



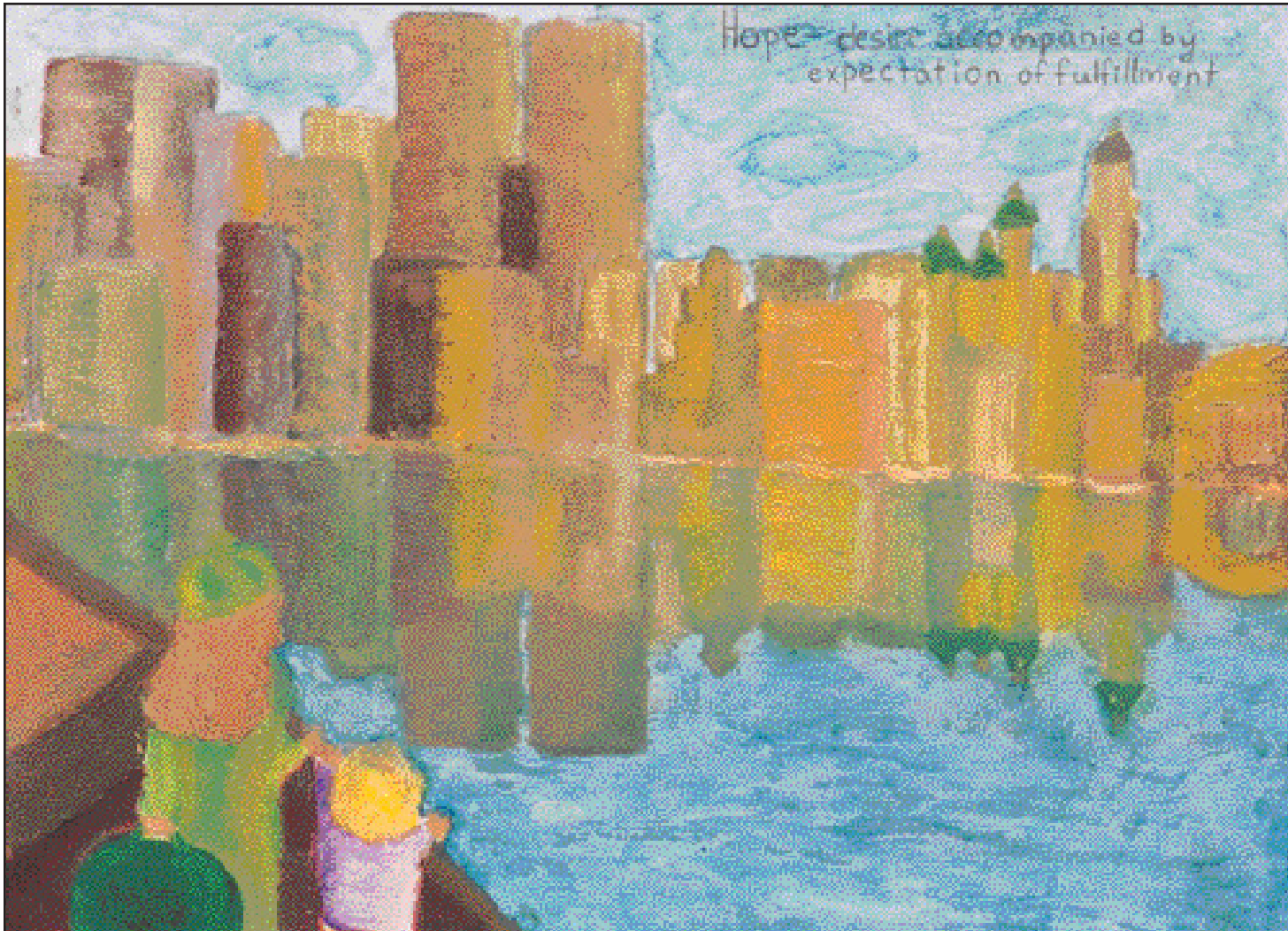
TEVET/SHEVAT 5764 JANUARY/FEBRUARY **04**

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish Press

Published as a Community Service by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

volume 20 number 4



From the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society's calendar for 2004. Art work, above, by Valeria Mouchkaeva, age 11. Seeing New York made her think of all the opportunities available to her. Her inscription: "Hope -- desire accompanied by expectation of fulfillment."

Third Annual

Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 1, at 5:00 PM

NEW THIS YEAR -

board games and mahjongg!

Fun for the whole family!

Good eats and beverages at a nominal cost. RSVP to dorothea@dmjfed.org or call 277-6321.

An Evening With Kolit Lohamei Hagetaot

**Tuesday, February 24, 7:00 PM
The Caspe Terrace**

From the famous Kibbutz and Holocaust Museum in our Des Moines/Israel Partnership 2000 region comes this talented and colorful performing group! A program for the whole family. Join us at The Caspe Terrace for this inspiring concert. For further information or for rides, call Federation at 277-

The All-In-One Telethon is coming!

Support essential Jewish services in your

Forward Editorial: Remembering Why We Give

The 2004 All-In-One Campaign is now in progress! Its goal is to provide you, your family, and other Jewish families with essential Jewish services, connecting us together in community. Recently, an editorial entitled "Remembering Why We Give," appeared in the Forward. Let me share it with you, to stimulate your thoughts and, hopefully, to inspire you to support your community fund with a gift commensurate with your means. On behalf of the many people who will benefit from your gift, let me thank you in advance for your generous pledge to the All-In-One.

—Polly Oxley, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

Admirers of Jewish philanthropy like to say that Jews are a generous community. It's a flattering thought, and considering the vast sums we donate to a dizzying array of causes, it's not far off the mark.

But generosity isn't really the point. Being generous means giving because you're a nice sort. We give because we have to, because we are members of a community and a

society and we have an obligation to those around us. It is called charity, but it's really about taxation. We're for it.

What that means isn't as easy to pin down these days as it was once. Our relationships to one another, to our society and to our traditions are changing faster than anyone can keep track of. It's time to sit down and take stock, if we still remember how.

Centuries ago, Jews lived in self-contained communities, walled off from our neighbors, speaking our own languages, following our own laws. We paid a tax to the community, which provided basic Jewish communal obligations such as education, food inspection and care for the poor and sick. The community also paid a collective tax to the local prince, who left us alone, if we were lucky.

Once we were permitted to leave the ghettos, we began living double lives. We paid taxes to our governments, and we also supported community institutions that provided the necessities a government didn't offer. Way back when, those extra services included

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With Israel, In Israel



Julie Howald (right) along with Federation President Polly

During the first part of November, I was fortunate enough to participate in the Central Region Consortium GA Mission in Israel. This was my first trip to Israel and it was truly a wonderful experience. My visit made me feel more connected to Israel and the Jewish faith. I also developed a better understanding of how our local community supports Israel through the Partnership 2000 initiative. And last but not least, I got to know other members of our greater Jewish community better. This combination made the trip a resounding success for me and I look forward to returning to Israel in the not too distant future with my husband and children.

Prior to my leaving and upon my return, the first question I'm always asked is "Were you worried about the violence?" I can honestly say that I wasn't concerned before I left and I never felt threatened when I was in Israel. Security was tight and I didn't venture into any marginal areas. Having seen the country, I would encourage everyone to visit Israel. It is a very tangible way of showing our support. It is a beautiful country – and the shopping was great!

While I was not concerned about my own personal safety while I was there, I do not want to minimize the situation in Israel. The threat of terrorism is real and appropriate precautions must be taken, but I think it is important that people visit Israel to get an understanding of the situation firsthand and to show support for democracy and peace. While I saw much beauty, there remains a backdrop of sadness and struggle.

Our trip included a visit to the Western Galilee where we spoke with people who have been directly helped by our local support. We toured the Western Galilee hospital and saw how our contributions are put to work assisting the sick. We also toured Akko and Rosh Hanikra – even posing for a snapshot at the Lebanese border. The spa at Safed was lovely and the food was delicious.

After touring the Western Galilee and the northern part of Israel, we returned to Jerusalem for the General Assembly. At an overlook we could take in all of Jerusalem, with its brilliant white stone. A truly awe-inspiring site – the reflection of the sun does make it appear as a city of gold! The General Assembly itself was informative and educational. Prime Minister Sharon spoke at the opening to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Perhaps the most exciting part of the General Assembly for me was a march through the streets of Jerusalem. Over 4,000 North American Jews paraded through the streets, showing our solidarity with the people of Israel. We also met with the widow of Moshe Dayan.

