



# Shalom 02|19

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

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- Jewish Community Relations Council
- Community Holiday Programs
- Women's Philanthropy
- Jewish Federations of North America
- Counseling Services
- Leo Camp Lecture
- Shabbat B'Yachad

## Community Shabbat set for March 1

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

On March 1 our community will gather for its annual community Shabbat service and dinner. This year our community Shabbat theme is one community, one voice. The event will be hosted by Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom.

Join us at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, at 6 p.m. for a service led by Rabbi Brian Michelson with participation from Rabbi Yosef Lipsker and other members of our community.

Afterwards a kosher meal will be served family-style, and a vegetarian option is available. The cost is \$20 per person. Children 18 and under are free. All are welcome, and if you need financial assistance to attend, please contact Sari Inledon at 610-921-0624.

We are hoping for another great crowd at Community Shabbat on March 1! RSVP with payment is required by February 21 to [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) or 610-921-0624.

Last year more than 170 community members attended our community Shabbat, and our wish is that we will have another memorable community evening in March.

Coming together as a community for this annual event is a special experience for community members of all ages!

For questions or additional information please contact Amanda at [amandah@jfreading.org](mailto:amandah@jfreading.org) or 610-921-0624.

## Our children's impressions of Israel

**By Bill Franklin**

Our community's family mission to Israel in December included a number of children making their first trip to the Holy Land. Here are some of their thoughts on the experience.

**I like Israel because it is our holy place. The Western Wall was my favorite site.**

—Eva Karchevsky

**Our trip to Israel was a lot of fun. I had a great experience. We saw a lot of different interesting sites.**

—Bella Karchevsky

**My favorite part in Israel was when we were climbing rocky areas near Masada and went into the Dead Sea and floated in it. I want to go back with my friends!**

—Ari Levin

**I just loved everything in Israel.**

—Alexandra Levin



Holly and Rabbi Brian Michelson with kids participating in the family mission to Israel celebrate their arrival. At right, three generations of Schneiders in Israel.



Harry and Ari at Masada. Ben, Will, Harry and Andy in the Dead Sea



Luba, Eva & Bella Karchevsky at The Wall.



In the grottos at Rosh Hanikra. At right, Alexandra makes a new friend.



# Celebrating women's philanthropy

By Richard Nassau  
Development Director

On April 16 we renew Women's Philanthropy, celebrating our community's Jewish women and their contributions to improving lives. Jewish women are the change-makers and community-shapers of the world, at every age in every profession.



Aly Raisman is a Jewish woman. She is also a gymnast, a leader of the #MeToo movement and a two-time Olympian with six medals — three gold, two silver and one bronze. In January at the Jewish Federations of North America's Lion of Judah conference she spoke about including "Hava Nagila" in her medal-winning routine. "I didn't realize at the time I was representing not only the United States but the Jewish community. I received a letter from a Holocaust survivor saying she never imagined in her life seeing a

On April 16 we will celebrate our community's Jewish women at a special event with Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

young girl performing to 'Hava Nagila' in front of the world and see her win for it."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a Jewish woman. She is also a lawyer, the subject of movies, books and a song, and an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. At the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2004, she spoke about how growing up Jewish influenced her work, "My heritage as a Jew and my occupation as a judge fit together symmetrically. The demand for justice runs through the entirety of Jewish history and Jewish tradition."

Letty Cottin Pogrebin is a Jewish woman. She is also an Emmy award winner, a founding editor and writer for Ms. magazine and a leader for social justice. Accepting an award from the Jewish Women's Archive in 2012, she pointed to the Statue of Liberty and spoke about how

it valorizes "The New Colossus," the poem written by Emma Lazarus, a Jewish woman. She said, "Emma Lazarus was an activist ... She did not take injustice lying down. She claimed her Jewish identity with pride."

Women's philanthropy at Federation provides sisters and daughters, mothers and friends, compassionate and committed women at every stage of life and career to meet other women who share interests and passions. It is a place women of all ages can come together.

Whether your interests lie in education, networking, fundraising or community service, women's philanthropy offers meaningful experiences. Discover opportunities to connect, new ways you can impact our community and how together women are building a vibrant Jewish future in Berks County and around the world.

On April 16 we will celebrate our community's Jewish women at a special event with Letty Cottin Pogrebin. To be part of the April 16 Celebrating Jewish Women call 610-921-0624.

## The media and the Anti-Defamation League

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Everyone has seen it. The episode of "Seinfeld" about the "soup Nazi." Harmless comedy or underlying antisemitism? These are some of the challenges and issues facing Todd Gutnick, senior director of communications and digital at the Anti-Defamation League, every day.

January's session of the ADL's Glass Leadership Institute focused on the media and ADL. Led by Gutnick, our group learned how the ADL uses the media to spread ADL reports on data analysis and trends for antisemitism, hate crimes and other information, and also challenges the media when it sees antisemitism, racism, or other bigotry on air.

Part of Gutnick's job is to take calls or emails from every-day Americans who view something as antisemitic or racist on television, the Internet or radio. The ADL then views the clip and determines the response. Sometimes, as in the case of the soup Nazi on "Seinfeld," the ADL determines no response is necessary. It was a joke, most people will understand the humor, and no harm was intended or done. Other times, as in the case of comments made by the late comedian Joan Rivers or the Jew in the well song by Ali G (a character created by comedian Sacha Baron Cohen) the ADL asks for an apology and for the clip to be removed.

In addition to monitoring the media,

the ADL helps educate journalists. The organization's website provides a list of 10 tips for journalists newly covering extremism, which include be appropriately skeptical and do your homework (a.k.a. talk to experts in the field). A media watch section on the ADL website provides responses and editorials written by the ADL in response to bigotry in the media. There is also a blog with news stories about current events written by ADL experts.

Next time you witness bigotry in the media feel free to reach out to the ADL and let them know your concerns. The ADL serves as our partner and connection to creating less bigotry in media in the United States.

# Development

Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy

Maimonides Society

Your Jewish Legacy

Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent



### Jewish Summer Camp Financial Assistance Program

Please remember that applications for the Jewish Federation of Reading's summer camp financial assistance program are due by Friday, March 8.

The information and financial assistance application are available at [www.readingjewishcommunity.org](http://www.readingjewishcommunity.org). Please call Bill Franklin at 610-921-0624 with any questions.

**DONATE NOW TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN**

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

**Make your gift today!**

## Women's Philanthropy



**Jewish Women: Their Pivotal Role in Society**

**Letty Cottin Pogrebin**

**Tuesday April 16, 2019**

Author - *Deborah, Golda, and Me: Being Female and Jewish in America*

Advocate – a founding editor *Ms. magazine*

Activist - co-founder National Women's Political Caucus

From the President's Desk

# Israel trip inspires community as we move forward

By William D. Franklin  
President

We had a wonderful family mission to Israel in December as 33 participants from ages 8 to 83 enjoyed Israeli food and culture, explored Israel's ancient sites and modern challenges and enjoyed each other's company.

We traveled to the Golan Heights, which is on Israel's border with Syria and visited Mount Bental. In the Yom Kippur War it was the site of one of the largest tank battles in history. It is a key strategic point for Israel due to its advantageous observation point. Here, the group was exposed to the ongoing security threats from Syria and Lebanon and the precarious situation Israelis face in their daily lives. However, touring the Ayalon Institute, the secret underground munitions factory built in the early 1940s that produced more than 2 million bullets used in the War of Independence, we saw the resolve and ingenuity of Israelis so that, against all odds, Israel exists and thrives today.

We visited The Western Wall of the ancient Temple, the Old City, Masada and Yad Vashem which connected us to our past and toured Yemin Orde and the Birthright Innovation Center, which showed us our future.

Programs to continue our community enjoyment, eating and having fun together, as well as learning and connecting to Israel, are planned for February and March. Our Community Shabbat is on March 1st and our Purim Masquerade Party featuring Israeli food is on March 16.

To further our understanding of the current situation in the Middle East, the Federation is sponsoring Dr. Eran Lerman, vice president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies, to speak March 13 at the World Affairs Council of Greater



Rabbi Michelson leads Kabbalat Shabbat services at the Western Wall.

Reading's luncheon meeting and later that evening to our community at RCOS/KZ. His topics will include the upcoming Israel elections, Middle East security and prospects for conflict resolution.

Our upcoming educational programs include the Great Decision Series, which discusses important present-day issues on Mondays at 10:30 am. The current series program, "Prepare to Discuss the World," starts on Feb. 4 focusing on "Refugees and Global Migration" and deals with different subjects thru March 26.

On Feb. 6 our Reading Jewish Film Series features "And Then She Arrived," an Israeli romantic comedy. On Wednesday, Feb. 13, the community Israel Book Group will meet to discuss Son of Hamas by Mosab Hassan Yousef.

