

# THE GREATER DES MOINES Jewish Press

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**It's not too late!  
Register for  
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Shalom** - page 5



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## “Double Header”

**AT THE CASPE TERRACE, SUNDAY, JULY 12**

**Federation's Annual Meeting followed by a baseball extravaganza with the Iowa Jewish Historical Society**



Join us at 10:30 am for a brief Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation. Participate in the election of in-coming officers and in thanking our Board members -- our leadership -- whose term of office have expired. We are proud and appreciative of all our volunteers who have worked so hard on the All-in-One Campaign to improve our community, especially in these difficult times!

At 11:30 am The Iowa Jewish Historical Society comes front and center to present an afternoon of food, fun, and friendship -- open to the public! It's the annual fundraiser to support the activities of the IJHS, and you are invited to bring your friends and neighbors to tour the Heritage Gallery on-site, enjoy lunch and .. **Jews Love Baseball!**

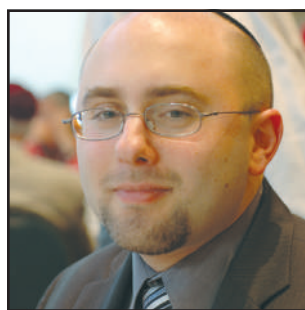
Tickets -- including lunch -- are \$18 per person ages 10 and older or \$36 for a family pass. (See page 14 for details.)

Lunch and activities for the children is 11:30 am -- 12:30pm. At 12:30 (repeated at 3:30), guest speaker Dr. Martin Abramowitz, “America’s custodian of Jewish baseball memories,” celebrates the history of Jews in our national pastime. From 1:30 -- 2 pm, come participate in a Silent Auction, with fabulous items on which to bid.

And....from 2 pm -- 3:30, a special treat.....come see the Jewish Community King David Whitestockings play our crosstown rivals, the Walnut Hill Bluestockings -- a real, old-historical team from Living History Farms!

Calling all community members! Come by The Caspe Terrace at 10:30 am for an early-bird Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation, and then, after lunch, **Jews Love Baseball!** Transportation available. Call Dorothea at 277-6321 x218 by Thursday morning, July 9.

## RABBI STEVEN EDELMAN-BLANK TO LEAD TIFEREETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE



Tifereth Israel Synagogue has announced the appointment of Rabbi Steven Edelman-Blank. Rabbi Edelman-Blank has recently graduated from the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies. Rabbi Edelman-Blank previously earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Harvard University.

His eclectic experience includes interning at Burbank Temple Emanu El in Burbank, California, directing youth programs at Congregation Beth El in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, assisting with research at Boston University and performing an array of community services.

The congregation will be led in the coming year by co-presidents Brad Long and Alice Friedgood. “We look forward to his leadership and involvement in all aspects of our congregation,” said Long. “Of particular interest is the emphasis Rabbi places on increased programming and his commitment to making Torah meaningful in one’s daily life,” said Friedgood. Long added that he hopes everyone will help welcome both Rabbi and his wife, Deborah, to the community, noting that Mrs. Edelman-Blank is a licensed clinical psychologist.

Rabbi Edelman-Blank cordially said he is “thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to serve the congregation.”

## Campaign Update ‘09

by Elaine Steinger

Those of us involved in passionately running not-for-profit agencies of any kind feel anguish every single day over the dollars needed to serve our cause. This year pointed that out to me in more ways than ever before. But when my cause is taking care of our Jewish community, this year was heartbreaking on so many levels. For many years I’ve served the Federation -- no year ever has been more difficult than this one.

*continued on page 13*

## TODAY YOU SAVED JEWISH LIVES!

*Newsflash: Your Jewish Federations just rescued the Yemenite Jewish community. You were part of “redeeming the captive.”*

Until the mid-1970s, it was believed the 2,000 year-old Yemenite Jewish community was extinct. In 1947, after the Israeli/Palestinian partition vote, Muslim rioters, joined by the local police force, engaged in a bloody pogrom in Aden that killed 82 Jews and destroyed hundreds of Jewish homes. Aden’s Jewish community was economically paralyzed, as most of the Jewish stores and businesses were destroyed. Early in 1948, the false accusation of the ritual murder of two girls led to looting.

This increasingly perilous situation led to the emigration of virtually the entire Yemenite Jewish community - almost 50,000 - between June 1949 and September 1950 in Operation “Magic Carpet.”

*continued on page 13*

**“Serve it up!”  
a smashing kick-off  
to the 2010  
All-in-One Campaign  
IS BEING PLANNED FOR  
August 23rd or 30th  
FINAL DETAILS TO FOLLOW  
Hunger is invisible...  
thankfully, you are not!**

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# Their Legacy Lives On

## We Honor The Generosity Of These Benefactors Through Their Estates



**Elaine Steinger**  
**Executive Director**

**We remember these individuals for their dedication to the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines and the Des Moines Jewish Foundation whose mission it is to secure the Jewish community. The generosity of these men and women will help us build a safer future for generations to come:**

**In Memory**

- Fred and Ann Badower
- David and Connie Belin
- Myron and Jackie Blank
- Steve Blank
- Ann Blumenthal
- Mort and Lois Bookey
- Rae Brody
- Philip Burns
- Lewis and Bernice Caspe
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- Philip and Ruth Schmelkin
- Roy Swarzman
- David Tobis
- Isadore Tobis
- Jacob Waizman
- Mose and Bess Waldinger
- Virginia Wallerstein

**We thank the following donors for their current and future gifts. This year these gifts have enabled us to continue:**

- Engman Camp Shalom scholarships
- Maintenance, repairs and programming at The Caspe Terrace from Bucksbaum, Bookey and Staroselsky Fund
- Iowa Jewish Historical Society Designated Fund
- Tobis Tzedakah Fund
- Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center Designated Fund
- Mission to Israel for 20 graduates of Young Leadership Development two year program (Blank and Belin Fund)
- Gradwohl Fund – Iowa Jewish Historical Society
- Scholarships for students at Jewish Federation Community School
- Support for our sister city Akko in Israel
- Abe Clayman Children’s Sports Fund
- Aliber Holocaust Education Fund
- Israel Student Identification Trip to Israel
- Badower/Cohen Camp Scholarship Fund

**Gifts since 1992 and Future Bequests:**

- Mike and Sarah Badower
- Steve Bailin
- Judy Blank
- Don and Margo Blumenthal
- Harry and Pamela Bass Bookey
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- Elaine Steinger
- Elaine Tobis
- Harry and Celia Tobis
- Tom and Joan Tobis
- Tim and Toni Urban
- Marvin and Robbie Winick
- Alan and Janice Zuckert

Current gifts and future bequests will enable us to continue the legacy of our Caring Community.

For more information contact Elaine Steinger at 515 277-6321.



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





**Neil Salowitz**  
President

## Shalom

Friends

This will be my last column as President of your Jewish Federation. I have enjoyed serving our wonderful community these past two years. We are fortunate to have Judy Deutch following me as President, with Barb Hirsch-Giller scheduled to follow Judy in two years. I've worked closely with both of them, and have found them to be dedicated, thoughtful, caring, organized (MUCH better organized than I've been) and passionate about the greater Des Moines Jewish community. In their hands, our community will continue to go from strength to strength.

Notice that I said that this is my last column *as President*. With Judy's permission, I will from time to time offer my thoughts on a variety of subjects that affect our community and the Jewish world. I'm particularly interested in opening a dialogue concerning the future of the greater Des Moines Jewish community.

What will we look like 10 years from now? Will we be a thriving, vibrant, diverse but united community, or will we be divided, isolated and weak? Will our congregations be dynamic houses of worship and community gathering places, or will they languish, lose membership, whither and die? How will we keep our younger members involved in the community, and how will we attract new Jewish families to this area?

It's been said, only partly in jest, that if there are two Jews there will be three opinions. Debate and differences of opinion can be healthy and creative. Too often in the past two years, however, the debate has turned ugly, breeding division and anger. I hope to bring people from all "flavors" of Judaism together to listen to each other in an atmosphere of mutual respect. The things that unite us are much stronger than the things that divide us. We've made progress, but we need to continue to work on that unity.

Finally, I ask all of you not only to continue to support your Jewish Federation with your gifts, but to give of your time as well. Your Federation does so much good for so many in the community, but we could do so much more if people would dedicate their energy and their creative vision to making our Jewish community more vibrant. You ARE your Federation. We're a small community, and each person's effort can make an enormous difference in the quality of our Jewish life in greater Des Moines.

Whenever Debra and I go to the movies, we stay after the end of the film to watch the credits roll. It's something we've done for years. We enjoy seeing the names of all the people who have worked to make the film for our entertainment. I'd like you to stay in your seats, as I roll the credits.

Thank you to Mark Finkelstein, superb head of the JCRC, and his committee of people dedicated to the support of Israel and better relations with the greater Des Moines community. Mark makes sure that we are part of Des Moines, and that Des Moines respects us. Thanks to Lyanna Grund and the staff of the Community School, who ensure a basic Jewish education for our children. Thanks to Barb Hirsch-Giller, Pat Nawrocki at Jewish Family Services and the volunteers who work to make sure that our seniors live lives of dignity.

I greatly appreciate the hard work and dedication of Judy Deutch, whose logical, organized Yiddishe kup has kept me on track on more than one occasion. She's going to be a superb President.

A special thanks to Tom Wolff, who, among other things, puts the Jewish Press together. In two years, I have never met a deadline for my column, but Tom graciously leaves space open for me. And without him we couldn't manage The Caspe Terrace.

The Federation couldn't operate without its dedicated staff. Linda Vander Hart and Sherry Buckels handle the myriad financial details of our organization with great skill. Cathie Jensen has gone above and beyond the call of duty on many occasions. I have never seen her without a smile on her face. Dorothea Gamel staffs the office and the phones and makes visitors feel welcome. I hereby designate all of you "honorary Jews" for your dedication to our cause. I also want to thank Janice Rosenberg, head of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, and her staff director, Sandi Yoder. They are the keepers of the flame, making sure that Iowa's Jewish history is preserved for future generations...and for us.

And then there's Elaine Steinger. Elaine is the most fiercely committed person I know. She loves her fellow Jews and she loves Israel, both with great passion. She is the heart and soul of your Jewish Federation. I couldn't have functioned as President without her tireless devotion, skill and "noodging". I would wager that every past President who has worked with her ("for her" would be more accurate) would say the same thing. Thank you, Elaine, for everything you've done for me and for our community.

