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**JEWISH**

**PRESS**

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# Jewish Press

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Giovanna Zavell  
Editor & Production

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

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Cheshvan, Kislev & Tevet 5781

# Community Report

## Beit Sefer Shalom

- Beit Sefer Shalom started Sunday School on September 13 outdoors at Caspe Terrace and virtually on Zoom
- A total of 49 students are studying in person at Caspe Terrace and 31 students are learning virtually
- Our Madrichim program has 15 teenagers participating this year
- Remote learning resources are always available on our website
- Global Day of Jewish Learning was on November 8, 2020

## Gan Shalom

- Gan Shalom had 24 students start the 20-21 school year
- Students enjoy learning outside at Caspe Terrace
- Preschool students learned about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot
- Music classes are being taught by Benjamin Brodkey, who is a Junior at Drake University
- Thank you for supporting our Rosh Hashanah Basket Fundraiser

## Engman Camp Shalom

- ECS began a new program called "ECS Days at Caspe" for students to enjoy camp activities on Wednesdays for a few hours
- Our staff is already planning for summer 2021
- Summer 2021 may seem far away, but we are hiring counselors for next summer. Please email Anna at [anna@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:anna@jewishdesmoines.org) if interested

## Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- Senior activities are suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic
- JFS delivered Rosh Hashanah baskets to seniors. A big thank you to everyone who donated to make these baskets possible. The seniors really appreciate them
- During the pandemic, JFS is continuing to serve the Jewish community. We are delivering meals every week and providing other supports to our senior community
- If you need assistance or are aware of someone who does, please contact Jody Ingersoll, Jewish Family Services, at 987-0899 ext. 210

## Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- IJHS is participating in a nationwide effort led by the Council of American Jewish Museums to collect and preserve the stories of what it means to be Jewish in the era of COVID-19 and the protests and struggles for justice. IJHS is collecting the Iowa stories
- Veterans Day 2020—IJHS continues to add the names and information about Iowa's Jewish veterans to our Book of Honor. Please email [sandi@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:sandi@jewishdesmoines.org) with information and questions

## Jewish Community Relations Council

- Community members are working with the P2G Education Group to bring new programming to students in the community
- Sponsored a virtual watch party of Great Performances: Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles with Iowa PBS on November 10
- JCRC is supporting the Iowans Supporting Israel Group
- P2G virtual programming can be found at [www.westerngalilee.org.il](http://www.westerngalilee.org.il)
- Stay tuned for more P2G programming opportunities coming to the community

# 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.

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## Happy Chanukkah!

Bruce Sherman, Dave  
Lettween, and families



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# Miracles Within Our Community and Federation



Michael Wolnerman  
President

Tiny airborne particles that travel beyond 6 feet can be harmful.

Wildfires destroyed millions of acres of land.

Storms brewing off the oceans are hitting our coasts.

Repercussions from the winds in the Midwest are not over.

Fate of Americans rests in our hands with the elections November 3rd, 2020.

Avoid the flu bug and get a shot.

Wow, what a whirlwind we have been experiencing and messages like these have been in headlines for months now. How does this make for a wonderful Channukah experience? These and other headlines will continue and so we must too.

Continue to be cognizant of our world around us. Celebrate the small stuff and big stuff and appreciate what we have with our families, community and world around us.

When I say our world, I mean to say, around us as in our homes and local communities. Obviously, our Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is part of this community. It provides so much for us that we see regularly and that we don't see at all. Miracles happen around us all the time? Many of the things that go unnoticed with the JFGDM are like miracles. Our staff works tirelessly during these tough times and many of us look at the results as miraculous. I call them "Unicorns" and mean it in a positive way. Again, these "Unicorns" that work with our elderly and children are miracles in and of themselves. I owe a debt of gratitude to all of them. So do you! These miracles that our "Unicorns" perform regularly are like the miracle of oil that lit our ancient menorah for eight days. The definition of a miracle is "a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a

divine agency."

Indulge me a moment regarding the next President of our JFGDM, Hannah Rogers. She deserves a debt of gratitude. Hannah has been super helpful in the midst of missing face to face interaction to help introduce our newly hired Executive Director, Bob Goldberg via virtual meetings to many in our community. It is no small task to coordinate these meetings. Bob and Kim traveled through Des Moines in September, and we truly enjoyed spending some time with them. Staff got to meet them face to face too. I am happy to say, the Q/A herein, with Bob says a lot about him and his wonderful wife, Kim. Their daughter, Lily, can be proud too. We are looking forward to including the Goldbergs to our community. Another example of a miracle!

Have a wonderful and meaningful Channukah. Stay in touch with us at the JFGDM and absolutely let us know how we can be helpful to you and your family.

From my family to yours,  
Happy Channukah.

Michael Wolnerman

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## We will Prevail. The Abraham Accord: A Landmark Vision of Peace and Prosperity

Aviv Ezra  
Consul General of Israel to the Midwest

Over the next several weeks as we continue to celebrate the

Chagim in this new year of 5781 we look forward to what hope and promise this new year will bring. To many of us, myself

included, Rosh Hashanah meant "Good Riddance" to 5780 and sincere wishes that 5781 will be a good, peaceful

healthy year.

Enough ink has been spilled, words have been spoken, and tears have been shed as a result of Covid-19. We all know the devastation it has caused, the uprooting which may take decades to replant. As Israel has begun another strict lock down I pray this next few weeks will mean compliance which will translate to numbers that allow us to reopen safely.

Despite the chaos, despite the unrest and unknown, there is always a silver lining. And a certainty, that we as Jews and Israelis will prevail.

