



# Shalom03|18

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

**Your Federation Supports:**

- Jewish Education
- Food Pantry
- Friendship Circle
- Chevra
- Community Shabbat
- Reading Jewish Film Series
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- Jewish Family Service
- Jewish Cultural Center
- Lakin Holocaust Library
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- Relations Council
- Community Holiday Programs
- Women's Philanthropy
- Jewish Federations
- of North America
- Counseling Services
- Leo Camp Lecture
- Shabbat B'Yachad

## Join us at the Purim Masquerade Party!

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

Do the winter blues have you down? Time to turn it around for the JCC's annual Purim Masquerade Party!

Grab your friends and join us on Saturday, March 10, at Stokesay Castle for heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, desserts and music.

Our theme this year is the roaring '20s, and everyone is encouraged to dress the part!

Don't have a flapper dress or bootlegger suit in your wardrobe? No worries, just dress your best! Masks are encouraged at this fun masquerade.

All community members 21 and older are invited to join the fun!

RSVPs are accepted through March 5 at a cost of \$50 per person or \$90 per couple.

RSVP to 610-921-0624 or info@jfreading.org.

You don't want to miss the fun and a night with your friends at this year's



Purim Masquerade Party! Questions? Please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624

## B'Yachad — Together in Israel

The Jewish Federation of Reading is excited to invite you to our 2018 mission tour to Israel. Join us in celebrating Israel's 70th anniversary year. The mission departs Dec. 25, 2018 and returns Jan. 2, 2019.

We will enjoy and learn about Israel — its people, its beauty, its accomplishments and issues. We welcome all our community members to take part: families, single adults, seniors and others.

Some highlights are:

- The Ayalon Institute, a clandestine ammunition factory
- A Street Art Graffiti Tour in Tel Aviv's Florentine neighborhood.
- Rosh Hanikrah Israel's stunning chalk-white cliffs at its northernmost coastal border.
- Dinner in the home of a Druze family
- A jeep tour in the Golan Heights
- A meeting at Mount Bental with an expert on the political situation involving Syria and Lebanon
- A workshop at De Karina, a chocolate factory for kids of all ages
- Exploration of the Jewish Quarter of the Old City and Western Wall Tunnels.
- A "Tastes of Jerusalem" tour
- A tour of Masada and float in the Dead Sea
- A briefing on Israel Today by a leading journalist
- Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust museum

For more information, please call or e-mail Bill Franklin (610-921-0624; williamf@jfreading.org)

See you in Israel!



A memorable moment from the Federation's 2012 Mission Trip to Israel.

### Costs for 2018 Mission to Israel

**Jewish Federation of Reading will subsidize \$500 per participant.**

**The costs (after the subsidy) are:**

Price per person (in a double room)	\$2,150
Price per person (in a single room)	\$3,050
Family of three (2 adults & 1 child)	\$5,400
Family of four (2 adults & 2 children)	\$6,500
Family of five (3 adults & 2 children)	\$8,650

PLEASE NOTE: COST OF PLANE TICKETS NOT INCLUDED

# Our community benefits

By Richard Nassau  
Development Director

We report big numbers. We know Jewish Family Service's transportation program provides 3,000 trips annually. We know each year the PJ Library program distributes nearly 1,000 Jewish-themed books to children in Berks County. Yet, it is the small, overlooked numbers that can be more meaningful.

Picture one child. The one child you benefit with your gift to Federation's Community Campaign. Picture that one child smiling. A smile you gave them because of the food you provided to their family or the transportation you made sure was available for their grandparent's doctor visit or the PJ Library book you sent them that they read with their parents.

Next to that child, picture a grateful



family member saying thank you. Telling you how your gift, your single act made a real difference in their life. One of the privileges I have is hearing that thank-you. Seeing everyday results and how you have enriched a life.

I am glad to pass along that thank-you on behalf of the thousands of people you help. Federation's Community Campaign touches many lives. What should not be overlooked is how much your gift touches our lives. How having a vibrant Jewish community makes a difference in our own families and for us.

The local and worldwide programs listed on the front of this paper exist because of you. They benefit each of us. Picture how much we all benefit by having a sustained Reading/Berks Jewish community. A community of friends and neighbors that care about us as individuals.

Last month you sponsored our Community Shabbat attended by 180 people. We all joined together to engage and connect and celebrate as a Jewish community. It was a reminder of the quality of our community.

During that evening, I thought about the many ways I or a friend or relative have personally benefited from the generosity of the Jewish community. You helped as my child began exploring their Jewish identity. After Hurricane Harvey, you made sure my friend in Houston had shelter and support. In Israel, social services with Federation connections were available for my cousin's child.

The benefits are everywhere and not always seen. We enrolled a friend's 3-year-old child in PJ Library last year. We saw her a few weeks ago and she thanked us for the membership. She said she now has a new peer group and is slowly reconnecting with her Judaism. It has opened a new world for her. One she said that brings her joy, especially when the next PJ Library book arrives, and she sees her child's smile. What a picture.

If you or someone you know needs assistance or would like to know more about our Jewish community, please call the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks — 610-921-0624.

# Development

Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy

Maimonides Society

Your Jewish Legacy

Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent

## The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks partners with the Jewish Federations of North America on many local and overseas programs. This includes supporting the work of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Here is how you are helping throughout the Jewish world.

### Enabling Tel Aviv Youth to Choose Tomorrow

Growing up in a poor neighborhood in south Tel Aviv, 23-year-old Shai Pinhasi worked hard to get to college.

Now, as a participant in Federation partner The Jewish Agency for Israel's Choosing Tomorrow scholarship and service initiative, he has developed the Thinking Far program for fifth-graders. During four sessions at his old school and another one nearby, Shai and other mentors help the vulnerable students take practical steps toward achieving their dreams, from graduating high school to choosing a career.

"I was inspired to create Thinking Far by members of my own family who have not realized their personal potential for success, because of regional influences," he said. "I think it's very important that Choosing Tomorrow provides training and support for generating social change, and a chance for students to initiate their own projects in our own neighborhoods."



ISRAEL & OVERSEAS



### Supporting a Hero in Need

When he was just 16, Gregory Margolin joined the Red Army in Ukraine as his family fled the Nazis. When, at 86, a rebel missile destroyed his house in eastern Ukraine and killed his daughter, he knew his family had to flee again—this time, to in Israel.

Since fighting broke out in Ukraine in 2014, thousands of Jews have made aliyah with the assistance of Federation partner The Jewish Agency for Israel. From providing pre-aliyah counseling and securing travel arrangements in Ukraine to temporary housing, Hebrew lessons and social services once in Israel, The Jewish Agency helped ease the elderly veteran's delicate transition every step of the way.

Gregory and his family now live in safety with his niece's family in Ramla. Thanks to Federation, they and so many other Jews affected by conflict now live in safety, comfort and dignity.



ISRAEL & OVERSEAS



2018 totals  
as of Feb. 16

Jewish Community  
Campaign  
\$162,974

\*Includes transfers from Donor  
Advised Funds

From the President's Desk

# Federation working to bring community together

By William D. Franklin  
President

A crowd of 180 community members came together and enjoyed our Community Shabbat, which was co-hosted with Keshet Zion. Although good food is always a draw, this shows once again



that we value and enjoy being part of a strong, local Jewish community.

A great Jewish value of our community is Kehillah — Building Community, which was apparent at our successful Community Shabbat. Your Jewish Federation initiates and supports many programs to reinforce that sense of community. Our weekly Friendship Circle

brings together 25-35 of our seniors to eat, to learn, and to be entertained. Recently, Dr. Michelle Mart taught us about the often-overlooked President Woodrow Wilson. Professor Mart reminded us of the convoluted path politics often takes. Although Wilson was a strong champion of peace, he brought the United States into World War I. He did this to ensure that the United States would have a role at the world shaping peace conference. Discussion centered on the relevance of those events and the role of the U.S. today.

Our Jewish Community High School and its Better Together program bring our teens and seniors together monthly to learn from each other. They recently had a fabulous discussion on the Gerber baby food choice of a Down syndrome child to

be its "spokesbaby of the year." There was unanimous agreement, across the age spectrum, that every human being, at every age, has great meaning and great potential to contribute. And ... they all agreed that this is a positive shift from yesterday to today.

Our four Chevra groups support 14 families who get together every two months to celebrate Shabbat and enjoy each other's company. And, as a community, we come together to celebrate our unique Jewish calendar at Chanukah and Purim parties.

A recent analysis of our community shows that 60 percent of us are unaffiliated. This mirrors nationwide trends. Yet the desire to be part of a community continues to grow. Avraham Infeld, a uniquely compelling teacher and

leader in the Jewish world today, has a vision of Jewish life in which every Jew is empowered to find his or her own mode of Jewish expression in a community which is heterogeneous and multi-faceted. Because of that heterogeneity, he asserts that Jews are a people and that our community is not only local but truly international.

It follows that our Jewish community does not stop at the borders of Berks County. We are working to ensure connectedness to our fellow Jews in Israel and are planning an exciting family mission to Israel in December (see related article for details). We hope you can join us.

Your Federation continues to work to bring us together. Thank you for making this possible.

