

Shalom 07|21

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

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Leo Camp Lecture

Shabbat B'Yachad

Preschool, Federation build on success

By Holli Winick Viau

Since I started as incoming director of the Lakin Preschool in April, I have been learning so much about our preschool families, our children, and how we can make changes to enrich the preschool experience for everyone involved.

I have been greeting everyone at the door so that I can become familiar with parents and caregivers, as well as having the children and parents become accustomed to seeing me each morning. I love being able to welcome every little smiling face into the building each morning!

We are working to upgrade our preschool and our enrichment programming as the school transitions to management by the Jewish Federation of Reading. We want to continue to provide rich and varied experiences for our children in a loving environment, while making it fun and promoting growth. We are working to offer a music class during school this year as a "special" class for each age group, as well as welcoming back a gross motor program in which children are running, jumping, playing and working together while using up their boundless energy.

We will be adding new teacher technology in the form of a laptop and projector in order to have some yoga and movement time with their classes, as a way to promote peace and zen, as well as having a break from the classroom setting for a short time once or twice a week. We will be offering many of the same enrichment classes that have been favorites in the past, and I will be teaching Torah Tots once a month for any children who are interested in learning more about Jewish holidays and customs. Everyone is welcome.

We will be adding a group craft to our usual Shabbat celebrations each Friday. Each Friday morning we meet as a whole school to sing songs and talk about Shabbat, and now we will work together to create a piece of Shabbat-related artwork each week. It is my hope that working together to create something meaningful and beautiful will help us to learn more about the peace of Shabbat and the value of working together.



Holli Winick Viau has been working to get to know the Lakin Preschool children.

Our creations will be displayed in locations throughout the school.

We offer a tour for prospective parents, and a trial visit for prospective students. This would be a pre-planned, one morning spent with the appropriate age group, and a wonderful opportunity for the incoming student to meet the teachers and classmates. It enables the parents and children to see what a day would be like in one of our classrooms. Parents can schedule this while they tour or another day after they tour and are considering us for their child.

I am looking forward to a great school year ahead. Transitions aren't always easy, but Judy Synammon has made this one easy. She has trusted me to come in and begin to take over, and to allow her to focus on her classroom and planning for her students for the upcoming year. Judy will be stepping down from her duties as director of Lakin Preschool, but we are so thankful that she will continue on as lead teacher in our Adventurers classroom. All of the teachers and staff have been so

welcoming and encouraging, and open to some new ideas and changes.

Word of mouth has always been our best advertising, and we appreciate you sharing your positive experiences from Lakin Preschool with anyone you know who might have children who would like to join us. We have enjoyed the support of so many families over the years and look forward to continuing our loving, caring, growth-oriented program for many years to come.

Open house on July 28

Please join us and encourage your friends and neighbors to join us for a summer open house July 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. Come see our bright and fresh classrooms, meet our staff and see our amazing outdoor space. Children are welcome to attend. This is for registered families and new/prospective families. Masks are required.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with thoughts or questions at the new preschool phone number, 610-223-8058 or at Msholli@jfreeding.org.

Annual meeting at the ballpark



The Jewish Federation of Reading held its annual meeting at First Energy Stadium in June. Attendees got to enjoy a ballgame, a delicious meal and access to the pool in rightfield. There was fun for the entire family. See more photos on Page 10

My Learning Curve, Part 1

By Laurie Waxler
Development Director

Moving to Berks County in early 2001, I wasn't sure what to expect. My kids were 2, 4 and 6, and we were living in a three-bedroom apartment. My husband, Andy, was starting a new job, having been recruited by Gary Lattin to join Berks Cardiologists.



Gary was probably happy to bring in a new cardiologist but was probably more excited to have a young, Jewish family moving into the area. My oldest was in kindergarten, and it didn't take long before we enrolled the younger two in the Lakin preschool at the old JCC. We have such fond memories of the teachers, the summer camps, the activities, and all the people we met along the way.

Fast-forward 20 years, I find myself in the position of Development Director

for the Federation and am now working with the same people with whom I formed those relationships, so many years ago ... Brenda still greets me every morning at the front desk, and Sari and Carole are still doing their thing reaching out to our community members in need. To imagine I am filling the shoes of our beloved Barbara Nazimov is beyond belief as everyone had a special place in their hearts for Barbara. (I am not sure I will ever fill those shoes, but I will certainly try!)

Always a supporter of our JCC, I must admit I didn't have a true understanding of the Federation and its role in our community, and I'm finding that every day is a new experience.

Over the next few months, I'd like to take the opportunity to invite you along on My Learning Curve, because I'm thinking I may not be alone. For those who are "in the know" it's never a bad idea to be re-educated, and perhaps there is something you will learn along

the way as well. Together we can grow to have a better understanding of what makes our Federation great, increase community involvement, and continue to grow a strong Federation for future generations of Jewish families in our area.

The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks has an incredibly long and rich history, made up of many generations who have lived here throughout the years. I'm doing my best to educate myself on what is important to you and what you believe is important to our community.

I offer my thanks to all those who have taken the time to speak with me, and for anyone who would like to meet with me via phone, in-person or even through Zoom, I welcome the opportunity! You can reach me by email (lauriew@jfreeding.org) or phone (610-921-0624,) I'd love to hear from you!

Until next month...I wish you all a wonderful, healthy summer!

Development

Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy

Maimonides Society

Your Jewish Legacy

Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent

A Very Israeli Rosh Hashanah

featuring Chef Michael Solomonov & Cookbook Author Adeena Sussman



DATE/TIME

- Wednesday, September 1, 2021
- 8pm ET

THE EXPERIENCE

- 1-hour live virtual cooking class with 5-time James Beard Foundation Award-Winning Chef Michael Solomonov and *New York Times* Best-Selling cookbook author Adeena Sussman
- Interactive experience with recipes shared in advance and audience ability to ask questions that will be answered live

HOW TO WATCH

- Use QR Code or link on website to register to receive link in advance
- Class is free for JCC members, \$5 for non-members



DONATE NOW TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Please visit ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Make your gift today!