I was also able to meet with some of the Camp Shalom schlichim that have stayed in our home in Des Moines in the past. It was fun to catch up with these young Israelis and see them in their own country. A few of you may remember Chen, she accompanied us on the hike up Masada and on a visit to the Dead Sea. I was also able to see Erga and Ayelet.

Lastly, I must thank the Federation for helping plan the mission along with UJC Missions and our Partnership 2000 colleague federation in Omaha and for enabling me along with others to participate in this wonderful trip. The trip was truly inspirational for me and I am anxiously looking forward to my next trip to Israel. I hope you can join me "With Israel, In Israel"!

From the Women's Constituency

Lions and Pomegranate Luncheon Welcomes New Pomegranates

Each year, the new Pomegranates, a division of our women's All-In-One Campaign, met for a superb luncheon at the home of Shelley Brody. Seventeen women were in attendance, who have gained the recognition of either a Lion of Judah or a Pomegranate by attaining the level of giving required by these divisions.

Pam Bookey, a Lion of Judah, who has shown her continued commitment to the general community and specifically her synagogue and the Jewish Federation, was the afternoon's speaker. Pam spoke on "Why Des Moines?"

When there are so many enticing places to live and to contribute to, why has Pam chosen Des Moines to be the recipient of her time, attention and resources? After some very thoughtful remarks by Pam, an interesting and provocative discussion ensued about the atmosphere in Des Moines with regard to anti-semitism and other issues of importance.

To date for the year 2004, the women's campaign welcomes the following new Pomegranates: Annette Isaacson, Barbara Hirsh Giller, Julie Howald, Rita Loeb, Elana Schneider and Ayseann Galinsky.

The afternoon was most successful and the women look forward to future

Lions of Judah

Margo Blumenthal
Pam Bookey
Shelley Brody
Dorothy Bucksbaum
Bernice Caspe
Suzanne Engman

Debbie Gitchell
Marilyn Hurwitz
Jeanne Levitt
Maddie Levitt
Gail Richards
Elaine Steinger
* Toni Urban

* Lion of Judah Endowment

Pomegranates

Sarah Christiansen
Dorothy Hockenberg
Irina Kaplan
Dorothy Kirsner
Linda Cohen Levin
Cyril Mandelbaum
Ingrid Mazie
Naomi Mercer
Evelyn Mintzer
Miriam Mintzer
Polly Oxley
Mary Jo Pomerantz
Marcia Salem
Mary Seidler
Marina Staroselsky

THE SIX EASY WAYS TO CREATE A LOJE

(LION OF JUDAH ENDOWMENT)

You Can Be a Philanthropist with No Money Down ...

1. WILL BEQUEST OR TRUST PROVISION

You might consider creating a bequest in your will or adding a provision in your trust for a minimum of \$100,000 to the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. The Federation can provide you with sample language for your attorney's review.

2. GRANT FROM YOUR PRIVATE FOUNDATION OR PUBLIC SUPPORT

FOUNDATION Make a grant of at least \$100,000 from your private family foundation or public support foundation. Grants can be established during your lifetime or after your death.

3. IRA/PENSION PLAN

Establish an endowment by naming the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines as the beneficiary on an existing IRA or other pension plan worth a minimum of \$100,000. If you are in reasonably good health or insurable, you can ensure that money is not diverted from family members by using the required distributions from retirement accounts to purchase a life insurance policy. Life insurance policy benefits are paid tax free - so your family will actually receive more money than through a retirement plan.

4. LIFE INSURANCE

You could name the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines as the beneficiary on an existing life insurance policy you no longer need, or purchase a new life insurance policy for at least \$100,000. The exact cost of such a policy depends on your age and health. The Foundation can help provide you with the information you need if you find this an interesting option.

5. ISRAEL BONDS

You can donate one or more Israel bonds totaling a minimum of \$100,000 that are at or near maturity or that have a coupon of a minimum of 5%. We Will Pay YOU to be a Philanthropist ...

6. CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY/CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

You can establish a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust that will pay you a guaranteed, fixed income for the rest of your life-a large percentage of which is tax deductible. You will also receive a generous tax deduction. If you do not need the income to live on and you are in reasonably good health and insurable, you can use that income to fund an insurance policy, naming your heirs as the beneficiaries. This allows you to replace the value of the assets you are donating so that your heirs are not losing anything.

To calculate the amount necessary to endow your entire gift to the Annual Campaign,

Any contribution to the Women's campaign is welcome to become a Pomegranate or Lion of Judah



Becoming a pomegranate is a six year commitment to the women's All-in-One. The first year is a \$1500 commitment with an annual increase of \$100 each consecutive year for 5 years until \$2000 is reached.

A Lion of Judah designates an annual \$5000 contribution to the women's All-in-One campaign.

For further information please contact Irina Kaplan, Women's Campaign chair.

COMMUNITY MIKVAH FUND REACHES HALF-WAY MARK

As you may or may not know, the Jewish community has had our very own Mikvah, housed at Beth El Jacob, since 1957. Since its creation, the Mikvah has been used by Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Tifereth Israel and Beth El Jacob. Numerous rabbis and hundreds of Jews of all affiliations and backgrounds have taken advantage of the community Mikvah for many various occasions.

However, in the past couple of weeks we have come to find out that our Mikvah is no longer functional as there is a leak in its foundation and it can no longer hold water. It is for this reason that we are asking the Jewish community of Des Moines to unite and step forward as we have always done in the past, and raise the necessary dollars in order to remedy this problem.

First, however, it might be helpful to explain this ancient, mystical, and often times misunderstood entity called Mikvah.

A Mikvah is nothing more than a natural body of water used for ritual immersion. In truth, any natural body of water, such as a lake or a river, can technically qualify as a Mikvah. However, for practical reasons, such as inclement weather danger, the Jewish tradition has always turned to human made structures, much like very large hot-tubs, to fulfill this mitzvah of immersion.

The waters of the Mikvah ultimately represent life. Water is the primary source of all living things. It has the power to purify, to restore and replenish life. For this reason water is at the heart of this purification process known as Mikvah. A Mikvah must be filled with "living waters," waters obtained from a flowing source that has never been dormant, such as fresh spring water, rainwater, or even melted snow. Much like God, the flowing source of life, so too the waters of the Mikvah must embody this pure, flowing spirit.

Mikvah has many uses. It is used by a bride or groom before entering into marriage. The use of the Mikvah sets the tone for holy relationship between husband and wife. Furthermore, the Mikvah has the potential to constantly and continually help replenish and renew the spousal relationship during their years of marriage. In fact, in this day and age, young Jewish couples of all denominations are turning to Mikvah as a way to help guide them into deeper levels of romance, intimacy and fulfillment.

In addition to being used during marriage, the Mikvah is the final stage of conversion to Judaism. The Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox traditions all value the Mikvah as an essential ingredient in the process of becoming Jewish. For those among us who were not born Jewish, the Mikvah becomes the warm, nurturing womb from which they will emerge and come forth as Jews.

Finally, Mikvah has always been the center of any and every successful Jewish community in history. The Mikvah builds the community by welcoming converts to Judaism, as well as by strengthening Jewish identity within the family structure.

The Des Moines Community Mikvah has represented for decades the renewal and rebirth that unite all denominations of Judaism. We are asking you to join us in our efforts to repair and beautify our precious and holy Mikvah. The cost of a new Mikvah is often in excess of \$250,000. However, it is our goal to repair and beautify our existing community Mikvah for under \$20,000. Please join us in supporting this unique and integral Mitzvah. Contributions should be directed to the Jewish Federation, earmarked "Community Mikvah Fund." Checks may be sent to the Jewish Federation, 910 Polk Boulevard, Des Moines, IA 50312.

Sincerely,

MIKVAH IS RELEVANT TO REFORM JEWS

Many of you have received the letter above asking you to support the remodeling and essential reconstruction of the Mikvah at Beth El Jacob Synagogue and are wondering why in the world this should be of importance to Reform Jews.

In the letter, one reason was mentioned - namely that it is the practice among Reform Jews to make use of the Mikvah in conversion ceremonies. These ceremonies not only include those for adults choosing Judaism, but also for children who have been adopted into Jewish families. The waters of the Mikvah are a symbolic place of rebirth. You may think, "Just like baptism in the Christian tradition." Exactly! Since it is from the Jewish tradition of Mikvah that the Christian tradition of baptism arose.

Yet, the Mikvah has many other uses, not only in the ancient tradition that has evolved through the centuries and is currently practiced in more traditional circles of Judaism, but also in the Reform tradition. In ancient times, the Mikvah was used as a means of ritual purification after menstruation and childbirth, prior to marriage and to other important times in one's life. Reform Judaism does not believe in ritual impurity and therefore does not encourage women to seek purification in the Mikvah for this reason.

