

# SHALOM

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community. Published as a community service by the Jewish Federation of Reading, Pa.

Volume 43, No. 6

JUNE 2013

SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5773

## Edwin and Alma Lakin honored at Albright's 13th annual Hurwitz Lecture

Albright College awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree to Edwin Lakin, retired president of Boscov's Department Stores, Inc. and a former college trustee, and a posthumous honorary doctor of humanities degree to Alma (Natanblut) Lakin. Alma was a 1951 graduate of Albright College and a former trustee. The presentation was held in Memorial Chapel on the campus prior to the 13th Annual Ellen S. Hurwitz Presidential Lecture on Faith, Reason and the Imagination on April 25.

The doctoral degrees honoris causa recognize the Lakins' contributions to business and the community. Doctor of laws is awarded to individuals who have expertise and have excelled in business, industry, government and public office. Doctor of humanities is awarded to those who have excelled in social service in their community.

During his address, Albright President Lex O. McMillan III, Ph.D. recognized the special contributions Dr. Hurwitz and the Lakins made to the college: "Despite concern over the viability of institutions such as Albright, we remain tremendously excited about our future. We are always mindful, of course, that the seeds of present and future success were planted by the stewards who came before us. Albright is very much indebted to Ellen Hurwitz and to Ed and Alma Lakin for their dedication, service and visionary leadership."

Ed and Alma Lakin spent nearly 50 years



*Albright President Lex McMillan with Edwin and Ken Lakin.*

together as residents, community leaders and philanthropists in Berks County. They have supported higher education in the community; provided advocacy and outreach through several organizations; and have worked tirelessly to increase awareness and educational opportunities relating to the Holocaust through the Holocaust Library and Resource Center at Albright College, the Lakin Early Education Center, the Jewish Federation

of Reading, the Jewish Cultural Center and through their fundraising efforts for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Andrea Chapdelaine, Provost, and Dr. John S. Incledon, professor of Spanish and director of the Holocaust Studies Program, participated in the presentation. A son, Ken Lakin, joined his father at the podium and accepted the degree on behalf of Alma, who died in August 2012.

Ellen P. Hurwitz, Ph.D., returned to Albright College as the keynote speaker for whom the lecture series is named. Dr. Hurwitz has 40 years of experience in higher education and served as Albright College's 12th President. She spoke on "Leadership, the Liberal Arts and Spirituality". She currently serves as interim president of Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.



*Dr. Ellen Hurwitz*

**Photos by Susan L. Angstadt,  
 courtesy of Albright College**

## Museum's centennial is Aristides' homecoming

Juliette Aristides was born in Cape Town, South Africa but grew up right here in Berks County. Her work will join The Painters of Berks and 100 Years and Counting: The Reading Public Museum exhibitions that honor the 100th anniversary of the museum. The museum celebration began with a gala event in May that featured one of Aristides' newest original works. Featuring more than 30 drawings and paintings, the exhibition, Juliette Aristides: Observations, opens Saturday, Aug. 10, and

continues through Saturday, Sept. 14.

Many of you will remember Juliette, daughter of Barry Bub and Frances Bendheim Wolf and sister to Jonathan and Jeremy. Over the years, the family has moved to other cities, and Juliette is now based in Seattle. In August, this extraordinary artist returns to her Reading roots.

Inspired by Lehigh Valley artist Myron Barnstone, Aristides studied drawing at the

**Continued on Page 2**



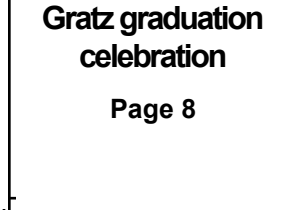
**Community Joins  
 "Walk the Land 65 -  
 Celebrate Life" event  
 in Philadelphia**

Page 11



**Celebrate our  
 young people's  
 milestones**

Pages 4-6



**Gratz graduation  
 celebration**

Page 8



**2013 totals  
 as of May 17  
 Jewish Community**

**Campaign  
 \$374,519**

**\*Includes transfers from  
 Donor Advised Funds**

Jewish Federation Day at the Park!  
 SUNDAY, JUNE 9

## FEDERATION FAMILY FRIENDLY ANNUAL MEETING

**Schedule:**  
 10:30am: Annual Meeting (Light breakfast will be served)  
 11:30am: Kids Club Gate Opens & Tours\*  
 12:30pm: Regular Gates Open  
 1:35pm: Game Time

Fun for the Kids!  
**Super Hero Day!**  
 Kids receive a Fightin' Phils Super Hero Cape  
 Autograph session with superheroes  
 & the Crazy Hot Dog Vendor

\*Enjoy a 'behind the scenes' tour of the stadium  
 Stay for the game at 1:35pm, FREE admission  
 Fightin' Phils vs Harrisburg Senators

# Federation News

**Please Join Us**

**Lecture and Demonstration by  
Juliette Aristides**

**Observations: The importance of seeing  
and creating art in our times**

**Sunday, August 11**  
**Reading Public Museum**  
11:00 a.m. Welcome Reception  
11:30 a.m. Lecture & Demonstration

*Lecture is free and open to the public*  
Museum admission - \$10 adults (18-64)  
\$6 children/seniors/college students (w/ID)  
and free to members

**Seating on a first-come basis**

Jewish Federation of Reading will host a lecture and drawing demonstration by Juliette Aristides, In her words, "At the heart of creating and experiencing a work of art is seeing. This simple act brings pleasure to our lives and leaves an important legacy for those who follow". She will conclude her lecture by discussing her painting "Liberty," a tribute to Holocaust survivors. The painting is one of 30 works that will be included in the museum exhibition.

**Special Opportunity for Serious Students, limited enrollment**  
Juliette will instruct a special class for serious students in the Jewish community who wish to develop their drawing skills. The class is limited to 15 students and will begin on Sunday, Aug. 11 promptly at 9:30 a.m. Six spaces are reserved for high school and college age students (\$10 registration fee) and nine spaces for older adults (\$36 registration fee). Workshop fees will benefit Jewish Family Service.

*Please contact Jayne Kleinman to make your reservation – 610-921-0624 or jayneklein@JFRReading.org. The drawing class will be held in the auditorium of the Reading Public Museum. Receipt of your payment is your reservation.*



"Liberty" by Juliette Aristides

## ARISTIDES

*Continued from Page 1*

Barnstone Studios in Coplay, Pa. She went on to study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, The Atelier in Minneapolis in the tradition of Richard Lack and later at the National Academy in New York. She is a founding member of Jacob Collin's Water Street Atelier in Brooklyn.

Actively dedicated to rebuilding a traditional arts education in the United States, Aristides is the founder and instructor of the Aristides Atelier at the Gage Academy of Art in Seattle.

She teaches workshops both nationally and internationally and is author of The Classical Drawing Atelier, The Classical Painting Atelier, and Lessons in Classical Drawing.

She received the Albert Hallgarten Traveling Scholarship and the Wilder Prize for Drawing; she is the recipient of the Elisabeth Greenshields Grant and is recognized as a living master by The Art Renewal Center.

Aristides exhibits in one-person and group shows nationally, and



"Wildfire"

her work has been featured in *Gulf Connoisseur Magazine, Artists and Illustrators UK, Artist's Magazine, American Arts Quarterly, Fine Art Connoisseur, American Art Collector and American Artist.*

Aristides was suggested by the Museum's Foundation board members to be showcased during the centennial. A resident of Berks County, Aristides' uncle, Dr. Ivan Bub, will speak Friday, June 28, at the Museum's Friday Night Lecture Series with a talk titled "100 Years of Teaching: The History of the Reading Public Museum."

To learn more about Juliette Aristides and explore her work in advance of the exhibition, visit [www.aristidesarts.com](http://www.aristidesarts.com) or [www.readingpublicmuseum.org](http://www.readingpublicmuseum.org).

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-Ruth



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-Hilde

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# Make a difference and get involved

By Alvin Katz  
Chairman



As we approach the vacation season, we all can reflect on this past year. What have we accomplished? What have we contributed to the betterment of our community and neighbors? What contributions can we make in the coming year.

Organizations such as the Reading Jewish Federation and Jewish Cultural Center are here to provide programs and activities with Jewish content for the

Reading community as well as support Jewish philanthropies around the world. These organizations do not function in a vacuum and need the input of a diverse group of volunteer workers, professionals and board members. These individuals come from our own community. They have the same time constraints you do, but find the time to make this a better community.

We are continually looking for those with new and innovative views and programs to serve on our board and committees to keep our programs and organizations fresh, new and interesting.

In addition to serving on the board, we

are interested in those of you who either have expertise and desire to serve on many of our program committees. Some of these are Jewish Family Service, which provides assistance to those in need of social services, our Lakin Early Education Center (Pre-School) and our Federation Finance committee, just to name a few.

We are always interested in new ideas and program suggestions. Are you someone who is willing to make your personal contribution?

If this isn't your year to give back; make Jewish community service a goal for next year. Everyone in our community

has something to share, so take the initiative and contact the Federation office and let us know you would like to make a difference. Reading is a great community in which to raise a family. Many of us have juggled work, family and busy social schedules and still made time to volunteer on behalf of our Jewish community.

There is an old saying that states "if you want a job done well, give it to a busy person". How true that is. Help the Reading Jewish community move into the 21st century and be a part of what makes this community so great. Let us know you want to be involved.

## From the President's Desk

# Give the priceless gift of literacy

By Tammy K. Mitgang  
President



When I think of Sidney Poitier, I flash back to scenes from "In the Heat of the Night," in which he played Virgil Tibbs, an African-American homicide detective from Philadelphia who investigates a murder in a racist Southern town. I remember his role as Mark Thackeray, an idealistic engineer who teaches a rowdy group of white high school students in the slums of London's East End in "To Sir, with Love".

