

THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

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Morah Raizel's two year-old Gan Shalom class is ready to learn all about Hanukkah! From the menorah to the dreidel and everything in between, all classes at Gan Shalom will start learning about the eight day festival of lights in Judaics class.

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December 2019, January & February 2020
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Community Report

Beit Sefer Shalom

- More than 115 students are participating at BSS this year and more than 20 teenagers are working in the Madrichim Program
- Sukkot was celebrated with lessons lead by the 5th grade class on October 13 and 3rd-12th graders brought non-Jewish friends to celebrate on October 16
- High School students traveled to Ames to participate in the Bed of Bags program at ISU
- Global Day of Jewish Learning is November 17, 2019. All are welcome at Caspe from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Gan Shalom

- Grandparents joined us for a Cy-Hawk themed tailgate lunch for Grandparent's Day on September 13th
- Fifty-five Rosh Hashanah baskets were sold for a Gan Shalom Fundraiser and delivered to the community
- Teachers attended professional development training at the Iowa AEYC Fall Institute in Altoona, IA
- Parents are receiving communications with software apps SeeSaw and Remind, providing pictures of daily activities

Engman Camp Shalom

- Winter Break Camp is scheduled for December. Contact anna@jewishdesmoines.org for more information
- Engman Camp Shalom had 283 total registrations during the summer of 2019
- Over 75 different children enjoyed ECS during the summer
- More than a dozen Madrichim (counselors in training) supported ECS this summer

Jewish Community Relations

- Attended Interfaith Alliance's discussion about building community in the face of a hate incident
- Screened "Heading Home; the Story of Israel's National Baseball Team" for a Jewish community audience at Caspe Terrace
- Reported on the Israeli Election
- Monitored the Echoes and Reflection webinar on "Trends in Modern Antisemitism" for use

Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- September 15 and 16, the IJHS presented a series of programs featuring Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat to more than 1,000 people in Des Moines and Ames
- IJHS will participate in Global Day of Jewish Learning on November 17
- On October 27, IJHS joined in welcoming members of the community for a behind-the-scenes look of the programs and activities supported by the Federation
- The IJHS is exploring the possibility of forming a Jewish genealogical group in central Iowa. If you are interested, contact Sandi Yoder at ijhs@dmjfed.org or call 515-987-0899 ext. 216

Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- Our September event was a trip to Prairie Meadows. We had a nice time and enjoyed lunch, visiting, live music, and gambling
- The October luncheon was held at Temple B'nai Jeshurun and Louise Kaufman provided entertainment



Your support of this year's fundraising effort will strengthen the cornerstone that strengthens our community today and well into the future.

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or call 515-987-0899



A Holiday Message From the Federation President



Michael Wolnerman
President

Let's remember that as Channukah approaches, it is a time where all kinds of excitement surrounds us during our holiday and throughout this holiday season. As I've always said, and you've all heard, nothing is constant except change. Let's see what changes we've done and what can come our way. There is certainly plenty of wonderful things happening in our Jewish Community and at the Federation.

A visit from Executives with the Jewish Federation of North America, while in Des Moines, shared with me that we have an awesome campus at Caspe Terrace, unlike others they have seen in a market like ours. It has been brought to my attention that our employees and staff are "unicorns" individually and collectively. I cannot agree more, we *do* have a wonderful staff! We should absolutely appreciate them at this time of year. Families and children coming to and from give me great joy, especially on Sundays when they are dropped off and picked up. The line of cars and the full parking lot is a wonderful sight to see.

While searching and thinking about what to say in my Channukah message, I came across some things that I want to share:

- Never be afraid to stand up for what's right. Judah Maccabee and his band faced daunting odds and that didn't stop them. They won the battle

- Always increase in matters of goodness. That could be a donation or good deed. Give more and do more
- A little light goes a long way. Channukah candles are lit as dusk falls. No matter how dark it is outside, a candle of goodness can transform the darkness into light
- It's important to be a Jew at heart and home. Show your goodness outside too. Our little light will shine through
- Proclaim your radiant uniqueness for all to see. In my words, look around, we are all unicorns

Best wishes to everyone from my family and from our Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines Family. Please shine your light. Remember, as President, I want to be available to your questions and concerns. Best wishes for a happy and healthy Channukah and winter season.

