

# Shalom 09|25

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

## Your Federation Supports:

Jewish Education

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

PJ Library

Jewish Family Service

Jewish Cultural Center

Israel & Overseas

Camp Scholarships

Israel Trips

Noontime Knowledge

Shaliach

Young Adults Division

Emergency Support

Lakin Preschool

Richard J. Yashek Lecture

Transportation

Maimonides Society

Joint Distribution Committee

Meir Panim

Annual Campaign

Jewish Agency for Israel

Yemin Orde

School Education Programs

Greater Reading Unity Coalition

Israel Advocacy

Youth Events

Great Decisions Series

Community Holiday Programs

Women's Philanthropy

Counseling Services

Leo Camp Lecture

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Jewish Community

Relations Council

Jewish Federations

of North America

## Former ambassador to Israel to deliver Leo Camp Lecture

By Vicki Haller Graff

We are very pleased to announce the 45th annual Leo Camp Memorial Lecture on Wednesday, Oct. 29, at 7:30 p.m. at Albright College.

This year's speaker is former U.S. Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer, currently the S. Daniel Abraham Professor in Middle East Policy Studies at Princeton University. From 2001 to 2005, he served as the United States ambassador to Israel and from 1997 to 2001 as ambassador to Egypt.

Before that, he served as speechwriter for Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Middle East adviser on the policy planning staff, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs and principal deputy assistant secretary of state for intelligence and research.

Throughout his career, Kurtzer was instrumental in formulating and executing U.S. policy toward the Middle East peace process.

He served on Secretary of State James A. Baker's Middle East peace team that



Daniel C. Kurtzer

brought about the 1991 Madrid peace conference and chaired the multilateral peace talks that followed. Secretary of State John Kerry appointed Kurtzer to serve on his Foreign Affairs Policy

Board. In 2007, he was named the first commissioner of the professional Israel Baseball League.

Kurtzer is the co-author of "Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East," co-author of "The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace, 1989-2011"; co-author of "Peace Derailed: The Decline and Fall of U.S. Diplomacy in the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, 2009-2025" (forthcoming); editor of "Pathways to Peace: America and the Arab-Israeli Conflict," and numerous scholarly articles and op-eds on foreign policy issues. Kurtzer received his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

His talk, "Is the Middle East at an Inflection Point?", will incorporate his extensive knowledge and experience while responding to the rapidly changing political and cultural landscape there.

This talk is free and open to the public. Full details will be outlined in the October *Shalom*. For questions, please contact our office at [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) or 610-921-0624.

## Busy year begins for Literatour Berks

By Nancy Russo

Season 7 of Literatour Berks is just a few weeks away, and we have lots of exciting stories to showcase.

We will be kicking off our new season with Adam Nimoy and his new book, "The Most Human: Reconciling with My Father, Leonard Nimoy." (Yes, Judith Viorst was supposed to be our kickoff speaker, but she had to cancel. We are delighted Adam is able to attend!)

We hope you will join us on Sunday, Sept. 14, at 10 a.m., at the JCC (1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing). Registration is required and available on our website. Tickets are \$18 for JCC member/\$25 for others.

The Noontime Knowledge program on Tuesday, Sept. 30, at noon features Jean Hoffmann Lewanda discussing the influences of her family's flight from oppression in China to freedom in the United States in her book, "Shalama: My 96 Seasons in China." Jean joins us from nearby Yardley and researches Jews in China.

Several thousand Jews crowded into Harbin, a remote town bordering Russia, turning it from a small fishing village into a sophisticated European city. She details the arrival of the Japanese occupying forces in 1940 which forced many to move to Shanghai and then, ultimately, to their new lives in America.



Adam Nimoy

Exeter Community Library, will be hosting Talia Carner, author of "The Boy with the Star Tattoo," on the evening of Nov. 10. Talia's latest book threads together two historical events set in France that relate to Israel's history of daring and ingenuity when agents rescued hidden Jewish orphans in 1946 and the 1969 escape of Israeli boats out of Cherbourg during France's arms embargo. Historical fiction is very popular among our readers, and this promises to spark an interesting discussion.

On Nov. 25, Noontime Knowledge returns with David Denby, author of "Eminent Jews: Bernstein, Brooks, Friedan, Mailer," at the Jewish Federation. Denby, a staff writer at *The New Yorker*, presents these four legendary figures of Jewish and American life. This discussion will be a trip down memory lane, as it is said, as Denby touches upon the highs and lows of their careers.

Just in time for Tu B'Shevat, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin will be joining us for Noontime Knowledge on Jan. 27. Her book, "To Forever Inhabit This Earth: An Ethic of Enoughness" introduces the reader to the little-known but essential mitzvah of yishuv olam, the imperative to preserve a habitable world and how it can inspire all we do.

Richard Kreitner delves into the story of the engagement of American Jews in the moral and political dramas of the Civil War era in the book "Fear No Pharaoh: American Jews, the Civil War, and the Fight to End Slavery" at Noontime Knowledge on Feb. 24. Kreitner tells this story through the lives of six American Jews who shaped the conflicts of the time: a Louisiana senator

who became Jefferson Davis' confidant, three rabbis, an ardent abolitionist who emigrated from Poland, and an Austrian-American activist.

In her hilarious, heartwarming debut novel, Esther Chehebar tells the story of three Syrian Jewish sisters who chase love and navigate the growing pains of young womanhood as they seek their place within and beyond their Brooklyn community. "Sisters of Fortune" is about where we come from and where we're going — and, above all, what's for dinner! Chehebar will be hosted by Exeter Community Library as part of our informal Book Club.

Our community's reflection of the Holocaust continues on April 28 at Noontime Knowledge with "The Girl Bandits of the Warsaw Ghetto: The True Story of Five Courageous Young Women Who Sparked An Uprising." Holocaust historian, archivist, and history blogger Elizabeth Hyman adds a new dimension to the story of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, shining a long overdue spotlight on five young, Polish Jewish women who helped lead the resistance, sabotage the Nazis, and aid Jews in hiding across occupied Poland and Eastern Europe.

Barbara Josselson joins us on May 11 at the Exeter Community Library to discuss her captivating novel that spans Italy from 1943 to the present day. Arriving in sun-drenched Caccipulia, Callie grips the faded restaurant menu in trembling hands. Found hidden in her family home, she is certain it will lead her to the truth about her grandmother's life in Italy during World War II.

Continued on Page 4

# September: The year's true reboot!

By Richard Bradbury

September. The name of the ninth month in the Gregorian calendar must mean something, and it must have to do with transitions. As daylight become scarce, and we're pulled (reluctantly) toward 12 hours of day and 12 of night, I mentally flip through memories of the past year.



I look back on time with friends at the Delaware shore, trips to New York to see theater, exiting my position at Olivet, starting at the Federation, our trip to Alaska, long summer mornings on our side porch and taking our dog, Libi, swimming at Wyomissing Creek. Saying goodbye to the lazy, the hazy and the crazy is always tinged with melancholy.

So, transitions! Growing up and older with the January-December calendar, September always seemed — and still seems — like the time to look ahead! I compare it to approaching the starting block, anxiously awaiting the signal to GO. And, suddenly, YOU'RE OFF! It's a brand-new, September to September year. Fresh start! Reboot! Renew! Recommit! September's unique "conceit" is so hardwired in our DNA: time to go back to school (or college), time for the leaves to change, time to eat everything pumpkin, time to gear up for major Federation events.

September beckons us to dig in, get serious and connect with our community and the people we care for deeply.

How ironic that after decades I find myself in a workplace and culture that aligns the Jewish New Year with this mystical, transitional time called September. Rosh Hashanah, to my step-family of very secular Jews, was barely in the periphery, but since arriving at the Federation and gaining a deeper understanding of the culture and community, Rosh Hashanah has become front-and-center. And it's still filled with those feelings of reflecting and looking forward — preparing for the future. Shanah Tovah!

To the families and folks who sent "sweet" New Year's greetings to their friends, families and the community, thank you for purchasing

a greeting which appears in this issue of *Shalom*. The "esprit de corps" and fellowship demonstrated in the wonderful response was rewarding to experience. Secretly, it also gave me the opportunity to become more familiar with families and people connected to our Federation. Thank you!

September also means calendars will be arriving soon! Thank you to Federation staff and our clergy for creating a "one-stop" listing of events. Your Federation, the JCC and our local synagogues offer so many occasions for our community to celebrate, learn, give thanks, and connect! The variety of entertainments, services, lectures, and activities offered and the exciting people with whom we can connect is thrilling! A big thanks to the families, businesses and individuals who sponsored months in the new calendar! What a lovely mitzvah! Take a look when you receive your calendars and give them a "shout out"!

By now, you probably received an important letter from our new CEO, Cindy Gerber Tomlinson; Board Chair, Jonathan Avins and me, your Development Director. As our New Year begins, we turn to you, our members, friends, and community to ask for your financial support for our 2025 Annual Campaign. Our fiscal goals are ambitious, but, friends, as we all know, the needs are great and those needs demand our action and generosity.

As One, our collective gifts support our Jewish Family Service to give aid and guidance to our Jewish seniors and neighbors experiencing difficult times, and food and housing insecurity.

JFS further supports hundreds of local families in dire need of food assistance at two monthly food pantries.

As One, our collective gifts support our Jewish Community Relations Council as staff works to safeguard our community by advancing Jewish interests and values and maintaining relationships with local media and elected officials while continuing to educate our younger generation about the dangerous and destructive rise of antisemitism.

Only with your financial support is it possible for your Federation to bring so many

programs and services to our Jewish and non-Jewish friends and neighbors. Your gift gives us the resources to create programming that brings new and note-worthy authors, filmmakers, and internationally-respected speakers and learned individuals to our hometown.

To realize these mitzvot, this service to others, requires us to assume the obligation to assist for the greater good.

The words of Rabbi Mike Uram during his seminar, "What's Jewish about Fundraising?" truly grabbed my attention. Rabbi Mike (which he prefers to be called) said, "Fundraising is addressed and advocated for in the Torah, and is looked upon as an act of faith."

He further poses the question I pose to you, "When do you/we become responsible for the needs of our community?" I also learned powerful meanings for tzedakah: See Me and Justice. According to Rabbi Mike, the rabbinical idea of tzedakah is that "We feel good and more fulfilled by doing, and giving to something meaningful." We hope your Federation and the work we do is meaningful to you.

This September, during this "sweet" time of renewal, please thoughtfully consider giving generously to your Federation's Annual Campaign. Allow your Jewish Federation to give YOU the opportunity and honor of doing something wonderful for your community.

As One we can make Berks County and our Jewish community safer, healthier, and more vibrant. Please feel free to contact me for a "meet-and-greet." I welcome the opportunity to learn more about you and what the Jewish Federation means to you. You can reach me at 610-921-0624 and richardb@jfreeding.org.

I wish you and yours a "sweet" New Year. Pray and work for peace in the New Year.

By the way: The name September comes from the Latin word *septem*, meaning "seven" in the ancient Roman calendar of Romulus (c. 750 BCE). Strangely enough, September became our ninth month. Now there's a transition!! Apparently, Romulus only needed 10 months! Thank goodness we found two more. I can barely accomplish everything I need to do with 12!

# Development

Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy

Maimonides Society

Your Jewish Legacy

Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent

## Support Federation with FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS at Boscov's

By Richard Bradbury

It's time for Boscov's Annual FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS event when our Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks joins other local nonprofits in selling shopping passes to friends and supporters.

A shopping pass costs a mere \$5, and that \$5 goes directly to the nonprofit agency. The more passes we sell, the more funds we raise for the Jewish Federation!

Shopping passes are worth 25% off a huge

selection of merchandise at any Boscov's Department Store (some exclusions do apply). Boscov's Shopping Pass is ONLY GOOD on Wednesday, Oct. 22 (8 am to 11 pm – extended hours!).

You may also use your shopping pass for online purchases on Oct. 22. Customers who purchase a shopping pass may register to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card — one winner at each store.

So, give yourself a little retail therapy and purchase

a few shopping passes for your family and friends. You'll support your Jewish Federation while you shop!

