

SHALOM

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TISHRI-CHESHVAN 5777

Ambassador Dennis Ross gives community a day filled with insight on Middle East



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Jewish Federation of Reading recently hosted Ambassador Dennis Ross, who has played a leading role in Middle East peace efforts for more than two decades. Ross drew big crowds at a series of three local appearances Sept. 25 as part of Federation's

mission to increase community engagement and outreach.

Ross, who served in the George H.W. Bush, Clinton and Obama administrations, was the featured speaker at the Jewish Federation of Reading's Leadership Dinner

at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel. Earlier in the day he was at Albright College to speak and meet with students from area colleges. Ross also spoke to the entire community at an evening lecture that was free and open to the public.



Dennis Ross speaks at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel during a lecture for the general public.



Haia Mazuz, Helene Singer and Andi and Bill Franklin with Dennis Ross at the Leadership Gifts dinner.



Dennis Ross speaking at the Leadership Gifts dinner.



Dennis Ross speaks to students during an appearance at Albright College



Ross delivers a lecture to the general public.



2016 totals as of Oct. 14

Jewish Community Campaign \$430,533

*Includes transfers from Donor Advised Funds

Club provides safe, successful summer for at-risk youth

In Israel's southern city of Sderot, dozens of at-risk youth enjoyed a safe and enriching summer at the Ben Gurion Youth Club, provided by Meir Panim, an organization supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now Fund.

"Meir Panim recognizes that in order to stem the tide of dysfunction and poverty in Israel, we need to not only provide meals on a daily basis to those without food but we also must offer quality educational and recreational programming for Israeli youth while keeping them safe," shared Goldie Sternbuch, Director of Overseas Relations for Meir Panim.

"To that end, an all-encompassing summer program was provided and we are proud of the results."

Following over a decade of nearly constant rocket fire from Gaza, many of Sderot's teens suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Additionally, the city is known for its influx of immigrants and lower socioeconomic population. "The combination of living under incredibly dangerous circumstances for so long as well as the cultural challenges immigrants face makes earning a

proper living here very difficult," explained Sternbuch.

The Ben Gurion Youth Club held both day and evening activities all summer. Groups were run by a social leader, a scholarship student and three Israeli soldiers. "It is important for these youths to have positive role models who are just a little older than they are," said Daniel Berkeley, manager of the Sderot Youth Department. "These are great teens and we are happy to build them up as much as possible to succeed in school, in the army and in life." Many Sderot youth do not consider a higher education or joining the Israeli army a priority. In their country of origin, families often made a living through farming. The Ben Gurion Youth Club strives to find a healthy balance between caring and discipline in order to teach the children the importance of acclimating to Israeli life, where army service is considered one of the best ways to have a successful future in the country.

The summer program included recreation, enrichment programs, challenging activities and discipline. Game shows were played, cooking was taught, shows were performed and

karaoke was sung. A t-shirt painting activity, where children were given spray paint and a shirt to decorate, helped children express their emotions through their creations.

Trips were taken to play paintball, cool off at a water park, and watch soccer tournaments. Through outdoor training activities, teamwork and good sportsmanship were developed.

The youth created "Cafe Kasdo," a unique activity where the club is turned into a social coffee shop. Teens operate the cafe, create the menu, bake, cook, and host patrons. Group activities are encouraged as are deep discussions which require participants to think honestly about important topics.

The club not only gives to the youth but also encourages them to give back. Over the course of the summer, club members volunteered to work with neighborhood children. Two large events were run by club teens who were responsible for operating stands and leading activities.

The summer came to an end with club members creating a community garden which they maintain throughout the year. The teens worked the soil, built flower beds, and planted flowers

and vegetables that will be harvested and served at the club during the school year. "The importance of promoting environmental values, sustainability, and social interactions between the participants should not be underestimated," noted Berkeley.

A special "end of summer ceremony" was held on September 11. Famous Israeli composer and folk/rock musician Miki Gavrielov held a performance at the club in order to better acquaint himself with the work of Meir Panim. "The children were visibly touched by Gavrielov's visit," noted Sternbuch. "He sang with the children around a bonfire, baked pita bread and even encouraged the crowd to break into a traditional Caucasian dance from the Caucasus, where a large number of children originate. Everyone was so proud at how these children hosted such a special guest."

The Ben Gurion Youth Club operates all year long to give children a safe and loving home away from home. Especially during the summer, which can be a particularly dangerous time for wandering the streets, the club provides youth with a place to pass their free hours with helpful guidance, warmth, and support.

Immigrant from Ethiopia thrives thanks to Yemin Orde

Israela Tadela, 30, is a first-generation Israeli. Her parents arrived in Israel in 1984 during Operation Moses, the

Israeli government's secret evacuation of Ethiopian Jews from Sudan. Three siblings did not survive the treacherous

journey across Ethiopia to Sudan.

As a youth, Israela had difficulty relating to her parents, who struggled with the Hebrew language as well as Israel's modern society — a complicated family situation similar to that faced by so many Ethiopian Jews in Israel.



Yemin Orde welcomed Israela to the Village in 2000 when family strife distracted her from achieving success in school and diminished her self-confidence. The Village's staff and its community of meaning provided support, loving-kindness and the promise of a brighter future. "Yemin Orde taught me independence and values. The things I learned about myself are a big part of who I am today," Israela said. "I had a difficult time with my parents and if I didn't have Yemin Orde, I am not sure where I would be in life right now."

At the Village, Israela strengthened her cultural identity as well as learned to respect the traditions and cultures of other immigrant youth at Yemin Orde. "I had friends from Tibet, the former Soviet Union and Brazil," she said. After high

school graduation, she served in Israel's air force and later earned a double B.A. degree in Education and Sociology from the University of Haifa. Yemin Orde provided Israela with financial assistance while she attended school; an opportunity afforded all graduates of Yemin Orde in times of need. Today, Israela serves as a News Producer at Israel's Channel 2; for a while, she was the only Ethiopian working at the station. Prior to joining Channel 2, she worked at one of Israel's Ethiopian television news stations.

Israela believes strongly in the notion of helping others by giving back to the community, a life lesson she learned at Yemin Orde through its Village Way methodology. She volunteers for IsraElite, Israel's only gap year leadership program specifically geared for at-risk immigrant women. She also spends time helping at Yemin Orde. In addition, Israela has volunteered for Tebeka, a free legal service for Ethiopian-Israelis created by fellow Yemin Orde graduate, Itzik Dessie. "Yemin Orde taught me to believe that you can do whatever you want if you work hard," said Israela.

Yemin Orde is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now Fund.

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From the President's Desk

A new year!

By William D. Franklin
President

It is said: "The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." Change needs to start from within. We recently invited Max



Kleinman, former CEO/ executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, and a JFNA senior consultant, to advise with our Board on new approaches.

Everyone related a meaningful aspect of their Jewish life, what they were passionate about and why they were volunteering their time and

energy serving on the JFR Board. The love of a vibrant, supportive, engaging Jewish community was the number one reason given by all. One spoke of his experience with the increasingly anti-Semitic acts and exclusion of Jews in South Africa. The welcoming atmosphere of our Reading Jewish community was reassuring and profound. Another spoke of being one of only a few Jews growing up in the former Soviet Union. Being part of a larger community in which she could raise a committed and knowledgeable Jewish family was an important factor in the move to Reading. Having lived several years in a small Midwestern city with no Jewish community, relocating to Reading fulfilled another couple's wish

to enjoy the benefits of being part of a strong one. And another participant, from a smaller nearby community, was greatly impressed with the leadership and role models set by the JFR board. That resulted in her wanting to emulate that generation and ensure that our Jewish community would remain strong and inclusive for generations to come.

Max Kleinman recommend that we focus on several aspects of connection. First and most important he urged that we become ambassadors to develop and build meaningful relationships with each other and with you. Additionally, Board members need to act as advocates, making the case for Judaism and JFR, answering questions, fielding complaints, and effectively using criticism to become

better. Our Board has always and must continue to be advisors, providing their expertise and guidance in everyday issues and emergency situations.

The last focus was an especially interesting one. Kleinman used the Hebrew word — 'Aharai,' which means 'follow me'. Proverb 27:19 says, "As a face opposite water reflects another face, so do people reflect each other's hearts." He recognized that our Board members are role models. They know that our JFR is a powerful and effective tool to shape the community and the world. They will be reaching out to invite you to programs that may interest you and asking you to help your JFR so that it becomes your tool in this great endeavor.

Thank you.

A gift to Federation shows commitment to our tradition and future

By Richard Nassau
Development Director

The why of the Jewish Federation is answered by our values as a community. Values reflected by tzedakah (righteousness and justice,) chesed



(loving kindness,) and tikkun olam (repairing the world.) Each of these Jewish values helps enrich lives within our entire community. We work together with you because our tradition reminds us that all of us are responsible for one another.

Your annual gift is so important. It

provides social services for those in need. It advocates for social justice. It supports humanitarian efforts overseas. It educates our future community leaders. It affirms our relationship with the people of Israel and Jewish communities worldwide.