To the community: I wish you all shalom...peace.  
- Neil

## WHY WE USE "AUTO PLEDGE" LETTERS

Some of you received letters in May indicating that throughout the 2009 Campaign we were unable to connect with you about your gift. We have been using this "letter of last resort" as an opportunity to renew pledges for 15 years, since 1994. The overwhelming response from annual givers has been positive. The majority of the Federations throughout the United States have been using this technique for many years before the Des Moines Jewish Federation ever put it into practice. This letter is not intended to take you for granted, but because the Des Moines Jewish community has such loyal donors; many donors rely on this reminder letter, if they have not previously responded, to fulfill their generosity to the community.

This year, we also sent a letter to those in the Jewish community who have never pledged before or do not regularly make a gift, giving them an opportunity to pledge \$36 towards the 2009 All-in-One Campaign. We would not be using this offer to make a first time pledge if it were not a standard procedure that has been used by 90% of the Federations across America for many years.

Whether you are a first time donor or have helped to support the Federation and its many worthwhile programs in the past, as indicated in the letter, **you are the one who decides whether to respond positively!** It is always your choice as a member of the Des Moines Jewish community to donate each year, what amount to donate or to give nothing at all.

This year, as in every campaign year, along with letters to the community, we held many telethon sessions with the assistance of volunteers. These volunteers, giving up their free time, made hundreds of phone calls attempting to speak to everyone in the Jewish community personally, thanking you for being donors in the past and asking you to renew or even increase your gift for the upcoming campaign. Obviously, it is nearly impossible to reach everyone and if we didn't connect with you personally this year, we apologize.

Let the Federation never fail to thank you enough for the lives of your fellow community members that you change for the better with your generosity. **Particularly in this bad economy, many of your neighbors need more help than ever before.** The loss of jobs among young families who are now seeking help for necessities such as utilities and food is growing. The seniors in our community often have to choose between prescription medication and groceries and they have become the major focus of the dollars you give.

This year and in 2010, make the Jewish community your giving priority; there are only 3,000 to support our synagogues, Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center and the many programs, services and agencies of your Jewish Federation.

Thank you again,  
Elaine Steinger, Executive Director

THE GREATER DES MOINES

# Jewish Press

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We are always happy to receive articles and contributions for consideration.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for space considerations and clarity.

Vol. 25, No. 6, July/August 2009



## GRANT AWARDED

The Jewish Federation is pleased to announce that it has been the recipient of a \$2,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines. This grant is part of the Community Foundation's Technical Assistance Mini-Grant Program and provides support to the Federation as it reviews and strengthens its development program.

The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines is a donor-driven public foundation whose purpose is to improve the quality of life in Greater Des Moines through philanthropy. The Community Foundation works to provide leadership and resources in partnership with the community towards accomplishing this mission.

"The Federation is grateful for this assistance," said Elaine Steinger, Executive Director. "We engaged Jerilee Mace, president of SMART MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, to work with us as our development consultant and this grant will go towards supporting her efforts with the Federation."



# senior news

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



## Upcoming Luncheons:

**Thursday, July 16th,** we will be having our annual luncheon at The Caspe Terrace with the Camp Shalom campers. Come and be a part of the fun and share the entertainment and food with our Camp Shalom Campers! Transportation details and time to follow.

**Thursday, August 13th,** 12:00 Noon at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. We are excited and honored to have a concert performed by Cantor Deborah Bletstein and Cantor Laura Berkson. Come to the program and join us and listen to the wonderful music.



**The volunteers with their kind hearts and a caring desire to serve our Seniors with dignity and respect, reopen the door to the positive feelings of the senior of being valued and loved.**

Allison Nawrocki, a 23 year old OASIS volunteer, has always had a special place in her heart for the Seniors in the community and they in turn have responded with such interest and caring for her well being. Allison has provided transportation to the monthly luncheons, assisted with social activities and also has a client, Shirley, whom she visits with, takes to lunch or shops for groceries. Allison's client is someone who has Parkinson's, among other health issues, but is an individual whom she has grown to respect and honor as a friend and mentor. You see Allison is in her first year of teaching and her client has taught for 38 years. Shirley encourages, guides, listens, and offers her wisdom and years of experience and understanding as Allison is beginning her journey through life's successes and challenges. Shirley states that she admires Allison at such a young age to take time out of her busy schedule to spend time with her to meet her needs and always does it with lots of love and a smile. It is heart warming to watch Allison's face light up as she engages in conversation with the Seniors at the luncheons or assists them at the social activities. It's also priceless to observe that twinkle in the Seniors' eyes to have the sincere caring and kindness of someone so young. Allison says she feels very blessed and rewarded to have become a part of the volunteer program. She has learned as an OASIS volunteer that the elders in our community should be respected and honored as friends and mentors, sought as our sources of wisdom and perspective, and encouraged to be teachers and role models. She hopes this will rekindle that sense of self worth and put joy back into their lives.



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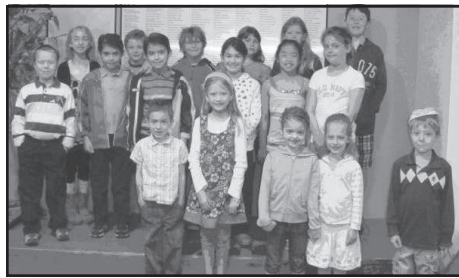
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## JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL



**Maccabee Readers**

It was a very exciting year for the students who participated in the JFCS's Maccabee Readers Program. On May 3rd, 22 students (many pictured here) were invited to a pizza party to celebrate and reward their participation in the program. The voluntary program was designed to encourage students to choose Jewish topics and authors to read for enjoyment, or even as part of other reading assignments in their secular education. The reading logs offer an opportunity for the students to practice making

choices that include their Jewish identity in their every day life. The books chosen show how being Jewish is not separate from the rest of their lives or education, and for parents of younger students, it is also a chance to find new resources to reinforce their family's values. Each month the students were given a new reading log that included a Jewish writer, such as Sonia Levitin, Shel Silverstein, or Patricia Polacco; and topics consisting of holidays but not limited to Sukkot, Purim, Tu B'Shevat; values like tzedakah; Torah-related stories and even an occasion to listen to Jewish musicians.

There were many improvements made to the program to encourage the kids between the ages of preschool through 5th grade to participate this year. Students were given a new reading log each month and for those who completed it and returned it, there were incentives such as: bookmarks, dreidels, Israel shaped erasers, and rulers featuring scenes from modern Israel. These changes resulted in a substantial increase in the number of students participating in the program during the school year.

- Lyanna

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE! ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM RUNS THROUGH AUGUST 2

We have already had a busy summer traveling through time, but the fun isn't over yet! Sign your camper up today and let them take a ride on the Engman Camp Shalom Time Machine. In our next few weeks of camp we will be visiting the Middle Ages, the Revolution, Industrialization, Modern Day, and going Into the Future. Friday field trips include Sleepy Hollow Sports Park and the Science Center of Iowa. There is also the annual ECS sleepover and the end of camp carnival to look forward to. Don't make your camper wait any longer to join the fun of Engman Camp Shalom! Call 277-5566 or visit [www.jewishdesmoines.org](http://www.jewishdesmoines.org) and click "Engman Camp Shalom" for more information.

## Students in Harlan to Build Holocaust Memorial

A long term project at Harlan Community High School in western Iowa is inspiring students to learn more about the Holocaust. English teachers Randi Daniels and Tanya Bruck have tapped into a desire of their freshman students to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust by constructing a structure on school grounds. The plan? To collect six million stones as construction material. One stone for each life taken in the Shoah, that stone serving, as well, to reinforce each student's "pledge to end prejudice," as noted in a letter describing the effort.

The project is similar to that undertaken successfully, several years ago, by an eighth grade class in Tennessee. There they collected 6 million paper clips as a means of making tangible the unfathomable number of lives lost. The process was documented in an award-winning movie, "Paper Clips." According to Des Moines Register columnist John Carlson, who, in bringing Harlan High's project to public attention in March, interviewed some of the students and teachers involved notes that the eighty-five students involved got the idea from the movie.

But the use of stones? That comes from Jewish tradition and from a scene the students saw in the movie, Schindler's List. The students know that it is a sign of remembrance and respect to leave a stone on the gravestone, the matzevah, of a loved one, when visiting a cemetery.

The time frame for the completion of the project is indefinite. "Collecting 6 million stones is not something that will happen overnight," said Mrs. Daniels. For as long as it takes, the task will be taken up by each incoming freshman class.

Impetus was given to the project when Drake University Music Department's Director of Choral Studies, Dr. Aimee Beckmann-Collier requested that those who attended the performance at the Civic Center of a Holocaust memorial oratorio each bring a rock or stone to contribute to the Harlan collection. Stones have been collected from a class at Storm Lake High School, as well -- they having heard about what the students in Harlan were doing.

The students envision the memorial to become "a place of peace, a place of reflection, a common reminder of how a simple idea can change the world."

You can help create a Holocaust memorial at Harlan High School by either bringing a rock, perhaps with your name or an inscription written on it, to the Jewish Federation for transmission to Harlan High School. If you'd like, you can include a letter, along with the rock, explaining what it means to you.

Or you may wish to send your rock and letter directly to: Harlan Community High School, Daniels/Bruck Rock Project, 2102 Durant St., Harlan, IA 51537.

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# A Religious Man by David Friedgood



In conversation I have heard the term 'religious' used to define a person. He or she is more religious than me. Or, they behave in a certain fashion because they are 'religious'. Recently I was told that members of one congregation in Des Moines are more religious than those of another group. The use of the word 'religious' in this sense strikes me as odd, and I think inappropriate. What are the speakers thinking of when they use 'religious' in this context? How should we define a religious man or woman?

