

# THE GREATER DES MOINES **Jewish Press**

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## **Construction Of A Holocaust Memorial Under Way At The State Capitol**

"As the generation of Holocaust survivors and liberators dwindles, the torch of remembrance, of bearing witness, and of education must continue forward." The sentiment of Dan Gillerman's quote, (former ambassador from Israel to the United Nations,) resonates deeply within the global Jewish community and countless others who understand the immensity of loss incurred during the Holocaust and value its universal lessons.

There are various ways to help keep the lessons of the Holocaust alive. Judy Blank, a member of Temple B'nai Jeshurun, former member of the Jewish Federation Board, and executor of the Jacqueline and Myron Blank Fund, decided on one particular way to do so. Through her foresight and generosity, there will soon be a beautiful and expressive Holocaust memorial on the West Terrace of the Iowa State Capitol. The Blank family is, as many will know, a major benefactor of civic institutions in Iowa. Their projects include the establishment of Blank Children's Hospital and the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Blank Performing Arts Center at Simpson College, and the Belin-Blank Center for Gifted Education at the University of Iowa.

Approved for construction by the Capitol Planning Commission in late April, the memorial will be situated across from the Iowa State Historical Museum and en route from there to the Capitol building. Both places, the museum and the Capitol, are frequently visited by school classes and tourists alike.

*continued on page 17*



## **PJ Library Launches Summer '13 Serving Greater Des Moines Area**



JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS

Through the provision of books and music, one book, one child at a time, the PJ Library gives families raising Jewish children an opportunity to explore timeless core values of Judaism.

Supported by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and brought to our community by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, this exciting program provides books to children ages six months through 8 years, at no cost to the family. "The Harold Grinspoon Foundation pays about 60 percent of the cost of this amazing program. The Federation (through generous donors) will pay the rest because we think it's important to get young Jewish families off to a great start. You don't have to

be a member of a synagogue, or any Jewish organization to receive PJ Library books. This is for everyone—members, non-members, two Jewish parents or for interfaith couples," states Barb Hirsch-Giller, Federation President.

The program began in 2005 and since then, has distributed more than four million books. Each month PJ Library reaches over 116,000 children in 185 communities within the United States and Canada. Expanding globally since 2009, PJ Library is now established in Israel and Australia, and this September, the program will launch in Mexico.

Each child enrolled in the program receives an age-appropriate book or music CD every month in the mail, and all are addressed to the child personally. Though many of the books are about holidays, some are about the "old world" and teach customs and values through engaging stories and illustrations to which children can easily relate.

*continued on page 17*

## **ENGMAN CAMP SHALOM ROCKS!**

Engman Camp Shalom is off to a great start this year and campers are having fun and keeping active. We still have openings for all age groups. The remaining week's themes include:

### **Hooray for Hollywood (July 8 –12):**

If you love drama, this is the week for you. Campers will have lots of time to practice their impromptu skills, perform their own interpretations of mixed-up fairy tales, and perhaps even star in (or direct!) a short film. The week will end with a screening of a popular 'G' rated movie.

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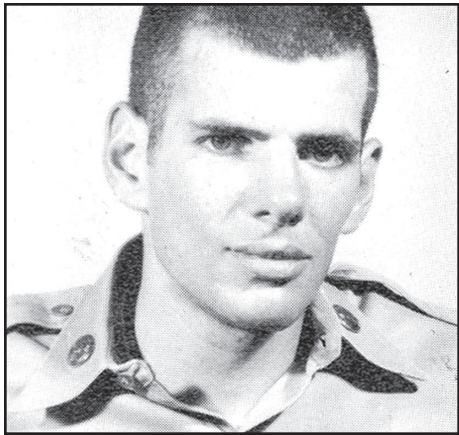
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# Community Report

## OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

### Education

#### Jewish Federation Community School - Engman Camp Shalom

- Local artist Susan Wilson from the Art Center was an artist-in-residence in May in Israel. She will be working with JFCS students to create a special mural to take with her when she travels to Israel.
- In April for Lag B'Omer, we did a joint family program with P2G.
- JFCS Curriculum Review Committee has been reviewing curriculum for all grades.
- Engman Camp Shalom is in full swing and runs through Friday, August 9th.

### Senior Care & Family Outreach

#### Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- Served 136 clients.
- Dedicated volunteers provided 203 volunteer hours during March.
- Served 34 hot meals at the April senior luncheon. A speaker from the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center explained the variety of services offered by the Life Center with emphasis on skilled care after discharge from hospital. Louise Kaufmann entertained with songs and a sing-along.
- 20 River Trace clients participated in two shopping trips to Walmart.
- For professional growth, attended a seminar sponsored by the NASW Annual Symposium – “Restoring Hope: The Power of Social Work”.

### Community

#### Jewish Community Relations Commission

- JCRC helped coordinate the visit of the Israel Partnership musicians for an Israel Independence Day concert. JCRC also met with and assisted Susan Wilson, an instructor at the Des Moines Art Center who will travel to Israel in May to participate in an Artist in Residency program with our Consortium's Israel Partnership.
- JCRC was represented at a focus group meeting of community leaders organized by the West Des Moines School District.
- JCRC presented information about Judaism and the Jewish community to students from Simpson College and Upper Iowa University
- JCRC concluded work with the Capitol Planning Commission on the Blank Foundation's Holocaust Memorial project.
- JCRC participated in committee work in preparation for the teachers' workshop about the Sudan crisis.
- JCRC held another of a series of lunch discussions updating the situation in the Middle East

### History

#### Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- IJHS Cookbook: Karen Engman and Heidi Moskowitz continue their hard work on the cookbook project and are always looking for extra help. The cookbook will be published next May or June as part of the Federation's 100th Anniversary celebration. They need more recipes for the cookbook. If you want to see your name and recipe in print—or a friend's or relative's (with their permission)—please send the recipe to Karen or Heidi as soon as possible. They do reserve the right to consider whether or not it's a duplicate, etc. If you have any questions about the cookbook project, please call or email Karen or Heidi. Karen Engman 274-3300, 229-4447, (Cell) or aengmandsm@yahoo.com or Heidi Moskowitz 327-0323 or heidirock@aol.com. The cookbook exhibit has been pushed back to next May or June to match the publication date of the cookbook.
- Blank Family Project – Collections Manager Lindsey Smith reports that she has completed the scanning of the Blank Family collection and sent the scans to the family representative for review. As soon as we receive approval of the photos, we will be making copies for members of the family.
- Inventory Project – Collections Assistant Sarah Carlson continues to inventory and catalog items in our collection. This is a slow and painstaking process but one that is revealing more and more gems in our collection. The HRDP/REAP grant ends this fall and IJHS is working hard to identify other possible grants to continue this important work.
- Taste of Israel – IJHS participated in Tifereth's “A Taste of Israel” event, which was a great opportunity to introduce people to the Historical Society, The Caspe Heritage Gallery, and our programs. We are looking forward to hosting many of the people we met at the event.
- Great News – Collections Manager Lindsey Smith and her husband Krisoye welcomed baby Nathaniel Wilson Smith into their family on Monday, April 15 at 12:41 a.m. Nathan was 21-1/2 inches tall and weighed in at 9 lbs. 4 oz. Everyone is doing great.

Love Changes Everything



Barb Hirsch-Giller  
President

I am sort of a Broadway musical freak. I have almost every CD from almost every musical ever produced-and sometimes I buy the movie version of the music as well. I know the words, hum the tunes, and create playlists of my favorites. And while “Sunrise, Sunset” was selected for our wedding processional 39 years ago, nothing has ever moved the tune, “Love Changes Everything” (from Aspects of Love) off of its pedestal as my favorite of favorites. Perhaps it is a lesser-known song, but being an incurable romantic and general optimist, the lyrics stir something a bit more profound than simple sentiment:

Love changes everything:  
Hands and faces,  
Earth and sky,  
Love: Love changes everything,  
How you live and how you die.

Exactly one year ago I wrote a column about change when I announced the resignation of Elaine Steinger. This winter I wrote about change following the selection of our new executive director, Stuart Oxer. And at this point in the Federation’s life, I am writing about change once again. However, this time the change comes more in the area of **growth**. Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines **change** as “giving a different position, course, or direction and defines **growth** as “progressive development or evolution.” And what is most important for this community to understand is that it is out of a sense of **love** for this community and the individuals that we serve that drives the passion for change and growth.

In the last six months, with the help of the Visioning Committee, our executive director, Stuart Oxer, the Board of Directors, our clergy, and amazingly committed lay leaders, significant changes have been made.

- The Jewish Federation Community School is thrilled to have Laura Bernstein as our new Education Director. Additionally, a new school board and Curriculum Committee headed by Gabrielle Callistein has been formed and is working tirelessly to bring our school to a new level of excellence in Jewish education.
- Engman Camp Shalom has been so successful and is such a jewel in the Federation’s crown that we believe there is room for expanded camp options. Lyanna Lindgren is a veteran of our camp, is beloved by staff and community members alike, and has been charged with the challenge of bringing new camp experiences and special events to the community.
- Jewish Family Services has offered the best care imaginable for our seniors and now we want to address all the possibilities that love can offer to our entire population across the lifespan. Mollie Giller has been hired as Director of Jewish Family Services and Outreach to help this process and to reach deeply into the community to engage unaffiliated members in Jewish living here in Des Moines.

What you read here is simply a small part of what we at the Federation consider healthy and essential growth (“progressive development or evolution.”) An organism must change and grow to adapt to changing environment or it becomes irrelevant or extinct. This fact is a truth for every organization ranging in size from a small family to international organizations.

The Federation’s Mission is: To enrich Jewish living through connection, education and compassion. This statement is a pledge to keep going and growing, collaborating and sharing, assisting and celebrating because “**Love: Love changes everything, How you live and how you die.**” We will be there with you, your Federation, loving you and helping you remember, always, that you are a member of a community of people who care.

Shalom,

Barb

KIBITZ AND KIDS

Spring is a time for new beginnings. We are excited to announce the launch of “Kibitz and Kids,” an ongoing opportunity for parents and children to get together to share experiences and fun activities. Interested? Contact the Federation for more details.  
– Fannie Kalis LaPalm, Program Coordinator

RECENT GRADS - MAZEL TOV!