## Israel Book Club: 'Danger! Three Jewish Peoples'

By Moisey Schneider  
and Andi Franklin

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Avraham Avi-Hai wrote prophetically in his book "Danger! - Three Jewish Peoples" that the one Jewish people we have been for so long is becoming three Jewish peoples.

This book is about the evolution of the one Jewish people into three. The new Israeli group is composed of Ashkenazi Jews from the former Czarist Empire, as well as Sephardic Jews and Jews from Muslim lands. The Ashkenazi Jews are a continuation of a major stem of Jewish history, the pre-Holocaust Eastern European Jewry.

Together these three groups are creating the new Israeli Jew melting pot.

The second group is the Jews of the modern Diaspora, wherever they may live outside of Israel, primarily North America. And the third group is the international ultra-Orthodox who give primacy to Halacha, traditional Rabbinic law.

The book describes the differences between the three main groups of Jewish people and shows how and why they are fragmenting.

A new Jewish people is being created in Israel. The author states that the Jewish world will never be the same because Israel is creating a Jewish people different in content and essence from anything Jews have known for thousands of years.

These are natural, national Jews who have always considered themselves to be part of the global Jewish Nation. They now share a common culture, language, history, and a sense of unity of destiny and fate. They do not believe that Jewish religious law is binding and their lifestyle is generally secular. However, they follow the rhythm of the Jewish calendar, speak the language of the Torah and walk the Land of their ancestors. And, unfortunately, their lives continue to be in danger as Jews.

Dr. Avi-Hai says that their lifestyle, language and day to day reality is as far removed from their grandparents and the secular founding fathers of Israel as it is from the second group, their non-observant American cousins.

For the second group, Jews who emigrated to the West, the story is altogether different. They embraced the culture, calendar, and internal clock of their host countries. They

define themselves as citizens of a Jewish faith, such as American Jews, British Jews or French Jews. They have lost their language and have assimilated into their surrounding culture and their lives are not at stake as Jews.

The largest Diaspora group is composed of non-orthodox North American Jews who live in the United States and Canada. They too are different from their grandparents who emigrated to North America.

The three-way division does not include all Diaspora Jews, and the author believes that it is unlikely that some communities, such as those in South America, Europe and the former Soviet Union, will flourish.

The author says that Diaspora Jews ask a series of questions about themselves, often with a sense of dread. Will there be Jewish people outside of Israel a century from now? What kind of people will we be?

Diaspora Jews think of their Judaism in religious, not national terms, and they have their own kind of risks.

The third Jewish people are the international ultra-Orthodox. They are strictly Torah observant and share a common universe of discourse, challenges and view of the world. They call themselves the Torah Camp, because they believe in the binding nature of a divinely revealed Torah. This divinely revealed law is transmitted, explained, and amended by their rabbis.

But even the ultra-Orthodox are evolving. A recent Israeli poll reported a decline in birth rate, an increase in girls taking high school matriculation exams, higher employment rates, more students in higher education, and a rise in the number of men serving in the military.

Dr. Avi Hai now believes we are four Jewish groups.

The fourth, Modern Orthodox Jews, share some of the beliefs and practices of the modern secular Jews while still sharing many of the beliefs and practices of the ultra-Orthodox. This group alone sees itself in both national and religious terms.

Beginning with the Bible, our Jewish people has had an overwhelming impact on Western civilization. Our role is fundamental

and crucial.

Dr. Avi-Hai says specifically that we make civilization more human and more humane. Christianity acknowledges Judaism's influence on its birth and today continues to relate to Judaism's ongoing existence.

A key point of the author is that it is clear to all that our role in world civilization and the supernatural logic of the Jewish people's continuity is a central benefit in the history of mankind. This is why it is so important that we remain a united Jewish people regardless of how we continue to evolve.

Chaim Weizmann argues that Israel needs its Diaspora Jews. Diaspora Jews possess cultural openness, advanced technology, and democratic pluralism. Thus, they can help influence Israel in desirable directions.

And Diaspora Jews need Israel. Abba Eban once said that the State of Israel has connected the Jewish people to its ancestral land and to its ancient language. As such, it provides a rootedness and stability to a people who are constantly poised between assimilation and physical extinction.

American and most Diaspora Jews see Israel through a veil of myths. The history of the Jewish

people shows rifts and splits, assimilation and disappearance. The growing breach between Diaspora Jews and Israel cannot, in the authors view, be healed if we do not see the differences and understand them.

While meeting in Jerusalem with Dr. Avi Hai we discussed President Donald Trump's recent decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

It was interesting to the three of us that while most American Jewish organizations supported this decision, Rabbi Rick Jacobs and Jews for Peace do not because "it is not the right time." Apparently, this will be just after the arrival of the Messiah.

Without help from American Jews it will be difficult for Israel to survive and without Israel the existence of Diaspora Jews will be endangered.

Dr. Avi-Hai is optimistic that the future is not immutable, and the process is not yet final. He ends his book with the words "The danger lies ahead. So, does the choice".

The Israel Book group will meet again Wednesday, April 25, at 7 p.m. to discuss "Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel" by Francine Klagsbrun. Please plan on joining us.

## Shalom

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



## Join in the chocolatey fun at Purim in the Chocolate Factory!

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

Chabad of Berks and Jewish Federation of Reading invite you to celebrate Purim in the Chocolate Factory!

Join us at Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd., Muhlenberg Township, on Thursday, March 1 for this fun event for the whole

family. There will be hidden golden tickets, groggers, craft stations, hamentaschen and of course chocolate!

Rabbi Yosef Lipsker will lead an interactive Megillah reading at 4:45 p.m., and a Kosher buffet dinner will be served at 5:30.

The excitement continues at 6

p.m. with a special presentation called "Fire & Ice" by Mad Science of the Delaware Valley!

In this "so hot it's cooler than ice-cold" presentation, kids of all ages will learn about the science of cooking, hot and cold in this interactive and fun presentation.

Join us for the real "behind

the scenes" look at the chocolate factory!

The cost is \$15 per adult or \$8 for children (2-12).

RSVP is requested to office@chabadofberks.org Questions? Please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624.

## Why haven't you seen it? I'm all for you, body and soul

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

The lyrics and melody are recognized throughout the world. Discover the cross-cultural history behind the famous song "Body and Soul" in the next selection in the 2018 Reading Jewish Film Series, the documentary "Body and Soul: An American Bridge."

Body and Soul explores the relationship between African-Americans and American Jews through the early performance history of the jazz standard "Body and Soul," one of the most recorded songs in the jazz repertoire.

This documentary will be shown on Wednesday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at FOX EAST, 4350 Perkiomen Avenue, Exeter Township (next to Boscov's East).

A post-film discussion will be held in conjunction with the Central Pennsylvania

African American Museum. The discussion will be led by Dr. R. Todd Rober, Assistant Professor of Music from Kutztown University.

The 2018 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.

Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the screening, and series tickets can be bought at the JCC. Cash and checks are accepted.

The complete list of remaining dates and films for the 2018 Reading Jewish Film Series can be found below:

**March 7** — "Body & Soul: An American Bridge"\* with the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum



**April 4** — "Fanny's Journey"

**May 16** — "The Venice Ghetto, 500 Years of Life"\*

\*Special event following screening

## Celebrate Israel 70 with community events in April

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

This April marks 70 years since the creation of the state of Israel. In addition, we will commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom Hazikaron (Israel Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) that month.

Here's a list of some of many activities we have in store for Israel's 70th and the other holidays.

**April 4** — Reading Jewish Film Series screening of "Fanny's Journey". A Holocaust drama to be shown at 7 p.m. at Fox East.

**April 9** — From Coexistence to Shared Society. Join us at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom at 7 p.m. for a special lecture on the efforts of institutions in Israel to move towards engagement between Jewish and Arab youth. Featuring Mohammad Darawshe, Director of the Center for Equality & Shared Society, Givat Haviva.



**April 12** — Yom Hashoah Commemoration at 7 p.m. at the Cultural Center, Highlands.

**April 16** — 92nd Street Y DVD program "Israel 100 Years After Belfour Declaration"

**April 18** — Community Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut commemoration at 7 p.m. at the JCC.

**April 22** — Community Israel 70 Celebration!

Join us at RCOS from 1-4 p.m. for a fun afternoon celebrating Israel! Pella, an a capella group will lead singing and dancing at 2 p.m. There will be a special PJ Library kids station, photos from IsraAID, and Israeli food.

**April 30** — Movie Monday: "Israel Inside: How a Small Nation Makes a Big Difference"

The community is also invited to celebrate Israel's 70th with Philadelphia at a special event in King of Prussia on Sunday, May 6. See below for more details.

We also plan to continue the fun and celebration throughout the year with special Israeli themed summer movies and an August bus trip to New York City to see "The Band's Visit". This hit Broadway musical is based on the 2007 Israeli film of the same name.

Be sure to join us for these great events! Watch for more details to follow in the April *Shalom*.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**5-6-70 ISRAEL!**

On 5/6, celebrate Israel's 70th birthday all day long at 5-6-70 Israel!

Family-friendly festivities will fill the afternoon: games, sports, musical performances and food galore! In the evening, singer-songwriter David Broza will treat us to a special Israel70 birthday performance.