From the President's Desk

We must learn how to combat antisemitism

By William D. Franklin
President

Former Middle East envoy Dennis Ross said: "The rise in antisemitism has been increasingly driven by entities on the left which hope to delegitimize Israel and its right to self-defense. When we add to this a surge in antisemitism on the right, the outcome is that over half of U.S. Jews now feel less secure than they did five years ago."

Obviously, the flames of antisemitism are growing higher fueled by both the left and the right.

A recent poll found that 60% of American Jews have witnessed antisemitism online or in person and 43% said they are now more concerned about their personal safety. In 2020, the Anti-Defamation League reported



2,024 antisemitic incidents. Antisemitic incidents in non-Jewish K-12 schools were up 19.5% to 411 in 2019. Last year there were 870 antisemitic incidents on US college campuses; 31% were classified as bullying and 22% as demonization of Israel. The top five were at: NYU with 30 incidents; George Washington University - 25; Cornell and Depaul - 24; Rutgers - 20. More and more, Jewish college students find themselves targeted and ostracized by fellow progressive students as soon as their heritage is known.

And it is hitting close to home. In late May, a group of professors at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster published an anti-Israel and antisemitic petition in the school paper. In June, an event in Philadelphia sponsored by Eat Up the Borders, which claims to "celebrate diversity through food," banned an Israeli food truck from participation due to antisemitic threats Eat Up the Borders

received. When the Philadelphia Jewish community protested the exclusion of the Israeli food truck, the event's sponsors canceled the food festival, an event meant to reinforce unity, rather than stand up against the antisemitism.

It is painful to realize that many of our educational institutions are failing to teach our youth how to identify hatred and respond effectively. We need to teach them the defining characteristics of hatred, both antisemitic and other, and how to speak up and stand up to hate when they see it or experience it. We want them to appreciate the power that they have to make change. We want them to feel free to be themselves, free of fear of bullying, intimidation, or violence. And we want them to be proud and active Jews.

We know that we cannot truly defeat antisemitism if we allow other forms of hatred within our midst. To this end, we are organizing education and discussion

programs to enhance our community's understanding of antisemitism and other hatreds. We will be teaching:

- Why people of all ages should fight hatred.
- How to differentiate legitimate criticism (often of Israel's policies) from antisemitism.
- How to respond effectively to antisemitic language and acts.

Separate age-appropriate programs will be developed for our youth (8-12 years old), teens (13-16 years old), and upper-high school and college students. Separate programs will be developed for parents so that they recognize if their children are having an issue with antisemitism and to know how to guide them.

Our programs will be developed in conjunction with the ADL, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other communities that have developed programs to accomplish similar goals.

Anti-hate summer reading program concludes in August

By Amanda J. Hornberger

This summer Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks in partnership with local nonprofit partners the Exeter Community Library and Bring the Change have brought the community together around literature in our new Anti-Hate Summer Community Reading Program (AHSCRCP).

The Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program is funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Berks County Community Foundation "You Are Here" grant cycle.

AHSCRCP has created conversation,

discussion and action around books on topics such as hate, racism, diversity and how to be an ally to marginalized communities focusing on tweens, teens and adults. M. Evan Wolkenstein kicked the series off with an inspiring conversation about bullying, hate and hope through his semi-autobiographical novel "Turtle Boy". We discussed spirituality and coming out in the LGBTQ themed graphic novel "Flamer" by Mike Curato.

Tae Keller will join us July 27 to discuss her Newbery Award winning novel "When You Trap a Tiger", focusing

on an Asian American experience.

The culminating event for all participants will be a large, communitywide virtual author visit from Jason Reynolds on Sunday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m. Tweens will be reading "Look Both Ways," teens will be reading "Long Way Down" (available in novel and graphic novel form), and adults will be reading "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You," all titles by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Reynolds.

Reynolds is a two-time National Book Award finalist, a Newbery Award Honoree & the 2020-21 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. His titles include "When I Was the Greatest," "The Boy in the Black Suit," the Track series, "Look Both Ways" and "Long Way Down," which received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. Reynolds' book "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You" was recognized this spring for spending an entire year on the *New York Times* bestseller list. He also was recently awarded the Carnegie Medal for literature.

In order to bring the reading and discussions full circle, the program will

also include a social action component.

Throughout the summer the community will be encouraged to drop off donations at the Exeter library and the JCC to benefit Helping Harvest. At the end of the summer the group will gather to pack the food to be donated to Helping Harvest.

By tying together the themes in the books read over the summer, the discussions with the diverse group of authors with a hands on service project to combat local hunger, our goal of creating lasting change and positive impact in our community will be better met and achieved.

Participants will be reading, talking and doing, which will help reinforce the tenets of fighting hate and racism and creating positive change in Berks County.

To sign up to attend the events please visit ReadingJewishCommunity.org.

Copies of all the books including e-books and audiobooks are available from the Berks County Public Libraries. All events are free and open to the public.

Our goal is to create community conversations about diversity within Berks County through award-winning modern literature.



Spices, Surprises and Sun

The Jewish Federation of Reading is planning a culinary adventure in Israel for early 2022. To facilitate that, an online survey is available to get community input. We are working with the wonderful travel agency that guided our 2018 Family mission.

Click the QR code below to complete the survey. You can also call 610-921-0624 and let us know your thoughts.



Dates and details are yet to be determined. We would love to have you with us.

If you have any questions, please contact Margo Levin, Luba Karchevsky or Andi Franklin.

Shalom

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



PJ Library grant helps connect local Jewish families

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Local families raising Jewish children will have more opportunities to participate in Jewish life, thanks to a grant awarded by PJ Library®, the flagship program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that provides free books to families raising Jewish children all over the world.

Jewish Federation of Reading received \$6,500 to continue its Find Your Voice program, an interfaith book club that engages tween readers with diverse authors on subjects affecting their lives.

Tracy Newman, director of community engagement for PJ Library, says, "These grants reflect incredible creativity and flexibility in how our implementing partners are approaching our work during this unprecedented time. All funded grants showcase PJ Library's best practices on engaging families in Jewish life while adapting to the current realities of virtual and social-distancing modalities."

