

June, July, August 2020

THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

Published as a Community Service by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines • Visit online at jewishdesmoines.org • Volume 36 Issue 4



Even though Caspe Terrace closed due to COVID-19, the Federation staff continues to meet weekly, via Zoom. Each staff member gives an update during the meetings, and takes part in fun, virtual staff bonding games. The challenge of this “new normal” hasn’t stopped the Federation staff from serving and supporting the Des Moines Jewish Community.

Inside This Issue

[8-9] “Tales of Teleki Square”

[11] Seder in a Box

[19] Summer Camp Updates

[22-23] Jody Ingersoll Feature

[26-27] Graudatese and B’nei
Mitzvot

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 2506

Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
33158 Ute Avenue
Waukee, IA 50263-7538
Address Service Requested

Jewish Press

Published four times annually by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines under the direction of the Jewish Community Relations Council

Giovanna Zavell, Editor-in-Chief & Production

Rachel Wermager, Copy Editor

*In honor and memory of past Editor,
Mark S. Finkelstein (z"l)*

.....

JEWISH FEDERATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Michael Wolnerman, Federation President
Hannah Rogers, President Elect
David Adelman, Foundation President
Elena Greenberg, Treasurer
Jill Cantor, Secretary

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Jeff Lipman
Maggie Matijevich
Josh Mandelbaum
Steve Schoenbaum

AGENCY CHAIRS:

Beit Sefer Shalom Board
Maggie Matijevich, President

Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center
Hannah Rogers, President
Ron Osby, Director

Iowa Jewish Historical Society
Linda Bremen, President
Melanie Sandler, Vice President

.....

Opinions expressed in The Greater Des Moines Jewish Press are not necessarily those of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, its committees, or its staff. Inserts to the Jewish Press may not necessarily bear the endorsement of the Jewish Federation.

We are always happy to consider articles and information for publication., although we reserve the right to edit submissions. The Jewish Press will not accept paid advertisements for electoral candidates or their causes.

.....

The Greater Des Moines, Jewish Press
33158 Ute Avenue
Waukee, IA 50263-7538
515-987-0899
jp@jewishdesmoines.org

Volume 36, No. 4
Summer Edition
June, July, August 2020

Sivan, Tammuz, Av, Elul 5780

Community Report

Engman Camp Shalom

- Spring Break Camp was canceled due to COVID-19
- ECS will not hold weeks 1 & 2 (June 8-19) of camp, and will continue to make start date decisions on a weekly basis
- ECS staff is working diligently on creating virtual programming for campers
- For questions, please contact Anna Zavell at anna@jewishdesmoines.org

Beit Sefer Shalom

- Students enjoyed a fabulous Purim Carnival at Caspe on March 8. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped make the morning so much fun
- Students in 3rd-12th grade enjoyed meeting Hedi and Andras, our P2G visitors from Budapest, during small group lessons on March 11
- BSS students are studying remotely due to the COVID-19. Resources are being sent weekly to families and many classes are meeting via Zoom
- BSS registration for the 2020-21 school year is now available online

Gan Shalom

- Families and friends gathered in Bookey Lodge on March 10 to assemble mishloach manot for Purim, and gave them to neighbors and friends
- Gan Shalom teachers moved parent-teacher conferences online
- Online learning and class meetings were offered to families while Gan Shalom was closed due to COVID-19
- Gan Shalom Summer Camp will not open June 1. For more information, contact Anissa Deay at anissa@jewishdesmoines.org

Jewish Community Relations

- Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron virtual programming from P2G and JFNA was shared with the community
- Weekly Zoom meetings were conducted with Iowa Jewish Professionals
- Participated in P2G planning meeting on May 7

Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- Make your Pesach part of the history of the Jewish people in Iowa. Upload your photos, videos, or written documentation to the IJHS webpage
- On Yom HaShoah, IJHS posted a new program on our website featuring excerpts from interviews with seven Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Des Moines
- On May 8, the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, IJHS began a series of short programs featuring excerpts from oral history interviews with Iowans who liberated the camps. These can be found on the IJHS webpage

Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- Jewish Family Services has increased our meal delivery schedule from monthly to weekly with the help of a grant from Delta Dental. If you know someone who would benefit from this service, please connect with Jody Ingersoll at 515-987-0899 ext. 210 or jody@jewishdesmoines.org
- On April 6 and 7, Federation staff delivered over 100 Seder meals to Jewish households in central Iowa. The Seder in a Box meals were prepared by Maccabee's Deli. This project was covered on KCCI and in the Des Moines Register
- Jewish Family Services provides resources and referral information to families who have questions about community services available for seniors. If you have a need or questions, please call Jody Ingersoll, Jewish Family Services, at 515-987-0899 ext. 210

To find investing-life balance, work with a professional

You know what you want retirement to look like, and leaving a comfortable legacy for your loved ones is a priority. But free time feels a lot less free when you spend more time than you'd like managing your investments. Working with a professional portfolio manager can help you find the right balance between living life and investing for the future.

Call for a complimentary portfolio consultation.



Matthew Fryar, CFP®

Senior Vice President – Investments

Senior Financial Advisor

666 Walnut St.

Des Moines, IA 50309

Direct: 515-245-3120

matthew.r.fryar@wellsfargo.com

Investment and Insurance Products: ► NOT FDIC Insured ► NO Bank Guarantee ► MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company.
© 2016 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0218-04945 A2079 IHA-556466

Noah's
To Go, Tonight!

Traditional
ITALIAN CUISINE

Sharing great meals
with loved ones for
OVER 70 YEARS!

**WE APPRECIATE
OUR CUSTOMERS!**

Make Your Reservation Today!

2400 Ingersoll Ave | Des Moines | 515-288-2246 | noahsarkdesmoines.com
M – Th 11AM – 11PM | F – S 11AM – 12AM | Sun Closed

RETHINK YOUR DRINK

GONG FU TEA®

140 LOOSE-LEAF TEAS | ACCESSORIES | GIFTS

414 EAST SIXTH STREET, DES MOINES, IOWA
515 288 3388 WWW.GONGFU-TEA.COM

Adjusting to the New Normal and Staying Connected



Michael Wolnerman
President

At this point in time, we are in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and many of us are staying at home. Our whole society has been turned upside down. Are we managing? Absolutely!

The truth is every generation has its challenges and this is just another one for us. The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is well aware that after this crisis passes, we will be stronger and more resilient from what we have faced. Our complexion may be different, but we remain true to our mission of looking out for and helping each other through adversity.

