

# THE GREATER DES MOINES JEWISH PRESS

Vol. 37, No. 5 | May/June 2021 | Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5781 | אייר/סיון/תמוז



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# Jewish Press

The Caspe Terrace  
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Editor & Production

*In Memory Of*  
*Mark S. Finkelstein (z"l)*

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Iyar/Sivan/Tammuz 5781

# Community Report

## Beit Sefer Shalom

- All students celebrated Purim on February 21 both in person and virtually
- The 5th graders enjoyed weekly Minecraft lessons with LostTribe ESports
- Hebrew lessons are being taught in person and virtually this year to all 1st-8th graders. Students also have access to a personal Hebrew computer program that can be used anywhere/anytime
- Students celebrated the last day of Hebrew school on Sunday, May 2

## Gan Shalom

- Students presented their Spring Sing program virtually this year
- A huge thank you to our Gan Shalom parent volunteers who helped make Purim extra special with freshly baked hamantaschen
- Gan Shalom welcomed Robin Karney as Judaics teacher, who focused on Hebrew vocabulary, holidays, and Jewish values
- Students are exercising their body and minds with weekly virtual yoga classes
- Mazel tov to 11 Gan Shalom students who are heading to Kindergarten in the Fall

## Engman Camp Shalom

- ECS is set to run 11 weeks of summer camp from June 7 to August 21
- We will offer four weeks of swim lessons at Gold Fish Swim School
- If you are interested in being a "Guest Griller" for Friday Hot Dog Lunches, please email Anna to coordinate at [anna@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:anna@jewishdesmoines.org)

## Jewish Family Services and Outreach

- Jewish Family Services is available to help! At this time, we are not holding social activities, but are available to help in other ways
- If you are a senior in need of meal delivery, groceries, or other assistance, please connect with Jody Ingersoll, at 515-987-0899 ext. 210

## Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- Do you have photos, videos, and other artifacts related to personal and community life during the pandemic, social justice protests, the 2020 election and other events? Email [ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org) if you will donate them to the IJHS to preserve this history for future generations.
- Do you have an artifact in the IJHS collection that has special meaning to you—a picture of a relative, a name on the Marshalltown Yahrzeit boards, a Seder plate, etc. If so, consider writing an article for the Press. Email [sandi@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:sandi@jewishdesmoines.org)
- Check out IJHS' virtual program series Iowa Liberators Witness the Holocaust and Yom HaShoah and Beyond at <https://bit.ly/3rhZf6d>



## same seder, new traditions

Illustration by Jacob Kuperman

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# Preparing Our Youth With a Solid Jewish Education



Bob Goldberg  
Executive Director

Shalom Friends,

I want to share with you how proud I am of Beit Sefer Shalom, our Jewish community school. It is a place where our youth, regardless of affiliation or religiosity, come together to make a community of Jews learning together.

Our children are our most precious resource. We want the very best for them, and when they go out into the world, we want them to be prepared. We want them to lead ethical and moral lives. We want them to pursue justice and work to make a better world.

I am grateful for the commitment of our families, students, teachers, volunteers, leaders, and supporters, because in a small Jewish community like ours, many of these young people would never know each other unless we intentionally bring them together. And while we can't impact the conversations in the high school halls or on college campuses, we can invest in our children by giving them a solid Jewish education.

Beit Sefer Shalom is our collective, proactive way of preparing our youth to be proud of their Jewish faith and heritage, and G-d willing, help to inspire their desire to continue exploring and learning how Judaism can provide them a blueprint for life, and give them a community to be a part of.

Sophie Homonoff, our outstanding Director of Education, says that Beit Sefer Shalom, which serves students from the 2nd through 12th grade, has averaged 120 students per year

over the last decade. This is truly outstanding—but our goal is always to do more.

Beit Sefer Shalom serves as a compliment to the learning received in the home and in the congregations. As a community, we can inspire increased investment in the education provided through all existing local models—through Gan Shalom preschool, the congregations, Bar/Bat Mitzvah training, Engman Camp Shalom, and our Community School—Beit Sefer Shalom.

Maggie Matijevich, the President of the Beit Sefer Shalom Board of Directors, said “Beit Sefer Shalom provides a place where [our kids] not only learn and grow into their Jewish identity- but are made to feel proud. It's a place where being Jewish is the norm, not the rarity. We are building lifelong friendships, building identity, and building confidence.”

I take pride in watching the 4th grade Beit Sefer Shalom class get up on stage (or on Zoom) and talk about Passover, joining with the 5th and 6th graders as they learn about the life of Golda Meir, seeing the little ones learn Hebrew words, and observing the high school students joining virtually with students at Manor Cabri in Israel (our school twinning partner through our Partnership2Gether program).

I remember learning, as a child, about the Holocaust, and being told that everything can be taken from you, except what lives in your head and in your heart. It is part and parcel of the commitment of Jewish people throughout time to unequivocally commit to providing our children with an education that empowers them with the necessary tools to survive and thrive—even during very difficult times. And, in case you haven't noticed, it's a crazy world out there right now.

A new report from the ADL tells us that we are currently in the midst of a massive nationwide surge of antisemitic propaganda that is coming from dozens of white supremacist groups across the country. In 2020, in our state of Iowa alone, there were 32 reported incidents of antisemitism, including some on college campuses. This new ADL report reveals that there

are 14 antisemitic incidents occurring every single day across the country, which is an all-time high and nearly doubles the recorded cases in 2019.

This trend is all too real on college campuses with harassment, vandalism, and attacks on Jewish students and institutions. Just Google away and you'll find article after article about white supremacist activities on college campuses hitting record highs.

I am not looking to spread fear, but to share the honest truth. Today, Jewish students on college campuses are experiencing antisemitism from far left-wing groups like never before. New social justice models often place Jews at a place of immense privilege and power, which has made it acceptable for others to demonize and exclude Jews, whether it is on student governing bodies, in social justice movements, or any other campus groups or activities.

All of this is completely unacceptable to me and I hope to you as well. So, what can we do about it?

We must continue to identify resources to help our Jewish students participate actively in as many meaningful Jewish experiences as they want before they leave high school. These include Beit Sefer Shalom, Gan Shalom Preschool, Jewish camp (both day camps, like Engman Camp Shalom, and sleep away camps), youth group activities, leadership forums, and trips to Israel. Our priority must be to help and support our youth getting to any place where they can congregate with other Jewish youth and have Jewish experiences.

At Beit Sefer Shalom, we work as a community to help our Jewish students grow as human beings, think Jewishly, feel Jewish, and build their Jewish selves. Beit Sefer Shalom provides a unique Jewish entry into community life and an on-going year-round Jewish community for our youth.

