

# SHALOM

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**2015 totals as of April 16**

**Jewish Community Campaign \$199,540**

**\*Includes transfers from Donor Advised Funds**

## 'Beneath the Helmet: Special screening and conversation with former IDF soldier

By Amanda J. Hornberger

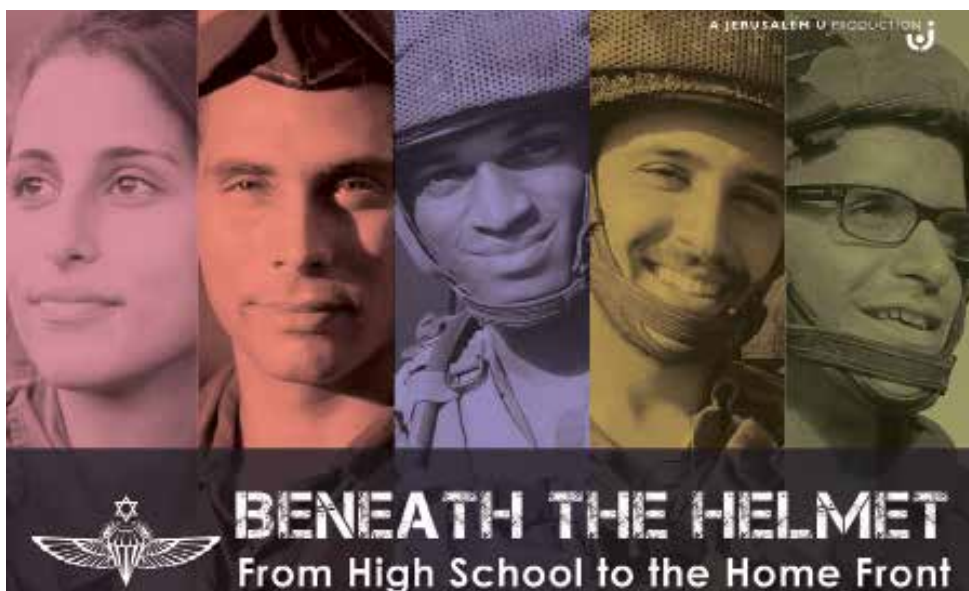
Most American 18-year-olds are focused on graduating high school and hanging out with their friends. The same is true for Israeli teenagers, with the exception being that most are also headed for their obligatory service in the Israeli army after high school.



Mika Fox

The film "Beneath the Helmet" is a coming-of-age story that follows the journey of five Israeli high school graduates who are drafted into the army. Thanks to the support of Fox Theatres, Jewish Federation of Reading is proud to host a free screening of "Beneath the Helmet" on Thursday, May 14, at 7 p.m. at Fox Berkshire, 800 Berkshire Boulevard, Wyomissing. Please note the change in date from what was announced previously.

In addition to the screening, we are honored to have Mika Fox, a former Reading resident who served in the IDF from 2012-2014, on



hand to talk about her army experience.

"After that (trip to Poland), I wanted to join the army. It strengthened my connection with how I felt toward Israel. It made me feel like I wanted to give back somehow," Fox said. To hear Mika's firsthand account after the screening will add another dimension to the film's story. "I'm proud of my army service and what I've taught my soldiers over this past year and a half. While I would never wish for

war, I'm grateful that I got to experience how my work influences the soldiers defending Israel and the country unifies during the time of conflict."

The screening is free, but seating is limited. We kindly ask for advanced reservations at 610-921-0624 or [amandah@jfreeding.org](mailto:amandah@jfreeding.org). Visit the Federation's website or [www.beneaththehelmet.com](http://www.beneaththehelmet.com) to view a trailer and learn more about the film.

## Everyone's invited to Family Fun Day Annual Meeting

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Who said an annual meeting has to be a boring affair? This year's annual meeting will be held at a park and everyone is invited! The business portion will be brief so we can focus on the fun!

Please join us on Sunday, June 14, for the Federation's Annual Meeting and family fun day! Join us for fellowship and time together as a community. We'll be at the Wyomissing Hills Playground from 12-5 pm. Everyone is invited to FREE swimming at the Wyomissing

Hills Pool (right across the street from the playground). We'll also have lots of FREE food, fun, games and activities for the whole family!

Look for more specific details in the coming weeks. Hope to see everyone there!

## Yemin Orde graduate soars thanks to program

When Ukraine resident Sasha Rosenbaum was 16, her country was in upheaval, her father had died three years earlier and her mother was having a hard time making ends meet. Rosenbaum's parents had been divorced — her father Jewish, her mother not.

While exploring her Jewish identity, Rosenbaum attended a summer camp where she met a girl who had recently immigrated to Israel. "She was full of light and sunshine ... she was so happy and so different from everyone around me and had this freedom about her," Rosenbaum says. That's when she decided to make aliyah. After she convinced her mother that it was a good idea, Rosenbaum made aliyah at 16. "I got lucky because I went to Yemin Orde," she says.

Yemin Orde Youth Village, atop Mount Carmel in northern Israel, was founded in 1953 after the Holocaust to take in the wave of children coming to Israel without their families, according to Jackie Louk, regional director of Western States Friends of Yemin Orde.

Today, Yemin Orde houses about 400 teenagers ages 15-18, most of whom have suffered trauma in their lives. At Yemin Orde, the teenagers find a home, a family and a future. This year, the village has children from France, the former Soviet Union,

Ethiopia and Brazil, who are learning Hebrew and attending high school. The program is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign.

Rosenbaum, now 31 and living in Chicago and working as a software engineer and consultant, spoke recently at Temple Solel in Paradise Valley, Ariz., to illustrate the success of Yemin Orde graduates. Solel has a five-year relationship with Yemin Orde. During congregational trips to Israel, participants visit the village and deliver money and supplies collected from the congregation.

For Rosenbaum, Yemin Orde gave her a sense of security and connection. "The feeling of community and feeling of belonging is very strong," she said. When Rosenbaum graduated from the village, she deferred her army service and went to Technion — Israel Institute of Technology, majoring in biology. About a year later, she realized she disliked her major and wanted to switch to computer science. Since she didn't want to get stuck studying something she had no interest in, she quit school, and her scholarship and housing were discontinued. So without a place to live, she turned to Yemin Orde's "Home Away From



Sascha Rosenbaum with Rabbi John Linder of Temple Solel.

Home" program for Yemin Orde graduates who need a place to stay. "Otherwise, I would have gone in the street," she says. "I was 19."

After that, Rosenbaum completed her army service, then returned to Technion and completed her degree in computer science. "I feel very empowered in my life, and Yemin Orde has played a big role in getting me to feel this way," she says.

# Thank you

By **Richard Nassau**  
Development Director

Last year, because of your support for Federation's 2014 Annual Jewish Community Campaign, Jewish Family Services (JFS) was able to make a huge impact on families in need. In fact, because of your help we were able to provide and distribute 60,000 pounds of food last year. That is an amazing number and only one way your contribution made a real



difference in people's lives.

But the generosity of our community is not just about amazing numbers. It is about providing for the most vulnerable among us. It is about the values that we as a community recognize and embrace — such as the belief that no one should ever go hungry. If you were to visit the JFS Food Pantry, you would see firsthand how your help impacts so many people. It is our obligation and our honor to provide sustenance to the mother who never expected to see her children go hungry. When someone in the community says, "I am hungry, my child is hungry,"

we say, "Come, we have food."

Our 2015 Annual Jewish Community Campaign is now underway. Your gift, large or small, helps sustain many programs, including feeding the hungry here in Reading as well as in Israel. It may help feed a family with children, an elderly widower, an adult with a critical illness. Every dollar counts.

Every grocery bag filled with food is a reflection of our strength as a Jewish community and our concern for each person or family receiving it through our food pantry. To some, a bag of food is something we may take for

granted. But many do not.

Whether you count bag by bag, pound by pound or dollar by dollar, you can make a critical improvement in the lives of our community. Given with consciousness or even with love, your contribution is always meaningful.

For more information about the JFS Food Pantry and how you can support our 2015 Annual Campaign, please contact me at richardn@jfsreading.org or 610-921-0624.

Thank you again for what you have already given. And thank you in advance for the gift you give today.

## Students take part in summer programs with help from Federation

Several local Jewish students are recipients of Student Camp and Education Awards, a Federation program that provides monetary awards to help support their participation in programs that nurture Jewish identity:

The following will attend Camp Harlam in Kunkletown, Pa.

**Chase Weizer**, a ninth-grade student, **Easton Weizer**, a seventh-grader, and **Aspen Weizer**, a fourth-grader. Chase, Easton and Aspen are children of Drs. Ilene

& Jeffrey Weizer and attend schools in the Blue Mountain School District.

**Molly Nemirow**, a sixth-grade student at Reiffon School, Exeter Township. She is a daughter of Mark and Geri Nemirow.

**Eliana Alweis**, a fifth-grade student at Montessori Country Day School. She is a



Aspen Weizer



Chase Weizer



Easton Weizer



Molly Nemirow



Eliana Alweis

daughter of Richard and Julie Alweis.

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For more information on Student

Camp and Education Awards, visit [www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org](http://www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org) or contact Bill Franklin at 610-921-0624.

## Meir Panim providing meals for Israel's many hungry children

The 2012 National Insurance Institute's report on poverty statistics in Israel revealed there are more than 756,900 children living below the poverty line; about 25 percent of them go to sleep hungry at least a few times per month.

Children who are constantly hungry cannot focus on their schoolwork, and their academic performance suffers. They leave for school with empty stomachs and go to bed hungry. Additionally, the lack of basic nutrition during the critical early years of life causes irreversible, lifelong health problems. Without intervention, these children, an integral part of Israel's future, are at risk for a life of continued poverty, substance abuse, or crime.

Meir Panim's Meals for Children Program supplies hot, nourishing



meals to poverty-stricken children, ages 5-11, enrolled in kindergartens, elementary schools and after-school programs throughout Israel. The meals are supplied for a token \$1 per meal, and those that cannot afford even this small sum receive the meals for free. Thus, these children are guaranteed at least one nutritious meal a day to safeguard their continued health and advancement. Meir Panim's meals are offered to entire classes,

rather than individual students, so as not to single out and embarrass a disadvantaged child.

Meir Panim is supported by local dollars contributed to the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign.

Teachers have reported that students who were previously irritable, easily distracted and even violent have become significantly more attentive and composed during classes since taking part in the program. The meals also serve to remove a major source of tension in the classroom as poorer children are no longer going hungry while others eat their lunch.