Happy Holidays!

From



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES

Gov. Reynolds Proclaims Anti-Semitism Awareness Day



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, October 27, 2019, marks one year since the horrific events at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, that tragically took the life of eleven worshipers and injured seven more in the deadliest antisemitic attack in American history; and

WHEREAS, only months later, a second deadly attack on worshipers occurred during the Jewish holiday of Passover at the Chabad of Poway synagogue in California in which one person was killed and three were injured; and

WHEREAS, according to the FBI's most recent report on hate crimes reveals a 37% increase in antisemitic hate crimes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, FBI statistics demonstrate that Jewish people, and Jewish institutions, both religious and communal, were the most frequently targeted religious group in 2019, accounting for almost 60% of all religious-based hate crime incidents; and

WHEREAS, antisemitic incidents, hate speech, and threats have increased in recent years; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to confronting hate and bias crimes and recognize that antisemitism represents a unique and millennia-old enduring hatred of the Jewish people:

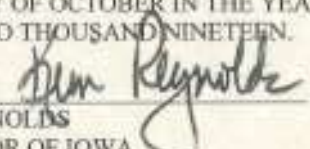
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim October 27, 2019, as

Anti-Semitism Awareness Day

in Iowa and a day of action to combat antisemitism and reaffirm our commitment to combating all forms of hatred and antisemitism and to ensuring the safety and dignity of our residents and communities.




**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-
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15th DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR
LORD TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN.**


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First Light

Dr. David Friedgood
Torah Commentator

In the beginning, our world was ‘Tohu Vavohu’ (unformed and void), an indescribable accumulation of something. The primordial spirit embedded in All existence, that is God or Eyn Sof (without end) in the Kabbalistic literature, proclaims: “Let there be light,” (Exodus 1:3). And, there was light. From where did this light come? What generated it, and what was its function? The sun, moon and stars were not created until day four of creation. Plants, animals and human beings had to wait several celestial days before they could appreciate this light and be nurtured by it.

According to the Zohar (Book of Splendor) First Light was a dark flame issued from the depth of eyn sof. This flame of darkness was like a fog, gradually expanding from its primordial origin. The light expanded and eventually a point of flame developed. A bright warm flame which gradually enlarged, slowly encompassing all of creation. Zohar is the primary source of Kabbalah (mystic) writings in Judaism. The book reports the musings of Rabbi Simeon ben Yohai in the second century. Authorship of the text is uncertain but likely redacted (or written) in its current form by the Spanish Kabbalistic Moses de Leon in the 13th century. Zohar associates this early light

with God’s divine wisdom – hochmah. Hochmah became one of the 10 spheres (sefirot), which make up our Lord’s holy creation according to the mystics. It is from hochmah that the material ‘Fountain of Life’ is generated.

In the second chapter of Genesis we are told of a garden, The Garden of Eden, fashioned by God to house Adam and Eve, the first human beings from which we all evolved. “A river issued from Eden to water the garden, and it then divides and becomes four branches” (Genesis 2:10). Zohar views this river as the extension of God’s first light eternally flowing, growing and projecting throughout the universe. Literally a river of light. The river’s flow encompasses all and nourishes all existence with divine light.

Adam and Eve were able to perceive God’s presence through this light of creation. Later, Divine light was withdrawn (or hidden) by Elohim (God Almighty) from sinful generations of human kind. This included the generations that produced Enoch, the Tower of Babel and the generation of the great flood, except Noah.

Abraham left his home and became a wanderer as he searched for the true meaning of his existence. Abraham perceived God’s light when he welcomed strangers (God’s Angels) into his tent in the wilderness. (See: ‘The River of Light’ by Rabbi Lawrence Schiffman). Later Moses was able to perceive God’s presence through a burning bush that even though aflame was not

consumed. This image of a burning bush surviving the flames about it has become a symbol of Am Yisrael (the People Israel). Later Moses was saturated with the primordial light of his Lord while he was receiving Torah on Mount Sinai. When Moses came down from the Mountain, his face was radiant. The site of Moses beaming with divine light terrified the people encamped below the mountain. Moses so frightened the people with his facial glow that he had to cover his face with a veil while dealing with his fellow Hebrews for the rest of his life. He was able to remove the veil when he interacted with God (Exodus 34).