The staff and board continue

to sustain a thriving Jewish Community. Is it difficult to know what to do? Often times it is. Is it scary to step into situations where the outcome is unknown? Absolutely it is, but it doesn't matter. We have responsibilities to those in need, no matter their age. We are working on connecting children and families using technology. We are working on making sure that those who have immediate are taken care of. We are making sure that our holidays are as joyful as possible. A terrific example of how we have come together—we provided Seders in a Box for those who were unable to gather with family and friends, and to ease the burden of making due with much less.

I want to acknowledge those who volunteered their time during Pesach this year to provide chesed, care, time, money, and more, while knowing that risk was involved. These people helped organized and deliver over 100 Seders in a Box. Their kindness does not go unnoticed. Below is a list of Federation staff who helped make Seder in a Box possible:

Aline Van Ginkel
Rhonda Leslie
Lisa Nelson

Samantha Fannon
Zak Randles
Anissa Deay
Kyle Grossman
Alicia Fernatt
Jody Ingersoll
Sophie Homonoff

To offer up a personal anecdote, I stayed with my Dad during Pesach and Zoomed in for our "Zeder" with my wife, son and in-laws. It was tough and by the time you read this, I'm hoping our dinners are in person and we get to share in the company of family and friends. I know many of you also used technology to bring those apart from you, closer.

Together, as we acclimate to a new normal, you and the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines will continue to build a community that will never stray from its purpose. We remain connected to Jews all over the world. We will come out of this changed, but more adaptable for whatever life brings us.

Best wishes to all.

Michael Wolnerman, President
515-778-3867 or 515-829-0406

The Seder in a Box effort was covered by local news stations. To read the complete stories and view photos and videos, visit the website listed below.

Visit kcci.com and search "Des Moines Deli Packaging Meals for Passover"

Visit desmoinesregister.com and search "Seder in a Box"

Serving the Community Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

While the physical offices at Caspe may be closed, the Federation staff continues to work and support our Jewish community. Like so many of you, we are learning more than we ever wanted to know about Zoom meetings and connecting virtually. Both Jewish Family Services and our Education Department are continuing to connect and support our community during this pandemic

Jewish Family Services is providing weekly meal deliveries to our seniors and others who cannot leave their homes during the pandemic. Our normal visits to people in their homes are transitioning to over the phone, and we are sending notes to community members on a regular basis. Our Gan Shalom students are making cards that are being sent to our seniors to let them know we are thinking of them.

Our Seder in a Box project was a huge success. At Passover, when we traditionally share a meal with friends and family, people were able to have a Seder plate and

meal delivered to their home. This project was only successful because all of our staff worked together to make it happen.

Beginning mid-March, Beit Sefer Shalom Sunday and Wednesday classes were held via Zoom for all grades including a special live music class weekly. Please take a look at our Remote Learning Resource page on the Beit Sefer Shalom website. This page grows weekly and is full of videos, Hebrew practice, holiday crafts, and so much more.

We continue to connect through weekly Zoom classes where you can practice your Hebrew, learn to cook, sing with Moreh Benjamin, create art with Moreh Jake, and so much more. If you are not already on our email list, please connect with Sophie at sophie@jewishdesmoines.org or with Anna at anna@jewishdesmoines.org. We'd love to have you join us. We know it is not the same as being together, but we look forward to seeing everyone virtually.

Gan Shalom preschool teachers have been holding Zoom classes,

visiting student's homes (while social distancing), having car parades, and working to support families. We certainly miss the noise and smiles from our Gan Shalom Preschool students!

We are hopeful that a portion of Engman Camp Shalom will be able to occur this summer at Caspe, but understand that *pikuah nefesh*, saving a life, takes precedence over all other Jewish commandments. We are working with the American Camp Association, local camps, and medical professionals to try and find ways to safely open camp.

While we look forward to the time when we can once again be on site at Caspe, we are appreciative of everything we have learned about how to best serve our community in a time of crisis. Please don't hesitate to connect with us if you are aware of someone who is in need or have an idea for how we could better support the entire community.

Stay well,

Jody Ingersoll & Sophie Homonoff

In Memoriam

ORIS YARO
MORT SOLOMON
SHLOMA ARYEH LEIB BEN BETZALEL
RUTH DAVID
RAISSA MALINA
ANITA MANDELBAUM
JAY DANIELS
ELEANOR S. GARBER
VIRGINIA LOUISE DENNETT
DOROTHY SCHATZ
JAMES JOSEPH ENGMAN

Biblical Germs

Dr. David Friedgood
Torah Commentator

Human beings have evolved over the Millennia in association with a multitude of microscopic organisms, some of which can become pathologic and cause disease. But, not all microbes are harmful. Many are actually necessary to our physical well-being. For example, the function of our gastrointestinal system relies on a healthy microbiome composed of many different organisms including bacteria and viruses. Our DNA, the genetic material passed on through the generations, has been directly influenced by our ancestor's interaction with microbes; viral and bacterial DNA being incorporated into our human cells. The organisms within us grow, evolve, procreate producing offspring, and develop alongside our bodies. The few that can cause illness can be particularly nasty. Cholera for instance is a bacterium, which can produce profuse diarrhea leading to severe dehydration and death. The bacterium passes into the water supply and from there can infect other individuals. Another example, Syphilis is a scourge which has been present for hundreds of years causing genital ulcers which can pass from host to unwitting receptor during intimate moments. The bacterium, *Treponema pallidum*, then enters the blood stream and can potentially infect multiple organs including the brain, leading to mental disorders, paralysis, and ultimately death. Influenza (the flu) virus is passed from person to person through the air we breathe and can settle on surfaces. When we touch a contaminated surface and then touch our face or rub our

eyes we can unwittingly pass the virus into our bodies. Every year thousands of people die from the effects of influenza virus. Novel corona virus (COVID-19) appears more purulent than influenza but is passed from human host to another person in a manner similar to flu virus. As I write this piece, over 25,000 US residents (>250,000 worldwide) have died from Covid-19 infection over six months.

