

JEWISH NEWS

A Publication of the Jewish Federation of Madison

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Jewish Federation Upcoming Events 5	Year in Review 12-13	Jewish Social Services 18-20
Camp Corner 6	Simchas & Condolences 15	Business, Professional & Service Directory 21
Congregation News 8-9	Jewish Education 16	Israel & The World 22-23

Thanks for Giving

The Jewish Federation of Madison would like to thank Susan and Jonathan Lipp and their staff at Full Compass for hosting our Thanks for Giving Annual Meeting. It was a wonderful evening of

presentations, speeches, delicious food and friends. We would like to also thank Chabad for helping cook the food, to thank Judy Schreiber who saw to every detail of the evening.

2018 TZEDAKAH CAMPAIGN GOAL
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\$523,956 PLEDGED TO DATE



Susan Lipp

Serving Her Community

By DEBBIE MINKOFF
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON

Debbie Minkoff accepts the presidency of the board for the Jewish Federation of Madison at the Thanks for Giving Annual meeting on November 18, 2018.

The well-known saying from Hillel in *Pirke Avot* describes the reason I now assume the presidency of the Jewish Federation of Madison:

If I am not for myself, who will be for

me? If I am only for myself, what am I? If not now, when?

Our mission is as important and relevant today as it was when we incorporated as the Jewish Welfare fund on May 10, 1940. The Federation is committed to the survival, well-being and continuity of the Jewish people in our area, in Israel, and throughout the world. While times have changed, and methods updated, supporting Jewish life is at the core of all we do.

We are fortunate to have dedicated, multigenerational leadership on our board. It is time to devote ourselves to transferring institutional memory and nurturing the next generation of individuals to lead the Jewish community



Debbie Minkoff

(Continued on page 17)

I HEART Jewish Madison Personal Stories

By ANN IMIG
CO-CHAIR OF GAN HAYELED COMMITTEE

Ann Imig spoke at the Jewish Federation of Madison Thanks for Giving Annual Meeting, on November 18, 2018.

I recently shared two photos on Facebook from my son Elliott's Bar Mitzvah in 2016—which took place the same day as the presidential inauguration. Anti-Semitism had already begun to surge, and the opportunity to celebrate a simcha could not have come at a more welcome moment.

One photo shows Elliott leading the Torah processional with us, his parents, his grandparents, Rabbi Biatch, family and friends—smiles one and all—defiant in Jewish joy. The other photo shows the passing of the Torah from one generation to the next, down to Elliott, a fourth generation Jewish Wisconsinite.

My parents provided the foundation for my Jewish joy. My mom made Shabbat dinners in our Jewish home, and my Jewish education took place at Temple Beth El, where I became a bat



Ann Imig

mitzvah. I spent summers first at Camp Shalom, and then OSRUI as both camper and staff. The close friends I made at OSRUI modeled youth leadership for me and I grew inspired to join the youth group and participate in the Northern Federation of Temple Youth.

While I credit my family and Temple Beth El for that sturdy Jewish foundation, I credit my passionate Jewish identity to my overnight camp years at OSRUI, so much so that I considered it the crucial

(Continued on page 21)

With Thanks to Alicia Schiff

The Jewish Federation of Madison would like to thank Alicia Schiff for her service as president of the Board from 2017 to 2018. May you go from strength to strength.



Alicia Schiff

To read more about the Thanks for Giving evening, please see pages 11-14.

Statement on Baraboo High School Photo

We are alarmed by the disturbing display of anti-Semitism by a group of Baraboo High School students. Though the incident apparently took place last May, it reflects a rising swell of anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. We are particularly concerned with the prevalence of bigotry within schools; more than 25 percent of all the recorded anti-Semitic incidents in Wisconsin last year took place among students or on campus. We have witnessed numerous egregious incidents targeting African Americans, Latinos, and other minority groups.

We look forward to working with Baraboo school district to prevent any future such incidents. As we know, acts of hate begin with hateful expressions. Such expressions must be a call to action for schools and families to educate youth to respect diversity and to embrace difference. The values that will hold us together must be taught and reinforced, lest we see the continued rise of hate and its consequences.

Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Jewish Federation of Madison, Wisconsin Jewish Conference, ADL Midwest

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This award-winning highly impactful documentary captures the experience of four families, refugees from Syria, as they struggle to adjust to new lives in Baltimore.

After the 90-minute film, community leaders will facilitate small group discussions on the film's topics and discuss refugee resettlement programs in Madison and local refugee experiences from 3-4pm. Light refreshments provided.



#ThisIsHomeDocumentary

Jewish Congregations for Social Justice

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JEWISH MADISON

FRIENDRAISER

Monday, December 10
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Max Weinstein Jewish Community Building,
home of Jewish Federation of Madison
6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI

We Welcome the ENTIRE COMMUNITY

See our home • Enjoy some refreshments
Learn about Jewish Federation of Madison and our beneficiary organizations' programs
Tour Gan HaYeled Preschool • Meet the staff and dedicated volunteer leadership

This will also be the kickoff to our Little Free Jewish Library contest: incorporate the Federation logo for our very own Little Free Jewish Library. More details to follow at this event.

No RSVP required

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Coming Together: A Vigil of Interfaith Solidarity

By RABBI LAURIE ZIMMERMAN
RABBI OF CONGREGATION SHAAREI SHAMAYIM

When the Jewish community learned of the devastating Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, it was a terrifying moment. We felt shocked that this could happen in the United States, that such death and destruction could happen on Shabbat and within the sacred space of a synagogue. On Saturday night, several of Madison's rabbis who work together closely on community issues began to talk. We decided to hold a vigil the next evening so that the Jewish community could come together and mourn the loss of life. We called it a vigil of interfaith solidarity because we wanted to be with our friends in the Latino, African-American, Muslim, Protestant, and Catholic communities at this terrible time.

We thought that the vigil would mostly bring together the Jewish community but were surprised to welcome so many of our neighbors in Madison on that Sunday evening to stand with us. The traffic on University Avenue was backed up for blocks. Parking was nearly impossible to find. Almost a thousand people filled the space at First Unitarian Society, our gracious hosts for the evening. So many came to mourn the loss of our community but left with hope.

We are so grateful for the support we received. We learned that building relationships with other communities is essential. As Reverend Everett Mitchell said that night, Jews had called him to offer condolences when a shooter entered a black church in Charleston and

murdered nine African Americans who were praying. He knew that he needed to come and be with our community after a synagogue shooting. We must come together as a community. We must be strong in the face of hatred and white supremacy. We must fight hate with love and acceptance. As we move forward, we must recommit ourselves to fostering strong multi-ethnic and multi-religious connections.

And finally, we want to acknowledge and thank the First Unitarian Society for opening its doors to the Madison community. The space allowed for all the voices to speak as one.

The vigil was sponsored by Temple Beth El, Beth Israel Center, Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, Jewish Social Services of Madison, UW-Hillel, and Jewish Federation of Madison.



Rabbi Forester and Rabbi Biatch



Rabbi Zimmerman

Thank You to the Speakers and Song Leaders at the Vigil of Interfaith Solidarity

Mario Garcia Sierra • Fabiola Hamdan • Masood Akhtar
Rev. Doug Wadkins • Rev. Miranda Hasett
Rev. Amanda Stein • Rev. Alex Gee • Rev. Everett Mitchell
Rabbi Andrea Steinberger • Rabbi Jonathan Biatch
Rabbi Betsy Forester • Rabbi Renee Bauer
Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman • Larry Kohn
Thank you for standing together to help our community heal

Re-Introducing the Wisconsin Jewish Conference

By MICHAEL BLUMENFELD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WISCONSIN JEWISH CONFERENCE, WITH CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ERIN FABRIZIUS
WJC IS A BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON

Established in 1987, the Wisconsin Jewish Conference serves as a clearinghouse to address important public policy issues. We advocate for the separation of church and state, work with local communities to respond to acts of discrimination and anti-Semitic incidents, monitor legislative activity and build interfaith coalitions.

Mostly recently, we worked with the Jewish Federation of Madison and others in the Jewish community to prepare an interfaith response to an anti-Semitic incident involving Baraboo High School students.

Although our primary focus is on the Wisconsin State Legislature, we work closely with our national agencies, especially the Jewish Federation of North America's Washington D.C. office and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. No other statewide organization advocates for the Jewish community's interests and needs in Wisconsin state government.

Our goal is to use this column to keep you updated on our activities throughout the year. We also provide updates on state legislative activity that is of interest to the Jewish community.

UW Hillel – Advocating for the Needs of Jewish Students and Faculty on the UW Campus

By GREG STEINBERGE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UW HILLEL
UW MADISON IS A BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON

There is a perception that Hillels are the extension of Jewish youth or summer camp. That our mission is to help Jewish students meet one another, celebrate Jewish holidays, and gain leadership experiences through affinity groups, internships and projects and conferences, or travel to Israel.

That however tells only one part of a much bigger and important story. Since December 1924, Hillel has been on the

UW campus providing critical needs to the Jewish students and faculty on campus. In those early days, Jews often were discriminated against when seeking housing or joining organizations, or not welcomed in certain academic fields. As such our work to build community and advocate for the well-being of Jewish students was critical.

As the world and the campus changed, Jews experienced much greater success

and fewer barriers to participation. Over those years, anti-Semitism declined and Jews were welcomed and achieved success throughout the university community. And yet each and every year we continue to see problems on campus that are often anti-Semitic in nature. For example, in recent years we have been terrorized by a rash of spray painting tags of anti-Semitic imagery that resulted in two arrests of non-students. We also experienced emotional challenges and anti-Semitic verbal attacks during open meetings at student government two years ago. Last winter someone went

(Continued on page 21)



Madison
JEWISH NEWS

Published monthly by
JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON
6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, Wisconsin 53719
(608) 278-1808 | Fax: (608) 278-7814
JewishMadison.org | mjn@jewishmadison.org

Alicia Schiff, President
Debbie Minkoff, Interim Executive Director
Laurie Nagus, Managing Editor
Tiz Ihnchak, Advertising Manager
Brianna Chizek, Advertising Design and Layout
Printing by: News Publishing Company, Inc., Black Earth

Copy deadline is at noon on the 12th of each month for the following month's issue. If the 12th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, copy must be received by noon the preceding Friday. If the 12th is on a holiday when the Federation is closed, copy must be received by noon the preceding weekday. All copy must be submitted on a CD or by email attachment to info@jewishmadison.org in Microsoft Word. Copy embedded in an email, handwritten or typed hard copy will not be accepted. Photographs may be submitted, but the preference is they arrive as an email attachment in a high definition resolution. JPEG format is preferred. Photographs embedded in an email will not be accepted. The name and telephone number of the individual submitting the copy must be included on all submissions. The Madison Jewish News and the Jewish Federation of Madison accept no responsibility for errors or omissions. All material is accepted on a space available basis, is subject to editing, and is governed by policy.

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PROVIDING FOR THE BURIAL NEEDS OF THE GREATER MADISON JEWISH COMMUNITY.

Refugee Shabbatot in Madison

BY SALLY JONES AND ERICA SERLIN
JEWISH CONGREGATIONS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The October shooter at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh expressed rage at Jews and at HIAS, (the organization formerly known as Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), and more specifically, at HIAS's Welcome Campaign assisting refugees. His actions reinforce for us the kinship between the Jews' long experience of brutality and the plight today of many people, from many countries, forced to flee for their lives. His attack challenges us to reaffirm the Jewish commitments to care for the other and to heal the world.

HIAS, the only global Jewish organization whose mission it is to assist and protect those fleeing persecution, has been "welcoming the stranger" for more than 135 years, resettling, assisting and advocating for refugees. Today, with more people displaced globally than at any time since World War II, this work feels more urgent than ever, especially in light of US policy under the current administration.