By studying together, eating together, having fun together and learning about the complexities of Israel today, we ensure our future.



Participants in our Family Mission to Israel on the Old Ramparts Walk.



Members of our group atop Masada, left, and enjoying an Israeli feast.



## Community organizations working together on security

By Jennifer Gurwitz  
and Bill Franklin

Responding to the recent tragedy in Pittsburgh and to the third consecutive year of rise in hate crimes, the Jewish Federation, Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom, Keshet Zion and Chabad held a meeting of staff and professional leaders to review and learn how to upgrade our community's security plans. Greg Agosti, a Pennsylvania law enforcement officer and owner of Agosti Emergency Preparedness Solutions conducted a three-hour seminar on "Mass Violence Awareness and Survival Tactics."

Key points covered included the need for everyone to be alert of people and things that are not 'normal'. Indicators can include strange behaviors, bulging clothing hiding weapons and hatred and threats posted on social media. Examples of incidents that could have been stymied and some that were emphasized the need to instill community awareness and acceptance of "If you see something, say something!" It is your responsibility to call the police if you perceive a threat to be real. Agosti stated several times that the police would rather respond to numerous false alarms than have to an incident that could have been avoided by early intervention.

Situational awareness is the key to being prepared. Agosti explained that no matter where you are (a grocery store, attending religious services, a restaurant, etc.), you should make a brief assessment of your surroundings and to specifically note where the exits are located. He indicated that most people will instinctively want to exit through the door they entered. If you have children with you, make it a game to teach your children to become more aware of their surroundings. For example, the child who can find the most people wearing a blue shirt gets a prize.

All four organizations will be working to upgrade security plans and will be holding public meetings to coach our community on what to look for and what to do when suspicious individuals are encountered. Please feel free to call Rabbi Michelson, Rabbi Lipsker, Cindy Chronister or Bill Franklin if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Recently Pennsylvania implemented a new statewide system that lets students, parents, teachers and community members anonymously report potential threats of violence and other problems. The Safe2Say tip line can be reached by calling 844-723-2729. One can download the Safe2Saypa phone app

and obtain more information by visiting [www.safe2saypa.org](http://www.safe2saypa.org).

Please remember — If you see something, say something!"

## Shalom

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

**Jewish Federation of Reading**  
Chair: Haia Mazuz  
President: William D. Franklin  
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



# A day ON, not a day off; MLK Day of Service a success

## Jewish Cultural Center

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Nearly 60 people participated in a day of service for the JCC's first MLK Day of Service held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 21. MLK Day of Service is part of a national initiative aimed to be a "day on, not a day off." It is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "Beloved Community."

On MLK Day, our group met at the JCC and then split for two service projects in the community.

Older youth and a few adults traveled by bus to the Greater Berks Food Bank, where they spent 90 minutes packing food boxes to be delivered to children, adults and seniors experiencing hunger in our community. Some volunteers packaged snacks for students at K-12 schools throughout Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Joining our group was part of the Reading High School football team, who are members of VOICEup Berks, an official affiliate of Youth Volunteer Corps. VOICEup Berks creates volunteer opportunities to address community needs and to inspire youth for a lifetime

commitment to service.

The groups were able to pack 24.5 skids (which is 980 boxes of food!).

Meanwhile back at the JCC our youngest volunteers and their adult helpers were busy working on service projects for Reading Hospital, Tower Health. Twenty-five teddy bears were stuffed and filled with love and well wishes and will be delivered to pediatric patients at Reading Hospital. More than 50 care packages of socks, sweatshirts and sweat pants were rolled, labeled and bagged to be distributed to patients who need to leave the hospital in new clothes but do not have access to clean clothes.

The kids also showed their creative side by coloring cards full of well wishes and cheer to be given to patients throughout Tower Health. Then children learned about the Jewish value of bikur cholim (visiting the sick) through a PJ Library story time.

After a busy morning of serving others, both groups gathered for lunch and socialization. The JCC was filled with happy faces, and we are proud of all of volunteers for using their day off from work and school to serve others.

Thanks to the support of Keystone Tees, Logo Motion, PJ

### Where we volunteered

**The Greater Berks Food Bank** collects, purchases, stores, and distributes more than 7 million pounds of food annually to more than 300 programs that feed the hungry in Berks, Schuylkill, and western Montgomery Counties.

- 3 percent of the population of Berks County and 12 percent of the population of Schuylkill County (71,400 total people) live in poverty and thus face hunger issues.

- Nearly 1 in 4 individuals living in Berks County is food insecure, meaning they do not know where their next meal will come from.

- Of those living in poverty, nearly 24,500 are children under the age of 18.

- More than 38,000 school-aged children in Berks and Schuylkill Counties are eligible for the National School Lunch Program's free and reduced lunches. This represents 42 percent of the population of school-aged

children in Berks County and 45 percent in Schuylkill County.

- More than 100,000 people in Berks and Schuylkill Counties qualify for food assistance — defined as living within 150 percent of the poverty guideline.

For more information on the Greater Berks Food Bank please visit [berksfoodbank.org/](http://berksfoodbank.org/)

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**Tower Health** brings together more than 11,000 dedicated team members, 2,000 nationally recognized physicians, specialists and providers across 65 convenient locations. Its collaborative clinical excellence is leading the health care transformation — which means the communities it serves have expanded access to advanced, comprehensive care by renowned physicians, when and where they need it.

For more information on Tower Health please visit [www.towerhealth.org/](http://www.towerhealth.org/)

Library, PJ Our Way and United Way our first MLK Day of Service was a huge success! PJ Library

and PJ Our Way in Reading are generously sponsored by the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund.

## Learn about world affairs ... join Great Decisions

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Refugees. Mexico. Nuclear negotiations. Populism in Europe. U.S. and China trade. These are just a few of the hot-button international topics that will be discussed at this year's Great Decisions series at the JCC.

Moderated by professors from Albright, Alvernia and Penn State Berks as well as

community members, Great Decisions is part of the country's largest discussion group on world affairs.

Each week a different global issue will be discussed by the group after reading the Great Decision Briefing Book and watching the related DVD. Our group will be meeting on Monday mornings from 10:30 until noon at the

JCC beginning Feb. 4. Great Decisions runs for eight weeks through March 26 (the last session is on a Tuesday). The cost is \$35 per book or \$40 for two people sharing one book.

To register for Great Decisions and to order a copy of the Great Decision Briefing Book please contact Amanda at [amandah@jfreeding.org](mailto:amandah@jfreeding.org) or 610-921-0624.

## Royals hosting Jewish Heritage Game

By Amanda J. Hornberger

A Sunday afternoon of Royals hockey is a fun way to break up a dreary winter. Join us on Feb. 3 for a 2 p.m. game celebrating Jewish Heritage!

Tickets are \$20, which includes seating together as a group with special access to the Coke Lounge, an area for our group to gather and socialize. Snacks and soft drinks are included in the ticket price.

Everyone who purchases tickets through our group link will be given a free giveaway item at the game.

Another special treat will be the High Five Tunnel Experience for everyone in our group. This experience allows guests to greet players as they go out on the ice at the start of the game.

To purchase tickets in our group section you must use the following link: [royals.isportstix.com/order/group/JewishFed/](http://royals.isportstix.com/order/group/JewishFed/) (the link can also be found at [www.readingjewishcommunity.org/](http://www.readingjewishcommunity.org/)).

If you have any questions or issues purchasing tickets please contact Amanda Hornberger at [amandah@jfreeding.org](mailto:amandah@jfreeding.org) or 610-921-0624.

Gather your friends and share an afternoon of hockey, food and laughter on Feb. 3.

## Love is theme of next entry in Jewish film series

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Just in time for Valentine's Day the Reading Jewish Film Series is offering its first romantic comedy, "And Then She Arrived."

Based on a true story, this Israeli comedy follows 30-year-old Dan Freilich, who has everything he could ever hope for and then some: the perfect job at his father's law firm, the perfect loving family, and the perfect girlfriend. But a chance encounter with a waitress in Jerusalem makes him realize something was missing all along.

Screening on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at Fox East, "And Then She Arrived" is a charming romantic comedy featuring an array of Israel's best actors.

Please note that the film has some adult content including language and sexual situations and is best suited for ages 13

and older.

"And Then She Arrived" is presented in Hebrew with English subtitles.

The 2019 Reading Jewish Film Series is co-sponsored by the Rubin Educational Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$5 per film.

All films will be shown on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at Fox East, 4350 Perkiomen Avenue, Exeter Township (next to Boscov's East).

Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the screening and cash and checks are accepted.

The remaining dates and films for the Reading Jewish Film Series are as follows:

**Feb. 6** — "And Then She Arrived"

**March 6** — "Scandal in Ivansk"\*



**April 10** — "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel"

\*Special event following screening

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevra

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

# Spark joy through tidying workshop at the JCC

By **Amanda J. Hornberger**

Marie Kondo has become the most popular woman in organization due to her successful Netflix show "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo." Learn her secrets in a special tidying workshop led by Yuriko Beaman, Owner of Joy & Space.

