

June, July, August 2019

# THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

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Beit Sefer Shalom students celebrating the end of another school year at the end of the year party at Caspe.

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# Jewish Press

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Sivan, Tammuz, Av, Elul 5779

# Community is Our Top Priority



Jarad Bernstein  
President

We live in a great community for reasons big and small. It's easy to judge a city from national rankings based on commute times, affordability, and education, but the real greatness comes from the interactions we have with each other every day. Over the last several months, I've seen these interactions everywhere I look.

This past March, incoming president Michael Wolnerman, past president David Adelman, and I traveled west to Palm Springs to visit with members of our community who spend the winter (and more) a few degrees warmer than what most of us have experienced over the last several months. The love for our community was clear and something the desert has not taken away from this group who have supported the Federation so generously for decades.

Their questions and advice came from a place of deep knowledge and experience and made me realize how lucky we are to have such an engaged group of leaders from whom we can draw strength and strategy.

On April 3 and 4, Des Moines hosted Israel's ambassador to

the United States for the first time in Israel's 70-year modern history. Hundreds of us gathered at the Downtown Hilton to hear Ambassador Dermer address our community. I know that members of our community who attended do not always agree on the topics discussed by the ambassador. But what I saw was heartening: Jews coming together to learn, discuss, and understand important and impactful ideas and positions. On a topic that is increasingly presented publicly as divisive, I saw our community united and full of civility.

In the coming weeks, this community will once again launch the All-In-One campaign. There are many ways we show our generosity. Typically what comes to mind when we use the word generous is money. And it is true: the Federation's work is simply not possible without the financial generosity of each of you. But what I want each of you to think of as you consider your gift to the Federation this year is how we can also be generous to each other with our time, our spirit, and feelings toward one another. The power of the Federation is multiplied when we are generous in all these ways.

Now is the time we need the fuel—money—to make the Federation run. But it's also the time we need you to consider how to make that fuel supercharged through making the Federation, and the community as a whole a top priority.





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# Community Report

## Engman Camp Shalom

- Engman Camp Shalom hired all staff for the Summer of 2019
- Madrichim (counselors in training) are still welcome to apply online to support camp
- Swim lessons, field trips and special activities are scheduled for this summer
- ECS will offer 10 weeks of camp this summer from June 10-August 16

## Beit Sefer Shalom

- Families joined us at the annual Purim Carnival on March 10, 2019
- The 4th grade students led Passover Rotations and taught younger students on April 7, 2019
- High school students learned about Israel's current events with Mark Finkelstein on March 27
- Beit Sefer Shalom students enjoyed Ambassador Dermer's visit on April 3, 2019
- Beit Sefer Shalom celebrated the end of the school year on April 14, 2019

## Gan Shalom

- Several new children have enrolled, raising our number to 42 students
- Gan Shalom welcomes Rhonda Leslie, teacher for the three-year-old Bet class and Samantha Fannon, assistant teacher for the two-year-old Alef Class.
- Music has been a strong focus the past month. The children loved their time with Abe Goldstien and his accordion. Benjamin Brodkey has joined Gan Shalom's enrichment programs with weekly music classes

## Jewish Community Relations

- Representatives from JCRC participated in the Des Moines unity gathering in response to the horrific mosque shootings in New Zealand and in a subsequent discussion on ways to educate against bigotry
- JCRC/Federation facilitated a lecture by Dr. Rebecca Erbelding, from the USHMM, about FDR's War Refugee Board
- JCRC held a Forum on Antisemitism at which Rabbi Yossi Jacobson and Prof. Katya Givel Mevorach spoke
- JCRC explained the context of Hamas' recent attacks on Israeli civilians to Beit Sefer Shalom high school students.

## Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- Celina Karp Biniarz, returned to Des Moines for the world premiere of *Memories and Melodies of Auschwitz*, featuring Celina, her grandson Alex Biniarz-Harris, and co-composer Ambrose Soehn. Celina gave a series of presentations for students and the general public
- On Saturday, March 30, IJHS participated in the first annual DSM Book Festival promoting IJHS and selling our cookbook "Beyond Matzo Balls – Celebrating 100 Years of Jewish Cooking in Iowa"
- In March, the IJHS donated more than 140 audio and videotapes relating to the Holocaust to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum to provide greater access to this important historical information for researchers and the general public
- The IJHS is exploring the possibility of forming a Jewish genealogical group in central Iowa. If you are interested in participating, please contact Sandi Yoder at [ijhs@dmjfed.org](mailto:ijhs@dmjfed.org) or call 515-987-0899 ext. 216

## Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- The Federation staff continued our involvement with local community groups on March 13th, when we visited the Des Moines Area Religious Council office and learned about their work to combat food insecurity in the Des Moines area. The Federation sponsored a week of peanut butter—1,020 jars!
- We had a great time on March 14th, when the seniors were joined by Morah Juli's class from Gan Shalom. The students visited with the seniors and shared several songs

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# Gan Shalom

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# In the Kitchen with Joyce Swartz

*This article originally appeared in The Jewish Press in 2006. It is the first article Karen Engman wrote for the "Chef du Jour" column. Karen has been contributing to The Jewish Press for 13 years. Thank you, Karen, for not only sharing great recipes with us, but also introducing us to great chefs within our community.*

Karen Engman  
Food Columnist

Joyce Canar Swartz was born in Omaha, NE but has lived in the Des Moines area for 45 years with her husband Ben. They met on a blind date fixed up by mutual friends in Sioux City where Ben was managing a toy store. As Joyce tells it, "...they met in July and were married by the following May," and then moved to Des Moines where Ben started his business, Toyfair, which eventually grew into a chain of 14 toy stores. Needless to say, their house was a popular place to play for all the neighborhood kids!

The Swartz's love to travel and Joyce's blue eyes sparkled when she talked about taking their two sons David and Donald on road trips in rented motor homes. David and his wife Denise live in Des Moines with their daughter Sarah (15) and son Tom (12), while Donald and Karen live in Kansas City with daughter Miriam (11) and son Aaron (7).

Joyce has been involved in our

Jewish community for many years. She has chaired the Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center Guild board, the Golden Ball, Federation's Women's campaign and the Temple Jeshurun Sisterhood. She was on the staff of the IJSLC as the part time volunteer coordinator and especially enjoyed being their song leader on two Fridays every month. In fact, it doesn't take much effort to encourage Joyce to "break out in song." They may not appreciate it at the MAJ table but her grandchildren love their Grammy's ability to find a song for every occasion. She may even have passed on that "singing gene" to her granddaughters since Sarah sings in the Roosevelt High School swing choir and Miriam just played a lead role in the musical Suessical.

As a tour guide, once employed by Des Moines Tours owned by her friend Renee Robinow, she had no trouble handling the microphone on the bus but said the hardest task was keeping track of everyone on the tour. Joyce laughed when she recalled one tour that made a stop at

Drake University when all the ladies refused to leave the bus because it was raining. Joyce is still using those same skills as she guides tours through the Caspe Heritage Gallery in her capacity as President of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

Joyce still plays tennis and golf but finds time to cook too. She and Ben traditionally host lunch after the morning Rosh Hashanah service. They welcome both family and friends to share food, discuss the sermon or news of the day and to wish all l'shana tova.

Her delicious Nectarine Salad is unusual since it does not call for any leafy greens. It may still be quite warm on September 23 so a cool salad might be the perfect accompaniment to a late Rosh Hashanah luncheon.

*The Jewish Press* thanks Joyce for sharing her recipe and tidbits of her life with our readers. If you have a recipe to share or want the Press to find a particular recipe please contact Karen Engman ( 515-274-3300).

## Marinated Nectarine Salad

### *Ingredients for Salad:*

2 nectarines, sliced  
1/2 lb mushrooms quartered  
1 cup cherry (or grape) tomatoes  
1/2 cup pitted ripe olives  
1/3 cup green onions  
6 oz jar of marinated artichoke hearts (with marinade)

### *Ingredients for Dressing (Mix all together):*

1/3 cup vegetable oil  
1½ TBsp fresh lemon juice  
1/4 tsp salt  
1/4 tsp pepper  
1 tsp sugar  
1 tsp dried tarragon  
1/2 tsp dried thyme

Mix dressing with cut up fruits & veggies and refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving (can be made a day ahead).



# What Does HaShem Want?

Dr. David Friedgood  
Torah Commentator

As I write this composition, Jews worldwide are reading the Book of Leviticus during Shabbat services. Each week, one of the 10 sections of Leviticus is read aloud from the Torah scroll. We are now in the middle of the Torah, Leviticus being the third book of five. In Hebrew the book is named VaYikrah (He called), recalling the first word in the text.