The Federation is honored to receive this grant and thrilled to be part of the global PJ Library community reaching more than 667,000 children and their families across

32 countries. Last year's Find Your Voice program was successful in engaging tweens virtually with authors and connecting through service learning opportunities. We look forward to continuing this work with our community partner, Exeter Community Library.

The 13 winning grant proposals were chosen through a competitive process open to organizations across the U.S. and Canada. A survey of participants in previous grant-funded projects showed:

- 85% of families connected socially during the programs
- 64% of families followed up with the social connections afterward
- 76% of families sought out or attended other Jewish programs
- 99% would recommend the programs

"PJ Library's impact goes well beyond the more than 251,000 books we send out each month across the United States and Canada," said Debbi Cooper, director of engagement for PJ Library. "We have worked closely with our local partners for over a decade to help advance Jewish

family engagement, and we are grateful to be able to add financial support to help ensure the success of great initiatives."

We are grateful to our PJ Library Alliance partners who have joined the Harold Grinspoon Foundation in funding these grants: William Davidson Foundation; The Marcus Foundation, Inc.; The Azreili Foundation; Genesis Philanthropy Group; Jim Joseph Foundation; The Micah Foundation; Sam Berman Charitable Foundation; Carl & Joann Bianco; The Crown Family; Marilyn Einstein & Steven Sim Charitable Fund; Dr. Steven Grinspoon; Klaff Family Foundation; One8 Foundation; Howard & Geraldine Polinger Family Foundation; Stephen and Bebe Saks Family Foundation; Sherrie R. Savett Family Foundation; Mike & Sofia Segal Family Foundation; Susser Family Trust; Walter, Arnee, Sarah, & Aaron Winshall; Zucker Family Foundation and three anonymous partners.

PJ Library and PJ Our Way in Reading are generously sponsored by the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.

Jewish Cultural Center

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevre

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

MEET ADI OUR SHLICHA

Q: What is a Shlichah?

A: Shlichah/Shaliach (f/m) is an emissary who provides a living connection to Israel by promoting Israeli experiences for both adults and children here in Berks County through a variety of programming and interactions.

Q: Where is Adi from and how long will she be in the Reading area?

A: Adi Shalev is from Modi'in, a small city between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and she will be here until August, 2022.

Q: What type of programming is Adi doing in our community?

A: Adi teaches Hebrew, promotes the Jewish holidays with a variety of events, runs 2 youth groups, and oversees educational programs for people of all ages. You can check out her list of activities from 2020 in the Annual Report.

Q: Is Adi available to meet me and my family?

A: Adi would love nothing more than to connect with individuals in our community now that the Covid pandemic is under control. She has been fully vaccinated and welcomes any opportunity to meet with individuals and/or families. You can invite her to coffee or dinner with your family by emailing her at the Federation office.

Her email address is: adis@jfreading.org



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OF READING/BERKS



Brave Space: Interfaith program begins in August

By Amanda J. Hornberger & Kelly Barnett

It's time to think "connecting" rather than "distancing" when you hear the word "social"! Our friends at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Shillington invite the Jewish community to participate in their new program – BRAVE SPACE: 4 Connections. BRAVE SPACE is designed to celebrate our differences and our authenticity by connecting with others.

A \$9,000 grant from the Berks County Community Foundation was awarded to Immanuel to implement an interfaith children's camp followed by a

professionally facilitated, tough-topic conversation series held with our members & interfaith neighbors in the fall.

Brave Space Camp Days is an interfaith program open to all children who have finished K-6th grade. It will be held outdoors and indoors on Immanuel's campus. During these age-appropriate activities, students will play and learn as they get to know their neighbors and practice valuable skills in communication, respect, and empathy. We will also work on our program's signature project: painting chairs to set up a brand-new outdoor conversation

space on IUCC's campus!

Join us for one or all of these Sundays — Aug. 8 (11 a.m.-3 p.m.), Aug. 15 (11 a.m.-3 p.m.), and Aug. 22 (beginning at 11 a.m., leading up to Immanuel's Music Made Local lunch and outdoor concert). Amanda Hornberger, Program Director, will be in attendance at each event and will help connect families during the event.

To sign up for this program, scan the QR code on the flyer (on page 8) or contact Kelly Barnett, barnettkellym@gmail.com, or the Immanuel church office, secretary@immanuel-ucc.org.

Iranian author to deliver talk on fate, faith and identity

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The community is invited to hear the riveting true story of fate, faith, and multiple cultural identities of a young woman in one of the most fascinating and politically turbulent parts of the world. Jacqueline Saper, author of "From Miniskirt to Hijab: A Girl in Revolutionary Iran" and winner of the Chicago Writers Association 2020 Book of the Year Award, will be joining us via Zoom on Sunday, Aug. 15, at 7:30 p.m.

Saper, named after Jacqueline Kennedy, was born in Tehran to Iranian and British parents. At 18 she witnessed the 1979 Iranian revolution and continued to live in the Islamic Republic during its most volatile times, including the Iran-Iraq War. In a deeply intimate and personal story, Saper recounts her privileged childhood in prerevolutionary Iran and how she gradually became

aware of the paradoxes in her life and community — primarily the disparate religions and cultures.

Under the Ayatollah regime, Iran became increasingly unfamiliar and hostile to Saper. Seemingly overnight she went from living a carefree life of wearing miniskirts and attending high school to listening to fanatical diatribes, forced to wear the hijab, and hiding in the basement as Iraqi bombs fell over the city. She eventually fled to the U.S. in 1987 with her husband and children after, in part, witnessing her 6-year-old daughter's indoctrination into radical Islamic politics at school. At the heart of Saper's story is a harrowing and instructive tale of how extremist ideologies seized a Westernized, affluent country and transformed it into a fundamentalist Islamic society.

Saper is a writer, public speaker, analyst, and

translator. Her writings on Iranian topics appear in national and international publications, including *Foreign Policy News*, *The Seattle Times*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Breitbart*, *Aish*, *Sun-Sentinel*, *Persian Heritage*, *American Thinker*, *The Forward*, and *The Times of Israel*. Fluent in Persian and English, she serves as a translator/interpreter for the National Immigrant Justice Center, working with supervising attorneys on behalf of immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers. She is a Fellow member at MESA, Middle East Studies Association and a member of the Speakers Bureau of JIMENA: Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa.