◇

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018**

Afternoon festivities: 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Event Center at Valley Forge Casino Resort

David Broza performance: 7:00 p.m.  
Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Wynnewood

For more information on this very special day, visit [jewishphilly.org/5-6-70](http://jewishphilly.org/5-6-70)

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

# Antisemitism is topic for 14th annual Yashek lecture

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Michael Berenbaum, the Project Director who oversaw the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and was its Research Institute's first Director, will be in Reading on Wednesday, March 21 to deliver the 14th annual Yashek Memorial Lecture.

Discussing antisemitism in the 21st century and how it differs from Nazi antisemitism or traditional antisemitism, Dr. Berenbaum will discuss why the American Jewish community is fighting the wrong

battles. Join us for this important and timely talk.

Dr. Berenbaum is director of the Sigi Ziering Institute and Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University. He previously served as President and CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which took the testimony of 52,000 Holocaust survivors, including many of our own local Holocaust survivors. In addition, his work in film has won Emmy Awards and Academy Awards.

Thanks to the generous support of Rosalye

Yashek and her daughters in memory of their husband and father, Richard, the Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture is now in its 14th year of bringing distinguished scholars from across the country to Albright College to discuss Holocaust related topics.

The Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture is free and open to the public and begins at 7:30 p.m. on March 21 in the Memorial Chapel at Albright College.

For directions or additional information please call the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center at 610-921-7214 or email [hrc@albright.edu](mailto:hrc@albright.edu).

# Meet the Filmmaker: 'Big Sonia' collaborative event at RACC

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Jewish Federation of Reading, the Lakin Holocaust Library and Resource Center and the Miller Center for the Arts invite you to a special screening of the documentary "Big Sonia" on Thursday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m.

As part of the On Screen/In Person

series of the Miller Center for the Arts at Reading Area Community College, filmmaker Leah Warshawski will lead a post-film discussion following the screening of the documentary she made about her grandmother, Holocaust survivor Sonia Warshawski.

A teenager during the Holocaust, Sonia has spent years telling her stories

of survival at schools and prisons, inspiring countless people. She also owns and operates a tailor shop in a dead mall and when served with an eviction notice at age 90, she must decide whether to open a new shop or retire. Sonia has kept busy "to keep the dark parts away" so retirement brings up fears and also memories of her past.

"Big Sonia" explores what it means to be a survivor and how this affects families and generations.

Tickets for this one-night-only screening are \$5 and can be purchased online at [millercenter.racc.edu/big-sonia](http://millercenter.racc.edu/big-sonia)

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

# Kids get back to nature at PJ Library program

A few snowflakes didn't stop our PJ Library kids from enjoying a story hike at Berks Nature on Feb. 4.



Top: Michael Griffith reads about how a seed turns into a tree. After our story hike we warmed up inside by planting dill seeds. Above, Ari Bloom adds soil to his pot before adding the seeds.

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# A look at some Jewish Family Service programs

By Carole Robinson

Better Together, an intergenerational educational program, has been offered to members of the Jewish community for the past three years. Students from our Jewish Community High School and senior citizens meet on the second Sunday of the month at the JCC from 5 to 6:15 p.m.. They discuss contemporary social issues and their impact on the American Jewish community, after first studying relevant historic background information. Discussion is often lively as the teens and seniors compare perceptions and share opinions.



BT opened the New Year with apples and honey and a discussion of the Jewish response to natural disasters such as Hurricane Harvey in Texas. During Sukkot, participants exchanged views about the appropriate amount of money to spend on decorating a sukkah and providing Sukkot meals, and shared the mitzvah of waving the lulav and etrog. Chanukah was an opportunity to laud the heroes of the holiday and bond while latke cooking and feasting. In January, after comparing the legacies of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, the group made further comparisons about the discrimination faced by both African Americans and Jewish Americans. Both generations shared anti-Semitic experiences. In the latest Better Together session, topics ranged from the Gerber baby with Down syndrome, to the Michigan town where only Christians are permitted to buy houses, to the controversial Holocaust bill approved by Poland. Materials were read, questions posed, and discussion ensued as the teens moved from table to table to interact with all the seniors. In the process of examining current events, the teenagers and seniors shared Jewish values and learned from each other's experiences and perspectives.

Please contact me if you would like more information about Better Together or if you would like to participate in the program.

### Friendship Circle

Friendship Circle meets every Thursday afternoon at 1. Attendees enjoy a kosher luncheon, followed by a program. Programs



Better Together, top, and the Friendship Circle Tu B'Shevat celebration.

range from educational to pure entertainment. Mindy McIntosh, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator for Safe Berks, recently spoke at Friendship Circle. Safe Berks' goals are to "educate, advocate, and end abuse." Mindy presented an agency wish list that includes the following items: Cough medicine, bath towels, twin sheets, diapers, sanitary napkins, cleaning supplies, gas cards, gloves, and alarm clocks. Items may be dropped off at Safe Berks located at 255 Chestnut St. or at the JCC.

Another recent program was a

Friendship Circle Tu B'Shevat seder. Participants learned and celebrated together as they enjoyed fruits from the United States, Israel, and around the world. Tzedakah was collected to plant trees in Israel. Festivities concluded with songs, including an energetic round of "Zum gali gali" and "hineh ma tov," "how good and pleasant it is when brethren live together!"

Though Friendship Circle is a group for seniors, everyone is welcome to attend. Stop by on Thursday afternoon for companionship, good food, and fun!

# 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

Friday, April 13th  
7:00 pm

## MUSICAL SHABBAT

and Wine & Cheese Oneg

Please join us as we celebrate Shabbat featuring Jacob Kraus, Temple Sinai Musical Director & Guitarist. Service to be followed by a special oneg featuring wine, cheese, desserts, & child-friendly treats.

Members & non-members welcome.



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610  
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## Keeping Couples Together

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# And now you will know the rest of the Pesach story

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading Jewish Community High School

Our Sages taught that the “more you elaborate on the Passover stories, the greater will be your reward.” So, here is that history. I want to share with you the “back story” for my obsession of almost 50 years of writing and publishing Passover articles and editing Haggadot distributed internationally in millions of “downloads” and subsequently reproduced for Seder experiences.

In addition, in this article you will find mention of some of these materials that are posted on the Jewish Federation of Reading home page ([readingjewishcommunity.org](http://readingjewishcommunity.org)). Feel free to download whatever will be helpful to your Passover celebration and to those who share in your holiday. Feel free to share them with those who come to your Seder, to take as a house gift when you attend a Seder and to share with your own email list.

In the beginning, I was a new graduate from The Jewish Theological Seminary and the Associate Rabbi of Temple Israel on Long Island. My duties included several adult education courses, including one for the Sisterhood — now known as the Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Fewer than 10 initially registered after Sukkot to study the “Background of the Passover Seder,” and most continued through Pesach and the publication of our joint efforts. We created a mimeographed brochure of about 25 pages noting the meanings of Hebrew words, how-to and why-do-we-do-it explanations, and historical commentaries on biblical verses that became the core of the Haggadah.

We discussed and then concluded that the Hebrew text needed a reliable English translation. Moreover, the majority of our Sisterhood students admitted that they were “locked out” of much of the Seder — including even the songs — because they hadn’t had a religious school education and the learning to read Hebrew. So we needed a translation that made sense to us in the 1970s, a transliteration to help everyone at the Seder table participate meaningfully, explanations that brought us across thousands of years of Jewish history and a multitude of customs, foods, music, ritual objects, wines and family heirlooms — stories and objects that also told a story.

Our work was a success, and we ran out of copies for 1970. Better yet, the class continued the next year, and we added to our numbers. We built on the first collaboration, and our questions began to grow about ways to make the Seder itself more engaging and involving.

Remember, this was decades before the incredible proliferation of numerous

## Enhance your celebration

Rabbi Dov’s Passover resources are available for download on the Jewish Federation of Reading’s home page [www.readingjewishcommunity.org](http://www.readingjewishcommunity.org)

Haggadot, How-To Seder books and such items as “Ten Plague Finger Puppets. Those were days when we set an “empty chair” for the Soviet Jewish child, when the issue of “Jewish continuity” was being raised in every community, and we began to ask how many children could be “counted upon” to be present at the Seder and what questions they might ask.

And what about recipes for foods that we missed if we observed the Passover diet of refraining from “chametz.” I believe it’s unfortunate, but almost everything we might have missed in those days is now available as a “Kosher for Passover” product today. But in the ’70’s we needed to share recipes, another reason to expand on our first collaboration.

We added to our now-growing collaboration a section on Haroset, not only its background but encouragement for the entire family to become involved — building in sights, sounds, smells touches and textures and above all, taste.

There are wonderful opportunities for teaching the lessons of Passover to the next generation as the family prepares for the festival. Beyond the food regulations and customs, there is the “kitchen schooling” experience within which each of our children is exposed to what we truly believe about the rights of others, respect for the traditions and customs of others, and appreciation for the Jewish heritage of freedom and democracy that has been our gift to humanity.

Memories of touching, seeing, tasting, smelling and talking that leads ultimately to hugging and kissing of parent and child as Passover is about to begin.