And, yes – who can forget his portrayal of Dr. John Prentice, the love interest of "Joey" Drayton, a young white woman raised in a liberal, upper-class home in San Francisco in "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner." Released in 1967, the film dealt with the controversial subject of interracial marriage just months after the Supreme Court struck down anti-miscegenation laws (Loving v. Virginia) that had prohibited interracial marriage.

So when Lesley Stahl interviewed Hollywood legend Sidney Poitier during a recent segment of CBS News' "Sunday Morning", I grabbed my cup of coffee and settled in for an insightful interview with one of Hollywood's greats.

Throughout the interview, they touched on highlights from his film career, as both actor and director, and in more recent years his work as a writer. Gracious and thoughtful, it was his retelling of his life in the Bahamas at age 15 that caught my attention.

His parents were tomato farmers, and Poitier was the youngest of seven children. He lived in the Bahamas until he was 15, when his parents, fearing he was on a path to delinquency, sent him to Miami to live with his brother. But, Poitier had dreams of becoming an actor and after a year in the U.S., he headed for New York City.

What may seem hard to believe is that the articulate and well-spoken actor whom we know today could not read at age 16 and spoke with a thick Bahamian accent. Needless to say, his audition with the American Negro Theater was a disaster when he was asked to read from a script. It was in the telling of that painful incident that Poitier shared the act of kindness at his job as a dishwasher that changed his life. It is from that story that we can all be inspired to change a life.

In Poitier's words, "There was one of the waiters, a Jewish guy, elderly man, and he looked over at me and was looking at me for quite a while. I had a newspaper, it was called *Journal-*

*American*. And he walked over to me, and he said, 'What's new in the paper?' And I looked up at this man. I said to him, 'I can't tell you what's in the paper, because I can't read very well.' He said, 'Let me ask you something, would you like me to read with you?' I said to him, 'Yes, if you like.'

"Now let me tell you something: That man, every night, the place is closed, everyone's gone, and he sat there with me week after week after week. And he told me about punctuations. He told me where dots were and what the dots mean here between these two words, all of that stuff."

Thanks to that kindness — the act of reading with him through high school, Poitier landed an acting apprenticeship with the very same theater company that had laughed him out of his first audition. And, the rest is history. Or, is it?

Third grade reading proficiency is a key indicator of future success, yet 2011 PSSA scores show more than 25 percent of third-graders in Berks County fall short of being proficient. The United Way of Berks County, the educational and business communities and community organizations have teamed up to ensure reading proficiency for students by the end of third grade through its "Ready. Set. READ!" program. But, they need your help, just an hour a week.

Consider tutoring second and third grade students. After some brief training, you will work one-on-one or two-to-one with students to help improve reading comprehension and skills. Or, volunteer to visit local preschool classrooms to conduct read-alongs. Volunteer reading helps promote the joy of reading while

improving student's vocabulary and listening skills. You can help to better a child's future.

In Berks County, 90,000 adults (18 and older) are considered functionally illiterate — reading at less than a third-grade level. Consider tutoring an adult through the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks. It offers a tutoring program designed to teach adults the necessary literacy skills for better survival in our society. A new training program for tutors is set to start June 10.

If you would like more information on how you can volunteer to mentor a child, contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way (610-685-4574) or visit [www.readysettreadberks.org](http://www.readysettreadberks.org).

For adult tutoring opportunities, contact Beverly Hirneisen at the Literacy Council of Reading-Berks (610-670-9960) or email - [bev@lcrb.org](mailto:bev@lcrb.org).

So many times, we feel we cannot give a large enough monetary gift or personally make a difference in our community. I hope you are inspired by the "Jewish guy, elderly man" who opened a book to a stranger and changed a life.

As for Sidney Poitier, his story has a very happy ending.

Have a great summer!

\*\*\*

*Who knew? — The New York Journal-American was published from 1937 to 1966. It was a merger between two New York newspapers owned by William Randolph Hearst. Like many afternoon newspapers, it did not survive the increased competition it faced with the growing popularity of television and the evening news.*

## A special thank you

For decades an unseen hand with a magical red pencil has guided this publication month after month. Esther Strauss has volunteered her time and great expertise, sparing the editors and writers of *Shalom*



red faces time and again with her proofreading. Not a month goes by that Esther doesn't notice an error that slipped by everyone else who looked at the paper. And thanks to her, those errors are corrected before the paper goes to print.

It is with sadness that we bid Esther farewell. She and her husband, Alan, are leaving town to be closer to their family. We wish them all the best.

# SHALOM

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### Jewish Federation of Reading

Chairman: Alvin Katz  
President: Tammy K. Mitgang  
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor  
Proofreaders: Esther Strauss & Federation staff  
Member: American Jewish Press Association

The opinions expressed in Shalom are of the writers and not the Jewish Federation of Reading

**Deadline for the September issue is Aug. 5**

By Paul L. Landry

The summer is now upon us. I'm sure most of you are doing what I'm doing right now — making plans for all the things I want to do, including vacation. My



family has rented a house on the beach in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. We'll all be together for a week and will get our share of fresh seafood and beach time. Apart from this trip I plan to spend a great deal of time outdoors, working on the yard and just enjoying the sun and fresh air.

I hope you too will enjoy the summer and especially any vacation time you will be taking.

But let's not forget that many of our friends and neighbors will not be taking vacations this year. They'll be struggling just to put food on the table or deal with

health issues. Many will be turning to Jewish Family Service for help. Since their NEED will not be taking a vacation, neither will the Federation. We'll be here to help those who need it throughout the year.

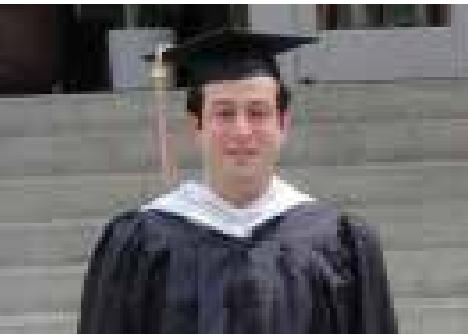
So please don't forget us this summer. We need your support all year round.

The 2013 Jewish Community Campaign is in full swing. If you have made your gift already, THANK YOU! And I hope you will consider making an additional gift of any amount! Every dollar will be used wisely to help those in need and further our mission.

If you have not already made your gift, I urge you to do so soon. See the Campaign ad on page 18 for the address to send your gift. Help us to help those who are less fortunate than us. Please be as generous as you can.

Tzedakah — it's the Jewish way!

# Our 2013 Graduates



**Brad Abramson**, son of Ellen and Donald Abramson, graduated from Temple University with an MBA in strategy and finance. He has an economics degree from the University of Florida. He lives and works in Philadelphia for Grant Thornton's consulting division and is married to Jaime.



**Andrew Althouse**, son of Allison & Kurt Althouse, will receive his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh in August. His degree is in epidemiology from the Graduate School of Public Health. Upon graduation he will work at Magee Women's Research Institute in Pittsburgh.



**Rebecca Allison Balchunas**, daughter of Cindy and George Balchunas, is graduating from Wilson High School. She is on the tennis team and has participated in many school plays and musicals. She's held board positions at Reading's Chai BBYO Chapter and has studied dance and music for many years. She will be attending Penn State Altoona in the fall.



Marjorie Berman, daughter of Sharon and Ron Berman, is graduating from Yale University with a BA in the history of science and medicine. She was a member of Yale Children's Theater and the Yale International Relations Association. She served as the Secretary General for the Yale Model UN Conference XXXVIII.



**Alexander Cardinal**, son of Adrienne and Jeffrey Cardinal, graduated from Temple University with a BA in history. He was enrolled in ROTC and is a commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Army. He will go to Fort Benning GA to take his basic officer leadership course in infantry.



**Emily Rachel Farrara**, daughter of Sue and Michael Farrara, graduated with honors from Westphal College of Media Arts and Design at Drexel University. She earned a BS in design and merchandising with a concentration in fashion promotion and special events. She will be participating in her second internship through Walt Disney World Resorts.



**Jake Fromm**, son of Susan and Michael Fromm, began his academic career at the JCC preschool and is graduating from the University of Michigan in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Judaic studies. In September, Jake will begin a one-year fellowship at Shihezi University in the Xinjiang Province of China teaching conversational English.



**Jonathan Glick**, son of Anne and Alan Seltzer and the late Richard Glick, graduated from the University of Maryland Frances Carey School of Law with a juris doctorate degree. Jonathan has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.



**Scott Goldberg**, son of Debbie and David Goldberg, is graduating from Wyomissing High School and the Reading Branch of Gratz Jewish Community High School. He plans to attend Northwestern University this fall. Scott enjoys building robots and competing in Science Olympiad. He also participates in school theater productions, orchestra, and the cross country team.



**Brooke Gunter**, daughter of Richard and Ellice Gunter, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Master's degree in speech-language pathology. Brooke will be moving to Alexandria, Va., to pursue her career as a speech pathologist.



**Jeffrey Scott Hogg**, son of Blair and Karen Hogg, is graduating from Gov. Mifflin High School. He is a member of the Gov. Mifflin and National French honor societies. Jeffrey performed in the marching, concert and jazz bands, the the GM Choir and Governors and First Ladies select singing group. He will study chemical engineering at Lehigh University.



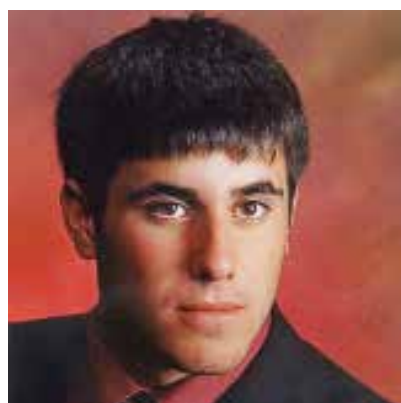
**Amit K. Lift**, son of Dr. Varsha S. Lift, is graduating from Wyomissing High School and Gratz Jewish Community High School. He will be attending Georgia Institute of Technology in the fall.



