



SHALOM



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

Volume 47, No. 6

JUNE 2017

SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5777



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Family fun highlight of upcoming annual meeting

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Gather your family and friends and join us in Wyomissing Hills Park on Sunday, June 11 for the Jewish Federation of Reading's annual meeting and picnic! A free, kosher picnic meal will be served after our brief annual meeting at noon. Guests will also be invited to swim, free of charge, at the Wyomissing Hills Pool, across the street from the park.

For those not interested in swimming there will be plenty of yard games and instructed Israeli dancing starting at 2. Cool off with Rita's Italian Ice after all the fun and dancing.

The meeting and fun will take place at Wyomissing Hills Park, 53 Valley Road in Wyomissing. At noon there will be a very brief annual meeting.

The fun will start at 12:15 p.m. and continue until 4. Free parking is available at the Wyomissing Hills Pool or on the street by the park.

We only ask that you kindly RSVP to Brenda by Monday, June 5, at 610-921-0624 or brendas@jreading.org.

We hope community members of all ages will join us for this fun afternoon!



Fun and games at the 2016 edition of the Federation annual meeting and picnic.

Community to mark 50th anniversary of Six-Day War

By Amanda J. Hornberger

In June 1967 the Six-Day War was a milestone event for Israel, the Middle East and the world.

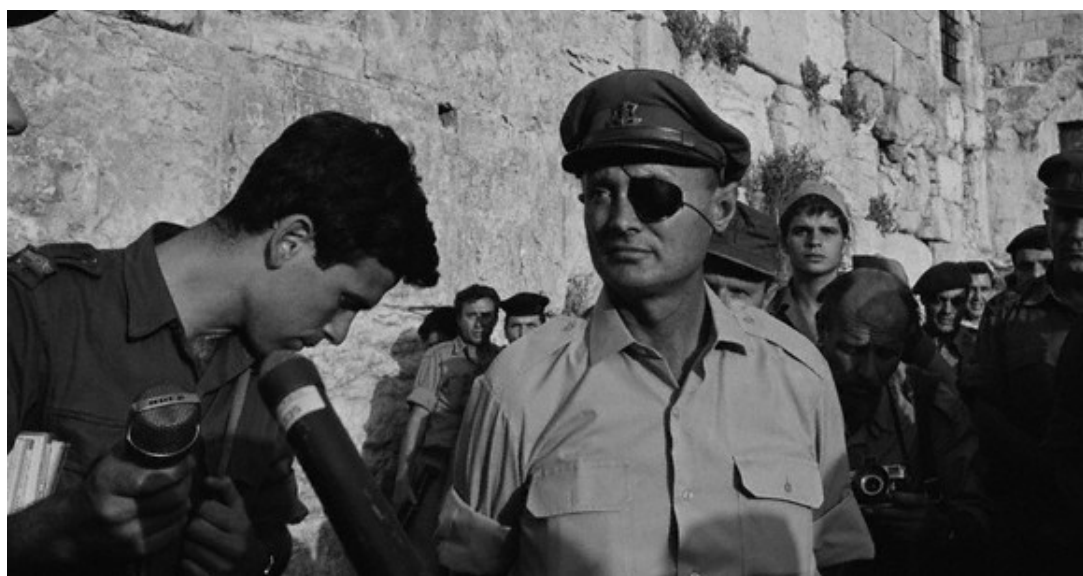
By the end of the war Israel had recaptured Jerusalem and gained significant territory, forever changing world maps.

Today, the war and its effects are still being felt within Israel and the region.

Join us at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 6, at the JCC for a special event for the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War.

We will be viewing a video on the specifics leading up to, during and after the war which will be followed by a short discussion. Israeli treats will be served afterwards.

This event is FREE and open to the entire community.



Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan at the Western Wall after the Six Day War in 1967.

Climb (almost) every mountain on Yemin Orde hike

Yemin Orde's annual Challenge (Etgar) Hike tests 12th-graders outdoor survival skills with a four-day, 100 kilometer trek from Mount Meron to the Village. Mount Meron, located in northern Israel, has special significance in Jewish tradition and is a beautiful nature reserve.

For our youth, the challenge hike reinforces their connection to the Land of Israel and provides them with opportunity to put new leadership and team-building skills to the test. The seniors assign a name to the group of

incoming ninth-graders following the hike. This year, the outgoing 12th-graders named the future ninth grade group "Daniel" in memory of a beloved young math teacher.

There was great joy in the Village when the hikers returned from their journey. The group made a dramatic entrance by running down the road from the Arab village (Ayn Hawd), just above Yemin Orde, hollering and whooping all the way.

The Challenge Hike is one of the most popular and anticipated

programs at Yemin Orde. Our youth look forward to the chance to learn outside the classroom and challenge themselves with extreme outdoor activities. A small group of staff members accompany the teens on their trek to facilitate group discussions, explore the area and help cook meals out in the open.

"It was a bonding experience for us. It was difficult, and sometimes we hiked in the rain. We coped with everything. It taught us that nothing stands in the way of the will," said one

youth.

The Etgar hike is solely funded by donations to Friends of Yemin Orde, which is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign. Based on the hike's success with boosting confidence and teamwork among the teens, Yemin Orde's Village Way Educational Initiatives partner communities have also incorporated similar Etgar hikes into their programming. Indeed, it has become a signature program of the Village Way programs.



**2017 totals
as of May 22**

**Jewish Community
Campaign
\$211,298**

***Includes transfers from
Donor Advised Funds**

How handing out tomatoes fits into Federation's important mission

By Richard Nassau
Development Director

Summer is almost with us. Roadside stands dot the area. Magazine articles feature recipes with an abundance of fresh fruits or expound on the virtues of some type of produce I have yet to try. Every



day seems to bring a new tomato size to the range of what is already out there. I like fresh produce along with tomatoes, but I admit I get stuck when the recipe calls for a pound of tomatoes. How many is that exactly?

I looked it up. On average, there are about three to four tomatoes in a pound.

Okay, so why does Federation care about tomatoes and fresh produce?

Good question. My traditional approach to tomato selection is based on two simple criteria — size and color. Having made those decisions, usually prior to arriving at the store or roadside stand, I am not inclined to weigh my tomatoes. I search by size and by color and then pick up the tomato package already sorted and weighed. I take a quick look confirming everything, and it becomes another item checked off my list. Simple.

I share this with you because I was not prepared last month at the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry when someone asked me, "How many tomatoes are in that stack of flats?" I looked over and counted 20 flats. Each flat weighed 10 pounds. I pulled out the phone, discovering the 3.5 average per pound and did the math. Each of the 20 flats held about 35 tomatoes. Quick multiplication and the answer was about 700 fresh tomatoes were ready to go.

That's 700 tomatoes because of you. Thank you. The Food Pantry's ability to provide fresh produce to families in need is so important. It is one of the ways you are enriching lives through your contributions to Federation. The next time you see a tomato think about your gift and how meaningful it is for people. One tomato, one 4-ounce tomato really does make

Building a future for children at risk

The "Bomb Shelter Capital of the World," Israel's southern city of Sderot, was toured recently by world-renowned Cantor Avi Albrecht. Daniel Berkeley, manager of the Sderot Youth Department, was the tour guide. Albrecht began the day by walking to the edge of Sderot, which is located across the street from the hostile Arab area of Gaza and a fairly short distance from Egypt. Sderot has suffered more than 20,000 rockets shot from Gaza since 2001. The day before the visit, a rocket had landed in Sderot.

As the sounds of army tanks were heard rumbling on the nearby roads, Berkeley explained the unpredictability of life for the people of Sderot. "Just a few years ago, there were no less than 10 warning sirens per day that rockets were on their way to the city," he said. "Now, thank God, things are quieter. However, many in Sderot live in perpetual fear of attack. Now the rockets are not acute but rather a chronic dripping that still causes stress.

This reality highlights the need for the Meir Panim-sponsored Ben Gurion Youth Club, which provides a safe haven for the city's children. The club, open four days a week during after-school hours, is a second home for some 30-40 children, ages 13-18, from impoverished and dysfunctional homes as well as for



The Jewish Family Service Food Pantry makes a difference in the community thanks to dedicated volunteers and contributors.

a difference.

Last month Jewish Family Service Food Pantry distributed 200 pounds of tomatoes. I did the math. Along with those 200 pounds of tomatoes, volunteers also distributed bags of fresh lettuce, bottles of juice, boxes of pasta, cans of — well you get the idea. At the end of the morning, the 23 Jewish Family Service volunteers had distributed more than 5,000 pounds of food.

Five thousand pounds!

From the outside distributing 5,000 pounds of food to 120+ families in under three hours probably looked easy. It wasn't. The 23 volunteers helped make it look easy, but there were a few issues that you didn't see before we got to the tomatoes. Let me tell you what really happened.