Divine light has illuminated our ancestors throughout the generations. God’s Presence can be perceived by the righteous and those following the path of Torah. The light can also be hidden and not perceived by those undeserving of its benefit. Zohar quotes Psalm 97: “Light is sown for the righteous, radiant for the upright.” Zohar views the lower world as a place where the light of God is absent “and the darkness He called Night,” (Genesis 1:5). In the mystical view, the righteous bathe in the glory of God’s primordial light while the wicked suffer its absence.

Our lives are filled with ongoing reminders of creation. The birth of a child and their subsequent development is an obvious example. Also, the daily rhythms of our lives are small miracles in themselves. We all benefit from the rhythms of God’s creation, the sun in

the morning and the moon at night. The ability of our world to nourish and sustain us, if cared for properly, is miraculous. Those activities which provide us joy and comfort are seen as bright, infused with light and much appreciated.

Unfortunately, there is another inclination as not all is good. Each of us has a 'dark side,' which if not held in check can affect our ability to function normally and enjoy our time on this earth. For most of us, this darkness is an occasional distraction which we learn to manage. For some darkness can be overwhelming, affecting their very existence. Like the ninth plague, the plague of darkness, inflicted on the Egyptians. Those thrown into 'a thick darkness' experienced an absence of light so pronounced that it affected their very souls. They could not light a candle or interact in any fashion with their families or those about them. They "could not get up from where they were," (Exodus 22-23). This was the effect of a darkness, absent of any divine

light.

Physicists and mathematicians have demonstrated that our universe is not stagnant. It continues to expand and develop. The various planets and galaxies are interdependent, each one affecting the other though they may be light years apart. Likewise, each of us is also dependent on those about us and the world we live in. Despite perceived distance human beings are more alike than different. The light of creation reflects back to us all at night when we gaze at the heavens but also when we look into the eyes of a child or a loved one and realize the potential we mortals have in the short time we spend on this earth. Recently scientists have reported fine streams of light composed of matter connecting one galaxy to another. Just like the stars, we are all connected one to another and to the greater universe about us, not only spiritually but in a

direct physical sense.

Not only us Jews, but all human kind are dependent one on another. Our deeds, thoughts, and behaviors not only affect our lives but the existence and stability of those about us and, in the greater sense, the universe. Jewish tradition brings this out explicitly as we learn to perceive the light of God our Creator. We are taught what is required of us, of our families, our communities and how to care for our environment.

As we go about our lives improving ourselves, we are also accomplishing Tikun Olam, repair of our world, which too often appears broken. Infused with the Light of God may we all prosper and make this world better for each of us, our families and the rest of His creation.

"Arise, shine for your light has dawned:
The Presence of the LORD has shone upon you!
Behold! Darkness shall cover the earth,
And thick clouds the peoples;
But upon you the LORD will shine.
And His Presence be seen over you.
And nations shall walk by your light,
Kings, by your shining radiance."
(Isaiah 60:1-3)

Behind the Scenes at Caspe Event Offers A New Look

On Sunday, October 27, numerous members of the Jewish community participated in the first of a series of behind-the-scenes looks at The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. Federation staff gave tours through The Caspe Terrace. Each tour was accompanied by a short, informational speech by the directors of programs. The speeches were meant to educate community members about each of the programs' activities that are part of the daily work and to learn about what it really takes to make each program happen.

Community members learned about the Education group, Jewish Community Relations,

Jewish Family Services and the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. Each director took the time to fully explain how their program serves the greater community, in some cases, both Jewish and non Jewish.

Melanie Sandler, a member of the Federation and the Iowa Jewish Historical Society boards, summed up the experience:

"The breadth and scope of the Federation is more critical than ever, the skilled leadership and cooperation of all the staff working together, and the incredible generosity of all our donors was heartwarming to observe."



Left to Right: Sophie Homonoff, Lou Horowitz and Michael Wolnerman.

The visit was very informative. I've known about the Federation for many years but today was special—to hear from the people who handle the details from each division makes me more fully understand the mission. I appreciate all you folks do for me and the Jewish community.