Connections

Your single gift supports our place in the community. It also deepens our connections allowing Federation to work with donors, organizations, and community leaders to improve our world. We join together to exchange ideas and develop programs that connect us. We promote philanthropy to strengthen our community and, in doing, provide benefits to the greater community. We

seek out programs and new initiatives so more families can share the joy of Jewish life.

Responsibility

Our responsibility also extends to planning for the future. We don't do this by overlooking today's needs. We do so with the understanding that by making a bequest to Federation you help our community, build financial stability. Providing for Federation in your will ensures we will continue to meet community needs today and in the future. Consider a leaving a bequest to Federation, it is a proven and effective way for us to become a stronger Jewish community.

Inclusive

Federation is an organization that continually seeks to create a dynamic community open to all. We can only do this with you. We depend upon your support to remain a vibrant, inclusive Jewish community.

We all are responsible for our tradition and for being good stewards of that tradition. Thank you for your commitment to that tradition and to our future. As we approach the end of the year, please remember to make your Annual Campaign gift. It will enrich so many lives.

You can send in your gift or go to our website: www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org.

Committee to focus on Jewish community relations

By William D. Franklin

Unfortunately there is an increase of anti-Semitism and divisiveness within our country. An important new initiative for 5777 will be the formation of an active Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC). Its role will be to identify issues, develop strategies and programs and heighten community awareness, encourage civic and social involvement, and deliberate key issues of importance to the Reading community and our Jewish and non-Jewish brethren

across the nation and around the world.

Key issues will include:

Israel: Using a combination of education and action, our JCRC will work to counter the delegitimization of Israel and combat anti-Israel activities such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. It will also support frank and civil dialogue to enable our reaching consensus on difficult issues, including those connected to Israel, support for refugees, Iran and other difficult international situations,

Energy & the Environment: The Jewish community has a legacy of protecting our planet and our natural resources. The committee will tackle local environmental issues to ensure that our children and our children's children inherit a world that is safe and habitable.

Poverty and Economic Opportunity: Our JCRC will work with community partners to confront the consequences of poverty and build a more just and equitable society.

Fostering Economic Growth: Again,

working with community partners, we will urge our state and federal government leaders to help heal our ailing economy by creating pathways to sustainable, long-term employment and reverse the growing economic divide in our country.

Please consider joining this important committee so that your knowledge and skills can help create a better local, national, and world society. Call Bill Franklin (610-921-0624) if you are interested or have questions.

Thank you.

Letter to the editor: Reflections on the death of a great man

Editor:

The funeral for Shimon Peres was truly magnificent.

Heads of state, a king and Prince Charles, whose attendance marked the first official visit of a senior member of the British Royal Family to the Jewish State — all there.

Several presidents, prime ministers, and former heads of state and government—all there.

Who could fail to be moved by President Obama's speech? The president's eloquence was only topped by his intimacy, when he kept referring to his deceased friend by his first name, "Shimon."

Only a heart of stone, could resist a tear or two, while watching the leader of the free world, address a crowd of thousands, while standing in front of a sea of fluttering flags, of white and blue, with the Star of David in the middle.

And if this was not enough, peeking through that ocean of flags, were Secret Service agents, wearing yarmulkes, as did their Commander-in-Chief.

Theodore Herzl, on whose mountain this all happened, must have kvelled in his grave, because his 1897 dictum, "if you will it, it is no dream," had come to pass, and then some.

And yet all this pomp and circumstance, could not obscure the beauty and simplicity of the Jewish ritual. The military chaplain at the head of the casket reciting T'hilim; the simple grave; the pine box; and the mitzvah of covering the grave with soil — they were all there.

And when Shimon was finally interred, his children were there to recite the Kaddish, a prayer for the dead, which is really an affirmation of life. And at the end of the Kaddish, the magnificent evocation concludes: "may he who makes peace above, make peace upon us here, and upon all Israel." And then Shimon's daughter added: "Val kol B'nei Adam" and "upon all the children of Adam"; in other words, peace for all humanity.

To me, that little addition by his thoughtful daughter made this event even more meaningful, in its transcendence from a merely nationalistic prayer, to an evocation which takes all of humanity into its embrace.

The English poet Thomas Gray in his "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," wrote, in part:

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,

Awaits alike the inevitable hour.

The paths of glory lead but to the grave".

Gray obviously never ran into Shimon or his daughter.

—Larry Rotenberg

CORRECTION

An article in the October issue on converting algae to clean energy came from JPost.com. It was incorrectly attributed to Jodi Spiegel.

SHALOM

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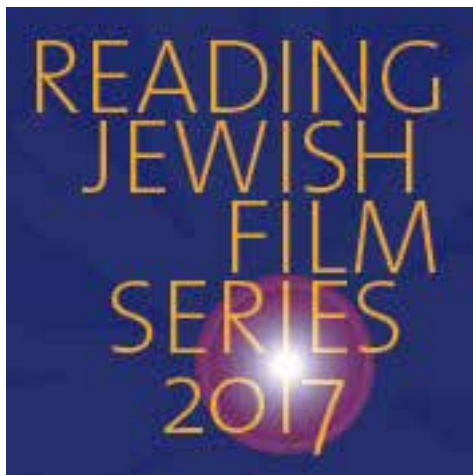
Next deadline, Nov. 5

2017 Reading Jewish Film Series off to a great start

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Just two films into our new seven-film series, the 2017 Reading Jewish Film Series is off to a great start! Large crowds enjoyed a thriller in September and a comedy in October and will be intrigued by modern-day Germany's experience with Jews in the documentary "Germans & Jews" in December.

In January we are pleased to once again partner with the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum for a screening of the documentary "Rosenwald." Based on the life of Julius Rosenwald and his philanthropy towards the African-



American community, "Rosenwald" has been extremely popular at

screenings throughout the United States. We will be hosting a post-film discussion with CPAAM, and proceeds from the evening will benefit the museum's campaign for the expansion of their space in downtown Reading.

The 2017 Reading Jewish Film Series is co-sponsored by the Rubin Educational Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$5 per film or \$30 for the series of seven films. All films will be shown on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at FOX EAST. Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. the

day of the screening, and series tickets can be bought at the JCC. Cash and checks are accepted.

The 2017 Reading Jewish Film Series continues through the spring:

Dec. 7 — "Germans & Jews"

Jan. 18 — "Rosenwald" with the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum*

March 1 — "The Sturgeon Queens"

April 5 — "Women in Sink" and "In Search of Israeli Cuisine" (Two Films) with the Islamic Center*

May 17 — "Apples from the Desert"

*Facilitated discussion to follow the film.

92nd Street Y program at Highlands ties in with film at GoggleWorks

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Join us at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21 at The Highlands Cultural Center Side B (2000 Cambridge Ave. Wyomissing) for our next 92nd St. Y program featuring Natalie Portman on her film "A Tale of Love and Darkness." On the occasion of the release of A Tale of Love and

Darkness — directed and adapted by Natalie Portman from Amos Oz's autobiographical novel — the Oscar winning actress discussed the new film and her career with Moderator Annette Insdorf.

Portman also stars in the Hebrew-language drama about a Polish Holocaust

survivor — seen through the eyes of her young son — who is trying to adjust in late 1940s Israel. For her feature directing debut, she chose cinematographer Slawomir Idziak, who photographed Kieslowski's "Double Life of Veronique" as well as "Three Colors: Blue."

"A Tale of Love and Darkness" will be

shown at the Goggleworks Film Theatre starting Nov. 18. Check the Goggleworks website (<http://www.goggleworks.org/film-theatre/>) for specific show times.

The 92nd St. Y programs are FREE and open to the public. Come learn about the film before or after seeing it in theatres or at the Goggleworks!

Who's on First? Join us for Comedy Night at the JCC

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Abbott: Who's on first?
Costello: I'm asking you who's on first.
Abbott: That's the man's name.
Costello: That's who's name?
Abbott: Yes.

This classic sketch from Abbott & Costello in 1938 has imprinted itself on the American psyche. Join us for a night of video clips from 100 of the greatest jokes of all time, as compiled by Vulture, at Comedy Night at the JCC on Nov. 19.

Deli dinner (with vegetarian options) will be served at 6 p.m. After dinner the jokes begin with a fun evening of great comedy. We won't see all 100 jokes but we'll see the top bits, sketches and one-liners that changed humor forever, including some Jewish favorites.

The cost is \$10 for JCC members and \$12 for non-members. RSVP with payment by November 11 to Brenda at brendas@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624.

We hope to see everyone for a fun night out on Nov. 19!

700 students learn about Judaism and Holocaust thanks to Federation

By Amanda J. Hornberger

On Oct. 13 the Jewish Federation of Reading and the Lakin Holocaust Library helped coordinate a special visit at Daniel Boone High School. Students there were learning about Judaism and the Holocaust in preparation for their school play "The Spirit of Life," based on Yaffa Eliach's "Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust."

Staff at Daniel Boone reached out to the Federation to ask for a speaker to teach the students about both topics.

Before a crowd of more than 700 students (who willingly attended the event as it was not mandatory or a requirement for class), Andi Franklin and Kim Yashek Lockhart did an amazing job reaching the students in what Principal Preston McKnight described as a district

lacking diversity. Andi Franklin gave brief remarks on Judaism in her life and then answered questions from the students such as what it means to keep kosher, lighting candles, the Jewish calendar, the afterlife and Orthodoxy. The students were thoughtful and engaged throughout the morning and full of interesting questions.

