

SHALOM SPRINGFIELD



JEWISH FEDERATION OF SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 2021 Kislev/Tevet 5782 Issue #222

Springfield Chapter of Hadassah & Jewish Federation of Springfield/
Jewish Community Relations Council present

ISRAEL TODAY & TOMORROW

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. CT

Zoom Presentation



Daniel Aschheim

Deputy Consul General at
Consulate General of Israel to
the Midwest

Daniel Aschheim (Ph.D.) previously served as Consul for Public Diplomacy at the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest. He was appointed to this Chicago-based post in September of 2020. Aschheim comes to Chicago from West Africa, where he served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Israeli Embassy in Dakar, Senegal.

RSVP by Monday, December 27
to rsvp@shalomspringfield.org
or 217.787.7223 ext. 18.



Arden Lang

MESSAGE

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I thought it would be appropriate for me to do some cursory research about Hanukkah, before sitting down to write this month's column. I always have trepidations mentioning anything about Jewish practices and beliefs. That is especially true of this subject. After all, if you are reading this article, you most likely know far more than I do about a host of subjects related to the Festival of Lights. Many of you are scholars on the subject or spent years in Cheder. And even the youngest among us will have formed strong holiday impressions and memories. To counter my deficits, I turned to a most familiar source - the Internet.

While I do find myself googling my way through the day, I maintain my (retired) lawyer's skepticism of all apparently true matters I come across while surfing. In this case, I entered the word "Hanukkah" into my browser and discovered many things. My first observation is that the Internet is not always right. It has its limits. More of this later.

Almost immediately, I realized that my internet search results were top heavy with lists promising enlightenment in a series of five, eight, ten, or more Hanukkah facts. The list titles let me know these facts would be "fun," "everything I needed to know," "fascinating," or a combination of the above. The lists linked to articles from *The Reader's Digest*, *Good Housekeeping*, or *Dictionary.com*, or other scholarly publications.

My eye was immediately drawn to an advertisement offering "Stylish Judaica for Cool Jews." I am aware of scholarly Jews, pious Jews, and, sadly, wayward Jews. But what, I wondered, is a cool Jew? And, do I really want to know?

All the lists I read contained basic information about Hanukkah. It can be spelled more than one way. It derived from the Maccabean Revolt in the second century BCE. Hanukkah means "dedication." Some lists explained that the success of the Revolt against the Seleucid Empire led to Jews being able to practice their religion again. The eight day holiday celebrates the miracle whereby upon regaining the Temple, the Jews inside the Temple only had oil to light the lamps for one day, but the oil lasted for eight. (My dad was convinced the real miracle was that the Jews invented electricity, albeit briefly.)

So, what did the Internet get wrong? It's hard to imagine the impetus for this list item, but *Good Housekeeping* reported that Jews decorate homes on Hanukkah with "tons of white and blue."

What interesting point did *Reader's Digest* make? Hanukkah was not celebrated until 250 years after the Revolt. The term, "Festival of Light" was coined by the Jewish historian Josephus. The *Digest* article pointed out that some scholars believe that term refers not to the miracle of the oil but to the state of enlightenment.

And here's what I learned from a Hanukkah merchandise ad. I learned I can become cool if I buy one of seventy featured menorahs. I must confess that the menorahs being sold were attractive. One was overtly political - eight tiles that serve as candle holders spelling out "I dissent" with an RBG carving to boot. Would I be a cool Jew to buy that one, would I be virtue claiming, or would the menorah irritate those Jews who dislike what Ruth Bader Ginsburg stands for?

But what will an internet list never teach us? It can't kindle memories of Hanukkahs past with families and friends, it can list latkes as a Hanukkah food, but it can't evoke the smells of the latkes as they were fried or the taste of a latke topped with applesauce and/or sour cream. It can't sell us an item so Jews can be cool cats (which I just learned on the internet is an NFT, or non-fungible token).

