



Shalom 11|24

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

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Joel Chasnoff was just who we needed

Comedian's Federation event brings welcome laughter to community.

By Laurie Waxler

We had a full house at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts in Reading on Saturday, Oct. 19, for comedian Joel Chasnoff, and his humor was just what we needed.

Chasnoff had the crowd laughing from the time he stepped on stage until he graciously took questions about his life in Israel at the end.

Reminiscing about his days at Solomon Schechter Day School outside Chicago and his role as the center for the basketball team, to his days in Jewish summer camp and his days as a lone soldier in the IDF, he didn't miss a beat, and the crowd loved him.

Chasnoff provided good, clean entertainment, and the audience ranged from young to old. When he asked the 10-year-olds in the crowd why they were there, they said simply that they wanted to laugh, and laugh they did, along with everyone else!

Acknowledging this was the only time he had ever gone on stage early, he questioned if it was because there was nothing else to do in Reading?? Good question Joel, but we all love living here, regardless.

Audience members traveled from Philadelphia and Lancaster to join us, and many thanks to Sweet Street desserts, we had a lovely dessert reception to follow.

Chasnoff marketed his newest book, "Israel 201," as well as some fun socks ("This sock stands with Israel") and his earlier book "The 188th Crybaby Brigade" about his time in the IDF. Federation received 20% of the proceeds from the items sold.

What a wonderful evening!!



Joel Chasnoff's appearance at the GoggleWorks entertained fans young and old.




A few more good wishes for the New Year.



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

**Dr. Harriet Comite,
Alan Geltman & family**



Wishing you a sweet and prosperous New Year.

Robin Costenbader-Jacobson

Our apologies for omitting these in October.

Federation remains a constant in Berks with your help

By Laurie Waxler

Life has been such a whirlwind lately, sometimes it's hard to keep up, but I always remember the advice given to me by one of my favorite psychologist friends. Get out in nature!



My daily walks with Gracie the golden retriever allow me to plan out my day, take in some fresh air and listen to some of my favorite music. It's 45 minutes all to myself, until Gracie spots a squirrel and shocks me back into reality.

We all celebrated the holidays, welcomed the new year and thought about how our lives will be different next year. We remembered the lives lost on Oct. 7, 2023, and continue to pray for the safe return of the hostages.

For those lucky enough to attend the Joel Chasoff comedy event, we spent an evening laughing together with a comedian that only a Jewish

community can enjoy.

We just wrapped up a few more Jewish holidays including Sukkot and Simchat Torah, and now we're starting to think about Thanksgiving and then Chanukah!

So many things to be thankful for, but at the same time, so many things to add stress to our lives. Whenever life gets a little hectic, we all need to take a step back and take life one day at a time and sometimes one step at a time.

Through all these ups and downs of life, our Federation remains a constant in the lives of our Jewish community here in Berks County. We are always here for the highs and the lows and couldn't do what we do without the support of our community.

Our fundraising goal for the 2024 Campaign this year is \$325,000...can you help us reach it? You may know my favorite saying is 'many hands make light work,' but it's true.

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

2024 Annual Campaign

We're half-way there, can you help us reach the top?

Check out our Annual Report on our website to learn more about how your donations are used.

Donations can be made online at www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Development

- Annual Campaign
- Women's Philanthropy
- Maimonides Society
- Your Jewish Legacy
- Chai Circle
- L'Chaim Society
- Book of Life
- Letter of Intent

Community represented at Diversity Festival



The Jewish Community Relations Council participated in Reading's 5th Diversity Festival, continuing to build bridges to strengthen our communities. This event highlighted the importance of diversity in fostering understanding and cooperation among different cultural, ethnic, and social groups. By celebrating our unique backgrounds and shared values, we aim to create inclusive environments where everyone feels valued and empowered.

IT'S MOMENTS LIKE THESE
WHEN YOUR FEDERATION NEEDS YOU
AND YOU NEED YOUR FEDERATION
DONATE TODAY!



DONATE NOW TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Please visit ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Make your gift today!

Kristallnacht commemoration scheduled for Nov. 7

By Margo Levin

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 Nazi campaign of terror in Germany and throughout

Europe.

Kristallnacht remains a haunting reminder of the dangers of hatred and intolerance. It is essential to remember these events, as they serve as a warning against the destructive power of prejudice and discrimination in any society.

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 Thursday, Nov. 7, at Christ Episcopal Church, 435 Court St. in 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 moving interfaith service begins at 7. There will be a light reception after the service.

Street parking is available near the church and at the M&T Bank parking lot (next door) and the Abraham Lincoln Hotel garage.

For more information, please contact Margo at margol@jfreeding.org or call 610-921-0624

From the CEO's Desk

Thanksgiving as part of the Jewish tradition

By Brian Chartock
CEO



Thanksgiving, while primarily recognized as an American holiday, holds unique significance within our Jewish tradition. The holiday, celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November, is a time for gratitude and reflection; values that resonate deeply in Jewish teachings and practices. Here's a look at the importance of Thanksgiving in the Jewish context.

Thanksgiving's origins can be traced back to early Colonial times when settlers held feasts to give thanks for bountiful harvests. While not a Jewish holiday, per se, the ethos of gratitude mirrors many Jewish traditions. The Jewish people have a long history of observing harvest festivals, most notably Sukkot, which

celebrates the fall harvest and expresses gratitude for the land's bounty.