Next Kim spoke for nearly an hour about the experiences of her father, Richard J. Yashek, during the Holocaust.

Using an interactive presentation with video clips of her father telling his story, Kim was able to reach and engage with the students on a personal level, despite the filled auditorium. Kim spoke about the importance of following your dreams and staying



positive, vital traits that helped keep her father alive during the Holocaust, but also important lessons to remember today.

The students asked relevant and probing questions to Kim as well and 40 students even skipped lunch to stay for the presentation.

Afterwards a few students came up to speak to Kim and me, including one student who was looking for advice for learning more about his extended family who had perished at Auschwitz.

Overall it was a wonderful morning

and a great opportunity for Federation to reach out to students who may not know any Jewish students in their school.

I'm extremely grateful to all our local survivors and survivor family members who continue to ensure that local students are able to hear real stories of survival during the Holocaust.

If you are interested in having a Holocaust survivor speak at your child's school please contact the Lakin Holocaust Resource Center at hrc@albright.edu.

Hadassah—



Wine & Cheese at Busy Bees Studio
840 N. Park Rd, Wyomissing
Monday, November 14 at 6 PM

A fun evening is planned at Busy Bees Pottery & Art Studio, where we will paint our own wineglasses (\$20 for 1 glass, or \$30 for 2).

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Annual community commemoration of Kristallnacht set for Nov. 9

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Each year our community comes together for an interfaith commemoration and remembrance of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, Nov. 9-10, 1938. Kristallnacht is seen by many historians as the start of the Holocaust and the Nazis campaign of terror in Germany and

throughout Europe.

We are fortunate to still have local Holocaust survivors who will once again be participating in this year's commemoration through readings and lighting six memorial candles.

Please join us on this special and memorable evening on Wednesday, Nov. 9

at Christ Episcopal Church, 435 Court St., Reading. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a circle of light, our way of bringing light to our community, on what was such a dark night for German Jews. The interfaith service begins at 7 p.m. Following the service a light reception will also be held.

There is street parking available near

Christ Episcopal Church as well as the M&T Bank parking lot (next door) and the parking garage by the Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or call 610-921-0624.

Bus trip to Jewish history museum to be held in December

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Community members young and old are invited to join the Jewish Community High School students and Better Together students and seniors on a special bus trip to Philadelphia on Dec. 11. Our group will have a special tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH) and then visit Mikveh Israel, known as the Synagogue of the American Revolution.

Rabbi Dov Lerner and Shira Simon from JCHS will be organizing the day in Philadelphia and meeting the group at NMAJH. At the museum our group will take a one-hour Highlight Tour for first time visitors (if you've visited before you may tour the museum on your own as well). A special treat will be a tour of the current special exhibit on Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution. A boxed deli lunch from Boscov's will be

enjoyed at NMAJH following the tours.

Next our group will walk two blocks to Mikveh Israel for a tour. Mikveh Israel is the oldest formal congregation in Philadelphia and the oldest continuous synagogue in the United States.

Thanks to grants participants in Better Together and students from JCHS will be able to attend this trip FREE of charge. Any other community member wishing to attend

will be charged \$40 to cover the cost of the bus, admission to NMAJH and boxed lunch.

RSVPs are required to Amanda (amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624) by Dec. 1 with payment. Better Together participants and JCHS students attending are also required to RSVP to Amanda.

If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Amanda or Rabbi Lerner.

Gratitude lessons to be focus at November PJ Library event

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Just in time for Thanksgiving, we invite children through age 8 to learn about gratitude at this month's PJ Library program. We

will be doing activities based on the book "Rabbi Benjamin's Buttons" and discussing holiday foods and gratitude projects.

Children are encouraged to bring

in a canned good for the Jewish Family Service food pantry to the event on Sunday, Nov. 13, at 10 a.m. at the JCC.

Please RSVP to Amanda at

amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 by Friday, Nov. 11. For additional information or any questions please also contact Amanda.

Tech Tuesdays return in November

By Abby Goldberg and Tristan Haas

Tech Tuesdays will be back in November! There will be a series of four classes in November and December. The first class, on Nov. 8,

will cover how to use Safari and Siri on iPhones.

Please note that this class only applies to iPhones. The second class, on Nov. 29, will be on Facebook. The third class, on Dec.

6, will discuss Shutterfly, a program used to create photo albums. This will be a computer-oriented class. Lastly, the fourth class, on Dec. 20, will cover reminders, alarms, and notes on the iPhone. If possible,

please try to bring the appropriate device to class. We hope to see you all there!

Questions? Please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 ALL ARE WELCOME!

Amazing archaeological find from First Temple period

Israel21c.com

A gate-shrine from the First Temple period (eighth century BCE) uncovered in the Tel Lachish National Park is hailed by the Israel Antiquities Authority as "an important and unusual discovery" providing compelling evidence for the biblical account of King Hezekiah's efforts to abolish worship there.

The northern part of the 24.5-by-24.5-meter (80×80-foot) gate — the largest ever found in Israel from that era — already was uncovered decades ago by archeologists from Great Britain and from Tel Aviv University.

The IAA conducted the current full excavation from January to March this year at the initiative of the Ministry of Jerusalem and Heritage and in cooperation with the Nature and Parks Authority, to further develop Tel Lachish National Park, about 45 kilometers southeast of Jerusalem.

"The size of the gate is consistent with the historical and archaeological knowledge we possess, whereby Lachish was a major city and the most important one after Jerusalem," said IAA excavation director Sa'ar Ganor. "According to the biblical narrative, city gates were the place where everything took place: the city elders, judges, governors, kings and officials would sit on benches in the city gate. These benches were found in our excavation."

The Lachish city gate, now completely exposed and preserved to a height of 4 meters (13 feet), consists of six chambers — three on either side — and a main street that passed between them.

In the first chamber were benches with armrests; jars; scoops for loading grain; and stamped jar handles bearing the name of the official or a lmlk (belonging to the king) seal impression. Two of the handles have the seal impression lmlk hbrn (belonging to the king of Hebron). The word lmlk is written on one of the handles together with a depiction of a four-winged beetle (scarab), and another impression bears the name lnhm avadi, probably a senior official during the reign of King Hezekiah. These jars probably were related to Hezekiah's military and administrative preparations for the war



against Sennacherib, king of Assyria, in the late eighth century, which resulted in the destruction of Tel Lachish in 701 BCE.

The continuation of the building is the gate-shrine with plastered walls. "Steps to the gate-shrine in the form of a staircase ascended to a large room where there was a bench upon which offerings were placed," said Ganor during a press event on September 28 introducing the find. "An opening was exposed in the corner of the room that led to the holy of holies; to our great excitement, we found two four-horned altars and scores of ceramic finds consisting of lamps, bowls and stands in this room. It is most interesting that the horns on the altar were intentionally truncated. That is probably evidence of the religious reform attributed to King Hezekiah, whereby religious worship was centralized in Jerusalem and the cultic high places that were built outside the capital were destroyed."

In the book of II Kings, verse 18:4 describes how Hezekiah "removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles."

A stone latrine was placed in the holy of holies, apparently as the ultimate desecration of the forbidden gate-shrine. This is the first archaeological evidence of such a practice, which is described in the Bible (II Kings 10:27). Laboratory tests suggest the latrine was never used and was therefore symbolic.

The excavation revealed destruction layers from the war with Assyria, including arrowheads and sling stones indicative of hand-to-hand combat in the city's gatehouse. Evidence of Sennacherib's military campaign in Judah is known from the archaeological record, the Bible (II Kings 18 and II Chronicles 32), and the Lachish wall reliefs from Sennacherib's palace in Nineveh, depicting the story of the city's conquest.

Shaul Goldstein, director-general of the

Nature and Parks Authority, said the planned visitor center at Tel Lachish "will include the relief that was found in the private room of the King of Assyria which depicts our forefathers in their war and as they entered captivity that led to a life of exile that continues to this day. The altar from the time of King Hezekiah constitutes another sacred link to this important settlement." The gate is temporarily covered for conservation purposes as the Nature and Parks Authority and the IAA continued development and conservation work at the site in preparation of opening it to visitors.

"The fascinating new discovery at Tel Lachish is a typical example whereby excavations and further research of heritage sites show us time and time again how biblical tales that are known to us become historical and archaeological stories," said Ze'ev Elkin, Minister of Jerusalem and Heritage and Environmental Protection.

Michelson wins top honor from Alvernia University

Rabbi Brian Michelson of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom, Wyomissing, received the Franciscan Award from Alvernia University in recognition of his work promoting interfaith



understanding. Michelson shared the award with Elsayed "Steve" Elmarzouky of the Islamic Center of Reading and the Rev. Philip Rodgers of St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church. The three founded "A Common Heart," a series of discussions that celebrate the similarities among the faiths while respecting differences. The Franciscan Award recognizes

individuals who selflessly give of their time, talents, and resources for the betterment of others. "Together, these three men work to foster meaningful relationships among community members of differing faiths and backgrounds — something that is truly integrated into Alvernia's mission," said Thomas Flynn, president of the university, a Catholic institution that has

played a key role itself in improving relations between the Jewish and Christian communities through a variety of events and programming in coordination with the Jewish Federation of Reading and local congregations.. Reading's Jewish community congratulates Rabbi Michelson for his ongoing efforts to build bridges with the rest of the community.