**Naomi Miriam Michelson**, daughter of Rabbi Brian and Holly Michelson, is graduating from Wyomissing High School. Over the summer, she will work as a counselor at her beloved URJ Camp Harlam. In the fall Naomi will be attending Manhattanville College, where she plans to major in the social sciences with a minor in Jewish studies.



**Elizabeth Mitgang**, daughter of Jeff and Tammy Mitgang, has graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree in global health and urban studies. Elizabeth graduated magna cum laude and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She has accepted a summer appointment as a research fellow with the university's Model of Infectious Disease Agent Study.



**Andrew T. Oppenheimer**, grandson of Robert and Yvonne Oppenheimer, received his Juris Doctorate Degree in May from Kent Law School, Chicago. He served as Notes and Comments Editor of the Chicago-Kent Law Review, and he has been accepted as a first year associate at Vedder Price P.C. in their Chicago offices.



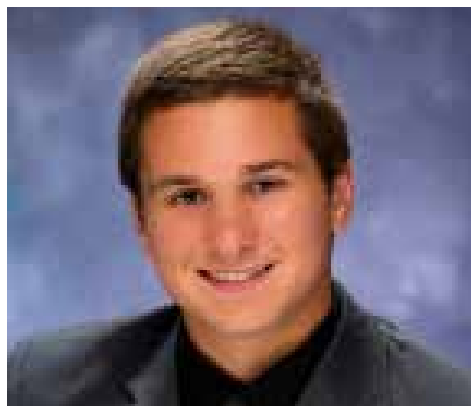
**Madelyn Robinson**, daughter of Carole and Michael Robinson, graduated from Ohio University with Master of Business Administration and Sports Administration degrees. She was co-founder and president of Ohio University's Women in Sports and was co-chair of community service for Ohio Sports Administration program.



**Rebecca Robinson**, daughter of Carole and Michael Robinson, graduated from Siena College with a BA in English with an Education Certificate. She was captain of the Siena Women's Water Polo team and selected for the MAAC Water Polo All-Academic Team. Rebecca's future plans include teaching English in a junior high school.



**Michael Saidman**, son of Amy and Howard Saidman, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with honors. He earned a Bachelor of Science in economics with a minor in physics. He is working for the University of Pittsburgh.



**Jack J. Sherman**, son of Lori and Barry Sherman, is graduating from Exeter High School. He plans to attend Kutztown University.



**Dr. Amberly Sokoloff**, daughter of Ellis and Vicky Sokoloff, has completed her residency in Avian & Exotic Medicine at the Pritchard Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital University of California at Davis. Dr. Sokoloff graduated as valedictorian from Reading High School. She is on staff at PetCare West Veterinary Hospital, Santa Rosa, Calif.



**Benjamin Ueberroth**, son of Lisa and the late Dr. William R. Ueberroth, formerly of Wyomissing, graduated summa cum laude in May from Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University. Ben graduated with a B.S. in biochemistry and a B.S. in biological sciences.



**Aaron Ure**, son of Bruce and Janine Ure is graduating from Wyomissing High School. He has been a member of the varsity lacrosse team and an active participant of Berks Chai BBYO. Aaron will be attending West Chester University and plans to major in Business.



**Eric Waxler**, son of Andrew and Laurie Waxler is graduating from Wyomissing High School. He is looking forward to attending Lehigh University in the fall. He plans to major in chemical engineering.



**Brian Wernick**, son of Andy and Corinne Wernick and grandson of Sid and Esther Bratt, graduated from Temple University School of Medicine with a doctor of medicine degree. He has accepted a surgical residency at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem.

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*Life advice from Stephanie B., Resident and Master of Enjoyment*




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# 5773 Life-Cycle Celebrations



**Matthew Driben**, son of Lynn and Jeff Driben, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah May 4 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. He is a Beatles fan and a passionate piano player. He has a blast playing tennis and running track after school. Each fall, he joins his extended family for a vacation in Captiva, Fla. This summer he looks forward to his fifth year at Camp Harlam in the Poconos.



**Leah Egolf**, daughter of Susan and Scott Egolf, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah April 13 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Leah is a 7th grade honors student at Exeter Junior High School where she plays violin in the orchestra and chamber strings. Leah is an avid ice skater. She also enjoys skiing, reading, traveling and spending her summers at overnight camp.



**Rachel Allyn Freed**, daughter of Carol and Glenn Freed, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah June 8 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. She attends Blue Mountain Middle School in Orwigsburg. Rachel plays soccer and guitar and enjoys singing, reading and writing.



**Hannah Glassmire**, daughter of Galen and Missy Glassmire, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah Nov. 17 at Chabad of Reading. She is a 7th-grader at Schuylkill Valley Middle School. Her hobbies are swimming and hip hop.



**Maya Goldstein**, daughter of Tandy and David Goldstein, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah Nov. 10. Maya is in 8th grade at Boyertown Junior High School West. She is a high honor student whose interests and activities include yearbook staff, track team, Youth and Model Government, Girl Scouts and concert choir. Next year, she has been named a Bear Ambassador for her school.



**Tristan Haas**, son of Jill and Michael Haas, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah Oct. 6 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Tristan is a 7th grader at Lancaster Country Day School. He is a member of the Royal Berks Battalion Bantam hockey team. As a founding member of Books Benefiting Berks and Beyond, Tristan has helped collect more than 10,000 books and participated in the donation of books to elementary age students around Berks County.



**Kacie Horowitz**, daughter of Elyse and Jeff Horowitz, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah May 25 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. She is a 7th grader at Gov. Mifflin Middle School. She enjoys singing and acting and is part of The Alpha Omega Players Theater Group.



**Jeremy Simon Kramer**, son of Robin Weintraub Kramer, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah April 6 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom followed by a party under the stars at the Reading Planetarium. Jeremy is an 8th grade honor roll student at Gov. Mifflin Middle School, where he is also the student council secretary, a Star ranked Boy Scout and plays the electric bass, standing bass and bass drum in the school band, orchestra and jazz band.



**Brandon Parker Missan**, son of Anne and Paul Missan, celebrated his Bar Mitzvah March 9 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Brandon is a high honor student at Wilson Middle School. He enjoys soccer, music, his friends, family and this wonderful year of Mitzvahs!



**Audra Frieda Nemirow**, daughter of Geri and Mark Nemirow, will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah June 1 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Audra is a 7th-grade honors student at Exeter Junior High School. She is an avid dancer and member of Berks Ballet Theatre and enjoys musical theater.



**Tobias Mart Walker**, son of Michelle Mart and David Walker, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah Sept. 28 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. He is in 7th grade at Wyomissing Junior-Senior High School. His extra-curricular interests include singing in Berks Youth Chorus, the Junior High Chorus and Varsity Singers at Wyomissing H.S., playing piano, studying German, and practicing archery.



**Chase Mitchell Weizer**, son of Jeffrey and Ilene Weizer, became a Bar Mitzvah Dec. 29 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Chase attends seventh grade at Blue Mountain Middle School and is on the honor roll. Chase is a member of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council and enjoys sports. A budding pianist, he has competed for the Achievement Awards at Moravian and Albright Schools of Music.



**Jamie Zamrin**, daughter of Sharon and Michael Zamrin, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah Nov. 17 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Jamie is an honor student at Cocalico Middle School and enjoys participating in activities such as Band, the school play, cross country, track, and Girl Scouts. She also plays guitar and trombone.

## Scholar leads JCC discussion on events in Egypt



At left, members of the Jewish community, World Affairs Council and others await Dr. Asaf Romirowsky's presentation on Egypt. At right, Romirowsky is greeted by Tammy Mitgang before the event, in which he led a Great Decisions discussion, a joint effort by the Jewish Federation of Reading and the World Affairs Council. If interested in joining the World Affairs Council call 610.375.7880 or visit [www.wacreading.org](http://www.wacreading.org). The JCC hosts the Great Decisions program each spring. To learn more call 610-921-0624 or email [Jayne@JFReading.org](mailto:Jayne@JFReading.org).

## Biography of Begin offers portrait of multifaceted Israeli leader

By Dr. Asaf Romirowsky

Originally published in *Jewish Ideas Daily*

In "Menachem Begin: A Life," a new biography of one of Israel's more multifaceted leaders, Avi Shilon succeeds in portraying a fervent and uncompromising Zionist whose political brilliance usually compensated for his lack of military experience. Shilon shows that for Begin, anti-Semitism was at the root of everything. It was Begin's realization of the threat posed by anti-Semitism that motivated his actions and led to his political career. When the Holocaust destroyed the Polish-Jewish world from which he had emerged, the need for Jewish independence became clearer to him than ever before. Ensuring that another Holocaust would never take place was his paramount concern, even when he was Prime Minister of Israel, pursuing Yasir Arafat in the PLO leader's Beirut bunker. While many of Begin's critics have deplored the ways in which this frame of mind led him to take what they consider politically inappropriate actions, Shilon's biography focuses not on criticizing the man in this respect but in showing the reader where Begin came from.

Shilon also shows just how important symbolism was to Begin. In the 1940s, when he was the leader of the

underground Etzel, an acronym for Irgun Zvai Leumi, or National Military Organization, his operations against the British rulers of Palestine always included symbolic elements that stressed the importance of Jewish sovereignty and self-determination. For example, Etzel's "Operation Wall" was a response to a British prohibition against blowing a shofar at the Western Wall on Yom Kippur. This action, Shilon observes, "was not the most important in the history of Etzel, but it emphasized Begin's main approach in the organization's initial operations: symbolic declarative acts, not necessarily with any real military content."

