



# Shalom10|24

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community published by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

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## Join community in ‘Remembering October 7th’

By Laurie Waxler

Please join Federation and all three Jewish congregations for a service to “Remembering October 7th” to commemorate last year’s terrorist attack on Israel. Chabad-Lubavitch of Berks County will be hosting the event on Monday, Oct. 7, beginning at 7 p.m.. Come together with fellow community members in remembering those lost in the tragedy, those still being held hostage and those who have been affected.

Rabbi Brian Michelson of Reform Congregation, Rabbi Yosef Lipsker of Chabad and Cantor Ted Prosnitz of Keshet

Zion will join in leading a variety of prayers along with three guest speakers who have visited Israel since Oct. 7. Community member Ira Gelman will talk about the Israeli citizens and how the war has changed their lives, state Rep Mark Gillen will talk about U.S. support for Israel, and Pastor Nicolas Camacho, former Army chaplain and current pastor with West Lawn United Methodist Church will talk about his visits to the site of the music festival and communities directly affected by the terrorist invasion.

As a Jewish community, we can never forget the atrocities of Oct. 7 but

hope we can come together in prayer and hope for both peace and the release of the 101 hostages still being held in Gaza.

This event is free and open to the public, and we encourage you to bring your friends and colleagues, Jewish and non-Jewish, to honor the legacy of those lost, those in captivity and those with physical and emotional scars that will last a lifetime. Security measures will be in place for this event.

Chabad is located at 2320 Hampden Blvd. in Muhlenberg Township.

Am Yisrael Chai

## Thank you, Amanda Hornberger

By Brian Chartock

As we bid farewell to our distinguished Chief Operating Officer, Amanda Hornberger, it is with a deep sense of gratitude and admiration that we reflect on her remarkable contributions to the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. Over the past nine years, she has been the linchpin of our operations and programs, steering us through challenges and triumphs with unparalleled dedication and skill.

From the moment she stepped into the role, Amanda’s impact was immediately apparent. Her leadership and strategic acumen were instrumental in streamlining our processes, enhancing our efficiency, and fostering a culture of excellence. Her ability to navigate complex situations with a calm demeanor and a forward-thinking approach has set a new standard for operational excellence within our organization.

Under Amanda’s stewardship, the Federation has not only met its goals



but has exceeded many of them. Her commitment to fostering collaboration, innovation, and growth has been a driving force behind our many successes. Amanda has been a mentor to many, a leader to all, and a friend to those who

have had the privilege of working closely with her.

As Amanda embarks on her next chapter, we want to extend our heartfelt “todah rabah” (thank you very much) for her unwavering dedication and exceptional service. Her legacy will undoubtedly inspire future leaders within the Federation and beyond.

Please join me in wishing Amanda nothing but the best in her future endeavors. Though we will miss her presence and leadership, we are excited to see where her talents and passions will lead her next.

On behalf of the Federation staff, thank you for everything. Your legacy at Federation is secure, and your influence will endure. Best of luck as you move forward—may your path be filled with continued good health, success, and joy.

With deep appreciation and best wishes,

- Brian Chartock



*Brian Chartock and Margo Levin represent the Jewish community at Alvernia University during an event marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.*

# Annual Campaign: A variety of ways to give

By Laurie Waxler

You should have received a letter a few weeks ago from me and our CEO, Brian Chartock, asking you to consider a gift to our Annual Campaign. While it's never easy asking people to give you money, the majority of our funding comes from within our own Jewish community goes toward supporting our immediate Jewish community.



Regardless of when you

make your donation, there are a variety of ways to give before the end of the year.

Monthly giving spreads your annual donation out over 12 months and can easily be set up through our website. Once initiated, you don't have to think about it again and you'll know you're continuing to support your Jewish Community.

Another option for our retirees is using your IRA Charitable Rollover to satisfy the required minimum distribution (RMD) without incurring income tax. This

option is available for those 72 years of age or older. For anyone interested in this option, your IRA custodian can have checks written directly to the charity of your choice.

Another way to make a financial gift would be to donate appreciated non-cash assets in the form of stocks. This is an effective, tax-wise way to make a meaningful contribution and can potentially eliminate the capital gains tax you would otherwise incur if you sold the asset first and then donated the proceeds. Annual limits for

these charitable gifts are 30% Adjusted Gross Income (AGI.)

Regardless of how you give, please know your financial gift is important to our continued success and viability. As I've mentioned before, our Federation serves as the umbrella of all things Jewish in Berks County and with your support, we are able to provide the voice and support needed for our Jewish community and its' members today and in the future.

If you'd like to discuss donation options, don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you!

## JFR Comedy Night with Joel Chasnoff

By Laurie Waxler

Everyone is invited to join us at our upcoming JFR Comedy night on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, featuring stand-up comedian Joel Chasnoff. Born and raised in Chicago, Chasnoff lives in Israel and is a former IDF soldier and current author of nonfiction books including his newly released 'Israel 201.'

With clever, clean and positive comedy, this wholesome show is geared toward an adult audience of all ages addressing the joys and oys of Jewish life. From his nine years in Jewish day school to his IDF service and the challenge of raising Jewish kids, Joel's stories are the stories of us. He describes his comedy as more than just laughter, it's about

community.

The GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, another nonprofit in Berks County offers a wonderful space to accommodate a large group in a theater setting. For those who may not know, the concept of turning the old Willson Goggle Factory into an art center, in 2005, was the brainchild of former Jewish community members Albert Boscov and Irv Cohen along with fellow philanthropist Marlin Miller. At



Joel Chasnoff

145,000 square feet, it is the country's largest interactive visual art center.

Federation will be providing non-alcoholic drinks and a dessert reception. If you'd like to indulge in something a little stronger, a variety of alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase before and during the show.

Grab your friends and join us for an evening of good, clean fun with your Jewish community. Tickets are \$18 per person and can be purchased on our website: ReadingJewishCommunity.org or by calling 610-921-0624. Anyone under the age of 21 must be accompanied by a parent. GoggleWorks Center of Arts is located at 201 Washington St. in Reading. Parking is located behind the building.

## Literatour off to another great start



The 6th season of Literatour Berks kicked off with the fabulous Lauren Grodstein, author of "We Must Not Think of Ourselves." Grodstein covered the family trip that inspired the book, the museum in Warsaw that everyone is missing out on and behind-the-scenes details of how her book was chosen by Jenna Bush Hager's Today Show "Read With Jenna" pick! Literatour Berks continues in October with Eddie Shapiro.

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WHEN YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOU  
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From the CEO's Desk

# The meaning of the Jewish High Holidays in modern times

By Brian Chartock  
CEO

The Jewish High Holidays, consisting of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, hold profound significance for Jewish communities around the world. These holidays mark a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal, rooted in ancient traditions but deeply relevant in the modern era. As our world evolves, so too do the ways in which these sacred days are observed and even understood.



**Rosh Hashanah:  
The Jewish New Year**

Rosh Hashanah, often referred to as the Jewish New Year, is observed on the first and second days of Tishrei, the seventh month on the Hebrew calendar. It is a time that signifies the beginning of a new year and an opportunity for introspection. Traditionally, Rosh Hashanah is marked by the blowing of the shofar, symbolizing a call to repentance and renewal.

In modern times, Rosh Hashanah has evolved from its traditional roots to accommodate contemporary life. For many, it represents not just a religious obligation but a personal milestone

— a chance to set new goals, reflect on personal growth, and commit to positive changes. The holiday's focus on self-improvement and renewal resonates strongly in today's world, where individuals often seek moments of introspection in their busy lives.

Modern Rosh Hashanah celebrations can vary widely. While some adhere closely to traditional practices, others incorporate contemporary elements into their observance. For example, some may use the holiday as a time to engage in social justice (Tikkun Olam) initiatives, reflecting the holiday's call for personal and communal transformation. This can manifest in community service, charitable giving, or advocacy for social causes.

**Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement**

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is observed 10 days after Rosh Hashanah and is considered the holiest day on the Jewish calendar. It is a day of fasting, prayer and reflection, during which Jews seek forgiveness for their sins and strive to make amends. The culmination of the Ten Days of Repentance (Yomim Noraim), Yom Kippur is a profound period of spiritual cleansing, healing, and renewal.

In the contemporary context, Yom Kippur continues to be a deeply personal experience for many Jews. The fast and

the services provide an opportunity for individuals to connect with their spirituality and their community in a meaningful way; however, the observance of Yom Kippur has also adapted to the needs and realities of modern life. Some may find themselves navigating the fast while balancing work commitments or family responsibilities. As a result, there is often a focus on the flexibility of observance and the personal significance of the holiday.