The food truck carrying the 20 flats of tomatoes, a small part of one of the nine pallettes of food, was more than one hour late. It got stuck in traffic due to an early-morning accident. In addition, the driver was new and given the wrong address of the Food Pantry's location at the Olivet Boys and Girls Club.

While we waited for the truck, we were also awaiting the arrival of two busloads of United Way of Berks County volunteers. They were taking a local tour to learn more about programs

those traumatized by years of rocket attacks. "These kids come each day to play, use computers, talk to mentors and friends, get help with homework, make food and enjoy a quality, loving and safe environment," Berkeley said.

Most of Sderot's population consists of a lower socioeconomic population of immigrants who often work long hours in factories. If not for the Ben Gurion Youth Club, many children would come home to an empty house, void of proper food, positive guidance or healthy social outlets. Albrecht was shocked when he was told what the youth of Sderot have lived through. This includes learning to run for shelter within 15 seconds of the siren warning that a rocket is on the way.

"The future of Israel's success is in its children," shared Goldie Sternbuch, Director of Overseas Relations for Meir Panim. "In order to stem the tide of dysfunction and poverty and help people heal from post-traumatic stress disorder, we need to keep the youth off the streets and have them in a safe and healthy framework where education, recreation and helpful mentors are provided."

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

supported by United Way, including how the United Way allocation for Jewish Family Service was being used. This was an opportunity for them to see the Food Pantry and hear more about other JFS programs.

When the truck finally arrived an hour late, each of the nine pallettes had to be off-loaded and then moved to the gym, where the 23 volunteers under the direction of Sari Incledon, JFS director, were waiting. As each pallette arrived in the gym, the volunteers had to unload and unbox the many stacks of groceries each contained. We were already running late, but thanks to the efficiency of those 23 volunteers we opened a little after 10 a.m. Amazing. In tomato terms, they crushed it!

While this was happening, Bill Franklin Federation president, was prepared for the arrival of the two busloads of United Way volunteers. We were one of their first stops as Jewish Family Service and the Olivet Boys and Girls Club each receive United Way funds. In addition to the Food Pantry, Jewish Family Service receives United Way allocations for the JFS

transportation and case management programs.

The buses arrived with the 35 volunteers just about the same time as the next-to-last pallette was being unloaded and unboxed. The United Way volunteers got to see firsthand all the work that goes into preparing 5,000 pounds of groceries for distribution. Some even joined-in to help unbox the final pallette.

Bill Franklin spoke to the United Way volunteers about the work of Jewish Family Service. How the JFS Food Pantry is a lifeline for many families. How it exists because of community support. How the Food Pantry, one of more than 50 Federation community programs, is an example of the collaborative efforts undertaken by the Jewish community. The result of a collaboration between Jewish Federation, United Way of Berks County, Olivet Boys and Girls Club, and the Greater Berks Food Bank.

If you'd like more information about the work of the JFS Food Pantry and how you can volunteer, call Federation 610-921-0624.

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From the President's Desk

Everyone gains when we come together and learn

By William D. Franklin
President

For its May book discussion, the Israel Book group read Lewis Glinert's "The Story of Hebrew." Hebrew's revival as an everyday tongue is "perhaps the only known case of the total revival of a spoken language." Through 2,000 years of exile and dispersion, disparate Jewish communities could connect, debate and still maintain unity by their use of the Hebrew language as a vehicle of communication.

Hebrew was a pre-eminent language for scientific-technical literature between the ninth and 13th centuries and served as a conduit to Greek and Arab science for the Christian world. Jewish thinkers translated the knowledge gained from multiple cultures into Hebrew to enrich Jewish knowledge everywhere.

The study of Hebrew texts and related discussions and arguments kept the language, the learning and the culture alive and relevant for more than 3,000 years.

In his conclusion, Glinert says that language plays a vital role in the lives of nations and that the story of Hebrew in our Jewish life shows that a nation can preserve its ethical and cultural heritage surviving dispersion and persecution. Today, it is the language of millions of Israelis, both Jewish and Arab, and an Israeli teen can easily read 3,000-year-old biblical prose. No English, or for that matter European speaker, can say the same.

Earlier in May, the Federation's



Members of the community gather for a Jewish Federation of Reading event featuring a discussion on the left vs. the right in Israel.

Photo by Jeremy Drey, courtesy of Reading Eagle

Jewish Community Relations Council hosted Jonathan Tobin and J.J. Goldberg, who discussed the left vs. the right in Israel. They debated whether peace in Israel is possible, whether partition into two states can ensure Israel's survival, or whether partition is the surest path increasing bloodshed. They also exchanged thoughts, in a civil manner and in a spirit of friendship, on solutions for peace.

I learned that, much like Hebrew, our continuity as a vibrant, meaningful Jewish community requires that we continue to engage in thought-provoking study and exchanges of ideas. As in Israel, we have in Reading groups with different perspectives, different views of the future, different priorities and different thoughts on how important issues should be resolved. We must listen to each other and acquaint

ourselves with differing conclusions. Spirited, yet civil, disagreement may trigger a certain degree of discomfort, but it is healthy and productive for our Jewish world and for our American democracy.

The next opportunity for us to come together and learn, argue and have fun is our Annual Meeting and Picnic, Sunday June 11. I look forward to seeing you there and getting an earful of your thoughts and ideas.

Alvernia announces award in honor of the late Albert Boscov

Alvernia University has announced a new award honoring the late Albert Boscov. Beginning next spring, the Albert Boscov Community Engagement Award will be presented annually to one hardworking Reading Collegiate Scholar during his or her senior year.

"It's our hope that the Albert Boscov Community Engagement Award will give us an annual opportunity to remember and honor one of Reading's finest citizens," said President Thomas F. Flynn, Ph.D.

Among other impressive achievements, Albert Boscov founded Our City Reading to restore abandoned houses in downtown Reading, opened the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, the GoggleWorks apartments, and a five star hotel — all designed to bring people back into the city he loved.

"Three years ago, Albert Boscov helped Alvernia financially launch a special full-scholarship program for students from the City of Reading," Flynn said. "Since



Kirsy Rosario, a Reading Collegiate Scholar at Alvernia University, with her community mentor Andi Funk, CEO of Cambridge-Lee Industries.

then, the Reading Collegiate Scholars Program has helped scores of students get into colleges of their choice, including two cohorts that are doing remarkably well at Alvernia."

The Reading Collegiate Scholars Program offers intensive college readiness for high school students and full scholarships to attend Alvernia. The program is unique in that it provides a solid bridge for students throughout their college careers, empowering them to thrive in college and graduate to become successful professionals and committed servant-leaders in the community.

The university is funding four-year, half-tuition scholarships out of its annual operating budget, and is actively seeking local businesses and donors to fund the other half scholarship as an investment in the Greater Reading community and its future.

"This is a significant commitment for Alvernia, especially as we expand the program to reach our goal of 40 scholarships annually," Flynn said. "But the potential to change lives is incredibly significant. And the return on investment for our community, as Al Boscov understood, is unmatched."

SHALOM

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

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

Next deadline, Aug 5

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Our 2017 graduates



Jared Baksic, son of Marla and Steve Baksic and grandson of Judy and Jack Schnee, is graduating from Wilson High School. Jared was a member of the cross country, track and ice hockey teams. He was a district and state qualifier and team captain for cross country. He also participated in concert band, FBLA, and world council. Jared will be attending the University of Alabama and will major in Business Marketing.



George Balchunas, son of George and Cynthia Balchunas, is graduating from Wilson High School. He was the drum major in the marching band in 2016 and was in County, District, Regional & State Orchestras and Jazz Bands. He will be majoring in philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh.



Rebecca Balchunas, daughter of George and Cynthia Balchunas, is graduating from Penn State University with a BA in Human Development & Family Studies. She participated in THON all four years and was a dancer in 2015. She plans to be a child life specialist.



Evan Cardinal, son of Adrienne and Jeffrey Cardinal and grandson of Betty Cardinal, is graduating from Antietam High School. Evan received the Shirk Scholarship from Albright College and will attend the post-secondary institution this fall to major in political science.



Lyuba Eydlin, granddaughter of Lina and Alex Eydlin, received an MBA with a concentration in investments and corporate renewal from Northeastern University, Boston, on May 5.



Matthew S. Faller, son of Lori and Scott Faller of Ephrata and grandson of Elaine and the late Paul Safir, graduated from Lehigh University with a major in mechanical engineering and a minor in aerospace. He is a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity,



Scott Goldberg, son of Debbie and David Goldberg, will graduate from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois on June 16. He plans to attend the University of Hawaii, where he plans to complete his Master's Degree in Marine Biology.



Maya Goldstein, daughter of Tandy and David Goldstein, is graduating from Boyertown High School. Maya was active in the Youth and Government Club and competed at the state Judicial Supreme Court level, twice qualifying for the National Judicial Competition. She earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for developing an American Sign Language course to help preschool children learn diversity. Maya will attend Chatham University in Pittsburgh to study International Business.