God calls to Moses providing him with instructions as to how the Kohanim (Priests) and the Hebrew people are to behave. About half of the 613 mitzvot (commandments) given in the Torah are in Leviticus. The English name comes from the Greek (Book of Levites) recognizing that Hebrew Priests came from the tribe of Levi. Leviticus is also called Torat Kohanim (Laws of the Priests).

It starts off detailing the nature of sacrifices the Israelites are to gift God. In exquisite detail, various offerings are described, and their preparation. Each are to be given to the Lord for different circumstances. Some are to celebrate Sabbath and holidays. Others are given to atone for sins or other misdeeds. The Korban offering brings the giver closer to God. The Minhah (grain offering) was most favored. It was mixed with spice, making it pleasant to taste and smell. Our Deity was noted to be pleased with the odor. The gift Zevah (well-being) consisted of an animal, which could be eaten by the donors and Priests together at completion of the ritual. The Hattat (sin) offering was intended to forgive unintentional sins, such as contact with a corpse, which made the sinner impure. Ma'al offerings could be made in cash or livestock to atone for unintentional damage to property. Sins due to purposeful destruction of property, uttering a false oath, or theft required repatriation of what was damaged or stolen. Forgiveness from the offended was required as was a 20 percent penalty to be paid to the victim. Olah sacrifices were given and prepared by the Priest solely as a gift without the donor expecting benefit. Details of sacrifice preparation

include handling the burnt ashes and management of the animal dung. Nothing seems left to imagination.

Leviticus goes on to give us details as to how Priests are to dress, comport themselves with the general population, marry, and behave. Later chapters provide intricate detail of Priestly ritual duties on Yom Kippur and other major holidays. We read of the traveling Tabernacle's setup and transport by the Levite tribe during our ancestor's desert wanderings. Other chapters detail laws governing what is ritually allowed to enter our bodies. We learn that what is discharged from us can cause ritual impurity. We learn what is permissible to eat, how it must be prepared, and when it can be eaten. Notable examples include prohibitions on pork, mixing meat with milk, and no bread (or other hametz) on Passover. One section deals with ritual management of skin afflictions and another with afflictions (rot and mildew) of our dwellings—all in fastidious detail. We realize that the cycles of our lives, particularly for woman, can affect how we are able to function in a Holy society. Through all this our Creator tells us: "You shall not make yourselves impure... For I the LORD am your God: You shall sanctify yourselves and be holy, for I am holy," (Lev 11:44-45). The penalty for not following the rules can be severe: "Now Aaron's sons Nadab and Avihu each took his fire pan, put fire in it, and laid incense on it; and they offered before the LORD alien fire, which He had not enjoyed upon them. And fire came forth from the LORD and consumed them; thus they died before the LORD," (Lev 10:1-2).

So, is this what our God wants from us? Are we here to be automatons, blindly adhering to ritual whether it makes sense to us or not? How do we deal with the sacrificial laws without a Tabernacle, a Temple, or Holy altar to prepare and accept our gifts? Our answers to these questions begin to appear later in Leviticus as we are commanded how to interact with others on a daily basis. Some examples: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all

the way to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest... you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger." "You shall not steal: You shall not deal deceitfully or falsely with one another." "The wages of a laborer shall not remain with you until morning." "You shall not insult the deaf, or place a stumbling block before the blind." "When a stranger resides in your land you shall not wrong him. The stranger with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself." (Lev 19).

Here we learn that God wants us to look after one another, particularly those in trying circumstance. Ritual and sacrifice may have a place, but as noted by our prophet Isaiah: "The LORD says 'Build up, build up a highway! Clear a road! Remove all obstacles from the road of my people!'" (Isaiah 57:14). Our ancestors built Isaiah's road with adherence to ritual and sacrifice. Now the road must be cleared so the people can move on. The 13th century sage Moses Maimonides asked: "Why sacrifice a lamb some of the time and other times a ram? Why two birds for one offering, why not ten?" The Israelites recently freed from Egypt were a primitive people with a slave mentality. Ritual sacrifice was what they recognized as the proper way to please God and keep His benevolence. The acts brought them hope and comfort. When Moses was delayed on Mount Sinai, the Hebrews panicked and constructed an idol, a Golden Calf, to protect them. These people needed direction, a way to move forward down the road, if they were to find true meaning in their lives. Ritual helped provide this. The activity took time leaving less room for distraction. In this sense they could "Serve Him with all their heart," (Deut. 10:12). They had little time to sacrifice to "other gods," those that promised wealth, false hope, and transient physical satisfaction. As these people evolved sacrifice was replaced by prayer, and through deeds of loving-kindness. Their behavior became directed towards giving and building, not always receiving, as they tried to emulate their Lord. (Guide of the Perplexed - Part III). Thus we learned



how to provide for our family, our people, and humanity in the process of Tikun Olam (repair of our broken world). Back to Isaiah as he lectures us on the ritual of fasting to earn God's favor: "Why when we fasted did you not see? When we starve our bodies

did you pay no heed?" No, this is the fast I desire: To unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke. To let the oppressed go free... To share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked

clothe him, and do not to injure your own kin. Then shall your light burst through like the dawn... And let you enjoy the heritage of your father Jacob." (Is 58) The road is not an easy one to travel, but I believe it is worth the trip.

*"Thus said the LORD:*

*Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom;  
Let not the strong man glory in his strength;  
Let not the rich man glory in his riches.  
But only in this should one glory:  
In his earnest devotion to Me.  
For I the LORD act with kindness,  
Justice, and equity in the world;  
For in these I delight.*

*- Declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 9:22-23)*

## Iowa Representatives at AIPAC and on Capital Hill



From left to right: Barb Hirsch-Giller, Harvey Giller, Congresswoman Cindy Axne, Rabbi Emily Barton, Sam Veytsman, Brenda Kole, David Adelman.  
Photo Courtesy of David Adelman.

Seventeen Iowans, among which included democrats, republicans, Jews, Christians, students and professionals joined over 18,000 pro-Israel activists in Washington D.C. for AIPAC 2019 Policy Conference. The Conference took place March 24-26 and the theme was "Connected for Good." The three day conference highlighted all the positive innovations and diplomatic steps Israel is engaged in for peace and collaboration with its neighbors in the Middle East and around the globe.

Presenters included members of Congress from both sides of the political aisle as well as heads of states from countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Most importantly, Iowans in attendance were able to meet with all members of Congress advocating for a strong relationship between the U.S. and Israel.



## Upcoming Senior Activities

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, 12 p.m. Tisa Johnson from Senior Transitioning Services, an agency that helps seniors downsize, will speak. Senior Transitioning Services supports seniors and their families by helping decide what to move to a new home; they will also sort, pack, and set up the new living space.

Thursday, July 11, 2019, senior luncheon will be held at Temple B'nai Jeshurun at 12 p.m. Bev Ellis will join us for a fun art activity! Come and use your creativity!

Thursday, August 8, 2019, senior luncheon will be held at Tifereth Israel Synagogue at 12 p.m. Campers from Engman Camp Shalom will join us for lunch and provide entertainment. Join us to meet our campers!

If you are interested in attending, please contact Jody Ingersoll, Jewish Family Services, at 987-0899 ext 210.

## Federation Peanut Butter Pallet Donation to DMARC



This pallet of peanut butter contains 1,020 jars. This is a week's worth of peanut butter that DMARC gives to those in need.

## Gan Shalom Students Visit for Senior Luncheon





## Match Asher Site For New R&D Center to Employ Thousands of Engineers

NoCamels Content Team  
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The Israel Innovation Authority is launching a national pilot program to create thousands of engineering jobs in Israel's North specifically and peripheral regions in general by encouraging leading Israeli tech companies to open development centers in these areas.

The pilot began on April 15 with an opening event led by the Israel Innovation Authority at the Bar-Lev High-Tech Park in Northern Israel. The event will highlight ten leading tech companies based in the center of the country, including Check Point, Cadence, Fiverr, WalkMe, Outbrain, Playtika, SimilarWeb, and others.

Companies interested in expanding their R&D activity and in recruiting

top level candidates will have the opportunity to meet with residents of the North specializing in software and development who are interested in working in tech jobs close to home—something sorely missing from the region currently.

The Bar-Lev High-Tech Park, located between Acre and Carmiel, a half-hour ride from Haifa, invites entrepreneurs, tech professionals, and engineering and computer science students living in the North or interested in relocating to the North—to come and meet these leading and impactful Israeli high-tech companies. Hundreds of relevant candidates have already confirmed attendance.