We all know what is cool - Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, a Jewish holiday that has been celebrated since 164 BCE. Hanukkah is an integral part of what makes us Jews.

Happy Hanukkah from Jewish Federation of Springfield.

If the Federation can assist you in any way, if you have questions or concerns, or are in need of financial or social service assistance, please contact Nancy Sage, Executive Director, at (217)787-7223, ext. 12. All calls are confidential and your privacy will be respected.

CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have pledged to the 2021 Campaign.

If you haven't already pledge, it is not too late to do so.



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Thank you for your commitment.

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- Up to \$174

You can also make your pledge electronically at

<https://form.jotform.com/210525556922152>

KNOSH & KNOWLEDGE

Knosh & Knowledge

A monthly hour of relaxed learning and discussion on topics of interest

Just a Knosh with Friends...

We will end our year with a cup of your favorite home brewed morning beverage and discuss plans for next year, including meeting dates, time, and program ideas.

Wednesday, December 15 at 9:30 am

via Zoom

(Please Note: This is the Third Wednesday)

To receive the Zoom link, please RSVP by Monday, December 13 to rsvp@shalomspringfield.org or 217-787-7223, ext. 18



DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 7:30 pm Fed. Bd Mtg 6:15 TBS Candle Lighting	2 5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism 5:30 pm Chabad Public Menorah 6:15 TBS Candle Lighting 7 pm TI Bd. Mtg.	3 11:30 am Fed JCRC Healthy Foods Distribution 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat & Chanukah Dinner 6 pm TI Shabbat	4 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
5 9:15 am Hebrew 9:30 am Chabad Tefillin Club 10:15 am Religious School 12 pm Fed P2G Jerusalem of Light 6:15 TBS Candle Lighting Chabad Menorah Parade	6 7 pm Hadassah Book Club	7	8 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	9 5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism	10 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	11 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service 4 pm TBS Get Comfortable in the Sanctuary
12 9:15 am Hebrew 10:15 am Religious School 2 pm TBS Exec. Bd. Mtg	13 6 pm TBS Adult Ed	14 1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club	15 9:30 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge	16 5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism 7 pm JCRC Mtg	17 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	18 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
19 9:15 am Hebrew 10:15 am Religious School	20 6 pm TBS Adult Ed	21 6:30 pm SBJE Bd Mtg	22	23 5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism 7 pm TI Adult Ed	24 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	25 9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service Christmas
26	27 6 pm TBS Adult Ed	28 7 pm TBS Bd Mtg	29 12:10 pm Fed Exec. Committee Mtg 7 pm Hadassah/JCRC Program	30 5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism	31 New Year's Eve 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER

Partnership2Gether Report

Over the years we've had numerous discussions about identifying shared interests among members of the Jewish community and organizing activities around those interests. Ideas raised in those discussions included camping, gardening, cooking, etc. The Maimonides Society for health care professionals and the Cardozo Society for attorneys serve a similar function.

Our affiliation with Partnership2Gether opens up the opportunity to meet Jewish people outside of Springfield with whom we share interests with the added benefit of engaging with people across 16 US communities, Hungary, and the Western Galilee region of Israel.

For example, Partnership2Gether offers opportunities for those who enjoy international travel via Discovery Tours and periodic summit gatherings; for those who enjoy reading and discussing works of literature via the P2G Book Club; and for health care professionals who are interested in international continuing education activities via the Medical Committee.

Last month, Partnership2Gether launched a 'community of interest' initiative in a new area: the P2G Film Club. Gloria Schwartz participated and offered the following comments on the first session of the film club, which was devoted to the classic Israeli film Sallah Shabati:

The discussion on the movie was given by Meron Alon – a High School film teacher. He is also a director, photographer, and writer. He is from the Western Galilee.

The movie Sallah Shabati was produced in 1964. It was the first movie that was not underwritten by the government. Menachen Golan, an important producer of American films, was able to get the support he needed.