Seeking in this election season to draw the attention of local faith communities to the global refugee crisis, HIAS named October 19-20 as Refugee Shabbat 2018—purposely choosing the Shabbat for reading Parashat Lech Lecha (Torah portion Lech Lecha), in which God tells Abram (soon to become Abraham) to leave his birthplace and journey to a new land, which God will show him. Notably, Lech Lecha provides the first reference to "Avram Ha'Ivri" (Avram, the one who crosses over); later the Jewish people collectively will be known as "Ha'Ivrim" (the ones who cross over), the name a lasting reminder that displacement—or, more positively, resettlement—is central to our people's identity and survival. In the haftarah for the day, Isaiah addresses the Jews exiled in Babylonia, urging them not to despair in their foreign surroundings, and giving us the opportunity to recall that Jews eventually flourished in Babylonia,

many remaining long after return to their homeland became open to them. All three Madison Jewish congregations, along with Hillel, responded enthusiastically to HIAS' call.

But however pertinent the scheduled readings, the October 19-20 date did not fit the schedules of several congregations in Madison—with the unexpected and happy effect of giving our community a Refugee Shabbat event during each weekend in the month. Hillel began, with observances on October 5 (Parashat B'reshit); Congregation Shaarei Shamayim followed on October 13 (Parashat Noach), Beth Israel Center on October 19-20, and Temple Beth El on October 26 (Parashat Vayera). This broadened, rather than compromised, the focus on refugees; as Lizzy Wallis, Springboard Social Justice Fellow at Hillel, remarked, "how cool it is that all the Madison synagogues have different parashiyot from the Torah, and are still able to connect refugee rights to the themes explored that week."

At Hillel's observance, on October 5, the Reform and the Conservative evening services each featured a student leader who gave a d'var Torah exploring Parashat B'reshit and its lessons regarding treatment of refugees. Julia Brunson, a junior from Milwaukee, speaking at the Reform service, called B'reshit "a warning against growing complacent." She wove together the "first light of Creation," the blindness we may retreat into because of unrelenting stories of suffering, and the light brandished by the Statue of Liberty, with its "reassurance that there are people, somewhere, who will welcome the stranger, and shelter the oppressed." She closed with a charge (later issued at Beth Israel Center as well) by Rabbi Rachel Grant Meyer, "Aleinu. It was on us. It is on us. It will always be on us."

At the Conservative service, Marah Birnbaum, a sophomore from Brooklyn,

noted that despite a beginning in which God, again and again, "saw that it was good," over time human behavior became so appalling as to deserve annihilation—but for the example of Noah. Similarly, she suggested, while we recoil from the atrocities of war and disasters in our environment, we can try to hope for the future and for the rebuilding of lives into something new and better, as do Noah and his family. She recalled that Jews have fled dangers and have settled in new places, so now Jews, especially, should help today's refugees. After the services, at Shabbat dinner, Rabbi Renee Bauer, director of chaplaincy and outreach at Jewish Social Services, added her perspective, connecting the history of Jewish peoples' oppression to the current reports of suffering by immigrants and refugees. A gratifying measure of these speakers' effectiveness and of their congregations' concerned response, came later in the week, when Ms. Wallis learned from a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi that his fraternity very much wants to take part in local refugee resettlement efforts.

On October 13 Congregation Shaarei Shamayim welcomed Becca Schwartz, refugee resettlement coordinator at Jewish Social Services, to speak at Shabbat morning services. She brought with her a family from Afghanistan whom CSS had welcomed to Madison last year and had helped to support through JSS's CARA (Community Assistance for Refugee Arrivals) program. Becca explained that the vast reduction in numbers of refugees now permitted entry into this country has far-reaching consequences. She also shared her observations on the difficulty of beginning one's life over and integrating into a new country. Throughout the service, Rabbi Laurie Zimmerman drew lessons from Parashat Noach on the importance of welcoming refugees.

At Beth Israel Center, on Shabbat

morning October 20, Rabbi Betsy Forester noted that the day's parashah and haftarah address painful Jewish experience not far different from that of people driven from home today. In grim detail (like that presented later at TBE) she described the magnitude of the global crisis now, in which over half of refugees are younger than 18. And she stressed our obligation: 36 times, double chai, the Torah commands us to care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger in our midst "ki geirim heyitem b'erezt mitzrayim because you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Instead of giving a d'var Torah, Rabbi Forester introduced special guests at the service—the family of three from Rwanda whom BIC sponsors under CARA. A wife, her husband and his brother. The woman spoke for all three.

She remarked on the struggle of the Israelites in Egypt and touched briefly on her family's experiences: "on our way to Calvary, we encountered a lot of challenges such as misery, illness, harassment, tiredness, tribulations, violence, hunger, persecutions, robbery and many more," the whole amounting to an "apocalyptic journey." But in their new home she could now say that God "has given a second chance to us and our descendants." In Madison, she said, they have found a "beautiful city with good people," and she expressed their thanks, to those who have helped them so far. Mindful of so many others still living the misery they have escaped, she added: "we humbly recommend that your hearts and your hands remain opened to many other refugees patiently waiting worldwide to be rescued and be resettled to this peaceful land."

For this Shabbat, the BIC congregation offered a variation on the usual prayer for our country, asking for a spirit of respect, a path to understanding, recognition of the marginalized, and

(Continued on page 5)

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Refugee Shabbatot

Continued from page 4

success at making our country a place of freedom, safety, security, possibility and opportunity.

Temple Beth El's Refugee Shabbat service on October 26 bore the title "Understanding the Global Refugee Crisis." Prayers, songs and readings were chosen to enhance this theme throughout the service. With the lighting of Shabbat candles, Rabbi Jonathan Biatch voiced these hopes: "may the light of these Shabbat candles bring radiance to all who travel the road of the refugee. May we be inspired to confront those today who keep others chained to their lands of oppression. With gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy, may we strive mightily to bring forward liberation to those who yearn to be free."

Cantor Sharon Brown-Levy inspired the congregation with a moving rendition of Neil Diamond's "They're Coming to America" and with El na r'fa na, a healing prayer that, after asking for healing of the body and soul, goes on:

We pray for healing of our people.

We pray for healing of the land.

And peace for every race and nation,

Every child, every woman, every man.

A member of the TBE congregation shared his detailed knowledge about the global refugee crisis. Professor Scott Straus, the Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Political Science and International Studies at UW-Madison, specializes in the study of genocide, political violence, human rights, and African politics. He spoke eloquently--and with staggering statistics to offer. Sixty-five and a half million people worldwide have been displaced; they make up one percent of the total world population! Of those, 25.4 million have become refugees, fleeing either from civil war and violence in their home countries, or from persecution for being who they are--ethnic, or religious or sexual minorities. Eighty-five percent of the displaced have taken refuge in developing countries.

From the 1970s, Professor Straus added, the US hosted more refugees than any other country but, sadly, the current administration has dramatically changed policy, lowering the ceiling

number for admittance to the US from a previous high of 110,000 annually to 45,000 in the fiscal year just passed and only 30,000 this year. The number actually admitted fell even more--to 22,000 of last year's possible 45,000. Of those, only some 200 came from Arabic-speaking countries, in spite of our obligations to the many locals who have assisted US military efforts in the Arab world.

In ending the service, Rabbi Bauer explained the role of JSS in Madison's refugee resettlement process. She acknowledged, too, that the reduction in numbers to be allowed entry raises uncertainty as to which agencies will hold onto government authorization to resettle refugees. However uncertain the more distant future for Madison and JSS, she could say that two families from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a total of 18 people, have been cleared to come to Madison. She described the ways in which we can volunteer to assist these newcomers, as well as those recently arrived in Madison.

We all need to learn more about, and continue to pay attention to, the refugee crisis seething around us. We must hold to account our elected officials, demanding from them a humane and compassionate solution to this worldwide catastrophe. Our own history of persecution and forced migration makes this personal to us, and the values of our faith call us to respond wholeheartedly. We do well to remember HIAS' declaration: For a long time we helped refugees because they were Jewish; today we help refugees because we are Jewish.

Please save the date of Sunday, December 2, to attend a 1:30 pm free public showing at the Fitchburg Library of This Is Home, a documentary about four Syrian families resettling in Baltimore. The film won the Sundance 2018 World Cinema Documentary Audience Award. In the discussion following the film, we'll have the opportunity to learn more about Madison activities, with how to become involved--or more involved. Please see ad on page 2.

Teaching English in Jerusalem with MASA

By ZACH AND SARAH MASA-MYERS

We (Zach and Sarah Masa-Myers; son-in-law and daughter of Steve Kessler and Donna Anderson) are currently working as teaching fellows, teaching English in Jerusalem through the program Masa Israel Journey. Coincidentally, Masa means "journey" in Hebrew, and is part of Zach's given last name! Masa Israel Journey is the leader in immersive international experiences in Israel for young adults (18-30) and includes many different outlets, such as study abroad, internship, gap year, service learning, or Jewish Studies programs. Since its founding in 2004 by the prime minister's office of the government of Israel, together with The Jewish Agency for Israel, over 120,000 young people from more than 60 countries have participated in Masa Israel programs.

The Masa Israel Teaching Fellowship (MITF) focuses on bringing in post-college graduates to work with and teach Israeli and Arab students English for ten months. MITF works in tandem with other groups throughout Israel that help place the fellows in various

schools throughout Israel. Fellows are provided with housing and utilities, a monthly stipend, a monthly bus pass, programming and workshops, and the ability to further explore and express Jewish identity in a plethora of different ways.

Masa works with a variety of organizations that are also a part of Birthright. These organizations have their roots in various cities throughout Israel. We work with the group BINA: The Jewish Movement for Social Change. From their website we read, "BINA combines Jewish learning, social action and community building, through cultural, social and educational programs that reach over 50,000 Israelis and Jews from all over the world every year. BINA strives to strengthen Israel as a democratic pluralistic society, to reinvigorate Jewish culture, and to express the Jewish value of tikkun olam (repair of the world). BINA emphasizes Jewish learning that leads to social action. BINA was formed as a response to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin



This Is Home

Sunday, December 2, 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Fitchburg Public Library, 5530 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI

This award-winning documentary captures the experience of four families, refugees from Syria, as they struggle to adjust to life in Baltimore.

After the 90-minute film, community leaders will facilitate small group discussions on the film's topics and discuss refugee resettlement programs in Madison and local refugee experiences. Light refreshments will be served.

Co-sponsored by: Jewish Congregations for Social Justice: Beth Israel Center, Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, and Temple Beth El; Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Jewish Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, UW-Madison Hillel, Jewish Federation of Madison, Open Doors for Refugees

Refer to ad on pages 2 for more information.

Gan HaYeled Family Potluck Shabbat

Friday, December 7, 5:00 pm

Max Weinstein Jewish Community Building, 6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719-1117

Please join us for songs, food, and fun! Bring a vegetarian dish to share with everyone!

I Heart Jewish Madison Friendraiser

Monday, December 10, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Max Weinstein Jewish Community Building, 6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53719-1117

Please join us for an Open House

We welcome you to stop by to see our home, enjoy some refreshments, learn about Jewish Federation of Madison and our beneficiary organizations' programs, tour Gan HaYeled Preschool, meet the staff, and dedicated volunteer leadership.

We will also be kicking off our Little Free Jewish Library design contest. The Little Free Jewish Library will be housed outside of the Jewish Federation of Madison offices and provide a space for anyone in the community to take or share Jewish and Hebrew books! More details to follow at the Friendraiser event on how you can show off your creativity for this fun community project.

Tzedakah Campaign Call Night

Tuesday, December 11

Our amazing campaign volunteers will be reaching out on this night to secure pledges for the 2018 Tzedakah Campaign. If you have not already made your commitment, please answer the call! Toda Raba!

December's Girls Night Out

Thursday, December 13, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

1847 at the Stamm House, 6625 Century Ave., Middleton, WI 53562

Girls Night Out is for women of all ages interested in meeting other women connected to the Jewish community. Monthly dinners are planned, with each participant paying their own way. Occasionally, book club discussions are planned in addition to the dinners.

