Jewish Federation OF MADISON

Madison

JEWISH NEWS

December 2015
Kislev-Tevet,5776

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A Letter to the Madison Jewish Community

Thank you. For 75 years, it has been you, and those who came before you, who are and have been the pillars – the very foundation – of our vibrant Jewish community. Without your financial support and commitment to the work of the Jewish Federation of Madison it is no exaggeration to say that the Federation would not exist as we know it.

Your support enables the Jewish Federation of Madison to do so many good things all around the world and right here at home. Your **one gift** benefits ***so many***, including securing the lives and safety of the Jews of Ukraine; protecting and advocating for the far too many Jews who face an onslaught of anti-Semitism; helping to settle thousands of Syrian refugees through the JDC and HIAS; supporting the Fund for Victims of Terror, which provides direct and immediate assistance to Israelis after there has been an attack; and so much more.

Locally, your one gift benefits Camp Shalom; Midrasha: Madison's Hebrew High School; the Hilde L. Mosse Gan HaYeled Preschool; Israel programming; five beneficiary agencies; our exceptional Outreach program, which successfully integrates newcomers into our Jewish community, family education programming, and more.

Your one gift helps support all of these initiatives and so many others.

What happens in the next month will determine our direction and capacity to meet the ever-growing and critical needs of our Jewish community here in Madison, in Israel, and throughout the world. At the time this article goes to print, we still need to raise $262,287 in order to reach our goal.

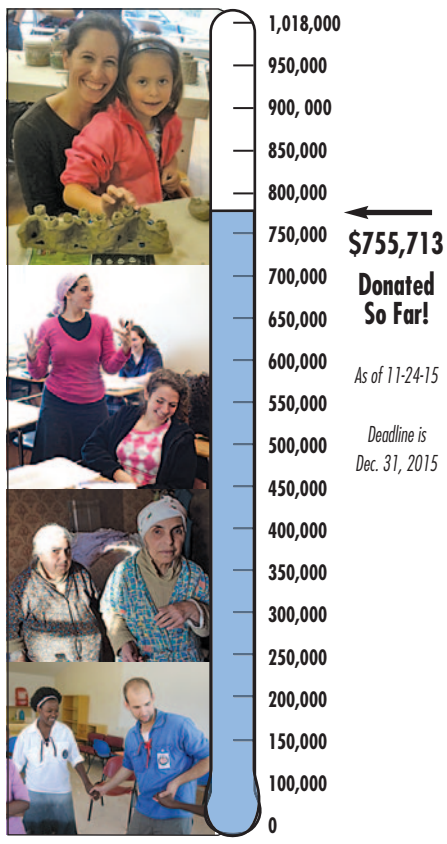
To everyone who has already contributed to the Jewish Federation of Madison's 75th anniversary campaign, thank you.

If you would like to increase your gift – another thank you.

If you have not made your gift yet, please do so right away while remembering all that your one gift does here and everywhere.

Thank you for your generosity, support and loyalty. The Jewish Federation of Madison remains strong because of you.

B'Shalom,
Dina Weinbach, Executive Director



Please donate online at JewishMadison.org or contact Lynn Kaplan at lkaplan@jewishmadison.org or 608-442-4076.

Eric Schwartz Receives Ben Minkoff Volunteer Service Award

This award was presented by Jordy Loeb, the 2014 recipient, at the Federation's Annual Meeting

The Ben Minkoff Volunteer Service Award is named in memory of former Jewish Federation of Madison president and founder of Camp Shalom, Ben Minkoff. The recipient of this award must have a record of committed service to the Jewish Federation of Madison and the Madison Jewish community stretching over a period of time doing volunteer work beyond its usual definition. Traditionally, the identity of the award winner is kept secret until the Annual Meeting.

We are thrilled to announce that Eric Schwartz is the 2015 recipient of the Ben Minkoff Volunteer Service Award. Eric is a long-time Madisonian. He grew up in Chicago, came to college here, loved it, and has lived here ever since. He grew up in a Jewish family in Chicago but they were not active in the Jewish community.

Eric became involved in the Madison Jewish community through his close and dear friend, Larry Shapiro. Eric admired Larry's involvement in and dedication to Jewish life in Madison. Larry truly inspired Eric to become active, an example of kindness and generosity in the Jewish community. After Larry died, Eric carried on as a tribute to him, with the same sort of energy and devotion.

Eric is also passionate about Israel. He and his wife, Sara, have traveled to Israel frequently. They have been major donors to the Jewish Federation of Madison annual campaign for many years. They were early supporters of the Goodman Campus, advertisers in the *Madison Jewish News*, plus donors to the Hava Nagila Jewish community picnic and other community events.


Eric Schwartz and family

Eric's many leadership contributions include serving as a Board member and an officer for UW Hillel. He was instrumental in the area of finances, financial record-keeping, the Hillel capital campaign, and the management of the building, kosher café and meal program. Eric was chair of the finance committee at UW Hillel and was responsible for im-

(Continued on page 4)

Annual Meeting Report of the Executive Director

Editor's note: Dina Weinbach, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Madison, gave this speech at the Annual Meeting on November 15, 2015.

It is both an honor and privilege to stand here as your Executive Director for the 75th Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of Madison. As I reflect on all this organization has accomplished over the past 75 years, I am in awe, I am inspired, and I am reminded what this amazing community can do when we work together.

Our founders did an extraordinary job establishing a solid foundation for what was then known as the Madison Jewish Welfare Fund in 1940. They were insightful and intelligent in creating the foundational documents and in responding to the extraordinary crises then facing world Jewry and our own community. Our community and world Jewry continue to face crises, and our Jewish Federation continues to address them today. Whether it's an earthquake in Nepal, fires in Houston, terror attacks in Israel, resettling refugees from Syria, or anti-Semitism right here at home – our Federation is ready to respond and is committed to ensuring the survival, well-being and continuity of the Jewish people in the Madison area, in Israel and throughout the world.

Every year since its conception, the Jewish Federation of Madison has remained strong and has added to its accomplishments. This past year, the 75th anniversary, was no exception. Highlights include:

• A building plan for the **Federation Headquarters**, thanks to the Building Headquarters Committee expertly co-chaired by Eric Schwartz and Joe Shumow. Both Eric and Joe are here tonight if people would like to talk with them about the proposal.

• $250,000 in improvements to the **Goodman Campus**, thanks to a grant from the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Foundation. The Goodman Foundation has been a true partner and supporter of many of the projects carried out by the Federation. They have our utmost gratitude and appreciation for their consistent

(Continued on page 10)

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Promote your business by becoming a Federation website sponsor

The central information source for the entire Madison Jewish community

Three annual sponsorship opportunities available:
Platinum $10,000 Gold $5,000 Silver $2,500

Website sponsorship offers you the opportunity to promote your business among our community's 6,000 members. In addition to making a valuable business choice, you'll be supporting vital services that serve both the Jewish and general community.

The Jewish Federation of Madison website serves as the central information source for the entire Jewish community. More than 2,000 individuals visit JewishMadison.org each month. Members of other Jewish communities who are planning to move to Madison also depend on the Federation website for information about where to live, work, and shop.

As a Federation website business sponsor, you'll receive the following recognition in appreciation of your support:

■ Your business name and logo will be prominently displayed on the Jewish Federation website homepage. Your business logo will also link to your website.

■ Your business will be featured in an individual recognition announcement in every issue of *the Madison Jewish News,* which has a monthly circulation of 2,600 households and 6,000 individuals. The announcement will be given preferred placement and run in full color in the first few pages of the newspaper. The announcement will also include a photo of your choice, which you can change as often as you choose.

■ You'll be invited as our guest to the Federation Annual Dinner, our November event attended by our community's leaders. You'll also receive complimentary passes for the 5,500 square-foot Goodman Aquatic Center pool.

Extra benefits for Platinum and Gold sponsors:

At the platinum level, your business will receive exclusive sponsorship rights for the entire website within your business category. Therefore, your organization will be the only website sponsor within your area of business.

At the platinum and gold levels, your business will receive larger logo displays on the website homepage and larger newspaper recognition announcements.



For information about becoming a website sponsor,
contact Tiz Goff, Community Outreach Coordinator,
773-620-4404 or outreach@jewishmadison.org

See How Far Your Gelt Goes



While you and your family are at home lighting the menorah, the gelt you give to the Jewish Federation of Madison is also providing light. Brightening lives around the world.

Your gelt is bringing food and comfort to our elderly in Eastern Europe, trauma counseling to families in Southern Israel, Jewish education for children from Madison to Minsk to Mumbai. And much more.

Your gelt helps the vulnerable in the Jewish community in hundreds of cities and towns around the globe – as well as right here at home. So this Hanukkah, give what gelt you can to the Jewish Federation of Madison. It will brighten your holiday to see how far it goes.

75 YEARS Jewish Federation OF MADISON



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Hanukkah Mitzvahthon

Your one stop mitzvah spot! Have fun and make a difference!

Sunday, December 6
3:30pm- 5:30pm
Goodman Jewish Community Campus in Verona

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Madison, Gan HaYeled Preschool, Madison Jewish Community Day School, Yonim, BBYO, MOUSY, MATTY – and more sponsors are joining every day. Contact program@ jewishmadison.org to get involved.

Activities include:

MJCDS Maccabee March: a fun-run for everyone! $5 donation suggested. All proceeds will go to buying gifts from a wish list for families in need; MJCDS students will shop for the gifts and wrap them for the holidays.

Gan HaYeled Stuff the Box with Socks: one of the things shelters say they need the most at this time of year is socks and undergarments. Bring new or gently used donations and help us fill the box to the top!

Yonim Design a Dove: Did you know that Yonim means dove? And doves are a symbol of peace. Join us for decorating doves to be donated to local hospitals and nursing homes as decorations for the holidays.



Other activities include making cards for lone soldiers, dreidel games and Hanukkah crafts, and more mitzvot than you can imagine all in one place!

Please bring canned food, school supplies and winter coats to donate.

Please contact Ellen Weismer to sponsor a mitzvah project or help with planning this program, program@jewishmadison.org

Schwartz

Continued from page 1

proving the financial reports. Countless hours were devoted to this endeavor and he was a tremendous help.

Eric also served on the Jewish Federation of Madison Board of Directors as well as other committees and panels. In 2012, along with his co-Chair, Jon Eckhardt, Eric played a key role in launching the Jewish Business & Professionals Roundtable, a program dedicated to the interests of Jewish business executives and professionals. This could not have happened without his support and expertise.

Eric was extremely helpful in leading the Jewish Federation of Madison Headquarters Committee, established in 2012 to address the needs and future of the facility. Under his leadership, along with co-chair Joe Shumow, the committee analyzed the demographics, site needs, community needs, and prospective real estate for this project. The committee worked with an architect to develop a building plan and, as of today, has a sound proposal for the future of the facility.

Eric has gone above and beyond what any of us would expect in a volunteer and his generosity continues to amaze us all.

According to his wife, Sara, Eric would tell you that his most important role is being a father. She says he is truly an amazing father who is entirely devoted to his four children.

We are fortunate to have Eric in our community. We thank him for his generosity, his hard work, and his commitment and dedication to ensure that the Madison Jewish community continues to be a thriving Jewish community. It is our privilege to present the 2015 Ben Minkoff Volunteer Service Award to Eric Schwartz. Congratulations Eric!



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Children & Youth Service Day
Grades 1 - 12

Monday, January 18
9:00am – 2:00 pm

First Congregational UCC
1609 University Ave, Madison

WORSHIP / SERVICE / EDUCATION

First Congregational UCC, **in conjunction with** *Beth Israel Center, Madison Christian Community, Middleton Community UCC*, **invites children and youth from the greater Madison area to gather as a faith community in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**
Registration coming soon

Contact Beth Copelovitch
education@bethisraelcenter.org or 256-7763

or Jeff Rabe at jrabe@firstcongmadison.org or 233-9751

If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way
— Martin Luther King Jr.







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Upcoming EVENTS

Jewish Federation OF MADISON

Jewish Business & Professionals Roundtable

Breakfast with Guest Speaker Dr. Sussman, Professor of Biochemistry at UW-Madison and Director of the Biotechnology Center
Wednesday, December 2, 2015
7:30 am - 9:00 am
The Madison Club
5 East Wilson Street, Madison WI

We will discuss with Professor Sussman matters related to his own research and the research being conducted on the UW–Madison campus at the biotechnology center. Additionally, we will have him share with us his views of the growth and potential of the biotech sector in Madison and in the state of Wisconsin. Plus, we will ask him for his thoughts on current trends and issues facing researchers in this most important field of scientific discovery

Register at jewishmadison.org or contact Lynn Kaplan at lkaplan@jewishmadison.org or (608) 442-4076.

The Spirit of Hanukkah (for Adults 21+)

Saturday, December 5, 2015
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Vom Foss
3248 University Avenue, Madison, WI

Kosher-style vegetarian tasting featuring traditional Hanukkah foods and liquor/wine pairings. $25 per person. Space is limited. Register by December 1st.

Project Tzeva

Sunday, December 13, 2015
11:00 am-12:30 pm

Project Tzeva's goal is to bring color, simcha, and connection into the community by meeting once per quarter here in Madison and simultaneously in our partner region in Israel, Sovev Kinneret. We share a theme and an art project with the Israelis and each group takes pictures of the art made and posts it to the Project Tzeva Facebook page.

Cost: $10 each / $36 for all four sessions

Future Dates & Themes: March 27th (Masks), June 5th (Tree of Life)



Jewish Dialogue Sessions

Monday, December 14, 2015
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Jewish Dialogue on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Open to everyone in the Jewish community

Would you like to have a constructive, respectful conversation with other Jewish people whose views about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are different from your own? Are you interested in talking about your experiences, feelings, convictions, and questions in an environment that promotes mutual understanding?

Join us for a unique dialogue moderated by Harry Webne-Behrman, a professional mediator, using materials from the Jewish Dialogue Group. Feel free to sign up for one or several. These will continue on a monthly basis throughout the year.

Registration is required. For more information or to reserve a spot please contact Sara at office@shamayim.org. Participants are encouraged to attend more than one session. A $5 contribution is requested for each session.

This program is generously funded by an Innovation Grant from the Jewish Federation of Madison and co-sponsored by Beth Israel Center, Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, Jewish Federation of Madison, Temple Beth El, and UW Hillel.



Schmooze & Tunes Fall 2015 Program

Last date for Fall is Friday, December 4, 2015
9:15 am - 10:15 am
Max Weinstein Jewish Community Building
6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison

Schmooze…

Meet, socialize and network with other parents and their children in the Jewish community. Find out about other great programs in the Gan HaYeled Preschool. Get to know other families with children who are between the ages of 3 months – 3 years (older child welcome with younger sibling).

Tunes…

The Hilde L. Mosse Gan HaYeled Preschool has created a special program with Liron Weiss, who has a background in early childhood education. Liron will be offering music classes for families in the Jewish community on Friday mornings in the conference room of the Jewish Federation of Madison. The sessions involve informal singing, moving, and instrument-playing activities that are appropriate for very young children and their caregivers.

Each week, following the music portion of class, we have schmoozing time and a delicious, homemade challah snack. This is a great way to meet other families and introduce your children to Jewish friendships that may last a lifetime!

For more information, contact Rachel at gan@jewishmadison.org or call (608) 278-1808.



Hanukkah Mitzvahthon

Sunday, December 6, 2015
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Goodman Jewish Community Campus in Verona

Please join us as we have a MJDS Maccabee March to benefit families in need, Gan HaYeled Stuff the Box with Socks to benefit shelters in need, Yonim Design a Dove to be given to patients in hospitals and nursing homes, making cards for lone soldiers and more. Please contact Ellen Weismer with a Mitzvah project or for more information at program@jewishmadison.org.

Remarks from the New Federation President

Marc Shovers was elected President of the Jewish Federation of Madison at the 75th Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2015. The following were his remarks.

Thank you. First of all, I'd just like to say, Mom, I told you that I'd be elected president one day! Seriously, I am incredibly honored and humbled to be elected President of this outstanding organization. To paraphrase Jim Stein's speech last month at the Federation's 75th Anniversary Gala, I feel like I am standing on the shoulders of greatness -- the shoulders of the many dedicated men and women whose tireless work built this organization into what it is today. Many of these leaders are here tonight, continuing their service to our Jewish community. To them, I offer my thanks -- and a warning that I'm probably going to bother you all at some point, asking for your advice, guidance, and assistance.