For you "fundraisers" out there, consider selling shopping passes to your family, co-workers, neighbors, and friends.

Sell 10 passes and your Jewish Federation makes \$50! It's that easy!

You can use your Facebook, Instagram or other social media platforms to spread the word. Every shopping pass sold is \$5 for

your Federation.

You can purchase your Boscov's FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS shopping passes at the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing, PA 19610.

Our offices are open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone: 610-921-0624.

Fun Fact: Boscov's FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS event raises over \$3 MILLION annually for nonprofit organizations!



**DONATE NOW TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN**

Please visit [ReadingJewishCommunity.org](http://ReadingJewishCommunity.org)

**Make your gift today!**



# Give Today

## so we can help tomorrow!

ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN 2025 DONATE TODAY

[ReadingJewishCommunity.org](http://ReadingJewishCommunity.org)



Today Tomorrow Always

# The intellectualization of antisemitism

By Jonathan Avins

Antisemitism has reemerged in the United States with an intensity that should alarm all who value equality and justice. Over the past few years, reported incidents of antisemitism have increased dramatically—by hundreds of percent — leaving many American Jews questioning how such hatred could flourish in a nation whose founding ideals are grounded in equal rights and civil liberty.

This resurgence has not appeared suddenly. It has been building steadily over the past decade, from the white supremacist chants of “Jews will not replace us” in Charlottesville, Va., to anti-Jewish demonstrations on college campuses, including Columbia University and other respected institutions. Yet what makes this new wave especially insidious is its increasingly intellectualized form.

### Antisemitism in Disguise

Today, antisemitism is often cloaked in academic language, scholarly discourse or ideological critique. This intellectualization of antisemitism has transformed raw prejudice into arguments that appear rational, even respectable. Rather than using overt slurs or hate speech, it manifests through political theory, cultural critique, or economic analysis, thereby slipping more easily into mainstream academic, media and policy circles.

This subtlety makes intellectualized antisemitism even more dangerous. It lends the veneer of legitimacy to old stereotypes and conspiracy theories, enabling them to flourish in environments that pride themselves on enlightenment and progressivism. Social media has significantly accelerated the spread of intellectualized antisemitism. Online platforms provide fertile ground for the amplification of conspiracy theories and coded antisemitic narratives — especially during geopolitical or social crises. Algorithms reward controversy and outrage, allowing harmful rhetoric to be repackaged, shared, and normalized with alarming speed.

### Forms and Tactics

Intellectualized antisemitism frequently repurposes traditional

Attribute	Antisemitism	Anti-Zionism
Definition	Prejudice or hostility toward Jews as a people or religion	Opposition to Zionism or the state of Israel as a Jewish nation-state
Origins	Ancient; persistent across civilizations and eras	Emerged in the late 19th century in response to Zionist ideology
Target	Jewish individuals and communities	The political existence or policies of Israel
Expression	Stereotypes, discrimination, violence, marginalization	Criticism of Israel's policies or the idea of a Jewish state

antisemitic tropes within modern frameworks. These tactics include:

- **Pseudoscientific Justifications:** The misuse of disciplines like evolutionary biology or sociology to falsely “prove” negative stereotypes about Jews.
- **Academic or Political Language:** The repackaging of conspiratorial claims — such as alleged Jewish control of finance or media — into economic or globalist critique.
- **Conflating Antisemitism with Anti-Zionism:** While distinct, these two ideologies are often merged in ways that obscure their differences: (see chart above)
- **Rationalized Critique:** Presenting antisemitic ideas as “legitimate criticism” of Judaism, Israel, or Jewish behavior, while relying on double standards and stereotypes.
- **Association with Ideological Movements:**
  - Far-right: Jews portrayed as globalist elites threatening nationalism and tradition.
  - Far-left: Jews framed as symbols of capitalism, colonialism, or imperialism, particularly through critiques of Israel.
- **Moral Justification:** Antisemitic positions presented as defense of national identity, cultural integrity, or historical “truth-telling.”
- **Delegitimization of Israel:** Criticisms that go beyond Israeli policy to question the state's very right to exist — often framed in language that would not be applied to any other democratic nation.
- **Erasure in Academia:** Jewish ethnoreligious identity is often excluded from discourse on diversity and cultural identity in higher education.
- **Mischaracterization of**

Influence: Claims that Jews possess disproportionate power or influence are presented as sociological critique but rest on age-old prejudices.

- **Weaponization of Accusations:** Conversely, accusations of antisemitism are sometimes wielded to silence legitimate critique of Israeli policy — adding further complexity to the discourse.

### Combating Intellectualized Antisemitism

What can be done?

We must remain vigilant and respond on multiple fronts:

- **Promote Education and Awareness:** Understanding the historical roots and modern forms of antisemitism — including its subtle, intellectualized versions — is essential for recognizing and addressing it.
- **Critically Evaluate Arguments:** Academic or policy-based claims should be scrutinized for flawed logic, hidden bias or misused data.
- **Defend Academic Freedom While Opposing Hate:** Legitimate scholarship must be protected, but not at the expense of tolerating bigotry disguised as theory.
- **Reject Harmful Stereotypes:** Whether overt or veiled, antisemitic narratives must be identified and condemned wherever they appear.
- **Encourage Respectful Dialogue:** Civil discourse is vital. But so is maintaining firm boundaries against prejudice, especially when it masquerades as intellectual inquiry.

### Impact and Consequences

Antisemitism has led to some of the darkest chapters in human history — pogroms, forced expulsions, and the Holocaust. Today, it continues to foster insecurity, exclusion, and

fear among Jewish communities worldwide. While anti-Zionism can be expressed as legitimate critique, it is too often used to mask deeper antisemitic attitudes.

The challenge is to uphold space for political debate while clearly identifying when that debate crosses into bigotry. Silencing discussion is not the solution — but neither is tolerating prejudice under the guise of ideology.

### Complexity and Responsibility

The intersection between antisemitism and anti-Zionism is complicated. Some individuals criticize Israel while harboring antisemitic views. Others offer genuine, good-faith critiques of Israeli policy without prejudice. Still others adopt anti-Zionist language without fully recognizing its antisemitic implications.

Understanding this complexity is crucial. We must learn to distinguish legitimate political criticism from rhetoric that echoes historic and dangerous antisemitic tropes.

### A Path Forward

Confronting intellectualized antisemitism requires more than condemnation. It demands education, dialogue, and a willingness to think critically — even about arguments that appear reasoned on the surface. We must challenge ourselves and our institutions to remain alert to how hate can be subtly repackaged in language that sounds thoughtful, academic or progressive.

The stakes are high. By recognizing and resisting this evolution of antisemitism, we take a vital step toward protecting not only Jewish communities but the integrity of public discourse, education, and civil society itself.

The Jewish Federation of Berks will continue to strive to reach both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities through speakers and programs.

Our support for each other and working together is more important now more than ever. Only through mutual respect, informed understanding, and moral clarity can we build a future in which all people — regardless of faith or heritage — can live with dignity and safety.

# Reading hoops legend Lonnie Walker joins Israeli team

From Federation staff

Former Reading High School basketball star Lonnie Walker IV has signed to play with EuroLeague powerhouse Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Walker, a first-round draft pick for the San Antonio Spurs in 2018, played for the Philadelphia 76ers last season. It was his fourth NBA team.

He also played for the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets. He had spent the first part of last year playing for Lithuania's Basketball Club Žalgiris before being picked up by the Sixers.

Walker is a beloved figure in Berks County for his heroics in leading Reading's Red Knights to a state championship in 2016. In the team's title-game win over Pine-Richland, he scored 22 points, grabbed eight rebounds and made four steals and three assists.

He was a McDonald's All-American in his senior high school season and was named Mr. Basketball in Pennsylvania.

He went on to play for one year for the University of Miami Hurricanes before beginning his professional career.

Walker's deal with Maccabi Tel

Aviv includes an NBA buyout clause until Aug. 1, according to sources, and the contract also features buyout options for July 15, 2026, and July 15, 2027.

Walker has not forgotten his hometown despite playing under the bright lights of NBA arenas. Each summer he returns to Reading to host a basketball camp, and he still identifies as “a kid from Reading,” which was his rallying cry during his high school days. In August he recorded a video message of encouragement for Reading School District teachers as they gathered to start the school year.

The Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club was established in the mid-1930s, as part of the Maccabi Tel Aviv Sports Club, which had been founded in 1906. The team has won six EuroLeague championships, one Adriatic League championship, 57 Israeli Basketball Premier League championships, 46 Israeli State Cup titles, and 11 Israeli League Cup titles, making it the most successful basketball team in Israel.

The Israeli Basketball Super League started in 1954, and Maccabi Tel Aviv was the first champion. It has dominated the championship

ever since. Maccabi is widely considered Israel's national sporting representative in the world.

We are proud to have one

of Reading's most accomplished individuals representing our community and state and a great Israeli sports institution on the global stage.

## Shalom

A newspaper serving the Jewish community of Berks County, Pennsylvania, and published monthly, September through June, under the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. Funded by the Annual Jewish Community Campaign.

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

**Jewish Federation of Reading**  
**CEO:** Cindy Gerber Tomlinson  
**Chair:** Jonathan Avins  
**Communications Director:** Mark Nemirow, Editor  
**Proofreaders:** Federation staff

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



# News and history at Noontime Knowledge in September

By Vicki Haller Graff  
Program Director

Noontime Knowledge programs are free and open to all ages. Planning to attend any or all of the Noontime Knowledge programs? Please let us know by emailing [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) or calling 610-921-0624. Would you like to present or recommend a presenter? Please contact Vicki Graff, Program Director, at [vickig@jfreading.org](mailto:vickig@jfreading.org).

We have two great programs this September, highlighting local news and stories of Jewish people from across the world. Mark your calendar and join us for these informative and engaging talks!

### Wednesday, Sept. 10, noon - Spotlight PA

Have you heard of Spotlight PA? It's an independent and non-partisan nonprofit newsroom, focused on investigative journalism about issues in Pennsylvania that matter to Pennsylvanians. Spotlight has a bureau in Berks County, and I'm very pleased to welcome Lisa Schied, the managing editor of that bureau, and Jose Delgado, general manager, to Noontime Knowledge in September. Join us at the JCC (1100 Berkshire Blvd, Wyomissing) on Sept 10 at noon.

Lisa Scheid was born and raised in southeastern Pennsylvania and has more than three decades of journalism experience, including reporting, editing,

and coordinating roles at the *Reading Eagle* and LNP|LancasterOnline. She was selected as a 2023 fellow to study economic data by the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing. Her business and agriculture reporting for the *Eagle* earned Keystone Press Awards in 2018 and 2019. As the *Eagle's* Business Weekly editor, she created the "40 Under 40" project and managed the Berks' Best scholarship program. Her agricultural coverage earned her the Bountiful Berks Award.

José Joel Delgado-Rivera is responsible for leading community engagement, cultivating partnerships, driving fundraising efforts, and expanding Spotlight PA's presence across Berks County. Prior to joining Spotlight PA, José served as Chief Communications Officer for the Animal Rescue League of Berks County and an Integrated Communications Advisor for Universidad del Sagrado Corazón in Puerto Rico. José has a bachelor's degree in Journalism and a master's in Public Relations from Universidad del Sagrado Corazón. Originally from San Germán, Puerto Rico, José has called Reading home since 2020.

Their presentation will highlight Spotlight PA's accountability-focused approach to journalism in Berks County. They will talk about how our local bureau is structured and our local news landscape. They will finish with a listening session, to hear from you!

### Tuesday, Sept. 30, noon - Literatour Berks presents Jean Hoffman Lewanda

Literatour Berks returns with gusto with Jean Hoffman Lewanda at Noontime Knowledge on Sept. 30, at noon. She will speak about her book "Shalama: My 96 Seasons in China."

Despite all that has been written about the Holocaust, Jews fleeing to China is still an untold chapter for many. "Shalama" is a historical fiction account starting with the arrival of the author's grandparents in Harbin, China. They were Russian Jews fleeing pogroms and the Russian Revolution. The book is based on actual events and is told from the perspective of a child and then a young woman trying to make sense of a tumultuous and chaotic world, inspired by the author's mother who was born there.