Gratitude plays another central theme in Jewish life. Our daily brachot (prayers) include blessings and expressions of thanks, that acknowledge God's role in providing sustenance and well-being. Thanksgiving offers an opportunity for Jewish families in America to gather, reflect, and give thanks for the blessings in their lives — be it family, health, or community.

Thanksgiving is a time for family reunions, which aligns with Jewish values emphasizing the importance of family and strengthening communal bonds. The holiday often brings together extended families, allowing for the sharing of stories, traditions, and even culinary practices. In Jewish households, the Thanksgiving table might blend traditional American dishes with Jewish favorites, creating a rich tapestry of cultural exchange.

Another significant aspect of Thanksgiving in the Jewish tradition is the emphasis on tzedakah (charity) and helping those in need. The core values of compassion and social responsibility are deeply embedded in Judaism. Many Jewish families incorporate acts of charity into their Thanksgiving celebrations, whether through food drives, volunteering at shelters, or inviting those who may be alone to share the holiday meal.

Thanksgiving occurs in the fall; a season that aligns with themes of reflection and renewal in the Jewish calendar. Following the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, which emphasize repentance and new beginnings, Thanksgiving provides a moment for Jews to appreciate the blessings that have come as a result of introspection and growth.

In a broader sense, Thanksgiving serves as an opportunity for Jewish Americans to engage with our larger

culture while maintaining our unique identity. Celebrating Thanksgiving allows for participation in a shared national experience, fostering a sense of belonging and connection with fellow Americans, regardless of their backgrounds.

While Thanksgiving is not a religious Jewish holiday, its values of gratitude, family, community, and social responsibility align closely with many Jewish teachings. The holiday serves as a reminder of the importance of recognizing our blessings and sharing them with others.

For many Jewish families, Thanksgiving is not just a day for feasting but a profound opportunity to reflect on their heritage, celebrate their blessings, and strengthen their community ties. In this way, Thanksgiving becomes a beautiful fusion of American culture and Jewish values, enriching the lives of those who observe it.

L'Shalom,
-Brian

Voting is an important way to reflect Jewish values

By Rabbi Brian Michelson

Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom



When we get ready to return the Torah to the Ark after reading it, we read a couple of my favorite pieces of liturgy in our Siddur.

There are three prayers: one for our congregation, one for our country, and one

for the State of Israel. I like them because they remind us that, as Jews, we are involved in the world around us in different ways. We are members of our local Jewish community, citizens of the United States, and part of the broader world that unites us as Jews wherever we may live. We do not live

in a vacuum. Judaism calls us to be active participants in each of these different layers.

In Pirkei Avot, Rabbi Hillel taught: "Do not separate yourself from the community." He understood that as human beings and as Jews, we need to be interconnected with the community and world around us. Just as it is nearly impossible to be a Jew on one's own, so too is it impossible to be an American without being involved in the broader world. This month, we have the opportunity to exercise one of our greatest rights and most sacred obligations as citizens of the United States of America. We have the opportunity to vote.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of participating in several

naturalization ceremonies for people becoming citizens of the United States. I am always amazed by the diversity of people. I have asked many of them what they look forward to doing now that they are citizens and most of them reply that they are looking forward to voting. Many of them came from countries where they were never allowed to vote or they knew that their vote did not count because the election was only for show. They understand this sacred obligation to be part of the process. I am disheartened to hear about the millions of Americans who choose not to vote. In 2020 only two-thirds of eligible voters actually voted.

In Midrash Tanchuma we are taught, "If a person of learning participates in public affairs and serves as judge or arbiter, that person gives stability to the

land ... But if a person sits in their home and says to themselves, 'What have the affairs of society to do with me? ... Why should I trouble myself?' ... They overthrow the world." By voting, we commit to being full members of society, to accepting our responsibility for the good of the whole.

Judaism teaches that we say blessings when doing important things. Let me share with you a blessing written for when we participate in our democracy by voting.

ברוך אתה יי, אלהינו מלך העולם,
ונתן לנו חירות, צדק, ונכות הבחירה.

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, who gives us freedom, justice, and the power to choose our leaders.

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@jfreeding.org to get added to our email list!

Shalom

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Remembering Oct. 7: An event of reflection, solidarity

By Brian Chartock

On Oct. 7, our community gathered to commemorate the tragic events that unfolded in Israel, honoring the lives affected by the attack and remembering the hostages still facing uncertainty. The atmosphere was one of reflection, solidarity, and a shared commitment to peace.

This evening of remembrance, held at Chabad of Berks, aimed to provide a safe space for individuals and families to come together, share their stories, and express their hopes for a better future. It served as a poignant reminder of the human cost of conflict and the importance of empathy in times of crisis.

The Jewish Federation program featured speeches from community leaders who visited Israel after the attack, each sharing their individual experiences and the profound impact of the events of Oct. 7. Emotional testimonials underscored the resilience of those affected and highlighted the need for continued support and advocacy for the hostages and their families. Our speakers recounted their experiences, emphasizing the strength found in community solidarity during the darkest of times.

A particularly moving segment of the event was during the singing of the Hativkah — Israel’s national anthem — as blue candles held by participants flickered as a powerful reminder of the



The community gathers at Chabad of Berks for a remembrance of Oct. 7, 2023. Photo by Bill Uhrich, courtesy of Reading Eagle

lives lost and the ongoing struggles faced by hostages and their families.