What I have witnessed at Beit Sefer Shalom in my short time here is that our teachers are providing students with learning that is diverse, interactive, story based, and rich in Jewish content. We should be continually asking ourselves and our students, what makes compelling

learning for the students? What can we do to encourage more of our Jewish families to enroll their children in the community school? How can we make Jewish education more accessible? And what can we do to light that spark inside of each student that will inspire lifelong Jewish learning?

Rabbi Yochanon, in the Talmud, tells the story of a man who planted a carob tree, which is known to bear fruit only after seventy years. When

asked whether he thought he would live to eat from the tree, the man replied, "I found a fruitful world, because my ancestors planted it for me. Likewise, I am planting for my children." (Talmud, Taanit 23a). A lesson that I take from this story is that a parent's love or a community's love can't truly be paid back, it can only be passed on.

G-d bless all of you for building the Beit Sefer Shalom Community School.

May those who move through its halls pursue Jewish learning and a Jewish life, enjoy the fruits that previous generations planted for them, and have the strength and pride to pass it forward to the next generation.

I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please reach out to me at bob@jewishdesmoines.org.

Until next time, L'Shalom. Bob

## Continued Growth and Engagement Within The Community



Michael Wolnerman  
President

Hello everyone! It's hard to believe that my term as President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is almost at an end. It feels like the time has gone both so quickly and so slowly over these past couple of years.

Just so you know, these articles of mine in the Jewish Press are created fresh. In other words, I do not look back at previous ones that I sent. A wonderful outcome from the last couple of publications, was the phone calls and emails I received expressing appreciation of the sharing my personal topics and what matters to me and my family regarding the good that the Federation has done and continues to do for us. Call it authenticity, or resonance, or whatever, I'm so glad it touched folks.

An expert on giving public speeches said to me once that I should avoid "naming names at all costs." I'm going to respectfully agree to disagree, and want to share the story of when I became engaged with the Federation. I recall Maddie Schoen being involved with the youth groups in the

mid 1980's. She tapped me to be a chaperon on a weekend Shabbaton in Wisconsin. I accepted, and can vividly remember the kids, conversations, excitement on the way to Wisconsin, and how exhausted we all were on the trip home to Des Moines. That was my first entry to the Federation and I do connect it to where I am now. I owe a debt of gratitude to Maddie and recall the stories we shared about being children of grocery store owners.

I bring this story up to spark something in each of you. So much has changed, yet, much stays the same. One thing is for sure, we have adapted well to these changes here at our Federation. I have communicated with other Federation Presidents from across the country, and while most have adapted well, like us, other communities have really struggled. I feel so fortunate to be here, at this time, in this community even with all the challenges we have faced over the past year.

We have all had to deal with so much and we continue to grow and demonstrate success with everything at the JFGDM. In place of rehashing what we have done to show our success, I will say that we have succeeded and you will see the fruits of this labor, in spite of the pandemic. Just know, like my son reminded me, one little change, one little response of kindness, one little comment can make a huge difference to one person for the rest of their life.

As we move into spring, there are many Jewish holidays coming up, with a couple that really have special significance to me. Yom HaShoah, the Holocaust Day of Remembrance, is one of those holidays. It is important to recognize this day in

any way possible, by as many people as possible. This year, with virtual events available, you are only a click away from many meaningful ways to participate in recognitions of this day. We also have the only Holocaust Memorial on any State Capitol grounds in the country. Yom HaShoah is the perfect day to check it out if you have not seen it. It's located outdoors, which allows for socially distant viewing. Please note, while we are currently preparing to refurbish the memorial, which has been weathered by time and the elements, it's still very worthwhile to take time to go see it. The other holiday that really hits home for me is Shavuot. Our son, Bennie, was born during this time and we gave him the middle name Moses for that reason. It always gives me a good feeling to remember how important this holiday is to the Jewish people.

Here at the Federation, we believe that Jewish engagement goes hand in hand with our relationships and a focus on experiences. We want to focus on all of the Jewish families in and around our community, and provide experiences that really resonate. I hope this message of engagement has been clear in my many Jewish Press messages. So many of you have engaged in many different ways and it is so appreciated.

Looking forward to sharing more good news and upcoming events. Stay tuned. Stay involved. Get involved. Stay healthy. As always, please reach out to me if you have questions regarding our Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

Best wishes from my family to yours,  
Michael Wolnerman, 515-778-3867

# Celebrating the Music of Great Jewish-American Songwriters

*Abe is the leader of the Java Jews Klezmer Band, the musical curator of Jazz at Caspe Terrace and was recently named "The Best Radio Personality in Des Moines" for his weekly jazz radio show on KFMG-FM.*



Abe Goldstien  
Guest Columnist

According to David Lehman, author of *A Fine Romance: Jewish Songwriters and American Songs*, Cole Porter used to joke that he would have been an even better songwriter if he were a Jew. After all, with the exception of Porter, Harry Warren, and a handful of others, the majority of songwriters responsible for the "Great American Songbook" were Jewish.

For generations, jazz artists around the world have used many of the compositions crafted by these songwriters as springboards for improvisation.

It's hard to imagine the history of jazz without considering Chet Baker's take on Richard Rodgers' "My Funny Valentine," the many variations Charlie Parker and other beboppers gave to Jerome Kern's "All the Things You Are," or Ornette Coleman breathing new life into George Gershwin's "Embraceable You." Three recent recordings of the works of Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern and Harold Arlen demonstrate how their music continues to inspire a new generation of jazz musicians.

## Yaala Ballin: Sings Irving Berlin

Irving Berlin and singer Yaala Ballin have a few things in common. First, both are immigrants. Berlin (nee Israel Beilin) came to America with his family in 1893 from a shtetl in Belarus. Israeli-born Ballin came to America in 2004 to study jazz with singer Sheila Jordan (a former guest of Jazz at Caspe Terrace). Second, they both appreciate beautiful melodies — Berlin crafting them and Ballin interpreting them.

Supported by pianist Michael Kanan, guitarist Chris Flory and bassist Ari Roland, Ballin covers 13 Berlin tunes ideally suited to her tasteful approach to melodies and her love of lyrics (lessons I am certain she learned from Ms. Jordan). Her solo vocal opening on "They Say That Falling in Love is Wonderful" is a case in point as is her up tempo take on "Remember." Borrowing an approach from Ms. Jordan, Ballin investigates the possibilities of a duo performance with bass on "Blue Skies." On "Say It Isn't So," she strips the band down to just guitar, while on "All Alone" she shares the spotlight with piano. Each track is as varied in its approach as it is in mood — from the sublime ballad "This Year's Kisses" to the opening swing of "It's a Lovely Day."

Bailin may not be an explosive singer/scatter like Ella Fitzgerald or a melancholy singer like Shirley Horn, but listeners will be pleased with her take on these Irving Berlin tunes which, under her hands, are timeless as always. Thankfully, she did not include two famous tunes written by this son of a cantor — "White Christmas" and "Easter Parade"!