Begin had a gift not only for symbols but for words. According to Shilon, his oratorical skills were in part responsible for his emergence as Jabotinsky's successor. The Revisionists, the members of Jabotinsky's movement, were captivated by Begin's ability to express their ideology and deeply impressed by his honesty and integrity. Yet "more than anything else," Shilon rightly observes, Begin "will be remembered for putting his stamp on the Jewish character of the Israeli state." He "saw himself as part of the Jewish nation across the ages, a kind of new modern prophet, a link in a chain stretching across the generations

whose hard-line view was inspired by the Holocaust and who restored to the public debate images and views from the Diaspora."

Begin's Diaspora experience imbued him with a profound sense of Jewish solidarity. Even when the Haganah was hunting down his rebel forces and turning them over to the British, he would not lash out against his fellow Jews. We did not teach our fighters, he wrote in *The Revolt*, "to hate our political opponents," for "mutual hatred brings almost certain civil war." Subsequently, during Israel's War of Independence, when the Israeli Army attacked the Altalena, an Etzel ship carrying weapons to the new state in apparent defiance of Ben-Gurion's orders, Begin defused the threat of civil strife. "I call on my brothers not to open fire," he declared. "There will be no fraternal war. . . . The enemy is at the gate." At the time, some of Begin's Etzel comrades regarded the response as cowardly. Only much later, Shilon notes, did Begin receive due credit for it.

After becoming Prime Minister of Israel in 1977, Begin similarly defied accusations of cowardice from some of his associates. He had his own misgivings about paying a high territorial price for a peace treaty with Egypt, but he overcame them for the sake of what he

considered to be the greater good. And no one accused him of cowardice when he dared to order the attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981.

If Begin wasn't a coward, neither was he a warmonger. The war in Lebanon in 1982 was something that had been thrust upon him, and it broke him. As Shilon makes clear, Begin "knew that he had not led his government properly and that he had become embroiled in a war he did not desire, and he knew it was his responsibility. Furthermore, he knew that those around him had witnessed his deterioration, yet none of them had dared say a word and actually had helped him to retire with dignity."

Shilon's comprehensive biography of one of the most important Zionists and leaders of the State of Israel elucidates the whole course of Begin's life, from his youth in Poland, when he was afflicted by a sense of powerlessness, to his performance in positions of power in the Jewish state. It helps us understand the greatness of the man, his very real and sometimes surprising achievements, and the factors that led to his demise. Shilon provides a clear picture of a leader whose steadfastness can serve as an example to all of us, even those who do not share every one of Menachem Begin's commitments.

## Breast cancer gene an issue for Jews

Celebrity Angelina Jolie's recent decision to opt for prophylactic surgery after she determined she is a carrier of a mutation in the BRCA 1 gene has prompted media attention the world over. And likely, it has sparked some questions for you and your family, as 1 in 40 Ashkenazi Jews carries a mutation in the BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 genes.

Go to [www.sharsheret.org](http://www.sharsheret.org) to download "Your Jewish Genes," a pamphlet on the subject, to view a video with more information or to contact a member of Sharsheret's genetic counselor and clinical staff. They can answer your important questions, including:

- How can I determine if I or my family may be at increased risk of hereditary cancer?
- What do I need to know about BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 genes if I have already been diagnosed with cancer?
- What resources and information are available to me to help me make informed decisions about my health?

Need information and don't have online access? Contact the Federation office.

## A learning experience at Friendship Circle



Dr. Harriet Comite and Paulo Kuczer assist Rabbi Minna Bromberg in displaying the Torah in a pre-Shavuot study session at the JCC's Friendship Circle. Watch the Centerpiece to keep up with what's going on at Friendship Circle or contact Carole Robinson in the JCC office for more information..

# Community News



Gratz Jewish Community High School graduates, from left, Naomi Michelson, Rebecca Balchunas, Scott Goldberg, Amit Lift and Aaron Ure with their very special cake.

## A grand finale for Gratz graduates

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Gratz JCHS brought a year of study and program activities to an exciting conclusion, Sunday evening, May 19 at the JCC.

Five seniors graduating from high school will also be honored at Gratz JCS graduation ceremonies June 2 at the Gratz College campus in Melrose Park, beginning at 11 a.m. Graduates and faculty from all the branches are asked to be present by 9:30.

At this year's last Gratz session, we celebrated the achievements of Rebecca Allison Balchunas, Scott Jeremy Goldberg, Amit Kanan Lift, Naomi M Michelson and Aaron Jacob Ure. Congratulations to their parents, family and friends on fulfilling this stage of their Jewish lives and learning, and we are all very proud of them.

Marley Weiner, who taught this year, was congratulated on finishing her first year of studies at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and she had the opportunity to bid farewell to her students. Next year Marley will serve as a Rabbinic intern in a large New Jersey congregation to further developing her skill-set.

We did make sure Marley and all of the seniors knew they were welcome to come back and visit whenever they were in town and could update us on their "doings."

A mezuzah was presented to each senior as a gift. Rabbi Dov gave each of the seniors a ceramic case that came from Jerusalem and was handmade by the workers at Yad L'Kashish, the Lifeline For The Elderly, and a kosher parchment mezuzah insert was included from President Tammy Mitgang of the Jewish Federation of Reading. They also received a brochure created by Rabbi Dov for each student with instructions on how to properly affix the mezuzah in

their respective college rooms.

Scott Goldberg was presented with a special graduation prize of Dr. Jonathan Sarna's new work, "American Jewish History," for his outstanding academic achievements.

Each senior had the opportunity to let everyone know where they will be attending school next year, and each had the opportunity to reflect on their most memorable events and moments in their Gratz career. One of the biggest Gratz programs that students enjoyed was the annual weekend Shabbaton Kinnus with all the students from the various branches of JCHS.

A special high-light was a huge celebratory cake sponsored by the Federation and JCC — thanks to Tammy and Jayne Kleinman — which was a chocolate chip cake smothered in buttercream icing from Hesh's Eclair Bake Shoppe in Northeast Philadelphia. Rabbi Dov encouraged baker Bill Hesh, to do his thing and he did! The bakery's signature cake was inscribed with the dedication "Mazal Tov from JCHS" and listed each of the seniors by name. This was a major success, and some made sure to take some of this luscious treat home for family members — and we still left cake for the JCC the next day.

In addition there were current seventh-graders who have already made plans to register and attend JCHS this coming year, and we made sure to welcome them warmly.

Registration information for Reading students, eighth through 12th grades, will be available soon. If you wish background information, contact the Gratz office, 215-35-7300. If you wish to have your email address added to our list, please let Rabbi Dov know at bdlerner1@gmail.com.



Rabbi Dov ran a raffle each week with a potential "lottery" ticket for each student who arrived by the start of classes. Then, each week the winner would be given a book of Jewish meaning. Interesting but not unexpected, one of the most popular volumes was Jewish Humor and followed up by the first Jewish do-it-yourself volume, The Jewish Catalog. We still have tickets left on the roll and will continue next year as well. Come early!

## All Around the Town



Lauren Schuchart has been selected as a Wexner Graduate Fellow/Davidson Scholar and will be attending the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York in the fall. Lauren is the daughter of Cindy and Tim Schuchart.

\*\*\*

Mazel Tov to Kenn and Sharon Spinrad, Philadelphia, on the engagement of their daughter Rachel to Mitchell Arch, both of Philadelphia. "Mitch" is a son of Douglas & Elaine Arch, Huntington Valley.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Mark Nemirow,

who was part of a team of Reading Eagle staffers who won first place for deadline sports reporting in the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors journalism contest. The Eagle was honored for its coverage after the NCAA announced sanctions against Penn State University.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Amanda Schaeffer on her marriage to Jason Hornberger. Amanda is the coordinator at the Holocaust Library and Resource Center at Albright College.

\*\*\*

Mazel Tov to grandparents Lisa and Ellis Block, formerly from Wyomissing and now living in Allentown, and aunt and uncle Jan and Jonathan Simon on the birth of Joel and Chelsea Block's daughter Perry Sloane.

\*\*\*

Mazel Tov to Jim and Jackye Barrer on the engagement of their son Sam to Katie Bekas.

*Until next time: Shalom!*

Please e-mail all your simcha news to joan@friedman.net.

## Obituaries

Malvina (Scher) Bloom, 89, formerly of Reading. Mal was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during World War II. She is survived by her daughters Karen (Bloom) Parish, wife of John Parish

of Fleetwood, and Robin Bloom, wife of Thomas Lambert of Oregon. Other survivors include her two grandchildren, a step-granddaughter, a step-great-granddaughter, her brother Milton Scher of Florida and her cousin Mike Scher of New Jersey.

## Common Chords Concert at Keshar Zion

Join the community for "Common Chords," a concert for peace

**Sunday, June 23**

**from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at Keshar Zion**

Including performances by

"East Side" Dave Kline

Jill Haley & Mark Oppenlander

Spirit Wing

Barbara Ann Schadler Greim,

the Berks Youth Chorus

and our own Rabbi Minna Bromberg.

Come spend an afternoon

letting music bring us together in human kinship.

**Concert is FREE.**

**All are welcome.**

**Spread the word!**

# Congregational News

## We were all at Mount Sinai

By Rabbi Brian Michelson

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

A few weeks ago I heard a wonderful story that I would like to share with you. The story takes place in the 1960s in the city of Haifa, the northern port city in Israel.