Mikvah as a place of rebirth and purification, for Reform Jews, has evolved into Mikvah as a place of new beginnings and healing. Many Reform Jews around the country have gone to the Mikvah prior to weddings, as a symbolic act of purification prior to beginning a new life as a husband or wife. They have gone to the Mikvah as a ritual of new beginning after divorce, leaving one life and beginning another. Some, as Reform Jews are free to choose, have gone to the Mikvah after childbirth, beginning their life as parent.

However, it is the use of the Mikvah as a place of healing which is of primary importance for Reform Judaism. Around the country, Reform Jews are using Mikvaot (the plural of Mikvah) as a place of healing after miscarriage or significant surgery, feeling that these waters are holier than the average and as individuals imbue them with power, not necessarily to heal the body, but definitely to help in the healing of the soul. In this respect they have also been used as places for healing after trauma, rape, sexual abuse, and other violations of the spirit as well as the body.

In addition to our uses of the Mikvah as a Reform Jewish community, there is the essential need of the Orthodox community and our desire to do what we can to maintain a strong multi-faceted Jewish community in Des Moines that may be seen as a model for Jewish communities around the country.

It is for all of these reasons that I believe we should strongly support the efforts to reconstruct the Mikvah that currently serves our community.

- Contributors to the Community Mikvah Fund as of December 31
- Gennady and Vera Aginsky
- Nancy Altman
- Sergey and Marietta Babayev
- Drs. Steven Bailin and Audrey Porter
- Louis and Ann Balentine
- Barbara Ettleson and Patricia Brockett
- Richard and Lois Brown
- Steven and Gabrielle Callistein
- John and Joyce Chavas
- Abe Clayman Foundation
- Steve and Gwenn Copple
- Jerald & Margaret Speke Davison
- Larry and Judy Deutch
- Charles & Alm Duchon Foundation
- Jeffrey Duitch
- Robert and Andrea Duitch
- Mary Paul Even
- Ronald and Harriet Feder
- Yakov and Alla Feldshteyn
- Mark Finkelstein and Jody Hramits
- Frances Fleck
- J. A. Galinsky
- Dr. Harvey and Barbara Hirsch Giller
- John and Tanya Ginsberg
- Todd Givant
- Dennis and Sharon Louis Goldford
- Harry and Gwen Griger
- Denise Hoffman
- Sidney and Susan Jacobson
- Phyllis Jagiello
- Jane Kalyagina
- David and Beverly Kikoler
- Dr. Alan and Margie Koslow
- Max and Mollie Lasky
- Jacob Lederman
- Dr. Bernard and Dana Leman
- Randy and Jody Leventhal
- Leonid and Irina Levin
- Mrs. Sidney B. Levin
- The Levitt Foundation
- Paulee Lipsman
- Bradley and Lori Long
- Michael Longfield
- Sally Luftman
- Norman Mandelbaum
- Mid-America Foundation
- Roberta Miller
- Dr. Paul Novak
- Jason Nunemaker and Carla Herling
- Stuart Ozer and Dr. Wendi Harris
- Polly Oxley
- Alan Pearlman and Ann Abramson
- John and Barbara Pleasants
- Michael and Deborah Pogel
- Sandra Pomerantz
- Thomas and Marcia Randolph
- Ruth Rapaport
- Dr. Martin and Trudi Rosenfeld
- Leon and Isabella Rotberg
- Max and Denise Rothschild
- Marcia Salem
- Mikhail Shapiro
- Donald and Patricia Shepherd
- Mari Silver
- Miriam Mintzer Singer
- Michele Soria
- Cantor Pinchas & Lora Lee Spiro
- Dr. Michael and Simma Stein
- Elaine Steinger
- Rose Szneler
- Tim and Toni Urban
- Melissa Waltman
- Stephen and Karen Weiss
- Mr. and Mrs. Harry Weiss
- Marvin Winick
- Shirley Wittenstein
- Stephen Wolf
- Heidi Young

THE GREATER DES MOINES

Jewish

Published 6 times annually by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines under the auspices of the Jewish Community Communications Pillar

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Opinions expressed in The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press are not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, its committees, or its staff. Unsigned editorials express the opinion of the paper's Editorial Board.

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

Vol. 20 No. 4, January/February 2004



CORRECTION:

In the December edition of the Jewish Press, "Meet Zeldene Lipsman" it should have noted that Sandy Lipsman graduated from both Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School.

Concert Memorialized Victims of Terrorism in Israel, Honored Veterans of WWII

A cantorial concert on December 7 was held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in remembrance of the victims of terrorism in Israel and honored those who served in the Armed Forces of the United States during World War II. A special tribute, on this anniversary date of the attack on Pearl Harbor, was paid to the members of the Des Moines Jewish community who gave their lives in the service of our country.

Entitled "A Time of Celebration and Remembrance," the concert featured the talents of cantors Kimberly Komrad of Gaithersburg, MD, and Emanuel C. Perlman, of Baltimore, MD. Soprano Lugene Isleman, of Tifereth Israel served as special guest soloist. The vocalists were accompanied by Robert Speed and Gilda Biel. The program included liturgical and operatic selections, along with songs in honor of Chanukah.

The segment devoted to the commemoration of the Israeli victims of the Intifada was introduced by Bud Hockenberry and included the participation of Rabbi David J. Kaufman of Temple B'nai Jeshurun and personal reflections from four Israelis: Nava Hefetz, Dr. Adah Ackerman, Dr. Pnina H. Luban, and Veronica Pivonia (the latter three of whom reside in Ames.)

Rabbi Kaufman provided the introduction and read the Gittelsohn eulogy for the fallen heroes of World War II. The concert was produced by The Ad Hoc Committee for Jewish Music of Greater Des Moines including Dr. Vera Aginsky, Jerry Bassman, Mark Finkelstein, Alyseann Galinsky, Lauri Grossman, Steve Isleman, Miriam Mintzer, Esahr M. Pildis, Marlene J. Siegel, and Dr. Dan Sloven. Special thanks to Hazzanim Meir Finkelstein and Chayim Frenkel for permission



Cantors Komrad and Perlman perform (left); Speakers included Nava Hefetz, Adah Ackerman, Pnina Luban, and Veronica Pivonia (below); Honoring Des Moines fallen heroes of WWII (bottom row)



to perform a selection from their work, Nishmat Tzedek, composed in memory of the victims of terrorism in Israel, to The United Synagogue Youth of Tifereth Israel Synagogue and its Youth Director Mike Siegel, to the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines for use of the flag of The State of Israel, and to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society for use of the flag of The Jewish War Veterans. The concert, offered free of charge, was made possible through the generosity of Esahr

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Approximately
1 out of every 450
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The symptoms become apparent at any age and they include:

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Supporting Foundations are separate corporate entities established in accordance with Internal Revenue Service regulations and operated in furtherance of the purposes of the Federation. They are recognized as public charities under the federal tax laws and are appropriate where the donor wishes to establish a substantial fund and perpetuate its separate identity.

Supporting Foundations are an excellent way for involving the donor's family with the Jewish Federation and the Jewish community in responsibly carrying out the donor's wishes for the future. Grants by a Supporting Foundation can do great good and bring significant recognition to the donor and his or her family.

A Supporting Foundation is especially appropriate in the following circumstances:

1. A donor desires to have his or her family play a direct and continuing role in the program of a charitable fund to carry on the family tradition of community responsibility and participation. They also desire to maintain the identification of the family name with a separate charitable foundation. A supporting foundation, separately incorporated, with the donor's spouse, children or other members of the family on the Board of Directors and bearing the family name, accomplishes these objectives.
2. A donor wants to create a charitable fund by using stock in a closely held corporation or other assets which may have appreciated substantially, which would be subject to long term capital gains taxes if sold. By placing those assets in a supporting foundation, organized as a separate corporation or trust, such assets can be independently managed and still provide the benefits stemming from being a "public charity."
3. A donor wishes to terminate a private foundation but desires to have a continuing role in the operation of a charitable fund. A supporting foundation serves such a purpose. The private foundation can be "converted" to a public charity and will no longer be subject to the restrictions on private foundations, particularly with respect to limitations on grant-making activities, as well as the 2 percent tax on investment gains or income. Additionally, future contributions to such "converted" foundations will qualify for the maximum charitable contribution deduction (unlike the case with contributions to a private foundation).