RSVP to make reservations. Please email Tiz Ihnchak at outreach@JewishMadison.org to attend this dinner. *Each person is responsible for paying for their own meal and drinks.*

Gift Wrapping at Barnes and Noble

Wednesday, December 19, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Barnes and Noble, 7433 Mineral Point Rd, Madison, WI 53717

We will be gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble on the west side again this year. Volunteers are needed for all 10 hours! Sign up for as many or as little hours as your want! Contact Tiz Ihnchak at outreach@JewishMadison.org to reserve your spot! All gift-wrapping donations go to the Jewish Federation of Madison sponsored programs that combat hate. All supplies provided, just show up alone or with a friend to do a fun Mitzvah!

and the inner conflict and bitter divide that was created among Israeli citizens."

Most of the schools that the fellows teach in are in underserved schools, including those with high poverty rates, large populations of olim (immigrants) from around the world, and those that lack general resources. The goal of the program is to build bridges between

cultures by having native-speaking English speakers connect with students, their families, and the community in the pursuit of upward mobility that comes with learning English.

We decided to take the plunge into the program after Zach heard about this opportunity while on Birthright in early

(Continued on page 7)

Camp Corner



Camp Shalom Winter and Spring Information

Camp Shalom Winter Camp: December 26-28 (online registration is open now!)
 Camp Shalom Spring Break Camp: March 26-28
 Camp Shalom Registration for returning families and alumni: March 6
 Camp Shalom Registration for everyone: March 7

Camp Shalom Summer Session Information

Camp Shalom New Camper Information Session: TBA
 Camp Shalom Staff Orientation: June 17-June 21, 2019
 (Staff applications will be available online January 15, 2019)

Session 1: June 24-July 12, 2019 (no camp July 3)
Session 2: July 16-August 2, 2019 (no camp Monday, July 15)
Session 3 (Camp Shalom only): August 6-August 16, 2019 (no camp Monday, August 5)

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Hillel Students Do #MitzVote for the Midterms

By ALEX FISHKIND, UW CLASS OF 2020

UW-HILLEL IS A BENEFICIARY ORGANIZATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON

Leading up to the midterm election, Hillel at UW-Madison participated in a nationwide Hillel effort to encourage students across campus to exercise their right to vote. Hillel provided registration and early voting information and held a nonpartisan “Poll Party” on election day. The party drew more than 125 students for a pasta and ice cream bar, photo booth, button making, bounce house, and other games. Hillel’s national social media team captured the activity on campus to share with others around the country.

Nationally, the #MitzVote campaign, engaged with students to provide easy access to voter registration and absentee ballot tools. The campaign engaged nearly 800,000 individuals across the country.

Lizzy Wallis, Social Justice Fellow at Hillel, is a strong proponent of the necessity to facilitate student voting, “I think that, working on a college campus with students, we have a responsibility to help students become active participants in society and work to create the world they’d like to see.”

While it is always important to perform the civic duty of voting, this year’s midterm election was especially vital in wake of the horrific Pittsburgh synagogue attack. The act of voting provided many students with a way to channel their frustration, and to take action in the wake of the tragedy.

For many years now, the 18 to 29 voting age bracket had nearly the lowest turnout percentage of any group. “I think part of this is due to the fact that it’s not yet our habit to vote regularly,” said Lizzy, “and I think part is that, because it’s so new to people, many don’t know how to register to vote and are embarrassed to ask.”

UW Hillel, partnering with Greek Life, Student Government, the Gender and Sexuality Student Center, and the Multicultural Student Center, is proud of the combined efforts to increase student voter participation. Dane County reported close to a 90% voter turnout, based on preregistered voters. This suggests that a tremendous number, including many students, registered on Election Day and cast their ballots.

Teaching English

Continued from page 5

2018. Not only that, but Zach had seen “Masa” popping up on his newsfeed on Facebook many times and took that as a sign that it was something to look into. We were both starting our careers respectively, Zach as an instrumental music educator and Sarah as a marketing and social media specialist. We decided that giving back to Israel and spending time working with young people would be an important and invaluable experience in our lives before starting a family of our own someday soon. We applied to live in Jerusalem and were fortunate enough to be placed there. We live with five other people that in a centrally located area in Jerusalem that has a beautiful view of the Knesset.

We teach in vastly different schools with vastly different student populations and communities. Zach teaches second to sixth grade in a secular elementary school in the Katamon area of Jerusalem and Sarah teaches third through sixth grade in a religious, all boys, elementary school in the area of Pisgat Ze’ev. Most students in the Israeli school systems are loud, rambunctious, and curious about us. Many have never even met Jewish people outside of Israel. Many times, our students are teaching us how to speak

Hebrew which can be a huge boost for their self-confidence and contributes to their willingness to engage in speaking English.

The fellows teach Monday through Thursday, study in Ulpan (intensive Hebrew courses) and have a two-day weekend for Shabbat on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, all fellows engage in a variety of educational experiences hosted by their organizer and Masa. These experiences range from day trips to other cities, pedagogy workshops to enhance teaching skills, and listening to speakers of different backgrounds teaching about the wide variety of cultures in Israel.

We have found living in Eretz Israel to be an adventure of a lifetime. Every day brings a new challenge and an insightful experience. The country’s name lives up to its namesake. There are many issues that we must struggle with and have struggled with from a pluralistic, religious point of view as well as the political discourse about the security within Israel and the history of Israel as a country.

While we cannot possibly understand all of the complexities in our short time here or in our lifetime, we hope that we



Hillel students celebrate #MitzVote on Election Day with pasta, ice cream, and a bounce house.



Aaron Seligman, his daughter, and UW Dean of Students, Argyle Wade

can make the best of our time to build relationships with our students, create long-lasting bonds with other fellows, strengthen our ties with Israel, and take and use our experiences back home to our own Jewish community in Madison. We are so happy that we are doing this together and thankful for the opportunity. Also, thank you to you for reading!

Follow us on our blog for our adventures in Israel and other places. Check us out! <https://oursidetravels.wordpress.com/>

The Jewish Federation of Madison supports this MASA program with your contribution to the Tzedakah Campaign.



Knesset



Happy Hanukkah!



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Machne Yehuda

Congregation News

Temple Beth El • Congregation Shaarei Shamayim • Beth Israel Center

December/January Events

01 Building a Jewish Family (CSS)

Saturday, December 1

Please call the office for the location. Thinking about creating a Jewish family? This session, led by Rabbi Laurie, is for anyone – single, divorced, or coupled – who is raising kids in a Jewish home, or who plans to in the future. We'll discuss how to negotiate differences around religious practices (either across religion or within Judaism), look at common parenting challenges, and learn about helpful resources. All are welcome. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Please RSVP to Joy at office@shamayim.org. We'll be in a child-friendly home. If you need childcare, please let Joy know by November 15.

01 MOUSY No Sew Fleece Blankets (BIC)

Saturday, December 1, 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

High schoolers make blankets for donation to a worthy cause. To join the party, email Deborah Hoffman at hoffman@bethisraelcenter.org.

02 Hanukkah Food Fest (TBE)

Sunday, December 2, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Share and learn Hanukkah traditions, recipes, and family stories, and learn how to make falafel from scratch.

02 MJND (20s & 30s) Hanukkah Party (TBE)

Sunday, December 2, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Bring your menorah and your appetite! We're starting Hanukkah off right with lots of latkes, chocolate gelt, and other holiday treats. Bring your menorah and candles to participate in our community candle lighting! We'll celebrate in the Frank Adult Lounge at Temple Beth El. Tickets for this event are \$10 and include light dinner.

02 20 Living Torah (BIC)

Sundays, December 2 and January 20, 9:15 pm - 10:15 am

Learn with Rabbi Forester about making modern, meaningful sense out of Judaism through exploration of current topics affecting how we live.

03 Sisterhood and Men's Club Dinner: An Inside

Look at American Players Theatre (TBE)

Monday, December 3, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Carrie van Hallgren, managing director of American Players Theatre, will offer an inside look at what makes Spring Green's renowned theatre such a unique treasure.

04 BIC Hanukkah Party (BIC)

Tuesday, December 4, 5:45 pm - 7:30 pm

Celebrate the third night of Hanukkah at Beth Israel Center. Casual dinner, family fun. Cost for BIC members is \$10/person, max \$36/family. Cost for non-members is \$18/person.

07 Hanukkah Celebration! (CSS)

Friday, December 7

Gather at 6:00 pm for a festive meal, followed by singing, schmoozing, kids' activities, and games. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share. We'll provide the latkes and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts.) If you have a young child, come at 5:30 pm for tot activities and mac and cheese!

07 Shabbalala (TBE)

Friday, December 7, 5:45 pm gathering, 6:00 pm service

An all-generation, upbeat, musical Shabbat experience.

07 JEWniors: Shabbalala S'mores & Stories (TBE)

Friday, December 7, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

All 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited to a winter evening of summer-camp-themed fun! We will celebrate Shabbat with the full community at the Shabbalala service and then move to the youth lounge for silly glow-stick games, fireless s'mores, and stories.

07 08 09 Kadima Konvention/8th Grade Shabbaton (BIC)

Friday, December 7 - Sunday, December 9

Jewish 6th, 7th, and 8th graders gather at Camp Chi's Perstein Resort in Lake Delton, WI for Shabbat with friends and a night at the Kalahari Water Part. For more information, email Deborah Hoffman, hoffman@bethisraelcenter.org.

09 20 PJ Library/Yom Rishon (BIC)

Sundays, December 9 and January 20, 10:00 am - 11:15 am

Preschoolers learn through play, crafts, stories, and songs.

09 Hanukkah's Farmer's Market and Brunch (TBE)

Sunday, December 9, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Celebrate Hanukkah while supporting local merchants and vendors including Porchlight Products, Just Bakery, and more. Enjoy a delicious brunch of root veggie latkes, egg casserole, coffee, tea, and juice. Please bring cash or check to support our vendors and purchase brunch. Open to the greater Madison community. This Winter Farmer's Market and Brunch is presented in partnership with the Food, Faith, and Farming Network and Harvest of Hope, a Wisconsin family farm crisis fund. These nonprofit organizations have supported Wisconsin family farmers since the 1980s.

14 11 Berries & Jammies (BIC)

Fridays, December 14 and January 11, 8:00 am - 8:45 am

Preschoolers: Bring your grown-ups, wear your PJs, and get ready for Shabbat with Rabbi Forester, challah, berries, and songs.

14 Shabbat Evening Potluck (CSS)

Friday, December 14

Please call the office for the location. Join us for a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm followed by casual conversation and time spent together as a community. Please bring a vegetarian dish to share.

14 MJND (20s & 30s) Potluck Shabbat Dinner (TBE)

Friday, December 14, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

It's our final Shabbat potluck of 2018! Bring a dairy or vegetarian dish to pass. Can't bring a dish? Bring a drink! Can't bring a drink? Bring a friend! RSVP to fieldsmb14@gmail.com. Address provided upon RSVP.

15 MOUSY Gaming Night (BIC)

Saturday, December 15, 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

High schoolers gather for a fun night of games! Contact Deborah Hoffman, hoffman@bethisraelcenter.org, for more information.

16 Kolot Kehilla (BIC)

Sunday, December 16, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Ruth Litovksy is the next presenter in our Sunday morning speaker series featuring the voices of our community – *kolot kehillah*.

16 PJ Library Tots and Tunes (TBE)

Sunday, December 16, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

For young children (ages 0-5) and their families. Enjoy playful, musical, educational moments, including a PJ Library story and meaningful craft project.

16 Cancer Support Group (TBE)

Sunday, December 16, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

16 13 Studio Sinai (BIC)

Sundays, December 16 and January 13, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Not an art class, and not (necessarily) for artists, this class with Rabbi Forester will challenge students to conceptualize and learn about Jewish text using artistic media and creative writing.

20 Men's Book Club (TBE)

Thursday, December 20, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

We will read and discuss *Beneath A Scarlet Sky: A Novel* by Mark Sullivan.

21 Singles Creating Community Coffee Klatch (TBE)

Friday, December 21, 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Pancake Cafe, 724 S. Gammon Rd.