Jean Hoffman Lewanda was born in New York shortly after her parents arrived in America in the 1950s. Her first book, "Witness to History: From Vienna to Shanghai," her dad's memoir, was published in 2021. "Shalama: My 96 Seasons in China" highlights her mom's Jewish Russian community in China. Retired from teaching, Jean researches Jews in China and participates in Holocaust education programs.

I'm looking forward to learning about a piece of Jewish history I know little about. I hope you'll join me!

## LITERATOUR

Continued from Page 1

Why did her Nonna run away from this beautiful small town, never to return? Lost and alone in the world, could it help Callie understand who she is? Local café owner Oliver's dark brown eyes light up when he sees the menu. During the war, one brave family secretly fed desperate Jewish families hidden in safe houses through the village. Callie's heart soars at the thought that her own dear grandmother was involved. What were her grandmother's actions during the war? This is the perfect book club choice, and I hope you will join us to add to the discussion.

Our final Literatour event features journalist and author Cynthia Handler whose latest book, "A German Jew's Triumph: Fritz Oppenheimer and the Denazification of Germany," tells the extraordinary true story of Oppenheimer, a Prussian soldier and lawyer who fled

the Nazis, joined the U.S. Army at 45 and played a crucial role in shaping postwar justice. The book draws on uncovered letters and documents to reveal a story of resilience and courage during one of history's darkest chapters. This event is part of the Federation's Noontime Knowledge Program on May 13.

I hope several of these authors and their stories have sparked your interest, and I hope to see you during this season. Each of the books is available to be borrowed through the library system or may be purchased from Reads and Company through the Literatour link at [readingjewishcommunity.org](http://readingjewishcommunity.org). As a committee, we agreed how difficult it was to make our choices because there were so many great author presentations. It also says a lot about you, our community of readers, that you support these stories and those who voice them.

**LITERATOUR BERKS**  
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH**  
12:00 PM AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION  
**JEAN HOFFMANN LEWANDA**

**SHALAMA**  
MY 96 SEASONS IN CHINA

**AUTHOR OF:**  
**SHALAMA;**  
**MY 96 SEASONS**  
**IN CHINA**

Shalama is a moving epic following a Russian Jewish girl, born in 1928 in Harbin, China, whose life tracks one of the great rescues of the 20th century.

Join us for an afternoon with Jean Hoffmann Lewanda, author of *Shalama, My 96 Seasons In China!* Jean will be leading a discussion of her novel as well as signing & selling copies during the event.

**NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM**

VISIT THE FEDERATION WEBSITE

Jewish Book Council Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

**JEWISH FEDERATION OF READING/BERKS • 1100 BERKSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 125 • WYOMISSING, PA 19610**  
Call 610-921-0624 to RSVP or visit [www.readingjewishcommunity.org](http://www.readingjewishcommunity.org) for information!

**NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE**  
at the JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Ste. 125, Wyomissing

**Spotlight on Spotlight PA**  
with Managing Editor of the Berks County Bureau, Lisa Scheid

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 12:00pm**

Learn about Spotlight PA and their accountability-focused approach to journalism in Berks County and around the state. Then, join in a discussion on news consumption habits, information gaps, and community issues with Managing Editor, Lisa Scheid.

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

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

**Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks**

**Ehrlich**

Your Local Pest Control Experts

**Trust the pest experts**

With over 80 years of experience, we've seen and solved just about every pest problem imaginable.

- Termite Control
- Bird & Bat Control
- Bed Bug Control
- Ant & Spider Control
- General Pest Control
- Mosquito & Tick Control
- Weed Control
- Year Round Protection

**Call Ehrlich at (855) 226-0075 or visit [jcehrlich.com](http://jcehrlich.com)**

# Thought-provoking ‘Our Class’ to be presented in Reading

By Susan L. Peña

The Fall Festival of the Arts will present “Our Class,” the first of two plays in this year’s lineup, in a staged reading on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church in downtown Reading.

Written by Polish playwright Tadeusz Slobodzianek (translated by Ryan Craig), “Our Class” had its world premiere in London in 2009 and its New York premiere last fall at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The play, directed by John Gancar, delves into the lives of 10 students who

were caught up in the nearly forgotten 1941 massacre of members of the Jewish community in Jedwabne, a small village in northeast Poland, by their Polish Catholic neighbors.

In a recent interview, Gancar said he saw the New York production of “Our Class” by the Classic Stage Company in the off-Broadway Lynn F. Angelson Theater after it was moved from Brooklyn. Directed by Igor Golyak, a Ukrainian Jew now living in Boston, that production was highly kinetic, with many visual

metaphors to suggest violence, rather than show it realistically.

“It was a wonderful production,” Gancar said, “and the actors were amazing. But I personally thought it was over-directed. It’s an odd play — there are no real scenes. It’s people taking turns telling their stories; there are 10 protagonists in this show. There was so much going on in that production, it could be very confusing (at times). So I wanted to do a reading, and just strip everything away and focus on the words.”

Gancar, who has directed many productions for the Fall Festival and other local theaters, has recruited 10 local veteran actors who he feels are more than capable of bringing the play to life without a set or any special effects. Because the play is about two hours long and requires concentration from the audience as well as from the actors, he has decided not to have a talkback afterwards. In the New York production, according to Golyak (in an excellent interview by Frieda Vazel on YouTube), many members of the audience would linger in their seats for a while afterward, just silently processing what they had just seen, or they would gather outside, talking little.

The characters in the play have grown up together, in the same class at school, going through the typical adolescent rivalries and friendships and first-love affairs. But when the Nazi occupation begins, the division between Jews and Poles begins to open up — as Golyak says, “antisemitism is a light sleeper” — culminating in the horrific incident in which Jews, including some of the students, are rounded up, humiliated and beaten, and then driven into a barn, which is lit on fire, killing everyone inside.

The characters, both the survivors and the dead, speak about their lives, before and after the tragedy, including one Jewish woman who is now very old and in a nursing home. The audience will see people of various ages talking about their marriages, their suffering, their time under Communist rule, their war stories.

“I’ve always been fascinated with stories about World War II and the Holocaust,” Gancar said. “That’s why I went to see this play. This is a different

kind of story. There are no concentration camps. These kids grew up together and then turned on each other.”

For many years after the war, the Polish government suppressed the true story of the Jedwabne massacre, blaming the entire incident on the German Nazis, Gancar said. It wasn’t until the publication of Polish-American historian Jan Gross’s book “Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland” was published in 2000, first in Polish, then in English, that the truth emerged.

The result was at first shock and horror (with some denial) at the realization that this was a Polish, not a German, war crime. But gradually, a collective reckoning with the history of anti-Semitism in Poland emerged. There was an investigation, many articles, and eventually, an apology for the massacre by then-Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski in 2001.

In the play, Gancar said, “some of the survivors (six out of the 10 students) get involved with the Communist government; some become spies. The married couple (a Polish man and Jewish woman) lived a long time in the village, but they had a terrible marriage.” All of them were scarred by the incident.

He compared the play to others, such as Tennessee Williams’s “The Glass Menagerie,” in which an actor slips in and out of the present time to let the audience experience the past as well.

“The actors have to think about where they, are to play this kind of scene,” Gancar said. “They’re in the here and now, with the audience, in the space, but they are also in the past. It’s blowing my mind how good these actors are.”

The 10 protagonists will be played by Rachel Himes-DeWalt (Dora), Becca Snyder (Zocha), Vicki Haller Graff (Rachelka), Kevin Adams (Jakub Katz), Corey Clark (Rysiek), Daniel Graf (Menachem), Joel Gori (Zygmunt), Philippe Levesque (Heniek), Richard Bradbury (Wladek) and Barry Steely (Abram). (Note: Vicki Haller Graff and Richard Bradbury are employed by the Jewish Federation of Reading.)

To purchase tickets and for complete information about Fall Festival of the Arts events, visit [fallfestivalofthearts.org/](http://fallfestivalofthearts.org/).



On October 7th, 2023, the Jewish community suffered a profound loss.

As we mark two years since the horrific attacks, we invite you to join us for a community gathering to commemorate the victims and those who are still being held hostage.

**Sunday, October 5, 2025  
7:00 PM**

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

Event details and registration information will be coming soon. Please save the date and join us for this meaningful commemoration.



**Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks**

[readingjewishcommunity.org](http://readingjewishcommunity.org) | 610-921-0624

Please support the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks with a donation of \$5 in exchange for a shopping pass to



**Wednesday, October 22, 2025  
8am- 11pm**

Shopping passes are worth 25% off a huge selection of merchandise at any Boscov’s Department Store, plus you’ll have a chance to win a \$100 Boscov’s gift card!

**To purchase a pass please visit the Federation office at 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing**



**Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks**

*Movie Monday at the JCC*  
**September 29, 2025, 1pm**



**A Complete Unknown**  
*drama about Bob Dylan*  
*nominated for 8 Oscars*  
**2 hours, 21 minutes**  
*rated R*

Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's A COMPLETE UNKNOWN, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.



**Jewish Federation  
of Reading/Berks**

Grab a seat for a Jewish themed movie each month at the JCC (1100 Berkshire Blvd., Ste. 125, Wyomissing). It is usually held on the 4th Monday of the month, and the popcorn and the movie are both free!

# Parents: Save the date for author's visit in October

By Vicki Haller Graff

Parents of tweens! Save the date for Sunday, Oct. 12, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Jewish Federation of Reading (1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing) for a special program with Dana Kramaroff, author of "The Do More Club."

This program is geared for young people in our community, ages 8-13. Sign up will include a free copy of the book! Register on our website – [readingjewishcommunity.org](http://readingjewishcommunity.org).

In "The Do More Club," a Jewish boy's bravery and kindness are tested after an antisemitic attack on his middle school in this rousing novel-in-verse. The book is fast-paced and conversation-starting. Josh's story is an empowering examination of prejudice, bullying, and how to take the first step toward

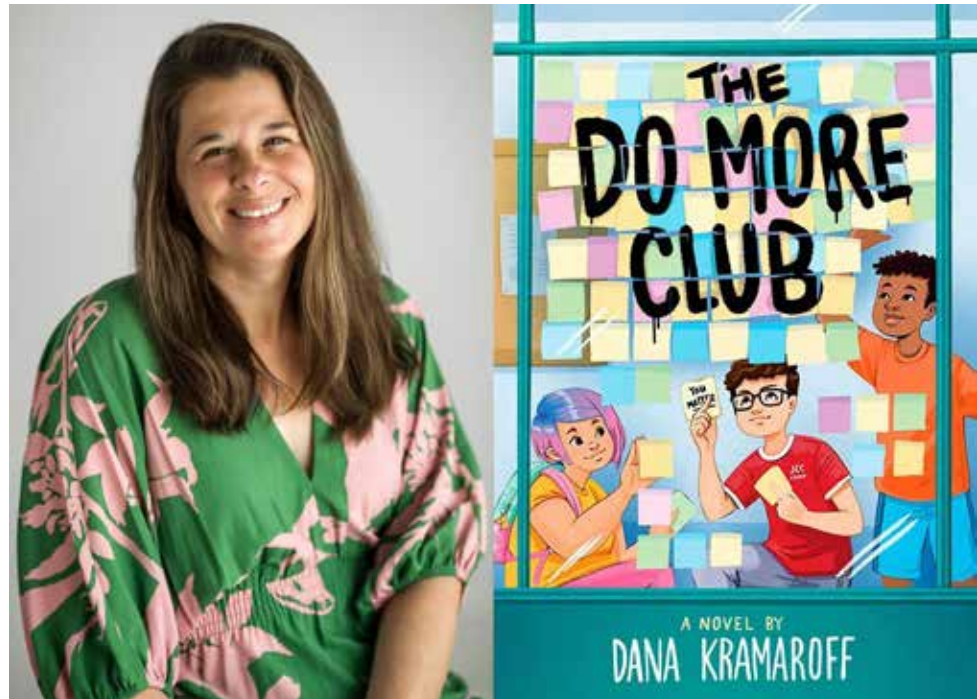
change.