- Lou Hurwitz

I hope that this program will be repeated again so that others will be able experience an overview of our Jewish Federation, as it operates today. As the Iowa Jewish population migrates towards central Iowa, and some people move away from Iowa, having a vibrant Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is key to attracting Jews outside of Iowa to migrate here from other communities.

- Bob Carpenter



BEHIND-THE-SCENES

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 | 11-1



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020 | 5-7



Jewish Community Participates in Annual Hunger Hike

Bev Ellis
Community Member

We want to thank everyone who came out to the 2019 Hunger Hike! Thank you to our hikers: Mike Kuperman, Judy Taylor, Rose Sloven, Saraya Buraks Thomson, Hailey Homonoff, Maureen Pletcher, Ellie Kaufman, Avi Kaufman, Wendy Beckerman and myself.

It was a beautiful crisp fall day. An unofficial theme grew throughout the day, “we walk together.” This was felt through the speakers and hikers. Ambassador Quinn gave a special welcome to hikers as this is his last year participating, since he will retire soon as President of the World Food Prize Foundation.

Rev. Sarah Trone Garriott gave an excellent keynote speech urging us to do more together, united as a community, to address the

issues that are pushing our neighbors into food insecurity.

“It’s time for us to come together to do more... change the circumstances that are making it so hard for our neighbors. We’ve got to do things in a slightly different way and we’ve got to do it together, together so we can speak out and act,” Rev. Garriott said.

This year, we combined tzedakah and made our contributions under Des Moines Area Jewish Communities. We beat our goal of \$1,600 with your amazingly generous contributions. This year the need was greater due to the fact that one in five children in Polk County have food insecurities. Ninety six percent of our donated money is distributed to established non-profit agencies that provide free food to those who need it, one-half of it staying in the immediate area and the other half going to

organizations in the U.S. and beyond.

The Des Moines Area Jewish Community contributed knowing our help was a small part to help repair the world.

If you meant to make a contribution but didn’t, you may send your check to the Tifereth Office until January 31, 2019, made out to Des Moines Area Hunger Hike. Be sure to note on your check that you are with the Des Moines Area Jewish Community.

The Hunger Banquet will be held in March and over 20 non-profit agencies will be given checks from donations from all the Des Moines Area faith communities. Until next year’s “Count Down,” thank you again to everyone who helped.

*Bev Ellis-Tifereth Israel,
Wendy Beckerman-Temple
B’nai Jeshurun, Sophie
Homonoff-Jewish Federation
School-Coordinators*



Pictured above are members of the Jewish Community who took part in this year’s Hunger Hike. The group included members of Temple B’nai Jeshurun, Tifereth Israel and Beit Sefer Shalom students.



Upcoming Senior Activities

Friday, December 6, we will have our annual Hanukkah celebration at Temple B'nai Jeshurun at 12 p.m. Please join us for entertainment provided by Abe Goldstien and Laura Sparks.

Tuesday, January 7, we will go to Prairie Meadows for lunch and gambling. We will leave Tifereth Israel Synagogue at 11 a.m.

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

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First Day Of School

Beit Sefer Shalom

The First Day of the 2019-2020 Beit Sefer Shalom School year took place on Sunday, September 8. Families gathered on Sunday morning and enjoyed a light breakfast in Bookey Lodge. While eating, students were able to meet their teachers and catch up with old friends. Once breakfast was over, students were dismissed to get started on another great year at Caspe.



BSS Students Shaking in the Sukkah



Our Sukkah looked mighty fine this year! With the help of Tyia Hahn and Aaron Waltman, this giant sukkah came to life. Shelly Berkowitz and Jake Kuperman took the lead on decorating the sukkah. With the help of students, the above mural was the result. The fifth grade class led rotations and taught each class about the holiday of Sukkot and helped with the shaking of the lulav and etrog. It's safe to say this was the best sukkah yet.



High School Students Participate in Tikkun Olam Project

Giovanna Zavell
Judaic Specialist/Managing Editor

Swish. Scrunch. Pop. Swish. Repeat.

