



THE GREATER DES MOINES

# JEWISH PRESS

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## Happy Passover from The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

### Local Community Seders:

First Night - 6:30 at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Second Night - 6:30 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue



## Symbolism of Passover, Stories of Perseverance and Remembrance



David Adelman  
President

Passover is a story we retell every year, passed on to generations so we never forget the journey out of Egypt. This is a time when we gather with family and friends, tell stories about perseverance and

recommit to goals for the year to come.

The meaning of Passover for each of us changes as our lives change. I recall sitting around the Seder table with my brothers, parents and grandparents. Now I watch my three boys helping each other recite the four questions, daring each other to taste the horseradish and searching the house for the Afikoman.

Symbolism is everywhere within the Passover Seder. We continue to reinvent Passover; we have created new Seder rituals, modernized the Haggadah, and made our celebration more meaningful and relevant to our lives; e.g. oranges and artichokes on the Seder plate. We dip the greens of renewal in saltwater to recall the tears of those

imprisoned unjustly. As we count the 10 Plagues, we spill wine from our glasses to remember those who suffered and those who still do. And as we sing 'Dayenu,' we are mindful that even the smallest blessings and slowest progress deserve our thanks. As our tradition has dictated, everyone is invited to the table to hear the story. From the littlest to the oldest, to the simplest to the smartest.

This story of redemption and hope, has comforted countless Jewish families during times of oppression, and runs parallel to rallies for civil rights around the world. It's about a people who were slaves and became the people of the book. It's about a people who continually contribute despite the odds, the difficulties and horrors of

their history. It is the story of "us". Although we may be free we must never stop trying to 'heal the world as there is still oppression in the US and around the globe.

We never put our freedom above others'—that in telling about our bondage we remember that there are people in the world who are not yet free. We align ourselves with their struggles, making them our own struggles.

Passover is our festival of freedom so let us relive our Passover Seder remembering past years, celebrating as we find ourselves today and fighting for those less fortunate.

From my family to yours. Chag sameach —May you have a happy holiday!

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## Upcoming Events



### 19TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON



DES MOINES PASTORAL  
COUNSELING CENTER

## WOMEN *helping* WOMEN

FRIDAY, MAY 19 Luncheon / 11:30 am – 1 pm  
Embassy Suites Hotel in downtown Des Moines

Women Helping Women benefits women and girls who are in need of counseling but cannot afford the cost of these services.



#### SPEAKER TILLY WOODWARD

Artist, professor and social activist, Tilly will speak about the power of art in healing from trauma and facilitating social justice.

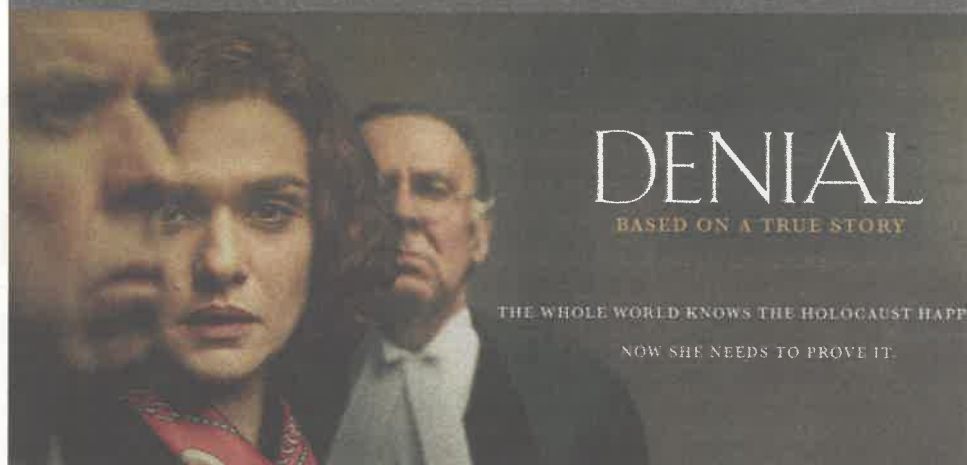


#### HONOREE PAMELA BASS-BOOKEY

Women's advocate and philanthropist, Pam's leadership as a founding member of the Des Moines Public Art Foundation has helped to make our community a world class destination for public art.

FOR RESERVATIONS and INFORMATION  
please visit [www.dmpcc.org/whw](http://www.dmpcc.org/whw)

## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION



### DENIAL

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS THE HOLOCAUST HAPPENED  
NOW SHE NEEDS TO PROVE IT.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23  
1:00 PM  
CASPE TERRACE

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT 1:00PM,  
FOLLOWED BY A SCREENING OF THE FILM  
AND A SHORT DISCUSSION



### INTERESTED IN ISRAEL?

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> graders who want to go  
to Israel for an 8 week program,  
Alexander Muss is offering a HUGE discount.  
Save 50% on our new September session  
September 5<sup>th</sup> - November 5<sup>th</sup> 2017.

For questions, contact Amy Cytron at [acytron@inf.org](mailto:acytron@inf.org) or 612.315.9900 x776

### The AMHSI Experience

Alexander Muss High School in Israel is a place of exploration and discovery. In fact, we've been pioneering the academic and experiential study of Israel and Jewish history at the high school level since 1972. At AMHSI, students are inspired to live outside their books, encounter new ideas and challenge themselves to find their own link within the chain of Jewish continuity.

Our campus, just 20 minutes from Tel Aviv, allows for an immersive Israel experience through informal encounters with Israelis, exposing students to the local culture, language and environment. Moreover, all AMHSI sessions include our Core Curriculum of 4,000 years of Jewish and Israeli history. Because we are fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, students can coordinate with guidance counselors to bring their home curriculum and receive General Studies instruction at all levels during the academic school year. Students are also eligible to receive up to six university credits\* from the University of Miami.

Join the 25,000 alumni whose lives have been changed by AMHSI.  
Contact [info@amhsi.org](mailto:info@amhsi.org) or your local Admissions Director today!

\*Application and tuition must be received by UM in advance of the session. Minimum grade requirements apply for earning credits. Available to eleventh and twelfth grade students only. Acceptance of credits can vary. Check with your preferred university to verify how these credits may be applied to your future course of study.

[amhsi.org](http://amhsi.org)   



### A STUDY ABROAD ACADEMIC ADVENTURE.

"There I was, in the middle of the desert, and I realized that everyone I wanted to be with was right here." - Josh - 2014

The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press



## CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S BIRTHDAY!

SUNDAY, APRIL 30  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
CONCERT AT NOON



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## Jewish Film Series Continues May 21

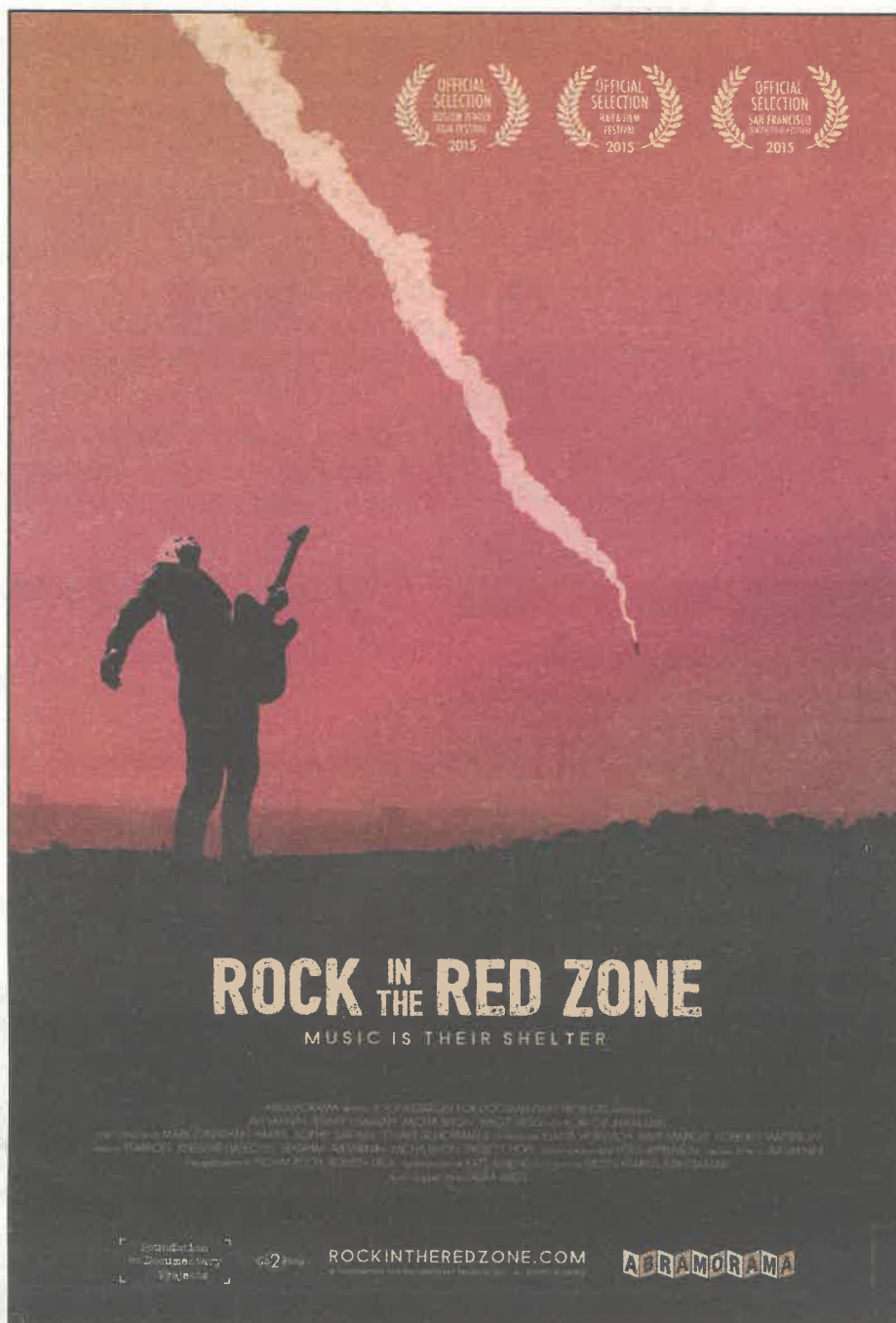
The Jewish Film Series presents **Rock in the Red Zone: Music and Romance in Sderot**. A screening of the film will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m. at Caspe Terrace.

When Los Angeles documentary filmmaker Laura Bialis came to Sderot in 2007 to see how its music scene was shaped by the unrelenting drum of Kassam rockets, she found a flourishing "little Liverpool" in the small working-class city less than a mile from the Gaza Strip. Bialis fell in love with Sderot and married one of its musicians, Avi Vaknin. Ultimately, Sderot's story became hers.

