@betheljacob.org

This event is sponsored by
Tifereth Israel Synagogue, Beth El Jacob Synagogue, Temple Bnei Jeshurun

Tifereth Israel
SYNAGOGUE

Beth El Jacob

Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Camp from page 1

Some of our exciting field trips this summer include an ICUBS game, Sleepy Hollow Sports Park, Sky Zone, Adventureland, and so much more! We will also have 2 week-long soccer camps run by The Des Moines Menace!

Registration is filling up quickly! There's even a multiple week discount for registering for 4 weeks or more. There is morning care and after care, as well as transportation to and from camp, available all summer long. The registration application can be printed out on our website at <http://www.jewishdesmoines.org/our-work/ecs>. ■

Dorfberger from page 1

Dorf grew up in south Florida before moving to Israel where he lived for 4 ½ years. Camping has been in his blood for generations. His grandparents and mother have been camp directors as well. He has attended both residential (sleep away) and day camps and has over 10 years of experience working in camps. He has a Bachelor's Degree with a dual Major in Psychology and Sports and Recreation Management.

Dorf's recreational passions are sports, movies, and comics. He has a theater background, having created and founded the first English speaking Improv Troup in Israel and loves to perform. He is very excited to be a part of our community and can't wait for the 2014 summer at Engman Camp Shalom! ■

Perspectives from page 5 Do you think you would have had the courage to hide someone if your life was at stake for doing that? I don't know if I would have. I think I would be too afraid. I

really look up to people in the military or emergency personnel, people who risk their lives each day to save someone they may not know. People who hid the Jews were super brave, daring, and kind hearted. They were heroes, just like our first responders.

This is what Miep Gies said when she hid the Frank family: "The situation was very upsetting. I wanted to leave the family alone together. I couldn't begin to imagine what they must be feeling to have walked away from everything they owned in the world - their home; a lifetime of gathered possessions; Anne's little cat, Moortje. Keepsakes from the past. And friends. They had simply closed the door of their lives and had vanished from Amsterdam. Mrs. Frank's face said it all."

Six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. Fortunately, some people survived. For everyone who experienced the Holocaust, Jew or non-Jew, life was terrifying and horrible. Even if they survived, the constant fear that something like this might happen again, would haunt them forever. My one question that may never be answered is: how could the Nazis and their collaborators do something so cruel and horrendous and justify it? ■

Light from page 7 There is no record of what became of the Ark when Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE. (Aside from references in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark.") The Ark is frequently referenced in Rabbinic and Kabbalistic discussions. It is immortalized in every Jewish synagogue today as the Holy Aron HaKodesh, containing the precious Torah Scrolls. Even in its absence, the Ark remains a "Light in the Wilderness,"

serving as an eternal guide for its people.

"Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in His holy place? -

He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not taken a false oath by My life or sworn deceitfully.

He shall carry away a blessing from the LORD,

A just reward from God, his deliverer... (Psalms 24:3-6)

Personal from page 16 My mother was a German Jew who survived as a nurse in the Jewish Hospital of Berlin; and therein lie many astounding tales of struggle and survival. My parents were stateless refugees when I was born in that hospital in 1951, and we arrived as immigrants to the United States two years later, aboard the ocean liner SS United States.

So now, so many years later, I live in a state that has just constructed a new memorial to our collective past, with hopes for our collective future. Thanks. ■

Assault from page 16

This means honestly conveying the situation's complexity, expressing empathy for suffering on both sides (without implying moral equivalency) and offering a constructive pathway to helping the parties move toward peace and reconciliation based on two states for two peoples.

Whether we are dealing with a boycott of Israeli academic institutions adopted by the American Studies Association or an attempt to remove Israeli products from a Brooklyn food co-op, the most effective opponents of these initiatives are the people who travel in those circles.