The importance of the contribution you make by creation of a Supporting Foundation

It is a rare opportunity to be able at the same time to create a means of providing for both charitable contributions during your lifetime and an endowment for future generations.

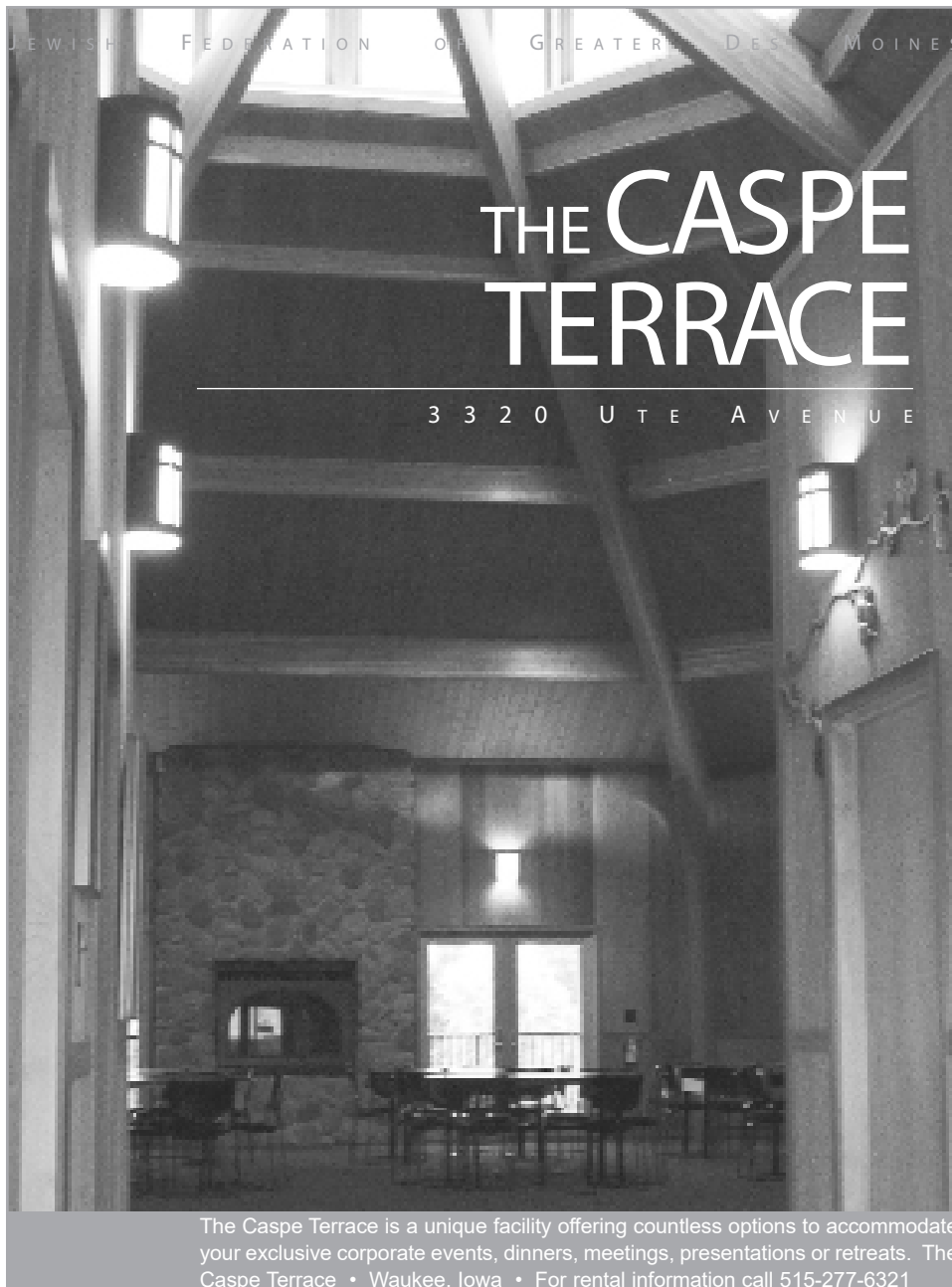
The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is the means whereby our community fulfills the ancient commandment of Tzedakah, the obligation to help those who need help. The funding of programs in Greater Des Moines, Israel, and all over the world, provide help for aged, impoverished and dependent Jews whose need for help has never been greater.

Your contribution through a Supporting Foundation is truly a gift which reaches out across time and keeps on giving...forever.

You should explore the suitability of a Supporting Foundation with your financial advisor.

For more information call the Des Moines Jewish Foundation (515) 277-6321

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THE LOST WOODEN SYNAGOGUES OF EASTERN EUROPE

Sunday, April 18, 2004

The Caspe Terrace Lecture and Documentary

For hundreds of years, the Jews of Eastern Europe built their houses of worship out of wood in the rural communities. With the Holocaust came the destruction of the Wooden Synagogues. Of the more than a thousand structures that existed before the War, only a handful remain today. All are boarded up, in disrepair and abandoned.

Photojournalist Albert Barry has researched and collected rare photographs of the Eastern European wooden synagogues for the past forty years. He has built scale models of these structures and has donated them to The Judaica Collection at Florida Atlantic University Libraries in Boca Raton Florida where they are on permanent display.

Barry has lectured around the country and appeared in a four part series on public television. More than 50 newspapers and magazines in North America have featured his work and research. He is an award winning graphic designer and an independent film maker and currently resides in Sunrise, Florida.

"The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe" Narrated by THEODORE BIKEL, tells the story of the synagogues, the life that surrounded them before the war and what happened to them in the last fifty years. The documentary has won awards in five film festivals and has received rave reviews from Elie Wiesel, Professor Yaffa Eliach, the Jewish Museum of Florida and many others.

This program was made possible by the Rebecca & Louis Nussbaum Lecture Fund and the Charles S. Steinger & Milton Liebman Memorial Fund.

To see more, log on to the web site: www.woodensynagogues.com

JEWISH FEDERATION COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Many of our holidays are behind us and I hope that all of you had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. After a few weeks off for winter break, we started back with our studies on Wednesday, January 7, 2004.

We have already accomplished so much this year with our Jewish studies and Hebrew learning. The following is a quick summary of what our students have learned a b o u t being Jewish:

Pre-Kindergarten – Mrs. Shulman begins each class with the children singing Shema, Tora Tora, and Alef/Bet. Students have experienced a taste of our major Jewish holidays by hearing stories, making crafts, seeing and touching symbols and eating specific foods. In September, Steve Altman shared the sounds and notes of the Shofar (thank you Steve). During each class, our preschoolers experience the sounds and sights of Hebrew by hearing words, seeing letters and tasting foods that start with the specific Hebrew letter they have learned that day.

Kindergarten – Our students have been hearing stories and making crafts related to our recent major holidays. They also learn the sounds and sights of Hebrew. At the end of Kindergarten, students will have a notebook that they have created of the Hebrew Alef-Bet. During the year, students hear and learn about different bible stories. Students draw and color pictures of these stories. At the end of the year, the pictures are collected to be put together, along with their first grade bible story pictures, in second grade to make their own Torah.

First Grade – Students continue to learn about our Jewish holidays and the sounds and sights of Hebrew. During this year, students practice putting Hebrew letters and sounds together. Bible stories are continued to be passed on to second grade for their Torah. Prayers that students have been learning are: Shema, Bar'chu, Shehehyanu and Shabbat candle blessings.

Second Grade – The learning of Jewish holidays is continued on an age-appropriate level. For Hebrew, teaching is more intense about understanding the sounds of Hebrew letters and vowels. This prepares them for third grade when they will start learning prayer-book Hebrew and learn to read prayers for their Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. Students finish learning about Bible stories and make their own Torah's from the bible stories they have learned since Kindergarten.

Third Grade – Students concentrate on Hebrew by working in their Hebrew Primer workbooks and learning to read the Shema, Bar'chu, Shehehyanu, Michamocha, and V'ahavta. Students also learn key vocabulary words from these prayers and write Hebrew letters in block. Our students learn about the religious and/or historical signif-

icance of Jewish holidays. They start using "A Child's Bible" which depicts major heroes and heroines of the Bible. During the year, students sequence and create a timeline from creation through Jacob's return home.

Fourth Grade – During this year, students concentrate on their Hebrew skills and work individually and in groups, reading prayers to each other. Students continue using "A Child's Bible" and "Welcome to Israel." For Israel, students have learned about Theodor Hertzl, Golda Meir, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, Jerusalem, created a timeline and looked at national symbols.