As the evening concluded, Federation emphasized the importance of continuing the conversation around peace and resolution. Federation encouraged

participants to remain engaged, not only in remembering those affected by the Oct. 7 attack but also in advocating for a future where such violence is no longer a reality.

In this spirit of unity and hope, the event underscored the enduring message that

while tragedy can divide us, it is our shared humanity that has the power to bring us together. Through remembrance and action, the Berks Jewish community can honor the past and work toward a future defined by understanding and compassion.

Obituary

Sandra Miller, 82, died on Oct. 6 in Naples Fla. She was a graduate of Muhlenberg High School and Empire Beauty School. In addition to being a hairstylist, she was committed to giving back to her community. Sandy was a volunteer at Berks County Children and Youth Services and served tirelessly as a surrogate mother for abused children. She also served as a board member of the Reading Public Library and as an officer in the Exeter Woman’s Club. Sandy and her husband, Ron, moved to Naples 10 years ago. In addition to him,

she is survived by her children, Joshua (Colleen), Valerie Schaeffer (Matthew), and Kimberly Mehrara (Sasan), 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

Olive Davis, 85, died Sept. 12 in Florida. Born and raised in Sinking Spring, she attended Wilson High School and worked as an operating room nurse. She and her husband, Gordon, left Berks County in 1979. They were very active in the Jewish community wherever they lived. She is survived by her children, Gale, Jed and Cliff, a son-in-law, one grandson and many nieces and nephews.

An Oct. 7 message from Ziv

By Ziv Laskin

October 7th, October 7th, October 7th... One year has passed since the terrible day that reshaped the lives of every Israeli and Jew around the world. One year has passed, and every day feels like the same day.

How can you heal a wound that refuses to stop bleeding?

With 101 hostages still in captivity in Gaza, while Israel fights for its survival, with the rise of antisemitism across the world, it’s impossible to know what tomorrow will bring.

There is so much pain that may never heal.

On October 7th last year, I was the Shaliach of Reading and Lancaster. I remember the rally we organized for October 7th. As I gave my speech and shared my feelings, I realized how many people came together that day, how united our community was.

The unity of the Jewish people is unbreakable. This has been our secret weapon for more than 2,000



years, and even now, I can see the light in all this darkness.

LITERATOUR BERKS
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH
6:00 PM AT THE EXETER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

LYNDA COHEN LOIGMAN

AUTHOR OF:
THE LOVE ELIXIR OF AUGUSTA STERN

Join us for an evening with Lynda Cohen Loigman, author of the enticing "The Love Elixir of Augusta Stern". Lynda will be leading a discussion of her novel as well as signing & selling copies during the event. This program is brought to us by Literatour Berks, Jewish Book Council, The Jewish Federation of Reading & Berks, and the Exeter Community Library.

EXETER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
4569 PRESTWICK DRIVE
READING, PA 19606
Call 610-406-9431 to RSVP
or visit www.berkslibraries.org/exeter

November Tishrei-Cheshvan	
Shabbat Candle Lightings	Torah Portions
November 1 5:42 p.m.	November 2/1 Cheshvan Noach (Genesis 6:9-11:32)
November 8 4:34 p.m.	November 9/8 Cheshvan Lech-Lecha (Genesis 12-1:1727)
November 15 4:28 p.m.	November 16/15 Cheshvan Vayeira (Genesis 18:1-22:24)
November 22 4:23 p.m.	November 23/22 Cheshvan Chayei Sarah (Genesis 23:1-25:19)
November 29 4:20 p.m.	November 30 Toldot (Genesis 25:19-28-9)

Join us for 2 Noontime Knowledge programs in November

Young Israelis, Palestinians find understanding through writing

From Federation staff

Join us for a virtual Noontime Knowledge program on Tuesday, Nov. 26 at noon with Professor Emeritus Robert Vogel Ed.D of La Salle University.

Vogel holds a doctorate in educational psychology and organizational development from

Temple University.

After 43 years of teaching at La Salle in the Department of Education, Vogel retired. He currently serves as Professor Emeritus of Education at the university.

In 2005, he became the founding director of the nonprofit Writers Matter, which helps young students develop

writing skills through personal journaling.

In his program he will explore the changing lives of high school students after the war broke out on Oct. 7, 2023.

Through poetry and narrative writing, we will hear firsthand accounts of how the war unfolded for these students and the coping mechanisms needed to deal with their new reality.

Being out of school, sheltering at home, feeling unsafe on the streets, and having little personal contact with their friends led to personal challenges many students at this age were not prepared to handle.

To RSVP for this program please call the office 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreading.org.

A history lesson at the JCC



Michelle Mart discussing "Thomas Jefferson and Slavery in the New Republic" on Sept 24 at Noontime Knowledge

Tour two exhibits at Reading Public Museum

From Federation Staff

Our Noontime Knowledge program on Wednesday, Nov. 18 will be a little different this month.

Join Jewish Federation for a group tour of two upcoming exhibits at the Reading Public Museum.

We will be touring "M.C. Escher: Infinite Variations." Among the art exhibited are some of his most iconic works, including Ascending and Descending, a 1960 print of an impossible building with a staircase

that mirrors a mobius strip.