In 2014, Meals for Children supplied 100,800 nutritious lunches over the course of the 160-day school year, feeding 630 hungry children in Israel every day. Every Meir Panim children's meal includes one serving of protein (meat), carbohydrate, vegetables and fruit. The meals are individually wrapped and delivered daily via Meir Panim's refrigerated trucks and vans.

Another important aspect of Meir Panim's food services is its network of free restaurants in distressed cities throughout Israel. The free restaurants are Meir Panim's idea of soup kitchens. They are designed to look like restaurants which provide quality food in an exclusive

dining setting to those in need. The purpose of this setting is to maintain Meir Panim's firm commitment to preserve the utmost respect and dignity of its patrons.

The free restaurants are designed to have the look and feel of a restaurant, with tasteful decor and ambiance. Daily menus are designed by a nutritionist to include all of the main food categories and vitamins that are vital for proper nutrition, which needy individuals can ill-afford. Diners also have the option of taking home packaged food to eat in the privacy of their own homes.

The meals are served by volunteers who provide more than just a hot, nutritious meal - they offer a warm smile, a sympathetic ear, and a helping hand to our patrons.

The atmosphere at the Meir Panim free restaurants is relaxed and warm. Over time, camaraderie develops and the restaurants become a "second home" for many of the patrons. Troubled diners open up to the caring volunteers who are always ready to listen, encourage, and assist in any way possible.

Meir Panim operates these soup kitchens in six cities throughout Israel: Haifa, Tiberias, Tsfat, Jerusalem, Or Akiva, and Dimona serving about 1,220 meals day or 300,000 meals per year

## Michael Fromm elected to JCPA Board of Directors

Mazel Tov to Michael Fromm for being elected to serve as Reading's community representative on the Jewish Council on Public Affairs' (JCPA) Board of Directors.

For more than 70 years, the JCPA has served American Jewry and Israel by identifying issues, formulating policy, developing strategies and programs, and communicating a strongly united Jewish communal voice. It is dedicated to: safeguarding the rights of Jews here and around the world; the security of the state of Israel; and preserving and promoting a just American society that furthers harmonious interreligious, inter ethnic interracial and other intergroup relations.

"Michael's election comes at an important time for us and will serve our community well in ensuring timely, comprehensive two-way communications on the significant issues we face," said Bill Franklin, president of the Jewish Federation of



Reading. "Given the insecurity around the world and especially in the Middle East; the complicated and destructive campaign to delegitimize Israel; the plight of the poor; the continuing assaults on our environment; and the stalemate on so many issues locally and nationally, show that these are the times when Michael's to JCPA's leadership is important."

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From the President's Desk

# We are one people

By William D. Franklin  
President

Last month I attended a lecture at Franklin and Marshall on David Ben Gurion given by Dr. Ilan S. Troen, Brandeis University's Stoll Professor of Israel Studies, and learned the following wonderful story:

In 1954, when Ben Gurion was Prime Minister, he traveled to the U.S. to meet with President Eisenhower to request his assistance and support in the early and difficult days of the State of Israel.

John Foster Dulles, who was then secretary of state, confronted Ben Gurion and challenged him as follows:

"Tell me, Mr. Prime Minister — who do you and your state represent? Does it represent the Jews of Poland, perhaps Yemen, Romania, Morocco, Iraq, Russia



or perhaps Brazil? After 2,000 years of exile can you honestly speak about a single nation, a single culture? Can you speak about a single heritage or perhaps a single Jewish tradition?"

Ben Gurion answered him as follows: "Look, Mr. Secretary of State — approximately 300 years ago the Mayflower set sail from England and on it were the first settlers who settled in what would become the largest democratic superpower known as the United States of America. Now, do me a favor — go out into the streets and find 10 American children and ask them the following:

"What was the name of the Captain of the Mayflower? How long did the voyage take?"

"What did the people who were on the ship eat? What were the conditions of sailing during the voyage?"

"I'm sure you would agree with me that there is a good chance that you won't get a good answer to these questions.

"Now in contrast — not 300 but more than 3,000 years ago, the Jews left the land of Egypt.

"I would kindly request from you Mr. Secretary that on one of your trips around the world, try and meet 10 Jewish children in different countries. And ask them:

"What was the name of the leader who took the Jews out of Egypt? How long did it take them before they got to the land of Israel? What did they eat during the period when they were wandering in the desert? And what happened to the sea when they encountered it?"

"Once you get the answers to these questions, please carefully reconsider the question that you have just asked me!"

We remain "Am Echad- Lev Echad" — "One People-One Heart." Whether you agree or disagree with Prime Minister Netanyahu or President Obama, we are one people. Whether

you are Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist or unaffiliated — we are one people. Whether you live in Exeter, Wyomissing or Reading — we are one people and one community.

It is why we tell the story at Passover, teach the lessons of Yom Hashoah and Yom Hazikaron and celebrate Yom Haztmaut. It is why we care for each other and why the Reading Jewish community continues to support the needy here in Reading, in Israel and throughout the world, such as currently in Ukraine.

To maintain our "oneness" is why the Federation continues to support Jewish education and camps and engage the community in Jewish programs and activities. It is why we must work to ensure that future generations continue to know our and their story and why your help and thoughts, of how best to accomplish this, are so important.

Thank you.

# The essential Israel at 67

By Larry Rotenberg  
Chairman

We are approaching the 67th birthday of modern Israel. And what a happy occasion it is.

The State of Israel officially came into being on May 15, 1948. But because that day was Shabbat, David Ben-Gurion, the father of the Jewish Nation, read the Declaration of Independence on the afternoon of Friday, May 14 (The occasion was observed April 23 on this year's Jewish calendar).

Why do I remember such details? Because my Bar Mitzvah took place on Shabbat, May 15, in what then was called the Great Synagogue of Copenhagen, Denmark. Yes, that same place which was so tragically in the news recently.

I can remember all of us listening with both fear and thrill, as the small



Yishuv battled, and was victorious over the armies of all the surrounding Arab countries.

And so, three years after the greatest calamity suffered by the Jewish people; was followed by the greatest miracle in 2,000 years.

Israel went on to greater and greater achievements, becoming a powerhouse of industry, invention, technology, and military strength

But one thing always rankled me when my non-Jewish friends spoke about the Jewish State. And here I am talking about educated, sophisticated professionals. What was even more annoying, was that these same friends were familiar with my zealous Zionism. So I could only imagine what they would say, when I was not there.

And the essence of their assertion was this: if only Israel did not exist, then the Middle East would peaceful and quiet, and essentially that all the Jews should just pack up and move to

California or New York.

Well, there are not many things in the Middle East that have improved since I heard that argument. But one thing that has changed is the acknowledgement, by all, that far from being the problem in the region, Israel has become much more of the solution.

In spite of all the attempts to isolate and to delegitimize the Jewish State, Israel has become the anchor of stability, not only for itself, but also for the surrounding Arab countries. Just a few, and by no means all inclusive examples:

■ Israel is the only country in which Arabs have elected a significant number of Knesset members, in spite of spewing venom against the country which has allowed them this freedom.

■ Israel and Egypt constantly cooperate to keep Hamas in Ghaza in check.

■ Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia constantly coordinate intelligence and strategy against ISIS.

■ While the Israeli Prime Minister had plenty of criticism about his recent Washington appearance, he earned praise, for goodness sake, from the press in the United Arab Emirates.

■ Essentially, an alliance has been formed between Israel, and all the Sunni States, against any possible aggression from Shiite Iran.

So as we approach Israel's birthday, we have much to be thankful for. I can't imagine a world without the Jewish State. And hopefully future generations will be in the same position. "Am Israel Chai" — the people of Israel are alive and well.

When it comes to the US-Israel relationship, in spite of the glitches here and there, Israel remains the strongest pro-American fortress in a flaming and unpredictable region. The American military aid to Israel is some of the best US currency spent. Not a single American soldier has had to die for Israel, while thousands have died in Iraq and Afghanistan, for a very dubious return.

# What does the BDS movement want?

By Ronald Hendel

There has been a lot of rancor recently at the University of California at Berkeley about the practices and politics of Students for Justice in Palestine. This group organizes anti-Israel demonstrations and events on campus, including the February distribution of fake eviction notices to students in campus dorms.

One matter that is ambiguous is the specific goal of this group. In a recent op-ed in the campus newspaper the *Daily Cal*, two members of SJP stated: "Cal SJP will continue to vocally support the Palestinian call for boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it respects Palestinians' human rights."

Since everyone at Berkeley

supports human rights, this goal seems unobjectionable. But what is the actual content of those rights? This is a matter the SJP usually obfuscates in its campus campaigns.

The national organization is more forthright. At its annual meeting in 2011, the SJP adopted several "Points of Unity." The first point is: "Students for Justice

in Palestine ... is committed to ending Israel's occupation and colonization of all Arab lands." By "all Arab lands," the SJP means Israel within its pre-1967 borders as well as the territories occupied in 1967. This is explicit in other manifestos, including the "Statement of Guiding Principles" on the SJP Berkeley

*Continued on Page 4*

## It's Simcha Supplement time

If you had or are having a bar/bat mitzvah or graduation (high school or higher) in your family this Jewish year, share the good news with the community. Please submit a few sentences about the person and their accomplishment, along with a photo.

Text and photos can be sent to [Marknem@aol.com](mailto:Marknem@aol.com) or to the Federation office.

**DEADLINE IS HERE.**

**PLEASE SUBMIT MATERIAL IMMEDIATELY TO BE ASSURED PUBLICATION IN JUNE.**

## SHALOM

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*June issue is last edition before summer break*

# BDS movement

*Continued from Page 3*

website. The first principle is “an end to colonial systems of governance in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel.” The national BDS website states similarly that “population transfer, apartheid and colonialism are prohibited and constitute internationally wrongful acts which render unlawful Israel’s entire legal and political regime.”

The core principles of the SJP and the BDS movement therefore call for an end to the State of Israel. Accordingly, both are opposed to a two-state solution, in which Israel and Palestine live peacefully side by side. One of the writers of the *Daily Cal* op-ed, Kumars Salehi, makes this explicit in a recent article about BDS in the *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*. He writes that the BDS movement “provide[s] an alternative analysis to the segregationist paradigm of ‘two states for two people.’” According to him and other BDS spokespeople — including U.C. Berkeley professor Judith Butler — the goal is a binational state of Palestine, which will take the place of Israel. This means that the SJP and BDS oppose the official position of the U.S., Israel, the Palestinian Authority, the Arab League and the European Union, which all call for a peaceful two-state solution.