Fifth Grade – Each year students spend more time learning to read Hebrew prayers and basic Hebrew words. When students cover a chapter in their Hebrew Through Prayer Book, they learn not only the prayer but a description of the prayer, vocabulary words related to the prayer, reading, and root words. Prayers learned in this class are: Avot, Gvurot, Kiddusha, Torah & Haftarah Blessings, and Oseh Shalom. Students also learn different life cycle events. So far this year, they have learned about: Brit Milah and Brit Bat, Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Jewish Weddings through their "Journey of a Lifetime" booklet.

Sixth Grade – During the year, students learn about the "Tanakh," its parts and how to use it. They also learn about each other's Bar/Bat Mitzvah parshas, review them as a class and create questions for that parsha.



Mrs. Hjelmaas' fifth grade Community School Class collected new and slightly used books and toys for children confined to area hospitals this holiday season as part of their fifth grade mitzvah project.
- Mazel Tov!

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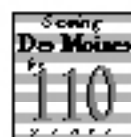
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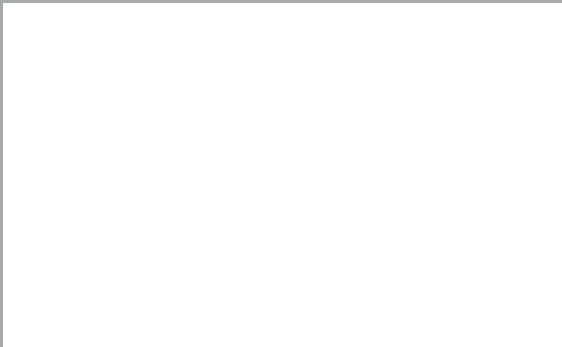
In honor of National Young Reader Day, the Des Moines Jewish Academy students invited members of the community to share their favorite stories. Channel 8 News Anchor Steve Karlin read "Daisy Head Mayzie". Professional Story Teller Maureen Korte kept everyone captivated with her dramatization of a Chinese folk tale. Senator Matt McCoy shared poetry, and Aleks Simms and Jennie Reff, Drake athletes, read "Where the Wild Things Are" and "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie". Parents joined in the fun in Mrs. Flynn's class too. Aden Finkelstein's mom, Jody Hramits, read a Michigan folk tale "The Legend of Sleeping Bear".



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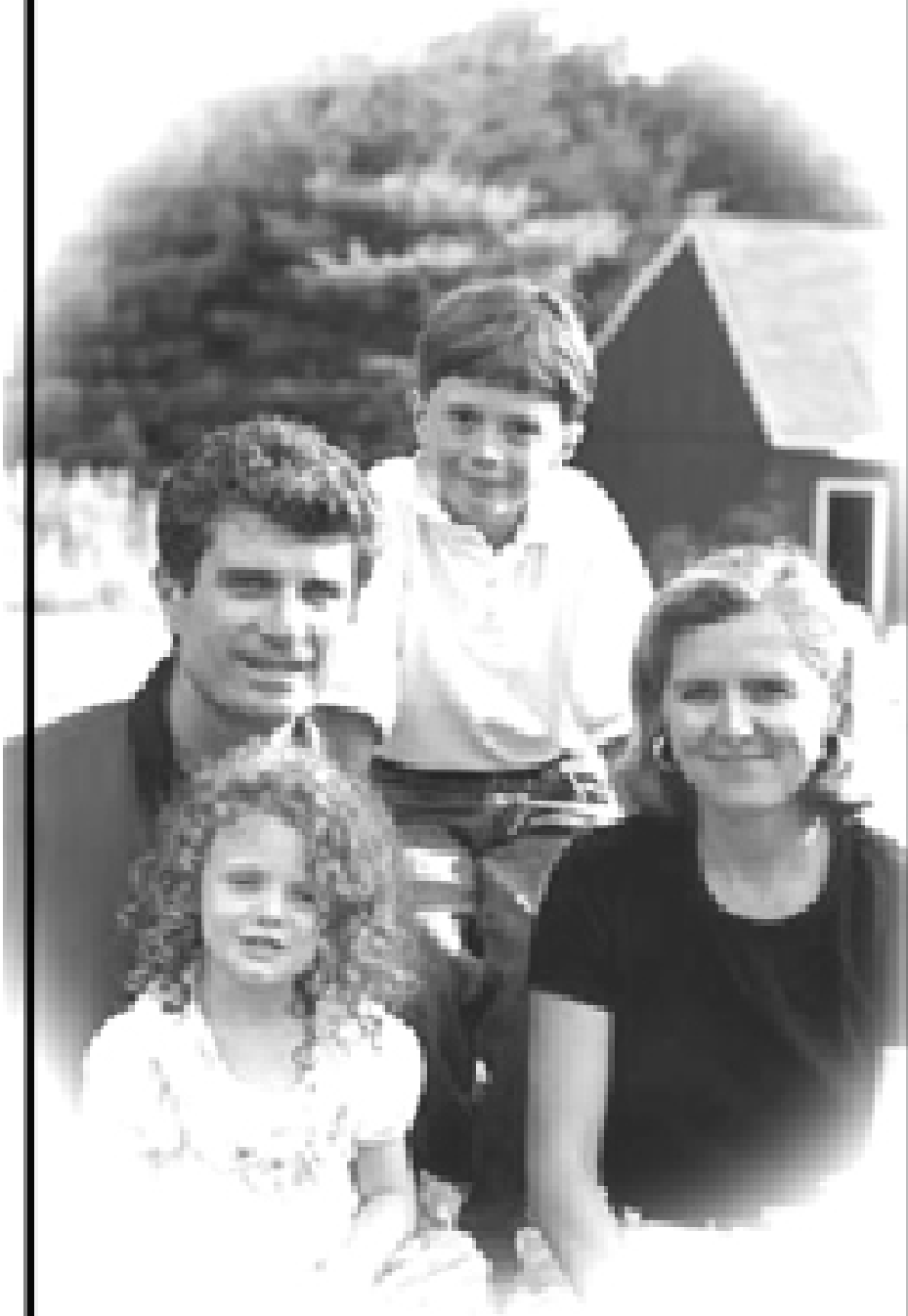
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Hanukkah 03



photos courtesy of Alan Pearlman



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KOSHER YOGA - Yoga classes offered on Sunday mornings from 9:15 am-10:30 am in the Youth Lounge at Tifereth Israel Synagogue. Taught by Bruria Kaufman, certified instructor by the Southwest Institute of Healing Arts. Wear comfortable clothes. If you have a yoga mat bring it along - mats will be provided if you don't. \$7 for one class or 5 for \$25. Call Bruria at 223-3079 with any questions.

Free Hebrew Classes - On Sunday mornings Bruria Kaufman teaches a free Hebrew Class in the Youth Lounge at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, from 10:45 – 11:45 am. The class is a beginning reading, writing and speaking class and is for adults and Jr-Sr Hi students. Call Bruria at 223-3079 with any questions.

KOLLEL

EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION

Continuing the Community Kollel's mission of providing educational services to the entire community, the following is a list of ongoing and upcoming classes that are open to everyone. If you would like to set up a private learning session, or a small group at your home or office, please contact Rabbi Simpser at 279-7060.

NEW KOLLEL CLASS - SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. @ T.I. SYNAGOGUE JAN. 25TH - MARCH 30TH - RABBI SIMPSE

RASHI: A Light After the Dark Ages - Rashi was an 11th century French Rabbi and scholar who lived just before the Reign of Terror - The Crusades. Besides history's most published biblical commentator, Rashi was renowned as a gentle man of exemplary character whose decisions of law and personal counsel had enormous impact on the people around him, the generations that followed him, and the Jewish world. We will use Rashi's commentary as a basis to discuss the following themes:

INTEGRITY - How do honesty and integrity affect our relationship with G-d? How to stay motivated in honesty, even when no one is watching.

ASTROLOGY - Are horoscopes kosher? A Kabbalistic look at the Zodiac, and its place in Judaism.

LOVE - The Jewish way in love and marriage and how to deepen your relationships.

SUFFERING - Are we born to suffer? How pain can help the process of personal growth.

THE SECRET OF LIFE - Rashi reveals the secret of living meaningfully.

SPIRITUALITY - Where is the soul of Judaism? How to unleash your spiritual self. No previous knowledge is necessary. We will analyze texts in English and have an interactive discussion on each theme. EACH CLASS WILL BE INDEPENDENT, SO YOU CAN ATTEND ANY ONE OR ALL.