## Chris Cheek: The Jerome Kern Songbook

Musicians from Sweden, Spain and America come together to celebrate the songs composed by Jerome Kern — son of a Jewish-German immigrant father and a Bohemian-born mother. From the opening strains of "Why Do I Love You," with its languid sax and steady rhythm, you know exactly what's in store as the musicians investigate eight classic Kern tunes.

At first blush, the band's approach to these tunes may sound perfect for background music for a cocktail party. But, a closer listen reveals the intricate conversation between Chris Cheek's saxophone and Gustav Lundgren's guitar, supported by Tom Warburton on bass and Jorge Rossy on drums. Like the pieces of a puzzle, the band combines melody, harmony and rhythm to assemble perfect renditions of ballads like "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and upbeat tunes like "I've Told Every Little Star."

Although many of these Kern compositions have been covered by jazz musicians as varied as saxophonist Sonny Rollins, ("The Way You Look Tonight,") pianist Bill Evans ("Nobody Else But Me") and Ella Fitzgerald ("Can't Help Loving That Man"), kudos to this group for giving "Ol Man River" a jazzy twist. Cheek, Lundgren, Warburton and Rossy approach these tunes with a deep understanding and appreciation of the lyrics, even without a vocalist, like Yaala Ballin.

During his career, Jerome Kern composed more than 700 songs for Hollywood and for Broadway.

Perhaps on Volume 2 of The Jerome Kern Songbook this group will tackle some other familiar Kern classics like “The Song is You,” “The Folks Who Live on a Hill,” and “I’m Old Fashioned,” as well as introducing us to forgotten melodies like “How’d You Like to Spoon with Me,” “Abraham Lincoln Had Just One Country” and “Allegheny Al.”

### **Vinnie Sperrazza Trio: Play Harold Arlen**

The son of a cantor from Buffalo, New York, Harold Arlen (born Hyman Arluck) grew up on a steady diet of Hebrew and Yiddish melodies. Which, combined with the jazz he heard in Buffalo’s African-American neighborhoods, produced classics like “Over The Rainbow,” “Get Happy” and “Come Rain or Come Shine.” Drummer Vinnie Sperrazza and his trio of Jacob Sacks on piano and Masa Kamaguchi on bass cover these tunes and more, on their recent CD.

While retaining the essence of the tunes, Sperrazza and his group take some liberties with the melodies and rhythms of these classic compositions. If jazz is the element of surprise, as jazz critic Whitney Balliet once described it, this recording of Arlen’s tunes is full of pleasant surprises. Consider the foreboding introduction to “Last Night When We Were Young,” the off-kilter way in which the trio kicks off “Get Happy,” or the clarion single piano note that lead to a trio performance of “Ill Wind.” Even the dirge-like rendition of “Ding Dong the Witch is Dead” is ideally suited to its title.

Those who are used to stick-

to-melody jazz may find the trio’s approach a bit odd, but they capture the essence of the lyrics in the 90-second impressionist version of “My Shining Hour,” the almost vocal, hopeful approach to “Over The Rainbow” and the slow and bluesy “Blues in The Night.” There is no question about it, these musicians understand and expand upon Arlen’s intent for these songs.

Play Harold Arlen is the seventh album by this trio that continues to shine new light on both jazz and the “Great American Songbook” libraries. Earlier recordings featured the music of jazz greats Tadd Dameron, Sonny Rollins, Lee Morgan and Benny Golson, as well as of songwriters Cy Coleman and Johnny Mandel. The Vinnie Sperrazza Trio’s approach to the music of others has also been innovative and exciting, and such is the case with this latest release. (Note: I have contacted the trio about bringing their music to Jazz at Caspe Terrace).

Although Berlin, Kern, Arlen and many other Jewish composers of the “Great American Songbook” never wrote Jewish/Yiddish tunes, there is a connection between the niguns they heard in their youth and the songs that shaped American popular music. You can hear it in the use of minor keys. You can hear it in the juxtaposition of happiness and sadness in the lyrics. In answer to a question about what type of music he might write for a musical about an Italian, narrated by an Irishman and takes place in China, Jerome Kern quickly replied, “It’ll be good Jewish music!”



# *My Brother's Keeper*

*By Dr. David Friedgood*

Am I my Brother's Keeper, or guardian - from the Hebrew verb שמר? (Genesis 3:9) These words, attributed to Cain by tradition about 5000 years ago, remain a question that each subsequent generation, and each of us human beings, wrestles with in our lifetimes. What responsibility do I have for my sibling, the product of my mother and father? Who after all is my 'brother'? Is my brother just a male member of my immediate family or does it include women as well? What obligation do I have to my family, my religious brethren, my neighbors, countryman, and the rest of humanity – male and female? Are they responsible for my well-being as I am for theirs, and how all-encompassing is my obligation to care for them?

Let us try to answer these questions by reviewing the text in chapter 4 of the first book of the Bible - Genesis. Adam and Eve, the first humans, have been expelled from 'Paradise' - the Garden of Eden. They represent the ancestors of us all and as a couple were left to care for themselves in a harsh world. (Familiar territory to many of us.) Adam 'knew' Eve and she gave birth to a male child. She named her son Cain after the Hebrew word meaning 'gained' or 'produced' (הנק) saying: "I have gained a male child with the help of the LORD." This woman, noted for the first recorded birth of a child, is also the first human to have spoken the holy name of God.

Her statement naming her son served to praise her Creator in thanks for the privilege of motherhood. Eve next gave birth to another male child Abel, and named him after the Hebrew verb for 'a breath of air' (הבל).

Cain, the older sibling, became a tiller of the soil, following his father Adam's profession. Abel became a herdsman, a common occupation for our patriarchs and their families. In time "Cain brought an offering to the LORD from the fruit of the soil; and Abel, for his part, brought the choicest of the firstlings of his flock. The LORD paid heed to Abel and his offering, but to Cain and his offering He paid no heed. Cain was much distressed and his face fell." Why Cain's offering was rejected is a matter of interpretation. Many Biblical scholars assume it was Cain's manner of giving which was less than gracious. Cain gave to his God as an obligation and not the best he had to offer, while his brother Abel gave his best willingly. Like his mother Eve, Abel recognized the contribution his Creator had in his success and wanted to express his gratitude. Cain was distraught "And the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you distressed, and why is your face fallen? Surely if you do right there is uplift. But if you do not do right Sin couches at the door; its urge is toward you, yet you can be its master.'" Our heritage recognizes this eternal

conflict in human nature. Each of us has a good inclination and a tendency towards evil - a bad inclination. In Hebrew: Yetzer HaTov and Yetzer HaRah (רצי בוטה רציו ההער). Once we let the negative nature of our soul emerge it can be difficult to suppress; darkness takes over, and potentially destructive evil guides our actions. Martin Buber has an interesting take on this topic. He sees people as inherently good, and evil as the absence of our good inclination. Sin is an evil beast, a demon, laying in wait to take over when we suppress our God given pure soul. Cain finds out what happens when you let evil in the door.

