

THE GREATER DES MOINES **JEWISH PRESS**

Vol. 37, No. 6 | July/August 2021 | Tammuz, Av, Elul 5781 | תמוז | אב | אלול



A small delegation of community members visited our Partnership region of the Western Galilee in early June to show solidarity and support from our Des Moines Jewish Community.

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 33158 Ute Avenue
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Jewish Press

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Published six times a year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines under the auspices of the Jewish Community Relations Council

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Giovanna Zavell
Editor & Production

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

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Volume 37, No. 6
Summer Edition
July/August 2021
Tammuz/Av/Elul 5781

Community Report

Engman Camp Shalom

- June 7 kicked off camp for the 2021 season
- ECS is excited to offer more regular camp activities such as swim lessons, Menace soccer camp and a few local, outdoor field trips
- ECS has welcomed over 10 new families to camp this summer
- There are spots available for the remaining weeks of camp. Visit engmancampshalom.com for more information and to register

Gan Shalom

- Students enjoyed special classes with Robin Karney for Judaics, Jennifer Wagner for yoga, and Benjamin Brodkey for music and Shabbat
- We welcomed parents and grandparents back to Caspe Terrace for class picnic lunches
- Mazel tov to the 12 graduates who are heading to kindergarten in the fall
- We spent more time than ever before learning in our outdoor space. We found that any learning that can be done inside can just as easily be replicated outside

Beit Sefer Shalom

- Beit Sefer Shalom students had the choice to learn virtually or in person at Caspe Terrace during the 2020-21 school year
- More than a dozen teenagers participated in the Madrichim Program this year
- Students had weekly music and prayer classes
- Registration for the 2021-22 school year is open online

Jewish Family Services

- Jewish Family Services provides care and assistance to our seniors and other members of the community. We are available to assist with meal delivery, referrals to other resources in the Des Moines area (housing, transportation, senior living options), and financial assistance. For more information, please connect with Jody Ingersoll, Jewish Family Services, at 515-987-0899 ext. 210

Iowa Jewish Historical Society

- This fall, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society will sponsor a trip to the Auschwitz Not Long Ago Not Far Away exhibit at Union Station in Kansas City. More information to come
- If 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, consider donating them to IJHS. Email ijhs@jewishdesmoines.org to learn how
- IJHS continues to participate 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 oral histories to tell the Iowa stories

To find investing-life balance, work with a professional

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

Call for a complimentary portfolio consultation.



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We Were Built for This



Bob Goldberg
Executive Director

This past year, our community faced a multitude of unexpected challenges and our Jewish Federation rose to the occasion, because facing challenges is what we were built for.

In my first weeks here in Des Moines this past December, while the temperature dropped below zero and the blizzards buried us inside, I read Frank Rosenthal's 1957 book *The Jews of Des Moines The First Century* and the magnificent thin book, Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines 100th Anniversary (1914-2014), *Celebrating a Century of Benevolence*.

These two books filled me with a great sense of place, purpose and pride from the stories of the individuals who have contributed to our collective local Jewish history and culture, and have partaken in that most basic act of being kind.

I am grateful to the thousands of community members, over the last 107 years, whose generosity has given us the ability to impact so many Jewish lives both here in Central Iowa and those at risk in vulnerable populations around the world. Our collective impact is truly immeasurable.

As we close out the fiscal year on June 30, 2021, and begin a new fiscal year on July 1, I am confident that our Federation, our movement, led by our board and team, is positioned to help launch us into the future, leveraging our human and financial resources and addressing the challenges and opportunities that will come our way.

In 1914, the goals of our organization included developing communal unity and harmony. It's the same goal that we operate with today.

Our Jewish Federation is the one entity in our community built to support the various needs of all members of our diverse Jewish community and to unite us around important issues. Throughout our history, we have always had diversity of religious practices, diversity of interests, diversity of aims, diversity of political views, and diversity in the pathways that brought us here to Des Moines and Central Iowa. And yet, we have always had leaders who were able to prioritize working together, as a collective, to address the most urgent needs of our people. We have so many examples of this.

At the start of World War I in 1914, this community raised and dedicated \$1,000 per month for war sufferers' relief.

In 1917, we raised \$70,600 and \$57,500 of that total was sent to care for those in need overseas.

In 1948, 1967, and 1973, we raised amazing sums of money to support Jews in need and the State of Israel.

In the 1980s and 1990s, we dedicated ourselves to the resettlement of Soviet Jews with the same ambition.

And 20 years ago, through determination and the generosity of many, Caspe Terrace was brought to life, so that we would have a space to be Jewish together and dream big dreams.

We are always ready to help because we were built for this.

We are Jews caring for Jews.

That's what we do at the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines.

I am proud of the leadership of our board and the work of our team. Their dedication to you, our members, is unquestionable. And in case you weren't aware, top volunteer leadership roles across our Jewish community are major commitments by dedicated people who give tons of time and effort to support us, while also pursuing their own jobs and family responsibilities.

In that regard, I want to thank Michael Wolnerman who always goes above and beyond and has stepped up as our President in a very challenging time. Michael knows that we will still rely on him as we move forward and we know that he will be ready when called upon. I also want to thank our new President, Hannah Rogers, who is the right leader at the right time

for our Jewish Federation. Hannah is hands on and hardworking and will be an exceptional President for our Federation. We are blessed with a long history of strong leadership and that will continue with Hannah at the helm.

The work provided by our team this year simply cannot be overstated. JFS Director Jody Ingersoll continues to provide exemplary care through Jewish Family Services for our isolated seniors. The Iowa Jewish Historical Society and Director Sandi Yoder, along with the IJHS staff, continue the important work of preserving our personal stories through the Oral History Project. Our educational programs of Gan Shalom, Beit Sefer Shalom and Engman Camp Shalom continue to provide meaningful Jewish experiences for our youth under the guidance of Education Director Sophie Homonoff and her teams.

Again, these are just a few important examples of our work that has continued during the past year. I could write pages upon pages about the exceptional work of our team. We continue to build connections with our local high school and college students, tell our stories through this Jewish Press, work to improve and protect Caspe Terrace, and build resources for the future.

And we need your help. This Jewish community belongs to each and every one of us. We have to commit to working together to build the community that we want.

Consider this your invitation to join in this special work. We need you. We want to engage with you and empower you to ignite Jewish life and to elevate Jewish values in a time of growing antisemitism and hate, but also a time filled with hope and possibilities.