Marc Shovers, seated left, and family

When Andrea Stein called and asked me to join the Gan HaYeled Committee 17 years ago, I never thought that my acceptance of her invitation would lead me to a continuous and high level of involvement with the Federation. And neither did my wonderful wife, Jan, or I'm sure she never would have encouraged me so forcefully to join the Gan Committee. "Our son is going to the preschool. You should join the committee for a couple years so you know what's going on." Before I knew it, I was chair of the committee, handed a pair of tongs, and asked to start grilling hot dogs for Gan's fundraiser at the Annual Hava Nagila Jewish Community picnic.

But if it weren't for my involvement with Gan, I probably wouldn't have met a lot of the people who became some of our closest personal friends. Their children became best friends with our children. If I hadn't been asked to grill hot dogs, I may never have even gone to the picnic. And if I didn't go to the picnic, I probably wouldn't have met so many of the talented and interesting members of our community who inspired me to deepen my commitment to the Federation. My tenure on the Gan committee started my involvement, and through this involvement I learned about many of the other wonderful programs operated or supported by the Federation. Our kids spent many blissful, and exhausting, summers at Camp Shalom, and Sam and Ben became enthusiastic participants in Midrasha Hebrew High School. Both boys participated in the Mifgash program with our P2G community, meeting and visiting Israeli teens on their Camp Interlaken trip to Israel. And Jewish Social Services was an invaluable resource when my parents moved to Madison, and its programs helped integrate them into the community.

Of course none of these programs and resources would be possible without the generous financial support of all of you in this room, and the hundreds of others who are not here tonight but who contribute to our annual Tzedakah Campaign. For that tremendous support, I thank you all. As co-chair of this year's campaign, it shouldn't come as a surprise to any of you that I have to take this opportunity to ask you to give early and give often. And if you are a solicitor, please keep up your outstanding work and continue to make your calls!

I'm not just honored to be elected President tonight, I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue to give back to this organization that has given so much to my family and me. This is an exciting time for the Federation, as our Headquarters Committee explores options to expand our facilities, the Long Range Planning Committee looks to prepare for the future needs of our community, and our outreach program makes tremendous efforts to reach out to newcomers. I look forward to tackling these issues with our new board and our peerless professional staff. Working together, we can accomplish great things. Thank you very much.

Major Donors Honored at Appreciation Dinner

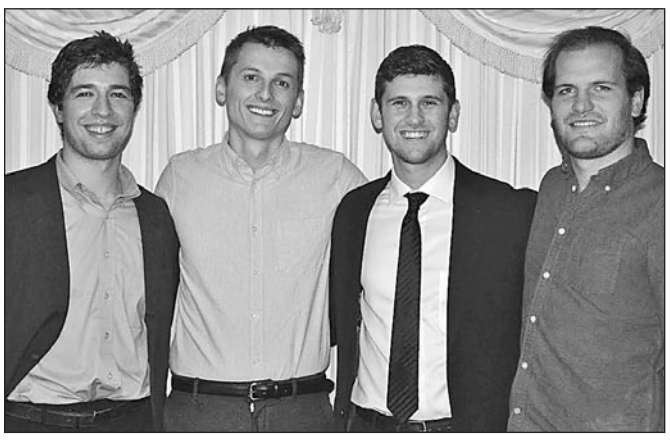
In recognition and appreciation for their extraordinary generosity, Major Donors to the Jewish Federation of Madison's 75th Anniversary Tzedekah Campaign were honored at a dinner at Nakoma Country Club on October 27. Community members enjoyed a lovely meal hosted by Marv Levy. Following dinner, guests were treated to a wonderful concert filled with fabulous music performed by Kenny Lyons and musicians from the University Of Wisconsin School Of Music.

Special Thanks… We express our heartfelt appreciation to Marvin Levy for once again generously offering his support of the major gifts dinner. We also thank Jeff Levy of Phillips Distributing Corporation for donating the wonderful wine selection for the evening's reception and dinner.

Thank you also to Judy Schreiber for once again volunteering her expert skill and experience to plan the evening.





















President Remarks from James Stein at the 75th Annual Meeting



James Stein

Good afternoon and welcome, once again, to the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Madison. For the past two years, I have been honored to serve as President of the Federation. As most of you know, I took office three weeks after my wife, Andrea, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Though I received a lot of praise for taking on this responsibility at a time of grief, the truth is that I knew, and my family knew, that serving as President would be healing for me. Andrea, who had a Master's Degree in Jewish Communal Service, always quoted a verse from Pirkei Avot – the Ethics of our Fathers – stating that Rabbi Hillel said: "Do not separate yourself from the community." Though my instinct at that time was to withdraw from the community and everything around me, I knew that the best course of action was to remain engaged – fully engaged – in Jewish communal life. I want to thank all of you for supporting me during that very difficult time and for trusting me as President.

Being President of a Jewish organization is akin to keeping a very large chair warm. The Chair does not belong to you and is too large to warm by yourself. It takes constant effort and teamwork - not the cliché teamwork used by professional athletes and commentators - but the concerted efforts of caring individuals who are willing to commit their time, emotional energy, and financial resources for the betterment of our community and to help those in need. In Jerusalem Talmud, Rabbi Yermiya is quoted as saying "whomever is active in communal affairs, it is like he is active in Torah study." Indeed, Jewish communal service is a mitzvah and preparatory for much greater things, both spiritually and for our Jewish community. But Jewish community activism also is a contact sport that is not for the thin-skinned. A key to survival as a Jewish community leader is recognizing the goodness of each volunteer's Jewish soul – and seeing that service to our community is both a calling and privilege.

Your handouts review our Federation's signature programs, but I'd like to highlight a few of our accomplishments over the past two years, because they emphasize the breadth and complexity of our activities. When I took office, I promised to listen, to challenge you, to promote *Shalom Bayit*, and to keep in mind that we are Jewish, drawing on nearly 6000 years of wisdom and experience to guide us. The Pew Report on Jewish life in the United States had just been published. In response, we decided to use Federation funds to help support activities that have been demonstrated in social science research to increase Jewish affiliation, Jewish literacy, and connections with Israel: namely, Jewish overnight camping, extended trips to Israel, and participation in Jewish Day School. We invested in the One Happy Camper program, made possible by a matching grant from the Grinspoon Foundation, to encourage children to have a residential Jewish summer camp experience. We also allocated funds from our overseas and national budget to support and encourage high school teens to travel to Israel as part of a substantive group delegation or school experience, and we increased our annual allocation to the Madison Jewish Community Day School. The day school is a community gem that makes us very proud. Indeed, it had its first graduating class in 2014.

We secured external funding for our Outreach program, which has successfully engaged individuals and families while helping newcomers integrate into the *community of communities* that is Jewish Madison. Our outreach program's signature perk - the Passport to Jewish Life program - has been a tremendous success and is greatly appreciated by our houses of worship and local agencies. By giving a friendly face to community newcomers through its Coordinator – Tiz Goff – and the Shalom Madison, Shalom Baby, and Yad B'Yad playgroup programs, our Outreach Program epitomizes what has become known as "relational Judaism," after the influential book by Dr. Ron Wolfson, the Fingerhut Professor of Education at the American Jewish University in Los Angeles. Its subtitle "Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community" provides a road map for Jewish community growth - indeed, its survival over the next century - and I encourage anyone interested in the Jewish community's future to read it.

When it comes to the Federation, there is too much to talk about, but in the interest of time, I will simply highlight more of what we accomplished in the past two years: a new and revitalized web page and social media presence; the Innovation Grants Program that has invested in innovative Jewish programming by our community partners; and strong leadership. Our role as the Jewish community's leader was demonstrated by our role as convener of meetings between the lay and professional leaderships of the Federation and local houses of worship three times yearly, to help us work together, as a united Jewish community. Unfortunately, we also had to spearhead community education and coordinated responses to local anti-Semitic and racist graffiti, an anti-Semitic speaker hosted by a local college, and last summer's Israel-Gaza war. But on a brighter note, we have new, younger board members including so-called "millennials," updated processes for local services allocations, and just as important to me, we opened each Board meeting with words of blessing from our treasured community Rabbis, who helped us start each meeting by recognizing the importance and Jewish context of the work we needed to accomplish. We also worked incredibly hard, under the expert guidance, perseverance, and dedication of Joe Shumow, Eric Schwartz, and Joel Minkoff, to find new space for the growing needs of the Federation, Gan HaYeled, and Jewish Social Services.

We are very privileged to have wonderful professional staff. Dina Weinbach, the Federation's Executive Director, has been the most ardent supporter, caretaker, and professional leader of our Federation. She promotes *Shalom Bayit* and cares deeply about our organization, our local agencies, and all of Jewish Madison. She is positive, professional, forgiving, and caring. She has become a dear and trusted friend. Thank you, Dina. The entire Federation staff – including Lynn Kaplan, Ellen Weismer, Anne Shlimovitz, Rozan Anderson, Svetlana Govorukha, Lynne Ballesta, and Tiz Goff are invaluable assets to our community who are overworked, under-paid, and do it because of their love of Jewish Madison.

I'd also like to thank our volunteers, who are too numerous to name, but I have to call out and especially thank my dear friends and Executive Committee members, Jon Eckhardt and Rob Roquitte, for innumerable bike rides with me and emails from me about the Federation. They always gave me wise advice and support. I want to thank Joel and Debbie Minkoff, Diane Seder, Tom Palay, Lester Pines, Eric Schwartz, and Steve Morrison – for always answering my calls and emails. They were patient with my machinations and my mishegash, provided sage advice, and always stepped up with guidance, service, and philanthropy when needed. And finally, I greatly appreciated Joe Shumow and Marc Shovers for their steadfast support, insights, and for injecting levity when I was frustrated.

We are in good hands for the future. My prayer is that we greet that future warmly, with open minds that respect our sacred traditions, the advice of great Jewish sages, as well as the advice of the sages in our community, while simultaneously listening and implementing new ideas as we evolve and strengthen our local and world-wide Jewish communities. Thank you again, for your friendship and support of the Jewish Federation of Madison.

Simchas & Condolences

Mazel Tov on the birth of:

***Eli Hugo Livnat**, to Bekah Friedman and Oren Livnat and grandparents Sally Jones and Aaron Friedman*

***Zara Kaplan Cooper**, to Elisa Kaplan and Ted Cooper, granddaughter of Cathy and Tom Kaplan*

Mazel Tov on the marriage of:

***Sara Beth Temin**, daughter of Rayla Temin, to Jonathan Rothenberg*

Condolences to the families of:

***Marvin Gottlieb**, husband of Rhonda, father of Marci (Neal) Katz*

***Irving H. Rozenfeld, M.D.**, father of Jonathan (Jill Korey) Rozenfeld, grandfather of Jordan and Sydney Rozenfeld*

***Bobbie Kunin**, mother of Dale Kunin (Les Goldsmith); grandmother of Joshua Kunin-Goldsmith (LoLo Noisette), Noah Kunin-Goldsmith (Stephanie Judge); Seth Kunin-Goldsmith; and great-grandmother of Ayla Kunin*

***Helene Sweet**, sister of Marlene (Allan) Novick and sister-in-law to Maier Novick*

The Jewish Federation of Madison expresses its appreciation to these individuals who recently made a tribute donation to honor someone or celebrate a special occasion

In memory of Andrea Stein
Barbara and Al Simon
Denny and Gary Geller

In memory of Irving H. Rozenfeld, M.D.
James Stein

In memory of Gerry Randy
Andrea and Avi Bernstein
Freda and Stephan Lehrer
Amy and Marty Fields

In memory of Nate Rudman
Dee and Ken Stein

In honor of Tiz Goff
Matthew Bernstein

Executive Director Report

Continued from page 1

and generous ongoing support.

• Twenty **Innovation Grants** for community groups and organizations funded over the past three years totaling $71,930.

• **Camp Shalom** completed its 61st summer, the fifteenth at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus, serving 733 campers. **Camp Shalom Noar Bogrim** served 221 sixth through ninth grade campers. The success of Camp Shalom is due to many factors, the staff being the most important. We were privileged to have 105 staff serving our two day camps this past summer.

• $104,000 in **Camp Shalom scholarships** was awarded to 180 campers who would otherwise have been unable to attend camp. Camp Shalom has never denied a child a camp experience based on financial need. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment, and are thankful of the generous support of our scholarship donors.

• A total of $15,500 in full and partial **Gan HaYeled Preschool** scholarships was given to students in one or more of the programs

• In partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camping, the Federation made available up to $1,000 through **One Happy Camper** to help send twenty children to Jewish resident camps for the first time.

• We worked with the **Madison Metropolitan School District** to adopt a holiday policy in regard to accommodations for religious beliefs. The Federation continues to intervene when we hear of problems in the schools and work to find solutions.

• We continue to monitor and respond to incidents of **anti-Semitism** in our community and are ever vigilant in protecting individual and civil rights and safety for Jews as well as for all people.

• **Community Outreach** efforts included meeting with over 50 families who are new to Madison, who recently had a baby, or who want to learn more about the Jewish community. The primary charge of our Outreach Program is to connect and engage individuals and families with the many opportunities available to live Jewishly in the Madison area.

• Our community said goodbye to ten Israelis this past Thursday who came to Madison through our **Partnership 2Gether** program to run the Madison Marathon and spend a week with us learning about our community and building relationships with members of the Jewish community. These connections will continue for years to come. In January of 2017 we will send a delegation to run the Marathon in Tiberias which is in our partnership area in Israel.

• In August, we began the thirteenth year of participating in the **Shlichut** program offered by the Jewish Agency for Israel. We said "L'hitraot" to Mickey, Racheli and Ofek Komar Aziz at the end of their two year Shlichut and welcomed our new Shlichim, Daniel Gill and Shirly Gill-Raiz. They have been working hard to develop, organize, and facilitate Israel educational programs for all parts of the Jewish community.

• **JewishMadison.org** continues to be a wonderful resource for our community. We thank our Web sponsors, BMO Harris Bank, Rubin's Furniture, and Madison Computer Works, for supporting the website this past year.

• Seventeen **Future Directions** participants graduated from our leadership program this past year. Here tonight are: Jami Caspo, Aaron Seligman, Lainie Minkoff, Tiz Goff and Michael Minkoff. We congratulate them and look forward to their continued involvement in the Madison Jewish community.

• 218 community members attended the **75th Gala** this past October. It was a wonderful community celebration in honor of our leaders, our community and our history.

For the sake of time, these are only *some* of the highlights. More programs and activities can be found in the Annual Report which also includes the outstanding local agencies the Federation supports, the national organizations, and the overseas agencies.

I recognize that it takes time, talent, energy and passion to do our work. No report could capture the daily work of the Jewish Federation of Madison and the hundreds of volunteers who comprise it. We are fortunate to have an amazing volunteer network and an expert staff. I am privileged to work with a fabulous professional team. Jim Stein mentioned the Federation staff earlier this evening, but I ask those who are in attendance to stand so we can applaud their dedication and hard work and show our thanks.

As I highlight a small sampling of our work and acknowledge the people who make it all happen, I do so by embracing our challenges and with my vision towards the Federation's future.

• We need to continue to **engage** more people and invite them to join in the programs, activities, and work of the Federation. I invite you to be ambassadors for the Federation and invite people to participate and get involved in the work that we do.

• We need to **insure the success of our campaign**. Without a successful and growing campaign, the Jewish Federation would not and cannot exist. I invite you to be Campaign ambassadors for the Federation and encourage community members to make their annual increased contribution today. Please talk with people about the importance of meeting the ever-changing critical needs and challenges of our community and the Jewish community worldwide.

• The 2014 **Tzedakah Campaign** closed at $1,009,524. The goal for the 2015 75th anniversary Tzedakah Campaign, led by Alicia Schiff and Marc Shovers, is **$1,018,000**. Every year there are significant losses due to death and other reasons. At this point, we are 67% of the way to our goal. I invite you to be ambassadors for the Federation by making your own increased pledge to the 2015 75th anniversary Tzedakah Campaign. If you have already made your pledge, thank you; this evening is the perfect time and opportunity to increase it. If you have not made your pledge yet, please do so right now … I'll be delighted to pick up your signed pledged card before you leave. Thank you.

• The Jewish Federation of Madison Endowment Committee, expertly chaired by Rob Roquitte, has been working on a **planned giving program** for our community. This program has the potential to alleviate some of the uncertainty of the annual campaign if we create more endowment funds and bequests. Leaving a legacy shows our commitment to being Jewish; it shows a desire to live up to the values instilled by our parents, grandparents, and the founders of this organization; it's an opportunity to give back, share our good fortune, and make a difference. We are part of something larger than ourselves and this is a chance to show your support and that you value what is important to our Jewish community. Our goal this year is to enroll 75 or more community members to indicate their intent to leave a part of their estate to the Federation in honor of the 75th anniversary. Please join us in being a leader in this effort by completing a form available on your table. I have already made this commitment and I invite you to be ambassadors for the Federation by declaring your intent to leave a bequest and encouraging community members who are not here tonight to do the same. Thank you.