Our hero, as I shall call him, was the stereotypical '60s American Jewish flower child. He dressed and acted strangely, at least by Israeli standards. One day our hero was walking down along the Haifa docks taking in all the scenery. In the distance, he spied an ultra-Orthodox Chasid walking in his direction. This struck him as somewhat



strange because rarely do you see the ultra-Orthodox in this part of Haifa. Our hero continued on his way until he was ready to pass the Chasid who had been walking his way. Being a friendly American type, our hero smiled at the passing Chasid. Israelis in general and Chasidim in particular are unaccustomed to this type of friendly greeting. So he understood the stranger's smile as one of recognition. Stopping, the Chasid asked our hero, "Have we met before?" (See note below) Our hero looked back at the Chasid and replied: "We met at Sinai." The Chasid strikes his forehead with the palm of his hand and says, "Of course, please excuse me, it was so hot and there were just so many people there that I forgot."

[Note: Jewish tradition teaches that all

Jews whether dead, living, or those yet to be born all met when the Torah was given at Mount Sinai.]

Like most Jewish stories, there are many different lessons that can be drawn from this tale. However, as we head into another summer, I want to focus on this as a tale of diversity and respect. The story should remind us that to be a Jew runs along a varied continuum from totally secular to the most devout. However, Judaism and this story remind us that regardless of what type of Jew we are, we are all related and we deserve each other's respect and we, in turn, should be respectful of those who are different from us.

I have always been intrigued by naming customs in our community.

According to Ashkenazi tradition, you always name a child in honor of someone who has died. To name a child after a living relative is the Jewish version of saying, "I wish you were dead." However, in Sephardic tradition, one of the highest honors is to name a child after a living relative. What I love about this is that both sides are right and doing the correct thing. It just so happens that the "correct thing" is different for different Jews.

As we head into the summer and the time that many people take vacations to learn more about the world in which we live, may we be reminded that we are all one people, even if we do some things differently than each other. Remember, we were all at Mount Sinai.

Have a wonderful summer!



## Fifth-grade book drive a success

Can kids really make a difference? Well, the fifth graders at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom Religious School think so. They collected books for Cops-n-Kids, an organization that supports literacy by ensuring that every child has access to books at home.

To start the project, they made book collection boxes to attract donors. They put the boxes at Oheb Sholom and at Keshet Zion Synagogue (both synagogues have students in the school). Then they promoted the drive to the

Jewish Community. They got all types of books from Beginning-to-Read to Chapter Books. The fifth-graders wanted to do it because it's a good deed and in Judaism it is important to help others.

Student Talia Spillerman said, "I feel great doing this deed. It helps me feel more connected to the world."

Student Gabrielle Levine agreed, "We are giving books to kids that do not have a lot. This gives these kids a chance."

The students far exceeded their expectations: they set a goal of 360 books and collected 674 books!

## LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

### CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY

Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

### KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE

Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Outside, Friday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m.

at West Reading Park Pavilion. See below

Babysitting available upon request with one week's notice

### REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Saturday, June 1, Audra Nemirow Bat Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Friday, June 7: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 8, Rachel Freed Bat Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Fridays, June 14, 21 and 28, 7:45 p.m.

### CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

Please join us for

## "Keshet Zion Shabbat Outside"

Friday, June 7, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, July 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, August 2, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

We will welcome shabbat with song and prayer at the West Reading Park Pavilion

The Pavilion is located on Sycamore Road in West Reading (in the park across Museum Road from the Reading Museum)

Bring a lawn chair if standing is a hardship

\*\*\*This will be in place of the MONTHLY FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT SERVICES normally held at the Keshet Zion Chapel\*\*\*

Your R.S.V.P. is recommended and would be helpful. Please reply to KZ office 610-374-1763 or [kzsecretary@entermail.net](mailto:kzsecretary@entermail.net) a week prior to the services.

**Services will be cancelled in the event of rain. Please call the KZ office answering machine that evening for the latest update.**

## Healing Service at Keshet Zion

*Tuesday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.*  
in the KZ Chapel.

*All are welcome to join!*

## Keshet Zion Rummage Sale October 13 & 14

Keshet Zion will be holding a two-day fundraising rummage sale this fall. The community is welcome to donate items such as gently used clothing, toys, household items and books.

KZ volunteers will pick up items at your location.

If you have any items you would care to donate or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Wilson at 610-301-2083 or [wexler718@hotmail.com](mailto:wexler718@hotmail.com).

# Student reflects on significance of confirmation

*Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom member Brett Driben delivered the following talk at the synagogue as a member of this year's RCOS confirmation class.*

The confirmation service originated from one of the Reform movements many questions: Can a 13-year-old mind grasp all that it means to be a Jew? The answer reached was no; 13 years of age is too young. Fifteen or 16, however, is old enough because, as everyone knows, teenagers know everything. The solution found to this dilemma was to create a different ceremony derived from the Christian ceremony of confirmation to take the place of the Bar Mitzvah. It also allowed girls to have a coming of age ceremony since Bat Mitzvahs were nonexistent at this point. However, the ritual of confirmation endured in addition to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah instead of replacing it. A Bar Mitzvah, I believe, represents a personal commitment to Judaism while a confirmation shows a communal commitment to Judaism. Some obligations of becoming a Bar/Bat mitzvah include becoming responsible for one's own actions, reading torah, and being part of a minyan. At this point in a Jewish life, seeds of community are planted. One is able to stand up and proclaim readiness to be a Jewish adult after figuring out what Judaism means to oneself but, at the same time, becoming part of minyan signifies beginning to become part of the greater Jewish community. Tonight our class hosts the community as we lead all aspects of the service.

The Torah portion read tonight, Naso, deals in part with a group of people dubbed Nazirites. Nazirites, as stated by the Torah, swear a vow to "to set himself apart for the Lord." The portion goes on

to explicitly state the requirements of the vow. First, Nazirites must not shave their head while under the constraints of the vow and second, they must abstain from all intoxicants. By setting themselves apart for God, a cause higher than themselves, these people seem to incur meaningless restrictions, but as always the question is why?

Growing out your hair is an extremely noticeable physical change that everyone can see; a clear sign to all that you have taken the vow. Just as the Nazirites took a vow to bring them closer to God, tonight our confirmation class cements our promise to be part of a larger Jewish community. The signs we show might not be as obvious and superficial as growing one's hair, but they will be apparent nonetheless. For example, conducting services and involving ourselves in the larger Jewish community beyond Temple Oheb Sholom are just two ways we will engage in leading the community. By devoting ourselves to a higher cause, the greater Jewish community, we must show our commitment thru participation and leadership.

An interesting side note in the portion is that if a person dies near a Nazirite, the Nazirite will be considered unclean. As a result of being unclean, he is commanded to shave his head, offer a penalty sacrifice for breaking his vow, and restart the period of time he promised to be a Nazirite. By shaving one's head, a Nazirite has to start from nothing and work back to the top echelon of those who have the longest hair. Thus if a Nazirite breaks his vow, he must shave his head to recognize his transgression. This serves as a temporary suspension of serving God and forces him to restart his allotted period he swore to be a Nazirite. What intrigues me further about

this set of verses is that even though the vow is broken by something beyond the control of a Nazirite, the price must be paid for breaking the vow, even though it wasn't the fault of the one who made the vow. This idea applies to leadership in the sense that, even if something bad happens beyond a leader's control, he or she must work to correct the wrongdoing. Being a leader doesn't allow sitting back and thinking someone else will take care of it. If something happens that is beyond the control of a leader, the leader must make clear that ignoring the problem someone else created is not an option. No matter whose fault it is, if it affects the leader; it's the leader's problem.

The second requirement, abstaining from alcohol, seems to have more logical motives, since no organization wants a drunk representing it, but it too has a deeper meaning. When one represents a group, a cause higher than a single person, what one does affects not only the individual but also a community, so utmost care is required to keep a respectable image. The Nazirites represented the most devoted people to God, so any misstep, no matter how small, reflected not only on the individual but also on the entire community. For this reason a Nazirite must remain extra careful to make sound decisions. Our future actions as leaders will not only reflect on ourselves but also the entire Jewish community. Because our actions reflect on the Jewish community as a whole, we therefore must be extra careful because we help shape the public image of something that is not entirely about us.

The final idea presented in this section about the Nazirites is one about commitment. It reiterates that the Nazirite's vow is not to be taken

lightly and states that the only possible exception is if a person commits to do more. The important part though is that if you promise to contribute more to the cause, you cannot regress to the original vow. Any further commitments you make beyond the original vow are binding as well. This requirement emphasizes thinking about how much can you actually give. The Torah makes the important point that one should only volunteer to give as much as one is able. If one promises to do more, regressing back to the original commitment is not an option.

I would like to end with a beginning. The first line of the section says "either man or woman shall clearly utter [...] the vow of a Nazirite." This phrase clearly excludes children from taking the coveted vow.

The question remains as to what defines a man or a woman? Ritually, it is at the age of a Bar Mitzvah but again I question the maturity of a 13-year-old and his or her capacity to make such a long lasting decision. Is a 13-year-old able to stand up and be a full fledged leader? In most situations, and from my personal experience, I would say no. How can you expect them to lead when they are just becoming responsible for their own actions? The extra two or three years allows them, allowed us, to mature into leaders. Today marks the official day when we are expected to lead and we understand what it means to be part of a Jewish community versus a Jewish individual, and we believe we all will benefit from the association with the larger Jewish group. As God tells to Moses in the final line of Naso, "Thus they shall link My name with the people of Israel, and I will bless them." Shabbat Shalom.