Infectious disease rivals trauma and war as the most potent killers of people. Throughout the course of our history illness caused by germs have altered the course of civilization. A classic example is Bubonic plague (Black Death) passed by infected fleas traveling on uninfected rodents, or bites by infected rats and mice. Over 5 years following the first European case identified in 1347 in Messina, Italy more than 20 million Europeans (about one third of the continent's population) died from this malady. Plague followed the trade routes of Europe which were mostly along the rivers. Jews involved in the trades were particularly vulnerable and often blamed for bringing the disease to various cities as Black Death marched across Europe. Many thousands of Jews were massacred as Europeans attributed the carnage to Divine punishment for greed, blasphemy, and heresy. Eventually it was determined that infected sailors were primarily responsible for introducing and transmitting the germs. Effective treatment included quarantine, along with social distancing, which proved quite successful in limiting the numbers affected by this illness. Current treatment includes antibiotics for what has become a rare condition, though even with treatment death rates from plague approach 5% of those infected. Another example is the

European conquest of Native Americans following the voyages of Christopher Columbus. Most of the deaths (one estimate is > 90% of the pre-1492 population) of indigenous people in North and South America were the results of infections. Similar numbers account for the destruction of African natives following the invasion of relatively small numbers of European conquistadors. European germs, rather than the expertise of their armed forces were mainly responsible for successful European occupation of the New World. Also notable is that most of the infections resulting in Pandemics originate from human contact with animals (but that is another discussion).

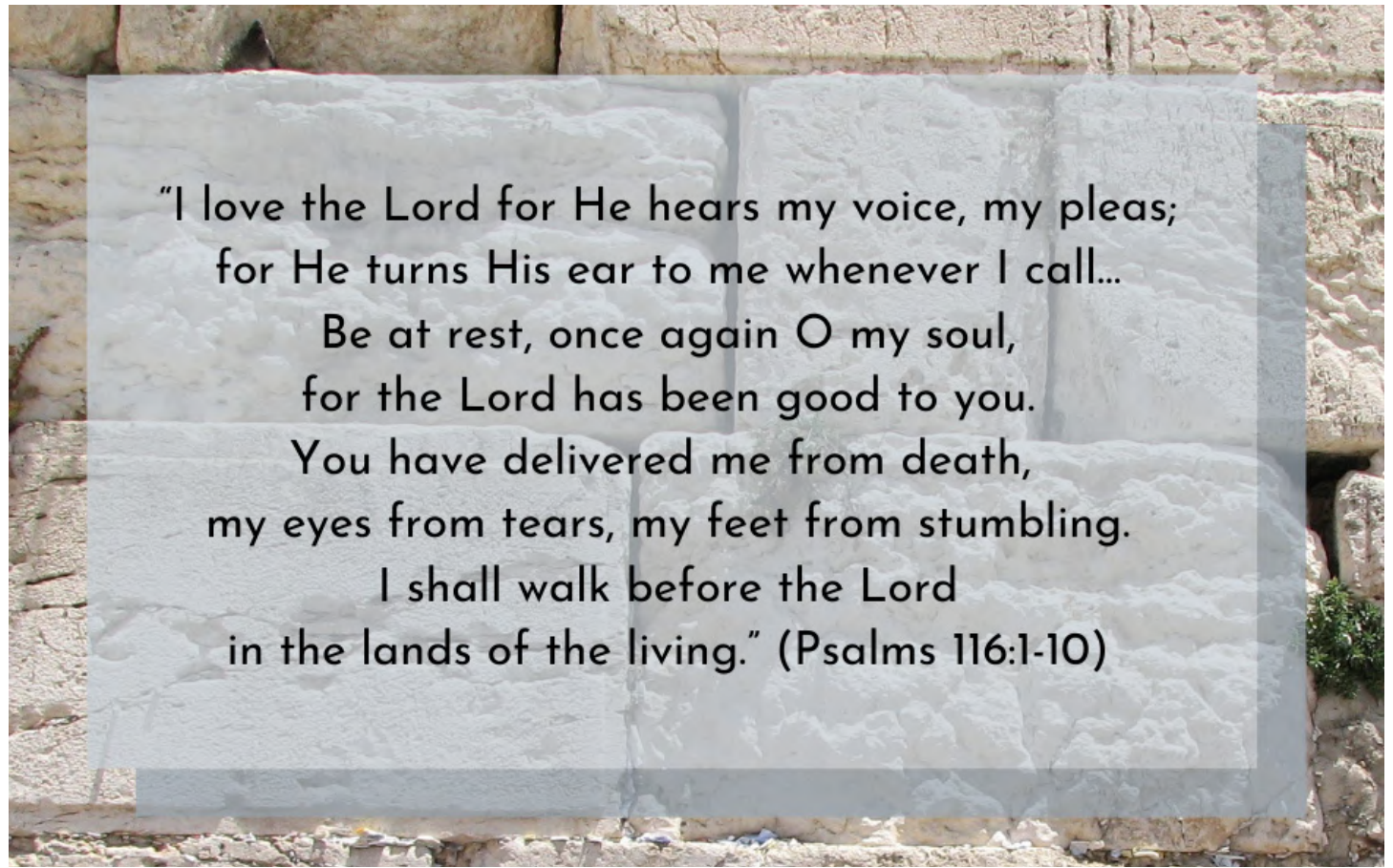
Our ancestors living in Biblical times were very familiar with infectious disease. Systemic infections were common and infectious skin diseases rampant. The fifth plague God sent to afflict the Egyptians was Pestilence (dever-possibly Anthrax bacterial infection) affecting sheep and cattle. The sixth (sh'hin) Boils affected people. It seems likely that the 10th plague, Death of the first born son, was some form of virulent epidemic, the nature of which is lost in history (Exodus 8-12). The Tokehah (Reproach) dictated by God to Moses is a long list of punishments that will result from failure to follow God's law outlined in the Bible. Punishments include consumption, fever, and skin disease (Egyptian inflammation), pestilence, boils, itch, and hemorrhoids (Leviticus 26, Deuteronomy 28). Our Lord rewards good deeds with health and vigor and punishes transgression. When the prophetess Miriam disrespected her brother Moses God struck her with a skin disease 'White Scales' which was relieved after

Moses prayed: “O God, pray heal her” (Numbers 13). The book of Leviticus contains detailed descriptions of skin disease, some of which may represent leprosy (Tzar’at), which can also affect clothing and houses. The Leper is a M’tzora afflicted with Mycobacterium leprae. These afflictions can be managed by a Priest interceding with God as they are manifestations of the Lord’s will. Also prescribed is hygiene and cleansing, both physical and spiritual, for relief. Sexually transmitted disease (STD) is described and is treated with physical and ritual purification (Leviticus 15). In the Prophets a group of Palestinians from Ashdod captured the Holy Ark and were stricken with a condition resembling Bubonic plague in description (but often translated as hemorrhoids - I Samuel 5). In the time of King David Israel was threatened when a census (considered a sin) was taken.