While we in the organized Jewish community should not remain silent in

the face of Israel's delegitimization, we should strongly support and accentuate the efforts of these third-party validators who share our values and viewpoints. The 247 (and counting) universities and colleges that have denounced academic boycotts generally — and academic boycotts of Israel specifically — are just such validators.

It is not enough to only expose the true goals of the boycotters and their allies. Israel's supporters must also go on the offensive and drain the swamps of ignorance that allow the poisonous ideas of the Jewish state's opponents to incubate. Thus, we are taking the initiative to inoculate vulnerable politically progressive sectors, presenting a more factual perspective on Israel and taking prominent leaders to the region to see the real situation firsthand.

The Israel Action Network, of course, does not work alone in this arena. On a daily basis, numerous organizations stand up for Israel. Through the IAN, JFNA and JCPA are working together to convene around a common strategic planning table not only our affiliates but also a range of other North American, Israeli and European groups in order to share best practices and coordinate our collective resources in confronting this global danger.

There is no imminent threat to the critical and broad North American support for Israel. But American support for Israel is not something to be taken for granted in light of the organized campaign we now face. While should not be panicked, we cannot be complacent either. We pledge to continue to work hard to prevent any erosion of that support. ■



Gan Shalom

SUMMER CAMP

JUNE 16 - AUGUST 8, 2014

AGES 2-4 3 DAY AND 5 DAY PROGRAMS
HALF-DAY AND FULL-DAY SESSIONS AVAILABLE

Welcome to Gan Shalom Camp.
This summer we will take full advantage of our new beautiful playground as well as daily outdoor water play activities. Each week we have a fun theme that will be supported by an age-appropriate book.

WEEK 1: JUNE 16-20 - Beach Adventures	
WEEK 2: JUNE 23-27 - Planting	
WEEK 3: JUNE 30-JULY 3 - America the Beautiful/4th of July	
WEEK 4: JULY 7-11 - Bugs and Insects	
WEEK 5: JULY 14-18 - Colors of the Rainbow	
WEEK 6: JULY 21-25 - Animals, Farm, Zoo and Pond	
WEEK 7: JULY 28-AUG 1 - The Sun, Moon and Stars	
WEEK 8: AUGUST 4-8 - Make Believe	

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3 half days (9-12), \$95 per week	3 half days (9-12), \$85 per week
5 full-days (9-3:30) \$200 per week	5 full-days (9-3:30) \$190 per week
3 full-days (9-3:30) \$150 per week	3 full-days (9-3:30) \$140 per week

MORNING AND AFTER CARE - \$15 each per week
Morning care, (7:30-8:55), Stay-n-Play (3:40-5:30)

TRANSPORTATION - \$10 each per week
Pick-up at Beth El (8:30) Return to Beth El (4:00)

For more information go to www.jewishdesmoines.org

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Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Temple B'nai Jeshurun, 5101 Grand Ave., Des Moines

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HRDP Grant – What Is It and What Did it Do for the IJHS?

In July, 2011, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society (IJHS) was delighted to announce that we had received a grant of more than \$20,000 from the REAP/Historical Resources Development Program (HRDP) administered by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The grant funds were to be used to do an inventory of the estimated 7,500+ items in the Society’s collection. This meant that each artifact would be physically examined, given its own unique tracking number, catalogued (who donated it and when, where it came from, a detailed description and any historical information we have about the artifact, etc.), and placed in acid-free file folders or boxes for long-term protection. In many cases, the item would be scanned or photographed and those images would be entered into a computerized collections database.

The funds were also to be used for reorganizing the collections storage area to ensure that the artifacts are stored safely and that they would be easy to locate.

So what happened? What did we do and what does it mean?

There is no way to overestimate the impact of this grant. The HRDP grant enabled the IJHS staff to hire additional part-time staff, expand the hours of our Collection Manager, and purchase archival materials. During the period of the grant, the entire IJHS staff and several volunteers worked to catalogue, re-house and preserve more thousands of individual artifacts. In addition, 700+ audio and video tapes were inventoried but have not yet been entered into our computer database!