Next we are told that Cain speaks to his brother. The words are not recorded but following the talk Cain murders his sibling Abel in a field. This horrible action represents the first recorded death and killing. Then: "The Lord said to Cain, 'Where is your brother Abel?' And he said 'I do not know. Am I my Brother's keeper?'" God responds in a burst of horror: "What have you done? Hark, your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground! Therefore you shall be more cursed than the ground which opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand." Cain is expelled from his home and destined to wander the earth aimlessly. He feels his existence can never be secure and Cain complains to God stating, "anyone who meets

me may kill me!” God does not want Cain killed. A second murder will not erase the first. Rather, Cain’s punishment is more severe. A mark is placed on Cain so that all the people he encounters in life will know of his horrendous crime and he lives out his life in shame. Cain not only murdered his brother, but by depriving Abel of having offspring he has in a sense murdered the whole line

of Abel’s future family who may have been born in subsequent generations. Cain deprived the world of an important resource. That resource is human life in all its glory and potential. Murder is more than an isolated event. Murder is in an affront on all of society – both current and future. The loss of one of us potentially affects us all on many levels. Am I my Brother’s keeper?

The answer is unequivocal: Yes! I am responsible for my brother, my sister, cousin, co-religionists, neighbors, and all of humankind. They in turn bear responsibility for me. They are my keepers. My actions, your behavior and deeds, potentially affect all of us. By recognizing and acting for our common human interests we all work to better this fragile world we live in.

*“He has told you, O man, what is good,  
And what the LORD requires of you:  
Only to do justice  
And to love goodness,  
And to walk modestly with your God;  
Then will your name achieve wisdom.”  
(Micah 6:8-9)*



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## Spotlight: Morah Melissa's First Grade

Melissa Estaver  
Lead Teacher

This year, in the first grade classroom, we are focusing on La-Bri'ut: To Our Health and Wellness. For those who are not familiar, this is a new values-based curriculum developed by the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland. The "learning is anchored in Jewish texts and tales of our past, offering rich understandings of Jewish values that build resiliency and guide personal and communal health and wellness: sukkat shalom (a shelter of peace), ometz lev (inner strength), g'vurah (courage), k'hillah (community) and hesed (loving kindness, tying into hope)"

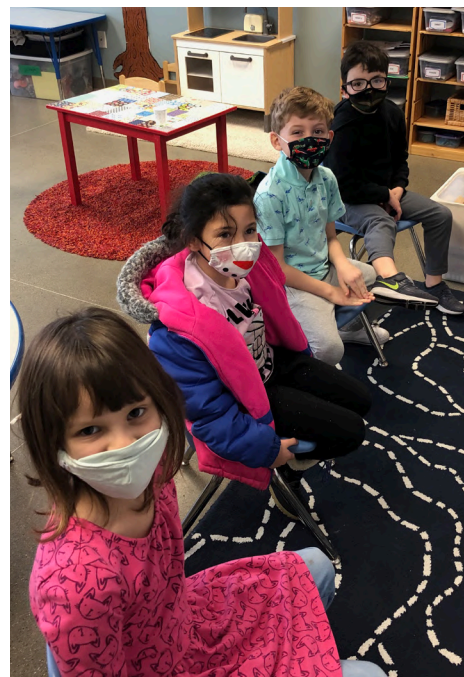
We began the year focusing on "sukkat shalom (a shelter of peace)." In our first lesson, the children learned about the sukkah, and then more broadly—things that make them feel safe, protected and at ease. Weekly, we have been building on our prior week's lessons

through hands-on activities such as sketching sukkat shalom, sharing items from home that provide comfort to matching games and even songs.

Currently we are learning about "ometz lev (inner strength)." In this unit, we have been discussing the stories of Moses, Miriam and other important figures in Judaism—what did they believe in and the inner strength it took them to overcome the obstacles placed in their way. Given the pandemic related challenges of the past year, the children have particularly enjoyed this lesson and the opportunity to discuss their feelings through activities and how they relate, or are similar to those of our prophets.

In the coming weeks we plan to discuss g'vurah (courage), k'hillah (community) and hesed (loving kindness, tying into hope). The curriculum is an exciting development in our children's Jewish education bridging our

Jewish learning with values that should benefit our children as they grow and develop in life and offers the flexibility for both home learners and in-person learning.



Morah Melissa's first grade class.

## Thank You For A Unique Year of Learning Together!



Whether it was online or in the classroom, we think it's safe to say our students had a full year of learning together with their peers. When the weather was nice, classes were able to take advantage of Caspe Terrace's outdoor spaces. Our virtual learners joined with in person learners for music and other special holiday activities. Thank you to all of our students and their families for making this year at Beit Sefer Shalom a memorable one. See you next school year!



Emmett



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Henry



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## What's Happening at Gan Shalom? Classroom Updates and More

Juli Margolin & Raizel Small  
Interim Co-Directors

Spring is in the air at Gan Shalom Preschool! In the PJ Library book, "Is It Passover Yet?" written by Chris Barash, we read, "When spring flowers bloom and grass starts to grow and the warm sun has melted that old winter snow... Passover is on its way." The children switched out their snow gear for rain suits and boots in early March, and have been searching for signs of spring popping up outside at Caspe Terrace since then. They even found signs of spring on our Seder table.

Morah Robin and Moreh Benjamin taught the students all about Passover through stories and songs in Judaics and music classes. Our teachers continued those lessons through hands-on projects in their classrooms. Through those interactive activities, the children learned how we prepare for the holiday, why we celebrate it, what foods are on the Seder plate, and what they symbolize. Each class celebrated Passover with a short Seder where everyone was able to taste the special foods.

Springtime also means it's gardening time at Gan Shalom. Morah Marty has taken the kids to the garden to start pulling weeds and planting seeds. The kids are proud to see the flowers and vegetables that they planted blossom and grow.



**Alef:** Our youngest friends in Alef class have enjoyed watching the seasons change during our regular nature walks. We chased butterflies in the fall, followed animal tracks in the snow this winter, and

watched birds fly back home in the spring. Our class is always searching for the perfect rocks and sticks.

We've incorporated sensory play in our different areas of study throughout the year using sensory bins. The class also loves to learn about the holidays, especially through song and dance. In Morah Marty's class, we've learned so much about emotions, identifying how we're feeling, recognizing our friends' feelings, and beginning to problem solve on our own.



**Bet:** The Bet Class has been working really hard with letter identification, writing letters and writing their names. We have been using dry erase boards every morning during group time to practice. The Bet Class has a lot of great creators when it comes to blocks, sand and pebbles. We have been extending our block play with adding sand, rocks, cars, people to their play and connecting it with dramatic and imaginary play.