Join us at the JCC on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. for a KonMari™ method workshop. Beaman will lead

the group through exercises created to find what sparks joy in your life and lead you to a space with better flow, energy and organization.

At the workshop Beaman will explain a space-saving folding technique, Marie Kondo's Japanese art of decluttering, and the KonMari™ tidying method. You will be getting tips from a certified KonMari™ consultant who is an expert in the field.

Beaman explains, "[B]y the end of KonMari™ process, you change your relationship with objects and truly value the ones you have. You will shop/buy less because you have a high appreciation for what you already have. One of the many fantastic elements of this process is that you already have enough storage. You can organize your home without purchasing

containers, more hangers, or organizing systems."

The cost of the workshop is \$10 for JCC members and \$20 for non-members. RSVP is requested by Feb. 20 and minimum number of participants is required to run this event. RSVP to [info@jfreading.org](mailto:info@jfreading.org) or 610-921-0624.

Join us for a fun evening of tidying and joy!

## 2019 GREAT DECISIONS

Meeting at the Jewish Cultural Center, 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing  
Monday mornings 10:30am  
February 4 through March 25 (last session will be Tuesday, March 26)

### PREPARE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD

2019 Topics

- \* February 4--US & Mexico: Partnership Tested with Dr. Kirwin Shaffer, PSU Berks
- \* February 11--Rise of Populism in Europe with Dr. Randall Newnham, PSU Berks
- \* February 18--Cyber Conflict & Geopolitics with Dr. Barry Harvey, Alvernia Univ.
- \* February 25--Nuclear Negotiations--Back to the Future? with Dr. Victoria Williams, Alvernia Univ.
- \* March 4--Decoding US-China Trade with Dr. John Stanley, Kutztown Univ.
- \* March 11--Refugees & Global Migration with Dr. Irene Langran, Albright College
- \* March 18--Middle East: Regional Disorder with Dr. Randall Fegley, PSU Berks
- \* Tuesday, March 26--State of the State Department and Diplomacy with Dr. Michelle Mart, PSU Berks

Great Decisions is the name shared by a national civic-education program and publication of the Foreign Policy Association. Published annually, the Great Decisions briefing book highlights eight of the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans today. Great Decisions provides background information, current data and policy options for each of the eight issues and serves as the focal text for discussion groups. Each week's session includes a short video produced by internationally renowned scholars and a focused discussion on the issues.

\$35 one person, one book or \$40 two persons, one book

To register for Great Decisions and to order a copy of the 2019 Great Decisions Briefing Book contact Amanda Hornberger [AmandaH@JFReading.org](mailto:AmandaH@JFReading.org) or 610-921-0624

Thank you to these community members who have signed a *Letter of Intent* to create their Jewish legacy.

Please remember the Jewish community with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

### ADD YOUR NAME!

Anonymous (11)	Haia Mazuz
Cynthia Balchunas	Meir Mazuz
Jeffrey Bornstein	Richard Nassau
Sheila Bornstein	Yvonne F. Oppenheimer
Beth & Robert Caster	Gordon Perlmutter
Albert Diamond	Carole Robinson
Jeffrey Driben	Rebecca Robinson
Lynn Driben	Larry & Alison Rotenberg
William D. Franklin	Howard Saidman
Hilde Gernsheimer	Roger Schein
Radene Gordon-Beck	Jill D. Skaist
Victor Hammel	George P. Viener
Jill Henry	Norman Wilikofsky
Jason Hornberger	Emanuel & Yvonne Wittels
Alvin & Betsy Katz	Louise Zeidman
Kenneth S. Lakin	



For confidential information about *Creating Your Jewish Legacy*, call Richard - 610.921.0624.



## SUPPORT THE RCOS GARDEN AND LOCAL FOOD BANKS

The Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom Social Action Committee has been sponsoring a garden for more than five years, producing 600 to 1,000 pounds of food for the Jewish Federation Food Bank and Greater Berks Food Bank.

Volunteers are needed to make the 2019 garden a success. You can get your hands dirty or not! It's a great way to work together on a valued project. We can use help in the following:

- Planning the garden (winter/spring)
- Preparing the garden site (spring)
- Growing plants to be transplanted into the garden (spring)
- Planting (late spring)
- Watering and cleaning (spring/summer/fall)
- Harvesting produce (summer/fall)
- Delivering produce to food banks (summer/fall)
- End-of-season clean-up (fall)
- Donating to purchase supplies (anytime!)

Contact **Mimi Gavigan** at 610 301-3609 or [mag1835@comcast.net](mailto:mag1835@comcast.net) for more information or to volunteer.

Introducing the Get Together program sponsored by PJ Library!



Make Jewish moments into memories!

- Applications accepted **NOW** through April 30, 2019.
- Families will receive **up to \$100 reimbursement** if they get together with at least two or more other families.
- Get Togethers can be anything families want to do with **two or more other families**.
  - Jewish holidays or Shabbat/Havdalah;
  - Family volunteering or service projects
  - Something else they think of!
- **Parent-only** and **PJ Our Way** kid Get Togethers are also allowed.
- Families must be a **current PJ Library** or **PJOW subscriber family** to be eligible to sign up to host.
- For more information visit <https://pjlibrary.org/gettogether2018>

Questions? Please email [GetTogether@pjlibrary.org](mailto:GetTogether@pjlibrary.org) or Amanda Hornberger, [AmandaH@jfreading.org](mailto:AmandaH@jfreading.org) your local PJ Library Coordinator

# 2018 JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

**CAMPAIGN TOTAL: \$438,950 as of Dec. 31**

### ADVANCED LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$25,000 +

Shirley Boscov  
 Irvin and Lois Cohen  
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### LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$10,000 +

Eunice Boscov  
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 Richard L. Henry Memorial Fund - Berks  
   County Community Foundation  
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\$5,000 +

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### PACESETTER GIFTS

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### SPECIAL GIFTS

\$1,000 +

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 Philip and Leslie Pomerantz  
 Judith and James Schwank  
 Robert T. Ullman  
 Susan Wachs  
 Norman and Rita Wilikofsky  
 Randall and Mara Winn  
 Mrs. Louise Zeidman

### COMMUNITY GIFTS

\$118 +

Ellen and Donald Abramson  
 Marshall and Ellen Azrael  
 Wendy Babitt and Todd Staub  
 James and Jackye Barrer  
 Mrs. Anneliese Bateman  
 David and Barbara Bender  
 Eric and Marissa Bluestone  
 Sheila and Jeff Bornstein  
 Robert and Beth Bruck  
 Cindy and Brett Chronister  
 Judith Copeland  
 Susan and Richard D'Angelo  
 Paul Delfin and Nancy Russo

Judith Ellsworth  
 Oleg and Tatyana Erlikh  
 First Energy Service Company  
 Ann and Edward Golden  
 Matthew Goldstan  
 Harvey and Roberta Goldstein  
 Jane Goodman  
 Michael and Patricia Gordon  
 Michael and Zina Gorelik  
 Vicki Haller Graff  
 Rosalind Hyman  
 Marc Jacobs  
 Phyllis Jacoby  
 Myron and Karen Kabakoff  
 Bernard and Janet Kaplan  
 Robert and Shirley Kauffman  
 Nancy Knoblauch  
 Roberta Lawit  
 Michele and Benjamin Leisawitz  
 Henry Levin  
 Margo and Adam Levin  
 Margaret Levine\*  
 William and Beth Litvin  
 Bernard and Toby Mendelsohn  
 Brian and Holly Michelson  
 Phyllis Murr  
 Richard Nassau  
 Michael and Eve Pardo  
 Frank and Kathleen Politzer  
 Valerian and Svetlana Popov  
 Carole and Michael Robinson  
 Linda and Michael Roeberg  
 Seth and Barbara Rosenzweig  
 Leah Rotenberg and Corby Drone  
 David Sacks  
 Elaine Safir  
 Lynn Salpeter  
 Michael and Janice Schiffman  
 Susan Schlanger  
 Boris and Tatiana Schneider  
 Lila Shapiro  
 Berna Sherman  
 Irene and John Sileski  
 Margaret and Semyon Soyferman  
 Janine and Bruce J. Ure, Jr.  
 Jerome and Pamela Weisberg  
 Susan Weiser  
 Your Cause

### SUPPORTING GIFTS

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 Lionel and Mary Jane Asher  
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 Pam Charendoff and Jonathan D. Primack  
 Deborah Cieplinski  
 Mindy and Robert Coopersmith  
 Jerome Dersh  
 Ethel Engel  
 Michael and Sue Farrara

# 2018 JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

Michael Ferder  
 Miriam Fogelman  
 Patricia Frankel  
 David and Marion Friedman  
 Joan and Irwin Friedman  
 Aleksandr Galker  
 Guilvia Garcia  
 Jeff and Janet Gernsheimer  
 Don and Ann Greth  
 Lawrence and Fran Gross  
 Kurt and Diane Hollis

Mel Horwith  
 Mrs. Kathleen Jacobs  
 Mariette Jacobson  
 Darryl Jeffries  
 Nan Kurlancheek  
 Shelly Levy  
 Mervin and Gladys Lewis  
 Jeffrey and Robin Lupowitz  
 Mindy McIntosh  
 Ross Miller  
 Barbara Nazimov

Sandee and Neal Nevitt  
 Jesse Pleet  
 James and Jean Potter  
 Howard and Amy Saidman  
 Ingrid Soltysik  
 Cynthia and Richard Tomlinson  
 Jill Trout  
 Carolyn Vella and John McGonagle  
 Sylvia Wenger

*\*Indicates Deceased*

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Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>  
 OF READING/BERKS

# THANK YOU

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You distribute the books that carry tradition  
 from one generation to the next.