Send a photo and announcement by July 22, for publication in the Sept/Oct ‘13 edition. Jewish Press, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukegan, IA 50263-7538 or by e-mail to [jcrc@dmjfed.org](mailto:jcrc@dmjfed.org)

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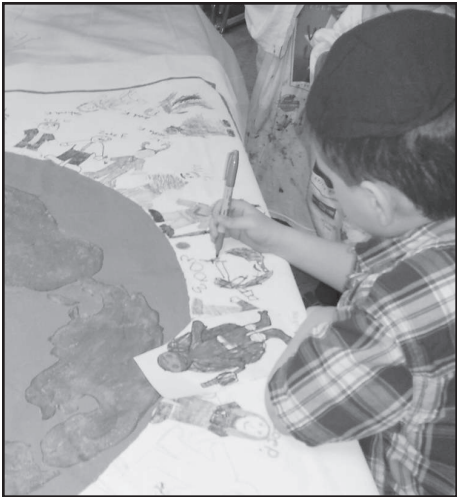
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JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

JFCS Lag B'Omer Celebration

On the morning of April 28, Partnership2gether and JFCS teamed up to offer the JFCS families an opportunity to celebrate Lag B'Omer in an unusual way.

Through P2G sponsorship, Kim Goldberg, an Omaha-based artist and the Arts Task Force Chair for the U.S. Central Area Consortium of Partnership2gether, led students through an art project that not only allowed the kids to create a piece of art to take home, but also helped students to learn a little about Hebrew letters as building blocks of the world and how contributing within a community can lead to something beautiful.



The completed project was then shipped to the school along with the second, blank canvas which will be completed by the students there and shipped back to be displayed in the Jewish Federation Community School building during the next year.

Recently, a local artist affiliated with the Des Moines Art Center, Susan Wilson, was accepted by the Partnership2gether Artist-in-Residency program in the Western Galilee. Upon learning this, Jewish Federation Community School director Lyanna Lindgren reached out to her and asked Wilson to find an opportunity to create a connection with the students at the Shazar School in Akko, with whom she would be working in Israel.

In preparation for this project, Wilson prepared two identical canvases with a picture of the world at their centers. She then invited the participating students to add a drawing of themselves on the canvas.

The end of the JFCS school year on the morning of May 12, 2013 brought students the opportunity to show their parents just how much they have learned this year. The program was filled with preschoolers belting out the Alef-bet; 3rd, 4th and 5th graders saying and signing prayers; and 6th graders demonstrating their understanding of trope symbols. Each grade had opportunities to perform a variety of prayers needed to participate in different parts of services. Lyanna Lindgren, the school director, also took a moment at the end of the program to recognize and thank retiring teacher, Pat Johnson, who has been teaching JFCS students since 1997, for all of her dedication and commitment to the students and community over the last 16 years.



The Jewish Federation Community School year will begin on Sunday, September 8, 2013 for Preschool through 6th grades and Wednesday, October 2 for 7th - 12th grade.

Families new to the Des Moines area or with preschoolers who will be 3 years old by September 15, please phone the school office at 987-0899 so that we can send you registration materials and answer any questions you might have about the school.



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**A. JFCS Staff dressed up for Purim**  
**B. Preschool craft project**  
**C. Hanukkah marshmallow menorah**  
**D. Hard at work on kindergarten project**  
**E. 2nd Graders painting Shabbat candle holders**

## 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, contact Pat Nawrocki, Senior Adult Services Manager at 987-0899 ext 210.

## Upcoming Luncheons:

### Thursday, July 11, Annual Picnic at The Caspe Terrace

Join the fun and share in the entertainment and food with our Camp Shalom campers in air conditioned comfort.

You will also have a chance to visit the Iowa Jewish Historical Museum.

Bus transportation to The Caspe Terrace will be available.

The bus will leave from the Beth El Jacob Synagogue parking lot at 11:00 am.

### Tuesday, August 20, Trip to Prairie Meadows

Come join us for lots of fun with a buffet style lunch, fellowship and live band music!

The bus will leave Beth El Jacob Synagogue parking lot at 11:00 am and will return at 3:00 pm.

There will be a \$2.00 charge for the bus and a \$5.00 charge for the buffet lunch.

Please make a reservation for lunch, even if you drive yourself.



## In Profile: Meet Mollie Giller



**Jewish Press:** Welcome to the Jewish Federation, Mollie. You've interviewed and have come on board at an exciting time at the Federation, when there are a lot of positive changes being planned. What will you be working on?

**Mollie Giller:** As Director of Jewish Family Services and Outreach my tasks will be varied. My primary goal is to grow the population served by Jewish Family Services (JFS.) Currently we primarily work with seniors, but there are other populations we should be working with and providing programming.

At JFS, we're going to devote a lot of energy to serving the needs of young families and post-college singles. Through initiatives like PJ Library [see article on page 1] we are reaching out to families with children from infancy up to age 8

and their parents. Post-college singles will begin to have special events and there can be overlap with efforts to co-ordinate programming for Jewish college students, along, for instance, with the Drake Hillel.

**JP:** So who will you be working with?

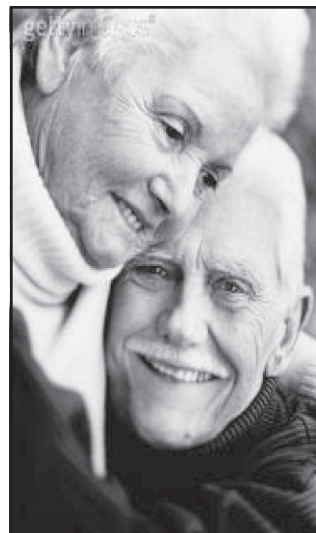
**MG:** In terms of seniors, I'm working with Pat Nawrocki, JFS's Senior Adult Services Manager. I've been working with Laura Bernstein on the PJ Library. And I will be working with Fannie Kalis LaPalm, Federation's new Inreach professional on programming specifically for young parents and interfaith families.

Eventually, I will be working with all the staff members at the Federation to a certain extent, on special projects. Some of those projects will, for instance, relate to the Federation's upcoming 100th anniversary.

**JP:** Mollie, how did you get to where you are now?

**MG:** It's been a little round about, but it all fits together. In fact, if someone would have asked me a year ago to come up with a job that encompasses my education, my interests, my hobbies, and things I've already done... really, I'd have come up with something like the Federation job, because my education at the University of Iowa (where I earned my Bachelor's and Master's degrees) is in English, Communication, and Public Health.

*continued on page 17*



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## [kibbitz and kids]

### FAMILIES GATHER FOR FIRST KIBITZ AND KIDS EVENT



If you're not already on our email list, please contact Fannie Kalis LaPalm, program director and coordinator, for more information at fannie@dmjfed.org or call 515-987-0899 ext. 221. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!



Jewish Family Services is happy to announce the launch of **Kibitz and Kids**, a gathering for Jewish and interfaith parents and children. We would like to thank the parents and tots who came to our first meeting on Sunday, May 5th. We appreciate all of the positive feedback we received, and enjoyed the opportunity to visit with new and familiar friends.

We welcome all families at our events, which will take place on one Sunday of every month. Kibitz and Kids will meet at various locations, such as The Caspe Terrace, local parks, Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines Botanical Gardens, Art Center, and other fun places in the Des Moines area.



# The Gift at Sinai? by David Friedgood



As the calendar turns we recently celebrated the Festival of Shavuot (literally 'weeks'). This holiday begins following our counting of

the Omer – 7 weeks from the second day of Pesach (Passover). Shavuot recalls God's revelation to man at Mt. Sinai, and our receiving God's Torah. On the surface, the experience is rather straight forward: "On the third new moon after the Israelites had gone forth from the land of Egypt..., They entered the wilderness of Sinai... and encamped there in front of the mountain, and Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him from the mountain, saying "This shall you say to the house of Jacob and declare to the children of Israel:..." There was thunder, and lightening, and a dense cloud upon the mountain, and a very loud blast of the horn; and all the people who were in the camp trembled... And Moses went down to the people and spoke to them." (Exodus 19) In a scene reminiscent of a movie spectacular, a group of newly freed slaves are huddled together at the base of a foreboding mountain, in the middle of a remote empty wilderness. Shaken to their souls, they hear the words of Almighty God, in part relayed to them through their leader Moses. The immensity of the event

cannot be overstated. Abraham Joshua Heschel sees the Revelation at Sinai as an event in the realm of the ineffable. Something which 'words cannot spell'. At the moment of revelation the people of Israel shared in a feeling; they experienced an awe which shook the whole world. And, of what significance were the events at Sinai? Writing in the 12th century, some 2200 years later, Maimonides recalls the Revelation at Sinai in his Epistle to Yemen: Because of our collective experience in the wilderness of Sinai, the truth about Judaism can not be doubted. The spirit of awe felt by our ancestors when confronted with the Almighty remains imbedded in our Jewish soul. As each of us relives the experience, from generation to generation, we are all eyewitnesses to ultimate truth as God revealed Himself to man, and gave us his rules and commandments through Moses his servant. In this fashion we know our LORD, and possess the wherewithal to determine what He wants from us. This is the power of Sinai.

The next question is what was the content of God's revelation? Exodus chapter 20 details the Ten Commandments that the LORD inscribed on stone tablets for Moses to bring to us. The Torah (ie, the first 5 books of the Bible) also contains the rest of the 613 Biblical laws, many of which cannot possibly be followed today. Other laws, such as the rules applying to Jewish marriages, are mostly post-Biblical,

and found in the various compendiums of Jewish law compiled over the last two millennium. There is some question as to which rules and laws Moses actually received at Sinai. Are the rules we are to follow today all the word of God, or are they inspired by the Divine but actually written by man – either Moses or later Rabbis? Clearly the laws have been reformulated and reinterpreted in each generation by Jewish scholars. This is the basis of the Mishnah, Talmud, Responsa literature, and other writings over the last 2000 years. The authenticity of Jewish law is a major dividing point separating the various Jewish traditions. Orthodoxy holds that all law came directly from God and only trained Rabbis are able to interpret God's will accurately. Reform Judaism sees Torah, and subsequent writings, to be divinely inspired but ultimately a product of man. As such any well-intentioned congregant can interpret Jewish law within parameters outlined by the movement. Conservative Judaism views Torah as a gift from God, influenced by tradition, which needs to be changed depending on circumstance, when necessary. Only competent Rabbinic authority can make such changes, in consultation with lay leadership.