The Bible (and Talmud) has no word for 'religious', or 'religion' for that matter. The stories, rules, and laws described in these holy texts are written in plain, concrete language. The abstract concept of religion is foreign to the Biblical mind. (It was in the medieval ages, when Judaism interacted with Christianity and Islam, that the concept of religion and philosophy became a concern of Hebrew scholars.) Israel Zangwill, the English playwright and philosopher, got the point when he described the Rabbis who wrote our ancient texts as the most religious of men, and yet they had no word for religion. Precisely because of their religious attitudes they could not contain spiritual ideas in a single word. (The closest they came was *dat* which means law or decree.) For these Rabbis, religion was all embracing. Torah controlled every aspect of their life and thought. It infused their lives with ultimate meaning – not easily confined to a word or phrase. Also, the ancient scholars did not define their faith as separate from others. For them, there was the true and righteous way of God; all else was idolatry. The true believer was in 'fear of God'. Each individual was seen as part of the greater cosmic whole, all were part of God's universe. There was one all-inclusive God who is part of history. He was active in their lives, not an abstract philosophical concept. To live in fear of God was to live a life dedicated to the greater good. The ancient teachers saw an imperfect, broken world. There was only one path to salvation; and they dedicated their lives to interpreting God's will and teaching it to the next generation. This was not a racist or exclusive concept. All who followed the ways of righteousness were included. When Pharaoh decreed the death of all male Jewish infants, Shiprah and Puah (Egyptian midwives servicing Jewish woman) disobeyed and saved the children, risking their own lives. "The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live." (Exodus 1:17) These righteous women have a special place in our Jewish history. Do we consider them 'religious'?

Although ancient life was hard, our ancestors found contentment and great joy in their devotion to the true God. They believed God's way was the only hope for all mankind and through their work they could become, like Abraham, a light to the nations. "I will make your name great and you shall be a blessing." (Genesis 12:2) They taught that each one of us has intrinsic value; we are all important, unique in the eye of our creator. This message is

reviewed each year at the Passover Seder. Just as we were slaves in Egypt and by God's grace are now free, so will the time come when all people will be free. All are meant to be free and follow in God's path. Again, an ecumenical message: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." (Exodus 22:20) Miriam and all the women of Israel prepared for rejoicing when they witnessed the miracles of God's universe. Despite the rush to leave Egypt, they found time to bring their musical instruments with them to prepare for the celebration they knew would come. Here they were in the desert just days after leaving Egypt, the only life they had ever known. Before them lay an unknown wilderness, with only the wild-eyed, soft-spoken Moses as their guide. Nevertheless, after crossing the Red Sea it was time to party and praise God the creator of the universe. "Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the woman went out after her in dance..." (Exodus 15:20) Are these women 'religious'?

What about Moses? This man has been honored as Moshe Rabbeinu – our teacher Moses. He is the greatest of all our prophets. Moses is the man credited with bringing God's word to us, and the first to interpret it. He shepherded a generation of slaves and wrought from them a nation which survives to this day. He could be a man of compassion and discernment, but also angry, emotional, and vindictive. He taught his people that they may be scattered one day amongst the nations without strong leaders to guide them: "But if you search there for the LORD your God, you will find Him, if only you seek Him with all your heart and soul..." (Deuteronomy 4:29) After crossing the Red Sea the people went three days without water. At the oasis of Marah they found the water bitter (brackish). It could not be consumed. "And the people grumbled against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'" So he cried out to the LORD and the LORD showed him a piece of wood; he threw it into the water and the water became sweet." (Exodus 15:24-25) A midrash (rabbinical story) has Moses asking God why He made brackish water in the world. God tells Moses to stop asking silly questions and do something practical to make the water potable so the people could drink. Moses was a man who frequently questioned his faith and his Lord. Despite leading his people to the gate of the Promised Land he was forbidden to enter and was only afforded a distant glimpse of Israel from atop Mt. Pisgah. Moses was punished for, amongst other sins, rejecting God's authority in front of the people at the oasis of Kadesh where they found the well dry. "And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore you shall not lead this congregation into the land I have given them.'" (Numbers 20:11-12)

God punished Moses for his sins, but at the end of his life Moses blamed the Hebrew people for his disappointment: "Now the LORD was angry with me on your account and swore that I should not cross the Jordan and enter the good land that the LORD your God is assigning you as a heritage." (Deuteronomy 4:21) Is this sinner Moses, a man punished by God, religious?

*continued on page 13*

## In Profile: Shlomo Molla, Member of Knesset



Mr. Molla, a member of the Israeli Parliament from the Kadima Party, spoke at the community Israel Independence Day program on April 22.

Background: Shlomo Molla was born in a small, rural Jewish village of 40 families in Ethiopia's Gondar province. His father Zamana, who was the village judge, worked a small plot of land growing vegetables. His mother, Tarunesh, looked after Shlomo (born Naguse) and his eleven brothers and sisters.

"We had no electricity or running water, but we had plenty of food. I can never remember a drought. We were intensely religious, studied Torah daily, celebrated all the festivals and always dreamed of going to Jerusalem. The only bad memory I have was of the anti-Semitic bullying of the boys in the neighboring villages. They believed that Jews were devils who had tails."

When he was sixteen, in 1983, he heard rumors that Jews from the Tigre province (about 700 kilometers away across Ethiopia) were secretly being taken via Sudan to Israel. Molla and a group of friends were

determined to become part of what was to be known as Operation Moses.

Molla set off with 15 friends, trekking northwards. Their guide abandoned them and after being attacked by bandits they were left with just their clothes. They wandered across the Northern Ethiopian desert for several days before reaching the Sudanese border. "We were picked up by a border patrol on camels, and they strapped us to the back of their camel and put us in prison for four months. It was a nightmare. We were kept in solitary confinement and beaten every day. We survived on bread and water. I never saw my friends and assumed they were dead."

Then after four months, Molla was dumped in a truck with his friends and taken to a refugee camp. From there he was loaded into a larger truck with dozens of other Jews and driven for 12 hours to an aircraft, which was to take them to Jerusalem.

In Israel Shlomo was taken to an Absorption Center in Tzfat, where his name was changed from Naguse to Shlomo. Shlomo studied at a high school in Haifa. He went on to become an Officer in the Israeli army and then graduated from Bar Ilan University's School of Social Work. He earned a LLB degree in Law from Ono Academic College in 2005.

His involvement with the Jewish Agency began as a volunteer during Operation Solomon in 1991. He became Director of the Tiberias Absorption Center after Operation Solomon and was subsequently responsible for Ulpanim on kibbutzim in the North. Shlomo then served as the Director

of the Unit for Ethiopian Immigration & Absorption of the Jewish Agency. He was appointed member of the Zionist Executive and Department Head of the World Zionist Organization in 2006.

In the national elections of 2006, Shlomo ran with the KADIMA party and was selected as number 33 on the party's list to serve on the Knesset (the party won 30 seats). In 2009, he won a seat in the Knesset and serves his party as a member of the opposition.

**Jewish Press:** It's an honor to speak with you, Mr. Molla. May I ask you, what does the Jewish state mean to you?

**Shlomo Molla:** To me, the Jewish state is a miracle, not only for me personally, having come from the oppressed Jewish community in Ethiopia to live in Israel as a Jew, but for the Jewish people as a whole. It is a miracle that after 2,000 years since the destruction of the Second Temple, during which our people suffered so much in the Diaspora, that the Jewish people came back and rebuilt their own state from the nothing it had become. Of course, there has been sacrifice in the building of the state, with thousands who have given their life for Israeli independence. But Israel is strong and serves as a center for Jewish life, with pride. In addition, of course, we can point with pride to how Israel contributes scientific, medical, agricultural, and technological knowledge for the benefit of everyone.

**JP:** What will the future bring for Israel?

**SM:** The prospects are unknown. It depends largely on what happens in the region. I believe if we attain peace with our neighbors,

Israel's potential can lift the entire region. So this conflict must end. It is in our interests that it end. Demographically, Jewish self-determination requires the presence of a Jewish majority and, on the other hand, we don't wish to rule over the lives of others. There are pragmatic Palestinians in the Palestinian territories who would like to lead their own lives and not infringe on ours. So that gives us hope that one day, we, along with the Arab states, may all coexist as neighbors, in peace and security.

**JP:** How does Hamas play into that scenario?

**SM:** Hamas as it is currently operating is not a partner for any peace process. Unfortunately, we all have to continue to oppose -- and defeat -- groups like Hamas, including Hizballah, the Taliban, and al Qaeda. And we have to contend against states, like Iran and Syria, that sponsor and shelter terrorism. The only way Israel can enter into dialog with Hamas is if they accept Israel's existence, stop their terrorist activities, and accept the previous agreements made by the Palestinian Authority. In other words, Hamas would have to change their entire ideology.

**JP:** .... but in terms with those you have termed 'pragmatic Palestinians'?

**SM:** Those who wish to live alongside Israel in peace will have to learn from mistakes made by Palestinian leadership for years and years, take responsibility for raising their own state, and defeat the terrorists among their people. If they take this responsibility, then Israel can be a partner for their goals. In the present, I believe that Fatah has to replace Hamas in Gaza for the peace process to go forward.

*continued on page 13*



# Project Elijah Foundation

## On the Road Again



Julie Kaufman

Aside from being able to listen to whatever music I want (such as Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again") one of the many "perks" of my job is to be able to travel all across our beautiful country, but more importantly, to be able to experience a wide range of Jewish communities. In the last few months I have had the pleasure to interact with the Jewish communities in Washington D.C., Iowa City, Denver and of course here in Des Moines. It never fails that these communities, regardless of where they are located, are warm, caring, and deeply committed to helping their fellow man. In these days of gloom with the thought of Iran making a nuclear weapon and our still lagging economy, it is such a comfort to see a shining light coming forth from our Jewish communities. We really do make a difference.

To date, Project Elijah Foundation has packaged 80,000 meals this year alone, and we are set to package much more by the end of the year. I have trips already set up in Minnesota, and Connecticut, and many others in the works. On the local front, this September we will be joining forces with Meals from the Heartland to package over 250,000 Elijah's Kosher Manna Meals. Meals from the Heartland will take place September 3 – 7 at Hy-Vee Hall. This event will utilize thousands of volunteers, so be sure to put us on your calendars and help us package this desperately needed food.

All of the meals that we package during the September event will be sent to food banks in Israel. As bad as things are here in the United States, sadly they are even worse in Israel with as much as 22% of their population living at or below the poverty line. This is in contrast to the 17% of Americans that live at or below the poverty line. Project Elijah Foundation is dedicated to help change these statistics. The need is great both here and in Israel, so all of the remaining meals that we have packaged this year to date and the meals that will be packaged, besides the Meals for the Heartland event, will stay here in the United States.