Please look for a link to register in the weekly emails and our website in August. Program is sponsored by Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



The Young Adults Jewish Community is operating online and in person.

A group of young adults, both singles and couples, in their 20s and 30s, of all backgrounds and denominations from secular or unaffiliated; Reform, Conservative or Orthodox; interfaith, LGBTQ, and Jews of color. All who seek to strengthen the local Jewish community and foster personal and professional connections with social and community-minded events.

Join the Facebook group "[Young Adults Jewish Community](#)" today and get updates about our next programs!

Email AdiS@JFReading.org for more information

Literatour Berks third season begins in September

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Our committee is hard at work finalizing the third season of Literatour Berks! We will have more than a dozen authors coming in-person and virtually to Reading this year. A complete list of authors and dates will be announced in the September *Shalom*. There is something for everyone in this season's

lineup, and we look forward to building on the success of the past two seasons.

Literatour Berks is a partnership program of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks and Exeter Community Library. We continue to work with independent bookstore Reads & Company for book purchases. We continue our goal of bringing quality

literature on Jewish topics or by Jewish authors to Berks County.

Interested in supporting Literatour? Patrons and Sponsors from the community are encouraged to help support this amazing new collaborative program! Contact Laurie Waxler at lauriew@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624 to find out more.



Very Israeli Rosh Hashanah cooking class

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Join award winning Chef Michael Solomonov and *New York Times* g) bestselling cookbook author Adeena Sussman for an early Rosh Hashanah cooking class on Wednesday, Sept. 1, on Zoom!

Recipes will be sent prior to the event, and it will be live and

interactive...so bring your questions. This Federation-sponsored class is available free of charge to JCC members, and the cost is only \$5 for non-members.

Visit the link at www.readingjewishcommunity.org or use the QR Code on the ad on page 2 to register.

August ☆ Av-Elul



Shabbat Candle Lightings

August 6
7:54 p.m.

August 13
7:45 p.m.

August 20
7:36 p.m.

August 27
7:25 p.m.



Torah Portions

August 7/21 Av
Re'eh (Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17)

August 14/6 Elul
Shoftim (Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17)

August 21/13 Elul
Ki Tetze (Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)

August 28/20 Elul
Ki Tavo (Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8)

JFR YOUTH GROUPS JOIN TODAY!

Q: What age groups are included in the Youth Groups?

A: The Jewish Federation is now running 2 Youth Groups, one for students in grades 8 & 9, and one for students in grades 10 - 12.

Q: How often does the Youth Group meet?

A: The Youth Groups meet monthly on Sunday mornings from October through May.

Q: What types of activities do you do?

A: The activities are generally age specific and include service projects, team building, fun and educational programs learning more about Israel, Jewish traditions, and cultures. Most importantly, our Youth Groups give Jewish kids in Berks County the opportunity to connect with one another as we are open to students in all 18 school districts.

Q: Are there opportunities to get involved with larger Youth Groups outside of Berks County?

A: Yes! Adi Shalev is our Youth Group coordinator and she is working on including our Youth Group with national programming open to today's youth, through their local youth groups.

For any questions and more information
email AdiS@JFReading.org

Scan the QR code below
to sign up today!



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Israeli scientists exploring new treatment for anxiety

From online news sources

A natural, plant-derived food supplement could possibly be used to help reduce anxiety, a new study from Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science has found. The Jerusalem Post reported that the substance, beta-sitosterol, was shown in the study to reduce anxiety in mice, and was found to produce this effect both by itself and in synergic combination with the antidepressant Prozac.

Building off research from several years ago, the study examined international genomic databases to find existing drugs or compounds that mimicked a certain gene expression that would help induce "calmness." This led to tests involving beta-sitosterol that showed a marked decrease in anxiety.

But what is most notable is that the mice who were given beta-sitosterol did not display any of the side effects associated with antianxiety medication.

Treating anxiety is always a challenge because anxiety itself is a critical survival

tool inherited throughout the evolutionary process. The circuits for anxiety are closely tied with other essential circuits in the brain, relating to various vital functions like memory and awareness, which is why they are often impacted by antianxiety drug side effects. "One of the major problems with existing antianxiety medications is that they produce side effects, so if beta-sitosterol could help cut down the dosage of such medications, it might potentially also reduce the unwanted side effects," said Dr. Nicolas Panayotis, a lead researcher on the study.

Beta-sitosterol is a naturally occurring substance and can be found in a variety of plants such as almonds, pistachios, various grains and especially avocados. However, these alone do not contain enough beta-sitosterol to produce a calming effect. "You'd need to eat avocado day and night to get the right dose — and you would be more likely to develop digestive problems than relieve your anxiety," Panayotis explained.

The findings, published in the academic

journal Cell Reports Medicine, are certainly promising, but it is unclear how well this will apply to humans, the *Post* reported.

Clinical trials are needed before beta-sitosterol can be properly recommended as a means of reducing anxiety.

All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Carson Endy**, son of **Alicia and Chad Endy**, grandson of **Aileen Endy** and great-grandson of **Tootie Moyer** for making the Dean's List at Penn State.

Mazel tov to **Ardyn Endy** on her Bat Mitzvah, she is the daughter of **Brett and Jess Endy**, granddaughter of **Aileen Endy** and **Wendy Neuhs** and great-granddaughter of **Tootie Moyer**.

Mazel tov to **Ethel Engel** on the birth of her great granddaughter **Khai Gemma Kline** to her granddaughter **Samantha** and her husband.

Mazel tov to **Nina Botvin** and to her parents, **Rebecca and Blake Botvin**. Nina was selected as the winner of the Berks' Best 2021 Science/Environment Award.

Mazel tov to **Carole and Michael Robinson** on the birth of their grandson **Jackson Ryder Robinson** to **Ashley and Andrew Robinson**.

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com or calling 610-921-0624.

Until next time: Shalom!