"Order and Illusion: The Geometry of Art" will explore the evolution of geometric art through the 1960s to the present day. We will be meeting at the museum at 11:45 am and will be there for approximately one hour for both exhibits.

There will be an additional half hour for you to view other exhibits.

RSVPs are required. Please call the office at 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreading.org by Nov. 8 to reserve your spot.



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

Meet at the main entrance of the museum @ 11:45 am

Join Jewish Federation as we take a group tour of two upcoming exhibits at the Reading Public Museum. M.C. Escher: Infinite Variations. Among the art exhibited are some of his most iconic works, including Ascending and Descending, a 1960 print of an impossible building with a staircase that mirrors a möbius strip. Order & Illusion: The Geometry of Art will explore the evolution of geometric art through the 1960s to the present day.



Reservations required by November 8th

call the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email 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.

VIRTUAL NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

"Jewish Israeli and Palestinian Youth Find Commonalities and Understanding Through Writing" with Dr. Robert Vogel

Tuesday November 26 at 12pm

Join us for a virtual program with Robert Vogel, Ed.D Professor Emeritus at LaSalle University, who is the Founding Director of the non-profit Writers Matter, as we explore the changing lives of high school students after the war broke out in Israel on October 7, 2023. Through poetry and narrative writing, you will hear firsthand accounts of how the war unfolded for these students and the coping mechanisms needed to deal with their new reality. Being out of school, sheltering at home, feeling unsafe on the streets, and having little personal contact with their friends led to personal challenges many students at this age are not prepared to handle.



To RSVP call the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreading.org
Link will be provided upon registration and in weekly email.



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.

The superpower of compassion

By Carole Robinson

Shalom y'all from Austin, Texas, where I'm spending a week with my grandsons Cameron and Jackson. I've learned quite a bit about planets and our solar system, insects, lizards and sea animals. We also have been busy making treasure maps and pretending to be superheroes and villains. Cam's favorite villain is Electro, but I usually get to be Doc Ock. For those of you who don't know, Doc Ock has four strong appendages, like an octopus' tentacles, and is Spider Man's archenemy.



I don't usually characterize myself as "evil." So instead, using poetic license, I imagined an alternate universe where Doc Ock uses her superpowers for good. Although superheroes and social workers operate in different realms, we both fight for social justice and want to improve the lives of others. We show empathy and advocate for those unable to stand up for themselves. While superheroes battle villains, social workers help clients tackle their personal struggles. Imagine having superhuman strength and multiple hands to multitask and better support clients!

I am sure some of you are rolling your eyes and thinking, "Why would I use my superpowers to help those types of people?" It is easy to generalize and make assumptions about why people require help from JFS.

However, I think once you hear first-hand stories, you'll be better able to empathize with their plights. Let me tell you about some of our JFS clients (names and circumstances have been changed to protect client confidentiality), so you can meet the people behind the statistics. And you will understand why I

sometimes wish for more than two hands!

Shirley is a senior citizen living in a small apartment in West Reading. Following a rent increase, Shirley contacted me because she didn't think she could afford to stay in her apartment. Her only income is Social Security and a small pension. I discovered that Shirley had been married in 1980. As a divorcee whose marriage lasted over 10 years and who did not remarry, Shirley is entitled to collect up to 50% of her ex-spouse's Social Security benefits. I assisted Shirley in making an appointment with the local Social Security office and helped her compile the necessary paperwork to file a claim. Although the process took several months, she received back compensation and will get an additional \$1,500/month, enough for her to continue paying her rent and add to her emergency savings.

Regina is the caregiver for her husband, Dave, who has restricted mobility. They live in public housing in Reading. Regina does not like to ask for help, but sometimes she has nowhere else to turn. JFS has helped the couple get to medical appointments, provided emergency rental assistance and advises them of benefits available to them, such as OTC insurance benefits and rent rebates.

I met Bradley while making a hospital visit. Bradley's wife died four years ago. He lives alone, with only his cat Max for companionship. Bradley calls me several times each week, usually just to chat for a few minutes. He values his solitude, but he likes checking-in with me to discuss his health concerns, the price of groceries, or even Max.

Rachel's family lives out of town, and she does not have a local support system. She is highly intelligent but suffers from chronic anxiety. Rachel worries excessively and needs emotional support when filling out government assistance forms. She also relies on JFS to accompany her to medical



procedures.

These clients represent a small sampling of the community members that JFS works with and the problems we help resolve. Although their circumstances vary and their needs are diverse, they are unfailingly appreciative of JFS support.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to express my gratitude to all of you who partner with JFS to ensure that all of our clients feel supported! I am thankful for our supportive community. Whether you volunteer at one of our food pantries, drop off plastic bags or canned goods, put donations in our CommunityAid bin, make a Friendship Circle presentation, provide transportation or make a financial contribution, we could not help 400 clients a year without you!

I would like to give a special thanks to everyone who made the Jewish holidays so meaningful: Sue Farrara, Claudia Strauss, and Gail Tomrell for assisting with set-up and serving our Rosh Hashanah meal; Scott Bram for blowing the shofar; Eric Shocket of Table 13 for our delicious meal; Sheila Bornstein for her amazing homemade desserts; and Louise Zeidman and Eddie Kazin for delivering meals.

You all are the force behind JFS' superpower. With your help, we can enhance our community by extending one hand at a time in compassion and inclusion!