Dana will lead our youth through a discussion of the book (but it's OK if they read it after...) and a variety of activities that center on kindness and building relationships.

Dana Kramaroff is a lifelong writer and second grade teacher in Boyertown. She grew up in the region and remembers coming to Reading for BBYO events.

She has been a presenter at a variety of schools, Jewish institutions and national education conventions. Her book is recommended by the Anti-Defamation League in its "Books Matter" program.

Parents of teens! Your older children, post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah age, are welcome to come volunteer at the event. Contact [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) to sign them up.



## JFS hospital, outpatient visits

By Carole Robinson and Sari Incledon

Jewish Family Service social workers visit JFS patients at local hospitals, senior communities, nursing homes and rehab centers.

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

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

a visit, please call us.

If you or a loved one are treated at a hospital out of our area we are also available for follow-up visits upon discharge.

At times of ill health, stress or crisis, families are often looking for information about home care, transportation services, senior communities, nursing homes and rehabs. This is what we're here for.

Please call Jewish Family Service social workers for help at 610-921-0624.

**WYOMISSING OPTOMETRIC CENTER**  
*The Best Care In Sight!*

**COMPREHENSIVE VISION & MEDICAL EYE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AGES**

**24/7 MEDICAL EYE EMERGENCIES**

Glenn S. Corbin, OD  
Kerry J. Burrell, OD  
Amanda S. Legge, OD  
Perry C. Umlauf, OD  
Jeffrey S. Stefanick, OD  
Stephen J. Shalamanda, OD  
Leslie B. Miller, OD

**WYOMISSING**  
50 Berkshire Court, Wyomissing, PA 19610  
610-374-3134  
[wyo-opto.com](http://wyo-opto.com)

**DOUGLASSVILLE**  
1050 Benjamin Franklin Hwy. W.  
Douglassville, PA 19518  
610-385-4333

**MYERTOWN**  
356 West Main Avenue  
Myerstown, PA 17067  
717-866-1400

Because your life is on a **NEED TO KNOW BASIS.**

**Person Detected**

**Current Security Provider for JFR Offices**

**SAH Incorporated**  
When You Need to Know.

**Security | Fire | Camera | Doorbell**  
[sahinc.com](http://sahinc.com) **610.372.8872**

**PJ OUR WAY.** Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

**THE DO MORE CLUB**

PROGRAM BY AUTHOR DANA KRAMAROFF FOR YOUTH AGES 8 TO 13  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2:00 PM TO 3:30 PM  
AT THE JCC (1100 BERKSHIRE BLVD., WYOMISSING)

REGISTRATION REUIRED:  
[READINGJEWISHCOMMUNITY.ORG](http://READINGJEWISHCOMMUNITY.ORG)

FREE COPY OF THE BOOK FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

[readingjewishcommunity.org](http://readingjewishcommunity.org) | [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) | 610-921-0624

# Happy Hour fun with Jewish community



At left, Myron and Karen Kabakoff schmooze with Federation Director of Development Richard Bradbury at the summer happy hour at State Hill Kitchen. Right, Jewish community members enjoy the opportunity to socialize at the event.

## Scholar visits Federation



Paul Staniland, Ph.D., professor of political science from the University of Chicago, gave an informative and timely lecture on "Armed Conflict in the Contemporary World"

## All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Mimi Gavigan** on the Aug. 30 wedding of her son Ian to Davis Hermann, both of Philadelphia.

Noa Sarai Mansueto. Her parents are Isaac Kastensbaum and Allie Mansueto of Philadelphia.

\*\*\*

Mazel tov to **Mike Kastensbaum** on the birth of a granddaughter,

Send good news to [Marknem@aol.com](mailto:Marknem@aol.com) or call 610-921-0624.

Until next time: *Shalom!*

## JFS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

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

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

*Program subsidized by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks*

RESTAURANT

770

JUDAICA SHOP

VISIT THE OHEL OF THE REBBE

No Charge  
Each participant is responsible for personal expenses in NY, including food

**NEW YORK POWER TRIP**

A day of inspiration for the body and soul

**SPONSORSHIP: \$180**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

DEPART 8:00AM - RETURN BY 9:00PM

2320 HAMPDEN BLVD. READING, PA 19604

RSVP BY AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup> to [www.ChabadofBerks.org/RSVP](http://www.ChabadofBerks.org/RSVP)

**Your Clothes Can Change Lives**

Donate your gently used clothes to CommunityAid to help JFS (partner #50100) support those in need.

CommunityAid THRIFT STORE AND DONATION CENTER  
5370 Allentown Pike Temple, PA 19560

or in our parking lot bin

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks  
1100 Berkshire Blvd Wyomissing, PA 19610

# L'dor V'dor: The legacy of Lakin Preschool

By Carole Robinon

It's no small thing to pack up 70 years of laughter, finger-paint, and holiday songs. As we dismantled Lakin Preschool (formerly the JCC Preschool, we were not just making the emotional decision to close a school, but wrapping up a chapter of community, identity and love that has shaped generations. For decades, little ones of all backgrounds learned their ABC's and other fundamental skills and celebrated Shabbat and other Jewish holidays while making friends and having fun in an environment where Jewish identity and early childhood development were beautifully woven together.



In 1984, my oldest child, Ben, began his journey at the JCC Preschool. It was such a welcoming environment, and he loved going — it made it easy to drop him off knowing he was safe and loved. It was the simplest decision to send my other three children through those doors as they became preschoolers. One day, Norma Sigal, the preschool director at the time, joked, "You're here every day, you may as well work here!" That simple comment opened the door to a lifelong journey for me in the Jewish community, and the 30 years I taught at the preschool remain a

cherished experience. Like hundreds of other families, my own story is forever tied to these classrooms through the friendships we made and the Jewish traditions we shared.

Closing Lakin has been a tremendous undertaking! It was six weeks filled with memories, tears, and gratitude. As I sorted through the blocks, books, toys, educational materials and classroom furniture, I knew that this was not an ending alone. Guided by the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and tzedakah (charity), we sent these beloved treasures to organizations that provide services to economically disadvantaged children as well as to other local preschools and the RCOS Religious School.

In the end, all six classrooms were totally emptied and more than nine schools received donations. It was especially meaningful to donate truckloads of children's tables and chairs, wooden bookcases and storage bins and toys to Opportunity House's Learning Center; BCIU, which operates free Head Start and Pre-K Counts classrooms for qualifying families; and Pathstone Child and Family Development, which operates Head Start and Migrant Head Start Programs.

One moment of much-needed comic relief came when the Church of the Brethren Preschool arrived to pick up supplies. The teachers literally wheeled a cart packed full of learning materials and furniture across the street. That image felt like a bridge



A local preschool teacher selects items for his classroom thanks to the Lakin Preschool's donation of its supplies.

connecting the Jewish community and our Christian friends!

Continued on Page

## Food distribution busy during summer



Pete Jacobson, left, carrying bags of produce to our food pantry clients. Russ Shanahan loading boxes into cars.

Jewish Family Service

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

Many thanks to our August Food Pantry Volunteers who distributed food to 635 households.

Mary Anne Avins	Pete Jacobson	Ellen Schwartz
Cindy Balchunas	Sid Lempiner	Russ Shanahan
Sarah Flamholz	Lisa Levine	Oleg Umanov
Sam Flamholz	Mary Neville	Phyllis Warshaw
Sharon Gernsheimer	Annette Peppard	Michael Warshaw
Patty Hartman	Jenn Reilly	
John Incledon	Mike Robinson	

# LAKIN PRESCHOOL

**Continued from Page**

One of the teachers who received donations told us: "When we opened the boxes, the children's eyes lit up. We don't often have the resources to bring in new toys or materials, so to receive these from Lakin Preschool felt like a true blessing. Your community's generosity will live on here every single day." Her words reminded us that even in closing, Lakin is still extending its warmth to children who might otherwise go without.

The giving did not stop there. Leftover books were donated to the Berks County Public Library system Book Bonanza, ensuring children across the county will discover the joy of reading. Some toys and materials found their way to the RCOS Rummage Sale, which helps keep synagogue dues affordable and strengthens Jewish life in yet another way. Each piece, whether a bookshelf or a teddy bear, carried with it not just memories but the promise of future joy, learning, and community.

This work has not been mine alone. I am deeply grateful to Adrienne Cardinal, whose suggestions, hard work and help made this transition manageable. Together, we ensured that Lakin Preschool's spirit will continue through every new child who will build, play, sing, and grow with the toys and lessons once housed here.

This year, my family gathered just after I finished the bittersweet work of emptying the school. I had the joy of watching my daughter Rebecca lead



*Adrienne Cardinal and Carole Robinson, at left, in an emptied-out Lakin Preschool classroom. Former Lakin Preschool teacher Jess Hinsey, right, with a wooden kitchen set in its new preschool home*



all eight of my grandchildren in Shabbat songs she once learned at the preschool. Hearing the shrieks of laughter as they shouted "bim bom" with matching arm movements, and watching each child add something to the imaginary pot to "stir it up for Shabbat," reminded me that even though the doors officially closed to students on June 4, the lessons will continue on for generations to come.

Seventy years of Lakin Preschool cannot be contained in boxes or summed up in a single farewell. It lives in the hearts of families, in the friendships formed, and in the traditions passed down. And though we are saying goodbye to this chapter, we take comfort in knowing that its story isn't ending, but it is being written in new places, with new voices. That leaves my heart full.

## Summertime fun, learning at Friendship Circle



*At left, Louise Zeidman and Claire Bram enjoying a smile after Friendship Circle on Aug. 14*



*Mark Levengood, counselor with the Vision Resource Center, showing assistive devices to enhance independence and quality of life for individuals with visual impairments at Friendship Circle on July 17.*

*Friendship Circle meets twice a month with fun and educational programs and great fellowship. See the upcoming schedule below.*

## FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

**Sept.4 - "Brain Health"**

Brain health refers to our cognitive, sensory, emotional, behavioral, and motor well-being. Join Iwonna Boraks from the PA Dept of Health for tips to maintain brain health and realize your full potential!

**Sept. 18- "Rosh Hashanah Service and Holiday Meal at the Federation " 11:45AM**

Jewish Family Service invites seniors to a pre-Rosh Hashanah service and holiday lunch. All are welcome. Please make reservations by Sept. 4 to 610-921-0624 or caroler@jfredreading.org. **Please note the change in time: 11:45am**

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

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



# No Rosh Hashanah

**By Rabbi Ted Prosnitz**  
*Keshet Zion Synagogue*

Emet/true, Rosh Hashana is not a term written in the Torah. True, in Leviticus (23:24), the first day of the seventh month of the year is described as a solemn occasion, a memorial with shofar blasts. Then in Numbers (29:1) it is called Yom T'ruah — a Day of Shofar Blasts.



True, we celebrate Rosh Hashanah (a moniker given by the rabbis of the Mishnah) as the Jewish New Year. It is a joyous celebration of God's kingship and His rule over us, according to the Vilna Gaon. Hearing the shofar blasts is one of the highlights of the High Holiday services.

Maimonides teaches that the blasts of the shofar mean: Sleepers awake! Reflect upon your actions! Remember your Creator and turn back to him in

repentance! Those who forget the truth in the vanities of time and throughout the entire year, devote their energies to vanity and emptiness which will not benefit or save: Look to your souls. Improve your ways and your deeds and let every one of you abandon his evil path and thoughts. (Mishnah Torah).

Emet ki atah hu dayan/true that You are Judge (High Holy Day liturgy). And every person signs their name with their deeds in the Book of Remembrance.

Emet ki atah hu yotzram/true, You are their Creator (High Holy Day liturgy). What is it that your Creator asks of you? Only this: to revere your God, to walk only in divine paths, to love and to serve your God with all your heart and soul (Deut. 10:12).