Many thanks go out to people all over the country who have helped us in our food packaging endeavors. While they are too numerous to list in this article, please know that all of your efforts are greatly appreciated. Your efforts help make this possible. This organization works best with your help; through your volunteer hours, your suggestions and ideas, and of course your dollars.



Please be on the lookout this summer for a new and improved website that will list all of our packing events and total number of meals packaged, as well as a photo gallery that bestows the beauty of the hair net.

As always, may each of you know Shalom in your homes and in your hearts.  
–Julie



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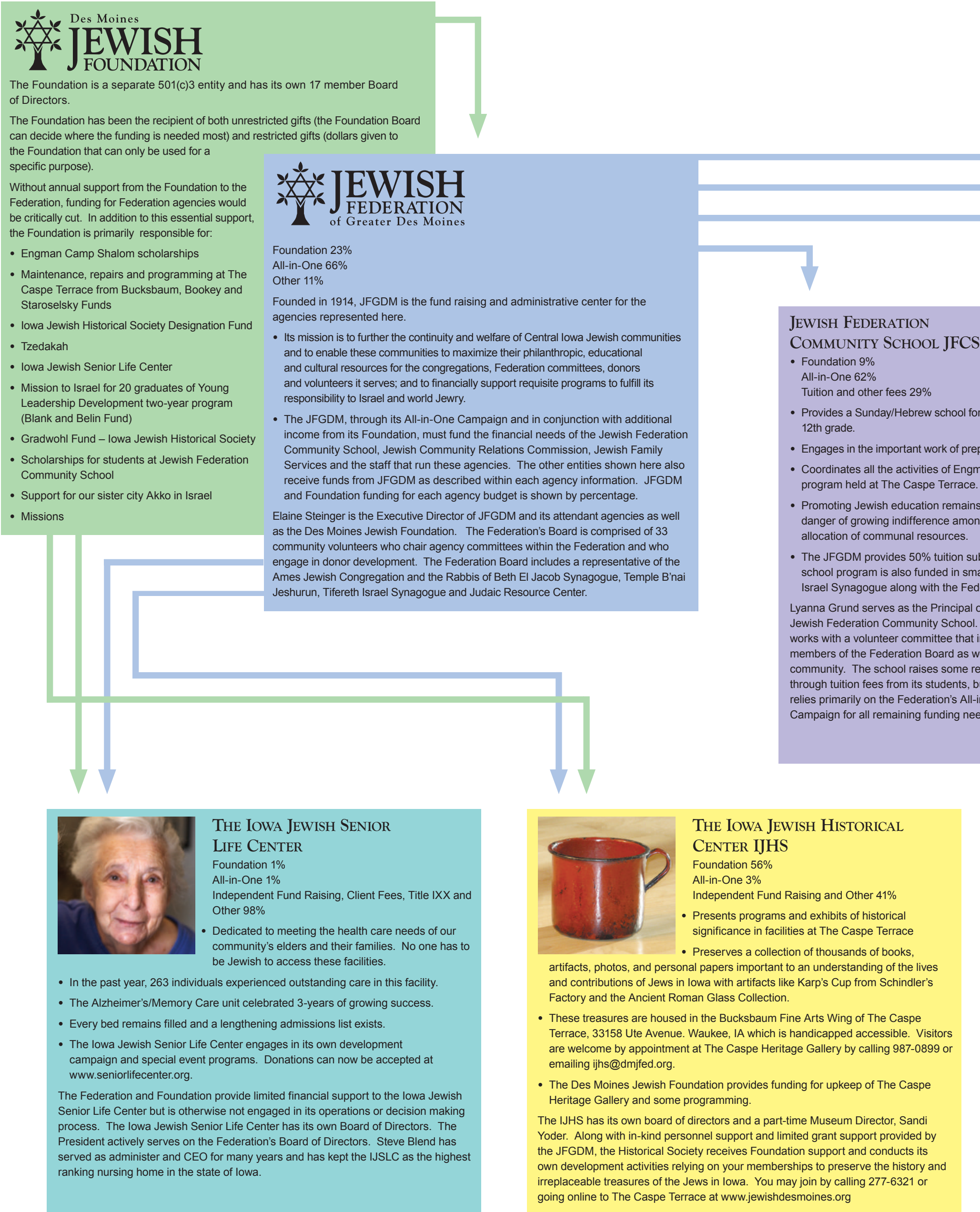
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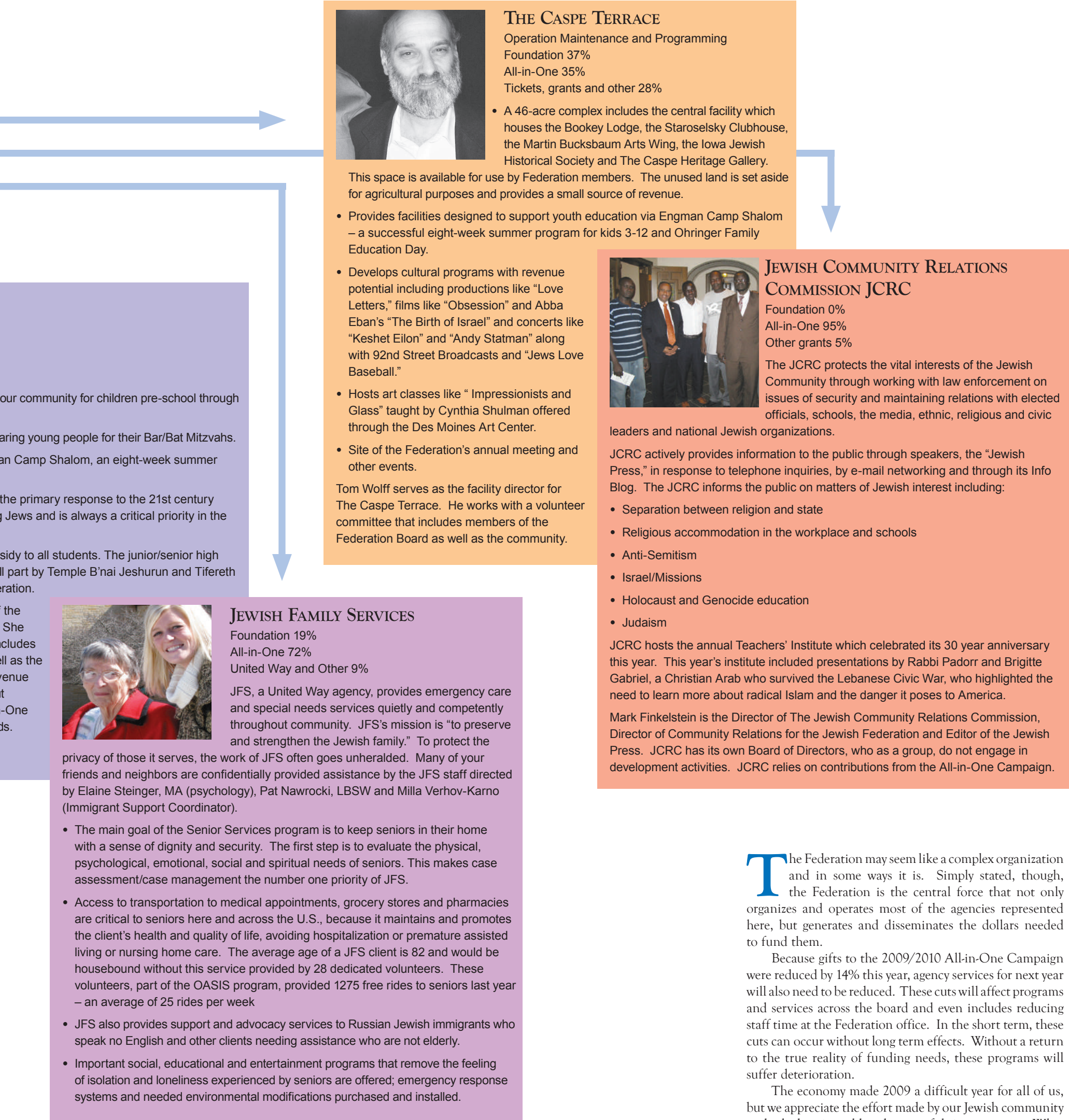
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The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines





# How Will Your Donation Be Used in 2009/2010?



The Federation may seem like a complex organization and in some ways it is. Simply stated, though, the Federation is the central force that not only organizes and operates most of the agencies represented here, but generates and disseminates the dollars needed to fund them.

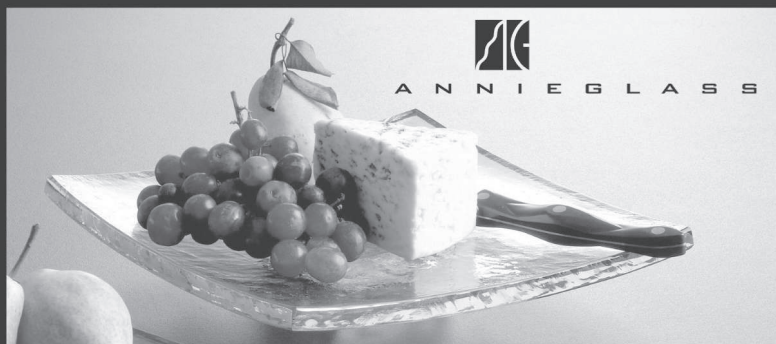
Because gifts to the 2009/2010 All-in-One Campaign were reduced by 14% this year, agency services for next year will also need to be reduced. These cuts will affect programs and services across the board and even includes reducing staff time at the Federation office. In the short term, these cuts can occur without long term effects. Without a return to the true reality of funding needs, these programs will suffer deterioration.

The economy made 2009 a difficult year for all of us, but we appreciate the effort made by our Jewish community to do the best it could under stressful circumstances. What is needed now is for each of you to plan ahead for the 2010 campaign. The members of the Jewish community must rely upon itself. Please make the Federation and your synagogues your priority.



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## THE POMEGRANATE SPRING LUNCHEON



Twenty-five Lions and Pomegranates were fascinated by Dr. Julia Goodin, Iowa's Chief State Medical Examiner, as she shared insight into her career. In addition to sharing stories about some of her cases, Goodin compared real-life crime scene facts with what is seen on popular television shows such as CSI. The luncheon was held Wednesday, May 6th at the Wakonda Club. Toni Urban and Elana Schneider co-chaired the event.