The Israel Innovation Authority will present its programs for the periphery, which includes grants for innovative tech companies opening branches in

towns in the periphery which can serve as anchors of sustainable employment. Also as part of the program, the Israel Innovation Authority will incentivize innovative companies to open R&D centers in the area. Support valued at NIS 10 million per company will be given over three years, so long as the company conducts 80 percent of its activity in the periphery and 60 percent of its employees reside there.

"The goal is to change the face of the area by creating thousands of jobs for engineers in our technology park, to bring a wider range of high-tech jobs closer to home, to contribute to the development of the local ecosystem in general, and to expand the high-tech radius northward in the future," said Yael Jagerman Lavie, Chairwoman of the Bar-Lev High-Tech Park.

## Des Moines Community Gathers to Remember and Reflect on the Shoah

*On Wednesday, May 1, members of the Jewish community gathered at Caspe Terrace for a Yom HaShoah event. Local rabbis led a service which was followed by video clips provided by the historical society of Iowa Holocaust survivors.*

Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, was commemorated this year in a unique way. In addition to a memorial service conducted by Rabbis Kaufman and Barton and augmented by Rabbi Jacobson, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society screened video excerpts of testimonies taken from several survivors of the Holocaust who resided in Des Moines. In this respect, members of our survivor community "are with us, still."

This was the first time these videos were screened in public, most having

been recorded in or about 1985.

The footage was of Fred Badower, Jennie Wolnerman, Linda Fishman, Jacob Waizman and Phyllis Karp, all of whom have passed. In addition, there was an excerpt from testimony given by David Wolnerman, who is thankfully still with us. The tapes were introduced by Susan Jellinger, staff member with the IJHS, and the audience was visibly moved by the screening.

During the memorial service, a candle lighting ceremony was held. Six candles were lit by community

members in memory of the Six Million. One candle was lit in remembrance of those who survived the Holocaust and came to Des Moines to make new lives for themselves and their families. Their names were read aloud. An eighth candle was lit in memory of the individuals who were recently slain while within their synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA or Poway, CA, and a list of their names were read. As part of the service, the rabbis offered reflections on the tragedy at the Chabad synagogue in Poway.





# A First for Des Moines: Israeli Ambassador's Visit to the Heartland

Mark Finkelstein  
JCRC Director

Israel's ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Ron Dermer, visited Des Moines in early April and addressed a variety of audiences. Among his appearances, after meeting with the Governor and speaking at the State Legislature, the ambassador delivered remarks at a Des Moines Partnership luncheon, made a presentation to the Jewish community and spoke over breakfast to the bipartisan group, Iowans Supporting Israel.

Mr. Dermer, in the first visit to

Iowa by any Israeli ambassador to the United States, conveyed his country's deep appreciation for the longstanding relationship between the United States and Israel, and for America's abiding concern with Israel's security needs in an unstable and dangerous part of the world. Indeed, Mr. Dermer affirmed that "America is Israel's greatest ally in the world."

In his presentations, Ambassador Dermer explained how Israel, one-seventh the size of Iowa, is now recognized as the eighth most powerful nation of the world, overall—and how, owing to the strength of its technological innovations, speed of productivity, and values

compatibility, Israel is poised to best assist the United States in its national security and technology needs. The areas in which Israel excels include cybersecurity and computer technology, precision agriculture and water synthesis, medical research and technology and military intelligence.

The ambassador's visit was arranged by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines in coordination with the Israel Consulate to the Midwest.

Below are excerpts from remarks delivered to members of the Iowa State Assembly by the Hon. Ron Dermer, Israel's Ambassador to the United States.

*"Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Over the past 70 years, under both Democratic and Republican administrations, with strong support on both sides of the aisle in Congress, and with the overwhelming support of the American people, the alliance between our two countries has grown stronger and stronger.*

*I am proud to tell you that today, our alliance between America and Israel is stronger than ever. And I am confident that our alliance will get even stronger in the decades ahead.*

*In fact, I believe that Israel will be the most important ally of the United States in the 21st century.*

*Now that sounds like a strong statement coming from the Ambassador of a country only 1/7th the size of Iowa that has fewer than nine million citizens.*

*But I believe it is true for several reasons.*

*First, we share interests—interests that begin with security.*

*For the foreseeable future, some of the most dangerous security challenges facing the United States will unfortunately continue to emanate from the Middle East.*

*And in that dangerous region of the world, America needs a powerful, reliable ally.*

*America has such an ally in the State of Israel.*

*An ally that has never and will never ask the sons and daughters of America to defend us—an ally whose own sons and daughters stand ready*

*and willing to defend themselves.*

*Another shared interest is technology.*

*The 21st century is a century of knowledge, in which our prosperity is being driven primarily by our ability to innovate.*

*Well, there are two great centers of innovation in the world today. One is to the West of here in Silicon Valley. The other is to the East of here in Israel.*

*In the coming decades, Israel's value as America's most important technology partner will only grow. In agriculture—something you know about here in Iowa—in water, in healthcare, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence and in so many other areas.*

*The statistic that I think most powerfully demonstrates Israel's disproportionate value as a partner in technology is what is happening in cyber.*

*Israel accounts for about 1/10th of 1 percent of the world's population.*

*But in the past two years, Israel has accounted for 20 percent of global private investment in cybersecurity. Think about that. That means that in cyber, Israel is punching 200 times above our weight.*

*And Israel has only begun to scratch the surface of our potential.*

*There is a reason America's leading technology companies—the Intels and Ciscos, the Microsofts and the Googles, and dozens of others—have R&D centers in Israel.*

*They want to tap into our remarkable culture of innovation to position themselves to continue to lead the world into the next century.*

*And there is a reason why in a few days time Israel is poised to join the United States, China and Russia as the only countries to successfully land a space capsule on the moon.*

*Because when it comes to Israel, even the sky is not the limit.*

*But ladies and gentlemen, my confidence in the future of our alliance comes from my appreciation that it is rooted in things that run much deeper than shared interests.*

*It is also rooted in shared values.*

*The idea that all are created equal in the image of God, that no one is above the law, that compassion for the most vulnerable is a sacred obligation—ideas which have been a moral compass for generations of Americans—were ideas first championed thousands of years ago by the prophets of the Jewish people and which today are fused into the national identity of the Jewish state.*

*In a Middle East where women are often treated like property, where ancient Christian communities and other minority populations have been decimated, where gays are hanged from cranes in town squares, Israel stands out as a beacon of humanity and decency.*

*I have no doubt that our shared values will continue to bring America and Israel closer together."*





# End of Year Celebration



Thank you to all the students, teachers, madrichim, parents, volunteers, bus drivers and so many others who helped make it another successful year at Beit Sefer Shalom. The 2018-2019 school year saw so many smiles, laughs and growth in each child. From Hebrew to art and everything in between, we saw tremendous accomplishments at Caspe. From everyone at Beit Sefer Shalom, we want to wish you all a happy summer! We can't wait to see everyone together again at Caspe for the first day of the 2019-2020 school year. Beit Sefer Shalom will offer free Hebrew tutoring this summer. All Beit Sefer Shalom students are eligible. Contact Sophie Homonoff to sign up.

## THE JANICE ZUCKERT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Beit Sefer Sha<sup>om</sup>

For more information, guidelines and to apply,  
please contact

Jody Ingersoll at [jody@dmjfed.org](mailto:jody@dmjfed.org)



# Celebrating Purim and Baking Hamantaschen

Purim is an exciting time for Beit Sefer students. On March 3, Louise Kaufman helped teach the sixth grade students how to make hamantaschen. Once the sixth graders became professional pinchers and fillers, they offered support to younger grades who came through Bookey Lodge in rotations to take part in filling with chocolate, cherry and peach flavors. The finished products were then put out and eaten the following week during the Purim party on March 10. A big thank you to Liz Hopkins who helped ensure the hamantaschen were baked to perfection, and the parent volunteers who helped with hamantaschen making during the purim party.



Sixth grade students with Louise Kaufman making the dough and cutting it into circles for younger friends to fill and pinch.



Beit Sefer Sha'om  
The Jewish Federation Community School

Register for the 2019-20  
School Year!

Register online at [jewishdesmoines.org](http://jewishdesmoines.org)



# Students Awarded The 'Traveling Bowl'

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

Each year, the "Traveling Bowl" award is given to a faith organization that has put in extra effort in collecting donations for The Hunger Hike. Beit Sefer Shalom students collected a total of \$611.41 for this cause, earning this recognition for the 2018 Hunger Hike.