People of goodwill can argue intelligently about the merits of these

proposals. Whether a binational state — or even a “post-national” state — in Israel and Palestine is a desirable and practical solution can be questioned. But the point is to know what one is arguing about, what the goals are of a particular movement. Without this knowledge, one is simply a passive sheep responding to manipulative rhetoric. As Noam Chomsky, who is critical of the BDS movement, counsels, “Those who are sincerely dedicated to the Palestinian cause should avoid illusion and myth, and think carefully about the tactics they choose and the course they follow.”

People should advocate political positions with which they agree. This means becoming informed about the goals of various platforms and parties. I would urge students at Berkeley — and everyone else — to become informed about these issues. Then make up your mind about what positions you truly support and which ones you oppose. Don’t be swayed by angry rhetoric on either side of an emotional issue. As Immanuel Kant urged us all (quoting Horace), Sapere aude, “Dare to know.”

*Ronald Hendel is the Norma and Sam Dabby professor of Hebrew Bible and Jewish Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at U.C. Berkeley.*

## *Kids from the Bronx: Dinner and conversation at Chef Alan’s*

“Just Kids From the Bronx”

Arlene Alda in Conversation with Regis Philbin and Alan Alda

**Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m.**

*Chef Alan’s American Bistro,  
525 Penn Avenue, West Reading*

Buffet dinner, \$15 per person

Join your friends for drinks, dinner and conversation at Chef Alan’s for this special yapped presentation of the 92nd Street Y. After socializing and dinner watch Just Kids from the Bronx before finishing up with dessert!

What was it like to grow up in the place that has bred influencers in just about every field of endeavor today? The Bronx is where Al Pacino, Carl Reiner, General Colin Powell and so many other leading artists, athletes, scientists and entrepreneurs spent their formative years. Three of Bronx’s favorite sons and daughters get together to reflect on stories from Arlene Alda’s new book, “Just Kids from the Bronx,” and to share memories of where it all began. Join them for an indelible portrait of the Bronx and America from back in the day to modern times.

*Please RSVP by May 8 to 610-921-0624.*

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for the elderly
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to discover their Jewish heritage

The above programs—run by our overseas partner JDC—  
are just a few examples of what your dollars can do.

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# Spiegelman explores world of 'Maus' and beyond at lecture

By Mark Nemirow

Pulitzer Prize-winning artist and author Art Spiegelman offered a packed Albright College auditorium a fascinating journey through the history of comic books and his own life and work during the 35th annual Leo Camp Memorial Lecture April 21.

Spiegelman's lecture was illustrated with many examples of his work and that of other artists who influenced him.

Spiegelman's talk was wide-ranging, but at the center of it all was his most famous work, "Maus," which used cats and mice to tell his own family's story of Holocaust survival.

"Maus," which won him the Pulitzer in 1992, was an enormously influential work that paved the way for other artists to use the medium of comics to tell serious stories that are accepted by adult readers.

Spiegelman went into great detail about the power of comics and how simple drawings accompanied by short bursts of words can get into readers' heads like no other medium. He described how comic book pages are carefully constructed to achieve certain effects.

"Everything I know, I learned from comic books," he said, discussing his longtime fascination with the medium and the many influences on his work, everything from familiar classics such as "Little Orphan Annie" to MAD magazine and the horror comics that caused tremendous controversy in post-World War II America.

In an enormously informative, occasionally outrageous and often funny talk and multimedia presentation, Spiegelman looked back on his life and varied career, from working on such products as "Wacky Packages" and "Garbage Pail Kids" trading cards to his more serious, and often controversial, work illustrating covers for magazines such as *The New Yorker*.

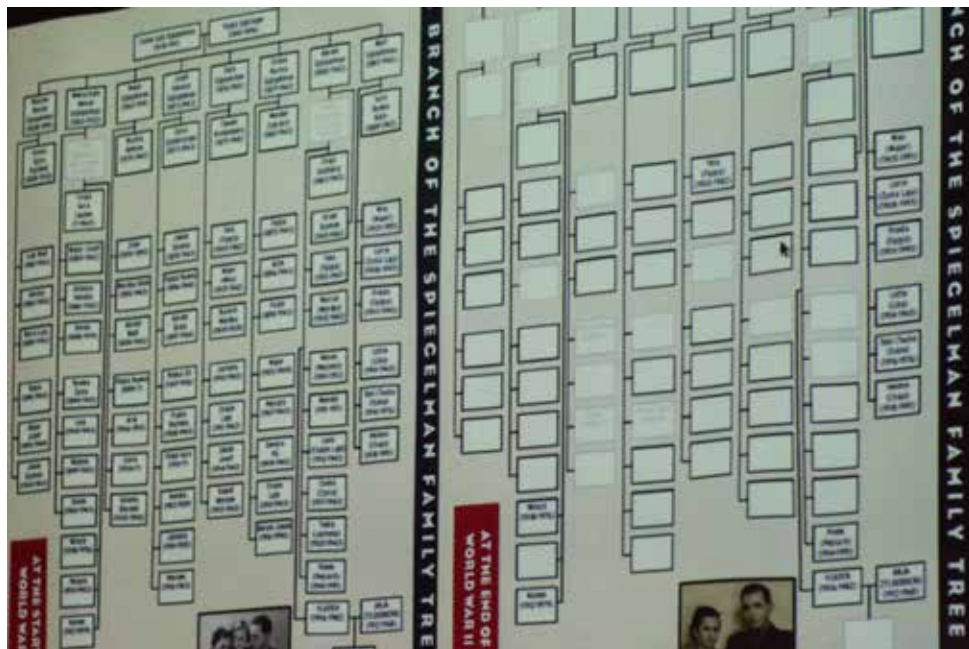
He also explained how the success and impact of "Maus" have followed him throughout his life since then.

Spiegelman described how he developed the idea for the story in the early 1970s, a time, he said, when the Holocaust was not a topic widely addressed in popular culture. That made it an interesting subject for him to explore. He worked on the project throughout the 1980s, publishing it in serial form in a magazine that he and his wife started.

The heart of the story is based on interviews Spiegelman did with his own father, a Holocaust survivor, about his experiences during that period. During one particularly moving part of his lecture, he played an excerpt from one of those interviews while displaying a



Art Spiegelman explains a clip from "Maus" during the Leo Camp Lecture. Photos courtesy of Dr. John Pankratz, Albright College.



Art Spiegelman's family tree before the Holocaust, left, and after.



David Camp

cartoon that used his father's words almost verbatim.

Spiegelman's ability to convey the experiences of Jews during the Holocaust through a new medium had an enormous impact, said David Camp, who delivered the introduction for Spiegelman at the lecture.

David is a son of Leo Camp, a

Holocaust survivor who went on to become a widely respected businessman and community leader. The annual lecture at Albright was established in his honor by the Jewish Federation of Reading.

David Camp said "Maus" meant a great deal to him for the way it reflected his own father's experiences, and for the

way it revolutionized an art form.

The event also featured remarks from Albright President Dr. Lex McMillan, who noted the continued excellent relationship between the college and the local Jewish community, particularly the Federation, as evidenced by the Camp lecture and the Lakin Holocaust Resource Center on campus.

# Renowned artist to headline Jewish festival in Pottstown

World-renowned artist Mordechai Rosenstein will showcase his unique art during a scholar-in-residence program at Congregation Hessed Shel Emet in Pottstown, May 28-31, and his residency will be the centerpiece of the congregation's first Jewish Heritage Festival on Sunday, May 31.

"We are so excited to present the Jewish Heritage Festival," says congregation president, Amy Wolf. "We are at a turning point in our own 125-year history. We wanted to do something 'big' and invite the community at large to help us celebrate and learn about us. Congregation Hessed Shel Emet is a vibrant and exciting group."

Other festival events will include Reading Theater Project's musical comedy production, "From the Borsht

Belt to Broadway," Israeli style dancers, Klezmer music by Klezmer with Class, wine tasting, Judaica vendors, childrens' activities, and much more, including delicious ethnic foods to enjoy at the event and take home.

Presentations and activities will be open to the public and aside from food and other purchases, there is no charge.

A highly acclaimed artist born and raised on Philadelphia's Main Line, Rosenstein was a member of Akiba Hebrew Academy's first graduating class. Later, while a student at the Philadelphia College of Art, he was deeply influenced by abstract expressionists such as Van Gogh and Matisse, and he also became fascinated by Hebrew calligraphy. Over time, Rosenstein developed his own unique style to reflect his three major

areas of interest: painting, Judaica, and the beauty of each letter of the alphabet.

The public is invited to experience Rosenstein's art at several events, beginning with a 1½-hour class, "Art for All Ages," Thursday evening, May 28, at 7:30 pm. This class will explore the Hebrew alphabet as art.

Sabbath services will be held May 29 at 7:30 pm. Following services, all are invited to attend an informal 45-minute presentation by Rosenstein. He will share his art and some surprising stories of who owns some of his pieces.

The public is also invited to an Artist's Reception following Havdalah services May 30. During this two-hour event, Rosenstein will share a powerful slide show and stories about artwork he has created, and answer questions. Those

who attend will have the first opportunity to browse Rosenstein's work and reserve pieces they would like to purchase.

Rosenstein will continue with his painting the day of the festival, and his work will be available for viewing and purchase. All events are free of charge, but a \$10 donation is suggested for the Thursday evening class. Congregation Hessed Shel Emet is located at 575 N. Keim Street in Pottstown.

For updates and specific times for the Jewish Heritage Festival and Mordechai Rosenstein's visit, check the congregation website ([www.hessedshemet.org](http://www.hessedshemet.org)) or the Jewish Heritage Festival page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/jewishheritagefestival?pnref=story>), or call the synagogue office at 610-326-1717.

# Congregational News

## Shavuot offers powerful lessons that still resonate today

By Rabbi Brian Michelson

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

At the end of May we will celebrate the third of the major festivals, Shavuot. We are accustomed to translating Shavuot as the Feast of Weeks, since it falls seven weeks and one day after the first day



of Passover. However, in the Torah, Shavuot is known by two additional names:

1. "Chag Ha-Katzir" ("The Harvest Festival"), because it came at the time of year when the work of harvesting the year's produce was beginning; and
2. "Yom Ha-Bikkurim" ("The Day of First Fruits"), because it was the occasion on which the first yields of the major crops were set aside to be brought to the Temple and presented to the priests.

