

SHALOM

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community. Published as a community service by the Jewish Federation of Reading, Pa.

Volume 47, No. 2

FEBRUARY 2017

SHEVAT-ADAR 5777



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2017 totals as of Jan. 22

Jewish Community Campaign \$180,113

**Includes transfers from Donor Advised Funds*

Purim Masquerade Party: FUN for all!

By Amanda J. Hornberger

When speaking with community members about activities they enjoy, the fun parties and social events hosted by the JCC in the past were often mentioned. One favorite was the Purim Ball. Recognize anyone in this photo? It is from a community Purim Ball from the 1920s! (Special thanks to Roger Schein for lending it to us.)

This year the Federation is bringing back this fun social tradition with a Purim Masquerade Party on Saturday, March 4. Stokesay Castle will serve as the perfect backdrop for this affair featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, desserts and live music!

All community members 21 and older are invited to join the fun at this 2017 update on a classic JCC event.

Cocktail attire is requested and masks are encouraged! Noelle & Jeff Band of Maryland will be on hand to ensure we dance the night away to current and classic hits. The cost is \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. RSVPs are accepted through March 1 to 610-921-0624.

Your Federation is working to make this a fun party to remember, and we hope that we can have a large group of community members join us for our Purim celebration!

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



Yemin Orde always there to help its graduates

Years after graduating Yemin Orde, alumni are accomplished and productive citizens of Israel.

Our graduates know the Village and its staff are always there to help them in any way.

Yemin Orde's Graduate Program provides academic scholarships and financial assistance in times of need. Indeed, the promise that "Yemin Orde will always be there for you" is important to every person who has ever lived at the Village. Additionally, graduates who enter the military or volunteer in Israel's National Service Program often receive financial and emotional support throughout their service.

- Care Packages: Village staff prepare these for their soldiers and attend army ceremonies.

- Graduate House: Alumni may stay in the Graduate House in the Village if they have nowhere else to go while on military leave, on Shabbat, or other occasions.

- Financial Aid: The Village provides housing stipends and loans to its

graduates.

- Special Events: Yemin Orde is host to special events such as graduate weddings, receptions and class reunions.

Many of the Village's graduates left families behind in other countries, are orphaned or do not have a safe home in Israel to go back to. As a result, the 65-bed Graduate House provides a home away from home for many Yemin Orde graduates with accommodation for those without a place to live after graduation. The Graduate House ensures Yemin Orde graduates will always have a comfortable place to stay.

In March 2007, professors from the Haifa University School of Social Work conducted a survey of 200 men and women who graduated from Yemin Orde Youth Village. The survey examined the long-term impact of the Village and its methodology on the lives of its graduates. As a result, the study found that 90 percent of Yemin Orde graduates are satisfied, well-adjusted citizens and that they are likely to hold academic degrees, work full-



time, achieve management positions, and volunteer.

- 93 percent felt at home at Yemin Orde.

- 92 percent were satisfied with life at Yemin Orde.

- 14 years: The average number of years spent in school for a child at Yemin Orde. This is higher than the national average among the Jewish population in Israel.

- More than one-third hold academic degrees.

- About half of those students under age 30 continue to study.

- 69 percent participated

in volunteer activities.

- 88 percent of the graduates stated that they were interested in volunteering in the future.

- 94 percent of the males served in the army, with more than half as commanders or in combat units.

- 89 percent of the women served in the army or performed national service.

- 90 percent said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their lives.

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

Federation is making a difference locally and around the world

By **Richard Nassau**
Development Director



On Feb. 10 we'll be coming together to celebrate Shabbat as a community. Sponsored by Federation through your support, this evening at the Chabad Center allows us to join with friends and neighbors. It is an opportunity to connect with others and as a Jewish community.

It is a wonderful example that demonstrates and personally reminds me what it means and what it looks like to be part of a greater Jewish community.

Community Shabbat is just one of the programs and services that are fundamental to what we do as a Federation and as a community. Each one is a direct result of your

contributions to Federation. Thank you for giving of your time, resources, and talents.

Our community's 2016 Annual Campaign raised \$547,877.

Because of you, we increased the number of services offered by Federation, which increased the number of people receiving those services.

We held programs that empowered young people to learn more about their heritage, provided food for families, allowed the elderly to remain independent and made newcomers feel part of our community.

Our programs also recognized our place within the greater community, sponsoring presentations that addressed issues of hate and intolerance.

There are programs with results that are not as easy to see. We don't speak about it often, but there are

Federation programs that make a personal difference for each of us.

Federation has touched my life many times. I remember while still in elementary school relying on the help offered by Jewish Family Services to my family. Years later I had the opportunity to volunteer at a Federation funded program for disadvantaged youth.

There are many more examples. Someday in the future, I expect Jewish Family Service will help me remain independent, ensuring I stay connected to the greater Jewish community.

I hope to see all of you on Feb. 10 at our community Shabbat. It is an opportunity to stay connected and for our children to see and experience the greater Jewish community in Reading.

Please remember to register if you will be joining us for dinner, and

more importantly, to bring your family, neighbors, and friends.

The registration deadline is Feb. 1. Please contact the Federation office today if you'll be joining us.

Federation enriches lives. We do this for individuals, for our community, and for ourselves

As we move into 2017, if there are programs or services important to you or our community, please let us know. It might be something new or a different way to do things or some improvement on what we already do.

We welcome your contributions and ideas. It is how we as a Federation together with you grow and ensure we continue building a strong, vibrant Jewish community for everyone.

Federations touch more Jewish lives throughout the world than any other organization.

Jewish youth experiences supported by your Federation

It's that time of year when many students start longing for summer break, especially during these long, cold winter days. Is your child thinking of summer camp? Or maybe traveling to Israel? If so, don't forget about the Student Camp and Education Awards offered by the Jewish Federation of Reading!

Thanks to the community's campaign support and working with families, the Educational Committee of the Federation is proud to offer Jewish students residing in our Berks County

Jewish community monetary awards to help support their participation in programs that nurture Jewish identity, leadership and connections with their culture, history and Israel. Feb. 15 is the deadline for two of the Federation's summer awards, so don't wait to submit your scholarship application!

Jewish Summer Camp Award — \$250 per child: Funding is provided for Jewish overnight summer camp experiences for children ages 8-18. Jewish camp offers all the benefits of

other summer camps in addition to being enriched by Jewish values and the culture of Judaism in a safe and supportive setting. The program must be an overnight camp, and the camper must be enrolled for a minimum of four weeks (or three-week 2nd session). Deadline for application – Feb. 15 for summer 2017.

High School Israel Experience Award — up to \$250: Programs such as Ramah or NFTY in Israel are designed to provide students with a meaningful

and exciting experience. Students may apply for up to \$250 toward the cost of registration and travel. Deadline for application – Feb. 15 for summer 2017.

Scholarship applications can be found at www.readingjewishcommunity.org under the Education tab. If you have additional questions please contact William D. Franklin at 610-921-0624.

Interested in supporting students as they pursue academic study and explore their Jewish culture at camp and abroad? Please contact the Federation.

Try Kid Yoga with PJ Library

By **Amanda J. Hornberger**

Everyone could use a little stretching and quiet time as the winter drags on. Families are invited to bring their children through age 8 to the JCC on Sunday, Feb. 5, for kid yoga with PJ Library!

Anita Steele from Mindful Kids Yoga will be teaching a yoga class, just for kids, at 10 a.m. on Feb. 5. Wear comfy clothes and join us for a fun morning of stretching

and PJ Library story time.

All children are welcome! This event is free courtesy of PJ Library of Reading which is generously supported by the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund.

Please RSVP to Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 by Friday, Feb. 3. For additional information or any questions, please also contact Amanda.

Help Wanted:

Marketing and Social Media Coordinator

A part-time position (10-12 hours a week) for an energetic, independent worker.

Responsibilities include maintaining and updating Jewish Federation of Reading's social media accounts such as Facebook and Twitter and creating an active and engaged community on social media. Build community interest and involvement using social media channels by posting updates, engaging in conversations and discussions and increasing the number of followers.

Works with Program Director to promote upcoming events and community news. Supports Program Director with marketing materials including the creation of flyers and emails using Constant Contact (for weekly events, PJ Library, event reminders, community announcements, etc.).

Acts as a liaison between the Director of Development and administrative staff for database management programs Abila and Constant Contact, mailings and other ad-hoc projects as needed. Helps maintain office calendar and works to keep website up to date.

Ideal candidate will have experience with social media, databases and need limited supervision. Qualifications include strong writing skills, familiarity with social media, computer skills including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint), organization skills and ability to multitask. Graphic design skills a plus.