We are built on a solid foundation that has been constructed over 107 years, brick by brick, piece by piece, over decades by you and yours, and so many other, and that has given us enduring capabilities. So when new obstacles arise, we are prepared. We were built for this moment because for the last 107 years, we have been there for so many others.

I'd love to hear from you, please reach out at bob@jewishdesmoines.org.

Until next time, L'Shalom. Bob

Making a Jewish Life: Moving Our Vision Forward



Hannah Rogers
President

Winston Churchill once said, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” These words rang true then, and perhaps even more so now, as their relevance to the goal and vision of the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines is clear. You have heard about in detail, on many occasions, the plethora of programs and services the Federation provides for our community. From caring for those in need and supporting our seniors, to enhancing our children’s Jewish education and providing opportunities for adult education and programing, to preserving our rich heritage, the Federation exists to serve our community and enhance Jewish life wherever it can. However, we would never be able to achieve our goals or attain our vision, without the support of our very vibrant and generous community.

While demographics may shift, with populations ebbing and flowing over the years, one thing has remained constant: the members of our community are consistently committed to making a Jewish life here by supporting our Jewish institutions, including the Federation. They are helping make a life here for us all by what they give. And giving, of

course, can take many forms.

First and foremost, financial contributions are the very lifeblood of the Federation. Without this giving, our organization simply cannot run—no services, programs, education, or staff. We need, and have always relied on, the generosity of our community members who want to help make a Jewish life here—investing in our community by giving to the Federation. We wouldn’t be here without you!

In addition to financial contributions, we rely on community members who give so generously of their time and talents. While our dedicated staff do so much of the heavy lifting that allows the Federation to provide the services, support, education, and programming that impacts Jewish lives, our volunteers contribute significant amounts of their time and use their specific skill sets to support the Federation in all these areas and keep us moving forward. From serving on boards and committees, to helping with events, special projects, and fundraising, our volunteers contribute to making this Federation strong and successful. Time IS money, and we do not take it for granted!

And, finally, we rely on our community members showing up. Our community “shows up” by attending and supporting Federation events and programming; by utilizing the services and resources the Federation provides; by enrolling kids in Gan Shalom, Beit Sefer Shalom, and Engman Camp Shalom; and by making their voices heard. We always want to hear from our community about what they need, because we exist to support THEM. Community engagement keeps our Federation strong and provides us with the fuel we need to propel our growth and vision forward.

We have so many community members that embody all three of

these types of giving. But I would be remiss if I didn’t call out one community member, in particular, who exemplifies each of these—Michael Wolnerman. I have had the very great honor and pleasure of serving as the President-Elect of the Federation over these past two years with Michael as President. Michael and I have been through a lot during these years, including, but not limited to, navigating through the not insignificant amount of time we were without an executive director, recruiting an amazing new executive director, and steering our Federation through a, dare I say it, unprecedented pandemic. Michael has been the very embodiment of engagement, passion, persistence, and patience during these very difficult years. I greatly appreciate his approach to leadership and have learned so much from him as we have worked in tandem navigating these choppy waters together. I cannot possibly express the depth of my appreciation for all he has contributed to the Federation and look forward to continuing to work with him as he assumes the Past President role. I know he is committed to remaining engaged and continuing to support the Federation in any way he can.

As we look to the future, I am filled with hope for, and anticipation of, all the good things to come. Our Federation is poised for expansion and growth and we are dedicated to moving it forward. Our vision is to continue the mission of building a strong Federation to support our very diverse community, build on our solid foundation for future generations, and allow us to continue our role as active advocates for, and within, the global Jewish community. Making a Jewish life here for our community, is only possible when we all give. As Maya Angelou said, “When you learn, teach. When you get, give.”

A Taste of Israeli Jazz



Abe Goldstien
Guest Columnist

In 2009, my wife and I were honored to host young Israeli jazz pianist Anat Fort at Caspe Terrace. Since then, the number of Israeli jazz musicians gaining recognition worldwide has grown exponentially. Like the diversity of ways in which Jews practice their religion—Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Chassidic—Israeli musicians approach the practice of jazz from different perspectives as well. To borrow a quote that I often heard from Rabbi Applebaum, the former rabbi at Beth El Jacob, “they’re equal, but different!”

SHAI MAESTRO: HUMAN

I have never floated on the Dead Sea, but I would imagine it would feel something like listening to pianist Shai Maestro’s new release, “Human.” There are no choppy waves here, just serene impressionist themes calmly

performed by Maestro’s quartet. You are bathed in the warmth of Phil Dizack’s trumpet—a sound similar to that of Dutch trumpeter Eric Vloeimans, who has graced the stage at Caspe Terrace on several occasions. The undulating lines of Maestro, supported by bassist Jorge Roeder and drummer Ofri Nehemya, propel the music through tunes that simmer rather than boil. When discussing jazz, New Orleans jazz pianist and composer Jelly Roll Morton used to refer to the Spanish-tinge. Shai’s music has what one might call the Israeli-tinge—music influenced by the chants, harmonies and rhythms of the Middle East where Maestro spent his formative years as a student at the Thelma Yellin High School for the Arts in Tel Aviv. The only exception is the funky, off-kilter rendition of Duke Ellington’s “In A Sentimental Mood” and the trio’s (piano-bass-drum) performance of a ballad titled “Hank & Charlie.” Like most recordings on the ECM label, you won’t find yourself humming these tunes or tapping your feet, but you will find your mind drifting along on your musical float. Sadly, listening to “Human,” reminds me of gefilte fish without the horseradish. Granted, there is nothing wrong with straight gefilte fish, but the horseradish adds some zing and, for me, that’s what might be missing on this recording.

AMIT FRIEDMAN: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

Unlike Maestro’s recording, which

has you floating on the Dead Sea, the tunes on saxophonist Amit Friedman’s new release, “Unconditional Love,” have you moving from busy streets and desert sunsets to leisurely strolls in the countryside and late-night rendezvous at quiet clubs. The music varies from the rhythmically rich opener, “Home at Last,” featuring Friedman’s full-bodied tenor sax-playing; to the chant-like “Sunset,” featuring Amos Hoffman on oud—the Middle Eastern version of a lute; to the ballad mood of the title track, “Unconditional Love.” A native of Tel Aviv, Friedman demonstrates his ability to communicate musically with a wide range of audiences by including a lovely bossa nova, “Alma,” sung by Joca Perpignan. It all adds up to a well-programmed release that will hold your interest from “Home at Last” to “Junk,” the closing tune that serves as a nice recap of what has come before. After several listenings, I was reminded of the similarity between this record and Chick Corea’s early 1970s’ recording, “Return to Forever.” Whereas Corea was inspired by the rhythms and melodies of Latin America, Amit is inspired by the rhythms and melodies of the Middle East. The results are the same—thoughtful, well-played jazz, expertly arranged and performed by some of Israel’s leading jazz musicians. This one definitely has the horseradish on it!