Robert J. Hogg, son of Karen and Blair Hogg, is graduating from Gov. Mifflin High School. He was a member of the Academic Challenge Team, National French Honor Society, baseball team, golf team, French Club, band and orchestra. He will be attending Moravian College, Bethlehem, to study Finance and Economics.



Noah Levine, son of Frances Komisar and Steven Levine, is graduating from Wilson High School. Noah is a member of the National Honor Society, the Technology Student Association and Feminist Society and spent four years in band, chorus, and school musicals. He is co-captain of the tennis team and a four year starter. Noah is an Eagle Scout and a member of Berks Youth Chorus. He will attend the University of Pittsburgh and study Engineering.



Naomi M. Michelson, daughter of Holly and Rabbi Brian Michelson, is graduating from Manhattanville College, Purchase, N.Y. She was a Sociology major and very active in the campus Hillel. Naomi volunteered on campus and served as student-coordinator for Cast Kids—a program that provided a meal and structured play time for children living in local shelters. Naomi will be working as a nursery school teacher at Learning Ladder Academy in Wyomissing and as a religious school teacher at Oheb Shalom.

Our 2017 graduates



Emilie L. Plesset, daughter of Rochelle and Robert Plesset of Potomac, Md., and granddaughter of Robert and Shirley Kauffman, graduated with honors from the University of Michigan with a BA in History and minors in Political Science and Medieval and Early Modern Studies. Emilie wrote for *The Michigan Daily*, where she served as a Senior News Editor. Emilie will be spending this summer in New York interning with the news website The Daily Beast.



Jacqueline Reyner, daughter of Peter and Eleanor Reyner, earned her PhD in psychology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, on May 24. She will be continuing her postdoctoral fellowship in PTSD research at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine/Cincinnati VA.



Ari B. Spillerman, son of David & Ruth Spillerman and grandson of Sidney & Cheryl Spillerman and Nelly & the late Baroukh Massuda, is graduating from Wilson High School. After spending this summer as a camp counselor at URJ Camp Harlam, Ari will enroll in the University of Pittsburgh's School of Business, where he intends to major in finance.

B'nai Mitzvot 5777



Isaac M. Hoffman became a bar mitzvah at Temple Menorah in Miami Beach, Fla., on April 1. He is a son of Seth and Joanna Hoffman, brother of Jed, and grandson of Judith Kraines and Neil Hoffman. Isaac is a lover of all things gaming and electronic. He is a filmmaker, writer, musician, animator and comedian. He has built his own computer. But as far as anyone knows, he has yet to catch a ball.



William Levin, son of Margo and Adam Levin, celebrates his Bar Mitzvah on June 3, at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Will is in seventh grade at Wyomissing Junior-Senior High School. He is active in the community and at school. He is on the school soccer team and plays for the Wyomissing Lacrosse Club. He volunteers at the Jewish Federation Food Pantry and at Opportunity House, and he is a member of NFTY.



Eli and Zacchai Singer, twin grandsons of Henry and Helene Singer, celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs Jan, 7 in Oakland, Calif. They now live in Newton, Mass. Both boys enjoy math and science. They excel at creating origami works of art and building robots and play soccer in local leagues.



William X. Stein, son of Scott and Samantha Stein, becomes a Bar Mitzvah on Aug. 19 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Will enjoys offroading in the Jeep, plays trombone and baritone in the Twin Valley Middle School band and loves playing with his dog. Will is looking forward to attending 6 Points Sci Tech Academy again this summer.

Seats still available for June bus trip to Philadelphia

By **Amanda J. Hornberger**

Join us for a JCC bus trip to Philadelphia on Sunday, June 25. Enjoy a day in the city, see a new

play and then dinner at any of the city's restaurants in Rittenhouse Square!

We are headed to the Plays and

Players Theatre in Philadelphia to see the new play "The Roses in June." This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, and this play offers an opportunity to go back to that time.

Set in London on the eve of Israel's 1967 Six-Day War, "The Roses in June" explores the struggle of love, fear, regret and forgiveness on the eve of a possible second Holocaust.

In the play, Ingrid and George Rose have successfully rebuilt their lives in Britain after fleeing Nazi Germany, but when their son becomes a victim of bullying and anti-Semitism at school, the trauma of their own persecution reemerges with almost deadly

consequences.

Our group has orchestra seats for the 2 p.m. matinee of "The Roses in June." Following the show there is a talkback and then enjoy dinner on your own.

The cost is \$40 for JCC members and \$45 for non-members and includes an orchestra seat for the play, chartered Bieber bus and driver gratuity. Please note that Plays and Players Theatre is not handicapped accessible and there are stairs in the theatre.

RSVP deadline with payment is June 12.

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

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All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Alexa Antanavage and Russell Farbiarz** on the birth of their third child, a son Noah Eli.

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

Until next time: Shalom!

Join us at JCC for Summer Movie Mondays

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Cool off this summer and enjoy cinematic treats at the JCC! We will be hosting Summer Movie Mondays from June through August and showing five great films, free of charge. So gather your friends and come to the JCC on Mondays this summer!

We'll kick the series off on June 12 with "Dough." This British comedy was a favorite from our 2016 Reading Jewish Film Series. Jonathan Pryce stars as

an old Jewish baker whose faltering business is inadvertently saved by his young Muslim apprentice.

On June 26 "Star Trek" fans will enjoy the new documentary "For the Love of Spock." In the film, actors William Shatner, George Takei, Simon Pegg and others discuss the lasting legacy of Leonard Nimoy and his iconic portrayal of Mr. Spock on the television series "Star Trek."

The directorial debut of Natalie

Portman, "A Tale of Love and Darkness," will be shown July 10. Based on the autobiographical novel of the same name by Israeli author Amos Oz, the film takes place in Jerusalem in the late 1940s.

Another favorite from the 2016 Reading Jewish Film Series, "24 Days," will be shown July 24. Alexandre Arcady's thriller is based on the real-life kidnapping of Ilan Halimi, a French Jew, from the harrowing perspective of his mother, Ruth Halimi.

On Aug. 14 we finish our Summer Movie Mondays with the documentary "The Return." Before World War II there were more than 3 million Jews in Poland, today there are 20,000. The film follows four young women in their attempts to live a Jewish life in modern-day Poland.

All films will be shown at 2 pm at the JCC. Popcorn will be provided. We hope to see you for Movie Mondays this summer!

Community members take part in luncheon honoring centenarians

The annual Centenarian Luncheon sponsored by the Berks County Area office of Aging was held May 10, honoring residents who are 100 or turning 100 or older. Our county has 152 centenarians, and 30 were in attendance.

Pictured celebrating are centenarian Herbert Schneider and friend Al Diamond, centenarian Al Inclendon and son John, and centenarian Edith Mendelsohn and granddaughter Judith. Herb will be 100 in December and Edith in July. Al Inclendon will be 101 in August.



Adam Leisawitz, Claire Farbiarz, Leah Leisawitz, Maxwell Kabakoff and Benjamin Farbiarz smile before the final Shabbat B'yachad dinner of the year at the Leisawitz home on May 5.

Successful first year for Shabbat B'yachad

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Thanks to a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, local young families participated in a yearlong series of Shabbat dinners in the Shabbat B'yachad program.

Throughout the year, at six different occasions, engaged PJ Library families hosted two to three less-engaged families for catered, kosher Shabbat dinners in their homes. Some of the dinners took place at local synagogues and the JCC.

Together the families shared Shabbat, met other young families and learned from one another.

The goal of Shabbat B'yachad is to help create personal connections among families raising Jewish children beyond traditional programming at the JCC or synagogues. So far our

participating families seem very pleased with the program, and we are looking to continue next year. The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is considering our renewal application for the second year.

A special thanks to the six families who hosted dinners in their homes: Anna & David Bluestone, Jennifer & Jacob Gurwitz, Jessica & Jesse Leisawitz, Michele & Ben Leisawitz, Tracy & Nicholas Rossi, and Jennifer & Joe Woodward. Shabbat B'yachad would not have been a success without their willingness to open their homes to share Shabbat with others.

Thank you to the 14 participating families for agreeing to try out this new program.

We look forward to continuing Shabbat B'yachad and expanding the program next year!

Obituaries

Victor M. Jacobs Jr., 83 of Wyomissing. Victor was an Army veteran serving from 1953-1955. He was one of the first ski instructors at Elk Mountain and a member of the Flying Dutchman Ski Club. He was a member of the Jewish Community Center. Victor is survived by his wife, Kathleen and his two children: his son Monte of West Lawn and his daughter Betsy and her husband Joel Dries. He is also survived by his sister Helen and her husband, Michael Goetz, of Philadelphia and four grandchildren.