Interested candidates should email Bill Franklin at williamf@jfreeding.org

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the Shalom?**

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From the President's Desk

Working together to promote tolerance around us

By William D. Franklin
President

In the first two weeks of January, more than 40 Jewish community centers in 17 states were targets of bomb threats. Given the rise of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel actions,



the Federation has created a Jewish Community Relations Council. Chaired by Rob Oppenheimer, the committee of Lynn Driben, Debbie Goldberg and Margo Levin will focus on the needs of our Jewish community through the practice of community relations, social action and advocacy. They will be working to improve inter-

group understanding. This will include domestic issues, such as helping the impoverished and homeless and fighting hate crime. Another key effort will be promoting Israel advocacy in the interfaith and interethnic community.

But the rise in hate incidents is not limited to anti-Semitism. Sadly, our Hispanic, Afro-American and Muslim communities are also bearing the brunt of bias-motivated bullying, harassment and vandalism.

Supporting the recently formed Greater Reading Unity Coalition and the effort to provide anti-hate educational programs to our local schools, the JCRC recommended quarterly planning meetings with our three partners, Centro Hispano, the NAACP and the Islamic Center.

Regular Town Hall meetings for the community to discuss interfaith and inter-ethnic relations were also recommended. Martin Luther King Jr, once said that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." There is the need for us to work together to battle all injustices.

We will be developing programs for our religious school and high school students and their parents on how to respond to hate incidents and how to deal with anti-Semitism and anti-Israel incidents.

Is Israel locked in a tragic dispute between two peoples claiming the same land — or a global conflict between Western democracy and Islamist terrorism? Is partition into two states the only way to ensure Israel's survival — or is it the surest

path to ever-increasing bloodshed and possibly even endangering Israel's survival? On Tuesday, March 14, we are bringing Jonathan S. Tobin of *Commentary* magazine and J.J. Goldberg, editor-at-large of the *Forward*, for their program "Left vs. Right: The Battle for Israel's Soul".

Two other programs to put on your calendar are our Community Shabbat on Friday, Feb. 10 at the Chabad Center, and our March 4 Purim Party at Stokesay Castle. The Community Shabbat will be filled with song. In addition to our preschoolers singing, we will be featuring White Shabbos, a multi-instrumental group playing a mix of Jewish, bluegrass and country tunes.

See you then. . . .

Bill

Message from the Chair

Trio to take Reading audience on musical journey to Jerusalem

By Haia Mazuz
Federation Chair

Much is happening in the Jewish community of Reading/Berks County PA.

We have seen an infusion of people working on many committees,

invigorating our outreach to all Jews in the area. While we read of the woes of shrinking demographics of Federations all over North America, we are proud to boast of a vibrancy that belies those demographics. Younger, older — many have joined in the work. Details will be in the March issue of *Shalom*.



In the meantime — in March we will

once again see much musical diversity offered in Berks County- from Jazz Fest to Jewish chamber music.

Save the date for the following exciting musical offering.

**Legends of Jewish Music:
Hammel Music Fund Spring 2017
Concert**

**Chamber Music with the Atar Trio
Direct from Jerusalem
Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m.
At the WCR Center for the Arts
140 N. Fifth St., Reading**

The Atar Trio is a leading Israeli chamber ensemble known for its original and adventurous musical projects. Their Reading program will take audience members around the globe — from the sounds of Jerusalem in Dikla Baniel's piece (Israel), to Yitzhak Yedid's Suite for Arabic violin

(from the Arab world), to the fragile mystery in Bloch's nocturnes and the third movement of Shostakovich's second piano trio. The program concludes with Ofer Shelly, pianist of the Atar Trio, singing some of his own arrangements of traditional Israeli folk songs for baritone and piano trio.

The Atar Trio was established in 1996 in Jerusalem by graduates of the Rubin Music Academy. The ensemble, of pianist Ofer Shelley, violinist Tanya Beltser, and cellist Kristina Reiko Cooper, strives to spread the joy of chamber music through concerts and education.

As one of Israel's leading ensembles, Atar Trio is regularly invited to perform in chamber music series and festivals, to give master classes, and take part in programs in Israel,

Europe, and the US. Recent tours have taken them to Italy, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Germany. Atar have performed works of Judith Shatin, composer at University of Virginia, including View from Mt Nebo and Gregor's Dream (commissioned by the trio). <http://judithshatin.com/compositions/>

Learn more about the ensemble at www.atartrio.com/english/index-en.html

This concert is underwritten by the Arthur and Beatrice Hammel Jewish Music Series Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading. Admission is open to all and free. Suggested donations of \$10 may be made at the venue.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Meir Panim lights up lives of troubled children at Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a special time of year when families and friends unite for fun and food. But for Israel's 765,000 children who live in poverty, Hanukkah is just another day of hunger and yearning to experience a festive spirit.

That is where Meir Panim's TikvaHope Youth Clubs come into the picture.

Daniel Berkeley, manager of the TikvaHope Sderot Youth Department, said Hanukkah is a particularly special holiday when working with underprivileged teenagers. "Hanukkah is known as the holiday of lights," he said. "These kids from difficult homes need as much light in their lives as possible."

During Hanukkah festivities, TikvaHope, located in Israel's southern city of Sderot,

held a celebratory event with more than 50 neighborhood children. Activities included games, face painting, and making the traditional holiday food sufganiyot — donuts.

Participants built an outdoor menorah, which was placed in the youth center's garden. Additionally, teens involved with TikvaHope completed in the annual soccer tournament.

"We work at developing team spirit at TikvaHope," Berkeley said. "It is important to the future of these youth that they understand how to give and accept care, love, unity and trust."

Meir Panim and TikvaHope encourage those who receive to give as well. Therefore, as in previous years, TikvaHope youth went to the homes of elderly neighbors

to join them in lighting the menorah and bask in the lights of hope that the holiday represents.

Meir Panim is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign. The organization in Israel was established 16 years ago to provide immediate and long-term relief to impoverished people, young and old, via nutritious meal distribution and social service programs. Meir Panim,

which translates from the Hebrew as "lighting up faces," has a particular affinity for Hanukkah.

"The theme of Hanukkah is to light up the places where there is darkness," said Goldie Sternbuch, Director of Overseas Relations for Meir Panim. "That is what Meir Panim strives to achieve every day of the year. We light up the lives of people who live, both physically and spiritually, in darkness."

Powerful film a reminder to 'give while you live'

By Amanda J. Hornberger

An audience of 100 people gathered at Fox East on Jan. 18 to see "Rosenwald," a documentary based on the life of businessman and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald. The crowd loved the film, with many audience members saying it was the best film of the film series!

Partnering with the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum in Reading, Federation was able to give CPAAM more than \$400 in proceeds from the evening.

During the post-film discussion featuring Bill Franklin; Gary Miller, secretary of CPAAM; and Robert Jefferson, of the Reading Chapter of the NAACP, each man touched on how Rosenwald or JR's story impacted their thinking.

Mr. Jefferson stated, "JR had the heart to think of those less fortunate.

"Give while you live" was a motto used by Rosenwald. "Give my time to make this a better world," was the lesson Mr. Jefferson took from the film.

Mr. Miller mentioned the determination, humility and perseverance of Rosenwald as character traits to admire.

Federation president Bill Franklin reflected, "Anti-Semitism and racism still exist today and can work together. The story of JR is inspirational but we can all make individual difference."

Many community members expressed shock that they had never heard of the story of Julius Rosenwald and that it was not being taught in schools. At the end of the evening the crowd agreed that this was an inspirational documentary that motivated many community members to re-engage in working to improve the lives of others right where we live.

SHALOM

A newspaper serving the Jewish community of Reading, Pennsylvania, and published monthly, September through June, under the Jewish Federation of Reading. Funded by the Reading United Jewish Campaign.

General Offices: 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-921-0624 FAX: 610-929-0886
Web site: www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Jewish Federation of Reading

Chairman: Haia Mazuz
President: William D. Franklin
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor
Proofreaders: Federation staff
Member: American Jewish Press Association

The opinions expressed in Shalom are of the writers and not the Jewish Federation of Reading

Next deadline, Feb. 5

This year's Community Shabbat will have musical touch

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Have you RSVP'd for this year's Community Shabbat on Feb. 10? There's still time to join the fun. Call the Federation (610-921-0624) today to reserve your spot!

Joining us from Long Island, White Shabbos will be leading the community in a Community Shabbat service filled

with music! Self-described as a band with the melodic velocity of NOFX with the swagger of Johnny Cash, White Shabbos is based on the relentless optimism inspired by the teachings of Rebbe Nachman of Breslov.