Obituaries

Florence Segal, 88, of Wyomissing. Florence was an avid tennis and bridge player. She was a member of Keshet Zion Synagogue. Florence is survived by her husband, Marvin, her children Barry and Marci, and her grandchildren

Jae-Jae and Lia. --- **Armand Sussman**, 97, lived much of his life in Allentown before moving to Reading. During World War II, as the navigator on a B-17 bomber, he and his crew were shot down, and he spent 13 months as a

prisoner of war. He compiled an extensive archive of his military experience, which will become a part of the World War II Museum in New Orleans. Armand was employed by Sinberg Manufacturing and Rodale Press before forming Woodcraft by Armand. For 33 years he and his late wife, Muriel, operated Armand's Lingerie.

He wrote a book on woodworking for the homemaker- "Fast Furniture" published after his 82nd birthday. Armand is survived his wife, Shirley, daughters Barbara Kogan and Bonnie Versace (Philip); Stepchildren Perry Clissa (Cherie) and Lori Pearson and two step-grandchildren.

Rosh Hashana celebration at Manor at Market Square



Good News Israel: Spotlight



Israeli researchers report progress on fighting breast cancer

By combining gene therapy with chemotherapy and delivering it to a primary tumor site, researchers at Tel Aviv University's Sackler Faculty of Medicine have discovered an extremely effective way to prevent the spread of breast cancer to other parts of the body in mice.

One in eight women worldwide contract breast cancer, making it the second leading cause of cancer death in women. The chance that any woman will die from breast cancer is about one in 36. About 80% of women with metastatic cancer die from the disease within five years of being diagnosed.

"The situation is bleak. Death rates from breast cancer remain high and relatively unchanged despite advances in medicine and technology," said Noam Shomron, the research team's leader. Survival has increased by only 3% in the last 20 years, he added. "We wanted to find a way to stop metastasis from

happening altogether. It's the turning point, where survival rates drop exponentially. Our mission was to block a cancer cell's ability to change shape and move."

Shomron and his team published their findings in the peer-reviewed, open access journal, Nature Communications. The article describes how they harnessed the targeted delivery of microRNAs, small, non-coding RNA molecules found in plants, animals and some viruses, that regulate gene expression and RNA silencing. Their research led to success in dealing with primary tumors in mice and blocking the movement of cancer to other sites in the mice's bodies.

The TAU researchers based their approach on the 3Ds: database, drugs and delivery. The team began by exploring bioinformatics databases to investigate the span of mutations in a tumor and identify precisely which ones to target. The scientists then procured a naturally

occurring, RNA-based drug to control cell movement and created a safe nanovehicle with which to deliver the microRNA to the tumor site.

Two weeks after initiating cancer in the breasts of their mice, the researchers injected primary tumor sites with a hydrogel that contained naturally occurring RNAs to target the movement of cancer cells from primary to secondary sites. Two days after the treatment, the primary breast tumors were gone.

The mice were evaluated three weeks later using CT imaging, fluorescent labeling, biopsies and pathology. The researchers discovered that the mice that had been treated with two different microRNAs had very few or no metastatic sites, whereas the control group – injected with random scrambled RNAs – exhibited a fatal proliferation of metastatic sites.

"We realized we had stopped breast cancer metastasis in a mouse model,

and that these results could be applicable to humans," Shomron said. "There is a strong correlation between the effect on genes in mouse cells and the effect on those in human cells. Our results are especially encouraging because they have been repeated several times at TAU and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology by independent groups."

Two weeks after cancer developed in the mice, the team used synthesis to create a naturally occurring drug, delivered directly to the tumor. They managed to stop the spread of the cancer to the rodents' livers, lungs, brains and other organs. "We believe we are on right track to treat breast cancer," he said. "We hope at least to extend the lives of many patients by at least 10 full years."

Shomron collaborated with Dr. Natalie Artzi of MIT. Their research was aided by students Avital Gilam, Dr. Daphna Weissglas and Dr. Joao Conde.

Dell likes this Israeli crowdsourced approach to radiology

"When you hear hoof beats, think of horses, not zebras." This aphorism was coined by a medical school professor in the 1940s to emphasize to his interns that the more commonplace explanation is usually the correct one. But sometimes, the hoof beats are in fact a zebra and it's important to identify the right animal — or in this case, the correct disease.

Israeli startup Zebra Medical Vision has taken that as both its name and its mission. The company is building software that can rapidly parse patterns in medical images in order to identify specific diseases that a radiologist might miss. Its computer algorithms analyze tens of thousands of existing examples of a particular disease so that when the software finds the same or similar pixels in a new CT scan, it will know what it's looking at instantly.

The company has developed four algorithms so far that quantify

bone mineral density (a key factor in osteoporosis), identify fatty liver cells (an early sign of diabetes), detect emphysema, and measure the amount of plaque in coronary arteries (which can lead to heart attack and stroke).

Zebra Medical chose its first diseases to work on carefully. Cardiovascular events kill nearly 500,000 Americans a year. Fatty liver affects up to 11 percent of the population, is a strong predictor of insulin-resistant diabetes and is a preventable cause of chronic liver disease, cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Coming next: breast cancer and additional bone imaging. All told, Zebra Medical hopes to develop several hundred algorithms in the coming years. The technology is not meant to make radiologists obsolete but to provide a second or third pair of eyes to pick up something they might have missed or weren't necessarily looking for, says Zebra Medical cofounder

and CEO Elad Benjamin, who's been involved in medical imaging for nearly 17 years.

After completing his military service in Israel, he worked at Algotec Systems, a developer of radiology software sold to Eastman Kodak for \$42.5 million in 2003. While at Algotec, he became fascinated by improvements in deep machine learning, a key component of artificial intelligence.

The company has several large pilots running in the United States and Benjamin hopes to announce Zebra's first paying customers by the end of the year. Zebra Medical intends to charge based on the number of scans it processes. There is no software to install — anonymous images from hospitals are uploaded to Zebra's servers in the cloud, analyzed there and sent back to the radiology department

with findings and recommendations.

The company has partnered with Dell Services, one of the largest providers of medical image and document archiving in the world, receiving some 2 million scans a month from hospitals. Zebra Medical's software will be hosted by Dell, where it will work its imaging magic, including on some of the 150 million scans already uploaded. Hospitals will use Zebra's software "in a way that's financially attractive for them," Benjamin says.

There are also financial incentives provided through the US Affordable Care Act for institutions that participate in programs to prevent certain costly chronic diseases, including diabetes, tobacco-related conditions and high blood pressure. In that way, Zebra Medical can actually "help hospitals make money," Benjamin points out.

Clean water could be global reality

Remote villages around the world that lack access to both electricity and potable water may soon be able to quench their thirst, with the development of an Israeli solar powered water distillation system.

Jerusalem-based SunDwater, whose standalone system harnesses heat through concentrated solar power, now has two fully operational pre-production models purifying water in the Arava Desert. The hope is, according to CEO Shimmy Zimels, to market the relatively low maintenance system to small villages in South America, Africa and Asia, ideally by means of aid organizations.

"You would reduce dramatically the mortality rate in those places, specifically among the young, who suffer the most from the lack of freshwater," Zimels told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"Today, these people spend the vast majority of their time on the quest for water," he said, noting how much time is wasted in walking to the nearest supply. "They could invest that time in building a better future for their families."

The company had four main objectives in mind, Zimels explained. These goals included creating a system that could process as many types of unsafe water

as possible, remain sustainable, produce substantial quantities of water and did not involve sophisticated infrastructure, he said.

"There are many solutions out there that you can take water and put it through the system and you'll get out 2, 3 or 4 liters of water, and it doesn't have any value for the people who are going to utilize the solution," Zimels said.

The \$16,000 system is able to generate about 300-400 liters of water daily. The first of the two pre-production systems began running about five to six months ago at the Eilat-Eilot Renewable Energy Initiative's Off-Grid Village at Kibbutz Ketura, where the company is testing the technology in conjunction with the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies and a student from Ben Gurion University. SunDwater also established a second system at the nearby Kibbutz Samar. The company is in contact with dozens of potential partners around the world.

"Our main targets are South America, Africa, and in Asia, we're talking specifically about the countries suffer from scarcity – India, Bangladesh and Vietnam," Zimels said.



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History's importance

By Rabbi Matthew Abelson
Keshar Zion Synagogue

As I broke the Yom Kippur fast with congregants, our conversation turned away from the themes of the day — repentance, prayer, and charity — and toward politics. We tried to wrap our minds around the extraordinary and terrifying events that are our daily dosage in newspapers, radio, and online.

The presidential race, which will occur in just under two weeks, is symptomatic of a world that is in crisis. Republicans and Democrats have witnessed



upheavals within their own parties, and the vitriol and dislike that characterizes the conversation between the two presidential candidates is evidence of the sharp differences in our country.