21 Shabbat Dinner Get Together (TBE)

Friday, December 21, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Olivia, 751 N. High Point Rd., Madison

Join fellow members of the community for dinner prior to Shabbat services. Dinners are the third Friday of the month, beginning at 5:30 pm (plenty of time to get to services at 7:30 pm.) Locations vary. Participants pay for their own meals. Please RSVP at tbemadison.org.

05 MJND (20s and 30s) Goes Bowling (TBE)

Saturday, January 5, 8:00 pm

Pizza and bowling – is there a better combination? We don't think so! Join us at Schwoegler's for a strike-ingly good time. (See what we did there?) The event costs \$15.



Swarsensky brunch speaker Dr. Weijia Li and Rabbi Swarsensky's children - Gerald Swarsensky and Sharon and Paul Bilow (TBE)



Active listeners during Swarsensky Saturday morning program



Keynote speaker Dr. Zorba Paster and Linda Berman (TBE)



Nina Lebwohl and Rachel Groman help Shaarei Shamayim children bake challah. (CSS)



The Tobias family shared this special event with many friends (TBE)



Rabbi Forester responds to the Oct. 27 synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh



Rabbi Forester teaching Talmud in the new BIC Beit Midrash (BIC)



MOUSY engages with Eve Fine for an Implicit Bias workshop (BIC)



Marj and her family celebrate this wonderful tribute together (TBE)



MOUSY and Kadima get artsy together (BIC)



Everyone gets a close up look at the Torah at Shaarei Shamayim (CSS)

Temple Beth El Keshet Israel Committee has finalized a letter to Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Knesset asking that development of Robinson's Arch, an egalitarian prayer space at the Kotel promised in 2017, begin now. The letter was available for perusal and signature by members and visitors to TBE between September 10 and October 17, 2018. Two hundred and thirty-two people have signed our petition. It will next be put into scroll form, placed in a tube, and sent directly to the Knesset.

Temple Beth El is also looking for anyone traveling to Israel between December 16 and March 1 to deliver Halloween costumes to our sister congregation Shir Chadash to be distributed to needy kids for Purim. If you fit this description and would like to help, please contact our Director of Lifelong Learning, Nicole Jahr: learn@tbemadison.org.

Temple Beth El Judaica Shop Open

- Sunday, December 2: 9:15 am - 11:30 am
- Wednesday, December 5: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
- Sunday, December 9: 9:15 am - 11:30 am
- Monday, December 10: 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
- Sunday, December 16: 9:15 am - 1:30 pm

Come see us for all your Hanukkah needs.

Legend

Beth Israel Center (BIC)
1406 Mound Street, Madison, WI 53711
Office phone number: (608) 256-7763
Email: office@bethisraelcenter.org

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim (CSS)
First Unitarian Society, 900 University Bay Drive, Atrium Building, Madison, WI, 53705
Office phone number: (608) 257-2944
Email: office@shamayim.org

Temple Beth El (TBE)
2702 Arbor Drive, Madison, WI 53711
Office phone number: (608) 238-3123
Email: info@tbemadison.org

Unless otherwise noted, events take place in the congregations' buildings. Call or email for more information for any specific event.

**Regular Service Schedules
Beth Israel Center (BIC)**

On Fridays we begin gathering at 5:00 pm to schmooze and toast the week that was. Lively, song-filled services begin at 5:45 pm. Our Shabbat morning worship begins at 9:15 am with Birchot HaShachar and continues through a spirited P'sukei d'zimra, Shacharit, Torah service and Musaf. We enjoy a communal kiddush lunch every week. Our regular weekday minyan schedule is Sunday mornings at 8:15 am, Monday and Thursday mornings at 7:00 am, Sunday through Thursday evenings at 5:30 pm. Please contact the office to ensure a minyan and check our website for additions to the regular schedule, as well as notices of when a minyan is especially needed so someone in mourning or observing a yahrzeit can say kaddish. Visitors of all ages are always welcome to all services.

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim (CSS)

Congregation Shaarei Shamayim celebrates Shabbat each week with Torah study every Saturday at 9:30 am. Twice a month we have services on Saturdays. In December we have services on December 8 at 10:30 am, followed by kiddush. December 22, services begin at 9:00 am followed by breakfast at twice a month on Saturdays, December 8 at 9:30 am and December 22 with a breakfast at 9:00 am, services at 10:30 followed by a speaker at noon and a 12:30 kiddush. We'll have intergenerational Shabbat on January 12 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.. Once a month we also have Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6:00 pm followed by a vegetarian potluck. Please join us.

Temple Beth El (TBE)

At Temple Beth El, we celebrate Shabbat as a community on Friday evenings. Services are at 7:30 pm followed by an oneg Shabbat, except the first Friday of the month when we gather at 5:45 for a 6:00 pm service. Every Saturday morning, we have Shabbat Torah Study 9:00 am-10:00 am in our Adult Lounge. When we are celebrating a bar or bat mitzvah, there is also a 10:30 am Shabbat morning service.

For more information about congregational Shabbat services, please visit their websites or call their offices.

Madison Hadassah

Madison Hadassah is bringing community together and encouraging physical fitness through walking and healthy cooking adventures.

Blintzes and Other Jewish Dairy Delights
Another Fun Cooking Adventure with Madison Hadassah
January 13, 2019, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Led by Kathleen Nichols and Marci Katz at the home of Diane Seder and Bruce Rosen, 5628 Lake Mendota Drive.

Roll up your sleeves for a fun hands-on cooking experience with former caterer and avid cook, Kathleen Nichols and blintz wizard, Marci Katz. Check for stories and details on Madison Hadassah's Facebook page.

\$25 per person to cover cost of supplies
Everyone (members and nonmembers) welcome
RSVP by January 9
Email: MadisonHadassah@gmail.com Call: (608) 770-6521
Go online: www.facebook.com/HadassahMadison



One of the great joys of a cooking class is you get to eat the results. (Photo from last year's cooking class.)

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Coming in March: Hate Crime, Gun Control, and Madison Hadassah

Join us for refreshments with *Eve Galanter, former aide to Senator Herbert Kohl. We will explore what we can do to fight anti-Semitism and hate crimes and to promote gun control laws.*

Unfortunately, the horrific mass murder on Shabbat in a Pittsburgh synagogue was not an isolated incident. The number of hate crimes in the US jumped 17% between 2016 and 2017 according to the FBI. This rise included a 60% increase in anti-Semitic incidents. Incidents on campuses nearly doubled during this period. Acts against African Americans rose while unexpectedly, acts against Muslims declined.

What can we do as a community? Before looking at how we can advocate,

Galanter will help us consider which of the many issues we want to prioritize. Then we can look at opportunities to work with our state and federal legislators. Hadassah has a new full time lobbyist in Washington, DC who can keep us up to date.

We can also explore ways we can come together with African American and Muslim communities to fight racism and support each other. Everyone (members and nonmembers) welcome.

Email: MadisonHadassah@gmail.com
Call: (608)770-6521
Go online: www.facebook.com/HadassahMadison/

Why Donate to, Shop, and Volunteer at Collectors Corner – Resale Shop

Support Refugees

Hadassah is working with Jewish Social Services to provide free clothing and household items to refugees. Your donations (not consignments) are free for refugees.

Help Build A Bridge to Peace

All proceeds from Collectors Corner's sales support advanced medical research, education, and healthcare in Israel and around the world. Hadassah Hospitals bring together Jewish, Arab, and Christian doctors and nurses to treat patients. Patients are treated without regard to ethnicity or ability to pay.

Donate

Donations are accepted anytime.
Consignments accepted: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm, M-F, Saturday by appointment.
Remember us when cleaning out your jewelry box. Jewelry is our best seller.

Volunteer

Do you have a morning or afternoon available once a week? Join a wonderful team of volunteers.

Collectors Corner

Hadassah's Resale Store

6633 University Ave., Middleton
(608) 831-2474



The warm winter clothing you donate is available to refugees.



Jewelry sales go well around the winter holidays.

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Miriam Singer Service Award Recipient

By JEREMY TUNIS

JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON BOARD MEMBER

What follows are excerpts of Jeremy Tunis's acceptance speech at the Thanks for Giving Annual Meeting.

First off, I want to thank JFM and the Executive Committee for this great honor and to The Singer Family for their continued leadership and support of our community. I also want to thank my beautiful and accomplished wife Michelle for her unconditional love and encouragement, particularly her solo-parenting when JFM Board and campaign meetings run long!

When thinking about what to say I couldn't help but remember my good friend and fellow Miriam Singer Sulman Awardee Dan Weiss's moving story on facing anti-Semitism at his high school and how this motivated him to become more active in Jewish causes.

My story is in many ways the converse. I grew up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington D.C. My public high school was approximately 50% Jewish. My family were members of a local reform synagogue, I attended Jewish themed summer camp the majority of summers. My parents contributed to and served at various times in volunteer roles at

Jewish organizations such as local Hadassah chapters and Jewish Council for Aging. We lit the Shabbat candles on many Shabbats. We went to Israel for my sister's bat mitzvah, donated money for trees to be planted and were taught the importance and meaning of being Jewish. You get the idea.

However, for all this positive exposure during my childhood and early adult years in many aspects of Jewish life and causes, I didn't have a great understanding of how or whether to become more involved. I guess you could say that because Judaism and Jewish people were all around me and thriving, I took it for granted and didn't really think that organizations necessarily "needed" younger folks like me or what value I might be able to bring.

This quickly changed when Michelle accepted her UW job and we were preparing to move to Madison in 2014. This included reaching out to Tiz Goff to inquire about Madison Jewish life in general and Gan HaYeled in particular. The sense of welcoming and inclusiveness felt different, in a good way. Soon after enrolling our eldest

daughter Jaime at Gan, I was invited to join the Gan parent steering committee. This was the first time I had ever been asked to take on even a small leadership role at a Jewish organization anywhere.

Even after just a few meetings, I could see the potential for making even a small positive impact by being an active participant versus a more casual observer and beneficiary of others' work. As I began to have a greater "touch and feel" understanding of all the critical needs, amazing programs including Gan HaYeled and Camp Shalom that have enriched our family's life and the great work being done in Madison and around the world, it motivated me to try to do more to spread the universal Jewish values of service, compassion, charity and identity.

I eventually had the opportunity of joining the JFM board, the Annual Campaign (formerly FRD) Committee and this year along with Dan, Carey and Michelle, co-chairing the campaign. By the way, we are well on our way to meeting or exceeding our goal, so please be as generous as possible. My recent trip to Israel for the General Assembly

enabled me to experience first-hand all the many ways that our contributions help enhance; promote, preserve and most importantly, protect Jewish life all over the world. It also put into perspective the absolute importance for all of us to take an active and positive role and to work toward collaborative solutions during the occasional disagreements and discord.

I look forward to working hard with all of you now and in the future. Thank you.



Michelle Poliak-Tunis with Jeremy Tunis

Ben Minkoff Volunteer Service Award Recipient, In Memory of Cheryl Rosen

By SAMANTHA WESTON

Samantha Weston accepted this award on behalf of her mother at the Thanks for Giving Annual Meeting.

Preparing to accept this award on my mother's behalf has been a surreal experience. I wrote these remarks at the same table where I sat eight months ago when I wrote what I would say at her funeral. It was hard then, and it's hard now, as this is the first time I have spoken publicly about her since the day I addressed a room full of people who joined me in saying goodbye to her.

But tonight is about gratitude. Seeing my mother's generosity be recognized and appreciated makes me feel so proud to be her daughter. I'm so proud of all the things that she accomplished, and I'm grateful that I was lucky enough to receive the lessons she taught me, and is still teaching me now.

I believe that the Jewish community

was so important to my mother for two main reasons. First, it provides a safe and welcoming space for all, and in particular, for those who might really need that space because they don't have it anywhere else. Community counteracts loneliness and isolation.

The second reason the Jewish community was so important to her, in this case the local Jewish community, is the fundamental inclusivity we strive for, the belief that everyone is equal and that everyone should have access to learning, to joy, to prosperity, to peace.