This theme, “We Will Prevail,” is pervasive throughout Jewish history, and provides the backdrop for the message I carry with me leading into this time of self-reflection. That message can be summed up in one word: Belief. Belief that a sense of normalcy will return, belief that we will forge a new path through turbulent waters, belief that better days are ahead. And this belief is far from unfounded. There have been moments throughout our people’s history that hope seemed futile, moments in which it seemed certain that we would surely join the long list of peoples who are now just a memory. And yet, here we are, and here we will remain. Armed with our beliefs and traditions, this moment in history will surely be no different. We Will Prevail.

Many of us were not yet alive in 1978, or can hardly remember, when the first signing of a peace deal between

Israel and one of its 19 Arab neighbors, Egypt, sent shock waves through the Middle East. It took 16 years until another of Israel’s neighbors, Jordan, followed suit. Now, 26 years later, we have arrived at another historic crossroads. A few weeks ago, Israel and the United Arab Emirates announced they would be normalizing relations, followed soon after by Bahrain.

This landmark agreement, most significantly, does not come at the expense of the Palestinians, but in fact presents them with a unique opportunity to return to direct negotiations with Israel. Israel is ready to do so, and will come to the negotiating table with the principles of the American administration’s Peace Initiative. The peace deal provides a practical and realistic basis upon which the two sides can begin negotiations, and in the light of the Abraham Accord, achieving a lasting resolution between Israel and the Palestinians now seems that much more attainable.

The Accord represents an alternative and paradigm-shifting step forward for the region. It has fostered a revolutionary opportunity for other Arab nations to establish formal ties with the State of Israel, a concept previously deemed far-fetched and impossible. It provides a striking alternative to those radical forces who oppose peace and prefer to perpetuate conflict until victory is won over resolving conflict in a peaceful manner and reaping the benefits

that cooperation can provide. Moreover, the agreement effectively strengthens the power of moderatism in the face of the extremism that Iran and its proxies sow across the region.

Ultimately, the Abraham Accord represents an alignment of values. Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain are all facing the shared challenges of climate change, diminishing resources, and most pertinently, of disease. It is essential that we focus on agreement over disagreement, and combine our capabilities for the wellbeing of our citizens. This is exactly what this agreement has achieved. The Abraham Accord should be the guiding light for all other nations of the region of the good that can come from making peace with Israel.

While to many, these events transpired relatively unnoticed, they represent another seismic shift in Israel’s status among its neighbors. People may be quick to point out that Israel was not in a state of war with either of these countries, so what’s the big deal? But it is a big deal. It is a big deal that Israel’s neighbors have begun to recognize that peace with Israel is the road to success. They have begun to recognize that their economic futures will be better off by forging long-lasting ties with a small and mighty nation than denying the fact of its existence. They have begun to recognize what we, as Jews, have known for millennia: We Will Prevail.

# Meet the New Executive Director: Bob Goldberg

*Bob Goldberg will begin as the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines' new Executive Director soon. Continue reading to learn how he got to where he is today and his hopes for our community. This is an abridged version of the full article which can be found on the blog section of the Federation's website.*

## **Please tell us about yourself**

I was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska and am a proud Cornhusker fan. Don't hold it against me!

I am the third generation of my family from Omaha. My grandparents came from Poland and Russia before World War I. I am the middle of three siblings. My older brother, Steve, lives in Kansas City, my younger sister, Rachel, lives in Springfield, Illinois, and my parents are still in Omaha.

I was an active member of AZA #1, and most of those guys are my closest friends and brothers to this very day. In college, I was a member of AEPi at the University of Arizona and I have a circle of pledge brothers who come together either in person or through the virtual world as often as possible. The relationships that I have through AZA and AEPi are the most important friendships I have.

I earned two degrees in college, a B.S. in Communications, and a M.A. in English.

I met my wife, Kim, in 1993. We started dating in the fall of that year. In the summer of 1994, we traveled together to Israel and Greece, as she was participating through her school on an archaeological dig at Bethsaida in Israel, and we had the trip of a lifetime. It was the first trip to Israel for both of us. In the fall of 1994, we moved to San Francisco where Kim completed her fine art degree at the San Francisco Art Institute. We moved back to Omaha in 1996 and were married in 1998. Our daughter Lily was born in 2001 and is currently in her second year at Washington University in St. Louis studying biology and computer science.

I spent the first part of my professional career in financial services working for Northwestern Mutual Life, Wells Fargo Bank, and a family run regional lending firm.

I have been shaped by my experiences in the Jewish community of Omaha. I grew up at Beth El Synagogue; at the JCC participating in sports and summer camp, in the library, at the pool; and later BBYO and other youth group activities.

As an adult, after moving back to Omaha in 1996, I was an active volunteer serving on the JCC board, the Federation board, and serving as Chair of the Center for Jewish Education (a Federation agency). I was honored to be awarded the 2007 Bruce Fellman Memorial Young Leadership Award.



Bob with his wife, Kim, and daughter, Lily.

## **What made you want to join the DSM community?**

Des Moines felt like a natural fit.

After growing up in Omaha and moving away a few times, I have come to realize that there is something special and unique about smaller midwestern Jewish communities. There is a

great sense of pride, ownership, and responsibility that inspires involvement and that contributes to a warmth, a haimishness, that does not always exist in other places.

I am a Midwesterner. I feel most comfortable where people are kind, and generous, and where the pace of life and the space we can live in provides a greater quality of life.

I wanted to be in closer proximity to my family members, who are spread around the Midwest in Omaha, Kansas City, and St. Louis.