David was offered a choice of his subject’s punishment and chose a 3 day illness, a Pestilence, which killed 70,000 people (II Samuel 24). Later when the Assyrians threatened King Hezekiah, an Angel of the Lord was sent and struck down the Assyrian Army killing 185,000 soldiers. They presumably experienced plague or a similar ailment. The next morning only dead bodies were found in the Assyrian Camp. Later Hezekiah himself fell ill and was told by the Prophet Isaiah: “Thus said the Lord: Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die; you will not get well.” The King was contrite and prayed to his God. Isaiah applied a poultice of figs to his skin rash. Hezekiah recovered and lived another 15 fruitful years (II Kings 19, 20).

Germs, manifested as a variety of infectious conditions, have always been part of our human condition. In ancient times they were often considered a

manifestation of God’s anger, and punishment for our frailties. Infections were also recognized as natural events that could be managed by changing our hygiene and behavior. Today we have a better understanding of these afflictions but still we suffer from the effects of infectious disease. Our tradition however continues to offer hope and support. We are told by the Prophet Jeremiah that no matter how bad our wounds, our illnesses, and our affliction—God is with us. Jeremiah provides consolation and reassurance that in time all will be well. Life goes on no matter how bad the situation: “At that time—declares the Lord—I will be God to all the clans of Israel, and they shall be My people” (Jeremiah 30). You and your families stay well and healthy as we recover from the effects of this virus, which has attacked us all.



“I love the Lord for He hears my voice, my pleas;
for He turns His ear to me whenever I call...
Be at rest, once again O my soul,
for the Lord has been good to you.
You have delivered me from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I shall walk before the Lord
in the lands of the living.” (Psalms 116:1-10)

'Tales of Teleki Square': Bringing Budapest to Des Moines

Judy Deutch
Guest Columnist

"Tales of Teleki Square" was more than an inspiring documentary about the revival of the Jewish community in Budapest. It was an opportunity to share a meaningful experience with our Partnership Together (P2G) representatives. From March 9-12, Des Moines was treated to a visit from two special guests from Hungary—Andras Mayer, a member of the documentary's production team, and Hedi Pusztai, a project coordinator of P2G at the Jewish Agency of Israel in Budapest.

P2G connects Israeli cities with Jewish communities worldwide. The organization creates a growing network friendship and support that bridges the gap of understanding to bring Jewish people together in the spirit of faith. It not only creates deep interpersonal relationships that transcend location, but also celebrates our rich heritage, our differences and the culture that unites us all. There are currently



Hedi Pusztai, P2G Project Coordinator at the Jewish Agency of Israel in Budapest.

46 partnerships that engage and connect more than 350,000 Jewish people across the world. These relationships are crucial in creating a stronger connection to Israel and the Jewish experience.

I was contacted in late January about this event, and was told this was an event Mark Finkelstein(z"l) began organizing as part of the Jewish Community Relations Council before his passing. The dates were scheduled, and our Budapest guests were excited about showing their film in Des Moines, the last of their five-city tour. I was then asked to co-chair the event with Sophie Homonoff. I felt it was important to fulfill the mission that Mark began.

Over 85 guests were treated to a reception and viewing of the film at the Levitt Auditorium in the Des Moines Art Center.

The "Tales of Teleki Square" documentary captures the lives, history, and heritage of the Budapest Jewish community. The Teleki Synagogue, the last shtetle in Hungary that survived both the Nazis and communists, has been recently revitalized by young Budapest hipsters through communal art and research projects. Two brothers from Budapest, Gábor Mayer, the producer, and András Mayer, the director's assistant, went through their life's journey to discover the rich and unique Hungarian Jewish heritage.

Our guests preferred home hospitality instead of a hotel. Andi and Jeff Lipman graciously opened their beautiful home to them.

Hedi and Andras wanted to meet other Des Moines residents, so breakfasts and lunches were organized by Bud Hockenberg, Michael Wolnerman, Hannah Rogers, Barb Hirsch Giller, Robin Bear and Jake Jacobs.



Andras Mayer, member of the "Tales of Teleki Square" production team.

Additionally, Bev Ellis provided an informative view of our Holocaust Memorial, Larry Deutch drove them around Des Moines with stops at the World Food Prize Headquarters and the Sculpture Garden, and Rabbi Barton and Rabbi Kaufman gave personal tours of their synagogues. Andras and Hedi enjoyed exploring the Des Moines Art Center guided by Linda Bremen and Randi Stern.

Hedi and Andras were able to experience Des Moines Jewish life. They attended the Megillah reading and dinner at the Purim Party at Tifereth. They also visited Caspe Terrace and the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. They interacted with students at Gan Shalom and Beit Sefer Shalom.

We are very grateful our visitors came the week before social distancing was required. We would have missed out on a very special time strengthening the bonds between our community and our partners in Budapest.

Photos, Laurie Wahlig





Jewish Family Services

**Upcoming Senior Activities
(Dependent on COVID-19 Status)**

**July 16 we will meet at Temple B'nai
Jeshurun for lunch, beginning at 12 p.m. Bev
Ellis will join us and lead us in a fun craft
activity after lunch.**

**On August 6 at Tifereth Israel Synagogue,
Engman Camp Shalom campers will visit and
entertain. Lunch begins at 12 p.m.**

**If you are interested in attending, please contact Jody Ingersoll,
Jewish Family Services, at 515-987-0899 ext. 210.**



THE LIFE CENTER

Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center

900 Polk Blvd; Des Moines, IA 50312-2225

(phone) 515.255.5433

(fax) 515.277.8898

www.seniorlifecenter.org

Since 1931, Serving the Needs of Persons of All Faiths

*Skilled/Rehabilitation * Long-term Nursing * Alzheimer's/Memory Care*

Seder in a Box: Bringing Passover to Our Community

Unable to gather as friends and families to celebrate Passover this year, The Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, with the help of Maccabee's Deli, brought Passover to members of the community. The Seder in a Box initiative gave members of the community everything they needed to celebrate the holiday, free of cost, thanks to the generosity of donors. Many people were alone this year, but the thoughtfulness of these boxes brought a sense of togetherness and community during a difficult time.



Photo courtesy of Pearl G.