If Torah is the word of Almighty God, does man dare to disobey? If it is the product of man, no matter how well intentioned the author, don't we have the

obligation to review the laws and update them as necessary? And, who decides these questions? Also – does it matter? Our prayer book has a distinct answer. Each time we take out the Torah scroll in services we sing in unison: "This is the Torah that Moses set before the people Israel. The Torah, given by God through Moses". The debate on the authenticity of our Law is as old as Rabbinic scholarship. About the 3rd century a Rabbi wrote: "One who denies that Torah is from heaven has no share in the World to Come". (Mishnah Sanhedrin 10:11) The 17th century philosopher Baruch Spinoza was excommunicated from Judaism, in part for denying that Torah was the word of God. The debate is ongoing.

Modern Rabbinical thinking has made efforts to bridge the divide between the various Jewish traditions. It is increasingly recognized that our rules and laws are a combination of God's word, tradition, and Rabbinic interpretation. This is good. Our tradition cannot be passive. It must be alive and vibrant, changing and evolving as each generation finds new beauty and meaning in their religion. As Rabbi Irving Greenberg states: "These words which I command you today' means that every day the Torah is new and renewed".

So, what were we given at Sinai? On that fearsome mountain peak, in the midst of nowhere, our ancestors were given an idea. *continued on page 17*

## Camp Shalom News

### Michal Elkind Brings A World Of Israeli Culture To Camp Shalom



My name is Michal Elkind, I am 20 years old. I live in Rehovot which is 20 minutes from Tel Aviv. I am the youngest of 4 kids.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to come to Camp Shalom as a shlichah. My older sister went as a shlichah to a camp in Washington three years ago and since

then it was my dream to do so myself. I see this as an opportunity to meet a community, get to know people from different backgrounds and to share my experiences growing up in Israel.

I have now completed my army service, which I found to be very valuable and important to my country.

In high school I really enjoyed chemistry and physics and hope to start my first university degree in physics next year.

My hobbies are photography and cooking. I especially like dark chocolate and enjoy making special desserts. I had been in the scouts since I was 9. When I was in high school I decided to become a guide and I enjoyed it a lot.

I can't wait to come and experience America, Iowa and Des Moines, but most of all I look forward to making many new friends!

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# Why Does the World Need Israel?

By Arkady Mamaysky

In a March 9, 2013 Jerusalem Post op-ed “Narrowing the Gap between American and Israeli Jews,” I presented some thoughts about how to forge closer bonds between Jews in Israel and the Diaspora to ensure that we remain a single people, rather than just coreligionists. The op-ed assumed that Israel is important, and now I would like to build upon that assumption.

The time when countries were run by dictators and monarchs, with the Jewish people as a persecuted minority, is over. Thank God, the world now boasts many flourishing democracies, with our great country the United States, as a leader.

In these democratic countries the Jews are equal citizens under the law, which leads some to question why Israel, with all of its current problems, is needed. The most obvious answer is that roughly eight million people live there.

They need Israel because it is their home.

There are, however, a number of other perhaps less obvious reasons that Israel is so essential to the Jewish people, to the world at large, and ironically, even to those who hate Israel and the Jews.

## **Why do the Jewish people need Israel?**

In the past, the Jewish people were persecuted because we lost our homeland and were forced to live as strangers in the lands of other people. When it stopped being beneficial to the ruling class of a particular country to have us, we were expelled.

We need Israel because it is our historical home.

Due to the ignorance of the uneducated masses and envy of our accomplishments instigated by the anti-Semitic propaganda of churches, scapegoat-seeking ruling classes, and various governments, we were subjected to persecutions, expulsions, crusades, inquisitions, pogroms, and most recently, the Holocaust.

We need Israel as our champion, protector, and guarantor that these atrocities will never happen again.

The Jewish people, descendants of fierce Hebrew warriors, produced excellent soldiers and military leaders for the countries in which we lived. Despite our immense military contributions, when it came to our own safety, we lacked a central body to unite and organize us – and thus were a defenseless people. When organized and united, the Jewish people are a force to be reckoned with.

We need Israel as a uniting force to ensure that we are never defenseless again.

(As an aside, it would be nice if Jewish historians undertook a project to write Jewish history with an emphasis on Jewish soldiers, military and state leaders, scientists, artists, doctors, sailors, explorers, and others who made tremendous contributions to different countries and to the world. This history should include those who, by force or circumstances, had to convert.)

The Holocaust was possible because we were not united, did not even speak the same language, and had no refuge to which we could escape and from

which we could organize ourselves into a resistance. With the notable exception of the Dominican Republic, no country in the world was ready to accept the masses of Jewish people in the wake of anti-Semitic attacks before World War II. If Israel had existed at the time, the Holocaust might not have happened.

We need Israel so we can defend ourselves and ensure that the Holocaust never happens again.

We must not forget the lessons of history: the Jewish people were successful in every country in which we were forced to settle. Despite making enormous contributions to these countries and to the world, ultimately the Jewish people always faced disaster. Is there a guarantee that we will be safe forever in every country of the Diaspora? Anti-Semitism, racism, Nazism, and now, Islamic Jihad exist almost in every foreign country.

We need Israel as the guarantor of our safety and, if it comes to it, a place of refuge.

Since its creation, Israel accepted Jewish refugees from Arab countries, the Soviet Union and Ethiopia just to name a few.

We need Israel, where we are always welcome.

As noted above, the Jewish people fought bravely and selflessly for the countries which allowed us to call them home. However, widespread recognition of Jewish courage only came after Israeli victories. Thanks to Israel, the humiliating stereotype of the weak, feeble Jew has transformed into an image of a strong, proud, and victorious Israeli soldier.

We need Israel to gain the respect of our neighbors and help protect our dignity.

The centuries we spent in ghettos, among the hostile nations of our Diaspora, put a deep scar on our character, self-esteem, and pride. Creating or helping to create our national home, reviving our language, restoring our greatness as one of the most ancient people of the world who managed to survive despite all odds makes every Jew a better person. As Louis Brandeis famously observed, we are better people by supporting Israel and as better people, we become what America expects from its citizens, better Americans.

We need Israel to be our best.

Throughout history, Jews have been one people and, for the most part, we still are today. The challenge of the Diaspora is that many of us are losing our language and Jewish identity. In today's world, Israel is the center of Jewish language (Hebrew) and culture.

We need Israel to continue reviving our culture, and to ensure our survival as one nation – the Jewish people – a status that we have had for millennia, since bringing monotheism to the world.

Judaism is called the “mother religion” of two other monotheistic religions, Christianity and Islam. Yet time and again, the adherents of these “daughter religions” deprived us of the right to visit our holy places. In light of Israel's historical location, many of the world's holiest places fall within Israel's jurisdiction and under the Israeli government's watchful eye. Unlike other caretakers of these religious

and historical treasures, Israel makes the world's holy places safe and open to adherents of all religions.

We need Israel to guard these holy sites for all.

Judaism's historical roots are reflected in the Torah, one of the most ancient religious texts, which states that Eretz Yisrael is promised to the Jewish people by God. The Jewish people in the United States love our country and we are proud to call ourselves Americans. Nevertheless, most of our neighbors feel that they have a historical native land – a land of their fathers. As the Torah makes clear, Israel is the land of our fathers.

We need Israel to feel that we also have a historical native land and as a fulfillment of God's promise to the Jewish people.

## **Why does the world need Israel?**

As touched on above, centuries of persecution culminated in the Holocaust. Gradually, the best people of the world labored to turn the tide against anti-Semitism by appealing to the conscience of humankind.

The world needs Israel to recover its conscience and its humanity after allowing the Holocaust to happen.

One of history's most ironic lessons is that history is often forgotten. When it comes to the events of World War II, some people simply do not know all of what happened, while others maliciously fabricate events and lie to suit their own political agendas. Israel keeps our collective memory alive, so that what happened to the Jewish people never happens again – not to us and not to any other people.

The world needs Israel as proof that evil did not and will not succeed.

Israel is a stronghold of democracy and a defender of America's and the free world's interests in a tumultuous, dangerous, and often reactionary part of the world.

America and the free world need Israel as a beacon of democracy and protector of democratic values in the Middle East.

As a flourishing country built in a desert largely void of natural resources, Israel uses its know-how to help developing countries – in Africa, Asia, and across the world – improve their agriculture, industry, and quality of life.

The world's developing countries need Israel for this priceless assistance.

Israel has a unique position when it comes to political and economic development. The country was able to develop a strong democracy and prosperous economy despite lacking natural resources and being forced to constantly fight for its survival.

The world needs Israel, which is prosperous despite many wars and a struggle against terrorism, as proof that countries can accomplish prosperity despite all odds.

Israel's success continues the Jewish tradition, which began when we introduced monotheism and moral norms to the world, of making great strides in science, technology, politics, medicine, and many other fields.

As Truman put it, the world needs Israel as “an embodiment of the great

ideals of our civilization.”

Throughout history, the Jewish people used their talent again and again to contribute to the world despite our small numbers. Now encouraged and inspired by Israel being rebuilt after 2000 years of dreams and prayers, the Jewish people in Israel and in the world will use their potential to continue contributing to a brighter future for all of humanity.

The world needs Israel for the Jewish people's future contributions to the progress of humanity.

## **Why do even those who hate Israel and the Jewish people need Israel?**

Israel brought an example of democracy and human rights to the Middle East. The Palestinians in the West Bank, who are influenced by Israel, are the highest-educated members of the Arab world and have the most advanced democratic institutions of the Middle East. Moreover, whether the Arab countries realize it or not, the recent “Arab Spring” uprisings against dictatorships happened, at least in part, because of Israel's democratic influence in the region.

The Arabs need Israel as an example of democracy and human rights.

For those who hate us most, Israel is a convenient scapegoat which they use to present themselves as defenders of Palestinian people and to divert the anger of their people towards Israel.

Our enemies need Israel for their political agenda.

When peace will finally come to the Middle East, Israel and the Jewish people will be ready and willing to help and cooperate with Arabs for the benefit of every country in the region. Historically, Arabs and Jews often had friendly relationships, worked together to advance science and culture, and even fought together against common enemies. For example, Turkey – a Muslim country – provided friendly shelter for Jews expelled from Spain. Jews also used to live comfortably in Iran and some other Muslim countries.

The Middle East needs Israel for future common efforts to improve people's lives in the region.

## **Conclusion**

There was a time when many of the ideas expressed above were commonplace in the national Jewish conversation. Memories quickly fade, however, and the lessons of history are often forgotten. Unfortunately, it has become fashionable to criticize Israel, with the common refrain that being anti-Israeli is not the same as being anti-Semitic. In many circles, and even among some Jewish people, Zionism has a negative connotation. Hopefully this article will play some small role in stepping back from the complicated situation on the ground and placing Israel into a larger historical and political context. Undoubtedly, much more can be written and much research can be done to elucidate the points made above.