Obituaries

Dr. Jerome Dersh, 93, of Florida and formerly of Reading. Dr. Dersh served in the Air Force and received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. He practiced ophthalmology in Reading for 42 years and established Eye Physicians Association. He was chief of ophthalmology at St. Joseph Medical Center from 1979-1992 and was editor of the state ophthalmology journal for 10 years. Dr. Dersh was a trustee of Albright College and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award and an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. He also chaired the Fine Arts Commission of Albright College for over 30 years. He served on the Fine Arts Board of the Reading Redevelopment Authority, the Reading Public Museum Board, the GoogleWorks Center for the

Arts and the Boca Raton Museum of Art boards. He was an accomplished sculptor and exhibited in museums and galleries in Pennsylvania and Florida, receiving numerous awards. He is survived by his daughter **Debra Dersh** and her partner, **Lisbeth Matson**, of Reading; his son **Dr. Jeffrey Dersh** of Texas and grandson **Jeremy Dersh**.

Alan Strauss, 80, of New York and formerly of Reading. Alan was a former president and devoted volunteer of Keshet Zion Synagogue and was a pharmacist and proprietor of Colonial Pharmacy. He is survived by his wife **Esther** and children; son **Ari Strauss** and daughter **Andrea** and her husband **Lawrence Koss**. Alan is also survived by his three grandchildren and his brother **Wally Strauss**.

Help us help you

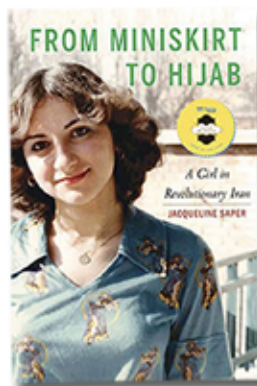
Please provide the Federation office with your up-to-date contact information so we can reach you during emergencies and special circumstances. We will not publish or share unlisted numbers

SAVE THE DATE
August 15, 7:30pm ET

Chicago Writers Association Award Winner

JACQUELINE SAPER

FROM MINISKIRT TO HIJAB



A captivating account of life as a Persian Jew in Iran before, during and after the Islamic Revolution

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Isn't there a midrash — side story based on Torah's big one — that says, God laughed in delight when he saw man had disobeyed Him and said, "We are One, Me, her and him, and it is glorious?"

— Nancy Knoblauch

A Good Life

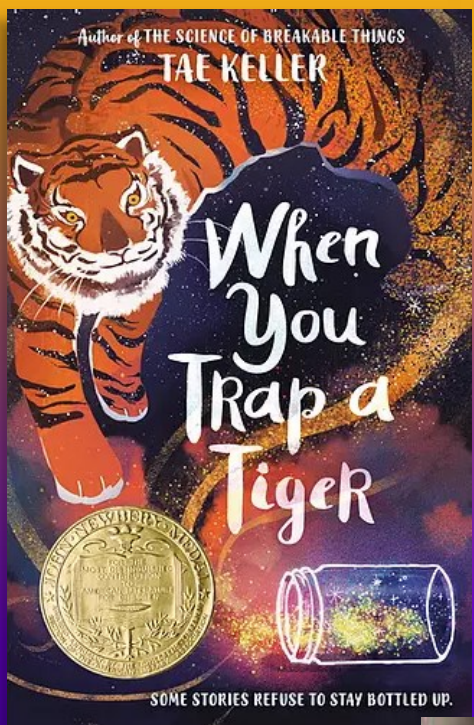
I look out the window, the sun is so bright. What a beautiful day, what a beautiful sight.

I am so glad all my family and friends feel so good, If I could see them, I truly would, give them a kiss and a great big hug, the old saying says, it would be like snug as a bug in a rug.

My kids are all healthy and wise, I give them a smile instead of a sigh. We are all lucky to be living in a "free" place, we spend each day at our own pace.

Being black, brown, or white does not matter at all, It does not matter if we are short or tall, All that matters is what we can do, to make our country better and be a good Jew.

— Tootie Moyer



EXPANDING HORIZONS

as part of the Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program with Tae Keller

The Exeter Community Library, the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, and Bring the Change welcome author Tae Keller to the Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program. Tae Keller grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she subsisted on kimchi, purple rice, and stories. Now, she writes about biracial girls trying to find their voices, and lives in Seattle with her husband and a multitude of books. *When You Trap a Tiger* is a 2021 Newbery Award winner.

Would you make a deal with a tiger? When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. This program is perfect for tweens, teens, and families. To register, visit: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84458222222>

Program funded by You Are Here grant from Berks County Community Foundation.

JULY 27TH

7 P.M.

via Zoom

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Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program: Diverse community reading and discussion groups for tweens, teens and adults to define and fight hate and racism and create meaningful positive change in Berks County. Our goal is to expand participants' reading horizons through diverse and thought-provoking literature.



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Reflections from my garden

By Carole Robinson

My garden, bursting with leafy plants, brings me joy as I bask in the warmth of the sun. I smile, reflecting on the new growth, akin to the feeling of life beginning anew due to the easing of COVID restrictions.



Now that we may congregate more freely, JFS is resuming in-person gatherings.

Friendship Circle, our senior group, met in June to welcome Laurie Waxler to the Federation staff and plan to gather for an Israeli meal and to play "Guess the Country" with Adi Shalev, our Israeli shlichah. Amanda Hornberger will describe "Violins of Hope" on Thursday, Aug. 19. September programming begins with a Rosh Hashanah Service and lunch on Thursday, Sept. 2, at Manor at Market Square and concludes with Pamela Anthony's presentation on honeybees and beekeeping on Thursday, Sept. 23.

Noontime Knowledge, a new program designed to educate on a variety of topics, has been on hiatus since the pandemic began but will resume in October. It will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at noon and will include the option of lunch.

Everyone is invited to attend these programs at the JCC at no cost to participants.

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, as part of Literatour Berks, David Page will discuss his book "Food Americana: The Remarkable People and Incredible Stories Behind America's Favorite Dishes." He is the creator and executive producer of "Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives." His book is an entertaining mix of food culture, personalities, and the history of American food. SaraLouise Howells, a local art historian and educator, will deliver a presentation about Marc Chagall on Tuesday, Nov. 16. She will examine Chagall's most famous works and discuss how they differ from those of his contemporaries.