"It was beautiful. I usually celebrate with family, and we weren't able to this year. Even though we weren't together, we were able to celebrate together over the phone. I didn't feel quite so alone, even though I was. There was so much food in the box, even a hippopotamus couldn't eat all of the food. I packaged some up for later meals. The box was packaged beautifully. They even prepared a Seder plate, which is an integral part of this holiday. It was very special and a wonderful gesture on behalf of the Federation for the thoughtfulness and help to make some of the pain go away. The Federation was here for me, and they need to be thanked for what they have done."

— Arlene F.

"Normally I would be with my family. We would be talking to each other. But now we have a virus, so I was here, home all alone in my house for the first time. I set the table for the four of us anyway. I still tried to make it feel like a holiday and celebrate. Instead of going to the regular Haggadah, I used the supplement that was included in the box. There was a prayer for the pandemic in there that I really like. It made me feel like I wasn't alone, because we are all experiencing this strange time together. One line from the prayer I enjoyed was:

*'Help us, God, to see that we are one world,
One people
Who will rise above this pandemic together.'"*

— Max Y.

"Because I live alone, this time has been very isolating. What made this holiday so special was the connection felt from receiving the Seder in a Box. There was somebody out there thinking about you, wanting to do something for you. It made me feel like I wasn't alone. Not being able to celebrate this holiday with my family was difficult. When I got the box I was overwhelmed, it was so beautiful. There was a complete Seder plate. They went above and beyond what I would have expected. It was a connection that made the holiday warm and loving. It showed how connected we are as a community, and that there are people to reach out to."

— Pearl G.

Purim Carnival Fun

The Purim Carnival is always a favorite among BSS students. With games in every room of the school wing, bounce houses in Bookey Lodge, and Hamantaschen in Staroselsky, Caspe Terrace buzzed with energy and excitement. Dressed in their favorite costumes, BSS students took part in giving Tzedakah to Israel, and filling mishloach manot to give to their friends. This year we had spin art, and it was a hit! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped setup and lead games throughout the building.





Finishing the School Year Apart: Classes Take to Zoom

The Beit Sefer Shalom school year had to adjust to an abrupt new way of learning and teaching. Due to COVID-19, classes could no longer be held in person. All BSS teachers stepped up to the plate and continued teaching online, via Zoom. Of course, this way of teaching was not the same as being in a classroom, but everyone adjusted. Classes went from three hours to just 30 minutes, but it was clear students and teachers were happy to see each other's faces. Thank you to all the teachers who continue to dedicate their time to teaching the students. We hope to see everyone back at Caspe for the BSS 2020-2021 school year!

It was fun to see how excited the students were to see each other and tell them about what they had been up to. For one of our lessons via Zoom, I asked all the students to research a famous Jewish person in history and come prepared to talk about them. It went really well, and was fun to see who the students came up with—one chose Adam Sandler, one Natalie Portman, and one talked about their great uncle who was in the U.S. army.

— Nina Pressman, 5th Grade Teacher

My favorite part of this new way of teaching was being able to connect with the students, even though we were in different locations. For one of our lessons, we did a Jewish learning scavenger hunt. I created a list of different actions I wanted the kids to do such as draw a picture of your favorite Jewish food or find an object that is the color "adom."

— Sophie Gray, 2nd Grade Teacher

I thought teaching over Zoom would be interesting and different, but I was excited to continue to teach and meet with my students. One lesson we taught over Zoom was household items. We did a scavenger hunt around their homes, so that the students could see the words they were learning in Hebrew such as fork, TV, or bed.

— Meghan Kier, 3rd Grade Teacher

Since the 4th grade is responsible for teaching the rest of the school about Passover, we were challenged. How could we teach the school when school was not in session? Students chose from a list of 3 subjects: The Passover Story, Seder Plate, 4 Questions, and created a presentation based on an assignment sheet. I was really overwhelmed by what the students created. These presentations can be found on the BSS Resource page of the website.

— Robin Karney, 4th Grade Teacher



Beit Sefer Sha'om

The Jewish Federation Community School

We Can't Wait to See You During the 2020-2021 School Year!

Register online at beitsefershalom.org



THE JANICE ZUCKERT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ensuring education for Jewish children

Available to eligible Jewish families in the
Greater Des Moines Area for:

Gan Sha'om

Beit Sefer Sha'om

For more information, guidelines and to apply,
please contact

Jody Ingersoll at jody@jewishdesmoines.org



Morah Lisa and Morah Makenna's class (left) and Morah Juli and Moreh Zak's class (right) dressed up for the Gan Shalom Purim celebration at Caspe Terrace.



The Jewish Center for Early Childhood Development

Anissa Deay
Gan Shalom Preschool Director

This year, Gan Shalom celebrated Purim in a new way. Teachers and parent volunteers prepared dough for the children to make hamentashen. Then families and friends, in costume, gathered in Bookey Lodge on March 10 to assemble mishloach manot (gift baskets), and give them to neighbors and friends. We love it when we can gather everyone together and celebrate.

This school year we have enjoyed added enrichments to our program. Our Mondays started with yoga classes lead by Ms. Jennifer from Collective Wellness. She created a yoga video for children and families to use at home. Moreh Benjamin teaches a music class on Thursdays. He made a video of Jewish songs for us as we prepared for Passover.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gan Shalom temporarily closed on March 17. Our teachers, families and children had to quickly learn to navigate in a virtual world while we were social distancing. There were some challenges, but our goal of keeping the children connected

Staying Connected, Even When Apart

has been amazing to watch.

Teachers have put together take-home activities, storytime videos and engaging Zoom meetings. The Dalet class had a color scavenger hunt. They were given colors in Hebrew and had to find something to share with their friends during one Zoom meeting. The Gimmel class got to see the new chickens at Morah Makenna's home on a Zoom meeting. The Bet class enjoyed continued Judaic's with Morah Anna on their class Zoom meetings. Even our two year-old children in the Alef class continue to visit their friends and read stories via Zoom.

Gan Shalom held a car parade at Caspe Terrace. It was nice seeing families from a healthy and safe six-foot distance. We had another car parade during Teacher Appreciation Week.

We celebrated the Dalet class in a year of kindergarten preparation. They have dissected owl pellets, written and illustrated books, wrote in Hebrew, played the violin, climbed a snow mountain, and learned how to be a good friend and take care of others. Morah Juli and Mr. Zak created a school year of learning for these children. We wish them well as they head off to Kindergarten and look forward to

hearing about their adventures in learning.