Another reason is the absolute love for the community expressed by Hannah Rogers and Michael Wolnerman. Their leadership and level of caring for the community answers the two most basic questions....do you care, and are you willing to do the work to build the community that you want to live in? They clearly answer both with a resounding yes.

Finally, the community building infrastructure that already exists and is working today, such as the Beit Sefer Shalom, the Gan Shalom Preschool, Engman Camp Shalom, the work of JFS, the JCRC, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, and because our Federation team and the other Iowa Jewish Professionals from across the state meet regularly and work together. A community that learns and respects its history while investing in building trusting relationships and a stronger community for everyone is a place that I want to be.

## **What are you looking forward to most when joining the DSM community?**

I am excited to work with a team of professionals and lay leaders who care deeply about their work



and the impact it makes on those around them. I am looking forward to immersing myself in learning the local history, and its people and stories, and understanding the culture.

**What are some challenges you see in the coming year and how do you plan to overcome them?**

The Talmud teaches that arguments are intended to elevate the conversation to find the truth. That can happen when we engage in respectful arguing, acknowledging that we do not know everything, and if we listen carefully to what others offer, we can learn and grow. It does not happen as often as it should. We need to model that kind of arguing. The goal should be to elevate the conversation, grow as individuals, and search for the truth.

It is always a challenge for an organization to work through the process of setting priorities but doing so allows us to identify our greatest strengths and value and direct resources to amplify our responses to specific challenges.

Another obvious challenge we have today is the coronavirus. The pandemic has strained so many. It has forced people into isolation, and many have experienced increased loneliness, depression, and anxiety. We need to be regularly reaching out to each other to provide comfort and relief. Many people have lost jobs and are struggling financially. We need to act collectively to respond in a caring way to support them. There are challenges galore and we need to work together to find solutions for our friends and neighbors who are most in need. I am thinking particularly about a segment of our seniors who do not use modern technology and do not connect with others through virtual experiences. These friends and family members can become

isolated like never before. We need to keep them front of mind and make sure we are reaching out and doing all we can to support them and let them know that they are loved.

The pandemic has also challenged us to try new things, to be creative and entrepreneurial about how we connect with each other whether it is virtual services, virtual concerts, or virtual happy hours. The last many months have shown us that we can find new ways to be hopeful, to find good in the world, and bring a smile to others. I am sure that none of us have ever experienced a Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur like we just had. I was able to watch services from New York to Fort Worth to Des Moines while sitting at my kitchen table. It was cool. But it was not the same as being in the synagogue with family and friends. Covid-19 has given us more time at home with our families to cook and read and binge watch Netflix- and for that I am grateful. But I am also hopeful that a vaccine will soon be found, and we can get back to being together in-person. We need to be thinking about what the world will look like and need after the pandemic, so that we are prepared and organized in a way that allows us to respond efficiently and effectively to the needs of our friends and neighbors.

As a Jewish professional, I see the need to inspire greater Jewish literacy. We are the people of the book, but too often those books collect dust on our shelves. To learn Torah, its lessons, and its teaching is empowering. To learn Jewish history is exciting and inspirational. For me, I love Jewish literature, Jewish food, Jewish travel, and so much more. I am sure that all of you have those areas that you are passionate about. I want to work with the community to inspire Jewish learning; provide opportunities to draw people to



Bob in Tel Aviv

our great books, great teachers, thinkers, and creators, and the tremendous lessons they provide, so that they can wallop us with their magic; and to share with our children a cherished appreciation for how Judaism, as a religion, as a culture, and as a people, can provide our lives inspiration, guidance, purpose, and meaning.

**What else should you like our community to know about you?**

I want you to know that the work we do together through the Jewish Federation matters deeply. Donors do not give to the Jewish Federation; they help make the world better through the Jewish Federation. The lives that we impact through our work, those here locally, as well as those in places around the world, their lives are changed through our good deeds, through our generosity, and our mitzvahs. I believe that with every fiber of my body because I have seen it with my own eyes.

# Life Relationships

By Dr. David Friedgood

In our tradition all Life: vegetable, animal, and human is special; living organisms being created by the Most Holy Creator. According to the history of the world outlined in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, the world we live in was created in six days. "And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: Seed bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind... And God saw this was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day." Then, on day five of creation, came animal life: "God said "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures... And God saw that this was good. God blessed them saying "Be fertile and increase... And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day." Next came insects, fish, and land creatures. Life grew, developed and procreated – filling the seas, sky, and the earth. But, creation was not complete. "And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things... And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, and God said to them "Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it..." And God saw all that he had made and found it very good. And there was

evening and there was morning the sixth day" (Genesis 1).

We human beings are all part of our Lord's creation. Each of us is born with basic animal characteristics. We must breathe, eat, and eliminate waste similar to other living things. But, we are also unique, endowed with the image of God. Although each individual is different, no two being exactly alike, each of us has the ability to think, reason, and rationalize - unlike any animal. We are bestowed with the wisdom to know right from wrong. As masters of our environment we bear the responsibility to care for our world and preserve it for future generations. As we manipulate plant and animal life for our benefit we must be aware that as mortals we are sustained by the world around us and all life has its place in the maintenance of each ecologic system. Nature is not wasteful and neither should we be. It is our duty to pass this world on to the next generation intact, if not improved. At the end of creation we are told that the Creator surveyed the work done and pronounced it 'very good'. Rabbinical commentary notes that the word 'very' is applied to the word 'good' for the first time after the 6th day. This implies that the introduction of human kind completes the act of creation. But, by introducing men and women to the world change and destruction will follow. People