For a people that has nearly three millennia of experience under its proverbial belt, one might think the Jewish people is accustomed to such moments. Yet crises, such as the one we are now living through, have a way of shaking us to our core so that our past experiences offer us little comfort. Furthermore, because of our integration into American society and the presence of Israel, we are not marginal in global affairs, as we may have been during most of the centuries of our exile. The decisions that we make as individuals,

and most importantly, the actions of our community as a whole, have never been more consequential.

Torah study and prayer continue to be superb guides in the midst of turmoil. I would like to suggest a third guide that we ought to turn to: history. The study of history, never diligently attended to in steady times, is weakened by two factors today: 1) the emergence of the internet and, more recently, smartphones, leads to a daily deluge of news that compels us to respond to every event almost as it is happening; 2) myth is an ever-threatening competitor of history.

Before the discipline of historical inquiry became pervasive at the turn of the 19th century, most people experienced the world primarily through myth. In the realm of myth, life is experienced eternally. Because it is experienced eternally, there are no events, for an event must have a cause, and eternity permits neither cause nor event. The mythic outlook offers stability, but it prevents progress.

The increase in historical inquiry more than 200 years ago did not eradicate myth. Mythical thinking has been a part of human thinking too long to be completely dispensed with in two hundred years. Ironically, the technological advancements that I mentioned have strengthened the mythical outlook.

The way that myth retains a hold, even in the midst of the profound truths that historical inquiry have exposed, is

evidenced by the cliché, "Those who fail to learn from history are bound to repeat it." The claim that history repeats itself is a way for myth to slip in the backdoor after we have barred it from the front. Study of history reveals that every event is singular, unique and therefore history is, by definition, unrepeatable.

I suppose that if my message for this edition of the *Shalom* is the incredible importance of history, I ought to suggest a few books that I recommend for those who are eager to take up the charge of studying our history for the sake of strengthening the Jewish people to do its part in navigating humanity out of the current crisis:

1. Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi's "Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory"
2. Paula Hyman's "The Jews of Modern France"
3. Elias Bickerman's "The Jews in the Greek Age"
4. Bernard Lewis' "The Jews of Islam."

Each of these books has assisted me in understanding world history and the role of the Jewish people in shaping that history. What the study of these books and other histories may accomplish is the achievement of historical consciousness. Antithetical to myth, historical consciousness is invaluable for the Jewish people as we fulfill our role in establishing the ideal of humanity in the world.

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881
Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763
Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Friday Evening Service – Please call for service information

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034
Friday, Nov. 4: 6 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 11 and 25: 7:45 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 18: 7 p.m., Musical Shabbat/Wine & Cheese Oneg
Saturday, Nov. 19: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

November ☆ Tishri - Cheshvan



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

November 4
5:39 p.m.

November 11
4:31 p.m.

November 18
4:26 p.m.

November 25
4:22 p.m.

November 5/Cheshvan 4
Noach (Genesis 6:9 – 11:32)

November 12/Cheshvan 11
Lech-Lecha (Genesis 12:1 – 17:27)

November 19/Cheshvan 18
Vayeira (Genesis 18:1 – 22:24)

November 26/Cheshvan 25
Chayei Sarah (Genesis 23:1 – 25:18)

Cooking program for kids

Following up on its successful series of cooking programs for women, Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County is launching Mini Chefs, which brings the fun to area children.

The inaugural event will take place Sunday, Nov. 13, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center, 2320 Hampden Blvd. in Muhlenberg Township.

The Kosher Culinary Club is for boys and girls ages 6 to 12. The program will include kosher cooking, baking, craft making and game playing.

The cost for participating is \$7.50 per child.

Please RSVP to lipskerreading@aol.com or call 610-334-1577.

Meanwhile the "Traditional Cooking with a Modern Twist" program for women continues. The next edition is Sunday, Nov. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at the Chabad Center. The focus will be on falafel and Middle Eastern cuisine.

Cost is \$12 per participant. Please RSVP to lipskerreading@aol.com.

Watch for information on the next class, which will be held Dec. 11.

**CHABAD LUBAVITCH
KOSHER COOKING CLASS FOR LADIES!**

Traditional Cooking
with a Modern Twist

FALAFEL



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Sunday, November 20
5.30pm

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\$12.00

RSVP lipskerreading@aol.com

Next
cooking class
will be on
Dec 11th

**Introduce your child
to the joy of Shabbat!**

**Tot
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is a musical, story-filled, interactive hour for
children through grade 2. Bring your family
& friends to celebrate with Rabbi Michelson
and stay for a pint-sized oneg of juice, challah,
fruit, and child-friendly treats.

**Join us
next time!**
Nov. 19th
at 10:00 am

Members and non-members are invited.
No registration is required. Tot Shabbat
services are held Saturday mornings at
10:00 am at Reform Congregation
Oheb Sholom, 555 Warwick Drive,
Wyomissing unless noted. Please
call the Temple office with any
questions - 610.375.6034.

Upcoming Dates:
December 17 • January 21 • February 11
March 25 at 10:00 am - Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands
April 22 & May 13

Upcoming JCHS class to focus on worship and ethics

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading JCHS Director

One of the subjects we rarely address in Jewish education falls under the rubric of “Jewish Philosophy” or “Jewish Theology.” Unfortunately, those terms or class descriptions often don’t resonate with students — including those much older than our JCHS teens. They sound out-of-date or just plain “dry” and empty of passion and deep feeling.

Our students at Reading Jewish Community High School do reasonably well, especially after a time of community worship and extended time in the synagogue: “how does God function in the world?” Or “does God really answer prayers — and which ones and why?” “For what should we pray and do we need others around us in a

minyan — why?” Does God only speak Hebrew, and if we pray in English?” “Why are there so many rules about required and forbidden activities for Shabbat and holidays?” “Where is the spirituality for which many of us are seeking, the mystery, the awe, deep emotions?” “Does English help prayer, or music, or dance, or drums or ... what?” “What can make God-talk more meaningful to me — especially if I have doubts or at least questions about God?”

Or, more simply they will wonder “why bother with this Jewish thing?”

Unfortunately, however, our older teens are infrequently given a space and time to consider what thousands of years of Jews have written and thought about these and similar questions — and discuss what answers make sense

to them as individuals and community.

Therefore, just after the High Holy Days, it does make great sense to discuss with our JCHS students how they reacted to being this year in the synagogue — or not — on Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur and/or Sukkot.

These questions are now more real and meaningful after sitting or being in synagogue so many hours - or not.

These issues are the core of our course entitled “Worship and Ethics” in which we will consider how different generations of Jews in different cultures and countries proposed as answers - and we can consider which answers or suggestions resonate with our students today.

Our curriculum will be a no-holds-barred discussion. We want to prepare our young people for

their college career approaching soon, a time of questions and proposed answers asked by peers and professors courses of philosophy directly or religion as background in other fields of science, literature, anthropology and the like.

If and when it is requested, Rabbi Dov will be available for a session with parents — with the students or just parents — on the issues the teens raise or the parents propose during the course of discussing what transpires in class.

Field trip to NMAJH

JCHS students will be taking part in a field trip to the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia on Sunday, Dec. 11. See Page 5 for details. We hope to see as many students as possible participate.

Better Together changes teen’s outlook on life

The following was written by a JCHS student who took part in the first Better Together class.

By Easton Weizer

“Why should I join Better Together? I am shy, awkward, and nervous around strangers. I don’t want to go!”, that is what I told my mother. Truly, I was scared that I would not fit into the group, especially with senior citizens.

Also, I doubted an intergenerational program would succeed. The kids think they know better, and the seniors thought they knew better — a possible recipe for disaster. Children want to play on their phones, not discuss Torah. One experience with the seniors helped me realize that Better Together was about interacting in the Jewish community via culture, language, and wisdom from those who have been around longer than I have. Warm smiles from every corner of the room immediately changed my mindset. I thought, “This is going to be OK.”

Instantly, generations meshed before my eyes. It was beautiful to experience

harmony between old and young. To my surprise, seniors have assimilated to the new culture, and almost everyone took an occasional peek at their newfangled devices. Every assigned topic inspired an elder in our group to share his/her personal stories. This experience yielded years of knowledge and morals to be passed from generation to generation.

“The subject for tonight is George Washington Myths”, the rabbi boomed in excitement. My partner, Lee, and I spent the evening discussing the story of the “Cherry Tree” and how George Washington supposedly cut it down and professed his honesty to his father. Lee expressed how this related to his childhood. “Truth is key, and don’t you forget it buddy! When I was your age...” He then continued to inform us about portraying George Washington’s personality when he was a child. Each story expressed the elder’s characteristics, personality, and morals.

Friendships blossomed throughout the program. Age really isn’t a barrier. Unfortunately, I am unable to enjoy this

connection with my great-grandmother. She died at age 98 before I could genuinely get to know her. My family and I would take trips to Huntingdon Valley almost every other week to comfort Grandma Liz. I experienced her decline and was not able to form a true bond with her. I have heard many things about my great-grandmother. She was one of nine children and gave birth to seven children herself! The family matriarch, she was labeled. Grandma Liz is often described by my father as “the glue that kept our family together.” I cannot recall a single week when my grandma did not call to check in on my family. This was until her advanced age started breaking her down. It is truly a shame I will not be able to benefit from the stories she used to tell my older brothers.