*The writer is a mechanical engineer who immigrated to the United States from the former Soviet Union in 1979. He has visited Israel once, and sometimes twice, during every year since then. To contact the author, email [arkady437@gmail.com](mailto:arkady437@gmail.com)*

# Ames - A Good Year!

This last year marked a milestone for the Ames Jewish Congregation as it celebrated its 50th anniversary. The celebration kicked off last May with a formal program commemorating AJC's beginnings and history. Special guests included representatives from the two churches that were instrumental in AJC's early history: First Baptist Church (AJC's first meeting place) and the Episcopal Parish of Ames (with whom AJC has had many joint programs). In October, AJC had a formal dinner dance and enjoyed the music of the Java Jews. Finally, to close out the Jubilee Year, AJC had a special Shabbat service in December highlighted by the voices of the combined choirs of AJC, B'nai Jeshurun and Tifereth Israel (to hear the featured piece of music from that service, go to <http://www.ajciowa.org/VideoPlayer.html>). Also in December, Ames's local radio station, KHOI, featured AJC in a program titled "Hannukah & 50th Anniversary of Ames Jewish Congregation"; this audio program can be accessed by going to the station's website (<http://khoifm.org/programs/localtalk>).

Our religious school had another successful, active year. The students (ages 2-14) learned a lot about the Torah, history and holidays through a variety of arts and crafts and cooking projects. Students led a Shabbat service, and the older students participated in the Yom HaShoah service. Students also continued their tzedakah tradition by preparing a meal to be served at the Ames homeless shelter as well as by collecting money to donate to Heifer International.

AJC has a dedicated cadre of individuals who allow the congregation to provide a rich Jewish experience without a full-time staff. Rabbi Wirtschafter, who visits Ames once a month and for High Holy Days, is starting his sixth year at AJC, which makes him the congregation's longest-serving rabbi.



Our Religious School students and teachers. The tallest adult in the photo (grey sweater) is Rabbi Wirtschafter.



AJC's 50th anniversary program (Wendy Edelson, Katy Eaton, Leslie Kawaler, Barbara Pleasants), May 2012



Purim celebration



AJC's 50th anniversary dinner—dancing to the music of the Java Jews, Oct. 2012



Religious school students, parents, and teachers in the Sukkah.

# Taste Of Israel Event - A Huge Success!

Tifereth Israel Synagogue hosted the first A Taste of Israel event on Sunday, April 21st, a community-wide celebration of all things Israel – its history, people, culture and more. The event was held less than a week after Israel's Independence Day holiday and featured Israeli food, music, dancing, art, and a variety of activities for the entire family. According to attendees, highlights of the event included:

- Jerusalem Café, catered by David & Christine Copeland.
- Guest speaker, Joshua Jacobson, DMA, one of the foremost authorities on Jewish choral music, who talked about the nexus of music and politics in contemporary Israel.
- Israeli dancing, led by Orli Gubani.
- Israeli Wine Tasting, led by wine guy, Howard Bernstein.
- Kids' Activity Room, supervised by Leah Jones, Allison Wolf & Jill Cantor.
- Music by the Java Jews Klezmer Band.

Event committee chair, Laura Bernstein, says "A big thank you to the vast number of eager volunteers who shared their time and talents and helped to make our Taste of Israel event a huge success! This was the first event we've had since remodeling our building where we've opened our doors to our neighbors. We had an amazing turnout from around the greater Des Moines area and really enjoyed having our Jewish family and our neighboring community together to celebrate all things Israel!"

Barb Hirsch-Giller, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines Board President, commented "Israel is one of the most beautiful, innovative, and diverse countries in the world. It was fun to share its amazing history and people with our community."

A portion of the event's proceeds were donated to Magen David Adom, Israel's only national emergency response service. Magen David Adom collects and supplies 300,000 units of blood each year and responds to over 600,000 calls per year (1 every minute!) A non-profit, non-governmental organization, Magen David Adom is Israel's largest volunteer organization, with 12,000 active volunteers.

Planning is already underway for next year's event. Stay tuned for 2014 details.



# The Jewish Food Fair

On May 19th, the members of Temple B'nai Jeshurun tied on their aprons and rolled up their sleeves to serve hundreds of people of all ages from across the community who came to the Temple to experience the Jewish Food Fair and all it has to offer. The menu included such Jewish favorites as brisket, corned beef sandwiches, noodle kugel, matzah ball soup, charoset, tabbouleh salad, rugelach and hamantaschen. In addition to food, there was also a traditional Jewish wedding, a matzah ball eating contest and tours of the beautiful sanctuary. Outside, guests were treated to the Java Jews and the 2nd Avenue Jazz Band as adults and children danced and ate on the patio. Funds raised this year will go to the Temple Youth Fund to assist with camp scholarships and various youth programs for the Temple Youth Group throughout the year.



# The Year In Review!

- A.** Ron Daniels and Rabbi Bolel stand with honorees Barb & Aaron Beckerman. Beth El Jacob also broke new ground, honoring an organization, Greater DM Habitat for Humanity, with the Rob Borsellino Community Service Award.
- B.** Each summer, Beth El Jacob hosts some of the young men that attend yeshivot on the East coast, in cooperation with the SEED Program. These scholars choose to travel, offering everyone an opportunity to select a Jewish topic, and learn, whether in classes or one-on-one. In 2012, we hosted two groups of “SEED boys,” and enjoyed a festive Carlebach Musical Havdalah.
- C.** On Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) we were fortunate enough to have Auschwitz survivor, David (& Jennie) Wolnerman, for an educational conversation with Rabbi Bolel, in front of a packed audience. This rarer and rarer opportunity to hear first-hand survivor accounts is the very essence of Yom HaShoah. Almost every single Jr. High and High School in the area sent students, who now join us as we say NEVER AGAIN!
- D.** Warm weather having finally arrived, it was time for the Annual Beth El Jacob Memorial Day BBQ. Burgers and hot dogs from the grill, while the kiddies packed the play area.
- E.** Purim ‘n’ Pirates was a swashbucklin’ soirée, and our Haman was a 6ft long inflated shark that flew over the crowded BEJ Social Hall!
- F.** College students’ tour of Israel that Rabbi Bolel led at the end of 2012.
- G.** Latkes & Jazz Chanukah 2012.
- H.** Paul Kagin sits with his family, at Beth El Jacobs’ Annual Awards Dinner & Gala. Paul, and his brother, Art Kagin (z”l), were inducted on to the prestigious BEJ Wall of Honor. Be on the look out for more cool BEJ Judaica / creative events!



## Israel

### Israel at the UN

## “The architecture for peace has never been clearer.”

– Israeli UN Ambassador Ron Prosor

- Peace must be built on a foundation of education for tolerance and coexistence. Under the Palestinian Authority, students learn history from textbooks that glorify terrorists. They learn geography from atlases that erase Israel from the map. Gaza kindergarten graduations feature “terrorist dress-up.” Five-year-olds stage plays that glorify jihadists and suicide bombers.
- Month after month this Council meets to discuss what is wrong in the Middle East. Where are the concerned voices in this debate for all the hate being taught to Palestinian children? Where are the cries denouncing the incitement that poisons the wells of peace?
- Peace must be built on a clear recognition that Israel is the nation state of the Jewish people. Since King David laid the cornerstone for his palace in Jerusalem three thousand years ago, Jews have lived continuously in the Land of Israel.
- Israel is committed to two states for two peoples. In 1947, we readily accepted the UN’s plan to create two states in the region, an Arab state and a Jewish state. Sixty-five years later, you still never hear Palestinian leaders speak about two states for two peoples.
- These days the cities and communities of southern Israel remain under fire from terrorists in Gaza. This is despite the fact that there has not been a single Israeli settlement in Gaza since 2005. Israeli citizens want real assurances for their security. The situation in Gaza provides us with a valuable lesson concerning any future arrangement in the West Bank.

Summary via DailyAlert.org Source: [embassies.gov.il/un/statements/security\\_council/](http://embassies.gov.il/un/statements/security_council/)

## Israeli Innovations

## Neomatix Takes The Pressure Off Tire Checks

By Karin Kloosterman for Israel21c.com

Trucks will be much safer and more environmentally friendly by the end of this year thanks to the Israeli company Neomatix, which has developed a device to check tire pressure remotely. Created by an aerospace engineer, the Neomatix Optimus works when trucks go to park for the night, taking the “pressure” off fleet managers.

Improperly inflated tires waste energy, wear down tire treads and are a safety hazard, says Kfir Wittmann, a co-founder and the CEO of Neomatix. “Driving with properly inflated tires is good for the environment, it’s good for your car and it can save your life,” Wittmann tells ISRAEL21c. Yet people tend to neglect the time-consuming check. “Why are people driving like that? Knowledge is a big part of it and most people just don’t know about the meaning of well-inflated tires. But it really makes a difference on driving performance considering, that the price of oil is more than \$100 a barrel.”

Years of experience in the Israeli Air Force gave him the wherewithal to meet the need of a big problem in the United States and Israel as well as in developing countries, where tire-pressure checking systems are prohibitively expensive. Wittmann’s solution, developed with private funds and the Tel Aviv Angel Group, can provide a fleet manager of 50 trucks a return on investment within a year.

Optimus will most likely look like a ticket stand found at the entrance to most parking lots. While the truck driver is passing through the gate to park at night, the Optimus system will scan the truck’s wheels using computer vision, and report findings in real time to the fleet manager. “We take the driver out of the equation,” says Wittmann. While scanning the tires from the outside, rather than the inside, might be less accurate, Wittmann says precise accuracy is not really necessary. “A fleet manager wouldn’t need to know if the tires are 34 or 35 PSI. But if it’s at 30, you want to know about it,” he explains. The smart system will figure in the weight of each truck, the type and age of the wheels, and the ambient air temperature outside, along with other parameters. “This is a solution we hope will be widespread and used by every driver, because it can save money as well as improve driving safety,” he notes.

Neomatix currently employs four people and is based out of Tel Aviv. Marketing in Israel is expected to begin by December this year, followed by the United States and developing countries. “China and Brazil first, because there are no [tire pressure] regulations there and they can save a lot of money and improve safety.” Neomatix also released an app for iPhones that can test pressure in car tires. After sorting out some bugs in the first release of the TireCheck app Neomatix put out a second version the end of May. The TireCheck app is designed so that people can check their tire pressure anywhere. It’s easy and fun enough for children to use, says Wittmann. The app uses the phone’s camera, which “scans” the tire, looking at the shape of it to estimate the tire pressure. “You just point the device, scan your tires and you get an answer if you’re under-inflated or not, where the nearest location to inflate your tires is, and how much pressure you need to inflate them,” says Wittmann, noting that the app is available in the Apple store and will be in Android. “Education about tire pressure also promotes good driving behavior,” he adds.