"By participating in this program, we are helping children in Iowa who are needing food," says Bev Ellis, Tifereth Israel Hunger Hike coordinator. "We are helping non-profit agencies and programs alleviate the problem of hunger."

Each year, the Hunger Hike takes place during World Hunger Week in October. This non-profit is made up of a group of individuals who dedicate their time to bringing awareness of world and local hunger.

In Iowa, one in five children are defined as hungry. This means their dietary needs for growth and development are not being met.

"We walk so that more can eat," Ellis says. Ellis was on the Hunger Hike board for three years. In 2010, she presented to the Tifereth Tikkun Olam Committee, requesting their involvement. Since then, Temple B'nai Jeshurun and Beit Sefer Shalom students have also joined in raising funds and participating in the Hike each year.



This year, members of the Jewish community from these three organizations joined again on a cold, windy, October Sunday to hike around downtown Des Moines as a call to help end hunger. This was a special hike—the 2018 hike was the 50th anniversary of the Hunger Hike.

The Jewish Community raised a total of \$2,585.26. Tifereth Israel Synagogue donated \$1,036.85, Temple B'nai Jeshurun donated \$937 and Beit Sefer Shalom students donated \$611.41. Along with other local organizations and people from all faiths, the Hunger Hike raised over 30 thousand dollars in 2018. The money was then allocated to service agencies that work in food purposes across Iowa.

"By participating in the hike and raising money, students are learning about Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam," Ellis says. "They are taking part of helping others less fortunate in our community."

Each year, the number of people in need of food increases. We hope that

in the future the Beit Sefer Shalom students and surrounding Jewish community can continue donating Tzedakah to take strides to end hunger in Iowa.

## Hunger Hike Allocations from 2018 Hike, Presented in 2019

- Bidwell Riverside Center, \$1,500
- Catholic Charities (St. Mary Family Center), \$1,500
- Central Iowa Shelter & Services, \$1,300
- Children & Families of Iowa (Family Violence Center), \$1,500
- Children & Family Urban Movement, \$1,500
- DMARC, \$1,500
- Epworth Community Dinners, \$1,500
- Harbor of Hope, \$1,500
- Hawthorn Hill-New Directions Shelter, \$1,000
- IMPACT Community Action Partnership, \$1,500
- Joppa, \$1,000
- New Horizons Adult Day Center (Ankeny), \$1,000
- Wesley Life (Meals on Wheels), \$1,200
- Young Children-Priority One, \$200
- EMBARC, \$1,300
- Iowa-Yucatan Partners of the Americas, \$2,000
- Seeds Program, \$2,000
- Haitian Artisans for Peace International, \$2,000
- Mary's Meals, \$3,000
- Meals from the Heartland, \$3,000
- Self-Help International, \$3,000
- Blessman Ministries, \$2,500

# Making Tzedakah a Part of Life at Caspe

With the 2018-19 Beit Sefer Shalom school year closed, we are taking a look back at how tzedakah became an important part of coming to school each week. This year, Tzedakah Wars was introduced as a fun way for classes to compete against each other all while raising Tzedakah. It is a friend competition, of course, and at the end of the day, all students were winners because of their efforts in helping others.

The fourth grade class did an amazing job of collecting Tzedakah from the other classes each week and assisting in determine the charities

who will receive the money.

As a whole, Beit Sefer Shalom students raised \$757.48. This is a huge accomplishment and students and their families should be proud of this number. Half of the money was sent to the Iowa City Children's Hospital while the other half was sent to the RamBam Children's Hospital in Haifa, Israel. These two charities were great choices and a clever way to connect Jewish life in Iowa to Jewish life in Israel.

In addition to Tzedakah Wars, for the months of February and March, Beit Sefer Shalom and Gan Shalom

students raised \$450 to send shloach manot (gift baskets) to the Combat Engineering Brigade in the Northern Golan Heights.

To make this project possible, Beit Sefer Shalom and Gan Shalom partnered with Connections Israel. Once baskets were received, a thank you video was sent to our students as well as a canvas of the brigade.

So much was accomplished in terms of Tzedakah this past school year, it's exciting to think about the possibilities for next year.

# Engman Camp Shalom

we create spirit

## You Don't Want to Miss Out on Summer

Giovanna Zavell  
Engman Camp Shalom Director

Another summer at Engman Camp Shalom is about to start. Before we know it, Caspe will be filled with happy campers.

We are so lucky to have such an accommodating space at Caspe Terrace. From the playground to the soccer field, the basketball court and the hill, there are endless spaces to explore, play and learn during summer camp. And that is just the outdoor space.

Inside Caspe, campers can find themselves creating masterpieces in the art room, putting on plays in the auditorium, experimenting with food in the kitchens and so much more. Of course, none of this would be possible without our enthusiastic and creative

staff.

Each counselor on staff has different strengths when it comes to planning activities. By having a wide variety of strengths within each counselor, this means campers have more opportunities for choices when it comes to group time. Campers can do a science experiment with a counselor one day and play capture the flag with another counselor the next.

And when we aren't at Caspe, we are on field trips all across the Des Moines area. Indoor and outdoor field trips are offered and tailored to the interests of our campers. We also cool off on Thursday afternoons at a local aquatic center. There is nothing better than the first jump into a pool after a long, hot morning.

A camper's experience at Engman Camp Shalom is unlike any other. The opportunities for fun are endless, and

a lot of the time campers get to have a say in the types of activities counselors lead. Our counselors build lasting relationships with the campers, and as cheesy as it sounds, we really do become one big family by the end of the summer.

We want your child to join us this summer at Engman Camp Shalom. We love welcoming new and familiar faces each summer. Registration is rolling, so if you have not yet registered, don't worry, there is still time. Sign up for as little or as many weeks as your schedule allows. And if your child is only registered for a week and ends up loving camp (which we hope they will) just contact me and we can sign your child up for additional weeks.

Here's a look back at some of our favorite moments from Engman Camp Shalom 2018. We hope to see you this summer!



**The UpCycle Fashion Show:** Campers were given fabrics and told to let their imaginations take over and create their very own runway look.



**Starting and ending our days outside.** It's not hard to find your favorite spot on the playground or perfect position in the GaGa pit.



**Messy Olympics during Color Wars:** Our campers were not afraid to get dirty when it came to completing these messy tasks.



# Mazel Tov Graduates!

Photos by Laurie Wahlig



Abbott

"I want to be a Police Officer when I grow up"



Adrian

"I want to be a doctor like my dad"



Alma

"I want to be a Professor at Drake like my mom"



Caroline

"I want to be a pharmacist like my mom"



Cora

"I want to be a an artist when I grow up"



Hannah

"I want to be a doctor when I grow up"



Henrik

"I want to be a Police Officer when I grow up"



Julia

"I want to be a teacher when I grow up"



Olivia

"I want to be a construction worker when I grow up"



Sam

"I want to be a Police Officer when I grow up"







# Join us for **GAN SHALOM CAMP 2019!**

## Weekly Sessions

June 3 – 7 Gan Shalom Summer Kick Off

June 10 – 14 Incredible Insects

June 17 – 21 Growing in the Garden

June 24 – 28 Creative Art

July 1 – 5 Big Wheels (Closed Thursday)

July 8 – 12 Dinosaur Dig

July 15 – 19 Galactic Exploration

July 22 – 26 Down By the Sea

July 29 – Aug 2 Construction Zone

Aug 5 – 9 Ooey Gooy

Aug 12 – 16 Carnival Time



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# Get to Know the Gan Shalom Staff

*These are the educators who keep Gan Shalom running each day. They teach and take care of our youngest friends that fill the halls at Caspe. They encourage each child to be curious and explore anything and everything.*



Raizel Small | Alef

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*Going on nature walks around Caspe Terrace. The children gain an appreciation for all of the plants and creatures growing in our yards. We also always look forward to celebrating Shabbat every Friday morning.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*I love welcoming our youngest students. It is a unique opportunity to foster an environment that encourages creativity, independence and hands-on exploration. We lay the foundation of creating their Jewish identities by celebrating Jewish values, culture, and traditions.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*Our students are learning important life skills that will be used later in their social, academic, and professional lives. We work hard to support each child's development in becoming well-rounded individuals.*



Makenna Hardin | Alef

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*When we get to take the kids outside. I love taking the kids on walks to the garden, and watching them have fun on the playground.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*It means that we play an important role in helping the kids develop certain skills that will help them learn of the world around them, and how to navigate through it. Whether it's socially, physically or emotionally.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*Gan Shalom invests not only in the kids, but in the families as well. We make an effort to meet each child's specific needs, and help them progress in the way that is best for them.*