With each visit, I over looked how she began to shift from watching television in the common room, to coughing and struggling in bed. She began to forget my name and was unable to recognize me; her own great-grandson. Eventually, she ended up in a rehabilitation center and was frequently

not well enough to see us.

At her funeral my father told me that she is in a better place, without pain and suffering. Grandma Liz was 98 and unfortunately outlived most of her friends, children, and husbands. She was an outstanding figure. She always conducted herself as a lady.

The Better Together program has changed my outlook on life. I perceive everything to be positive and never stop trying. Most importantly, I learned not to judge a book by its cover, because you might never learn the secrets that are held inside.

Better Together is a community program which teaches lessons, culture, and inspires the newcomers in our Jewish tribe. This program continues the Jewish philosophy of keeping the memories alive by passing down our stories (tradition).

In my opinion this opportunity should be available to every child. Intergenerational experience has enriched my life, and I want the same for you. Better Together is a wonderful program that should continue on for years to come.

Man finally celebrates bar mitzvah at remarkable age of 113

Yisrael Kristal, the world’s oldest man at 113, lived through both World Wars and survived the Auschwitz concentration camp. Yisrael Kristal, like many a bar mitzvah boy before him, celebrated the event last weekend, reading the Torah and enjoying the company of his family, who danced, sang and threw candies.

But Mr. Kristal was surrounded at the ceremony in southern Israel by his two surviving children, nine grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. He is 113, and he had to wait a century to mark the occasion.

“My father is a religious man, and it was his dream his whole life to have a bar mitzvah,” his daughter Shulamith Kristal Kuperstoch said by telephone from her home in Haifa, Israel. “It was a miracle after everything that he has been through in his life. What else can you call it?”

When Allied troops liberated Auschwitz in 1945, she said, Mr. Kristal weighed 82 pounds. He was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. She said her father had smiled widely after the bar mitzvah, which celebrates the moment when a boy can participate fully in Jewish life and traditions, including being allowed to be called in religious ceremonies to read from the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament.

Mr. Kristal was born Izrael Icek Krysztal in the village of Malenie, in what is now Poland, on Sept. 15, 1903. When he was 11, Franz Joseph, the emperor of Austria-Hungary, passed through his town. The boy threw sweets at the emperor, perhaps presaging Izrael’s career in the chocolate and candy business.

By his 13th birthday, World War I was raging and he missed his bar mitzvah, Ms. Kristal Kuperstoch said. His father was in the Russian Army, and his mother had died three years earlier. By age 16, after his father had died of typhus, he was an orphan.

After the war, he opened a candy store in the Polish city of Lodz with an uncle and prospered. But after Germany invaded Poland in 1939, Mr. Kristal, his wife and their two children were moved to the ghetto in Lodz, where the children died. In August 1944, he and his wife were sent to Auschwitz, where his wife was killed.

After the war, he returned to Lodz, remarried, and in 1950 he moved to Haifa with his second wife and their son. He rebuilt his life, again becoming a successful confectioner. In March, at the age of 112 years and 178 days, he was declared the oldest man in the world by Guinness World Records.

Ms. Kristal Kuperstoch said her father had prayed every morning for the past 100 years. She attributed his longevity to “the above.” “He believes in God,” she said. “He is a simple man, a wise and intelligent man. He believes in himself. He is someone who takes happiness in everything.” She said part of his secret for getting to age 113 was “eating to live rather than living to eat.” When he does eat, Ms. Kristal Kuperstoch added, he enjoys daily helpings of pickled herring and, as a younger man in his 80s, had a taste for wine and beer.

He lives in his own home with a housekeeper. He remains sharp and still likes speaking Yiddish and listening to Yiddish songs, Ms. Kristal Kuperstoch said. “He wakes up early each morning, catches up on the news and eats a simple breakfast,” she said. “He is interested in politics and used to read the newspaper every day. Now I read it to him since his eyesight is failing.”

Mr. Kristal’s granddaughter Liat Bashan, a 32-year-old social worker, said that seeing her grandfather at his bar mitzvah ceremony, in a room spilling over with relatives and loved ones, had left her overcome with



joy — and mindful of all those who perished in the Holocaust. “All those people from one person,” she said. “Imagine how many rooms could be filled if six million had lived.”

Israel Book Club: 'Catch the Jew'

Born and raised as an ultra-Orthodox Jew Tuvia Tenenbom went on to serve in the IDF before becoming a secular, academic writer and dramatist based in Germany and the USA. He returned to Israel and posed as 'Toby', a German journalist, to interview foreigners, Arabs and Jews across the country. The results became a best-seller in Germany and Israel.

This poignant, funny, and unprecedented book shows the intensity of the turbulent land. Tenenbom went person by person, city by city, in both Israel and the lands under the Palestinian Authority. Each of the 55 chapters is a gate to understanding Israeli and Arab life. The author is sympathetic to the Jewish state, exposes what the 'peace industry' is doing to blacken Israel in the eyes of the world and disgusted by Jews, who reject their homeland and aid in destroying world opinion about Israel.

Tenenbom shows that foreign diplomats, 'peace' workers and journalists run around Israel in an obsessive search for a 'bad Jew'. He observes sarcastically — "Thousands upon thousands die in the Middle East but the UN and EU are busy only with Israel." And he concludes that this has nothing to do with logic, it is hatred against Jews. "It doesn't take a genius to know why the world loves the Palestinians."

Tenenbom points out — "I thought that diplomats' job is to represent their country in the host country. Well, not foreign diplomats in Israel. They are obsessed with making up stories to discredit everything Israel does."

He further exposes the 'peace industry,' which is led by the UN and the EU. Doctors Without Borders does no medical work in Israel or the West Bank but agitates against the Israeli presence. International 'peace' workers run refugee camps and schools, incite Arabs against Israel and teach the children to hate Jews. The UN now estimates that there are 11 million Palestinian refugees. However, when Toby the German asked how they arrived at that number, UNRWA, which runs the

refugee business, admitted, "We don't really have an original number from 1948." Tenenbom remarks: "Soon we will have more Palestinian refugees in the world than American and Europeans combined."

The author writes that "the sad fact is, one would hope that in our enlightened era Europeans would no longer have so much hatred for Jews and that Germany, with its history of Jewish annihilation, would not be heading this European herd of Jew haters. But hatred of Jews refuses to die."

Tenenbom also exposes the prejudice of reporters, who never fact-check the Arabs' mistruths. His most powerful point is that what they want is to "catch the Jew." He reports the extent to which many international and UN officials condemn Israel on the basis of international law, of which they are wholly ignorant, while encouraging Arab aspirations to annihilate the Jewish state.

Posing as a German journalist, Tenenbom met with Hanan Ashrawi, a PLO executive member and the 'intellectual face of Palestinians'. She stated that "Palestinians are the only real people of this land and have lived here for hundreds of thousands years." When asked for facts, she clearly avoided the real history of Israel. She hates the Jewish state and the Jews, who do "not belong here." Tenenbom also interviewed Nadia, a famous Palestinian singer who studied music and dance at the Jerusalem Academy of Music. Her teacher, a German-Jewish lady, was 'my mother' and helped her become a star. Now, she hates her 'mother', considers her an occupier and wants her expelled from "our land." Toby the German also spoke with Jibril Rajoub, second in command after Abu Mazen. With a big smile, Rajoub says that Adolf Hitler is his big hero but finds him guilty for "not finishing his job."

Arabs live everywhere in Israel, but no Jews are permitted to live under the Palestinian Authority. With the help of the

UN, they have made their land Judenfrei. Toby the German drove around listening to Palestinian 'suffering.' He discovered that "per capita, a Palestinian gets more financial help than any citizen of any country anywhere. They have many fine homes, schools, stadiums, and theaters." The biggest donors are the USA first and Germany second. German support is primarily governmental; in US, donations are primarily from individuals. One of the biggest US donors is George Soros, a far-left Jewish-American billionaire.

This brings us to what saddens Tenenbom most of all. It is not that Arabs and foreigners work to undermine Israel, but that many Jews in Israel, the U.S. and around the world, the Israeli newspaper, *Haaretz*, and NGO's such as B'Tselem, dedicate their lives to help those who want to annihilate them. The gallery of self-hating Jews included an Israeli woman whose American Jewish son is busy raising money in the US for a pro-Palestinian organization. Its aim is to abolish the Right of Return for Jews and institutionalize the Right of Return for Palestinians. "That means millions of Jews out and millions of Palestinians in. In the end, his Israeli mom will be homeless." Gideon Levi, a columnist for *Haaretz*, claims "that the average Palestinian wants peace more than the average Israeli," with no polls or facts to support that. Uri Aloni, lives in Tel Aviv and leads the campaign to boycott Israel. He "dreams of making Israel pure Palestinian," confident that the Holocaust is a Jewish lie.