**Gimmel:** The Gimmel Class has been having a lot of fun learning all about sizes, shapes and opposites. We had a blast doing a sink or float activity using all kinds of objects. We had fun picking our own object and dropping it into the water to see if it would sink to the bottom or float on top of the water.

Each morning we begin our day by practicing writing our names. We are so proud of ourselves for how far we have come. We've also been busy taking a lot of nature hikes and outdoor adventures around Caspe Terrace. We love getting outside to explore this beautiful outdoor space!



**Dalet:** The Dalet class has learned about animals that hibernate, migrate and adapt in winter. They also studied nocturnal and diurnal animals, watched the Decorah Eagles' eggs hatch and learned about oviparous animals, ones that lay eggs. The kids have been busy creating ramps for cars and marbles, doing puzzles, writing notes to friends, drawing and reading. A few of their favorite authors are Jan Brett and Mo Willems. This class loves adventure and exploring! Their boots are always muddy and their hands are full of treasures found on their hikes. They have had a great year with their friends, learning and growing, and getting ready for their next BIG adventure – kindergarten.

Dr. Molly Breman, a dentist, visited and taught the kids about our teeth and how to keep them healthy. She read us books about what happens when you go to the dentist and everyone took home a new toothbrush.

As the school year comes to a close, we are proud of the work our teachers have done to adapt to the changing world around us while fostering an environment in which our children can flourish. We thank our parents and families who partnered with us to keep our community safe in order to keep our doors open all year long. While this school year has certainly looked different than previous years, we can now appreciate the growth and beauty that came from such a unique year.

Mazel tov to our graduates! We wish them well as they head off to kindergarten in the fall!



Top: Gan Shalom students celebrated Passover with a Seder during Judaics and made matzah.

Middle: Students love playing outdoors in all types of weather, but it is special when the snow melts and lighter jackets are worn.

Bottom: Purim was celebrated with music, hamantashcen and really great costumes!



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# Delivering Holiday Joy for Purim and Passover



*Jewish Family Services delivered Purim Mishloach Manot bags to seniors. The bags were decorated by Gan Shalom students and the Beit Sefer Shalom high school students prepared Hamantaschen for the bags. Seniors loved the treats and were excited to receive them.*



*Over 35 Passover Seder meals were provided to community members in Des Moines and Ames. Each meal included a Seder plate, juice, an entrée and sides. Thank you Maccabee's Deli for preparing the food and to Federation staff for delivering the meals. We hope everyone enjoyed a safe Passover holiday.*

*Top left to right: Max Yaro, Marsha Johnston, Tammy & Jonathan Yentis  
Bottom: Ethelyn Fishman with Federation Staff Member Henry Chen*

# My Favorite Artifact: Census of Jewish Families



Dawn Martinez Oropeza

Most people who know me, will be surprised by what I have to say about my experience with the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. I absolutely love this museum. Not why you might think—great artifacts and history. I love being behind the scenes looking at the shelving and conservation boxes. The sense of order and cataloging fill my heart with joy, especially when done with the combination of care and best practices like at IJHS.

I have a history of conservation work, collaborating with the Smithsonian and Wayne State archives to preserve the private office of Cesar E. Chavez, the United Farm Workers founder and civil rights leader. I have preserved a few private art collections. When preservation is done well, I truly appreciate and respect the work.

I also have a great passion for the actual displays. I love the plexiglass and wood construction that houses artifacts. Stay with me, I am getting to my favorite artifact (which was more of my favorite experience).

When my cousin David Feinberg, the family historian, was visiting from New York, we went with my Aunt Janice Rohwer, to visit the IJHS Museum. This is when the magic begins.

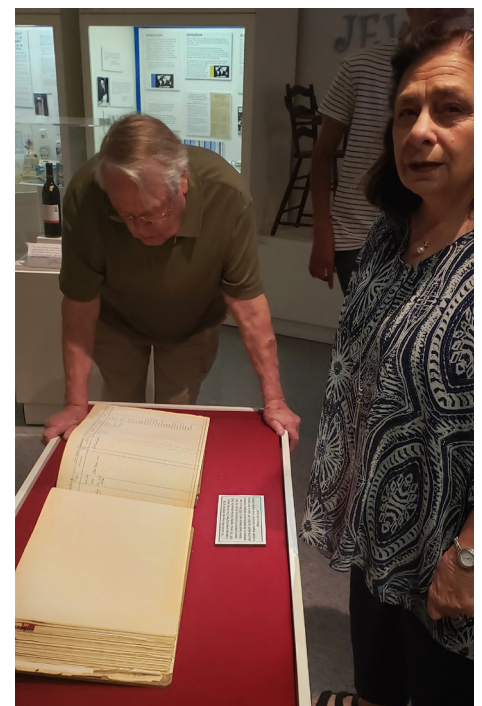
There is a large display case holding a census of Jewish families in Des Moines. Sandi Yoder, the Director, gave us the privilege to see the artifact! Sarah Carlson, the IJHS

The Census open to the Feinberg listings.

Curator and Manager of Collections, came out with some large handles that she attached to the sides of the plexiglass case. I was so in shock that 1) they were opening the case and 2) that I was going to have access to this beautiful historic treasure. Like a child, I waited in awe until I heard the case open with a hiss of air. With gloved hands, they found the page with the Feinberg listing, identifying family members, employment, and an accounting of their very existence. To this day, words are hard to express what sharing this with my family meant to me. To feel the connection not just to them, but to feel the connection to the larger community, and history, was overwhelming.

Maybe it was the excitement from my family visiting, the thrill of being in the comfort of the museum setting that made the artifact and experience so special. However, I truly believe, as a mixed-race/religious woman, not usually recognized as Jewish, the connection with the census rooted me in an immense way to my families' shared story and history in Iowa. When I visit the museum, and I walk by that case, I can sense my ancestors in my heart. I am grateful that my sons will have a place to share with their children our ancestors' history in Des Moines because the Iowa Jewish Historical Society is preserving the Feinberg/Miles legacy.

As Executive Director of Al Éxito, Dawn mentors and empowers hundreds of middle and high school-aged Latinos throughout Iowa. In addition to her critical work with Latinx students, Dawn is the former Arts Education/Community Programs Coordinator with the Iowa Arts Council. Dawn joined the IJHS Board in 2017, bringing with her deep roots in Des Moines on both the Jewish and Mexican sides of her family and extensive connections across Iowa.



Dawn's family visiting IJHS and seeing the Census.

# Collecting the Pandemic

How would you explain to future generations what living through his pandemic was like? That's the Iowa Jewish Historical Society's goal when considering what items to add to our collection that illustrate the impact of the pandemic, the push for social justice, the 2020 election and it's aftermath on Jewish lives in Iowa.

Last spring, when many people across the state started volunteering to make masks, Janice Rosenberg had bags of old, leftover cloth napkins from her son's bar mitzvah. She gave the fabric to her neighbor who made masks and sent them all over the country. She saved one and recently donated it to IJHS. Thank you, Janice!