kill trees and harvest plant life for food, to construct homes and for other needs. Animals are killed to provide human nutrition. The implication is that even destruction and death can be very good if it leads to positive outcomes. In a sense we humans have the ability to continue the process of creation begun by our Lord, either positively or negatively. Also note that in the scheme of creation male and female are of equal value, created in the Bible at the same time. (We can talk some other time about Adam's rib which appears in chapter 2 of Genesis.) Each gender has its place in the scheme of life, one being no more important than the other. We must also be cognizant of the fact that all humankind descended from the first man and woman, Adam and Eve. Adam's name in Hebrew is identical to the word for earth. Eve's name (Chavah in Hebrew) derives from the Hebrew word for life, Chai, according to the Bible as Eve was the mother of all subsequent human life (Genesis 3:20). (Though some scholars relate the name Eve to the Aramaic word for snake.) Throughout the Millennia our ancestors have migrated to every corner of the earth. They established farms, cities with industries, and political entities with varying nation states large and small. Although each of us is unique in our appearance and abilities, we



all have similar needs and an ultimate fate during our limited sojourn in the Divine creation. Superficially we have varied hair texture, skin color, height, weight etc. But our soul, that which makes us who we truly are, remains in the 'image of God' the ultimate Creator of us all. There is a spark of creation within each of us. How we respond to this light and how we nourish it throughout our lives determines how successful we are as human beings. It is this Neshama (spirit) that ultimately determines our effect on this earth and how we are remembered when we are gone.

When discussing Abraham, Moses, Sarah, Miriam or any other Biblical personality we recognize the effect their lives have on us today. We discuss their spirit, hopes, desires, and how they eventually acted and behaved. How did they interact with those about them, both within their family and religious group and with

strangers? It is the kind of relations these luminaries had with other people and with their environment that reflects who they truly were as human beings and determines how we view them today. The 20th Century Jewish philosopher Martin Buber describes our relationships in his masterpiece titled 'I and Thou': "To man the world is twofold in accordance with his twofold attitude. The attitude of man is twofold, in accordance with the twofold nature of the primary words which he speaks... Though one primary word is the combination I-Thou. The other primary word is the combination I-It." As an example: The I-Thou relationship was present in the friendship of David and Jonathan. Each man, David the future King of Israel and Jonathan, son of the soon to be former King, immerse their souls together - each supporting the other for the common good.

I-Thou is spoken with the whole being and is transforming. I-It (which can be replaced with I-He or I-She) reflects superficial contact and is never spoken with the whole being. (Our relationship with God is separate, an Eternal Thou according to Professor Buber.) When we are able to establish these close soul searching I-Thou relationships we see our world differently. We realize that none of us are isolated, but part of a greater humanity. Black, White, Asian, Latino are superficial designations of no substantial import. We are part of a continuity of Life, connecting back to the spark of God's creation. Together we can work on improving and perfecting our world which too often seems broken. Our lives seem too short but they can be glorious as we work to facilitate the promise of Creation. We should all enjoy the ride.

*"Two are better off than one, in that they have greater benefit from their earnings.  
For should they fall, one can raise the other; but woe betide him who is alone and falls with no companion to raise him!"  
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*



## Hybrid Learning Offers Opportunities for All



Beit Sefer Shalom welcomed students back in early September for the 2020-2021 school year. Due to COVID-19 precautions, all in person classes are taking place outside (weather permitting) and online classes are also being offered. While it doesn't look like our normal Hebrew School days, it has been a lot of fun for students to learn in an outdoor environment. Music takes place on the soccer field, spread out like a concert. Hebrew lessons take place under the pavilion and other shaded spots around Caspe. And, of course, both of our playgrounds are used when classes take breaks from their Hebrew or Judaic lessons.

Teachers have worked hard to balance in person and online lessons, making sure each child is given the tools they need to succeed this school year. The Madrichim program has 15 teenagers who are helping teachers and students navigate the new school day. There is no question each Madrich adds a special touch to their class and the students' overall Hebrew school experience.

We will continue to hold Hebrew School outdoors as long as the weather permits. We appreciate your patience and cooperation with us during this time.





# Mazel Tov to Our Director of Education

## IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**Sophie Homonoff**

Director of Education for the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines

IN RECOGNITION OF SOPHIE'S INVESTMENTS OF TIME AND EFFORT  
EDUCATING IOWA'S CHILDREN AND BUILDING MORE INCLUSIVE AND  
TOLERANT COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE GDM JEWISH FEDERATION

Presented on October 2, 2020



## November is Jewish Book Month

Looking for fun and educational activities to do with your family? Well look no further! Beginning in November, our school wing library will offer PJ Library "Book Baskets" for families to borrow. Each basket includes a PJ Library book and a few activities to go along with the story.

Please contact Anna at [anna@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:anna@jewishdesmoines.org) for questions or more information





# Outdoor Learning Provides More Growing

Giovanna Zavell  
Editor

At Gan Shalom, we have always been lucky to have such a large outdoor area. This year, due to COVID-19 precautions, we have moved all our classes outdoors (weather permitting) and it has been great. Our students get to take even more advantage of what our land has to offer. Teachers and students have experienced a number of benefits from spending more time outdoors.

“The kids are getting lots of fresh air and exercise,” says Dalet lead teacher, Juli Margolin. “I have fewer behavior problems and the kids seem happier, more relaxed and less stressed.”

Nature has become the classroom and it has sparked curiosity within the students. They want to learn all about

the bug they found that day, or the vegetables growing in the garden. On nature walks, which have become a part of every day, they see different birds soaring through the sky and hear their chirps. They are eager to learn about the world around them, and with classes taking place outdoors, this is possible.