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 you bring relief, hope, and compassion to people.



ENRICHING LIVES  
 מעשירים חיים

- Honoring our Past
- Celebrating our Present
- Envisioning our Future

# Food pantry a great success for our community

By Sari Incledon, M. Ed.

In the Fall/Winter edition of Nourishing News, the newsletter distributed by the Greater Berks Food Bank, Aimee Hafer, marketing assistant, describes her visit to our pantry. This visit was also our yearly inspection, to ensure we are following federal and state guidelines for food safety, storage and distribution, and for the treatment of clients of all ethnic and racial backgrounds. We always pass the inspection with flying colors thanks to the efforts of our volunteers.



Each month a group of 20-25 volunteers

distributes about 8,000 pounds of food, including fresh produce and frozen meat. Last year the hardworking volunteers provided several bags of groceries to 475 low income households that contained 2,105 people. Unfortunately, due to weather conditions, we were unable to hold our food pantry last February and March. We are hoping that this year we will be able to be open every month and help even more people.

Jewish Family Service thanks the following volunteers who helped in the last six months: Cindy Balchunas, Rebecca Balchunas, Lea Berger, Karen Checkamian, Joe Essick, Raymond Gehring, Jeff Howell, John Incledon, Myron Kabakoff, Sam Kabakoff, Mike Kastenbaum, Al Katz, Elliott Leisawitz, Sid Lempiner,

Margo Levin, Jeanine Levy, Bret Miller, Mary Neville, Heather Padilla, Carol and Gordon Perlmutter, Jennifer Reilly, Annette Peppard, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Carmen Schweitzer, Ellen Schwickrath, Robert Schneier, Julian Syret, Marlene Thomas, Phyllis and Michael Warshaw, Mary and Neil Weiss, Corinne Wernick, Yvonne Wittels, Randy Winn and Oleg Umanov.

This Jewish Family Service program is possible because of a grant from the United Way and your contributions to the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.

In Aimee Hafer's article below, one of the beneficiaries of our program expresses her family's appreciation for this program.

For more information about this program contact Sari at 610-921-0624, or SariI@jfreeding.org

## Meet a grateful client of our food pantry

By Aimee Hafer

Greater Berks Food Bank.

The line of shoppers waiting at the Jewish Family Service food pantry are enjoying an unseasonably balmy day. Now held at the Olivet Boys & Girls Club at Pendora Park, JFS food pantry has been sustaining residents in this neighborhood for more than 20 years. In 2017, JFS procured 75,000 pounds of food from GBFB for its program, which serves 150 households monthly. The people waiting are mostly senior citizens, but there are several young families. Clara is happy to chat, while patiently waiting her turn. A married mother of four children ages 5 through 10, she is appreciative of the pantry and the club. She is greeted warmly by the Olivet staffers, who know her through her children — all of whom enjoy the programs at this club. She is an involved mother, walks them to and from their activities and makes sure to know all of their friends. It is through her friendships with the Olivet Club staff that Clara first heard of the food pantry. As a single-income family, Clara's husband is



the sole breadwinner, but his shift schedule changes constantly. "My husband is the only one who works right now, all different hours. If I work, too, the kids need a babysitter. That costs a lot, so I'm home for now. We get by, but it's hard. One of the people here (at Olivet) told me about the food pantry."

Clara was hesitant to attend, and didn't know what to expect on her first visit to the JFS food pantry, but she was pleasantly surprised to see a selection of fresh fruits, vegetables, and breads in addition to non-perishable foods.

Among the selection this day are some of Clara's children's favorites — apples and pears. As a volunteer helps her shop, she selects other items that she knows her children will love: crackers, juice, fruit, peanut butter, and cheese. They may not want the Brussels sprouts, but she'll get them to try!

"I'm glad they told me about this [pantry]. I don't come every time, but it's good if we're going to run out before my husband gets paid. We're just really thankful that they do this. And everyone here is always nice." And they ARE nice, both the Jewish Family Service volunteers, and the Olivet staffers, who work together to make this pantry a welcoming place for the shoppers.

Thank you to all whose support make this longstanding program a continued success.

### Friendship Circle rings in the New Year



Participants in Friendship Circle celebrate the New Year with music by Karl Hausman. Friendship Circle, a program of Jewish Family Service, meets Thursdays at 1 p.m. for lunch followed by a fascinating program at 1:45. Check the Centerpiece for each month's events.

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

# What we hope to achieve in JCHS

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading Jewish Community High School

What do we teach and how do we teach in JCHS sessions? We don't have secular school protocols — the requirements of attendance, grades, homework, class subjects that are required.

We can and do make every effort to offer at least two choices per period, with topics relevant or meaningful to Jewish teens both today and for their future in the American Jewish community.

We offer passionate preparation of new portals and bridges to Jewish text, values and skills. Our teachers and I create engaging courses addressing current themes for their consideration and discussion as young American Jews. We want to encourage debate on topics that are simultaneously historical or contemporary. And Rabbi Dov is available during the week for phone calls and emails with questions.

We can offer our students continuing care for them as individuals, including enthusiastic support for their college and scholarship applications and work during the school year or summer.

### Jewish Food — Fact or Fiction

Barbara Lerner has been teaching about the history of "Jewish food." This offers an opportunity to learn about Jewish history and the communities in which Jews have lived and left, were welcomed and thereafter marginalized.

When possible, she has even prepared selected examples for tasting. Students and seniors who are participating in Better Together at JCHS have enjoyed these taste treats for our snack time.

"Fact" refers to foods that specifically reflect Jewish law and custom.

Gefilte fish is a Jewish food because it was created to protect the observance of the Sabbath and eating fish without detecting and removing bones during the meal, one of the "labors" historically forbidden.

"Fiction" means that it is a food that reflects the community in which it became popular and really reflects the local agricultural, economic, geographic, climactic realities for Jews and for their neighbors.

A good example is the Hanukkah tradition of eating fried foods to remember the miracle of the oil. The Ashkenazim (European Jews) eat latkes, while Sephardim eat the doughnuts known as sufganiot. These reflect foods and cooking/baking/ingredients were regularly used in their respective communities.

In the story of Jewish foods, economics certainly played a part as Jews created — sometimes with their neighbors and sometimes more uniquely — foods we identify as "Jewish," e.g. pastrami. Why? Romanian Jews emigrated to New York as early as 1872. Among Jewish Romanians, goose breasts were commonly made into pastrami because they were inexpensive. But beef short plate was cheaper than



Better Together participants get ready to try some shakshuka.

goose meat in America. Accordingly, the Romanian Jews in America adapted their recipe and production method to make what was a cheaper-alternative: beef pastrami.

In January the students learned about "shakshuka" and made and tasted it.

Shakshuka is a staple dish at any Israeli breakfast. Its name essentially means 'all mixed up' — and that's what it really is. The dish is made up of eggs cooked in tomato sauce and peppers, sometimes with onions, other herbs or cheese, and is usually served in the iron pan in which it was cooked, along with breadmeant for dipping in the sauce and the soft cooked-egg.

### Classes for the next semester

#### First Period

What Jewish Values Are Learned from Popular Media: Do you feel that our films, television programs, digital videos encourage the best within each of us? Students will debate just how "Jewish" are some contemporary films and media.

Jewish Earworms — From Torah Time to Today: Jewish music is based on our Jewish history, tradition and customs. Can it affect us today?

#### Second Period

Bioethics — 21st Century Jewish and Secular Perspectives: Are we asked today to choose between today's science and Jewish tradition and law? Let's explore new technologies and issues such as and when death becomes final. We will focus on key differences and similarities between

secular and Jewish approaches to ethics and morals.

Jewish Food — Fact or Fiction: This class will explore numerous aspects of Jewish belief, identity and practice connected to food.