YANIV TAUBENHOUSE: ROADS

The great jazz pianist Barry Harris once said that every set should include a Thelonius Monk



composition. Israeli pianist Yaniv Taubenhause does just that on his new release, “Roads.” Taubenhause’s angular and often knotty style is well suited for his version of Monk’s “Boo Boo’s Birthday.” On this, his third release with bassist Rick Rosato and drummer Jerad Lippi, Taubenhause demonstrates his ability to adapt this unique approach to standards such as Cole Porter’s “You’d Be So Nice to Come Home To” and Gene DePaul’s “Star Eyes,” as well as to seven original compositions. Whether it is ballads like “Prayer” or up-tempo tunes like “Rush Hour Traffic,” Taubenhause blends his classical training with the twists and turns of modern jazz. Barry Harris would love this recording, not only for the performance of a Monk tune, but also for the nod to Monk by Taubenhause in a style that borrows from other modern jazz pianists such as Steve Kuhn and Paul Bley. Like a group of Jews davening, each musician on this session goes in his own direction, but each understands the role he plays in making this a meaningful and cohesive experience for all—players, as well as listeners. I will be looking forward to this trio’s next “davening” session!

EYAL VILNER BIG BAND: LIVE IN WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

It must have been a joyous day during the pandemic when the Eyal Vilner Big Band took the stage in Washington Square Park, in New York City. You can hear it in the cheers of the audience. You can sense it in the

shouts of encouragement from band members. Since arriving in New York in 2007, Israeli-born and educated Vilner has fronted one of the city’s favorite swing bands. This blend of originals and big band classics prove that point. “District Blues” kicks off the performance with its Basie-like four beats to the bar arrangement. The street shuffle beat of “Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans” gives the band a chance to go back to the roots of jazz. Vilner tips his hat to Benny Goodman with a big band version of “Dinah” while “Going Uptown” captures the exuberance of the Jimmy Lunceford Band. The Eyal Vilner Big Band has all the ear-markings of classic big band swing: the unison saxophone sections, the trumpet slurs, the steady rhythms for dancing, even the Latin-oriented version of Bud Powell’s “Un Poco Loco”—complete with a drum solo—and the klezmer-inspired “Bei Mir Bistu Shein”—the only hint of the leader’s Jewish roots. My only complaints about this live date are the lack of any real explosive and cohesive solos—other than those from Vilner—and the constant crowd chatter. But the band has one thing going for it that trumps all—chutzpah!

RONI BEN-HUR: STORIES

Earlier recordings from Roni Ben-Hur showcased his straight-ahead playing with musicians such as legendary bebop pianist Barry Harris. “Stories,” however, shows that Ben-Hur is also a master of the Brazilian,

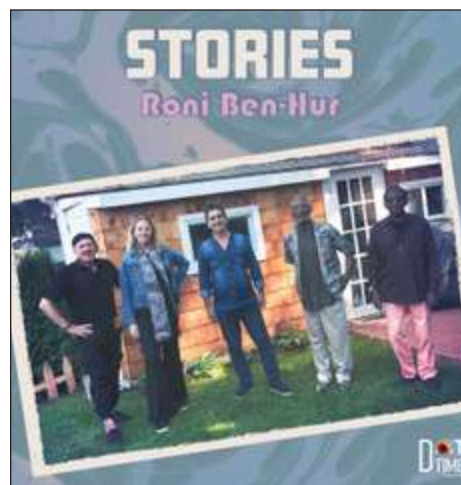
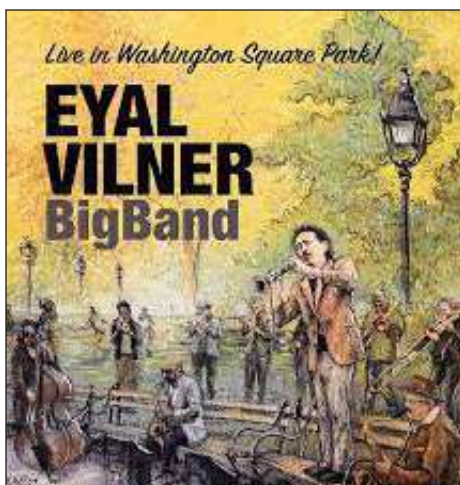
Middle Eastern and African music genres. The title of the release seems appropriate as it really is a collection of short stories, each reflecting Ben-Hur’s diverse musical upbringing. He embraces Latin American music in the bossa nova “Ha’omnam” (sung by Tamuz Nissim) and the rhythmic upbeat of “Le Serena.” Ben-Hur’s jazz chops shine through in the hard bop lines of “Something for Kenny” and in the Monkish feel of “Melodius Funk.” Through it all, is the ever-present Middle Eastern harmonies and sensibilities that provide a connection from one “story” to the next.

Roni Ben-Hur’s “Stories” are filled with a talented cast of characters including Canadian trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, legendary jazz pianist George Cables and vocalist Magos Herrera, who appears on three tunes. Although I was hoping for more straight-ahead jazz from Ben-Hur, “Stories” was a more than enjoyable “read”!

KEEP LISTENING!

If you are interested in listening to other Israeli jazz musicians, check out the following artists from your favorite music sources — bassists Omer Avital and Avishai Cohen, saxophonists Eli Degibri and Assif Tsahar, guitarists Gilad Hekeksman and Yotam Silberstein, pianists Yaron Israel and Tamir Hendelman, and the Cohen siblings — reed player Anat, trumpeter Avishai and saxophonist Yuval.

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.