The movie is about immigrants making aliya to Israel from mostly Arab countries and their resettlement in Israel. The other movies about the subject were full of propaganda. Instead of showing how well the people were integrating, how well they were being taken care of (e.g, they were promised they would move out from camps in a matter of a few month) the film showed that the reality was very different. Sometimes it was years before the immigrants were able to leave the camps and get a real apartment. Topol, who played Tevye in the movie of Fiddler on the Roof, was the star of Sallah Shabati.

Thanks to Gloria for participating in this initial session of the P2G Film Club. The club offers an opportunity to get together – virtually – with others to share reactions to films of Jewish interest. Watch for the announcement of the next P2G Film Club session.

Harry Berman, *Partnership2GETHER Chair*



PARTNERSHIP2GETHER WESTERN GALILEE PRESENTS

Women's ROSH HODESH GATHERING

For Details and to RSVP
rebrand.ly/P2G-Hodesh

JANUARY 16 2022	12:30 PM CT	19:30 BUD 20:30 ISL
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• Rosh Hodesh ceremony
 • Women Make a Difference:
 Alayna Altman, JOFEE (Jewish Outdoor, Food and Environmental Education) Director at Louisville's JCC.
 • Learn2Gether Session

PARTNERSHIP2GETHER



JERUSALEM OF LIGHT

JOIN A LIVE TOUR OF NACHLAOT



Last Night of Hanukkah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

12:00 PM CT | 20:00 ISRAEL

[RSVP](#)

A tour of menorahs in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Nachlaot the last night of Hannukah!



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SAGE NOTES



Nancy Sage
Federation Executive

December marks my sixth anniversary serving the community as your Federation's Executive Director. When that position became open six years ago, I thought long and hard about even applying. I was happy as a Federation volunteer, and I was honored to serve both on the Springfield Federation Board, and on the national board of the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). Those experiences brought home to me the importance of community as well as being part of the larger collective. I had the opportunity to see how the words on our logo "The Strength of a People; The Power of Community", which mirror the words on JFNA's logo and the logos of many local Federations, are put into action. The words resonate with and reflect our mission, how we work, and our impact locally, nationally, and internationally. While Springfield is considered a "small" Jewish Federation because of our size and the size of our campaign,

we draw strength from our membership in the national collective as they do from us, and as we do from each other. And, in Springfield and vicinity, by serving as the umbrella for our community, we uphold and are driven by the ideal of community. It was my belief in and commitment to Jewish community and the collective that motivated me to apply for the Executive Director position.

I now begin my seventh year as Executive Director. Coincidentally, we have just celebrated the holiday of Thanksgiving and are in the midst of the observance of Hanukkah. Among the things for which I am thankful is the opportunity to be part of a Jewish community and to be able in my work to devote myself to the community's well-being. Hanukkah celebrates the freedom to practice our faith, the courage to persist and endure in the face of oppression, and the miracle of Jewish survival over the centuries. Key to our survival has been our ability to unite, to come together as a community, and to care about and to take responsibility for each other whether globally, across the country and, of course, locally.

Within my first week of serving as Executive Director, in the aftermath of area flooding, JFNA reached out to find out if we needed financial assistance. Thankfully, we did not. From that experience alone, I know that if we were ever in need as a community, we would receive help, as we are part of the collective. Federation is uniquely situated to assist our entire community through participation in the Federation collective. For example, through the LIFE & LEGACY program, Federation and both temples earned incentive grants by each receiving a minimum of 18 legacy commitments annually for two years. The technical assistance workshops provided by JFNA and SCN (Secure Community Network) for the Federal Government's National Security Grant Program for faith-based institutions assisted the two temples in applying for and being awarded grants. Last year's JFNA's social service matching grant continues to help people within the community who are in need.