And not wanting to leave all the musical fun to just the professionals, the students from the Lakin Preschool will

be singing three songs to conclude the Shabbat service.

Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County will serve as the host for this year's Community Shabbat. A kosher meal will be served at a cost of \$20 per person. Children 18 and under are free. All are welcome and if you need financial assistance to attend, please contact Sari

Inclendon at 610-921-0624.

We hope that another crowd of 200+ community members will attend this year's community Shabbat and share this special experience for community members of all ages!

For questions or additional information please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624.

JCHS students, seniors ponder issue of capital punishment

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading JCHS Director

Jewish Community High School Better Together students met with our Reading seniors Jan. 22 for discussion and study of capital punishment and the recent death sentence for Dylann Roof, who murdered nine people in a church in Charleston, S.C.

The study began by asking everyone to examine a list of the Ten Commandments and to select which was most important for a secure and stable society. We also considered the offenses for which the Bible was willing to ask for capital punishment.

The group then turned to a discussion of murder as one of those ancient offenses worthy of capital punishment in the course of history,

and addressed the case against Roof. Discussion included either side of the issue, in favor and opposed to the sentence passed on Roof.

We studied a Mishnah (Makkot) dealing with murder: "A Sanhedrin that puts a man to death once in seven years is called a murderous one. R. Eleazar ben Azariah says 'Or even once in 70 years.' R. Tarfon and R. Akiva said, 'If we had been in the Sanhedrin no death sentence would ever have been passed'; Rabban Simeon b. Gamaliel said: 'If so, they would have multiplied murderers in Israel.'"

While this attitude has been studied, it remains merely an academic discussion. The right of imposing capital punishment was taken from the Sanhedrin by the Romans and their

occupation of ancient Israel.

However, Talmudic study resulted in a Jewish tradition that in a modern application in Israel has continued to be implemented in laws opposed to capital punishment. Except for very unusual circumstances, such as the trial and execution of Adolf Eichmann in 1962, there is no capital punishment in Israel.

As American Jews we are subject to secular law. The group was surprised to learn that 32 states have capital punishment on the books, even if few have carried out executions in recent years.

All in all, a rewarding evening.

Rabbinic forum

Students were treated to a second Rabbinic Forum in which the rabbis

of Greater Reading graciously volunteered to act as a panel to discuss contemporary Jewish life. Rabbis Yosef Lipsker, Brian Michelson and Matt Abelson presented their perspective for the future for American Jews and then answered questions from the students.

Evan Cardinal, a senior in the JCHS, acted as moderator.

Course selection

Students are choosing classes for the third mini-mester. Selections include Reel Jews - Values in Jewish Media; American Jews in Civil Rights and Tikkun Olam; The Origins of Zionism with Rabbi Matt Abelson; Current Events; American Jewish History; How Prayer Encourages Ethical Choices.

Grab your colored pencils, BFF or sweetie and relax at JCC

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Interested in lowering stress and anxiety? Releasing negative thoughts and achieving mindfulness? Then join us for a night of adult

coloring and experience these benefits and more at this fun night out at the JCC!

We'll gather at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, for some fun pre-Valentine's

Day with free coloring with your BFF or sweetie. We will provide the coloring pages and colored pencils, but you are welcome to bring your own supplies as well. Brownies will

be provided as a snack, but it is BYOB.

RSVP to Amanda by Friday, Feb. 10, at amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624

Mini Chefs

Hey kids! Roll up your sleeves and get busy! Come experience the joy of Kosher cooking, baking, craft making, and game playing.

Kosher Culinary Club

Boys & Girls Age 6-12

Hamantaschen with lots of fillings. Games, crafts & refreshments.

Sunday, February 26 • 2:30 - 4:30 pm

At Chabad Lubavitch
2320 Hampden Blvd • Reading, PA 19604

Cost: \$8

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

Obituary

Anne P. Seltzer, 59 of Wyomissing Hills. Anne graduated from Albright College, where she received a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in psychology. She was the president of Easy Does it, Inc., a former Wyomissing School Board member and was active in Reform

Congregation Oheb Sholom. She was a longtime columnist for *Shalom*. She enjoyed being in her kitchen baking cookies for family and friends.

Anne is survived by her husband, Alan, and her three sons; Jonathan Glick and Benjamin and Matthew Seltzer.

ATTENTION ACTORS AND PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

The JFR/JCC is proud to produce a reading of the play "The Trial of Aaron" by Jesse Waldinger on April 22 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, directed by Vicki Haller Graff. We are looking for teen and adult actors (ages 15 - 115!) to play a variety of roles:

- Joshua, the Judge.
- Bailiff.
- Hur, the prosecutor. (Male.)
- Milcah, Aaron's attorney. (Young adult female.)
- Eldad, an elder, witness for the prosecution, expert on the Ten Commandments.
- Azubah, a gentle 18-year-old girl, intern in Milcah's office.
- Imnah, a Levite, witness for the prosecution, hostile to Moses and Aaron. (Male, 30.)
- Aaron, the defendant.
- Foreman (or forelady) of the jury

No experience or memorization necessary. Two or three rehearsals will be scheduled preceding the performance.

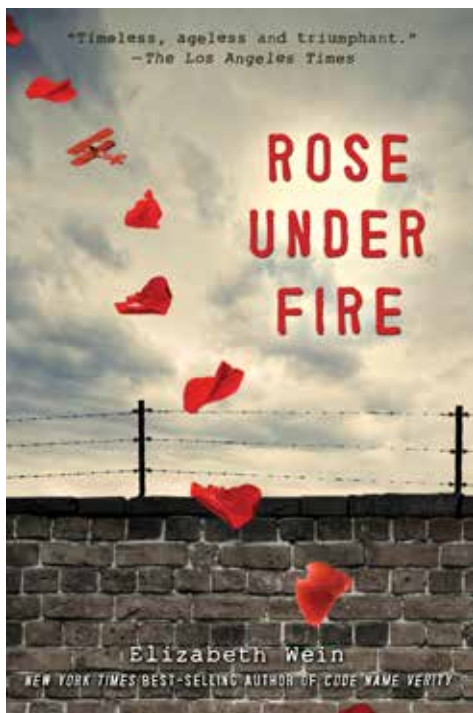
Questions? Interested? Please contact Vicki at vhgraff@gmail.com or 484-797-2156.

One Book, One Community: Our region reads

Communitywide reading, or “One Book,” programs are designed to promote the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community in a common conversation. One Book programs encourage dialogue about a particular book but also foster lifelong learning and the development of a strong community identity. Launched in Seattle in 1998 with great success, the “One Book” concept has swept the nation, including such cities as Chicago, New York, Detroit, Philadelphia and Houston.

This year, more than 80 public libraries in Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties, Harrisburg Area Community College libraries and a variety of new and returning community partners are collaborating to present our 14th title, “Rose Under Fire” by Elizabeth Wein. The unforgettable story of Rose Justice, a young pilot with the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War II, is forged from heart-wrenching courage, resolve, and the slim, bright chance of survival. Wein, author of the critically-acclaimed and bestselling “Code Name Verity,” has ties to central Pennsylvania.

Reading began Jan. 2 and will continue through April. Free book discussions and related events will be held at libraries throughout the winter and early spring. Events are continuously being added at



locations across our region. Visit www.oboc.org for a full listing of events.

About the book

“Rose Under Fire” is a must-read novel regardless of your genre preference! Rose Justice is an 18-year-old pilot who hails from Central Pennsylvania. She volunteers to serve in the Air Transport Auxiliary during World War II. In a brave attempt to ram a “flying bomb” midair, her plane crosses into

enemy territory. Rose is captured and sent to Ravensbrück, a concentration camp. She meets women with deeply tragic yet heroic stories struggling to survive at the camp. They band together and protect one another from their German captors. Elizabeth Wein does not shy away from the atrocities committed during the war as she tells an endearing story of friendship, loyalty and self-sacrifice.

The book is available in many formats through Berks County Public Libraries. Print copies are available at all library locations. Visit www.reading.overdrive.com to download the eBook with your library card.

Reading Theater Project

The Reading Theater Project is once again creating a piece inspired by Pennsylvania with an adaptation of “Rose Under Fire.” It will be written for the stage by RTP’s own Vicki Haller Graff, an accomplished playwright and librettist. The award-winning team includes Christopher David Roché, an accomplished actor/director, and will feature a cast of local professional actors bringing this riveting story to life.