ONGOING CLASSES:

WEEKLY TORAH PORTION - Mondays 7 p.m. @ Beth El Jacob (In-depth analysis and discussion) - Rabbi Simpser

HEBREW LEVEL II - Introductory Vocabulary and Grammar for beginners - Rabbi Wolf @ Drake University

Iowa City Classes - Mondays 12:30 p.m. - Torah Portion; 1:30 Talmud Study - Rabbi Wolf @Univ. of Iowa Hillel

AMES - Tuesdays 7 p.m. - Introductory Vocabulary and Grammar for beginners; 8 p.m. Dilemmas in Jewish Ethics

Women of Ashkenazi Jewish Descent

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Our health care partners are sponsoring screening trials designed to detect cancer earlier in women at risk for ovarian cancer. The tests are particularly relevant to women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent. They are accepting volunteers for two studies: a low-risk study for women between 50 - 74 years of age (plus other factors), and a high-risk study for women 30-74 years of age with a family history of breast or ovarian cancers.

For other qualifying factors and details, contact Pati Berger at the John

In Ames January 29 ISRAEL'S QUEST FOR PEACE - FIGHTING AGAINST

Israeli Consul General Moshe Ram
8:00 pm, Sun Room, Memorial Union, Iowa State University
Sponsored by the Institute on World Affairs Program, ISU Lectures Program. Online at www.lectures.iastate.edu

Bar Mitzvah

Aaron Rosenberg



Saturday, February 28, 2004 at 9:15 am
Tifereth Israel Synagogue
We invite you to share in our happiness when our son, Aaron, is called to the

Torah as a Bar Mitzvah.
All are invited to the luncheon following the service.
Jance and Kent Rosenberg

In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the recent passing of
Claire Frank
Belle Gilbert
Ilse Speier Rosenberg
Abe Stein
Sally Wolf

Meet Diane Pratt

by Toni Urban



If you live in Des Moines you can be assured that you have met a member of Diane Pratt's family! Diane was born and raised here and so were her father, Marvin

Dubansky and her mother, Shirley Wolfson Dubansky. Her grandmother, Dora Pidgeon Wolfson, was one of 13 children and passed away at the age of 96 only five years ago. Her fraternal grandparents, Israel and Lillian Dubansky, had three children, Harlan and Betty Ann. So, whether the name is Pidgeon, Fingert, Hoffman, Silverstein, Wolfson, Friedman or Dubansky and it goes on, they are all related!

Diane was one of five children, brothers Steve and Robert and sisters, Cindy and Andi.

She attended Hanawalt, Merrill and Roosevelt High School, was a camper and counselor at Camp Shalom and later went to Camp Ramah. In 1974 as a sophomore in high school, it was on a Ramah program that Diane visited Israel.

After high school graduation she attended school in Arkansas and majored in Fashion Merchandising. After graduation there, she returned to Des Moines where she married Kenneth Pratt, a

young man from Alabama she had known during high school. Diane and Kenneth have two children, a daughter, Jessie, 22 years old who attends AIB and Justin, 19, who is at DMACC studying welding.

As a child, Diane remembers the many times she was part of a group with her mother and grandmother making Hamentaschen or blintzes which they would divide up among the family.

So, with her love for baking and cooking and a little coaxing from her mother, Diane returned to school and received a degree in culinary arts from DMACC.

Diane had already been baking for bar and bat mitzvahs and doing some catering, but with her new degree she added to that a three-year stint at Goodwill Industries as a food service instructor. In Diane's position she assisted mentally and physically disabled individuals to learn skills that could be used in the kitchen.

Diane's dream of owning her own business came to fruition in June of 2002 when she purchased, The Nosh, a deli located on 63rd Street in Des Moines south of Grand Avenue. Diane works 10 – 12 hours each day preparing the salads, soups and sweets for sale as well as baking challah for Shabbat. Diane's coolers at The Nosh are full of kosher packaged meat products, blintzes and goodies as well as

Dr. Brown's sodas, and holiday foods and canned goods are readily available on the shelves.

Diane still caters on weekends to a discriminating clientele and can also provides trays of cold cuts and sweets for eating at home and parties.

Painted above the challah rack in the store is a sign Diane wrote, "Dreams do come True". At the end of a long day that sign reminds Diane why she is there.

Mushroom and Barley Soup

A recipe from Diane Pratt

Pareve

16 oz. diced tomatoes	1/2 green pepper chopped
2 quarts water	1 carrot sliced
1 onion sliced thin	1 lb. mushrooms sliced
2 ribs of celery chopped	2 tsp. salt
2 tbl. chopped parsley	1/2 cup whole barley
6 oz canned lima beans	1/2 tsp dill

In a large saucepan bring to a boil: tomatoes and the juice, water, onions, celery, parsley, green peppers, barley and lima beans.

Simmer 1 1/2 hours. Add carrots, mushrooms, salt and dill.

Simmer 20 minutes more.

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Ames Library Film Series "Biased, Deceitful"

Imagine you travel to a distant country and you visit the local public library to watch a film series about the U.S. The films show the U.S. armed forces in the process of routing Al-Qaida and the Taliban, without any mention of 9/11. They show U.S. troops invading Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War, without any reference to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. They show U.S. tanks and troops in the heat of battle smashing through devastated German cities in 1945 with heart-breaking images of dead and wounded civilians, without any hint of Nazi Germany's launching of World War II in 1939 and her conquest of Europe. They also show in a highly graphic fashion hundreds of Japanese troops being scorched by napalm on Iwo Jima, and the unimaginable grief and anger of their bereaved families, but no reference is made to Pearl Harbor and the Japanese conquest of much of Asia.

Some people in that community claim that the series is valuable since they have learned some facts they never knew about the role of the U.S. in these conflicts and that they have gained a better "understanding" of them. Their public library, a co-sponsor of the program, claims that it is acting in the name of free speech and is "connecting you to the world of ideas", despite the fact that it is in violation of its own policy which states: "When a theme of a display deals with a political, social, or controversial issue, the exhibit should provide impartial information on the subject, stating the facts pertaining to the situation...The exhibit should not urge or advocate support of one side or the other, but should provide information in such a manner as to allow the viewer to decide the issue."

While you might not necessarily agree with all U.S. policies and actions, you still are taken aback by the one-sidedness, bias, and most of all by the deceitful nature of a program that intentionally hides at least half the facts. You might even suspect that underlying the program is the intention to fan anti-American emotions, going beyond merely taking issue with specific U.S. policies.

That is the closest parallel one can draw to the "Palestine Unabridged" film series sponsored by the Axiom Foundation, the Ames Interfaith Council, the ISU Arab Student Association, and the Ames Public Library.

Thomas Friedman of the New York Times recently wrote: "Criticizing Israel is not anti-Semitic, and saying so is vile. But singling out Israel for opprobrium and international sanction- out of all proportion to any other party in the Middle East- is anti-Semitic, and not saying so is dishonest."

We, the undersigned, who saw ALL films (some of our acquaintances, after having watched one or two films, could not stomach the bias and distortions and stopped attending) attest that the films go well beyond "opprobrium" of Israel. The films omit

volumes of crucial information that would shed a completely different light on many of the "facts" presented. The films manipulate the viewers who, out of the goodness of their hearts, genuinely care about the plight of any group of people.

It is the crucial omissions, distortions, half-truths, and lies in the films which doomed the entire series and rendered it misleading, deceitful, venomous, and on the verge of being a blood libel.

It is well beyond the scope of this letter to provide even a partial list of the facts hidden from the viewers in this film series. It would take an entire book about the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict to do so. We recommend the book "The Case for Israel" by Alan Dershowitz of Harvard University, one of our nation's most distinguished law professors and champions of human rights.

As with so many bad things that happen in life, some good came out of this experience as well. Rarely in Ames' history of the past 20 years (perhaps much longer) have so many people, Jews and Christians, united in the rejection of bigotry, deceit and incitement. Never have so many rallied to the defense of Israel: A tiny sliver of land, the size of New Jersey, surrounded by a host of totalitarian regimes with many times its area and population who have rejected its very existence and relentlessly tried to destroy it; a country which had to fight several wars in self defense in its 55 years of existence at great human cost, and endure incessant terrorist attacks aimed specifically at its women and children; a country which zealously preserves its democratic character and the rule of law despite the perpetual state of war imposed on it (with the exception of two neighbors who now maintain rather cold peaceful relations with her); a country which was willing to take great risks for peace, in fact, the only country in modern history to have returned disputed (oil-rich) territories captured in a defensive war and crucial to its own self-defense in exchange for peace; a country which has killed fewer innocent civilians in proportion to the number of its own civilians killed than any other country engaged in a comparable war; a country which continues to teach its children the yearning for peace and the sanctity of life, even while its enemies glorify suicide and murder before the eyes of their own children.