Knowing and boldly stating what our challenges are is the first and most important step in solving them. We have an excellent Board of Directors and committee members; we have a superb staff. Together, we are working on engagement strategies, educational opportunities, and how to grow and strengthen our annual campaign and other income opportunities. I look forward to continuing our work together to build a strong, dynamic and engaged Jewish community. It is up to us to insure that the legacy we inherited from the past 75 years continues to flourish. L'Dor V'Dor – our Jewish Federation truly is from generation to generation.











Photos from the Annual Meeting







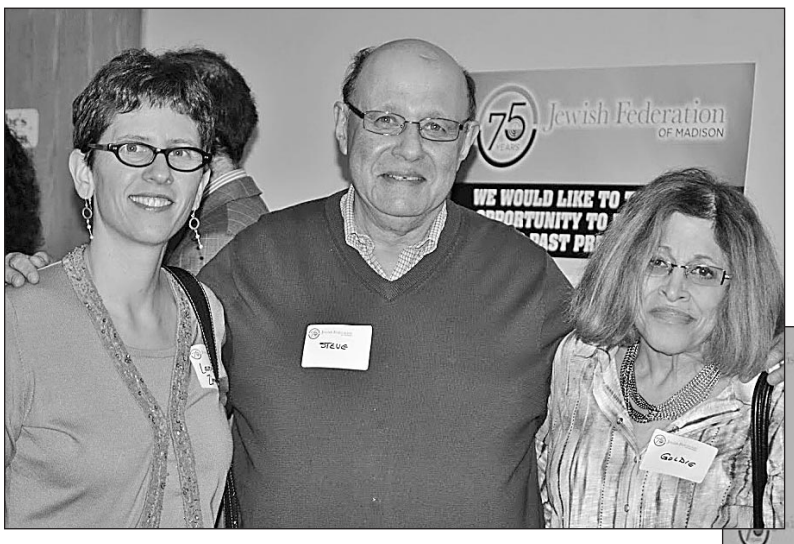


















Congregation News

Temple Beth El • Congregation Shaarei Shamayim • Beth Israel Center

Temple Beth El

Visit us online at www.templebethel-madison.org. All events are open to the community and take place at Temple Beth El, 2702 Arbor Drive, Madison, unless otherwise noted.

We encourage members of the Jewish Community to join Temple Beth El, and we welcome prospective members to participate in programs and activities. Please contact David Hoffert, Executive Director, at (608) 238-3123 or executive@tbemadison.org for membership information.

Office Hours: 9am-5pm M-TH; 9am-3pm Friday.

Our office will be closed December 25, 2015, and will close at 2pm on December 31.

Jewish Congregations for Social Justice Racial Justice Speaker Series

7pm; Thursday, December 3, 2015, at Beth Israel Center

"Criminal Justice System in the Quest for Racial Equity" – Linda Ketcham, Executive Director of Madison-area Urban Ministry

7pm; Thursday, January 14, 2016, at Temple Beth El

"Addressing the Educational Gap in Dane County" – Michael Johnson, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County

Shabbat Starts Here! Weekly Welcoming of Shabbat

Every Friday!
5:30pm Family Fridays Shabbat activities for kids
5:45pm Family Fridays Shabbat service w/songs & stories
6:15pm Informal family-friendly buffet dinner provided* or bring your own
7:15pm Shabbat greeting and gathering before the evening service
7:30pm Shabbat evening service
approx. 8:45pm Oneg Shabbat following the service

*pay what you can, suggested donation $5/person

Everyone is welcome! Come for all or part of the evening.

Learn more at www.templebethel-madison.org

Jewish Summer Camp Style Shabbat Hanukkah

Friday, December 11, 2015
5:30pm—Hanukkah Activities for Kids of all ages
5:45pm—Family Fridays Shabbat Service. Hanukkah Candle Lighting*
6:15pm—Camp Style Family Fridays Shabbat Dinner with a Hanukkah twist.

Latkes | Driedels | Camp Games—Oh My!

Suggested donation $5/person.

7:15pm—Community Hanukkah Candle Lighting*
7:30pm— Jewish Camp Style Friday Night Shabbat Service with D'var Torah teaching by Jerry Kaye, Director of Olin Sang-Ruby-Union Institute (OSRUI). Our campers will be participating in leading the service. Everyone who has been to Jewish summer camp will be called to the Torah for the blessing.

Oneg Shabbat to follow.

* Bring your Hanukkiah and 7 candles to light with us for the 6th night of Hanukkah for whichever service you attend.

Contact Aleeza Hoffert at engage@tbemadison.org or (608) 238-3123

Temple Beth El Kesher Israeli Film Series: "Noodle"

Wednesday, December 16

Temple Beth El Kesher Israel Committee started a five-part film series in August. All films are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Doors open at 7:00pm, with movies beginning at 7:15pm. Israeli snacks provided, discussion following the film.

"Noodle" – A Chinese woman working in Israel for an Israeli flight attendant finds herself suddenly deported for overstaying her work visa. Due to her poor command of Hebrew she is unable to convince the authorities that she has a young child with her. Miri, the flight attendant, finds herself in charge of the child (Noodle) and determines to reunite him with his mother.

The film is a touching comic-drama in which two human beings – as different as Tel Aviv from Beijing – accompany each other on a remarkable journey, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life.

Run Time: 100 minutes, Rated PG, Country: Israel, Director Ayelet Menahemi

Brunch & Movie

Sunday, December 20, 2015
11 am — Brunch at Granite City, West Towne Mall

How about this for a relaxing December Sunday? Join us for brunch at 11:00 am at Granite City Food and Brewery in West Towne Mall, followed by a movie at nearby Point or Sundance Cinemas.

At Granite City (enter directly from the Mall parking lot) you can have your favorite breakfast of eggs, pancakes or French toast, or try their salads, burgers or flatbreads.

In terms of movies, we expect some holiday season knock-outs – including movies with Bruce Willis, Tina Fey, Cate Blanchett and Alvin and the Chipmunks. And lest we forget, the newest from Star Wars.

We will have the movie schedule available at brunch so we can plan ahead and get to our chosen theater on time.

Please RSVP for brunch to engage@tbemadison.org

Chinese Food & Double Feature

Thursday, December 24, 2015
4:30pm "Ratatouille"
6:30pm Chinese Food Dinner
7:30pm "Prime"
$10/person RSVP by Monday, December 21, 2015

Register online or to Aleeza Hoffert at engage@tbemadison.org or you can call (608) 238-3123.

Bring your blankets and pillows and snuggle up for movie night at Temple Beth El. Come for one or both films and dinner. We'll have snacks during the movies and we're bringing in a yummy Chinese food dinner from Hong Kong Café.

Temple Beth El Congregational Retreat

Friday evening, January 15, through Sunday morning, January 17, 2016 (MLK Weekend)

At URJ Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) in Oconomowoc, WI

Join your Temple community for another magical congregational retreat this winter. Rebecca Starr will be our Scholar-in-Residence. Her sessions will center on the theme **"Finding the path to Righteous and Just Living."**

Rebecca Starr comes to us from Michigan with an extensive background and experience as a Jewish adult educator in a diverse set of Jewish communities. For more information and to register visit http://www.templebethelmadison.org/congregational-winter-retreat/ or contact Aleeza Hoffert at engage@tbemadison.org or (608) 238-3123.

Tots and Tunes

2015 Sundays - Dec. 6
2016 Sundays - Feb. 7, Feb. 28, Mar. 13 & Apr. 3
9:30am-10:30am in the Adult Lounge

Fun for all children, newborns to 5 year olds!!!

There will be singing, crafts, challah & juice. Come hang out with leaders Lynn R. and Kenny L. as they teach the tots about Shabbat and Jewish holidays through songs and crafts!

Grades 9-12

For questions about MaTTY, our High School Youth Group, please contact Naomi, at matty@tbemadison.org

Hanukkah Casino Night

Saturday, December 12
7:30pm-9:45pm

Celebrate Hanukkah this year with MaTTY at our Hanukkah Casino Night. We will enjoy delicious Hanukkah treats, light the 7th candle on the hanukkiah, and play dreidel and card games. Bring your hanukkiah so we can light them all together as a community. Feel free to bring your non-Jewish friends to this event so they can learn about Hanukkah, Judaism, and MaTTY!

Cost: $10 for MaTTY Members, $15 for non-MaTTY Members

RSVP by Thursday, December 10, to Naomi Segal at matty@tbemadison.org or online at http://www.templebethel-madison.org/learning/youth/.

NFTY Winter Kallah at OSRUI

Friday, December 18 – Sunday, December 20, 2015

Spend an amazing three days filled with fantastic programs, new friendships, creative services, and snowy adventures at NFTY's Winter Kallah! Register online at www.nfty.org/no/events/winter/. Registration closes after Monday, December 7. If you have any NFTY-related questions please contact Naomi Segal at matty@tbemadison.org.

Grades 5-8

For questions about MuTTY, our junior youth group, please contact Eva, at mutty@tbemadison.org

MuTTY Hanukkah Game Night!

December 5, 2015, 6pm-8pm in the Temple Beth El, Youth Lounge

We will play dreidel among other games, eat sufganiyot (donuts), and celebrate Hanukkah together!

$5 includes dinner, dessert, and games!

Questions? Contact Eva Bernstein at mutty@tbemadison.org

MuTTY Homework Club

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
6:15pm-8:00pm in Temple Beth El's Youth Lounge

MuTTY's December Homework Club will be on Wednesday, December 9 after religious school.

- Get homework done
- Eat pizza
- Make new friends
- And it's totally free!

(Continued on page 11)

FAMILY FRIDAYS Shabbat

Every Friday 5:30–7:00 pm

Welcome Shabbat together with other families
in a casual, joyful and song-filled weekly gathering.
Everyone is welcome! Perfect for ages 0 to 10.

TEMPLE Beth El

Questions? engage@TBEmadison.org
bit.ly/FamilyFridaysTBE
www.templebethelmadison.org
2702 Arbor Drive | Madison, WI 53711

Beth Israel Center

Come see what our traditional, egalitarian community is all about. Please contact Rabbi Joshua Ben-Gideon (rabbi@bethisraelcenter.org), Executive Director Elissa Pollack (elissa@bethisraelcenter.org), or Education Director Beth Copelovitch (education@bethisraelcenter.org) with questions about upcoming events, membership, education for children and adults, or anything else you might like to know about our synagogue. You may also call (608) 256-7763 or visit our website, www.bethisraelcenter.org, for more information.

Here are some highlights from our December calendar:

Kolot Kehilla
Sunday, December 6
9:30-11:00am

Our Sunday morning speaker series featuring the voices of our community (kolot kehilla) continues on December 6 with a discussion called "All You Ever Wanted To Know About Global Warming But Were Afraid To Ask" with Ankur Desai, Associate Professor of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Please consider a $5 donation to offset the cost of this program, which includes a light breakfast.

Hanukkah Party
Tuesday, December 8
5:45pm

We're bringing in kosher Chinese food! And serving latkes and sufganiyot, of course. We'll also play games, enjoy music, and more! The party will start after minyan and Talmud Torah (around 5:45pm). Also, we're collecting new toys to donate, in keeping with the tradition of giving Tzedakah on the third night of Hanukkah. Cost is $18 per person.

MOUSY Program
Saturday, December 12
6:45pm

Calling all high schoolers! Come hang out with other Jewish teens and make no-sew fleece blankets to donate to a worthy cause. Contact Deborah Hoffman at 256-7763 or hoffman@bethisraelcenter.org for details.

Rosh Hodesh Tevet
Sunday, December 13
8:15am

Celebrate the new month during morning minyan at Beth Israel Center. A light breakfast will be served after services.

Yom Rishon
Sunday, December 13
10:00-11:15am

Come experience family education for preschoolers at its finest! Each session includes art, movement, music, stories and snacks as well as age-appropriate learning on a Jewish theme for preschoolers and their grownups. Yom Rishon meets about once a month during the school year. Put all of our 5776 sessions on your calendar: December 13, January 31, February 21, March 13, April 10, May 1.

Hold the Date: Supper Quiz – January 30

Our 8th Supper Quiz will be on Saturday, January 30. Register for this fun Saturday night event as an individual, couple, or team of up to eight people. Watch for more details in the January MJN or subscribe to Beth Israel Center's weekly e-newsletter.

Adult Education Programs:

Conversational Yiddish
Mondays, 7pm, in the Mercaz at Beth Israel Center

Join Yiddish enthusiast and talented teacher Sylvia Grunes at Yiddish class on Monday nights, 7-8:30. Sylvia builds a love for the Yiddish language and culture through her long-running classes. Come learn from a master – all levels welcome and encouraged to attend.

Talmud
Wednesdays, 9am, in the Mercaz at Beth Israel Center

Study Talmud in Hebrew and Aramaic with Rabbis Joshua and Rebecca Ben-Gideon. New students are welcome any time. Contact either Rabbi Ben-Gideon or subscribe to our e-newsletter for information about this year's topic.

Hebrew Reading Level II
Thursdays, 7pm, at Anna's home

This class is designed for those interested in reading Biblical Hebrew through study of the weekly Torah portion. Whether beginner or intermediate readers, all levels of knowledge are welcomed. Led by Anna Heifetz. Contact the office to confirm the schedule and location.

Shabbat Services
Fridays at 5:45pm
Saturdays at 9:30am

Looking for warm, inspiring, and egalitarian traditional Shabbat services? We welcome Shabbat every Friday around 5:00 as people begin to gather and toast the week that was. Lively, song-filled services begin at 5:45.

Our Shabbat morning worship begins with P'seukei D'zimra and continues through Shacharit, Torah service and Musaf. We join together for a communal kiddush lunch after services every week. Children's services for babies, preschoolers, and elementary school age children begin at 10:30 most weeks. Visitors are always welcome!

To receive schedule updates and other information, subscribe to our e-newsletter or "Like" us on Facebook. For the e-news, find "Get our E-announcements" on our website or email office@bethisraelcenter.org and ask to be added.

Temple Beth El

Continued from page 10

Questions? Contact Eva Bernstein at mutty@tbemadison.org

Madison's Jews' Next Dor (20- & 30-somethings)

Madison's Jews' Next Dor ("dor" means "generation" in Hebrew) is for the Jewish 20- & 30-somethings community in and around Madison. We're open to all young adults, and organized through Temple Beth El (http://www.templebethelmadison.org). Join us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/MadisonsJewsNextDor/

The Spirit Of Hanukkah
Saturday, December 5, 2015
6:30pm-9:30pm
Vom Fass, 3248 University Avenue, Madison, WI

Kosher-style vegetarian tasting featuring traditional Hanukkah foods and liquor/wine pairings.

$25 per person. Space is limited.

Register by December 1st

For Adults 21+

Register at http://www.jewishmadison.org/

Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Madison and Temple Beth El

Madison's Jews' Next Dor Meet & Greet Dinner
Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 7pm
Location TBD

Hungry and ready to mingle? All 20- and 30-somethings of the Jewish community are invited to meet, greet, and eat our way through a tasty family-style dinner together. Dinner will be $20 or less per person; please bring cash with you (small bills are appreciated). RSVP appreciated to Aleeza Hoffert at engage@tbemadison.org. Walk-ins welcome.

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim

Shaarei Shamayim, Madison's Jewish Reconstructionist and Renewal congregation, welcomes new and prospective members, as well as visitors, to participate in our services, discussions, classes, and celebrations. For more information or to learn about events, please visit our website at www.shamayim.org, email us at office@shamayim.org, or call (608) 257-2944.

Shabbat Evening Potluck: Get Ready for Chanukkah!
Friday, December 4, 6:00 pm
Please call the office for location.