RTP is a collective of professional performing artists who create and present new theater inspired by our community. RTP exists to give local performers an artistic home, including opportunities for

collaboration, development, showcasing, and personal growth. They strive to create art that stimulates the audience, bringing people together, and expressing the community in an artistic and positive light. For upcoming productions and to learn how to get involved with RTP, visit their website, www.readingtheaterproject.com.

RTP will perform at the following Berks locations:

- Mifflin Community Library, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Hamburg Public Library, Monday, Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Exeter Community Library, Thursday, March 9, 6 p.m.
- Wyomissing Public Library, Monday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Muhlenberg Community Library, Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Schuylkill Valley Community Library, Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Wernersville Public Library, Monday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.
- Village Library, Monday, April 17, 6 p.m.
- Jewish Federation of Reading, Monday, April 24 at 7 p.m. at The Highlands for Yom Hashoah.
- Fleetwood Area Public Library, Tuesday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.

For library locations, visit www.berks.lib.pa.us.

Lighthearted foodie documentary on tap for March in film series

By Amanda J. Hornberger

For more than 90 years, four generations and 1.8 million pounds of pickled herring, Russ & Daughters have provided quality food to people from around the world in their New York store.

Join us on March 1 as the Reading Jewish Film Series continues with “The Sturgeon Queens,” a documentary about the family behind the counter of Russ & Daughters. Meet 100-year-old Hattie Russ Gold and her sister Anne Russ Federman,

92, and hear their life stories of the Jewish immigrant experience: hard work, humor, romance and a little tsuris. The film traces four generations of Russ family history to learn the story of the famed lox and herring emporium on the Lower East Side.

“The Sturgeon Queens” will be shown on Wednesday, March 1, at 7 p.m. at FOX EAST, 4350 Perkiomen Ave., Exeter Township (next to Boscov’s East).

The 2017 Reading Jewish Film Series is co-sponsored by the Rubin Educational Fund

of the Jewish Federation of Reading and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$5 per film or \$30 for the series of eight films. All films will be shown on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at FOX EAST. Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the screening, and series tickets can be bought at the JCC. Cash and checks are accepted.

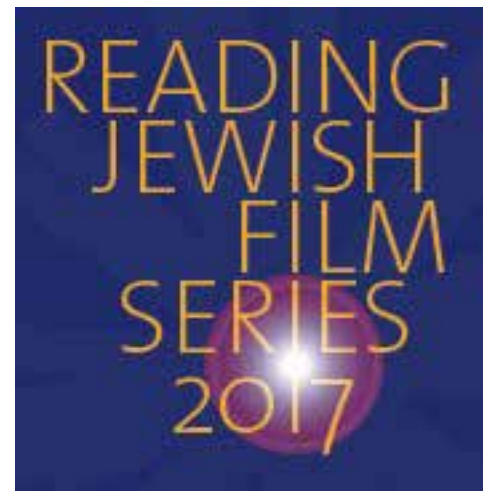
The 2017 Reading Jewish Film Series continues through the spring:

March 1 — “The Sturgeon Queens”

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

May 17 — “Apples from the Desert”

*Facilitated discussion to follow the film.



All Around the Town

Mazel tov to parents **Tracy Wilson and Alex Chabin**, grandmother **Susan Wilson**, and great grandmother **Mary Wexler** on the birth of Paisley Lauren.

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

Until next time: Shalom!

REFORM CONGREGATION
OHEB SHOLOM

04.01.17

THIS YEAR'S
RUTH & IRVIN BALIS AWARD
WILL BE PRESENTED TO

LYNN & JEFF DRIBEN

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017
COCKTAILS AT 6:00 PM
DINNER AT 7:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE

REFORM CONGREGATION
OHEB SHOLOM PRESENTS
*a NEW program on
a NEW date!*

ONEG SPEAKER SERIES

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017
We Finally Have A New President...Now What?
featuring Bernard Whitman. Bernard is a brand & political strategist with over 25 years experience advising some of the world’s most powerful leaders, companies, and organizations. He is a frequent television commentator with more than 500 media appearances on networks including CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, ABC, CNBC, and Fox Business. Bernard is the brother of student Cantor Harriet Dunkerley.

**SHABBAT SERVICE AT 7:00 PM
SPEAKER/ONEG AT 8:00 PM**

Mr. Whitman will present in the Social Hall during the oneg for about 45 minutes. The Speaker Series is for adults only. Babysitting is available for free for children ages 2-8 and tweens ages 9-13 with a reservation by calling the office by Friday, April 14th, 610 375-6034.

Appreciation is extended to Sisterhood for supporting the Speaker Series onegs.

2016 JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Jewish Federation of Reading

Enriching Jewish Life Because of You

Thank you for contributing to our 2016 Jewish Community Campaign

CAMPAIGN TOTAL: \$547,877

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**Indicates Deceased*

Jewish Cultural Center Members 2016

The JCC of Reading is an extension of Jewish life beyond school, the workplace and house of worship. It is the nucleus of our community and its heart. The JCC is where Jewish life is celebrated, a place where we embrace our Jewish connections. It is the hub of education and Jewish culture for people of all ages. It is where we can grow intellectually, spiritually, and socially. Combining tradition with fresh programming and activities, the JCC is about serving you, our members, and working together to meet the broader needs of our every-changing community. Consider the JCC your home.

Ellen and Donald Abramson	Sherry Faust and Louis Shucker	Herbert and Noel Karasin	James Rothstein and Sharon Scullin
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Creating Your Jewish Legacy

Thank you to the following donors whose generosity is providing for the future of our community. Their gifts, like those from previous generations that help sustain us now, will ensure a stable and vibrant Jewish future for our children and grandchildren.

Letter of Intent Signers

The following donors have made a commitment to leave a legacy gift to the Jewish community in their wills or estate plans.

Beth & Robert Caster	William D. Franklin
Hilde Gernsheimer	Radene Gordon-Beck
Vic Hammel	Edwin A. Lakin
Kenneth S. Lakin	Richard Nassau
Yvonne F. Oppenheimer	Gordon Perlmutter
Larry & Alison Rotenberg	Roger Schein
Jill D. Skaist	George P. Viener

Plus 4 donors who wish to remain anonymous

Permanent Endowment Funds

The following funds benefitting our Jewish community were established in 2016.

Jacob Krumholz Legacy Fund – supporting Jewish Family Service programs and services for seniors living in Berks County

Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund – supporting PJ Library program activities for young children and their families in Berks County

Bequests

The following donors of blessed memory provided for the Jewish community in their wills or estate plans.

Frances P. Gould
Maxine Henry
Trudy Katz
Sidney L. Symons

Interested in creating your own Jewish legacy?

For more information about Creating a Jewish Legacy call us at 610.921.0624 or email the Federation — richardn@jfreeding.org.

Jewish tradition teaches us that it is our responsibility to make the world a better place for future generations. Creating your own Jewish legacy ensures that you will be remembered and that your work and your values will continue when you are no longer here.

Creating a legacy allows you to permanently support the work of Jewish organizations and programs that are important to you.

Legacy planning can be a catalyst for heartfelt conversations, allowing you to meet the needs of your family and fulfill your philanthropic goals.

Making mandelbrot



January's monthly cooking class for women at Chabad featured mandelbrot. Next up is kreplach on Feb. 5.

A sweet Shabbat among friends



Shabbat B'yachad continues with bimonthly Shabbat dinners in the homes of local families. The goal is to help create personal connections among families raising Jewish children. Here the Woodward and Gurwitz children enjoy Shabbat dinner on Jan. 13 at the Woodward home, one of three houses hosting Shabbat B'yachad dinners.

Do you remember?

By Tootie Moyer

Hi "youngsters", here I am again. I made a list of things the "now generation" won't do, never think of doing or can't do.

1. Write their name instead of printing it.
2. Dial on a landline phone.
3. Use a library for reference
4. Look up a number in the phone book
5. Attend school if temperature is 80 degrees without an air conditioner
6. Wear galoshes
7. Go on a car trip and count out-of-state license plates instead of watching a DVD
8. Walk to school when there is 1

inch of snow

9. Add figures in their head instead of using a calculator

10. Sit at the dinner table without using a smart phone or an electronic game

11. Going to the mall just to buy something and not to hang out.

12. Read a newspaper — did you ever see one doing this? Of course not they get all the news on their phones.

Don't think I hate smartphones. I really think they are great, but aren't today's children too dependent on them?

Well "youngsters" I'll see you in a couple of months. I just love to write the word "youngsters," meaning you and me.