In a world increasingly focused on personal wellness and mental health, Yom Kippur's themes of atonement and self-improvement align closely with contemporary values. Many people use the holiday as an opportunity to address their inner lives, seek personal growth, and make positive changes in their relationships and communities.

**The High Holidays  
and Modern Jewish Identity**

The significance of the High Holidays in modern times is also reflected in how they influence Jewish identity and community life. For many Jews, these holidays are a touchstone for connecting with their heritage and reaffirming their place in the broader Jewish community.

In an age where cultural and religious practices are increasingly diverse and individualized, the High Holidays offer

a communal anchor. They provide a framework for gathering with family, reflecting on personal and collective values, and engaging with Jewish traditions in ways that resonate with contemporary experiences.

Additionally, the High Holidays have become a time to address broader societal issues, including justice, peace, and community solidarity. In an era marked by rapid change and social upheaval, the messages of repentance and renewal take on new dimensions. They inspire individuals and communities to work toward a more just and compassionate world.

The Jewish High Holidays — Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur — remain deeply meaningful in modern times. They offer a powerful opportunity for reflection, renewal, and reconnection with personal and communal values. While the ways in which these holidays are observed may evolve, their core messages of repentance, renewal, and commitment to positive change continue to resonate with contemporary Jewish life. In an ever-changing world, the High Holidays provide a timeless reminder of the importance of self-examination and the pursuit of a better, more compassionate world.

Shanah Tovah,  
-Brian

# Departing COO shares fond memories of Federation

By Amanda J. Hornberger

After nearly a decade at Federation, I have made the difficult decision to take a new professional opportunity.

I met the community through my role as Coordinator of the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center in 2012, and my first interactions with Federation were helping plan the Leo Camp and Yashek lectures at Albright College.

I joined the Federation full-time in January 2015, and since that time I've created countless flyers, weekly emails and *Shalom* articles and organized and ran hundreds of programs. My first event was a trivia night at the JCC. Since then, I've grown and learned so much about the community, Jewish holidays and more. It's hard to believe but the toddlers at my first PJ Library events are now preparing to come to the Torah at their bar and bat mitzvahs.

During my tenure, Federation started the Reading Jewish Film Series, returning again this month (see pg 8 for more details) and Literatour author series (see pg 4 for next event). I've helped secure grants to fund programs such as Shabbat B'yachad (our Shabbat dinner program for families with young Jewish children), Berks Interfaith Passport, Find Your Voice and Anti-Hate Summer Reading programs. Federation started our MLK Youth Day of Service, growing it to a multifaith event for all ages.

One of my professional highlights will always be Federation's partnership in hosting Violins of Hope in fall 2021. Our work during those two weeks is still rippling throughout the country as I often yield calls asking for tips about our successful time with the violins, especially our educational outreach. During my time at Federation,

I became a mother, and Nina and George quickly became the office babies. From greeting bridge players to dancing with seniors at Friendship Circle, my kids have grown up at the JCC. It will always be their work and their office. Like many in the community, my kids had their first school experience at Lakin Preschool, where the dedicated staff nurtured and loved them.

I've been blessed to have worked with fantastic, caring, kind colleagues. Being a small staff, many of us have been with Federation for years. Fame, Richard, Bill and Brenda retired but their impacts are still felt in the office. Federation brought in two Israeli emissaries, Adi and Ziv, and my friendships with both have greatly impacted my life and our community.

Throughout the years the dedication and commitment of your Federation staff is bar to none. Each week our staff gathers to discuss community needs, areas of improvement, new ideas and ways to best support each of you. I'm not sure I will again ever find such a dedicated and close group of colleagues. Carole and Sari are committed to feeding the hungry, serving our seniors and those vulnerable in the community. Amanda Wertz greets each person with a smile and is quickly becoming our office resource in so many aspects of daily JCC life. Irene works behind the scenes to keep us running. Laurie is constantly pushing us to think of ways to connect with the community and use our resources to support Jewish life. Margo is dedicated to community outreach, always representing Federation throughout Berks County and beyond. Brian is steering the ship and guiding the board and Foundation to continue to grow. During my time at Federation,

I've been lucky to represent Reading at conferences from Atlanta to Massachusetts. Federation has hosted amazing speakers and experts on topics ranging from the Holocaust to antisemitism to Israeli innovation. Federation has traveled to New York, Philadelphia and D.C.

Alongside Margo, I was able to lead a group of women on a trip to Israel with Momentum in 2022. I've cried and prayed alongside the community during difficult times like after the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue and more recently after Oct. 7. I've shared Shabbat meals and celebrated many seasons of Jewish life. Along the way I've learned so much about Judaism from our local

clergy but also from each of you.

Two values that I will always associate with the Reading Jewish community are Chesed and Tikkun Olam. From my colleagues to the many community members who call the JCC home, Chesed or loving kindness is reflected in each of you. This community cares about each other and the world around them. The value of repairing the world, leaving it better than it was, is embodied by so much of what Federation does.

I hope in my small way, I have left Federation better. I know I am better for my time spent in the Jewish community. I look forward to sharing more memories together as a friend of the community for the rest of my life.

## Shalom

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# How all of us can prepare for High Holidays

By Cantor Ted Prosnitz  
Keshet Zion Synagogue

The time of the High Holidays, from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur, is known as Yamim Noraim/ The Days of Awe. The majesty of these days is appropriate as we celebrate God’s kingship/ Malchuyot. These are the days when synagogue attendance by Jews is the highest.

But being in attendance in synagogue is not always comfortable for everyone. Some of the complaints voiced include: I can’t read Hebrew; I don’t understand the prayers; I am not used to sitting in



synagogue. Fortunately, there are people and places, clergy and congregations, happy to help alleviate these issues.

A rabbi was once asked what he did to prepare for prayer. He said, “I pray that I will be able to pray.” The central prayer of our worship service is the Amidah. Many people preface it with the invocation, ADONAI s’fatai tiftach, ufi yagid t’hilatecha/ O LORD, open my lips that my mouth may declare Your praise.

Even before the prayer service begins, it is useful to pause before entering the place of worship-to be conscious that we are about to pass out of ordinary space, leaving secular concerns behind. We are about to sanctify time engaging in an endeavor to connect with the Divine. That is a difficult task, but worthy of earnest and repeated effort. If you are fidgeting or feeling

unfocused, here are some tools to try:

- Follow along in the Machzor/High Holiday prayerbook
  - Read the Hebrew text at your own speed.
  - Look/Listen for familiar words or words built on frequently used roots/shorashim such as
    - Baruch-bless, blessed
    - Melech-king, kingship, sovereignty
    - Kadosh-Holy, holiness, sanctify
    - Zachor-remember, remembrance
  - Practice pronouncing the Hebrew words
    - Read the English translation
    - Consider the commentary in the Machzor
    - Bring and read a book with appropriate and meaningful content
- There is a blessing that ends, la’asok

b’divre Torah/to occupy ourselves with Torah. The Hebrew for “to occupy” is la’asok. It sounds like the English to “soak.” During this awesome season, when we take time to turn our thoughts to the essence of existence, soak in the moment. Let the words and their incantation flow over, around, and through you. If you can, put the Hebrew words from the page on your lips; make the English words meditations of your own heart. Psalm 19 says, and as is suggested as a prompt for your own private devotion, Yihyu l’ratzon imrei fi, v’hegyon libi l’fanecha, ADONAI, tzuri v’goali/May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

May you and all your loved ones, together with all of Israel, be blessed with a year of health, happiness, and Heavenly providence.

## Literatour turns to Broadway in October

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Broadway buffs and musical theater fans are invited to the JCC on Wednesday, Oct. 9 for a Noontime Knowledge with Literatour Berks author Eddie Shapiro.

From the author of prior Jewish Book Council titles “Nothing Like a Dame” and “A Wonderful Guy,” “Here’s to the Ladies” is Eddie Shapiro’s latest collection of intimate, career-

encompassing conversations with yet more of Broadway’s most prolific and fascinating leading women.

Full of detailed stories and reflections, his conversations with such luminaries as Barbara Cook, Kelli O’Hara, Heather Headley, Faith Prince, Stephanie J. Block, Tonya Pinkins and a host of others dig deep into each actor’s career. Together, these chapters tell the

story of what it means to be a leading lady on Broadway over the past 50 years.

Please RSVP to Amanda Wertz at 610-921-0624 or [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) to register for Noontime Knowledge.

### NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

## “Eddie Shapiro: Here’s To The Ladies”

Wednesday October 9 at noon at the JCC

Join us for a visit from author Eddie Shapiro as he discusses his book of conversations with amazing women of musical theater, “Here’s To The Ladies”! Full of detailed stories and reflections, his conversations with such luminaries as Barbara Cook, Kelli O’Hara, Heather Headley, Faith Prince, Stephanie J. Block, Tonya Pinkins, and a host of others dig deep into each actor’s career. Together, these chapters tell the story of what it means to be a leading lady on Broadway over the past fifty years.