Another new program JFS plans to launch in the fall is "**B'Yachad**," a Hebrew word meaning "together." This is an intergenerational program designed for teenagers and older adults. Participants will meet once a month on a Sunday starting in October. They will engage in a variety of activities together to foster connection and a sense of community. This interactive partnership will promote l'dor v'dor, passing on wisdom and cultural traditions from generation to generation. Please contact Carole if you or a family member would like to participate in "B'Yachad" at CaroleR@JFReading.com or 610-921-0624.

Vehicle donation: One way to support

these programs and other vital JFS services for older adults and families is by donating your used vehicle to JFS. Donating avoids the hassles of selling an older car privately. You can save money on hefty repair bills and reclaim your garage space by placing a phone call to 877-537-4227 and telling them your donation is for Jewish Family Service in Reading, Pa. Representatives are available seven days a week to help you with your donation. They will accept almost any vehicle, running or not, as long as you have the vehicle title and it is tow truck accessible.

Once your donation information is complete, a licensed tow vendor will contact you within 72 hours. Schedule your free pickup when it's most convenient for you — from your home, business, or repair shop. You will be mailed a tax receipt within 30 days of the completion of the sale if the vehicle sells for more than \$500. JFS graciously acknowledges a recent vehicle donation from Mike Pardo. To date, JFS has received more than \$17,000 from donated vehicles. Make your tax-deductible vehicle donation and help JFS flourish!

No matter how you choose to participate — by joining one of our upcoming in-person programs, through volunteering, or by donating your used vehicle — you will help our JFS garden bloom. And that, my friends, should put a smile on your face!

Upcoming Friendship Circle programs at the JCC

All events offer an optional luncheon at 1 p.m. (\$7 fee), with program starting at 1:45

Thursday, Aug. 19 - "Violins of Hope": This collection of rare instruments played by Jewish musicians during the Holocaust arrives in Reading on Nov. 1 for a two week stay that includes a Reading Symphony Orchestra performance. Amanda Hornberger will explain "Violins of Hope," which is designed to combat racism and foster social justice and tolerance.

Thursday, Sept. 2 - Rosh Hashanah Service and Lunch at Manor at Market Square. Jewish Family Service and the Manor at Market Square invite seniors to a Rosh Hashanah service and holiday lunch. All are welcome, but reservations are required by Aug. 20. Call JFS at 610-921-0624.

Thursday, Sept. 23 - "Honeybees and Beekeeping" Meet local beekeeper Pamela Anthony. Pam will describe how she and her husband got interested in beekeeping and talk about their hives. Participants will have the opportunity to sample her honey.

Jewish Family Service

- Food Pantry
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September 2021 - September 2022



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Community activities going strong through summer



There was plenty of fun at the Jewish Federation's annual meeting, held at FirstEnergy Stadium.



Helene Berne, and Tootie Moyer, left, enjoy being together for a Friendship Circle program. At right, volunteers at a July JFS food pantry in Reading.

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World's Jewish community brings aid to Surfside

From online news sources

"I'm a Jew, I'm a Jew, I'm a Jew," Steve Eisenberg says while standing in The Shul of Bal Harbour, in its social hall under construction. Two days earlier, it was piled high with blankets, clothing, mattresses, food, and toiletries for the families made homeless after a Surfside, Fla., building collapsed into a pile of rubble.

Now it is almost empty thanks to people like Eisenberg and Judit Groisman, a tall, means-business woman in jeans and a black Women's International Zionist Organization T-shirt with blonde hair

pulled back tightly who is busy giving volunteers orders laced with smiles. The supplies are going out to families made homeless by the collapse settling into temporary housing.

Eisenberg has been matching families with apartments owned by non-Florida residents who return home for the summer.

Asked how he got involved in the recovery efforts, he replied, "I'm a Jew." That seemed to answer the question of why he got involved, not how. But in fact he was getting at the how.

Eisenberg lives across the street from The Shul of Bal Harbour and is part of this tight-knit community — Surfside is at least one-third Jewish. That is why, within hours of the collapse of Champlain Tower South, messages and calls lit up his phone.

Across the street and across the ocean, Jews came together to bring relief to a crowded little beachside community devastated by a sudden, unfathomable loss. Eisenberg knows at least 10 people "in the rubble," as he puts it, and he knows them because they are Jewish and he is Jewish, and they are part of his community. "Brad Cohen, I was under the huppah with him," he says — meaning he was a witness at Cohen's wedding. "I saw him every day."

The woman in her 30s schlepping boxes at the Surfside community center four blocks down, about a mile from the building collapse, says the same thing: She grew up in the Cuban Jewish community, and there were these ladies her mother was friends with, and though she was not close to them, now that she is grown up, she always said hello when she saw them on the street. And now ... they are gone.

But not quite. The missing peek out from behind faded roses, on printouts thick with Miami's wet 90-degree heat, pinned to a fence overlooking the rubble.

A grinning young man, Andres Levine, leans into a woman's head, her hand languidly appropriating his shoulder. A man in a tux, a blond, leans into his chest. The text reads: "Dr. Brad Cohen's brother Gary (also a doctor) is missing as well." There is something unbearably poignant about the parenthetical aside, "also a doctor.": Not one, but two good men are missing.

"Ilan Naibryf+Deborah Berezdivin," says another printout. A happy young

couple poses arm in arm, crowns touching, against a seascape, maybe the one just beyond the rubble, its salt lacing an acrid stench. The printout is partially obscured by a string of prayer beads hanging off the fence.

This is not just a Jewish tragedy. The beads, the crucifixes, the leather-bound New Testament on the pavement abutting the fence. The circle of evangelical Christians standing next to the memorial fence, holding hands, and belting out prayers in Spanish.

The relics that are heartbreaking in their universal meaning: The toy truck, the battered Supersoaker.