These are the sounds that fill the room as Iowa State students work swiftly to attach plastic grocery bags to one another. Large chains of connected bags snake back and forth on the ground. When they are long enough, they are woven through themselves until they create a large mat.

Bed of Bags is a student organization that takes plastic grocery bags and turns them into mats for those who are homeless. The mats provide comfort and protection from the ground. Because they are made from plastic bags, it is rare for one of these mats to ever break or decompose, therefore, providing comfort and protection for a very long time.

"It takes roughly 800 plastic bags to create one three by seven foot mat," Camille Miller, President of Bed of Bags, says. "The mats we make actually come out to three by six feet because I like to fold over one end to create a pillow. The bags never decompose, and if it comes apart or rips, it can be tied back together."

Miller and members of the organization welcomed Beit Sefer Shalom high school students, David, Aviva and Sidney, on Wednesday, October 2. Right away, Beit Sefer Shalom students were taught how to attach the bags: parachute the bag and scrunch



From left to right: Giovanna, David, Aviva and Sidney holding a completed mat made from plastic grocery bags.

the bottom together from the seam, then poke a hole and straighten so that it aligns with the handles. Put it through a hole of a different bag, knot it through itself and pull until tight. Then repeat until a long chain is created.

"We store the plastic bags in our cars and apartments because we currently don't have on campus storage or a storage unit," Miller says. "The bags are donated to us and we reach out to different organizations in order to distribute the mats."

Bed of Bags Iowa State has worked with multiple organizations in Ames, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. Miller says a majority of people who receive a mat know exactly what they are — and there are others who want one.

One organization Bed of Bags works closely with is the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry. Each Thursday, volunteers with this organization go out on bikes to homeless camps and deliver

burritos and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Miller has taken part in this organization and distributed mats. "The difference with this organization from others is you are actually handing the mat to a person, instead of just donating the mat to be distributed by someone else," Miller says.

In one two hour meeting, about one and a quarter mats are made. But, when there are more hands, this number increases. Beit Sefer Shalom high school students helped complete two and a half mats, increasing the organizations total mats made to 32.

Plastic grocery bags are being collected at Caspe, so please be sure to bring in any you may have. We will continue to donate these bags to Bed of Bags and hope to bring the organization to Caspe to host a community wide mat-making event.

SAVE THE DATES!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THESE EVENTS AT
BEIT SEFER SHALOM

INTERGENERATIONAL HANUKKAH PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

TU B'SHEVAT SEDER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

PURIM CARNIVAL
SUNDAY, MARCH 8

PASSOVER ROTATIONS
SUNDAY, APRIL 5

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAY, APRIL 26

LAST DAY OF WEDNESDAY SCHOOL & YOM
HA'ATZMAUT CELEBRATION
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29



You Can't Beat the Fun at Gan Shalom

Anissa Deay
Gan Shalom Director

Gan Shalom hit the ground running with the start of the school year. Both grandparents and the Iowa/ISU football game were celebrated with a tailgate lunch in the Pavilion. We had a wonderful turnout with many volunteers helping with lunch. Several grandparents traveled from out of state to attend. Children showed grandparents around their classrooms and introduced them to preschool friends.

Fifty-five baskets were delivered to members and families in the community for the Gan Shalom Rosh Hashanah Fundraiser. This is a fun way to connect with the community and raise money for the classes. So far, we have purchased a light table for one of the classrooms with the money raised. Thank you

to Maccabee's Deli and the Windsor Heights Hy-Vee for supporting our fundraiser.

School picture day was sunny and windy. Parent and grandma volunteers were busy fixing wind-blown hair for the perfect picture. Our outside group school picture is always a highlight. Laurie Wahlig, our photographer, makes the picture-taking process fun.

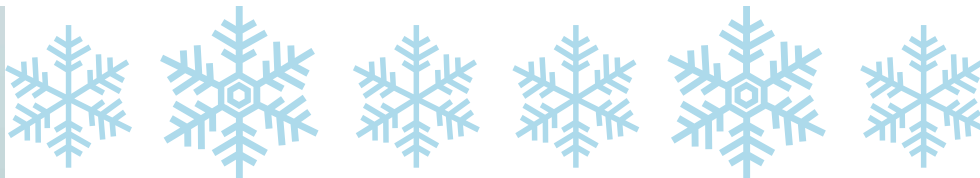
Gan Shalom teachers attended the Iowa AEYC Fall Institute conference in Altoona for professional development this October. It is wonderful to see the ideas and new best practices teachers bring back from the early childhood training and conferences attended. Teachers brought back information on how to support social-emotional learning, STEM, Farm 2 School and trauma-informed care to Gan Shalom.