Water of Bitterness

By Dr. David Friedgood

Our Bible is a multifaceted book. It contains stories, parables, description of life in pre-historic times and 613 laws and commandments. Despite being codified about the fourth century BCE much of the text is applicable to our modern 21st century lives. Some of the rituals however are strange and difficult for us to understand. One such ritual of obscure meaning is the ordeal of 'Sotah' (the faithless wife). The word is derived from the Hebrew verb *satah* (שטה) meaning to turn aside or to stray. As described in Numbers 5:11–29, the Sotah is a wife who is accused of infidelity, of betraying her husband with another man. There are no witnesses to her behavior and the identity of her paramour is unknown. She denies guilt, but her husband and perhaps others in her community, have their suspicions. What is she to do? How can her innocence, or guilt, be proven? Her husband has excluded her and her family life could be ruined forever. In a patrimonial society her future was unfortunately poor unless her husband could be convinced of her innocence and agree to restore her position at home. Ancient societies developed a number of strategies to handle such problems, often to the accused woman's detriment. Lynching, public humiliation, and torture were often used to punish the accused woman or get her to confess her guilt. Typically men had no similar concerns if they strayed from

the marriage as this behavior was not considered a crime or even morally objectionable for a man. Women however were often treated as property, subject to the whims of their husband. If the marriage bond was broken in the mind of her husband typically it could not be repaired. Such women were considered irreparably damaged and were not able to reenter their community. So a ritual was developed to convince a man of his wife's innocence, or prove her guilt, once he has serious doubts about her fidelity. Hopefully when completed the accused woman can reenter her community and again participate in society after she was accused of being a Sotah.

The Sotah ordeal begins with the accusations of a jealous husband. He has no direct proof but only his suspicions that his wife has gone astray. There is no civil power available to convince him that he is right or wrong in his concerns. The only power able to adjudicate the guilt or innocence of his wife is God, the Most Holy, who has knowledge of all things including the thoughts and motivations of human beings. The aggrieved husband brings his concerns to the ancient Hebrew Priest who served as the Israelite's contact to the Divine. The Priest has the husband bring his wife to the Tabernacle (מִשְׁכָּן) or to the Temple. The husband is commanded to bring a small offering of barley flower (a grain typically fed to animals).

Unlike other offerings to God the barley is plain, it contains no oil or incense. The Priest mixes the barley flower with Holy water and earth (dirt) from the floor of the Tabernacle - the portable Tent of Meeting that moved with the Israelites as they traveled through the desert from Mitzrayim (Egypt) to the Holy Land. The accused stood before her LORD and the Priest bared her head. She put her hands on the grain, the grain of jealousy. The Priest held the 'Water of Bitterness' in a cup and said to the woman: "If no man has lain with you, if you have not gone astray in defilement while married to your husband, be immune to harm from this Water of Bitterness that induces the spell. But if you have gone astray while married to your husband and have defiled yourself... may the LORD make you a curse... among your people, as the LORD causes your thigh to sag and your belly to distend; may the water that induces the spell enter your body, causing the belly to distend and the thigh to sag." And the woman shall say, "Amen, Amen!" (Numbers 5:19-22) The Priest then puts the curses to writing on parchment paper with the LORD's name and rubs it off into the water. The woman then drinks the Water of Bitterness. The grain is burnt on the altar as an offering to God. If she has defiled herself the Bible tells us that the water will be bitter, her belly will swell, and her thigh

sag. She will become sterile and a curse among her people. If innocent she will not be harmed. At that point the wife will be deemed pure and will be able to conceive a child (with seed of male gender according to the text – ער). In either case, whether his wife is found guilty or innocent, her husband is free of guilt. If guilty his wife may be excluded from the family home. If determined to be innocent the wife will return to the family home, her husband reassured that she remains pure.

The object of this ritual is

to restore family relations and erase the husband's suspicions. There is nothing recorded as to how often this tactic was employed by the Priest and no mention of its success rate. The Talmud notes that the ritual would not be successful to prove guilt if the husband himself ever had an adulterous affair. Also noted in the Talmud was that the Ritual of Sotah was abolished in the time of the second Temple by the Rabban - Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai who felt that it was one-sided, favoring male over female

gender. Another commentary in the Talmud states that the ritual was discontinued because adultery had become so common that the Priest could not keep up with the demand. At a time when people were more likely to believe in the power of Magic and suggestion, the ritual of the 'Water of Bitterness' was a way to restore family harmony without physical harm or significant embarrassment to either party. God's judgment is always correct and Justice was done.

"Truly, thus said the Lord God: I will deal with you as you have dealt, for you have spurned the past and violated the covenant. Never the less, I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth and I will establish it with you as an everlasting covenant."

"Your beauty won you fame among the nations, for it was perfected through the splendor which I set upon you – declares the Lord God."
(Ezekiel 16:59-60, 16:14)



Movers For Mom Donation Success

Jewish Family Services, Federation education programs, and the community all participated in "Movers for Mom", a national project through Two Men and a Truck. We collected personal care items, diapers, and home goods for families currently living at Children and Families of Iowa's domestic abuse shelter.



Engman Camp Shaom

we create spirit

Camp is in full swing! We are so excited to welcome many familiar faces and over 15 new families to our camp this summer. Campers are taking part in four weeks of swim lessons at Goldfish Swim School in Urbandale, two weeks of Menace Soccer Camp and a few field trips throughout the summer. When we are at Caspe, campers are learning archery, playing on the giant slip and slide and creating lots of master pieces during arts and crafts. Our Counselor in Training (CIT) program is the largest it has been in years. Each week, the CITs meet to learn about leadership and their role at camp. They have been so helpful, and the campers love them! We have an amazing group of counselors who plan and lead creative activities each day. Be sure to follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to see photos and updates on what we are up to.



Top Left: Campers in our oldest group at Jester Park building a survival shelter.

Top Right: Campers in our youngest group enjoying water play with our giant dinosaur sprinkler

Bottom Right: Campers created boats out of recycled materials and raced them down the water alley

Bottom Left: We have lots of artists at camp! This particular chalk piece took over an hour to complete.



Fun at Gan Shalom Camp!

School is out and Gan Shalom has transformed into summer camp! Campers spend lots of time outdoors playing in the sprinklers, on the playground, doing experiments and enjoying each other's company. Campers even had a chance to slide down the giant blue water slide!

There was a visit from Miss Melanie, and the campers will have a couple other visitors this summer—The Blank Park Zoo and the Iowa State Insect Zoo will visit our campus later this summer.





BACK TO SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSE




AUGUST 29TH
10 AM-NOON



Caspe Terrace
33158 Ute Ave., Waukee, IA



MUSIC, GAMES, APPLES & HONEY, TAKE HOME ROSH HASHANAH ACTIVITIES

Masks required when social distancing is not possible.