RSVP by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org)



Noontime Knowledge is a free program, held twice monthly, provided by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks to educate our community on a variety of topics.

Follow us on social media!



Jewish Federation of Reading &  
Jewish Cultural Center of Reading



@jfedreadingberks

Don’t forget to share your email with us to keep on the latest Community news!

Send us an email at [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) to get added to our email list!

## Schmooze & News

with your JFR staff



Tuesday October 15th  
10:30 a.m. at the JCC

*Current Events with Brian Chartock*

Come and chat with Jewish Federation’s CEO Brian Chartock. We’ll provide coffee and light refreshments with a friendly discussion on current events. All are welcome.



Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks

For more information & to RSVP:  
Call 610-921-0624 or email [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org)

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# Be sure to heal family rifts as High Holidays approach

**By Rabbi Brian Michelson**  
*Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom*

I did something that I had not done in several years. I watched the reading of the names of all those who died in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. One of the things that struck me was the repeated comments made by family and survivors about the importance of family and how much their loved one had left a hole in the families' worlds.

I watched as children who lost a parent, a brother or a spouse spoke of the love and inspiration they garnered from the memory of those who were lost. They kept reminding those watching, both



in-person and on television, to treasure family and all those we hold dear to our hearts. No one mentioned the petty disputes or the drama that can sometimes consume families and separate them. The regrets and feelings expressed were about losing opportunities to enjoy and celebrate each other's lives.

I was particularly receptive to hearing that message on Sept. 11 because I watched most of the service from the surgical waiting room at Long Island Jewish Hospital. My father was having surgery that morning, and I was spending a lot of time thinking about family and the upcoming Jewish holidays. My family, like every family, has its disagreements and squabbles. This person is upset because we don't call enough, and the other feels like we are trying to be overly protective and run their lives. This person is not

speaking with that person due to some perceived or real insult. I don't know why, but it just seems to happen this way.

Sitting in that waiting room, listening to the long list of names of those whose lives were taken from them and thinking about the upcoming Jewish New Year, I was struck by the opportunity that the Jewish High Holidays provide us to remember, recall, and refocus on what should be and is of importance to many of us.

During these Yamim Noraim, these Days of Awe, we are expected to evaluate our life over the past year, Cheshbon HaNefesh, and honestly ask if we have been the best version of ourselves. I think that for many of us, family, with its drama and aggravation, is one of those places we can all work to improve. I am not saying we should simply forgive and

forget some of the terrible things that may have been done, but I am challenging us to put them into perspective. How would we feel if we lost our loved ones today, like so many people did on Sept. 11? Would we believe that we have done everything we could and should have done to preserve a relationship or to heal a wound? Our new year provides us with a chance to disrupt the ongoing cycle and respond differently. Not to fix everything but to see what we can get past and what we can make better.

I am going to call my aunt, who will spend half the call complaining that I don't call. I'm making the call because I want to make sure that I do this while I can.

May your 5785 be a year filled with health and happiness for you and all those you love.

## Getting the right ticket for your new year's journey

**By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker**  
*Chabad Center of Berks County*

To ensure that we are on the right path this coming year, it's not just about the journey but also about having the right "ticket." Just like a flight requires the correct destination, date, and seat to be valid, so too does our spiritual journey need the right intentions, commitments, and actions to guide us forward. It's not enough to simply aim for the right destination; we must also choose the appropriate course that will carry us there successfully.

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, the metaphor of travel becomes even more meaningful. Just as an airline informs passengers of the destination and gives them the opportunity to correct mistakes before departure, we are now standing at the gate of a new year, about to board our renewed spiritual journey. This is the time to ask: Do we have the right ticket? Have we made the necessary preparations to



ensure that our actions and intentions align with where we want to go in life?

Even when one is on the right path, it may not be enough unless the "ticket" is in order. In life, this "ticket" represents our personal commitments to growth and our relationship with G-d. Each of us knows what areas in our lives need improvement — whether it's a stronger dedication to Shabbat, a deeper engagement with Torah, or a commitment to acts of kindness. But it's crucial to secure the right ticket, the right actions and commitments that will bring us to where we need to be spiritually.

This year, as we reflect on the tragic events of Simchat Torah (Oct. 7), the importance of being spiritually prepared feels even more profound. Our people were shaken, but we continue forward with resilience and determination. Our response must be not just in action, but in recommitment to our values, our faith, and our journey toward bettering ourselves and the world.

May we each arrive at our intended destination, uplifted and transformed,

having chosen the right path and made the right commitments. Let G-d observe our determination for improvement and

bless us with a happy, healthy, sweet, successful and peaceful New Year. Shana Tova Umetukah!!

| October Elul-Tishrei                                                                  |                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |
| <b>Shabbat Candle Lightings</b>                                                       | <b>Torah Portions</b>                                                                 |
| <b>October 4</b><br>6:22 p.m.<br><b>Rosh Hashanah</b>                                 | <b>October 5/3 Tishrei</b><br><b>Ha'azinu</b> (Deuteronomy 32:1-52)                   |
| <b>October 11</b><br>6:11 p.m.<br><b>Erev Yom Kippur</b>                              | <b>October 12/10 Tishrei</b><br><b>Yom Kippur</b>                                     |
| <b>October 18</b><br>6:00 p.m.<br><b>Sukkot</b>                                       | <b>October 18/17 Tishrei</b><br><b>Sukkot</b>                                         |
| <b>October 25</b><br>5:50 p.m.<br><b>Simchat Torah</b>                                | <b>October 26/24 Tishrei</b><br><b>Bereishit</b> (Genesis 1:1-6:8)                    |



## Mike Farrara is back with Tech Tuesday 2024!

Join us for an all Apple workshop at the Jewish Federation. Mike will cover the basics of the Apple iPhone, along with some cool tips and tricks to make life easier using this awesome technology.

- Tuesday, October 1 at 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 15 at 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 12 at 2 p.m.

Questions may be sent in advance of the class

To RSVP email [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) or call 610-921-0624

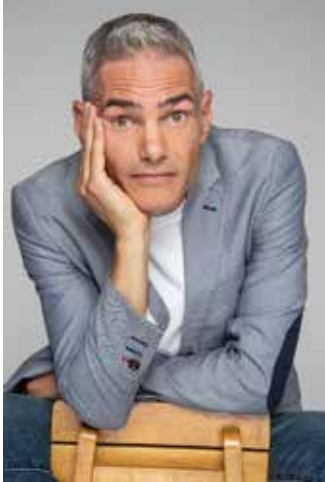


Messages App



## JFR Comedy Night at the GoggleWorks with JOEL CHASNOFF

Grab your friends and join us for an evening of entertaining stories and reflections about Jewish life in Israel, with plenty of laughter along the way!



**Saturday, October 19, 2024**

**7:30 pm**  
dessert reception to follow

**\$18 per person**

**The Boscov Theater @ GoggleWorks Center of the Arts**

register online by October 16  
[www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org](http://www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org)  
or call 610-921-0624

stand-up comedian - former IDF soldier - author of multiple non-fiction books including the newly released 'Israel 201' - clever, clean, and positive - hip, wholesome comedy about the joys and oys of Jewish life.



[www.joelchasnoff.com](http://www.joelchasnoff.com)



# Matzah balls and mitzvot

By Carole Robinson

My mother, Doris Levin, cherished family gatherings. Her happiness was complete when her four grown children returned home for the Jewish holidays. She gladly cooked for days to feed her growing brood as we married and began having families of our own. Gradually, I began assisting her with the meal prep, eventually taking over the matzah ball production. My children loved matzah balls and ate huge quantities of them on a weekly basis. Fortunately, my Great Aunt Jennie taught me her secret to making fluffy matzah balls, separating the egg whites from the yolks and whipping them, so we didn't end up with cannonballs!

Now I have my own little troop of assistant chefs. My granddaughters Freya, Eve, Adelaide, and Brooks all love helping me in the kitchen. The tradition of making matzah balls was passed from my grandmother and great aunts to my mother and then to me, my daughters, and now my own granddaughters. Family traditions, such as making matzah balls, help bring the holidays to life and make them more meaningful, thus reinforcing cultural and religious connections. The mitzvah of celebrating the Jewish holidays helps us feel connected to all Jews worldwide, as well as with our ancestors and our descendants.

As enjoyable as it is to cook with my grandchildren and feed my family, it is equally important to share our Jewish values and obligations. Even youngsters can participate in the mitzvah of tzedakah, our moral obligation to strive for social justice, by putting a few coins in the tzedakah box. Our family tzedakah goes to Helping Harvest, an organization dedicated to the mitzvah of



The matzah ball team – Carole's granddaughters Freya, Brooks, Eve and Adelaide.

maakhal revii'm, feeding the hungry.