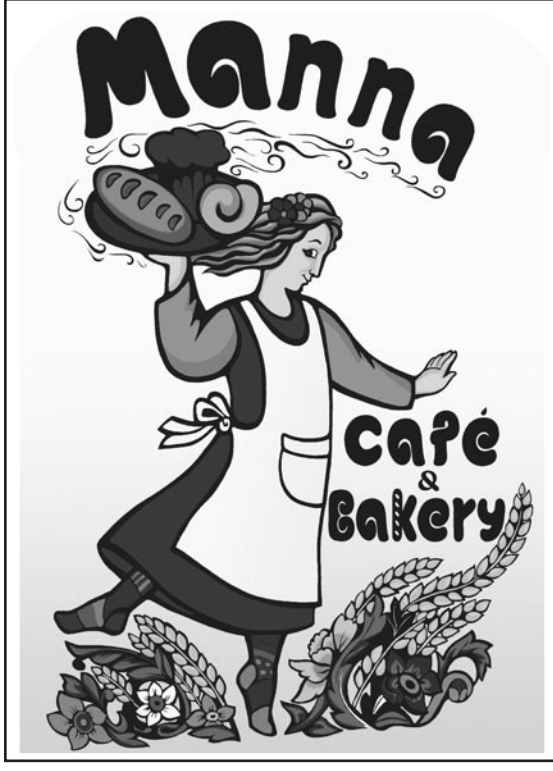
Celebrate Shabbat in community and join us for our monthly potluck in a member's home. It's a very child-friendly space and children are welcome. We will get ready for Chanukkah with games and stories. All are welcome.

Come Light the Menorah: Celebrate Chanukkah with Shaarei Shamayim
Friday, December 11, 5:30 pm
First Unitarian Society
900 University Bay Drive

Gather in the early evening for a festive meal, followed by singing, activities, and games for all ages. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

Shabbat Morning Services
Saturdays, December 12 and 26
First Unitarian Society
900 University Bay Drive

On December 12 the congregation celebrates the bat mitzvah of Lianna Pront. Services begin at 9:30 a.m. and are followed by a kiddush lunch. On December 26 we will have a lay-led Torah study at 9:30 a.m. and service at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.



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New Frances and Laurence Weinstein Professor of Modern European Jewish History

By Meggan Woodbury-Bilotte

The Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies is delighted to welcome Amos Bitzan to the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall as the new Frances and Laurence Weinstein (Assistant) Professor of Modern European Jewish History.

Before coming to the University of Wisconsin, Professor Bitzan was a research fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for the academic year 2014-2015. He began and completed an article there that challenges current understandings of the origins of academic Jewish studies in 19th-century Germany and has recently been accepted for publication by the *Journal of the History of Ideas*. Dr. Bitzan also presented papers at the University of Pennsylvania's Gruss Colloquium on "Doing *Wissenschaft*: The Academic Study of Judaism as Practice 1818-2018" and at a conference on "The Rise of Nationalism and the Nineteenth-Century Jewish Literary Imagination" at Yale University.

Professor Bitzan's current research project centers on the early intellectual formation of the Jewish historian Heinrich Graetz (1817-1891). He argues that Graetz's discovery of the pleasures of reading literature as a young yeshiva student led him to a particular vision of how one ought to understand the history of the Jews: with heart and mind fully engaged. Bitzan became interested in why nineteenth-century German Jewish intellectuals considered the process and content of reading as supremely important. For example, most believed that reading the right kinds of books with the proper sorts of sentimental and cognitive attentiveness was crucial for the cultivation of the individual. At the same time, they cast other types of reading, such as some forms of Talmudic and *halakhic* (Jewish legal) study, as intellectually and morally harmful. Graetz aimed to challenge the religious culture of legally-oriented textual study by proposing one based on the reading of narrative.

Bitzan was attracted to his topic by the mesmerizing accounts Graetz and other nineteenth-century intellectuals recorded in their diaries, memoirs, and letters. He got hooked by the detective work of explaining obscure references, tracking down links among various writers, and tracing the footsteps of protagonists by researching the towns, institutions, and bookshops they frequented. Bitzan hopes his students also come away with a passion (or at least a liking) for the discipline of history, noting that, although historians often disagree on the causes of a particular event and sometimes even on what happened, they share a commitment to transparent analysis of the sources and to understanding past individuals, cultures, and societies on their own terms.

As a scholar in the field of Jewish studies, Bitzan hopes that his students will become familiar with the great insights into major human questions that Jewish thinkers and cultures have produced since antiquity. Studying the experiences of Jews in different regions, states, and societies, also sheds light on the larger histories of those times and places.

Busy Fall Session Brings Controversy to State Capitol

By Michael Blumenfeld, Executive Director

Wisconsin Jewish Conference

After taking a break upon passage of the state budget this summer, the State Legislature reconvened for the Fall Session in September.

Things quickly became controversial when Republican leaders unveiled a series of bills meant to significantly re-structure the Government Accountability Board, change campaign finance law, modify the civil service hiring process for state employees, and limit John Doe investigations involving elected officials.

Many of these bills were quickly passed by the State Assembly, but were modified by the State Senate during an extraordinary session held on November 6. As of this writing, the State Assembly had yet to vote on the amended versions of the campaign finance and Government Accountability Board bills.

The Fall Session officially ended on November 5, but the Legislature can still meet in extraordinary session. The Legislature will officially re-convene in January 2016, and is scheduled to formally adjourn for the 2015-16 Legislative Session in April.

Legislative issues of interest that the Legislature may take action on in 2016, include the following:

Long-term Care Reform: The 2015-17 state budget requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to make significant changes to the state's Medicaid long-term care programs for people with disabilities and older adults, Family Care and IRIS. DHS is set to unveil their proposed plan to create a new program, currently being referred to as Family Care and IRIS 2.0, by April 2016.

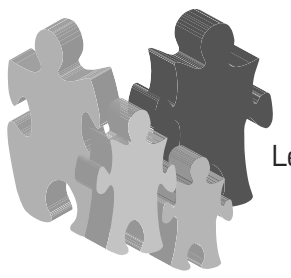
Safe Harbor: Assembly Bill 267/Senate Bill 200 would prohibit a child sex trafficking victim from being charged with prostitution. In addition, the bill requires law enforcement to refer cases where a child is suspected of being forced to engage in prostitution to a child welfare agency for investigation. No action has been taken on this proposal at this time.

Returning 17-year-olds to the Juvenile Justice System: Assembly Bill 378/Senate Bill 280 would return first-time, non-violent 17-year-old offenders to the juvenile justice system—they are currently tried in adult court. No action has been taken on this proposal at this time, but the bills have wide bi-partisan support.

Photo I.D. on FoodShare Cards: Assembly Bill 222 would require FoodShare Benefit cards to contain a photo I.D. of the recipient. The Assembly approved AB 222 in November, and it is now available for a vote before the full Senate.

Window Bill: Assembly Bill 348/Senate Bill 262 removes the statute of limitations for bringing a lawsuit against a member of the clergy for sexual assault involving a child. No action has been taken on this proposal at this time.

Campus Carry Act: Assembly Bill 480/Senate Bill 363 would allow individuals to carry a concealed weapon on UW System and Technical College grounds and in campus buildings. No action has been taken on this proposal at this time.



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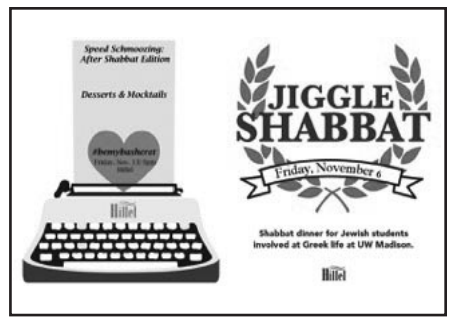
Hillel Puts a New Spin on Shabbat



By Sadie Dorf and Amy Kasmir

Friday night at University of Wisconsin's Hillel is extremely special. Every Friday evening, the pluralistic Jewish student center on campus welcomes in Shabbat with services and dinner that are open to students and community members throughout the Madison community. During the month of November, Hillel hosted numerous themed Shabbat events that a number of students helped to plan. These events attracted both new and familiar faces to the building on Langdon Street and helped Hillel continue to create a sense of community for Jewish Badgers all around Madison.

On Friday, November 6, Hillel hosted Jiggle Shabbat. The Jewish Greek League (Jiggle) aims to promote community, respect, and cooperation among all Jews and non-Jews across Greek Life at UW-Madison. The purpose of this Shabbat was to bring together the Greek Jewish community with other Jewish students on campus. The event was extremely successful and enabled Jiggle, a rising organization on campus, to collaborate with Hillel and welcome myriad students to a fun Shabbat evening that included a delicious brisket dinner. Hillel looks forward to continuing to work with Jiggle on more events throughout the year, including the upcoming Destress Fest on Tuesday, December 8.

In addition to a themed Shabbat service and dinner, Hillel also hosted Speed Schmoozing: After Shabbat Edition on Friday, November 13. The event followed Shabbat services and dinner and provided Jewish students on campus with the opportunity to get to know one another on a more personal level in a relaxed environment. The speed schmoozing event was planned by Hillel's engagement associate, Rebecca Schwab, and a team of student interns. Those who attended the event enjoyed dessert and had the opportunity to get to know their fellow Badgers. The social event was extremely successful as students hung out, talked to new people, and schmoozed the night away.

"Hillel is such a great environment that when you spice things up, such as Shabbat, it really enhances the experience and brings it to another level," stated Miss Schwab. "Allowing various student groups to participate in the planning of Shabbat programming creates something really special. Moreover, these themed events brought a cross-sectional group of students to Shabbat and showcased the amazing programming that takes place at Hillel," she stated. In addition to the student interns, Schwab also works with the Jewish Greek League. She was beyond pleased with the turnout at the November events, specifically the number of new faces that participated in the Hillel Shabbat experience. She looks forward to seeing these students return for Shabbat, including the upcoming themed Camp Shabbat on Friday, December 4, as well as other events and activities hosted by Hillel. The Jewish student organization looks forward to continuing to work with its student interns and student groups in planning, organizing, and promoting future Shabbat services and dinners and other events that attract Jewish students throughout the Madison area.

TBE Kesher Israel Film Series Movie: "Noodle"

Showing Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Arbor Street doors open at 7:00pm

Showing: 7:15pm

Enjoy the usual free snacks, comradery, and post showing discussion.

"NOODLE"

A Chinese woman working in Israel for an Israeli flight attendant finds herself suddenly deported for overstaying her work visa. Due to her poor command of Hebrew she is unable to convince the authorities that she has a young child with her. Miri, the flight attendant, finds herself in charge of the child (Noodle) and determines to reunite him with his mother.

The film is a touching comic-drama in which two human beings – as different as Tel Aviv from Beijing – accompany each other on a remarkable journey, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life.

Run Time: 100 minutes

Rated PG

Country: Israel

Director Ayelet Menahemi



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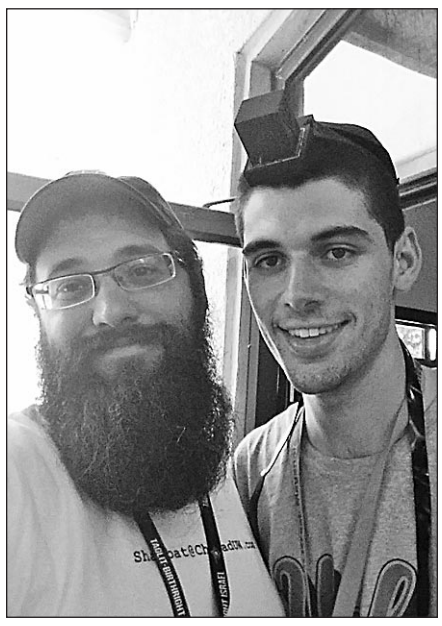
A UW Birthright trip with Chabad.

Birthright with Chabad Leads to Further Jewish Involvement



Josh donning Tefillin in Israel, an integral part of Jewish/Israeli spirituality.

Jillian is a UW student from New Jersey. She had been to Israel a number of times with her family, something she considered merely a rite of passage into Jewish life, not very different than her Hebrew school education and Bat Mitzvah. In the summer of 2015 she joined Rabbi Mendel Matusof and 39 other UW students on a Birthright trip to Israel. Jillian is now leader of the Madison Israel Club, a CAMERA-sponsored group for Israel education on campus. She organizes multiple speaking events on campus every semester to teach the students about Israel and the challenges it faces every day.

Upon arriving in Madison, Eden joined a Jewish sorority, feeling at the time that this was adequate participation in the Jewish community. Arriving in Israel, she learned about the many people, including the IDF soldiers with her on Birthright, who dedicate their lives to a Jewish cause greater than themselves. With this newfound Jewish pride and inspiration, Eden returned to campus, joined Jewish classes and became an active participant in the UW Jewish community.

Birthright Israel, the 10-day free trip for college students and young adults to Israel, is both fun and educational. Many people might see these two goals as mutually exclusive. Either you sit listening to lectures or you are out and about exploring the country.

Chabad's Birthright provider, Mayanot, won a Birthright award for best educational Birthright trip, and it is still known for being a very exciting and fun trip. Rabbi Mendel explains that the education on Birthright need not be in a classroom or from lectures. Because an American rabbi travels with every one of the Mayanot Birthright trips, all the experiences, sights, and trips are seen and discussed, not only from the perspective of Israeli Jews, but from an American perspective as well. Rabbi Mendel says that he wants students to return from Israel with a strong Jewish identity. His goal is to motivate them to be active participants in the Jewish and pro-Israel community, marry Jewish, and raise a Jewish family.

After leading 13 trips for more than 500 students, Rabbi Mendel believes that he has been extremely successful in this goal. What about the goal of making Aliya and returning to Israel? "That is a bonus" he says. "Most American Jews will not be moving to Israel, although some may go back for a semester or a year. Israel and the Jewish world needs more proud, active and engaged Jews, no matter where they live."

Josh is one of seven Birthright participants going to Israel in January for a semester abroad. "While I had thought about studying abroad in Israel before Birthright," he says "the trip with Chabad really sealed the deal for me. We ended the Birthright trip with an amazing couple days in Jerusalem that reminded me how special and connected I feel when walking the streets of that holy city." Josh has chosen to go to Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "Birthright in general and Chabad in particular gave me a small taste of the uniqueness of identifying as a Jew and feeling connected to Israel. I chose to return for a full semester so that it can shape my future and who I will be as an adult. I am not even sure five months will be enough," he said.



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Declaration of Intent to Create Your Jewish Legacy



Be one of the first 75

in honor of the Jewish Federation of Madison's 75th Anniversary! The Jewish Federation of Madison is currently on a campaign to enroll 75 or more members of the community to indicate their intent to leave a part of their estate to the Federation.
A non-binding statement of intent is now available – you can find a link to it at www.JewishMadison.org or please use the form below. Please consider filling out and submitting the form. Although not binding, it displays your best intentions. Thanks for helping us reach our goal of 75 in honor of our 75th Anniversary!

It is with deep satisfaction and an abiding commitment to my community that I sign this declaration so that my intended contribution can provide for future generations and ensure continuity of services and programs in the Jewish community.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____ Email _____

❑ I have already included the Jewish Federation of Madison in my estate plan.

- ❑ I will provide the Jewish Federation of Madison with documentation of my commitment.
- ❑ I prefer to convey my commitment verbally.

My charitable plan includes:

- ❑ Bequest in my will
- ❑ Distribution from my trust
- ❑ Designation from my retirement plan
- ❑ Recommendations from a donor advised fund
- ❑ Gift of life insurance
- ❑ Other (specify) _____

❑ I intend to include the Jewish Federation of Madison in my estate plan and will make this provision during the next _____ months.