Gan Shalom Prekindergarten Graduates:

Aarna
Agrima
Arbor
Dakota
Ephraim
Ezra
Julian
Julius
Roman
Ryan
Simon
Sophie
Vinny

To build on our social-emotional learning at school, Morah Anna has been teaching the children the names of emotions in Hebrew. Even though we are atzuv (sad) because of social distancing, we can be sameach (happy) knowing that our teachers are currently planning and preparing for Gan Shalom Summer Camp. For updated information about Gan Shalom Summer Camp, contact Anissa at anissa@jewishdesmoines.org or (515) 987-0899 ext. 233.



There is no doubt our teachers and students are missing each other. The teacher car parade was a fun time for everyone to wave and say hello to each other. Morah Samantha(left) holds a sign that reads "hello friends," and students from Morah Raizel's class (right) hold a sign they made.

Gan Shalom classes weren't able to meet in person, but all four classes finished out the school year via Zoom! Morah Raizel's class (immediately below) and Morah Juli's class (bottom) are pictured here.



Gan Shaom

Mazel Tov
to the
Dalet Class!



Aarna



Agrima



Arbor



Dakota



Ephraim



Ezra



Julian



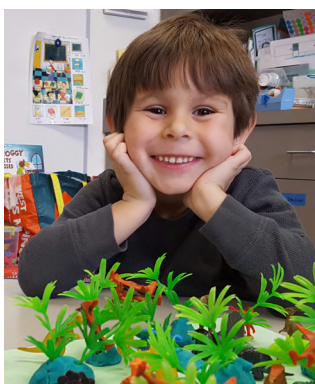
Julius



Roman



Ryan



Simon



Sophie



Vinny



Summer 2020 Update

Hello Engman Camp Shalom Friends!

I hope everyone is doing well. With the weather warming up, I'm sure we are all hoping and wishing for life to return to normal.

I wish so much that we could have a normal summer for Engman Camp Shalom. However, at this time, we are unable to do so safely. We will not be holding Engman Camp Shalom Weeks 1 & 2 (June 8-19). This decision was reached after extensive consultation with medical, public health, and camp experts. We are making the decision to protect the health and safety of our campers, staff, and community at Caspe.

I remain hopeful that things will change, and as soon as they do, we will be ready to open immediately. We are working hard to establish new protocols and procedures for keeping our campers and staff safe once we are able to safely open. I will continue to email weekly updates regarding an ECS start date.

In the meantime, we are creating special, ECS online experiences for campers to take part in beginning June 1! Check out the calendar of events below.

Thank you for your patience and support during these uncertain times and please stay safe and healthy. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me

Best,
Anna Zavell, ECS Director
anna@jewishdesmoines.org
cell: 515.419.1269



Daily Virtual Programming June 1-19

Even though we are not able to meet in person yet, stay connected with us virtually!

Daily activities will be led by ECS counselors. More information will be shared via email and our Facebook page.

For more information or questions, please contact Camp Director, Anna Zavell, at anna@jewishdesmoines.org or call/text 515.419.1269



Gan Shalom
we grow children

Engman Camp Shalom
we grow spirit

We Miss Our Campers!

• SUMMER CAMP 2020 UPDATE •

During these difficult and uncertain times, we want to let our families know we are still here for you. For more information about Summer camp and how we are still supporting our families, please contact us!

We hope everyone is happy, healthy and safe.

Anissa Deay, Gan Shalom Preschool Director
anissa@jewishdesmoines.org
515.987.0899

Anna Zavell, Engman Camp Shalom Director
anna@jewishdesmoines.org
515.419.1269



Yahrzeit boards from the Beth El Congregation in Ft. Dodge that is in the IJHS collection.



Yahrzeit boards from the Sons of Israel Congregation in Marshalltown that are on display at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society in Waukee

Preserving Memories: Making Iowa's Yahrzeit Boards Available Around the World

Sandi Yoder
IJHS Director

Each and every plaque on a congregation's Yahrzeit board has a very special meaning to the family and friends of the person whose name is listed. There are thousands of loved ones' names listed on the Yahrzeit plaques of the Jewish congregations across Iowa. In some cases, the Yahrzeit board is the only list of members of the congregation that exists today.

In most cases, this important information is only available to people in the congregation or to those who know where their ancestors lived.

For the past year, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society has been working with JewishGen.org, one of the leading sites for Jewish genealogical research, to provide global access to the names listed on Iowa's Yahrzeit boards. JewishGen provides free access to more than 30 million records, with Iowa's records soon to join the list. This will make it far easier for family members and researchers to find more information about individual members of Iowa's Jewish community.

IJHS is reaching out to all the congregations in Iowa to request photos of their Yahrzeit boards. JHS board member Kathy Bassman is using the photos to fill out a spreadsheet listing the information on the plaques. The information is then sent to JewishGen.org for review and inclusion on their website.

Currently, memorials from the

Beth El Jacob and Children of Israel Synagogues in Des Moines, the Sons of Israel Congregation in Marshalltown, and B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Ottumwa are online. Three of these synagogues have closed and Beth El Jacob's Yahrzeit boards are in storage. Without these lists, these memorials would be very difficult to access.

The memorials on the Yahrzeit boards from Temple B'nai Jeshurun and Tifereth Israel Synagogue in Des Moines, the Ames Jewish Congregation, the Beth El Synagogue in Ft. Dodge that closed in 2000, and the synagogue in Oskaloosa that closed in the 1960s will be online in the next few months.

Please help us preserve these important memorials. If you have information that can be included in this project, please call Sandi Yoder at 515-987-0899 ext. 216 or email sandi@jewishdesmoines.org.

IJHS Collections Corner: Yunkers Wagon Ad Postcard



Postcard from 1931 showing a covered wagon with an advertisement for Yunkers Department Store Diamond Jubilee, 1856-1931. Yunkers was established in 1856 by Lytton, Samuel and Marcus Yunker in Keokuk. In 1874, a second store was opened in Des Moines by Herman Yunker, a younger brother.

It's Not Too Late: Make Your Pesach Part of History

**Why is this night
different than all
other nights?**

In a picture, video or words, share with us
what your Seder looks like this Pesach so
that we can preserve history.

Please upload submissions to the IJHS
DropBox folder.




Make your Pesach part of the history of the Jewish people in Iowa. Whether it be through a photo, video, or written words, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society wants to collect documentation of how families across Iowa celebrated Pesach this year.