In Tel Aviv, Tenenbom met a highly educated Jewish couple who live in a beautiful, recently renovated home. The Arab contractor, their good friend, was well paid and presented them a gift — a big olive tree for their garden. After they

thanked him, he said, "You don't have to thank me. I did it for myself. You will soon be ousted from my country and this home will be mine." The wife opened up to Tenenbom saying, "We are fools. She had come to this some time ago, but her husband couldn't because the essence of his life would collapse." The husband said "I believe in humanism and always will."

It is said, Jews are the faithful patriots of all the world, friends of all countries and groups, except their own. The leftist ideology in Israel is now defeated in the polls and *Haaretz's* readership has fallen to 4%, its lowest ever. But in the diaspora, leftist organizations continue to mobilize external pressure to enact the policies that the Israeli public rejects. Their strategy is to convince the world that Israel is not a democratic country and therefore is undeserving of moral sanction, foreign aid and diplomatic support.

Tenenbom finishes his eye-opening book on a poignant note. He says that Israelis rarely admit that they have fears. "But they have." This seems evident, since, during superstar Eyal Golan's concert, thousands of Israelis rose joining him to sing the words- "The most important thing is not to be afraid. The King of the Universe will guard us from all others. The Nation of Israel will never give up. We will stay on the map always! Concert goes in New York, Berlin, Moscow and Tokyo don't vow that they won't be erased from the map. The Jews in Tel Aviv do." After reading the book you will never look at Israel the same way again.

We will be discussing our next book "Let There Be Water", by Seth Siegel on Wednesday, Nov. 16. Please join us to learn how Israel's advances in technology will save the world from its growing water crisis.

—**Moisey Schneider & Andi Franklin**

Fri., Nov. 18th at 7 pm

Musical Shabbat

and Wine & Cheese Oneg

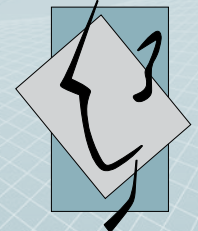
Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat with Rabbi Brian Michelson & Student Cantor Harriet Dunkerley as they lead a special service featuring the musical talents of our congregants. Service to be followed by a special catered oneg featuring wine, cheese, desserts, and child-friendly treats.

Members & non-members welcome.



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All Around the Town

Mazel to **Sen. Judy and Jim Schwank** on the birth of granddaughter Virginia Maria, born Sept. 14 in Boulder, Colo., to Laine and Trevor Cavazos. Proud great-grandmother is Margaret Levine.

Mazel tov to grandparents **Judy and Frank Synnamon** and parents **Jenna and David Synnamon** on the birth of Sylvia Grace.

Mazel tov to **Debbie Cieplinski** and family on the marriage of Stephanie to Kevin Sutorius.

Mazel tov to **Carole and Michael Robinson** on the engagement of their son Andrew to Ashley Gensemer.

Mazel tov to **Vicki and Howard Hafetz** on the marriage of their



Molly and Geri Nemirow

daughter Erica to Ellis Geer in Philadelphia in October.

Congratulations to **Geri and Molly Nemirow** on their performance in Talisman Players' "Fiddler on the Roof" at Kutztown University.

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com.

RCOS Food Festival set for Nov. 6

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom's 16th annual food festival will be held Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the synagogue, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing.

All the old favorites will be back, including brisket and chicken platters, New York-style deli sandwiches, bagels and smoked fish, falafel and much more.

Get there early for a spectacular selection of desserts, including the congregation's famous apple cake. The most popular treats do disappear fast.

Other delicious treats include blintzes, kugel, knishes and the ever-popular matzo ball soup.

There is no admission fee. Tickets redeemable for breakfast

and dinner platters are available for \$13 from RCOS members or from the synagogue office, 610-375-6034.

This year's festival features entertainment from the Exeter Community Band, which has been together since 2002. Most of its members come from Berks and neighboring counties.

The group's repertoire features music of the past 100 years. A few Klezmer and Israeli tunes may be added to the mix for the festival.

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom is located one block off of State Hill Road behind the Rite-Aid store and near Berkshire Square, home of Redner's and Wal-Mart.



King Solomon, wisest of all men,
is stumped at last.

Wedding bells rang

By Anne Seltzer

Our youngest son, Jonathan, just got married! We love his wife, Abbie, and welcome her into the family as we did Jamie, Matt's wife, two years ago this month. We are blessed to have them married into wonderful families, to wonderful women. God has truly graced us.

Other than the horrible hora (to be discussed later), it was an unbelievably joyous affair, from bringing the wedding cake unscathed from here to Washington, to the brunch on Sunday morning. Truthfully, the weekend flew by in such a blur that all the details are fuzzy. It rained a lot, but cleared up in time to take pictures on the steps in front of the Carnegie Institution of Science, where the wedding was held.

One highlight for us was the rehearsal dinner at a Greek restaurant, Kapnos. Because only four of our family members were able to get there early enough, it gave us a great opportunity to spend time with Laura and David's families. They came from as far away as London! It was very special.

Abbie's mom, Laura, actually made the chuppah out of her wedding dress and my two wedding dresses. It was so beautiful and meaningful. Debbie Pine, the rabbi who married Alan and me 22 years ago, married Jonathan and Abbie. It was the first time she had seen Matt and Ben for many many years and was kind of a family reunion. Debbie is now the chaplain at the Hillel at Johns Hopkins, so our lives have once again intertwined.

Now the horrible hora. I told them all there was no way I was going up on a chair that didn't have arms. No way! Well, apparently (questionable) no one could find one, and somehow or other Alan and I found ourselves on the way up on flimsy (to me) chairs.



It seemed that when the chair went down I continued to go up. Screaming to be put down, while feeling like I was headed head-first to the floor every few seconds, one of our unnamed sons totally ignored me. You know what they say about payback. The pictures only verified my terror. It doesn't help that Alan was laughing and had his hands up in the air!

The music and food were wonderful, but the highlight for me was to have our families there celebrating with us. There is always a bitter sweetness attached to such events when important family members are no longer with us. Jonathan's father, Richard, and my brother, Dave, were the people I missed the most. It was so special having all my cousins, and Gina and the girls with us.

A Pittsburgh custom is having a cookie table. Thus, of course I was in charge. A few great friends helped me bake close to 1,700 cookies. Take-out bags were provided and encouraged! They were even more appreciated at the brunch when people were contemplating long rides home. This is one of the recipes.

Pistachio Shortbread Sandwich Cookies

2 sticks butter, room temperature
2 1/3 c. all-purpose flour
3/4 c. powdered sugar
1 c. coarsely chopped pistachios
1/2 tsp. fine salt
1/3 c. apricot preserves

In a food processor, process butter, powdered sugar and salt until smooth. Add flour, pulse until a dough forms. Stir in pistachios. Shape dough into two 8-inch long logs. Wrap in wax paper and freeze until firm, about 30 minutes (up to 1 month). Cut dough into 1/4" slices and bake on parchment-lined baking sheets, bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes, until set and barely golden at edges. Rotate sheets halfway through. Cool completely. Spread jam on half of cookies. Top with other half of cookies. Enjoy!

Mini Chefs

Hey kids! Roll up your sleeves and get busy!
Come experience the joy of Kosher cooking,
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Kosher Culinary Club

Boys & Girls
Age 6-12

Sunday, November 13
2:30 - 4:30 pm

At Chabad Lubavitch
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Reading, PA 19604

Cost: \$7.50

RSVP lipskerreading@aol.com or 610-334-1577

Jewish Family Service

**United
Way**



JFS Food Pantry finds new location

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

This month the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry faces a new challenge. We have been located at Keshet Zion Synagogue since 2009, when the sale of the JCC forced us to relocate. We are again relocating due to Keshet Zion's sale. We wish to thank Keshet Zion for being a very gracious and generous host for the past 7½ years. Not only were we given space and storage closets, but all employees have given us their time, assistance and support and had a great deal of patience with the demands of this program. We were able to serve more than 100 families each month, and we were able to be an emergency food pantry, helping people who faced food shortages and were referred to us from the Greater Berks Food Bank. We could not have



helped hundreds of families over the last 7½ years without the support of the Keshet Zion congregation and all staff — rabbinical, administrative and maintenance. Thank you to all who helped run this program and who helped JFS serve Reading's diverse and needy population.

Thanks also go to the many volunteers who have helped us run this program. Volunteers from the past three years include Julie Alweis, Cindy Balchunas, Norma Beckerman, Barbara Bender, Pam Charendorf, Lynn Driben, Michael Fidler, Sarah Flamholz, John Incledon, Mike Kastenbaum, Al Katz, Margo Levin, Haia Mazuz, Yozef Nijboer, Carol Perlmutter, Gordon Perlmutter, Tracy Rossi, Mike Robinson, Susan Schlanger, Robert Schneier, Vee Vee Scott, Jan Simon, Karen Sherman, Oleg Umanov, Mike Warshaw, Phyllis Warshaw, Laurie Waxler, Mary Weiss, Neil Weiss, Corinne Wernick, and Randy Winn. I apologize if I inadvertently left someone out.

The food pantry originated about



The JFS Food Pantry helps people in the Jewish community and beyond.