What is not emet/true or correct about the picture accompanying this column? The black strap shows that the person blowing the shofar is wearing tefillin. Tefillin are worn on weekdays as a sign, a reminder of all that God has done for us, and to remind us of our obligations. But tefillin are not worn on Rosh Hashanah,



because Rosh Hashanah is a sign in and of itself. Nevertheless, there is nothing wrong with the picture. Heshbon hanefesh, the effort to awaken our souls, and to reflect on our lives, our relationships with our Creator and our fellow creatures, needs more than a single day. Therefore, to properly prepare for Yom Hadin/the Day of Judgement, it is a

practice to sound the shofar every weekday during the month preceding Yom T'ruah.

May the Yamim Noraim/Days of Awe fill our hearts and souls with an elevating spirit and inspire our hands to perform ma'asim tovim/acts of goodness. May you, your loved ones, and our communities be remembered for good.

# High Holidays present each of us with an opportunity

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

As the sun sets on another Jewish year, we find ourselves once again standing at the threshold of the High Holidays — Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur — days that call us to pause, reflect, and return.



These are not simply days of old rituals and ancient prayers. They are an invitation — an invitation to step out of the hecticness of our lives and listen. We can listen to the still, small voice within or to the loud blast of the shofar. They ask us: Who are you? Who have you become this past year? And who do you still hope to be? What have you done right, and what still challenges you?

We begin with Rosh Hashanah, the head of the year, a day that tradition teaches is the birthday of the world. But unlike the raucous noise of a secular New Year's celebration, Rosh Hashanah invites us into sacred quiet. Yes, we blow the shofar — a piercing, ancient sound — but even

that is less about noise and more about awakening. The shofar calls us to wake up from our spiritual slumber and pay attention to our lives.

In the synagogue, we gather in prayer, but prayer on Rosh Hashanah is not about asking God to fix our problems. It's about taking an honest look at ourselves. The words of Unetaneh Tokef — "Who shall live and who shall die." This warning is not meant to scare us but to remind us that life is fragile, time is precious, and our choices matter.

Ten days later comes Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. We fast. We refrain. We confess. Not because we are bad people, but because we are human. We miss the mark. We say things we regret. We fail to be our best selves. Yom Kippur gives us a sacred space to begin again — the opportunity to try and do better.

It's not easy to say, "I was wrong." It's not easy to ask for forgiveness — from those we've hurt, from ourselves, or even from God. Yet, Yom Kippur reminds us that we don't need to carry our guilt forever. There is power in teshuvah —

in return. We can return to our values, return to our community, and return to the truest version of ourselves.

The High Holidays are not about perfection. They are about progress. They are not about fear; they are about hope. They teach us that change is possible, that we are not defined by our worst moments, and that every day offers us the chance to begin again.

As we hear the final blast of the

shofar at the end of Yom Kippur, may we leave not just relieved that the fast is over, but renewed — ready to bring more kindness, more compassion, and more justice into the world.

May this new year be a year of health, of peace, and of returning — returning to our hearts, to our community, and to the sacred path that leads us home.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah — wishing you a sweet and meaningful new year.

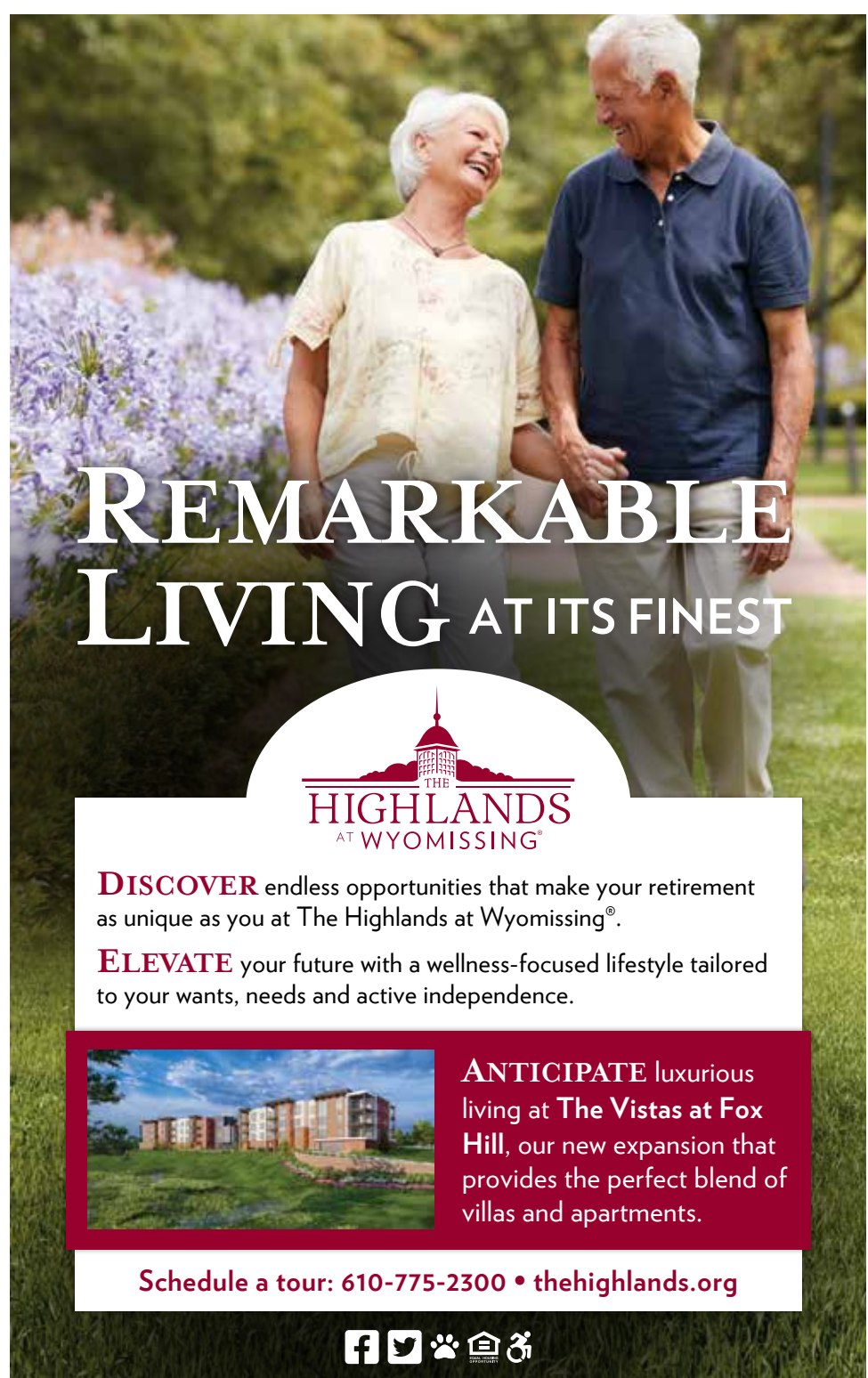


**Sushi**  
IN THE SUKKAH

2320 HAMPDEN BLVD,  
READING, PA 19604

**SUNDAY**  
**OCTOBER 12**  
5:30 PM

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



**REMARKABLE LIVING AT ITS FINEST**

**THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING**

**DISCOVER** endless opportunities that make your retirement as unique as you at The Highlands at Wyomissing®.

**ELEVATE** your future with a wellness-focused lifestyle tailored to your wants, needs and active independence.

**ANTICIPATE** luxurious living at **The Vistas at Fox Hill**, our new expansion that provides the perfect blend of villas and apartments.

Schedule a tour: 610-775-2300 • [thehighlands.org](http://thehighlands.org)

# How to make this year an adventure

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker  
Chabad Center of Berks County



Imagine you were given an opportunity to travel the entire world, every continent, every country at no cost. But there would be one condition; you would have to do it blindfolded. You can trek from Hawaii to the Swiss Alps, from the Amazon to Jerusalem, but it will all have to be done without you seeing any of it. It's a frustrating idea. Here you are going from place to place but to you, it all seems the same.

The truth is, this dilemma does not just exist in the realm of space, it also exists in the realm of time.

The Kabbalah teaches us that just as every place has its own unique energy and purpose, which is why traveling is always filled with newness

and adventure; every point in time has its own exclusive character and rhythm.

This week, this day, this very moment will never happen again; there will be many more moments to come, but none will be like this. One can go through life, day after day blindfolded, like listening to the same song on repeat. Or one can take off their blindfold, look at each day and recognize that the challenges and triumphs that are unfolding before them is unique, it has its own flavor and will never happen this exact way again.

This is what's so significant about Rosh Hashanah and the celebration of the New Year. During this holiday, the energy that will define the entire year ahead, the context in which everything will be achieved, enters into our world for the very first time. Furthermore, the Kabbalah teaches, not only is this a new energy, each year it is an even greater energy than the year past. The potential

and destiny that is waiting to be unlocked during this coming year is something the world has never seen.

All this happens with the blast of the Shofar. The sound of the Shofar is the sound of us piercing heaven and drawing down a year that is unlike any that's ever been before. Its unique tone beckons us to take off our blindfold and witness the transition into a brand new year.

This year, we are given the opportunity to go on a magical journey

of time. To experience moments that are filled with fresh and untapped beauty. The choice is ours; we can slide right into the New Year blindfolded, completely unaware of the fact that we just entered into an entirely new dimension, or we can go hear the Shofar and blow the blindfold off. We can open our hearts and pray for a year of health, redemption and prosperity.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful year.

Please Join Us  
as Kesher Zion Synagogue  
proudly celebrates Cantor  
Prosnitz's huge accomplishment  
of receiving Smicha (rabbinical  
ordination) and now holds the  
esteemed title of.....



## RABBI PROSNITZ

Sunday, September 14th

2:00pm

All are welcome

For more information call KZ Office at (610) 374-1763 email kesherzionoffice@gmail.com



Kesher Zion Synagogue



KABBALAT  
SHABBAT

Please join us for Kabbalat Shabbat on  
September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM

For more information please call the office at (610)374-1763  
or email us at kesherzionoffice@gmail.com

Jewish Family Service thanks RCOS and Adrienne Cardinal for donating the left-over clothing from their Annual Rummage Sale to CommunityAid. We appreciate all the help from the RCOS Rummage Committee, the RCOS Social Action Committee, and the KZ Social Action Committee in packing the clothing and delivering it to CommunityAid. We also would like to thank the KZ Social Action Committee for their clothing drive for CommunityAid in the spring. Your clothing donations amounted to \$250 for JFS.



REFORM CONGREGATION  
OHEB SHOLOM



## Happy hour

### Wednesday, September 17

MIMMO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT  
290 MORGANTOWN ROAD  
6:00-8:00 PM

Parking \* Cash Bar \*Appetizers

# September 2025

# Elu

09.02 12:00 pm

### JCC ROMEO

**Tuesday, Sept. 2, 12:00 pm**

Retired Old Men Eating Out will meet at Paolo's for lunch, conversation, and comraderie. All retirees are welcome to attend.

Location: Paolo's, 2480 Lancaster Pike, Reading

09.02 7:00 pm

### KZ High Holiday Crash Course

**Tuesday, Sept. 2, 7:00 pm**

Improve your Hebrew reading/pronunciation skills and your understanding and appreciation of the High Holiday liturgy; meets every Tuesday until September 16.

Location: KZ, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing

09.11 7:00 pm

### RCOS Interfaith Pre 9-11 Service

**Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7:00pm**

Come together in community to remember the tragedy of 9/11 and honor the lives that were lost.

Location: Christ Episcopal, 435 Court St., Reading

09.13 10:00 am

### RCOS Tot Shabbat

**Saturday, Sept. 13, 10am**

Rabbi Michelson leads a musical shabbat program for children ages 0-7 and their caregivers. Open to all families. Stay after for the tasty oneg!

Location: RCOS, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing

09.14 10:00 am

### JCC Literatour Kick Off

**now with Adam Nimoy**

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 10:00 am**

Attend the Literatour kick off with acclaimed author Adam Nimoy presenting his book , "The Most Human: Reconciling with my Father, Leonard Nimoy."

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

09.14 2:00 pm

### KZ Celebrate Rabbi Prosnitz

**Sunday, Sept. 14, 2:00 pm**

Celebrate Cantor Prosnitz receiving Smicha (rabbinical ordination) and becoming Rabbi Prosnitz.