The Shavuot season actually begins on the second day of Passover,

with the offering at the Temple of a token amount of the early barley harvest and the launching of the seven week count (Sefirat HaOmer). Seven weeks later, when many more crops were ready for harvest, the farmer's obligation to offer the first fruits took effect. This ritual was clearly meant to be a timely reminder that we are neither outright owners of our land nor as self-sufficient as we think. Yes, we may be blessed with some control over the means of production, and we may work long, hard hours to produce the income that we enjoy. It was precisely at the time when a person's mastery of his or her destiny loomed large, that the ancient Israelite was asked to make a journey to give up the first of the year's produce. Most important, the gift was accompanied by an acknowledgment: "My father was a fugitive Aramean...he went down to Egypt...the Egyptians dealt harshly with us...The Lord freed us from Egypt... I now bring the first fruits of the soil which You, O Lord,

have given me" (Deuteronomy 26:5-10). The land is a gift, its ability to produce life and sustenance is a gift, and our own freedom, strength and intelligence are gifts. This needs to be acknowledged. This is an ancient model for all time.

In Leviticus 23, in the middle of presenting the ritual requirements for Shavuot, the Torah added the following: "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap all the way to the edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and the stranger: I am the Lord your God." Most of the traditional commentators were puzzled by this verse, which seemed redundant — Leviticus 19 had already given this command — and out of place in an enumeration of ritual observances.

An astute and far-reaching solution to this puzzle was offered by Nahmanides (Moses ben Nahman - 13th century). He noted the rituals of this festival included those relating to

the produce of the land. The concern of the Torah, said Nahmanides, was that one might conclude that since the ritual obligations had been fulfilled, no further obligations applied. Therefore, the seeming redundancy reminds us that though we may feel virtuous having acknowledged God's gifts personally, our obligation is incomplete. The corner of the field and the gleanings must still be left for those in need.

Judaism is concerned that human nature will cause those of us who are well off to say "My own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me" (Deuteronomy 8:17). The rituals of Shavuot are meant to remind the beneficiaries of the blessings of affluence to acknowledge the true source of those gifts. More than that: Shavuot reminds to be good stewards of the resources with which we have been entrusted. We do this by never forgetting God's less fortunate children, and by using our resources to lift them up. This is "the kind of festival that God has chosen" (Isaiah 58:6-8).

### Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom presents "The Cantor's Tisch"



"The Cantor's Tisch" is a two-part Shabbat afternoon program and Se'udah Shlishit or "third meal". We will sing songs around the table and learn about the liturgy of Shabbat afternoon and what it can teach us about the nature and meaning of the day of rest. The class will take place in two parts.



Saturday May 16 at 5:00 pm

Cafe' Pirkei Avot

Drawing Jewish ethics from the well of Shabbat

Part 2: We will turn our attention to Pirkei Avot: a compendium of Jewish ethics which is traditionally studied during the "third meal" of Shabbat from Passover to Rosh Hashannah. We will study these chapters and focus on the ways that we can bring their wisdom with us from Shabbat and the synagogue into the week and our daily lives. Adding some musical settings of Pirkei Avot, which have become staples of Jewish camp song sessions to our table songs, we will again nosh, sing, and conclude our Shabbat with havdallah.

Join Student Cantor Jordan Shaner and Rabbi Michelson as we sing, study, and savor the final hour of Shabbat together.

### LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763

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

Friday Evening Service – Please call for service information

Babysitting available upon request with one week's notice

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034

Friday, May 1: 6 p.m. Fridays, May 8, 22 and 29: 7:45 p.m.

Friday, May 15: New Member Shabbat, 7 p.m. Saturday, May 16: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 16: Easton Weizer Bar Mitzvah, 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 30: Talia Spillerman Bat Mitzvah, 4 p.m.

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881

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

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

## Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Rachel Schwartz

All classes at noon at Keshar Zion Synagogue

**KZ Lunchtime Schmooze in May**

**May 5** — Judaism says \_\_\_\_\_ about love.

**May 12** — Judaism says \_\_\_\_\_ about conforming

**May 19** — Judaism says \_\_\_\_\_ about revelation

**All are welcome to join.**

Please RSVP at [kzsecretary@entermail.net](mailto:kzsecretary@entermail.net)

or call 610-374-1763

B"H

Chabad Lubavitch  
Kosher Cooking Class for Ladies!

# Traditional Foods

WITH A MODERN TWIST

## CLASS #6: The Art of Cheesecake Making

Join us for our delicious cheesecake bake-off  
as we celebrate the final cooking class of the year.

Take home different styles of cheesecakes with an array of toppings

**SUNDAY, MAY 17 • 6:30 PM**

At Chabad Lubavitch  
2320 Hampden Blvd



**COST: \$12**

RSVP is a must by May 12. 610-334-1577 or [lipskerreading@aol.com](mailto:lipskerreading@aol.com)



**SHAVUOT**  
with Chabad of Berks County

Bring your family & friends to hear  
**THE 10 COMMANDMENTS**  
Enjoy an **ICE CREAM PARTY & DAIRY BUFFET!**

**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 24, 2015**  
**5:30 PM**

Chabad Lubavitch  
2320 Hampden Blvd, Reading

*Reading of the Torah  
followed by an Ice Cream party  
and Dairy Buffet.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**  
For more information visit us at [l-chaim.org](http://l-chaim.org)



**Musical Shabbat**

The show must go on! Despite snowy conditions, more than 80 people came to the Musical Shabbat March 20 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Fellow congregants joined together in song as flutist Pam Charendoff, clarinetist Neil Hoffman, and young violinist Eliana Alweis performed. Cantoral student Jordan Shaner led the unique musical service. After the beautiful service all were welcomed to a festive oneg. Fragrant fresh flowers adorned each table as members enjoyed an array of edible delicacies including trays of fruit, cheeses, and dips. Scrumptious desserts from Sweet Street were appreciated by all. Another Musical Shabbat is planned for this fall!

**Shavuot at Kesher Zion**

Study and Pray on **Saturday, May 23**, at 7:30 p.m.  
Morning services at 9:30 a.m. on **Sunday, May 24**, and **Monday, May 25**, including Yizkor on the second day.

*Watch for more details*

**Tikkun Leil Shavuot!**

Join us for cheesecake and a movie:

**"Barney's Version"**

**8:00 PM-Service**  
**8:30 PM-Movie**

The story of the politically incorrect life of Barney Panofsky (Paul Giamatti), who meets the love of his life at his wedding - and she is not the bride. A candid confessional, told from Barney's point of view, the film spans three decades and two continents, taking us through the different —acts of his unusual history. There is his first wife (Rachelle Lefevre), a flagrantly unfaithful free spirit; His second wife (Minnie Driver), a wealthy Jewish Princess; His third wife, Miriam (Rosamund Pike), the mother of his two children, and his true love. With his father, Izzy (Dustin Hoffman) as his sidekick, Barney takes us through his long and gloriously full life, played out on a grand scale.

**Saturday, May 23**

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610



# A delicious day of learning to cook traditional potato kugel



The series of traditional Jewish cooking classes for ladies continued April 19 at Chabad of Berks County with a session devoted to potato kugel. The sixth class in the series will be devoted to cheesecake and is scheduled for May 17 at 6:30 p.m. See ad on Page 6.



## Minyan at Kesher Zion on Tuesday evenings

7:30 p.m. in the chapel

*All are welcome*



Introduce your children to the joy of Shabbat. Tot Shabbat is a musical, story-filled Shabbat morning experience geared towards families with young children through grade 2. Bring your family and friends to celebrate with Rabbi Brian Michelson and stay for a pint-size Oneg offering grape juice, challah, and child friendly treats.

May 16, 2015

June 20, 2015

Tot Shabbat services are held Saturday mornings at 10am at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom located at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610. No registration is required. Please call the Temple office with any questions: 610-375-6034.



REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
PH: 610.375.6034  
www.ohebsholom.org

# NEW MEMBER SHABBAT



Please join us for a special Shabbat service and Oneg to honor **new members** of RCOS, including a “Covenant of Welcome” ceremony.

**Friday, May 15, 2015**

**7:00pm**

**Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing**

*Members and Non-members are welcome*

# Gratz JCHS News

## Reading High School of Jewish Studies to open in fall

The Jewish Federation of Reading is pleased to announce the eighth year of our High School of Jewish Studies. Since Gratz College's decision to no longer support branch high schools, the Federation has been working with Rabbi Dov Lerner and our community Rabbis, Rabbi Michelson, Rabbi Schwartz and Rabbi Lipsker, to design a new curriculum that will ensure high-quality, relevant Jewish education for our teens.

Meetings with the current students were held to get their input on interests, likes and dislikes. Our rabbis have also volunteered to teach various classes. We are excited about the opportunity to reshape our school and the improvements we can create.

Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner will continue to direct our program, and we have affiliated with The North American Association of Community & Congregational Hebrew High Schools (NAACCHS- pronounced "nachus") which serves as the umbrella organization for supplementary Jewish secondary education of more than 40 communities in North America. We will therefore be in constant communication with teen education programs throughout the United States.

We remain committed to respecting all those who wish to join our high school, be they Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist or unaffiliated.

Students will study primary texts and traditional commentaries. They will be encouraged in these high



school years to remain undecided about any view and to continue a search for information, as we also support any student's choice of a spiritual position. We understand that every Jew is continually on a spiritual journey.

We will provide in-class and community experiences that emphasize the joys of living as a Jew, and opportunities for Jewish teens to discover Jewish spiritual fulfillment at home, at synagogue and in the community.

Participating in Jewish communal values is part of growing into Jewish adulthood. We hope that in college

life and thereafter our graduates will continue to live respectfully with others to build a thoughtful, educated and lawful community. Students and teachers can agree — if necessary — to disagree but always agreeably, whether the issues are religious, political or economic.

An ad-hoc executive committee has been formed to bring together our community's Jewish youth for trips and activities to fulfill the shared missions of all. In this fashion we can meet social goals and educational and social action expectations. The Reading High School of Jewish Studies calendar will be coordinated with the Federation, RCOS, Keshet Zion, Chabad, BBYO and NFTY; and the calendar of classes and activities will reflect the demands of Greater Reading school districts, such as test finals, AP and SAT programs.

Classes will be offered from 6-8:30 p.m. on Sundays at the Jewish Cultural Center in Wyomissing. Options for class choices will be offered each trimester. Tuition fees and activity costs will be held in line with prior years. At the end of the year, there will be a new four week term to welcome 7th grade students.

Participation is open to all Jewish students in 8th through 12th grades.

Please contact Bill Franklin or Amanda Hornberger (610-921-0624) at the Reading Jewish Federation to register or if you have any questions.

## JCHS celebrates a post-Passover tradition

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner  
Branch Director, Gratz JCHS

One of the joys of our Gratz Jewish Community School classes is the social and "yummies" break between classes, and occasionally we feature a celebration from a Jewish community that is unique as well as tasty.