From ISRAEL21c: <http://israel21c.org>

## The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center

## Save The Date - The Life Center’s Annual Fall Fundraiser is Aug. 18!



We hope you will plan to join us on Sunday, August 18th for The Life Center’s Annual Fall Fundraiser. This year’s celebration will be a mid-day brunch, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in our Life Center Atrium. On behalf of the Residents, Staff, and Board of Directors of The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to the community of support in Des Moines, who have made the recent renovations to our home a reality. None of the changes would have been possible without this

Community’s generous support!

Looking back at traditions of The Life Center over the years, it’s hard to believe that this year will be the sixth annual Fall Event to raise funds and awareness about The Home. Many years ago, the Golden Ball was “the event to go to, and be seen at,” shares Joyce Swartz. “After all, that’s where Ben took me to introduce me to all of his friends when we first met,” adds Joyce.

Although the event has changed over the years, the purpose has not. The goal of these fundraisers is, and has always been, to improve and enhance The Home, making it warm and inviting for our residents, their families, and our guests.



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## Jews and New York: A Love Story

by pzak on CultureShuk.com

Jews and New York, like bagels and lox—you could picture them apart, but why bother?

**Michael Chabon**

If there's a theme uniting the life and work of author Michael Chabon, conductor and university president Leon Bostein, historian Deborah Dash Moore, film producer and entrepreneur Scott Berrie, along the Lower East Side culinary institution Russ & Daughters – it's the inextricable contribution of Jewish immigrants and their descendants to the city's culture, economy, and politics.

All five were honored with Jewish Cultural Achievement Awards at a gala on Monday, June 10th at the Times Center in New York City.

**Deborah Dash Moore**

Maybe it's because almost from the city's very first days, Jews had emigrated to New York (or New Amsterdam) in a search of freedom, reinventing both themselves and their new city in the process. It's a story told again most recently in "City of Promises," the award-winning 2012 book series edited by Deborah Dash Moore. In a career spanning 35 years, the social historian has helped to reshape the field of American Jewish history, most especially in her work on Jewish women and the children of Eastern European immigrants.

Some of those children of immigrants could easily have ended up in Michael Chabon's "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay," an engrossing, sprawling, and affectionate look at Jewish artists during the "Golden Age" of New York's comic book industry. The novel, which won a 2001 Pulitzer Prize, has been heralded as the author's magnum opus.

In interviews, Chabon has noted how many of the book's events are based on the lives of some of the most influential comic book artists, nearly all Jewish, including Jack Kirby and Joe Simon (Captain American), and Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster (Superman).

**Leon Botstein**

Presenting Michael Chabon's award will be prize-winning writer Nathan Englander, who has similarly plumbed recent Jewish history in his novels and short stories. Englander is a recipient of the foundation's Goldberg Prize for Outstanding Debut Fiction.

Meanwhile, bridging the fields of scholarship and the arts—as well as being a child of Jewish New York—is Leon Botstein. In addition to being president of Bard College, Botstein's unique position as a leading music scholar, performer, and founder and coartistic director of the Bard Music Festival have enabled him to have a major impact on both music scholarship and performance.

*continued on page 17*



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## University of Iowa Hillel

### A DIALOGUE ABOUT DIALOGUES

By Jorie Slodki



Jorie is the University of Iowa Hillel's Jewish Student Life Coordinator

Hillel is an organization that cannot be easily categorized. We have students who relate to Judaism through religion, culture, politics, and a general "feeling of being Jewish." Sometimes others lump us together with other Jewish groups or issues as if we all relate to Judaism in the same way. When we approached a multi-cultural organization about participating in one of their programs, the organizers asked if we "would have a problem working with specific cultural groups on campus."

When our student co-president Samantha Marks discovered the Avi Schaefer Fund, a group that provides micro-grants to Hillels that host Shabbat dinners focusing on opening a dialogue with Muslim students, we recognized that this was the perfect opportunity to prove that we are full-fledged members of the campus community and open to meeting with all groups.

We were able to work with the Arab Student Association and its student president, Mahmoud Metwali, to get our students together for dinner on March 1. The Avi Schaefer Fund provided a set of table tents with discussion questions, and I met with Metwali to discuss which questions we wanted to use. Some of these questions were about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict—not about politics, but rather about how the students feel about the conversation surrounding the conflict.

I told Metwali that we could leave out those questions if he thought they would be too uncomfortable to discuss. He looked them over for a minute, then said, "No . . . let's keep them. I think these are good questions to ask." He explained that the few times he had gone to programs about the conflict in Iowa City, the evening turned out to just be "adults from both sides screaming at each other" and no students. He was genuinely interested in hearing what his fellow college students had to say.

We selected three discussion leaders from each organization. Many students were concerned. Shabbat dinner is a time for them to hang out with friends

in a peaceful setting. How could we be sure that the evening wouldn't end with angry arguments? Our other student co-president, Derek Fohrman, spread the word and allayed fears by explaining that this evening was about what unites us, not what divides us.

That night, we gave discussion leaders the freedom to select which questions they wanted to ask, in any order they wanted. Most began with questions about favorite family traditions, then slowly moved on to questions about the conflict. The result was 40 Hillel students and 20 Arab students having a wonderful evening, with many staying and talking until 10pm (which is almost unheard of!) By assuring students that this was a safe place and beginning with more personal questions, people were in the frame of mind for friendly conversation instead of debate. Many students told us that they had never talked about the subject in public before and this was the first place they felt comfortable enough to do it. The key to future dialogue is to talk about the dialogue itself, and how the next generation wants to guide it.



# In The Kitchen With Will Rogers

by Karen Engman



Will Rogers learned to cook out of necessity. Both of his parents worked and many nights his father would prepare a “three ingredient dinner.” Will describes it as a random selection of three items from the cupboard to produce a meal that was sometimes “semi-palatable,” but more often, a disaster.

As a teenager, he watched the television cooking shows of Julia Child, Justin Wilson, Graham Kerr, and Martin Yan. He soon learned some of their basic cooking techniques and mastered enough dishes to take over responsibilities for the family’s holiday meals.

During his Hoover High School years, Will worked at Christopher’s restaurant in Beavertdale. Their chef taught him how to cook a steak, fry chickens and prepare salads. After graduating, he enlisted in the army and served as an M-1 Tank

Crewmember in combat operations in the Persian Gulf War.

He then considered enrolling in the Culinary Institute of America in Chicago but instead attended Drake University where he met his wife Hannah, who grew up near Minden, Nebraska. They have one daughter, Ariella, who will be four in September.

Will currently serves as the Director of Public Affairs for the Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association. In the past he has worked for Congressman Tom Latham and the former Congressman Greg Ganske.

Outside the office, Will is very busy with volunteer pursuits. He is chairman of the Polk County Republican Party, secretary of the Waveland Park Neighborhood Association and a board member of the Jewish Federation and Tifereth Israel Synagogue. He is a Past Commander of the VFW Post 9127 in Beavertdale and a current member of the Des Moines Sister Cities Commission.

Besides his love of

cooking, Will enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, golfing, fishing and watching movies.

I couldn’t help but ask if he was named after that famous American icon Will Rogers and here was his reply: “I am not....my first name is William – that was shortened to Will. My grandfather was Bill, great grandfather was William and my great, great grandfather was Billy, who

was an opera singer and toured Europe professionally.”

The Jewish Press thanks Will for sharing this Banana Bread Pudding recipe with our readers. I bet it would be great with vanilla ice cream too! Remember, if you have a recipe to share or a cooking question I can research, please call Karen Engman (515-274-3300) or email (aengmandsm@yahoo.com).

## Banana Bread Pudding and Rum Sauce\*

A recipe from Will Rogers

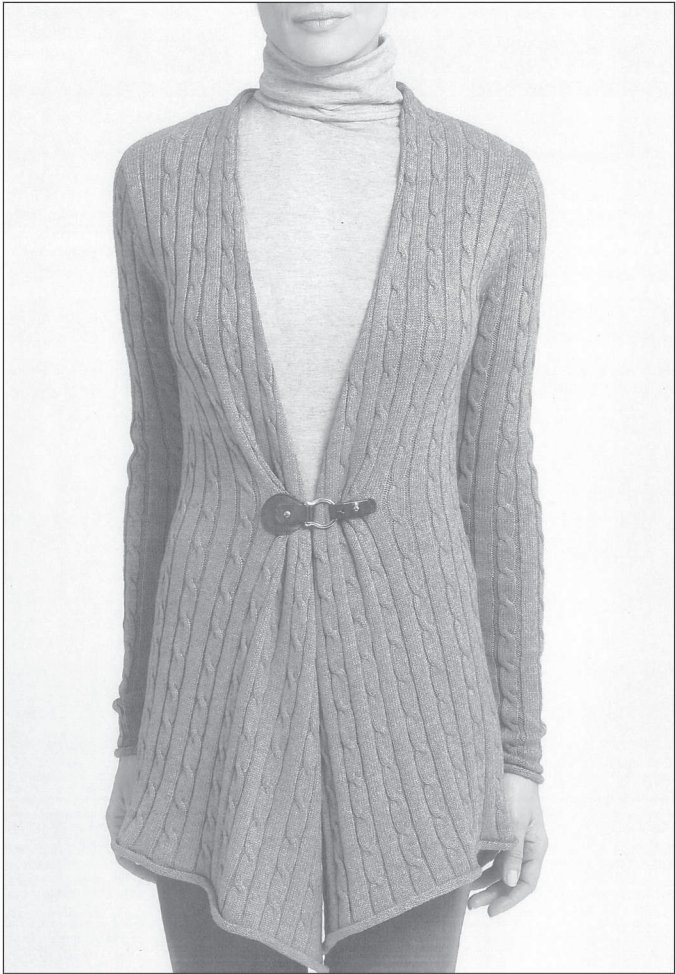
Dairy

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 6 cups bite-sized pieces French or Italian bread (torn by hand, not cut) | 1 tsp ground cinnamon      |
| 3 cups heavy whipping cream  | ¼ tsp ground nutmeg        |
| 4 large eggs   | ½ cup seedless raisins     |
| 2/3 cup plus 1 tsp sugar   | ½ cup toasted pecans       |
| 2 large very ripe bananas  | 3 tsp unsalted butter      |
| ¾ tsp vanilla extract  | ¾ cup heavy whipping cream |

Preheat oven to 300. Put the bread pieces into a 9x13x2 inch baking pan. In a blender or food processor, blend the eggs, cream, 2/3 cup of sugar, bananas, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ½ tsp vanilla until smooth. Pour this mixture over bread. Fold in the raisins and pecans and let the mixture set for 20 minutes. Top with small pieces of butter. Cover the pudding with aluminum foil and place the pan into a larger pan. Add warm water to a depth of 1 inch in the larger pan. Bake for 1 hour. Remove foil and bake uncovered for 15 minutes or until set.