Location: KZ, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing

09.18 11:45 am

### JFS Friendship Circle

**Thursday, Sept. 18, 11:45am**

Jewish Family Service invites seniors to a pre-Rosh Hashanah service and holiday lunch. Please note the time is different from usual, and RSVP by Sept 4.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

09.22 6:30 pm

### Chabad Rosh Hashanah Dinner

**Monday, Sept. 22, 6:30 pm**

Celebrate the new year with Chabad.

Location: Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd., Reading

# I 5785 to Tishrei 5786

09.04 1:00 pm

**JFS Friendship Circle**  
**Thursday, Sept. 4, 1:00 pm**

Focus on Brain Health; Join Iwonna Boraks from PA Dept of Health for tips to maintain brain health and realize your full potential.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

09.10 12:00 pm

**JCC Noontime Knowledge**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 10, 12:00 pm**

Learn about Spotlight PA and their accountability-focused approach to journalism locally and around the state. Discuss news consumption habits and community issues.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyo.

09.13 7:00 pm

**RCOS Night of Music and**  
**RCOS/KZ Selichot Service**  
**Saturday, Sept. 13, 7:00 pm**

Annual Night of Music features Micha Biton, a world-renowned pioneer of Israeli ethnic rock and survivor of October 7. Joint Selichot service will follow the concert.

Location: RCOS/KZ, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyo.

09.14 8:00 am

**Chabad Men's Bus Trip**  
**Sunday, Sept. 14, 8:00 am**

Travel with Chabad on a New York Power Trip; visit The Ohel of the Rebbe, Judaica shops, 770 and restaurants.

Location: Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd, Reading

09.16 7:00 pm

**Chabad Pre-Rosh Hashanah**  
**Honey Cake Bake**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7:00 pm**

Discover different ways to make honey cake; take home your very own cake; all ingredients provided, just bring your apron and a smile.

Location: Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd., Reading

09.17 6:00 pm

**RCOS Happy Hour**  
**Wednesday, Sept. 17, 6:00 pm**

See old friends and new at the RCOS Happy Hour! Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar.

Location: Mimmo's, 290 Morgantown Rd., Rdg.

09.29 1:00 pm

**JCC Movie Monday**  
**Monday, Sept. 29, 1:00 pm**

Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's A COMPLETE UNKNOWN, the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

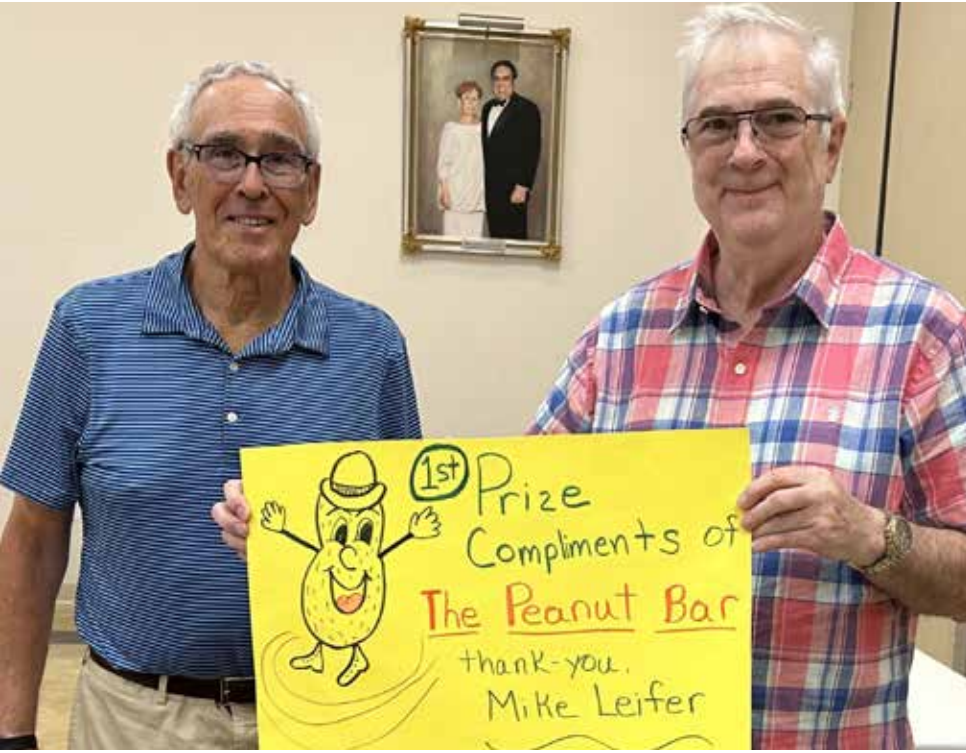
09.30 12:00 pm

**JCC Noontime Knowledge**  
**Tuesday, Sept. 30, 12:00 pm**

Jean Hoffman Lewanda will present her book, Shalama – My 96 Seasons in China, a historical fiction account of Russian Jews fleeing pogroms and the Russian Revolution. Part of Literatour Berks.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

# Kesher Zion Trivia Night



Trivia night at Kesher Zion with Jim Marlin as "Trivia Guy emcee" is always a fun time. And so it was again for the 20 participants this summer. The prizes donated by Mike Leifer of the Peanut Bar, Rabbi Prosnitz and Jim Marlin were just a side item to the great time everyone enjoyed. The questions of Current Events, Sports, Entertainment and Jewish knowledge were challenging. Music and refreshments topped off the evening. Let's do it again.

## Jewish organizations address campus antisemitism

### Jewish Federations of North America

As the school year begins, Jewish Federations of North America, along with the Anti-Defamation League, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Hillel International announced recommendations designed to create safer, more inclusive campus environments for Jewish students, faculty, and staff.

The guidelines acknowledge meaningful progress made to address campus antisemitism over the past school year, while outlining critical next steps needed to ensure sustained improvement.

"Expecting to be physically safe should be table stakes — Jewish students also deserve to thrive academically and socially in their campus communities," said Eric Fingerhut, President and CEO of Jewish Federations of North America. "These recommendations provide universities with concrete steps to create environments where Jewish students can pursue their education without fear of harassment or exclusion."

Recommendations include:  
Enhanced Communication and Policy Enforcement: Universities must clearly articulate behavioral expectations and

consistently enforce codes of conduct, with particular attention to time, place, and manner restrictions for campus activities.

Dedicated Administrative Oversight: Institutions should appoint coordinators with specific responsibilities for preventing and addressing discrimination.

Comprehensive Support Systems: Universities should actively combat the exclusion of Jewish students from campus activities, reject academic boycotts and invest in meaningful dialogue opportunities across campus communities.

Assess Campus Climate: Regular surveys of students, faculty, and staff

should measure not only antisemitic incident frequency but community trust, policy awareness, and the effectiveness of institutional responses regarding antisemitism.

Holistic Campus Security: Safety measures must address both physical and online harassment, with updated policies covering cyber bullying and coordinated harassment campaigns.

Faculty Accountability: Clear guidelines must govern classroom conduct, ensuring that academic spaces remain free from political coercion and identity-based discrimination.



## ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE INVITES YOU TO A PRE-ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE WITH HOLIDAY LUNCH

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH  
11:45AM**

at the Jewish Federation

LED BY CAROLE ROBINSON AND SARI INCLEDON

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY SEPT 4TH  
RSVP TO THE JCC AT 610-921-0624**



## JOINT SLICHOT SERVICE KESHER ZION & OHEB SHOLOM

Please join us Saturday, September 13th at 9 PM  
for our Joint Slichot Service

555 Warwick Dr., Wyomissing, PA 19610

FOLLOWING THE 7 PM SPECIAL MUSIC CONCERT  
FUNDRAISER FEATURING MICHA BITON.  
FOR TICKETS VISIT OHEBSHOLOM.ORG

DESSERT INTERMISSION  
\*CONCERT AND DESSERTS HOSTED BY RCOS



**SLICHOT IS THE OFFICIAL START FOR THE  
HIGH HOLIDAY SEASON.**

For more information call KZ Office at (610) 374-1763 email kesherzionoffice@gmail.com  
RCOS Office (610) 375-6034 email temple.office@ohebsholom.org

# Israeli performer featured in RCOS Night of Music

## Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

On Saturday Sept. 13, at 7 p.m., this year's RCOS Night of Music features Micha Biton, a pioneer of Israeli ethnic rock who is renowned in Israel and has traveled the world solo and with his band. He is a survivor of the October 7, 2023 attacks, during which he spent 13 hours in his safe room with his wife and four children. Twenty members of his friends and neighbors in his hometown of Moshav Netiv Ha'asara,

a Gaza border community, were murdered that day.

Micha says: "I have learned to tell my story from a place of light and faith. How? Because we survived. Because our prayers and God saved us. Because we made it out of the inferno and met people who are embracing and lifting us up. There is a lot of light and power in that despite all the pain for those who were not so

lucky. There is no doubt that if your life was saved, there is light."

In October 2024, he released his album "Waiting For a Miracle," a musical reflection on his thoughts and reactions to the events of October 7 and after.

To support Micha and the Night of Music, we have several levels of giving, which will be recognized in the evening's program.

To support Micha and the Night of Music, we invite members of our community purchase tickets (\$18 each) and to donate as generously as they are able.

Donations will be recognized in the evening's program. 10% of all donations will be contributed to a charity of Micha's choice, in his hometown.

Reserve tickets here: <https://ohebsholom.org/kozloff-night-of-music>



Micha Biton

Chabad of Berks invites you to the

## Thanksgiving Family Pumpkin Challa Bake

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
at 4 PM

2320 Hampden Blvd, Reading, PA 19604

NO CHARGE  
KINDLY SPONSORED BY DR. JERRY MARCUS

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

### Follow us on social media!

Jewish Federation of Reading & Jewish Cultural Center of Reading

@jfedreadingberks

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

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

### Pediatric and Adult Patients

#### Treating Ear, Nose, Throat Problems

#### Thyroid Nodules, Neck Masses & Sinusitis

**ENT**  
Ear • Nose • Throat

**HEAD & NECK**  
Specialists, P.C.

Physicians:

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

Nurse Practitioner:

Rosemarie Montgomery  
MS, CRNP, FNP-C



### THE AUDIOLOGY CENTER

Diagnostic Audiology & Hearing Aid Services

Audiologists:

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

Providing diagnostic and rehabilitative services for all types of hearing loss, for any age group.  
Hearing and Balance Disorders  
State of the Art Hearing Aid Fittings  
In House Hearing Aid Repairs

## KEVER AVOT

Sunday  
September 14th  
2025

Service Begins at:  
10:00am

There is a tradition to visit graves of loved ones around the time of Aseret Y'mei Teshuvah, the Ten Days of Repentance. Whether you have family or friends buried here or elsewhere, you are invited to come for a brief service. We honor the souls of the departed, those whom we knew well, as well as those unknown or who have no one to remember them. And we pray that their memories inspire and strengthen us to live meritorious lives. Children and grandchildren may come and experience the importance of remembering/zachor and doing/shamor among other Jewish values.

**ENT Head & Neck Specialists, PC**  
985 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing  
610-374-5599 • [www.ent-hns.net](http://www.ent-hns.net)

Cemetery Address:  
1051 Philadelphia Avenue, Shillington,  
PA 19607  
[www.kesherzion.org](http://www.kesherzion.org)

# RCOS Mitzvah Commitee making a difference



The Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom Mitzvah Committee has been active in serving the community. In June it partnered with the Reading Community Church on Penn Avenue to assist with activities at a rest station set up during the West Reading Arts Festival. At left, Chad Schlanger and his sons take part in the activity. At right, an August donation drive was launched by the committee to benefit the Wyomissing Area School District Spartan Station to assist underserved, low-income students with items needed to help them start the school year. A food drive is for October to benefit the New Journey Community Food Pantry.