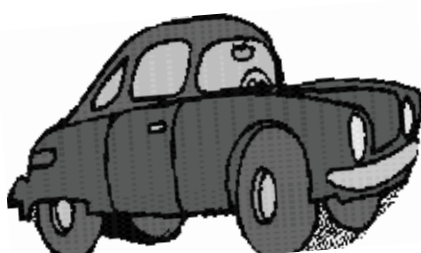
30 years ago as a project of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom's. It was started by Rabbi Alan Weitzman to help low-income members of the Jewish community. It was directed by congregant Bob Brok, who was assisted by the late Doris Brok and Fred Katz. In the 1990s Jewish Family Service took over the program, and gradually the program grew in size and scope to include non-Jewish clients. When the pantry was at the JCC we served about 30 families each month. Since the move to Keshet Zion the number of families we helped has grown tremendously. This year we were distributing 5,000 pounds of food to about 150 families each

month. We are now funded by both the Jewish Federation and the United Way.

We have found a new partner and new location and plan to reopen the JFS Food Pantry in November. Our JFS food pantry will be located at the Olivet's Boys and Girls Club's new building at Pendora Park on South 19th Street, just off Perkiomen Avenue. It is about a mile from Keshet Zion, and we hope that our previous clients will find the location convenient. We are thankful to the Olivet's President and CEO Pablo Tejado and his staff for welcoming this program and hope we will be able to continue to provide food to those who are in need.

Enjoy Tax Benefits While Contributing to

Jewish Family Service Vehicle Donation Program



Call Sari at 610-921-0624,
e-mail sari@jfsreading.org
or go to
www.charitableautoresources.com

Jewish Family Service programs

Planning for Retirement

If you are planning to retire in the near future, our two informational programs can help you make important decisions.

At the Jewish Cultural Center
1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

Monday, November 7 at 6pm **“Maximizing Social Security Benefits”**

Speaker: Earl Schultz
Strategic Wealth Advisory, Birdsboro

Learn the following:

- Strategies to maximize your benefits
- How benefits are calculated: how to coordinate benefits with your spouse
- Common mistakes that may cost retirees thousands in lifetime benefits
- What the new law means for your social security decision



Monday, November 14 at 6pm **“Basic Introduction to Medicare”**

Speaker: Phyllis Dessel, community volunteer,
Retired from Berks County Area Office of Aging

Learn about all the parts of Medicare:

- Medicare Part A- hospital insurance
- Medicare Part B- medical insurance
- Medicare Part C- Medicare Advantage plans
- Medicare Part D- prescription drug plans

These events are FREE and ALL are invited to attend! Minimum registration is required.

Please RSVP to Sari Incledon (610) 921-0624 or email Sarii@JFSReading.org

“Maximizing Social Security Benefits” RSVP by October 28

“Basic Introduction to Medicare” RSVP by November 7

Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information

Please mail your payment with complete information to the Jewish Federation, PO Box 14925, Reading, PA 19612-4925 or bring to the Jewish Cultural Center, 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing. You may set up a "savings account" for the purpose of sending cards. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 610-921-0624 for further information.

Contributions as of Oct. 14

Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In memory of:
Florence Segal – Ruth Isenberg, Rosalye Yashek

JFS Food Pantry

In memory of:
Florence Segal – Harriet Baskin

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:
Engagement of Michele Abramson and Brian Schachter – Al and Betsy Katz, Louise Zeidman, Peter and Eleanor Reyner and family
Sue Schlanger's special birthday – Peter and Eleanor Reyner
Birth of Mimi and Tom Gavigan's granddaughter – Peter and Eleanor Reyner
Marriage of Shterna Lipsker and Tuli Lepkivker – Peter and Eleanor Reyner

In memory of:
Florence Segal – Louise Zeidman, Berna Sherman, Sid and Esther Bratt
Sue Viener – Carol and Gordon Perlmutter

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:
Birth of Jim Rothstein and Sharon Scullin's grandchild – Dena and Vic Hammel
Birth of Judy and Jim Schwank's granddaughter – Dena and Vic Hammel

Get well/speedy recovery:
Sandy Miller – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Cheryl and Eric Farber

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

Federation Jewish Community Campaign	\$10
Jewish Family Service	\$10
Leo Camp Lecture Fund	\$10
JFS Food Bank	\$25
JFS Taxi Transportation Program	\$25
Holocaust Library & Resource Center	\$18
Doris Levin Fund	\$10
PJ Library Fund	\$10
Harry & Rose Sack Fund	\$10
Evelyn Thompson Fund	\$10

PJ Library

In memory of:
Sue Viener – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Lynn and Dick Gordon, Dena and Vic Hammel, Marjorie Sherman, Suzi Gerber, Tim Grumbacher and Debra Simon, Micki Beth Stiller, Beulah Fehr, Selma Cutler, Barbara Adler, Anita Zatz, Barbara and Michael Perilstein, Anzie and Edward Golden, Scott and Linda Bram, Patricia Conn, David Brandt and Kathy Kelly Hines, Marc and Marcia Filstein, Sid and Esther Bratt, Susan Moran, Bette Detterer (the Lunch Bunch), Henry and Helene Singer, Julie DesChamps, Ellen and Don Abramson, Michele and Ben Leisawitz, Sally and Robert Salon, Carol Miller (the Lunch Bunch), Ken and Julie Reiss, Hannah Micki Auerbach, Margie and Sid Gable, Folk Art Society of America, Brenda and Herman Diebler, Diana Tirion, Penny Golden, Mike and Gayle Kastenbaum, Samara, Matt, Mia, Marissa and Charlie Jacobs, Andi Watkins and Jeffrey Sternlieb, Virginia Laughlin

Evelyn Thompson Nursery School Fund

In honor of:
Michele Abramson's engagement – Michele and Ben Leisawitz, Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz
Birth Judy and Frank's Synnamon's new granddaughter – Michele and Ben Leisawitz

In memory of:
Shirley Cogan – Sid and Esther Bratt, Michele and Ben Leisawitz
Catherine Semanyk (Tracy Rossi's grandmother) – Michele and Ben Leisawitz, Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz

Christian group sponsors first wave of renewed Ethiopian aliya

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) is sponsoring the first wave of renewed Ethiopian aliya.

The government reached an agreement in July to bring 9,000 Falash Mura to Israel by the end of 2020, beginning with 1,300 Ethiopians who are expected to arrive by the end of 2016.

This followed a more than two-year hiatus after a declaration of the "end of Ethiopian aliya," which left many families separated.

The ICEJ, which belongs to the evangelical denomination of Christianity, said it had handed more than \$500,000 to Keren Hayesod to cover the cost of flights for 523 Ethiopian Jews, as well as to sponsor flights for another 104 Jewish immigrants due to make aliya soon from France and Ukraine.

Additionally, over the coming

months ICEJ aims to raise enough funds to sponsor the entire first year of renewed Ethiopian aliyah, as well as additional monies to assist with their absorption into the country.

"Our Christian supporters have always been generous and enthusiastic in giving towards our aliya projects, especially when they take on such a humanitarian mission as this renewed Ethiopian return," said ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler, noting that African Christians are among the generous donors supporting the initiative.

"These are people who are endangered by tribal conflicts and unrest while also suffering through times of severe drought and flooding. But now they will be lifted out of difficult and impoverished conditions, and finally be reunited with their families already in Israel," Bühler added.

The organization stresses the importance of supporting the absorption of the olim once they arrive in Israel, helping them learn the language and culture of their new country and aiding the youngsters among them to integrate into the education system.

"I always like to emphasize the challenges they will face upon arrival because of the tremendous gaps between Ethiopia and Israel — culturally, education-wise, with high-tech etc. They face some of the greatest difficulties in adapting to life here — more so than other new immigrants," explained ICEJ Aid director Nicole Yoder.

The first Ethiopian families were expected to arrive in Israel by Sukkot, in time for the ICEJ's annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in mid-October.

This event came under fire last year when the Israel's Chief Rabbis

David Lau and Yitzhak Yosef accused the group of seeking to convert Jews to Christianity.

The group has always insisted that it does not engage in any missionary activity at all and expressing disappointment at the accusation, suggested that the rabbis had been "set up."

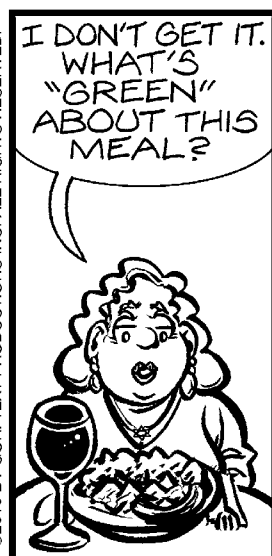
The organization, founded in 1980, says its goal is "To stand with Israel in support and friendship; to equip and teach the worldwide Church regarding God's purposes with Israel and the nations of the Middle East; and to be an active voice of reconciliation between Jews, Christians and Arabs; and to support the churches and congregations of the Holy Land."

The ICEJ has sponsored the aliya of nearly 120,000 Jewish immigrants to Israel, and assisted with the successful absorption of tens of thousands more.

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE
 by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



BUBBE & ZAYDE'S OFFICIAL GUIDE to a "GREEN" THANKSGIVING FEAST



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