In a deep bowl, whisk (or use electric mixer) the cream until it begins to thicken. Add the remaining 1 tsp of sugar and ¼ tsp vanilla. Continue whisking until soft peaks form. Cover and chill.

\* Will recommends preparing the bread pudding and sauce ahead of serving time and then just finishing the sauce in the presence of guests, since it makes such a nice presentation with the igniting of the dark rum. **Rum Sauce Recipe** continued on page 17



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JULY:

Our annual group of **SEED Scholars** will be in town where they will be giving classes and available for one on one study sessions. Day trips with them will be coordinated with them too. Call Rabbi Bolel for more information, or to schedule a one-on-one lesson. (515) 782-8718

**Tuesday, July 16:** 9th of Av: Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation Tisha B'Av Worldwide Event Video will be screened at 4pm.

**Saturday, July 27:** SEED Musical Havdalah at Rabbi Bolel's Home (1012 Cummins Parkway, 50311) 9:45pm. Bring your own instruments and enjoy Havdalah and beautiful Jewish and inspirational "Kumzitz" style songs and music!

TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN

On July 27, at 10am, the Sisterhood is sponsoring a special K'tanim Shabbat program, "Shabbat in the Park" at Greenwood Park. We will gather at the picnic area near the playground for a brief young children-oriented Shabbat morning service with a story. The kids can play on the playground and then we will have a picnic lunch. Please RSVP to the Temple office to let us know that you are planning to attend.

**Youth Group Kick Off at the Iowa State Fair** Sun, August 11, 10am

**Temple Board Meeting,** August 13, 5:30 pm

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

Lots happening at Tifereth. We hope you'll join us.

Recurring Events:

Minyan:	Sundays	9:00 am
	Thursdays	7:00 am
Meditation:	Thursdays	7:45 am
Services:	Fridays	6:00 pm Shabbat Evening Services
	Saturdays	9:30 am Shabbat Morning Services

July 2013

Saturday, July 6th	10:30 am - Lev Shalev (alternative service)
Friday, July 12th	6:00 pm - Mishpacha Shabbat & Potluck
Sunday, July 14th	1:00 - 6:00 pm - YAD / Social Committee Pool Party
Monday, July 15th	8:00 pm - Tisha B'Av
Saturday, July 20th	9:30 am - Bat Mitzvah of Shayna Jaskolka
Saturday, July 27th	10:30 am - Tot Shabbat

August 2013

Saturday, August 10th	10:30 am - Lev Shalev (alternative service)
Friday, August 16th	6:00 pm - Shabbat Celebration and Barbecue at Caspe
Sunday, August 18th	2:00 pm - Kadima
	2:30 pm - Shelter Dinner preparations
	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday, August 20th	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, August 22nd	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, August 24th	10:30 am - Junior Congregation
	10:30 am - Tot Shabbat
Sunday, August 25th	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Monday, August 26th	6:00 pm - Tifereth Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, August 27th	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, August 29th	7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, August 31st	8:30 pm - Selichot Services
Sunday, Sept. 1st & Monday, Sept. 2nd	- Tifereth's Arts & Heirloom Sale

Adult Education:

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

Cantor Shivers:

New ADULT Bar/Bat Mitzvah class: Please contact Cantor Shivers, 515-255-1137 if you would like to be part of this group Bar/Bat Mitzvah. You must know Hebrew letters and vowels and have elementary Hebrew reading skills.



**P2G News** Israel Partnership's Jan Goldstein visited the Federation in May and spoke to an audience about the upcoming P2G Israel trip. Formerly Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Omaha and an expert on Missions to Israel, here Jan is pictured with Federation Executive Director Stuart Oxer.



**JCRC News** Dexter Van Zile, Christian Media Analyst for the Committee on Media Accuracy in Reporting in America (CAMERA) spoke in Des Moines on May 16. His topics included "The Persecution of Christians in the Middle East" and "How Christian Peace Groups View the Middle East Conflict." Here, Dexter is shown with Rabbi David Kaufman.



**Teachers' Workshop** In May, the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education (CHGE) and the JCRC presented a workshop for teachers on the conflicts in Sudan. From left: Rev. Peggie Harris, Rabbi David Kaufman, Jumaa Adam, Prof. Stephen Gaies, Director of CHGE, JCRC's Mark Finkelstein, and Anwar El Nour.



**President's Council Dinner Meeting** On May 29th, the past presidents of the Jewish Federation of DSM, along with their spouses, gathered together at Django for the first-ever President's Council Dinner Meeting. Cocktails and schmoozing gave way to dinner and presentations, when Federation staff and Board chairpersons presented updates on what is happening at the Community School, P2G, the Visioning Committee, Iowa Jewish Historical Society, and Jewish Family Services. The event had a nostalgic tone, as all of the presidents were asked to say one thing about their term they fondly remember. Additionally, Stuart Oxer, Federation Executive Director, and Barb Hirsch-Giller, Federation Board President, rolled out initial plans for the Federation's 100th anniversary year.



**Lunch after the Annual Meeting** Folks who stayed after the Annual Meeting and the Israel Walk on June 2 enjoyed a delicious lunch. More pictures from the event in our next edition.

## Memorial from page 1

The memorial will be erected in memory of the millions of victims of the Holocaust, in gratitude to the Iowans who, as members of the U.S. Armed Forces, liberated the camps, and in honor of the survivors who made lives for themselves and their families in Iowa.

As a means of catching the public's attention, the presence in that particular location of as powerful and as broadly commemorative a memorial as this, will have a great and lasting educational potential.



A ground breaking ceremony was held May 14, 2013. Opening remarks were delivered by Mark Finkelstein and members of the State Legislature present were acknowledged by David Adelman. Speakers on that occasion included Fred Lorber, a native of pre-war Vienna whose father was held in Dachau, Rabbi David Kaufman on behalf of our clergy, Brian Clark from the architectural firm Confluence, and Judy Blank. Judy Blank extended thanks



to Elaine Steinger and Mark Finkelstein from the Jewish Federation, to Dean Emeritus of Design Administration at Iowa State University Mark Englebrecht and to the students and professors who participated in a contest to design a prospective memorial, to Brian Clark



and his staff at Confluence, to Jennifer Moehlmann at the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, to the members of the Capitol Planning Commission, and to Governor Terry Branstad for accepting the donation of the memorial on behalf of the people of Iowa. Members

of the State Legislature present included Rep. Jo Oldson from Des Moines, Rep. Tyler Olson from Cedar Rapids, Rep. Dan Kelley from Newton, and state Sen. David Johnson from Ocheyedon.

A public dedication of the memorial is being planned for the Fall. ■

## Library from page 1

"Goodnight Sh'ma," "Lights Out Shabbat," "Tamar's Sukkah," "Snow in Jerusalem," and "This is the Challah," are just a few of the beautiful stories that are part of the PJ Library's book collection. In addition to books, the CDs feature music from well-known artists like Neshama Carlebach, Rick Recht and Sheldon Low.

Jewish and interfaith families around the world sing the praises of the PJ Library!

- "How wonderful it is to snuggle and read right before bedtime!"
- "Few events rival the arrival of my son's monthly PJ Library envelope!"
- "Some of the stories I remember learning as a child and now I can pass these on to my daughter!"
- "I'm not Jewish but we're raising our children Jewish. Having the PJ Library books has been a tremendous resource to me, and my kids love receiving them each month!"

**ENROLL NOW!** If you have children or grandchildren and would like to sign them up for their free subscription, please go to [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org), or contact Mollie Giller at [mollie@dmjfed.org](mailto:mollie@dmjfed.org) or call 515-987-0899 ext 230 and be ready to create your own in-home library of everlasting Jewish books and music. ■

## Camp from page 1

### Game-a-Palooza (July 15 – 19):

Games of all sizes and types will come to life during this week as we have our annual Color Wars. Campers might get to experience life-sized board and video games, or play some classics from the school yard. No matter what, they will be immersed in the fun. The field trip this week will include yet another game, bowling!

### It's Not Easy Being Green (July 22 – 26):

Kermit sang it first, but we will take it to a whole new level. Leaping lizards! There will be giant games of leap frog, and opportunities to turn recyclables into art to keep campers busy all week long. On Friday, campers will visit an area park and just enjoy the scenery during an exploratory hike.

### Space is the Place (July 29 – August 2):

Have future astronomers on your hands? This week is made for them. Campers will reach for the stars and create their own constellations. There will be rocket building and lots of fun facts about the solar system to discover and share. Campers who are old enough will also have the opportunity to see the stars for themselves during the ECS Overnight (see page 10) scheduled for this week. A visit to the Science Center of Iowa on Friday will end the week with a big bang.

### Strolling Through the Decades (August 5 – August 9):

We end our summer with a visit through some of the fads and dances of the last decades of the 20th century. Campers will learn to Hand Jive, Twist, Disco and Hula Hoop, and play some

classic board and playground games for the different eras. They will also explore iconic crafts that defined the decades. The week will end with an Engman Camp Shalom style carnival on Friday.

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact our offices at 987-0899 ext. 232 or email [engmancampshalomdm@gmail.com](mailto:engmancampshalomdm@gmail.com) for more information. ■

## Giller from page 6 All of that basically relates to family services, outreach and programming.

I love the communications and planning aspects of my job. I know it sounds odd, but I really love things like event planning, and that's kind of what I'll be doing.

**JP:** Now, obviously, you come from a family of community volunteers, with your mom being the president of the Federation and your dad serving as vice chair of Tifereth Israel Synagogue.

**MG:** Yes, they're good role models, for sure.

**JP:** Do you have any hobbies?

**MG:** Yes, I do. As a family, we're crazy dog people. And I'm a big reader. I love walking and being outdoors in general and I have a few friends in the Des Moines area I enjoy spending time with.