Graduates Reflect on Their Time at

Many of our graduates began attending Gan Shalom when they were two years old. As more students joined the school community over the years, we welcomed them with open arms. It's been truly amazing to see how far each of these students have come since arriving at GS. Through special classes including: Judaics, music, yoga, social-emotional learning, nature, library, and more, our children discovered new things every day. Our 2021 graduates reflect on their time at Gan Shalom Preschool:

Emmet

Emmet had fun this year playing on the playground, jumping in really big puddles and reading books about scary animals. His favorite Jewish holiday is Hanukkah because he likes spinning the dreidel. When he grows up, he wants to be either a police officer or a zookeeper, so he can work with the elephants and giraffes. He is excited to eat watermelon, swim at the pool, and go to the zoo with Grandpa this summer.

Evie

Evie likes to paint, play with her friends, read books, and go on walks in the woods. Now that she is five, she is learning to ride her bike and do a somersault. She is good at painting and making jokes. Evie likes Hanukkah because she likes to eat latkes and chocolate gelt. When she grows up, Evie wants to be a chef who makes doughnuts.

Henry R

Some of Henry's favorite things to do at Gan Shalom are splashing in puddles, eating lunch outside, writing, drawing, playing on the big kids' playground and learning about oviparous animals (animals that lay eggs), like the platypus. Now that he is five, Henry is able to build BIG towers out of blocks and Legos. He is excited, and a little bit scared, about going to kindergarten. He is looking forward to meeting new friends and learning new things.

Henry U

Henry has fun chasing Mr. Zak and playing Lava Monster with his friends. He also likes to climb the snow mountains in the parking lot and go sledding down the big hill. His favorite Jewish holidays are Rosh Hashanah because he likes dipping apples in honey and Hanukkah because he likes eating latkes. Henry says he is a funny guy and a good friend. When he grows up, Henry wants to have his own lawn care business called Extreme Tree Trimmers.

Lyla

Lyla had fun this year reading books about dogs, having adventures in the woods, not napping, and running and chasing her friends. This year she learned how to cut things with scissors, read a little bit and learn about teeth. Lyla has fun celebrating Hanukkah and playing the dreidel game. She likes spinning the dreidel and landing on gimmel because then she gets all of the money! When she grows up, Lyla wants to be a nurse or doctor who does operations on bones.

Mila

This year, Mila had fun playing games with her friends like Candyland, running up and rolling down the big hill, playing in mud puddles, and writing words and big numbers like 100. She can also count to 34, and has learned many Hebrew words. Her favorite Jewish holiday is Hanukkah because she likes spinning dreidels. Doing this is easy for her because she knows how to turn her hand to make them spin.

Nilsson

Nilsson has had fun playing on the big kids' playground, shooting baskets and jumping in big mud puddles. He liked playing in the kitchen, answering the Question of the Day, and reading books.

Nilsson said he learned math and about animals, like tadpoles and frogs. He has even touched a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach. When he grows up, Nilsson wants to be a chef.

Norah

Norah has had fun this year going outside and doing crazy stuff with Mr. Zak, jumping in puddles, playing with her friends, doing math and drawing. She has learned about animals that hibernate in winter, how to do math like $2+2$, and how to climb the gate (she was afraid to do this at the beginning of the year). Norah's favorite Jewish holidays are Hanukkah, Passover, and Purim. She likes eating hamantaschen and matzah. One of her favorite things about Gan Shalom was celebrating Shabbat on Fridays.

Phineas

This year, Phin has learned Hebrew, how plants need roots to grow and how to make and write books. He liked playing on the big kid playground, playing Connect 4, and counting to 100 by 1s, 5s, 10s, and 20s. When he grows up, he wants to be an astronaut and fly in a rocket into space. Phin's favorite Jewish holiday is Shavuot because he likes eating dairy foods like ice cream and cheesecake. He is excited for kindergarten because he wants to ride the bus and meet new friends.

Stephen

One of Stephen's favorite things about this year was getting to see his friends and his teachers. He had fun playing in the sandbox, gardening, and playing with Legos. He learned about bugs, and how caterpillars change into butterflies. Stephen's favorite Jewish holiday is Passover because he likes eating the horseradish/maror. When he grows up, Stephen wants to be a construction worker so he can drive the big machines.

Yoran

Some of Yoran's favorite things to do at Gan Shalom were playing on the playground, playing in the snow, building with blocks and Legos, and painting blindfolded. This year he learned about taste buds, staying healthy and how to be nice to frogs and other animals. Yoran's favorite Jewish holiday is Purim because he likes eating hamantaschen, dressing up in costumes, and saying Boo when Haman's name is said. He is excited about going to kindergarten to learn how to read and draw, because he already knows how to scribble.



End of Year Fun Run

On the last day of Hebrew School, all Beit Sefer Shalom students took part in a fun run around our campus. A total of ten stations were set up all around the building, and students had to run or walk from one to the next. Each station had an activity the students needed to complete before moving on to the next. Activities included: writing Hebrew letters, reciting prayers in Hebrew, matching holiday symbols to the correct holiday, singing Hatikvah and more. It took over an hour for all grades to finish the fun run. We hope everyone had a fun time and we look forward to seeing all students back at Caspe in the Fall.





The first day of Gan Shalom Preschool for
the 2021-22 school year is:

August 30, 2021

LEARN MORE & REGISTER:

email ganshalom@jewishdesmoines.org or call 515-987-0899

Gan Shaom

The Jewish Center for Early Childhood Development



The first day of Beit Sefer Shalom 2021-22 School Year is:

September 12, 2021

REGISTER TODAY:

www.jewishdesmoines.org/our-pillars/beit-sefer-shalom/registration

or call 515-987-0899 for more information

Beit Sefer Shaom
we grow minds



Drake Hillel Offering Jewish Life During the Pandemic



Meghan Kier
Drake Hillel President

My name is Meghan Kier and I am an incoming senior at Drake, but more importantly, I have had the honor of serving as Hillel President for the past two years.

Despite all the set backs of being college students in a pandemic, Hillel had one of the most successful years I have seen at Drake. This board has done some truly amazing things—one being awarded the Donald v Adams “Outstanding Student Organization” award for the 2020-2021 school year.

As the board began its term after the High Holy days, each board member brought their ruach (spirit), creativity, and desire for a Jewish community. Through this, programs such as our annual Hanukkah party, took on a new look with a virtual game night. This event brought our Drake Jewish students together from across the country.

As we returned for the second semester the events just kept getting better! Our second annual Purim Party was an amazing success. We partnered with the Student Activities Board and used this holiday as not only a time to celebrate but also an educational opportunity for our non-Jewish students.