“They have become more adventurous and willing to try new things,” says Gimel lead teacher, Lisa Nelson. “They help each other out and look out for each other. Teaching outdoors has opened up a whole new world for the kids.”

In addition to curiosity, students are learning to love and appreciate the world around them. They are immersed in the outdoor world and don’t just move from one thing to the next. The students take their time when discovering something new around them.

“I feel the children are able to focus more and stay on task during activities,” says Bet lead teacher, Rhonda Leslie. “Being outside shows every child loves to explore.”

The one tricky part about teaching and learning outdoors is the weather. Rain or shine, teachers and students are fighting against the wild Waukeez winds. Papers, backpacks and lunches sometimes get carried off in the winds. This will usually lead to laughter as everyone in the class tries to catch the items.



Luckily, there have only been a few rainy days in which classes have had to move indoors. But this doesn’t stop students from having fun outdoors. As long as a storm isn’t moving through, we put on our rain suits and stay outside. These rainy days end up being favorites for the kids because they get to jump in puddles and splash their way across Caspe.

There are so many benefits to teaching and learning outdoors. While some lessons are not possible, teachers are finding creative ways to engage students and learn in a whole different way. Gan Shalom is lucky to have such dedicated and adapting teachers to care for our students.







There's no shortage of creatures at Caspe. With more outdoor learning, students are finding toads, grasshoppers and so much more. Many students are brave enough to hold the creatures they find, while others prefer observing from a distance. It's always exciting when new critters are found each day.



Students have been busy celebrating the holidays this Fall. Rosh Hashanah and Sukkot were two favorites. They tasted apples and pomegranates and used the extras to paint. Judaic lessons with Morah Anna took place in the Sukkah, where students learned all about the Lulav and Etrog.

# Lessons from Running Camp During a Pandemic

Giovanna Zavell  
Editor/ECS Director

When we decided to have in person camp, I wasn't sure what was going to happen. I was worried the returning campers would be disappointed because we wouldn't be able to take our usual field trips. I was worried new campers wouldn't get to experience certain aspects of camp they had heard about. Truthfully, my staff and I weren't sure how we were going to keep the campers busy without field trips and visits to the pool.

While preparing for campers to arrive, we learned daily just how aware we had to be with every activity we planned. So much extra thought was put into each activity to ensure we would keep every camper and staff member safe. We also had

to plan more time to clean and sanitize. We weren't sure we could pull it all off.

But we did. The staff was forced to think outside the box and use what was around them when it came to planning activities. As the weeks went on, we left room in the schedule so that campers could tell us what they wanted to do.

I learned a lot this summer. Never did I think I would run a camp during a pandemic. And looking back at it now, I know the decision to open was the right one. The campers had been home for months, and our program offered them time away from their home. They were able to see old friends and make new ones. They were able to play on our playground, soccer field and basketball court. For part of the day, they

were able to just be kids and forget what was happening in the world around them.

I think it's safe to say the staff felt this way too. We were all able to be outside, enjoy the weather and be in each other's company—just like we do every summer at Engman Camp Shalom. We may have not been able to go on field trips, but we learned just how much we can do here at Caspe. Our vast outdoor space allows for so many adventures and opportunities for all campers.

I am hopeful for a more normal summer next year. But I know whatever it may look like, ECS will be here for all campers.

**Engman Camp Shalom**  
we create spirit



## WE'RE HIRING FOR SUMMER 2021!

DO YOU LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH KIDS? DO YOU LIKE PLANNING FUN AND INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ONE OF THE BEST SUMMER JOBS AROUND? APPLY TO BE A CAMP COUNSELOR TODAY!

INTERESTED? CONTACT ANNA AT  
[ANNA@JEWISHDESMOINES.ORG](mailto:ANNA@JEWISHDESMOINES.ORG) OR 515.419.1269





# Winter Break Camp

December 23, 28, 29, 30 & 31

Be sure to bring your snow pants and boots, you won't want to miss out on our exciting outdoor activities!

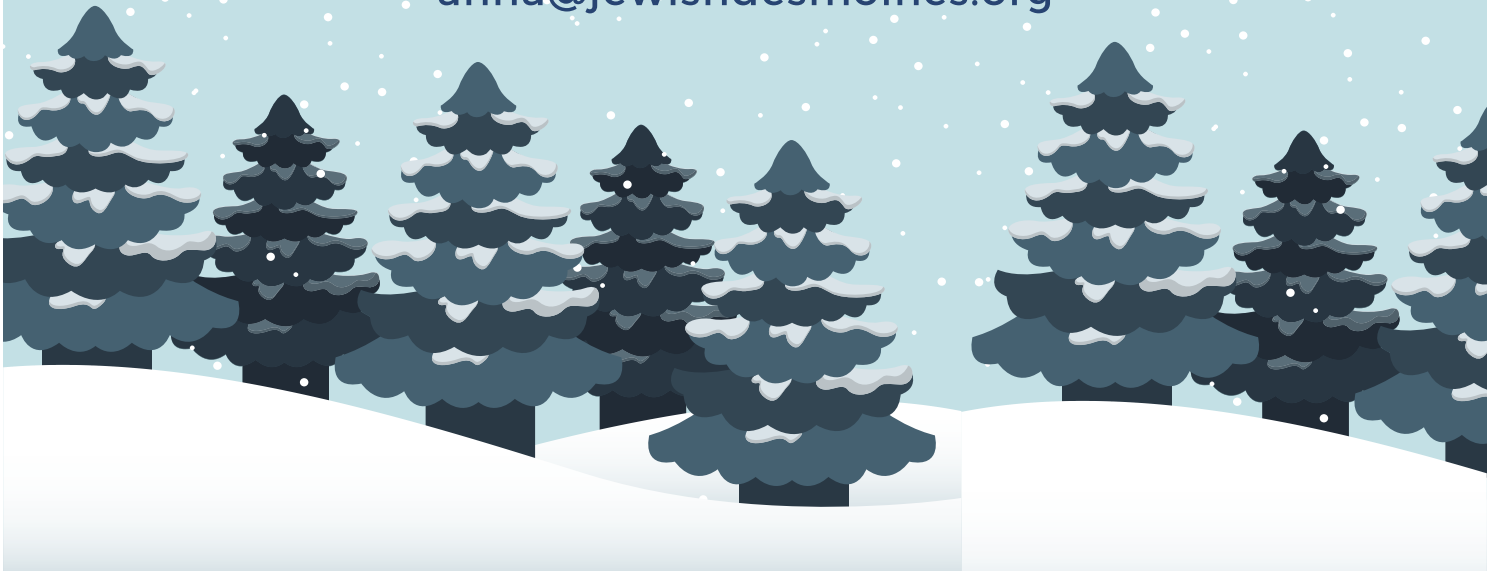
Full Day: 9-4 (\$36)