This year Passover concluded Saturday evening through Sunday, April 12. This encouraged our Gratz Branch to share a bit of Sefardic tradition — Jews of 15th century Iberian peninsula and their descendents — we call "Maimouna."

Although Maimouna is most well known as part of Moroccan Jewish culture, increasingly it is being adopted in the Jewish world, especially in Israel. This celebration of the return to chametz features truly expansive food banquets of every kind of imaginable sweet delicacies for family and friends.

Our slice — every pun intended — of Jewish culture is another expression of our educational program to create memories as bridges to the future when these young people are going to be able to share in the direction of the various communities where they settle in the years ahead.

However, we had to admit to our students that the origins of Maimouna

are really unknown!

According to one explanation, it is the *yahrzeit* of Maimon ben Joseph, the father of the great Jewish philosopher Maimonides. Rabbi Moses ben Maimon — also known by his acronym Rambam — was a scholar in his own right who lived in Fez, Morocco, and wrote on Jewish-Islamic relations. He died around 1170.

In that sense, the students of our JCHS branch celebrated Maimouna after a brief sharing of these facts with many choices of ice cream treats and doughnuts. We were unable to celebrate with a special challah-like round loaf with a hard-boiled egg secured in the center with strips of dough as do the Libyan Jewish community.

We also respected the ages of our students and refrained from the North African custom of Maimouna to recite blessings for the single men and women of our youth community that they be married in the forthcoming year.

But we did discuss informally with students during the snack break the possibility of enacting next year some of the very interesting customs of Maimouna: Women wore their fanciest clothes, girls donned white,



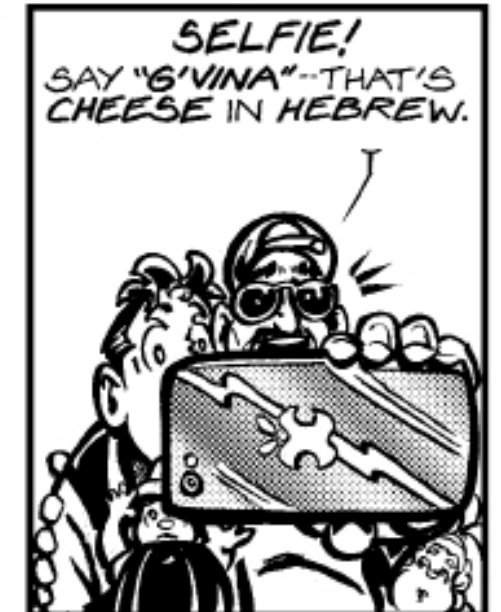
and children dressed in costumes like the Berbers (native North Africans). Arabs who shared their celebration would provide flowers, milk, butter, honey, wheat, and other produce for the Jews. Dining tables were decorated with flowers, wheat stalks, and sometimes live fish in bowls (this time symbolizing birth and fertility). Golden rings were hidden in a bowl containing flour, suggesting hoped for wealth or blessings. A dairy meal of buttermilk, sweets, and special pancakes called *muflita* served with

honey was accompanied by singing, dancing, and visiting with friends. Sounds like fun and a taste of another Jewish culture.

For the Sabbath after Pesach, when the approaching start of the month Iyar was announced, challah was sometimes made in the shape of a key. Sprinkled with sesame seeds representing the *mahn* (manna) that began to fall in Iyar (after the Exodus from Egypt, as related in the Torah), the challah stood for the key to our livelihood, which is in God's hands.

## EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



# Community Passover celebration in Manor at Market Square



Members of the community gathered in the Manor at Market Square on April 7 for a Passover Seder co-sponsored by the Manor and Jewish Family Service. The service was led by Sari Incledon and Carole Robinson of JFS and featured catering by Boscov's.

On April 6 JFS conducted a seder at Berks Heim for residents and their families.



*Leon Lonker, Jennie Saft and Mae Levy*



*Smiles all around the table.*



*Marcia Gross, Sam Silberstein, Eddie Kazin, Harold Strauss*



*Rita Moyer*



*Carole Robinson, Floyd Ruttenberg, Martin Rudolph and Sari Incledon*

# Holocaust Survivors Band performs at Chabad



Members of the Holocaust Survivors Band at Chabad of Berks County. From left are Martin Fried (saxophone, clarinet, flute), Chanarose Sosnowicz (vocals), Reuven "Ruby" Sosnowicz (vocals, keyboard, accordion), Saul Dreier (drums) and Jeffrey Black (guitar). Sosnowicz and Dreier are Holocaust survivors.

A nationally renowned musical group featuring a pair of Holocaust survivors performed at this year's Yom HaShoah commemoration, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Reading and held at Chabad of Berks County. The Florida-based Holocaust Survivors Band has gained considerable media attention this year for its remarkable story as well as its musical chops. An article about the band that appeared in the *Reading Eagle* led to the group's invitation to perform here.

The band played its trademark brand of klezmer music, bringing some joy to an otherwise solemn occasion. Two of the group's members are Holocaust survivors.

The community held its annual ceremony in remembrance of the 6 million Jews killed under the Nazi regime in the 1930s and 1940s, and local survivors and their relatives took part in a candle-lighting ceremony in remembrance.

## Many Holocaust survivors in Israel beset by poverty

Having just commemorated Holocaust Remembrance Day, it's disheartening to learn that 50,000 Israeli Holocaust survivors are living under the poverty line.

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel has released its annual report on the current situation of Holocaust survivors in Israel on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day. Of the survivors living in Israel, two thirds are women. Some 50,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel live in poverty, surviving on less than NIS 3,000 a month.

The report consists of several elements, including updated statistics the foundation has gathered, as well as two surveys — one conducted among Holocaust survivors, and one among the general public.

The mortality rate of survivors has increased drastically. Approximately 40 survivors die every day, an average of 14,200 each year.

The annual report edited at the Brookdale Institute shows that the average age of survivors today is 83.3.

Approximately a third of the survivor population (36 percent) live alone and have to fend for themselves. Half the survivors are widows and widowers. Approximately two-thirds (65 percent) of those in need of aid are above the age of 80 and 13 percent are above the age of 90.

In 2014, approximately 490 infirm survivors died every month in comparison to the 460 and 430 in 2013 and 2012 respectively.

The number of infirm survivors has also steadily increased. In 2014 about 28,000 survivors received nursing care from the foundation, up 7.5 percent from the 26,000 survivors who received assistance in 2013. Between 2010 and 2014 there has been a 25 percent increase in those in need of nursing care.

The *Jerusalem Post* reported the following:

The report by the Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel consists of several elements, including updated statistics the foundation has gathered, as well as two surveys — one conducted among Holocaust survivors,

and one among the general public.

Of the Holocaust survivors surveyed, 45 percent indicated they felt "alone," and one out of every five had been forced to choose between food and other necessities during the past two years due to financial insecurity.

Chaya Kujikaro, a 76-year-old survivor from Romania, could not hold back tears as she described her living situation at the press conference announcing the report's findings.

Kujikaro and her husband made aliya after 1953, and as such she is not entitled to the same rights as Holocaust survivors who arrived earlier.

"I want to ask the government: Why, if you made aliya after 1953, are you not considered a Holocaust survivor?" she asked.

Kujikaro lives off of a National Insurance Institute pension with her 90-year-old husband, who suffers from heart problems and is confined to a wheelchair. They are forced to spend thousands of shekels every month on medications and medical treatments, and their apartment is too small for the wheelchair to fit into the bathroom and shower.

"It is very difficult for us, and we don't see any exit from this [situation]. Sometimes we just want to end our lives, but this is not how we want to [die]," she said.

She is not alone in this predicament.

According to the survey, 60 percent of Holocaust survivors are worried about their financial situation.

More than half of them (55 percent) said they were unhappy with the way the government treated them, and 61 percent said they had not felt any difference in the past year regarding government assistance and treatment.

"If the state was a bit more considerate, could help us a little bit, how much longer [could] we live?" Kujikaro said.

The findings also indicated that 43 percent of Holocaust survivors fear that the Holocaust will happen again, and one out of three survivors worries that the younger generations will not remember the Holocaust.

In comparison, the public survey findings indicated that a majority of the general population, 84 percent believed the treatment of Holocaust survivors was "not good."

Of the respondents surveyed, 52 percent believed that a majority of Holocaust survivors live in poverty, and only 10 percent said they believed the Holocaust survivors' situation was "good or adequate."

In addition, 56 percent of the public said they did not believe the government had made any change this past year in regard to treating and assisting Holocaust survivors.

While only 39 percent of those surveyed said they knew a Holocaust survivor, 73 percent of the respondents believe that the public will remember the Holocaust even after the death of the survivors.

"The mission of the foundation, of the government and of Israeli society is a national task of primary importance, and we have a duty to take care of the welfare of Holocaust survivors until their last day," said foundation chairman Avi Dichter.

According to the report, the average age of Holocaust survivors in Israel today is 85, and approximately two-thirds are women.

During the past year, some 70,000 people requested assistance from the foundation. Of those, 65 percent are above the age of 80, and 45 percent are above the age of 86. Furthermore, 86 percent live on a monthly income of less than NIS 5,000 and 66 percent live on a monthly income of up to NIS 3,000.

"The needs of the Holocaust survivors will increase until 2015, and this is a critical time in which the foundation expects an increase in requests," said foundation CEO Rony Kalinsky. "The window of opportunity of the next five years is coming to a close, and now we must harness everything concerned into concrete actions [to enable] a life of dignity for Holocaust survivors in Israel."

Finance Minister Yair Lapid recently announced a NIS 1 billion 10-point national plan to assist survivors for the

next five years.

The plan essentially calls for the elimination of unnecessary bureaucracy, transferring allowances directly to survivors' bank accounts in an effort to improve their conditions. In addition, it calls to raise the minimum allowances for all Holocaust survivors who receive monthly pensions, and would entitle survivors to a 100% discount on pharmaceutical drugs included in the health basket, compared to the 50% deductible they have today.

Furthermore, the national plan calls for the allocation of NIS 277m. to end 61 years of disparity and equalize the allowances of the approximately 18,500 Holocaust survivors who made aliya after 1953, with those of survivors who arrived in the country earlier.

"This is a dramatic decision; it is the first time the government will provide direct allowances to survivors without bureaucracy," said Dichter.

He added that there remained "exceptions" to the plan, and that the foundation was already able to identify a few thousand survivors whose status remained unclear under the new proposal. However, despite this, he said he was "full of hope that the money would be transferred to the survivors quickly and with maximum efficiency."

He further cautioned against delaying the implementation of the plan, which is set to come up for approval at the next cabinet meeting on Sunday.