Exploring Iceland at Friendship Circle

Laurie Waxler speaks to Friendship Circle on Oct 10 about her recent trip to Iceland. Friendship Circle meets twice a month on Thursday afternoons for an optional lunch followed by an entertaining or educational program.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Nov 7 - Film Festival "The Frisco Kid"

Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford star as rabbi and rescuer in this rough-'n'-ready wild western romp.

Nov 21 - "Thanksgiving Celebration"

Enjoy a festive lunch and be thankful with your Friendship Circle friends.

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.



Jewish Family Service

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Counseling Services

Transportation

Financial Assistance

Hospital and

Home Visitations

Living with Loss

Information and

Referral

Case Management

Holiday Programs

Community keeps working to feed Berks families



JFS volunteers Anzie Golden and Sam Flamholz, left, load bags to distribute to food pantry recipients on Oct. 2. At right, JFS volunteers Jannine Shapiro and Mary Anne Avins opening boxes of shelf-stable items on Oct. 8.

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

Allison Althouse	Debra Montanino
Mary Anne Avins	Annette Peppard
Cindy Balchunas	Jenn Reilly
Sam Flamholz	Mike Robinson
Sarah Flamholz	Ellen Schwartz
Raymond Gehring	Paul Schwartz
Anzie Golden	Russ Shanahan
Patty Hartman	Jannine Shapiro
John Incledon	Joan Sherman
Pete Jacobson	Oleg Umanov
Sid Lempiner	Michael Warshaw
	Phyllis Warshaw

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!

Rosh Hashanah in the community



Clockwise from top right, Norm Wilikofsky, Esther Bratt, Shirley Kauffman, and Jill Skaist enjoying a discussion during the JFS early Rosh Hashanah at the Highlands on Sept. 23; Ellis and Vicki Sokoloff enjoy the Sept. 26 JFS Rosh Hashanah observance at the JCC; Claire Bram, Jane Polonski, Dorie Karp and Judy Synnamon; and Scott Bram blows the shofar

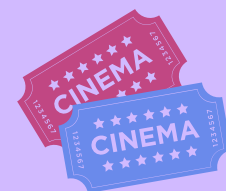
**Do you need help with
Medicare Open Enrollment?
Oct 15- Dec 7**



During this time, Medicare beneficiaries can make changes to their coverage for the following year. JFS volunteer Phyllis Dessel will help you review your current plan and consider better Part D plan options for 2025.

Contact Carole at 610-921-0624 or Caroler@jfreeding.org to schedule an insurance consultation with Phyllis.

Movie Monday at the JCC
November 25 at 1:00



“Everything is Illuminated”

A young Jewish American man, with the help of an eccentric local, endeavors to find the woman who saved his grandfather during World War II in a Ukrainian village that was ultimately razed by the Nazis.

RSVP by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreeding.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!

RCOS food festival returns Nov. 3 with expanded menu

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
 The 24th annual Jewish Food & Cultural Festival will be held Sunday, Nov. 3, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, 555 Warwick Drive in Wyomissing. The event will be back indoors for the second time since COVID.


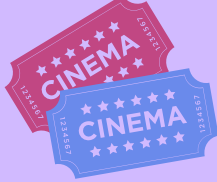
This year there will be an expanded menu that includes Jewish apple cake and additional desserts, brisket and chicken platters, corned beef and pastrami sandwiches, bagel and lox platters, hot dogs, knishes and matzo ball soup.
 Tongue and noodle kugel are back on the menu this year.

There is no admission charge. Order food ahead of time at ohebsholom.org or pay at the entrance.
 Cash is accepted when purchasing food the day of the festival, but credit cards are preferred.
 The event includes a cultural room that gives children and adults a chance

to learn about Jewish religion and culture.
 Rabbi Brian Michelson will offer tours of the sanctuary, explain traditions of Judaism and blow the Shofar.
 Cantor Stuart Binder will perform a program of traditional and contemporary Jewish music in the sanctuary.

November 7 at 1:30


Thursday Film Festival at the JCC

“The Frisco Kid”

Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford are one feisty team as rabbi and rescuer in this rough- ‘n’- ready wild western romp.

RSVP by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreading.org



Literatour goes to Broadway



Author Eddie Shapiro gave a Literatour Berks presentation on leading ladies of Broadway at the JCC on Oct. 9.

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**
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Contact Us
Carole Robinson at 610-921-0624






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Run for Their Lives - Reading

By Laurie Waxler

What are you doing next Sunday at 1 p.m.??? I had the pleasure of joining Amana Woolf-Gibbs and her three children on a recent Sunday at the Reading Museum gardens for the weekly "Run for Their Lives" walk she organizes. The 18 minute walk is a tradition she brought from her Denver, Colorado, community upon moving back to Berks County a few months ago. Amana hopes that one day soon, we can have a celebration walk when the hostages are returned home from Gaza.

The original movement was started by a group of Israelis in the Bay Area in California, in collaboration with the Hostage and Missing Families Forum (#BringThemHomeNow.) It has evolved into a family friendly walk to show support for those still being held since Oct. 7, 2023, and to send a message to both world and local leaders that we care. There are over 225 communities around the world that organize walks, and participation continues to grow regardless of religious background. Amana makes it clear that



Local families join in to show their support and remember the hostages.

this is not a Jewish issue but a world issue that everyone should care about.