One of the board’s goals this year was to diversify the type of events we hold for our Jewish students. With that goal in mind, our events this year ranged from trivia nights

to camp Havdalah, and Color Wars, each of these events highlighted the truly spectacular community we have within our Hillel.

One of my personal favorite events this year was an in-person Passover seder, lead fully by the Drake Hillel board. When brainstorming ideas for our Passover Seder, we decided that even though we would not be able to spend the holiday with our families or home congregations, we would incorporate our favorite traditions from them into our Drake community seder. Passover was filled with laughter, educational opportunities, and a strong sense of community (both Jewish and not).

In addition to events, the Hillel board has worked on educational programs and policies for Drake’s student government and Drake administration. Both of which have been successfully adopted and will be implemented for the upcoming school year. These policies include professors consulting the religious holiday calendar prior to planning their course assignments and exam dates, as well as organizations being prohibited from planning events on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and the first night of Passover. We hope to further our work for inclusion effort in the Fall.

A large part of our success this year stemmed from our spectacular first year class. Throughout the year, there were first year bonding events—some of which organized independently by the first years. The excitement of the first years for Hillel events was contagious. They showed up to every event with enthusiasm and ruach. In addition to our first years, the board members of Drake Hillel and our advisors have demonstrated so much determination, creativity, and consideration within their roles. As a board we have had constructive conversations on improvement for the future and what we as a board can do for not only the Jewish students on campus currently but in the future as well.

For the upcoming semester, Hillel students have much to look forward to including our back-to-school BBQ, High Holy days, collaboration with the University of Iowa Hillel, and the much anticipated Drake Birthright trip. In addition to these events, the Drake Hillel board is planning an antisemitism education campaign for not only students on Drake’s campus, but at an organizational level and administrative level. The Drake Hillel board can’t wait to get back on campus with our Hillel friends and family!



The Drake Hillel Board 2020-2021

My Favorite Artifact: 1937 Jewish Census Book



Kathy Bassman
IJHS Board member

One of the amazing and wonderful things about historical artifacts is that people who see them can connect with them in very different ways. This is true of the 1937 census of Des Moines' Jewish community. Below, Kathy Bassman shares how this census inspired her to research the background of why the census was done while also connecting with the personal information listed.

The item I chose from the IJHS Collection for "My Favorite Artifact" is the 1937 Jewish Census book which has information on Jewish families in the Des Moines area. I originally thought this census was only done for the Des Moines area but found that similar censuses were done by Jewish communities all over the United States for the "American Jewish Year Book," which has been published by the Jewish Publication Society and the American Jewish Committee at various times since 1906.

In 1935, the American Jewish Committee asked Dr. Harry S. Linfield, Director of the Jewish Statistical Bureau of the Synagogue Council of America, to prepare the groundwork for the enumeration of Jewish congregations that needed to be done in connection with the United States Census of Religious Bodies. Dr. Linfield was then appointed a Special Census Agent by the United States government to collect statistics of Jewish congregations. There was a special census in 1937 in which Jewish congregations from all over the United States participated. Dr. Linfield compiled results from these 1937 censuses for the Jewish Year Book, Volume 42 (1941). This report shows that Iowa had 14,089 Jews in Iowa, 17 principal communities, 26 congregations, and .56% of the Jews in the United States.

Along with this 1937 Iowa Jewish Census book, are letters. The first letter is dated February 11, 1937. It is from Dr. Harry S. Linfield to Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer in Des Moines. Dr. Linfield states "... it is necessary to report to the government the number of Jews that reside in each community, and thus since 1906, each of these censuses has served as an occasion for a decennial survey of the Jews of the country." Dr. Linfield requested Rabbi Mannheimer's cooperation in securing accurate data of our Jewish community to be included in their report to the government.

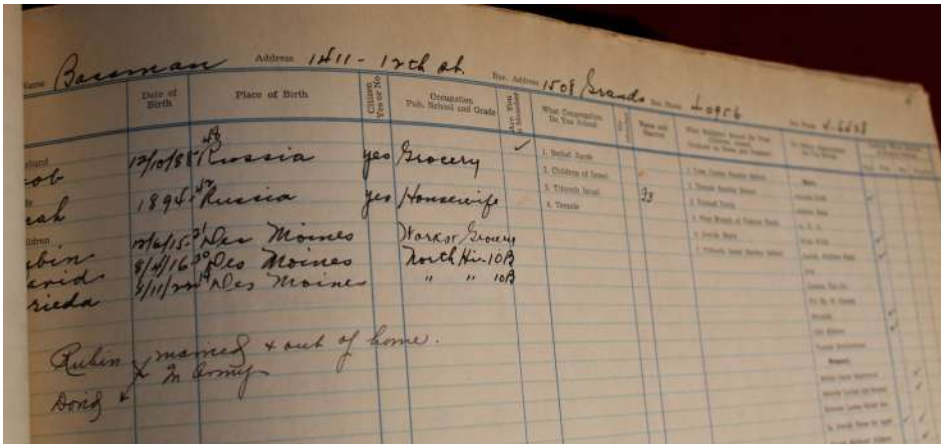
The second letter is dated April 22, 1937, and is an unsigned copy of a letter addressed to Dr. Linfield from Rabbi Mannheimer. Rabbi Mannheimer informed Dr. Linfield

that "It just happens that we made a rather careful census of our Jewish community during this past winter, in connection with which we undertook to ascertain the exact number of Jews in Des Moines, their occupations, their congregational and other Jewish organizations and affiliations, etc. etc." "... we shall be glad to supply you with the desired information."

The third letter, dated April 23, 1937 and addressed to Dr. H.S. Linfield, is from "Superintendent" Mrs. Sam Weinstock, Federated Jewish Charities. She forwarded a copy of the findings from the Jewish census that had been completed in January of 1937. The Federated Jewish Charities census collected information on every person in Des Moines over 18 years of age. She gave Dr. Linfield a detailed description of how they proceeded with the census collection: "... we had a membership list of every Jewish organization in Des Moines. We used the city directory and telephone book and made a house-to-house where we were unable to secure the information by telephone or were not listed in the directory. To be sure we had the new-comers, we contacted all mercantile houses for the Jewish people connected with them."

Along with this third letter are the survey findings that Superintendent Weinstock sent to Dr. Linfield. "The study was prompted by the desire to secure intelligent information about the Jewish population with regard to their interests in Jewish religious culture as well as social activities and their affiliations."

Along with the general family information (birthplace, age, children, home and business addresses, etc.), the census book listed area congregations—Beth El Jacob, Children of Israel, Tifereth Israel, and the Temple, six religious Schools, 11 men's organizations, and 18 women's organizations. Interviewees would indicate their affiliations with a checkmark.