Helping Harvest has a special place in my heart, given the fact that Jewish Family Service operates two monthly food pantries in partnership with Helping Harvest. For the past three months, we have served over 600 households each month. This would not be possible without the help from all of you.

Our team of committed volunteers who faithfully show up to help — regardless of the weather, in the sweltering heat of summer and the freezing cold of winter and in torrential downpours — are the reason we are able to fight food insecurity in our local community. They come with sore backs and when they are recovering from hand surgery and when they are facing personal crises. They are making a tangible difference in the lives of those facing financial challenges.

Please join me in thanking our amazing JFS volunteers for their dedication and caring: Allison Althouse, Mary Ann Avins, Cindy Balchunas, Sam and Sarah Flamholz, Raymond Gehring, Anzie Golden, Patty Hartman, John Incledon, Pete Jacobson, Sid Lempiner, Paul Mintz, Debra Montanino, Mary Neville, Annette Peppard, Cantor Ted Prosnitz, Jenny Reilly, Mike Robinson, Mike Schein, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Russ Shanahan, Joan Sherman, Oleg Umanov and Michael and Phyllis Warshaw.

And while all of you are enjoying your delicious matzah ball soup and holiday meals, remember those who face food insecurity and resolve to help them. Desmond Tutu reminds us, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

## Latest activities at Friendship Circle



At left, Rodney LePearl with presenter Brian Engelhardt at Friendship Circle program "Reading's Big League Exhibition Games" on Aug 22. Right, Trish Anderson leading a game of "Things you Oughta Know" on Sept 5.



JewishFamilyService

- Food Pantry
- Friendship Circle
- Counseling Services
- Transportation
- Financial Assistance
- Hospital and Home Visitations
- Living with Loss
- Information and Referral
- Case Management
- Holiday Programs

### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

#### Oct 10- "Laurie's Trip to Iceland "

Travel vicariously with our very own Jewish Federation staff member Laurie Waxler to Iceland.

#### Oct 31- "The Price is Right"

Join your Friendship Circle friends for a fun grocery themed version of the Price is Right! Who can bid the closest without going over and win?

Friendship Circle is held twice a month on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. at the JCC. An optional lunch is served, followed by an entertaining or educational program or holiday celebration.

Programs are free; optional lunch is \$7. Contact Carole at 610-921-0624 to make lunch reservations.



# Busy volunteers, happy clients at pantries



Jewish Family Service food pantries were busy in September. From left, Cantor Ted Prosnitz volunteering on Sept 10; volunteer Paul Schwartz with peaches to load into waiting cars; Amanda from Penn Entertainment helping at the JFS food pantry on sept 10 as part of the United Way Day of Caring; happy client receiving her family's food at our JFS food pantry on Sept. 4.



Many thanks to our Food Pantry volunteers who distributed food to over 600 households in September

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Allison Althouse | Annette Peppard     |
| Mary Anne Avins  | Cantor Ted Prosnitz |
| Cindy Balchunas  | Jenn Reilly         |
| Sam Flamholz     | Mike Robinson       |
| Sarah Flamholz   | Mike Schein         |
| Patty Hartman    | Ellen Schwartz      |
| John Incledon    | Paul Schwartz       |
| Pete Jacobson    | Russ Shanahan       |
| Sid Lempiner     | Oleg Umanov         |



## JFS hospital, outpatient visits

**By Carole Robinson and Sari Incledon**  
Jewish Family Service social workers visit Jewish patients at local hospitals, senior communities, nursing homes and rehab centers.

Our goal in these visits is both to be friendly and supportive at a difficult time, and to provide access to social services that supplement and complement the case managers at these locations.

If you or a loved one is at a local hospital or nursing home and would like

a visit, please call us.  
If you or a loved one are treated at a hospital out of our area we are also available for follow-up visits upon discharge.  
At times of ill health, stress or crisis, families are often looking for information about home care, transportation services, senior communities, nursing homes and rehabs. This is what we're here for.  
Please call Jewish Family Service social workers for help at 610-921-0624.

## JFS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

This program provides transportation to members of the Jewish community, age 60 and over or those with disabilities, who have no other way of getting around. It allows participants to retain their independence and keeps them from becoming homebound and isolated. It can be used for medical appointments, synagogue attendance, shopping and other errands.

It is easy to participate. Purchase a book of 25 taxi tickets from the Federation at a cost of \$25. Each coupon is worth \$3. The phone number for Reading Metro Taxi is printed on the ticket book. Call the company and arrange your ride. At the end of the ride, sign your coupon(s) before giving them to the driver. Tipping is left to the passenger's discretion. Coupon does not include cost of tipping.

*This program is subsidized by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks*



Shoes



Clothing



Electronics



Games



Housewares



Linens



at 5370 Allentown Pike Temple PA 19560  
next to Walmart on 5th street highway

Donation center hours: Monday - Saturday 9am - 6pm

**When you donate items please mention our partner #  
Reading Jewish Family Service #50100**

You can also donate clothing anytime in the bin in our parking lot located at 1100 Berkshire Blvd.



Your donations turn into financial assistance to support the important work we do in our community!

# Reading Jewish Film Series returns in October

By Amanda J. Hornberger

After a 2.5-year break, back by popular demand, is the Reading Jewish Film Series! Thanks to a new partnership with GoggleWorks three films will be screened through the end of the year at The Boscov Theatre at GoggleWorks, 201 Washington St. Reading.

Ticketing and concessions are handled by GoggleWorks so you can now purchase your tickets in advance online. Tickets are \$10 or \$8 for seniors, military, first responders and students. Our partnership allows Federation to share proceeds with GoggleWorks and offer quality, Jewish-themed movies, selected by our JCC film committee.

The first film is “Air War,” an Israeli drama screening on Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. A rivalry between two charismatic air force fighter pilots reaches the breaking



point on the eve of the Six-Day war. After singlehandedly shooting down six Egyptian Migs, the young, brash Lt. Ran Neshar is assigned to take over command of a fighter squadron. His second-in-command, the more methodical and disciplined Lt. Eitan Rom, is profoundly threatened by his new reckless commander who is clearly inexperienced and domineering. The

ongoing power struggle begins to affect the performance of the squadron. However, as their country's existence hangs in the balance, the two men must learn to work together. It is only then that they are ready to lead their squadron to victory.

In November the Holocaust documentary “Eva’s Promise” will screen on Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. On a train to Auschwitz, 15-year-old Eva, the posthumous stepsister of Anne Frank, promised to retrieve her brother’s hidden artwork should he not survive the war. Eva’s Promise introduces the teenage painter and

poet Heinz Geiringer and his sister’s commitment to share his remarkable legacy with the world.

On Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. the German comedy “Time to Say Goodbye” will screen. A lovesick German boy faces the aftermath of losing his family—and a slice of his manhood—in this laugh-out-loud coming-of-age comedy.

Films for the spring have not yet been selected. If you’re a movie buff and interested in joining the film selection committee please contact the JCC at 610-921-0624 or [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org)



## Jewish Federation High Holiday Office Closures

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Thursday, Oct. 3  | CLOSED - ROSH HASHANAH  |
| Friday, Oct. 4    | CLOSED- ROSH HASHANAH   |
| Thursday, Oct. 17 | CLOSED- SUKKOT          |
| Friday, Oct. 18   | CLOSED- SUKKOT          |
| Thursday, Oct. 24 | CLOSED- SHEMINI ATZERET |
| Friday, Oct. 25   | CLOSED- SIMCHAT TORAH   |



## NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

### “The Interplay Between Media and Politics”

Tuesday October 22 at noon at the JCC

Join Jodi Radosh, Professor of English and Communication at Alvernia along with her colleague Victoria Williams, Professor of Political Science at Alvernia as they explore the interplay between media and politics in the 2024 election. The discussion will analyze how various media platforms shape political discourse, influence voter behavior, and impact campaign strategies.



RSVP by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org)



Noontime Knowledge is a free program, held twice monthly, provided by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks to educate our community on a variety of topics.