The Alef Class (two year-

olds) enjoy daily morning walks around Caspe Terrace. They know where the tall grass and muddy spots are located. Of course, they love to sing 'Bim Bam' during Shabbat. The Bet Class (two to three year-olds) love to count and listen to stories about Sukkot. The Gimel Class (older three year-olds) enjoy their time with Morah Anna, learning the Hebrew letters and how to ask about the weather in Hebrew. The Dalet Class (prekindergarten) enjoyed a field trip to the Iowa Orchard. Morah Jan gave the kids a VIP tour of the orchard. The kids ate different apples, drank cider, watched apple donuts being made and played on hay bales. We have a lot of fun at Gan Shalom.

A Peak Into Daily Activities at Gan Shalom



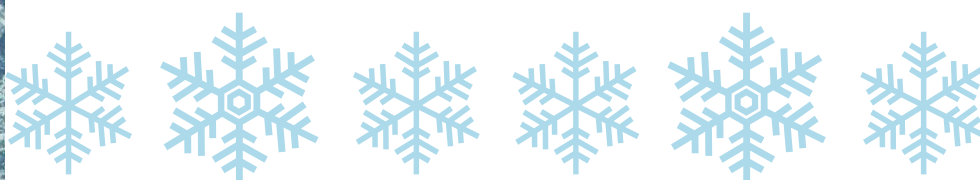


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Central Iowa Learns About the Holocaust From Michael Bornstein



Left: Debbie Bornstein Holinstat and Michael Bornstein with IJHS board and staff at their presentation at Valley High School. Right: Michael and Debbie speaking at Ames Middle School (Photo courtesy of Ames Tribune).

Sandi Yoder
IJHS Director

On September 15 and 16, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society proudly hosted a series of programs featuring Michael Bornstein and his daughter, Debbie Bornstein Holinstat. Michael and Debbie are the New York Times bestselling authors of *Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz*, which recounts Michael's story as one of the youngest survivors to be liberated from WWII's most infamous death camp.

In presentations at Valley High School, Roosevelt High Schools and Ames Middle School, Michael and Debbie told the story of Michael and his family. From their life in the "open" ghetto of Zarki, Poland, to the tighter restrictions as Zarki changed to a closed ghetto to Michael's father's role as the head of the Judenrat and the bribery scheme he designed and implemented that saved many Jewish lives. And the order to

make Zarki "free of Jews" and being sent first to a labor camp in Pionki and then to Auschwitz, where both Michael's father and older brother were murdered.

Michael was four years old when he and his grandmother Dora were liberated from Auschwitz, the two made their way back to Zarki, where their home was now claimed by a Polish family who would not give it up. Michael and his grandmother wound up living in a chicken coop on a farm at the edge of town.

Unlike so many other survivors of the Holocaust, Michael had many family members who survived and made their way back to Zarki—including his mother. Six years after liberation, Michael and his mother Sophie immigrated to the United States. Before leaving Poland, Sophie went back to their former house and dug in the backyard, hoping to find the family treasures that they had buried on the day of the German invasion. She only found a Kiddush Cup, which is

now a treasured family heirloom used for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and other family celebrations.

Michael eventually graduated from Fordham University and earned his Ph.D. in Pharmaceuticals and Analytical Chemistry from the University of Iowa. He worked for more than four decades as a scientist and researcher helping to develop life-saving antibiotics, growth hormone and cancer treatments.

Michael and Debbie spoke to more than 1,000 people during their two days in Central Iowa and helped tens of thousands of people become aware of Michael's story and the reality of the Holocaust through interviews with the media.

One of the most poignant moments in the presentations was when Michael showed the audience the still-visible number tattooed on his arm.

If you weren't able to hear attend the events, recordings are available online at jewishdesmoines.org under IJHS.