MK Yifat Kariv (Yesh Atid), chairwoman of the Lobby for Holocaust Survivors, said this year's report reflected an improvement from previous years, and stressed the importance of the new national plan to assist survivors.

"Finally there is an understanding that the time frame for improving survivors' quality of life is limited, and we must act here and now," she said. "The State of Israel is obligated to assist Holocaust survivors and their spouses still living among us and enable them to live with dignity and welfare."

## Older can be better

By Anne Seltzer

Alan and I went to Rockville last month to hear his mom, Doris, perform in the chorus she sings with at the Revitz House, where she lives. Mom has lived there about



16-17 years. My father-in-law was still alive when they moved to Rockville from Philadelphia.

Mom is the "greeter" at the start of each concert, which means that she welcomes everyone before the first song, talks about their director, Michael, and invites everyone to come to rehearsals and join the chorus. Frankly, I don't think she understands why all the residents aren't part of the chorus. Mom sings well and loudly. We can often hear her voice above the rest.

Through the years, the composition of the chorus has changed. Being that a majority of the residents are "older," many have either passed away or can no longer participate for other reasons. Mom enjoys the rehearsals and especially the concerts, where she can introduce everyone to her son Alan from Pennsylvania, who is an attorney. She is very proud of him. Of course, it makes her even happier that she usually has both her children, Sharon who lives in Rockville, and Alan there. Can't say that I blame her.

Alan's father, Herb, passed away several years ago, and previous to that mom was his caretaker. He had many medical issues, and she looked after him quite well. But it made it difficult for her to leave the apartment without him much except for when he went to dialysis three times a week, and

her weekly chorus rehearsal. After he passed away, mom seemed to flourish. She started going on bus trips for lunch on Saturdays, going to movie and lecture nights at Revitz, and working as a cashier in the café a couple mornings a week. They generally attended Bingo together, and she continues to do that as well. It appears to me that the older mom gets, the younger she gets. Her walking is not quite as steady, and she has some difficulty getting out of deep chairs, but she is amazing otherwise. Probably healthier than her kids or their spouses. I truly admire her and hope to live as long and well as she is. She has a terrific outlook on life and asks for very little. Because mom doesn't eat sweets anymore, other than Stella Dora cookies and red and white mints (her blood sugar was a little high), she probably would not

eat anything I made. So this is for her son, the attorney from Pennsylvania, Alan. It's one of his favorites, recipe compliments of Allison.

### Kentucky Pecan Pie

1 c. white corn syrup 1 tsp. vanilla  
1 c. dark brown sugar  
3 eggs, beaten slightly 1/3 tsp. salt  
2 c. chopped pecans, plus handful for top of pie\*  
1/3 c. melted butter (or margarine)  
1 unbaked pie shell

Combine syrup, sugar, salt, butter and vanilla. Mix well. Add eggs. Pour into unbaked pie shell already filled with the chopped pecans. Sprinkle whole pecans over. Bake at 350° for about 45 minutes or until a knife comes out clean. Cool to let set, then enjoy!

\*I use a little more than 2 c. chopped pecans.

## Yemen conflict could have devastating impact on region

Jewish News Service

As far back as Roman times, Yemen has had a reputation as a violent place. Through the ages, Yemen maintained this warlike image, with its various tribes doing battle with the Ottoman Turks and the British Empire. The north won independence from the Turks on 1918, while the south remained under British rule. By 1967, there were two states in Yemen. The north was oriented towards the Arab states, while the south was a run by hardline communist government.

In May 1990, however, the communist south dissolved itself into a unified Yemen. But unified Yemen quickly became a failed state consumed by conflict.

Recently Yemen's warring parties have been subsumed by the regional conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. For more than a decade now, Shi'a rebels from the north known as Houthis have waged war against the Sunni-dominated south. Last year the Houthis took over the Yemenite capital, Sana'a, which resulted in the resignation — later rescinded — of President Mansour Hadi. This year saw Yemen brought, in the words of the United Nations, to the verge of total collapse. In March, Islamic State entered the fray, in shocking attacks against Shi'a mosques that claimed the lives of more than 100 worshippers. And last month, the Saudis launched a war against Iran's growing influence.

Iranian warships have been spotted off the south coast of Yemen. The U.S. is already sending its own warships to the region. A tense standoff potentially awaits.

At this moment the conflict in Yemen is unresolved and could well expand. The fact that 40 percent of the world's oil ships pass through the Bab-el-Mandeb strait, in the southern part of the Red Sea, gives some idea of the global impact a conflagration in this part of the world could have.

It is tempting to regard the Saudi

intervention in Yemen as welcome, insofar as it targets Iran. But we should be wary of any arrangement that gives Arab states a regional policing role. Like other Arab states, Saudi Arabia has responded to Iran's nuclear ambitions with similar ambitions of its own. In the long run, the military empowerment of the Saudis could be just as negative for Western and Israeli security as an Iranian nuclear bomb, not the least because of the Saudi kingdom's historic role as an incubator of radical Sunni Islamism.

### Obituary

**Bernard Horowitz**, 89, of Reading and formerly of Scranton. Bernard was an Army 2nd Tech Sergeant serving during World War II. He was an avid writer, musician, singer, poet and crossword puzzle enthusiast. He is survived by his five

children: Annah Litzenberger and her husband Michael of Massachusetts, Jason Horowitz of Oklahoma, Kevin Horowitz of Birdsboro, Iris Bellman of Wyomissing and Terry Horowitz of Kentucky. Other survivors include his five grandchildren and one nephew.

Reading Theater Project presents

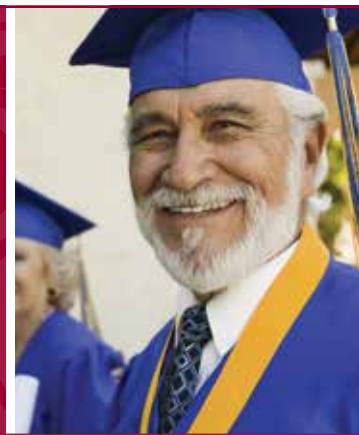
MARRIAGE EXPO (SÉ)  
Everything after the wedding

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A recital featuring

## Neil Hoffman

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.  
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Semiretired Reading Hospital pathologist, longtime Berks County resident, Jewish community leader and avid and accomplished amateur clarinetist Dr. Neil Hoffman will present a recital featuring works by Schubert, J.S. Bach and Mendelssohn. The final piece on the program will be the sonata for clarinet and piano by Soviet composer Mieczyslaw (Mojsze) Weinberg. This piece makes clear elegiac references to his lost family and Yiddish culture of Warsaw and Kishinev that perished in the Holocaust.

The performance will be for the benefit of Friends of Chamber Music of Reading. It will be open to the public with a recommended donation of \$25. There will be a catered reception following the event.

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## All Around the Town

Mazel tov to Jewish Federation President **Bill Franklin and his wife, Andi**, on the birth of their eighth grandchild, Anna Beverly. Delighted parents are Daniel Franklin and Erika Guyer of Brooklyn, N.Y. The Franklins also celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Harry in April. Harry is the son of Scott and Merrie Franklin of Rochester, N.Y.

\*\*\*

Mazel Tov to **Holly Michelson**, who received a Doctor of Jewish Religious Education degree, honoris causa, from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing [Marknem@aol.com](mailto:Marknem@aol.com).

Until next time: Shalom!

### Gardening with Vicky

## Make the most of ornamental grasses

By Vicky Sokoloff

Ornamental grasses make a stately accent in any garden. They come in many sizes and colors. A wide variety of grasses are hardy in this region. Phalaris arundinacea 'Dwarf Garters' is a small variegated cultivar perfect as a border in a perennial garden. Festuca cinerea 'Elijah Blue' is even smaller and keeps its blue/green color nearly year round. Errianthus Ravennae (Ravena) is one of the tallest, reaching 10 to 12 feet and producing attractive seed heads in the fall.

Ornamental grasses are very low-maintenance; all they need is to be cut back or burned once a year. I prefer to let them stand over the winter for both interest in the garden and cover for wildlife. Our tradition is to burn them on Easter Sunday, weather permitting. Some people cut them back in the fall. If you are going to burn, be sure to check with your municipality for local regulations.

Some of the most popular grasses belong to the Miscanthus sinensis group. These include 'Gracillimus' (maiden grass), 'Caberet' (Japanese silver grass), 'Purpurascens' (flame grass), & 'Variegatus' (variegated Japanese silver grass).

Switchgrasses are also popular in our area. They begin with Panicum and have names such as Heavy Metal, Hameln, Moudry, & Little Bunny. While pampas grasses are tall and attractive, they are rarely hardy in our climate.

New cultivars are introduced every year, so it would be impossible to cover all that you might find at the nursery or in catalogs. Be sure to read the plant tag/description completely to understand the size (both height and width), sun and water requirements, color, zone hardiness, and any special care. By knowing these things you greatly increase the chance of success. It is also good to check the plant carefully to assure that it is not potbound and that there is no sign of insects or disease.

Ornamental grasses also come in a variety of shapes. Those that stand straight and tall are called upright. Those that bend are called arching, weeping, or fountain. Growth habits can be running (spread by creeping stems) or clumping (grow in tufts, slowing increasing in girth). Running grasses can become invasive. Clumping



Dwarf garters



Ravenna



Elijah Blue

grasses can die out in the center due to overcrowding if not separated from time to time.

If you are wondering why it's important to know the Latin (botanical) names, it's because several different plants may have the same common names, especially in different regions or countries. In other cases the same plant may have more than one common name. Using the full botanical name makes it possible for everyone to know exactly what plant is being discussed. The reason is never to sound pretentious. All knowledgeable and reliable sellers will be able to give you a plant's full botanical name which will also help you to do additional research on the Internet.

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# Audience moved by Violins of Hope lecture

By Amanda J. Hornberger

On Tuesday, March 31, musicologist James A. Grymes from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte examined music and the Holocaust in a lecture titled "Violins of Hope," as the 11th speaker in the annual Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture series.

Grymes captivated the audience from the very beginning. His book is based on the relationship that Israeli violin builder and restorer, Amnon Weinstein has with these special violins that were played during the Holocaust and Grymes' presentation was presented in a similar fashion. Interwoven in the lecture were clips of the film "Amnon's Journey," a documentary about Amnon's trip to his family's home in Vilna, Lithuania and visit to Auschwitz. The film clips brought the story to life as well as Grymes' descriptions of various violins and their owners, from his book.