Rhonda Leslie | Bet

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*During free play time as I can spend one on one time with each child interacting with them.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*To sing, play, smile, learn, love and laugh.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*That our children learn within play and exploring.*



Marty Samuels | Bet

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*When I first arrive and see the children and am greeted by them in the morning. Also, seeing their excitement when a discovery is made outside.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*It is something I fell in love with and feel comfortable doing, even at an early time in my career. I have learned patience and compassion for others and to live in the moment.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*The individualized care for each child. The rooms, equipment, endless art and science supplies, and of course, the beautiful outside areas. We are truly blessed to have such an environment to learn and grow in.*





Samantha Fannon | Bet

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*When we go outside to explore. Watching the kids' faces as they discover the world reminds me how wondrous the world is.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*It means I get to help shape how the kids grow up. I get to help them grow emotionally and mentally while they develop their own unique personality.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*That the staff is very supportive of each other and everyone steps in whenever they are needed.*



Lisa Nelson | Gimel

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*Greeting each child and parent in the morning. I get lots of smiles and hugs. Also, I love watching and listening to the children as they converse, play and interact throughout the day. They are so kind and loving with their friends.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*It means I have the best job in the world. I get to love, nurture and teach young children. It means giving them the tools to become confident, caring and curious individuals.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*We really are one big family here at Gan Shalom. We are here for each other and all the children genuinely care for one another.*



Aline Van Ginkel | Gimel

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*When I get to sit and read with my kids. Reading with them is our daily escape to a magical world together. It's a chance to see the world from their perspective.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*The cool thing about being an early childhood education teacher is that you have to apply different methods to different students. Being in this position gives you a natural ability to connect with kids.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*The teachers love this preschool. It's not only our job, but a place that we feel we are a family who, together, love to make our kids feel loved, safe and happy to be here.*



Juli Margolin | Dalet

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*I love reading and when the kids get excited about books. I love it when they find a certain author they like or when they recognize an illustrator. It's fun to see them make connections between books we have read.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*When my students figure out how to do something that has been a challenge for them, such as writing their first and last name or being able to put together a 36 piece puzzle, or being able to hang their coat on the hook in their cubbie because now they are tall enough!*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*We are all about community and taking care of one another. Not only do the staff help out each other, we have our kids help out others, both in our classes and in other classes. Helping out others is an important Jewish value. It is a mitzvah to help others.*



Zak Randles | Dalet

**What is your favorite part of the day at Gan Shalom?**

*When we get to go outside! I love being outside with the kids. It's always an adventure.*

**What does being a preschool teacher mean to you?**

*It means the world to me. Everyday getting the opportunity to come in and spend time with these children is exhilarating. I always look forward to what the day holds for us.*

**What is one thing you think all families should know about Gan Shalom?**

*All the time and energy that goes into the behind the scenes work. The teachers at Gan Shalom spend a lot of their free time working to make Gan Shalom what it is. When I walk in to the school I can see the love and dedication that has been put into the school since the day it opened.*



# Celina Karp Biniaz Returns to Des Moines for Special Events



Iowa Jewish Historical Society



These scissors were given to Irvin, Phyllis and Celina Karp the day before the liberation of Oskar Schindler's Brännlitz, Czechoslovakia factory in May 1945. The Karp family was given two bolts of cloth and five pairs of scissors to barter for food, transportation, and other needs following their liberation from the camp. They saved one pair of scissors and brought them to the United States in 1947. Celina (Karp) Biniaz donated them to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society as she believes they belong here in Iowa with the Schindler Cup she previously donated. Both the Schindler Cup and the scissors are on display at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.



Gold Sponsors Lou and Marilyn Hurwitz with daughter Jody at *Memories and Melodies of Auschwitz*.



During her week-long visit to Des Moines, Celina also spoke to 600 people at Iowa State University and to standing room only crowds at three DMACC campuses — Ankeny, Urban, and Boone — and to high school students from Des Moines and Marshalltown who participate in activities sponsored by AI Exito, a non-profit that provides programming that builds the leadership potential of Latino/a youth through college preparation, career development, civic engagement, family support, and celebration of culture. She connected with people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.



Alex Biniaz-Harris and Ambrose Soehn's music was transformative and Celina's poetry and presentation was moving. The way Celina wove in her poetry and the significance of the scissors, leading up to her presenting them to IJHS, again, shows what a brilliant speaker she is. The sanctuary of Tifereth Israel Synagogue, the home congregation for the Karp family was filled with visitors from across Central Iowa to witness this performance.



## A Special Thank You

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is deeply grateful to our sponsors who not only made Celina Karp Biniarz' visit and the *Memories and Melodies of Auschwitz* program possible but also made it possible for the IJHS to make the public events at Iowa State University, DMACC Ankeny Campus, DMACC Urban Campus, DMACC Boone Campus and for the high school students from Des Moines and Marshalltown Al Exito program free to all.

Thank you!

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Several of Celina's presentations were recorded, including the *Memories and Melodies of Auschwitz* program featuring Celina, her grandson Alex Biniarz-Harris, and Ambrose Soehn. Below are links to the recordings of the programs and to additional articles about her visit.

- Memories and Melodies of Auschwitz, April 1, 2019 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue: <https://bit.ly/2IOvcBj>
- Celina at the Des Moines Area Community College's Urban Campus, April 2, 2019, courtesy of DMACC: <https://bit.ly/2IYVlg1>
- An article from the DMACC Daily: <https://bit.ly/2GQDxCf>
- The Little Village Magazine in Iowa City: <https://bit.ly/2vrQv2C>
- Coverage of the Celina's presentation at Iowa State University on March 31, 2019: <https://bit.ly/2Wehj2i> and <https://bit.ly/2GT6z4i>



Karen Engman, Co-President of the IJHS and editor of the IJHS cookbook "Beyond Matzo Balls: Celebrating 100 Years of Jewish Cooking" and IJHS board member Jody Jacklin promote the IJHS cookbook, membership and programs at the first annual DSM Book Festival.

## Give the Gift of Iowa's Jewish History and Help Preserve Iowa's Jewish Heritage for This and Future Generations

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

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[ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org)



Iowa Jewish Historical Society



From left to right: Steven, Edye and Wendy Beckerman. | Photo Courtesy of Edye Beckerman

## For The Love of The Game, And Mother-Daughter Bonding

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

For this mother-daughter duo, Principal Park is an important place for more than just baseball. It is a place where friends and memories are made. Wendy and Edye Beckerman have been Iowa Cubs season ticket holders for over 15 years and they can't see their lives being any other way.

"I love opening the box of tickets for the first time each season," Edye says. "It's one of my most favorite days of the year."

"She probably has a picture of the box from each year," Wendy says.



Documenting each year's ticket opening together is an important tradition for Edye and Wendy. | Photo by Edye B.

When asked why they became season ticket holders, Wendy said for mother-daughter bonding, while Edye said for the love of the game. But it's clear both of these answers are the reasons the two make it to 90 percent of Iowa Cubs games each season.

"I plan my schedule around baseball," Edye says. "Once I get the announcement for ticket pick up, I zone in on the calendar."

### It All Started With a Baseball Card

When Edye and her siblings were born, it was decided that an item would be collected for each of them. When Edye was born, it was stamps. When her sister Amy was born, it was coins. And when her brother Steven was born, it was baseball cards.

"We can't talk about what baseball means to our family without including my brother," Edye says. "He also has a deep love for baseball."

"It all started with the baseball cards," Wendy says. "He got really into collecting them and eventually started to collect other baseball memorabilia."

The season tickets started with Steven, who used to have the Beckerman's seats when he was still living in Des Moines. When he moved to Washington D.C. Wendy took over and her and Edye have been going ever since.

"Growing up, I always went to Minnesota to Metropolitan Stadium," Wendy says. The area that once was this stadium is now where The Mall

of America sits. "We used to sit in the bleachers. Now that was baseball."

"My whole life I loved watching the game," Edye says. "Steven and I always used to watch games on TV and went to a lot of games too."

### Take Me Out to The Ball Game

Edye and Wendy sit just behind first base in what they call "the best seats in the house." Their seats have a direct view inside the I Cubs dugout, which is one of the reasons the seats are so loved.

"I like to see them get mad," Edye says. "I like to see them come back in and either throw their bat or gently place their bat back into the stand. Even though we have the sun the longest, I wouldn't want to have seats that look into the visitor's dugout. I enjoy being able to see all the action of the home team." Wendy says she enjoys seeing all the high fives and pats on the back after a player hits a home run.