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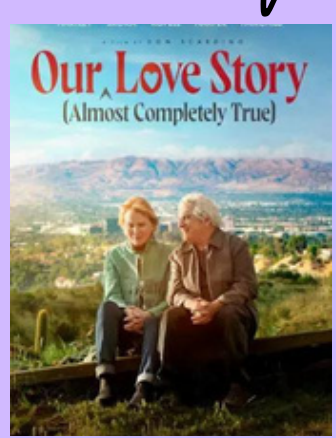
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Stop by our Welcome Center at Penn Ave and Broad St, call 484-709-2561 or visit [integracare.com/residence-at-village-greens](https://www.integracare.com/residence-at-village-greens)



## October 28 at 1:00

### Movie Monday



### “Our (Almost Completely True) Love Story”

When a beautiful, tall, aging Hollywood star and a short, funny Jewish man try online dating, it’s a disaster. But when they randomly meet at a bird store (what are the chances?), he is immediately smitten, but she not so much. As he pursues the woman of his dreams, his charm, sense of humor, and multiple impressions win her over in their heartwarming (almost completely true) love story.

RSVP by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org)



Grab a seat for a Jewish themed movie each month at the JCC. It is usually held on the 4th Monday of the month, the popcorn and the movie are both free!

# Teens working hard to revive Berks Chai BBYO

By Bella Karchevsky

Recently Leah Erlikh, Alexandra Levin and I attended LIT, which is a chapter leadership program for BBYO, one of the largest and most successful Jewish teen-led organizations for Jews in 8th-12th grade.

Alexandra, Leah, and I learned how to lead a chapter and about our individual board positions. This past year, we have been reviving the Berks Chai BBYO chapter, and we currently have 11 members.

Through BBYO, we get to plan and attend numerous programs and meet Jewish teens from all over the country. In February, some of us will be attending the International Convention in Denver with over 3,000 Jewish teens. International Convention has historically

been an amazing place for Jewish teens to meet Jewish leaders and activists from across the globe.

In a post Oct. 7 world with anti-semitism on a rise, it is more important than ever for Jewish teens to be surrounded by their fellow teens sharing experiences and to be a part of an organization that promotes Jewish pride.

Throughout the year, we will be doing multiple fundraisers to offset the expense of conventions. We appreciate all the support we currently have from our community.

If any 8th-12th grader is interested in joining BBYO, please reach out to Luba Karchevsky at [luba.karchevsky@gmail.com](mailto:luba.karchevsky@gmail.com).

We are on Instagram, please follow us at [berkschai\\_bbyo](https://www.instagram.com/berkschai_bbyo)



## "ART, CULTURE & IDEAS"

THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14  
1:30 PM

92NY



DR. LINDSAY CHERVINSKY IN CONVERSATION WITH TOM NICHOLS: MAKING THE PRESIDENCY  
PRE-RECORDED PROGRAM

CULTURAL CENTER AT THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING  
2000 CAMBRIDGE AVE.

Art, Culture & Ideas is a monthly series. Upcoming dates:  
Nov 12  
Dec 9  
Jan 13

 Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks

## SAVE THE DATE

NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE  
Private Group Tour at The Reading Public Museum

"M.C. Escher: Infinite Variations" and  
"Order & Illusion: The Geometry of Art"

Wednesday November 13 at 11:45am



 Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks

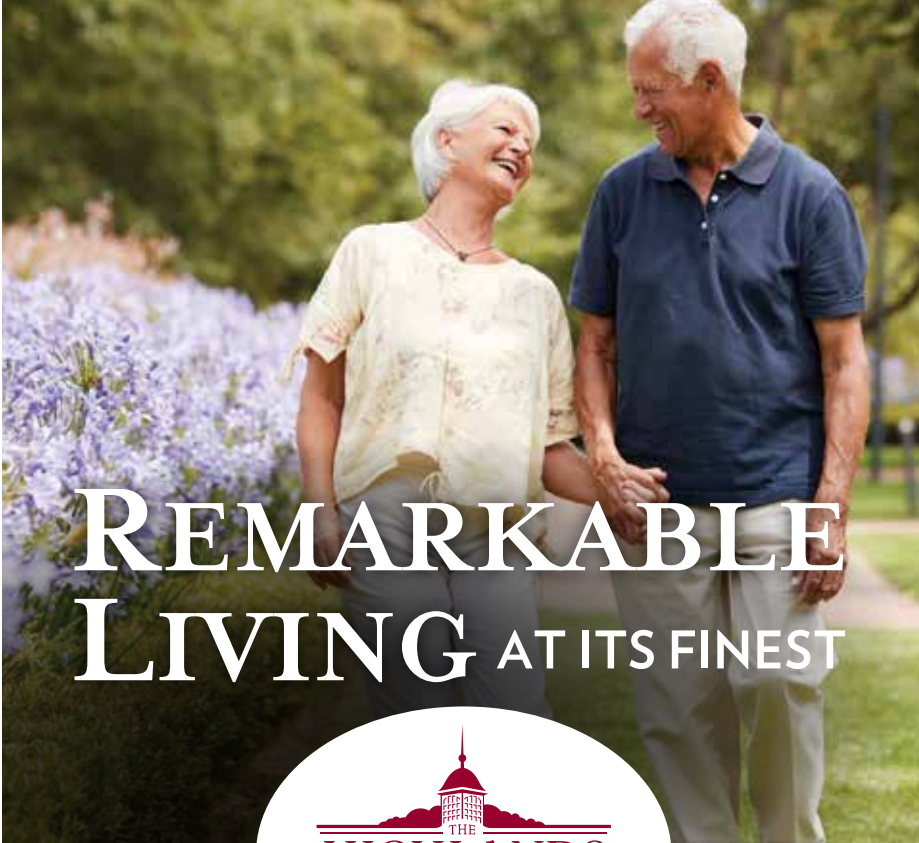
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of Reading/Berks



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# High Holiday Services

## 5785-2024

### Rosh Hashanah

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2**  
Light candles at 6:25 PM  
Mincha Service 6:30 PM  
Ma'ariv Service 7:00 PM

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3**  
Shacharit Service 9:00 AM  
Children's Program 10:30 AM  
Shofar Service 11:00 AM  
Kiddush following Services at approx 12:30 PM  
Mincha Service 1:30 PM  
Tashlich Service 1:45 PM  
Ma'ariv Service 7:00 PM  
Light candles after 7:22 PM

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**  
Shacharit Service 9:00 AM  
Children's Program 10:30 AM  
Shofar Service 11:00 AM  
Kiddush following Services at approx 12:30 PM  
Light Candles at 6:22 PM  
Mincha Service 6:30 PM  
Ma'ariv Service 6:45 PM

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**  
Shacharit Service 9:30 AM  
Kiddush following Services at approx 12:30 PM  
Shabbat Ends 7:19 PM

### Yom Kippur:

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11**  
Light candles at\* 6:11 PM  
Kol Nidrei 6:15 PM  
\*Candles may be lit at the synagogue for your convenience.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12**  
Shacharit Service 9:00 AM  
Children's Program 11:00 AM  
Yizkor 11:15 AM  
Mincha Service 5:15 PM  
Neilah 6:15 PM  
Yom Kippur Ends 7:08 PM  
Break Fast at Synagogue

Services will be held at the  
**CHABAD CENTER**  
2320 Hampden Boulevard  
Reading, PA 19604

Everyone Welcome!

Please call 610-334-3218,  
Email: [Office@ChabadofBerks.org](mailto:Office@ChabadofBerks.org),  
or visit [www.chabadofberks.org](http://www.chabadofberks.org)  
to reserve a seat

*This program is sponsored by Dr. Jerry Marcus*

### Kesher Zion Holiday Schedule

All services at Kesher Zion unless specified otherwise.

**Selichot**  
Saturday, September 28 - 10 PM  
Joint Service with RCOS

**Kever Avot**  
Sunday, September 29- 10 AM  
Kesher Zion Cemetery  
Open to All

**Rosh Hashanah Day I**  
Thursday, October 3  
9 AM  
Church of the Brethren  
Luncheon Following Service

**Tashlich 5:30 PM**  
Thursday, October 3  
Reading Museum Arboretum  
With RCOS

**Rosh Hashanah Day II:**  
Friday, October 4  
9 AM  
Luncheon Following Service

**Shabbat Shuvah**  
Saturday, October 5  
9:30 AM

**Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidrei**  
Friday, October 11  
6:15 PM  
Church of the Brethren

**Yom Kippur:**  
Saturday, October 12  
9 AM  
Church of the Brethren

**Yizkor- 11 AM**  
Junior Congregation -11 AM  
Study Session- 5 PM  
Mincha- 5:30 PM  
Neilah- 6:15 PM  
Yom Kippur end 7:09 PM  
BreakFast following service

**Sukkot Day 1**  
Thursday, October 17  
9:30 AM

**Sukkot Day 2**  
Thursday, October 17  
9:30 AM

**Sh'mini Atzeret**  
Thursday, October 24  
9:30 AM  
Yizkor- 11 AM

**Simchat Torah**  
Thursday, October 24  
7 PM

**Simchat Torah**  
Friday, October 25  
9:30 AM

CHABAD OF BERKS  
INVITES YOU TO THE

# Family SIMCHAT TORAH Celebration

Friday, Oct 23, 7 pm

Free Event with thanks to  
Dr. Jerry Marcus  
for his generous sponsorship of this event