"The film is about life under rocket fire in the South, but as I was making the film I had the sense that in many ways Sderot is a microcosm of Israel, a kind of a metaphor," she says. "My film is about the resilience of Israeli society, and how people in Sderot make music and continue their lives despite everything. Many people from the U.S. don't understand how we can live here. One of the most beautiful and amazing things I discovered in Sderot was that people are incredibly resilient, and that was how it was throughout Israel in the latest war. Rockets were flying and there were still weddings and bar mitzvahs and people trying to live their lives," Bialis says.

"The film is about the unbelievable reality that has existed in the South of Israel for years, to which most of the world has been largely indifferent."

For additional information, contact [jerc@dmjfed.org](mailto:jerc@dmjfed.org)



## Jewish Press

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Volume 33, No. 3  
Spring Edition  
March April May June 2017  
Adar Nissan Iyar Sivan 5777



The Iowa Jewish Historical Society  
presents

### Three Israelis of Vision In Conversation

**SANDEE ILLOUZ**, graduate of the University of Iowa, founder and director of EREZ College in Shlomi – the Center for Educational and Social Advancement in the Western Galilee.

**NOA KALI** of the Kadar Center for Innovative Learning Approaches, and facilitator in Holocaust education and dialog workshops for Jews and Arabs at the Center for Humanistic Education.

**YORAM POSKLINSKY**, director of the Community Center Network in Akko and founder of the Rosh Pinna Music School and Orchestra.

APRIL 4TH – 12:00 PM, LUNCH AT CASPE TERRACE.

RSVP to [gayle@dmjfed.org](mailto:gayle@dmjfed.org) or call (515) 987-0899 ext 222



## Upcoming Activities

April 20 – senior luncheon at Life Center

May 11 – senior luncheon at Tifereth

June 13 – Prairie Meadows

## Senior Lunch and Yoga at Tifereth

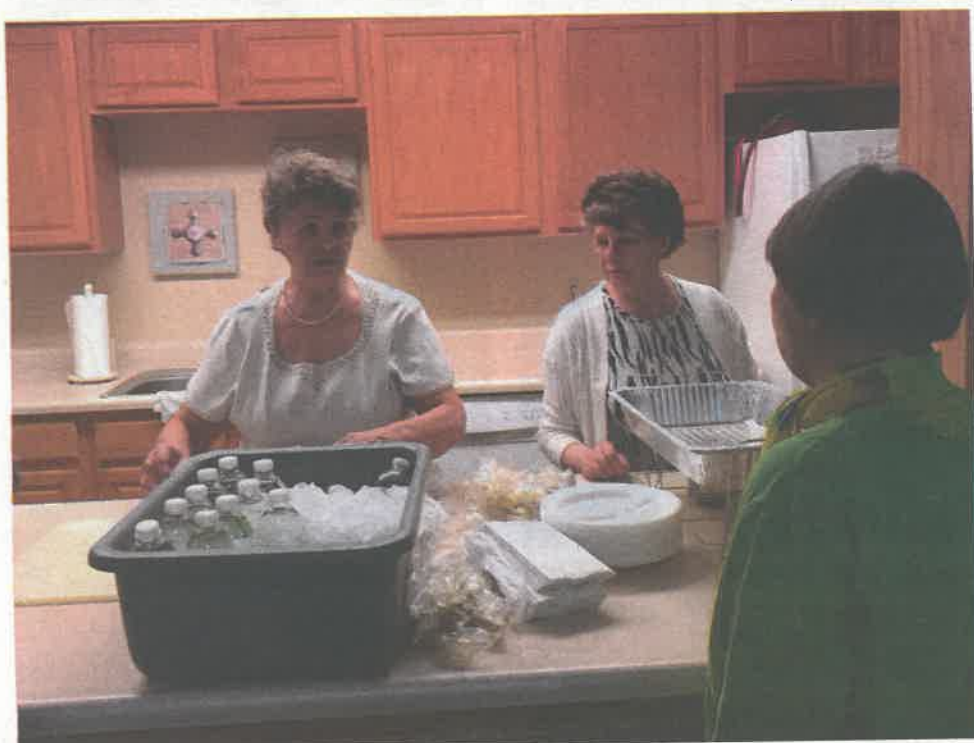


Members of the community took part in Yoga led by Donna Morgan on Feb. 9 at Tifereth. | Photos Courtesy of Jody Caswell

## Celebrating Women

Russian seniors at the Valley West Apartments celebrated International Women's Day with a luncheon. Those in attendance were able to mingle with one another and eat delicious food.

Jody Caswell



## Iowa Jewish Life Center Open House April 27

The Life Center is proud to announce a separate Skilled Rehabilitation neighborhood within our Healthcare Center. The Life Center is located in a residential setting offering Private rooms, Wi-Fi, Cable, Kosher diet, 24-hour visitation, Individualized nursing care, on-staff experienced physicians, nurses and therapists, Family Lounge and Dining Room area and etc.

Since 1931, The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center has proudly continued its tradition of welcoming persons of all faiths to its outstanding care environment-the hallmark of which has been the provision of health care services tailored to individual needs.

The focus of The Life Center is on personalized services that best match the physical, social and emotional needs of each individual. The Life Center is dedicated to meet your healthcare needs.

**Join us for a special evening at an open house**

**April 27, 4pm-7pm.**

Come and get reacquainted with The Life Center. Tour our New Skilled Rehab Community and Therapy Gym. Meet our Board of Directors and our Management Team. Door Prizes and Refreshment will be offered.

Please call or visit The Life Center for a personal tour at your convenience.

The Life Center is located at 900 Polk Blvd Des Moines, Iowa 50312 or Call (515)255-5433

**Wishing our friends**

**a**

**Happy Passover!**

**On behalf of**

**The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center**



**THE LIFE CENTER**  
Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center

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## The Fruits of Our Existence



Sharon Goldford  
Executive Director

As we enter the season of spring, those of us in the Midwest are so excited. This winter has not been difficult in the sense of lots of snow and ice; in fact, it has been just the opposite. The children at Gan Shalom begged for snow. When we had small little patches on the hillside at Caspe Terrace, they would try to slide on their stomachs in their snow suits. They felt they were snow deprived, though the adults have not missed it quite so much. However, the winter has seemed longer than normal because we did not get to see the sunshine for days at a time.

Sunshine is like an old elixir remedy that our grandmothers would concoct to make us feel better. Even if it was a warmer winter than usual, sunshine as an elixir was needed. Tu B'Shevat is behind us, having come in February. We really can't celebrate this holiday in the same way you can in Israel, for we are still awaiting the first signs of spring in Iowa. In Israel there are already the first signs of spring. We can't pick a date or an olive from a tree in Iowa in February, and probably not at any time, but knowing our friends and families in Israel are doing just that helps to give us

hope for a spring arrival. I think we celebrate the "Festival of the Trees" with our children to show them there is always hope for a new beginning. A starting over, another chance at life. Hope is what gets us up and going on a dreary day.

At the Federation we are always hopeful and grateful. We are hopeful of meeting the needs of our people. Jody Caswell, Jewish Family Services Director, sees our elderly every week. She takes meals to them and spends valuable time with them, listening and learning. Sophie Homonoff, Anissa Deay, and our wonderful teachers and teacher assistants spend valuable time working with our children, teaching them sometimes the smallest things that make such a difference in life. One of the most important lessons is they teach them to care for each other and have respect for people. They teach them the value of our land and how to cherish it for others. Mark Finkelstein meets the informational needs of our community. He is a wealth of information on what is happening in Israel and what is happening in our Jewish world here in the United States. The rest of the Federation staff works daily for our community. We are grateful for our community, which is all of you. We appreciate you, and we are all here for you to serve in any way the Federation is needed.

The Federation is both hopeful and very grateful. You are the "Fruit of Our Existence." You are our reason for being here. Thank you for all you do for us. Don't hesitate to let us know if we can do something for you.

Happy Spring!  
Shalom,  
Sharon Goldford

## A Fresh and New Look



Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

Shalom, for those of you who don't know me my name is Giovanna Zavell, but you can call me Anna (pronounced like the princess in *Frozen*). I am currently a junior at Drake University double majoring in magazine journalism and English. I hail from Skokie, Ill., and spend a lot of my time roaming downtown Chicago when I am home.

I began as a Hebrew school teacher here at Caspe back in October and have loved every second teaching. Since I am not assigned to one classroom, I have been fortunate enough to meet and teach students in third, second, fifth grade and preschool. It's been a long time since I was in Hebrew school so I definitely had to brush up on my Hebrew, and still am.

That being said, every day that I am here teaching, I am still learning. Whether it be from the other teachers or the students, there are still things I don't know. I am excited I have the opportunity to continue learning, even though some of the students think the teachers know everything.

So, how did I end up working on the *Jewish Press* you ask? Well,

my first day teaching I met David Copeland. He asked the same questions everyone asks when they first meet a college student; where do you go to school, what you are majoring, etc. When I said I am a journalism student, he immediately got up and brought the latest copy of the *Jewish Press* to me.

The ball just kept rolling from there until I was asked to meet with Sharon. I have now officially began this position, writing content for and putting together the paper.

I have had a wide variety of experiences in the journalism and live by Rebecca West's quote "Journalism: an ability to meet the challenge of filling the space."

Beginning my first year at Drake, I immediately started writing for our student-run newspaper, *The Times-Delphic*. During my sophomore year, I served as the Opinions editor for the same paper. I am also a journalist for *Chicago Splash Magazine*, an on-line publication focused on reviews. Through this publication, I have been lucky enough to attend a number of Broadway shows such as *Newsies* and *Sound of Music*.

I'm very excited to work on this paper and I can't wait to hear feedback from all of you. I'm very open to suggestions on how the paper can be improved or if there is anything you want to see more or less of. Please feel free to contact me at [anna@dmjfed.org](mailto:anna@dmjfed.org).

Happy Spring and Chag Sameach.

The 2017 - 2018 Margo and Don Blumenthal Jewish Student Scholarships  
are scheduled to be awarded in the Spring to qualified candidates.

The scholarships will be available on a competitive basis to Jewish students from Central Iowa who will attend or are attending post-secondary schools within the state of Iowa.

Application packets will be available from the Jewish Federation in March 2017.

**Submission deadline: April 30, 2017**

Community donations to the Blumenthal Scholarship Fund may be earmarked and sent to the Jewish Federation, 33158 Ute Avenue, Waukee, IA 50263

For additional information or to request an application packet, contact [jerc@dmjfed.org](mailto:jerc@dmjfed.org) or call the Jewish Federation at 515 987-0899 x 212.



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# What is True and What is False: Exploring Emet, Truth

Dr. David Friedgood  
Columnist

In this season of 'alternative facts' I am thinking about what it is that I think I know. What is factual and accurate? What is 'true', and what is false?