Cupcake bouquets at Chabad



Participants in the January edition of Chabad's Mini Chefs kids' cooking program focused on Tu B'shvat - New Year for Trees. They made cupcakes from scratch, then iced them as flowers which were placed in flower pots that the kids decorated with duct tape, resulting in a beautiful bouquet. The kids learned how important trees are for us as humans, for animals and for the environment too. The program continues Feb. 26 with a lesson in making hamantaschen. See Page 4

Congregational News

Lynn and Jeff Driben to be honored at RCOS volunteer dinner

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom invites the entire community to its celebration of volunteerism, the sixth annual Ruth & Irvin Balis Award Dinner. This year's event will be held Saturday, April 1, with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7.

This year's honorees are Lynn and Jeff Driben. They have offered their time and talents to both RCOS and the Jewish community-at-large since they moved to the area 17 years ago.

Lynn is chairperson of the Membership Committee and coordinates Opportunity House lunches involving Religious School students and congregants. For the past 12 years, she has managed Food Festival signs posted around the community. She also oversees the Yom Kippur Break the Fast. Jeff is chairperson of the RCOS Ritual Committee. He served two terms on the congregation's board of trustees and is a former chairperson of the Religious School committee. He serves as a lay leader for Shabbat and Shiva services.

"Over the years, Lynn and Jeff have contributed so much of themselves to our congregation that it is hard to think of any part of our synagogue that remains untouched from their thoughtful



participation," said Jacob Gurwitz, president of the congregation. "RCOS has been enriched by the Dribens' volunteerism, and it is only fitting that our congregation honor them with a special night."

The Dribens expressed gratitude for the honor.

"We feel honored to be recognized since there are so many deserving members in our community," Jeff said. "We are humbled to be presented this award. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who contribute to this wonderful event."

The couple moved to the area when Jeff took a position with an ENT medical practice in Wyomissing. "We became involved with the Jewish community from the start," Lynn said. "We joined the JCC, enrolled our then 2-year-old son, Brett, in the preschool, and began to establish ourselves and meet new friends."

"In addition to joining the JCC, we also joined the Temple soon after our arrival. Matthew was born a few months after we moved to Reading, and his was the first bris in the new Temple building (pews and carpeting had not yet been installed!). Jeff began to build his practice, and we decided that I would stay at home to raise our boys after working in marketing for about 10 years at AT&T and GE."

Jeff said he learned the importance of volunteerism from his parents: "My father was involved in leadership roles in our synagogue, Federation, and professional veterinary organizations. My mother was involved in our synagogue, including singing in the choir, being active in the Sisterhood, and participating in fundraising events for the synagogue and JCC. I recall each of them giving their time and money to many causes, but focusing on Jewish causes. They relayed to me that if Jews don't support Jewish causes, then how could we expect anybody else to do so?"

"This impacted me significantly. So,

I feel obliged as a Jew to help out in whatever way I can, even if it is in a limited role. When I see how much all of the other volunteers in our community contribute to the Temple, I am motivated to continue to try to do my part. At times, I feel guilty that I should be contributing more."

Lynn enjoys leading the Membership Committee which works to attract people to the congregation and to make members feel welcome. The congregation's work at Opportunity House is another passion of hers. She said it was inspired by a trip to Israel, during which her family volunteered at the Meir Panim Soup Kitchen, a program supported by the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Jeff said the volunteer activities most significant to him at RCOS are with the Ritual Committee, "involving our student cantor selection process, choosing music for holidays and Shabbat, and filling in as lay leader for Shabbat services, since I have a passion for music."

The Dribens plan to continue serving the community for a long time to come. Lynn noted, "The Temple is a significant part of my day to day. Jeff and I are here to stay, and we want to do our part to make our Jewish community active and meaningful."

The community is welcome to join in the celebration on April 1. The event is for adults only. Price per person is \$36. Your check is your reservation and can be mailed to RCOS, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing PA, 19610, by March 17. Those who need assistance with the ticket fee may contact Rabbi Brian Michelson at rabbi@ohebsholom.org or 610-374-6034. Please call the same number with any questions.

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

COMMUNITY SHABBAT ON FRIDAY, FEB. 10, 6 P.M., AT CHABAD

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034

Friday, Feb. 3: 6 p.m. Fridays, Feb. 17 and 24: 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.; Tu B'Shevat Seder, 4 p.m.

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881

Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763

Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

SERVICES HELD AT JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125, Wyomissing

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

Hadasah



WHEN? SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 26TH, 2017

WHERE? JCC - 1100 BERKSHIRE BLVD - WYOMISSING

TIME? 1:00PM - 3:30pm

WHAT? BAP (BRING A PRIZE) WINE & CHEESE BINGO

WANTED: ANYONE WHO WANTS TO HAVE SOME WINTER BLUES FUN. HAVE SOME WINE & CHEESE WHILE PLAYING BINGO WITH YOUR FRIENDS. ALL WE ASK IS THAT YOU BRING A GIFT WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$10.00. THESE ITEMS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AS GAME WINNING PRIZES SO PLEASE MAKE SURE THIS ITEM IS NEW - SOMETHING YOU MIGHT ENJOY WINNING.

THE ONLY OTHER REQUIREMENT IS A DESIRE TO HAVE FUN AND LAUGH! WE WILL SUPPLY THE REST. MEN ARE WELCOME AND NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

THINK YOU QUALIFY? HAVE QUESTIONS? WANT TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE? DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ANY ONE OF US.

Jan Simon - CHOIR2354@AOL.COM - 610.698.5029

Gaye Corbin - GAYECORBIN@YAHOO.COM - 610.207.8825

Susan Wilson - WEXLER718@HOTMAIL.COM - 610.301.2082



Wanted:

Good News!

Share your simchas with the community. Just call the Federation office or email Marknem@aol.com.

Introduce your child to the joy of Shabbat!

Tot Shabbat

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

Join us next time! Feb. 11th at 10 am

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



UPCOMING DATES:

March 25 at 10:00 am - Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands
April 22 & May 13

Festival celebrates man's partnership with God

By Rabbi Brian Michelson

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

I hate junk mail! Each and every day there is someone new asking for donations, offering a credit card, or pushing some item or service.

Each year 100 million trees are used to produce the paper for these mailings.

The energy and pollution to create, ship, and properly dispose of all this paper is equivalent to the output of 2.8 million cars.

Long before worrying about the environment became politically correct there was Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of the Trees. Tu B'Shevat falls on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat and marks the time when trees begin to drink in the rainfall of the New Year. It is a



celebration of spring's rebirth and renewal, an appreciation of our interconnectedness with nature, and the marker by which a tree's age is determined.

Tu B'Shevat has its roots in the Bible: "On the third day of creation, God created "seed-bearing plants, fruit trees after their kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it" (Genesis 1:11). God then put Adam in the garden to "till it and tend it" (2:15), making humans stewards of the earth. "Tu B'Shevat reminds us that no matter what happens, we all have to share this planet and care for it," said Russell F. Robinson, CEO of Jewish National Fund.

You might ask what can we really do to make a difference, and there are two simple answers to this question. First, take the time to plant a tree. You can plant a tree in Israel by supporting the Jewish National Fund (www.jnf.org).

org). However, just as important, you can cut down on your junk mail and protect trees by doing one or more of the following.

1) You can opt out of "pre-approved" credit card offers by visiting www.optoutprescreen.com or by calling 888-567-8688.

2) Contact the Direct Marketing Association Mail Preference Service. They can be found online at www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailing or by writing to them at DMA Mail Preference Service, PO Box 282, Carmel, NY 10512-0282. It costs one dollar to use this service, but it is good for five years of protection.

3) It can be difficult to get your name off lists sold by companies that compile lists culled from

public records, credit transactions, and warranty cards. You can find contact information at www.privacyrights.org/ar/infobrokers-optout.htm.

4) Finally, you can let someone else do all the legwork for you: 41 Pounds (www.41pounds.org) can do the work and reduce your junk mail by 80 to 95 percent for five years. The cost is \$41, but \$15 of each fee is donated to American Forests to plant trees all over the United States.

We were charged by God to care for this planet and Tu B'Shevat and a little bit of our time and effort can go a long way toward this obligation.

Have a great Tu B'Shevat and a junk mail-free future.

February ✨ Shevat - Adar



Shabbat Candle Lightings

February 3
5:07 p.m.

February 10
5:15 p.m.

February 17
5:24 p.m.

February 24
5:32 p.m.



Torah Portions

February 4/Shevat 8
Bo (Exodus 10:1 – 13:16)

February 11/Shevat 15
Beshalach (Exodus 13:17 – 17:16)

February 18/Shevat 22
Yitro (Exodus 18:1 – 20:23)

February 25/Shevat 29
Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1 – 24:18)

HADASSAH WANTS



YOU!