This became a challenge over the years as musical tastes changed, but that provided a creative opportunity for different generations to sing new lyrics to music that was both shared and also new. For example, who at your Seder will remember the Beatles? If they do, then the following will be raucous fun:

**“Help!”**

(By Lia Lehrer and Julia Latash “Help!”)

*Help!*

*We need somebody, help! Not just anybody!*

*Help! You know we need someone! Help!*

*When we were younger, so much younger than today,*

*Put you in a basket and you floated far*

away.

*And now your life has changed in oh-so-many ways*

*Our freedom really seems to vanish in the haze.*

*Help us if you can, we’re feeling down.*

*We know you’re the best leader we have found.*

*Help us get far away from town.*

*Won’t you please, please, help us,*

*Help us, help us! . (See the rest as part of the Passover Seder Songbook online insert)*

This is the story behind the “World’s Largest Seder Songbook, “ now more than 170 pages in its latest publication of Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and English Seder songs.

Over the years as I assumed various pulpits, I included Passover preparation and Haggadah personalization.

Annually, one way or another, I would offer this project of writing a Haggadah with an ever-improving translation, transliteration, and footnotes to adult education classes. Over the years, I would even continue this project with adult education courses, youth group projects, student classes in a computer lab setting and even as fundraisers for the synagogue, youth group or Religious School and Hebrew High School as our membership became more prolific.

I created as a personal tzedakah the Foundation For Jewish Software to continue distribution of Passover materials without cost — all free downloads. The site continued until I retired and funding could not continue out of my pocket — and I didn’t want to seek funding or take away from so many Jewish community needs.

Various formats — at one point as many as 12 Haggadot were created for the Jewish community: including the home Basic “minimal” Haggadah, the New York Board of Rabbis for Nursing Homes, The National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) for our American military forces and military chaplains, various appropriate Hospital and Prison Seder versions, and a series of download versions up to and including an entire traditional Seder text in Hebrew, English and transliteration.

The website grew with program after program for hands-on experiential Jewish learning, with the catch phrase “building spiritual bridges from generation to generation of Jewish Family Education.” Finally, it was enough in terms of time and a one-person publishing room in our home’s basement office and library!

The website [www.FFFE.org](http://www.FFFE.org) grew until time and funding brought it to an end, and various other organizations stepped up and began to fill the Internet with publishing and published resources which you can find today.

I am grateful to the Reading Jewish Federation-JCC, its staff and leadership and the editor and staff of the community’s *Shalom* newspaper and Centerpiece, for the opportunities given me over the years to share some of these resources and hands-on learning with our teen students (and through Better Together for teens and seniors in joint discussions and study).

Above all, I want to express how grateful I am to the members of the Greater Reading Jewish Federation, the adults and youth, the congregations and their Rabbinic leadership who are enabling us to post some of these resources for your use during the upcoming Passover holiday. To borrow the famous Paul Harvey broadcast closing, “and now you know the rest of the story.”

Now, it’s up to you to bring generations together for the songs, foods, symbols, different wine-stained and matzah “crumby” Haggadot and stories about how you used to celebrate Passover – and with whom and where.

Remember that the more you add to your family’s story, the more reward in building spiritual bridges for generations to come.

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***Dining with God:  
Beer, Wine, & Bread  
Across Religions***

Presented by  
**Dr. Jennifer L. Koosed**

What would be served at a dinner with God? Some of the earliest religions set the table first with wine or beer & bread. Wine and bread especially have long and deep roots in religious ritual—in the religion of ancient Israel but also across the ancient Near East & in Greco-Roman religions. Not only have wine, beer, & bread contributed to the development of religions but they were also integral to the building of cities and the development of complex societies. All three of these three foods are replete with history and full of wonder.

**SHABBAT SERVICE AT 7:00 PM. SPEAKER/ONEG AT 8:00 PM**

Dr. Koosed is Professor of Religious Studies at Albright College. She has a Diploma in Jewish Studies from Oxford University; a Masters in Theological Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School; and a Ph.D. in biblical studies from Vanderbilt University.



**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 9TH**



## The Passover seder teaches us about God

By Rabbi Matthew Abelson  
Keshar Zion Synagogue

In addition to enjoying a festive meal, one of the purposes of Passover is to teach us about who the God of Israel is. Day-to-day, we don't engage in theological conversations, but the seder is a special time of year when we choose to confront a subject that courses through the minds of all humans at some point or another. What I'd like to offer you are some preliminary thoughts that may spark your own inquiry into what Passover teaches us about our God.



Discussions about God often spiral into the realm of abstraction. This is largely the legacy of the medieval period during which the three monotheistic faiths sought to reconcile the wisdom developed by philosophers in Athens during the fourth and fifth centuries B.C.E. — namely Plato and Aristotle — and the teachings of Scripture — be it the Tanakh, the Christian Bible or the Koran. The philosophical theological systems developed during the middle ages by thinkers such as Maimonides, Aquinas, and Averroes are extraordinary and belie our caricatured image of the Middle Ages as a period of intellectual darkness. To penetrate the systems of these men — and others who philosophized theologically during this period — takes concerted work, and I won't proffer anything of the sort to you at this time. While no pursuit of comprehending who the God of Israel is can be complete without investigation of the systems of the medieval Jewish philosophers, such as

Maimonides, that doesn't mean we can't begin our pursuit without them.

And the exodus — as narrated in chapter 14 of the Book of Exodus — is a critical place to start in learning about God. Before your seder, I encourage you to read this chapter. I'll highlight several items from chapter 14 to jump-start your own pursuit:

1. Observe how this narrative contrasts tyranny with freedom. The Torah teaches us what freedom is by contrasting it with tyranny, and Pharaoh embodies tyranny.

2. Consider how bnei yisrael (the Israelites) are reluctant to embrace freedom.

3. Take note of what God says to Moses, insisting that Moses not rely exclusively upon God but that he take initiative in executing the escape of bnei yisrael from the pursuing Egyptian army.

4. Finally, the parting of the Sea of Reeds and its closing upon the Egyptian army depicts the miracle.

Now, I'd like to discuss the significance of each of these items, and finally, I hope to explain how each of them contributes to our knowledge of who God is.

Pharaoh's tyranny is an outcome of his inability to change. Throughout Pharaoh's interaction with Moses, Pharaoh only responds to pressure — such as in the form of a plague — and his changes are always temporary. He consistently reverts back to his original flawed ways. God is the source to which we attach ourselves when we want to truly transform ourselves, a process that is called teshuva (repentance.)

Bnei yisrael's reluctance to embrace freedom is a statement about human nature. Humans prefer comfort to discomfort, which is why we do not gravitate to freedom over

tyranny even though we ought to prefer freedom. God's power is what enables us to transcend our human nature and prefer the discomfort of freedom to the comfort of slavery.

As the Egyptian army closes in upon bnei yisrael, God says to Moses, "Why do you cry out to Me? Tell the Israelites to go forward" (v. 15). God demands our activity, not our passivity. God seeks us as His partners. Reliance on God without taking initiative is consummate with denying God's existence.

Finally, the miracle of the parting of the Sea of Reeds is a statement about freedom, in particular God's freedom. While our scientific worldview rightfully rejects the miracle as a possibility, the scientific worldview also cannot account for freedom. The miracle is a symbol, a symbol that gestures to the possibility of freedom. Freedom, in contrast to physics, does not operate in the realm of cause-and-effect. Freedom means that we can act without being caused to act; the miracle, which is an effect without a cause, teaches about freedom.

In short, our God is consistent with teshuva, the discomfort and utterly undetermined nature of freedom, and human initiative. In talking about God, we might think that we should only talk about the nature of who God is — a very abstract matter indeed. I prefer to talk about God in a way that highlights how God's existence is relevant to our experience as humans. Hopefully, as we celebrate during the seder, we can internalize the narrative of the exodus to learn about God and enrich our experience as humans in the world.

## Faithfully ready

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker  
Chabad Center of Berks County

Passover, with all its rituals, is designed to strengthen and boost faith in the Almighty, just as it was at the very first Passover.

The Jewish people had been sojourning in Egypt for over 200 years. It was back in the time of Jacob, who brought his family from the Holy Land to Egypt, when the Experience began. The small family soon blossomed into a huge nation. In Egypt, our people built homes to live, and lived their lives by acclimating to their location. Soon, anyone who had previously lived in Israel had passed on. Life was now not merely in Egypt, but was, essentially, Egyptian.

Approximately a year before their liberation, Moses came to the Jewish people at the direct behest of the Almighty and informed them of their impending freedom from servitude. "And the nation believed. They heard that G-d had remembered the children of Israel and that He saw their affliction. They bowed their heads and prostrated themselves. (Sh'mos (Exodus) 3:31.)"

A year went by. The Egyptians had experienced miserable plagues in order to



catch their attention. It was expected of them to send the Jewish people out of their land. Five days before the Exodus, the nation was given instructions to prepare to leave the Egypt.

When they eventually left, they also left behind their homes and their lives, built over the course of two centuries. They simply walked out into the unknown!

These people had a tendency to grumble throughout their time traveling through the desert on their way to the Holy Land. By taking into consideration what they gave up, perhaps some understanding could be accorded to them.