#### Third Period

Real News or Fake News: Students struggle to tell the difference between so-called fake news and real news. Part of the solution involves providing students with the media literacy skills they need.

Problems That Would Cross a Rabbi's Eyes: Did you ever ask a question in Religious School and you felt you didn't receive a satisfactory answer? Here is an opportunity to bring those questions for us to answer.

Spirit in Nature — Judaism and Ecology: We will learn the language not only of the trees but all that is alive and sustains us and our world.

### Better Together

Meeting dates:

- Feb. 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 19

From 11 a.m. to noon at the JCC, teens and seniors meet to discuss significant issues of the day that relate to more than one generation. Watch for the notices and reminders. We welcome the return of seniors who go away for the winter and newcomers to Better Together.

# Jewish Education

- Camp Scholarships
- Israel Trips
- Jewish Community
- High School
- Lakin Preschool
- Better Together

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Join us next time!  
February 23rd at 10:00 am

# Tot Shabbat

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

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

FUTURE TOT SHABBAT DATES:  
March 23, April 13, May 18, & June 8

\*Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands

# Israeli colonel to visit Reading area to discuss key issues

## From online news sources

The Jewish Federation of Reading has arranged for Colonel (res) Dr. Eran Lerman to speak March 13 at the World Affairs Council of Greater Reading's March luncheon meeting, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Inn of Reading. (Reservations: 610-375-7880; [contactus@wacreading.org](mailto:contactus@wacreading.org)).

At 7 p.m. he will address the Jewish

community at RCOS/KZ, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing.

Dr. Lerman is vice president of the Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies. Previously he was deputy director for foreign policy and international affairs at the National Security Council in the Israeli Prime Minister's Office. He held senior posts in IDF Military Intelligence for more than 20 years. He also served

for eight years as director of the Israel and Middle East office of the American Jewish Committee.

He teaches in the Middle East studies program at Shalem College in Jerusalem and in post-graduate programs at Tel Aviv University and the National Defense College. He is an expert on Israel's foreign relations and on the Middle East.

A third-generation Sabra, he holds a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, and a mid-career MPA from Harvard University. His recent publications include "The Mediterranean as a Strategic Environment: Learning a New Geopolitical Language" and "The Game of Camps: Ideological Fault Lines in the Wreckage of the Arab State System."

# How Israel swims against tide of worldwide water crisis

## Israel21c.com

Israel has solved its water crisis! That's a typical headline about Israel's world-leading smart water management and advanced water technology. But if residents, farmers and tourists in the Holy Land never worry about the tap running dry, that's only because Israel invests huge amounts of money and brainpower to stay one step ahead of a worsening worldwide water crisis.

Five years into a severe drought, it's more accurate to say that Israel is constantly inventing and implementing practical solutions to a problem that is

not entirely solvable. "It is a never-ending story," says Yossi Yaacoby, chief of staff to the CEO of Mekorot, Israel's national water carrier.

Due to climate change, he explains, Israel's October-to-March rainy season has been reduced to a handful of torrentially rainy days, causing most of the precious liquid to be lost to runoff. The North's waterways are no longer an abundant trickle-down source for much of the country; the Sea of Galilee is approaching its lowest-ever level. "This is why we can't depend on rain. Even in winter we need to irrigate. And

it's not only in Israel; it is happening everywhere," says Yaacoby.

Since 2005, wastewater reclamation and seawater desalination have become key in assuring an adequate supply — 2.1 billion cubic meters annually — to Israeli households, industry and agriculture. Some 31 percent of irrigation water originates from wastewater treated at more than 150 plants. Treated brackish water (not as salty as seawater) is supplied from 45 plants for both agricultural and non-agricultural needs. About 60 to 80 percent of Israel's municipal water flows from large coastal desal plants. More is needed to meet the country's needs. Another two desalination plants are to be completed in the next few years.

Operational since 2013, Sorek is the largest seawater reverse osmosis desalination plant in the world. It is operated for the government by water-treatment pioneer IDE Technologies, established in 1965 by Technion-trained scientists. The highly automated Sorek plant can produce 20 percent of Israel's domestic water consumption.

Mekorot distributes the desalinated, quality-tested water (after essential minerals have been added) to 57 municipal water utilities throughout Israel. IDE developed proprietary technologies to minimize costs and environmental impact, says Boris Liberman, CTO and VP of Membrane Technology. Desalination normally uses chemicals, which present an environmental problem when the brine is discharged back to the

sea. IDE uses chemical-free biological and physical processes customized for each installation. To avoid harming the little fish and fish eggs that pass through the screens on the intake pipes bringing in 40,000 cubic meters of seawater per hour, IDE is developing "nursery" tanks where the creatures are harbored until they choose to swim back to their habitat via rotating doors. As for the plant's effect on the Mediterranean, "What we pump back into the sea is twice as saline and one degree warmer than seawater," says Liberman. "We use diffusers to spread it widely. We don't believe it negatively affects marine life."

Covering 250 acres, Shafdan is the biggest wastewater treatment plant in a country that recycles more water than anywhere else. The reclaimed water, which Yaacoby says is close to drinking quality, is pumped to Negev farms for irrigation. Shafdan supplies 140 million cubic meters to Israeli farms. Enough biogas has been generated onsite to provide 90 percent of the facility's energy needs.

Israel New Tech head Oded Distel believes the country can serve as a role model for its reliable, sustainable, centralized water system in an arid land where there is no private ownership of water and everyone gets a monthly water bill. "The outcome is that wherever you are in Israel, when you open the tap you get high-quality drinking water, which is not something that happens everywhere in the world," Distel says.

## Reading Royals Jewish Federation of Reading Night



### The Jewish Federation of Reading Night!

- Game Date: Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2:00PM
- Doors open at 1:00PM
- Giveaway Item for everyone who purchases a ticket through the [Jewish Federation Link](#)
- Coke Lounge Ticket - \$20 per person
- Food and Drinks Included
- High Five Tunnel Experience



**Jewish Federation**  
OF READING/BERKS

To order tickets: <https://royals.isportstix.com/order/group/JewishFed/>

This link is the only way to order tickets to sit in our special Coke Lounge section and receive the free giveaway.

For questions or help ordering tickets please contact Amanda Hornberger at 610-921-0624 or [amandah@jfreading.org](mailto:amandah@jfreading.org)

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**2019** **CELEBRATE PURIM 2019**

**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019**  
**MEGILLAH READING AT 6:00 p.m.**  
**HAMANTASCHEN & DRINKS TO FOLLOW**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019**  
**MEGILLAH READING AT 9:30 a.m.**  
**HAMANTASCHEN & DRINKS TO FOLLOW**



**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE**  
555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING, PA 19610  
YOUR RSVP IS APPRECIATED 610-374-1763—[KZSECRETARY@ENTERMAIL.NET](mailto:KZSECRETARY@ENTERMAIL.NET)

# JCC's annual Purim Party to feature grown-up fun

By Amanda J. Hornberger

What's the one Purim event that is just for adults, full of costumes, dancing and FUN? If you guessed the JCC Purim Party you would be correct. The JCC invites you to join us for the annual Purim Party on Saturday, March 16 at



Chabad of Berks.

Kicking off festivities this year will be a brief Havdalah at 7:45 p.m. followed by an Israeli dinner, music, dancing and drinks! Costumes and masks are always encouraged and dress is your party best.

All community members 21 and older are invited to join the fun! RSVPs are accepted through March 8 at a cost of \$27 per person for JCC members or \$36 per person for non-members. RSVP to 610-921-0624 or info@jfreeding.org.

Every year our Purim Party guests have a fantastic time so don't miss all the fun and join us for the Purim Party on March 16!

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

February Shevat-Adar I	
 Shabbat Candle Lightings	 Torah Portions
February 1 5:04 p.m.	February 2/Shevat 27 Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1-24:18)
February 8 5:12 p.m.	February 9/Adar I 4 Terumah (Exodus 25:1-27:19)
February 15 5:21 p.m.	February 16/Adar I 11 Tetzaveh (Exodus 27:20-30:10)
February 22 5:29 p.m.	February 23/Adar I 18 Kitisa (Exodus 30:11-34:35)

## Get in your PJs for Pajama Havdalah at Oheb Sholom

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Have you ever been to the synagogue in your pajamas? No?! Here's your chance! PJ Library invites you to a special pajama Havdalah on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 5 p.m. at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing.

Come in your pajamas and join Rabbi Brian Michelson for a Havdalah to celebrate the end of Shabbat. We will be doing a craft, singing songs and reading a PJ Library story, all in our pajamas!

Afterwards join us for a pizza dinner.

Pajama Havdalah is open to children through age 8 with older siblings and parents welcome.

The event is free, but RSVPs are requested to info@jreading.org or 610-921-0624 by Feb. 8.