Wearing a red T-shirt, representing the hearts of families whose loved ones are being held captive, with baby feet on it, for children and infant hostages, Amana said she has been peacefully

approached several times. Some want to know what she represents and others already know and offer their support, sometimes with a simple thumbs up. This walk is not a protest, but a peaceful way to focus on the humanity of the crisis, and walk for those who can not yet walk free.



I encourage anyone available on a Sunday at 1 p.m. to join her (except RCOS Food Festival Sunday, of course!) and wear red if you can. For more information about joining her group, please contact her at R4TL.Reading.PA@gmail.com. For more information about the movement, or to purchase a t-shirt, please visit www.run4lives.org

The Israeli company revolutionizing Alzheimer's testing

Israel21c.org

Much like a cardiac stress test measuring heart function in active and resting states, an audio-guided test from Israeli startup Neurosteer assesses the brain in challenged and relaxed states for early detection of Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and vascular dementia, among other indications.

Founded in 2015 by its developer, Tel Aviv University computer science and neuroscience professor Nathan Intrator, Neurosteer's device is the world's first wearable, medical-grade brain activity interpretation platform.

Neurosteer's FDA-cleared Class II device essentially reinvents EEG technology, which records the brain's spontaneous electrical activity. With Neurosteer, EEGs can be performed without a trained technician and without a neurologist to interpret the results.

The system is also unique because it employs the power of music.

"We provide cognitive and emotional challenges to the brain using music,

and then look at the brain's response. Music makes the test more pleasant for the subjects," Intrator tells ISRAEL21c.

"Patients listen to verbal instructions and then hear multiple musical notes. They are asked to press a button when a certain note is played or when a note is played following a note that was either the same or different. Then we use relaxing music to bring them to resting-state brain activity, which is one of the first brain functions to be damaged in neurodegenerative disorders."

A disposable adhesive electrode strip worn on the forehead transmits signals to a sensor as the patient listens to the music and instructions through headphones. The signals are interpreted with cloud-based software using FDA-cleared biomarkers also developed by the company. Results are graphically displayed on a monitor and are available afterward via the Neurosteer portal.

The musical component of the system was developed by the company's director of cognitive assessment, Tel Aviv University

lecturer Neta Maimon, a professional cellist and PhD in cognitive psychology.

With 12 employees split among offices in Tel Aviv, Los Angeles and New York, the company started by marketing the device to private longevity clinics for assessing neurological effects of aging, stress, anxiety, cognitive decline and/or depression. Neurosteer now is raising money to accelerate clinical validation trials aimed to get the device FDA cleared for additional medical uses.

For example, it's been tested in Israel over the past year to assess Parkinson's and essential tremor patients. It was even tested on Tibetan monks to see the effect of meditation on the brain.

A study at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York uses Neurosteer's device to monitor neurocritical ICU patients for adverse brain events. Intrator points out that in the cardiac ICU, treating heart issues alone ignores the critical fact that the cardiorespiratory system's main purpose is to provide oxygenated blood to the brain.

Another clinical study is soon starting at the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in cooperation with a nearby Veterans Administration hospital on the detection of Alzheimer's and differentiation from vascular dementia.

Fortunately for Neurosteer, there is a new wave of demand for assessing early signs of neurodegenerative diseases.

"In February 2023, the FDA approved the first drug to slow Alzheimer's," says Intrator. A similar drug was approved this year.

Neurosteer's platform would provide a noninvasive and much less expensive alternative to other testing methods, says Intrator.

"We are progressing in the direction of a single 15-minute audio-guided test that will be able to detect risk of Alzheimer's and vascular dementia," says Intrator.

US residents can find out where the Neurosteer test is available by emailing info@neurosteer.com.

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Learn about Karl and Mathilde's escape from Vienna in 1939
Engage in conversation about why Holocaust stories matter today
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Jewish Federations share messages of love with Israel

Jewish Federations of North America

On Oct. 10, Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric D. Fingerhut delivered messages from North America's Jewish community expressing their love and support for the Israeli people to Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

Over the past year, Jewish communities across North America have drawn tremendous strength and inspiration from the Israeli people's resilience and ability to find hope in darkness.

Leading up to Oct. 7, Jewish Federations of North America asked Jewish people from across the United States and Canada to share messages of hope to the people of Israel demonstrating their solidarity and the unwavering bonds that we share. A sampling of those messages was compiled into a book, which Fingerhut delivered to Herzog. Fingerhut was joined in the meeting by Rebecca Caspi, Director General of Jewish Federations Israel Office.

"The Jewish Federations of North America have been not only moved, but so inspired by the resilience and the

strength of the Jewish people and the people of the State of Israel," Fingerhut told Herzog. "This is a small selection of the beautiful letters that were sent to the people of the State of Israel from all across the United States and Canada."

Herzog thanked Fingerhut and the Jewish Federations for their work to support the people of Israel, including the unprecedented March for Israel that became the largest pro-Israel event in U.S. history.

"In this terrible year since Oct. 7, we've seen the incredible solidarity of the Jewish people come alive in its utmost strength, especially the Jewish community in North America through its agents and organizations, but predominantly through the Jewish Federation system," Herzog said.

"Keep on going from strength to strength, because our battle is not over. We have to fight antisemitism, we have to fight for our only nation state of the Jewish people, and these letters mean so much because it shows are 'lev echad, am echad,' one people, one heart."