The Census open to the Bassman listings. Jacob and Sarah were Kathy's husband's grandparents and the great-grandparents of Kathy and Jerry's son Bryan.

This is my favorite artifact because it freezes a time in history that we can look back and see information on the families that were in the Des Moines area at that time and because this is an original, the actual book that the information was recorded in. Not a photocopy, a picture, a microfilm. This Jewish census book, along with the letters between Dr. Linfield, Rabbi Mannheimer, and Superintendent Weinstock, is amazing and wonderful

to have all of these original works. I have tried locating original 1937 census books or information from other states and communities but have not found anything. This is the only book I've found from the 1937 Jewish census.

Kathy Bassman has been doing Jewish historical research since 2014. She started with a project to identify Jewish veterans in our cemeteries in Des Moines as part of the statewide project to honor Iowa's

Jewish veterans. Kathy has added and verified over 100 more Jewish veterans just in Des Moines. This project has also blossomed into researching the history of the people in the cemeteries, both in Des Moines and throughout Iowa. In November, 2018, Kathy volunteered to help with a joint IJHS/JewishGen project to transcribe the names on the yahrzeit boards of Iowa's Jewish Congregations so this information will be available to family members and genealogical researchers around the world. Kathy joined the IJHS board in 2018.

Collections Corner

"State Fair," a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, premiered in 1945 and starred Jeanne Crain, Dana Andrews, Dick Haymes, Vivian Blaine, Fay Bainter and Charles Winninger.

A.H. Blank was the founder of the Central States Theater Corporation who owned movie theaters in Iowa and other Midwest locations, and served as the President of the Jewish Federation from 1939 to 1942.

The Iowa State Fair was canceled from 1943-1945 due to World War II. The Des Moines Register described the premiere as a chance to have a long-awaited State Fair celebration after missing it during the war. Crowds gathered in downtown Des Moines to see Hollywood stars of the time and attend the movie.

This photo is a part of the Blank Family collection at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society, donated to IJHS in 2005. It contains scrapbooks, photos and objects, relating to the family, the family businesses, and their philanthropy in Des Moines in the 1900s.



Photograph of A.H. Blank with actress Carole Landis, center, at the State Fair Movie Premiere, Des Moines, Iowa 1945.

Documenting Pesach During a Pandemic



Andi and Jeff Lipman and family, celebrating Pesach in 2021.

There's still time to make your Pesach part of the history of the Jewish people of Iowa—as the Lipman family has done. Through a photo, video, or written words, IJHS needs to preserve documentation of how your family and other Jewish families across Iowa celebrated the second Pesach during a pandemic.

To participate, go to the IJHS webpage (www.ijhs.online) and click on Documenting Jewish Life in a Pandemic for more information and a link to IJHS DropBox account for sending us your memories of this year or last year's Pesach.



Aviv Ezra
Consul General of Israel to the
Midwest

The Ten Commandments

I have had with the younger generation on college campuses.

Many conversations with Jewish students were about Israel's policies having to do with foreign policy, security, or the peace process. Some Jewish students were supportive; some were very critical. Believe me, we had some harsh conversations with heated moments and we had some gratifying talks. But, at the end of the day, I appreciated both, debating the former and thanking the latter.

However, the biggest challenge I encountered was with the quiet ones, those who either did not care or really did not want to be involved. Let me tell you something, they were always the majority of the attendees. These were the indifferent Jewish students – those are the ones I really worry about and are astonished by. I know the

critical students really care about the Jewish state even if they disagree with certain policies. The indifferent are those that just do not care. That is the ultimate danger. That is where we can lose the continuity and the core support of why it is so crucial and critical to have a Jewish state for the Jewish people.

So I have put together 10 major insights into pro-Israel advocacy that I believe can be used as 10 tools or basic commandments.

I truly believe that part of the problem is that we don't repeat our narrative enough (certainly not as the other side) so it is becoming lost. As our famous Prime Minister Menachem Begin used to say: "sometimes it's important to even state the obvious".

I would like to share my insights or advocacy commandments to be cherished and inscribed in our hearts and minds:

1. Always remember that the people of Israel are in the state of Israel that is located in the land of Israel not just by military might but because of historical right.
2. Never take Israel for granted - there are still people among us who remember what can happen if the Jewish people lack a sovereign state of their own.
3. "Never again" for us means: never again will Jews be stateless and defenseless. The Jews are far too familiar with facing external threats. As a nation, Israel is equipped with military capabilities to independently defend and secure itself by itself.
4. Israel will always extend its hand for peace with an olive branch - Israel always prefers to use its pen versus its arms. We have recently signed peace agreements with nearby Arab nations including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. Additionally, Israel holds peace deals with its two neighbors Egypt and Jordan.
5. Keep telling the story - If you have children or grandchildren. Never assume your kids know their history. The Jewish value of L'Dor V'dor – from generation to generation is paramount as we must educate and familiarize our younger generations about our collective narrative and history
6. Educate yourself- If you lack the information - no question is ever stupid - ever - so many organizations and friends will gladly assist. As Jews, it is in our nature to actively challenge norms, ideals, and critically think about ways to find effective solutions to societal problems.
7. Bipartisanship support of the Bond between our nations is critical - Israel could not and should not ever be a partisan issue or a political football.
8. Israel was never, and never will be, perfect- help us make it better from within and do it constructively. Raising questions and public scrutiny are instrumental components of civic engagement. However, criticism leveled against Israel that denies the Jewish people their right to self-determination or in which applies a double standard to Israel is a highly problematic issue.
9. Never be silent when the Jewish right for sovereignty or self-defense is attacked. Sometimes it's easier just to stay quiet but we cannot afford it unfortunately.
10. Last but not least come to Israel and bring friends and family with you - the more the merrier. There is no viable substitute to understanding Israel other than to visit and experience the land of Israel.

Israel Solidarity Trip, June 2021



On Israel/Lebanon border



Rabbi David Kaufman planting olive tree in memory of Mark Finkelstein



With Itai Bardov, Director of Israel Consulates in the U.S.



Jeff Lipman and Matte Asher Mayor
Moshe Davidovich



Dinner at the home of P2G Chair Elisha Flax



At Arab village of Sheikh Danun



Temple B'nai Jeshurun

Online Streaming Worship Schedule

Erev Shabbat Service
Fridays, 6 p.m.