## Ashton Kutcher, Israeli entrepreneurship, and Kabbalah

*Originally published in Times of Israel*

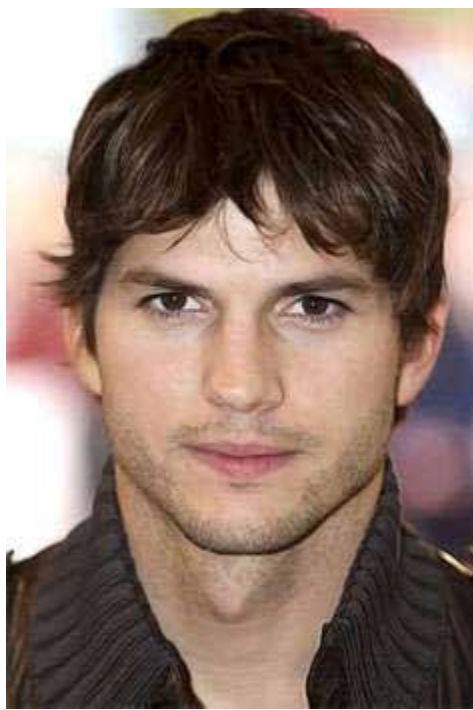
Seeing him on shows such as "Two and a Half Men," or in movies such as "Dude, Where's My Car," you wouldn't take Ashton Kutcher for a sophisticated high-tech investor. But Kutcher was all business on his first all-business trip to Israel (he's been here three other times, for spiritual purposes), and in just a couple of days he picked up a lot about the business of Israeli high-tech.

For instance, Kutcher told an audience of over 1,000 people in Tel Aviv that Israel is great at developing idea, but not so great at following through with funding for the start-ups created there. "My understanding is that there is a severe Series A funding crisis," he said. "Companies get seed money and build an alpha product, but they run out of money before they iterated their product, and few Series A funding people jump in to help."

Kutcher runs, together with his partner/manager Guy Oseary, several start-ups and an investment fund. The Israeli-born Oseary's Untitled Entertainment manages, besides Kutcher, the likes of Demi Moore, Lucy Liu, David Caruso, and others. Oseary also manages Madonna, and he directed her concert here in Israel last year.

Kutcher and Oseary spoke at an event sponsored by GarageGeeks, a group that sponsors activities and events for the high-tech and start-up community in Israel. The group holds events that feature a talk by a start-up CEO or investor. Thanks to the efforts of tech guru Yossi Vardi (who emceed the event) Kutcher found himself standing on a balcony at the Academic College of Tel Aviv, near the Tel Aviv-Jaffa border.

While usually a "Geeks" event might



get a few dozen attendees, word spread through social networks that Kutcher would be speaking, and the group decided it needed a bigger venue than the converted garage it usually uses in Holon. And they weren't wrong.

High-tech was what Kutcher and Oseary had come to talk about, on a trip dedicated to rooting out possible investments for the pair. Oseary said that he has been investing in Vardi-recommended projects for over seven years, and Kutcher recently decided to seek out Israeli investments as well. Dotting his talk with Hebrew phrases — the format was Vardi interviewing Oseary and Kutcher — the actor spoke his mind about Israeli technology, the people working in it, and even how it's helping the peace process.

Kutcher may have his mind on the

movies — his latest project has him playing Steve Jobs — but he is no tyro when it comes to tech. Kutcher has been investing in tech companies since 2010 and was an early investor in digital social magazine Flipboard. So far, Kutcher and Oseary (along with third partner Ron Burkle) have invested close to \$200 million in some 30 start-ups.

And now Kutcher has discovered Israel, which, he said, has exactly what he looks for in investments. "Israel doesn't have a lot of natural resources. Its real resource is its people and their creativity, and that has inspired me."

Israel, he said, reminds him of himself growing up. "In my family we didn't have a lot of 'natural resources,' meaning money. We had to use our minds and become our own creative resources. My goal is to embrace the people, the 'natural resources' of Israel, and to build businesses with the creative Israelis."

Kutcher started out in, of all things, chemical engineering, but quickly found success in the entertainment business, first as a model, and then in Hollywood. But early on, he understood the impact of Internet technology and social media.

From what he has seen, Israel is an important place for that communication revolution. "When I went into business with Guy a few years ago, we decided we wanted to change the world, and we looked for investments that would do that. We especially looked at companies that let you connect, with people socially trusting each other on the Internet."

For Kutcher, improving communications and relations between people is a paramount value, and Israel is "an epicenter of that value. It's surrounded by enemies and hostility but has been successful in making peace with its

enemies," at least to some extent. "This is something that can change the world, and that change will come from here."

The audience was full of entrepreneurs, and Vardi opened up the floor to questions. One that Vardi himself asked was what Kutcher would advise a young entrepreneur starting out — what could a young Israeli do to make it in the tech world, as Kutcher himself has.

"I learned the secret of success a long time ago, from my kabbala teacher in Israel," Kutcher said.

Kutcher is not Jewish, but he is very active in the Kabbala Center in Los Angeles, and has been in Israel three times on "spiritual quests."

"We visited the grave of Rabbi Akiva, and I started crying," he said. "I had an emotional response to all the energy that was there, because I had heard all these stories about him and about all the incredible sacrifices that he made. I said to my teacher that I wanted to be more like Rabbi Akiva. He looked at me and said that I didn't need to be more like him, but more like Ashton Kutcher. Because when you get to the [heavenly] gates, they are not going to ask you why you weren't more like Rabbi Akiva, but they will ask why weren't you more like Ashton Kutcher — why didn't you accomplish the things Ashton Kutcher was supposed to accomplish."

"Anyone who wants to be an entrepreneur like someone else is actually looking in the wrong direction. You don't look out for inspiration, you look in," Kutcher added. "You have to ask yourself how can I be better today, at solving the problem I am trying to solve for my company. I wouldn't encourage anyone to be like me. Just be like you."

# Celebrating 65 years of Israeli history, achievements

A contingent of 20 people from Reading's Jewish community took part in Philadelphia's "Walk the Land 65 – Celebrate Life" parade to mark Israel's 65th birthday. The parade proceeded from Eakins Oval to the Pennsylvania Convention Center. After the parade the convention center was filled with Israeli food, entertainment, arts and crafts, dancing and shopping. It included an authentic Bedouin tent as well as booths representing dozens of organizations from Jewish summer camps and philanthropic organizations at work in Israel to highlights of Israel's scientific and technological achievements. The afternoon kicked-off with a performance by the Mummers and was followed by entertainment, live music and dance along with a cooking demonstration by celebrity chef and owner of Zahav Restaurant in Philadelphia, Michael Solomonov.



Al Diamond, Herb Schneider and Marty Goldstein warm up with some flag waving as 20 members of the Reading Jewish community joined others from Philadelphia and surrounding areas for a parade to the PA Convention Center. The venue was filled with Israeli food, entertainment, arts and crafts, dancing and shopping.



Generations celebrated Israel's 65th birthday at a parade May 19 in Philadelphia. (Front) – Sari Incedon and grandson Aidan Incedon visit with Al Diamond while waiting for the start of the parade. (Back) – left to right, Sheila Bornstein, Bob Waxler, Herb Schneider and Marty Goldstein also joined in the parade.



Reading's contingent shows its spirit at left. At right, thanks to the talented artists in the Bedouin tent, home of children's activities, Aidan Incedon is transformed into a ferocious jaguar.



Students from Jewish day schools throughout the Greater Philadelphia area contributed floats and boundless energy to the parade



Flag waving was the order of the day at Philadelphia's annual celebration of Israeli independence.

# 'Misa's Fugue' to make its local television premiere

The award-winning Holocaust documentary, "Misa's Fugue," has played around the world. On June 22, local television viewers will have the chance to watch the film from the comfort of their own homes when it makes its official television premiere on local television.

The 90-minute film produced by Fleetwood High School students will air Saturday, June 22, at 8:30 p.m. on WFMZ-TV, Channel 69.

"Misa's Fugue" weaves art, music, history and technology with emotion and inspiration to tell the extraordinary story of Holocaust survivor Frank "Misa" Grunwald.

History shows that nearly 1.5 million children were murdered during the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945. Grunwald was one of fewer than 300 children to escape death from the "camp-ghetto" at Terezin (or Theresienstadt) in the Czech Republic, a facility used by the Nazis as a tool of deception.

Grunwald is now 80, and living in Fishers, Ind. More than 66 years after his liberation, the twists, turns and torments of his four-year ordeal and miraculous survival have been artfully documented by a collaboration of more than 200 former and current students, 10 teachers who spanned six different departments in Fleetwood High School, a small handful of independent filmmaking professionals, and 5 international organizations.

"Misa's Fugue" began with Fleetwood teacher Sean Gaston's happenstance introduction to Grunwald, an epiphany and scribbles in a notebook some 22 months ago at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Belfer

"Next Step" Conference in Indianapolis.

After hearing Grunwald's story and viewing several of the hundreds of family photos that miraculously survived the war, Gaston asked Grunwald if his story had ever been documented. Grunwald said yes, but not to his satisfaction. A retired industrial designer and adjunct professor at Purdue University, Grunwald connected with Gaston over a mutual love of the arts and agreed that he would be willing to share his life with students in a school far away from Indiana.

Following his meeting with Grunwald, Gaston called his then-colleague and USHMM teacher fellow and 10th year Social Studies teacher, Jennifer Goss. He pitched the idea and then asked her to help him produce the film, placing her in charge of procuring the initial funding. Goss, said, "The entire film has been community funded. The initial donation came from the Jewish Federation of Reading. Other community groups and individual donors came on board and helped to bring this project to life."

Gaston, who had 15 years of experience in the film industry prior to becoming a teacher, directed the project and served as producer and as one of the screenwriters. Goss, a noted Holocaust educator, produced and also served as the film's historical consultant and assisted with the screenwriting.

The project took off and grew in ways that the pair hadn't imagined. "It has consumed every spare second of our lives for nearly three years," Goss said. "It's become just so much more than a simple film."