PJ Library of Reading is generously sponsored by the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or call 610-921-0624.

**LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES**

**REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034**  
 Fridays, Feb. 1: 6 p.m. Planetarium Shabbat service & dinner at Reading Public Museum. Reservation required.  
 Fridays, Feb. 8, 15 and 22: Shabbat services, 7:45 p.m.  
 Saturday, Feb. 23: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

**CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881**  
 Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

**KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763**  
 Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

**CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH**

## All Around the Town

Congratulations to **Esta and Randy Neugroschel** on the wedding of their daughter Bari to Jared Marx of Arlington, Va. on New Year's Eve.

**Mike Taylor** and grandmother **Susan Wilson** on the birth of Leo Isaac Taylor.

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Yosef and Chana Lipsker** on the birth of a grandson, Yakov Eliyahu, to their daughter **Shterna and her husband, Tooli Lepkivker.**

Mazel tov to **Ellen Schwickrath** on the birth of her grandson William James, born in Reading to her son Ryan and his partner Amanda.

Mazel tov to **Carole and Michael Robinson** on the birth of their granddaughter Eve to son Benjamin and his wife Kari.

Mazel tov to parents **Michelle and**

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

*Until next time: Shalom!*

**Chabad of Berks**

# Kosher Kids in the Kitchen

For boys & girls, ages 5 - 13

Your kids will chop, toss & prepare a fun salad, a main dish, and a dessert, and then they'll enjoy eating their supper creation with other "kids in the Kitchen" participants!

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**  
**4:30-6:30 PM**

Franks n' blanks  
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**\$12 per child**

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Save the date



**April 6, 2019**  
**Rabbi Brian Michelson's 20th Anniversary Gala**

### Obituary

**Betty (Grossman) Berger**, of Audubon and formerly of Reading. She is survived by her sons; Steve and his wife Ilene and Lee and his wife Amy of Wyomissing and daughter-in-law Cindy Berger. Other survivors include her seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**A COMMON HEART**  
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*Save the Date*

**February 27, 2019**  
**7:00 pm**  
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# Feta and chard burekas made in just one minute

Israel21c.com

Israelis have a serious love affair with the bureka — a savory stuffed pastry that originated in Turkey and was brought to Israel by Sephardic immigrants. It doesn't matter where you are — in a coffee shop, a market, a high-tech conference, a kindergarten party, or even a wedding — you'll find burekas on the menu.

Traditionally filled with Bulgarian cheese, spinach, potato, or meat, Israel's burekas tend to use puff pastry rather than the more traditional filo pastry used by the Turks.

Burekas are surprisingly easy to make. Here's a particularly mouthwatering version stuffed with feta cheese and chard. The full recipe appears below.

## Feta Cheese and Chard Burekas

Ingredients:

- 1 package of butter puff pastry
- 1 package of feta cheese (250 g)
- 1 tub of cottage cheese (250 g)
- Large bunch of chard leaves, washed and torn into chunks
- 1 egg

Salt/pepper/granulated garlic to taste  
Beaten egg

For garnish, hardboiled egg, pickles and zaatar

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Make filling (pulse all ingredients — except the beaten egg — together in food processor), put in piping bag, cut the tip, and set aside.
3. Flour the work surface and roll out the dough.
4. Pipe a line of cheese, roll dough up over the filling twice into a jellyroll shape, and cut. Shape as desired and put on tray.
5. Continue with the rest of the cheese and dough.
6. Brush the top of the burekas with beaten egg.
7. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until deep golden and cooked on the bottom.
8. Place on a plate, cut into squares and garnish with zaatar, peeled hardboiled egg and pickles on the side.



## RCOS Social Action Film Series

Join us as we view and discuss stimulating films on important social action/social justice topics. The upcoming films are listed below. All films are shown on Sundays at 1 p.m. at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom.

### • Feb. 10 — “DISTURBING THE PEACE”

This film follows Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters from being fighters to being committed to non-violent peace activists.

### • March 17 — “TRIPLE DIVIDE”

This film exposes the consequences to drinking water from “fracking”, in Pennsylvania.

### • April 14 — “WHEN THE DUST SETTLES” and “A BOLD PEACE”

The first film is an animated film that addresses conflict resolution. The second film focuses on Costa Rica's elimination of their army and goal of fostering a peaceful society.



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Joyce Eisenberg & Ellen Scolnic are

## The Word Mavens

two ladies who know the difference  
between pulkes and a pushke

The Word Mavens will entertain and engage you with their humorous, fact-filled look at Jewish holidays, customs, foods, and more. They will share funny stories, Yiddishisms, beloved traditions and little-known facts they uncovered while writing their best-selling *Dictionary of Jewish Words* and their new book, *The Whole Spiel: Funny essays about digital nudniks, seder selfies and chicken soup memories*.

They'll answer questions like:

- Who are the ushpizin and why are they here?
- What's the difference between shnecken and rugelach?
- Why are there so many Yiddish words for a no-goodnik?

**It's unanimous! The Word Mavens are always a big hit!**

"Everyone is still talking about how funny it was. Our members loved everything about your talk. They said it was the best program we ever had."

— Barbara Goldstein, Sisterhood Pres., Temple Beth Tikvah, Wayne, NJ

Reading Hadassah

invites you to save the date

for this funny, fabulous program!

Sunday April 7, 2019 at Noon

at the Chabad-Lubavitch of Berks County

# Berks group visits village our community supports

By Bill Franklin

One of the highlights of our Jewish Federation December Israel Family mission was our visit to Yemin Orde.

After a quick lunch, Susan Weijel, Yemin Orde's deputy director, spoke to the adults about the goals, breadth of services and impact Yemin Orde has on troubled youth in the Village and throughout Israel.

She also pointed out that Yemin Orde reached out to Jewish youth in other countries. It currently is the home of 50 French teenagers. Later

we were led on a tour of the campus seeing their beautiful synagogue and the dormitory funded by our Reading Jewish community.

At the same time, Director Racheli Yaso-Ngatuo led our kids to the gymnasium, where they played a game of volleyball catch and throw with Yemin Orde kids. It was gratifying to see both communities bond and have fun together. And afterward they didn't want to leave as they continued to converse with each other in both English and Russian.



Yemin Orde visit: Seeing results from community's support.



Reading and Yemin Orde youth get together.



Playing volleyball catch and throw at Yemin Orde.

# When miracles happen through Meir Panim

## American Friends of Meir Panim

Facebook is a wonderful tool to connect people. In fact, Meir Panim's Facebook page recently helped to make a miracle happen. Here's the story:

A day care center in Israel's northern city of Safed recently wrote to us on Facebook. The teacher told us that her students come to the center without coats because they did not own one.

Not only is Safed particularly cold, due to its mountainous location, but it is also known for its high rate of poverty.

Meir Panim's Israel Director, Binyomin Ibenbaum, of course wanted to help. He was able to offer the needy children food. However, winter coats are not

yet in the realm of Meir Panim's mission.

Miraculously and almost simultaneously, Meir Panim's southern Dimona branch unexpectedly received a large donation of winter coats for its patrons from someone who knew of Meir Panim's great work in the area and had a surplus from his business.

Arrangements were quickly made to get Meir Panim's "guy Friday," Shragi to make the hour drive from Jerusalem to Dimona to pick up 50 coats and bring them up to the impoverished and cold citizens of Safed, an additional four-hour drive. The coats were warmly distributed and greatly appreciated.

Meir Panim wants to thank



all those who were involved with making this miraculous story happen. May we continue to be a resource for connecting those who need with those who

have.

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

# New Israeli technology effective against cancerous tumors

## Israel21c.com

A breakthrough Israeli technology that eliminates cancerous tumors in 70 percent of patients was nearly lost in bureaucracy and university politics. Fifteen years ago, Professors Yona Keisari and Itzhak Kelson of Tel Aviv University discovered a way to use alpha radiation to zap tumors. Their approach was revolutionary — alpha radiation is so powerful it can snap both strands of a cancer cell's DNA, but it won't harm surrounding healthy tissue as other types of radiation do.

However, alpha radiation can't travel more than about 50 microns (1/20 of a millimeter) inside human tissue. Treating a tumor would require hundreds of thousands of alpha particles — a seeming impossibility. Keisari and Kelson discovered an isotope, Radium 224, that requires far fewer alpha particles to kill a tumor. The professors and Tel Aviv University patented the technology in 2003. Health technology executive Uzi Sofer was recruited to form a new company and further develop the technology.

Alpha Tau is the only company to use alpha radiation to zap tumors. All other types

of brachytherapy (where a sealed radiation source is placed inside or next to the area requiring treatment) use beta or gamma radiation. "But that only causes a single-strand break in the DNA, from which the cell can recover," Sofer explains. "And it's not as focused. As a result, it causes a lot of side effects and destroys healthy tissue."