These things sound like no-brainers, but we all know that, sadly, not everyone holds these values and lives by them each day, like my mother did.

So, thank you very much for taking the time to honor a truly amazing woman who we continue to miss every day.

Andrea J. Stein Jewish Community Professional Award Recipient

By TERRIE GOREN

JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON BOARD MEMBER

What follows are excerpts of Terrie Goren's acceptance speech at the Thanks for Giving Annual Meeting.

I am honored to be the recipient of the Andrea J. Stein Jewish Community Professional Award. I have fond memories of Andrea of blessed memory. During my time at JSS, when she would come to the Weinstein Building with her two therapy dogs after one of their working sessions, she would also be sure to stop in my office for a few brief minutes so that I could visit with the dogs and we could catch up. She knew about my fondness for dogs. She was a very special person and is missed by many.

I am honored to work among the Jewish Professionals of Madison. We are a solid, caring group. I am honored to share my passion for the Jewish community and my expertise

in nonprofit fundraising and leadership with organizations that support our beautiful community. We are small but mighty. We have much to be proud of and as we grow and evolve, working to maintain our relevance even in trying times is worth the effort. Passion and commitment go a long way.

Also, a big thank you to everyone that volunteers their time to benefit the Jewish community. Our community is more vibrant because of you and the accomplishments of our Jewish professionals would be not possible without your efforts. Finally, a huge thank you to my lovely and loving family, who provide the space that, allows me to follow my passion and do the work that I love to do.

Thank you so much. Happy Thanksgiving to all.



Samantha Weston with Rabbi Andrea Steinberger



Terrie and Len Goren



2017-2018 Annual Report THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The Jewish Federation of Madison's mission guides us as we work toward building a strong and unified Jewish community which will ensure the survival, well-being and continuity of the Jewish people locally, in Israel, and throughout the world. Our community strives to accomplish these goals through the many services and programs the Jewish Federation of Madison provides and supports.

2017
Tzedakah
Campaign
closed at
\$967,203

\$
986,000
GOAL for 2018
Tzedakah
Campaign



School Break
Camp at
Camp Shalom
served
103
CAMPERS

**Life Saving
Assistance**
provided to
98,000 JEWS
in former
Soviet Union

Gesher Program
SUPPORTED
4
Camp Shalom
Staff with
special needs

Mitzvah Makers
sorted
4000
pounds
of citrus to help
end hunger



\$15,000
Gan HaYeled
Preschool
Scholarships
distributed to
families

Camp Shalom
Scholarship
Fund raised
\$113,817
distributed to
90 campers

Matzah Balls
played **4** sports
basketball, flag
football, sand
volleyball, and
kickball

Camp Shalom &
Camp Shalom
Noar-Bogrom
served
644
CAMPERS
in grades K-9

“ I HEART JEWISH MADISON because everything in the Jewish community is interconnected in some way. ~ Emily, Midrasha Alumni, former Gan HaYeled Staff, Camp Shalom Alumni and Staff

10 STUDENTS

in Ivrit B'Kef
Hebrew After School
15 ADULTS
in Hebrew classes and
conversation group

1 New Roof
at Goodman Jewish
Community Campus

1 Remodel
at Weinstein Jewish
Community Building

128 STAFF

at Camp Shalom
and Noar-Bogrim
11 of them were
Gan HaYeled
Grads

COMMUNITY Celebrations

Hava Nagila Jewish
Community Picnic
Yom Ha'Atzmaut
& **Remembrances**
Yom Hashoah
Yom Hazikaron

31 STUDENTS

12 part & full time staff
1 partner preschool
in Israel
for FALL 2018 at
**Gan HaYeled
Preschool**

10

**Midrasha
Graduates**

in the class of 2018
9 Midrasha
Incentive Awards
given

Emergency Relief

provided for
Hurricanes Florence
and Michael
ONGOING RECOVERY
support in Houston

HOUSING SUPPORT

provided to
**Holocaust
Survivors**
helping them live
more comfortably in
their homes and
communities

2 Shlichim

in their 2nd year in
Madison
**LOTS of ISRAELI
PROGRAMMING** in-
cluding cooking, art,
movies & discussions

**SHALOM MADISON
& SHALOM BABY
welcomed**

47
people
to our community



2500 HOUSEHOLDS

received the FREE
Madison Jewish News
10 times per year

90 attendees

conversed and
connected at
**Intersections &
Inconvenient
Truths**

Weekly Monday
Morning News kept

1400 subscribers
updated...Facebook,
Twitter & Instagram
provided additional
ways to **CONNECT**

2 MILESTONES
celebrated

Israel at 70
and
IS FINE at 100
(Past JFM President)

“ **SO WHAT I LOVE ABOUT JEWISH MADISON** is that there is a place to find yourself and find community at every age and stage ~ Aaron, Matzah Ball Teammate, Yad b'Yad Playgroup Member

Thanks for Giving Annual Event



Scott Forester, Rabbi Betsy Forester, Henya Matusof, and Rabbi Mendel Matusoff



Kim Rosenthal and Galit Hayes



Jesse Sondel



Jeanne and Brian Lisse with Byron and Janet Frenz



Janet Frenz, Julie Sedarsky, and Livia Asher



Judy Schreiber and Willie Haus



Vickie Stewart



Ryan Weinbach

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Fall Events at the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

By PRESTON L. ATWOOD

PROJECT ASSISTANT, CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

The Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies hosted a number of lectures and luncheon seminars this fall related to the history of Yiddish culture. Dr. Eddy Portnoy, academic advisor and exhibitions curator at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, commenced our fall offerings as this year's Kutler lecturer in American Jewish history. His first lecture, "The Strange Tales of Yiddishland: Sensationalism and Yiddish Journalism," explored how Yiddish newspapers in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries developed a distinctly Jewish form of sensationalism that revealed underreported aspects of Jewish life. His second lecture, "The Distorted Mirror: What Yiddish Cartoons Reveal about Jewish Life in the early twentieth century," vividly demonstrated the development of a visual language with which Yiddish artists depicted the culture, political life, and scandals that occurred in Yiddish-speaking communities. In addition to his talks, Dr. Portnoy met with graduate students to discuss their research and questions of professional development

in the field of Jewish history.

From late October to early November, the Center was busy hosting three back-to-back luncheon seminars. Topics ranged from the political to the historical and the literary. Over lunch with CJS faculty and graduate students, Enzo Traverso, professor in the humanities at Cornell University, spoke on the subject of Marxism and the Jewish Question, while Jan Schwartz, senior lecturer of Yiddish at Lund University, described the poetics of resistance in Abraham Sutzkever's Holocaust narratives. The Center, along with the Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association, also sponsored a round table discussion that featured our own superb faculty. Drs. Rachel Brenner, Amos Bitzan, and Troy Reeves all spoke on the subject, "Testimonial Sources and Jewish Studies Scholarship."

Dr. Anna Shternshis, professor of Yiddish and Diaspora Studies at the University of Toronto, delivered the bi-annual Tobias Lecture. Her fascinating talk, "Singing and Laughing Against Fascism: Lost and Found Soviet Yiddish



Eddy Portnoy's lecture

Songs of World War II," evaluated Soviet Yiddish amateur songs that relate to the destruction of the Jewish community in Ukraine, service in the Red Army, and the plight of Jewish refugees in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Shternshis ended our semester series on a high note and left us expectant for another wonderful slate of events in the spring. We thank all of them for coming

to share their work.

Complete and current information about our events is available on our website at jewishstudies.wisc.edu or by emailing events-lectures@cjs.wisc.edu.

Simchas & Condolences

Mazel Tov on the birth of

Ewan Dean Rice, son of Jenny and Joe Rice, and grandson of Cheri Keen

Talia Dov Streiffer, daughter of Taiya Bach and Adam Streiffer

Pippa Rose Cunningham, daughter of Patrick and Corrina Crade Cunningham, brother of Julian, and granddaughter of Steve and Heather Crade

Mazel Tov on the marriage of

Marian Herzog and Isaac Hecimovich

Condolences to the families of

Julia Bove, mother of Fredi-Ellen (Robert Meyer) Bove, sister of Irving Charnifsky (z"l), grandmother of Carissa (Scott Schnee) Meyer and Eric Meyer, and great-grandmother of Alexander Meyer Schnee

Phylis Skloot Bamberger, aunt of Sarah Skloot and Jules Skloot, great aunt of Emma Skloot, sister of Bob (JoAnn) Skloot, and wife of Michael Bamberger

Neal Loeb, husband of Kellie Loeb; father of Patsy (Andrew Nadder); Morgan, and Seanna Loeb; brother of Jan (Marc Shovers) Loeb; uncle of Sam and Ben Shovers; cousin of Jordy (Jessie); Leila, Benno and Isaiah Loeb

Martin Kades, husband of Rita Kades, brother of Linda Rosenblatt, father of Deborah (Keith Hudelson); Eric (Nancy Combs); and Michael (Mary Giovagnoli); grandfather of Seth Lautenschlager, Rachel Lautenschlager, Jennifer Kades, Rebecca Kades, Robbie Combs, and Theo Kades

Tova Shabtaie, wife of Mordecai Shabtaie (z"l), mother of Sion (Jane) Shabtaie, grandmother of Kaveh (Krista), David and Sam; Sion's siblings Malka (Roben) Sinai, Akhtar (Sion) Rayhanian, Flora (Elyahu) Saeidian, and Zekharia Shabtaie

Tributes

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

In memory of Andrea Stein

Steven Morrison and Goldie Kadushin

In honor of Terrie Goren receiving the Andrea J. Stein Community Professional Award

Linda and Niles Berman

In honor of JoAnn and Bob Skloot's 50th wedding anniversary

Susie and Billy

In honor of Ilana Seder-Rosen's marriage

Dan and Bettine Lipman

In honor of Bill Goldenberg's 80th birthday

Betsy and Bezalel Haimson

In memory of Anita Parks

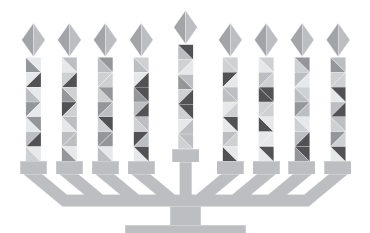
Joseph Feldman
Bettine and Dan Lipman
Joseph Parks

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Happy Hanukkah!

from your



Jewish Federation
OF MADISON





Jewish Education

We Are Thankful

BY MARLA BECKER
DIRECTOR OF GAN HAYELED

Mindfulness is our theme for the next few months. We are focusing on our feelings and emotions. Identifying and discussing how we feel sure helps us connect. Whether we are feeling happy, worried, scared, surprised, calm or tired, we know that we can help ourselves and help each other. We reflect on what makes us feel thankful and loved.

"I am thankful for Yousef. He lives next door to me. He had his birthday and he got presents and I like his presents."

-Oliver, age 3.

"I'm thankful for my mom and dad. I

like my mom and dad and I like myself too and Lily. That's what makes me special." -Sam, age 4.

"I'm thankful for my baby sister because I love playing with her." -Isaac, age 4.

"A couple days ago Daddy and me going swimming in winter and we put a bathing suit on." -Ben, age 3.

"I'm thankful for my football helmet. I love it because it's really cool." -Eitan, age 3.

"I'm thankful for all of my family because I love them." -Curtis, age 5.



We are thankful for splashing around in a huge tub of pulp made from paper in our school recycling bins!



We are thankful for the gorgeous paper we created.



We are thankful for baking pumpkin muffins so the entire preschool can enjoy a fresh snack.

The Bright Lights of Hanukkah at Midrasha

BY KIM ROSENTHAL
DIRECTOR OF MIDRASHA

Our spotlights for Hanukkah are the Blockstein Family Scholarship Award recipient, Ellie Hulan, and a junior at West High School, Emma Nathanson who shine brightly in our community with their leadership, activism, and endless love of Judaism.