Morning Session: 9-12 (\$18)

Afternoon Session: 1-4 (\$18)

**\*\*Lunch available for \$5/day\*\***

For more information or questions, contact Anna at [anna@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:anna@jewishdesmoines.org)



# Rosh Hashanah Baskets Delivered to Seniors



While COVID has resulted in the suspension of in-person activities, Jewish Family Services continues to serve our community. In addition to connecting with people via phone calls, we are making weekly meal deliveries. We also delivered Rosh Hashanah baskets; this was made possible by generous donations from the community. Pictured above is Pearl Greenberg with her basket.

## Staff and Community 'Stuff the Bus'

The Federation staff, community members, and parents of children in our educational programs helped us participate in United Ways "Stuff the Bus" effort. This program collects children's books and then delivers them to child care centers and in-home child care providers. Over 150 books were collected.



## *The Iowa Jewish Senior Life Center*



900 Polk Blvd; Des Moines, IA 50312-2225

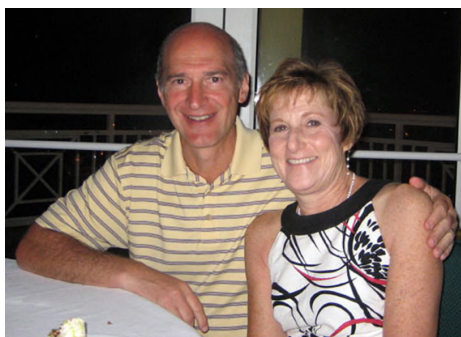
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Don and Maddie Schoen

Madelyn, better known as Maddie by her friends and family, cared deeply for those around her. Her kindness touched many lives as she was always helping others, especially those in need. “I believe her mission in life was to be kind and considerate to all,” says her husband, Don Schoen. “She wanted to help others achieve a better quality of life.”

Maddie was a lifelong resident of Des Moines, graduating from Roosevelt High School and later attending the University of Iowa. She then attended Michigan State University where she obtained her Masters in Speech-language Pathology. She worked as a Speech Pathologist for over 40 years.

“Professionally, she helped thousands of people live better lives through her Speech Pathology work,” Don says. “She helped them with issues ranging from better articulation to regaining speech from strokes to being able to swallow food.” Maddie was a champion of charitable work within the community. She supported a wide range of causes dealing with Judaism and women’s rights, volunteered at the Jewish Senior Life Center and Tifereth Israel Synagogue and served on both boards.

But her greatest legacy is her family.

“She always supported the many cultural and athletic activities that our children were engaged in,” Don says. “She worked full time

## Remembering: Madelyn K. Schoen

while raising three children and imparted values in them which will be passed onto her grandchildren.” She raised them each to be productive and caring members in their communities.

“There are so many great memories of my mother, but the weddings of the three of us stand out as the most joyous,” says Maddie’s eldest son, Justin. “She battled cancer for 22 years to make it to these three occasions, and was able to see the birth of her three grandchildren.”



The Schoen Family

“One of my greatest memories of my mother was our mother/son dance at my wedding,” says Maddie’s youngest son, Aaron. “I will always cherish the friendship I had with my mom. She was someone I would talk to about everything—even knowing I would get a heavy dose of sarcasm, if needed!”

“My mom was a very active person and enjoyed being outdoors,” says Maddie’s middle daughter, Carolyn. “Whether it was going for hikes in Arizona, taking long walks around the neighborhood, or going to the zoo—especially to see her favorite animal, the giraffe—these times allowed us to have some of our best talks and appreciate the beauty of the environment around us.”

Maddie was a very private, but

proud person. She will always be remembered for reaching out and being friendly to all people. She will be remembered for making everyone feel comfortable, and always letting them know she could be called if there was anything they needed. Even new people she would meet—Maddie always cared for the well being of others and offered a kind ear to those who needed it.

“She was the bravest and hardest working person I knew,” Don says. “She loved her family, she loved Tifereth and she loved Des Moines. She never lived her life as a cancer survivor. She didn’t want to give cancer any room in her life for excuses.”

As Maddie grew older, she enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles and board games. She continued helping others, even if it may have been hard for her due to her ailments.

Maddie will always be remembered for her smile and commitment to helping others.

Maddie passed away on February 27, 2020 in her home surrounded by her family. She is survived by her husband of over 45 years, Don; her children, Justin Schoen and Chelsea Stone, Carolyn and Joe Gorowski, and Aaron and Leigh Schoen; her grandchildren Henry Gorowski, Elle Schoen, and Vivian Gorowski; and her sister, Peggy Paget. Her passing was preceded by her mother and father, Elizabeth and Arthur Sherman.