The Jewish people demonstrated incredible faith. Faith in the Almighty and faith in Moses, the Almighty's messenger. While it is exceedingly difficult to imagine a similar scene in today's world, the Jewish people did precisely that at the Exodus.

The Passover Seder is not intended merely to be a re-enactment of the Exodus dozens of centuries ago. The Seder is designed to relive the experience in present times. The festival of Passover, and specifically its first night, is an evening to capture that faith, that belief, which the people of Israel had while experiencing the Exodus. It is for this reason that, at the Passover Seder, questions are encouraged, especially by the children. The "Four Questions" are possibly the most familiar section of the Passover liturgy in the Passover "Haggadah." While common

thought may suggest questions shake faith, in truth, questions indicate a relationship and a willingness to learn, to discover and to strengthen the relationship.

Faith is elusive. Faith only sets in where comprehension fails. If one is certain about a subject, one does not need to "believe" it; one knows it. And when dealing with the unknown, it is, well, unknown.

Once a year, on the first night of Passover, Jewish people reexamine their faith. The story is told of a people who lived in a land for centuries. They became part of the land and its culture. When they were informed, however, that it was time to go, they believed. They had faith. They did not even wait to prepare proper food for their journey. They baked some dough in haste, and left their lives behind and headed into the unknown. With faith, they went out into a state of faith. To better appreciate this great story, questions are interspersed, answers are offered, and discussions are held.

Once the story is told, Matzah, that very food of faith, is eaten and digested. It is not just the talk. It is also the deed, the action, the impression.

And then a cup of wine is poured for Elijah the prophet. This is to demonstrate how faith still lives and that, during that very evening, the final redemption can happen just as it did so many years ago on this same night.

Wishing you a wonderful Yom Tov!

### March Adar- Nisan



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

March 2  
5:39 p.m.

March 3/Adar 16  
Ki Tisa (Exodus 30:11-34:35)

March 9  
5:46 p.m.

March 10/Adar 23  
Vayak'hel/Pekudi (Exodus 35:1-40:38)

March 16  
6:54 p.m.

March 17/Nissan 1  
Vayikra (Leviticus 1:1-5:26)

March 23  
7:01 p.m.

March 24/Nissan 8  
Tzav (Leviticus 6:1-8:36)

March 30  
7:08 p.m.

March 31/Nissan 15  
Pesach (Exodus 12:21-51)

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at Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034  
Friday, March 2: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.  
Friday, March 9: Service at 7 p.m. followed by guest speaker at 8.  
Fridays, March 16 and 23, 7:45 p.m. NO SERVICE MARCH 30.  
Saturday, March 24: Max Wartluft Bar Mitzvah

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

# Applications due March 9 for camp financial assistance

Please remember that applications for the Jewish Federation of Reading's summer camp financial assistance program are due by Friday, March 9.

The information and financial assistance application are available on the JFR web site. Please call Bill Franklin at 610-921-0624 if you have any questions.

## All Around the Town

Congratulations to **Jennifer and Jacob Gurwitz** and big sisters Gabby, Izzy and Eliana on the birth of Ziva Razel Gurwitz on Feb. 12.

\*\*\*

Mazel tov to **Beth and Bob Caster** on the engagement of their son Morton Caster to Carmen Colmenarez.

\*\*\*

Mazel tov to great-grandparents **Esther and Sid Bratt**, grandparents **Corinne and Andy Wernick**, and parents **Aaron and Melissa Wernick** on the birth of Joshua Gabriel.

*Until next time: Shalom!*

### Obituaries

**Eva Charnoff**, 91, formerly of Mercer Street Reading passed away at Spruce Manor, West Reading. Eva was the daughter of the late Abraham and Anna Charnoff.

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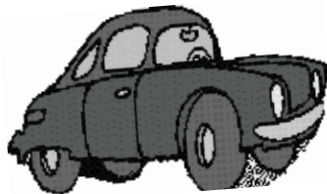
**Barbara Sue Van Tosh**, 69,

of Ohio, and formerly of Reading. Barbara was born and raised in Reading and graduated from Temple University, she then worked with her parents at the Army and Navy Store in Reading. She is survived by her sister Louise and her husband Albert Siegel of Ohio and several nieces and nephews.



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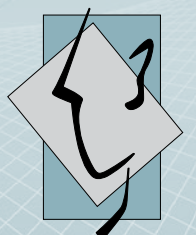
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## Meir Panim offers homestyle food for homeless, poor

By **Mayaan Hoffman**

Residents and tourists alike are familiar with the begging hands of Jerusalem's poor as they walk down the Ben-Yehuda Street pedestrian mall or the main roads of affluent neighborhoods.

Jerusalem is the poorest city in the country, with nearly half of the city's residents living under the poverty line. Dozens of the city's most needy meet for lunch Monday through Thursday at Meir Panim.

Goldie Sternbuch, director of overseas relations for Meir Panim, explained that the foundation of the nonprofit's food services is its network of free restaurants in cities throughout Israel. These restaurants, she said, are in lieu of soup kitchens, designed to look and feel like any other restaurant so that diners can preserve their dignity.

"Nobody wants to feel like they are a charity case or just another number," said Sternbuch. "They want to be seen and treated like a person."

I admit that while Sternbuch's words sounded lovely, I was not quite sure what to expect when I pulled up to the Meir Panim restaurant. But when the front door opened, I was immediately struck by the aroma of food wafting through the air.

A man in a white shirt and a woman with a long skirt and an apron greeted me with a smile, showing me to a table. Within the first 10 minutes, I was joined by at least a dozen other diners. As each visitor entered, they were shown to their table, served their food on an oversized tray and given a kind and familiar greeting.

Music hummed quietly in the background. The staff never stopped smiling, and the food was fresh. A colorful salad sat in a plastic bowl on every table. The plates were loaded full of lentils, pasta, two kinds of chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, carrots and fruit.

The smell, look and taste of the meal is what my bubbe would call heimishe essen (homestyle food). It tasted like home. Sternbuch said each meal costs around \$7.



She said Meir Panim participates in a food rescue program, recapturing fresh food that might otherwise be discarded by two local hotels.

"Every day we pick up the food and serve it for lunch," said Sternbuch. "But we are always cooking something to go with it, too, because we want people to feel like they are coming home to fried onions and soup and not to a sterile soup kitchen."

A nutritionist reviews the daily meals to ensure they include all of the main food categories and vitamins that are vital for proper nutrition, which needy individuals can ill-afford.

Diners have the option of taking home packaged food to eat in the privacy of their own home. Sternbuch says there is one mother who comes in daily to pick up packages of food from the restaurant and then recooks it on her own stove, "so her kids think she is cooking food for them."

"Jerusalem is a melting pot of different people with different backgrounds," said Sternbuch. "They all have culinary preferences and health limitations, and we try to address all of those that we can

handle."

Within a year, Meir Panim will have a newer, larger facility, according to Sternbuch. A donor made a large gift that will enable the charity organization to open a larger restaurant with a higher standard of presentation. Sternbuch described a layout with quiet corners for those who want to eat alone, and large banquet-style tables so visitors can socialize. Some tables will face windows and other tables will look toward walls, to accommodate the different preferences of the restaurant's visitors.

In addition to its network of restaurants, Meir Panim delivers packaged meals to homebound individuals each day and distributes prepaid shopping cards, resembling credit cards, before the High Holy Days and Passover, among other projects.

"No one is immune," Sternbuch said, pointing out the recent nearly 2,000 local Teva Pharmaceutical employees who were just laid off. "Our work is vital to society."

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

## Yemin Orde graduates become IDF officers

Yemin Orde Pride takes pride in that four of its IsraElite Young Leadership Program (Mechina) program graduates, all of Ethiopian descent, have recently been appointed IDF officers.

Esther Nagose, 21, from Netanya, Abebetz Dessah, 20, from Kiryat Malachi, and Hadas Tafeta, 20, from Rehovot will be appointed officers, while their friend Blainesh Adema from Bat Yam completes her specialization at the Bahad12 IDF Command School. These talented young ladies are graduates of the IsraElite Mechina – a pre-military preparation program for women in Migdal HaEmek, founded by the nonprofit, Village Way Educational Initiative, supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now program. This year, from a cohort of 24 women, four have completed Officer Training.

"I was a good student, I graduated from high school with full matriculation, but the Mechina gave me tools to boost my self-confidence, to forge my identity and to deal with the difficulties that I faced as an immigrant from Ethiopia", said Adema, who arrived in Israel when she was 8. "Being an IDF officer was a big goal for me. I'm the only officer in my family. The Mechina gave me the tools to break through the glass ceiling, the misconception that Ethiopians are quiet and don't aspire to integrate in senior positions in society."

Nagose, who was born in Israel and grew up with 10 brothers and sisters, is the first girl in her family to recruit. "We started the track together, all four of us, and we were just like four sisters, always keeping close to one another during officer training."

She added, "Before my enlistment I really felt unripe for it, and the Mechina



*Blainesh Adema*

helped me fulfill my potential". Before leaving for officer training, Nagose served as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in charge of welfare, or personal affairs in Golani basic training unit, and now she will become a Tash NCO in the Military Police Corps.