Truth is defined as trustworthy, sincere, and honest. It is the quality of being in accordance with experience, reality, and facts. Truth is certain. In our tradition, truth is a characteristic of personal relationships. It represents a bond of trust between people and between that which is eternal. Words can be trustworthy or false. The truth of speech is dependent on the facts and experience supporting the delivery, and not dependent of the stature of the speaker. Truth is objective, unlike a 'belief', which may or not be true. I have thoughts and beliefs concerning how I would like things to be, but my beliefs are not necessarily true. They may be misguided or false. Like all human beings, if I am to act wisely in this world, it is necessary for me to understand the situation in which I exist – to the best of my ability. I need to separate true factual information from false perception. Of course, even knowing the truth does not always mean I will act wisely. The 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher Baruch Spinoza felt that as people accumulated greater amounts of wisdom, and better understood the world about them, they would naturally act to better themselves and their fellows. In this belief Spinoza erred, as even the most learned amongst us often act stupidly and shamefully, to all our detriment.

The big question is how to recognize that which is true. Examples can easily be found in the histories of science, philosophy, psychology, logic, sociology, and even religion of presumed factual knowledge that eventually was proven to be false. Frequently, what we humans firmly believe to

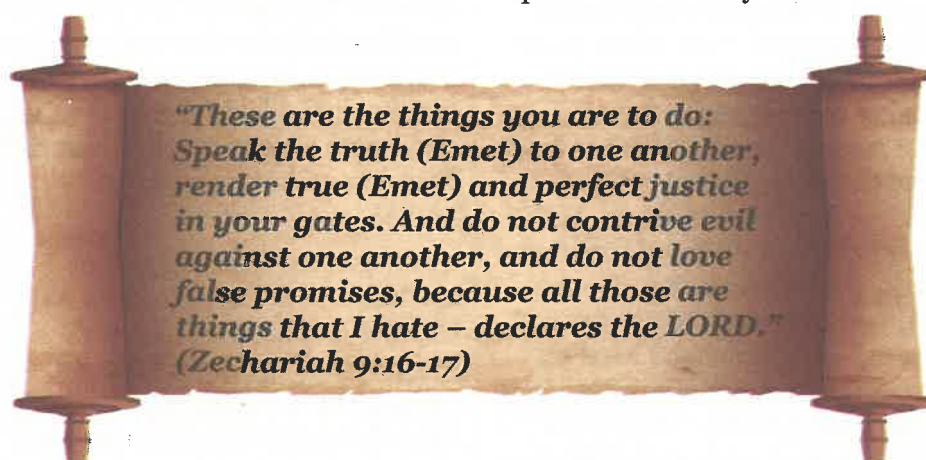
be permanent truth withers and fades from memory in the light of a new era. We hold our senses to be absolute purveyors of factual information. I believe that what I can see, touch, smell and taste is true, reproducible fact. On closer inspection, however, my senses are flawed. What I see may be a distortion of reality. What I identify by touch, what I smell and taste, does not reliably identify a subject matter. These perceptions are subject to the shifting reactions of my nervous system to environmental change. Thanks to Albert Einstein we know that even time is variable. The space-time continuum can be altered by speed or applied energy. A popular movie 'The Matrix' even has us

Emet is the Hebrew word for truth. It also means firmness, faithfulness, and stability. Our God is Emet, and Shalom v'Emet – peaceful and true / stable. Emet is not qualified. Emet is firm and enduring. Emet is related to another word Amen – translated as firm, or 'let it be so'. According to Talmud, answering an oath with Amen is equivalent to issuing the oath out of ones own mouth (Shevuot 29b). In this way our words become faithful and 'true'. We attach great significance to honesty and Emet. According to the great French sage Rashi: 'Our God of truth is found wherever there is Emet, and absent where there is falsehood'. Our Torah is explicit. We are duty bound to

thing with his mouth and another his heart". (Pesachim 113b). 'As is the potential for wrong in buying and selling, there is wronging in words'. (Baba Metzia 4:10)

Our forbearers were even concerned about those situations when speaking the truth could be inappropriate. A 'white lie' was permitted to promote peace and harmony. (Yevamot 85b) Another Talmudic tract recognizes 3 instances when it is permissible to tell a falsehood: 1) To preserve modesty and avoid bragging about ones abilities or accomplishments. 2) To avoid speaking about intimate family details. 3) To preserve hospitality and avoid embarrassing a host (complimenting them or preparing a wonderful dinner, for instance). (Baba Metzia 23b-24)

So, what is true and enduring? Which are those facts that we can be sure will pass the scrutiny of time, and still be recognized as true in the coming millennia? The answer remains illusive, but I think we have some direction to follow on our quest. What is truth seems to be those facts that stand the test of time and increase our understanding of this complex world we occupy. Those words and deeds, which foster the common good and betterment of us all, are more likely to be eternally 'true'. We live in a broken world and one of us is tasked with finding, in our own way, a path towards tikkun (universal repair). Those actions, speech, and experiences that vibrate towards this goal are most likely to be true and enduring for us today and for the generations that follow when we are gone. I paraphrase the great Abraham Lincoln: "These truths are self-evident..."



questioning whether our physical world actually exists, or do we exist in a computer program. To quote Sportin' Life (the drug dealer in Gershwin's 'Porgy and Bess'): "It ain't necessarily so".

So, what are we mortals to do? On what facts can we anchor our beliefs? What truths are there which will not change with the rise and fall of the tides about us? Our ancestors struggled with the same concerns. Our tradition, developed over the millennia, provides some direction for us today as we seek to answer the question of what is 'true'. From generation to generation Jewish scholars added their thoughts on this topic. The following is a brief sampling of their contributions, starting over 2000 years ago.

emulate our creator by being honest and forthright in our actions: "You shall not steal; you shall not deal deceitfully or falsely with one another". (Leviticus 19:11-13) "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor". (Exodus 20:13) "Justice, justice shall you pursue...". (Deuteronomy 16:20) "You shall not falsify measures of length, weight, or capacity". (Leviticus 19:35) These laws apply to our dealing with all people, Jew and non-Jew: "When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself...". (Leviticus 20:33-34) As reviewed in the Talmud, deceiving others is forbidden: "The Holy One, blessed be He, hates a person who says one

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# Get to Know Deidre Farr: Animals, Singing and Minestrone Soup

Karen Engman  
Chef du Jour

I know it's almost Spring and Passover, but I interviewed Deidre in January and her Chicken Minestrone Soup sounded like a great recipe to share with our readers then. After all, we enjoy chicken with matzo balls for the seder. This is a very healthy soup that you will want to try year round.

Deidre was born in Chicago and attended James H. Bowen High School on the south side and then traveled to Iowa to meet her future husband Tom Farr at Grinnell College as a freshman. They married right after graduation and lived in Des Moines for a year before she started Veterinary School at Iowa State University. In high school, she worked for a family doctor and became very interested in pursuing a career in medicine. Her father encouraged her to be a veterinarian because of her love for animals. She practiced here in Des Moines from 1981-1994 and then sold her Highland Park practice.

She then worked at HOSPICE and was an interim cantor at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Deidre then became interested in acupuncture for animals. She attended a program in San Diego that was geared toward practicing veterinarians. Animal acupuncture, herbal medicine and chiropractic medicine is all she has done since 2003. Her patients include horses, rats, birds, rabbits, lizards and of course dogs and cats. Acupuncture is used for chronic pain, epilepsy, GI probes, and chronic kidney disease. Deidre said it is not used to treat acute serious illness but it can provide pain relief from cancer. She said it's not a cure but she feels

her patients live longer and have a better quality of life.

Her husband Tom is from Des Moines and was a corporate counsel with Guide One Insurance for 28 years. He started when Bernie Mercer was still the chairman of the board, when it was known as Preferred Risk. Deidre said they both had to take a pledge that they would not drink alcohol, but drinking wine during the Passover Seder was allowed.

They have three children; Tom who married Melissa Gonzales from California, Kathleen who married Jeff Mathews and lives here in Des Moines with their three children and Rachel who is a Denver corporate attorney specializing in marijuana law.

Of course they have pets. Joey, Eleanor, Mr. Peabody and Andy are mostly small, mixed breed and rescue dogs. She loves to walk them but only three at a time.

Deidre also loves her exercise class at Fitness by Design and her volunteer activities with life cycle events at Tifereth Israel. She's an avid reader with emphasis on non-fiction and spiritual books.

Deidre prepares this Minestrone frequently because she uses the leftover boiled chicken to feed her dogs. In fact, she makes all her own dog food and says it makes a huge difference in their breath and weight control.

The Jewish Press thanks Deidre for sharing her recipe for Chicken Minestrone with our readers.

Remember if you have a recipe to share or a cooking question I can research, please call Karen Engman (515-274-3300) or email (Karen.Engman@gmail.com)



## Chicken Minestrone

**For broth:**  
Whole Chicken  
1-2 carrots  
1-2 stalks celery  
Onion  
Water

**For soup:**  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 carrot, chopped  
1 celery stalk, chopped  
2 cups root vegetables, peeled and diced (potatoes, winter squash, turnips, parsnips)  
6 cups broth  
1 cup cored, peeled, seeded and chopped tomato (canned is okay, including juice)  
2 cups soft vegetables in 1/2 inch pieces (green beans, summer squash, greens)  
1/2 cup chopped parsley  
Salt and pepper

**Broth:**  
Boil chicken with water to cover

until done. Give chicken to your dogs (at least that's how the Farris do it!)

Add carrots, celery, onion and boil some more.

Season and strain as desired

### Soup:

In soup pot, saute onion, carrot and celery in 3 Tablespoons oil until onion is soft.

Add hard vegetables and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring for a minute or two, then add stock and tomato. Ring to boil and then adjust heat so that the soup bubbles gently. Continue to cook until vegetables are fairly soft, about 15 minutes.

Add soft vegetables and parsley, simmer about another 15 minutes. Adjust seasoning as desired and serve.

**Note:** To make Pasta e Fagioli, Deidre likes to substitute 2 cups cooked beans for 1 cup each of soft and hard vegetables. Then adds 1/2 - 1 cup of small pasta.



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# Local Incidents of Anti-Semitism

Mark Finkelstein

By now, most Jewish Americans are probably aware of the increase -- and the apparent continuing assault -- of antisemitic incidents that have targeted Jewish communities across the U.S.. The attacks have come in various forms including swastika daubings, the etching of anti-Jewish epithets, verbal abuse, cemetery desecrations, or the waves of multiple bomb threats called in to Jewish community centers and Day Schools.

In the Des Moines area, we have witnessed swastikas spray painted on mailboxes in Urbandale, near to where members of the Jewish community live. We have also learned of an explicit anti-Jewish message carved into a seat within a classroom at Drake University. Up state, there has been a hateful message left on the answering machine at Agudas Israel Synagogue in Mason City. There,

of course, may have been other incidents that we are unaware of.

Each incident poses a challenge to the community. Each is unacceptable.

In addition to working on a proactive basis, by members of JCRC participating on diversity panels and speaking, for instance, to adult education groups about being Jewish, the JCRC and Federation officials take other measures as warranted to counteract antisemitism. Federation works with multiple levels of law enforcement to bolster security of all the Jewish institutions in town, JCRC builds coalitions with others to oppose hatred directed to any group in American society. JCRC also connects with the media, advocates with elected officials -- demanding they stand up against antisemitism and bigotry, and helps others to learn more about antisemitism and how to identify its many faces.