Shirley Nemeroff, 84, of Sinking Spring. Shirley was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. She was a full-time mother raising three sons. She is survived by her sons: Edward; Michael; and Jeffrey

and his wife, Lisa, of Sinking Spring. There are also five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Mary Wexler, 92, of West Lawn. Mary moved to West Lawn from Passaic, N.J., in 2013. She was a member of Keshet Zion Synagogue. She is survived by her son Leslie Wexler and his wife, Lillian, and daughters: Susan Wilson; and Bonnie Price and her husband, Howard. Mary is also survived by seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, her sister Evelyn and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Shirley Krieger, 98, of Bluffton, S.C., formerly of Dayton, Ohio; and Wyomissing. Shirley enjoyed cooking for her family and attending Friendship Circle meetings at the JCC. She is survived by her son Burt and his wife, Fran, of Bluffton, two granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

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Our monthly Tot Shabbat services
will resume at the Temple on Saturday,
September 16th at 10:00 am.

What is the meaning of independence to Israel?

Jpost.com

A country whose capital city is unrecognized by most of the world is not fully independent.

Israel's declaration of independence was timed to coincide with the end of the British Mandate. It was heroically pragmatic.

The country had already been fighting a brutal civil conflict with Arab residents of British Palestine for six months since the November UN partition vote.

But Israel's early leaders understood early on that the borders the international community had granted the Jewish State were insufficient.

The international community created a state that looked more like a salad than a functioning entity. That was convenient for the British imperialists who ruled over the country.

The British planners also thought partition in Israel could logically leave pieces of Palestine in Gaza, the Galilee and Jaffa, the latter an island within the Jewish state. The British and UN decided to make Jerusalem and areas around it, including Ein Kerem and Bethlehem, an "international" city. European colonial powers like such geographic utopian monstrosities when they apply to countries in the global south, less so in Europe. No one proposes to make Rome "international."

Israel still lives in the shadow of the international community and the colonial legacy. It is because the international community decided it had a right to partition Palestine and determine the borders of a Jewish and Arab state that the same international community today feels it has such a vested interest in "solving" the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It is because of 1947 that most countries refuse to keep their embassies in Jerusalem.

In this sense, Israel never achieved independence. A country whose capital city is unrecognized by most of the world is not fully independent. Most countries say Jerusalem can only be the capital of Israel after a peace agreement. But before 1967 these same countries refused to have their embassies in Jerusalem. That is solely because of the 1947 Partition Plan of the United Nations, when mostly Western countries determined Jerusalem should be an international city.

Today Israel lives under the shadow of the arbitrary decisions by European mapmakers to draw the borders. Arbitrary borders led to the uncertainty that underpinned the 1967 war.

This year marks 50 years since that war. For some that is 50 years of occupation of Palestinian areas in the West Bank. For some it is 50 years of liberation of Jerusalem and Jewish return to the biblical sites of Judea and Samaria.

The decision by Israel's founding generation to declare independence in 1947 and the slow but steady recognition for most aspects of that independence by the international community is momentous. At the center of the choice to be independent is the choice to take responsibility for one's future. The privilege of independence comes with this burden. This is one of the major schisms between Israel and critical voices in the Diaspora community.

Jews who live outside Israel have not sought independence but abjured their security to the states they live in. This choice sometimes colors how they judge Israel. Some do not believe Israel has a right to exist; they believe the role of the Jewish people is never to have power, but solely to live as a minority "light unto the nations." Being a persecuted and also privileged minority fills them with pride, whereas Israel fills them with shame.

This is the shame and anger that empowers those who say "not in my name" about Israel's actions. Israel stains their reputation, because of its independent action. Lack of independence allows them to have no responsibility. Mass killing by Saddam Hussein or in the Congo? Not my problem.

Others demand an Israel whose independence embodies their values. For these voices in Israel and outside, Israel must be as pure and perfect as possible. Denying the rights and demands of millions of Palestinians does not embody this perfection. In fact, the very nature of a "Jewish and democratic" state often does not embody this perfection because it privileges Jewish national rights. The Star of David on the flag and the lyrics of "Hatikva" offend the sensibilities of those who would prefer a secular American-style state and not a muscular nation-state.

So what is the final meaning of independence? On one level, it is a begging from the international community and former

colonial powers for recognition of borders that they drew arbitrarily.

But the meaning of independence is more than that. It is the ability to determine one's fate. Israel has been privileged to have received independence when it did with visionary founders who provided it the basis for that independence. They did not accept the decisions of the international community entirely, and left the country continually struggling to define its borders. In some ways that worked in Israel's

favor, in some ways it continues to undermine Israel's rights to Jerusalem.

Over the years, Israel's independent standing has improved. The struggle — 100 years from Balfour, 70 from the partition, 50 from the Six Day War, 30 since the first intifada — continues. Israel must take responsibility for deciding its fate over the coming decades and determining whether the full form of independence (recognition of borders) is worth the unknown quantity of withdrawal from lands and the creation of a Palestinian State.

Upcoming events in the community



For more information on any of these events please call 610-921-0624.

Thurs June 1, 2017

JCC Closed for Shavuot

Tues June 6, 2017

4 pm: Tech Tuesday

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

6 pm: 50th Anniversary of the Six-Day War Event

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Sun June 11, 2017

12 pm JCC Annual Meeting & Picnic

Where: Wyomissing Hills Playground, 53 Valley Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mon June 12, 2017

2 pm: Movie Monday: *Dough*

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mon June 19, 2017

2 pm 92nd St. Y Program

Where: The Highlands Cultural Center Side B, 2000 Cambridge Ave, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Tues June 20, 2017

4 pm: Tech Tuesday

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Sun June 25, 2017

JCC Bus Trip to Philadelphia to see *The Roses in June*

Mon June 26, 2017

2 pm: Movie Monday: *For the Love of Spock*

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Tues July 4, 2017

JCC Closed for Independence Day

Mon July 10, 2017

2 pm: Movie Monday: *A Tale of Love and Darkness*

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mon July 17, 2017

2 pm 92nd St. Y Program

Where: The Highlands Cultural Center Side B, 2000 Cambridge Ave, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Mon July 24, 2017

2 pm: Movie Monday: *24 Days*

Where: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610

JCHS instructor to participate in select summer program

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner
Jewish Community High School

July 9, Shira Simon, who has taught for two years in our Reading Jewish Community High School (JCHS), will participate in the second annual National Educators Institute at the Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH).

This very select program for educators, "The Art and Science of Teaching Jewish History in America," will enable Shira to offer our students in 5778 a course in American Jewish history.

First offered in 2016, the cohort involves educators of 11 outstanding American Jewish Day Schools in North America, New England to Florida, New Jersey to California.

Jewish educators from communities across the United States were invited to apply to this innovative professional development program designed to

empower teachers to re-envision Jewish history education in America by promoting historical thinking, empathy, and self-identification. The Institute provides a unique opportunity to engage with the Museum's collections, learn from the experts in the fields of American Jewish history and education, and collaborate with museum staff and fellow teachers sharing knowledge and best practices.

The program description addresses specific goals that will benefit our students in the Greater Reading Jewish teen community:

- 1) Learn from leading scholars about new developments in Jewish history education;
- 2) Network with and learn from colleagues facing similar challenges;
- 3) Discover and gain access to curricula and teaching resources



Shira Simon

developed by NMAJH;

- 4) Receive extensive training in object-based and partnership learning methods and ongoing support from NMAJH educators;
- 5) Devise a plan for reforming the

teaching of the American Jewish history in schools.

The Institute is co-directed by Ronit Lusky and Dr. Katerina Romanenko of NMAJH and leading scholars of Jewish history and education. Institute facilitators include: Dr. Benjamin M. Jacobs (G. Washington University) and Dr. Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University). Additional faculty include the museum's Chief Historian, Dr. Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University), Dr. Orit Kent (Brandeis University), Dr. Abby Reisman (University of Pennsylvania), and additional renowned scholars of history and education.

Leadership funding provided by the Lasko Family Foundation and an anonymous national foundation. Additional support provided by Robin and Bradford Klatt and The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation.

Plans for next JCHS year mix familiar classes with something new

Reading Jewish Community High School (JCHS) classes for the 2017-2018 / 5778 year will offer some new and some previously offered "Oldie but Goldie" courses, in a two-semester format. All will emphasize engagement and discussion or debate, some hands-on experiences.

Jewish teens in grades 8-12 are invited to join us for one or more classes. Contact Rabbi Dov Lerner for questions, answers and information, bdlerner1@gmail.com

Classes are offered from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Sundays at the JCC, with the possibility that some evenings may be

local but "on the road."

Shira Simon will be offering a redesigned course in American Jewish History (see story above).

"Current Events in America and Israel" will return. The third course for the first semester will be "Civil Rights and the Jewish belief in working for Tikkun Olam."