Edye and Wendy usually meet at Principal Park, unless it's a Sunday, then they will go together. When they do meet at the ball park, the two walk in together and if it's a cold day, they get in line to go up to the Cub Club and find a window seat. "If it's a cold day, like this past opening day, you will find me buried in blankets with gloves on and a hat," Wendy says. "It can get so cold in April."

Luckily, a majority of baseball season is warm, and Wendy and Edye



spend a lot of time before the games at High Life Lounge eating burgers and tots. They meet friends there, old and new, before walking over. “You can’t have ballpark food all the time,” Edye says.

Once the first pitch has been thrown, the ladies settle into their own baseball worlds.

“There is just something about the relaxation of being in a ballpark with the sun and no time commitment,” Wendy says. “It’s not a fast moving game, you have to be patient.”

“I usually know a lot more of what is going on, transaction wise,” Edye says.

If one thing is for sure, it’s that everyone knows where the Beckermans sit. It’s the same seats every year. Because of this, Edye and Wendy have made many friends over the years, and continue to meet new people who are all at Principal Park for the same reason: the love of baseball.

“Looking back at a season, it’s nice to say ‘oh we ran into X,Y and Z,’” Edye says. “We have built some amazing relationships over the years.”



Edye during her 40th birthday celebration with Iowa Cubs mascot, Cubbie Bear, and a Wrigley Field themed cake. | Photo Courtesy of Edye B.

From the family that sits in front of them to the ushers in their section, the friendships have been kept on and outside of game days.

Edye and Wendy get to share their love for the Iowa Cubs and Principal



When it comes to day games, the Iowa Cubs come first for Edye. “I take vacation days for all the day games,” Edye says. There is nobody who doesn’t know where I am if the Cubs are playing at home during the day.” | Photo Courtesy of Edye B.

Park with their longtime friends and family members as well. The ballpark has seen more than just baseball games for the Beckerman family. “The ballpark is a very special place as a whole,” Edye says. “Over the years, we have shared a lot of special occasions and moments there.”

Edye celebrated her 40th birthday at Principal Park in true Cubs fashion. She even had her name on the scoreboard for the rest of the fans to see. Edye and Wendy have been on the field multiple times for different occasions ranging from charity work to Edye being recognized as the 2016 All Star of the Year through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. At the end of a season, Wendy and Edye rent a sky box and have their friends and family out.

“If you look back at all the pictures, you can see all of the kids growing up,” Edye says. “And us remaining the same,” Wendy answered.

### From Des Moines to Chicago

The Iowa Cubs are the Triple-A Affiliate of the Chicago Cubs, meaning a lot of Chicago Cubs players get their start in Des Moines. And, every so often, Des Moines is graced with a major league player if he is on a rehab assignment.

“Injury plays a huge role in what we see in Des Moines,” Edye says. “It sends our people down and it sends our people up. It’s just a revolving door.” But this is the farm team’s intention — to build players to go to Chicago. Both Edye and Wendy agree the Iowa Cubs have done this, and

continue to do so. The relationship between the Chicago Cubs and the Iowa Cubs is strong, making the culture stronger.

From the 2016 World Series Champions Cubs team, 19 played at Principal Park.

“Our catcher, Taylor Davis, is currently up in Chicago playing,” Edye says. “We’ve seen Anthony Rizzo come through and Kris Bryant. Mike Montgomery was just here on a rehab assignment, and he closed the deal in 2016 to win the World Series. But the most memorable moment for me is when Kerry Wood was on a rehab assignment and we had almost 14,000 people in the stadium. It was remarkable to see him.”

### Going Beyond the Ballpark

“The Iowa Cubs make a substantial impact on the culture of Des Moines, both financially and socially,” Edye says. “They are one of the most gracious organizations to work with and give back to the community in a number of ways.”

Community involvement is a huge part of the Iowa Cubs. From supporting the local boy scout trope to having different cancer days at the ballpark, Edye says it is important that the Iowa Cubs gets the recognition for giving back, as they have done so much for her.

“Everything I have ever asked for—charity events, personal favors, anything — they have given me,” Edye says. “The Iowa Cubs have always taken care of me.”



# Mazel Tov Graduates!



Havah Frank graduated from Roosevelt High School on May 25, 2019. In the fall, she plans to attend Barry University in Miami where she will study exercise science.



Connor Bernstein graduated from Southeast Polk High School. Connor will spend the summer racing his bicycle throughout the U.S.A. and then travel to Europe to continue racing as a neo-professional bike racer. In October, he will begin his next career path with the United States Air Force. He will learn his career as a stealth aircraft mechanic. The USAF will also enable him to race his bicycle under the military banner. Following his 4 years of service he will again continue to chase his dream of becoming a professional cyclist.



Dana Aguilar will spend her first year after high school taking online classes with DMACC, after moving down south to Florida with her parents. She'll travel to Canada, Argentina, and Israel on her birthright trip! Dana then plans to study journalism and communications on the east coast.



Hanna Marcus, daughter of Andrew Marcus and Nicci Marcus, graduated from Valley High School on May 26, 2019. Hanna has been an active participant in the Jewish community and has attended camp GUCI for the past eight years. After graduation, she will be a counselor at Camp GUCI for the summer. She will attend Michigan State University in the Fall and major in Nursing.



Dani Lipman, daughter of Andi and Jeff Lipman and granddaughter of Don and Ronna Pochter, graduated from the University of Iowa on May 11, 2019. Dani graduated with Bachelor of Science degrees in Physics and Astronomy, with a minor in Mathematics. Dani graduated with departmental and University Honors. Dani has received a Fulbright Scholar Award through the US Department of State which will involve spending the next year researching at Nanjing University in China.



Allison Ohringer, daughter of Sheldon and Beth Ohringer of West Des Moines, graduated from Valley High School. Allison was an Art Scholar. She was involved in cross country, golf, synchronized swimming, IHSSA All-State, National Honor Society, and was the President of DECA. Allison will attend the University of Colorado-Boulder in the fall.



# Called To The Torah



Jeremy and Danna Pins are proud to announce that their son, Jacob Jonah Pins, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah at 4:30pm on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at Temple B'nai Jeshurun.



Emily and Terry Kruse are pleased to announce that their son Scott Byron will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 8 at 4:30 p.m. at Temple B'nai Jeshurun. Scott is in seventh grade at Parkview Middle School in Ankeny.

## In Memoriam

*Joseph Isman  
Ronald Rosenblatt  
John A. Jaeger  
Ann Louise Higgins Wahlig  
Seymour Sacks  
Frances Harris  
Army Engman*

# Watching Israel Make History



Federation staff and students from Gan Shalom's Dalet class gathered in the Staroselsky Clubhouse to watch Israel attempt moon landing. Students waved Israeli flags while listening to the astronauts talk about how much of an accomplishment this day was. Unfortunately, just as the spacecraft was about to land, connection was lost and the spacecraft crashed into the moon. Still, any progress in making it to space is an accomplishment and students can't wait for the next time when Israel will land on the moon.

**Celebrating something in your life or remembering someone who has passed? Consider submitting simchas and memoriams to the Jewish Press. From births to weddings, B'nai Mitzvot and awards, we want to celebrate all of life's achievements and cycles.**

**All submissions should be sent to [jp@dmjfed.org](mailto:jp@dmjfed.org)**

# Reflecting on the Past and Focusing on the Future of AJC

Giovanna Zavell  
Managing Editor

The word community for most means a group of people who live in the same area or share common characteristics. For the Ames Jewish Congregation (AJC), community means family. The reality for many members of the AJC is very few relatives live nearby.

"We have become an extended family for one another," says B'nai Mitzvah Liaison, Sally Lapan. "We share the good times and offer support in difficult times." Other congregation members echoed this idea during the 25th anniversary celebration of the addition to the Ames Jewish Congregation building and filling of a time capsule.

## A Walk Through History

The Ames Jewish Congregation was organized in 1961 and formalized as a Reform congregation in 1962. Before having a permanent home, services were held in congregation member's homes as well as facilities of local churches. The congregation then rented a space for worship, meetings and religious school classes.

In 1977, AJC built its own synagogue, which was formally dedicated in 1978 with the participation of three Rabbis from Des Moines and local clergy.



Magen David found by AJC past member, Vera David, while antiquing in Iowa in the 1970s. It is displayed at the entrance of the AJC building. Photo Courtesy of AJC



Ames Jewish Congregation was created for families who wanted a closer place to worship than having to travel to Des Moines. | Photo Courtesy of AJC

Twenty-five years ago, in 1994, an addition was put onto the original building that added a larger sanctuary space and classrooms on the lower level. Religious school students at the time filled a time capsule with some of their favorite things and memorable items that was then opened on Sunday, May 5, 2019.