## Recent Anti-Semitic Act on Drake's Campus Brings Community Together

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

On Wednesday, Feb. 23, Drake University officials were made aware of an anti-Semitic slur carved into a chair in a Meredith Hall lecture room. The student who found the slur is Jewish and reported the incident to Drake Public Safety.

An email was sent by Drake Provost Sue Mattison on Thursday, Feb. 24, morning to all students on Drake's campus addressing the issue at hand. In the email, Mattison stated the seat was immediately removed from the lecture hall. "Let me be clear that we will not tolerate acts of oppression and hate, and will do everything in our power to deal with this," Mattison said in the email.

In response to the incident, Drake University Hillel quickly organized a gathering, inviting Jews and non Jews from the community to come together and talk about what happened. The event took place at the Hillel house, a place that takes pride in being a safe space on campus.

With the recent anti-Semitic acts taking place across the country, this incident was described by one student at the gathering as "the icing on the cake."

"A student took the time to carve a derogatory, anti-Semitic slur

that deeply impacted our Jewish students," Drake Hillel President Tali Eisenstadt said. "It made student feel upset, frightened and sad especially within the context of the current anti-Semitic acts on the rise in this country."

Jewish students were able to tell their stories and how the incident impacted them at the gathering. Those in attendance who were not Jewish offered support and advice on how to continue moving forward from here.

"Jewish and non-Jewish students, faculty and community members came together at the Hillel house to discuss the incident," Eisenstadt said. "During the gathering, people felt safe enough to express their fears about the situation and share their own personal experiences."

Those in attendance praised Drake University officials for acting quickly on the issue and a number of organizations and people continued offering their support throughout the week to the Jewish community.

A total of around 36 people attended the gathering. There almost wasn't enough space in the living room and dining room of the house to fit everyone.

"The evening was an essential experience to provide support for our community," Eisenstadt said.

## Response to Recent Anti-Semitic Acts Across The Country

Rebecca Perl  
Drake University

In the past six weeks, there have been 190 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States alone. These incidents have happened across the country, in Jewish community centers, college campuses, Jewish cemeteries, Jewish day schools and even synagogues. It is 2017 in the United States of America and this is what we, as the Jewish people, are facing after 3,000+ years of persecution in the greatest democracy, the land of the free, in the world.

That's a very hard reality to face, that after everything we have been through as a people - from Pogroms to the Holocaust - we are still hated deeply.

What's the reason behind this hatred? There isn't one. It's simply ingrained into the minds of the people of the world to hate the Jews. There are excuses for the hatred ranging from "the Jews killed Jesus" to "the Jews control everything in America and are rich." The Jews historically did not kill Jesus, in fact Jesus was a Jew and Christianity was originally

a branch of Judaism, similar to the movements we have today. The Jews simply do not control everything, we have suffered through extreme poverty and still find it in our communities today. The Jewish people are not even an ethnic group, one cannot convert into an ethnic group. So, where does this leave the Jewish people? With no root cause of the hatred and over half of the religiously committed hate crimes in the U.S. in 2015 committed against Jewish people, what do we do? Where do we go from here?

We stand together. We stand strong. We help the communities that have been targeted and we keep our communities safe. We take the wonderful help and support that our Muslim brothers and sisters have shown us and we support them in their times of need as well. We do not back down, we turn our fear into action and make sure that we, as Jewish people, are viewed as human. That's what we are - human. We have every right to exist on this planet no matter our religion. It's 2017 in the United States of America and anti-Semitism is a rampant issue. It's up to us to do something about it and we will.



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## Teaching about Israel



A Christian group whose intent is to educate their church on Jewish history, culture, and modern Israel, showed a very popular film, in February, about the Jewish American pilots who flew for Israel's non-existent air force in 1948. The screening was arranged by Jim and Bonita Bunton who, as individuals, have come to participate over the years in cultural and educational activities offered within the Jewish community and consequently have friends within the Jewish community, including JCRC director Mark Finkelstein. Mark was present at the screening and participated in the discussion held afterwards about the film.

## Building Relations



Sharon Goldford and our staff members from Gan Shalom and Beit Sefer Shalom recently met with the Chief and Sargent of the Waukee Police Department. The group discussed security measures to protect our children and staff at Caspe Terrace. Waukee officers continue to visit Caspe Terrace in efforts to strengthen relationships with children and staff.

## JCRC at DOJ Forum with ADL



ADL Central States director Mary Beth Muskin and JCRC's Mark Finkelstein gave presentations at the US Department of Justice forum on hate crimes and bias crimes held at Des Moines University in early February.

The Greater Des Moines Jewish Community Center  
Spring 2017

## Sister City Officials Skype Call



West Des Moines officials participated in a Skype call with Sister City officials in Match Asher.

## Israeli start-ups target of new project in West Des Moines

As explained by the City of West Des Moines' Director of Community and Economic Development, Clyde Evans, West Des Moines is preparing to host a business accelerator in Valley Junction operated by a start-up enterprise called DelVoda. DelVoda, which has a presence both in the Des Moines Metro and Israel, would selectively bring start-up companies from Israel and put the companies through a 90 day

program instructing them how to do business in the United States. Situating in West Des Moines offers many advantages to businesses seeking to establish an operations office in the United States, benefits of cost, convenience, and quality of life. Both the City of West Des Moines and Polk County have approved economic development grants toward the initiation of the project.



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Photos by Laurie Wahlig



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## 2017 Graduates

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well as they start their journey in  
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# Gan Shalom Preschoolers Take to The Outdoors, and Learn Break Dancing



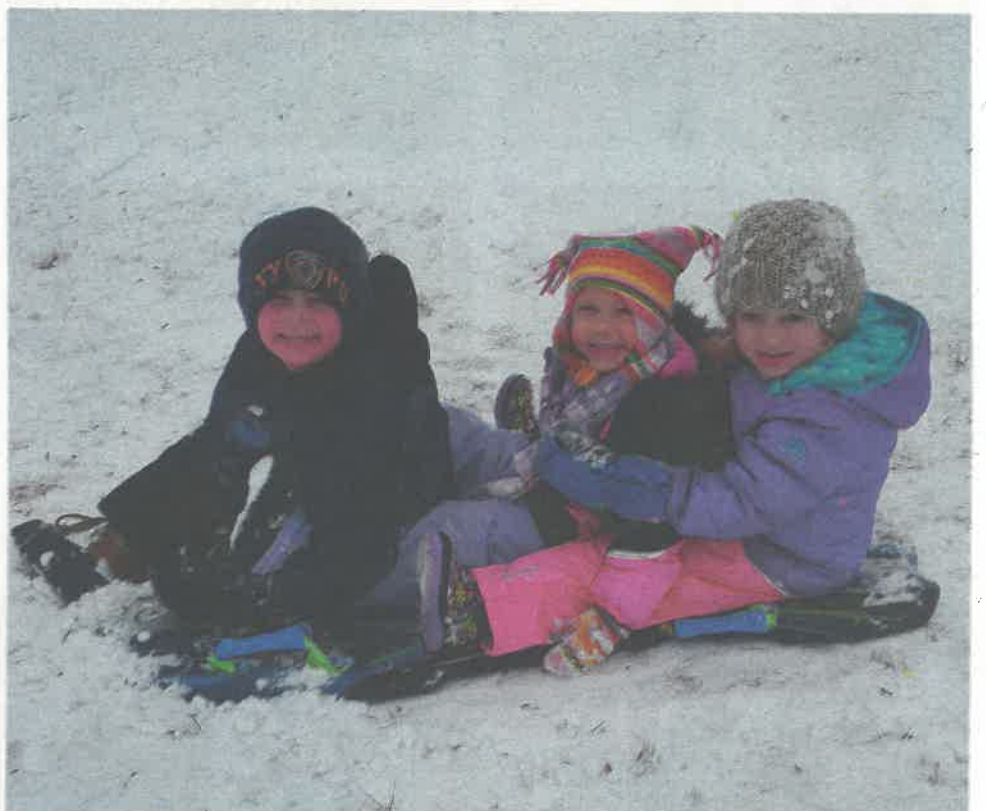
As part of the enrichment program, Anthony Sans from the Des Moines Social Club visited Gan Shalom preschoolers to teach them a few dance moves. The students learned knee slides and mountain climbers as they learned Hip Hop and break dancing. Chris Guhl also visited Gan Shalom on a separate occasion to teach the students even more, new dance moves.



The students learned all about Tu B'Shevat during class with a number of special projects and programs. A mock Tu B'Shevat Seder was put on by the students where they learned about trees, fruits and nuts. They all were able to create their own craft (pictured above), which is made from fruit skewers that are then placed in a planting pot that has been decorated.



When the cold weather left and the unusually warm weather moved in, students once again took to the outdoors. Instead of sledding and playing in the snow, they found insects and toads. On a sunny 70 degree day in February, students were able to fly a kite.



The few days of cold weather and snow gave the students a chance to play outdoors. Of course, they participated in a favorite winter activity, sledding.

Photos Courtesy of Anissa Deay



# Beit Sefer Shalom

## Celebrating Purim and History Through the Arts

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

Students of Beit Sefer Shalom celebrated Purim together on Sunday, March 5. From Hamantaschen making to learning about how Queen Esther saved the Jewish people. The students were also able to make their own Mishloach Manot from various kinds of fruit.

Louise Kaufmann led Hamantaschen making in Bookey Lodge. Students rolled out pre-made dough and added either cherry or apple filling. Teachers and madrichim helped teach students how to properly pinch the sides of the dough to form a triangle. Each student went home with samples of the treats they made.

Second grade put on a special Purim puppet show in class after learning the story of Esther.

Students colored puppets of the five main characters in the Purim story the week before and then were able to take them home after putting on their show.

While in music, some students learned special Purim songs from Patrick.

The making of Mishloach Manot is a very important Purim tradition students were able to take part in. Throughout the day, students visited the library to create their own Mishloach Manot from different fruits. But, they were not able to bring home their own bag, instead, they had to trade with a friend in class. The point of Mishloach Manot is to create small gifts for other people.

During the celebration, students were welcome to dress up in costumes. There were queens, kings, ghosts and more.