When the healthy tissue around the tumor is not destroyed along with the cancer, the immune system is stimulated to recognize and attack the same type of tumors elsewhere in the body. These kinds of metastases are the cause of death for 85 percent of cancer patients. "We believe that DaRT technology has tremendous clinical value not only in destroying the tumor but preventing cancer from spreading to other organs," Sofer says.

The first human trials of Alpha DaRT have been taking place in Israel and Italy for squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) tumors, a form of skin and oral cancer; and in Israel, Italy, New York and Montreal for congenital melanocytic nevus (CMN). Clinical trials of DaRT planned for 2019 will take place in France (CMN), Montreal and New York (pancreatic and prostate cancer),

Russia (breast cancer) and Israel (prostate cancer). Additional trials will later be initiated for more than 20 other indications — such as vulvar, cervical, renal and colon cancer — at medical centers in more than 25 countries. Sofer said, "We can treat any kind of solid tumor including cancers where there is no other chance and this is a patient's last chance to live."

Pancreatic cancer, for example, today has no cure; patients usually die within five years of diagnosis. Alpha Tau's DaRT "seeds" may be able to flip that prognosis. "In our SCC studies, we were able to eliminate more than 70 percent of the tumors entirely and to cause shrinkage of 100 percent of the tumors," Sofer says. "Encouraged by these promising results, we hope to eliminate pancreatic tumors as well or to shrink them so that it will be possible to remove them surgically."

Alpha radiation is actually safer than conventional beta or gamma treatments. "You don't need so much radioactivity to get the same effect," Sofer explains. "After less than a week, 50 percent of the alpha radiation will already be gone from the body. In two weeks, there will be no radioactivity left at all."

Israel & Overseas

- Jewish Agency for Israel
- Yemin Orde
- Jewish Federations of North America
- Joint Distribution Committee
- Meir Panim

# A memorable Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend



The Afro-Semitic Experience performs the cross-cultural musical blend that is their specialty.

The Reading Jewish community marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend with a series of events that combined education, entertainment and community service.

It began Jan. 18 with a lecture by Roy Waterman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. He spoke following Shabbat services at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom as part of the synagogue's Oneg Speakers Series and with support from the Jewish Federation of Reading's Jewish Community Relations Council. Waterman shared valuable information about the national crisis in criminal justice and urged the community to push for changes in a system that leads to ineffective and unjust mass incarceration, particularly of people in communities of color.

The following evening the Afro-Semitic Experience performed at the synagogue, delivering a delightful musical performance to the folks who came out despite a wintry weather forecast.

And when the official holiday arrived Jan 21, the community's young people took part in a Day of Service, volunteering to assist Reading Hospital and the Greater Berks Food Bank.



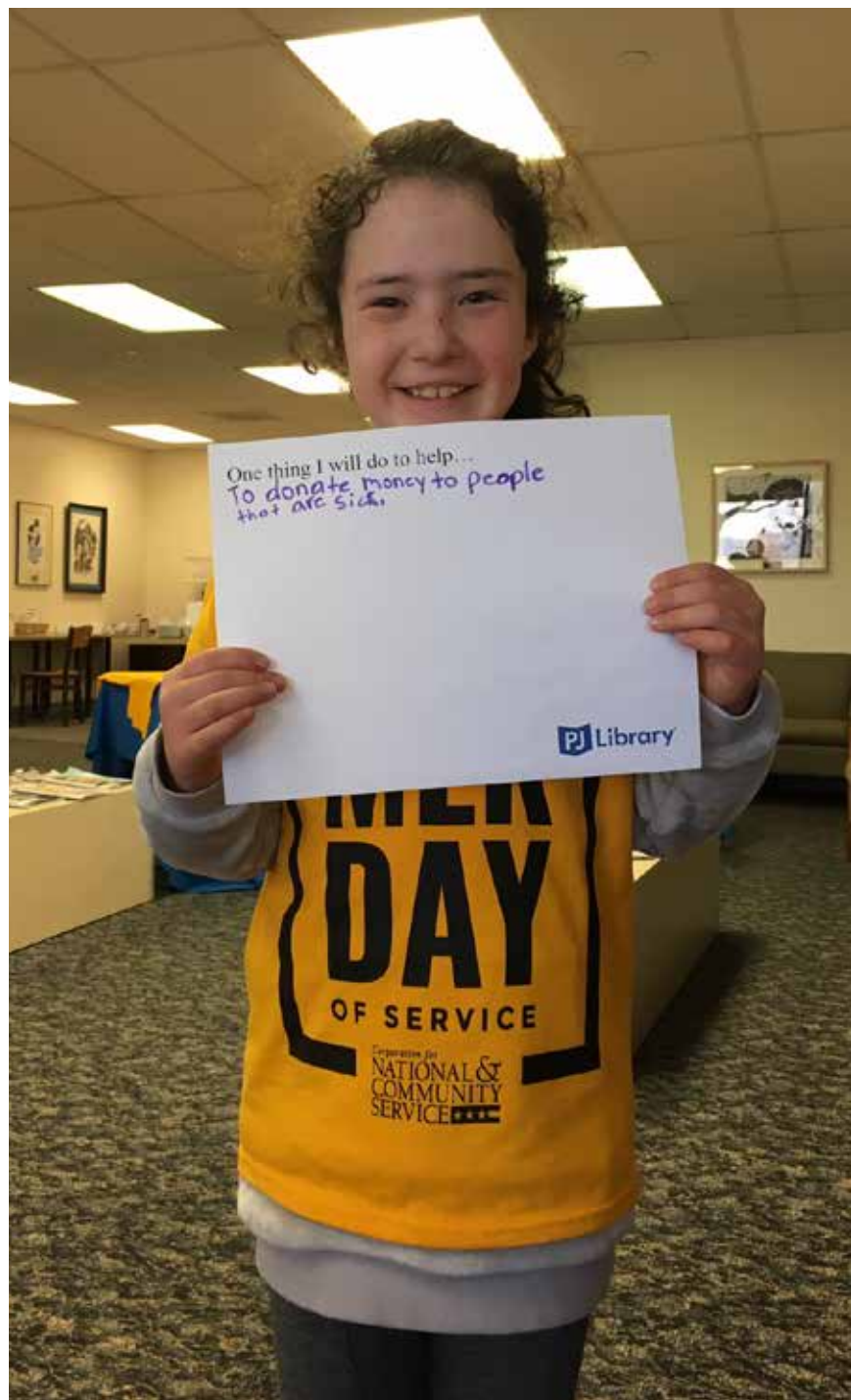
Roy Waterman delivers a talk on criminal justice inequities.



Children prepare stuffed animals for Reading Hospital's youngest patients.



Members of the Jewish community join with other volunteers assisting the Greater Berks Food Bank.



The Day of Service was about committing to help beyond just one day.



Volunteers prepare to package food for young people in need.

# Yes, Anti-Zionism is the same as anti-Semitism

By David Harsanyi  
*The Federalist*

In a recent *New York Times* op-ed titled “Anti-Zionism isn’t the same as Anti-Semitism,” columnist Michelle Goldberg defended Ilhan Omar, a newly elected House representative who has claimed that Jews have hypnotized the world for their evil works. A person can oppose “Jewish ethno-nationalism without being a bigot,” Goldberg explained. “Indeed,” she went on, “it’s increasingly absurd to treat the Israeli state as a stand-in for Jews writ large, given the way the current Israeli government has aligned itself with far-right European movements that have anti-Semitic roots.”

It’s true, of course, that anti-Zionism isn’t “the same” as common anti-Semitism. Anti-Zionism is the most significant and consequential form of anti-Semitism that exists in the world today. Anti-Zionism has done more to undermine Jewish safety than all the ugly tweets, dog whistles, and white nationalist marches combined. It is the predominant justification for violence, murder, and hatred against Jews in Europe and the Middle East. And it’s now infiltrating American politics.

What was once festering on the progressive fringes has found its way into elected offices and the heart of the liberal activist movement. As Democrats increasingly turn on Israel, Jewish liberals, many of whom have muddled Jewish values with progressive ones, are attempting to untether Israel from its central role in Jewish culture and faith for political expediency.

Now, of course, merely being critical of the Israeli government isn’t anti-Semitic. No serious person has ever argued otherwise. I’ve never heard any Israeli official or AIPAC spokesman ever claim that Israel is a “stand-in for Jews writ large,” nor

have I ever heard an Israeli prime minister profess to speak for all Jews. Israel has featured both left-wing and right-wing governments, and like governments in any liberal democracy, its leaders can be corrupt, misguided, or incompetent. Israelis criticize their governments every day.