Leisl and Bill Blockstein, of blessed memory, were vital and contributing members of the Madison community for all their lives here. Leisl worked very hard to establish a senior program with Jewish Social Services including the Monday Lechayim lunch time program. She also devoted many hours to B'nai Brith and Jewish Women International (JWI). Liesl Blockstein embodied the spirit of JWI in all that she did. It is with this in mind that the recipient of the award is selected. They must share this same spirit. The scholarship to honor her name and her work is given to a deserving Jewish woman who has distinguished herself in high school and in the community. May the memory of Leisl Blockstein serve as a blessing. This year's recipient is Ellie Hulan, who graduated from Midrasha in 2018 and is now a freshman at Brandeis University. Mazel Tov Ellie!

By Ellie Hulan
Blockstein Family Scholarship Award recipient
Brandeis University (2022)

My name is Ellie Hulan and after

living in Madison for the better part of nine years, I chose to move to the East Coast for college. I currently attend Brandeis University in Massachusetts, the only university originally established and sponsored by the Jewish community.

Aside from attending Midrasha for five years prior to college, I have had a multitude of Jewish experiences that have helped shape my perception of the world and the way I interact with the people in it. In sixth grade, I joined the middle-school youth group and continued until after my bat mitzvah, when I was able



Ellie Hulan

to join the teen group. Two years later, as I became a tutor for seventh graders preparing for their b'nei mitzvah and a Sunday and Hebrew School teacher's assistant, I ran for religious and cultural vice-president of the youth group of which I had previously only been a member. Senior year, I served on the board of a new international and Chabad-affiliated youth group, CTeen, as the humanitarian coordinator. In this youth group, I experienced the realities of Orthodox Jewish life, and I'm glad I had the education and background in a variety of different ways of practicing to critically sort through the messages I was receiving. In this group, I also found deeper friendships than I had ever experienced before. One fellow board member and I had countless discussions on religion, education, and politics, as well as lighter topics, as we spent the summer before college together. We now live around one-and-a-half hours apart and talk as often as possible. I give credit, in part, to the Madison Jewish community for one of the most meaningful relationships in my life. I have been involved in several Jewish communities, and I like to think that I can identify with at least some aspect of what any given practicing Jew believes.

Interwoven with those experiences was Midrasha, a constant, steady force in my life. Almost all of my other Jewish roles had been leadership-based, and sometimes it felt good to realize I was



We are thankful for collecting acorns to ground into flour on our nature walks.

merely a participant, and I had a lot left to learn, especially from the talented teachers who participate in Midrasha. Midrasha sometimes reaffirmed what I knew, and sometimes challenged my perceptions, but I always left knowing I was perhaps a little more enlightened than when I had come in. There had been a few nights where, busy with work, sports and homework, I wondered about why I was going in, but always ended up grateful I did after I left. I had great teachers who I feel comfortable engaging with, questioning, and voicing my opinions to, not always a given in high school. I'm so glad I attended for five years, and definitely felt it had prevented any kind of stagnation in my education, allowing me to see myself

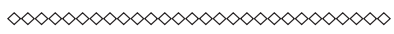
(Continued on page 17)

Midrasha

Continued from page 16

continuing this course throughout college.

I am so grateful to be the recipient of the Blockstein Family Scholarship Award. Jewish Women International is an incredibly important organization that lifts up and strengthens the amazing Jewish women of this world and its longevity is a testament to the strength of the organization's members and benefactors. At Brandeis, I attend Chabad or Hillel Shabbat dinners most Fridays, and I have already met so many great Jewish women, including the founder of the Women's Studies program at Brandeis. She is outspoken and articulate and aims to make herself heard in the Orthodox community. I hope to use the scholarship to take classes and become informed enough to follow and build upon the work great Jewish women have done before me.



Emma Nathanson, a junior at West High School, is part of a nation-wide fellowship helping female-identifying teens gain more experience in the Jewish social justice world. Read her story below then go online to read her first blog post: jwa.org/blog/risingvoices/may-faith-be-with-you.

By Emma Nathanson
Rising Voices Fellow
West High School (2020)

Feminism and Judaism are core pillars of my identity, but, for most of my life, I had seen them as separate and rarely intersecting entities. When Kim Rosenthal, director of Midrasha, introduced me to the Rising Voices Fellowship (RVF), I nearly fell out of my seat. A youth-engagement program through the Jewish Women's Archive (JWA), RVF is composed of Jewish, feminist, female-identified teens chosen by JWA staff. Rising Voices fellows write a blog post each month about the intersections between their feminism, Judaism, and activism. A combination of all my interests, it sounded too good to be true. Fingers crossed, I applied to the program. A few months later, I received an email with some exciting news: I had been selected to be a member of the 2018-19 Rising Voices cohort. In August 2018, JWA hosted the Rising Voices fellows in Boston for a weekend-long kickoff meeting. At the retreat, we bonded instantly over our shared passions for actively participating at our temples, engaging in lively feminist discourse, voicing our opinions through writing, and, of course, eating ice cream. We lamented American and Israeli

politics, the struggles of curly hair, and the exasperating nature of misogynists. Through monthly webinars, peer-editing sessions, and our active group chat, the 18 of us have honed our skills in our writing and our thinking. Thanks to RVF and the incredible JWA staff, I belong to a family of brilliant, enthusiastic, and empowering young women who endlessly amaze me with their insightful prose. Over the next six months, I know our bonds will only grow stronger as we learn and grow together.

Celebrate Rabbi Forester's Installation and
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70TH
ANNIVERSARY
לדור ודור

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JANUARY 26, 2019
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First 70 to buy a ticket get a free gift at the party!

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Sponsorship opportunities are available! Contact the BIC office for details or email elissa@bethisraelcenter.org.

Our Tzedakah Campaign – Where Your Contributions Go

By DEBBIE MINKOFF
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JEWISH FEDERATION OF MADISON

Why contribute to the Jewish Federation of Madison?

When we make charitable contributions, we want to be sure our funds are being used to support quality, impactful projects and programs that support our values. Jewish Federation of Madison takes great pride in stewarding these precious funds that make our community strong and proud. Each contribution enhances the quality of life of Jews in Madison and around the world. Some examples include the following:

1. Standing together against hatred, the Secure Communities Network, SCN, the official homeland security and safety organization of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations are developing comprehensive security strategies to enhance awareness, protection, preparedness and resiliency in Jewish communities across North America. We are meeting the CEO of SCN on Monday, November 19 to discuss our exposure to threats and develop a plan to ensure the safety of all Jews and Jewish institutions in Madison.

2. Our contributions to the Jewish Agency for Israel support religious pluralism in Israel and educate about global Jewish peoplehood. As part of its commitment to reinforce religious pluralism and inclusion in Israel, the Jewish Agency provides funding to a broad spectrum of religious entities through its "Support for Streams"

funding. In 2017, the Jewish Agency allocated \$2.66 million dollars to Israel's Reform, Conservative, and Modern Orthodox movements. Programs funded by the Jewish Agency include youth movements, leadership training programs, bar and bat mitzvah programs, elementary school networks, and activities for young adults, among others. The programs are run by the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, Hebrew Union College, the Masorti Movement, Solomon Schechter Institute, the TALI education fund (TEF), OU Israel, and the International Young Israel Movement.

3. Our contributions in Israel support worthy non-profit organizations such as Israel Flying Aid, which focuses on bringing aid to people in enemy countries that will not allow aid in. For example, Israel Flying Aid (IFA) ships humanitarian aid into Syria specifically for its most destitute women and children. They have also established orphanages for children in countries that do not allow adoption.

4. The Israel Trauma Coalition, expertly trained in community healing, went to Parkland Florida following the tragic school shooting. Vice Mayor of Parkland, Stacey Kagan, expressed her deep appreciation, "In our time of need, JFNA and Israel stood with us."

These are but a few examples of the important work you support throughout the world when you make a gift to the Jewish Federation of Madison.

Serving Her Community Continued from page 1

into the future. Demographics and interests evolve over time, and I look forward to incorporating new, innovative ideas and direction into the work we do. Under the direction of our strong past leaders, we are developing this concept to go from strength to strength.

We have a great cadre of engaged volunteers, but it is not enough. We need to do a better job of connecting to our community and find meaningful ways for people to be involved. We are so fortunate to have a thriving, diverse Jewish community in Madison. Each organization enhances the overall quality of Jewish life in Madison and should be celebrated.

At the recent Jewish Federation meeting in Israel, the focus was on

differences and division in the Jewish community. That ended the minute a gunman entered the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh yelling "Death to the Jews." We are one people, responsible for one another. We found comfort and support from within and outside the Jewish community. Through our initiatives we can continue to foster greater understanding and appreciation within our own community, and the community at large.

I look forward to stewarding the Jewish Federation of Madison in the coming year as we meet our challenges and exceed our expectations. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.




May the lights of Hanukkah shine brightly on your family and home

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Jewish Social Services

JSS is a Beneficiary of the Jewish Federation of Madison

www.jssmadison.org

Reaching Out During Difficult Times

By DAWN BERNEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JEWISH SOCIAL SERVICES

This year I received a new calendar called *A Kindness a Day Jewish Desk Calendar: 365 Ways to Make the World a Better Place*. I have come back to the daily hints, especially recently. As the secular holiday of Thanksgiving is over, and as we embark on the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and the end of 2018, it seems like the right time to write about what I have learned from this calendar, especially about how the values of chesed (kindness), tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (social justice) are so relevant especially now. It has been a hard few weeks. There was the shooting of people in the Pittsburgh synagogue and the nightclub in Thousand Oaks, California, the photo of Nazi salutes at the junior prom in Baraboo, Wisconsin and the fires in northern California. Fortunately, there are several examples of chesed, tzedakah and tikkun olam happening around JSS and I'd like to highlight a few of them:

- After the horrible tragedy in Pittsburgh, the Jewish Social Services team received numerous calls, texts, and emails from Jews, Christians, Muslims, atheists, agnostics, people locally and people in other countries offering condolences. Here is one example: "When we discriminate against one group, we open the door to discriminate against others. We must all be united against injustice, prejudice and bigotry." Majid Sarmadi, PhD.

- In November, two different businesses specifically donated funds to Jewish Social Services. Madison Eats Food Tours (madisoneatsfoodtours.

com) donated 10% of their proceeds for the month. When I asked why, the owner said, "I want to donate to you to support the efforts you make in our community to support all members of our community..." In addition, Food Fight's Everly restaurant included a \$1 gift to JSS for every "Generous Pour" drink.

- JSS volunteers provided over 3,300 hours of their time to provide rides to older adults and those with disabilities for medical appointments and the grocery stores. They also provided menorahs and friendly conversation at Hanukkah. They bring Rosh Hashanah gift bags to those who cannot leave their homes and help to set up refugees' new apartments.

- JSS's Lechayim served nearly one thousand kosher lunches to older adults in our community. With an average of 40-45 participants each week, our nutrition site provides more meals per week than any site on Madison's westside.

During this upcoming year I urge each of you to find a way, each day, to aspire to these Jewish values. Consider visiting an older adult in Madison or becoming a foster grandparent, as described in the article by our RSVP partner. Write a letter to someone you respect and let them know how you feel. Or donate to an organization that has meaning to you and your family. I urge each one of you to do as Rabbi Akiva said, "Love your fellow as yourself," and take the time to see what others need and to do it.

Want an Experience of a Lifetime? Become a Foster Grandparent Volunteer

If you are a low-income senior 55+, love working with children in a public school or Head Start environment, I'd like to offer you the experience of a lifetime, a program through the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a unique volunteer opportunity for low-income seniors to mentor and tutor children. Foster Grandparents work one-on-one with children who have been identified by classroom teachers as needing additional help. Income limits are established by the federal government. FGP volunteers receive a modest, tax-free stipend as well as transportation reimbursement, and excess accident and liability insurance.

As a Foster Grandparent under the supervision of the classroom teacher, you become an essential element in the lives of young children. It has been shown that FGP does make a difference.