Rabbi Dov will reprise a course in "Jewish Bioethics: Moral Choices for Modern Jews," which will incorporate the incredible advances in science and technology that affect the decisions teens are making today and soon tomorrow, especially relating to medical advances.

A new course will be "REEL Israel," in response to our current students requesting a course in Israeli culture and how it has rapidly evolved in Israel's short history as a modern state. We will review film scenes that illustrate Israeli culture and values over less than three generations.

Rabbi Dov will be offering first semester an updated course on "Comparative Judaism," surveying not only the "major movements" of American Judaism for their similarities and differences – Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist – but also Aleph, Jewish Renewal, National Havurah

Committee, Humanist Judaism, Ultra-Orthodoxy and more. The result will be a chart outlining each movement's basic history, outstanding persons and decisions, essential beliefs, values, symbols, rituals, locations, numbers, leadership, education of clergy, etc.

A course is in the works that hopefully will be ready for the second semester, featuring hands-on Jewish skills and avocations that illuminate the Jewish calendar and life cycles, including some programs from years ago, e.g. making a shofar and learning to blow it correctly, and Torah calligraphy. Watch for details.

'Better Together' program to be continued for another year

The Reading Jewish Community High School was the recipient of a two-year grant in intergenerational education and relationships.

While the grant expires this month, and "Better Together" is closing as a national project and program, JCHS director Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner wanted to share very gratefully that the Jewish Federation of Reading has seen the value of this program and voted to include in the education budget the extension of this offering for our teens

and seniors.

A team of professionals have made the current program possible, including but not limited to William Franklin, Amanda Homberger, Shira Simon, Brenda Seidel, Carole Robinson, and Sari Incledon.

Uniquely, the Reading "Better Together" program — which readers of this newspaper have been able to follow — emphasized intergenerational education, discussion, and study. Most other programs visited senior citizen residences, thus meeting another

need and Jewish value. The Reading program encourages our teens and our seniors to study together — while we knew that both frequently would digress to "just discussion" and learn more about each other.

Other schools are asking how to replicate our "Better Together" programs in their communities as they learned the results of our positive experience. Rabbi Dov delivered a conference presentation on the subject to fellow education directors.

The *Shalom* articles and pictures of Better Together were especially effective and served as a strong example of community support.

Seniors who are interested in participating next year should please contact Carole Robinson at the Federation, 610-921-0624.

We are inviting Jewish teens in our community to participate in "Better Together" sessions and perhaps fulfill high school community service responsibilities.

Baking challah with Chana — Have you ever tasted love?

By Sheila Bornstein

Women and children came together at the Chabad Center on Sunday, April 23, to make the ritual bread that has come to be known as challah.

We made braids of many styles and sizes. The Chabad Center's Chana Lipsker taught us to braid three- and six-strand loaves of challah as well as to make small rolls and napkin rings. Before the dough was formed into loaves we removed a small portion and recited a prayer in remembrance of the Temple in Jerusalem. The portion was burned after the baking of the bread.

Many of the foods we eat revolve around religious traditions. We discussed the fact that there are seven ingredients in the challah recipe, which equals the number of days in a week as well as the seventh day, Sabbath.

Making challah stimulates our senses and forms everlasting bonds. Before moving to Wyomissing we belonged to a small Temple in Illinois where each Bar Mitzvah was very personal and attended by the entire congregation. One of the greatest gifts my son received was a challah baked in his honor by our friend's entire family. Such a heartwarming gift is never forgotten. I remember as a young

child baking challah with my mother and learning to braid the dough. I didn't realize the connection we formed at that time. The strands looked like long outstretched arms that were wrapped around each other as if it were a family having a group hug.

Chana provided us with everything that we needed to make our favorite challah. There were the usual poppy seeds and sesame seeds as well as some new ideas and supplies. Chana showed us how to add whole wheat flour, paprika, spinach, and olives for a new taste in challah. The children in attendance were thrilled to show off their artistry by adding food coloring to brighten their breads.

We took our creations home to bake them. It's amazing how smells awaken the memory. These activities keep us close to the traditions of our religion. The aroma of the challah baking heightens my memory of the joy of working in the kitchen with my mother.

In the words of Tina Wasserman: "May your own traditions bring your family closer to the table for Shabbat and bring your memories of generations past closer to your heart at that same table."

This is the taste of love.



Congregational News

Michelson receives honorary doctorate as he reaches milestone

Rabbi Brian Michelson of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom has received an honorary doctorate from Hebrew Union College in New York in recognition of his 25 years of service in the rabbinate. He is approaching his 20th anniversary as the leader of RCOS. Past RCOS President Michelle Mart delivered the following remarks before the congregation in honor of Rabbi Michelson's accomplishment:

As an outsider looking in, I have often thought that being a rabbi would be a really hard job. Especially, because it's way more than a job.

People often use the word "calling" to describe the decision to become a clergy member — because the decision is about something greater than yourself, and something you are compelled to do.

It is not a decision that people make in order to become rich, or in order to get accolades. I think such a decision must be based on a deep, abiding love for Judaism, and for the Jewish people.

All of us at Oheb Sholom are lucky that 25 years ago, Brian Michelson felt that love and made his final commitment to a life as a teacher of Torah. A rabbi.

Twenty-five years ago this month, Brian Michelson was ordained and became Rabbi Michelson.

Hebrew Union College celebrates those who have worked as rabbis, cantors, and Jewish educators for twenty-five years, demonstrating their commitment to Jewish teaching and leadership, to our Jewish community.

I don't know if Rabbi Michelson always knew this was what he wanted. Maybe if he knew then what he knows now, he wouldn't have made that fateful decision? But I don't really think so.

In fact, I think it was probably pretty apparent 25 years ago that this was the exact, right choice for him. I spoke with one of Rabbi Michelson's teachers who recognized this when he first met Brian.

Rabbi Samuel Joseph, who is a distinguished professor at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, said, "From the minute we met one another when he was a young student at Hebrew Union College, I knew he was special and was going to be a wonderful rabbi."

Thinking about the rabbi that Brian has become, he remarked, "I know no



rabbi who gives more of himself or herself than does Brian. He is an exemplar for all of us."

This sentiment is borne out by his work here at Oheb Sholom. Over the years of serving on the Executive Committee, I have gotten to see many things that the rabbi does, every week, all the time, that are not always visible on the outside. He truly gives of himself in numerous, -- and sometimes exhausting -- ways.

Rabbi Michelson's qualities as a

rabbi are also recognized by his rabbinic colleagues. I spoke with one rabbi who went through seminary with Rabbi Michelson and who is also celebrating her 25th anniversary doctorate. Rabbi Amy Bigman said that she met Brian when they began in the HUC program. She said that his devotion to the Jewish world is clear. And that he "is a gem."

And, in what seems to be the highest compliment she could have given, she said, "He's my rabbi when I need someone."

Rabbi Bigman knows what many of us in this room know. Rabbis do not just teach the abstract laws of Torah. But they try to help us find richness and meaning in ancient Jewish precepts that will enrich our lives, and give us support when we most need it.

For 25 years, Rabbi Michelson has been doing just that, And we at Oheb Sholom are the beneficiaries of his love of Judaism and of the Jewish people.

I'm sure you join me in extending heartfelt congratulations to Rabbi Michelson and good wishes for his next 25 years as a rabbi.

Annual stint at camp an inspiring, powerful experience

By Rabbi Brian Michelson

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Two of my favorite weeks of the year are coming up soon. No, they are not the weeks of vacation, although I enjoy those too. They are my two weeks at the Union for Reform Judaism's Camp Harlam in the Poconos. This will be my 11th summer spending just under two weeks as part of the professional faculty at camp.



I have the opportunity to work with friends and colleagues whom I only see at camp, and some of us have been working these two weeks together for many years. We have a group that loves

camp, enjoys each other and is not afraid to get our hands dirty and do what is needed around camp. I may get to show up in a T-shirt and shorts but do not think that this is vacation. In some ways, we probably work as hard, if not harder, than we do in our own communities. The difference is that camp is one of those places where we get to build connections with campers and staff that develop quickly and from spending a concentrated amount of time together. You get to feel as if you are really making a difference in a profound way. For me, it is not about the organized learning that takes place at camp, although there are some great programs. What is really important is the opportunity for the informal education and relationship building that happens on the baseball field, doing arts and crafts

or sharing a meal together. In addition, the chance to talk, encourage, and help the young counselors as staff has been some of the most satisfying work I have done at camp. They ask good, thoughtful questions as they try to figure out the role that Judaism plays in their lives and in the lives of those under their care.

The other thing that is wonderful at camp is that it is a bubble where for those of us who live in areas like Berks County have a place where it is easy to be Jewish. Where, unless you have food allergies, you do not need to worry about the food served. More than 700 campers, staff, and professionals gather to celebrate being Jewish and welcoming campers and staff from a wide range of Jewish traditions and backgrounds.