Grymes was generous in answering questions after his lecture, and I had the chance to see him connect with our audience firsthand during his book signing after the lecture. All 22 copies of his book, "Violins of Hope," were sold after the lecture, but you can still read the book if you are interested! A copy of the book is a part of the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center's collection and can be borrowed from Albright College's Gingrich Library, or you can find the book wherever books are sold.



James A. Grymes delivers the annual Yashek Lecture at Albright College.  
Photo by Jeremy Drey, courtesy of Reading Eagle.

## Unique theatrical experience developed by local troupe

The Reading Theater Project has created a new production, "The Marriage Expo(sé)," about marriage in the 21st century.

Performances will take place at the Olympian Ballroom at 603 Penn Avenue in West Reading. Opening night is Saturday, May 2, at 8 p.m., and the production will run through May 10.

The Reading Theater Project's mission is to make new theater; this production's style and format is a new development for the company. Modeled after Home and Garden Shows and Wedding Expos, the Marriage Expo(sé) will immerse the audience in a theatrical event. Patrons can listen to speakers, watch a runway show, visit booths, and

listen to couples talk; all are part of the performance. The script was developed collaboratively by the members of the Reading Theater Project, and written by Sue Lange (Resident Playwright) and Vicki Graff (Artistic Director).

"There are several points of action and a number of subplots, but the main plot line is the growth of a marriage itself," Lange said. Actors will also improvise with each other off script. Audience members will have opportunities to interact and become part of the event, or they can sit and watch the whole production.

"We wanted to push our theatrical style. We're calling it an "Expo(sé)" because it's modeled after an Expo,

but our production exposes truths about marriage and relationships," Graff said.

Audiences will be able to sit and watch the performance or move about the venue to explore the Expo. Actors will be among the audience, with the play unfolding all around the room. Expect to see music, dance, improv, and scripted performances.

The production is supported by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Berks Arts Council, Masano Bradley and The West Reading Tavern. The play was conceived and created by the Reading Theater Project, is directed by Christine Cieplinski and composed by Chris Heslop.

To purchase tickets for more information, go to [ReadingTheaterProject.com](http://ReadingTheaterProject.com) or call 484-706-9719. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Group rates available.

The Reading Theater Project is a multigenerational collective of performing artists who create new theater in Reading. Since 2003, Reading Theater Project has given local professional performing artists an artistic home, with opportunities for collaboration, development, showcasing, and personal growth.

For more information, please visit [www.ReadingTheaterProject.com](http://www.ReadingTheaterProject.com) or call 484-706-9719.

### In the news

## Hillel under fire for backing out of J Street conference

Hillel President Eric Fingerhut's decision to withdraw from a conference sponsored by the liberal J Street group has brought Hillel into conflict over the boundaries of acceptable criticism of Israel, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported.

Two years ago the Open Hillel movement emerged to challenge Hillel International's guidelines for Israel activities, which prohibit campus chapters from hosting speakers that support divestment from Israel or deny its right to exist. Some see the organization's policy as alienating to liberal Jewish students.

J Street blasted Fingerhut's decision to back out, with Sarah Turbow, the director of the liberal lobby's campus arm, claiming the Hillel leader had chosen to please his donors instead of engaging thousands of students.

But even within Hillel, several current and former directors told JTA that Fingerhut's decision is part of the organization's general rightward drift on Israel and its growing deference to the demands of major supporters.

Rabbi James Ponet, who became director of the Yale Hillel in 1981 and served as university chaplain prior to starting a sabbatical in 2014, said that as a university-focused organization, Hillel's mission should not be to police

the boundaries of acceptable criticism of Israel but to expose students to a wide variety of views. Refusing to speak to J Street, Ponet said, is not in keeping with that mission.

The latest fracas began on March 9, when Fingerhut announced that he would not appear at the J Street conference later in the month because some of the speakers had made highly inflammatory statements against the Jewish state. Hillel's chief administrative officer, David Eden noted that one of the speakers was Saeb Erekat, the longtime chief Palestinian negotiator who had recently compared Israel to the Islamic State, or ISIS. Despite such inflammatory statements, both Israel and the U.S. State Department have long dealt with Erekat in peace talks, according to JTA.

Several Hillel directors contacted by JTA declined to comment on the situation, but Fingerhut did receive praise from some quarters. Arinne Braverman, executive director of the Hillel at Northeastern University, said her campus was in the midst of debating a resolution to divest from Israel and Fingerhut's stance set an inspiring example for her students. (Northeastern student leaders rejected the divestment measure.)

Hillel directors on campuses said that

Hillel and J Street U chapters are closer than the national dispute would imply. J Street U chapters are often affiliated with their campus Hillel, and a number of Hillel directors will be attending the J Street conference in Washington.

### **Poll notes U.S. split over Israel**

What Jewish teen hasn't said to himself or herself, "I want to find a cure for cancer," or, "I want to invent something that will help people," or simply, "I want to make the world a better place." The Israeli men and women who presented last week at the Global Venturing Israel: MedTech & Inclusive Innovation Conference didn't just dream, they acted on that dream — and brought to Pittsburgh the fruits of their actions, *The Jewish Chronicle* of Pittsburgh reported..

Global Venturing Israel brought together medical industry companies developing innovative technologies, Pittsburgh business and community leaders, venture capitalists, leaders of the African-American community, professors and students. Alex Spont, a finance major at the University of Pittsburgh, was one of the students who attended the March 26-27 conference at the university's Katz School of Business. What stood out among the cutting-edge,

lifesaving and life-changing inventions, he said, was an exoskeleton from ReWalk Robotics.

The Nasdaq-listed Israeli firm invented and manufactures the FDA-approved device for paraplegics, giving them the ability to stand and walk. After a short presentation, the company's senior product manager introduced Ret. Sgt. Terry Hannigan, an Army veteran and paraplegic who stood up and told her story. Hannigan has a progressive blood disease resulting from her military service that paralyzes her from mid-chest down.

She described her life prior to getting the ReWalk device.

"I couldn't hold myself up on the edge of the bed," she said. "The only physical contact I had with other people was when I was lifted out of my bed onto the wheelchair. I saw my life as progressively losing more and more ability to function. I was depressed and suicidal. I had no hope."

Then she started walking around the room.

"It was mind-blowing," Spont said. "The fact that she is able to stand up and walk like that — it is a miracle. It is one thing to hear about something like this. It is another to see it in real life. It is so moving."

# Jewish Family Service

**United Way**



## Helping seniors and their families prepare for the next stage of their lives

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

If you or your parents are like most people, you want to "Age in Place" in your own home and community. Aging in place means having the health and social supports and services you need to live safely and independently for as long as you wish and are able.



The earlier you start planning, the more prepared you will be to respond to changes that may occur as you age such as changes in your health, mobility or social connections.

To successfully plan ahead you need to start thinking about how you want to live as you age and what steps you need to take to achieve that lifestyle. This includes planning for what you would do if you or your spouse had a sudden onset of a chronic illness, developed a disability or had a change in resources.

Think about your home: A key step in planning for your future is

assessing your home to determine if it can meet your changing needs as you age. You may want to think about making changes to your home to help you as you age and to help delay the need for a future move.

If you decide that your home no longer meets your needs or that you can no longer live safely and independently there, learn about other options. If you or your parents are interested in learning about what options are available call Jewish Family Service. We are knowledgeable about numerous and varied housing options in the local communities – including subsidized housing, over 55+

communities, handicapped accessible apartments, independent and assisted living communities and continuing care retirement communities.

\*\*\*

Jewish Family Service wants to thank the Social Action Committee of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom for providing us with Shalach Manot – Purim gifts for residents of nursing homes. The "goodies" were greatly appreciated. Also, thanks go to the family members and volunteers who helped with our sederim at The Manor at Market Square and Berks Heim.

### Living with Loss

Monday, May 11, 3 - 4:30 p.m. at the JCC  
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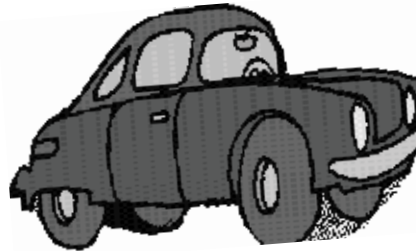


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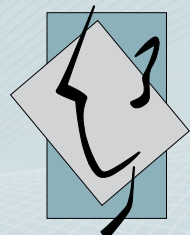
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### PJ Library party time

PJ Library families gathered at Keshar Zion Synagogue for Sammy Spider's Birthday Party April 19. Clockwise, from top left, Rabbi Rachel reads a Sammy the Spider book to the children; children work on their Sammy Spider craft; participants sing happy birthday to Sammy spider with Sammy's birthday cake

### In the news

## ADL reports anti-Semitism on the rise

U.S. anti-Semitic incidents rose by 21 percent in 2014, according to an annual report by the Anti-Defamation League, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported..

ADL counted 912 anti-Semitic incidents, up from 751 in 2013, with the period surrounding last summer's Gaza war seeing a surge of incidents. The tally included 36 cases of assault or other violence, 363 incidents of vandalism, and 513 cases of harassment, threats and events.

"2014 was a particularly violent year for Jews both overseas and in the United States," Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, said in a statement. "Lethal anti-Semitism continues to pose a threat to American Jews and larger society as well."

Attacks outlined in the report ranged from the shooting spree last April at a pair of Jewish institutions in Kansas that left three people dead to matters such as institutional vandalism or offensive comments on social media..

The states with the most anti-Semitic incidents were those with the largest Jewish populations. New York led with 231 incidents, followed by California (184 incidents), New Jersey (107), Florida (70) and Pennsylvania (48).

Despite the year-over-year rise, the number of U.S. anti-Semitic incidents in 2014 was still one of the lowest totals recorded since the ADL began keeping records of them in 1979, the organization told JTA. Certain kinds of attacks, however, are on the rise – notably attacks by hackers on community and synagogue websites.

### Amnesty International: Hamas committed war crimes

After a dozen reports by human rights groups charging that Israel had committed war crimes during its air and ground offensive in the Gaza Strip last summer, Amnesty International recently focused on the Islamist militant group Hamas and other armed factions in Gaza, which fired thousands of rockets at civilian population centers in Israel during the 50-day war.

Amnesty's conclusion: The military wing of Hamas committed war crimes, too, by indiscriminately firing unguided rockets and mortar rounds from civilian areas in Gaza at population centers in Israel, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

According to the newspaper, the 70-page Amnesty report found that rocket and mortar fire from the Palestinian militants killed 13 Palestinians and six Israeli civilians. The report contradicted Hamas claims that the Palestinian deaths were caused by Israeli airstrikes. Israel had attributed that tragedy to explosions from a failed rocket launch in Gaza.