Connect with Us – Join Hadassah Today

Discover a place where your passions take root and thrive. Where personal growth has a ripple effect. Where compassion for others can transform a community. Where teamwork, learning and laughter meet. Hadassah—the place where lifelong friendships are made.

Put your Jewish values into action. Build a stronger Jewish community. Advocate for important women's issues. Support advanced medical care and research in Israel. Hadassah, *The Power of Women Who Do*. Join Hadassah's network of 330,000 members, Associates and supporters, connecting yourself to the greater Jewish community and Israel.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$36.00
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP: \$212.00

Make check payable to: Hadassah
Mail to: Gaye Corbin – 13 Ironstone Drive – Reading, PA 19606

Questions??? Contact us!

Jan Simon – CHOIR2354@AOL.COM – 610.698.5029

Gaye Corbin – GAYECORBIN@YAHOO.COM – 610.207.8825

Susan Wilson – WEXLER718@HOTMAIL.COM – 610.301.2082

Personal story, personal choice

By Vicky Sokoloff

I was diagnosed with breast cancer in December of 2010. As the shock wore off and the panic subsided, a treatment plan was formulated. While moving through a year of treatment I asked three different doctors if I should be tested for a genetic cause. I was concerned for my daughter, knowing that my late mother-in-law had also had breast cancer. That was about all I knew since her medical records were no longer available.

Each time I asked I was told that due to my age at onset, testing was not indicated. Fast-forward five years. My gynecologist retired, and I made my first trip to a new practice. Among the many papers I was given to fill out was one assessing cancer risks. And there on that list of people who should be tested for a genetic mutation: women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent with a personal history of breast cancer.

Oh no, I thought. Has my daughter been at risk without knowing because I went five years without being tested? That's when I learned that Ashkenazi Jews have a 10 times higher rate of mutations that increase the risk of breast and ovarian cancer in women. These mutations are in genes called BRCA1 and BRCA2 and also increase a man's risk of developing breast and prostate cancer. One in 40 Ashkenazi Jews carries a BRCA gene mutation, compared to one in 400 in the general population. Recent studies show that Sephardic Jews may also be genetically predisposed to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer.

Family history has long been

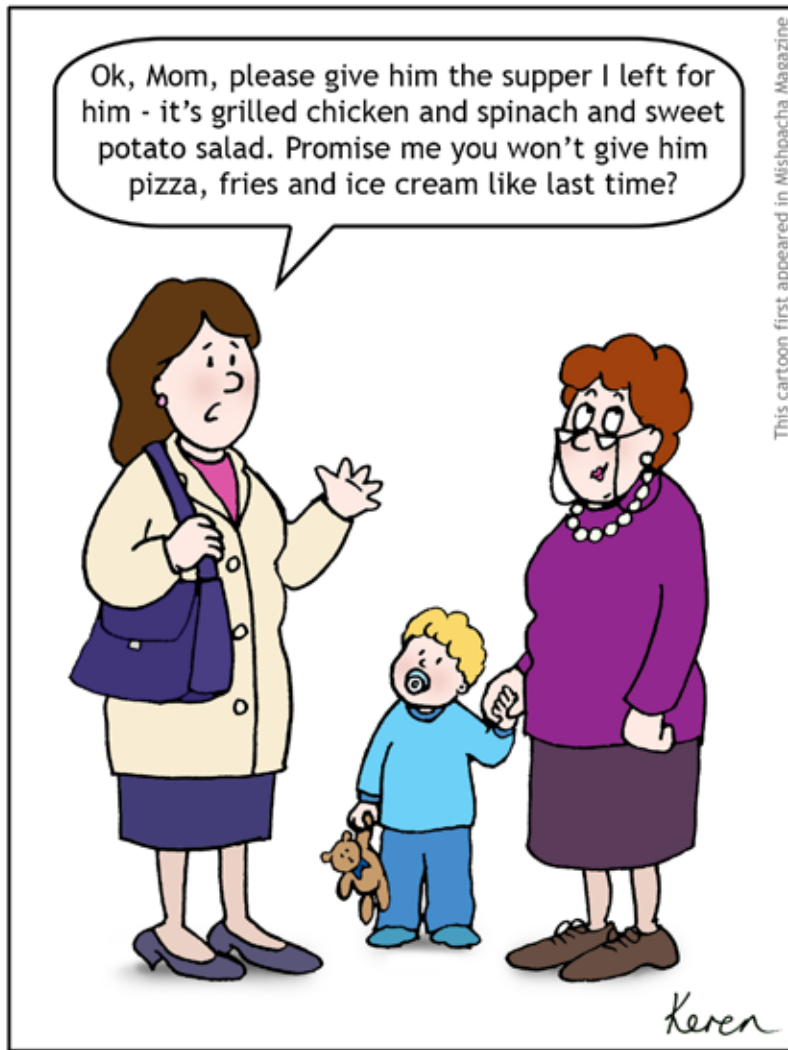
considered an indicator of the need for testing. But knowing your family history is not as easy as you might think. Smaller families, families with mostly male offspring, families with many members lost in the Holocaust, and secrecy about cancer, which was common until recently, all cloud the picture. The hereditary risk is in no way diminished if a person no longer identifies with the Jewish community.

So, how much do you know? How much should you know? How much do you actually want to know? We will all have different answers to these questions. Decisions are not clear-cut.

Cancer Genetics in the Jewish Family

Jewish Family Services of Reading is partnering with Breast Cancer Support Services of Berks County to offer a program aimed at helping members of our community make informed choices. 'Cancer Genetics in the Jewish Family' will be presented on Sunday, April 2, at 2 p.m. at the Jewish Cultural Center. The speaker will be Melissa K. Rosen, Director of National Outreach at Sharsheret.

The program is open to the public; reservations are requested. Look for more details in the next issue of *Shalom*. If you want to read more about my story and how JCC Bridge helped me through treatment, visit www.district4.info/player%27s%20milestones.htm and scroll down until you see my name. You can learn more about Sharsheret at www.sharsheret.org. Or visit the Breast Cancer Support Services website at www.bcssberks.org.



This cartoon first appeared in Mishpacha Magazine

Pitfalls of Bubbie babysitting

Time to eat the doughnuts



Chabad's young "Chefs in the kitchen" celebrated Chanukah by decorating donuts, doing holiday crafts and going on an oil hunt.

Sweet memories of Anne Seltzer

The following is a tribute to Anne Seltzer, longtime *Shalom* columnist and beloved member of the community, who passed away in December.

By Jodi Spiegel

Anne made the best cookies. One of her recipes is so especially dear to my heart that it lives on my refrigerator. She called them "kitchen sink chocolate cookies," but I renamed them "best cookies ever." Anne published this recipe in her column at a turning point in my life when my youngest child was diagnosed with an egg allergy. Being someone who loves baking from scratch, having to abandon all of my favorite recipes for egg free ones was no easy task. I had tried various egg substitutes in my tried and true recipes with unsuccessful results. Shortly after the allergy diagnosis, I opened up that issue of *Shalom* and to my delight, there was an egg-free cookie recipe. I promptly cut out the recipe and made them that week. They were good. So good that I ate half of them in one sitting. After we realized my son had a nut allergy as well, I began substituting marshmallows for the nuts and omitting the raisins. My kids love these cookies. For parents with kids who have food allergies, finding food that everyone can have is such a blessing.

I have told Anne on numerous occasions how grateful I am to her for that recipe which has been a godsend. Even though my son outgrew his egg allergy, this is still my go-to cookie recipe.

Here is Anne's recipe with my modifications in parentheses:

Kitchen Sink Chocolate Cookies (Best Cookies Ever)

- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup canola oil
- 1T ground flaxseed (I omit)
- 1/3 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup all purpose flour



- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup oats
- 1/2 cup raisins (I omit)
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peanuts (I substitute mini marshmallows)

In a large bowl beat together the sugar, oil, and flaxseed (if using) and applesauce for about 2 minutes. Mix in vanilla. Sift in flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt and mix well. Fold in oats, chips, raisins (if using) and peanuts (marshmallows) and mix well. Drop heaping tablespoons onto parchment lined baking sheets about 2 inches apart. Pat tops down with your fingers a little. Bake at 350 degrees for about 10-12 minutes until bottoms appear a few shades darker. Do not over-bake. Let cool on sheets for 5 minutes then transfer to a cooking rack.

There are many things I will miss about Anne — she was kind, genuine, compassionate and FUN. I always enjoyed her company and reading her column here in *Shalom*. May her memory forever be a blessing.