## Ask Dave by David Moskowitz

The Advice Column Specifically Designed To Solve Every Jewish Problem You Could Possibly Think Of



*Editor's Note: If you are like those of us at the Des Moines Jewish Press who love reading newspapers, you sometimes get frustrated by "advice columns" that answer questions that don't seem to have any Jewish relevance at all. There are plenty of letters seeking expert guidance on non-Jewish issues (for example, "where in the front yard should I store my broken rusty refrigerator?" or "how much does it cost for a one-way bus ticket to Memphis?") but not as many questions that relate to Jewish problems ("do I look fat in these pants?" or "did you hear that the Hirschenfelds are sending their children to private school? How can they afford that?"). This column is a chance to address that gap and provide advice on issues that are somewhat more Jewish in nature.*

We have collected some preliminary requests for advice and are somewhat-less-than-proud to publish them here; please forward future requests directly to "Ask Dave, c/o Editor, Jewish Press" and we will make sure that "Dave" thoughtfully and seriously addresses your concerns. And if he doesn't, feh on him!

### Dear Dave:

Lately, I have been having trouble with my memory. It seems like I wake up every day with no idea where I left my car keys. Do you happen to know where they are?

Signed,

Forgetful in Des Moines

### Dear Forgetful:

How many times have I told you to check the front left pocket in the jacket you wore last night. No matter how many times I tell you, you just don't listen.

### Dear Dave:

I have no idea what to do about my mother-in-law. She is driving me crazy. The latest thing is her inability to send an e-mail. I realize she is "old school" and that e-mail is something that was just invented by these crazy World Wide Web kids, but how can I bring her into the 20th Century?

Sincerely,

Frustrated in Ankeny

### Dear Frustrated:

First of all, it's the 21st Century, and that's only if you're not Jewish. For Jews, it's really the 58th Century. Or maybe it's the 57th. I don't know. Why are you wasting my time asking me to count centuries for you? I am very busy explaining to my own mother-in-law how to get rid of the blinking "12:00" on her VCR. When I am done with that, I will be explaining to her how to delete a message from her answering machine (a project I have been working on for eleven years). So why don't you just write back after you have done your homework and properly counted up the centuries yourself?

### Dear Dave:

My friend's son Eric celebrated his bar mitzvah last year and my wife and I wrote him a nice check for \$100. This year, when it was time to celebrate my daughter's bat mitzvah, that same friend wrote her a check for a paltry \$18! These same people drive around in a fancy car, they take expensive vacations. But when it comes time to write a check for my darling Carly, they turn cheap. Now their younger son is celebrating his bar mitzvah next, so I am thinking about getting my revenge by writing him a check for only \$18! Am I wrong to be

upset (after all, chai is nothing to sneeze at)? Am I a vindictive petty monster?

Signed,

They Owe Me Eighty-Two Dollars

### Dear Eighty-Two,

Your question is the most quintessentially Jewish question that could possibly be asked. It has it all: a warped sense of injustice, an undying desire for revenge that makes Captain Ahab look like Dr. Phil, squabbles about meaningless amounts of money, a willingness to discard long-standing and valuable friendships over truly irrelevant and probably imaginary grievances. In the rest of the world, "normal" people would put aside their petty obsessions with justice and revenge and realize that friendships are the invaluable essence of life; they have to be valued and protected. But who am I kidding? We're Jews! Give that kid \$18 and never speak to your supposed friends again. That will show those cheapskates! Ptui on them.

### Dear Dave:

I checked the front right pocket of my jacket and the keys aren't there. What kind of advice columnist are you?

Again,

Forgetful in Ankeny

### Dear Forgetful:

Are you even paying attention to me? Are you meshuginah? I already told you to look in your front LEFT pocket. If you can't follow simple instructions, I can't help you.

### Dear Dave:

With Passover 2010 just around the bend, it's time to begin planning the festive Seder meal. Every year it's the same thing: a dozen extra slices of matzah to fend off the hunger, a steaming bowl of matzaball soup, a serving of gefilte fish straight from a glass jar that also contains a gelatinous brew straight out of 1950's horror movie, and ... I'm full. Time to sleep on the couch. But I am tired of the same thing ever year! Any suggestions for something that would make next year's Seder "fresh" and "dope?"

Until Then,

Eating Without Reclining

### Dear Reclining:

I think you are hitting on something. Maybe it's time for Passover, a holiday whose entire purpose is the ritualistic repetition of centuries-old traditions, to become a lot more "hip" ... not! Passover should stay the same forever, so maybe it's you that's got a little something in the head. How about this idea to make things different: why don't you try making your own gefilte fish from scratch, following the precise and extremely technical procedures perfected by my own Hungarian peasant grandmother? This takes quite a bit of planning, so you better get started early ... like now. First, hand catch some pike, carp, and whitefish from your local stream and keep them alive and healthy in your bathtub until next winter. Second, as Passover approaches next spring, prepare the "fish" (which after six months in a bathtub, have probably been driven legally insane, even by admittedly low standards of fish mental health) using this age-old recipe from Eastern Europe: [www.jewishrecipes.org/recipes/gefilte-fish/gefilte-fish-1.html](http://www.jewishrecipes.org/recipes/gefilte-fish/gefilte-fish-1.html). Once prepared, pack up the fish, load them onto a folding metal pull-cart with wheels, and walk to the bus stop on the corner of Jewel Avenue near your apartment building in Flushing, New York. *continued on page 13*



In the Kitchen With Pamela Bass-Bookey

by Karen Engman



Is there anything more delicious than Iowa corn in the summer? I think you are going to love Pam's recipe for Grilled Corn Cakes. It's a versatile dish that works well as an appetizer, main course, side dish or even as leftovers for breakfast, served with jam.

Pamela Bass was raised on the south side of Chicago. We became close friends while attending the University of Wisconsin in Madison where we both graduated with degrees in art history. Pam went on to manage Billy Hork Art Gallery on Oak Street in Chicago and then worked as a private art dealer in Des Moines for 25 years.

Although she knew Harry Bookey from the UW, they actually didn't start dating until she visited Arny and me in Des Moines in 1976. They married and three daughters were soon to follow. Jordan is the east coast programs manager at Google for global diversity and talent inclusion and lives in Pittsburgh with her husband Brandon Lloyd.

Blaine just graduated summa cum laude from Hastings College of Law and will be working for the IJDH (Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti). She resides in San Francisco with her husband Richard Walker. Natalie lives in D.C. and works in the White House as a staff assistant to Michelle Obama. She is engaged to Michael Baker.

The arts and their social impact on communities and society have always been important to Pam. In a partnership with her husband Harry, they purchased and restored the old Masonic Temple and turned it into The Temple for Performing Arts. Adjacent to the downtown library, The Temple housed with Starbucks, Flowers by Saley and the restaurant Centro, have all served as a catalyst for downtown development. The Bookeys are also partners in the successful Court Avenue restaurant Dos Rios and a Boca Raton, Florida eatery.

Pam's current community involvement includes being chair of the Greater Des Moines Art Foundation, which is responsible for the

placement and selection of public art in and around the city of Des Moines. She is a trustee of the boards of the Des Moines Art center and Drake University and a board member of the Martin Bucksbaum lecture series at Drake. With a focus on world issues and women, she serves on the advisory councils for the International Crisis Group and the Women and Public Policy Group, Kennedy School: Harvard University. She served on the National Finance Committee for Obama for America and the National Committee for Women for Obama.

Pam loves to bike and garden and has even been known to go morel mushroom hunting. She loves to read and has belonged to a book group for over 20 years. The Jewish Press thanks Pam for sharing her Grilled Corn Cake recipe with our readers. It reminds me of my mother's corn fritters which I loved with maple syrup, though Pam serves her corn cakes with a variety of salsas. If you have a recipe to share or a question I can research for you, call Karen Engman (274-3399) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com).

Grilled Corn Cakes

A Recipe from Pamela Bass-Bookey

Dairy

- 3 ears of fresh corn
- 1 tsp. garlic, chopped
- 1 jalapeno, minced
- ¼ red bell pepper, chopped
- ½ cup yellow corn meal
- ½ cup all purpose flour
- ½ tsp. baking powder

- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 eggs, lightly whisked
- 1 cup milk
- 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
- Vegetable oil, as needed

Peel husk back from corn and remove as much of the silk as possible. Soak the corn in cold water for about 10 minutes. Place corn on medium hot grill and cook, turning at intervals for about 20 minutes. Remove and let stand until cool.

Shuck corn and cut kernels from cob. Combine corn with garlic, jalapeno and red bell pepper. In a separate bowl, mix together corn meal, flour, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, whisk eggs, milk and melted butter. Stir corn mixture into dry ingredients. Add liquid mixture. Mix and let sit.

Heat griddle or place in a large skillet over medium heat. Add enough oil to coat the bottom of skillet. Spoon batter into skillet. Cook until golden and center appears dry. Then flip.

Serve with a variety of salsas or jam.



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## BETH EL JACOB SYNAGOGUE

## BEJ participated in O-U Relocation Fair in NYC

## Rabbi Aaron Schwarzbaum's Contract Extended

Rabbi Schwarzbaum and his son Mayeer also are active in Torah Life & Living, an anticult and missionary group Aaron Schwarzbaum founded twenty years ago in Miami. Rabbi Schwarzbaum travels, lectures and works with families, nationwide, in the attempt to bring people back to Judaism. He became the rabbi of the 90 family member congregation in 2005.

Good stuff going on in Des Moines, Iowa...come join us!

Beth El Jacob Synagogue Men's Guild, in partnership with Platinum Motors, Des Moines, hosts Classic Car Show & Family Fun BBQ Sunday, September 13, 2009, 12PM-5PM 954 Cummins Parkway, Des Moines. Trophies will be presented to the Top 10 & "Crowd Favorite." Register ASAP by contacting Valerie at (515) 274-1551 or emailing office@betheljacob.org. Goodie bags while supplies last, in order of registration. FREE registration!

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Gala Awards Dinner 6PM at Beth El Jacob; Non-golfing dinner \$13

# TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

## Shabbat Service Schedule from Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Friday evening services are at 6:00 pm. Classical Reform services: July 3, August 7; Outdoor service: August 21. The service on August 28 is in honor of Peter Pintus. Saturday morning services are at 10:00 am. Tot and Pet Shabbat: July 25 and the Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Hjelmaas: August 15 at 4:30 pm. Services are preceded at 9:00 am by Torah study.