**JP:** You're from Des Moines, aren't you?

**MG:** Yes, and I grew up going to the Temple.

**JP:** What do you think about Des Moines, now?

**MG:** Well, Des Moines has changed a lot since I was a kid. The East Village was not there. Gateway Park was simply old housing. I'm excited about being in Des Moines because I feel they are trying to engage the '20- 30-something' crowd, and that wasn't there before now. It's great to be a part of that group.

**JP:** Thank you for the interview, Mollie. Lots of good luck in your new position here at the Federation.

**MG:** Thank you.

**Gift from page 7** The vision of a new way. A world of peace and understanding, where human life is of ultimate value. A place where each of us is free to maximize our potential as human beings. To truly live and experience the glory of being alive. That is God's gift to us. Pass it on.

*"Ascend a lofty mountain, O Herald of joy to Zion;  
Raise your voice with power, O Herald of joy to Jerusalem –  
Raise it, have no fear; Announce to the cities of Judah;  
Behold your God!" (Isaiah 40:19) ■*

## New York from page 14

As music director and principal conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra, Botstein focuses the ASO's programming on the performance of infrequently-performed works by major composers, and has helped to champion Jewish composers. Additionally, it is for his efforts in helping to revitalize the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra that the foundation awarded him a 2013 Jewish Cultural Achievement Award.

In honor of Leon Botstein, the 2013 gala will feature world-renowned clarinet player David Krakauer performing Russian composer Alexander Krein's early 20th century Judaica music. Krakauer helped to start the FJC's New Jewish Culture Network and also teaches at Bard College.

## Scott Berrie

In a similar vein, another lifelong New Yorker, Scott Berrie, juggles multiple roles and projects. In a previous incarnation Berrie was an entrepreneur with a particular interest in socially conscious businesses. Most recently, Berrie founded Impulse Creative Productions, a company that produces independent films. Berrie had a hand in New York, I Love You a 2009 romantic comedy starring Natalie Portman and Ethan Hawke, while his new film, Jerusalem, I Love You, is currently in production.

Berrie also serves as vice president of the Russell Berrie Foundation, which invests in projects that promote religious understanding and pluralism in the Jewish world and beyond. The Russell Berrie Foundation supports the foundation's American Academy in Jerusalem.

If there's one place that you could imagine this diverse group of four meeting, it might be Russ & Daughters, which for over a hundred years has specialized in Jewish soul food – lox, creamed herring, cream cheese and more. Once merely one of dozens of shops that catered to Jewish appetites, Russ & Daughters is now a stalwart institution and a favorite destination – "the touchstone," as a sweet recollection published last year in The New York Times had it – for Jews seeking to connect to some culinary roots.

## Lower East Side institution Russ & Daughters.

Russ & Daughters is now run by a fourth generation of Russes—an immigrant story if ever there was one. "It gives us great joy that Russ & Daughters, and the appetizing tradition we represent, have served as a cultural expression of Jewishness and as a vehicle for marking important life events and a piece of iconic New York," say Niki Russ Federman and Josh Russ Tupper.

"If Joel Russ, our great-grandfather, could see what has become of the legacy he started from a barrel of herring, he would be kvelling." ■

## Banana Rum Sauce from page 15

2/3 cup unsalted butter, room temperature

½ cup packed light brown sugar

6 large ripe bananas, sliced thin

1 tsp ground cinnamon

¼ tsp ground nutmeg

3 tsp dark rum

2 tsp banana liqueur

½ tsp pure vanilla extract

Heat a large sauté pan or skillet over low heat. Add the butter, sugar, bananas, cinnamon and nutmeg. Moving the skillet back and forth, cook until the butter and sugar become creamy and the bananas begin to soften, about 1 minute. Remove from heat and add the rum and liqueur. Return the pan to heat. Tilt pan, avert your face and light the liquid with a long match. Shake the skillet until the flames subside. The sauce will become lighter in color when cooked. Add the vanilla, remove from heat and keep warm. To serve, place a large scoop of bread pudding in the middle of each plate or bowl. Place slices of the cooked banana on each plate and top with about 3 tsp of sauce. Spoon whipping cream on top of pudding and serve. ■

# The Dress Blue Uniform

Submitted by Dave Arkovich



The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is very fortunate to have examples of military uniforms dating back to World War I. Each has its own unique story to tell and the following is one of them.

In 2009 when my wife and I visited the Iowa Jewish museum to see the Alexander Levi exhibit, I noticed Ken Sandler's Korean War era uniform on display. It reminded me that I still had an army uniform or two in my closet at home. After thinking about it, I realized that the officer's dress blue uniform was in good enough condition to wear again and that it might make an interesting donation to the museum's collection.

This uniform was worn in two Jewish weddings in the 1960s at locations where Jewish weddings were not very common. The first time was when my brother Marv Arkovich wore it at his wedding ceremony to Corky Gans on August 22, 1965 in Ft. Stewart, Georgia. My brother and sister-in-law's wedding was a Jewish ceremony in one of the post's chapels. Rabbi Chaplin Dennis Elkins from Ft. Gordon, Georgia officiated. The accompanying picture shows the traditional saber arch for the newlyweds Marv and Corky as they left the chapel. The following identification of the sabre arch participants show the varied backgrounds and places from where young army officers came from at that time: Lt. Robert Hovey of Bucknell University, Lt. Robert Bird of Virginia Military Institute, Lt. Dan Deter of the U.S. Military Academy, Lt. Jim Chamblee of the University of Georgia, Lt. Charlie Heine of the Citadel and Lt. Tom O'Reilly. The second time the uniform was worn was on June 22, 1969 in Aberdeen, South Dakota when I wore it as a groomsman in Frank Baron and Sandi Frank's wedding which was held at the Holiday Inn. Rabbi Joseph Berglass of Aberdeen officiated. Sandi graduated from the University of Iowa's Nursing School in 1969, and Frank graduated from the University of Iowa's Law school in 1971.



Following his graduation from Law school in 1971, Frank and Sandi moved to Sioux City where they have resided ever since. Before the dress blue uniform arrived at the museum, I wore it at the Ft. Leonard Wood Post Commander's New Year's Day Reception on January 1, 1972.

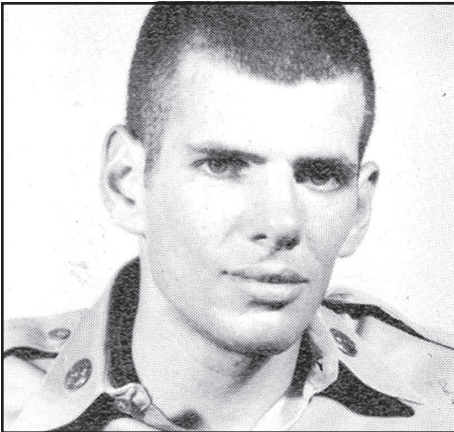
As grandsons of immigrants who left Czarist Russia, the Arkovich brothers' service as company grade officers in the U.S. Army brings to light an interesting facet of Iowa Jewish history. During the time they attended the University of Iowa from 1958 to 1968 the draft was the primary source of manpower for the U.S. military. The requirements for manpower were increasing because of our country's military commitment in Vietnam. Many of the young Jewish men who were qualified for military service attended colleges and universities during that period. They had choices as to how they wanted to fulfill their military obligation.

The University of Iowa was one of the universities that had a Reserve Officer Training Corps program (ROTC) for the Army and Air Force. During this time, the first two years were mandatory for qualified male students at the University of Iowa. After that the student could elect to continue in the program and receive a stipend of \$50.00 per month during the next four semesters and go to a six week summer basic training, usually at Ft. Riley, Kansas. Upon graduation he would be commissioned a Second Lieutenant and serve two years of active duty.

One of the major events of the school year for the ROTC Departments at that time was the Governor's Day Parade. In late April or early May the Governor of Iowa would attend the ceremony. The Corp of Cadets would pass in review on the intramural field, now the site of the Pomerantz and Pappajohn Pavilions of the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. This event ended in the late 1960's because of the anti-war sentiment on the U of I campus.

Marv decided to continue in the program and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He was initially assigned to Ft. Knox, Kentucky for the Armor Officers Basic Course and then to Ft. Stewart, Georgia to finish the rest of his military career. It gave him an opportunity to see an Army deployment during the summer of 1965. President Johnson sent American troops to the Dominican Republic to help stabilize the situation there when turmoil between the supporters of the former president, Juan Bosch, and his successor, Donald Reid Cabral, threatened the government's stability. Following his discharge from active duty, Marv, Corky, and their infant son Robbie moved to Florida.

I also continued in the ROTC program and was awarded a scholarship which paid the stipend of \$50.00 per month, tuition and book fees in exchange for four years of active duty service. During my four years of active duty, I was assigned to posts at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, Ft. Hood, Texas, Ft. Gordon, Georgia, the Republic of Vietnam, and Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri.



I had the opportunity from 2003 until 2010 to work in the same building in which the University's ROTC programs are headquartered. From my observation over those seven years, it can be said that because of today's all-volunteer military service, the programs appear to have improved from what they were some forty years ago. They appear better equipped, better trained, and have a more diversified student population, which now includes women.

As a remembrance to this era of Iowa Jewish young men being involved in the military, there are some ROTC insignia and other ROTC memorabilia on display in the Jewish Historical Society's collection at the Caspe Terrace in Waukee.

## It's Time to Renew Your Membership in the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

Become a New Member or Renew Your Membership and help preserve the history of the Jews of Iowa.

Your membership dues support our programs, events, and exhibits as well as the staff and volunteers who work so very hard to preserve Iowa's Jewish heritage. Your membership makes you a vital partner in preserving our history for all to enjoy for years to come.

Membership Levels: \$36 Basic, \$100 Patron, \$500 Sponsor, \$1,000 Benefactor, \$5,000 Lifetime Membership includes a case dedication in the Caspe Gallery.

Membership includes a subscription to IJHS newsletter – The CHAlowan filled with fascinating original articles and photographs on all aspects of Jewish life in Iowa, updates on programs and events, and so much more.

Your application form is below or you may join online at [www.jewishdesmoines.org](http://www.jewishdesmoines.org).