What does this mean for the Historical Society? It means that we have individually examined more than 4,000 items and all are now stored in acid-free folders, sleeves, or boxes that will protect them from damage. We also know the exact location of each item so we can find it easily if we need it for research, exhibit, lending to another museum, etc.

It also means that anyone in the Jewish community or in our global community can go online and review more than 2,300 items in our collection from the comfort of their living room or their office. In the short time that the collection has been online, we have already received numerous comments from teachers, the general public, and museum colleagues about how interesting and useful the information is. Research requests are easier to fulfill and new exhibits will be much easier to plan now that the collection is partially catalogued, reorganized, and searchable.

Our storage facility is better organized as well. As the inventory progressed, we were able to dedicate space to different types of materials. The storage room now has specific areas for textiles, archival materials, books, religious and ceremonial items, oversized items, hanging textiles, artwork and plaques, military, Holocaust materials, and more.

Equally important, we are much more knowledgeable about the scope of the collection—what artifacts we have and what we need to collect in the future. We also learned that the inventorying, cataloguing, visually documenting, and then re-housing the collection in acid-free archival materials is more time consuming than we originally estimated. Although we made tremendous progress, we still have a lot of work to do to complete the inventory of all the items we have.

We are deeply grateful for the REAP/HRDP grant and excited about making further strides in completing the inventory. We still have thousands of items to inventory, catalogue, and photograph; thousands of photographs that need identifying information, and more objects to search out to help us preserve and tell the history and stories of the Jewish people in Iowa.



Part of the Historical Society’s book collection:

Each book has been cataloged and entered into the database. Older books and those needing extra support are stored separately, housed in acid-free materials.

The entire storage facility received a new location structure, which is visible on the shelves. A map of the space facilitates browsing and all cataloged entries have a permanent location listed.

The (temporary) yellow sticky notes represent shelves that have been cataloged using museum and archival standards.



An example of archival materials donated by the families of two veterans

Archival materials were stored using acid-free boxes, folders and sleeves, per archival best practices.



A view of the IJHS collections storage room highlighting the acid-free boxes and supplies that now house most of the collection.



Fragile wedding accessories that are now properly stored thanks to HRDP funds. Care had to be taken not to tear the delicate veil or break the fragile floral bouquet.



A Torah, now protected with acid-free tissue and an archival box, has a Tyvek tag with catalog number.

May June [calendar]

Wednesday, April 30	7:30 pm	Holocaust remembrance program at Beth El Jacob
Sunday, May 4	10:00 am	Israel Independence Day Celebration at Caspe Terrace
Monday, May 5		Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day)
Thursday, May 8	12:00 pm	Senior Luncheon at Beth El Jacob
	7:00 pm	Tifereth Israel Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 10	9:30 am	Jacob Goldstein Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel
Sunday, May 11	5:30 pm	Temple B'nai Jeshurun Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 18	11:00 am	Jewish Food Fair at Temple B'nai Jeshurun
Wednesday, May 21	6:00 pm	Potash Twins Jazz Concert: Federation Lecture Series, at Caspe Terrace, Bucksbaum Auditorium
Saturday, May 24	10:00 am	Dana Aquilar Bat Mitzvah at Temple B'nai Jeshurun
Sunday, June 1	5:00 pm	JCRC Interfaith Event and Federation Annual Meeting at Temple for Performing Arts
Saturday, June 7	9:30 am	Anya Finkelshteyn Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel
Thursday, June 26, 2014	12:00 pm	Senior Luncheon at Temple B'Nai Jeshurun



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B'nai Mitzvah



Jacob Michael Goldstein
(Yaakov ben Shmuel v'netana) will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel Synagogue

on **Saturday, May 10th, 2014** at 9:30 a.m. Please join the Goldstein family for Kiddush following the service.