## September ✨ Elul-Tishrei



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

September 5 7:11 p.m.	September 6/13 Elul Ki Teitzei (Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19)
September 12 6:59 p.m.	September 13/20 Elul Ki Tavo (Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8)
September 19 6:47 p.m.	September 20/27 Elul Nitzavim (Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20)
September 26 6:36 p.m.	September 27/5 Tishrei Vayelech (Deuteronomy 31:1-30)

## Poetry corner Do Not Be Vexed

*Do not be vexed.  
Do not wax indignant.  
Understand.  
— Spinoza*

*Will we ever?  
— Nancy Knoblauch*

### WE NEED YOUR HELP

In Making Keshar Zion's **BINGO** Fundraiser a Success!

Please consider donating in one or more of the following ways:

**Game Sponsor:** We will be awarding monetary game prizes starting at \$40.00

All sponsors/donors will be recognized during the event

**Gift Baskets:** We are looking for raffle prize donations to add excitement and attract more participants to our event. Prize ideas are as follows:

- Gift Cards to Local Businesses
- Gift Baskets
- Lottery Baskets
- Themed Baskets (movie night, spa day, cooking, etc)
- Tools/Home Improvement Kits
- Candy or Snack Baskets
- Liquor Baskets

Any amount or donation would be greatly appreciated! Please do not hesitate to contact either Susan Wilson or Lauren Valentine for additional information

Susan - [wexler718@hotmail.com](mailto:wexler718@hotmail.com)  
610.301.2083

Lauren - [lfsoccer52@comcast.net](mailto:lfsoccer52@comcast.net)  
484.336.0129

### SIXTH ANNUAL BERKS CULTURAL

## DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

*Standing Together!*

Saturday, September 27, 2025 • 12 PM – 6 PM

Reading City Park • Washington St. & N 11th St. • Reading, PA 19601

Rain Date: Sunday, September 28, Weather permitting

Presented by



### SIXTH ANNUAL BERKS CULTURAL DIVERSITY FESTIVAL

*Celebrate Cultural Diversity!*



201 Washington St., Suite 533  
Reading, PA 19601  
tel: (484) 509-1145  
email: [info@bringthechange.net](mailto:info@bringthechange.net)  
[www.bringthechange.net](http://www.bringthechange.net)



**BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!!**

Explore cultures and cultural history from around the world.

Connect with the community.

Bring your family and friends!

- Live music
- Dancing and performances
- Authentic cuisine from around the world
- Cultural Presentations
- Information tables
- Games and fun for all ages

RESPECT • APPRECIATION • ACCEPTANCE • BELONGING



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

**Gordon and Carol Perlmutter**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Vicki Haller Graff**



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

**Susan and Mel Blum**



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

**Julie Gabriel and Don Fox Family**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Judy Synnamon**



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

**Jonathan and Mary Anne Avins**



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

**Ivan and Paula Bub**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Jane Goodman**



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

**Debbie Goodman and family**



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

**Glenn and Gaye Corbin**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Norm Wilikofsky**



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

**Dena and Vic Hammel**



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

**Sarah and Sam Flamholz**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Barbara and Dave Paul**



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

**Phyllis Jacoby**



Wishing you a sweet and prosperous New Year.

**The Hollingers**



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

**Marty and Karen Jacobson and family**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Phyllis Fischman**



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

**Lee, Amy, Luke Berger**



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

**Marc and Marcia Filstein**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Nancy Knoblauch**



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

**Lisa and Alan Levine and family**



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

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



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Sean and Annette Peppard**



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

**Bret Miller**



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

**Farbiarz-Antanavage Family**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Mimi Gavigan**



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

**Emanuel and Yvonne Wittels**



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

**Haia and Meir Mazuz**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Russ and Jeri Diesinger**



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

**Andy and Laurie Waxler**



Wishing you a sweet and prosperous New Year.

**Rochelle Mann**



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

**Myron and Karen Kabakoff**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Sue Schlanger**



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

**Kalmen and Margaret Feinberg**



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

**Bobbie Lawit**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Carrie and Stephen Latman**



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

**Bernie and Carol Gerber and family**



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

**Rabbi Ted and Karen Prosnitz**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Barb and Seth Rosenzweig**



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

**Sheila and Jeff Bornstein**



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

**Cheryl and Eric Farber**



New Year's blessings to all!!

**Louise Zeidman and family**



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

**Rabbi Yosef and Chana Lipsker, Chabad-Lubavitch of Berks County**



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

**Fred and Julie Singer**



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

**Ellen and Jake Azrael**



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

**The Musso Family**



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

**Jeffrey D. and Karen Miller**



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

**Lila Shapiro and family**



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

**Susan and Michael Fromm**



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

**Elliott and Doris Leisawitz**



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

**Lynn and Dick Gordon**



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

**Michael and Barbara Charnoff**



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

**Jonathan and Jan Simon**



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

**Corinne and Andy Wernick**



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

**Ellen and Donald Abramson**



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

**Jack and Gayle Wolf**



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

**Cynthia and George Balchunas**



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

**Irene and Ellis Friedman**



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

**Judy and Jim Schwank**



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

**Kingsview Partners  
Radene Gordon-Beck**



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

**Shirley K. Boscov**



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

**Alan and Susan Weisberg  
and family**



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

Cindy, Rick and Zach Tomlinson



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

Michele, Ben, Leah and Adam Leisawitz



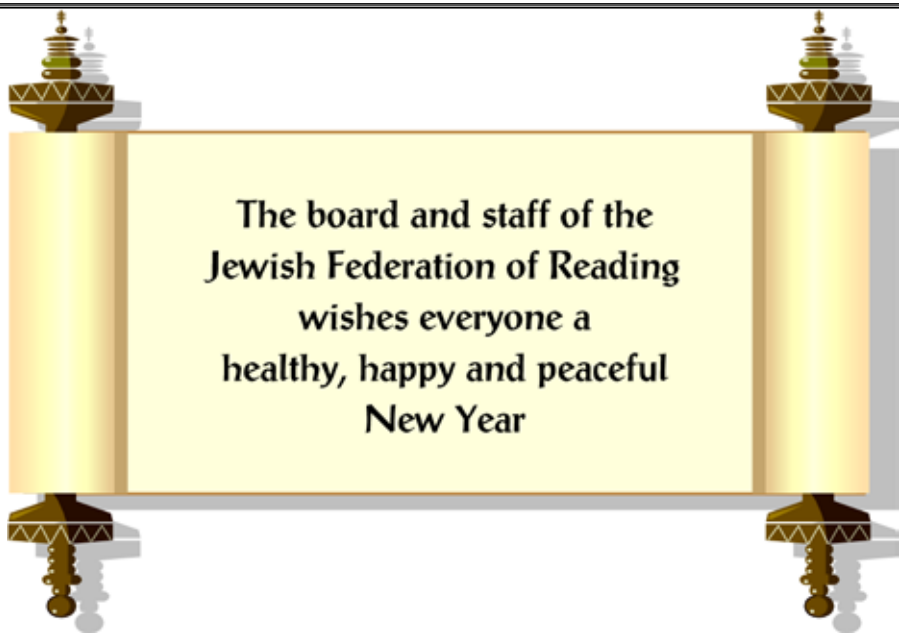
May this be a year of peace and prosperity for our community, Israel, and the world.

Larry, David, Jonathan and Leah Rotenberg and families



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

Frances Bendheim and Frank Wolf



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

Welcome a New Jewish Year with Chabad at our

# ROSH HASHANAH DINNER

*Celebrating with you will make it so much sweeter!*

Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30 pm

2320 Hampden Blvd. Reading, PA 19604

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY DR. JERRY MARCUS

**RSVP TO CHABADOFBERKS.ORG/RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 16TH**

*Wishing you and yours a Happy, Healthy & Sweet New Year!*



Get More Meaning Out Of Your High Holiday Experience !

## HIGH HOLIDAY HEBREW READING CRASH COURSE

The class will Not only improve your reading/pronunciation skills but will also improve your understanding and appreciation of the High Holiday liturgy and service.

**7:00PM**  
**4 TUESDAYS**  
**AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 9TH AND 16TH.**

**NO SYNAGOGUE MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION NECESSARY**

**FREE OF CHARGE**

**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE**  
**555 WARWICK DRIVE**  
**WYOMISSING, PA 19610**

**PLEASE REGISTER WITH NAME, PHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL BY CONTACTING OUR OFFICE.**

**[KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KESHERZIONOFFICE@GMAIL.COM)**  
**TEL: 610-374-1763**



*Pre Rosh Hashana*

## HONEY CAKE BAKE

*Discover different ways to make honey cake*

Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM

All ingredients provided — just bring your apron and a smile!  
Take home your very own honey cake to share with family and friends for a sweet New Year.

KINDLY SPONSORED BY DR. JERRY MARCUS  
RSVP by Sep. 10<sup>th</sup> to [www.ChabadofBerks.org/RSVP](http://www.ChabadofBerks.org/RSVP)

# Israeli innovators make the impossible possible

## Israel21c.org

Tell an Israeli his or her invention idea is preposterous, and you've just given that inventor a reason to see it through.

Whether it was planting crops in the desert or building a crowdsourced navigation app, many groundbreaking Israeli innovations were initially dismissed as impossible – until bold action turned them into reality.

An educational culture that encourages questioning and independent thinking, and innovating on the fly, leads Israelis to read the word “impossible” as “I’m possible.”

And that leads to innovations that impact the entire world for the better.

“Israel’s impact in tech has become too broad to characterize by one invention or another,” says Saul Singer, coauthor of the 2009 bestseller “Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle.”

Here are a dozen amazing Israeli inventions once thought impossible.

### Iron Dome

The Israeli defense establishment thought Brig. Gen. Daniel Gold had lost his mind in 2005 when he broached the idea for the mobile, all-weather missile-defense system that came to be known as Iron Dome. Yet he forged ahead, quietly putting a team in place to build the system. In 2012, this former “Don Quixote” won the Israel Defense Prize for spearheading the Iron Dome project, which has been deflecting Hamas missiles fired from Gaza since 2012.

“I saw what was going on and I said to myself, with all the technology that exists in Israel, we must use it to protect human life. We will find a way,” he said.”

### Growing crops in the desert

In 1959, Shai Ben Eliyahu and Hagai Porat had the ridiculous notion of founding an agricultural venture at Ein Yahav, a dusty army base in Israel’s Arava Desert.

“They were considered meshugenners, crazy people,” says Aylon Gadiel, former director of Southern Arava R&D.

“You couldn’t live in the Arava, let alone grow vegetables there. The Jewish Agency told them ‘No.’ So every Friday they went to the Tel Aviv headquarters of Mapai [Labor Party] and sat there until eventually David Ben-Gurion wrote them a letter.”

The founders dug a well to water a small garden, believing the climate was perfect for vegetables despite the arid soil.

“It was proven that it is possible, and one reason is the development of drip irrigation in the beginning of the 1960s,” says Gadiel. By 1967, the government was helping to build infrastructure, and in 1986 the Jewish Agency launched Arava R&D to develop cutting-edge agriculture and aquaculture technologies. Today there are about 750 small farms throughout the once-deserted Arava.

### ReWalk

“The day I stood up, I knew I was about to cross the threshold from impossible to possible,” disabled U.S. Army veteran Gene Laureano said in January 2013 when he strapped on the Israeli ReWalk robotic exoskeleton that enables people with lower-limb disabilities to walk.

Laureano’s “impossible” was also inventor Amit Goffer’s “impossible.” Larger and better-funded companies in other countries had long been trying to develop a similar device when Goffer made headlines in 2008 for inventing the world’s first commercially available upright walking technology. ReWalk became the most widely used and studied robotic exoskeleton, and the first available for personal ownership.

The recently introduced ReWalk 7 offers patients with spinal cord injuries a new level of independence with breakthrough

technology for greater control, engagement and real-world mobility. Covered by Medicare in the United States, ReWalk 7 is the only personal exoskeleton that enables access to environments with stairs and curbs.

Goffer has said that in early meetings with potential marketing partners, “Many listeners did not believe me.” But ever since he was paralyzed in a 1997 accident, failure was never an option. “I know how it feels to sit in a wheelchair,” he said.

### Powermat

The idea for Powermat — a cord-free charging surface — was sparked by a 2006 conversation between entrepreneurs Ran Poliakine and Amir Ben-Shalom. Others had tried inventing such a device without success, but the men forged ahead even when potential partners declined to gamble on their idea. Eventually, a deal with Procter & Gamble (which owns Duracell) led to a series of wireless charging solutions for smartphones.