Go to the IJHS webpage, Documenting Pesach in 2020/5780 for more information and a link to IJHS DropBox account for sending us your memories of this year's Pesach.

Join Now!

Give yourself or a friend the gift
of helping preserve Iowa's Jewish
Heritage for current 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.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Membership Levels

Membership Year: July 2018 through
June 2019

Lifetime	\$5,000 _____
Benefactor	\$1,000 _____
Sponsor	\$500 _____
Supporter	\$180 _____
Institution	\$100 _____
Patron	\$100 _____
Individual or Gift Membership	\$36 _____

In addition, I want to make a donation
to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society
\$ _____

Please make your check payable to
the IJHS, and send it to
33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA 50263

For more information contact us at
(515)987-0899 ext. 216 or
ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org



Supporting and Advocating for Those Who Can't

Giovanna Zavelli
Editor in Chief

When it comes to Jewish Family Services, there are so many things that go unseen—not only because of the confidentiality aspect of many of the services, but also the quietness in which they are done. Much of the time, if a person is not seeking the services, they don't even know they exist.

Jody Ingersoll, Director of Jewish Family Services, has served as this quiet supporter and advocate for so many since beginning at the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines back in 2013 as a social worker.

"She is a hard worker who is always looking out for her clients' best interest," says Sophie Homonoff, Director of Education at the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines. "She advocates for those in our community who cannot advocate for themselves."

"I was not looking for a new job at the time," Ingersoll says. "A good friend of mine, Barbara Grundleger, developed Gan Shalom and asked me to come see it. I was working in child care administration at the time and was very eager to visit." On her visit, Ingersoll learned that the Federation was looking for a social worker. It didn't take long before she took the position. "I thought it was a nice opportunity to do something different, but still closely tied to

my previous work," she says.

Ingersoll has years of experience in social work. Before beginning at the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, she was a social worker for the Department of Human Services. In this role, she worked with families regarding child abuse, served the elderly and assisted families with finding and paying for child care. "I then moved into an administrative role as a project manager in the child care bureau," Ingersoll says. "In that role, I worked to develop Iowa's Quality Rating System for child care, developed child care policy and managed federal contracts with state vendors."

In her current role as Director of Jewish Family Services, Ingersoll's main focus is serving Jewish families and individuals in the Central Iowa area. From helping with scholarships for religious school, administering the Tzedakah Program and organizing senior luncheons, Ingersoll has made a positive impact on many lives. One of the most recent projects she has helped organize was the Seder in a Box.

"I sent Jody information about a community in Massachusetts that was delivering boxes to individuals that contained everything needed for a Passover Seder," Homonoff says. "Jody contacted the Rabbi at the synagogue there and received all their information so that we could copy the idea here in Des Moines."



Jody Ingersoll, Director of Jewish Family Services

Ingersoll made a connection with Rabbi Samuels and then quickly gathered everything needed to recreate the effort for Des Moines Jewish community members who were unable to gather with their families due to COVID-19. She reached out to partner with Maccabee's Kosher Deli to provide the meals. The effort was a huge success.

Over 100 meals were delivered to community members, which was made possible by generous donors and the Federation's team effort when it came to delivering. Homonoff shared that Rabbi Samuels liked Ingersoll so much, he donated \$1,800 to help cover the costs. "Jody can truly make friends anywhere," Homonoff says.

Ingersoll's efforts didn't go unseen. Recipients of the boxes praised both Jewish Family Services and the Federation

for providing a sense of togetherness during a time when being with loved ones wasn't possible. Many shared they felt like there was always someone watching out for them in the community, making them feel remembered and heard. Jody Ingersoll is that person.

"The most important part of my job is making sure our vulnerable seniors are cared for," Ingersoll says. Of course, she can't drive every senior to a doctor's appointment or the beauty salon, which is why she has volunteers, like Barbara Leventhal.

"Jody has truly embraced the Jewish community and has gained so many friends and insights into how the Jewish community functions." Leventhal says. "She has really stepped up to the plate to befriend, assist and provide benefits for those in need."

Working in social services involves developing relationships with people. Ingersoll says this is key in doing effective social work. Much of her day is spent either on the phone with clients or visiting them. Of course, with recent social distancing orders, in-person visits have been put



Ingersoll with Mark Finkelstein (z"l) tabling during a Des Moines Civil and Human Rights Commission Event at Des Moines University in 2019.

on hold, but that hasn't stopped Ingersoll from reaching out and staying connected with her clients.

"Though my job has changed due to COVID-19, I am working to keep the function as intact as possible," Ingersoll says. "Instead of visiting clients, I am speaking with them daily on the phone. I have also increased food deliveries from monthly to weekly."

Ingersoll has also stepped up over the past year to act as a co-manager with Homonoff, while the Federation searches for a new Executive Director. "Taking on this position, in addition to my Director position has been

challenging," Ingersoll says. "It has definitely reinforced what I already know about the Federation—we have a very strong staff that is willing to step outside their traditional work to help the greater organization."

"Jody has tremendous work experience that has been an excellent resource for our Federation and community," Homonoff says. "She is a great role model and is supportive and thoughtful."



Ingersoll speaking to a group of community members during a Federation Behind the Scenes Event in the Fall of 2019. During this time, she shared insight into how the Federation continues to support the greater Jewish community.

TIS Worship Schedule

Tifereth Israel Synagogue | 924 Polk Blvd, Des Moines, IA 50312
visit www.tifereth.org for more information

Summer Classes Wednesdays, May 27-July 29

Beginners Hebrew | 6-7 p.m. | Led by Russell Braman via Zoom

The goal of this class will be for student to learn the Alef Bet, no previous knowledge of Hebrew necessary. The link will be given to people that register for the class at office@tifereth.org. This class is free for members of the congregation, for non-members there is a fee for materials.

Biblical Hebrew | 6-7 p.m. | Led by Rabbi Barton via Zoom

This class requires that the incoming student be able to read Hebrew, recognizing all vowels and letters and will focus on Biblical Hebrew grammar and vocabulary. The link will be given to people that register for the class at office@tifereth.org. This class is free for members of the congregation, for non-members there is a fee for materials.

Talmud | 7:15-8:30 p.m. | Led by Rabbi Barton via Zoom

Topic throughout this class—*The Top Talmud Sugyot That All Jews Should Know!* Pre-registration is not required for this class, though it is helpful. The texts will be given in translation.