**A TIME TO DANCE &  
ENJOY DELICIOUS FOOD**

PLEASE RSVP: [WWW.CHABADOFBERKS.ORG/RSVP](http://WWW.CHABADOFBERKS.ORG/RSVP)

### REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

#### Schedule of High Holiday & Festival Services, 2024-5785

**\*Service times are approximate**  
Outside services are weather permitting.

**Selichot** (Official start of the Holidays)  
Date: Saturday, September 28, 2024  
♦ Joint Selichot Service w/ Kesher Zion followed by desserts  
Time: 10:00 pm

**Erev Rosh Hashanah**  
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service  
Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024  
Time: 8:00 pm  
♦ Oneg to follow service

**Rosh Hashanah Day Services**  
Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024  
♦ RH Morning Service at 10:00 am  
♦ RH Youth Service at 10:30 am  
♦ RH Family Service at 4 pm  
♦ Tashlich Service at the Reading Public Museum at 5:30 pm (**outside**)

**Shabbat Shuvah**  
Date: Friday, October 4, 2024  
Time: 6:00 pm

**Annual Cemetery Service**  
Date: Sunday, October 6, 2024  
Time: 1:00 pm at Mt. Sinai Cemetery

**Yom Kippur**  
Kol Nidre Service  
Date: Friday, October 11, 2024  
Time: 8:00 pm

**Yom Kippur Day Services**  
Date: Saturday, October 12, 2024  
♦ Morning Service at 10:00 am  
♦ Youth Service at 10:30 AM  
♦ Family Service at 1:30 pm  
♦ Afternoon Service at 3 pm  
♦ Yizkor/Memorial Service at 4:30 pm\*  
♦ N'ilah Service at 5:15 pm\*

**Sukkot**  
♦ Sukkah Decorating & Service  
Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024  
Decorating Time: 6:00 pm  
Followed by pizza & salad dinner  
Service Time: 7:00 pm (**outside**)

♦ Tot Shabbat in the Sukkah  
Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024  
Time: 10:00 am  
Location: TBA

**Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah**  
♦ Simchat Torah/Consecration Service  
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024  
Time: 7:00 pm (Outside)

On Rosh Hashanah, it is written ...  
On Yom Kippur, it is sealed.  
*G'mar Chaitimah Torah  
May you be sealed in the Book of Life*

555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING, PA 19610  
PHONE: 610.375.6034  
E-MAIL: [temple.office@ohebsholom.org](mailto:temple.office@ohebsholom.org) WEB SITE: [www.ohebsholom.org](http://www.ohebsholom.org)

LAKIN PRESCHOOL

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday October 16th  
5:30pm - 7pm  
For All New Families  
Looking to Enroll



LAKIN PRESCHOOL

# Lakin Preschool year off to a spectacular

**By Wendy Bright & Judy Lefante**  
Lakin Preschool is off to a spectacular start!

Each classroom has been super busy! We are getting to know each other and loving learning and playing together.

Our first theme of the school year was about Kindness. We have been learning about ourselves and how to be a good friend.

In the month of September, we were learning about and celebrating Rosh Hashanah, Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

We have been celebrating Shabbat together each Friday with Ms. Susan. Besides singing songs together and eating challah each week, we have learned about tzedakah. We talked about what it is, why we do it, and have encouraged each child to remember a coin each week. We will be donating our collection to the food bank.

We love being together for this time to celebrate together by singing songs and blessing each other.

We will be learning about

apples, about fall, and about saying we are sorry and being kind to everyone. Daily events include dancing, singing, making applesauce, painting, talking about feelings, and learning to be good friends and to learn and share together.

All of our special classes are off to a great start! We have started I Love Stories, Amazing Athletes, Kaleidoscope, and Soccer Shots! The children are having fun learning sports skills as well as reading books and creating art/activities to go with them! We are having some busy afternoons!

If you know anyone who might be interested in a great preschool program, please let us know!

We will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday, Oct. 16, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. for families who are interested in taking a tour of Lakin Preschool. This is an opportunity to meet our staff and answer any questions regarding enrollment and the enrichment activities that our school offers. We hope you will join us!

## Pediatric and Adult Patients Treating Ear, Nose, Throat Problems Thyroid Nodules, Neck Masses & Sinusitis

### Physicians:

James P. Restrepo, M.D., FACS, ECNU  
Jeffrey S. Driben, M.D., FACS, ECNU  
Scott J. Cronin, M.D., FACS  
Adam P. Vasconcellos, M.D., FACS  
Chetan Y. Safi, M.D.

### Nurse Practitioner:

Rosemarie Montgomery  
MS, CRNP, FNP-C



## THE AUDIOLOGY CENTER

Diagnostic Audiology & Hearing Aid Services

### Audiologists:

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Matthew R. Bonsall, AuD, FAAA  
Jenna L. Galan, AuD, CCC-A

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Debbie Goldberg with U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan

# A show of unity in Reading

**By Debbie Goldberg**

On Sept. 14, Margo Levin and Debbie Goldberg were proud to represent the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks at a Centro Hispano-led panel discussion with U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan and leaders from the Greater Reading Unity Coalition.

This discussion covered issues including the housing crisis, the rise in antisemitism, keeping our city safe from

gun violence, how to make Reading a welcoming place for all its residents and what we can do to increase voter turnout in Berks County. The panel also shared their optimism on the recent rejuvenation of Reading. This event highlighted GRUC, its member partners, and how they are working with our elected officials to build bridges and break down barriers of access.



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MYERSTOWN

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Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-1400



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Sue Wachs**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Mary Anne and Jonathan Avins**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Sheila and Jeffrey Bornstein**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Bobbie Lawit**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Joel and Marsha Adelman**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Eileen Kope and Family**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Lynn and Dick Gordon**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Sandee and Neal Nevitt**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Esther Bratt**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Judith and Don Karabelnik**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Shirley Kauffman**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Susan and Mel Blum**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Phil and Leslie Pomerantz**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Sylvia Wenger and family**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Susan and William Weiser**



Wishing you a sweet and prosperous New Year.

**Bret Miller**



Wishing you a  
year full of love,  
good health and  
peace for all!

**Karen and Marty Jacobson  
and family**



New Year's  
blessings to all!!

**Arthur Fischman and family**



Wishing you a sweet  
and prosperous New Year.

**Naomi and Alex Knoll**



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

**Andy and Corinne Wernick**



Wishing you a  
year full of love,  
good health and  
peace for all!

**Fred and Julie Singer**



New Year's  
blessings to all!!

**Barbara Bender**



Wishing you a sweet  
and prosperous New Year.

**Lisa and Alan Levine and family**



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

**Louise Zeidman and Family**



Wishing you a  
year full of love,  
good health and  
peace for all!

**Gordon & Carol Perlmutter**



New Year's  
blessings to all!!

**Annette and Sean Peppard**



Wishing you a sweet  
and prosperous New Year.

**Margaret and Kalmen Feinberg**



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

**Lila Shapiro and  
Jannine Shapiro**



Wishing you a  
year full of love,  
good health and  
peace for all!

**Andy and Laurie Waxler**



New Year's  
blessings to all!!

**Barb and Seth Rosenzweig**



Wishing you a sweet  
and prosperous New Year.

**Sharon Syret and family**



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

**The Lichten Family**



Wishing you a  
year full of love,  
good health and  
peace for all!

**Glenn and Gaye Corbin**



New Year's  
blessings to all!!

**Joanie and Itz Friedman**



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

**Barbara and David Paul**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Michael & Barbara Charnoff**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Judy and Jim Schwank**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Alan and Susan Weisberg and family**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Phyllis Jacoby**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Carrie and Stephen Latman**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Myron and Karen Kabakoff**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Cheryl and Eric Farber, Louis, Emily, Sarah, Jean-Pierre and Evelyn**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Silesky Family**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Lee, Amy and Luke Berger**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Mark, Tracy, Harry, Max and Sam Weiss**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Mr and Mrs. Bernie & Toby Mendelsohn**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Doris and Elliott Leisawitz**



Wishing you a year full of love, good health and peace for all!

**Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Dena and Vic Hammel**



May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

**Jeff, Lisa, Collin and Ruby Nemeroff**



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Barbara Silverberg



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Richard and Elizabeth Nassau



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Linda and Mickey Roeberg



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Samuel and Sarah Flamholz



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Michele, Ben, Leah  
and Adam Leisawitz



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Edward and Darlene Epstein



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Bernie and Carol Gerber,  
Cindy and Rick Tomlinson,  
Julie and Rich Kwas



May this be a year  
of peace and  
prosperity for our  
community, Israel,  
and the world.