"I wanted to complete the Mechina so I could get a meaningful placement in the IDF," Dessah said. Before joining the officer training course she served in the Directorate of Military Intelligence. Dessah immigrated from Ethiopia at the age of 4. "Had anyone suggested a few years ago that I would become an officer, I would think they are just fantasizing. Now, I am about to serve as a personnel officer in the Intelligence Corps."

Tafeta, who was born in Israel, was raised alongside six brothers and sisters. Before officer training, she served as an NCO in Havat HaShomer (an army base where basic training is held for soldiers from at-risk backgrounds). She will be overseeing six NCOs, on the military base where recruits are sorted into their respective corps or



*Esther Nagose, Abebetz Dessah and Hadas Tafeta*

basic training bases. "It doesn't matter where you came from, if you put in enough hard work you can get any (army) placement," she said. "The Mechina and the Officer Training Course have instilled in me the understanding that I want to advance and influence the soldiers."

"The preparatory program has started its fifth year and we already have graduates we can be proud of it," said Anat Steiner, founder and head of the IsraElite Mechina. "Esther, Abebetz, Hadas and Blainesh, all graduates of our third co-hort, are making a clear statement to the young women now in training: we too can wear the platoon commander's insignia and the officer's rank, and our initial proficiency rating does not constitute a hindrance."

Eli Barda, the mayor of Migdal HaEmek, said, "We are moved and thrilled by the path taken by these young women, who have come to the Mechina from all over the country, received education and training in Migdal HaEmek, and now we are all enjoying the fruits."

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Meir Panim

# Thank you, Reading, for helping us connect with IDF soldiers

By Andi Franklin

Hello Reading. After a wonderful month in Israel, it is good to be home. I am writing to say thank you to the children of the Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom Sunday School and to our Reading Jewish community.

I often connect with IDF soldiers and their units when I am in Israel, taking them things they need. I also always try to bring letters, cards, pictures and posters from children. So, before I left, I asked Judy Synnamon if the RCOS Sunday School children would be interested. She invited me to speak to them about the soldiers, and soon after I was presented with a big fat packet of cards and pictures.

No matter how much food and other necessities I give to the soldiers, these cards and pictures are the gifts that mean the most. I've been told that members of the IDF put them up beside their beds so that when they come back from long and dangerous days and nights on duty, there is a little bit of color and love that comforts and sustains them in a lasting and meaningful way.

I also, when appropriate, make sure to tell them that these cards are from a Reform or Conservative synagogue, so that they know that the non-Orthodox Diaspora communities care for them.

I know that the response to my request would not have been answered with such a warm generous outpouring if you, our general Reading Jewish community, were not the wonderful and caring people that you are.

So, thank you Reading Jewish community, and a special thanks to Judy Synnamon, RCOS and its Sunday School for making this mitzvah possible.



At left, Andi Franklin presents letters and cards from Reading's Jewish community to Simon Margulies, an IDF company commander's tank driver. Above, soldiers in the 401st 'Brigade of Israel' Armored Corp.

## Do you remember ... the way things used to be

By Tootie Moyer

Herb and all the other "youngsters" who read this column, here are some things I remember. It was a L\_\_O\_\_N\_\_G time ago but here they are:

- Milk was delivered to each home.
- We had one bath for six people in our home. We all got to school and work on time.
- We ate dinner together and guess what? We talked!!!!
- Our teachers stayed after school to help their students and didn't get paid extra.
- I was known as Grandma Tootie at the nursery school at the old JCC
- When a car motor was running outside, it would affect our TV.
- Candy bars were 2 cents, ice cream cones were 5 cents and a bagel was 5 cents.

- Male teachers wore a shirt and tie to class, no jeans or sport shirts.
- We danced around the May Pole on May 1. I was an attendant in the court in 1st grade so my mother made me a white crepe paper dress.
- We used our mouths to talk to each other — now "talk" is just a word in the dictionary.
- We washed our baby diapers ourselves and hung them outside to dry. There were no disposable diapers.
- When all our neighbors swept their pavements every day along with their gutters.
- We talked and talked and talked to our kids, and they listened and obeyed — boy has this disappeared today.
- We wore ugly galoshes in the rain, not decorated boots.
- We girls could not wear short

shorts or miniskirts, and your blouse covered all of your chest, and I mean "all of your chest".

- When I went to high school a fellow would carry my books home because he was a nice guy. Come on, Tootie, he carried your books home because he wanted a date and guess what? He got a date.
- At the old JCC we paid a \$1 for a taxi ride to or from the Center.
- Do you remember — or should I say not remember wanting something in another room and leaving to retrace our steps to remember what it was that you wanted.
- Woolworth's and McCrory's were on Penn Street, and almost everything you bought their cost \$1 or less.
- Remember when your family doctor was your foot, heart, nose, ear and

throat doctor and your dermatologist, he was every kind of doctor except eye and dentist.

- Do you remember Mr. and Mrs. Club, New Year's Eve dances and dressing up on Yom Kippur and walking down Penn Street?
- We only had grade school, junior high and high school.
- To this day I cannot say Hanukah — you have to be born with a "Cha" in your chest to say Chanukah, try it be proud if you have the "Cha." I am.

I am sure you can remember things from your younger days, cherish them and tell them to your grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Tell them we were happy, healthy and smart parents. We used our hearts and heads instead of a computer and a smartphone.

See you soon!

### KZ ADULT EDUCATION

WITH RABBI MATTHEW ABELSON

THURSDAYS: March 1–April 5, 2018

TIME: 6:00-7:15 pm

PLACE: 555 WARWICK DRIVE

WYOMISSING, PA 19610



## JOSEPHUS

The Jewish War, Josephus' account of the Jewish rebellion against Rome between 66 and 70 C.E., is unparalleled. He observed the siege of Jerusalem and the final heroic resistance and mass suicides at Masada. His account provides much of what we know about the history of the Jews under Roman rule, with vivid portraits of such key figures as the Emperor Vespasian and Herod the Great.

Rabbi Abelson will provide a guided reading of The Jewish War over a six week period. All are welcome, no background is required, and print-outs of readings will be provided. Please RSVP: [kzsecretary@entermail.net](mailto:kzsecretary@entermail.net) or 610-374-1763.

Join Chabad of Berks County for an enchanting

## Passover Seder



Relive the exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with unique and traditional customs.

Explore the Kabalistic insight of the number four: **Four** cups of wine, **four** sons, **four** questions and **four** types of freedom. Discover the Seder's relevance to today's modern Jew.

For more info and reservations:  
917-767-0130  
[chabadofberks@gmail.com](mailto:chabadofberks@gmail.com)  
[www.l-chaim.org/seder](http://www.l-chaim.org/seder)

**First Seder Night:**  
**Friday, March 30,**  
**7:15 p.m.**

**Suggested donation:**  
**Adult, \$36; Child: \$18**

Please RSVP  
by March 26

# Can Israel help solve Cape Town's water crisis?

Israel21c.com

Within a few months, South Africa's capital city and biggest tourist destination may become the first major city in the world to run out of water. The 4 million residents of Cape Town will have their water supplies cut off unless the city manages to reduce daily consumption by 20 percent. The "Day Zero" shutdown is expected for mid-May and is recalculated every week based on current reservoir capacity and daily consumption.

The crisis is mostly attributed to three years of unprecedented drought that has dried up the city's six-dam reservoir system. If the dams fall below 13.5 percent capacity before the start of the rainy season in June, taps will be turned off and residents will have to line up at municipal points to collect their allotted 25 liters per day. This amount is about a quarter of the water used by the average American daily.

As "Day Zero" approaches, it seems the whole world is watching to see what Cape Town does. In Israel, a country with its own history of water struggles and triumphs, experts are weighing in on how Israeli innovation and mindset may be able to help Cape Town and other water-scarce locations avoid future disasters.

"We are known around the world for being experts in water and having developed the most advanced technologies to cope with water scarcity," said Professor Eilon Adar, director of Israel's Zuckerberg Institute for Water Research at Ben Gurion University. "But it's not necessarily so that these technologies can be adapted as is and save the rest of the world. Every

society has its own constraints – social, physical, natural – and the most we can do is to try and adapt the Israeli concept to see which technologies or innovations can be tailored for the local needs."

While many places, like São Paulo, California and Cape Town, have reached crisis points in recent years, Israel serves as a model to show that dwindling supplies of natural water sources and declining rainfall do not always determine a country's destiny.

From its inception, Israel has had to build its nation without abundant water or energy. Despite its arid climate, fast-growing population, and history of droughts, Israel today experiences a water surplus. "If there was no other dry place in the world that had mastered this problem, I would say that we're all kind of in a tough situation," says Seth Siegel, author of *Let There be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World*. "Israel is so successful in its water management that it has enough water for everybody, it's self-sufficient in fruits and vegetables, which takes a lot of water, and it has so much extra water that it can export water to its neighbors."

Israel's national water grid, established in 1964, gave the country the ability to bring water from a relatively wet place (the north) to a relatively dry place (the south), something that many countries today still do not do. The grid now integrates surface water, groundwater and desalinated water into the same pipeline, which Adar says is unique to Israel. This infrastructure has helped Israel withstand drought and expand into desert areas once thought uninhabitable.