## The Information Age At Jewish Glendale

*"Change is good." We hear this all the time, and after 105 years, changes are coming to the Jewish section at Glendale Cemetery, thanks to the efforts of Beth El Jacob Synagogue.*

Glendale Cemetery is one of the Des Moines Municipal Cemeteries. Glendale opened in 1904, and the Jewish section was parceled and purchased by Beth El Jacob Children of Israel, and Tifereth Israel many years ago, and has thus operated separately. Two separate cemeteries, within one fence. In theory, this makes sense, as we the Jews of Des Moines own that section, for which the city has no responsibility. However, in practice, how much sense does it make? Before you answer, consider that from 1904 to 2009 the office of Glendale Cemetery had absolutely no records as to burials in its Jewish section. Walking into the office at Glendale would provide no information, as the records were simply not available there. Even the various sections within the Jewish section, at large, were a complete mystery to the operational staff at Glendale.

For many of us transplanted Jews, with roots in the various borscht belts throughout the country, the concept of a municipal cemetery is entirely foreign. Jewish cemeteries abound in places like Los Angeles, New York, Chicago and Miami, but not so in Iowa. As strange as the concept is, 4909 University Avenue is a divided address, with multiple interests. (We're not the only ones with separate ownership and management, just ask the Masons!) So what happened when a Jewish family came by to visit their loved one? At best, a referral to call the local synagogue offices, and at worst an absolute melt down. Bereavement is no simple thing, and the littlest issue can set the best of us off when we are missing someone so dear, so you can imagine what must have happened over the years to so many Jewish families.

Many of us have heard the stories of the frustrated and bereaved, but when Beth El

## “EAT LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT”



It rained a bit, but it didn't pour, and the 23rd Jewish Food Fair was none the worse for the weather (though the poor souls who had ticket duty just inside the front door with no protection from the wind might beg to differ). Over 850 people came for food, music, and Temple tours as the Temple community pitched in to make the Jewish Food Fair a reality once again. Opening our doors to the entire metro community is one of the greatest benefits of the Jewish Food Fair, and the enthusiastic response of those who come to the Food Fair each year is gratifying. There's always someone who says "I'm so glad you guys do this! I can't get matzah balls anywhere else!"

Food preparation began in March with kugel, and moved on from there as we prepared blintzes, knishes, brisket,

Jacob office manager Valerie Cohen opened a letter in early May from a distressed family, she knew that something had to be done. After consulting with cemetery chairs, Sid Jacobson and Josh Engman, of Beth El Jacob and Tifereth Israel respectively, Cohen verified that the problem was neither new, nor on its way toward a resolved state. It was agreed that Cohen would send a letter of proposal to the director of Glendale Cemetery, offering a three-pronged approach to remedying the situation. Previous directors had been rumored to be averse to working with us in any way, but not Randy Fisel, who is now at the helm at Glendale. Cohen, with the agreement of Jacobson and Engman, proposed that the Jewish community erect numbered section markers at the roadside to provide guidance for visitors, as well as a more detailed map of the Jewish section, and a three-ring binder with burial information for each synagogue to the office of Glendale Cemetery. Rabbi Schwarzbaum concurred with the importance of this project, for our community saying, “We have an obligation to care for the place we bury our loved ones. We say Yizkor four times a year, and we are then to visit our loved ones. It’s vital that we know where they are, so that we may fulfill these obligations.”

The proposal was received enthusiastically, and so with the wholehearted approval of the Board of Trustees of Beth El Jacob, Cohen has embarked on researching section marker options, considering affordability, durability, and aesthetic concerns. Options will be presented to the cemetery chairs shortly, for consideration. She is also collecting and compiling the information for the first edition of the Glendale Jewish Burial Directory. The project is expected to take perhaps a couple months to complete, but next time you are up at Jewish Glendale, be on the lookout for signs of Beth El Jacob's project du jour.

hamentaschen, macaroons, charoset, falafel and hummus. Jonathan Yentis worked his usual miracle with chicken soup (not to mention all the other food prep), dozens of members made matzah balls, and Diane Pratt was the queen of the kitchen. Gwenn Copple, it must be said, is just amazing when it comes to rugelach. With the help of over 100 Temple members, the food got cooked, the set-up got done, and the Food Fair itself was staffed. Tom Franklin and Abe Goldstien saw to it that we had a Food Fair program, business directory, and publicity, while Becky Bunkers provided the table decorations and Judy and Stuart Shkolnick organized the take-out line. Laura Berkson arranged for a fantastic list of entertainment, while Muriel "Buttons" Sheppard and her friend Vicky delighted children with balloon animals and face painting. Temple tours were given by Emily Kruse, Susan Seidenfeld, Sara Coleman, and Rachel Jacobs. If it takes a village to raise a child, well-- it takes a vibrant Temple community to put on a Jewish Food Fair!

Co-chairs Sondra Feldstein and Nicci Chavas can't say enough good things about all the volunteers who put in countless hours making the Jewish Food Fair a success.

–Sondra Feldstein, Bondurant IA



**Campaign** from page 1

Because we fell short of our campaign goal for this year, meaningful services will be further trimmed for next year. But my spirit is light with the knowledge that so many of you worked so hard, labored with love, and gave generously with joy and commitment to make the 2009 All-in-One Campaign as successful as possible. From our children, our young people, young leaders, seniors and all we serve, I offer a sincere thank you. Now, when we needed your support more than ever before, you responded with all you could do.

Our economic difficulties will be resolved and times will improve again. We will endure. Meanwhile you have my promise that I will do everything in my power to continue to provide every resource possible to meet the needs of our greater Jewish community.

**Today** from page 1

It turned out some people stayed behind during Operation “Magic Carpet” because family members did not want to leave sick or elderly relatives behind. These Jews were forbidden from emigrating and not allowed to contact relatives abroad. They were isolated and trapped, scattered throughout the mountainous regions in northern Yemen and lacking food, clothing, medical care and religious articles. As a result, some Yemenite Jews abandoned their faith and converted to Islam.

The Jews that remain are treated as second-class citizens scattered and a communal structure no longer exists. Yemenite Jews have little social interaction with their Muslim neighbors and are largely prevented from communicating with world Jewry.

In 2008, there were multiple violent attacks on the Jews of Yemen.

In 2009, in response to the heightened threat to the Yemenite Jewish community from Islamist radicals, the United Jewish Communities, the US State Department, local federations, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society began working together to implement the evacuation of close to half of the remaining Jewish population.

One hundred ten Yemenite Jews were evacuated over the course of two weeks in March 2009. The expenses amounted to \$800,000. The costs of resettlement include food, housing, and social-service programs.

Our Jewish Federation paid our fair share of the rescue operation. As a contributor to the Jewish Federation’s All-in-One Campaign, you helped save Jews from Yemen.

**Religious** from page 6

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel in his philosophical opus “Man is not Alone” teaches that Jewish religion is defined as the awareness of God’s interest in man. The religious person is one who recognizes the divine spark within and acts to kindle this spark into a roaring blaze. It is this self-awareness of who we are and what is truly important in life that makes us ‘religious’. It is not the trappings of dogma, or the careful performance of ritual. Religion is not defined by what synagogue you belong to, the clothes you wear, what you eat, or even how many mitzvot you perform each day. A religious person is one who glows warm with the radiance of God’s presence each day of his life. His every deed furthers the betterment of his fellows, and works towards tikun olam – the rebuilding of

our world. In a sense, a religious person is not one who prays a lot, but a person with whom God shares their prayer. This is a person whose life is in partnership with the Almighty, the creator of us all. By this definition the examples above are all highly ‘religious’ individuals standing as exemplary models for us today.

*“O Hope of Israel! O LORD,  
All who forsake  
You shall be put to shame,  
Those in the land who turn from You  
Shall be doomed men,  
For they have forsaken the Lord,  
The Fount of living waters.”  
(Jeremiah 17:13)*

**Molla** from page 6

**JP:** You are left of center politically. Do you think there are issues virtually all Israelis agree upon?

**SM:** I believe there is general consensus on a number of issues: that Jerusalem should remain united, that Israel should not withdraw from 100% of the territories from which we were attacked in the War of 1967, and that we should not enter dialog with an unreformed Hamas. There seems consensus, as well, that not only do we have to struggle with radical Palestinians, but that we have to help pragmatic Palestinians in the territories improve their lives economically. One of the main issues affecting Israel today, of course, is that of a potentially nuclear Iran. All of us are very worried about it. A nuclear Iran would seriously endanger Israel.

**JP:** What is your understanding of the time frame for Iran’s development of nuclear weapons?

**SM:** I don’t know how soon Iran will develop a nuclear weapon. What we see is that Iran is continuing their weapons program. That is for sure. I think the window is open to solve this problem in diplomatic ways, but the timeframe is short. Iran considers Israel to be the cancer of the Middle East.

This opposition of a nuclear Iran is not only an Israeli issue. We hope that governments of Europe, America, Canada, Australia, and, in fact, all people who believe in democracy that empowers lives of freedom of personal choice -- will take responsibility and stop the Iran nuclear program. If not, we will have to take the responsibility on our own because we can’t afford to absorb a first strike from Iran, with the consequent devastation. We are not willing to sustain a second Holocaust. Of course, in Israel we continue to hope that Iran can be stopped without any military activity.

**JP:** Thank you very much for your time, Mr. Molla. All the best.

**SM:** Thank you.

**Dave** from page 10 Get off the bus at the Forest Hills subway station on Queens Boulevard. Take the E train subway to the Port Authority Bus Station. Then take the New Jersey Transit bus for an hour to suburban Westfield, New Jersey. Walk three miles to house. Serve chilled with horseradish on a bed of lettuce (preferably on stack tables in the basement, next to model railroad set – do not touch anything! - with the other kids, while the “adults” eat upstairs). Garnish with live chickens. [Editor’s note: We have researched Dave’s response and confirmed that he is in fact not making any of this up.]

Please send your requests for advice c/o Editor, Des Moines Jewish Press, or directly to “Dave” at iowadavid@me.com. A timely and probably unhelpful response is guaranteed.