Maddie and Don with their three grandchildren



# IJHS 2020/2021 Board of Directors

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## Collections Corner: Jacqueline Blank-US Citizens Defense Corps

In May, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Civilian Defense to coordinate state and federal programs for protecting the general public in case American cities were attacked as was happening in Europe.

The work of the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) included establishing air-raid procedures, supervising blackout drills, and protecting against fire damage in case of an attack as well as human service functions such as child care, health, housing, and transportation.

To do the work in communities across the nation, the OCD recruited more than 11 million volunteers from all walks of life. When asked who should join, recruiters answered: all able-bodied, responsible persons in the community—men and women, housewives, laborers, business and professional people—for the protection of all. Interested volunteers had to meet age, citizenship, and training requirements.

Among the Iowas who answered the call was Mrs. Jacqueline Blank, who was 29 years old when she joined the Air Raid Wardens Unit. Her Certificate of Membership in the United States Citizens Defense Corps, is among the hundreds of Blank Family artifacts in the Iowa Jewish Historical Society's collection. You can find out more about these artifacts and thousands of other treasures online under Our Collection on our website: [ijhs.online](http://ijhs.online).



# Iowa Jewish Historical Society Joins Nationwide Effort

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society (IJHS) has joined a nationwide effort sponsored by the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM) to document and collect stories from around the nation on what it means to be Jewish in the era of COVID-19.

The Council and its member museums recognize that this is a critical time to be collecting personal stories and artifacts about the Jewish experience in America. It is a time in which Jewish life is responding to and changing in the face of the pandemic, the protests and struggles for justice, the election year, and the community work we all do together.

To ensure that this history is being preserved as it is happening, the Council is partnering with member museums and suppliers

to ensure that museums can record and collect meaningful personal stories about the impact these forces are having on Jewish life.

Participating museums include: Breman Museum (Atlanta), Institute of Southern Jewish Life (Jackson, MS), Jewish History Museum and Holocaust Education Center (Tucson, AZ), Jewish Museum of Maryland, Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust, Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, Capital Jewish Museum (Washington, DC), Jewish Museum of Florida at Florida International University, and IJHS.

Over the next several months, the IJHS will be working with synagogues and Federations from across the state to identify people of all ages—middle



Robbie and Marvin Winick being interviewed on the impact of COVID-19 on their lives.

schoolers through seniors) and backgrounds—first responders, COVID survivors, rabbis, students, teachers, medical advisory boards, Federation and congregation members—to participate in these interviews. All interviews will be conducted online.

For more information about this project, please contact the IJHS at [ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org) or leave a message at 515-987-0899 ext. 216.

## IJHS Memberships Preserve Iowa's Jewish Heritage

During these challenging and unprecedented times, we at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society continue to work toward our goal of preserving Iowa's Jewish Heritage and involving people of all backgrounds in preserving our history and culture. We hope that you will join us in these efforts.

Our outreach and services continue even though our physical building is closed. New online programs have been developed—Yom HaShoah and Beyond; Iowa Liberators Witness the Holocaust—and we continue to pursue our connection with educators at area schools and home schools to remind them of the broad range of opportunities available online.

This is why we need YOU! It is YOUR support that enables the very important work of preserving our heritage for us and for future generations. The artifact, photos, textiles, and religious memorabilia are the treasures that will live on thanks to your involvement.

Please join or renew your membership in the Iowa Jewish Historical Society today!

Thank you!

*Susie Kynelman*

**Join Now!**

**Give Yourself or a Friend the Gift of Helping Preserve Iowa's Jewish Heritage for This and Future Generations**

Join online now at [www.ijhs.online](http://www.ijhs.online) or complete this membership form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, and Zip Code

Membership Levels

Membership Year: July 2020 through June 2021

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: (515)987-0899 ext. 216 or [ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org)

# Tifereth Worship Schedule

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

[www.tifereth.org](http://www.tifereth.org)

Email to be sent weekly with links, contact us if you are not currently receiving Tifereth emails.  
Schedule subject to change. Please visit our website for the most up to date calendar

## Recurring Events

Minyan via Zoom | Tuesdays | 9 a.m.

Shabbat Evening Services via Zoom | Fridays | 6 p.m.

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

## Special Events

Sam Blair's Beit Mitzvah | Friday, November 20, 2020 | 4 p.m.

Alex Cantor's Beit Mitzvah | Sunday, November 29, 2020 | 10 a.m.

**SAVE THE NEW DATE: Tifereth Israel Women's League will have their 100th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, June 6, 2021**

# Ames Jewish Congregation

3721 Calhoun Ave, Ames, IA 50010

[www.ajciowa.org](http://www.ajciowa.org)

The remaining schedule for November and December has not been finalized but will include regular Shabbat services (an assortment of rabbi-led, lay-led, and family-oriented) as well as other events—all on Zoom. On many Friday nights when there is not a Shabbat service scheduled, we will have a "Zoom Schmooze." We warmly welcome anyone and everyone who would like to join us at one or more of our services or other events. Generally, a schedule is available a few weeks in advance on AJC's website, online calendar and emailed to those who have asked to be notified about AJC events. To receive emails with Zoom links and more details about upcoming events, or if you have questions about AJC, please contact AJC at [ajciowa@gmail.com](mailto:ajciowa@gmail.com).