My absolute favorite time is Shabbat. On Friday evening, the entire camp, dressed in white, gathers, when the


weather is nice, at a space known as "Chapel on the Hill." The chapel looks over the Mahoning Valley, and as the sun sets, all 700 voices join in song and prayer to welcome the Sabbath Bride. (Just thinking about it makes me smile.) For me, it is one of the meaningful moments of every year.

I do know that each year when I come home from my time at camp and am exhausted and inspired. I know that there is a next generation of leaders and members that will keep Judaism alive. I understand that camp is not right for every child. However, for those for whom camp works, it can be a life-changing experience. As a community, we need to make sure that camp is not just an experience that is available to those who can afford it, but something that is accessible to whoever wants it. It is an investment in our children and grandchild. It is an investment in the Jewish future.

Summer 2017

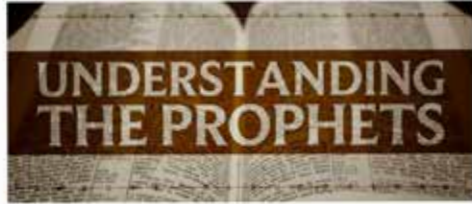
KZ ADULT EDUCATION

Led by: Rabbi Matthew Abelson



An overview of European-Jewish History
(with a special focus on Eastern Europe)

June
4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29



UNDERSTANDING THE PROPHETS

An investigation of The Books of the Prophets:

July
2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27

Each course will consist of eight sessions. The course will meet twice a week:

Sundays: 6:15 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursdays: 11:00a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Your RSVP is appreciated.

Email kzsecretary@entermail.net or call the office at 610-374-1763

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881

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

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763

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

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

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034

Friday, June 2: 6 p.m. Fridays, June 9, 16, 23 and 30: 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, June 3: Will Levin Bar Mitzvah, 4 p.m.

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

June ☆ Sivan - Tammuz



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

June 2
8:10 p.m.

June 9
8:15 p.m.

June 16
8:18 p.m.

June 23
8:19 p.m.

June 30
8:20 p.m.

June 3/Sivan 9
Naso (Numbers 4:21 – 7:89)

June 10/Sivan 16
Behaalotecha (Numbers 8:1 – 12:16)

June 17/Sivan 23
Shlach (Numbers 13:1 – 15:41)

June 24/Sivan 30
Korach (Numbers 16:1 – 18:32)

July 1/Tammuz 7
Chukat (Numbers 19:1 – 22:1)



Community marks Yom HaShoah

The Jewish community marked Holocaust Remembrance Day April 24 with its annual candle-lighting ceremony as well as a dramatic reading of "Rose Under Fire" staged by Reading Theater Project. At left, RTP's Lauren White and Vicki Haller Graff perform during the event in the Highlands at Wyomissing. At right, Holocaust survivor Hilde Gernsheimer takes part in prayers in memory of those who were killed in the Holocaust.

Photos by Ben Hasty, courtesy of Reading Eagle

African activists gain new perspectives on Israel

South African social activists and student leaders, many of whom had been enthusiastic participants in the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, recently visited Israel to see the situation on the ground for themselves.

One of the key aims of the BDS campaign is to analogize Israel's treatment of Palestinians to apartheid South Africa, in order to reinvent the justified boycott of the former white minority regime.

These South African activists discovered that Israel is not an apartheid state. They also saw that the unfortunate circumstances and struggles of the Palestinian people are largely perpetuated by their own leaders, whose political strategy determines that the worse things are for Palestinians on the ground, the more convincing their case against Israel. These are the same leaders who compare the Palestinian people's situation to apartheid South Africa, robbing South Africans of their history and cheapening it, in order to gain sympathy and financing from the international community.

Here are the personal stories of five black South Africans who visited Israel and were exposed to the truth about the BDS movement. They found that boycotting Israeli companies and products was detrimental to the

Palestinian economy. They found that BDS was more concerned about filling the pockets of Palestinian officials than advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people. They found that BDS is inciting violence and hatred, instead of advocating for compromise and peace.

Worst of all, they found that all of this is happening while their own history of racism and prejudice is being distorted and abused. This report by Africans for Peace sets the record straight:

- **Zenobia Ravji:** As a Kenyan, I saw how the voices of Africans were exploited by the widespread and false comparison of Israel to apartheid South Africa. The unfortunate circumstances and struggles of the Palestinian people are largely perpetuated by their own leaders, whose political strategy determines that the worse things are for Palestinians on the ground, the more convincing their case against Israel. These are the same leaders who compare the Palestinian people's situation to apartheid South Africa, robbing South Africans of their history and cheapening it, in order to gain sympathy and financing from the international community.

- **Lesiba Bapela:** As a social justice activist from South Africa, I was part of a group that went to Israel in January 2016. We saw that in the West Bank, the Palestinians were

more hardline. They don't believe in a two-state coexistence. They want to govern themselves according to Islamic law, and they don't believe in Israelis having their own territories. However, on the Israeli side, I heard talk of cooperation. The Israelis have been inviting the Palestinians to create peaceful coexistence. But the Palestinian Authority has this all-or-nothing mentality and doesn't truly believe in a two-state solution. There is nothing in this conflict that I can associate with apartheid. This is a religious conflict.

- **Nkululeko Nkosi:** The comparison between Israel and apartheid South Africa has been around for more than 50 years. Its originators were not black South Africans or even Palestinians, but the Soviet Union. But apartheid was about race, not religion or nationality. Unlike black people in apartheid South Africa, Arabs in Israel are entitled to vote in national elections, elect their own representatives, and have their interests represented in political deliberations. In 2015, the predominantly Arab party, the Joint List, won 15 parliamentary seats. This party is one of the harshest critics of the Israeli government. The point here is that Israeli policy and law allow dissent and opposition without instilling fear of banishment or imprisonment.

- **Tshediso Mangope:** As a black South African and member of the ANC,

I reject both the analysis that Israel practices apartheid and the demand that Israel should be dismantled and replaced with a single state of Palestine. After actually visiting Israel, my views on BDS have changed drastically. I am no longer involved in the BDS movement and don't believe it to be a legitimate cause. The insistence of the Arab world on denying Jewish people, the indigenous people of Israel, the right to sovereign existence is a main reason this conflict has lasted for so long. There is no self-respecting, sober intellectual who will argue that returning to your ancestral homeland from whence you were displaced makes you a settler.

- **Klaas Mokgomole:** In 2013, I was one of the BDS protesters who disrupted a piano recital that featured an Israeli pianist at the University of Witwatersrand. But I came to understand that the analogy of apartheid in Israel was an abuse of the memory of apartheid. South Africans involved in BDS need to be given the opportunity to understand that this is a conflict in which both sides have legitimate rights. As a former BDS activist, I encourage those involved in BDS to not blindly believe everything the movement says - because if you accept their propaganda uncritically, you are not contributing to peace, but to further needless bloodshed.

Israeli researchers develop new way to detect buried landmines

Israel21c.com

Israeli researchers have revealed their high-tech answer to the global need for a safe, efficient way of clearing minefields: a remote system using lasers and bacteria to map the location of buried landmines and unexploded ordnance.

The invention is bound to be sought eagerly worldwide. About half a million people around the world are survivors of mine-inflicted injuries, and each year an additional 15,000 to 20,000 more people are injured or killed by these devices. More than 100 million landmines are believed still to be buried in at least 70 countries.

Surprisingly, the methods currently used for detecting landmines are not much different from those used in

World War II and require personnel to risk life and limb by physically entering the minefields.

In the April 11 issue of the journal *Nature Biotechnology*, researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem explained that their innovation is based on the observation that all landmines leak tiny quantities of explosive vapors, which accumulate in the soil above them.

But until now there wasn't any way to "read" these markers. So the team molecularly engineered live bacteria to emit a fluorescent signal when they come into contact with the vapors on the ground. This signal can be recorded and quantified from a remote location.

The bacteria were encapsulated in

small polymeric beads and scattered across the surface of a test field in which real antipersonnel landmines were buried. Using a laser-based scanning system, the test field was remotely scanned and the location of the buried landmines was determined.

"Our field data show that engineered biosensors may be useful in a landmine detection system," said Prof. Shimshon Belkin, whose group at the university's Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences was responsible for genetically engineering the bacterial sensors.

"For this to be possible, several challenges need to be overcome, such as enhancing the sensitivity and stability of the sensor bacteria, improving scanning speeds to cover

large areas, and making the scanning apparatus more compact so it can be used onboard a light unmanned aircraft or drone," Belkin said.

The Israeli scientists believe this is the first demonstration of a functional standoff landmine detection system.