Today, Powermat is built into some 800 million smartphones, 40 million embedded accessories, and 8 million cars worldwide.

### PillCam

In 2001, when Gabriel Meron introduced a “pill” that takes images of the digestive system, people were astonished. It seemed that Meron and his company, Given Imaging, had brought to life the sci-fi flick “Fantastic Voyage,” using a tiny ingestible camera and transmitter instead of Raquel Welch. The invention was even featured on Ripley’s Believe it or Not.

“But as impossible as creating a successful video pill seemed to Meron and everyone but inventor Gabi Iddan, the ability to pull off all the other aspects of bringing the product to all the world’s major markets, with regulatory approval, in just three years may have seemed even more daunting,” notes Daniel Isenberg in his 2013 book “Worthless, Impossible and Stupid: How Contrarian Entrepreneurs Create and Capture Extraordinary Value.”

PillCam products are the global gold standard for “capsule endoscopy,” a category that did not exist before Meron and Iddan enabled the impossible.

### Erasable computer memory

In the early 1970s, Israeli engineer Dov Frohman invented a critical advance for personal computing: the EPROM (erasable programmable read-only memory), a chip that could retain its data when the power supply was switched off.

This first erasable and reprogrammable chip won an Israel Prize for Frohman, who was among the founders of Intel, and it led to Intel’s decision to establish a branch in Israel.

### Waze

When the visionary founders of Waze proposed changing the paradigm of direction assistance for drivers, nobody thought it would take off. But in a few short years Waze would be the world’s largest community-based traffic and navigation app. By creating a map from real-time users rather than basing directions on an existing static map. Waze revolutionized the way motorists reach their destinations.

Google bought Waze in 2013 for \$1.03 billion.

### TytoCare

Israeli dad Dedi Gilad wondered why it was impossible to have his sick preschooler’s ears checked without having to miss work and schlep a feverish kid to sit in a waiting room full of other germy children, only to spend five minutes with the pediatrician.

So in 2012, he and Ofer Tzadik founded TytoCare and spent nearly three years perfecting the technology and design of a home telemedicine kit that anyone can use to take their temperature and perform guided throat, ear, eye, skin,

heart, lung, blood pressure and blood oxygen examinations of high enough quality to enable a remote diagnosis.

TytoCare’s products have been revolutionizing routine healthcare across the United States, with remote physical exam technology that delivers an in-clinic experience anywhere.

### Mobileye

In 2000, when Mobileye cofounder Amnon Shashua began telling global carmakers his idea of combining a monocular camera, processor chips and software to produce affordable advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) and eventually self-driving cars, “the industry thought that this was not possible,” he told *Automotive Engineering* magazine.

It was commonly believed that ADAS would require expensive radar sensors, or at the very least two cameras for stereo vision. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem professor of computer science proved the industry wrong and was named a Mobility Innovator by the Automotive Hall of Fame in 2022.

The Mobileye team took a radical and risky decision to design a full System-on-Chip, EyeQ, that could do the job as Shashua envisioned.

In 2024, Mobileye marked the shipment of the 200 millionth EyeQ system, now in its sixth iteration. The Jerusalem-based company works with major carmakers such as Audi, BMW, Chery, Ford, GM, Honda, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen.

### NaNose Medical

NaNose Medical is developing a portable Dianose sensor that analyzes breath samples using advanced nanotechnology and AI to “sniff out” biomarkers for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD, previously known as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease) or lung cancer in early stages.

“Our dream is that it will be used by every primary care physician at the point of care,” says cofounder and COO Ilay Marom.

The technology was developed over a decade by Technion Prof. Hossam Haick. Haick was determined to accomplish the seemingly impossible: making an affordable diagnostic device as sensitive to disease as a dog’s nose.

Nanose Medical, founded five years ago, has collected data from trials at nine hospitals and is working toward commercializing its screening tool for

MASLD in 2026.

The company recently took part in the NVIDIA Inception program to advance its R&D efforts and expand its network within the tech and healthcare communities.

### Quantum Machines

Quantum Machines, founded in 2018, specializes in complete hardware and software solutions to achieve “quantum control” — manipulating quantum mechanics technology to fit the desired goals of computing researchers in complex fields like cryptography and machine learning.

The company recently introduced Hybrid Control, “a revolutionary new approach for quantum developers to effortlessly achieve their ambitious milestones – previously impossible.”

Quantum Machines was included by Gartner Research Group on its Cool Vendors in Quantum Computing list in 2020.

### Pre-Cure

Creating an affordable 3D-printed tumor-on-a-chip, scalable for wide usage as a testing ground for personalized cancer treatment, is the previously impossible feat performed by Ofra Benny, an award-winning professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Earlier models didn’t give accurate results and depended on expensive pumps. Benny’s innovation was a pumpless chip based on gravity.

“Currently, cancer treatments are chosen based on general criteria, without important personal information. As a result, many patients receive ineffective treatments and develop resistance,” said Benny.

“There is a need for accurate, non-animal prediction models that mimic the body’s physiology, so we’ve developed Pre-Cure, a groundbreaking cancer diagnostic platform using a unique 3D-printed biochip that creates a precise tumor environment using the patient’s own tissues. This helps in selecting the right therapy and testing drug responses.”

Pre-Cure, founded in 2024 through the university’s Yissum tech-transfer company, is currently doing six clinical trials on different cancer indications.

“I believe by the end of the year [2025] we’ll release our first tests, which will be for ovarian cancer patients,” Pre-Cure CEO Dan Simhon tells ISRAEL21c.

## Grow Your Business: Advertise with Us In Our Monthly Shalom Newsletter!



### Why Choose Us?

- Our publication is distributed to the entire Jewish community of Berks County approximately 500+ families each month, September through June.
- We offer affordable rates and can customize your advertising schedule to fit your needs

### Contact Us Today!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow your business. Contact Amanda Wertz now to secure your ad space!

- **Phone:** 610-921-0624
- **Email:** info@jfreading.org
- **Website:** <https://www.readingjewishcommunity.org/community-news>



**Federation Honorarium-Memorial Card Information**

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

**Contributions as of Aug. 15**

**Jewish Family Service**

In honor of:  
**Shirley Boscov's 100th birthday** - Vic and Dena Hammel, Louise Zeidman, Sue Wachs, Debbie Goodman, Roger Schein  
**Sari and John Incledon's wedding anniversary** - Debbie Goodman

In memory of:  
**Charles Tapiero** - Helene and Henry Singer  
**Kaye Ullman** - Donald Fox and Julie Gabriel, Sue and Mel Blum, Debbie Goodman  
**Joel Eisner** - Sharon Syret  
**Yvonne Oppenheimer** - Louise Zeidman

**Federation Jewish Community Campaign**

In memory of:  
**Helen K. Fox** - Sue and Marcel Weiner  
**Yvonne Oppenheimer** - Frances Bendheim and Franklin Wolf, Doris and Elliott Leisawitz

**Honorariums and Memorials**

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:  
**Federation Jewish Community Campaign**  
**Jewish Family Service**  
**Leo Camp Lecture Fund**  
**JFS Food Bank**  
**JFS Taxi Transportation Program**  
**Holocaust Library & Resource Center**  
**Doris Levin Fund**  
**Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund for PJ Library**  
**Harry & Rose Sack Adult Education Fund**  
**Evelyn Thompson Fund**

**Doris Levin Fund**  
In memory of:  
**Kaye Ullman** - Linda and Scott Bram

**Harry and Rose Sack Adult Programming Fund**  
In memory of:  
**Kaye Ullman** - Albert and Nancy Sack

**Holocaust Education**  
In honor of:  
**Cindy Chronister** - Carol Zirkel

**Jewish Family Service Friendship Circle**  
In honor of:  
**Yvonne Oppenheimer** - Beth and Bob Caster  
**Alice Lebar** - Beth and Bob Caster

# Federations respond to FBI hate crime data

**Jewish Federations of North America**

Hate crimes data released by the FBI this summer paints a disturbing picture of widespread anti-Jewish hate in America. Jews, who account for just 2% of the U.S. population, were the second-most targeted group, with 18% of all reported hate crimes being committed against the Jewish community in 2024. This amounts to a 5.8% increase from 2023.

Among all religiously-motivated hate crimes, the data showed that 69% targeted Jews.

In the two years since the October 7th Hamas terror attacks — the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust — the tide of anti-Jewish hate has only risen, carrying devastating consequences in its wake.

American Jews have experienced violence, harassment, intimidation, and antisemitic vandalism at

unprecedented levels.

Jewish Federations of North America are committed to the safety and security of Jewish communities across the country.

"The FBI data makes clear the urgent need to safeguard and protect the American Jewish community in all sectors of society," said Eric Fingerhut, President and CEO of Jewish Federations of North America.

"While we in the philanthropic sector are doing our part, philanthropy alone cannot cover the \$765 million our community pays each year in security costs. That's why it's so important for the federal government to implement the Six-Point Security Policy Plan, which we compiled in the wake of the D.C. and Boulder attacks and has the backing of 46 Jewish organizations from across the ideological spectrum," he added.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Jewish Family Service is grateful to our committed volunteers!

Here are some ways that you can help:

**Help Fight Hunger**

Join us at a JFS Food Pantry to distribute food to our hungry neighbors.

**Share your Professional Expertise**

Present a program on travel, photography, or your unique interests or hobbies to our seniors.

**Share your time**

A small investment of your personal time can make a profound difference in someone's life. Visit a shut-in, shop for a homebound senior, or take someone to a doctor's appointment.

**Donate your vehicle to JFS or donate clothing to CommunityAid**

Enjoy tax benefits of donating a car or help our clients through our partnership with CommunityAid.



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

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE NEEDS:

**PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRIES!**



DROP YOUR BAGS AT OUR OFFICE 1100 BERKSHIRE BLVD SUITE 125 MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00 AM TO 3:00PM.

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



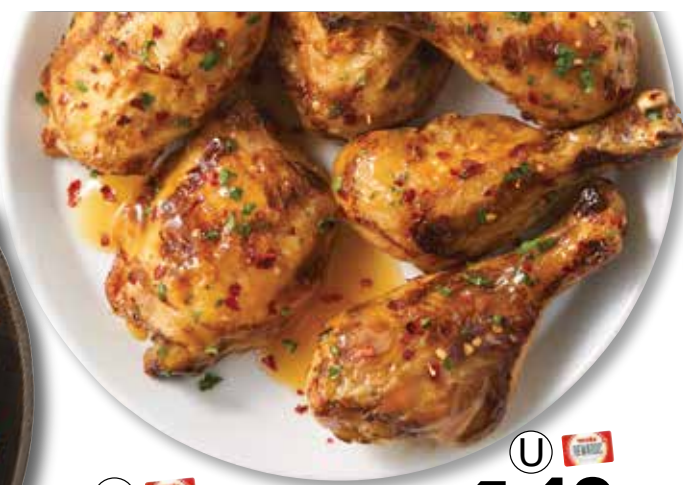
# L'Shana Tova!

## HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH

Weis Markets extends to you and your family a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!



**4<sup>49</sup>** lb  
Fresh Kosher Whole Chicken



**4<sup>49</sup>** lb  
Fresh Kosher Cut-up Chicken



**3<sup>99</sup>** lb  
Fresh Kosher Chicken Leg Quarters



**6<sup>49</sup>**  
Bakery Fresh!  
Plain or Raisin Round Challah Bread



**5<sup>49</sup>**  
Gefen Honey  
12 oz



**4<sup>99</sup>**  
Kedem Sparkling Grape Juice  
25.4 oz



**2<sup>69</sup>**  
Lipton Noodle, or Onion Soup & Dip Mix  
Selected 1.9 - 4.87 oz



**2 for \$4**  
Manischewitz Matzo Ball & Soup Mix  
4.5 oz



**2 for \$4**  
Manischewitz Egg Noodles  
12 oz



**79¢**  
Kedem Tea Biscuits  
4.2 oz