Candidates need not have any formal

classroom training. FGP offers an initial 40 hours of training before placement, opportunities to shadow experienced foster grandparents, and ongoing monthly opportunities to train. Your willingness to serve in your community and to make a difference in the lives of young children is all you need to begin the process.

Foster grandparents receive support from the classroom teacher and the coordinator, and have many other opportunities to learn and grow.

If you are willing to work with children from a variety of backgrounds, show patience, acceptance and a spirit of cooperation, please consider joining our team of volunteers who make a difference in the lives of young children.

To take advantage of this unique opportunity contact, Mary E. Brown, Foster Grandparent Program Coordinator, (608) 661-4271 or mbrown@rsvpdane.org.

Best Wishes and Thank You!

Our volunteer and friend, Jean Weissburg is off to Greensboro, North Carolina. There she will be living close to her son and three granddaughters. Jean has volunteered for JSS ever since she came to Madison eleven years ago. She has contributed her time in many capacities including friendly visitor, Seder volunteer, member of the Senior Adult Committee, Levy Series, and various planning committees. Thanks so much and good luck in your new home and community!



Mazel Tov

Yedida (Didi) Rissman and Adina (Addy) Spingarn had a baby boy Nov. 6. His name is Theo Elijah Spingarn. Estelle Katz, is the self-described "over-the-moon-grandma", who sent us this news.

Making Lechayim reservations

- When you check-in at Lechayim, you can sign up for the following week
- Call Jewish Social Services at (608) 442-4081 or email office@jssmadison.org before 2:00 pm on the preceding **Wednesday**.
- If you want to check on any cancellations, or want any further info on meals or programs, contact **Paul (608) 442-4083**, paul@jssmadison.org
- We are not able to guarantee a meal for last minute reservations or walk-ins, but all are able and welcome to attend the program following the meal

Russian instructions for making Lechayim reservations

Проверьте расписание программы Лехаим по адресу Segoe Террасе. Для резервирования свяжитесь с еврейской социальной службой по телефону (608) 442-4081 или по электронной почте paul@jssmadison.org не позднее 14:00 в предыдущую среду.

Если вы хотите проверить какие-либо отмены или хотите получить дополнительную информацию о еде или программах, свяжитесь с **Полом (608) 442-4083**, paul@jssmadison.org

По вопросам, касающимся социальных услуг, обращайтесь к **Майе (608) 442-4085**, maya@jssmadison.org

The Goodman Lechayim Lunchtime Plus is a Senior Adult Program. Find changes, updates, and new information about JSS programs on our website, www.jssmadison.org.

Meeting at Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound Street, located on the corner of Mound Street and Randall Avenue.

Contact Jewish Social Services at (608) 442-4081 or email office@jssmadison.org no later than 2:00 pm the preceding Wednesday. A vegetarian option is available with a reservation. If you are 60 years or older, a minimum donation of \$4.00 is suggested, but please only pay what is comfortable for you. The cost of the meal is \$9.73 for those younger than 60 years old.

If you cannot attend the meal, please join us for the free program at 1:00 pm.

MANY THANKS TO UW HILLEL'S ADAMAH CATERING FOR PROVIDING OUR DELICIOUS KOSHER MEALS!

December/January Lechayim Calendar

Monday, December 3

- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
- 11:30 am-12:30 pm Complimentary blood pressure check with nurse, Lori Edelstein
- 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Fettucini alfredo, Caesar salad, market vegetable, fruit, brownie (vegetarian option: mac and cheese)
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Klezmer/folk music by Yid Vicious

Monday, December 10

- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Yoga from a chair with Estelle Katz
- 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Beef brisket, garlic roasted red potato, roasted carrots, market salad, babka (vegetarian option: Impossible "meat" loaf)
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Music of the 50s by Bill and Bobbie Malone

Monday, December 17

- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Yoga from a chair with Estelle Katz
- 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Braised balsamic chicken, couscous, market salad, rugelach (vegetarian option: balsamic seitan)
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm "Let's Talk Turkeys" presentation by Paul Borowsky

Monday, January 7

- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
- 11:30 am-12:30 pm Complimentary blood pressure check with nurse, Lori Edelstein
- 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Hotdogs, coleslaw, macaroni salad, watermelon, corn on the cob, brownie (vegetarian option: veggie hotdogs)
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Ken and Claudia Miska travelogue: "New Zealand and the South Pacific"

Monday, January 14

- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
- 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Orange chicken, steamed rice, Asian slaw, fruit, dessert (vegetarian option: orange tofu)
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Dan Barker presentation, "The Battle of Church and State"

Monday, January 28

- 11:30 am-12:00 pm Yoga from a chair with Betsy Haimson
- 12:00 pm-1:00 pm Mac and cheese bake, collard greens, cornbread, coleslaw, fruit, dessert
- 1:00 pm-2:00 pm Joan Burstyn presentation, "Growing Up in England During World War II"

Next month dates: February 4, 11, 18, 25

If you would like further information about the meal, programs, transportation, or to check on any cancellations, contact Paul Borowsky at (608) 442-4083, paul@jssmadison.org.

Lechayim Lights

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

About our Programs

Monday, December 3

We will celebrate Hanukkah with Yid Vicious, the talented and dynamic local band that has been volunteering at Lechayim for many, many years. Yid Vicious plays Klezmer, which means "vessel of song." It is a free style Yiddish folk music—for dancing and celebrating. The Yid Vicious band members have been engaging and delighting audiences throughout the Midwest since 1995. Please join us—guaranteed to be a *freilach* (happy feet—dancing) affair.



Dan Barker

Monday, January 14

Dan Barker graduated from Azusa Pacific University with a degree in Religion and was ordained as an evangelist minister at the age of 15. He became a "freethinker" in 1983 and is now the co-president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation. Dan now puts his knowledge of Christianity to effective freethought use. A professional pianist and composer, Dan performs freethought concerts and is featured in FFRF's musical CDs, "Friendly Neighborhood Atheist," "Beware of Dogma," and "Adrift on a Star." He joined FFRF's staff in 1987, serving as public relations director. He was first elected co-president in November 2004, speaks widely and has engaged in more than 100 debates about religion. We will get a sample of some of Dan's music, thoughts, and updates and information on legal battles of church and state separation.

Monday, January 28

Our presenter, Joan Burstyn was 10 years old and living in England when WW11 broke out. She will describe the impact of the war on her extended family, and, especially, on herself. Joan will explore not only the changes in her own understanding of what war entails, her reaction to it as a Jew, but also the changing nature of warfare. Joan is a lifelong teacher, learner and author. She is professor emerita of education and history at Syracuse University, has written three books of poems and is author/editor of five academic books. She has also published numerous articles on Jewish education and Jewish women in higher education.



Joan Burstyn



Yid Vicious

Monday, December 10

Bill and Bobbie Malone are both historians as well as musicians. Bill is an emeritus American history professor from Tulane University. Bobbie was most recently, director of the Office of School Services at the Wisconsin Historical Society, creating books of Wisconsin history for classrooms. Bill has hosted *Back to the Country* on Madison's WORT Community radio on Wednesday mornings for the past 21 years. His most recent book is *Sing Me Back Home: Southern Roots And Country Music* (University of OK Press, 2017). Bill and Bobbie will talk to us about and perform songs from the 1950's.



Bill and Bobbie Malone

Monday, December 17

Over our lifetime, Madison and many places throughout the country, have gained some new neighbors, *Meleagris gallopavo*: the wild turkey. For almost 70 years turkeys in our area had been hunted to near extinction. After some failed attempts to re-introduce the turkey, transplanted wild turkeys from Missouri were brought to locations determined to be favorable habitats. Most of you have seen the results—the population is booming. Paul will talk about features of their lifestyles and habits that make them adaptable to our current conditions.

Monday, January 7

Be prepared as you are transported on a six-week, 10,500-mile adventure through stories, sights and sounds. Experience fighting Tasmanian Devils; the scenic fiords of Milford Sound and the rich and diverse Maori culture in New Zealand; snorkeling with sharks in Bora Bora and relaxing with a meal on the beach of a small French Polynesian Island. Ken and Claudia Miska enjoy presenting travelogues about the 53 countries and 49 states they have visited.



November Lechayim Fun



Bezalel



Edie



Elaine



Ellen and Pam



Eric



Estelle

Jewish Social Services Brings Shabbat to Our Seniors

Our monthly Shabbat gatherings includes candle lighting, challah, singing, and discussion.

Attic Angel Place in the Garden Room, 2:30 pm

8301 Old Sauk Rd.

A Jewish Social Services and Attic Angel Place program. Led by Rabbi Renee Bauer, Director of Chaplaincy and Outreach with music by Les Goldsmith and with the assistance of Angel Volunteers.

December 7

Capitol Lakes in the Grand Hall, 3:00 pm 333 West Main St.

A Jewish Social Services and Capitol Lakes Retirement Community program. Led by Rabbi Andrea Steinberger with assistance from UW students through the Hillel Foundation.

December 7 (Hanukkah party)

Oakwood West in Oak's Community Room, 3:30 pm 6225 Mineral Point Rd.

A Jewish Social Services and Oakwood Village University Woods program. Led by Rabbi Renee Bauer with the assistance of JSS volunteers. Music by Paul Grossberg.

December 21, January 18

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

Save the Date Liesel Blockstein Memorial Lecture Sunday, February 10, 9:45 am - 11:45 am

The annual Liesel Blockstein Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by Jewish Social Services and Temple Beth El, will be held on Sunday, February 10. The event honors the memory of a woman who was a well-known force for good in both the Jewish community and the wider community, and features as speaker, a woman who embodies Liesel's commitment to social justice and Jewish life. We are pleased to announce that this year's lecture features Dane County Supervisor, Carousel Bayrd. As a county supervisor, Ms. Bayrd focuses on criminal reform, racial justice, immigrant's rights, mental health services, and alternatives to incarceration, along with housing and women's rights. Please Join Us.

Happy December Birthdays

Jim Blair • Karen Shevet Dinah • Susan Eichhorn
Jean Esch-Theobald • Stacy Graff • Estelle Katz
Janice Oltman • Eve Siegel • Alene Wiseman
Janice Wrich

Happy January Birthdays

David Aronin • Hilary Blue • Fay Colberg
Ginny Graff • Rob Greenberg • Betsy Haimson
Bezalel Haimson • Sally Jamison • Roz Levin
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I HEART

Continued from page 1

component in the formation of my own kids' Jewish identities. When Elliott and Max (now 14 and 11) attended OSRUI, one thing surprised me with total clarity; their Jewish joy was already deeply and firmly rooted in Madison. They loved Jewish overnight camp, but they didn't need it to find their Jewish identity. Thank you, Jewish Federation of Madison programming.

When Ben and I moved to Madison to

raise our family in 2006 our cupboards filled with handkerchief challah covers and cardboard tzedakah boxes handcrafted by three-year-old Elliott, and soon after by his brother Max. They loved Gan HaYeled, they loved Shabbat at Gan, and—like so many other Gan kids—they kept us "Shabbat honest" at home, too. And the Federation kept us involved with programming to sustain these new Jewish family connections,

and by inviting me as a volunteer to join and chair various committees and then the board of directors.

The Jewish friends we made at Gan from across the city, from different affiliations, and denominations, still count among our favorite people today. Their "Jew Crew" motivates temple participation, youth group activities, b'nei mitzvah study, and Midrasha attendance. My kids feel comfortable in different Jewish environments because of the Jewish intersections the Federation

creates. They often find familiar Jewish faces wherever they go in Madison; that jubilant Torah processional extends beyond synagogues, onto soccer fields, public schools, and into their busy social lives.

I HEART Jewish Madison because the JFM helps Ben and me raise confident compassionate Jewish children, who carry the Torah with defiant Jewish Joy—not only in their arms, but in their hearts and actions; when they lie down and when they rise up, L'dor vador.

UW Hillel

Continued from page 3

around campus carving swastikas into the snow and drawing on white boards, and it goes on and on. In each of these circumstances, UW Hillel worked with university administration to advocate for and meet the needs of Jewish students on the UW campus.