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Sponsor	\$500	_____
Patron	\$100	_____
Individual/Gift	\$36	_____

In addition, I want to make a donation to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make your check payable to the IJHS and send it to 33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263. For more information: (515) 987-0899 ext. 216 or [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org)

july • august

# [calendar]

<b>Thursday, July 4</b>	
<b>Friday, July 12</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, July 14</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday, July 20</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
<b>Monday, July 22</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Saturday, July 27</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday, July 28</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 6</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, August 11</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Saturday, August 17</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday, August 18</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
	<b>2:30 PM</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 20</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>
<b>Sunday, August 25</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>

**Independence Day**  
**YAD Potluck at Tifereth Israel Synagogue**  
**Pool Party 1328 43rd St, Des Moines, IA 50311, Tifereth**  
**Shayna Jaskolka Bat Mitzvah at Tifereth Israel Synagogue**  
**Tifereth Board meeting, Tifereth Israel Synagogue**  
**K'tanim Shabbat: "Shabbat in the Park," at the Temple**  
**IJHS Museum open at Caspe Terrace**  
**Sisterhood meeting at the Temple**  
**Iowa Jewish Leadership meeting at Iowa Sons of Jacob**  
**Synagogue, 411 E Mitchell Ave, Waterloo, IA 50702**  
**Temple Youth Group Kick Off at the Iowa State Fair**  
**Kade Ralph Copple Bar Mitzvah at the Temple**  
**Life Center Fundraiser brunch at the Life Center**  
**Shelter Dinner, Tifereth Israel Synagogue**  
**Federation BOD meeting at Caspe Terrace**  
**IJHS Museum open at Caspe Terrace**



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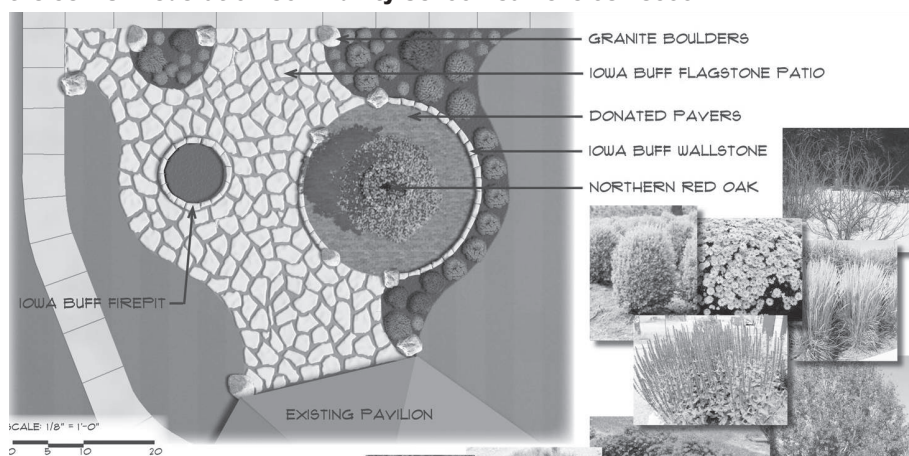


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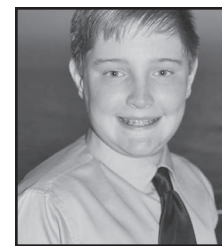
## Gan Yeladim (The Garden For the Children) at The Caspe Terrace



**Phase 1 of the Gan Yeladim was presented during the Federation's 2013 Annual Meeting. Designed and built by Iowa Outdoor Products, the space will function as both an outdoor classroom and gathering area. People and families donating to the school will be recognized with named bricks to honor their contributions. Phase 2 will include a flagstone patio with fire pit and landscaping. You may purchase an engraved 4"x8" brick for \$180 or an 8" x 8" brick for \$1,000 through the Jewish Federation Community School. Call 515 987-8099.**



## B'nai Mitzvah



**Kade Ralph Copple's Bar Mitzvah** is at 10:00 a.m. on **August 17, 2013** at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. There is a luncheon immediately

following the ceremony. The Jewish Community is invited to attend.

Lisa & Kenton Copple



**Shayna Jaskolka**, daughter of Janelle and Eric Jaskolka, will be called to the Torah for the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah on

Saturday, **July 20, 2013** at Tifereth Israel Synagogue during the 9:30 a.m. service.

Shayna will be entering 8th grade in the fall. She is an Honor Roll student who enjoys many activities including playing the flute and dancing in Ballet Des Moines performances for the last eight years. For her mitzvah project she regularly volunteered during the past year with the Jewish Federation Community School as a Hebrew Helper and classroom assistant for younger grades.

The family invites the community to share the simcha and the Kiddush Luncheon following the service.

## In Memoriam

*We note with sorrow the recent passing of*

Betty Borns  
 Barbara Feder  
 Steven E. Gradwohl  
 Dorothy Kirsner  
 Robert Lubetkin  
 Dorothy Newmen  
 Meyer Shnurman  
 Ben Small  
 Celia Tobis

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# Mazel Tov To Our 2013 Graduates

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR HARD WORK AND BEST OF LUCK FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE!



**Aaron Bell**



**Jacob John Bruggemann**



**Sarah Cohen**

**Aaron Bell**, son of Ed and Mindy Bell, is graduating from Valley High School. He will be attending Drake University and is a recipient of a Drake Presidential Scholarship.

**Jacob John Bruggemann** graduated from Rice University on May 11, 2013 with a BA in Computational and Applied Mathematics and a BS in Physics. His proud parents are Susan Madorsky and Edward Bruggemann

**Sarah Cohen**, daughter of Greg and Suse Cohen and the late Marilisa Cohen, graduated from Chariton High School in Chariton, Iowa on May 19, 2013. Sarah was active in the CHS marching, concert and various honor bands. She was also a member of the CHS Spanish Club, JEL and the National Honor Society. Sarah will be attending The University of Northern Iowa in the fall.



**Kelsey Dennis**



**Brittney Ann Franklin**



**Becca Finkelshteyn**

**Kelsey Dennis**, daughter of Kevin and Robyn Dennis, is a 2013 graduate of Ames High School. Kelsey has been active at Ames Jewish Congregation as a Religious Education and Hebrew teacher. She will be attending Northwestern University in Evanston, IL majoring in Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience.

**Brittney Ann Franklin** We are proud to announce the high school graduation of our daughter, Brittney Ann, from Valley High School. Following her time as a counselor at Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, Indiana this summer, she will be heading to the University of Colorado Boulder in the fall. — Stacie and Tom Franklin

**Becca Finkelshteyn** Mazel Tov to Becca Finkelshteyn for graduating from Valley High School this spring. Next fall, she will be a vocal major at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory. She will spend a month in Italy singing in The Magic Flute this summer.

**Julia Lacher**, daughter of Ira and Lisa Lacher, recently graduated summa cum laude from Beloit College. She received a Bachelor of Arts in history and anthropology with a minor in museum studies. She was also inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. In addition, she received the James E. Lockwood Prize and the Sereno Taylor Merrill Prize. She has an internship this summer at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison and also is working at the Logan Museum of Anthropology on the Beloit campus.

**Talia Ruth Lerner**, daughter of Suse and Greg Cohen and Mark Lerner, graduated from Chariton High School on May 19, 2013. Talia was active in the CHS Marching and Concert Band. She received several awards for her participation in Solo Ensemble Contests. She was also a member of the CHS Tennis team. Talia was active in the Temple Youth Group. She was also a member of the 2012 Avodah Staff at Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, Indiana.

**Alex Newman** Steve and Renee Newman are proud to announce the graduation of their son, Alex Newman, from Valley High School in West Des Moines. Alex will be attending Kansas State University where he will be studying aviation. He will begin this summer pursuing his dream of becoming an airline pilot.

**Grant Oser** is graduating from Ankeny High School. He is a National Merit Commended Student. He will be attending the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, and plans to major in Economics and Computer Science. His proud parents are Stuart Oser and Wendi Harris.

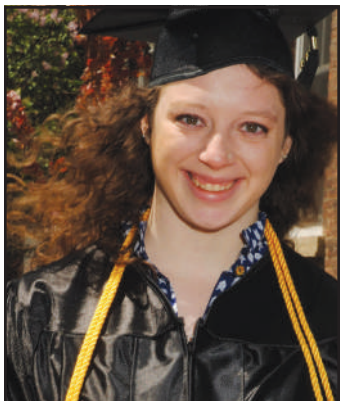
**Aaron Pour-El Sacks**, son of Ina Pour-El and Paul Sacks, graduated from Gilbert High School. He will be attending Cornell College in the fall and currently plans to major in psychology.

**Aaron Rosenberg** Janice and Kent Rosenberg are proud to announce the graduation of their son, Aaron Rosenberg. Aaron graduated Summa Cum Laude from Iowa State University. He majored in Aerospace Engineering and plans to look for work in the field of Wind Energy.

**Jennifer Shulman** Marc and Cynthia Shulman are pleased to announce that their daughter, Jennifer, graduated from Ames High School in May 2013. Jennifer is a member of the Ames High School National Honor Society. She is an AP scholar as well as a recipient of a school letter for academic excellence. Jennifer is co-president of USY through Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Jennifer will be attending Syracuse University, where she will double major in Film and Classic studies with a minor in French.

**Brian Wahlig**, son of Laurie and Joe Wahlig, graduated from Dowling Catholic High School in May 2013. He graduated with honors and as an Aquinas Key recipient. Brian will join his older brother, Stephen, at Rice University in Houston, TX. Brian plans to run cross country and track with the Rice team and study engineering.

**Ben Weinberg**, son of Kathy and Roger Weinberg, is a graduate of Valley High School where he has been Student Body President, a member of show choir, National Council on Youth Leadership, mock trial and drama. Ben will be attending Drake University in the fall to study Pre-Law. Ben aspires to attend law school and become a lawyer or politician.



**Julia Lacher**



**Talia Ruth Lerner**



**Alex Newman**



**Grant Oser**



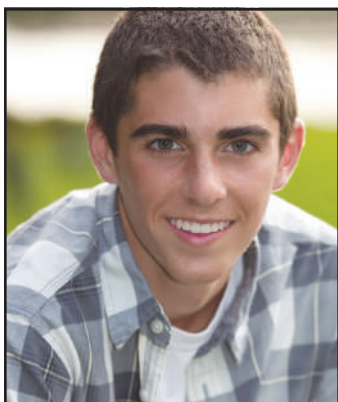
**Aaron Pour-El Sacks**



**Aaron Rosenberg to come**



**Jennifer Shulman**



**Brian Wahlig**



**Ben Weinberg**

Recent grads it's not too late! Send a photo and announcement by July 22, for publication in the Sep/Oct '13 edition. Jewish Press, 33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263 or e-mail to [tom@dmjfed.org](mailto:tom@dmjfed.org)