On Oct. 7, over 130 Jewish Federations held commemoration events in their communities marking a year since the 2023 attacks on Israel, and Jewish Federations of North America supported 400 campus and communal events in 180 cities through \$1 million in microgrants.

The book opened with a letter to Herzog, saying: "Let this book serve as a reminder that you are not alone, and that the bonds uniting us are stronger than any force seeking to divide us."

Sample Messages:

"Dear People of Israel,

In these challenging times, know that you are not alone. The world watches and many hearts beat in solidarity with you. Your resilience and spirit inspire countless people everywhere, and your courage in the face of adversity is a testament to the strength of your nation.

Though the road ahead may seem uncertain, remember that hope endures even in the darkest of moments. Your unity and determination will light the way forward. Please hold onto that hope, and know that many stand with you, offering thoughts, prayers, and unwavering support. Stay strong, stay united, and may peace find its way back to you soon."

— *Brittany Davis, Dallas, TX*

"As descendants of Holocaust survivors from France, Germany, and Poland, we know what it is to feel despair, disillusionment, and heartbreak. We also know that the Jewish people are one and the two of us are PART of that 'one.' This email is an expression of our love for the State of Israel and its people. Sending them strength, love, light, and courage."

— *Renee & Nils Skudra, Greensboro, NC*

"Our hearts and prayers are with you all. The bravery, fortitude and spirit of the Israeli people is a wonder. And the Jews around the world, including me, take great solace in that and hope to offer our light to help you shine. B'shalom and Am Yisrael Chai!" — *Susie Sorkin, San Carlos, CA*

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Women's

CHANUKAH NIGHT OUT

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December 17

Jewish groups, college presidents hold summit

American Jewish Committee

The American Jewish Committee, Hillel International and the American Council on Education held a landmark two-day College and University Presidents Summit on Campus Antisemitism at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg Center in Baltimore this fall.

With more than 75 university presidents and chancellors attending, the summit marked the largest-ever gathering of college and university presidents to discuss the topic of confronting antisemitism on campus.

The presidents and chancellors in attendance at the summit reflected the full diversity of American higher education, including the leaders of prominent research universities, public and private, as well as regional public universities, private liberal arts colleges, community colleges, Ivy League schools, and faith-based institutions.

After nearly 12 months of dramatically rising antisemitism on college campuses, university presidents benefited from panel discussions with leading subject-matter experts that explored the deep roots of contemporary antisemitism, discussed the relationship between free speech imperatives and creating a safe campus for all students, and delved into applications of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

Presidents also participated in solutions-based working sessions where they learned from one another about the strategies that are already proving successful during the new academic year, and how to translate those approaches to their own campuses to foster inclusion and combat hate.

"Universities play an outsized role in our broader society, encouraging values-driven leadership, the open exchange of ideas, and the principles that form the foundation of our democracy," said AJC CEO Ted Deutch. "Addressing the hate we're witnessing on campus is not just essential for the safety and security of Jewish students in the quad, but also for the health of higher education in America.

"Only by ensuring that the voices of the Jewish community are not silenced can we ensure the free exchange of

ideas, the importance of which extends beyond campus and forms the bedrock of our liberal democracy."

"As we seek to restore a safe and inclusive campus environment for all students, we're proud to see how committed university leaders are to addressing rising antisemitism by participating in this critical Summit," Hillel International President and CEO Adam Lehman said. "Just as we have for more than a century, Hillel will continue to work beside university presidents each and every day to ensure that Jewish students are protected and welcome on every college campus."

"College and university presidents are committed to ensuring that Jewish students, along with all of our students, are on campuses that are safe places in which to learn and thrive academically and socially, and where at the same time robust and sometimes difficult conversations flourish," ACE President Ted Mitchell said. "I'm proud that ACE was able to partner with AJC and Hillel International on this second College and University Presidents Summit on Campus Antisemitism, and I am confident the more than 80 presidents who attended left better equipped to take on these tough issues and the challenges to come, to the benefit of all of our students and communities."

In April of 2022, Hillel International, AJC and ACE convened the first University Presidents Summit on Campus Antisemitism, hosted by NYU. In the two years since, rates of antisemitism in the U.S. and on college and university campuses have risen to historically high levels, with antisemitic incidents on college campuses increasing from fewer than 300 in the 2022-2023 school year, to more than 1,800 in 2023-2024 following the Oct. 7 attack on Israel. The current environment on campuses throughout the U.S. and Canada has required new approaches such as the ones discussed at this year's conference.

Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels said: "Hopkins was honored to welcome leaders of universities and colleges across the nation that are grappling with the challenge of rising antisemitism. Holding this conversation in the heart of the nation's capital reminds us of

our founding ideals and what those ideals have meant to Jewish people here and around the world. Open discourse around ideas, freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and the sustenance of a pluralistic society that protects individuals' rights undergird our democracy, and as universities, we have an indispensable role to play by reflecting and embodying these values to shape our nation for the better."

NYU President Linda G. Mills said: "Antisemitism, which should have no foothold on our campuses, has had an appalling and heartbreaking surge. I was glad to be part of this summit, which provided university leaders with important opportunities to exchange ideas; to stand united in pushing back against antisemitism; to commit to fostering safe and inclusive campuses where students may flourish free from harassment, discrimination, and threats; and to uphold our traditions of reasoned discourse."