However, opposing “Zionism” itself — the movement for a Jewish homeland — is to deny the validity of a Jewish claim to a nation altogether. It puts you in league with Hamas and Hezbollah and the mullahs of Iran. The Palestinian Liberation Organization’s 1968 charter states that “Judaism, being a religion, is not an independent nationality. Nor do Jews constitute a single nation with an identity of its own; they are citizens of the states to which they belong.” This, it seems, is now also the position of a number of Democrats.

A person doesn’t have to believe in the divine promise of Israel. Judaism’s ancient roots make it both nation and faith. One can believe in the historic necessity of a Jewish nation for those who have faced annihilation and oppression in nearly every part of the world throughout every part of their long history. To argue against Jews’ nationalism — which is to say, to argue against the ability of Jews to defend themselves in their own state — is substantively anti-Jewish.

Let’s face it, it’s not as if Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., who believes “Palestine” should replace Israel on the map, is merely unhappy about Benjamin Netanyahu’s policies. She’s unhappy that the Jewish state exists. Omar, D-Minn., who sounds like she’s quoting “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” isn’t mulling over the reality of returning to ‘67 armistice lines. She’s concerned about Jews running the place.

Now, media sweetheart Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., who,

like the others, supports the boycott, divestment, and sanctions movement, an effort to economically destroy the Jewish state — and everyone in it, whether they support “settlements” or not — is probably just embracing and normalizing a standard position of the socialist left. (Not even the Palestinian Authority, incidentally, which relies on Israeli capitalism to survive, supports BDS. American progressives are moving to a position more extreme than Fatah’s.)

That apparently includes, as Sen. Marco Rubio tells it, some unknown number of senators — perhaps a significant number, perhaps not — who voted against the Middle East Security Bill, which includes a provision that protects states that don’t want to spend taxpayer dollars on companies that engage in BDS activism. I’m inclined to believe senators probably oppose the anti-BDS bill because they didn’t want to give President Trump a victory. But Sen. Bernie Sanders says the problem is that the law “punishes Americans who exercise their constitutional right to engage in political activity.”

Now, if you believe there’s a First Amendment issue with ensuring that government contractors don’t engage in discrimination, you might have an argument. As of right now, though, the only people Sanders believes government contractors should be able to discriminate against are Jews. This is anti-Zionism in practice.

It’s difficult to escape the fact that Israel is constantly singled out by authoritarian types. In 2018, the United Nations General Assembly condemned the Jewish state on 21 occasions, while condemning North Korea, Myanmar, Syria, Iran, Sudan, and other genocidal and terror regimes a total of five times. China has set up internment camps for Uighur Muslims, but Western leftists and Islamic states continue to be obsessed with the liberal Jewish state, which has engaged in dozens of good-faith efforts to make peace with the Palestinians.

For Sanders and Goldberg, and other progressives, Israel might be okay if its citizens went ahead and elected appropriately socialistic politicians to run the country. Goldberg is right that there is nothing inherently bigoted about arguing for a binational state. It’s merely suicidal for Jews in this situation. Or, one might say, functionally anti-Semitic.

It’s true that Israel is an “ethno-nationalist” state like — well, I guess, like every nation in Europe and the Middle East — and primarily concerned with protecting Jews. This is an especially important job because the rest of the world has repeatedly and dramatically failed at the task. For Jews who are a part of a wildly successful and relatively safe minority here in America, it’s easy to demand that Israelis adhere to their progressive notions. In the real world, however, anti-Zionism is disaster. There are a few thousand years of history to prove it.

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*Lunch & Learn*



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# BDS bill debate is about anti-Semitism, not speech

By Jonathan S. Tobin  
Jewish News Syndicate

Is the effort to combat the BDS movement much ado about nothing? Given the abject failure of the campaign to boycott, divest and sanction Israel to harm the economy of the Jewish state

or even to get American universities to endorse their efforts, there are those who consider all the fuss made about the issue a mistake. Much of the organized Jewish community has been treating the battle against BDS as a priority. That includes lobbying state

legislatures and now Congress to pass laws that prevent those complying with such boycotts from doing business with the government.

Critics see this as a waste of time that gives the BDS camp too much credit and far too much attention. Even worse, some see the push against BDS as doing real damage to the pro-Israel cause since they believe support for measures that are viewed by some liberals as an attack on free speech is bound to not only fail, but will help alienate younger Jews. They argue that the focus on BDS is likely to help convince this demographic group, where support for Israel is already faltering, that being pro-Israel is incompatible with being a progressive.

Yet the answer as to why BDS matters is being provided by one of its most prominent advocates: Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich. The Palestinian American from suburban Detroit also got publicity for the map in her new office that was altered to label Israel as "Palestine." Given her statements opposing a two-state solution to the Middle East conflict, it was hardly a surprise to learn that she favors wiping the Jewish state off the map. But her contribution to the debate about anti-BDS laws illustrated the link between BDS and anti-Semitism.

Responding to a tweet by Sen. Bernie Sanders opposing the anti-BDS bill, Tlaib unleashed her vitriol on the bill's supporters: "They forgot what country they represent. This is the U.S. where boycotting is a right & part of our historical fight for freedom & equality. Maybe a refresher on our U.S. Constitution is in order, then get back to opening up our government instead of taking our rights away."

Of course, it's legal to boycott anything you don't like. Just as no one can or should be prevented from speaking out against Israel. But organized commercial boycotts rooted in bias are illegal. BDS is a campaign of discrimination against the one Jewish state on the planet and therefore anti-Semitic by definition.

But in case the obvious link between anti-Semitism and BDS went unnoticed, Tlaib reminded us of this with her dual-loyalty smear by talking about "what country" supporters of the bill are representing. This invocation of a traditional meme of Jew-hatred — that Jews are not loyal citizens of the countries in which they live — was too much even for some who share her antipathy for Trump.

The point here is that Tlaib's comments matter for the same reason that BDS is important. BDS is a flop with respect to isolating Israel. But it has lent a measure of false legitimacy to those who would engage in anti-Semitic rhetoric. BDS is worth fighting because its real target isn't Israel, but American Jews and their right to stand up for their beliefs without fear of insult and intimidation.

Wherever the BDS movement raises its banners, acts of anti-Semitism follow. So it should surprise no one that in a debate about banning discriminatory commercial conduct aimed at Jews and their state, opponents would choose to play the "dual-loyalty" card.

The question now is not the future of the anti-BDS bill. It's likely that the bill may pass with bipartisan support since many Democrats, as well as the Republicans, support it. Indeed, Tlaib may have pushed some Democrats who were wavering into supporting it.



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**7:00 pm — Purim Play**

**7:40 pm — Dessert**

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RSVP by Wednesday, March 13 if you plan to attend. Please send a check for the total amount to the Temple office (555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610) and enclose a note with the check to tell our secretary, Laura Stewart, that the money is for the March 20 Purim Event.

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**USNews**  
2017-18

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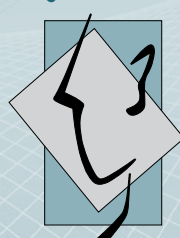
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Frima Iosilevich's new home – Albert and Nancy Sack

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**Federation Jewish Community Campaign**

In memory of:

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In honor of:

Mel and Sue Blum's 50th anniversary – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Bar Mitzvah of Judy and Ivan Botvin's grandson – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
Kate Kastenbaum's marriage – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer  
Sarah Simon's engagement – Susan and Richard D'Angelo  
Zach Simon's engagement – Susan and Richard D'Angelo

**Jewish Family Service**

In honor of:

Sarah Simon's engagement – Jim and Jackye Barrer  
Zach Simon's engagement – Jim and Jackye Barrer, Ellen and Don Abramson  
Judy Schwank being renamed as Democratic vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee – Louise Zeidman

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Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

Federation Jewish Community Campaign	\$10
Jewish Family Service	\$10
Leo Camp Lecture Fund	\$10
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JFS Taxi Transportation Program	\$25
Holocaust Library & Resource Center	\$18
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THE 15TH ANNUAL RICHARD J. YASHEK MEMORIAL LECTURE

# THE BOOK SMUGGLERS OF THE VILNA GHETTO

A Story of Spiritual Resistance During the Holocaust

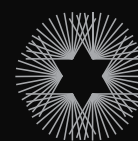
*by David Fishman, Jewish Theological Seminary*

WED., APRIL 3, 2019

7:30 p.m., Albright College McMillan Student Center, South Lounge

*Experience Event, Free and Open to the Public*

A group of ghetto inmates risked their lives to rescue thousands of Jewish books, manuscripts and documents from the Nazis, who intended to loot, deport and destroy these cultural treasures. The rescue operation, which lasted 18 months, was an act of resistance, an affirmation of human dignity and an expression of faith that the Jewish people and their culture would survive. Some of the inmates survived the Holocaust and dug up the hidden treasures, many of which eventually made traveled to the United States and Israel.



Edwin & Alma '51 Lakin  
Holocaust Library  
and Resource Center

Photo courtesy of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park