The Gaza war left more than 2,100 Palestinians dead; seven in 10 of them were civilians and more than 500 were children, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. On the Israeli side, 66 soldiers and six civilians were killed, including one child.

Amnesty criticized Hamas for using imprecise weapons such as mortars on civilian areas, noting that a 4-year-old Israeli boy was killed by shrapnel from a mortar round fired from Gaza.

In the past, Hamas officials have pointed to the relatively low number of Israeli civilian deaths as proof that they did not target the general population. The Israelis attribute the low number of Israeli civilian fatalities to a combination of the U.S.-supplied Iron Dome air defense system, Israeli air raid sirens, and the small payloads and inexact aim of Hamas rockets.

The *Post* noted that the conclusions of the Amnesty report were not exactly news, especially in Israel.

After the report was released, Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a top spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces, tweeted, "Wow, self-proclaimed terrorist organization carried out war crimes. Big surprise there! #Hamas must be so ashamed."

The Palestinian militias in Gaza fired more than 4,800 rockets and 1,700 mortar rounds toward Israel, according to counts by Israel and the United Nations.

The Amnesty report condemned Palestinian militias for storing munitions in, and launching rockets from, schools, mosques, a church and at least one hospital.

### Poll notes U.S. split over Israel

The *Jerusalem Post* recently published a Bloomberg poll's findings that Americans are becoming more partisan on issues pertaining to Israel after decades of general bipartisan agreement on matters concerning the Jewish State.

The poll suggests that the American-Israel dynamic is shifting considerably from previous decades and may have

implications on U.S. policy, both foreign and domestic, concerning Israel.

The study saw that Republicans, by a ratio of more than 2-to-1, thought the U.S. should stand behind Israel even if its positions diverge considerably from American interests. Conversely, those who identified as Democrats said the opposite was true at roughly the same ratio and that American interests override those of Israel.

The Bloomberg Politics poll also found that Republicans had more sympathetic feelings toward Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over President Barack Obama at 67 percent to 16. Democrats, on the other hand, felt more allegiance towards the U.S. commander-in-chief at a 76 percent to 9 percent advantage.

The poll also investigated partisan sentiments on the hotly contested issue of the Iranian nuclear negotiations and their feelings about the tentative framework agreement struck between Tehran and world powers.

Democrats, by a nearly 3-to-1 ratio, said they were more optimistic than pessimistic that a tentative deal with Iran announced this month will contain Iran's ability to get nuclear weapons and thus make the world safer.

By a 2-to-1 margin, Republicans were more pessimistic than optimistic about the impacts of a deal. Majorities of Americans in both parties say any deal Obama makes with Iran should be subject to congressional approval, and that Iran is an unreliable negotiating partner because it is a theocracy, according to Bloomberg.

## Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information

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

## Contributions as of April 17

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#### In honor of:

Larry Rotenberg's special birthday – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

#### Get well/speedy recovery:

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### Jewish Family Service

#### In honor of:

Larry Rotenberg's birthday – David, Jonathan and Leah Rotenberg and families  
Birth of Al and Betsy Katz's granddaughter Ella Naomi Ages – Sy Youngerman

#### In memory of:

Paul Safir – Barbara Nazimov, Berna Sherman, Al and Betsy Katz, Edith Mendelsohn, Kevin Horowitz, Bernie Horowitz, Ruth Isenberg, Louise Zeidman, Saul and Donna Eisenberg, Michael and Barbara Charnoff, Sy Youngerman, Bettina Najer and Ann (Najer) Orr

Imy Gellert – Wendy Neuhs, Barbara Nazimov

Miriam Oppenheimer – Susan Rigg-Panabecker, Vivian Stephenson, Kate Mohn, Seyna and Stephen Green

Ruth Cherim (Pam Weisberg's mother) – Sy Youngerman

Doris Brok – Sy Youngerman, Bettina Najer and Ann (Najer) Orr

### Federation Jewish Community Campaign

#### In honor of:

Erica Filstein's marriage – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

Elliott Leisawitz's retirement – Cheryl and Eric Farber

Michael Kastenbaum's retirement – Cheryl and Eric Farber

Birth of Bill and Andi Franklin's new granddaughter – Al and Betsy Katz

## Honorials and Memorials

### Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

<b>Federation Jewish Community Campaign</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Jewish Family Service</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Leo Camp Lecture Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>JFS Food Bank</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>JFS Taxi Transportation Program</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>Holocaust Library &amp; Resource Center</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Doris Levin Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>

Dr. Larry Rotenberg's special birthday – Gregory and Stephanie Orzech

#### In memory of:

Paul Safir – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Marlene and George Weiss, Anzie and Edward Golden, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Judy, Bob and Susan Pollack

Ann Merkle – Anzie and Edward Golden

Miriam Oppenheimer – Mary Ann Oppenheimer and Michael Fishbein, Judy, Bob and Susan Pollack

Doris Brok – Judy, Bob and Susan Pollack

Arnold Delin – Judy, Bob, Susan and Stephen Pollack

### JFS Taxi Transportation Program

#### In memory of:

Paul Safir – Harriet Baskin, Louise Zeidman

### Friendship Circle Fund

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Paul Safir – Tootie Moyer, Glenn and Gaye Corbin, Herb Schneider

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#### In memory of:

Doris Brok – Esther and Sid Bratt

Paul Safir – Esther and Sid Bratt

# Pro-Israel student leader lets Alan Dershowitz sleep at night

## Jewish News Service

Jewish organizations and leaders have been racking their brains trying to address the issue of skyrocketing anti-Semitism on college campuses. But at least one prominent pro-Israel activist is reassured by the presence of a student more than five decades his junior.

“Justin Hayet lets me sleep at night,” says Alan Dershowitz, the 76-year-old former Harvard Law School professor.

The laundry list of recent anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses isn't pretty. Swastikas were painted on the building of a Jewish fraternity house at University of California, Davis. Jewish candidates for student government at University of California, Los Angeles and Stanford University have been grilled about their religion. A Jewish professor at Connecticut College has been persecuted over false accusations that he called for the annihilation of the Palestinians.

“Right now is a time of fear,” says Gilad Skolnick, director of campus programming for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA). “We continue to see an uptick in anti-Semitism on campus and it scares students from doing what they are supposed to do at university—engage in educational and open discourse.”

Enter Justin Hayet, a 21-year-old student at Binghamton University - State University of New York, who says that while many of his peers “run away and try to ignore” anti-Semitism, he is “running toward it.”

“I want to fix it,” Hayet tells JNS.org.

On May 3, Hayet will receive CAMERA's David Bar-Illan Award for Outstanding Campus Activism award at the media watchdog organization's annual gala dinner. Chloe Valdary, a pro-Israel student at the University of New Orleans, will receive a similar award. The David Bar-Illan Award is given in memory of the renowned

Israeli editor, musician, and policy leader to students who are making Israel's case on campuses that are often ideological battlegrounds.

“Who is going to replace us?” Dershowitz tells JNS.org, speculating on a day when well-known Jewish leaders like himself, Irwin Cotler, and Elie Wiesel are no longer part of the picture. “Jus-tin Hayet — this is a guy who can really become a major leader in the pro-Israel community.”

Originally from Pikesville, Md., Hayet served as a CAMERA Fellow for the 2013-14 academic year. He hosted a pro-Israel event that drew more than 135 students from diverse backgrounds to hear Israel Defense Forces Lt. Col. Anat Berko discuss the motivations of suicide bombers who are women and children. He penned multiple pro-Israel letters to the editor in his college newspaper, was published in the *Jerusalem Post*, and was interviewed by Israel's Channel 1 network about the pro-Israel movement on college campuses. He is featured in the Jerusalem U film “Crossing the Line 2,” which provides an in-depth look at the rise of anti-Semitism on college campuses, the vitriol of organizations such as SJP, and the steadfast determination of Jewish students in the face of such attacks.

All this, and Hayet was not even raised in a particularly Zionist family, says his mother, Cheryl Hayet. But Cheryl says she “always encouraged my son to follow his dreams.”

In 2008, Hayet decided he wanted to visit Israel. He enrolled in a leadership development opportunity through the local Jewish Community Center. In 2009, he traveled to Israel with that group.

“When he got back, the next words were, ‘How do I get back?’” Cheryl Hayet recalls.

Justin Hayet found more than one way, traveling to Israel eight times between 2009 and today. His visits included one to Baltimore's sister city, Ashkelon, as a Diller Teen

Fellow. It was that trip that charted his course.

“Standing on the beaches of Ashkelon, I said, ‘What can I do to help?’” Hayet reflects. “I was too young for the army, but I saw myself as part of Israel's army—here in the States, to fight for Israel, to make Israel a little better, bigger, and more respected.”

Hayet looked for an organization that would give him a vehicle for his passion for Israel advocacy. CAMERA was that match, offering him the creative platform to be as expressive as possible on his campus. He later signed on as a recruiter for The Jewish Agency for Israel's MASA (Isra-el Journey) program.

Amid the abundance of negative messaging about Israel on campuses, getting students interested in studying abroad in the Jewish state is no easy task, says Samantha Robins, recruitment manager for MASA. But Hayet has been among the program's most successful recruiters. When the students don't come to him, “he goes and finds them,” Robins tells JNS.org.

To be an Israel advocate, Dershowitz says, “You have to know everything.” He explains that pro-Israel activists are constantly bombarded with false information. A true voice for Israel needs to be on top of every news story, have the resources to respond to false allegations, and be a flexible thinker, according to Dershowitz. Moreover, there is an imperative to present the facts in a compelling way and with unbounded energy.

“For pro-Israel advocates, there is no vacation,” says Dershowitz, who met Hayet through Israel advocacy work.

Israel advocates also need a thick skin, he says.

“There will be people who attack you, hate you, demean you, try to destroy you at every point,”



Justin Hayet

Dershowitz says.

CAMERA-affiliated students have indeed come under attack, Skolnick says. In 2014, CAMERA Fellow Daniel Vessal was punched in the face on his Temple University campus by a violent member of SJP.

But Hayet is not afraid.

“People look at anti-Israel activity as only ‘bad.’ Every time I see these people, my blood boils,” he says. Through that reaction, the anger Hayet feels serves as an internal reminder that he is still strongly and emotionally attached to the Jewish homeland.

This summer, Hayet will intern for Israel's largest English-language daily newspaper, the *Jerusalem Post*. While working under the newspaper's chief political correspondent and analyst, Gil Hoffman, Hayet says he hopes to gain a better understanding of how the Knesset legislature works and to deliver a message to Israeli leaders: “You have enormous support from so many young people, like me.”

Dershowitz says, “I just wish there were more Justins.”



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