Earlier this year Hillel International and AJC launched an expanded partnership to work with college and university presidents to counter antisemitism on campus, through AJC's new Center for Education Advocacy and Hillel International's flagship Campus Climate Initiative.

In 2025, AJC's groundbreaking Project Interchange and Hillel's Campus Climate Initiative will host a joint delegation of college and university administrators from across the country to travel to Israel for an immersive learning program.

More comments from presidents at the summit:

"I am profoundly grateful to Hillel

International, AJC, and ACE for this opportunity to come together with so many distinguished university leaders at this historic Summit. Together, we are combating antisemitism, confronting hate, and building stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities, ones in which we are committed to rooting out the poisonous fruit of deeply held bigotries, and ones in which we will learn together and grow together in respect, understanding, and harmony." — University of Michigan President Santa J. Ono

"Convening education leaders from across the nation for this important Summit is a necessary step in our collective responsibility toward fostering safe academic environments for the students we serve. Through dialogue and collaboration, we can share insights, strategies, and experiences that build upon our commitment to ensure every student feels valued and protected within our educational institutions." — Miami Dade College President Madeline Pumariega

"At Goucher College, we have long valued the breadth of lived experience and perspectives that religious pluralism brings to our campus. By modeling for our students how to engage in difficult, sometimes contentious conversations about critical issues, as we discussed at this conference, we hope to prepare them to play an important role in fostering understanding in our society. Spirited debate and respectful listening are hallmarks of not only our democracy but foundational elements of a liberal arts education." — Goucher College President Kent Devereaux

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At left, women gather at Chabad to hammer beautiful dishes to create even more beauty by taking the broken pieces and fixing them in Kintsugi style, reflecting on life's message of celebrating our humanity - cracks and all. Top, Chabad's annual community Sushi in the Sukkah celebration was an amazing evening with over 130 people in attendance. Above, Chabad's Mentch club, a program for men to gather for learning, discussion and food, kicked off with a great BBQ. A few weeks later they had breakfast in the Sukkah with guest speaker Rabbi Shmuel Lew from London.

24th Annual Jewish Food & Cultural Festival Sunday, November 3rd · 11 am to 4 pm

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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, November 12 at 2 p.m.

Questions may be sent in advance of the class

To RSVP email info@jfreeding.org or call 610-921-0624

Federation Honorarium-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 Federation at 610-921-0624 for further information.

Contributions as of Oct. 11

Jewish Family Service

In memory of:

Sidney Bratt - James and Jackye Barrer, Judy Synnamon, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Betsy and Al Katz, Lila Shapiro, Enid and Alan Tope, Ilene, Fred and Jon Goldberg and family, Paul and Solange Mintz, Sharon Syret, Phyllis Dessel, Jill Skaist,

Sandra Miller - Sue and Mel Blum, Corinne and Andy Wernick

Rosilin Clark - Jeff and Sheila Bornstein

In honor of:

Al and Betsy Katz's grandson Bar Mitzvah - Sharon Syret

Myron and Karen Kabakoff's new granddaughter - Doris and Elliott Leisawitz

Debbie Goodman's grandson Max's marriage - Sue Wachs

Kate and Larry Goodman's son Max's marriage - Sue Wachs

Jewish Family Service Food Pantry

In memory of:

Sidney Bratt - Helene and Henry Singer, Margo Thomas

Harry & Rose Sack Adult Education Fund

In memory of:

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Holocaust Library and Resource Center

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Sidney Bratt - Sue Wachs, Debbie Goodman, Kate and Larry Goodman, AnnMarie and Joe Nawocaenski, Susan and Mel Blum, Amanda and Jason Hornberger and family, Lina and Alex Eydlin, Joanne Fishman, Louise Zeidman and family, Jayne Kleinman, Cheryl, Eric, Louis, Sarah Farber, Roger Schein, Linda (Goldstan) Felton and Ron Felton, Monica Goldberg, Margie and Jon Hertz, Roberta and Alan Penn, Sandra Fishman, Anzie Golden, Marc and Marcia Filstein, Maralyn and Ken Lakin and family, Norm Wilikofsky, Amy Besser, Sylvia Wenger, Lisa and Ellis Block, Georges and Janet Bensimhon, Norma and Marty Beckerman, Elana Weinblatt, Sharon Bergman, Barbara and Seth Rosenzweig, Rebecca Zieff, Ellen and Donald Abramson, Gail and Mark Rudel, Lois Clymin, Ilse Brown, The Lois and Roger Rothman Fund

Honorariums and Memorials

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Sandra Miller - Vic and Dena Hammel

Jacob Gurwitz's grandmother - Debbie and David Goldberg

In honor of:

Birth of Myron and Karen Kabakoff granddaughter - Debbie, David, Scott, Mark, Abby Goldberg

Birth of Sarena Kabakoff's daughter - Debbie and David Goldberg

PJ Library

In memory of:

Sidney Bratt - George Viener

Sandra Miller - Dave and Barb Paul



Kristallnacht Commemoration Service

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024
6:30 P.M. CIRCLE OF LIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING
7 P.M. INTERFAITH SERVICE

Christ Episcopal Church
435 Court St. Reading

Join us for our annual commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, which marked the beginning of the Holocaust.

The public is invited to this free event.



FALL 2024

READING JEWISH FILM SERIES

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

On a train to Auschwitz, 15-year-old Eva 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.

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