Other research groups participating in this study at the Hebrew University were led by Professor Aharon J. Agranat from the department of applied physics and the Brojde Center for Innovative Engineering and Computer Science (design and construction of the remote scanning system); and Professor Amos Nussinovitch from the Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment (bacteria encapsulation in polymeric beads).

Gardening with Vicky

Success with seeds

By Vicky Sokoloff

Growing plants from seed provides a far greater selection than buying plants. It also provides a sense of satisfaction. Small seeds can be difficult to deal with when you are working outside. Creating your own seed tape makes the job a lot easier. Using seed tape cuts down on waste. No more thinning! When your seeds germinate, they'll be perfectly spaced. All you need is the seeds you want to plant, flour, and toilet paper.

Place a tablespoon of flour in a bowl and mix in just enough water to make a paste the consistency of pancake batter. Lay the toilet paper on a flat surface. With a small paintbrush, make a dot of flour mixture on the toilet paper spacing the dots 1 inch from the edge of the paper and the recommended distance apart. You should see that information on the seed packet.

When your paper has a line of flour dots, place a seed on each dot. If the seeds are very small a tweezer will be helpful. Fold the paper in half. There should be enough flour on the paper to make it stick together when you fold it. Let it dry completely and then roll it up until you're ready to plant.

In the garden follow the packet instructions for how deeply to plant the seed tape. Lay the tape down, cover with soil, and then water to moisten the soil and the tape. The biggest causes of failure with seed is planting too deeply and not watering properly. Seeds need moisture to germinate, but too much water can allow the seeds to rot. It's best to water deeply and less often to encourage roots to grow down. If you



Native columbine



Columbine - Pink Barlow



Columbine - Winky Purple

only water the top inch of soil the roots will stay close to the surface where they can easily die if you miss a few days of watering.

This method can be used for vegetables planted in a row. But since the tape is so flexible it can also be used for flowers arranged in any shape you find pleasing.

Among the plants in our garden

that were grown from seed are hardy orange trees, redbud trees, daylily, moonflowers, four o'clocks, columbines & spiderwort. This year we started all of our tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, squash, parsley, lime basil, cucumbers, turnips, broccoli, zucchini, cauliflower, & gourds from seed.

Do you remember ... movies on Penn St.?

By Tootie Moyer

Penn Street had many movie theaters. There was the Embassy, Loews, Astor and the State, which was near Eighth Street. The Embassy was on one side of Penn Street and the Astor and Loews on the other side.

We would go to the movies in the morning with our lunch, and we stayed all day. The movies were shown one after the other so we could stay as long as we wanted to with only one ticket. We usually saw the feature film two or more times.

The only rule my mother made was that I could not put my head against the back of the seat in case there were bugs there.

There was also the Park Theater near 11th and Penn. Movies and Burlesque were the main shows. The Strand Theater was at Ninth and Spring streets. Only B-movies were shown there.

The best part of the shows were the cartoons. They took about a half-hour of every show, then the latest news came on. Don't forget we didn't have TV or smartphones to let us know the latest news.

The State also had double features, one was a new movie and the second one was a B-movie. Between the movies there would be a sing-a-long. We really made our voices ring out. We didn't care, we just had a great time. The State also had serials that usually ended in a "cliff hanger". We had to wait until the next Saturday to find out what

happened in the rest of the story. The organ would play all through the show whenever there was a pause.

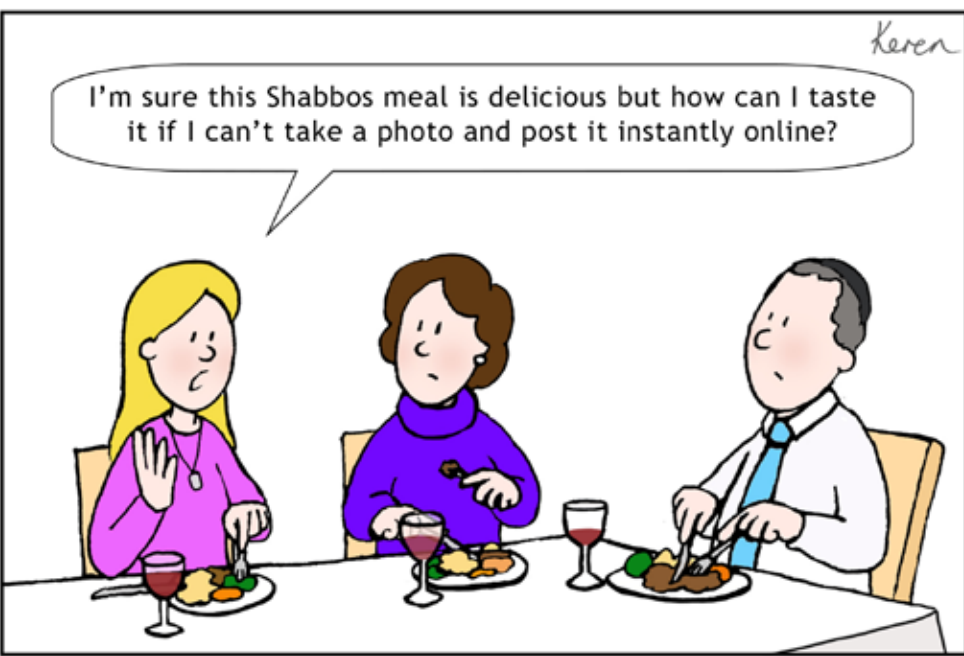
At the better theaters there was a loge. It was for the "rich," so we never sat there. There was also a smoking section at most of the theaters, and it was always filled. The smoke would drift all over the theater, but we didn't mind.

Do you remember the actors and actresses? Katharine Hepburn, Clark Gable, Greer Garson, Rita Hayward, Peter Lorre, Helen Hayes and Robert Taylor (he was my idol, I had photos of him all over my bedroom). Then there were Tom Mix, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. The cowboy movies were shown at the State Theater. These are just some that come to my mind, I am sure you can think of many more.

When we were older we would go to the movies in the evening, and always end up at the Crystal Restaurant on Penn Street for a piece of pie and ice cream or a hamburger.

Today the movies you want to see you can watch on your phone or a DVD at home and sit in your favorite chair and have pizza delivered. You don't have to move from your seat if you can't see the screen or if someone behind you is kicking your chair. Whichever way you prefer — I pick the old days because I am 93 years old and do not know how to use a DVD player or a smartphone.

Happy Movie Days – Until next time...



Love and knishes at Chabad



Chana Lipsker of Chabad's cooking classes for women continued May 21 with a return to the tasty topic of knishes and some unusual takes on the beloved Jewish dish.

RCOS kids cooking for a cause



Oheb Sholom members Matthew Driben, Harry Weiss and Will Levin had a blast making lunch for Opportunity House residents on April 30.

Jewish Family Service



Taxi Transportation program fills a need

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

JFS is very proud of its transportation program, which is supported by your contributions to our annual campaign and grants from the United Way. We periodically get calls from other communities interested in replicating our program. Our program enables seniors and people with disabilities to participate in the community and activities of daily life and not be dependent on cars or rides from friends and family.



Another valuable role the program plays is providing an alternative for people who may need to give up driving, restrict driving to the daytime or to their immediate neighborhood. For many people, giving up driving is an emotional decision. They often feel that giving up driving is losing their independence. And unfortunately many people continue to drive when they are no longer safe drivers.

More than 20 years ago JFS partnered with Reading Metro Taxi to develop the program we have now. Consumers purchase a coupon book for \$25. The books contain 25 \$3 coupons. So for \$25 consumers get \$75 worth of taxi

service. To supplement the taxi program, some consumers use BARTA Special Services. To find out more about BARTA, call 610-921-2361. We have 30 people using our taxi program. Our program provides an average of 150 rides per month and the majority of those trips are for medical appointments, grocery shopping and errands and to our Friendship Circle at the JCC.

If you think you or someone you know would benefit from this program, call Sari at Jewish Family Service at 610-921-0624.

Update on JFS Food Pantry

Since November, our monthly food pantry now located at the Olivet's new clubhouse at Pendora Park has grown steadily. In May we served 126 households and we are delighted to have been able to add a number of produce

items to our regular assortment of dry and canned goods. This month we distributed a dry soup mix, assembled by the students of RCOS's religious school.

In May our great volunteers were Cindy Balchunas, Norma Beckerman, Karen Checkamian, Raymond Gehring, John Goldstar, Margo and Will Levin, Mike Kastenbaum, Al Katz, Heather Padilla, Carol and Gordon Perlmutter, Robert Schaefer, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Ellen Schwickrath, Frederick Simmons, Jan and Zach Simon, Julian Syret, Oleg Umanov, Phyllis and Michael Warshaw and Corinne Wernick.

This program like the taxi service is also supported by a grant from the United Way and your contribution to the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Jewish Family Service thanks the following people for generously providing professional services to our clients.