## Special Events

Lily Alice Rosenberg Bat Mitzvah | Friday, November 6, 2020 | via Zoom



# TBJ Worship Schedule

Temple B'nai Jeshurun | 5101 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312  
www.templebnajeshurun.org

Email to be sent weekly with links, contact us if you are not currently receiving Temple emails.  
Schedule subject to change. Please visit our website for the most up to date calendar

## NOVEMBER

Tot Shabbat and Story Time | Fridays, November 6, 13, 20, 27 & 27 | 10 a.m.  
Erev Shabbat Service | Fridays, November 13, 20, 27 & 27 | 6 p.m.  
Traditional Torah Study (TTS) | Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 9 a.m.  
Shabbat Service | Saturdays, November 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 10 a.m.

## DECEMBER

Tot Shabbat and Story Time | Friday, December 4 | 10 a.m.  
Family Shabbat Service | Friday, December 4 | 6 p.m.  
Erev Shabbat Service | Fridays, December 11, 18 & 25 | 6 p.m.  
Traditional Torah Study (TTS) | Saturdays, December 5, 12, 19, 26 | 9 a.m.  
Shabbat Service | Saturdays, December 5, 12, 19, 26 | 10 a.m.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Shabbat Service with Consecration Blessing of Kindergarten Class | Friday, November 6 | 6 p.m.  
Alina Barkley Bat Mitzvah | Saturday, November 14, 2020 | 10 a.m.

## LECTURES BY PROFESSOR AMY-JILL LEVINE—ONLINE SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE FOR 2020

"Agreeing to Disagree: How and Why Jews and Christians Read the Same Scriptures Differently" | Thursday, November 5, 2020 | 7 p.m.  
"Understanding Jesus and Paul Means Understanding Judaism" | Friday, November 6, 2020 | 9 a.m.

Both programs will take place on Zoom with links posted on the Temple B'nai Jeshurun website as the event nears.  
www.TempleBnaiJeshurun.org For the Friday morning program, it would be helpful to have a copy of Professor Levine's book, the Jewish Annotated New Testament, which can be found at most online booksellers.

## CONNECTING — A TASTE OF JUDAISM SIX SESSION COURSE

Connecting is a course taught by Rabbi Kaufman that will offer a basic understanding of each topic and address how to connect during this time of pandemic. It is appropriate for those just beginning a study of Judaism and for those who have been longtime members of the community. Much is different in 2020.

All sessions will take place on Zoom at 7 pm and can also be seen on Facebook Live on Rabbi Kaufman's page, David Jay Kaufman on Facebook. Zoom links will be provided through the Temple office for those interested in being able to ask questions and interact directly. The schedule of classes follows:

Oct. 15—Connecting to Prayer  
Oct. 29—Connecting to Jewish Calendar  
Nov. 12—Connecting to Reform Judaism  
Nov. 19—Connecting to Jewish Community  
Dec. 3—Connecting to Israel  
Dec. 10—Connecting to Chanukah



# CALLED TO THE TORAH



**Lily Alice Rosenberg**

**Friday, November 6, 2020**

Jeff and Megan Rosenberg are proud to announce that their daughter, Lily Alice Rosenberg, will be called to the Torah on November 6, 2020, at the Ames Jewish Congregation. Lily is a seventh grader at the Hampton-Dumont Community Middle School. She enjoys spending time with her cousins, friends, and older brother, Michael. Lily loves making people laugh and has been described as a 12-year-old Don Rickles. Her Bat Mitzvah will be held over Zoom, with a reception to follow at a later date. Mazel Tov, Lily Alice!

**Alina Barkley**

**Saturday, November 14, 2020**

Josette Barkley and Zachary Mescher are proud to announce Alina Renae Barkley will be Bat Mitzvah on Nov 14, 2020 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Link to follow. Alina has proven to be an independent spirit and has carried that into her studies. She loves to be active in gymnastics, is a talented artist and loves to embrace anything creative. Alina has been identified as gifted and has commenced studies in advanced classes through Central Academy this year. We are proud as to what she has accomplished thus far in her life and can't wait to see what she creates in the future.



**Sam Blair**

**Saturday, November 21, 2020**

Paige and Mark Blair are proud to announce the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Samuel Blair on November 21, 2020. Sam is a 7th grader at Waukee Middle School. He loves playing basketball and is part of the Kingdom Hoops family. For his mitzvah project, he fund-raised for the JDRF One Walk, providing funds for type 1 diabetes research, and Kingdom Cares, which provides scholarships for less privileged kids to play basketball at Kingdom Hoops.



**Alex Cantor**

**Sunday, November 29, 2020**

Jill and David Cantor are proud to announce that their son, Alex Cantor will be having his Beit (house) Mitzvah on Sunday, November 29th at 10 a.m. via Zoom. More information to follow.



# In Memoriam

ALICE BISHOP  
RUTH KRANTZ ENGMAN  
SANFORD MYRON NAIDITCH  
MARILYN ANN HURWITZ  
RUTHANNE SILVERSTEIN  
JACQUELYN SANDLER  
SALLY LUFTMAN  
ELAINE "CANDY" CANDELL ELSNER  
JULIE ACCOLA

RONALD DEAN GOODSIDE  
JANICE K. PAULSEN  
HYMIE SANDLER  
VICTOR UNTRAUER\*  
JULIAN SILVERBERG\*  
GOLDIE ZEICHNIK\*  
MADDIE SCHOEN\*  
LOTTIE FRANK\*  
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*May Their Memories Be For A Blessing*



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

# Make Your Gift to the Federation by December 31, and it Will be Matched!

*Every new or increased contribution will be matched thanks to  
JFNA's Human Services Relief Matching Fund*

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- *Donate now through December 31 online at [jewishdesmoines.org](http://jewishdesmoines.org) or by mail*