THE FACTS: VETERANS BENEFITS

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Jewish Family Service

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Summer literature programs for teens, college students

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

Several years ago I had the good fortune to attend a three-day educational program at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass. The Book Center and its program so impressed me that I have kept up a yearly membership and enjoy following the activities and programs. The Yiddish Book Center was founded in 1980 by Aaron Lansky (then a 24-year-old graduate student of Yiddish Literature and now the center's president).

Lansky realized that untold numbers of irreplaceable Yiddish books were being discarded by American-born Jews unable to read the language of their parents and grandparents. He organized a network of volunteer book collectors (zamlers) and launched a campaign to save the world's remaining Yiddish books. From these initial efforts an award-winning educational institution was founded.

In 1997, the center moved to the architecturally distinctive Harry and Jeanette Weinberg building,



designed to recall a shtetl in Eastern Europe. It is set on a 10-acre apple orchard at the edge of the campus of Hampshire College. The center has language, literature and cultural programs year-round, and I highly recommend a visit there.

I want to highlight two summer programs for high school and college students interested in exploring modern Jewish history, literature and culture.

1. Great Jewish Books Summer Program for rising high school juniors and seniors.

- Session 1 – July 23 - 28
- Session 2 – July 30 - Aug. 4,

Students read selections from important works of modern Jewish literature and consider how they speak to the challenges we face today. Great Jewish Books is a lively program full of social, cultural and recreational opportunities for students who love to read.

Every admitted participant receives a scholarship for the full cost of tuition, room, board, book and special events.

Application deadline is March 27.

2. Steiner Summer Yiddish Program for college students is a seven-week program in which students take Yiddish language and culture classes and work on Yiddish

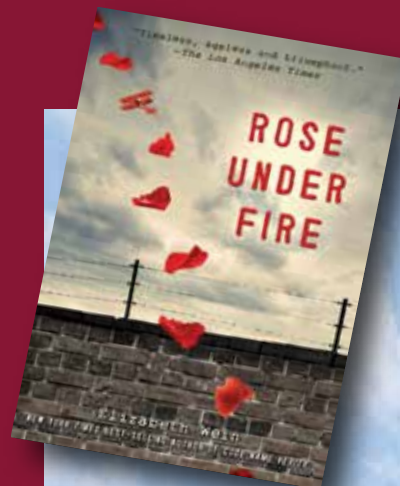
Book Center projects. The program covers tuition, required textbooks and the cost of activities. Students pay the cost of housing, which is about \$1,400. (Limited need-based subsidies are available). The application deadline is Feb. 6.

Visit the Yiddish Center's website to learn of other programs. July 13-16 is Yidstock, the Festival of New Yiddish Music, which has brought the best in Klezmer and new Yiddish music along with workshops, talks and other events.

Are you reading?

2017 One Book, One Community

Our Region Reads



Rose Under Fire is a must read novel regardless of your genre preference! While flying an Allied fighter plane from Paris to England, American ATA pilot and amateur poet, Rose Justice, is captured by the Nazis and sent to Ravensbruck, the notorious women's concentration camp. Trapped in horrific circumstances, Rose finds hope in the impossible through the loyalty, bravery and friendship of her fellow prisoners. But will that be enough to endure the fate that's in store for her?

In 2017 more than eighty public libraries in Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York counties, along with five Harrisburg Area Community College libraries present the 14th annual title.

Community-wide reading or "One Book" programs are designed to promote the value of reading by recommending a compelling book linking the community in common conversation, while fostering lifelong learning.

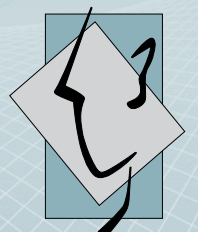
Special events are continuously added to locations across our region. Visit www.oboc.org for a full listing.

2017

Programs run January through April

The book is available in many formats through Berks County Public Libraries. Visit www.reading.overdrive.com to download the eBook with your library card.

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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 Jan. 20

Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In honor of:
Judy Schwank being selected the 2017 Agriculture newsmaker of the year
 – Rosalye Yashek

In memory of:
Bob Kauffman's sister – Rosalye Yashek

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:
Birth of Lois and Roger Rothman's grandson – Andy and Corinne Wernick
Al Diamond's special birthday – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Selma Cutler

In memory of:
Aaron Messing – Virginia Messing
Anne Seltzer – Jim and Jackye Barrer, Edith Mendelsohn, Andy and Corinne Wernick, Dr. Jess and Robin Drezner
Richard Robinson (Mike Robinson's father) – Jim and Jackye Barrer, Marcia and George Eligman

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:
Bar Mitzvah of Henry and Helene Singer's twin grandsons, Eli and Zach Singer – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

In memory of:
Eva Bartos – Hilde Gernsheimer, Cheryl and Eric Farber
Anne Seltzer – Hilde Gernsheimer, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Gayle

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

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

and Mike Kastenbaum, Bob, Judy and Susan Pollack
Bob Kauffman's sister – Hilde Gernsheimer

Doris Levin Memorial Fund

In memory of:
Richard Robinson – Doris and Elliott Leisawitz

PJ Library

In memory of:
Sue Viener – Haia & Meir Mazuz
Anne Seltzer – Dena and Vic Hammel

Friendship Circle Fund

In honor of:
Birth of Judy and Jim Schwank's granddaughter – Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Andrew Robinson's engagement – Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Erica Hafetz's marriage – Glenn and Gaye Corbin

In memory of:
Richard Robinson (Mike Robinson's father) – Jennie Saft and family, Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Eva Bartos – Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Morris and Lillian Abramson – Don and Ellen Abramson and family

Former Holocaust Resource Center director making impact in Virginia

Jennifer Goss, former director of the Holocaust Resource Center at Albright College, has continued her work educating teenagers about the reality of genocides since moving to Virginia to teach social studies there.

Goss was the subject of a feature story in *The News-Standard* of Staunton, Va.

She told the newspaper that her difficult work gives her optimism, because teaching future generations about these atrocities will make them more aware and better participants in their communities.

Goss told the newspaper how her interest in the subject began when she was

young and was furthered by the opportunity to study the subject in school and hear Elie Wiesel speak.

In addition to her work at the Holocaust center here, she was a social studies teacher at Fleetwood High School and was instrumental in the making of the Holocaust documentary "Misa's Fugue," which was produced by students at the school.

According to the newspaper, Goss took the new job in Virginia four years ago on condition that she have the chance to create and teach a class on the Holocaust and genocide studies. The course has proved popular with students.

Goss is also a facilitator for the Anti-Defamation League's "Echoes and Reflections" Holocaust curriculum and conducts trainings nationwide. She is a member of the Regional Education Corps for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Most recently, Goss and her students have been working a national project through the Holocaust Museum called "History Unfolded," which tasks teachers with delving into the archives of local newspapers to see how much about the Holocaust was known here in the United States and at the local community level.

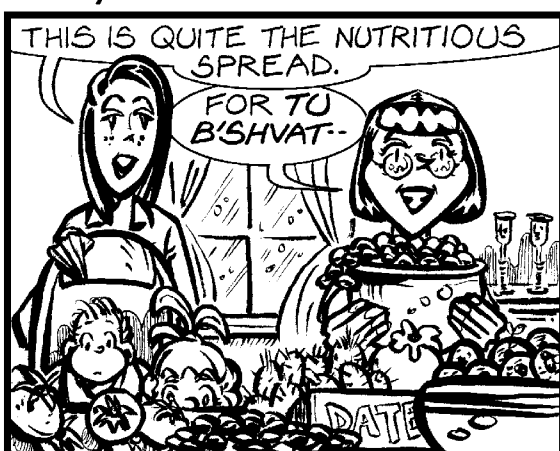
The museum even sent a film crew to Staunton to feature Goss and her students.

Goss told *The News-Leader* that she has one main goal, and that's to make those around her more engaged.

"It's a great lesson on civic and individual responsibility," Goss said, adding that there are many misconceptions about how the Holocaust came about in Germany, namely that while Adolf Hitler was not directly elected, he was put in place through democratic process and there was a failure to act by too many. "I want to teach my students to have a voice in your community. It's the biggest impact you can have."

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



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WE CELEBRATE THIS HOLIDAY TO USHER IN A SEASON OVERFLOWING WITH FRUIT.