- Dr. Harriet Comite**
- Dr. Glenn Corbin**
- Don Greth**
- Jacob Gurwitz**
- Ben Leisawitz**

We greatly appreciate their giving of their time to help members of the Jewish community.

Enjoy Tax Benefits While Contributing to Jewish Family Service Vehicle Donation Program



Call Sari at 610-921-0624, e-mail sari@jfreading.org or go to www.charitableautoresources.com

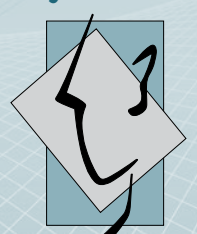
Jewish Family Service Food Pantry Collection



We are serving more families each month! Please bring donations of canned tuna, soup, fruits and vegetables to the JCC. Thank you!

We also need plastic and paper grocery bags!

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

Contributions as of May 19

Jewish Family Service

In memory of
Ruth Tarter – Helene and Henry Singer

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:
Birth of Betsy and Al Katz's granddaughter Mia Shoshana – Carol and Bernie Gerber
Sharon and Julian Syret's 50th anniversary – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer
Radene Gordon-Beck's special birthday – Rhona and Lou Fromm
George Balchunas' high school graduation – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer
Rebecca Balchunas's college graduation – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

In memory of:
Victor Jacobs – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Anzie and Edward Golden
Natalie Davis (Scott Davis' mother) – Dena and Vic Hammel
Shirley Krieger - Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, The Farber Family (Cheryl, Eric, Ruth, Sarah, Jean-Pierre and Evelyn)

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

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

Jewish Cultural Center

In memory of:
Victor Jacobs – Dena and Vic Hammel, Kenda and Bruce Seidel, Marilyn and Ed Goldwater, Oscar Weber, Karen and Dennis Lutz, Carol Siegel, Jane Rose, Brenda Jordon, John and Kay Anderson

Friendship Circle

In memory of:
Rena Godshall (Karen Kabakoff's mother) – Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Mary Wexler – Glenn and Gaye Corbin
Shirley Krieger – Carol and Bernie Gerber

Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund (PJ Library)

In honor of:
Joe Viener's special birthday – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

Get well/speedy recovery:

Sara Viener – Sue and Herb Wachs, Barbara Nazimov

Israel's medical field: A model of Jewish-Arab equality

Haaretz.com

Israel's public health care system is a model of genuine commonality between Arabs and Jews. It could well be a model for other areas of life, according to a recent report published by Irac, Israeli religion action center, which asked why medicine differs from all other areas of life, regarding egalitarianism between Jews and Arabs, who in other respects lead very separate lives.

Arabs fulfill 6.8 percent of all government jobs; in the government health care system, they fill 12.4 percent of jobs; in nursing studies (including geriatric), 42 percent of students are Arab; pharmaceuticals has become identified with the Arab community — 38% of druggists are Arab; at the Superpharm drugstore chain, 62 percent of the pharmacists are Arabs. And in medicine itself, the proportion of Arabs is roughly akin to their proportion in the population. In 2015, 16 percent of medical students were Arab; at the Technion medical school, Arabs were 38 percent of students and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 31 percent.

There are several reasons why medicine is an accessible profession for Arabs, one being the constant demand for doctors. Also, once you're in, typically you're in for life, while in technology you're considered old before your stubble turns gray. Also, medicine

is a prestigious profession. Another reason Arabs choose it is that the health care system gives the opportunity to find employment beyond the confines of Arab society, to become part of the Jewish society, which is often out of bounds. Sanabel Lafi points out that as a nurse, she can treat everybody, but Israeli society would find it harder to accept her as a teacher in a Jewish school.

In Arab society, becoming a doctor is a trend and it's an open profession, without a smidgen of security issues, says Dr. Hany Daoud, chairman of the pharmacists' association in the north.

"Somebody who studies electrical engineering or electronics, and wants to work in some institution that handles security matters, will have a problem finding work. Here, doctors have no such problem. They are accepted with open arms," he says.

What's the secret of the health care system? How do Arabs and Jews work side by side, including during wartime, without friction? One of the unwritten rules, according to Irac, is that politics is out of bounds, to the point of taboo.

"The instructions are simple. We are here, treating patients and saving lives, whoever comes — a soldier, civilian, or terrorist. Everybody is busy saving lives, period," says Professor Rafi Beyar, director general of Rambam Medical

Center in Haifa. "We very clearly do not encourage political discussions at the hospital. This is not the place."

Dr. Masad Barhoum, director general of Western Galilee Hospital in Nahariya, does not allow expression of political opinions by employees. He gives the example of a worker who posted on Facebook, "Israeli soldiers are slaughtering children in Gaza." Such things are unacceptable in the workplace, he says.

"During Operation Cast Lead, one of the doctors wrote something, ... I told her, I don't care about your political opinions. Nobody does. You are a civil servant. I expect you to be a doctor and a human being with compassion. ... Do not have the pretension of being a judge. If you don't delete that, you're going into war with me. She deleted it and works here to this day."

Another principle is that the system is shared, egalitarian, and promotion is based on seniority and experience — and everybody is treated equally, doctors and patients. Barriers fall. "It isn't that the Jew is the boss and the Arab is the cleaner," says Dr. Osnat Levzion-Korach, director of Hadassah Hospital, Mount Scopus. Hani Hindan, oncological pediatric nurse at Hadassah, agrees that the sense of equality is the reason for the good relations between Arabs and Jews at the hospital. The

nurses are equal in salary, dignity, conditions and everything else. That's not the case outside, she says.

Doctors contend with life and death on a daily basis. They fight together to preserve life, says Bashara Basharat, director of the Scottish Hospital in Nazareth.

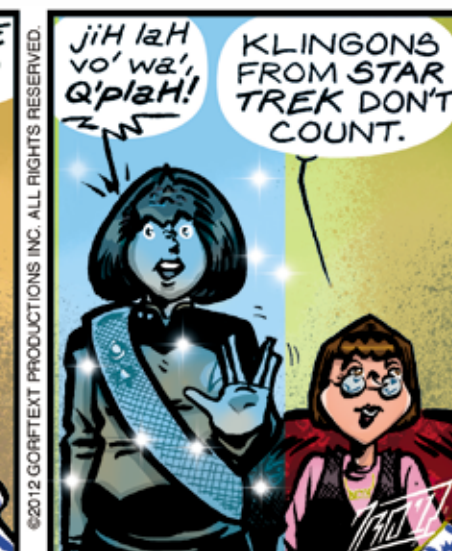
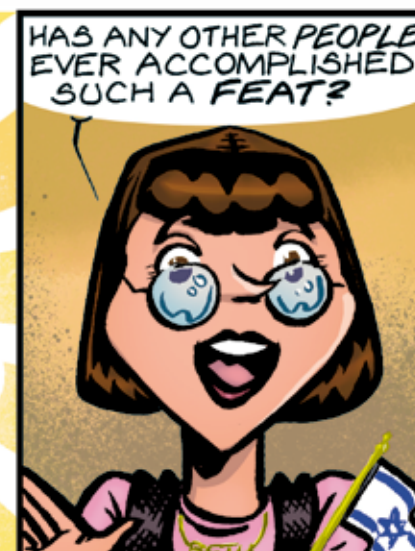
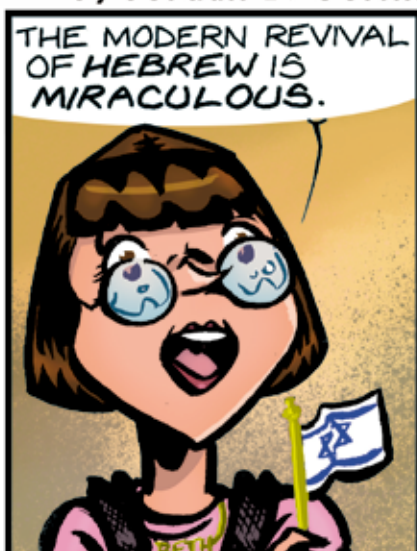
The common enemy: Death and disease. That lofty common goal brings Arabs and Jews together in the profession. "Maybe I'm a little naïve, but I want to believe there is a special solidarity connected with the world of medicine," says Professor Rafi Walden of Sheba Hospital, Tel Hashomer. "We're together in the same camp, with a common enemy before our eyes — death and disease."

Dr. Suheir Assady of the Rambam nephrology department suggests that the dimensions of the problems they see put other things into proportion. Happily, these relationships not only break stereotypes, they can extend beyond work. Sanabel Lafi of Ein Karem tells that her best study friend is an ex-army officer who first came to lessons in uniform, with his gun, yet they'd take breaks together, go out to eat together.

"I did my seminar with somebody with a yarmulke," she says. "I enjoyed being with him. I also wanted to learn from them. If we stuck only with Arabs, we wouldn't learn from each other."

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



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