[partnership 2000]

**Missing Part of the Treasured Warsaw Ghetto Archive May Have Been Found**

*Archive is the most important evidence on the destruction of Polish Jewry From the Ghetto Fighters’ Museum in the Western Galilee.*

In 1940, as the Warsaw Ghetto was being sealed, the historian Emanuel Ringelblum established a clandestine organization named Oyneg Shabbes, which planned a comprehensive program to collect documents, conduct research and create an accurate, objective record of the experiences of the Jews trapped in the Warsaw Ghetto.

In the middle of the summer of 1942, the Polish underground warned the Warsaw Ghetto population about the threat of mass deportations. Over the next few days the leadership of Oyneg Shabbes decided to bury the collection. As the Final Solution unfolded, the group persevered in its work until the spring of 1943. Of its more than 60 members, only three survived; Ringelblum and his family perished in March 1944. But before he died, he managed to hide thousands of documents in metal milk cans and tin boxes. Searchers found two of these buried caches, now housed in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, in 1946 and 1950. Researchers long believed a third part remained hidden somewhere in the Ghetto, waiting to be discovered.

The archive documents conditions in the Warsaw Ghetto until the day before the Jewish Uprising (the community’s act of resistance) and is the most important collection of evidence on the destruction of Polish Jewry. It consists of essays, diaries, drawings, and other materials describing life in the Ghetto, including efforts at survival, the situation of the Jews confronted by slaughter, underground activities aimed at

identifying the scope and goals of Nazi Jewish policy, and the preparations for armed struggle. The documents illustrate the stages of extermination and conditions of the Ghetto.

On April 21, 2009, shortly before the Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony at Kibbutz Lohamei Haghetat, the Ghetto Fighters’ Museum management convened a press conference to present what they believe might be the third part of the Ringelblum Archive. It consists of documents brought to the kibbutz in the late 1980s by Adolph Berman, a Ghetto resistance leader.

Simcha Stein, GFM Director, said researchers had long been unable to decipher the handwriting in the so-called Berman Collection, which was an elaborate code. After painstaking research, however, they now believe that the long-searched for third part of the Ringelblum Archive is not hidden in Warsaw, but has actually been in their possession for nearly two decades. “Today, after Sisyphean investigation, we believe it is highly likely that this is indeed the third part of the Warsaw Ghetto archive,” Stein said.

One of the most important documents is the diary of an unidentified girl who hid in a bunker with members of the Resistance. It documents the last six days of the Uprising, until virtually the moment German troops burst into their hiding place.

“There is no doubt this is highly important material that will now be available to researchers. We will be able to learn a lot about the period, on day-to-day life in the Ghetto during and after the Uprising,” Simcha Stein said.

**Israel’s Opgal Helps Identify Who’s Got Flu**

How do you stop a virus like swine flu from sweeping the world? Well you could start at the airport. An Israeli company claims that this is a real possibility with its heat sensor technology that can detect fever in passengers travelling through an airport, a train station or other transportation hubs.

Opgal Optronics Industries’ Fever Detection and Alarm System (FDA), can pinpoint people in a crowd that are suffering from elevated temperatures.

The first model of the product was brought to market during the global SARS epidemic, in 2003 and it later found a niche market among Asian customers a couple of years ago when Avian flu became a widespread problem there. The company sold more than 300 units to Asian nations.

Now the Karmiel-based company believes it’s the perfect tool to halt the spread of swine flu or other pandemics that might threaten the world’s health.

The FDA is an infrared thermal imaging device that can sense the temperature of the body and face in real time. Using

sophisticated sensors and algorithms that consider ambient temperature, the FDA device can sense within a half degree centigrade if someone is suffering from a fever, says company CEO Dror Sharon.

**Too hot to pass by**

One symptom of the swine flu, for example, is a high body fever over 100.4° F (38°c). The FDA system can flag individuals with elevated body temperatures that pass within its detection cameras.

If it detects a person with a fever, an alarm will sound and security officials can pull that person aside for further questioning or a swab, as done in some airports where passengers show symptoms of the swine flu today.

“This non-invasive system, which costs about \$10-15,000 per system, can be immediately deployed in airports and other transportation hubs since it does not require any special infrastructure,” Sharon tells ISRAEL21c.

*This article originally appeared in Israel21C, online at www.israel21c.org*

**BROADCASTING LIVE FROM DES MOINES**

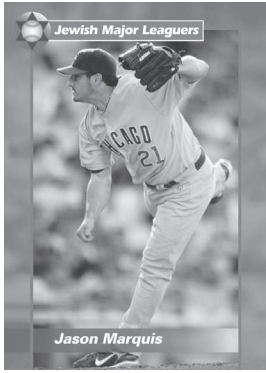
Alan Koslow is a regular panelist on The Roundtable, a weekly wrap-up of current events, on WHO Newsradio 1040. The show airs live on Fridays 6 – 7 pm as part of the Steve Deace Show and available online, including as a podcast on whoradio.com.

Rabbi David Kaufman and Michael Libbie have their own shows on

macsworldlive.com. The shows are part of a local initiative called “Des Moines Local Live” and are webcam broadcasts available, at present, only on the Internet. Rabbi Kaufman’s talk show, “The Whole Megillah” airs Thursdays 2 – 4 pm. Michael Libbie’s show “Insight on Business” is on Monday – Friday, 12:30 – 2 pm. Both shows are archived for viewing on demand.

# Jews Love Baseball:

**A Fun Fundraiser for the Iowa Jewish Historical Society**  
**Sunday, July 12, 2009 at The Caspe Terrace 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**



*Come one! Come all! Bring your friends and neighbors! The general public is welcome!*

Come see the Jewish Community King David Whitestockings play our cross-town rivals, the Walnut Hill Bluestockings from Living History Farms and help the Iowa Jewish Historical Society preserve the history of the Jewish people in Iowa.

Enjoy an afternoon of baseball, a ballpark style lunch, an exciting presentation by guest speaker, Dr. Martin Abramowitz, and games for the kids.

Bring your lawn chair or a blanket and watch your local lads, Aaron Rosenberg, Jared Farber, Eli Wolnerman, and their teammates play an exciting “match.” Join your fellow “cranks” (fans) in rooting for our home team. The 1870s game of baseball that was played in towns across the country was a gentleman’s game with no spitting, swearing, or sliding.

## Guest Speaker: Dr. Martin Abramowitz

As part of your fun-filled day, enjoy a presentation by Dr. Martin Abramowitz, “America’s custodian of Jewish baseball memory.”

During the 138 years professional baseball has been part of the American landscape, 160 of the players who helped shaped shape today’s game have been Jews. Two—Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax—reached the pinnacle of baseball success and were named to the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Hear their story and the story of so many other players from Dr. Abramowitz. Marty loves baseball. He is the founding President of Jewish Major Leaguers, Inc., a Boston-based not-for-profit organization that documents “American Jews in America’s Game” and this is his first trip to Iowa. Using a combination of photos, his in-depth knowledge of baseball history and trivia, and a little serious reflection about how baseball reflects the Jewish experience in America, Marty will entertain and teach us about the important contributions Jews have made in shaping today’s game. Learn about career leaders, four Jewish women players, baseball in Israel, and a host of Jewish baseball history trivia—which team holds the record for most Jews on the roster in a single year, who those players were, and more.

Marty comes to Des Moines after successfully completing “A Celebration of Jews in Baseball” at the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, NY. The event included former players, biographers, journalists and fans who participated in two days of memories, scholarship, in-depth discussion, laughter, and the first kosher meals and minyans in Hall of Fame history! The program brought national media attention and a wave of successful speaking engagements at JCCs, synagogues, and Sports Lodges in Boston and around the country.

In addition to being our keynote speaker, Marty is also contributing to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society’s fundraising efforts. He is very generously donating \$10 to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society (IJHS) for every set of his historic baseball cards

that is sold at the regular price of \$35.00!

## Silent Auction

To help the Iowa Jewish Historical Society preserve the history of the Jewish people in Iowa, many of your friends and neighbors have donated to our silent auction and we’re still seeking additional items. Some of the items you can bid on will include:

- **Four tickets to a Chicago Cubs game** (donated by Kent Rosenberg and Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services, Inc.)
- **A weekend stay in a suite at the Overland Park Kansas Holiday Inn.** (We’re working on pairing this with tickets to the Kansas City Royals.)
- **Two autographed copies of “The Baseball Uncyclopedia,”** by Audrey Rosenberg’s nephew Howard Bloom and his co-author Michael Kun.
- **An autographed copy of the first volume of a two-volume set “Jews and Baseball”** by Burton A. Boxerman and Benita W. Boxerman, which was donated by the authors.
- **Jewish Major Leaguers baseball cards** – the gold edition (donated by the American Jewish Historical Society)
- **“The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg” DVD** (donated by the American Jewish Historical Society)

## Games, Displays, the Museum, and More!

The Caspe Heritage Gallery will be open all day with a new display of Chicago Cubs memorabilia collected by Edward Nathan Frankel, a die-hard fan of all Chicago’s sports teams. Edward loved the Cubs and the White Sox. The exhibit will include items such as Edward’s White Sox uniform and his bat from the Chicago Cubs Fantasy Camp, his personal baseball cards, honorary contracts, and more. Edward’s niece, Jody Kolmen, is also donating some of his collectible pins to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society for sale during the event. Proceeds from the sale will be used to support the Society’s 2009/2010 operations.

Cathy Lesser Mansfield, writer and composer of “The Sparks Fly Upward” and an IJHS board member, will be on hand to sell autographed audio CDs of her musical drama. Cathy is donating \$3 from the sale of each CD to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

In addition there will be pitching and running games for children of all ages.

## Enjoy the Day and Help the Iowa Jewish Historical Society Preserve Our History

Since it was formed nearly twenty years ago, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society has presented scores of exciting programs and exhibits, moved from our first site at Drake University to our home at the Caspe Heritage Gallery, and collected and preserved thousands of books, artifacts, photos, and personal papers critical to understanding the lives and contributions of Jews in Iowa.

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society needs your generosity to continue our critical work. The majority of the funds that support our preservation and education mission come from your donations and memberships. Come spend a fun afternoon with your family and help us save our history!

**A special thank you** to the Men’s Brotherhood at Temple B’nai Jeshurun and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines for their donations to help the Iowa Jewish Historical Society provide a ballpark-style meal for the Jews Love Baseball Fundraising event.