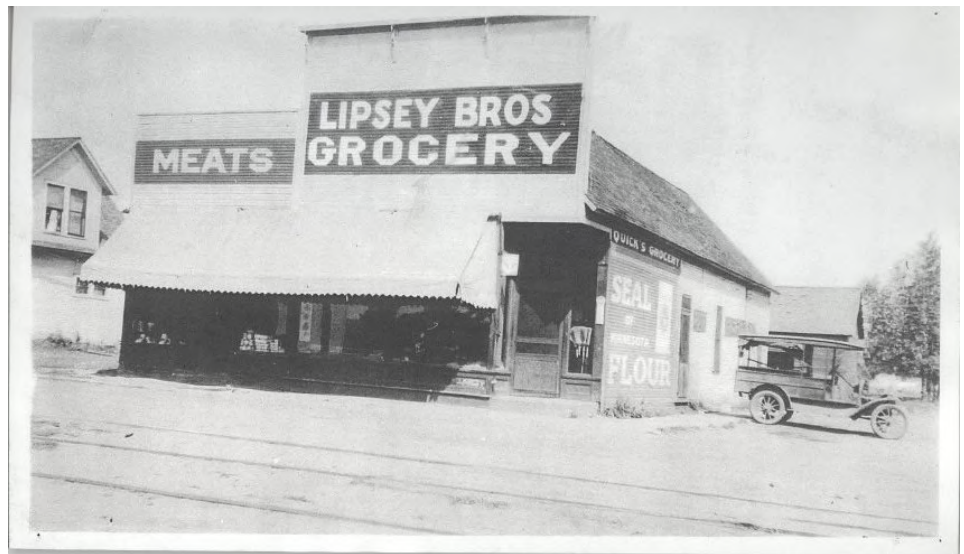


We've also just added a symbol of hope that the pandemic will be over soon—an empty Pfizer vaccine vial administered in Iowa thanks to Dr. Gary Bremen!



If you have similar items and want to donate them to the IJHS, please contact Sarah Carlson, Curator and Manager of Collections at [sarah@jewishdesmoines.org](mailto:sarah@jewishdesmoines.org)

# IJHS Collection Highlight: Lipsey Bros Grocery



Isadore Lipsey's brother Ben settled in Des Moines after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War I. He worked for his brother at the Walnut Street location in Des Moines before joining forces and opening Lipsey Brothers around 1920. Ben quickly took over the business. He married Tillie Siegel in 1920 and later opened a store at 9th and Locust. Picture of Lipsey Bros Grocery c.1920.

## Documenting Iowa's Yahrzeit Boards - Another One Completed

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of IJHS board member Kathy Bassman, the names of the people memorialized on the yahrzeit boards of Temple Judah in Cedar Rapids will soon be available to family members and genealogical researchers around the world.

In November 2018, IJHS started a project to record the information on the yahrzeit boards of Iowa's Jewish congregations and make it available online through a partnership with JewishGen, one of the leading sites for Jewish genealogical research.

The transcribed information from Temple Judah has been forwarded to JewishGen for review and posting on their website ([JewishGen.org](http://JewishGen.org)) and will soon join information from the Children of Israel, Tifereth Israel, Beth El Jacob, Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Ames Jewish Congregation, and B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Ottumwa online. Kathy has transcribed all of this information.



  CALLED TO THE TORAH  



Wolfe Kac  
Sunday, March 14, 2021

Tania Kac is proud to announce that the Beit Mitzvah of her son, Wolfe Kac, took place on March 14, 2021. He has worked very hard all year to learn the blessings and the Torah portion which was not easy to do virtually. Family and friends were proud of what he has accomplished. A big thank you to his Hebrew teacher Sue Harris for her indomitable patience, perseverance, and encouragement and to Rabbi Emily Barton for her incredible guidance, flexibility, and support.



Marilyn J Musser  
Saturday, May 22, 2021

Marilyn J Musser is delighted to announce that she will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 22, 2021, via Zoom conference. Details will follow.



Ezra Hausmann  
Saturday, May 8, 2021

Neil and Natasha Hausmann are proud to announce that their son, Ezra Philip Hausmann, will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on May 8th 2021 via Zoom. Ezra is a sixth grader at Bergman Academy. He enjoys reading manga, spending time with friends, playing piano and a game of pickup football. More information to follow.



Mallory Reister  
Saturday, June 26 2021

Allyson and Scott Reister are proud to announce their daughter, Mallory Rose Reister, will have her Bat Mitzvah on Saturday June 26, 2021. Mallory is a 7th grader at Urbandale Middle School. She is an active member of both her school and the Des Moines Jewish Community.



Mira Starobin  
Friday, May 14, 2021

Stan and Soko Starobin are pleased to announce that their daughter, Mira, will be called to the Torah in Japan on Saturday, May 15 (Friday, May 14 in Iowa). Mira and her family moved to Japan from Ames this past year. She started her Bat Mitzvah studies in Ames and is completing her studies and becoming Bat Mitzvah in Japan. Mira is currently a 7th grader. She likes drawing, especially anime and fursonas, and she likes cats. She has had a nice experience so far in Japan. She has enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family. She hopes she can further adjust and grow in her new environment.



## Mazel Tov Class of 2021



Ethan Adato will be graduating in May 2021 from the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History with a Museum Studies Certificate. During college, Ethan was a member of AEPi fraternity and a founding member of the band Citrus Sunday where he plays electric guitar. Following graduation he hopes to find a job working with museum collections.



Michael Adato graduated in March from DePaul University in Chicago where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History and Political Science. Michael has been a leader in the Jewish community on campus for the last four years, having served as DePaul Hillel President, a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) where he served as Jewish Heritage Chair, and as an intern with the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. His academic passions include the history of antisemitism and Russian history. Michael is looking forward to a career in history, politics, or Jewish professional life.



Shae Laufenberg, the daughter of Lonny Laufenberg and Cathie Pochter and granddaughter of Donald (z"l) and Ronna Pochter, is graduating from Valley High School on May 30, 2021. Shae plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall of 2021. She will study engineering with a focus on Architectural Engineering. During her years at Valley High School, she received the U.S. Presidential Volunteer Service Award all four years. She volunteered for many charitable organizations including Clive Community Services, Cops Against Cancer and The Arthritis Foundation in addition to numerous other non-profit organizations. Shae plans to continue her volunteering throughout college in order to give back to the community.



Meyer Lederman, son of Christina and Jacob Lederman, graduated this year from Roosevelt High School (Online edition). Meyer has an insurance producers license and is currently working with his father. He plans to stay in the community taking classes at DMACC.