Privacy Statement

- ❑ I prefer to remain anonymous and do not want recognition.
- ❑ To encourage others to make commitments that will ensure a vibrant future community, I permit my name to be recognized and listed in printed materials. My name should appear as follows:

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Signature _____

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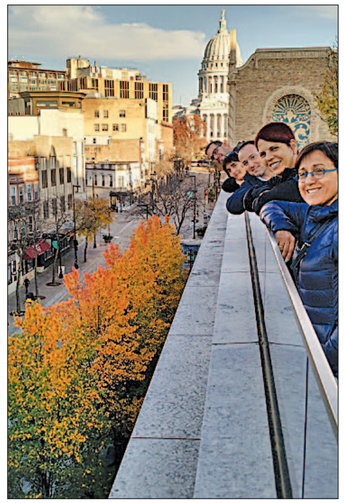
Photos from Our Run2Gether Week With Visiting Israelis, November 4 – 12









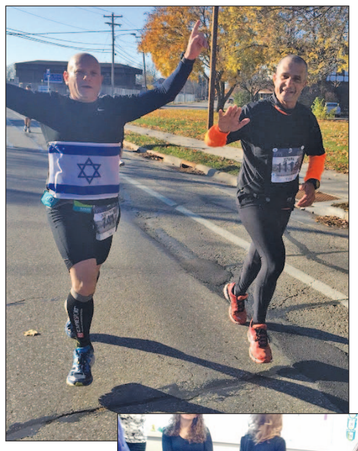






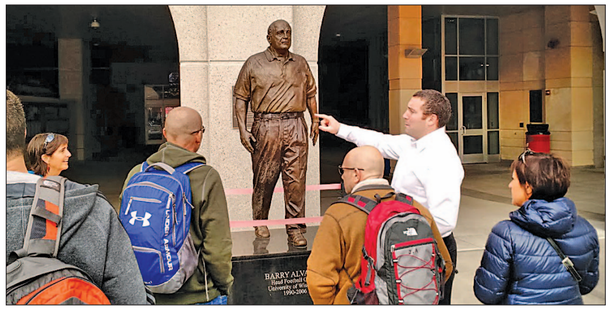
Read all about the week in our Shaliach Daniel Gill's column on page 30 in the Israel and The World section

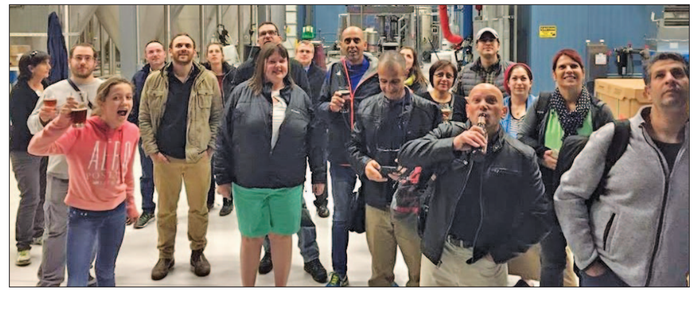








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Sunday, December 6 • 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Goodman Jewish Community Campus in Verona
7762 County Highway PD

Featuring activities organized by the Madison Jewish community:

MJCDS Maccabee March – **Donate dollars** to participate in this fun run/walk. Proceeds will be used to purchase holiday gifts for families in need.

Gan HaYeled Stock the Box with Socks – **Bring new socks** to donate to local homeless shelters. All sizes needed!

BBYO Spin for Schools – **Donate school supplies** for a chance to spin the dreidel and win a prize

MOUSY/MATTY No Sew Fleece Blankets

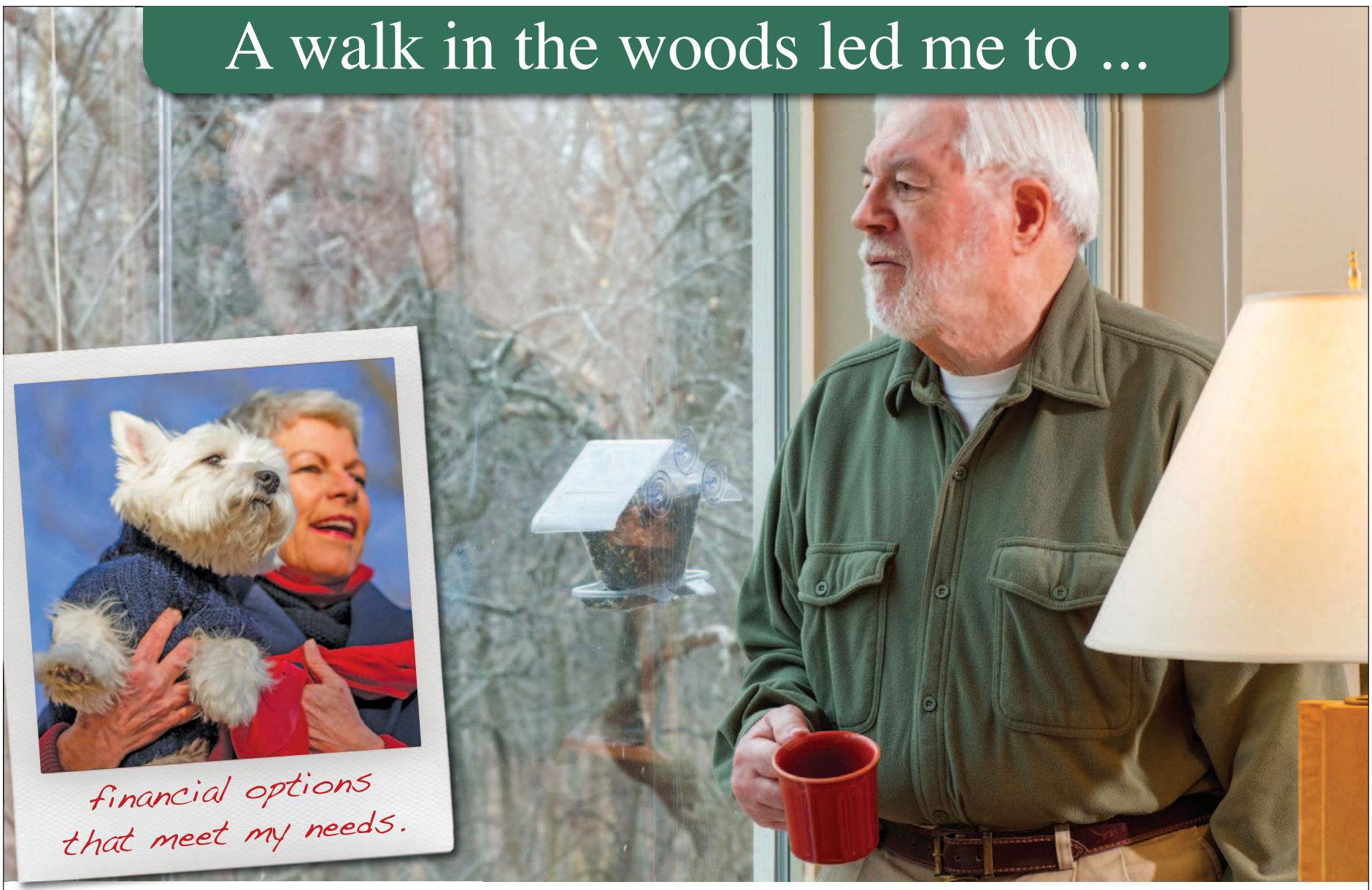
YONIM – decorating doves to donate to local senior centers for holiday decorations

Sufganiyot – **Donate canned foods** and decorate a delicious donut to enjoy

Coat Drive – **Donate a winter coat** and decorate mittens

Remember to bring your donations! This event is organized by the Jewish Federation of Madison's Family Education Committee

A walk in the woods led me to ...



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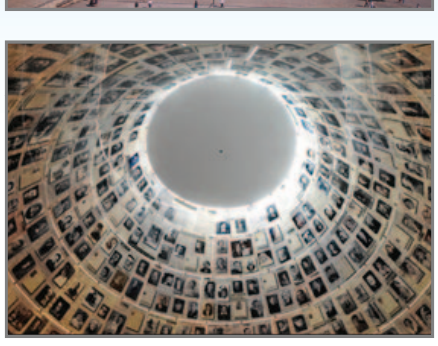









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- Enjoy Shabbat in our Partnership region, Sovev Kinneret
- **Partnership2Together 20th anniversary celebration April 4-7:** Celebrate our community's partner region, Sovev Kinneret, including trips to southern Israel and connecting with worldwide Jews

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MJCDS Fall Tour Dates

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Tours are held several times a month at 9:15 am, and require registration. Upcoming dates include:

Thursday, November 19
Tuesday, December 8
Monday, December 14

To register for one of these tour dates or to arrange a visit at another time, please contact Rabbi Rebecca Ben-Gideon at (608) 204-9900 or at rabbi@madisonjewishdayschool.com.





Yonim Participates in Hadassah's Every Heart Counts Event

The Yonim Israeli Dance Troupe was thrilled to be a part of Hadassah's Every Heart Counts event in November. As you can see from the picture, the participants had a chance to learn a dance after watching the Yonimers perform. It was a rewarding experience for the dancers because they do not often get to do cross-generational dancing. On December 6th, Yonim will be part of the Federation's Hanukkah celebration! Stop by our table to help us decorate Yonim (doves) to be donated to local nursing homes for holiday decorations. There will be a mitzvah marathon and, of course, dancing. Contact us at yonim@jewishmadison.org for more information.

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Jewish Congregations for Social Justice

Racial Justice Speaker Series – "The Education Gap and Boys and Girls Club Solutions" January 14, 2016 7-9 pm at Temple Beth El, 2702 Arbor Drive

Michael Johnson, the President and Chief Executive Officer for Boys & Girls Clubs of Dane County (BGC), will speak to the Jewish community about the education gap in Dane County and the BGC's initiatives to keep kids in school and get them into colleges. Madison's Jewish Congregations for Social Justice (JCSJ) is pleased to sponsor the program on Thursday, January 14, 2016, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Temple Beth El, 2702 Arbor Drive. Michael Johnson is renowned as an inspirational speaker.

The vision of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County is to inspire and empower all young people to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring adults. Johnson's priority is to ensure BGC continues to be a leader in youth development through working with local partnerships to produce positive outcomes for young people and their families.

Boys and Girls Club of Dane County offers an array of programs for youth ages 7 to 18.

• College Club is a college prep program for 1st through 12th grade students that is built on a foundation of academic monitoring, tutoring and case management. College Club creates a space and a platform that validates students and their life experience and focuses on topics like goal setting, college entry, understanding financial aid, career development and life skills. Through a partnership with Madison Metropolitan School District, Boys and Girls Club programs have produced graduation rates of over 90% for five years in a row, with more than 82 percent of their students currently enrolled in local colleges and universities.

• STAR (Saving to Achieve Results) Credit Union's mission is to instill financial literacy and responsibility by providing access to financial services.

• Homework/Tutoring time is scheduled into after-school programming. Club members have the opportunity to work with certified teachers, volunteers and club staff to get their homework assignments completed.

• Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA) program enables Club members to realize and develop their talents and skills in creative, performing, and fine arts through creative learning activities and experiences.

• BGC's Summer Camp Program provides youth with the opportunity to participate in positive, fun-filled activities. They also receive daily meals, a summer literacy program, and weekly field trips that will provide them with exciting summer experiences. Kids who attended the 2014 summer camp program rose to the challenge of defying "summer learning loss" and read over 50,000 pages and 1,000 books.

BGC is fighting against grim statistics from Race to Equity: A Baseline Report on the State of Racial Disparities in Dane County. In 2011, Dane County's African American third graders were 4.5 times more likely than their white classmates not to meet reading proficiency standards. African American youth in the Madison public school district had about a 50% on-time high school graduation rate, compared to 85% for white students. Black 12th graders were only half as likely as white 12th graders to take the ACT exam. Of those taking the exam, African Americans averaged a score of 18, compared to a white average of 24. After accounting for the relative numbers of the black and white enrolled students, data indicate that suspensions from Dane County public schools were 15 times more likely to involve a black student than a white student.

On January 14, Michael Johnson will analyze BGC's successes and the challenges in the Dane County community.

For more information the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County go to their website www.bgcdc.org/

The Jewish Congregations for Social Justice is a joint project of the social action committees of Beth Israel Center, Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, and Temple Beth El. We work together to expand our capacity for social action, build new connections and provide a Jewish volunteer presence in the larger community.



Michael Johnson

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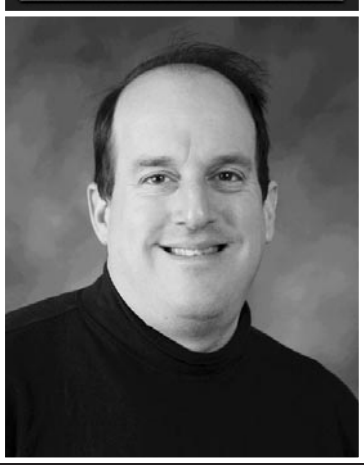

Wishing you a wonderful Hanukkah and Best Wishes in the coming New Year!

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Jewish Education

What's Up at Midrasha?

The month of November was busy at Midrasha. Each of the classes has been working on a final presentation to wrap-up what they have learned this semester. The students will present their work to the rest of the Midrasha student body. Check back in January for pictures and more details about what they created!

The Run2gether delegation from Israel came to Midrasha to meet the students and talk about their lives. The runners visited with the students in 8th - 10th grade and told them about their lives in Israel, asked them about their lives in Madison and discussed Jewish life and the differences between our two countries. Now, when these students travel to Israel they will have connections in the Sovev Kineret region that they can contact and reconnect with.

Hebrew students participated in the Global Day of Jewish Learning on Sunday, November 15th. The theme this year was *Love, Devotion, Desire and Deception* and the students looked at Hebrew texts related to these themes.

Midrasha will be in session on Wednesday, December 2, Sunday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 9.

Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 27 at Temple Beth El. Sunday Hebrew classes will still be at Beth Israel Center next semester.

It's not too late to join Midrasha. To register for semester two please go to www.jewishmadison.org

Keep in touch with what's going on at Midrasha – like us on Facebook!





The Big Idea: Linking Jewish Educators from Preschool to Adulthood

Last month our community was lucky to have Rabbi Jeffrey Schein and Dr. Deborah Schein join us for several learning opportunities. The Family Education committee and Gan HaYeled Preschool organized a program on Sunday morning called The Spiritual Development of the Young Child. Dr. Schein, author of *What's Jewish About Butterflies?*, led participants in a hands-on workshop looking at how children develop their spirituality. She talked about her research and discussed how the values-based learning in Jewish early childhood settings, combined with the Reggio Emilia philosophy and experiences in nature, can foster the spiritual development in children and how this cultivates a culture of kindness. It was a really powerful discussion for the group, followed by a nature walk with the children to make a special nature-rattle called a Nattle.

The following day, Dr. Shein joined forces with her husband, Rabbi Jeffrey Schein, and together the two led our annual Jewish Community Teacher Training. The afternoon began with a World Café discussion based on the text *Al Shlosha Devarim*. The participants divided into two workshops. Dr. Schein led the teachers in a workshop about Jewish early childhood education and spiritual development and Rabbi Schein, who received a Covenant Grant for his project "Text Me," led a workshop about how to incorporate technology into our Jewish classrooms. The participants discussed if this is a priority to them, looked at some of the risks involved and had meaningful discussions about how the use of technology in the classroom could have an impact on our students. Finally, after a falafel dinner catered by Adamah, the educators enjoyed a discussion, moderated by Daniel Pekarsky, linking the two keynotes and showing how they are connected.

Bringing all of the teachers from the Jewish schools together for an afternoon of learning is not something you see everywhere. It demonstrates how committed we are to having high quality Jewish educators and educational programs in our community. Kol Hakavod to everyone who was involved in making this event a success!











One Happy Camper Grants Available This Month!

The Jewish Federation of Madison has partnered with the Foundation for Jewish Camp to bring the One Happy Camper program to Madison. If you have a camper in grade 2-12 you may be eligible for a grant to fund Jewish overnight camp for the first time.

To determine if you are eligible for the One Happy Camper grant please read below. If you believe that your camper meets the criteria please complete the application by clicking on the provided link. Campers must be registered for camp before applying for a One Happy Camper grant. JFM grants are limited and distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The JFM One Happy Camper Program provides grants to encourage children to attend overnight Jewish camp for the first time. It is not a scholarship fund and is not need-based. Our goal is to engage families who are considering sending their children to Jewish overnight camp and, in effect, to give them up to $1,000 off their camp fees to try a Jewish one.

The following outlines the eligibility criteria for this program:

• $1,000 grants awarded to first-time campers attending camp for 19 or more consecutive days, $700 for campers attending 12-18 consecutive days.

• First-time camper must be entering a grade from 2-12 (after camp).

• Camper must attend one of the 150+ non-profit, Jewish, overnight camps listed on the Foundation for Jewish Camp's website (www.OneHappyCamper.org/FindaCamp).

Note: This program is an outreach initiative for children who are not currently receiving an immersive, daily Jewish experience. Children who attend Jewish day school or Yeshiva are not eligible for program. If your child is not eligible and/or if you are interested in learning about financial-needs based grants or other camper funding opportunities please visit www.JewishCamp.org/ Scholarships, contact your camp, or please call Ellen Weismer (608) 278-1808 for additional assistance.

Look What's Happening at Gan HaYeled Preschool This Fall!


The Bet Class takes a little rest while on their nature walk.


The Gimel Class is playing Noah's Ark outside.


Daniel, Sam, Nevo and Nitzan are the Shabbat Helpers of the Week.


Look at Sasha's beautiful hands.


Israelis from the Run 2Gether group visit the Bet Class with Daniel.


Dalet kids are great game players. They play Dominos.


Aliza and Yonatan are playing Noah's Ark with their friends.


Solomon, from the Bet Class, is working on a class Mitzvah project. They are sending fall greeting cards to senior adults.