Michael and Debbie meeting students and answering questions after presenting at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines | Photos courtesy of Roosevelt High School.



Audience members at Valley High School (left) give Michael and Debbie a standing ovation after their presentation. Audience members at Ames Middle School (right) listen while Michael and Debbie present (courtesy of the Ames Tribune).

The IJHS is deeply grateful to our sponsors who not only made presenting Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat's programs a reality but also made it possible for the IJHS to make the public events at Valley High School, Roosevelt High School, and Ames Middle School free to all! Thank you!

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The IJHS is also deeply grateful to our partners who co-sponsored Michael and Debbie's presentations in Ames:

Ames Jewish Congregation

Ames Historical Society

Hillel at ISU

Chabad of Ames



The Incredible Story of a Four Year Olds Survival

Giovanna Zavell
Managing Editor

I've read a lot of Holocaust books—books written by survivors, books about survivors and just general Holocaust information books. I've never had the opportunity to meet a survivor and then read his or her book. This past fall, Michael Bornstein, a Holocaust survivor, and his daughter, Debbie Bornstein Holinstat visited Des Moines to share their story.

No survivor story is the same, but they do share similar themes and struggles that came with the growing animosity toward the Jewish people.

Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz, follows the story of a very young Michael and his family in Zarki, Poland, where they lived in what was considered an “open” ghetto. Life was in no way easy, but living in an open ghetto, as opposed to a closed ghetto, did allow freer movement and looser rules. But of course, this could not last forever. With time, restrictions were tightened within the ghetto.

Michael's family had incredible strength and did what they had to do to stay alive.

Many of the events that happened in Michael and his family's lives can only be

described as miracles. There is no sound explanation for why certain things happened, but the chance that they did meant one more day of survival. When his family was finally transferred to a labor camp and then ultimately Auschwitz, Michael was not even five years old, and his survival depended on his grandmother. Reading their journey to liberation seems almost made up or impossible, but it is not.

Too often are the names and stories of survivors not heard, or forgotten. This book is so important because it was written with the intent to be read and discussed by middle schoolers. The story does not hold back on details of what life was really like during this time. Events that otherwise would have been censored for children this age are told in whole. Giving these difficult, and often gruesome, details are important in accurately educating children learning about the Holocaust.

We must remember, and one way to do so is to read the stories of survivors and learn through their experience. We cannot travel back in time and change the past. But by educating our younger community members and attending events of survivors, we can hope for a brighter future while honoring

the pasts of others.

Whether you know a middle schooler, are a middle schooler or an adult, be sure to give this book a read. And while you are at it, find a few other survivor stories to read and remember.



Debbie (left) and Micheal after speaking at Valley High School in Des Moines. Debbie holds the silver Kiddush cup that was the only remaining hidden object in Michael's family's home before going to the camps. His mother returned to the home after the liberation and dug it out from the ground. | Photo courtesy of IJHS

Collections Corner: “Our Life in Iowa is Like a Dream”

Sarah Carlson
Curator & Manager of Collections

This stainless-steel ladle is a new donation to the artifact collection of the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. The underside of the handle has a stamped insignia for the Nazi Marines. Jacob Shnurman donated the ladle to the IJHS in memory of his parents Meyer and Frances Shnurman.

It was taken from Auschwitz by survivor Frances Shnurman, who worked in the kitchens while she was there. Frances was born in Poland and was sent to the Auschwitz and Stutthof concentration camps during the Holocaust. She was liberated

from Stutthof in May 1945.

In a 1961 article in the Des Moines Tribune, Frances stated, “It is like a dream, living here. In this country we have work, we have our own home and plenty to eat. Best of all, we have freedom of religion and freedom to vote.” In the same article she recalls some harrowing escapes during and after the war, including escaping from a sinking ship full of refugees on the way to a Displaced Persons camp and swimming to safety.

Frances and Meyer met at Bergen-Belsen Displaced Persons Camp and later stayed in Neustadt DP Camp. They settled in Des Moines in 1949.



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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.

Join now at www.ijhs.online or complete this membership form.