Ellen and Jake Azrael

FALL 2024

READING JEWISH  
FILM SERIES



Air War

Tuesday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

A rivalry between two charismatic Israeli fighter pilots reaches breaking point on the eve of the six-day war.

Drama – 106 minutes – Israel 2024 – Hebrew with subtitles

Tickets \$10

Discounted tickets for seniors, military, first responders and students \$8

SHOWING AT

The Boscov Theatre at GoggleWorks  
201 Washington St.  
Reading, PA 19601

Screening for 1 night only!

ONLINE TICKETS and SHOW TIMES

<https://goggleworks.org/events-calendar/category/films/>



Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks



GoggleWorks  
Center for the Arts

FALL 2024

READING JEWISH  
FILM SERIES

Monthly Screenings on Tuesday evenings



Air War  
October 22 at 7 p.m.



Eva's Promise  
November 19 at 7 p.m.



Time to Say Goodbye  
December 10 at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$10

Discounted tickets for seniors, military, first responders and students \$8

SHOWING AT

The Boscov Theatre at GoggleWorks  
201 Washington St.  
Reading, PA 19601

Films screened for 1 night only!

ONLINE TICKETS and SHOW TIMES

<https://goggleworks.org/events-calendar/category/films/>



Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks



GoggleWorks  
Center for the Arts

# Women take on NYC (Crown Heights, that is)!

By Joan Sherman

Seventeen local Jewish women boarded our luxury bus at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 8; including our safe, courteous driver, we totaled 18 = Chai. We were off on a one-day field trip to explore Crown Heights; this diverse Brooklyn neighborhood is known for its tree-lined streets, historic architecture and thriving arts and food scene. It's also home to Chabad Lubavitch World Headquarters.

This action-packed excursion was expertly planned by Margo Levin and Chana Lipsker (our knowledgeable, enthusiastic & well-connected guide) and generously sponsored by Dr. Jerry Marcus and the Jewish Federation. The primary focus was to learn about Jewish culture particularly, and to experience, firsthand, what women are accomplishing as professionals and their important contributions to society while maintaining their integral role as the foundation of their

homes and families.

Highlights included:

- A presentation of stunning original oil paintings by Chanie Chanin. It was touching to learn how each painting enlivens her soul and love of music. She provided yummy snacks, too.

- A showroom & factory visit with Esther Borenstein, owner of Prestige Embroidery. Her company manufactures and designs intricate leather goods such as tallis/teffilin bags, torah covers and wall art and sells their beautiful products all over the world.

- A fascinating tour of the Mikvah (opened in 2020); this 23,000 square-foot space offers a private, minimalist, high-tech spa-like experience and is comprised of 28 prep rooms and 4 pristine, mosaic mikvah pools.

- An inspiring talk by Tzirel Goldman, the mother of a special needs child, who helped found a Chapter of Friendship Circle, a program that pairs up teenage



volunteers as friends for special needs children. She also organized the Soul to Soul concerts to help families pay exorbitant tuitions for Special Education.

- Delicious Kosher meals at Brooklyn Artisan Bakehouse & Izzy's Smokehouse.
- Shopping (of course) along Kingston

Avenue: Judaica, books & clothing, bakeries and The Market Place kosher grocery store.

In addition to expanding our horizons and dispelling some myths, it was a gorgeous day and very meaningful to share such a memorable experience with friends.... new and old!

## Powerful sense of connection marks life in Israel

By Hudi Lipsker

*Hudi Lipsker, daughter of Rabbi Yosef & Chana, recently left to Israel to study for the year.*

It is difficult to put into words what I am feeling right now. While people have asked about the nerves I might have felt preparing for my year in war-torn Israel, my confidence has remained unwavering. I am heading to the place on earth where I'll be among G-d's chosen people on G-d's chosen land. A whirlwind of emotions led up to my departure from JFK, bound for Tel Aviv. The energy as I boarded the El Al plane was incredible — flocks of smiling people eager to return HOME, our home. I miss everyone in Reading, but for now, I have a tribe to look after me.

Though I've only been here a few days, the impact has already been

profound. Each person I've met or passed on the street has left a mark on me. I've connected deeply with my extended family here; our bond is abstract yet strikingly tangible; we share a fire that binds us eternally.

Just a few hours after arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport, we encountered a military checkpoint. Men and women in green, wielding large weapons, might have seemed intimidating to some, but I felt a profound sense of trust. A young soldier boarded our bus, proudly bearing the flag of our nation. He spoke briefly with the driver in Hebrew, who explained that we were American students on our way to our new school. The soldier began clapping and cheering and called out, "Welcome to Israel! Welcome HOME! Tzaitchem l'shalom!" (Go in peace/safe trip). His warm and genuine welcome was so simple but

felt incredibly significant. It was a moment that underscored the truth: we are family.

A couple of days later, while at the mall, this sense of family was reaffirmed. A woman approached me with a hint of hurriedness and asked if I could watch her baby and purse for a moment while she stepped away. Without hesitation, I agreed. As she walked off, the baby's curious gaze met mine, and in that brief exchange, I felt a profound sense of connection. This simple act of trust spoke volumes about the deep familial bonds here. In this land, where every interaction is imbued with a sense of belonging, such moments highlight the profound connections that are becoming a fundamental part of my experience.

The land itself reinforces this connection. The walls have borne witness to our shared pain and triumphs over the ages, and the ground has absorbed our tears. Each stone and pathway is imbued with stories of resilience, faith, and unity stretching across centuries. This deep historical connection makes every step here feel profoundly significant, as if the land itself is embracing us and affirming our place within its storied

past and its blooming future. For those of us living here, this connection is a daily reminder of our collective heritage. The land binds us not only to each other but to every Jew around the world, weaving a continuous thread of heritage and identity that binds us forevermore, across time and space.

This profound sense of belonging to an ancient narrative unites us, reinforcing that our presence here is part of a greater, enduring story that transcends borders and time. In these challenging times, our presence here is so important. Their pain and struggles resonate deeply with us, really, they are also our pain and struggles, our experiences are intertwined.

Perhaps what is most appreciated now is our shared sense of unity. We are here to experience this journey alongside them and not only share our pain but to look forward to celebrating together. Our presence is not only supportive but affirms that we are committed to standing together, not retreating. This bond, built through shared challenges and hope, is what makes our connection all the more meaningful.



Join Rabbi  
Michelson for  
**Lunch &  
Learn in the  
Sukkah**

at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
Wednesday, October 23- 11:30am - 1:00pm

Catered by Aladdin of West Reading  
Lunch will include falafel sandwich with lettuce, tomato,  
and tahini sauce, hummus, french fries, and drink.

Bring your friends! Members & non-members welcome.

\$10 per person due by Wednesday, October 16th.  
Payment via [www.ohebsholom.org](http://www.ohebsholom.org) or check made out to:  
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

If a ride is needed, please contact the RCOS office: 610-375-6034



**Chabad of Berks County**  
invites you to

# Sushi IN THE SUKKAH!

For a fun, social & enjoyable evening in our Community Sukkah  
with music, fun & an array of delicious food, including:  
*Sushi Bar, Breads & Crackers, Salads & Dips,  
Hot Soups, Desserts, and more...*

**Monday, October 21**  
**5:30 PM**  
**Chabad Center**  
2320 Hampden Blvd. Reading, PA 19604

**FREE EVENT**  
Kindly Sponsored  
by Dr. Jerry Marcus  
**RSVP Required**

**RSVP & More Info:**  
[www.ChabadofBerks.org/RSVP](http://www.ChabadofBerks.org/RSVP)



Obituaries

**Sidney Bratt**, 96, died Sept. 17. Born in Guttstadt (present-day Poland) Germany in 1928, at the age of 10 his mother saved his life by putting him on a train to England. He came to the United States in 1948, and in 1956 he relocated to Reading, where he managed and then became owner of Industrial Plywood. He was also the founder and owner of Aluminum Building Products. Sid was involved in Keshar Zion Synagogue as a board member, Reading Chapter of the Knights of Pythias and Investment Club. He was chairman of the Reading Charter Commission. He is survived by his wife, Esther, daughters Evelyn (Dr. Jay) Lipschutz, Allentown, and Corinne (Andy) Wernick, Reading and grandchildren: Michele and Ben Leisawitz, Aaron and Melissa Wernick, Stacy and Matt Seltzer, Dr. Brian and Joy Wernick; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Frances Gross**, 81, passed away on Aug. 22. Fran grew up in New Rochelle, N.Y. and was a graduate of The Fashion Institute of Technology. She studied art and painting in her teen years and later became a member of the Arts Students League in New York. Fran loved cooking, sewing, crafts

and animals, and especially enjoyed family vacations on Nantucket. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence, and sons Brett and Jason.