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WEEK 2: JUNE 19-23 - MOVIES - *MENACE & MOVIE THEATER*  
WEEK 3: JUNE 26-30 - SCIENCE AND ADVENTURES - *ADVENTURELAND*  
WEEK 4: JULY 3-7 (NO JULY 4) - ANIMALS AND FUN - *BLANK PARK ZOO*  
WEEK 5: JULY 10-14 - AROUND THE WORLD - *LIVING HISTORY FARMS & SWIM LESSONS*  
WEEK 6: JULY 17-21 - SPORTS AND EXPERIMENTS - *MENACE & SCIENCE CENTER*  
WEEK 7: JULY 24-28 - PLACES AND SITES - *JESTER PARK & GRAYS LAKE*  
WEEK 8: JULY 31-AUG 4 - COOKING AND BAKING - *SLEEPY HOLLOW & SWIMMING LESSONS*  
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# Drake University Sophomore Experiences Israel For The First Time On Birthright

Breya Whitefield  
Drake University

This winter, forty young adults and I received the opportunity of traveling to the holy land of Israel. Accompanied by our prodigious tour guide Osnat, seven IDF soldiers, two chaperons, plus our medic and security guard Chaim, we started from the north and worked our way to the south. Little did we know, our Birthright group would become a mishpacha, filled with friendships to last for a lifetime. There were so many places to go in so little time, and I found my most memorable moments to be at Yad Vashem, the Kotel, and Masada.

The night before we visited Yad Vashem, we sat in a circle with a yahrzeit candle and went around talking about personal stories of the holocaust and how it affected many our lives in one way or another. Everyone's story is so different, yet so same in a way. We all come from different parts of the country, different relatives, and life styles; yet several have Jewish relatives who had faced the persecution of the Holocaust, or some who were so lucky to have escaped death. Visiting Yad Vashem, was very hard for many. There were tears and sadness, yet hope and inspiration to keep the stories alive and continue informing generations to come because the number of survivors are dwindling.

On Friday, the day had come to travel to Jerusalem and experience the Kotel. This experience was significant for me because many Jews, including my family, have never been to Israel and pray to someday make it to this spot where many believe is the only location

where G-D will hear your prayers. I gathered up all of my family and temple's notes and folded them into this special wall. Truly, it was an emotional experience that I wasn't expecting to receive, but has made me feel a deeper connection in my spirituality and pushed me to continue advocacy for Israel and Jews around the world.

All of our practice hikes had led up to the final hike, the ever so dreaded Masada. At five am, we all started the decent up the mountain in the darkness. The hike began off loud and upbeat with music playing, but as it went on, many were tired and winded from the long winding staircases and steep slopes. One simply does not appreciate its beauty until reaching the top and watching the sunrise unfold before one's eyes. It is an incredibly accomplishing and awarding experience and you actually feel like you are on top of the world.

To sum up, Israel is state filled with such pride, scenic views, embracing and open citizens who fight hard for their country, and religion that is so strong and powerful. I am honored and beyond thankful for this experience of a lifetime and cannot wait to share what I have learned with my friends and family. Thank you to Birthright, Shorashim, the amazing staff, and all of the incredible participants for this trip. I'll be back, Israel!

Photos Courtesy of  
Breya Whitefield





# Drake Hillel Welcomes Magda Brown: A Holocaust Survivor's Story, April 7

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

Magda Brown, born in Miskolc, Hungary, was crowded into a railroad car on her 17th birthday with her family and 80 other people. Traveling for three days, Brown and the others in the railroad car had no food or water. More importantly, they had no idea where they were being deported to.

The passenger's final destination was Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp in Poland. Like many others, shortly after arriving, Brown was separated from her family. That would be the last time she saw her mother, father, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. They all went directly to the gas chambers.

After months of living in terrible conditions, Brown was 'selected' to be sent to a work camp. She was one of a thousand Jewish Hungarian women who were

transported to Allendorf, Germany, a sub camp of Buchenwald concentration camp.

At this camp, Brown and the other women were assigned to make bombs and rockets that were filled with poisonous liquid chemicals. Those chemicals ultimately turned the women's skin yellow, their hair orange and their lips purple.

At the end of March 1945, Brown and her group were sent on a death march to Buchenwald. But, Brown and a few other prisoners had an alternative plan, they were going to attempt an escape. They crawled and hid in a nearby barn, covering themselves in piles of straw. Each one of them was aware that if they were caught, they would be shot immediately.

A day and a half passed in hiding and Brown and the other prisoners were discovered and liberated by two American soldiers. After liberation, Brown spent six months in a displaced persons camp in Germany. She sought and received assistance from the United States government to return to Hungary and search for her family. Her extended family of 70 was diminished to just six survivors.

Brown was fortunate enough to receive sponsorship from relatives she had in America and move there. She arrived in America on September 17, 1946.

Sixteen years later, in 1962,



Brown was reunited with her brother, Miklos.

Brown asks you to remember three things: "Always protect your freedom, think before you hate and stand up to people who try and say that these things never happen. Once you have heard the story of a survivor, you also become a witness of history."

Brown will be speaking to Drake students, faculty and community

members on April 7 at 7 p.m. The event will take place in Levitt Hall, located in Old Main building on Drake's campus. Though the event is free, donations are welcomed and appreciated.

Before the event, Drake University Hillel students will have the opportunity to meet with Brown personally.

Photos Courtesy of Magda Brown



## Best wishes for a Happy Passover

Bruce Sherman  
Dave Lettween and families



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## Hillel House in Need of Renovations

The Drake Hillel House is a great place for Jewish students to hangout and do homework, laundry and cook. Since the house opened to students in 2014, it has been used for Shabbat Dinners, holiday gatherings, movie nights and so much more. It also serves as a safe space on campus for Jewish and non-Jewish students alike.

It is important that the house continues to be a place for students to go for different activities, but there are a few things that need to be fixed. In the basement, there is a foundational wall that is in great need of repair and allows pests and rodents in. Water damage

surrounds the chimney on the outside and inside of the house.

Inside the house, there is some electric that needs updating and the house could benefit from a fresh coat of paint throughout. The cost of making these repairs and others have been estimated to be in the range of \$60,000 to \$80,000.

In order complete these necessary repairs to the house, we are in need of generous donations from our community. The Drake Hillel House is a staple for Jewish students on Drake's campus and these repairs are essential when ensuring it's future for students.

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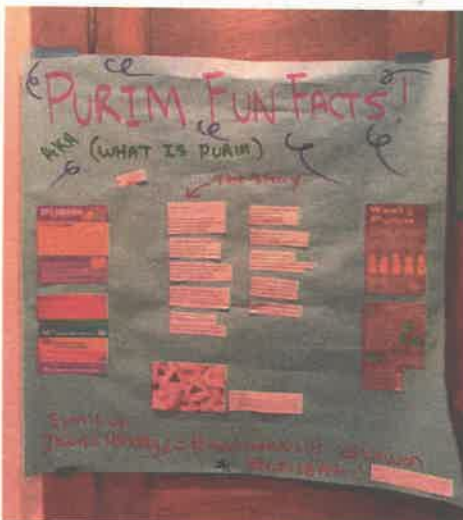




# Purim Carnival at Hillel Brings Students From All Backgrounds

On Friday, March 3, Drake University Hillel hosted a Purim carnival for all of the Drake Community. Around 40 people were in attendance and the night was full of fun activities. The house was filled with Israeli music and the smell of Hamantaschen. Upstairs, students played a memory game and participated in Purim trivia. Following in Purim tradition of dressing up, there was also a mask decorating station and a photo booth.

Photos by Samantha Ohlson



## Drake University First Year Spends Winter Break on Hasbara Fellowship Program

Rebecca Perl  
Drake University

Ever since I left Israel last May, I have been dying to get back. I decided to spend my winter break in Israel on a program called Hasbara Fellowships. I was a bit hesitant at first because I wouldn't know anyone on the program, but I decided to go anyway. Less than two hours before my flight departed from Milwaukee, I hastily packed my bag and set off for the airport.

After a 12-hour flight, with very little sleep due to extreme excitement (I was bouncing in my seat like a small child at Disney for the first time for about half the flight), we got off the plane and the adventures began. After a dinner that I barely remember and orientation, I found myself standing in the cold Jerusalem air, the Western Wall in front of me. As cliché as it is, I prayed Ma'ariv (the evening service) with tears in my eyes. I was back in my favorite place in the entire world, surrounded by people from all around the world and it was a beautiful feeling.

The next morning, we took a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem. I had been to the Old City plenty of times last year, mostly just getting lost in the long, stone alleyways and hurrying out in fear of another terrorist attack, but this time was different. This time, there was no tension in the air. This time, I

got to explore all of the Old City's historical quarters. I drank strong, Arab coffee right next to the entrance to the Temple Mount that I glanced at through a green door. I went into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre among devout Catholics and tourists. I ate kosher shwarma sold by a young, energetic Jewish man.

For once, I actually liked the Old City. I wasn't afraid.

The next day, we traveled north to Haifa and toured RamBam Hospital where the parking structure can turn into an underground, fully functioning hospital in 72 hours and where they treat Syrian refugees. Later in the week, we went ATVing on the Syrian border (I drove, it was an adventure to say the least) and learned about the situation in Syria, Lebanon and the Middle East as a whole. After a beautiful Shabbat in Tzfat and some time spent learning different Israel advocacy tools in Tel Aviv, we headed back to Jerusalem to learn, hear speakers and eventually, go to Rowabi.

I had never heard of Rowabi until a few days before we went, but it truly is an incredible place. It's the first planned Palestinian city in the West Bank. They are building 20 neighborhoods, have a Cambridge accredited school and an amazing entertainment area. While they have faced many challenges, I believe it is a step in the right

direction towards Palestinian sovereignty and peace.

A few days later, I hopped on a Segway for the first time and Segwayed down the Haas Promenade where a terrorist attack took place a few days later. When I heard about the attack and where it happened, I was angry. I thought I was in a different Jerusalem than I had been in last year.

I pray that one day we will live in a world where Israel can be at peace with its neighbors and I will continue to fight for that peace.

After a beautiful Shabbat spent in Jerusalem, praying Kabbalat Shabbat in the Western Wall tunnels with incredible women, it was time to part from the group. While they were going back to New York, I was staying an extra few weeks to see my family and my best friend who made Aliyah and will be drafting to the IDF in August.

Getting back on the plane to the US, I was heartbroken, but I know I'll be back to Israel in no time. This trip was one for the books, full of incredible learning experiences and adventures.

Perl with members of the fellowship program and on a Segway tour. | Photos Courtesy of Rebecca Perl





# Treasure Hunts Make Learning History at the Museum Fun

Studying history can get a bad rap—especially when it's a required subject and you're trying to remember things that happened more than 100 years ago. But teaching and learning history can be fun for students of all ages with innovative tools.

For the past several years, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society has used "Treasure Hunts" to teach students from kindergarten through middle school, as well as their parents and teachers, interesting details about the history of the Jewish people in Iowa.

For younger students, the "treasure" search can be as simple as looking at the picture of the artifact, searching through the

exhibits, circling the picture of the artifact when they find it, and having one of their teachers or museum staff members tell them more about the item. The search is fun and the room frequently resounds with cheers as students help each other find the special artifacts.

For older students, the lessons go deeper—not only finding the artifact but reading about it in the exhibit and answering questions about it, its use, and how it relates to the history of the Jewish people in Iowa. "Who is this person? What is his importance to Jewish and Iowa history?" "This plaque hung outside what former Des Moines Jewish institution? When did it open?"