When all is said and done, from our conversations with many Ames residents, it would appear that the defects of this series (gross omissions, extreme bias) have actually led to a greater appreciation of Israel as a democracy, its quest for peace, and the unique problematics of its security, as well as to a realization of the excesses of some



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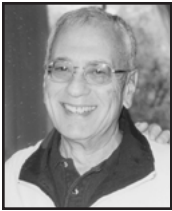
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Face The Problem

by Sheldon Rabinowitz



Media bias, Arab Propaganda, and European anti-Semitism are all having an adverse effect on the views of the average American—and certainly many American Jews. Many members of our Jewish community are concerned about these issues for various reasons—some a true concern as to Israel's well being, and others becoming self conscious of their being Jewish or fears of anti-Semitism threatening them. There is a worldwide problem, but fortunately to a far lesser extent, also a problem in the US—most of it, at least on the surface, related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We can deal with it here best by facing the problem, communicating with our fellow non-Jewish community members as to the facts of the conflict. Show the film "Relentless" and it will more than tell the story for you, better than any of us ever could.

We have found remarkable success

by showing the film to groups of 10-14 people of non-Jewish friends, neighbors, acquaintances, and business associates, in our home. I would urge you to also do it, and as many times as necessary to cover all of the people you know who would accept an invitation to see it in your home. It is educational and powerful, however depressing. Sitting idly or wringing our hands can accomplish nothing.

You can make a positive impact on this issue and help overcome this problem. Few of us have the ability to present the case completely, and the potential audience would not react as well—the film absolutely does it for you! If you feel you would like assistance in the follow-up question and answer period, we will be able to assist you.

The film is about 60 minutes and can be purchased from Honestreporting.com for only \$24.95. Call me at 515-279-5012 or Mark Finkelstein at the Federation at 515-277-6321, for more information as to how to accomplish this

Ames Congregants Meet With The Jewish Community Relations Commission On Film Series Issues

By Mark Finkelstein

Representatives of JCRC, including three past presidents, met with members of the Ames Jewish Congregation in mid-December to discuss issues related to the screening of a 13 video, three-month-long film series entitled "Palestine Unabridged." The film series, which had concluded several days prior to the meeting, was sponsored by a pro-Palestinian advocacy group called Axiom Media/Foundation, Ames Interfaith Council, the Ames Public Library and the Arab Student Organization at ISU. Attention had been focused on the controversy generated by the series throughout the Fall in competing letters and book reviews published in the Ames Tribune and an opinion column published by an Ames resident in Long Island's Newsday. The day before the meeting a front-page story and a column by the editor on the topic appeared in the Ames paper. In the course of the series, at least two houses of worship, including the Ames Jewish Congregation, withdrew from the Ames Interfaith Council because of its apparent bias against Israel. (The Council's president is thoroughly documented on the web as alleging Israeli involvement in anti-American attacks.)

As discussed at the meeting, critics of the film series pointed out the blatant bias in the content and number of one-sided films shown, along with the control maintained over discussion sessions, all of which called into question the fairness of the public library as sponsor. (The Library asserts that it has not

taken sides.) A second issue was that a number of proponents had publicly characterized the series as showcasing "cultural awareness." Critics, on the other hand, more accurately identified the content as dealing with international politics. The chief challenge, however, has been the defense of the film series by those claiming the right to freedom of speech. Critics have consistently affirmed the right of free speech and even the right to show the films at the library but have questioned the decision of the library to sponsor such a lengthy, partisan series. By doing so, it is argued, the library has not only polarized the Ames community, but has, as well, established a precedent by which virtually any and all political groups (and even subsets of groups with slightly different positions) should have access to the library's facilities and sponsorship for a similarly lengthy time. To fail to honor such requests would likely leave the library open to the claim of discrimination.

Additional discussion ensued as to the best means of educating the Ames community about Israel in a proactive manner. The Ames Tribune's December 13 coverage is found online at http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?news-id=10657855&BRD=2035&PAG=461&dept_id=238101&rft=8 and the editorial at http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?news-id=10657869&BRD=2035&PAG=461&dept_id=238101&rft=8. Fern Kupfer's

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The family of Marvin Pomerantz and Roselind Rabinowitz of Des Moines, can be traced back to Israel Jacob Pomerantz, the great-grandfather (born 1805) and his wife Blima Golda Atlmade (born 1807) in Poland. According to family lore, great grandmother Blima's Atlmade ancestors left Spain during the Inquisition and moved to Portugal. When the Inquisition became active in Portugal, the family moved again from that part of Europe and eventually immigrated to Eastern Europe and Poland. There they intermarried with the local Ashkenazim. Once in Poland, the Iberian-acquired last names were dropped and the newcomers began to use the Yiddish

language of the area.

Israel's son Moshe (born 1830) married Malka Rosenschreiber (most likely Rozentsvaig) in about 1863 in Warszawa (Warsaw), Poland. All six of their children were born in Warsaw. Moshe and Malka operated a small restaurant in their home. After Malka's death in about 1920, Moshe moved into the home of his daughter Cecil Meryl Pomerantz Szneler. Moshe died a few years later in 1924. Warsaw was to be the home of the Pomerantz family and those related by marriage until they either emigrated from Europe or perished in the Holocaust.

Moshe's daughter Golda, her husband Joseph Ableman and their children

were the first of the extended Pomerantz family to immigrate to the United States. Joseph arrived first and settled in Sequin, Texas, 45 miles outside San Antonio. After working in a store he was able to send for his sons, Alexander and Israel. Joseph then made the trip back to Poland and brought his wife Blima Golda in 1899.

Golda's brother, Israel Jacob Pomerantz, Marvin Pomerantz and Roselind Rabinowitz's grandfather, (known as Jacob) immigrated to the U.S. without his wife and children in 1912. He arrived at the Port of Galveston, Texas and then settled in Des Moines. When World War I began, the flow of immigration to the U.S. halted. As a result, Jacob's wife, Rivka, and some of the children were prevented from emigrating. It took nine years before Jacob would see Rivka again. But on January 15, 1921, Rivka finally arrived at the Port of New York with her daughters Esther and Anna. Their sons Samuel and Lazar were not able to leave Poland until after 1921. Samuel went to Mexico and Lazar to Argentina.

Jacob and Rivka's son, Alex Eliyahu Pomerantz, was born on March 8, 1891 in Warsaw and married Mindell Minnie Lande (born June 2, 1894) in 1911 in Warsaw. Minnie was the daughter of Moshe Lande (born 1862 in Russia-Poland, died 1927 in Des Moines) and Eva Chana Shafir (born 1862 in Russia-Poland and died 1904 in Warsaw). Though Rivka would not arrive in the U.S. until 1921, Alex Eliyahu arrived only two months after his father, Jacob.

While Jacob Pomerantz came to the U.S. via Galveston, his son Alex left for the United States on the ship Zeeland via Antwerp, Belgium, arriving in New York City on January 8, 1913. He was listed on the ship manifest as "Ele Pomerantz". From New York he traveled to Des Moines. When he became a naturalized citizen at the age of 32, in 1924, he had changed his name from Eliyahu (Ele) to Alex.

Alex's wife Minnie came to the U.S. with her nine-month old son, Israel (Isadore), nine months after Alex, via Glasgow, Scotland on November 22,

1913. They arrived in New York on December 1, 1913. Her given name listed on the manifest was "Marie". In the U.S. she used Mindel or Minnie. She was 20 years old and was described in immigration documents as having a "fresh" complexion, black hair and blue eyes. Minnie's destination was their new home at 222 E. Des Moines Street, Des Moines.

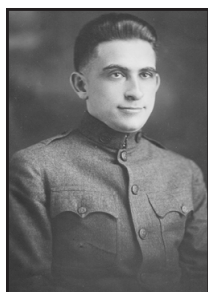
Jacob Pomerantz would describe his occupation in the U.S. as a peddler, his son Alex's occupation would be Salvage Metal Buyer and later owner of Executive Paper Converting Company.

After arriving in the United States with their first child Isadore, Minnie and Alex were blessed with eight more children. Eva was born in 1915 in New York City; Victor Robert was born in 1917 and Helen in 1918 in Des Moines. Louis was born in 1920 and Sarah Pauline in 1922 in Carroll; Marvin Alvin in 1930 and Roselind Rivka in 1933 in Des Moines.