Israel's use of innovative irrigation, desalination, wastewater recycling and reuse, and leak-detection technology has been credited with helping the country become a water superpower. It is the extent to which these innovations have been implemented that sets Israel apart, rather than the technology itself. For example, drip irrigation is the norm in Israel, where the landscape consists of 60 percent desert. Today it supplies 75 percent of irrigated agricultural fields in Israel with water. In comparison, only 5 percent of the irrigated fields around the world utilize drip-irrigation technologies. Many countries, including the US, still rely on wasteful flood-irrigation methods.

When it comes to wastewater treatment, Israel's recycled wastewater ratio is four times higher than in any other country in the world, with 85 percent of the treated water available for agricultural uses.

Currently the U.S. recycles about 9 percent of its wastewater. Yossi Yaacoby, director of WaTech innovation center for Mekerot, says that a target average of even 20 percent reclaimed wastewater in the U.S. would be a real revolution.

Israel has also invested heavily in desalination plants on the Mediterranean shore. There are currently six plants, two of which are the largest in the world, producing nearly 500 million gallons of freshwater from salt water every day.

Desalination has allowed Israel to get ahead of droughts and provide a substantial supplement to the water supply, creating more water for agriculture, replenishing its natural water sources, and supplying water to its Palestinian and Jordanian

neighbors. "The global water crisis is unlikely to be solved without widespread use of desalinated water," writes Siegel. "Even water-rich locations like New York City may decide to build a desalination plant as a backup for security or environmental reasons."

Technology aside, one of the most unique aspects of Israel's approach to water is its understanding of water as a commodity.

Unlike in the U.S., where water is a personal property right, a series of laws passed in the mid-1950s made water ownership in Israel public. This gave the government the power to manage, regulate, price and allocate water in accordance with the best needs of the country.

"Around the world, the price of water is nearly universally subsidized," explains Siegel. "What we know from basic economics is that when people get things for free or at a discounted price, they don't value it the same way." By charging the real price of water, Israel has gained a nationwide interest in saving water and a culture that values every drop.

Currently more than 150 countries actively use Israeli solutions – whether technology, training, or technical assistance – to help address their water problems. Despite offers of assistance years ago and more recently by Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Lion Keinan, there has been no formal engagement between Israel and South Africa regarding the looming water crisis.

However, the South Africa-based Legacy Water Solutions management consulting company is actively considering various Israeli companies with which to partner.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH  
KOSHER COOKING CLASS FOR LADIES!

*Traditional Cooking*  
*with a Modern Twist*

CHOCOLATE  
MATZA CRUNCH



Learn how to make  
Chocolate matza crunch  
- with different flavors of  
chocolate and a variety of  
toppings.

Sunday, March 11  
4:00 p.m.

At Chabad Lubavitch  
2320 Hampden Blvd  
Reading, PA 19604

\$14.00  
RSVP by Feb 26 lpskerreading@aol.com



KZ

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
KESHER ZION'S  
2018 PASSOVER CELEBRATION

Friday, March 30:	Fast of the First Born Siyyum Service at 8:00 a.m. followed by a light breakfast
Friday, March 30:	Passover First Seder hosted by KZ 6:00 p.m. Services at 5:30 p.m. conducted by Rabbi Matthew Abelson
Saturday, March 31:	KZ Passover Festival Services at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush
Saturday, March 31:	Passover Second Seder hosted by RCOS at 6:00 p.m. Conducted by Rabbi Michelson
Sunday, April 1:	KZ Passover Services 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush
Friday, April 6:	KZ Passover Services 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush
	KZ Passover Services at 6:00 p.m. followed by Shabbat Dinner at 6:45 p.m.
Saturday, April 7:	KZ Passover Shabbat Services 9:30 a.m. including Yizkor followed by Kiddush





# NOT YOUR FATHER'S ANTISEMITISM

The 14th Annual Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture  
by Michael Berenbaum, Ph.D., American Jewish University

*Why is antisemitism in the 21st century different  
from Nazi antisemitism or traditional antisemitism?  
Is the American Jewish community fighting the wrong battles?  
Join us and learn why those who refight the last war often lose the next one.*

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

7:30 p.m., Memorial Chapel, Albright College  
Experience Event, Free and Open to the Public

Michael Berenbaum, Ph.D. is the director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust and a professor of Jewish Studies at American Jewish University in Los Angeles. He served as project director overseeing the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, was the first director of its Research Institute, and was president and CEO of The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. The author and editor of twenty books, he was also managing editor of the second edition of the Encyclopedia Judaica, a twenty-two-volume body of work that won the Dartmouth Medal of the American Library Association as the best reference work of the year.

Berenbaum's work in film includes serving as executive producer, historical advisor, consultant, interviewee and producer to more than twenty films, including three Academy Award winners.



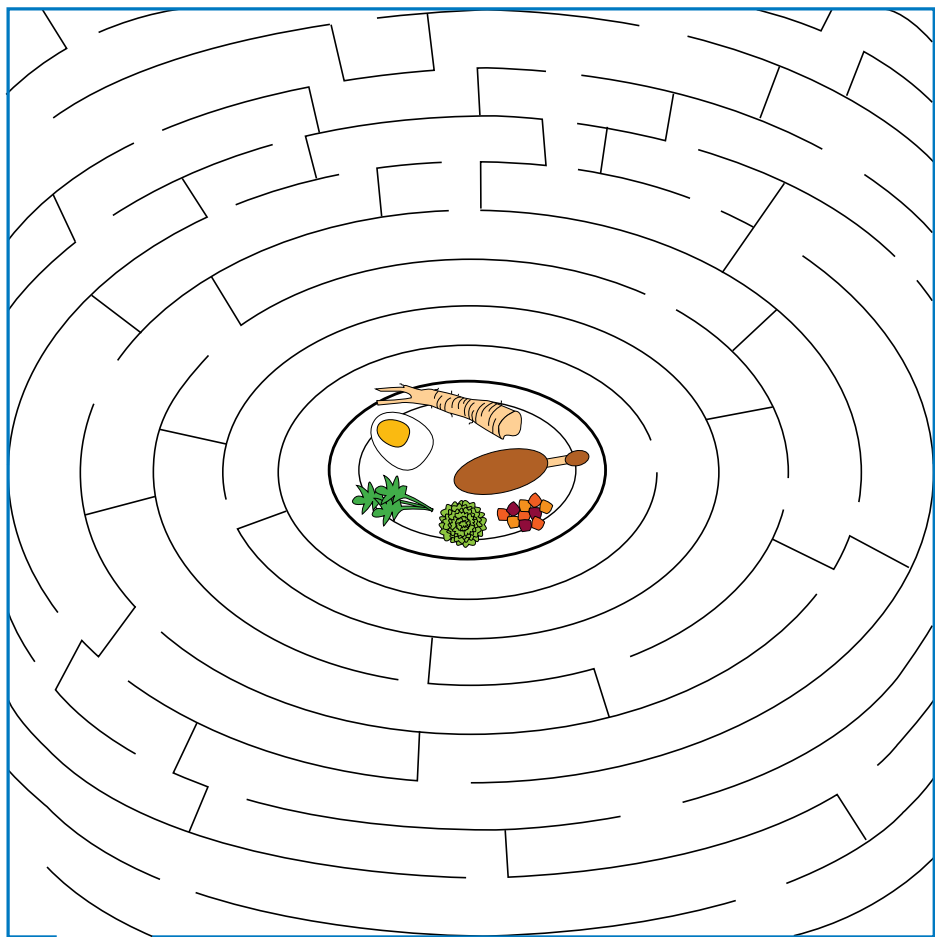
Edwin & Alma '51 Lakin  
Holocaust Library  
and Resource Center

# Searching for Chametz



## Lunchbox Love® Passover Jokes

### Going Home...



**LÖL!**

How does Moses make tea?

Answer: Hebrews!!

**LÖL!**

Who is the Passover Kid's favorite Passover singer?

Answer: Elvis Presley!!

**LÖL!**

Who is behind Pharaoh's Evil Empire?

Answer: Darth Sedar

**LÖL!**

Did you hear about the gefilte fish that went deaf?

Answer: He had to buy a herring-aid.

**LÖL!**

Why did the matzoh quit his job?

Answer: Because he didn't get a raise!!

**LÖL!**

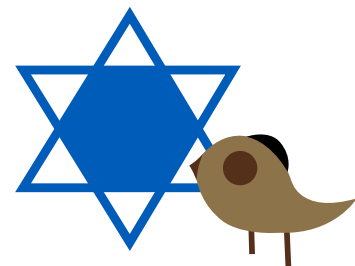
What kind of cheese do you eat on Passover?

Answer: Matzo-rella

**LÖL!**

What part of Passover do pirates love most?

Answer: The sed-arrrrrrrr.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Passover Word Search

Find the Passover words.