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

Shabbat Service
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

*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*

Tifereth Israel SYNAGOGUE



Ongoing Services & Events Now In Person

Morning Minyan
Tuesdays 9 a.m.

Evening services
Fridays 6 p.m.

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

For upcoming services and
events, please visit our
Facebook page and check
weekly emails. Please note that
in person services will NOT be
streamed on Zoom.

Save the date for Women's League:

Reminder to Save the Date
for the 100th Anniversary
of Tifereth Israel Women's
League. It will be held on
Thursday October 14th. More
information will be provided as
the date approaches. If you have
any questions, please contact
Jody Jacklin at
515-276-6617.



Tifereth Israel would like
to introduce the newest
member of our staff, Sarah
Bell, who is working as
our Communications and
Programming Coordinator.
Sarah is a native of Clive,
Iowa. She graduated from
Drake University with a
Degree in Public Relations
and a Concentration in
Political Communications.
Welcome to the team,
Sarah!



Ames Jewish Congregation

Find service information and
more at ajciowa.org

The Ames Jewish Congregation (AJC) is eagerly anticipating opening our building in early September. Specific events and services in July and August have not been finalized but will be limited to either online or outdoor events. 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 (<http://ajciowa.org>) and calendar (<http://ajciowa.org/events.htm>), and details also 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.

Forever Is Today

Rabbi Yossi Jacobson

The invitations, the hall, the caterer, the band, photographer, gown, flowers and guest list. Everything has been done for the wedding. The bride and groom have even been reading the latest best-sellers on how men and women differ, and how to make their marriage work in this day and age of divorce.

One thing the new couple knows that “forever is how we live together as one today,” and “In a relationship like marriage, there’s no such thing as ‘minimum.’”

Whereas in business or other partnerships one might be able to ponder: “What’s the least I can do in order to keep going?” Such cannot be a consideration in marriage. Rather, “What can I do to enhance this relationship, to make it stronger, to help it grow?” should be primary concerns of both husband and wife.

We just celebrated the holiday of Shavuot which is likened to the marriage of G-d and the Jewish people

3333 years ago. The Jewish people, being the bride, received the Torah – our ketuba (marriage contract)– from G-d on that day. Mount Sinai was our chupa.

Our relationship with G-d, then, is like that of wife and husband.

And, whereas the thought of “what’s the minimum I can do and still remain in a healthy relationship with my significant other” could never be entertained in a human marriage, the same thought should never be a conscious or subconscious consideration regarding our relationship with G-d.

“What can I do to enhance my relationship with G-d, to make it stronger, to help it grow?” are questions we can and should ask ourselves. For Judaism encourages asking sincere questions, and then genuinely trying to find out the answers.

One answer to the above question comes from the realization that, although “G-d wants the heart,” G-d also wants every other part of our

bodies. Our marriage to G-d makes our relationship with Him anything but platonic. To have a healthy relationship with G-d we have to get physical.

Our hands, our feet, our brains, our mouths, should be physically involved in this relationship: our hands to give charity, lay tefillin or light a Shabbat candle; our feet to walk to shul or to visit a friend who isn’t well; our brains to study Torah and find answers to our questions; our mouths to pray and only speak well of others.

And as our relationship with G-d grows, as our love deepens and intensifies, we will come to realize that we are truly content that G-d chose, over 3333 years ago, to become united with the Jewish people, His eternal bride.

In truth, there have been tough times in this Divine marriage, as there are in any marriage. But the bride and Groom together eagerly await the time when this union will be truly perfect, in the Messianic Era.

If you would like to learn more please contact Rabbi Yossi or Chanie Jacobson at 515-277-1718

Share Your Sioux City Shaare Zion Synagogue Memories



Shaare Zion Synagogue served as a vibrant hub of Sioux City communal Jewish life beginning in 1927 until the early 1990’s when the Congregation merged with the reform temple to form the current Beth Shalom congregation.

Shaare Zion was like a second home where generations of Jewish families and individuals gathered to connect, pray, learn and celebrate. Rabbi

Hyman Rabinowitz served as its founding Rabbi.

The church that purchased the building in the early 1990s has been unable to keep up with badly needed repairs and the building is now slated for demolition by the end of the summer.

To honor and preserve the rich history of Shaare Zion Synagogue and its congregation, we invite current and former Sioux Cityans to share their memories of the building, people and events that took place there. You can write a few sentences, a few paragraphs or something longer. We will share responses, likely in electronic form, with the Beth Shalom extended

community once responses are compiled.

Please send your written reflections by July 30, 2021 to Judy Brodkey, shaarezionmemories@gmail.com or 211 N. 1st Avenue, Apt 35, Iowa City, Iowa 52245.

Email submissions are strongly preferred, either by attaching a Word document (no pdf files) or by writing your thoughts in the body of an email. Please put “Shaare Zion” and your name in the subject line. Photographs of Shaare Zion are also welcomed. If emailing them, Jpeg files are preferred. Please include a description and the date (if known) on the back of the photograph(s). If you are using snail mail, make a copy of your photo(s) since they will not be returned.

Thank you for helping us honor Shaare Zion with your memories.

*Mazel Tov Class
of 2021*



Aviva Jotzke graduated from Hoover High School as the Salutatorian of her class. Now that she is vaccinated, she is taking a gap year to explore her college options. She will spend the year nannying in Montclair, NJ as she completes her Associate's degree.



Ellie Greenspon graduated this May from Deerfield High School, Deerfield Illinois. Ellie plans on attending Tulane University in New Orleans this fall and will major in Biology/Pre-Med.

In Memoriam

Gertrude Rothschild
Ricki Herling
Nina Renee Shrago
Summer Jo Pearson
Geraldine Tabach
Dorothy Isman
Laura Sparks



May Their Memories Be For A Blessing



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Summer

Bruce Sherman
Dave Lettween
and Families



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jody@jewishdesmoines.org



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**We started by helping Jews around the world
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and by laying the foundation for the establishment
of the State of Israel.**

**In the past year our world has seen new
challenges it never imagined. But Federation did.
*BECAUSE FACING CHALLENGES IS
WHAT WE WERE BUILT FOR.***

**From responding to the COVID-19
crisis and economic downturn, to
supporting local families as they
struggle with their own difficulties,
our century of experience has
prepared us to handle anything today.**

**And with your
support,
*WE WILL CONTINUE.***

**COMING SOON...THE 2021 ALL-IN-ONE CAMPAIGN...
*BECAUSE WE WERE BUILT FOR THIS.***



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER DES MOINES