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Please make your check payable to the IJHS and send it to
33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263.
For more information: (515)987-0899 ext. 216 or
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Iowa Jewish Historical Society

TBJ Worship Schedule

Temple B'nai Jeshurun | 5101 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312
visit www.templebnaijeshurun.org for more information

Fraturdays

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

Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec. 20, Dec. 27,
Jan. 3, Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Jan. 31
Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28,

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE FRIDAYS, 6 P.M.

Dec. 6, Dec. 13, Dec. 20, Dec. 27,
Jan. 3, Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Jan. 31
Feb. 7, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, Feb. 28,

SHABBAT DINNER FRIDAYS, 7 P.M.

Dec. 6
Jan. 3
Feb. 7

YOUTH GROUP GATHERING FIRST FRIDAY, 7 P.M.

Dec. 6
Jan. 3
Feb. 7

MAHJ & MORE! FRIDAY, 7 P.M.

Dec. 20
Jan. 17
Feb. 21

Saturdays

WEEKLY TEXT STUDY SATURDAYS, 9 A.M.

Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 28
Jan. 4, Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 25
Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22, Feb. 29

TRADITIONAL TORAH STUDY SATURDAYS, 9 A.M.

Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 28
Jan. 4, Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 25
Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22, Feb. 29

SHABBAT SERVICE SATURDAYS, 10 A.M.

Dec. 7, Dec. 14, Dec. 21, Dec. 28
Jan. 4, Jan. 11, Jan. 18, Jan. 25
Feb. 1, Feb. 8, Feb. 15, Feb. 22, Feb. 29

Sundays

TYG Board Meeting at Panera in WDSM at 12:30 p.m.

Jan. 5
Feb. 2

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, December 5 | 7 p.m. | Taste of Judaism: Life Cycles
Sunday, December 8 | 4 p.m. | Hanukkah Happening
Thursday, December 19 | 7 p.m. | Taste of Judaism: Hanukkah
Tuesday, December 24 | 5 p.m. | Chinese Dinner and a Movie

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Temple Bnai Jeshurun of Des Moines Journey Around Israel
Led by Rabbi David Kaufman
April 19-30, 2020

TIS Worship Schedule

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

December 2019 Events

Sunday, December 1 | 12:30 p.m. Art Club & Lunch with Cynthia Shulman
Thursday, December 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Adult Art Club with Cynthia Shulman
Thursday, December 19 | 12 p.m. Senior Luncheon at Tifereth
Saturday, December 26 | 11:30 a.m. Hanukkah Shabbat Cafe sponsored by Women's League
Saturday, December 26 | 6 p.m. Hanukkah Party sponsored by YAD
**All Sundays in December | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Latke Sale sponsored by Women's League

January 2020 Events

Sunday, January 5 | 12:30 p.m. Art Club & Lunch with Cynthia Shulman
Saturday, January 26 | 6 p.m. YAD Disco Party

February 2020 Events

Sunday, February 2 | 12:30 p.m. Art Club & Lunch with Cynthia Shulman
Friday, February 21 | 6 p.m. Mishpacha Shabbat & Potluck
Saturday, February 29 | 10:30 a.m. Tot Shabbat/Children's Service

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.

Ames Jewish Congregation

3721 Calhoun Ave, Ames, IA 50010
visit ajciowa.org for more information

Rabbi Nina Mizrahi will be in Ames to lead services and other activities on the following weekends (details will be available in the newsletter and online closer to the respective dates):

- December 13-15
- January 17-19
- February 14-16

In addition, the following activities are being planned (dates and times TBA):

- Chanukah party (mid to late December)
- Tu B'Shevat wine and (fruit) dessert social (mid February)
- Monthly Friday evening community Shabbat potluck suppers
- Family Shabbat services
- Children's Shabbat services
- Lay-led Conservative Shabbat services.
- And more!

Dates and times for all events (as they become available) can be viewed on the calendar at <http://ajciowa.org/events.htm>. To receive emails about upcoming events, to receive our monthly newsletter, please contact AJC at ajciowa@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

*Dick Caplan
Robert J. Elsner
Alan Scherer
Esther E. Bergh
Alice Fisher
Renee Plotkin Handleman
Gilbert Leslie Schechtman*



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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 _____

Save the Date!



December 15, 2019
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Caspe Terrace

Intergenerational Chanukah Party

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