The whole class plays "Uno."


Daniel enjoys finger painting in the Dalet Class.


The "Late Care" kids are enjoying the mild weather and painting outside.



Schmooze Tunes

Learn and Grow with Schmooze & Tunes

The Hilde L. Mosse Gan HaYeled Preschool has created a special program with experienced teacher Liron Weiss. Liron has a B.Ed. in physical education and brings in her rich experiences as a Reggio Emilia preschool teacher and her love for movement and music! Come experience 'The Shabbat Feeling' with your child every Friday!

This one-of-a-kind program is designed to ignite children's passion for music and movement while looking at the world around them and experiencing Jewish values and traditions. Repetition of familiar tunes, dances, and books will stimulate children's musical ability. Through engaging activities we will learn each other's names and watch as children's language skills increase through singing and vocal play. Through favorite finger plays and lap bouncing or jumping, we will laugh together and explore new ways to interact with our children. We will always use instruments and props during class and discover old and new ways to utilize those props, encouraging hand-eye coordination and boosting our children's creative minds! We will end the class with some favorite Shabbat songs and enjoy a delicious homemade challah provided by Gan HaYeled.

This great class will enhance bonding between the child and caregiver while encouraging the discovery of sounds, movement and textures, all in a full hour of pure growing, learning and joy!

Program Details:
Fridays, 9:15 to 10:15 am
Dates: January 22 through March 11 (Winter Session); April 1 through May 27 (Spring Session). No class April 29.
Cost: $150 for both sessions or $80 for Winter Session (additional fee of $40 for participating siblings); $80 for Spring Session (additional fee for participating siblings). *Price includes an age-appropriate musical instrument.

For more information, contact Rachel at gan@jewishmadison.org, or register online at JewishMadison.org.



SUMMER CAMP AND ISRAEL PROGRAMS

Time to start thinking about your summer plans already! Please visit **www.JewishMadison.org** for information on youth summer camps and organized trips to Israel.

Ivrit B'Kef (Hebrew Fun)

Time for Hebrew, time for FUN!!!

Kindergarten – 2nd graders are invited to join Daniel Gill, our community Shliach, on a fun adventure through the Hebrew language. Daniel will lead the students in 18 exciting sessions of exploring the letters of the Aleph Bet and developing reading and writing skills through structured lessons, arts and crafts, movement and more! No Hebrew language experience is necessary, all levels welcome.

Dates: Tuesdays, January 19 – May 24
(no class on March 22nd)
Time: 3:45 pm – 5:30 pm
$320 for your first student, $300 for any additional children

Registration is available at ***www.jewishmadison.org****. For more information please contact Ellen Weismer, program@jewishmadison.org*

Jewish Social Services

A Beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Madison www.jssmadison.org

Volunteer for Jewish Social Services!

Add something special to your life – Volunteer for Jewish Social Services. Volunteer application at www.jssmadison.org/becoming-volunteer or call (608) 442-4083 for information

Our mission: Our dedication to service will improve the quality of life and maintain the dignity of our clients in a compassionate and caring atmosphere. Volunteers will enhance the ability of the agency to achieve its overall mission.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

Only a Few Days Left to Sign up to Deliver Hanukkah Menorahs – Don't Delay!

Volunteers deliver and set up electric menorahs, return once or twice if possible to "light" the candles and pick up the menorah at the end of the holiday. Have a little visit and share the holiday! The first candle is Sunday, December 6. To sign up, contact Louise Goldstein at (608) 278-1808, (608) 442-4083 direct or at louise@jssmadison.org.

Designated Shopper: Take a charming and friendly older woman to do errands once or twice a month; west side. Requires authorization to drive (provide copies of proof of insurance and driver's license, plus driver's record check).

Bikur Cholim (visiting the sick): Visitors make brief visits, does not have to be on a regular basis but can be when convenient for you:

• Middleton: a middle-aged disabled woman in assisted living is very sociable. Being quite a bit younger than the other residents, she especially appreciates visits from "the outside."

• Middleton: a very sweet elderly woman in memory care.

• Verona & Southwest Madison: two elderly women with dementia would benefit from brief, drop-in visits. They need reassurance and pleasantries.

Hang out with a Disabled Bears Fan

A middle-aged man with disabilities living in an east-side nursing home is a huge Bears fan (sorry, Packers fans!) and enjoys watching other sports and TV shows. We are looking for the right guy to hang out with him a couple of times a month, watch a Bears game or other show and share the experience. He also enjoys going for "walks" in his wheelchair and loves classical music.

Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus: "It's all fun - the volunteers are a welcoming, fun and funny group and the participants are always appreciative."

Lechayim meets at Temple Beth El on most Mondays during the academic year. Volunteers set up, serve, clear, welcome participants, socialize with participants and make sure that everyone feels welcome and included. While we seek a weekly commitment, we are very flexible. Volunteers arrive at different times and stay for varying amounts of time within the 11:00-2:00 time frame, depending on their tasks; most volunteers do not stay the whole time.

Youth Volunteering, Youth Group Projects and B'nai Mitzvah Projects

Come talk with us about doing a Bar or Bat Mitzvah project with Jewish Social Services. There are also opportunities for older youth and youth groups to volunteer and contribute to the community, develop new skills and have fun. Contact Louise Goldstein at (608) 278-1808 or (608) 442-4083 direct for a brochure or to discuss doing a mitzvah project with Jewish Social Services.

Double your Volunteering Mitzvah

Check with your human resources department to see whether your company has a policy of matching employees' community volunteer hours with a monetary donation to the agency for whom the employee volunteers. What a great way to enhance the benefits of your volunteer work!

Deducting Expenses Incurred while Volunteering

Some expenses incurred during volunteer work are deductible. Volunteers should keep records and save receipts for these expenses. Check with your tax advisor about these deductions.

You are Invited to a Retirement Party for Louise Goldstein



Sunday, December 13

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Beth Israel Center

1406 Mound Street Madison

Please join us in celebrating the upcoming retirement of Louise Goldstein and also celebrate our fabulous volunteers. Louise and the JSS volunteers have done so much for the JSS community; we would love for this occasion to reflect our gratitude for their time and commitment!

Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

RSVP to Jewish Social Services by Monday, December 7. Call 608-278-1808 or email: office@jssmadison.org

L'hitraot and Todah Rabah to our Volunteers

As I contemplate my retirement from Jewish Social Services at the end of this year, I'm keenly aware of the richness these last twelve and a half years have afforded me. My time at JSS has been filled with the opportunity to build and enjoy relationships with clients, volunteers, staff and community members. What good fortune I have had to meet and interact with so many people, to hear their stories and share a part of their lives! We live in a community with an abundance of good will, caring and commitment to enriching the lives of those around us. Jewish Social Services volunteers play a significant role in carrying out that commitment and it has been a delightful gift to work with you on a daily basis. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the JSS volunteers I've had the pleasure to know over these years; you guys are the best! So I'll say "L'hitraot" – I'll see you again – and not goodbye, because I hope to see many of you around town!

~ From Louise Goldstein

The Matzah Balls Try Dodgeball

After an 8-week kickball season that ended with an "awesome" 4-4 record, and a spot in the playoffs, the Matzah Balls are at it again. Most of team has come back ready to play....Dodgeball! We are throwing balls at our competition, which helps us burn off frustration from the day (and maybe a few calories), building as a team, and most important of all - having fun! Our season runs through January 21. Contact Tiz Goff at outreach@jewishmadison.org if you want to sign up as a sub or get in on the Matzah Balls' next sports adventure.



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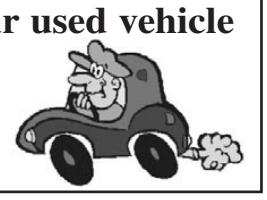

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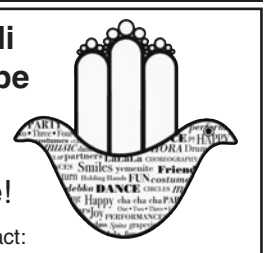


For more info contact:

yonim@jewishmadison.org

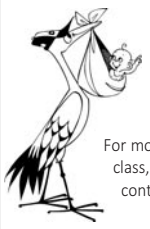
JewishMadison.org



www.jewishmadison.org

New Baby?

Are you pregnant or recently had a baby? Would you like to meet other Jewish caregivers and their little ones ages 0-2?



***Shalom Baby** is designed to help Madison families celebrate the arrival of their Jewish newborns and welcome them to the Madison Jewish Community.*

For more information on joining a playgroup or class, or receiving a Shalom Baby gift basket, contact **Tiz Goff at 773-620-4404** or email **outreach@jewishmadison.org**

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www.JewishMadison.org

Welcome to Madison

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- *Have you been here for years, but are looking for a new social circle or activity group?*

Shalom Madison is for you! Tiz Goff will help link you to the Jewish Community through your interests and availability.

Contact Tiz at outreach@jewishmadison.org or call 773-620-4404 for more info.

For information on directory advertising, please contact Tiz Goff, 773-620-4404 or email outreach@jewishmadison.org

The gates to the human brain – the research made by Y. Danilov at UW.

Генрих Бабич

Ворота в мозг – о работах Юрия Данилова в Университете штата Висконсин

После изобретения вычислительных машин широко распространился взгляд на мозг как на главный вычислитель высшей нервной системы человека. В Советском Союзе первая вычислительная машина была построена в конце 1940-х годов. Одновременно с этим начала бурно развиваться кибернетика. Уже в 1952 году кибернетики поставили вопрос – может ли машина мыслить. Положительный ответ сомнений не вызывал, но проблема состояла в том, **когда** вычислительная машина будет способна осуществить требуемое для этого быстродействие. Сегодня в мире работают несколько миллиардов машин. Специалисты утверждают, что суммарное быстродействие всех имеющихся вычислительных машин позволяет смоделировать на них работу мозга одного среднего землянина. Дело существенно затрудняется тем, что мозг сложнейшим образом связан с реализацией функций многих органов человека. Изучение этих связей и проводится в лаборатории, которой руководит Юрий Данилов.

В течение долгих лет нейрофизиологи полагали, что за отдельными участками мозга жестко закреплено управление органами тела человека. Так, человек видит в результате того, что сетчатка его глаза, получив изображение внешних предметов, преобразует это изображение в последовательность электрических импульсов и по зрительному нерву передает их на определенный участок мозга. Этот участок в конечном итоге и осуществляет вИдение. Аналогичным образом реализуется слух и остальные функции высшей нервной деятельности.

Такое фундаментальное представление о функциях мозга было поставлено под сомнение в результате опытов американского ученого Пола Бах-у-Риты. Он первым высказал идею о пластичности мозга. В подтверждение этого им в 1969 году было разработано кресло, позволяющее слепым "видеть" спиной. Человек садился в кресло, подключенное к видеокамере, и кожей чувствовал действие вибрирующих элементов, которые в общих чертах повторяли картинку, снимаемую камерой. Слепой от рождения мог различать движения рук людей, их лица. Бах-у-Рита не уставал повторять: "Мы видим мозгом, а не глазами".

Тогда этот эксперимент казался курьезом на фоне утвердившегося мнения, что разделение труда внутри мозга жестко закреплено. Если участок мозга "занят" осязанием, то он не может научиться зрению! Бах-у-Рита выглядел "белой вороной", но, несмотря на критику, не отрекся от своих идей, хотя всерьез к работе над кожным зрением вернулся лишь в девяностые. Теперь он использовал уже не вибрирующие механизмы кресла, а сформированные специальным образом электрические сигналы. Изображение от видеокамеры передавалось на портативный компьютер, который превращал это изображение в последовательность импульсов. Эти импульсы подавались на специальную пластину, которую пациент вставлял в рот. Вместо кожи на спине "глазом" служил язык. Именно тогда к его лаборатории присоединился новый сотрудник, Юрий Данилов.

Ответ на вопрос почему для передачи изображения в мозг был использован язык основан на том, что поверхность языка содержит тысячи нервных окончаний. Ни одно место на коже не сравнится с языком в умении различать слабые раздражители. Бах-у-Рита вместе с Даниловым разработали прибор для слепых. На голове закреплялась мини-камера. Электрические импульсы от камеры рисовали на специальной пластине грубый образ того, что видит камера. Пациент, который потерял оба глаза и/или у которого были безвозвратно нарушены зрительные нервы, клал пластину на язык и мог свободно заходить в дверные проемы, ловить мячи и играть в крестики-нолики. Язык служил ему новым портом для доставки информации в мозг вместо глаз. Лишь со временем разработчикам стало ясно, что выбор именно языка, сделанный из удобства, несет в себе принципиально новые возможности, хотя с этим связаны огромные тайны в исследовании работы мозга.

Прорыв в понимании того, что выполнение мозгом различных функций не однозначно связано с работой его отдельных участков, привел к новым открытиям и практическим результатам. "Мы решили тогда, что если можно заменить зрение, то надо посмотреть в восстановлении каких еще функций мозга можно ему помочь" – рассказывает Данилов. Больные с разрушенной из-за отравления антибиотиком вестибулярной системой подошли идеально. У них отказали только рецепторы, а мозг и управляющие пучки нервов оставались рабочими. Если мы хотим заменить сенсорный вход, лучшей модели в восстановлении этой функции мозга не придумать.

Антибиотик гентамицин – штука опасная. Если его передозировать, он не только спасет от инфекции, но и разрушит волосковые клетки – вестибулярные рецепторы во внутреннем ухе. Избавившись от заражения, больной лишается системы равновесия. Он не может удерживать тело вертикально, а стоит ему закрыть глаза, земля уходит из-под ног.

Для таких людей в лаборатории придумали схему – на голову пациента надевалась каска с устройством, измеряющим отклонение тела, сигнал передавался на пластину, и больной мог языком ощутить, куда он начинает "заваливаться". Это позволяло выровнять положение тела. А главное открылось после того, как задача была решена.

Пациентка, практически потерявшая вестибулярную систему, стояла с прибором так уверенно, что ей решили отключить аппарат. Она продолжала сохранять равновесие. Выяснилось: если прибор работал несколько минут, еще треть от этого времени пациентка могла стоять и без его помощи. Вопрос: почему после того как прибор убрали, человек держит равновесие? Ведь в этом случае не работают ни свои рецепторы, ни внешние. После двадцати минут стимуляции больная могла сохранять равновесие свыше четырех часов. Это было открытие чего-то совсем неизвестного.

Данилов показывает видео первых занятий с пациенткой. Она ходит с палочкой, широко расставляя ноги, чтобы не упасть. При закрытых глазах тело начинает дергаться и наклоняться вперед. На видео, снятом через два месяца занятий, мы видим счастливую женщину, прыгающую со скакалкой. Она без прибора едет на велосипеде и идет по бревну. Благодаря прибору, спустя два года, она уже не нуждалась в лечении – выздоровела полностью.

Эффект подтвердился и на других людях. Причем, занятия с прибором часто возвращали не только равновесие. Пациенты, в течение многих лет имевшие проблемы со сном, на четвертый день спали как убитые. У одного пациента восстановился вкус, потерянный после давней автомобильной аварии. У некоторых исправлялось косоглазие.

Отмеченные чудеса требовали объяснений. Обратной связью от прибора это объяснить нельзя. Например, вы можете взяться за поручень и стабилизировать свое положение. Но стоит поднять руку, неустойчивость тела возобновится. Прибор действует только пока он работает, но стоит его отключить, человек вновь потеряет равновесие, возможность видеть и т.д., объясняет Данилов. Возникла идея проверить прибор на людях со здоровой вестибулярной системой, но с проблемами в ходьбе. Такое часто бывает из-за травм, инсультов, болезни Паркинсона или рассеянного склероза. В работе с такими пациентами к исследователям пришло понимание, что обратная связь тут вообще ни при чем. Каску убрали, электрические импульсы теперь подавались на язык безо всякой связи с внешним устройством.

Дальнейшее больше похоже на выдумку. Мы видим женщину после перелома шейных позвонков пятилетней давности. У нее сильные головные боли, головокружения, зрение скошено в сторону. Она ковыляет по коридору, после пары шагов клонится вниз и почти падает. Спустя час работы с прибором, она уверенно прохаживается, разворачивается и приседает, отвешивая поклон. А потом встает на одну ногу.

Данилов рассказывает. "Мы провели ей одну стимуляцию. От результата в шоке были все. Мне пришлось сделать каменное лицо и сказать: 'Да, мы это ожидали'. На самом деле это было не так. Эффект продолжался пять часов. Через пять дней занятий по всем тестам на движение это был нормальный человек."