Before locating and opening the time capsule, everyone in attendance took part in two activities: a scavenger hunt and group discussions guided by a set of questions. The purpose of the scavenger hunt was to learn about special items within the building and think deeply about what each item meant to each person.

The items featured on the scavenger hunt included a stain glass Star of David at the front of the building that was found at an antique store, the stain glass ark and Torahs inside (one being a Holocaust Torah), the Tree of Life Mural, a ceramic mosaic made by religious school students that depicts the holidays in chronological order and more.

To hear the discussions as each group moved from one station to the next, it was clear these items were important and held personal memories for many. When asked how 'how do you feel when you see the Jewish Star?' Alanna Buck, a third grade student, said she feels safe whenever she sees the star.

## Commitment to the Future

"We have a long history of a vibrant

religious school," says Robyn Dennis, an AJC board member and previous religious school co-director. "No matter the size of our school, we have dedicated directors and teachers that work hard to ensure that our kids have a meaningful Jewish education."

A lot of the discussion that took place during the 25th anniversary celebration focused on the future of the congregation and how to attract new families as well as keep the youth engaged. The kids that fill the sanctuary and religious school classes have been a big part of AJC. Students throughout the years have left their mark all over the building; the ceramic holiday mural in the entry way, the Tree of Life mural inside the sanctuary was painted by students, and members still think back to when Bar and Bat Mitzvahs were had.

Besides the many photos on display during the celebration, there were also 29 testimonies from previous religious schools students. "Out of 40 previous students I contacted, 29 of them responded," says Lapan. "They shared their memories from religious school days. Some of them were quite funny."

One member compared the religious school students to cousins.

One of the main reasons the AJC was founded was to educate Jewish children in Ames and its surrounding neighborhoods. This remains one of the congregation's main purposes, offering classes for children from toddlers through confirmation. There are currently 30 children enrolled in



AJC's Religious school classes.

### It Takes a Village

Being a small congregation, the members of AJC rely on each other to get things done.

"We are very much a 'do-it-yourself' congregation," says Lapan. "That means, if someone thinks something needs to be done or wants something done, then it is up to that person to see it get done. We each feel an ownership in the congregation."

"It is rewarding when everyone has that sense of ownership towards the success of something so important to us all," Dennis echoed. "When you are part of a small congregation, it is critical that everyone helps in some way. From directing and teaching in our religious school to mowing the lawn and shopping for supplies."

### The 1994 Time Capsule

It's no surprise the most anticipated part of the celebration was locating and opening the time capsule. Hidden within the bimah (stage), the religious school students were asked to help lift the carpet and remove the box.

The congregation was given a little reminder of what the world was like in 1994 before the box was opened. President Bill Clinton was under investigation, OJ Simpson was on trial, Michael Jackson got married, Richard Nixon died, there was no World Series due to a strike, *Forest Gump* and *Lion King* were introduced to the world and Steven King won an Academy Award for *Schindler's List*.

Members of the congregation quickly gathered on the bimah and front of the sanctuary to get a better look at what was inside.

### "And The Youth Shall See Visions"

To conclude the celebration, the same song from when the time capsule was first put in was sung, Debbie Friedman's "And The Youth Shall See Visions." The lyrics represent the dedication and commitment of AJC members

*And the old shall dream dreams.*

*And the youth shall see visions.*

*And our hopes shall rise up to the sky. We must live for today.*

*We must build for tomorrow.*

*Give us time, give us strength, give us life.*



Top: The time capsule that was hidden in 1994 and some of its contents.

Bottom: Time capsule that was hidden on May 5, 2019 and is to be opened again in 25 years. | Photo Courtesy of AJC

## AJC Summer 2019 Worship Schedule

Rabbi-led Shabbat services

Rabbi Nina Mizrahi will be in Ames to lead services and adult ed on the weekend of June 7-8, following her regular Shabbat services and adult ed schedule:

Friday, 7:30 p.m.: Shabbat services

Saturday, 10 a.m.: Shabbat morning services with Torah study

12 p.m.: Adult education (continuing discussion of Pirkei Avot)

Shavuot

We will celebrate Shavuot with a potluck dinner and dairy dessert on Saturday, June 8, 5 p.m. Details and a potluck sign-up sheet will be sent out by email closer to the event.

Other summer Shabbat services

During the summer, we will take our customary break from regular Shabbat services, resuming in mid to late August.

A list and/or calendar of AJC events can be viewed at <http://ajciowa.org/events.htm>. To receive emails about upcoming events or our monthly newsletter, or for more information about our events, please contact AJC at [ajciowa@gmail.com](mailto:ajciowa@gmail.com).

# TBJ Worship Schedule

Temple B'nai Jeshurun | 5101 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312  
visit [www.templebnaijeshurun.org](http://www.templebnaijeshurun.org) for more information

## Fridays

### WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL FRIDAYS, 5:30 P.M.

June 7, June 14, June 21, June 28  
July 5, July 12, July 19, July 26,  
August 2, August 9, August 16, August 23, August 30

### EREV SHABBAT SERVICE FRIDAYS, 6 P.M.

June 7, June 14, June 21, June 28  
July 5, July 12, July 19, July 26,  
August 2, August 9, August 16, August 23, August 30

### SHABBAT POTLUCK DINNER FRIDAYS, 7 P.M.

June 7, July 5, August 2,

### YOUTH GROUP GATHERING FIRST FRIDAY, 7 P.M.

June 7, July 5, August 2,

### MAHJ & MORE! FRIDAY, 7 P.M.

June 21, July 19, August 16

### ISRAELI FILM CLUB/ DOCUMENTARY MOVIE NIGHTS FRIDAY, 7:15 P.M.

June 14, June 28,  
July 12, July 26  
August 9, August 23

## Saturdays

### WEEKLY TEXT STUDY SATURDAYS, 9 A.M.

June 1, June 8, June 15, June 22, June 29  
July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27  
August 3, August 10, August 17, August 24, August 31

### TRADITIONAL TORAH STUDY SATURDAYS, 9 A.M.

June 1, June 8, June 15, June 22, June 29  
July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27  
August 3, August 10, August 17, August 24, August 31

### SHABBAT SERVICE SATURDAYS, 10 A.M.

June 1, June 8, June 15, June 22,  
July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27  
August 3, August 10, August 17, August 24, August 31

### BAR MITZVAHS SATURDAYS, 4:30 A.M.

June 8, Scott Kruse  
June 15, Jacob Pins

## Sundays

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 2, 2019 | 1 p.m.

### TYG Board Meeting at Panera in WDSM

Sunday, July 7, 2019 | 12:30 p.m.  
Sunday, August 4, 2019 | 12:30 p.m.



# TIS Worship Schedule

Tifereth Israel Synagogue | 924 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312

visit [www.tifereth.org](http://www.tifereth.org) for more information

## RECURRING EVENTS

*Tuesday Minyan, 7:15 a.m.*

*Friday Services | 6 p.m. | Shabbat Evening Service*

*Saturday Services | 9:30 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service | 11:45 a.m. Shabbat Cafe |  
12:30 p.m. Shabbat Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Emily Barton*

## JUNE SPECIAL EVENTS

*Friday, June 7, 2019 | 6 p.m. | Acoustic Shabbat and Summer Kick-Off Cookout*

*Saturday, June 8 | Time TBD | YAD Shavuot Event*

*Saturday, June 8 | 9:30 a.m. | Adult Learning Contemplative Service*

*Saturday, June 8 | 10:15 a.m. | Torah Service*

*Sunday, June 9 | 9:30 a.m. | Shavuot Services*

*Monday, June 10 | 9:30 a.m. | Shavuot Services and Yizkor*

*Sunday, June 16 | 11:45 - 2 p.m. | TIS Family Picnic at Raccoon River*

*Sunday, June 23 | 1 p.m. | TIS at the Iowa Cubs Game*

*Tuesday, June 25 | 6:30 p.m. | Chai Mitzvah at TBJ*

## JULY SPECIAL EVENTS

*Saturday, July 13 | 9:30 a.m. | Contemplative Service*

*Saturday, July 13 | 10:15 a.m. | Torah Service*

*Tuesday, July 23 | 6:30 p.m. | Chai Mitzvah at TBJ*

## AUGUST SPECIAL EVENTS

*Sunday, August 4 | 1 p.m. | Tikkun Olam Shelter Dinner Preparation*

*Thursday, August 8 | 12 p.m. | Senior Luncheon at TIS*

*Saturday, August 10 | Time TBD | Tisha B'Av Services - Movie and Discussion*

*Saturday, August 10 | 9:30 a.m. | Contemplative Service*

*Saturday, August 10 | 10:15 a.m. | Torah Service*

*Tuesday, August 27 | 6:30 p.m. | Chai Mitzvah at TIS*

## ONGOING EDUCATION

*Shabbat Lunch and Learn With Rabbi Emily Barton | Saturdays after Shabbat Cafe  
at 12:30 p.m.*