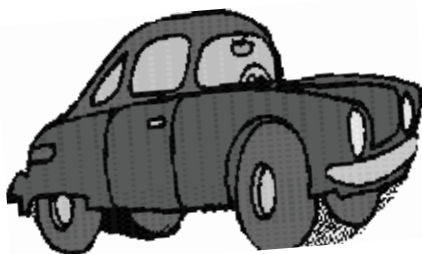


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Good News Israel: Spotlight



A special place for Arab-Israeli kids with disabilities

Israel21c.com

When her son was diagnosed with autism 13 years ago, "Hadijah" felt terribly alone. The stigma attached to children with disabilities in her Arab village in central Israel led Hadijah to withdraw into a world of herself and her son. That changed only after she met Amal abu Moch, a social worker at the Family Advancement Center of the Beit Issie Shapiro Sindian Center in Kalansua, a 22,000-population Arab city in the "Triangle" district of central Israel.

Moch introduced Hadijah to other Arab parents of children with disabilities and guided her in better understanding her son's needs and legal rights. "Now I feel I have the tools to help my son and family," said Hadijah, who was able to find employment once she found the appropriate care framework for her son.

The Beit Issie Shapiro (BIS) Sindian Center was founded in 2001 as Israel's first early-intervention center for the Arab sector, at the behest of the Israeli government.

Headquartered in Ra'anana, BIS has pioneered a variety of programs onsite and offsite to ensure equal rights and integration for Israelis with disabilities.

"We believe children are children, and that's why from day one at our Ra'anana Center of Excellence we've always serviced children from all sectors of Israeli society, from Orthodox Jewish to secular to Arab," says global resource development director Benjy Maor.

However, the programs are in Hebrew and run according to the Jewish calendar. To enhance therapeutic effectiveness and cultural sensitivity, the BIS leadership was eager to fulfill the government's request to start a program for Arabic-speaking families, led by Arab-Israeli personnel.

Sindian ("oak" in Arabic) currently serves 42 children with severe disabilities, ages six months to four years. Statistics suggest some 4,000 children in the southern Triangle have disabilities – some that aren't seen in typical Israeli communities because religious Muslims (as well as ultra-Orthodox Jews) generally avoid genetic testing.

In 2007, BIS opened the Family Advancement Center at Sindian to support and encourage hundreds of parents like Hadijah. "A lot of people felt nobody would come to Sindian because of the stigma toward people with disabilities in the Arab sector," Maor tells ISRAEL21c. "We believe we have to promote inclusion along with our services to make society better for everybody, so we worked hard to promote a change in attitude and to empower parents in the entire region, as well as strengthen the capacity of professionals."

The center also runs a hotline advising Arabic-speakers about the rights of the people with disabilities and how to access them; and a leadership program in the Kalansua high school to promote social-action projects.



During a visit from then-U.S. Ambassador to Israel Dan Shapiro last October, Kalansua Mayor Salameh Abed Albacete announced his intention to donate land for a permanent home for the Sindian Center, which now operates in a rented facility. A Jewish father from Ra'anana and an Arab mother from Kalansua told Shapiro how they met through the Family Advancement Center. The ambassador was shown stories written in their respective languages by Jewish and Arab speech therapists for kids

with disabilities, and spoke with area youth who did social-action projects such as promoting inclusivity in local businesses. "As much as [this program is] about first and foremost the families and the children and the rights of those people, it has become something else; it has become something that has brought parts of the society together who didn't know each other and felt distance and distrust and fear, and have found common language on what is the most important thing in the world — their children," said Shapiro.

Dip of nations: Israel's national dish has impact around the world

By Joan Nathan

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Americans traveling abroad often came back with the taste of garlicky hummus on their breath. The mixture of chickpeas and sesame seed paste was delicious, it was exotic, and later, with the advent of the food processor, it was easy to prepare. Today hummus is marketed around the world, but in the early 1970s the only ones selling hummus in the United States were Middle Eastern ethnic stores.

When I was recently in Israel, I met with Yehuda Litani, a former correspondent for *Haaretz* and the co-author of "Not on Hummus Alone," an Israeli best-seller about hummus' culture and history. (The book is not available in English.) Litani told me that at Jerusalem's renowned Hadassah hospital, "the psychology

department recommends that people eat hummus to calm the nerves twice a week." In 2005, 75 tons of chickpeas were stolen from Kibbutz Einat, and this hummus heist became news.

After years of hummus-making I have concluded that despite the temptation to use canned chickpeas, the flavor is much better when it is made with the tiny Turkish, Bulgarian, or Israeli dried chickpeas found in Middle Eastern stores. First I soak a large quantity overnight, cook some, and then drain and freeze the rest in two-cup batches in plastic bags. Whenever I need them, I just take them out of the freezer. When substituting canned beans, figure 1 cup of raw chickpeas equals 2 cups of cooked or canned.

Hummus

1 cup dried chickpeas 1 cup tahina

1 preserved lemon
 1/4 cup lemon juice, or to taste, including
 2 cloves garlic, or to taste
 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin, or to taste
 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
 2 tablespoons pine nuts
 Dash of paprika or sumac
 2 tbsps chopped fresh parsley or cilantro
 1 tsp. salt Pepper to taste
 1. Put the raw chickpeas in a bowl with cold water to cover and soak overnight.
 2. Drain and rinse the chickpeas, then place them in a heavy pot with enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil, skim off the scum that accumulates, then simmer, partially covered, for about an hour or until the chickpeas are soft and the skin begins to separate, adding more water if needed.
 3. Drain the chickpeas, reserving about 1 1/2 cups of the cooking liquid. Set aside 1/4 cup of the cooked chickpeas for garnish. In

a food processor fitted with a steel blade, process the remaining chickpeas with the tahina, preserved lemon, lemon juice, garlic, salt, pepper, cumin, and at least 1/2 cup of the reserved cooking liquid. If the hummus is too thick, add more reserved cooking liquid or water until you have a paste-like consistency.

4. Heat a frying pan and add 1 tablespoon of the olive oil. Spread the pine nuts in the pan and stir-fry, browning on all sides.

5. To serve, transfer the hummus to a large, flat plate, and with the back of a spoon make a slight depression in the center. Drizzle the remaining olive oil and sprinkle the reserved chickpeas, pine nuts, paprika or sumac, and parsley or cilantro over the surface.

Serve with cut-up raw vegetables and warm pita cut into wedges.

Research and treatment center for child abuse opens in Jerusalem

The first-global center combining research and treatment of child abuse opened recently at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at Mount Scopus.

The Haruv Children's Campus brings together, in one location, a comprehensive array of services for abused and neglected children, including emergency treatment, therapeutic facilities and child advocacy assistance. It houses seven organizations working on all aspects of identifying, diagnosing and treating children, allowing for unprecedented levels of cooperation and coordination. It is also home to a world-class research center and training services for a wide range of professionals.

The campus provides a holistic, child-centered approach to treating, studying and addressing the global issue of child abuse and creates new opportunities for groundbreaking collaboration between institutes and organizations in Israel and

around the world. Partnering with the new campus are Hebrew University and the Hadassah Medical Center.

"Child abuse and neglect occurs in all sectors of society and has a destructive impact on growth and development," said Professor Asher Ben-Arieh, director of the Haruv Institute. "We are striving to create the first-ever comprehensive research and treatment center for maltreated children. The campus will attract top researchers, professionals and students from Israel and abroad, creating opportunities to affect real change for at-risk children."

According to the World Health Organization, every fourth child worldwide is a victim of child abuse. Within Israel, about 400,000 youth are considered at-risk for child abuse. In 2015, there were an estimated 44,000 new cases of child abuse reported. The problem is so acute that child services workers routinely deal

with unmanageable levels of caseloads.

Leading the innovative Haruv initiative is the Haruv Institute, with the support of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, JDC-Israel, the Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs, the National Insurance Institute and the Jerusalem Municipality Welfare Services.

"Ever since its founding in 2007, Haruv has served as a beacon of hope and a source of strength for victims of child abuse and their families. It has been a forceful advocate for those least able to defend themselves, and it has trained thousands of professionals responsible for preventing and treating abuse and neglect," said Lynn Schusterman, Founder and Co-Chair of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

"The opening of the Haruv Children's Campus ushers in the next phase of this critically important mission and is

a striking example of how Haruv has grown to become an international center of excellence in its field."

Throughout the campus, calming elements have been introduced, such as water, pastoral greenery and play areas created from natural materials. The interior spaces have colorful playrooms, work areas that provide privacy, and a school and kindergarten at the emergency center.

"The opening of the Haruv Campus for Children in Jerusalem is not just a major step in the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect in Israel and beyond. It champions a holistic approach ensuring critical players in this field can learn from and inform each other's success, something we understand full well from our own work in Israel," added David Schizer, CEO of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).