Случаи чудесного исцеления медицине известны, но они так и остаются отдельными эпизодами. А через лабораторию прошли уже сотни больных, и улучшение состояния – правило, а не исключение. За многие годы Данилов не встретил ни одного больного, которому стимуляция не дала бы полезного эффекта. Ни у одного из них не возникло побочного эффекта от лечения.

Для врача излечение больного – конечная цель. Ученому важно знать, каким образом оно случилось. Часть разгадки состоит в том, что язык – в самом деле уникальный орган. В отличие от любого другого участка кожи он связан с головным мозгом напрямую. Два крупных нерва тянутся от его кончика в мозжечок и в ствол мозга. А ствол – тоже особое место, настоящий технический центр мозга, где сходятся почти все нервные пути. Через язык можно напрямую включать глубокие структуры мозга. А те связаны и со спинным мозгом, и с большими полушариями. Выходит, сигналы от языка могут разойтись по всей нервной системе.

Стимуляция электричеством сегодня широко применяется в медицине. Как указывает Данилов, пока только язык оказался удобным и чуть ли не единственным входом в ствол мозга. Ирония в том, что не будь он еще и самым чувствительным участком кожи, многих историй восстановления просто не случилось бы. Мозг – это единый орган. И если активировать его как целое, то и восстанавливается он как единое целое.

Через руки Ю. Данилова прошли сотни тяжелых пациентов. Работа его лаборатории обещает изменить облик медицины. Это не клиника, здесь трудятся ученые-разработчики. Они работают с пациентами только когда получают разрешение. "Если нет возможности дать человеку прибор, чтобы он уехал с ним домой, мы просто не беремся за его лечение", предупреждает Данилов.

Пару лет назад его лаборатория подключилась к программам правительства США, связанным с реабилитацией контуженных военнослужащих и спортсменов после травм. В списке заболеваний, в лечении которых разработки лаборатории могли бы помочь, более сорока наименований. Но работа пока ведется всего с четырьмя. В течение следующих лет десяти ученые будут работать над тем, где и как еще можно использовать разработанный прибор. Границы его применения до сих пор не определены. Желаем успехов Ю. Данилову и его коллегам!

Like Us on Facebook!

Friends of Jewish Federation of Madison can get timely programming updates, tell us what you "like," and spread the word about the work we do with your generous support. See photos from recent events, add yours to our albums, encourage friends to join you in supporting Jewish Federation of Madison, and more. Find us at **www.facebook.com/jewishmadison**.

Harry J. and Belle Goodman, parents of Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman

Lechayim Lights

JSS

A Beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Madison — A Senior Adult Program of Jewish Social Services

December Lechayim Calendar

Join us for great food, congenial conversation and stimulating programs at Lechayim Lunchtime Plus at Temple Beth El, 2702 Arbor Drive. Contact Louise Goldstein at (608) 278-1808, (608) 442-4083 (direct) or louise@jssmadison.org no later than 12:00 pm the preceding Friday. **A vegetarian or strictly kosher option is available with a reservation**. If you are over age 60, a minimum donation of $4.00 is suggested, but please only pay what you can afford. The cost of the meal is $7.50 for those under age 60.

MANY THANKS TO BLUE PLATE CATERING FOR PROVIDING OUR KOSHER-STYLE MEALS!

Monday, December 7, *Lechayim celebrates Hanukkah*
11:00-12:00 *Generation RX: Medication Safety Assessment* with the Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students
11:30-12:00 Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
12:00-1:00 Broiled Whitefish, Potato Latkes with Sour Cream & Applesauce, Sufganiyot
1:00-2:00 Klezmer music with Yid Vicious

Monday, December 14
11:00-12:00 Free blood pressure screening by Lori Edelstein, RN
12:00-1:00 Couscous-Stuffed Eggplant, Sautéed Brussel Sprouts, Garden Salad, Mini-Chocolate Eclairs
1:00-2:00 Jim & Nan Youngerman, *"Inside Viet Nam"*

Monday, December 21, *An Appreciation – by Louise*
11:30-12:00 Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
12:00-1:00 Chicken Picatta, Greek Salad, Fruit Salad, Surprise Dessert
1:00-2:00 Farewell to Louise

Monday, December 28, *Lechayim does not meet*

Next month's dates
January 4, 11, 25

Присоединяйтесь к нашему столу, увлекательной беседе и интересным программам на встречах «Лехаим. Больше чем обед»

Ждем Вас в Храме Бет-Эль (Temple Beth El), по адресу: 2702 Arbor Drive. Заказать место вы можете у Луизы Голдстейн по тел. 608-278-1808, прямой 608-442-4083 или по электронному адресу: louise@jssmadison.org до 14:00 часов пятницы предшествующей очередной встрече. Наши кошерные обеды готовит *Blue Plate Catering*. **Вегетарианское или строго кошерное меню готовится по предварительному заказу.** Стоимость обеда - $7.50; минимальное пожертвование для людей старше 60 лет $4.00

Большое спасибо *Blue Plate Catering* за наше КОШЕРНОЕ МЕНЮ!

Понедельник, 7 Декабря Лехаим отмечает Хануку
11:00-12:00 Поколение RX: Оценка безопасности лекарств с обществом студентов-фармацевтов штата Висконсин
11:30-12:00 Йога на стуле с Бетси Хаймсон
11:00-12:00 Измерение артериального давления медсестрой Лорой Эдельштейн
12: 00-1:00 Жареный сиг, картофельные оладьи со сметаной и яблочным соусом, пончики.
1:00-2:00 Музыка Клезмера в исполнении "Неистового жида"

Понедельник, 14 декабря
11:00-12:00 Измерение артериального давления медсестрой Лорой Эдельштейн
12:00-1:00 Фаршированные кус-кусом баклажаны, обжаренная брюссельская капуста, зеленый салат, шоколадные эклеры
1:00-2:00 Джим и Нан Янгермэн (Youngerman), "Внутри Вьетнама"

Понедельника, 21 декабря Прощание с Луизой
11:30-12:00 Йога на стуле с Бетси Хаймсон
12: 00-1: 00 Куриная пикаттта, греческий салат, фруктовый салат, сюрприз десерт
1:00-2:00 Прощание с Луизой

Понедельник, 28 Декабря Лехаим не состоится

Даты следующего месяца
4, 11, 25

Making Lechayim Reservations

• When you check in at Lechayim, sign up for the following week.
• Call Louise Goldstein at (608) 278-1808 or (608) 442-4083 (direct) or email louise@jssmadison.org **by 12:00 p.m. on the preceding business day.**
• Reservations cannot be taken after noon on Fridays or over the weekend.
• If you didn't make a reservation in time but would like to come, **call Louise before 10:00 a.m. on Monday** to see if there have been cancellations. We regret that we are unable to guarantee a meal for last minute reservations or walk-ins.

Transportation to Lechayim

Transit Solutions provides door-to-door service for $1 round trip, payable to the driver. Contact Louise Goldstein at (608) 278-1808, (608) 442-4083 (direct) or louise@jssmadison.org by 2:00 pm the preceding Friday. Wheelchair accessible vehicles are available upon request. Please contact us if you need to cancel a ride.

Lechayim Snow Day Policy

Lechayim is cancelled when the Madison Metropolitan School District closes schools due to inclement weather. Listen to the radio, check a local TV channel or the Internet for school closings. If Madison schools are open but we think Lechayim should be cancelled, we'll decide by 8:00 am, contact those with reservations for Lechayim and post the cancellation on our website.

An Appreciation from Louise

I've seen many changes at Lechayim over the last dozen-plus years, including new caterers, new locations and different menus. One thing that hasn't changed in all these years and that is an integral part of the Lechayim culture is the way people heed the biblical injunction to "remember the stranger, for you were once strangers…" This is what I've loved the most about Mondays at Lechayim, this over-arching friendliness and inclusion that drives and sustains the program and its people.

A strong nucleus of volunteers has cheerfully persevered while welcoming new volunteers and saying goodbye to others. An equally strong core of participants has experienced more than its share of goodbyes but has also greeted newcomers wholeheartedly, enveloping them in the Lechayim embrace as full partners. As I leave, I know that my successor will experience that same warm Lechayim welcome and will be embraced in the same way. Before you know it, the stranger will have become a dear friend and colleague, and that is the best legacy I could hope to leave.

Thank you all for sharing that embrace with me and allowing me to love you back.

About our Programs

Our annual Hanukkah celebration at Lechayim is always a *freilach* (happy) affair, and this year promises to keep that tradition alive and glowing. Join us on **Monday, December 7,** to light candles, eat latkes and sufganiyot, possibly win a door prize and enjoy the klezmer sounds of Yid Vicious, the local band that has been volunteering at Lechayim for many, many years. Dancing is encouraged!



It may be cold in Madison in December, but on **Monday, December 14,** we'll travel to more tropical climes through the eyes and stories of Jim and Nan Youngerman when they present their travelogue, "Inside Viet Nam." Jim and Nan are familiar friends of Lechayim and we're delighted to welcome them back. Jim Youngerman is a Madison attorney and former president of both Jewish Social Services and Jewish Federation of Madison. Nan is a retired teacher from the Madison Metropolitan School District and past president of Jewish Social Services. They are both passionate travelers. Since their last gig at Lechayim their daughter Becca has married and they became grandparents when William Jones Youngerman was born just a few months ago.

Monday, December 21, will be Louise Goldstein's last Lechayim as JSS' Director of Volunteer Services & Senior Group Programs, as she is retiring on December 24. There will be a special farewell and Louise will present a photographic retrospective of her twelve and a half years with Lechayim.



Nan and Jim Youngerman



Yid Vicious in action.

Scenes from Lechayim

Photos by Louise Goldstein

To see more photos: "like" us on facebook















Приходите праздновать Хануку!

Вы приглашены на

Ханука вечеринку

Спонсор Еврейская Социальная Служба

Среда, 9 декабрь 2015
2:00-3:30 вечера
West Madison Senior Center
602 Sawyer Terrace

Мы будем зажигать свечи и наслаждаться легким ужином из картофельных оладий с яблочным пюре и сметаной, салатом из тунца и зеленым салатом, пончиками и теплым яблочным сидером.

Музыка ансамбля «Белая береза»

Вопросы? Звоните Дженис или Луизе на 608-278-1808 или пишите на louise@jssmadison.

Need an "Oddjobber"?

Do you need an "oddjobber" to do a few small but necessary chores for you? Jewish Social Services volunteers can help! Contact Louise Goldstein at (608) 278-1808, (608) 442-4083 (direct) or email louise@jssmadison.org.

For changes, updates or new information about any Jewish Social Services program, check our website at

www.jssmadison.org

Spotlight: Louise Goldstein

By Pamela Phillips Olson

At Lechayim when Louise stands at the microphone preparing to speak, she pauses. She looks around at the crowd and beams like a gardener who has discovered a perfect rose!

For over twelve years Louise has directed this extremely popular program, for many of those years in partnership with Francie Smith Saposnik. Under her care it has flourished. She handles the entertainment, speakers, catering and everyone's well-being and safety. The volunteers adore her. The best part for her is interacting with the participants and volunteers and enjoying their humor and zest for life.



Louise Goldstein

(Photo by Pamela Philips Olson)

Louise came to JSS from the Dane County Parks Department, where she developed her belief that volunteering should be fun and meaningful, as defined by the volunteer. Luckily for her, many volunteers thought it was great fun to get up early on Saturday morning to hack invasive honeysuckle.

"Returning to JSS in 2003 was a real homecoming. Barbara Spierer and Janice Beers were so supportive and welcoming. Francie and I routinely communicated with each other in English, Hebrew and Yiddish, often in the same sentence. My work at JSS has been a perfect fit for me."

At Lechayim, she says, seniors are getting "younger" so while big band music is still a treat, today's participants also enjoy Elvis, Motown, 'Great Balls of Fire' and the Beatles.

Although Lechayim is always hectic, Louise finds time and energy to give personal attention to anyone who requires it: "It means a lot to people just to be acknowledged, so we announce birthdays, welcome newcomers and congratulate people for milestone events. It is a simple but powerful gift that means we see *you*, the person."

The social interaction at Lechayim reinforces this, as people there get to know and care about each other: "People of any age need connection, love and intimacy of all kinds, including romance. You're never too old."

She says that every volunteer she has been privileged to work with says they believe that they get more out of the experience than they give. It's clear to her that the Lechayim volunteers love what they do and the people they serve, and she loves them for that. We will miss her and we are pretty sure she will think of us every Monday!

Shalom from Jewish Social Services!

JSS volunteers visit seniors who are new to Madison, bringing a gift bag with information, treats and a few surprises. Contact Louise Goldstein at (608) 442-4083 or louise@jssmadison.org to request a visit. Our thanks to Maurie's Fine Chocolates and Bagels Forever for supporting this program.

Transitions

Happy December Birthday

Alene Wiseman
Charlie Meyer
Estelle Katz
Eve Siegel
Janice Oltman
Jean Esch-Theobald
Karen Shevet Dinah
Natalia Chubukova
Ron Lapin
Shelley McNamer
Stacy Graff
Susan Eichhorn

Mazel Tov

To Louise Goldstein, on her retirement from Jewish Social Services.

Bon Voyage, Welcome Back

Harsha Keister, India
Anita Parks, Virginia Beach

Condolences

To the family of Bobbie Kunin

Jewish Social Services Brings Shabbat to Our Seniors



Our monthly Shabbat gatherings include wine donated by Frank Liquor, candles and challah, singing and discussion.

Attic Angel Place at 2:30 in the Garden Room
8301 Old Sauk Road
A program of Jewish Social Services and Attic Angel Place. Music by Les Goldsmith and with the assistance of Angel Volunteers.

December 4

Capitol Lakes at 3:00 in the Grand Hall
333 West Main Street
A program of Jewish Social Services and Capitol Lakes Retirement Community. Led by Rabbi Andrea Steinberger with assistance from UW students through the UW-Hillel Foundation.

December 11

Oakwood West at 4:00 in the Oaks Community Room
6225 Mineral Point Road
A program of Jewish Social Services and Oakwood Village University Woods. With the assistance of JSS volunteers and music by Paul Grossberg

December 18, January 15

ATTENTION REHAB PATIENTS: If you are going to be in one of these locations during your rehabilitation, you are welcome to attend.

Pharmacy Students Provide Monthly Health Assessments

The next Wisconsin Society of Pharmacy Students Health Assessment, *Generation RX-Medication Safety Assessment,* will be at Lechayim on December 7, from 11:00-12:00. The student pharmacists are supervised by registered pharmacists and will be available to meet with you individually to discuss tips on managing numerous regular medications and strategies to ensure that you're prepared in case of emergency. The next health assessment, will be February, 2016.

Reauthorizing the Older Americans Act

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was enacted in 1965 to improve the lives of seniors across the country. It is the foundation of support for services which enable seniors to live at home and remain active in their communities. These services include meals, job training, senior centers, caregiver support, transportation, health promotion programs and activities, benefits counseling and more. These programs preserve the dignity and independence of older adults and save taxpayers billions of dollars in Medicaid and Medicare costs by keeping seniors healthy and safe in their communities.

Authorization of the OAA expired in 2011. Although Federal funding has continued, there has been no increase in years; in fact, the amount allocated for the entire country is less than what the State of Wisconsin spends on nursing home care in six months! Every day that passes without reauthorization leaves the future of critical programs serving older adults more uncertain.

Urge your lawmakers to reauthorize the Older Americans Act now and let your local legislators know that they should continue to provide support through the county's programs for seniors.

Senator Tammy Baldwin, local office, 30 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 700, Madison, WI 53703; (608) 264-5338

Senator Ron Johnson, local office, 517 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 408, Milwaukee, WI 53202; (414) 276-7282

Congressman Mark Pocan, local office, 10 East Doty Street, Suite 405, Madison WI 53703; (608) 258-9800

ClearCaptions Phone

ClearCaptions is a company that provides captioned phones with a text display on a large color touchscreen, to people with hearing loss. Representative Kyle Klett recently made a presentation about this device at Lechayim. The service and installation are free; the phone runs on the Internet or WiFi. For information contact Kyle at (608) 371-3709 or kyle.klett@clearcaptions.com/

Israel and the World



From the Mid-east to the Mid-west

By Daniel Gill and Shirly Raiz

Community Shlichim/Israel Program Specialists

Something special happened in Madison in the past month. I'm not talking about Black Friday, even though the shopping was very exciting. I'm not talking even about Food-A-Rama, which certainly was a great event. I'm talking about one fine morning (2 pm, but never mind…) a group of ten Israelis came to visit the city of Madison. They came for a week, with the main reason of the visit to participate in the Madison Marathon.