## Schedule of Events for Jews Love Baseball Fundraiser

- **11:30 am – 12:30 pm**  
A ballpark-style lunch with Chicago Dogs, chips, and a soft drink, included with the ticket; children’s games
- **12:30 – 1:30 pm**  
Dr. Martin Abramowitz’s interactive presentation on Jewish Major Leaguers in the Bucksbaum Auditorium
- **1:30 pm**  
Live auction of three special items
- **2:00 – 3:30 pm**  
Walnut Hill Bluestockings vs. the Jewish Community King David Whitestockings at the baseball field
- **3:30 – 4:30 pm**  
Encore presentation by Dr. Martin Abramowitz (Attend one of the two)
- **Throughout the day:** Silent auction

## TICKETS:

\$18 for individuals 10 years old and up  
 \$36 for a family—two adults and children 18 and younger living in the household.  
 Tickets will be available at the site.  
 Tickets can also be ordered by calling Dorothea Gamel at 277-6321 ext. 218.

**Don’t Forget:** Begin the day with the Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines from 10:30 – 11:30 am in the Bucksbaum Auditorium. Learn more about this year’s challenges and successes. Vote for your 2009/2010 officers. The annual meeting is free to everyone who wishes to attend.

**Bring your lawn chair or a blanket and spend a fun afternoon with your family and help us save our history!**

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# july • august [calendar]

<b>Sunday July 12</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Federation Annual Meeting at The Caspe Terrace</b>
<b>Sunday July 12</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>IJHS Annual Event "Jews Love Baseball"</b>
<b>Tuesday July 16</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Senior Luncheon at The Caspe Terrace</b>
<b>Wednesday August 12</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Beth El Jacob's 6th Golf Tournament at Willow Creek</b>
<b>Tuesday July 13</b>	<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Senior Luncheon at the Temple</b>
<b>Saturday August 15</b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Joshua Hjelmaas Bar Mitzvah at the Temple</b>
<b>Friday August 28</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Temple Service to honor Peter Pintus</b>
<b>Saturday Sept 5</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Logan Abdulghani Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth</b>

## Efforts culminate in a searing performance by Drake Music Department of Holocaust memorial oratorio, "To Be Certain of the Dawn"



Drake University has become one of the first universities to perform what is truly a musical masterpiece, a Holocaust memorial oratorio entitled, "To Be Certain of the Dawn." The oratorio was composed in 1995 by Stephen Paulus with libretto by Michael Dennis Browne.



**Steve Newman**

Titled after a quotation by Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the work was commissioned by the rector of the Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis, Fr. Michael O'Connell, who believed that Christians must own and teach about the Holocaust as much as or more than Jews. The oratorio was a gift to Temple Israel Synagogue, Minneapolis. It was first performed in 1995, the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the camps and the 40th anniversary of the Vatican's document of

reconciliation, Nostra Aetate. Its European premiere was held in Dusseldorf, Germany and then in Natzweiler-Struthof, France, a former concentration camp, with survivors and local officials attending.

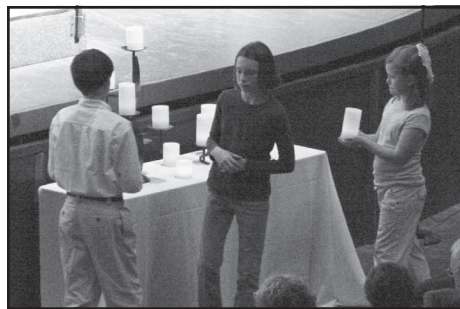
The performance of the work in Des Moines on April 19, 2009 at the Civic Center under the baton of Aimee Beckmann-Collier, Director of Choral Studies at Drake University, was sponsored by Drake University and co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. Employed in the performance were Drake Choir, Drake Chorale, Drake Chamber Choir, Drake University/Community Chorus, Heartland Youth Choir, and Drake Student/Faculty Orchestra. Children from the Jewish and non-Jewish community participated in a yearzeit candlelighting ceremony and community member Steve Newman was the shofar player, as part of the orchestra.

In conjunction with the study, rehearsal and performance of "To Be Certain of the Dawn," the Drake Music Department organized Holocaust learning activities. As

part of the series, the Jewish Federation facilitated a visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC for representatives from the Drake choral program. Presentations in Des Moines included those by Holocaust survivor Peter Pintus, Dr. Ann Millin, historian at the US Holocaust Museum, and by the composer and librettist. A blog, archiving the audio files of the presentations, is available online at <http://tobecertain.tk/>

A copy of the program distributed at the performance may be obtained, as long as quantities last, from the Jewish Federation, 910 Polk Boulevard, Des Moines, IA 50312.

The Jewish Federation extends its sincere thanks to all who enabled and participated in the production of "To Be Certain of the Dawn," here in Des Moines. The performance itself was artistically superb and immensely moving.



**Children with memorial candles**



**From left: Michael Dennis Browne, librettist, Stephen Paulus, composer, Fr. Michael O'Connell, Jeffrey Hess, soloist, Aimee Beckmann-Collier, conductor, and Mark Finkelstein, representing the Jewish community. Photos by Dave Collier**

## [short takes]



**TBJ's Rabbi David Kaufman and Julie Kaufman, Executive Director of Project Elijah, were accorded one of the 2008 Interfaith Service Awards by the Des Moines Area Religious Council. Presenting the award was Lucille Wilson (right), DMARC's Recording Secretary and esteemed former secretary at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.**



**Tifereth's Cantor Deborah Bletstein concertized marvelously with colleague Cantor Randy Herman, along with guest artists, the Maple Street Baptist Missionary Church Choir in April.**

## Mazel Tov

March 7, 2009 was designated **Java Jews** Klezmer Band Day in Louisville, KY by the mayor, honoring their performance that evening at Temple Shalom.

## In Memoriam

*We note with sorrow the recent passing of*

*Gertrude Bassman*

*Selma Daniels*

*Ruth Lipson*

*Arkadiy Okulist*

*Ettabelle Rosenbaum*

*Meriam Rosenthal*

*Elwan Spilka*

*Janey Tucker*

*Jacob Waizman*

## Bar Mitzvah



**Joshua Aaron Hjelmaas**, son of Joel and Rachele Hjelmaas, will become a Bar Mitzvah at Temple B'nai Jeshurun on Saturday, August

15, at 4:30 pm. The community is cordially invited to attend.

Proud grandparents are Marvin and Kay Braverman.



# Oh, What A Season!

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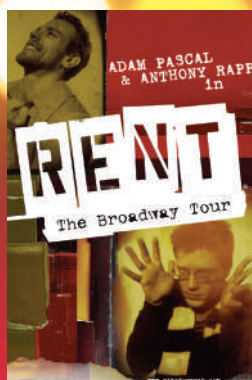
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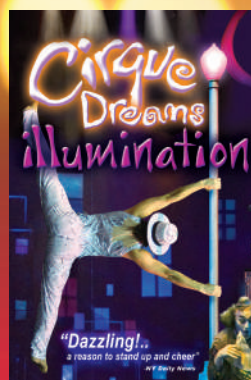
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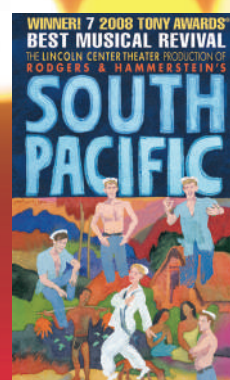
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# Good Luck to Our Recent Grads!



### Dorit-Chen Azoulay,

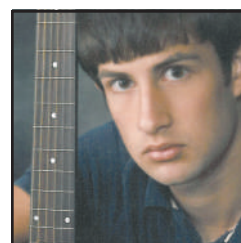
daughter of Professor Katya Gibel Mevorach (Grinnell College) and granddaughter of Miriam Lederer (Des Moines), graduated from the University of Iowa on May 16 with top grades and an internship with PLUS Media/PLUS Entertainment.

Her family in New York, Tucson and Jerusalem are very proud of her accomplishments.



### Jared Farber

will graduate from Valley High School and Des Moines Central Academy. He plans on attending the University of Iowa honors program, where he received the Old Gold Scholarship. Jared is the son of Dr. Jeffrey and Jan Farber.



### Ben Hjelmaas

Joel and Rachele Hjelmaas are proud to announce the graduation of their son, Ben Hjelmaas, from Johnston High School. During high school, Ben was actively involved in hockey, football, track, baseball, band, jazz band, and National

Honor Society, through which he received many awards and honors. Ben also worked part-time and volunteered at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. Ben will be attending the University of Iowa in the fall, where he will study Biology.



### Jacob Bruggemann

Susan Madorsky and Ed Bruggemann of West Des Moines are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Jacob Bruggemann. At Valley High School Jake was a member of the Iowa All State Orchestra for four years.

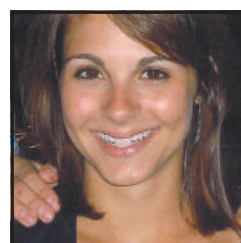
Jake is also a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. Jake will be attending Rice University in the fall where he plans on majoring in physics. We wish Jake good health, happiness, and success at college and in life! We are very proud of him.



### Jeremy Franklin

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Franklin of West Des Moines are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Jeremy, from Valley High School. Jeremy is going to study Engineering and Business at Bradley University, where he

is a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship. We are very proud of Jeremy's many achievements, academically and extra curricular activities. For every ending, there's a new beginning; for every memory, there's a dream ahead.



### Betsy Rosenblatt

graduated in May, 2009 from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Materials Science and Engineering. Betsy is a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, served as vice-president

of the Panhellenic Council and president of Hexagon, the senior engineering honor society. Betsy is the daughter of Ron Rosenblatt and Susy Robinette and sister of Katherine. Betsy plans to pursue her field of study in the D.C. area.



### Samuel Isaac Engman

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Engman are pleased to announce the recent graduation of their son, Sam, from Valley High School. Sam is going to the University of Iowa with plans to study physical therapy.



### Gabriel J. Gershowitz

Tovah and Michael Gershowitz are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Gabi, from Columbia University Law School. Mazel tov to Gabriel Gershowitz on his clerkship with the Chief Justice of Israel's Supreme Court.



### Aaron Rosenberg

son of Kent and Janice Rosenberg, graduated from Valley High School. Aaron, a National Merit Scholar, will attend Iowa State University on full scholarship to study Aerospace Engineering.