Students come to Hillel to talk about their different views on politics (domestic and international), identity, Israel, the women's march and its leadership, and where they fit on these issues as individuals and as Jews. In this moment in time it is not easy to figure out the challenges and competing ideas in a polarized world that has opened the doors to hatred and bigotry to be common place and pervasive in our social and civic discourse.

Hillel works in the confines of what is essentially a city, a campus with

42,000 students plus faculty and staff, a university inside the city of Madison. In all cases, what happens on campus is of concern, interest and impact to Jewish communities in Madison, Milwaukee and the state of Wisconsin.

So when the terror attack took place on Saturday morning at Tree of Life synagogue, Hillel was prepared and able to lead a campus-wide response to a grieving and scared community. We worked with our Jewish communal partners, Chabad and JEM (Jewish Experience Madison), with the campus administration, and local law enforcement to secure a location, speakers, and leverage our professional and personal relationships to bring a diversity of people and speakers together. The end result was reported in the press of over 1500 people in attendance on

a cold Wisconsin night and strong, articulate words to help bring people together for comfort and a community. Our work often, purposely, goes under the radar, and that is how we prefer to function. Yet it's important that we recognize that this kind of impact does not just happen. It's about building relationships over time, looking outside ourselves and being interested in others, seeking partnerships, and building opportunities wherever possible.

As a representative to the larger Jewish communities, as a leader on campus who looks out for the entirety of Jewish concerns, it's critical that we are ready to respond in good times and in bad times. Too often we are asked to do things out of a defensive posture, after the fact, and it's a herculean effort to be successful. We are able to do these things because our Jewish community cares and is choosing to invest in our

work. Our work benefits the students first and foremost, but in many ways impacts the Madison and Milwaukee Jewish communities more broadly. We bring Judaism and Jews to the larger non Jewish community in an active and engaged way, in a public setting, and with a commitment to pluralism and diversity in religion and politics.

Our work brings students together across divides of race, faith or politics. We stand in support of Jewish students and Jewish life, providing a place for Jewish practice, conversation and activism on the UW campus in Madison. We advocate for the safety of Jewish students in their academic and living spaces on and near campus. And we provide an opportunity for an enriching Jewish life during the college years, paving the way for Jewish life, practice and activism long into adulthood.



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Israel *and the* World

Holiday of Lights: Building Bridges to Coexistence

BY SHLOMIT EZER
ISRAEL SHLICHAH

When thinking of examples of coexistence in Israel, one of the first places that comes to mind is the city of Haifa. Haifa is a port city, the third largest city in population size in Israel. There is a Jewish majority and many minority groups who share the city. About ten percent of the citizens are Arab, the majority of whom are Christian from many different denominations, and the remainder are Muslim. There are also Druze and non-Arab Christians including Armenians. The Jewish population in the city is also diverse, with about a quarter of the citizens from the former USSR. A smaller percentage are from the Jewish-Ethiopian community, and there are both secular and religious Jews—overall, a very diverse city.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, Haifa is also the global center of another faith: the Bahá'í. The Bahá'í

Gardens are probably the most well-known symbol of the city, including the Shrine of the Báb and 19 beautiful terraces on Mount Carmel in Haifa, overlooking the Mediterranean. This place is one of the most unique tourist attractions. It is a place of pilgrimage for the Bahá'í people, and the Bahá'í community that lives there have a special status, as they are not Israeli citizens and have little to do with non-Bahá'í parts of Haifa.

Along with the Bahá'í Gardens, one of the most interesting attractions in Haifa is "the Holiday of Holidays." This year will be the 25th year of this beautiful tradition, also known as عيد التمجيد والأعياد. For a quarter of a century now, for three weekends in December there is a big holiday festival throughout the city celebrating diversity and the different cultures that make up the city. It takes

place right around Hanukkah, Christmas and sometimes Ramadan (a holy month for the Muslims, that is celebrated by the Islamic calendar and so it is on a different Gregorian date every year)—it is a festival of cultures, religions, tolerance, and coexisting. If you are ever in Israel during that time, don't miss it! The festival includes many art exhibitions, food, festive street performers, performances and arts for children, music, and food from all the different cultures. A different theme is selected every year and the artists plan their creations around that theme. The events and exhibitions take place in various galleries and in the streets of the city, and some events even take place at churches. There are three main locations for the festival: Wadi Nisnas and the German Colony, two neighborhoods in Haifa that are mostly populated by Christian Arabs, and Beit HaGefen. Beit HaGefen, an Arabic-Jewish cultural center, the place the idea began. In cooperation with the Haifa municipality, they founded the festival in 1993. When

not working on the annual festival, Beit HaGefen is in charge of many cultural, educational and artistic programs designed to bring the Jewish and Arab communities together. For example, they offer a multilingual library, hold art exhibitions and theatre shows that combine Arab and Jewish artists, and are aimed to create an open dialogue on topics of multiculturalism.

Beit HaGefen and The Holiday of Holidays are one example of coexistence in Israel. Along with them, there are many Israeli organizations that work toward that same goal. Acting not through political means, but in the social world, to build bridges between people and create a more common ground. The list of organizations is long, and each organization focuses on different aspects. Starting this issue of Hanukkah, the holiday of light, each month we will tell you about another project or organization working towards building bridges in Israel.



The Bahai Gardens



The Holiday of Holidays - Symbols of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Haifa

Partnership2Gether: Projects with Sovev Kinneret

- In May of 2017, as part of Partnership2Gether with the Sovev Kinneret, six young adults from our partnership region in Israel participated in the First Annual Reciprocal Birthright Program here in the Midwest. Partnership2Gether (P2G) is a program through the Jewish Agency for Israel and is designed to cultivate people-to-people relationships, projects and professional programs between the Sovev Kinneret and the Madison, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Jewish communities.

- In February of 2019 we will send a Young Leadership Delegation of six from Madison to our partnership region. They will be in Israel for seven days where they will meet Israelis their age, travel, learn about our partnership region in the Sovev Kinneret, the Jewish homeland, its history, and culture. Please contact Shlomit at Israel@JewishMadison.org if you are interested in applying for this trip. Space is limited and the application process will close on

December 21.

- This Hanukkah we are happy to host a special guest: Yehudite Vanger, a teacher from Gan Savion. Gan Savion is a preschool in Kfar Tavor, a small town in Sovev Kinneret, that has partnered with Gan HaYeled for a Global Jewish school twinning program. Throughout the year the teachers exchange ideas, photos and films for the students. Yehudite's visit to Gan HaYeled is an opportunity for both sides to learn and get to know each other better. We are looking forward to the visit and will keep you posted about it.





Connecting with Israel

Ivrit and Israel Education – Fall Semester

Ivrit B'Kef

We started the year with Ivrit B'kef, a program for K-2nd grade students of learning the Hebrew Aleph-Bet and vocabulary through games, music, and crafts. Contact me (Israel@JewishMadison.org) about enrolling your child for the spring semester or see more information on JewishMadison.org.

Café Ivrit

For adults who have already learned Hebrew but have nowhere to practice it, we have Café Ivrit. Contact me (Israel@JewishMadison.org) to be added to

Café Ivrit mailing list and learn about the times and locations of our group meetings. Then all you need to do is get some coffee and speak Hebrew!

Midrasha

In Midrasha, I had a wonderful fall semester with the advanced Hebrew 'activism in Israel' class and 'Ashkenazi, Sepharadi, Mizrahi and beyond' class (learning about different Jewish communities and the different cultures and traditions). Thanks to all the students who make Midrasha classes a fun, interesting time. Looking forward to the second semester!

Levivot (Latkes)

Even though sufganiyot are the official Hanukkah food (at least in Israel), I (Tal) was always more of a latke person myself. Every Hanukkah, my late grandmother Tzipora would make the best latkes I have ever tasted. They had the best texture, were perfect in size, and I could never stop eating them. I do not

think she used a special recipe or any special ingredients, but still they were so delicious. She and my grandfather used to live in a very small apartment, so every time my grandmother made latkes their house immediately filled with the smell of fresh, fried latkes. I hope you will enjoy the latkes as much as I do.



Traditional Sufganiyot



Special Sufganiyot

Hanukkah and Sufganiyot in Israel

By TAL SHEFFER
ISRAEL FELLOW

I do not usually miss home (maybe the fact that I talk to my family three times a day has something to do with it), but I do miss the food every once in a while. Don't get me wrong, cheese curds are still my favorite food, but Hanukkah got me thinking about the sufganiyot (Hanukkah donuts) in Israel, and I felt like I would give anything for a good greasy sufganiya, the one that gets you covered with powdered sugar with each bite.

Even though Hanukkah is usually celebrated in December, the smell of fresh fried sufganiyot is already filling the streets of Israel in October. What used to be a traditional strawberry jam filled donut that is topped with powdered sugar and costs no more than \$1, has evolved and changed in the past few years into something completely different. While you can still buy the old traditional regular sufganiya, stores have been offering a gourmet version of the sufganiya, a version that can sometime cost even four times more than the regular one.

There are many different kinds of the gourmet sufganiyot, but you can immediately distinguish a gourmet sufganiya from a regular sufgania. The gourmet sufganiyot are usually smaller than the regular ones, they have special fillings in them, and are usually frosted with different and colorful flavors, rather than with powdered sugar. Some of the special sufganiyot even come with little syringes in them, which are filled with all kinds of fillings, and all you have to do is squeeze them and inject them to your sufganiya. There are many different kinds of special sufganiyot, but some of the best and unique fillings are

vanilla cookie cream, coconut chips and pineapple, cheesecake, dulce de leche, toffee caramel, pistachio and cherries, and much more. There is even a peanut butter frosted sufganiya. All it needs is some strawberry jam in the middle, and you will have the best peanut butter and jelly (or jam. I am 34 years old and until this day, I am not sure what is the difference between jelly and jam) sandwich possible.

Being loyal to tradition, some people in Israel refuse to call those special donuts sufganiyot, claiming that only the original strawberry jam filled donut can count as sufganiya. Others argue that every sufganiya-shaped donut, regardless of what filling and frosting it has, can be count a sufganiya. While both of them may be right (or wrong), it is interesting to know the etymology behind the word "Sufganiya": The word "Sufganiya" derives from the Hebrew word for sponge, which is "Sfog". In Hebrew, the word for sponge (sfog) and the word for absorb (lisvog) have the same root (ס.פ.ג), and the same way a sponge absorbed liquid, the sufganiya absorbs oil while being deep fried.

Whether it is the special ones or the traditional ones, Israelis love their sufganiyot. Angel Bakery, one the largest bakeries in Israel, makes more than 25,000 sufganiyot every day during Hanukkah season. Since Shlomit and I are currently in Madison, they will probably make fewer sufganiyot this year, but I am sure the numbers will still be high. If you ever visit Israel during the time of Hanukkah, I highly recommend you try a sufganiya there. They are full of calories, but they are definitely worth every single one.

Latkes

Ingredients (for 12-16 latkes):

- 1 pound potatoes
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup olive oil
- Accompaniments: sour cream and applesauce

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 250°F.
2. Peel potatoes and coarsely grate by hand, transferring to a large bowl of cold water as grated.
3. Soak potatoes 1 to 2 minutes after last batch is added to water, then drain well in a colander.
4. Spread grated potatoes and onion on a kitchen towel and roll up jelly-roll style. Twist towel tightly to wring out as much liquid as possible. Transfer potato mixture to a bowl and stir in egg and salt.
5. Heat 1/4 cup oil in a 12-inch nonstick skillet over moderately high heat until hot but not smoking. Working in batches of 4 latkes, spoon 2 tablespoons potato mixture per latke into skillet, spreading into 3-inch rounds with a fork.
6. Reduce heat to moderate and cook until undersides are browned, about 5 minutes. Turn latkes over and cook until undersides are browned, about 5 minutes more.
7. Transfer to paper towels to drain and season with salt. Add more oil to skillet as needed. Keep latkes warm on a wire rack set in a shallow baking pan in oven
בתיאבון!





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