The goal is to make the history of the Jewish people in Iowa interesting and memorable—and we see the results when students return with their parents, grab their hands, lead them to one of the cases, and tell them what they've learned.

The next time you're at the museum, pick up a Treasure Hunt and see if you can find all the answers!



## Memberships Preserve Heritage

The artifacts, photos, manuscripts and other treasures that the Iowa Jewish Historical Society collects and preserves are out history. They are the irreplaceable record of the accomplishments and personal stories of Jews in Iowa.

Become a member of the Historical Society by joining on-line at [www.ijhs.online](http://www.ijhs.online), or complete the form below.

Your annual membership to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society will help preserve the history and irreplaceable treasures of the Jewish people of Iowa!

As we celebrate nearly 200 years of Jewish life in Iowa, your support of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society can make a very real difference. Without your help and financial support, the stories of Jewish life in Iowa and

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PAYMENT:

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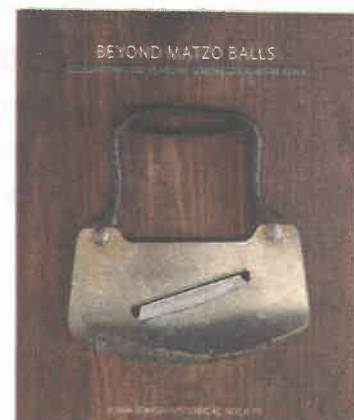
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33158 Ute Ave  
Waukegan, IA 50263

Proceeds from the sale of this book will be used for the preservation and education activities of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. Thank you.





## Support The Iowa Jewish Historical Society



Iowa Jewish Historical Society

est. 1996

*The Jewish community in Iowa has built a gem on the prairie. Now it's time to build on this success and make it even better.*

Our 20th Anniversary Fund Drive will help the IJHS:

- **OPEN** our doors on a more regular schedule to reach out and welcome more students and visitors of all ages;
- **FIND** new ways to share our history with people in our state and around the world; and
- **ENSURE** that the artifacts that we have already collected and those that are donated in the future will be taken care of so that future visitors can see the real objects that were used and valued by the generations that came before them.

In these challenging times, it is so important that we make even greater efforts to save our history, in our home communities and statewide, reflecting on our life experiences and displaying our contributions to Iowa and our nation.

*Your gift can make all of this happen!*

*Help preserve our precious heritage and share it with the world.*

*Iowa Jewish Historical Society  
...how beautiful is our heritage  
Campaign*

*I am pleased to support the Iowa Jewish  
Historical Society with a gift of:*

\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 Other \_\_\_

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as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like the gift to be:*

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for Making a Difference!*

## JRC Passover Services Schedule

**Sunday, April 9, 2017**

Formal search for Chametz after  
nightfall

**Monday, April 10, 2017**

*Fast of the First Born*

Eat Chametz before 10:59 am

Burn Chametz before 12:00 Noon

*1st Seder Night*

Light Candles at 7:33 pm

Evening Services: 7:30 pm

Community Seder: 8:00 pm

**Tuesday, April 11, 2017**

*1st Day of Passover*

Morning Services: 10:00 am

Evening Services: 8:36 pm

*2nd Seder Night*

Light Candles\* after 8:36 pm

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017**

*2nd Day of Passover*

Morning Services: 10:00 am

Evening Services: 7:30 pm

Holiday Ends at 8:37 pm

**Friday, April 14, 2017**

Light Shabbat Candles at 7:38 pm

Evening Services at 7:30 pm

**Saturday, April 15, 2017**

Morning Services: 10:00 am

Evening Services: 7:30 pm

Shabbat Ends at 8:41 pm

**Sunday, April 16, 2017**

Light Candles at 7:40 pm

Evening Services at 7:45 pm

**Monday, April 17, 2017**

*Seventh Day of Passover*

Morning Services at 10:00 am

Evening Services at 7:45 pm

Light Candles\* after 8:43 pm

**Tuesday, April 18, 2017**

*Final Day of Passover*

Morning Services at 10:00 am

Yizkor Memorial Service 11:00 am

Evening Services at 7:00 pm

Meal of Moshiah 7:15 pm

Passover Ends at 8:45 pm

*\* Light only from a preexisting  
flame.*

**Pesach Sheini:** May 10, 2017

Second chances are always needed,  
take another bite of Matzah.

**Lag B'Omer:** May 14, 2017

Celebrate Jewish Pride & Unity with  
the JRC.

**Shavuot:** May 31, 2017

Come hear the 10 Commandments  
and enjoy a Dairy Kiddush and Ice  
Cream Party!

Services start at 10:00am Hear  
the 10 commandments at 11:00am  
followed by the Dairy Kiddush.

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Moines IA 50312

## If it has to do with Passover, you'll find it at Maccabee's.

You won't find a lonely shelf of Passover foods here. You'll find a store full of everything for the holiday — from a selection of Israeli wines to matzahs of every shape and flavor, the highest quality glattkosher meats to ready-to-eat kosher for Passover foods, the candies you remember from your childhood to ingredients for making all your holiday favorites. There's no place like Maccabee Deli for this holiday season!

### PASSOVER HOURS:

Sunday April 9: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday April 10: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday/Wednesday April 11/12: **CLOSED FOR PASSOVER**

Thursday/Friday April 13/14 11:00am to 2:00pm

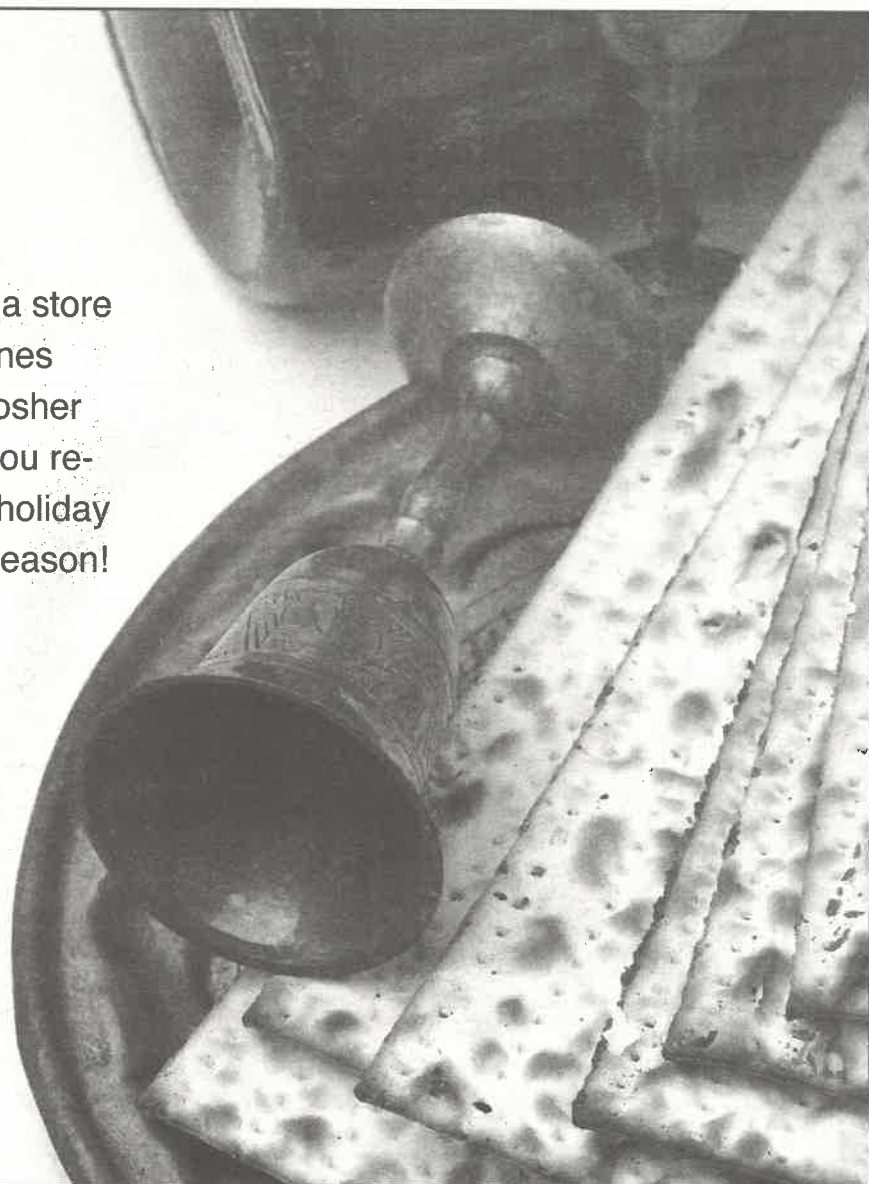
Sunday April 16: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday/Tuesday April 17/18: **CLOSED FOR PASSOVER**

Wednesday April 19: Regular hours - 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

# Maccabee Deli

1150 Polk Blvd • Des Moines, IA | 515.277.1718







## Passover Seder

Temple B'nai Jeshurun's congregational first night Seder will be held on Monday, April 10 at 6:30 p.m., with a brief Erev Passover Service at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are required. Please RSVP to the Temple office at (515) 274-4679 or office@templebnaijeshurun.com by April 3. The cost is \$30 per person, Children 6-12 \$7, Under 6 free. We are limiting the number of non-Temple members so ensure we have enough room for all of our members, so please RSVP as soon as possible! Yizkor for Passover will take place on Saturday, April 15, at 10:00 a.m.

**Adult Education 7:00-8:30 p.m.**  
March 23 Jewish Views of the Afterlife

March 30 Messiahs and the Messianic Age

April 6 Passover

April 13 Angels in the Jewish Tradition

April 20 Mysticism and Kabbalah

April 27 Zionism and Israel

May 4 Reform Judaism



## Coming Soon A Weekend with Ron Wolfson April 7 - 9

Join us as Ron Wolfson, inspirational author and favorite teacher, brings his warmth, insight and humor to Temple B'nai Jeshurun



"He is so engaging that you can't help but sit at the edge of your seat to hear what he has to say"

### Save the Date Now:

**Friday, April 7:** Dr. Wolfson will speak during and after services with an Oneg

**Saturday, April 8:** Lively Discussion - breakfast provided: "The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven"

**Sunday, April 9:** Presentation - breakfast provided: "The Best Boy in the United States" based on his book emphasizing Jewish family, community, and connections

## Ron Wolfson Scholar-in-Residence



Temple B'nai Jeshurun is delighted to bring Dr. Ron Wolfson, visionary educator and inspirational speaker, to Des Moines the weekend of April 7th - 9th 2017 as our Scholar-In-Residence. This is open to the entire Jewish community.

He will be speaking Friday night at Temple B'nai Jeshurun at 7:45 after Family Services and Shabbat Dinner. Saturday morning, he will talk about "The Seven Questions You're asked in Heaven" at 10:00 AM at the Temple Social Hall and a light breakfast will be provided. Sunday morning he will speak at CASPE Terrace from 9:15 - 10:15. That presentation will be "The Best Boy in the USA" and presents several insights and humor from his latest book. He will be available to meet and answer questions afterward.