Meier Lipman, the son of Andi and Jeff Lipman and grandson of Donald (z"l) and Ronna Pochter, graduated from the University of Iowa on May 15, 2021. Meier graduated with a Bachelors degree in Business Analytics and Information Systems (BAIS) from the Tippie College of Business as well as a minor in Environmental Planning and Policy. During his time at Iowa, Meier was an active member of AEPi serving on their executive board as VP of Recruitment, VP of Social Affairs, and Financial Analyst. Meier also actively participated in several community service efforts at the University of Iowa Hillel.



Gabriel Mintzer, son of Michael Mintzer and Alla Mintzer Zaprudsky, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in February of 2021. Gabriel graduated with a Bachelor's degrees in Physics and Computer Science. He also minored in Chinese. Gabriel is currently pursuing a Masters Degree for Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT.



Zander Wolf Yisrael Meir Leman will be graduating this Spring from Grand View University with his Bachelor of Arts in the Theater Arts with a minor in Communications. He has been a recipient of the Director's Scholarship each year based on his academic performance, and has been recognized on the Dean's List and President's List throughout his higher education. He is looking forward to a career using his technical and digital skills, either in the entertainment or media industries, or in the fields of medicine or service. He is grateful to everyone who helped pave his way, from his grandparents who call him "Sunshine" and "Leben", to the rest of his supportive family, friends, pets, mentors and devoted educators.



Lexi Ohringer, daughter of Sheldon and Beth Ohringer, is graduating from Valley High School where she participated in swimming, golf, DECA, IHSSA, Tri-M, choir and was President of Best Buddies. She plans to attend the University of Iowa in the Fall.



Clara Mintzer, daughter of Michael Mintzer and Alla Mintzer Zaprudsky, is graduating from Valley High School. Clara is in the Valley Honors Program and is a World Language Scholar. She is a National Merit Finalist and a National AP Scholar. Clara was involved in Student Council, History Bowl, National Honors Society, and Science Bowl. Clara has also been very involved in community service. In the fall, Clara will attend a university.

# Thank You Rabbi Kaufman for 18 Years in DSM

*Rabbi David Kaufman became the rabbi at Temple B'nai Jeshurun in Des Moines in 2003. He has led the congregation since then and is now set to become the rabbi at Temple Shomer Emunim in Toledo, Ohio. Jewish Press Editor, Giovanna Zavell, visited with Rabbi Kaufman to get his thoughts on his time in Des Moines, the challenges and inspiration of being a rabbi and his future plans.*

## **How and when did you know you wanted to be a rabbi?**

When I went to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, I intended to pursue rabbinical ordination and a PhD in order to become a professor. At HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, we had the opportunity to work with student pulpits. I really enjoyed my time working with the people of Beth Isaac Congregation in Trenton, Michigan, downriver from Detroit, and decided to pursue being a pulpit rabbi instead.

## **When did you start your career as a rabbi in Des Moines? What brought you here?**

I came in April of 2003 and my first event at the Temple was leading Passover Seder. The Temple was without a rabbi at the time. I took the job in Des Moines instead of other job offers, because the Temple's job was a good one and because Des Moines was a good place to raise our children.

## **What is the most rewarding part about being a rabbi?**

I think it is being able to be a help at important times in the lives of members of the community, helping to facilitate joy and aid in times of difficulty and sorrow.

## **Has there ever been a time you were in the right place, at the right time, and were able to use your rabbinical skills outside of the synagogue?**

A multitude of times, particularly in advocacy related situations, but perhaps most profoundly in working with the Sudanese refugee community and being able to bring groups that had fought multiple civil wars in recent decades together

to cooperate with one another. But in reality, everywhere I have spoken, at all of the community vigils, in gatherings of local religious leaders, when speaking to politicians, and more.

## **What is the most difficult part about being a rabbi?**

Telling people what they do not want to hear. In a world in which people can all too easily avoid "No" and find a comfortable echo chamber, the rabbi may well be the one person to whom they listen who might disagree with them and challenge them. That said, the opposite is also true. Sometimes, the rabbi is the one person in whom they trust who can encourage people to overcome their doubts and fears, to motivate change for the better. That is one of the better parts of being a rabbi.

## **What is your favorite holiday? Why?**

Passover. Good food, good drink, good company, good conversation, talk about history, offering thanks for our blessings, and great songs. Love Passover.

## **If you could pick one prayer/song to sing during every service, what would it be and why?**

Oseh Shalom. There are different tunes and the words are appropriate in happiness and in mourning.

## **What are your guiding principles for life?**

There are many, but I'll offer a few.

One person can make all the difference.

In the words of Hillel, "Do not do unto others what you would have

them not do unto you."

In the words of Rabbi Tarfon, "It is not up to you to complete the work, but neither may you avoid it."

Modifying Hillel, "If Jews will not stand up for ourselves and support the Jewish community, no one else will stand up for us. When we advocate for ourselves, people may not like us. Now may not be a good time, but no time may be better."

Again modifying Hillel, "When everyone around us is thinking and acting wrongly and bringing pressure upon us to think and act wrongly too, in order to fit in and be welcomed or to make others happy, we are obligated to stand alone and even to face persecution from our friends for doing so." As Hillel said, "When all around you is inhumanity, be a human being."

Accepting wrongs will never make anything right.

## **What rabbis or other spiritual leaders (living or deceased) inspire you and why?**

Hillel and Tarfon's quotations. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his passion, passionate advocacy, and for his oratory. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks and Rabbi Lawrence Kushner for their wisdom and philosophy. Among my colleagues there are many who inspire me with the courage to speak up, to challenge, to stand up for themselves, to stand up for the Jewish community, to teach, and to bring comfort in times of need, among them are some of my best friends. The list would be long and I don't want to leave anyone out, but it would include for certain my rabbinical colleagues here in Iowa with whom I have collaborated over the years. Perhaps, one person who inspired me most often is one

whose presence I deeply miss, my dear friend and constant partner in advocacy, Mark Finkelstein. I often think of what Mark would say or do.

**We are living at a time when less people are actively participating in organized communal religious life. What can be done to attract more people to participate in prayer services and other Jewish observances? Is prayer still relevant to people's lives?**

Though in a traditional context, certain prayers must be said with a minyan. The reality is that prayer can be done anywhere. There are plenty of places where people can do social justice work and social advocacy. Entertainment now means competing with a multitude of online and other options. What is the role of synagogues? It is those things related to community and a feeling of inclusion for who people are and what they believe. This is problematic because it means that confrontation and challenging viewpoints is detrimental, always.

So it is necessary for us to try to travel a fine line because advocating and challenging perspectives is an essential part of the Jewish tradition and particularly of the Reform Jewish tradition, but maintaining Shalom Bayit, peace in the home, is an essential part of making congregations healthy places that people want to be. Biased partisan politics within congregations can make them very uncomfortable places. In our highly politically charged and highly partisan environment, issue advocacy can be a challenging road, with some upset by what was advocated for and others upset about what wasn't.