As search efforts went on, most of the Shul says that about 40 are Jewish, meaning most were not Jewish. And the Jews who have come together from across the world, the rescue teams from Israel, from Mexico, from Canada, know it. "It's not only about Jews," said Nachman Shai, the Israeli minister for the Diaspora who was given VIP treatment when he visited here accompanying Israeli rescuers. "I have to make sure that that's fully understood. It's about human beings, it's about a national tragedy."

Raphael Poch, the spokesman for the United Hatzalah team from Israel, describes how Hatzalah's trained counselors worked on the second floor of the Grand Beach Hotel, where the families, Jewish and non-Jewish, sit and wait. "It's a state of unknowing, and that can cause a sense of helplessness," he says. "Helplessness is the beginning of what can lead to an emotional reaction or traumatic stress reaction. And that is what we are trying to avoid — we are engaging them to help the people around them if we see there is a need because they are often in the same place, the same location with other families. So

Continued on Page 12

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SURFSIDE

Continued from Page 11

even if they are not doing anything that moment, they can go and help another family, they can interact with them.”

There are Jewish ways of knowing and there is a Jewish way of unknowing: The Jewish tradition of the shomrim, the guardians, sought permission to stake out the rubble, to watch over the dead — or the people who may be dead — until they are buried. Or, miraculously, alive. No one knew with absolute certainty.

“We have rabbis who are on call who are ready to be with families as they receive notifications,” said Jacob Solomon, the longtime president of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation.

It is hard to extract meaning from so arbitrary an event, one without intention. A rabbi gives a shiur, a lesson, following Havdalah services at The Shul, and mentions the building collapse perfunctorily, saying the services were in “the honor” of the dead and missing. He launches into a fire and brimstone sermon about the Fast of Tammuz 17, which began that night, and how the sins of the Jews merited its privations.

Miami’s Jewish community is more insular, Solomon says, because so much of it is first-generation — from Israel, from Venezuela, from Mexico, from Central America. “They see being Jewish as a way of holding on to the identity that they brought with them,” he says. That

means closer relations to Israel. “Our 2014 demographic study — you’ll see that we have the highest percentage of adult Jews who have been to Israel, the highest percentage of emotional connection to Israel.” Just weeks before the building collapse, some of the same people who volunteered were turning up at protests against the spike in antisemitism following the Israel-Gaza conflict. Poch says he was bowled over by the welcome for the Israelis.

“Once the Israeli teams landed, there was a veritable sigh of relief,” he says. “The families, they basically felt like, you know, ‘You guys are here to help and it’s amazing you came all this way.’ They appreciate just the fact that we came. We gave them a sense of relief and a sense of hope.”

At a news conference, Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett described an encounter he had one Sunday morning at the Grand Beach Hotel. “One of the questions from the residents was pretty poignant,”

Burkett says. “They wanted to know if the Israeli team thought that the Miami-Dade team had been doing the right thing. The gentlemen, the commander, from the Israeli team did not hesitate. He turned around and said, ‘They’ve been doing exactly the right thing,’ which was a beautiful validation.”

Shai was not surprised when he heard the story. “Jews around the world look at Israel as a source of support,” he says, “and sometimes even as a source to come and save them.”

Or they look to themselves. Eisenberg, at The Shul, scrolls through his text messages: Jews from around the country who want to help. A man from New York offers crisis response canines. A Baltimore woman wants to help set up a database of the missing.

Eisenberg looks around at the emptying storage area. “I don’t know how this got done. There was no one person leading it,” he says.



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Nine important firsts about Israel's new government

Israel21c.org

For the first time in 12 years, Israel's Likud Party and its head, Benjamin Netanyahu, has moved from the prime minister's seat to the opposition in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. The new government brings into power a broad coalition of eight political parties spanning left to right.

Heading Israel's 36th government is Yamina Party leader Naftali Bennett, the 13th Israeli prime minister Bennett was sworn in along with Yesh Atid Party leader Yair Lapid, who will serve as alternate prime minister and foreign minister until becoming the country's 14th prime minister in August 2023 for the final two years of the term — if all goes according to plan.

Here are nine notable firsts in this 36th Knesset, formed with the intention of unseating Netanyahu and bringing change to Israel.

1. Bennett, 49, is the first prime minister from the high-tech world, having headed and sold two successful software companies, Cyota and Soluto. He also is the first prime minister to wear a kippah.

2. The ruling coalition includes an Arab party — the Islamist Ra'am Party. Other parties representing Israel's 21% Arab minority remain in the opposition.

3. Incoming Health Minister Nissan Horowitz was the first openly gay Knesset member to head a major party (Meretz).

4. The 36th Knesset includes two longtime disabilities activists: Shirley Pinto, Israel's first deaf Knesset member; and

Karine Elharrar as Minister of Energy.

5. There are nine female cabinet ministers (out of a total of 27), the highest number in Israel's history: Yifat Shasha-Biton (Education), Ayelet Shaked (Interior), Merav Michaeli (Transportation), Tamar Zandberg (Environmental Protection), Orna Barbivay (Economy), Karine Elharrar (Energy), Pnina Tamano-Shata (Aliyah and Integration) and Orit Farkash Hacohen (Science and Technology).

6. There are two Arab cabinet ministers: Esawi Frej (Regional Cooperation) and Hamed Amar (Finance).

7. Two new Knesset members hail from English-speaking countries: Cape Town-raised Ruth Wasserman Lande and North Carolina native Alon Tal. The

Knesset has had only eight American-born members in its 73-year history. (Bennett was born in Haifa to American immigrants.)

8. Three former broadcast journalists are in the top echelon: Yair Lapid, Nitzan Horowitz and Merav Michaeli. Lapid's late father, Tommy, was also TV journalist-turned-politician. (A video made in 1994, recently recirculated on Twitter, shows Michaeli and Lapid emerging disheveled from behind a sofa. Now 54 and 57, respectively, they have shed their playgirl/playboy personas of the past.)

9. Incoming Minister of Public Security Omer Bar-Lev is heading the same ministry — then called the Police Ministry — that was led by his late father, Haim Bar-Lev, from 1984 to 1990.