Dr. Ron Wolfson, is a visionary leader of American Jewry and a beloved and inspirational speaker on Spirituality and Jewish life. He travels the world telling "true stories" to audiences in synagogues, churches and community organizations.

Ron Wolfson's interest in synagogues dates back to his involvement in a Conservative congregation, Beth El, in his home town of Omaha, Nebraska. Over the course of his career, he has visited hundreds of synagogues across North America and beyond as a consultant, teacher, and scholar-in-residence. He is co-founder, with Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman, of Synagogue 2000 and is currently president of Synagogue 3000, an initiative designed to empower congregations and communities to create synagogues that are sacred and vital centers of Jewish life.

Wolfson has taught since 1975 at American Jewish University (AJU), where he is now a Fingerhut Professor of Education for the

### Local Congregation Information

Graduate Center for Education. During his career at AJU, he has served as director of the Education Department, founding director of the Whizin Center for the Jewish Future, director of the Ramah Academy, dean of the Fingerhut School of Education, and special assistant to the president and vice president of the university. A pioneer in the field of Jewish family education, Wolfson is a member of the Consortium for the Jewish Family.

He is the author of many books on Jewish living, education, and institutional transformation, including Hanukkah, Passover and Shabbat, all family guides to spiritual celebration; *The Spirituality of Welcoming: How to Transform your congregation into a Sacred Community and Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife Susie, and eats frozen yogurt just about every day.

Babysitting will be available at the Temple on Friday night and Saturday morning during the talks. If you plan to use this service, please RSVP to the Temple office at 515.274.4679

Other Books by Dr. Ron Wolfson:

*God's To-Do List: 103 Ways to Be an Angel and Do God's Work on Earth*

*Be Like God: God's To-Do List for Kids*

*The Seven Questions You're Asked in Heaven: Reviewing and Renewing Life on Earth*

*What You Will See Inside a Synagogue (co-authored with Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman)*

*A Time to Mourn, a Time to Comfort 2nd Edition: A Guide to Jewish Bereavement*

*The Best Boy in the United States of America: A Memoir of Blessings*

Audrey Porter  
Temple B'nai Jeshurun



## Local Congregation Information



### Passover Schedule 5777 | 2017

Monday, April 10, 2017

Erev Pesach / Ta'anit Bekhorim  
(Fast of the Firstborn)

7:30am — Study session with Rabbi  
Edelman-Blank (Conference Room)

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

First Day Pesach

9:30am — Pesach Morning Services

6:30pm — Tifereth Community  
Second Night Seder (Social Hall)

Begin counting Omer at Second  
Night Seder

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Second Day Pesach

9:30am — Pesach Morning Services

Friday, April 14, 2017

6:00pm — Shabbat Evening Services

Saturday, April 15, 2017

9:30am — Shabbat Morning  
Services

Sunday, April 16, 2017

6:00pm — Women's League

Passover Lasagna Dinner

Monday, April 17, 2017

Seventh Day Pesach

9:30am — Pesach Morning Services

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Eighth Day Pesach

9:30am — Pesach Morning Services  
/ Yizkor Service

### March 2017 Special Events

Saturday, March 25th 10:30am:  
Tot Shabbat & Junior Congregation

Sunday, March 26th 12:30pm:  
Tifereth Art Club

Sunday, March 26th 1:30pm:  
Garden Planning Meeting

Sunday, March 26th 3:00pm:  
Confirmation Class

### April 2017 Special Events

Sunday, April 2nd 3:00pm:  
Confirmation Class

Friday, April 7th 6:00pm:  
Mishpacha Shabbat

Tuesday, April 11th 9:30am:  
Passover Morning Services

Tuesday, April 11th 6:30pm:  
Tifereth's Community Second Night  
Seder

Wednesday, April 12th 9:30am:  
Passover Morning Services

Sunday, April 16th 6:30pm:  
Women's League Passover Lasagna  
Dinner

Monday, April 17th 9:30am:  
Passover Morning Service

Tuesday, April 18th 9:30am:  
Passover Morning Service / Yizkor  
Service

Friday, April 21st 6:00pm:  
Acoustic Shabbat

Sunday, April 23rd 3:00pm:  
Confirmation Class

Saturday, April 29th 10:30am:  
Tot Shabbat & Junior Congregation

### May 2017 Special Events

Sunday, May 7th 10:30am: TIS 5K,  
Fun Run/Walk, YAD Cookout

Sunday, May 7th 3:00pm:

Confirmation Class

Sunday, May 14th 3:00pm:  
Confirmation Class

Friday, May 19th 6:00pm:  
Confirmation Service, followed by  
dinner

Saturday, May 20th 10:30am: Tot  
Shabbat & Junior Congregation

Wednesday, May 24th 6:00pm:  
Women's League Dinner & Fashion  
Show

Saturday, May 27th 9:30am:  
Bat Mitzvah — Madelyn Blair

### June 2017 Special Events

Tuesday, May 30th 8:00pm:  
Tikun Leyl Shavuot

Wednesday, May 31st 9:30am:  
Shavuot Morning Service

Thursday, June 1st 9:30am:  
Shavuot Morning Service / Yizkor  
Service

Sunday, June 25th - Friday, June  
30th Arts & Heirloom Sale

### Adult Education

Miller Introduction to Judaism  
Program, Rabbi Edelman-Blank:  
Contact the Tifereth office for more  
information 515-255-1137

Spirituality Study and Discussion  
Group, Patrick Courtney:  
Saturdays after Shabbat Cafe  
12:30pm

S.T.E.P. (Sunday Torah Education  
Program) Michael Kuperman:  
Sundays at 10:00am

Adult Hebrew for Beginners —  
Patrick Courtney Sundays at  
3:00pm



drake  
hillel

## Drake Hillel's Community Seder

Everyone, Jewish or not, and those from Iowa State  
and Grinnell are invited to spend the first night of  
Passover together here at Drake.

**When: Monday April 10, 6 p.m.**

**Where: Levitt Hall, Old Main  
on Drake's Campus**

**Adult Entrance/Food Fee \$30**

**Student Entrance/Food Fee \$15**

**RSVP to [rebecca.pearl@drake.edu](mailto:rebecca.pearl@drake.edu)**

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# AMES JEWISH CONGREGATION



## Hesed: A Path to Freedom

Rabbi Robin Damsky  
Ames Jewish Congregation

It is February and last Shabbat we read the Song of the Sea, celebrating our freedom from Pharaoh and a life of slavery. While it seems a bit early to be writing for Pesach, perhaps last Shabbat is the perfect segue. It is as if these weeks leading up to Passover find their preamble in our Torah readings, leading us through the difficulties of slavery through to our freedom and our acceptance of God's commandments. But it doesn't end there. The text moves us through to the early buildings of our civil society as a people, a society based on freedom, yet acknowledging the laws of ethics that a healthy free society must embody.

This brings me to the haggadah. It is not just a mere recounting of the days of our ancestors, nor simply our command to retell as if we, too, were slaves in Egypt. There are many spiritual lessons for us in its words. One haggadah replete with spiritual teachings is, *Wellsprings of Freedom: The Renew Our Days Haggadah*, by

Rabbi Ronald Aigen. Text after text in this haggadah is explicated by one of our masters to give us a practice; a spiritual path for this holy time of Pesach. And in keeping with where we sit this February as well as where we will have our attention as we sit around our Seder tables this April, I was captured by the following teaching on a verse from the Maggid: "We cried out to Adonai, the Everpresent, the God of our ancestors; and Adonai, the Compassionate One heard our plea and saw our suffering, our misery and our oppression," (Deuteronomy 26:7).

Aharon Shmuel Tamares (1869-1931), a rabbi living in post-World War I Russia, was concerned with violence, and felt that Judaism was a path to peace. He says of this verse's words: "our oppression:"

Both individuals and entire peoples must order their lives on the basis of the saying recorded in the Talmud: 'A person should concern him [herself] more that he not injure others than the he not be injured,' (Tosefot Bava Kama). ...When one is constantly seeing only scenes of terror, when one asserts that everyone wants to

obliterate him and that he can rely only on the power of his own fist, he undermines the reign of truth and justice. And in the end, the earth becomes filled with violence and oppression.

I find this to be a particularly poignant teaching right now, and while I hope it will be less poignant when this article is released, there may still be value in its words. How many of us feel fear? Probably all of us. How many of us take our fear and then project it onto someone or something outside of us? The greater our fear, the bigger our concern that we will be injured. And so we take protective measures to ensure that others can't hurt us. We separate them out, with borders and boundaries, laws and judgments, and bring violence, whether to the heart or the body of another.

Where is the soul of this teaching in our lives? How can we reframe the daily discourse and our place in it by simply cultivating our intention to not injure others? Rabbi Aharon tells us, "It is precisely this principle that will defend [one] against injury by others." In choosing to make Rabbi Aharon's words into a practice, we first affirm our faith: in good, in God. That enables us to feel more safety. In so doing, those we touch will likely feel that safety as well. The ripple might spread so that as a populace we'd feel less fear, and in its place, greater love and appreciation. We would see more people acting out of their desire to

### Local Congregation Information

care for others rather than from a reactive fear of them.

Passover's intention is profound. It provides the opportunity for us to evaluate our behaviors and the values that precipitate them in so many ways: how do we feel enslaved, how do we enslave others, how do we enslave ourselves? These are just a few of the very powerful concerns that Passover brings forward for us. Rabbi Aharon offers us another. In this time where it seems we run the potential to be overcome by fear, we are missing Rabbi Aharon's message – we have taken our attention off of how we are to care for and treat others with hesed – lovingkindness – and have become absorbed, maybe even obsessed, with worry about how they may potentially be harmfully treating us. Notice the operative word "may." We often don't even know if the potential for injury exists, yet we imagine it. How enslaving a life path this is!

May we find true freedom this Pesach, not just for ourselves but for those we love. And not just for those we love, but for those whom we have never met, and even for those whom we fear or don't understand. May we all find the freedom that springs from treating others with the deepest care and respect. And may Elijah's vision of peace and wholeness grace us as a result.

A sweet, loving Pesach to you,  
Rabbi Robin Damsky

## Looking Ahead at What's to Come

### Sunday Morning Discussion Group

Our monthly Sunday morning discussion group has been meeting since January, and those attending have enjoyed the discussions. Some of the topics have included "Christmastime for Jews" and "Welcoming Immigrants: A Jewish Imperative?" The topic for each month is generally decided on about a week or two in advance so that it is relevant to what is happening around us; suggestions are welcome. The group is open to anyone in the Jewish community, and no advanced registration is required. The next two dates we are meeting are Sunday, March 26 and Sunday, April 16—both at 10:00 a.m. at the Ames Jewish Congregation. If you would like to receive announcements about this discussion group and other upcoming events at the Ames Jewish Congregation, please send an email indicating this to [AJCIowa.org](mailto:AJCIowa.org)

Spring 2017

### Yom HaShoah

An Interfaith Yom HaShoah service will be held Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m. at the Ames Jewish Congregation.