**What does this next chapter of your rabbinical career look like?**

I am going to be the new Rabbi of Temple Shomer Emunim in Toledo, Ohio, a congregation of 430 member families for which there have been three rabbis over the past 84 years, all of whom have retired in the pulpit.



**A DESSERT FAREWELL FOR RABBI DAVID KAUFMAN  
SUNDAY, JUNE 6TH — 2:00 PM TO 5:00 PM  
TEMPLE B'NAI JESHURUN — RAIN OR SHINE  
DETAILS TO FOLLOW**



## **Temple B'nai Jeshurun**

### **Online Streaming Worship Schedule**

Study of Historical Books  
Wednesdays, 1 p.m.

Shabbat Morning Singalong  
Fridays, 10 a.m.

Erev Shabbat Services  
Fridays, 6 p.m.

Family Shabbat Services  
May 7\*, June 4, July 2, 6 p.m.

Traditional Torah Study (TTS)  
Saturdays, 9 a.m.

Shabbat Service  
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

\*Senior recognition night will  
take place during the May 7  
family Shabbat service

***Emails are sent weekly  
with the Zoom links.  
Please contact us if  
you are not currently  
receiving Temple emails.***

***Schedule is subject to  
change. For the most  
up to date calendar of  
events, visit  
[templebnaijeshurun.org](http://templebnaijeshurun.org)***

# Tifereth Israel SYNAGOGUE

## Ongoing Services and Events via Zoom

Morning Minyan  
Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

Evening Services  
Fridays, 6 p.m.

S.T.E.P. with Mike Kuperman  
Sundays, 10 a.m.

**\*SAVE THE DATE – Women's  
League 100th Anniversary Gala,  
Thursday, October 14, 2021**

*For upcoming services and  
events – including film and book  
discussions, summer classes and  
especially Shavuot – please visit  
tifereth.org and weekly emails.*



## Save-the-Date for Tifereth Israel's Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz Erev Shavuot May 16, 2021 6:30-8 p.m. on Zoom

Rabbi Yanklowitz will discuss Social Justice as it relates to the complex modern issues of our time. All are welcome! Check your email and the Tifereth Israel calendar for more details!

## Finding Holiness in Mess, Love in Pain, and Comfort in Suffering



Rabbi Emily Barton

There is a Hasidic tale of Rabbi Moshe Leib of Sassov in which he told his students: "I have learned how we must truly love our neighbor from a conversation I overheard between two villagers." The first person said: "Tell me, my friend, do you love me?" The second: "I love you deeply." The first person responded: "Do you know, my friend, what gives me pain?" The second: "How can I, pray, know what gives you pain?" The first: "If you do not know what gives me pain, how can you say that you love me?" "Understand then," continued the Rebbe, "to love, truly to love, means to know what brings pain to your neighbor."

In February 2021, facing the first uptick in suicides in 11 years linked to COVID-19 pandemic stress and isolation, Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga appointed a Minister of Loneliness. The new minister, Tetsushi Sakamoto, hopes "to promote activities that prevent loneliness and social isolation and protect ties between people." Before the COVID-19 pandemic even began, the United Kingdom had already created this position and department, a model for Japan. However, in the UK in less than two years, three different people held the challenging position and the pandemic has only exacerbated the already great need.

These have been such incredibly difficult times not just for us, here, but for all people all over the world.

What is perhaps most clear is that we are all suffering in our own way, and the work to help ease our own and our neighbor's pain is immense, overwhelming, but necessary. By the time you read this article, we will be at the end of the book of Leviticus/Vayikra. Leviticus is often underappreciated as a book in the Torah because it focuses on how to build a holy community, but is full of description, not story. However, I love the book of Leviticus, because it presents us with some of the great questions of Judaism, and of being human: what does it mean to love your neighbor as yourself? What does it mean to love God? How do we live in a messy complex world and yet take care of that world and ourselves? Leviticus gets into the messy details of blood, illness, even mold in your home, and not only doesn't shy away from it, but shows you how in the mess you can find holiness; in the pain, you can find love; in the suffering, you can find comfort in your community. It is a good message to receive before the book of BeMidbar/Numbers in which the Israelites wander in the desert, facing internal and external challenges. It is a message that is forgotten and remembered over and over, not just by the Israelites, but by us today.

We do not have a Minister of Loneliness in any of our governments, but it doesn't mean the idea isn't a good one, for ourselves. Perhaps, as we move forward into a new normal, we can think about the lessons we have learned from this time and not forget them even as we can move more freely: how we felt when we were isolated, what that means for how we support each other. We can each be our own Ministers of Loneliness for our family, friends and especially our community. We can, and should, find holiness in the difficult and bring comfort to each other, and may we find ways to do that together.



Find service information and more at [ajciowa.org](http://ajciowa.org)

## Worship Services and Events

AJC will be continuing its Zoom schedule of worship services (an assortment of rabbi-led, lay-led, and family-oriented services) as well as other online events, including monthly adult education sessions, through May. This will include one or more Shavuot events. In addition, at 5:30 p.m. on most Friday evenings when there is not a Shabbat service scheduled, AJC will host a "Zoom Schmooze," a time for casual conversation. 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 and calendar, and details are emailed to those who have asked to be notified about AJC events. To receive these emails (with Zoom links), or if you have questions about AJC, please contact AJC at [ajciowa@gmail.com](mailto:ajciowa@gmail.com).

## A Tour of Jewish Story County

There has been a Jewish presence in Story County since at least the mid-1930s. Recently, three members of the Ames Jewish Congregation, trying to come up with something different to do within the constraints of the corona virus pandemic, decided to adapt what they heard other communities were doing and create a tour-like scavenger hunt of some sites in Story County that have a Jewish connection. Anyone who would like to learn more about Jewish Story County is encouraged to take the "tour" (by car or virtually, using a web browser); please contact Barbara Pleasants ([iowapleas@gmail.com](mailto:iowapleas@gmail.com)) for details.

## In Memoriam

Ronald J. Liebow  
Abelina Gorshel  
Marjorie Spevak  
Karen Silverberg  
Yaakov Ben-David  
Judy Flapan

*May Their Memories  
Be For A Blessing*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!



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COMMUNITY  
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*Please join us for:*

**THE 107<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE**  
*Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines*

**Monday, June 14, 2021**  
**6:30 - 7:30 pm**

*For details and to register, go to*  
**JEWISHDESMOINES.ORG**

**FEATURING:**

**Mark Wilf**

*Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Federations of North America*



Mark Wilf is the Chair of the Board of Trustees of JFNA. He has previously served as UJC National Campaign Chair, UJA National Young Leadership Cabinet Chair, and as President of the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey. Most recently, Mr. Wilf has chaired JFNA's national initiative that addresses the needs of impoverished Holocaust survivors living in the United States. He is an attorney and partner in Garden Homes, a real estate development firm, and owner/president of the NFL's Minnesota Vikings.



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