The film premiered in April 2012 in

Reading. More than 400 supporters, local notables, students and their families were in attendance. The premiere was accompanied by a display of the student artwork that is interwoven throughout the film.

Since the premiere, the film has been selected to participate in several prestigious film festivals including the Phoenix Film Festival, the Philadelphia Film Festival, the Zagreb (Croatia) Jewish Film Festival and the Greater Reading Film Festival. In July, it will play at the New Hope Film Festival, which was recently dubbed the "Sundance of the East" by major news media outlets. It is also slated to play next month in Australia at the Jewish Holocaust Center in Victoria.

"Misa's Fugue" has also garnered several awards. The Pennsylvania School Press Association awarded its Rachel S. Turner Award to the project in November. The film also recently won 5 Telly Awards, a prestigious award in the film industry. The film was recognized for its achievements in the categories in Education, Production, Art Direction and Historical Biography. It also won the highest Telly award, the Silver Telly, in the People's Choice category.

In October, the film was screened for staff and volunteers at USHMM. It has even garnered attention from Emmy-award winning actor Michael Constantine and Playtone Productions co-founder Gary Goetzman. Both personally reached out to the producers to share their positive impressions of the film. Goetzman has also written a letter of support for the project.

Since April, the team has distributed

1,000 DVDs of "Misa's Fugue" to high schools, nonprofits and museums that illuminate Holocaust history and to project donors. Funding from backers such as the Jewish Federation of Reading, the Albright College Holocaust Resource Center, the Pennsylvania Holocaust Education Council, local synagogues and many anonymous donors are enabling that plan as well as other education partnership projects.

Gaston said he has been humbled by the experience and grateful for the opportunity. "This man trusted me with his legacy," he said, noting his life will forever be galvanized by his friendship with Frank Grunwald. "It is a huge responsibility that I never took lightly."

"I hope everyone who sees this film realizes the underlying message of education that goes beyond a classroom, a textbook, a standardized test,"

Gaston said. "This is a lesson and an experience about humanity these kids will remember the rest of their lives." According to Goss, who now teaches at Robert E. Lee HS in Staunton, Va., the project was truly life changing. The students who participated agree.

To extend this mission, the pair is distributing the film on a not-for-profit basis fueled by donations. Their goal is to get it into high school and university libraries and classrooms across the country and around the world. To date, the film has been shared in numerous states and at least a dozen other nations around the world.

For more information on the film and to see a trailer, please visit [www.misafugue.com](http://www.misafugue.com).

## U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum at 20

By Larry A. Rotenberg, MD

Alison and I, and members of the Bratt and the Wernick families represented Jewish Reading at the 20th Anniversary of the opening of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Washington, D.C., on April 29 and 30.

It was a bittersweet experience. In June 1981 when my son Jon and I traveled to Jerusalem, about 30,000 survivors attended. In 1993, 10,000 survivors were at the opening of the USHMM. In 2013, a mere 843 survivors were there.

Time is clearly running out. But each of the 843 in attendance had a story which would make Tolstoy's "War and Peace" look like a mere anecdote.

It was sweet because the small number of survivors was buttressed by liberators, children and grandchildren.

The food was ethnic and aplenty for the Sunday night dinner. Waiters poured red or white wine. Grandchildren were inspirational and adorable.

President Bill Clinton and Elie Wiesel spoke. As in 1993 (when Alison and I were also present), the amazing Clinton struck profound notes. He spoke of the importance of "heart" over "brains" and he reminded his audience that in 1993 it took pressure from Jews of conscience, to save Muslims in Bosnia from Christians.

We met old friends such as Annie Steinberg, a child psychiatrist from the University of Pennsylvania, whose parents were survivors. We shared a meal and some feelings with her and her family.

We also sat at a table with a liberator who was in Gen. George Patton's army and proud



Alison and Larry Rotenberg and Esther Bratt with daughter, Corinne and son-in-law, Andrew Wernick

of it. Another distinguished Polish Jew was both a liberator and a survivor.

And yet there were also some troubling things, such as fundraising for monuments to the dead, which rival the tombs of the Pharaohs. We can only hope that "Yiddishkeit" — one of Rabbi Yosef Lipsker's favorite words — will not suffer the same fate as Egyptian civilization.

Perhaps we survivors can never be satisfied. There is an inchoate aspect to our experience that is like the famous painting by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch — "The Scream". And so any articulation will always fall short of what we carry inside of us.

But I cannot end this little article without noting that the bravest person there was my wife, Alison, who has survived more than half a century of living with the mishegas, of this Holocaust survivor.



Dr. Larry Rotenberg at the 20th anniversary of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum event in Washington, D.C.

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# ORT family embraces Panama school with affiliation

Panama's Isaac Rabin School has formally affiliated with World ORT (supported by the Jewish Federations of North America) — the first Jewish school in that country to do so.

School board President Alan Perelis, signed an affiliated agreement with World ORT Director General and CEO Robert Singer during the latter's visit to Panama City.

ORT Panama President Samuel Bern, who sits on the board, said the school's affiliation was part of its strategy to raise the profile of science, technology and math, a move which would position students to exploit new opportunities opening up in the country's booming economy.

"Services, commerce and business make up most of our economy and traditionally many children in the community join their father's business; we tend to work in the professions, banking and business administration. But the lack of local technological know-how has meant that Panamanian businesses have had to bring in people

from overseas," Bern said.

The Isaac Rabin School is only 13 years old but is already among the top five schools in the country with a strong liberal arts tradition. Five years ago, with World ORT's support, it opened a state-of-the-art science laboratory bursting with computerized data loggers and other equipment.

The laboratory follows the model of the TAVEC project through which ORT Chile has installed dozens of similar facilities at public schools throughout Chile with the support of the Coca Cola Foundation. ORT Chile has been providing the Isaac Rabin School with teacher training and technical assistance.

"Since we've had the lab more and more students are choosing physics, math and technology," Bern said. "We now want to introduce an annual science week that would involve the entire school community, including parents. We have already been very successful in doing that for the arts and humanities and the Jewish and Zionist components. I am

confident that we will build our capacity in science and technology now that we are affiliated with World ORT. This is just the beginning."

His confidence is well founded: the affiliation agreement means Isaac Rabin School's staff can access World ORT's international professional development seminars and programs and tap into the experience and expertise of peers in dozens of countries; its principal, Itzel Sayavedra, is already due to visit World ORT operations during a visit to Israel later this month and to spend a week at ORT Argentina later in the year. Students are eligible for international exchange programs and activities such as World ORT's English summer school in London and JET Challenge Jewish history project. World ORT also provides support and consultancy in the introduction of educational technology as well as guidance on raising standards, networking and twinning opportunities and other benefits.

The Panamanian economy is enjoying

11 percent growth as the country nears the end of a seven-year, \$5.3 billion expansion project for the Panama Canal and embarks on other major infrastructure programs.

"The situation in Panama is proving attractive for Jewish families escaping difficult economic and political environments elsewhere in Latin America," said World ORT's representative in the region, Isidoro Gorodischer. "Immigration is helping the local Jewish community to grow and enrollment at the Isaac Rabin School is nearing the maximum capacity of 350. We look forward to supporting the school's growth and helping it to realize its educational aspirations."

For Singer, the Panama visit was the last stop in a whistle-stop tour of ORT operations in Latin America.

"ORT Panama's leaders are highly devoted to the future of their community and the school superbly reflects their commitment to the level of education there. I am sure that very positive things will result from this new partnership," he said.

## A look at Israel's top 10 boutique vineyards

### Israel21c.org

Israel's wine industry has become a favorite topic among the world's connoisseurs. Israel has scant farmland yet nonetheless continues to produce top-quality merlots and sauvignons.

"The region's wines are getting better all the time, and some are superb," writes leading US wine critic Robert Parker.

"Once, recommendation of Israel wines was mostly of a sentimental nature. That is no longer necessary," Frank Priol wrote in *The New York Times*.

In his 2012 Pocket Wine Book, British wine expert Hugh Johnson wrote: "Israeli wine has been transformed in the last 20 years by producers who have imported wine expertise to go with their existing technological and agricultural prowess."

There are more than 300 wineries in Israel, ranging from boutique enterprises to large commercial plants. The biggest jump in business has been in the boutique marketplace.

"Until 1995, there were just seven boutique wineries in Israel. By 2000, we had 100. Today, there are between 280 and 300," said Oded Shoham of Israel Wine Experience.

Shoham recommends visiting the vineyards, not just purchasing their products.

"It's not like buying a bottle off a shelf and not realizing there's a person and a temperament that stands behind the bottle," Shoham said

ISRAEL21c checked in with the experts for the 10 best boutique wineries in Israel today. Drink up and enjoy.

### 1. Margalit Winery, Caesarea/Upper Galilee

Yair Margalit — a chemist turned winemaker — is credited with starting the boutique winery trend in Israel when he founded Margalit Winery in 1989.

The family-run venture on the Mediterranean coast specializes in red Bordeaux blends. The wines constantly reap praise from experts. Margalit is one of four wineries to score 93 points from Robert Parker's Wine Advocate.

"The Margalit winery started as a boutique and never swayed away from that. It stayed small but with extremely high-quality wine. It stayed true to its course and this makes it the best winery in Israel," Shoham said.

The winery is open to the public in springtime.

### 2. Clos de Gat, Ayalon Valley

Winemaker Eyal Rotem is equally renowned for the way he grows his grapes as for the wine he produces. He invested a lot of time in learning the land and experimenting with grape varieties to produce his top-tier wines.

The name Clos de Gat is a play on words — clos means "enclosed vineyard" in French while gat is the Hebrew word for an antique wine press.

Israel's preeminent wine expert Daniel Rogov included Rotem's wines in every "best of" list he wrote."