-"Why did you come?"

-"to participate in Madison Marathon"

-"All the way from Israel? Just for a marathon? You don't have a marathon in your country?"

So, in fact – there is a marathon in Israel. And there are countries which host marathons that are closer to Israel, less than 25 hours of wandering, and jet lag. So why did ten Israelis come here, and stay from November 4 until November 12?

The answer is simple – so we could get to know each other.

Twenty years ago P2G (Partnership Together) was created to connect as many Israelis as possible, from the partnership area around Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), with as many Americans as possible. This includes St. Paul, Milwaukee, Tulsa, and in the last 2 years, our community in Madison has joined the adventure.

Six months before they came, Dan Mitchell began to build a group of runners that would run together with the Israelis as one team. The name of the operation was – Run2Gether.

The Israelis worked out and practiced in Israel, while Dan and his team were doing the same here.

On November 4, on a nice afternoon, ten Israelis came.

Actually, before they landed in our community, people started working out where they were going to stay. Who will host them? And the whole committee met to plan the visit. The head, Dan Mitchell, conducted the preparations with the wonderful help of Janice Beers, and finally we found the seven families who volunteered for the adventure.

Nan and Jim Youngerman hosted Rubik Smudge; Sasha and Eric Kerlow hosted Yochai Haim; Louise Goldstein and Bruce Thomadsen hosted Yuval Nitza Karta; Claudia and Chris Lewis hosted Tal and Rina; Beth and Russell Schreiber/Kahn hosted Ruth; Ingrid Reis and Mark Glass hosted Adi and Lior; and Stefanie and David Kushner hosted Jonathan Arad.

Then the visit started. After a good rest and dinner, we all met on the first evening at the Youngermans'. They soon realized that they didn't come only for running 26.2 miles, and we started to understand what awaits us next week.

In that week they learned about our community in all our dimensions. They met with Dina Weinbach to understand the significance of the Jewish Federation and its responsibilities. They met with Rabbi Ben Gideon and heard about Beth Israel Center. On Friday, they went to Temple Beth El and took part in the services. Shirley gave them a fascinating explanation of the role of "Hillel at the UW."

They also met with the children and the youth of the community. With Gan Ha'yeled they sang songs in Hebrew and danced. In the Day School they answered the tough questions asked by the children about being a fireman and policeman in Israel. And also, why they are running so long, and what is a nutritionist? They met with the Midrasha students, and were involved in the different classes by sharing experiences and asking questions.

During the week many community members volunteered to show the Israelis their point of view on Madison and also get to know them. They met and discussed with Professor Kenneth Mayer about the politics in the United States, and got a personal tour in the MMoCA (Madison Museum of Contemporary Art) by Stephen Fleischman. We visited Maurie's Fine Chocolates, and thanks to Marney Scheele we got a fascinating tour at the Arboretum. We ate a great lunch hosted by Kris and Bob Rasmussen, and visited Camp Randall Stadium thanks to Matt Bernstein (The Hebrew Hammer).

In between they also ran 26.2 miles while wearing the Israeli flag, broke their own records, and visited Madison in the nicest November weather they could ask for.

I asked some of the people who took part in this amazing week to share their feelings after the past week.

Dan Mitchell: Organizing the Run2Gether event turned out to be an incredibly rewarding experience for me. Not only did I make many new friends from Israel, but I have met and become friends with many new people right here in my own Madison community. We made the world a smaller place and established what I think will be lifelong friendships with people that we would otherwise probably never have met. Thanks to this experience, Yuval Karta and I now consider ourselves to be brothers. We started communicating with each other 5 months ago via Skype and truly bonded with each other during his time here in Madison. I can't wait to travel to Israel and see my new friends again for the Tiberias Marathon in January 2017.

Ingrid Reis: It was our pleasure to host Adi and Lior and to also spend time with the rest of the Israeli delegation. It was a fun filled week of eating, drinking, running (for them), shopping and exploring Madison. Adi and Lior are now part of our family and we already miss them dearly!

Sasha Kerlow: We very much enjoyed hosting Yochai and meeting the rest of the running team. It was like a taste of Israel in Madison. And I got to dust the cobwebs off my Hebrew.

Kris Rasmussen: Spending a few hours with our Israeli guests at the end of their time in Madison gave me the opportunity to hear from them about their experiences during their visit. They clearly felt very warmly welcomed and had come to love Madison and Madisonians. That day, we added cranberries to their running list of very important things in Wisconsin: Badgers, cheese, beer and cranberries

Beth Schreiber: I had a wonderful time! It was truly an enriching experience to get to know the runners and especially our guest, Ruti. I feel fortunate to have made a new good friend in her

Nan Youngerman: We had a fantastic visit, because the Israeli group came with a warm spirit and excitement to enjoy the Marathon, the Madison Jewish community, our beautiful city and each of us. It was truly a wonderful opportunity to share the things we have in common such as Judaism, running, a passion for social justice, good food, nature, family or other things we might enjoy. The visit created new international and local friendships and understandings between us from the formal and informal conversations.

Louise Goldstein: It was so much fun to welcome the Israeli runners and share our community and our home with them. We hosted Yuval and Nitza and quickly became good friends, to the point of really feeling like family. I think that's the point of the Sovev Kinneret Partnership, to feel and understand that we truly are all one family. I know that they felt very warmly welcomed by the Madison Jewish community and I can't wait to see them next summer in Israel!

Janice Beers: Thank you to the 'Dans' and all of the wonderful host families for opening your hearts and homes to the Israeli runners who have become family to us. This experience provided a surprise opportunity to connect not only with our Israeli guests but with local community members and our Minneapolis runners, too. I look forward to more opportunities to connect with everyone. I know we will continue to Run2Gether and Be2Gether as a community for years to come.

Stefanie Kushner: Hosting Jonathan was a great experience for my kids, to be able to hear what life is like in Israel, how strongly the Israelis love their country and certainly deepened our motivation to go and visit. It was a wonderful week.

And now, time to say Thank you!

To all the host families and their amazing collaboration – Without you, nothing would have been possible.

Thank you to Dan Mitchell for chairing this program and taking care of so many details.

Thank you to Janice Beers for coordinating with our generous host families.

And thank you to everyone else who volunteered their time to make it a wonderful week.

If you want to be more involved in the Israel programs, please make contact with Daniel at Israel@jewishmadison.org.

Connecting with Israel

Machaneh Bonim in Israel (MBI)

Editor's note: Mina Kianovsky was the recipient of a $1500 stipend for high school students from the Jewish Federation of Madison to use for an organized, extended trip to Israel.

For those of us involved in Jewish summer camps or youth movements, the summer before 11th grade is the summer for Israel trips. My youth movement, Habonim Dror, was no exception. Machaneh Bonim in Israel (MBI) is a 5-week-long program – 5 weeks I'll remember for the rest of my life. Habonim Dror is a multi-locational, Diasporic, Socialist and Labor-Zionist youth movement. With branches all over the world, including North America, Argentina, and South Africa (and a sister movement in Israel), Habonim Dror strives to educate youth about Judaism, Israel, and community. Habonim Dror has five pillars on which we base our education (Judaism, Progressive Labor-Zionism, Hagshama (Actualization of Habonim Dror values), Socialism, and Social Justice. In North America, Habonim Dror operates seven camps all over the continent every summer. There are two in Canada: Camp Gesher near Toronto and Camp Miriam on an island near Vancouver, B.C.) and five in the U.S. (Camp Gilboa in California, Camp Na'aleh in New York, Camp Galil in Pennsylvania, Camp Moshava in Maryland, and mine, Camp Tavor in Michigan). At these camps, kids between grades 3 and 10 live as though they're on a kibbutz for 3, 4, or 7 weeks. These camps are geared toward and led by youth. Everyone does their part: working in the kitchen or the garden, cleaning the bathrooms or waterfront, or maintaining the hiking trails. Each camp may be slightly different in terms of physical aspects, but the goals of the movement are the same worldwide.

MBI is a much different experience than camp. While the core values of Habonim Dror were still prominent, we talked about them in ways which many of us had never discussed before, and travelling across Israel helped us understand these values and ideals in context. We lived mostly in youth hostels and kibbutzim around Israel, with the occasional night under the stars. MBI, in essence, was a "service learning trip," meaning that as we toured through and learned about the country, we did Tikkun Olam, or repairing the world.

We arrived in Israel around 5:30 pm on July first and we were exhausted. We went to the hostel in Jerusalem, our first stop. We spent the first 5 days in or around Jerusalem, learning the history and the current news going on near there. Over those 5 days, we went to the Kotel, Old and New Jerusalem, and the Machaneh Yehuda Shuk. We also spent our first Shabbat of MBI at a local park called The Centre. It had a beautiful view of the city. I love Jerusalem. We did so much on this trip, all of it so incredible, but there were some things that stood out more than others. We spent quite a bit of time learning about and discussing the Shoah (Holocaust). We visited two Holocaust museums: Yad Vashem, and the Ghetto Fighters Museum. At Yad Vashem, we got a tour of the main building by a woman who, coincidentally, had grown up at one of our North American camps. As she took us through the museum, she shared stories with us, stories of victims and survivors, and they made the entire museum come to life. We also saw the children's memorial, which was extremely difficult to walk through. It was a dark room with mirrors all over the walls, and five candles in the room. The five candles reflected off the mirrors so that it looked like there were endless candles in the room. As we walked, we heard the names of children echoing through the room, along with the name of their home regions and the camp or ghetto where they perished. We also visited the Ghetto Fighters Museum. We learned about many heroic people who rose up against the Nazis in the ghettos, and the roles of some of our movement's members in that fight. For example, we learned that Zivia Lubetkin, a founding member of Dror (before the two movements merged), was a leader of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Habonim Dror is not alone in its values. We have a sister movement, based only in Israel, called Ha'noar Ha'oved v Ha'lomed (I'll call it NOAL from now on). On MBI, we got the chance to spend a few days with kids our age from NOAL and learn about the similarities and differences between them and us, as people and as movements. My group included some kids from Sha'ar Hanegev, an area really close to Gaza. It was incredibly interesting to hear their thoughts on the conflict and to learn what it was like to live so close to the border. We did activities to get to know them, had a night together where we all slept under the stars. No one got much sleep that night, because we were all sleeping on rough gravel with nothing but a sleeping bag between us and the ground. On top of that, around 2:30 in the morning, the Call To Prayer began to sound from three different mosques, marking the end of Ramadan. That woke nearly everyone up, and no one was able to go back to sleep because it continued to sound until 6:30. We were supposed to wake up at 6:45 that morning because we were scheduled to take a long hike through a shadeless valley. Following the hike, we went to Kibbutz Ravid to spend Shabbat all together. We shared our traditions for Shabbat with our new NOAL friends. We had a musicale (a showcase of performances by anyone who wanted to participate), fun activities, as well as some serious discussions, and we introduced NOAL to a Habonim Havdalah.

In the weeks leading up to MBI, I heard over and over again about an activity called Rafsodia. This is a two-day project where participants make rafts out of bamboo, empty oil drums, pallets, and lots of twine, and sail the raft across the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee). Each raft could hold a maximum of 25 people, and seeing as there were 90 of us, we needed four rafts. To start, we put the bamboo poles together and learned how to tie the necessary knots. When that was done, we added on the oil drums and tied them on. That ended up taking the majority of our day, and by the end, not a single person was without blisters on his or her hands. That evening, we had free swim time in the Kinneret, and a good amount of chill time. We talked about how we thought the day went, and what a great bonding experience it had been. We came to a quick consensus that this was one of the best parts of the trip. That night we slept under the stars, and the second day, we redid some knots on the raft that had come undone, added the wooden pallets, and painted the canvas sail. After that, all we could do was wait for the wind to pick up. Our scheduled sail time was around 2:00, but the wind didn't come until almost 3:30. We were itching to get out on the water, especially because we had a 3-hour ride on the raft ahead of us. However, once we got out on the water, we had a fantastic time. We played games on the raft, ate snacks (including an entire watermelon), and just hung out. It took us a little less than 3 hours to get from one shore to the other, but we didn't mind a bit; we were having the time of our lives. By the time we got to the other shoreline, we were soaked and exhausted, but thrilled that we'd had the chance to experience what we did.

One perfectly magical place we went was Ein Gedi. There, we stayed at a Bedouin camp, got up at 3:30 the next morning to climb Masada, and then went to the Dead Sea. The first night in Ein Gedi was spent with the Bedouins. We arrived at the camp in the afternoon, and immediately went on a camel ride. After we rode the camels, we entered the Bedouin camp. Bedouins are generally a nomadic group; however, unlike a traditional camp, this was a permanent village. We all went into a tent, where we were served sweet tea and strong coffee, and told about the history and current state of the Bedouins. A Bedouin man stood in front of us and told us stories of his family and their life. After that, we had a bit of free time to explore the camp. There were family tents, and beautiful carpets and artwork. We then went to the dining tent. There were cushions on the floor, surrounding these low, long tables, each with water and tray stands on them. As soon as we were all situated, each table was brought trays of food: a stew with lamb, potatoes, and vegetables; bowls of tahini; bowls of fresh vegetables; and lafa, a thin pancake-style flatbread. It was one of the best meals we had the entire trip. After dinner, they brought us fruit and more sweet tea. After dinner, we talked about the day, and about how we felt about being in the Negev, before stargazing for a bit.

The next morning, it took us about a half hour to get to the top of Masada, and we arrived right on time to see one of the most beautiful sunrises I've ever experienced. We sat on the rocks, sang, played music, and watched the morning, and the Negev Desert, come to life. It was a morning of pure beauty. After we watched the sunrise, we walked around atop Masada and learned about the history that had taken place there. We talked about what it meant to be there and what kind of connection we felt to Masada. By 8:00 am the heat of the desert was setting in. We decided it was time to go back down, via the snake path. At the beginning, it was pretty hot, and there were a lot of stairs, but the further down we went, the hotter it got, and the steeper it got, and by the time we'd gone a quarter of the way down, my knees were shaking. We took breaks every few minutes and we all drank lots of water, but the journey down was a difficult one. By the time we finally reached the bottom, after what felt like hours, I was propelling myself forward with pure relief at seeing the bus in front of me that would take us to the youth hostel that sits at the base of the mountain.

After a well-deserved breakfast, we got our swimsuits and went down to the Dead Sea. It should be common knowledge that the Dead Sea stings any part of the body with an open cut or sore, and we all found that out firsthand fairly quickly. It was a quick beach run for that reason; everyone was in pain within seconds of getting into the water. It was completely worth it, though, just to say we'd all done it. Afterward, we went back to the hostel. There was swimming available, and plenty of open spaces to hang out in. I spent most of my afternoon with a group of friends playing music and singing songs. It's another one of my favorite memories from MBI.

Throughout the summer, a theme that came up repeatedly was the Conflict. Having spent many summers at Camp, where discussions regarding Israel and politics are a routine occurrence, I was aware that Habonim Dror favors the idea of a Two-State Solution, and equal rights for all within Israel. And even though the situation of Israel and Palestinians is a well-publicized issue, it was a completely new experience to learn about it as it was going on all around us. We were given the opportunity to see it from multiple points of view; we discussed it with some of our NOAL friends who lived near Gaza, we met with two Arab Israeli men and discussed their perspectives, and we had the chance to visit Barta'a, a city split in half by the Green Line. With each new perspective, our understanding deepened a little. Here in the U.S., much of the information we see with regard to the Middle East is extremely biased and sometimes hiding some parts of the story. This can be very confusing and frustrating. In Israel, however, we had the chance to meet multiple people, each with a different view on the Conflict. Never before had I met an Arab Israeli who was pro¬ Israel. The news here often made it seem as though those people were nonexistent. Never before had I met anyone who lived near Gaza, let alone people my own age – kids who spend so much time and energy preparing for terror attacks, and yet whose opinions about the conflict, and possible solutions, are so surprisingly different from one another. Though eye-opening, however, the people I met did not clarify my view of this issue. The Conflict is a multi-layered, intensely complex issue, and my confusion has grown with this influx of information. Recent events in Israel have pushed me further to formulate my own opinions and deepen my knowledge.

When the time came for us to go to the airport, there was a general cloud of melancholy in the air. As the tears commenced once again, we were forced to go our separate ways. Although my summer of a lifetime had to end, the memories I now carry with me will never leave my heart, and I know that I have lifelong friends who feel the same. There are plenty of things to do with a summer, but I can't imagine having not gone on MBI. I am forever grateful for Habonim Dror, as well as the experience I had this summer on MBI and the people who made it so incredible.







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