**Claire Cooper**, 98, formerly of Cumru Township, passed away on Aug. 30. Born in Bridgeton, N.J., she was the widow of Randy Horowitz, Joel Goldberg and Robert Cooper. Claire was a graduate of Reading High and performed with reading Civic Opera in many productions. She was a gourmet cook and enjoyed playing bridge and traveling. Claire is survived by her children Marsha, Lebanon; and David, York; and stepchildren Holly, Scott, Robert and Kevin (who live locally), their spouses and seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brothers Dr. Harry and Sidney Barrer.

**Rosalie Stein**, 93, passed away on Sept. 3. Rosalie was born in Detroit and grew up in Reading. She will be remembered for her sharp wit. Her warmth brought joy and light into every room. She was married to Elliott for 50 years and raised sons Stuart, Barry and Steven and daughter Lisa of Reading. She will be missed by her children, their spouses, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Amy Incledon Garrison** on the ribbon cutting of her new salon, Beauty Vibes by Amy at My Salon Suites at the Shoppes at Wyomissing.

Mazel tov to **Sarena (Kabakoff) and Max Gable** of Flying Hills on the birth of their second daughter, Reyla. Delighted grandparents are Karen and Myron Kabakoff.

Send good news to Marknem@aol.com or call 610-921-0624.



Mazel Tov to Adi & Craig on the birth of their daughter Ella Joan Smitheman.

Tech Tuesday returns to JCC this fall

Federation staff

Mike Farrara will be returning this October to teach an all Apple workshop at the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. His classes will cover the basics of the Apple Iphone, along with some cool tips and tricks to make life easier using this awesome

technology. The classes will run Oct. 1, 15 and Nov. 12 from 2-3 p.m.. Questions may be sent in advance of the class by emailing info@jfreeding.org and to register for the classes as well or call 610-921-0624.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Jewish Family Service is grateful to our committed volunteers!

Here are some ways that you can help:

- Help Fight Hunger**  
Join us at a JFS Food Pantry to distribute food to our hungry neighbors.
- Share your Professional Expertise**  
Present a program on travel, photography, or your unique interests or hobbies to our seniors.
- Share your time**  
A small investment of your personal time can make a profound difference in someone's life. Visit a shut-in, shop for a homebound senior, or take someone to a doctor's appointment.
- Donate your vehicle to JFS or donate clothing to CommunityAid**  
Enjoy tax benefits of donating a car or help our clients through our partnership with CommunityAid.

Contact Us  
Carole Robinson at  
610-921-0624

Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks

## 24th Annual Jewish Food & Cultural Festival

Sunday, November 3rd · 11 am to 4 pm

Pre-order online with indoor pick up  
Pre-order deadline is Friday, Nov. 1st  
at: ohebsholom.org

Visit our entertainment and cultural rooms

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT:  
Apple Cake & Assorted Desserts  
Brisket or Chicken Platter  
Corned Beef or Pastrami Sandwich Platter  
Bagel & Lox Platter  
Hot Dogs, Knishes, Matzah Ball Soup & More!

Credit Card preferred

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing  
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Jewish Federation of Reading  
(Non-Profit Organization)

## ONE DAY ONLY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024

SHOP 8AM - 11PM

**DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:**

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS\* •REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD

One Winner at every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION For Shopping Passes or information, contact:

610-921-0624 or email info@jfreeding.org

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends  
\*Exclusions Apply

# Reflections on Sid Bratt

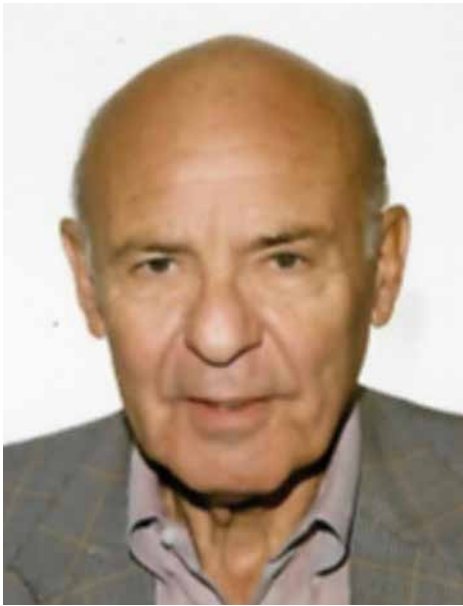
By Amanda J. Hornberger

Holocaust survivor. Proud Jew. Family. Laughter. These are just a few of the words that come to mind whenever I think of Sid Bratt. Sid died on Sept. 17, leaving behind three generations of loving family as well as his wife of more than 73 years, Esther.

Sid was born in Germany (now Poland) into a loving Jewish home, as the oldest of four siblings. At age 10 his life was forever altered after Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass. At our annual Kristallnacht commemoration, Sid was always a bit quiet and reserved on those evenings, thinking of his family and how that night impacted the rest of his life. In 1938, his father was arrested on Kristallnacht and in the aftermath, Sid's mother decided to send him to safety as part of the Kindertransport program to England. Sid was supposed to lead the way for the rest of the family, instead he never saw his mother or three younger siblings again.

The pain of leaving his family never left Sid. Even meeting him 70 years later, I was struck by the fond way he spoke of his siblings and mother, and the sadness that could never quite go away. In less than a decade at home, Sid's mother was able to instill a strong Jewish identity in Sid, which he carried to England and later to the United States where he immigrated in 1948. A few years later he met Esther, and a love story that lasted more than seven decades began.

Sid was proud to be Jewish and raised his three daughters with that same strong Jewish identity. Having spent time with three generations of Sid and Esther's family, I can say that his lasting legacy is his family



and their strong connection to Judaism. I've heard many stories of Bratt Family Passover Seders from his granddaughters and great-grandchildren. It's clear that Sid leading the Seder was an important legacy for his entire family.

Despite losing so much in the Holocaust, the Nazis did not win as witnessed by this picture of Sid and Esther's beautiful family. Today Sid's granddaughters Stacy and Michele carry on their grandparents' legacy through the sharing of their family's history, including at Federation's Yom Hashoah event in 2023. Federation was also proud to share Sid and Esther's stories of survival during our Violins of Hope exhibits in November 2021. I'm comforted to know that Sid's Holocaust history will continue to live on through his granddaughters and I'm sure, eventually his great-grandchildren.



I will always remember Sid for his warm and easy smile and his laugh. Always one to tell a joke, he often had a glimmer in his eye, especially for Esther. He was quick to give a hug and always asked how I was anytime I saw him. I speak for many of us at Federation when I say our lives will be a little dimmer without Sid.

It is said that when a person has lived well and righteously, his life's conduct and behavior is instructive and inspiring, thus why the Jewish tradition is to say "May his memory be a blessing". This could not be truer for Sid Bratt. May his memory forever be a blessing.

I encourage the community to learn a bit more about Sid by watching a short "My Jewish Story" video created by Federation in April 2020. Scan the QR code to watch his video.

If you're interested in learning more about Sid's experiences during the Holocaust please reach out to the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center at [ahornberger@albright.edu](mailto:ahornberger@albright.edu) for access to Sid's video testimony.



## 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 Sept. 13

#### Jewish Family Service

In memory of:  
Rosalie Stein - Louise Zeidman and family

In honor of:  
Doris & Elliott Leisawitz's grandson's bar mitzvah - Andy & Corinne Wernick  
Betsy & Al Katz's grandson's bar mitzvah - Andy & Corinne Wernick

#### Jewish Family Service Food Pantry

In memory of:  
Carole & Mike Robinson's new grandchild - Susan Schlanger

#### Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund - PJ Library

In memory of:  
Alan and Lisa Levine's grandchild - Sue Wachs

## Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

- Federation Jewish Community Campaign
- Jewish Family Service
- Leo Camp Lecture Fund
- JFS Food Bank
- JFS Taxi Transportation Program
- Holocaust Library & Resource Center
- Doris Levin Fund
- Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund for PJ Library
- Harry & Rose Sack Adult Education Fund
- Evelyn Thompson Fund

### Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:  
The 6 hostages killed in Gaza - Debbie & David Goldberg

In honor of:  
Bernie Gerber's birthday - Henry & Helene Singer



Jewish Federation of Reading invites you to

# Remembering October 7th

**Monday, October 7 at 7 p.m.**

*Hosted by Chabad-Lubavitch of Berks County  
2320 Hampden Boulevard Reading*

*This commemoration event is planned in partnership with Chabad Lubavitch of Reading, Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom and Kesher Zion Synagogue.*





The board and staff of the  
Jewish Federation of Reading  
wishes everyone a  
healthy, happy and peaceful  
New Year