Muslim, Jewish medics tended to all amid tensions

From online news sources

Sami Darwish had just returned home from prayers at al-Aqsa Mosque

in Jerusalem when a fateful series of events turned an otherwise peaceful afternoon into a close call with death.

The 60-year-old medic from east Jerusalem is a volunteer ambulance driver at United Hatzalah, Israel's largest

nonprofit independent emergency medical service.

One Friday Darwish was standing outside his home in Sharafat when he said he saw a white van begin driving around the neighborhood, its occupants shouting insults and curses. They appeared to be ultra-Orthodox Jews.

Though the rabble-rousers did eventually leave, residents of Sharafat were shaken. The incident occurred against the backdrop of a flare-up in Arab-Jewish violence across the country, which had seen lynching attempts, riots and clashes with police.

The story did not end peacefully. Hours later, an ultra-Orthodox Jewish man passed through the same area. Thinking he was somehow connected to the extremists from earlier in the day, Arab residents began attacking the Jewish man. Had Darwish not intervened in time, the man might have been killed. "He was innocent and had nothing to do with what had happened before," Darwish said. "I took the man and brought him away to a safe place to save his life."

One of the reasons Darwish joined United Hatzalah was due to a lack of efficient first response services in Arab areas. Through weeks of riots, rockets, and civil unrest, United Hatzalah's medical emergency service emerged as a beacon of coexistence. When they receive an emergency alert from the organization's national dispatch center, volunteer first responders drop everything and rush to help save lives. In urban areas, the average response time is 90 seconds.

On the eve of Shavuot, two people were killed and 184 injured when bleachers in a Hassidic synagogue in Givat Ze'ev collapsed during holiday prayers. Many Muslim first responders from United Hatzalah took the lead in treating those injured and alerting their loved ones.

About 10% of the organization's volunteers are Muslim. Khaled Rishek, who hails from a mixed Jerusalem neighborhood, is one of them. The 54-year-old father of four described the recent uptick in violence across Jerusalem as being among the toughest periods he had ever witnessed in the city.

Rishek has seen his fair share of injured people in the east Jerusalem neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah, which has been the site of protests over planned evictions of Palestinian families. He treated Jews and Palestinians hurt in the resulting violence.

"United Hatzalah is a very important organization for us because it responds to and connects people, regardless of their faith, race or gender," he added.

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JFS Food Pantry

In honor of:
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In memory of:
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Federation Jewish Community Campaign

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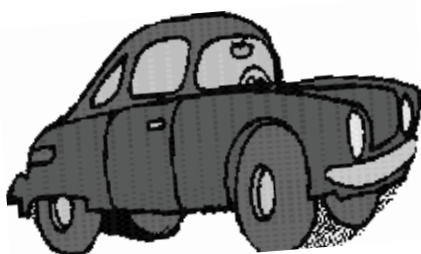
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EXPANDING HORIZONS

as part of the
Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program
 with Jason Reynolds

The Exeter Community Library, the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, and Bring the Change welcome author Jason Reynolds to the Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program. Teens will read “Long Way Down” (available in novel and graphic novel form). Adults will read “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You.” Both titles are #1 New York Times bestsellers. Meanwhile, tweens will read “Look Both Ways,” a recipient of multiple awards.

Jason Reynolds is a two-time National Book Award finalist, a Newbery Award Honoree, & the 2020-2021 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. His titles include “When I Was the Greatest,” The Boy in the Black Suit,” the Track series, “Look Both Ways,” and “Long Way Down,” which received a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, and a Coretta Scott King Honor. Reynolds’ book “Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You” spent an entire year on the New York Times Bestseller list. To register, visit: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qk2tbWGSrWSh1os5Cqvejw



Anti-Hate Summer Reading Program:
 Diverse community reading and discussion groups for tweens, teens and adults to define and fight hate and racism and create meaningful positive change in Berks County. Our goal is to expand participants’ reading horizons through diverse and thought-provoking literature.



Program funded by You Are Here grant from Berks County Community Foundation.

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Lakin Preschool Enrollment Form 2021 -2022

Please fill out a Lakin Preschool Enrollment Form for each child you are enrolling. If there are any questions, please call Judy Synnamon at 484-332-5981 or e-mail at judy@lakinpreschool.com.

Date of Application: _____

Child's Last Name: _____ Child's First Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Gender: _____ Age as of September 1, 2021: _____

Name of Parent(s) with whom Child resides: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary contact's daytime phone number(s): _____

Primary contact's e-mail address: _____

	1. Check class	2. Check days will be attending	Annual Advertiser Tuition Rate (No Deposit or Discounts	Annual Tuition ACH Payment (less Deposit, ERD & ACH)	Monthly ACH Payment (less Deposit, ERD & ACH)
				<i>*Most economical option; other payment options on reverse side</i>	

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre k Adventures	<input type="radio"/> 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	<input type="radio"/> 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Discovery	<input type="radio"/> 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	<input type="radio"/> 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
	<input type="radio"/> 3 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,332.00	\$1,992.00	\$221.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Stars	<input type="radio"/> 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	<input type="radio"/> 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
	<input type="radio"/> 3 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,332.00	\$1,992.00	\$221.00
	<input type="radio"/> 2 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$1,723.00	\$1,420.00	\$158.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sprouts	Semester 1 (Starts September 12) Wednesdays	\$190.00	\$190.00	
	Semester 2 (Starts January 16): Wednesdays	\$190.00	\$190.00	

Please note Lakin Preschool's Enrollment Policy:

- A \$200.00 deposit is required with this Enrollment Form which will be credited to your tuition bill. Families who make their deposit before March 31, 2021 will receive a 3% Early Registration Discount (ERD).
- \$50.00 of the deposit is non-refundable except in the event of illness (as verified by a physician); moving out of town; or if approved by the Director.
- Tuition is to be paid monthly by check, ACH transfer or credit card before the first of each month. An additional 3% discount is provided when you authorize payments to be automatically deducted from your checking account, i.e. Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments (noted as on fee schedule above). See back of form for full fee schedule and all payment options.

I have read the above and understand Lakin Preschool's Enrollment Policy. I agree to pay all fees due.

Signature: _____ Date: _____