Each of us as individuals has different interests and strengths. In a community we are able to utilize the unique strengths of each of us in order to benefit everyone. Community doesn't require uniformity; we recognize and honor differences in outlook, opinion, and in the ways that we express our Jewishness. What community means is that we respect and care for each other, that we make use of and appreciate everyone's talents, that we reach out, and work together. Community for us also includes our greater Springfield community which we serve through projects such as the Healthy Foods Distribution, the Rosenwald Initiative, and inviting interfaith partners to participate in the seminars sponsored by JFNA for the National Security Grant.

While it has been more difficult to "experience" community over this past year, the importance of community is magnified. As the end of 2021 approaches, I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I know that we will all draw sustenance and strength in the year ahead from being part of a community.

JCRC—FOOD INSECURITY

Jewish Community Relations Council Healthy Foods Drive-Thru

**Friday, December 3, 2021
11:30 am (while supplies last)
Location: Temple Israel**

**Please wear a mask and clear a space in your trunk or back seat
to ensure everyone’s safety!**



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unique and meaningful memorial that truly celebrates the life it represents.*

IN THE COMMUNITY

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to the family and friends of:

John Woods, spouse of Eydee Schultz

&

Len Lieberman, father of Miriam Lacey

&

Gisela Martin, mother of Randolph Martin, MD

Z"l

MAZEL TOV

To:

Dr. Stephen Stone, on his retirement from SIU School of Medicine.

Mark and Sari Wancket on the birth of their twin granddaughters Len Raleigh Spriggs-Wancket and Charlie Marilyn Spriggs-Wancket

THANK YOU

Bernie Schoenburg, who interviewed Howard Reich for our *Prisoner of Her Past* Education & Culture Committee program.

JCRC's October Healthy Foods Distribution

Volunteers: Joel Abramowitz, Denise Arjmand, Pam Cohen, Cary Israel, Steve Rambach, Bob Roth, Annette Schwartz, Denise Simon, Tony Zaleski and to Rick Griminger, Volunteer Coordinator, and Ralph Loewenstein, JCRC Healthy Foods Distribution Chair.



Shalom Springfield is generously underwritten with support from the following community partners:

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Bisch & Sons Funeral Home, www.dignitymemorial.com (217)544-5424

Feuer-Brozgold Legacy Fund



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LEGACY FUND

Len & Gail Lieberman Future of Springfield Fund

In Memory of:

- Len Lieberman**, from Les & Sara Eastep
- Len Lieberman**, from Julie Zolghadr
- Len Lieberman**, from Howard Chodash, MD
- Len Lieberman**, from Dani, Craig, & Annya Glass
- Len Lieberman**, from Norman Sherman
- Len Lieberman**, from Marsha & Andrew Gordon and Andrea & Philip Sayles
- Len Lieberman**, from Bethany Genenbacher Harbour
- Len Lieberman**, from Debi & Jerry Iams
- Len Lieberman**, from Howard & Lori Hammel
- Len Lieberman**, from Ted & Pam LeBlang
- Len Lieberman**, from Bernie & Kim Schoenburg
- Len Lieberman**, from Grady & Kathi Holley
- Len Lieberman**, from Pat & Nancy Chesley
- Len Lieberman**, from Ed & Sonia Gerson

Chaverim Fund

In Memory of:

- Gisela Martin**, from Stephen & Lisa Stone

Stephen & Lisa Stone Philanthropic Fund

In Memory of:

- Gisela Martin**, from Stephen & Lisa Stone

Hexter Fund

In Memory of:

- Gloria Cohen**, from Erin Sabath
- Gloria Cohen**, from Geri Binkin
- John Woods**, from Ted & Pam LeBlang
- John Woods**, from Les & Sara Eastep
- John Woods**, from Bernie & Kim Schoenburg
- Gisela Martin**, from Joan Rosen

Chodash-Bernsen Health Education & Promotion Fund

In Memory of:

- Diane Chodash**, from Jay & Carol Kitterman
- Diane Chodash**, from Rayna Forman
- Diane Chodash**, from Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Torgerson
- Diane Chodash**, from Pat & Nancy Chesley

Mogerman Family Fund

In Memory of:

- Susan Mogerman**, from Matteo Signorino