### Shabbat Service schedule

Rabbi visit weekends will be April 7-9 and May 19-21 and will have the following schedule:  
Friday evening  
8:00 p.m. – Shabbat services; oneg following  
Saturday  
10:00 a.m. – Shabbat morning services with Torah Study  
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. – Adult education (topic to be announced)  
Sunday  
10:00 a.m. – Family service

Lay-led Shabbat services are scheduled to be held weekly throughout April and May, ending the weekend before Memorial Day weekend (see [www.AJCIowa.org](http://www.AJCIowa.org) for specific dates and times).

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# Community Report: Winter 2016-2017

## Jewish Family Services and Outreach

Jan 12 – Senior Luncheon was held at Temple B’nai Jeshurun. The presentation covered a variety of living options for seniors – nursing care, assisted living, and independent apartment living. A lot of good information was shared. We were glad to see some people attending the lunch who do not usually join us!

Feb 9 – Tifereth Israel Synagogue hosted the senior luncheon and Donna Morgan led us in yoga. This was a great opportunity to do some stretching and reconnect with friends.

JFS donated \$5,000 to Des Moines Area Religious Council. These funds are used to stock the food pantries across central Iowa and assist families who struggle to have enough food.

JFS, Gan Shalom, and Beit Sefer Shalom partnered with the Des Moines Area Religious Council for “foodies in training”. This program, which will be located at the Drake and Johnston food pantries, will provide nutrition education for children of families accessing the food pantry. Gan Shalom and Beit Sefer Shalom held a book drive so each child can receive a book and tote bag when they visit the food pantry.



## Jewish Community Relations Commission

Conversed with a variety of law enforcement authorities regarding precautions to protect the Jewish community, in light of the current wave of antisemitism.

Broadened the tasks of the Committee on Antisemitism to include advocacy to bolster government response to antisemitism, participated in an interfaith group convened to contend against bigotry and antisemitism, and publicized a lecture about modern antisemitism conducted by Rabbi Kaufman.

Was interviewed by a Public Radio affiliate about the Iowa Holocaust Memorial and the work of the Iowa Council for Holocaust Education.

Participated along with the ADL in a Department of Justice program about hate crimes.

The JCRC Outreach Committee presented a program on racial disparities in justice in Iowa. Participated in interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue.

The JCRC Disabilities Advocacy Committee presented a program with Susan Osby, Executive Director of Polk County Health Services on services for people with disabilities and related funding issues.

Presented a talk about Judaism for the Adult Education Class at a local, mainline church.

## Iowa Jewish Historical Society

The IJHS has been working closely with Beth El Jacob in preserving historic artifacts from the synagogue. The memorial boards are staying with the congregation. They have been put in a gated and locked storage facility temporarily. The memorial tablets from the Children of Israel synagogue are being donated to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. They, too, were carefully taken down, wrapped, and are stored with the Beth El Jacob memorial boards while we rearrange our storage areas to receive them. Numerous other historic artifacts have been donated to the Historical Society.

In addition, Collections Manager Sarah Carlson and Federation IT Director David Copeland did video and still photography of the memorial boards so we will have a record of the names while the boards are in storage. They also photographed the interiors and exterior of the synagogue and the exterior of the Rabbi's residence for a historical record.

The IJHS fund drive to secure the financial future of the Historical Society and to raise money for numerous special projects continues. We are very grateful for the \$30,000 in pledges and gifts we received in December and January look forward to raising the additional funds needed to reach our goal of \$1.5 million.

In February, the IJHS welcomed more than 80 Beit Sefer Shalom students for the History Through the Arts program. In March and April, IJHS will host several groups of students from Van Meter who will be studying the Holocaust and a Questors group for a general tour of the museum.

The IJHS continues to host researchers looking for unique information and items in our collections. One recent researcher is writing a book on Joe Rosenfield; another listened to oral interviews with several Holocaust Survivors.





## Education

### **Beit Sefer Shalom**

Beit Sefer Shalom students led Friday night services at Tifereth Israel Synagogue on January 27th

History Through the Arts was enjoyed by BSS students in February. A special thank you to Bev Ellis, Abe Goldstein and Laura Sparks for their support again this year

Tu B' Shevat was celebrated at Caspe Terrace on February 12th. JNF led a special lesson for all Beit Sefer Shalom students

Madrichim toured community members through Caspe Terrace on February 19th

Beit Sefer Shalom students celebrated Purim on March 5th

### **Engman Camp Shalom**

Engman Camp Shalom 2017 registration opened on January 29th with a fun party at Caspe

Spring Break Camp at Caspe Terrace welcomed children from March 13-17

Engman Camp Shalom will offer 10 incredible weeks of camp this summer from June 12 –August 18

### **Gan Shalom**

Gan Shalom and the Jewish Family Services Book Drive. Donated children books will be distributed at DMARC food pantry locations as a part of the 'Foodies in Training' project. Towels and blankets were collected from Gan Shalom families for the Animal Rescue League.

Gan Shalom Summer Camp on-line registration is open at <https://goo.gl/TR3C3U>. Gan Shalom will run an eleven week camp from June 5, 2017- August 19, 2017. We are planning for another fun summer at Caspe Terrace. For further information contact Anissa Deay at [Anissa@dmjfed.org](mailto:Anissa@dmjfed.org) or (515) 987-0899 x 233.

Gan Shalom is excited to open registration for the 2017-2018 school year. For further information contact Anissa Deay at [Anissa@dmjfed.org](mailto:Anissa@dmjfed.org) or (515) 987-0899 x 233.

## Powerful Partnership

"By partnering with the Community Foundation and the Jewish Federation we are able to provide scholarships for our community's students, while growing this support for future learners."

Margo & Don Blumenthal



### **Better together and better forever.**

The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines is proud to work alongside the Jewish Federation to provide unique tax-wise giving opportunities that provide sustainable support for generations to come.

**Join us in exploring the possibilities.**

To learn more about how we can partner visit [www.desmoinesfoundation.org](http://www.desmoinesfoundation.org) or call 515-883-2626.



# Mazel Tov to Our Upcoming Bar and Bat Mitzvahs



**Madelyn Blair** is a 7th grader at Waukee Middle School where she is a member of Ambassadors and show choir. She is also involved in competitive gymnastics. For her mitzvah project, she has volunteered at Meals for the Heartland and fund-raised for the JDRF One Walk. Maddie, daughter of Mark and Paige Blair, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at **Tifereth Israel Synagogue on Saturday, May 27, 2017 at 9:30am.** A Kiddush luncheon will follow the service.



Jeremy and Danna Pins are proud to announce that their son, **Noah William Pins**, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.** A Kiddish luncheon will follow the service.



**Ian Wilke-Shapiro**, son of Steve and Rachel, will become a Bar Mitzvah on **Saturday, June 24, 2017 at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.**

Ian is in seventh grade at Cowles Montessori in Des Moines. He is a member of the trumpet section in the middle school band and plays soccer with the Menace Academy. For his mitzvah project, Ian organized a food drive to benefit the DMARC food pantry.

The community is cordially invited to share in our celebration at the Saturday morning service and luncheon to follow.



Sara and Matt Walsh are excited to announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son, **Aidan Alan William Walsh.** The community is cordially invited to join us for his service, followed by dinner, on the afternoon of **April 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.**



Amy and Jamie Flugge-Smith proudly announce that our son **Jayden Andrew Flugge-Smith** will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on **May 6, 2017 at 10:00 AM at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.** There will be a community Kiddush luncheon following the service. We look forward to sharing this special day with you!

## In Memoriam

Elaine Brooks  
Ruth Brenner  
Ronnie Wolf  
Sharon Rae Beecher  
Helen Lekowsky  
Janet Morse  
Maurice Bucksbaum  
Jerry Bassman

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# Keeping Klezmer Music Alive: An Enduring Tradition

Madeline Fialkov  
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Music is a fundamental part of the Jewish religion. During services, we sing melodies over the Hebrew prayers and psalms, or listen to the singing of the cantor. Of course, music also serves a distinct purpose when it comes to preserving the culture of our people. Abe Goldstien, one of the founders of the Des Moines Klezmer group, the Java Jews, shared insight on the influence and importance of Klezmer music overtime.

Klezmer is estimated by some to have appeared as early as the fifteenth century, but was not held in high regard until the 19th century. It evolved from the styles of various Eastern European countries, but is most notable due to the old-world, wavering, vocal melodies of the clarinet or violin meant to imitate a cantor. Goldstien describes Klezmer as the music of wandering Jews. Indeed, the Klezmerim traveled from South-Eastern Europe. Near what was at the time the Ottoman Empire, to areas further North and West, such as those we now know as Lithuania, Russia, and Poland. Beginning in the late 1800s, Klezmer came to North America along with the many Jewish immigrants from those areas.

Passed down from parent to child, Klezmer retained its

prominence in Jewish heritage, but became less distinct as it was absorbed into the mainstream American music scene. Jazz musicians such as Benny Goodman incorporated Klezmer influences into the popular Swing music of the day. It was not until the Holocaust that Klezmer suffered a great decline. The style of Klezmer was kept alive by the constant movement of Jews from place to place, but the Holocaust nearly wiped it out altogether by eliminating the steady flow of Ashkenazim to the United States.

But all was not lost; in a display of the resilience of Jewish culture, Klezmer experienced a revival beginning in the 1970s. Second generation Jewish-Americans rediscovered the music of their past, recreating traditional melodies, or reinventing them altogether to modernize the genre. Goldstien recounts the resurgence during the 1980s as influential to his own participation in the musical art form.

Those who had grown up in Yiddish homes were reminded of their childhood, while those who hadn't were captivated by the unique feel. For Goldstien, "It's about the fun of sharing [Klezmer], and the experience and joy of playing." He also emphasizes the importance of playing Klezmer with liveliness, saying, "I choose to be

sloppy and joyful, because that's the Yiddish way. I mean, you have to do it with chutzpa. Chutzpa means you do it with spirit, with joy, and with laughter."

Will Klezmer remain a pillar of the Jewish culture? Abe Goldstein believes so, noting the various adaptations of Klezmer music that continue its evolution while hanging on to the features that tie it to its Eastern-European origin. The art form has overtime been used in traditional weddings, for overall entertainment, and as a link between the Jewish youth and their ancestors several generations prior.

But above all, it is a symbol for the perseverance of the Jewish race, and their unrelenting pursuit of joy. Listening to the music, one feels a sense of closeness to their heritage, no matter how distant it may be.

"It's funny, we'll play for senior citizens in other towns, and when we come up and play, there will be 90 or 100 year-olds with tears in their eyes, who haven't heard this music since they were little kids. And those that have never heard it, their eyes kind of light up... That's the power of music."



**Abe Goldstein and Laura Sparks, Temple B'nai Jeshurun Cantorial Soloist, performing Yiddish songs for the students during History Through the Arts Day. | Photo Sophie Homonoff**

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