Steven, Jule & Mallory Goldstein



José Aguilar and Evelyn Rudich are proud to announce that their daughter, **Dana Inés Aguilar**, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

at 10:00 AM on **Saturday, May 24, 2014** at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. Dana is a seventh grader at Waukee Middle School. The family will be hosting a Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 23, 2014 at Temple B'nai Jeshurun honoring Dana's Bat Mitzvah



Anya Finkelshteyn, daughter of Tracy Finkelshteyn will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel Synagogue on

Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. Proud grandparents are Suzanne and Larry Engman. A Kiddush luncheon will follow the service.

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of

Donald Flugge
Joan Hemphill
Alvin Kirsner
Nancy Pearlman
Stanislaw Pshonik
June Strong
David Wieczner

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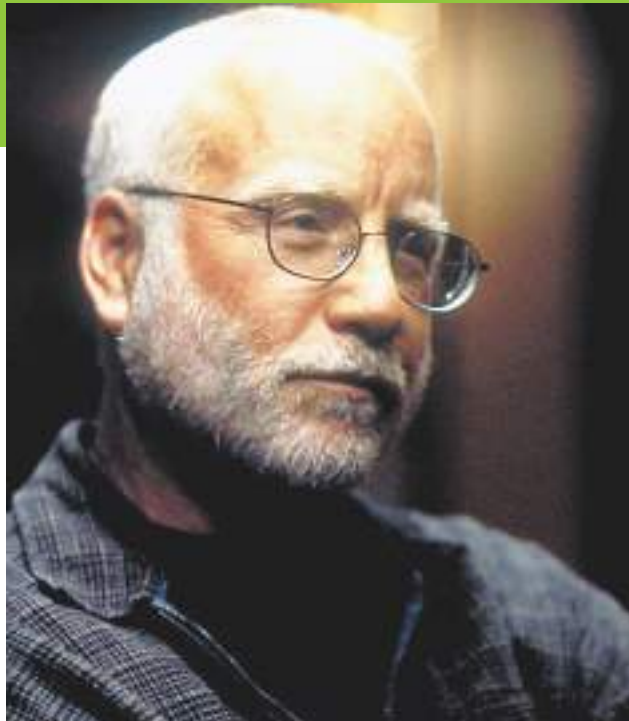
You are cordially invited to join in the centennial celebration of the
Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

100th Anniversary Gala

Sunday, August 24, 2014

featuring guest Speaker Richard Dreyfuss

Iowa events Center grand Ballroom | Cocktails and dinner will be served



Celebrate an evening with Richard Dreyfuss

Richard Dreyfuss was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1947, raised in the New York City borough of Queens, and at age 9 moved with his family to Los Angeles, where he began acting in plays at the Beverly Hills Jewish Center. Twenty years later he became the youngest Best Leading Actor Oscar winner for *The Goodbye Girl* in 1977, following a Golden Globe-nominated role in *American Graffiti* (1973), and acclaim for his work in *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* (1974) and Steven Spielberg's *Jaws* (1975). Spielberg then tabbed him for the leading role in his *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977), one of the Seventies' highest-grossing films. After a battle with drug addiction, Dreyfuss reclaimed his mantle as one of Hollywood's most gifted actors in *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*, *Stakeout*, *Tin Men*, *What About Bob?* W., and *Mr. Holland's Opus*, for which he earned Best Leading Actor Oscar nomination in 1995. A longtime outspoken advocate for media reform, freedom of speech and individual rights, Dreyfuss appeared in a documentary on youth voting and encourages teaching American history to children in elementary school.

Join in the Celebration | RSVP Tickets and Sponsorships Available Now

Please consider becoming a sponsor of the 100th Anniversary gala featuring Richard Dreyfuss on August 24, 2014! Proceeds will support education and social services throughout the greater Des Moines Jewish community.

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Please accept my tax-deductible donation check of \$_____

Please mail this completed form (and your check) to:

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For more information about sponsorship opportunities and tickets, please call Gayle at 515-987-0899 ext. 213.