Winery visits by appointment only.

### 3. Domaine Du Castel, Judean Hills

Eli Ben-Zaken, a former poultry farmer/restaurateur, turned his hobby of winemaking into an award-winning business.

In the December 2012 version of Parker's Wine Advocate annual tasting of Israeli wines, he highlights Domaine du Castel as one of the "most successful wineries over the [past] five years."

Winery visits by appointment only.

### 4. Katlav, Judean Hills

In the village of Nes Harim, southwest of Jerusalem and at an elevation of 700 meters, winemaker Yossi Yittach has created a perfect balance between age-old harvesting methods and cutting-edge technologies. This winery is best known for its award-winning Wadi Katlav blend of red wine.

Winery open to visitors, but call ahead.

### 5. Tzora, Judean Hills

Many of the country's wineries have kibbutz roots — not so surprising considering these communal villages are experts in agriculture. Former Kibbutz Tzora member Ronnie James (who has since died) is credited with putting Tzora's wines on the international map.

James was hailed as the Israeli pioneer of terroir (a group of vineyards belonging to a specific appellation, and sharing the same type of soil, weather conditions and grapes) and won the "Eshkol Hazahav" (Golden Bunch) award for his remarkable contribution to Israel's wine culture.

Tzora harvests from three terroirs in the Judean Hills region. In 2012, Parker awarded three of its wines over 90 points.

The winery is open to visitors Sunday to Thursday 10-5, Friday 9-2.

### 6. Avidan, Central Sharon region

"Great wine, fantastic," says Oded Shoham about Avidan Winery's different



Clos de Gat vineyards in Ayalon Valley

labels. This family-owned boutique winery was founded in 2004 on Kibbutz Eyal.

The Parker-rated Avidan is known for its creative and daring mixes of grape varieties it uses in each of its labels.

"[Tsina Avidan] applies a truly artistic approach to crafting wines and uses grape varieties like a painter uses colors on his palette," Levantwines writes.

The winery is open to visitors Fridays and Saturdays 11-4; weekdays by appointment only.

### 7. Chateau Golan, Golan Heights

Not to be confused with the much larger Golan Heights Winery, Chateau Golan is co-owned by three Israelis from very different walks of life — a businessman who lives in London, a farmer and a U.S.-trained fermentation specialist. The winery opened in summer 1999, combining European traditions with modern knowledge and technology.

"The 2012 Chateau Golan Geshem Pink convinced me that Israeli winemakers could and should make more premium rosé," wrote David Rhodes on the Hakerem: Israeli Wine Blog.

Winery visits by appointment only.

### 8. Shoshana Boutique Winery, Atlit

One of the newest wineries to join the growing Israeli market is Shoshana Boutique Winery near Haifa. Shoshana Vizan, owner and vintner, learned the craft from leading Israeli winemaker Arkadi Papikian.

The winery produces just 5,000 bottles annually. Vizan has yet to create

a website of her own but her wines are mentioned repeatedly in Israel's numerous wine-oriented publications as well as on international awards lists.

Winery visits by appointment only.

### 9. Bazelet HaGolan, Golan Heights

First-class El Al passengers will recognize the Bazelet HaGolan red wines. The winery was founded in 1998 in Moshav Kidmat Zvi in the Golan Heights and uses Cabernet Sauvignon grapes in two series: Bazelet and Reserve.

Bazelet ("basalt" in Hebrew) refers to the volcanic soil of the Golan Heights. The Bazelet series wines are intended for earlier drinking while the wines from the Reserve series are usually oaked for approximately 20 months and benefit from moderate aging. Wine expert Shoham terms them "big wines."

The winery is open to visitors Sunday to Friday 9-3, but call ahead.

### 10. Assaf Winery, Golan Heights

Located in the same community as Bezelet HaGolan, Assaf Winery uses seven varieties on 12 acres of land. Winemaker Assaf Kedem harvests each vineyard separately — and by hand — to maintain strict control over every cluster.

The Kedem family began producing wine in 1997.

Assaf offers visitors the best look into boutique wineries in Israel. The family built the first Israeli "wine village," which includes a visitors center, guest cabins, gourmet restaurant and the vineyards.

The winery is open to visitors every day from 11-4; call ahead.



# Jewish Family Service



## Congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year

**By Sari Inledon**  
 Jewish Family Service is pleased to honor Laine Heisler as this year's volunteer of the year. Laine has been accompanying her grandmother Jenny Saft to Friendship Circle for a few years and has been a tremendous help to the



staff. Whether she is helping serve lunch, work audio-visual equipment or help with whatever program is scheduled, Laine has been a great asset to the group. We wish her much success in all future endeavors and thank her for all the help she has given us. Laine is the daughter of Lorrie Heisler and Allen Heisler.



Laine Heisler

**New Option for Seniors Needing Care**  
 Berks Visiting Nurses Association has announced a new residential option for seniors — Advantage Care Cottages — that will allow residents to live in home settings rather than nursing homes as they age. Each Advantage Care Cottage will provide 24-hour caregiver support for three nursing home eligible seniors in private, residential settings. The cottages are great alternatives for individuals who need round-the-clock care but do not want to move into nursing

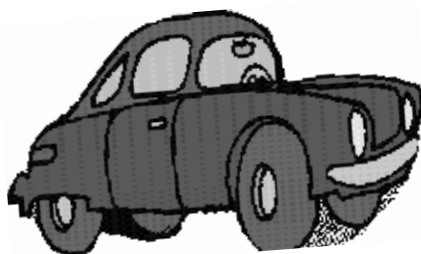
homes or other institutions. They are homes in normal neighborhoods, not different from other well-kept homes. B.V.N.A feels that these cottages are among Pennsylvania's most innovative approaches to senior care. We will be looking forward to hearing more about this alternative care environment. We know seniors prefer to age in the community rather than institutions. As more information becomes available about this innovative program we will be sure to share it.

The Jewish Family Service Food Pantry welcomes contributions of canned and dry foods, personal care and paper products.



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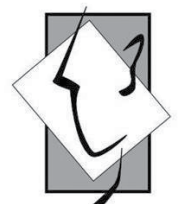
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**Contributions as of May 17  
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Herman Neugroschel – Rosalye Yashek

**In honor of:**  
Ed Lakin receiving an honorary doctor of laws degree from Albright College – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Alma Lakin receiving an honorary doctor of humanities degree (posthumously) – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Barbara Rosenzweig receiving the Ruth and Irvin Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award – Rosalye Yashek

**Jewish Family Service**

**In honor of:**  
Harry & Mildred Blask’s 70th Anniversary – Barbara Nazimov  
Barbara Rosenzweig receiving the Ruth and Irvin Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award – Andy and Corinne Wernick  
Dr. Paul Levy and Susan Tobey’s marriage – Kevin Horowitz

**In memory of:**  
Bernie Toll – C. Harold Cohn  
Robert Mellon – Marcia and George Eligman  
Anna Schneider – Andy and Corinne Wernick

**Federation Jewish Community Campaign**

**In honor of:**  
Zena & Harvey Hafetz’s grandson Max’s Bar Mitzvah – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Yvonne and Rob Oppenheimer  
Birth of Al and Betsy Katz’s grandson Lior – Jay & Evelyn Lipschutz, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer  
Rachel Spinrad’s engagement – Jackye and Jim Barrer  
Birth of Carol and Gordon Perlmutter’s new grandson Spencer – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer  
Ann Leisawitz’s wonderful Music Discovery class – Sylvia Wenger  
Helaine and Peter Schiffman’s granddaughter’s engagement – Carol and Bernie Gerber  
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Naomi Michelson – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Jack Sherman – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Eric Waxler – Yvonne and Rob Oppenheimer  
**COLLEGE AND OTHER GRADUATES**  
Brad Abramson (MBA) – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Barbara Nazimov

**Honorials and Memorials**

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<b>Doris Levin Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>

Jacob Fromm – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Brooke Gunter – Betsy and Al Katz  
Liza Mitgang – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Barbara Nazimov, Betsy and Al Katz  
Andrew Oppenheimer – Betsy and Al Katz,  
Madelyn Robinson (MBA, MSA) – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Barbara Nazimov, Betsy and Al Katz  
Rebecca Robinson – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Barbara Nazimov, Betsy and Al Katz  
Michael Saidman – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Ben Ueberoth – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Barbara Nazimov  
Brian Wernick (Medical School) – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Barbara Nazimov

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Helen Ritter – Carol and Bernie Gerber

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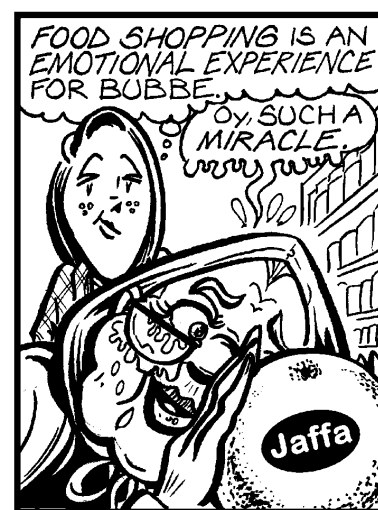
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**In memory of:**  
Edward Coopersmith – Susan Schlanger  
Dorothy Schlanger – Beth and Bob Caster  
Nathan Goldberg – Beth and Bob Caster

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# IF WE DON'T TEACH OUR CHILDREN WHO THEY ARE



# OTHERS WILL

As they grow up, young Jews will face challenges to their beliefs and identity. We believe the best way to protect our children against ignorance and hate is to educate them. From the pride of a preschooler learning his first Hebrew words to the confidence of a college student prepared to grapple with anti-Israel sentiment on campus, we're strengthening Jewish identity and inspiring a life-long connection to Jewish values. But we need your help.



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