Ongoing Education

STEP (Sunday Torah Education Program) | Sundays | 10 a.m. | Led by Mike Kuperman

If interested in participating, please email Mike at mikupe@aol.com. You will then be added to his email list and will be sent the Zoom information for each class. Links can also be found in the weekly Tifereth email.

Special Events

Book Discussion via Zoom | Sunday, June 28, 2020 | 12:30 p.m.
The Girl from Human Street by Roger Cohen

Max Deal Bar Mitzvah | Saturday, July 11, 2020

Erev Tisha B'Av Program | Wednesday, July 29, 2020 | Time TBD

Rafael Jotzke Bar Mitzvah | Saturday, August 8, 2020

Ames Jewish Congregation

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

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, worship services and activities in June, July, and early August have not been finalized. We intend to have Rabbi and lay-led Shabbat services and social events (virtual or face-to-face, as the conditions dictate) throughout the summer.

Rabbi visit in Ames (other than virtual services):

Friday, August 21, 7:30 p.m.: Erev Shabbat services led by Madyson Buck and Rabbi Mizrahi
Saturday, August 22, 10 a.m.: Shabbat morning services and Bat Mitzvah of Madyson Buck
TBD: Adult Education

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

Maccabee's Kosher Deli



**We Are Open
During Covid-19**

Take Out & Delivery Only

**YOUR SAFETY IS
OUR PRIORITY**

 (515) 277-1718

 www.MaccabeesKosherDeli.com

**Order Online: Grubhub, UberEats,
FoodDoods**

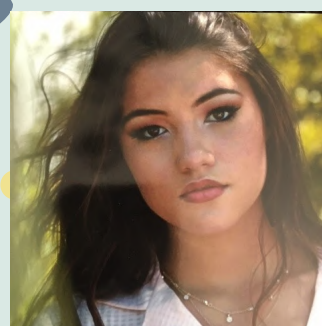
Mazel Tov Class of 2020



Ellie Kaufman is graduating from Roosevelt High School. She plans to attend the United States Naval Academy and major in Aerospace Engineering.



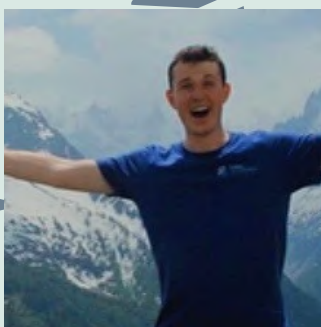
Isabella Nadel is graduating from the Honors Program at Valley High School this spring. This fall, she will attend college at an undecided institution to study psychology on the pre-med track.



Megan Schnoebelen, daughter of Jami & Pete Schnoebelen of West Des Moines will be graduating from University of Iowa 2020, with a BA Journalism & Mass Communication.



Jack Allison, son of Michael Allison and Dr. Jill Sudack-Allison, is a 2020 South East Polk graduate. In the fall, he will attend Coe College to double major in Business and Psychology. He will play baseball for the Kohawks.



Jack Ohringer, son of Beth and Sheldon Ohringer, will be graduating Summa Cum Laude, Honos Civicas from Tufts University with a Bachelor of Arts in Community Health and minors in Child Studies and Human Development, and Entrepreneurial Leadership Studies.



Kade Copple, son of Kenton Copple and Dr. Lisa Copple, graduated from Valley High School. Kade plans to continue swimming and Major in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Minor in Public Health at Gustavus Adolphus College.



Paige Kirschner, daughter of Ellen and Matthew Kirschner, graduated from Waukee High School. This fall she will be attending Washington University in St. Louis where she will be studying biology and genetic research on a pre med track.



Sydney Pearl, daughter of Brian and Krista Pearl of West Des Moines, will be graduating from Valley High School. This fall she plans to attend the University of Iowa Honors Program as a Biomedical Sciences major. She is currently interested in pursuing medicine.



Zoe Pins, daughter of Jeremy and Danna Pins, graduated from Valley High School. She was involved in swimming, synchronized swimming, and silver cord. Zoe will attend the University of Iowa in the fall.



CALLED TO THE TORAH



Saturday, July 11, 2020

Tiffany and Morgan Deal are happy to announce that their son Max Henry will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah (via Facebook Live or Zoom) on July 11, 2020. He is the grandson of Dr. Marty and Trudi Rosenfeld. Max is a 7th grader at Indian Hills, and since the school year ended early, he's been reading a lot and has been a great tutor for his new classmate, George (his little brother). He loves playing the drums, archery, and being outside with friends, family, and his two dogs. Max's Mitzvah project is working with The Andrew Giving Fund to establish a shoe closet for kids in his school district. If you would like to donate, please use this link: <http://www.desmoinesfoundation.org/theandrewgivingfundKiddush>. Luncheon to take place at a later date when we are all able to gather safely.



Saturday, August 8, 2020

Tanya Keith and Doug Jotzke are happy to announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Raphael Jotzke. Raphael is an incoming 8th grader at Callanan Middle School, where he is part of the debate team and the Dungeons and Dragons club. His goal celebration at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil was seen by billions of people around the world. He's an excellent student, especially in his accelerated math classes, and a great brother to his sisters Aviva and Lolana. Raphael's Bar Mitzvah is scheduled for the morning of August 8th, but we anticipate we will likely be holding it via Zoom on August 9th. We hope you will join us either way.



Saturday, August 22, 2020

Sean and Elisa Buck are proud to announce that their daughter, Madisyn Claire Buck will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday August 22, 2020 at the Ames Jewish Congregation. Madisyn enjoys volleyball, reading, and spending time with her friends and family, especially her dog, Lexi.

WE ARE FAMILY



Please Join Us and Give Generously to the 2021 All-in-One Campaign

The Greater Des Moines Jewish community is a family—a family of people who are working hard to meet the new and unexpected challenges each day brings. Your help is critical.

As you consider your level of support for the 2021 All-in-One Campaign, please know that we and the entire Jewish community are sincerely grateful for your generosity, especially now.

Please make your gift on our website at
jewishdesmoines.org
or by mailing a check to
All-in-One Campaign 2021
Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines
33158 Ute Avee
Waukee, IA 50263

**EVERY GIFT YOU GIVE
HELPS KEEP OUR
JEWISH COMMUNITY
CARING,
VIBRANT,
AND STRONG.**

**EVERY GIFT IS
IMPORTANT AND
EVERY DOLLAR MAKES
A DIFFERENCE.**