*S.T.E.P. (Sunday Torah Education Program) with Michael Kuperman | Sundays at  
10 a.m.*

# JRC of Iowa Worship Schedule

943 Cummins Parkway, Des Moines, IA 50312  
visit [www.jewishiowa.com](http://www.jewishiowa.com) for more information

## June Events

Thursday, June 6 | 7 a.m. | Yahrzeit Minyan

Friday, June 7 | 7 p.m. | Friday Night Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 8 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service followed by Mincha and Maariv  
Services at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 9 | 10 a.m., Shavuot Service | 11 a.m., Reading of the 10 Commandments  
followed by Deluxe Dairy Kiddish

Monday, June 10 | 10 a.m., Shavuot Service | Yizkor Service, 11 a.m. | Mincha and Maariv  
at 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 13 | 7 a.m. | Yahrzeit Minyan

Saturday, June 15 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Monday, June 17 | 7 a.m. | Yahrzeit Minyan

Saturday, June 22 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, June 29 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

## July Events

Saturday, July 6 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, July 13 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, July 20 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Sunday, July 21 | 9 a.m. | Fast of the 17th of Tammuz Morning Service

Saturday, July 27 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Sunday, July 28 | 9 a.m. | Yahrzeit Service

## August Events

Saturday, August 3 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, August 10 | 10 a.m., Shabbat Morning Service | Fast of the 9th of Av Recite  
Eicha at 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 11 | 9 a.m. | Fast of Tisha B'Av Minyan

Saturday, August 17 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, August 24 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Service

Saturday, August 31 | 10 a.m. | Shabbat Morning Rosh Chodesh Elul



## Save the Date! Mah Jongg Tournament of the Tiles at Tifereth Israel Synagogue Sunday, September 15, 2019 11 a.m. To 4:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., Explanation of rules begins at 10:45 a.m.  
Registration fee: \$40  
Get together with a group of smart, friendly and fun players for an exciting afternoon of mah jongg, prizes, laughter and food.  
All players are welcome!

Put the date on your calendar

—  
There is no such thing as too much mah jongg

—  
Great networking opportunity with friendly, sociable players

—  
This is going to be FUN

Tifereth Israel Synagogue, 924 Polk Blvd.  
For more information and registration materials contact Maddie Schoen  
515.225.8789  
mschoen52@gmail.com



## Shabbat at the Zoo With TBJ



We will gather at the Blank Park Zoo for a special Shabbat program in which we will visit animals discussed in the Jewish tradition and learn some of what Judaism has to say about them. We will gather in front of the main entrance to the zoo at about 9:45 a.m. and then go to the zoo. The formal program will last about an hour and involve walking from exhibit to exhibit with prayers, readings, songs and a story

about animals told along the way. Tots will love it as will their grandparents and great-grandparents! Donations will be accepted to help cover the cost of admission for non-zoo members.

Please RSVP to the Temple office (515) 274-4679 if you plan on attending.

## Elyse Weiss Pet Shabbat at Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 10 a.m. will be our Pet Shabbat Service, held in memory of Elyse Weiss, outside on the Temple lawn. Bring your family pet and introduce him/her to everyone. "Horsing" around required!



## Shavuot Deluxe Dairy Luncheon

**Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> 11:00am\***

Join us as we will \*read the 10 Commandments for the 3,331<sup>st</sup> time since we received the Torah on Mt. Sinai.  
A Dairy Kiddush Luncheon will be served after the Morning Services

Shabbos May 19<sup>th</sup> Morning Services 10:00am  
Saturday Night Evening Services 8:15pm  
Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup> Morning Services 10:00am  
Monday May 21<sup>st</sup> Morning Services 10:00am  
Yizkor 11:30am

943 Cummins Parkway Des Moines Iowa 50312  
\*(Please RSVP 515-277-1770 - Jrspark@man.com)  
Looking forward to seeing you  
Rabbi Yossi and Chanle Jacobson

Kiddush Sponsor \$360.00 - Torah Sponsor \$180.00



# The Caspe Terrace Wordsearch

F	R	J	P	W	V	L	N	P	P	R	K	M	N	U
U	E	M	U	Q	E	O	H	L	Y	A	I	U	E	F
R	A	D	S	D	I	R	A	J	I	U	T	E	M	W
C	E	J	E	L	A	Y	B	F	M	D	C	S	K	S
F	P	Z	I	R	G	I	N	E	P	I	H	U	E	E
R	G	V	C	R	A	Y	S	F	H	T	E	M	F	E
T	A	R	O	A	R	T	T	M	H	O	N	O	C	S
P	I	U	J	R	J	I	I	I	P	R	R	W	L	U
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R	R	M	K	O	Q	K	S	E	T	B	J	M	I	U
U	K	X	D	L	Q	A	E	P	L	M	H	X	O	L
T	D	U	Z	X	C	C	Y	Q	C	Q	Z	W	P	C
X	E	R	G	R	R	X	V	P	F	O	E	V	W	W

ART  
 AUDITORIUM  
 BOOKEY  
 CAMP  
 CLUBHOUSE  
 COMMUNITY  
 FEDERATION  
 HEBREW  
 JUDAISM  
 KITCHEN  
 MUSEUM  
 PAVILION  
 PLAYGROUND  
 PLAYROOM  
 PRESCHOOL  
 WAUKEE





## Planned Giving

Would you like to ensure a strong Jewish Community thrives for years to come in Des Moines? Include The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines in your estate plans, through a bequest in your will, having the Federation be the beneficiary of your retirement plan or insurance policy. You may also chose to endow your yearly campaign contribution. Leaving a planned gift to the Federation will help us provide a Jewish education for your children and grandchildren. You can lead us into the future. Go to [www.jewishdesmoines.org](http://www.jewishdesmoines.org) or call 515-987-0899 and we will be glad to assist you.

**The *Jewish Press* is going digital!**  
**We are happy to announce *The Jewish Press* will now be released primarily in digital format. If you would still like to receive a physical copy of *The Jewish Press*, please fill out the survey here [bit.ly/2KngwWW](http://bit.ly/2KngwWW) or fill in this form and send it by mail to:**

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, 33158 Ute Ave. Waukee, IA 50263**

**\*If you have already filled out this form, there is no need to fill it out again\***

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_



# Engman Camp Shalom

## SUMMER 2019

**JUNE 10TH - AUGUST 16TH**



**1**

**JUNE 10-14**  
**FIELD TRIP: SKY ZONE**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: SWIM LESSONS**

**2**

**JUNE 17-21**  
**FIELD TRIP: ADVENTURELAND**

**3**

**JUNE 24-28**  
**FIELD TRIP: GET AIR**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: MENACE**

**4**

**JULY 1-5**  
**FIELD TRIP: SCIENCE CENTER**  
**NO CAMP THURSDAY & FRIDAY**

**5**

**JULY 8-12**  
**FIELD TRIP: RACCOON RIVER PARK**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: SWIM LESSONS**

**6**

**JULY 15-19**  
**FIELD TRIP: BOWLING**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: COLOR WARS**

**7**

**JULY 22-26**  
**FIELD TRIP: JESTER PARK**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: SWIM LESSONS**  
**& CAMP OVERNIGHT ON THURSDAY**

**8**

**JULY 29-AUGUST 2**  
**FIELD TRIP: MOVIE THEATER**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: SWIM LESSONS**

**9**

**AUGUST 5-9**  
**FIELD TRIP: BLANK PARK ZOO**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: ENGMAN CAMP**  
**SHALOM CARNIVAL ON FRIDAY**

**10**

**AUGUST 12-16**  
**FIELD TRIP: IOWA STATE FAIR**  
**EXTRACURRICULAR: FINAL DAY OF**  
**CAMP CELEBRATION ON FRIDAY**

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 9 A.M.-4 P.M., \$200/WEEK**  
**AVAILABLE TO ANY CHILD ENTERING KINDERGARTEN - EIGHTH GRADE**



**For more information about transportation, hot lunch,  
before and after care, please visit:**

<https://www.jewishdesmoines.org/our-pillars/engman-camp-shalom/parent-resources/>

**Register online at**

<https://www.jewishdesmoines.org/our-pillars/engman-camp-shalom/summer-camp-registration/>

33158 Ute Avenue \* Waukee, IA 50263 \* 515.987.0899