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society would like to thank Alfred E. Lipsey for his donation of his extensive research into the history of the Pomerantz and Landau families which was the source of this article. Mr. Lipsey, originally of Des Moines, and now of Tuscon, Arizona and brother to Rose Lee Pomerantz, has produced three genealogical works, "Israel Jacob Pomerantz and His Descendants", "Joseph Landau and His Descendants", and "Boruch Lipsey and His Descendants". We should all be so fortunate to have



—Jacob Pomerantz and Family, Carroll, Iowa circa 1919. Jacob (seated); Minnie and Alex, their children: Eva, Helen, Victor and Isadore; Alex's brother Morris.



WE NEED YOUR MILITARY SERVICE AND SPORTS MEMORABILIA
The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is in need of artifacts, photographs, and memorabilia for our Spring Exhibit. We are collecting old and recent items from Jewish members from across the state. Photographs can be copied and the original returned to you. For information contact Jody Hramits at 277-6321 or ijhs@dmjfed.org.

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january/february/march

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesday	01/14/04	10:00 AM	Senior Trip to Gorth Haus Gallery and Bistro in Grimes
Thursday	01/15/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Saturday	01/17/04	9:15 AM	Women's League Shabbat at Tifereth
Sunday	01/18/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Investment Club
Sunday	01/18/04	11:45 AM	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commemoration at Temple
Monday	01/19/04	6:00 PM	Federation Executive Committee Meeting at The Caspe Terrace
Thursday	01/22/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Sunday	01/25/04	9:30 AM	Temple Brotherhood Investment Club
Tuesday	01/27/04	7:00 PM	Tifereth Board Meeting
Thursday	01/29/04	12:00 PM	Senior Luncheon at Tifereth, Storyteller Neil Salowitz
Thursday	01/29/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Thursday	01/29/04	8:00 PM	Israeli General Moshe Ram at Iowa State University
Saturday	01/31/04		Tifereth Men's Club Film Night
Saturday	01/31/04	7:00 PM	Blima Simpser Bat Mitzvah at The Caspe Terrace
Saturday	01/31/04	7:30 PM	Dukes of Dixieland, Senior Outing to Pella
Sunday	02/01/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Women's League
Thursday	02/05/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Saturday	02/07/04		TU B'SHVAT
Sunday	02/08/04	9:30 AM	Tifereth Men's Club
Sunday	02/08/04	10:00 AM	Jewish Family Education Event at Temple
Monday	02/09/04		Senior Outing to Casinos in Council Bluffs
Tuesday	02/10/04	4:30 PM	Executive Committee/Temple Board
Thursday	02/12/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Sunday	02/15/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Investment Club
Monday	02/16/04	6:00 PM	Federation Executive Committee Meeting at The Caspe Terrace
Thursday	02/19/04		Senior Outing to Des Moines Home and Garden Show
Thursday	02/19/03	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Thursday	02/19/04	7:30 PM	AIPAC Council Meeting
Friday	02/20/04	6:00 PM	Family Shabbat Potluck at Tifereth
Sunday	02/22/04	9:30 AM	Temple Brotherhood Investment Club
Tuesday	02/24/04		P2K Concert at The Caspe Terrace, Kolit Group from Israel
Tuesday	02/24/04	7:00 PM	Tifereth Board Meeting
Thursday	02/26/04	12:00 PM	Senior Luncheon at the Temple, Speaker Kris Thompson
Thursday	02/26/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Saturday	02/28/04	9:15 AM	Aaron Rosenberg Bar Mitzvah at Tifereth
Sunday	02/29/04		Senior Outing, Craft Show at Fairgrounds
Thursday	03/04/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Saturday	03/06/04	6:00 PM	Purimspiel/Megillah Reading at Temple
Sunday	03/07/04		PURIM
Sunday	03/07/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Women's League
Tuesday	03/09/04		Senior Outing to Botanical Center and Lunch at Noah's Ark
Tuesday	03/09/04	4:30 PM	Executive Committee/Temple Board
Thursday	03/11/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Sunday	03/14/04	9:30 AM	Tifereth Men's Club
Monday	03/15/04	6:00 PM	Federation Executive Committee Meeting at The Caspe Terrace
Monday	03/15/04	7:00 PM	Federation Board of Directors Meeting at The Caspe Terrace
Tuesday	03/16/04		Women's Seder
Thursday	03/18/04	7:00 PM	Melton Classes at Tifereth
Saturday	03/20/04		Adult Retreat with Rabbi Kaufman - Asheville, NC
Sunday	03/21/04	10:00 AM	Tifereth Investment Club
Tuesday	03/23/04	7:00 PM	Tifereth Board Meeting

Remembering from page 1
Also included were special services a Jewish community had to provide, such as fighting for equal rights, slaughtering chickens and, at times, redeeming hostages abroad.

Decade by decade, almost without noticing, we started to spend more of our waking hours living in the general society, and the Jewish parts of us shrank accordingly. What we needed from the community got smaller as we became more like our neighbors. And, while nobody noticed, our neighbors were becoming more like us. Decade by decade our society was coming to view its obligations much the way the Jewish community once did: teaching the young, healing the sick, caring for the poor. Our community was left with these massive institutions - hospitals, family services, federated campaigns - and no clear sense of what they were for. Some of us walked away, others kept slogging forward.

Now we are here. Most of us have transferred the biggest part of ourselves into the general society, knowing we were not betraying our past because the society had become, in an important way, more Jewish. That is, until the great tax revolt of the last two decades. Now, suddenly, society seems to be backing away from those obligations it undertook in the past century. The polite term for it is "privatization."

What do we do now? Our community has a massive investment - financial, intellectual and legal, as well as institutional - in a social contract that is coming apart. Simply complaining about it, as some of us tend to do, won't stop the changes. Neither will it do to sit back and claim we enjoy the new regime, as some would have us do. Our values have not changed, nor should they. Living in a decent society is still at the heart of the Jewish mandate. The question is how.

Fortunately, we still have those institutions that bring us together. We still have the tools to think together and act together. What's needed is the will to open up the doors, invite our fellow Jews back in and start talking to one another

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Senior Activities

Connect! Seniors very much enjoyed their lunch at Beth El Synagogue, where they were entertained by several vocal ensembles from the Des Moines Jewish Academy and then had lunch with the young students as well! The Senior Group also recently convened for lunch and conversation at ArtHouse On Ingersoll as well as an outing to the Amana Colonies.



COMING EVENTS:

- Monday, February 9
Ameristar Casino & Harrah's Casino in Council Bluffs. Departing from Beth El at 9:00 a.m. returning around 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 19
Des Moines Home and Garden Show
Departing from Beth El at 10:00 a.m.
Tickets \$6.00.
- Thursday, February 26
Senior Luncheon – Temple B'nai Jeshurun
Speaker Kris Thompson – Changes in Medicare and Prescription Drugs
- Sunday, February 29
Craft Show in the Varied Industries Building, State Fairgrounds
- Tuesday, March 9
Think spring! – A Visit to the Botanical Center and Lunch at Noah's Ark.
Departing from Beth El at 10:00 a.m.

Photos courtesy of Jody Hramits and Kady Russell

Senior News



Kady Russell, Senior Adult Coordinator

January Senior Luncheon

Senior Luncheon will be Thursday, January 29, at Tifereth Israel Synagogue at 12 noon. Storyteller, Neil Salowitz, will present the program. Reservations need to be made by Tuesday, January 27th, by calling Dorothea at 277-6321.

Playhouse Tickets

We have a limited number of tickets for the performance:

"My Way, A Tribute to Frank Sinatra."

We will be taking reservations for this on Wednesday, January 28, on a first-call basis, making reservations for you and your spouse only. Performance will be Thursday, January 29, at 7:30 pm.

Thank You

Thanks again to Esther Sandler, Ruth Rapaport and Gertrude Blair for helping with preparing and serving the November Luncheon. Thanks to Dr. Milton Mark for providing transportation.

Dukes of Dixieland

Mardi Gras comes to Pella with this New Orleans blend of Dixieland, blues and jazz. The Dukes have performed with the New York Pops and have been nominated for a Grammy for Gloryland, a creative combination of jazz and Dixieland. They will be performing in Pella at the Pella Opera House on Saturday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m. We will be taking the bus for this trip. Call Kady now to reserve your tickets!

Tickets are \$18.00 plus a \$4.00 bus fee. Reservations need to be made and paid for by January 9. You may use your credit card when making your reservation by phone, or mail your check to the Jewish Federation, 910 Polk Boulevard, Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

The Senior Activities Program is organized by the Jewish Community Services Pillar of the Jewish Federation. Sincere thanks are offered to all who volunteer to help with these programs.