R M R Q L R B U L M G O F D X E Z H  
 E C D K H H W T Y Y J E G M K W F O  
 N W J X A F T H Y A W O J B O Z U B  
 T C U U G D A S C N M Y T N R S Y J  
 P Z O W G J G G J J W Q U G Z J E M  
 Y U Q U A I G S N N R M A T W I N S  
 G O E R D A S X E H X H U D L N T R  
 E J R J A Y Y P A V A N O S Z Q T E  
 U W Z C H D S Z I R O F E Q O E Z V  
 Z E M S Q F T P P X S U F H S W S O  
 U L R Z X A T W H I G H S O Z H E S  
 A Z X M M L T V E A H S R O L O D S  
 B I A H U X I P L I R A T M J L E A  
 N Z O D Z F H P C X H O L Y G H R P  
 D P O L A G M D N C D E A Q U F J S  
 S M R A U O S Y L S I G J H R G B G  
 L F Q M I X B R R Q P D N Y L J Q E  
 H R K B A J T T Q A R M G W A X V W

Charoset	Egypt	Lamb	Haggadah
Seder	Passover	Moses	Pharoah
Plagues	Matzah		

## COME EXPERIENCE THE EXODUS! KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE INVITES YOU TO A **FIRST NIGHT COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER**

Friday, March 30, 2018 - Services at 5:30p.m. Seder at 6:00p.m.  
 Journey guided by Rabbi Matthew Abelson



Catered by Boscov's Ala Carte Caterers

Cost: Adults—\$35.00/Children (6-13) - \$20.00/Children 5 & under free

**Menu: Matzo Ball soup, gefilte fish, turkey, potato kugel, vegetables, wine, matzah, and dessert.**

Vegetarian entrée available upon request with reservation only (Same pricing as above)

**Reservations and payment (Check payable to Keshar Zion Synagogue)**

**Must be sent to the Keshar Zion Office by March 23, 2018**

If you are in need of transportation to the Seder, please contact the KZ Office (610) 374-1763.  
 If financial assistance is necessary, please contact Sari Inclendon at Jewish Family Service (610) 921-2766.

I/We will be attending the Friday, March 30th Passover Seder Meal at Keshar Zion Synagogue, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610. We are returning our reservation form and check (made out to Keshar Zion Synagogue P.O. Box 14112, Reading, PA 19612).

**Deadline for reservations: Thursday, March 23, 2018.**

\$35.00 each adult x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$20.00 each child x \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Children 5 & under are free)  
 Request for vegetarian entrée x \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

## Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom invites you to a Second Night Community Passover Seder

**Saturday, March 31, 2018 at 6:00 pm**

Catered by *Boscov's Ala Carte Catering*

**Adults: \$ 35.00 Children (6-13 years): \$ 20.00 Children 5 & under: FREE**

**MENU:** Matzo Ball Soup, Gefilte Fish, Horseradish, Turkey with Matzah Stuffing on the side, Baked Salmon w/ Mango Salsa, Vegetables, Matzah, Desserts, & Beverages (Decaf, Coffee, Juice, Tea, & Wine)

*Hoping to see all of you as we gather together as a community to share our Seder Meal!*

RSVPs and payment due to the RCOS Office by Friday, March 23, 2018.

Please send completed reservation form & check made payable to RCOS:

555 Warwick Drive  
 Wyomissing, PA 19610.

If financial assistance is necessary, please contact Sari Inclendon at Jewish Family Service 610-921-2766.

**NO RESERVATIONS will be accepted after Friday, March 23. NO WALK-IN SEATING WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

# of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00/each = \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children (6-13) \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00/ea.ch= \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children (0-5) \_\_\_\_\_ (need high chair?) yes \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL # ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED = \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any seating preferences: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please provide the names of all attending the Seder so we can make everyone feel welcome with a name tag!\*

# Muslim woman is 'powerhouse of lifesaving' as Israeli EMT

Israel21c.com

On a recent Wednesday morning, volunteer emergency medical technician Sanaa Mahameed was the first responder on the scene as fire and rescue personnel extricated two injured people from their vehicles following a car crash.

Unfortunately, motor vehicle accidents aren't a rare occurrence. What was unusual about this scene is that the woman tending the wounded was a religious Muslim who modestly covers her hair and neck with a hijab.

Sanaa Mahameed holds the distinction of being the first female Muslim volunteer EMT in the United Hatzalah of Israel voluntary first-responder network, whose total volunteer force of 4,000 includes about 320 Muslims and 330 women.

United Hatzalah international spokesman Raphael Poch describes Mahameed as one of the most active volunteers in Umm al-Fahm, an Arab town in the Haifa district. "Sanaa Mahameed is a powerhouse of lifesaving. She has spent the better part of her adult life dedicating her time to save the lives of others," Poch said.

In addition to her volunteer work with United Hatzalah, Mahameed drives an ambulance for the local EMS organization Kahol-Lavan (Blue-White) and works at a government health clinic in her town. She often serves as the EMT on duty at collegiate and high school sporting events and as the accompanying EMT on school field trips.

Sanaa Mahameed on the scene of a car crash in northern Israel. Photo courtesy of United Hatzalah

Mahameed, now 30 years old, explained that she decided to go into this type of work following a tragic incident in her own family when she was 16.

"I was home alone one night when my aunt called me and asked if there was an adult home. I told her I was alone. She had a sense of urgency in her voice and she sounded frightened. I told her to tell me what was wrong. She told me in a broken voice that her husband sat down on the sofa and was now unable to move. I threw down the phone and ran to their home as fast as I could go." The alarmed teenager entered the house and saw her uncle sitting on the sofa, not moving. "His daughter was standing over him screaming at him, 'Daddy! Daddy! Please wake up!' I called for an ambulance and they came fairly quickly but it was still too late," she recalled. "From that day onwards I knew that I would dedicate my life to saving other people by becoming an EMT so that I would know how to help people no matter what was occurring around me. That is precisely what I did," Mahameed said. "I began training to be an ambulance driver. I took courses on how to respond to large-scale disaster incidents such as earthquakes." Someday she'd like to complete paramedic training and fly an emergency response helicopter.

Mahameed said her religious adherence has never gotten in the way of her work and she is respected by her fellow volunteers, including those who work together with her locally in the all-Muslim Shibli chapter, one of three Muslim chapters in United Hatzalah



thus far.

And now, Mahameed is no longer alone. United Hatzalah, together with the government's Office of the Development of the Periphery, the Negev and the Galilee, recently trained 13 Bedouin women, all religious Muslims from Shibli and Umm al-Ghanam, to be EMTs.

"One of the main reasons why we felt that this project was important is because these women often stay at home or work in their towns during the day, much more than the men do," explained United

Hatzalah Founder and President Eli Beer.

"Thus, these new volunteers will be able to provide emergency medical response in their towns during the daytime hours far more than their male counterparts. They will provide EMS services to their own towns and the Arab and Jewish towns in the vicinity."

In addition, the organization recently inaugurated a new 19-member team of volunteer first responders in the Mount Hebron region, 14 of whom are religious Jewish women.

Join us next time!  
April 14th 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 Sholom, 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!

UPCOMING DATES: April 14, & May 19: Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands

Come to our OPEN HOUSE on March 21st 6 to 8 pm & bring your friends, too!

**LAKIN PRESCHOOL**  
OF REFORM CONGREGATION OHEBSHOLOM

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing

**PASSOVER SHABBAT DINNER**

Celebrate Shabbat with friends and family  
Join **KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE**  
on **Friday, April 6, 2018**  
for **Shabbat Services at 6:00p.m. with RCOS**  
followed by **Passover Shabbat Dinner at 6:45p.m.**  
Menu: Matzah Ball Soup, Chicken Cacciatore, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetable, Dessert

Cost: \$28.00 / Adult  
\$15.00 / Child 6 to 13 (Children 5 and under Free)  
Vegetarian entrée available upon request with reservation only (same price)

**RSVP by March 23, 2018**

If you are in need of transportation to the Shabbat Dinner or Service, please contact the KZ Office (610) 374-1763.

**RESERVATION FORM: SHABBAT PASSOVER DINNER**

I/We will be attending Friday, April 6, 2018 for Passover Dinner at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610. We are returning this reservation form with our check made payable to Keshet Zion Synagogue, P.O. Box 14112, Reading, P.A. 19612

**RSVP by: March 23, 2018**

\$28.00 x each adult	_____	\$ _____
\$15.00 x each child	_____	\$ _____ (Children 5 and under Free)
\$Total	_____	\$ _____

### Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information

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

### Contributions as of Feb. 16

#### Jewish Family Service

In honor of:  
Birth of Andy and Corinne Wernick's grandson Joshua Gabriel – Al and Betsy Katz  
In appreciation of the JFS staff for all the wonderful Friendship Circle programs – Ethel Engel

In memory of:  
Manny Eiden – Irwin Goldstein  
Sheldon Steinhaus – Irwin Goldstein  
Bob Darling - Irwin Goldstein  
Albert Incledon - Barbara Nazimov, Dena and Vic Hammel, Farber Family, Al and Betsy Katz, Berna Sherman

#### Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:  
Norman Kaye – Mary Ellen Kaye  
Albert Incledon – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

#### Harry & Rose Sack Fund (Adult Programming)

In honor of:  
Thank you to Albert Sack – Rena Schklowsky

### 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

In memory of:  
Victor Iosilevich – Albert, Nancy, Darren Sack and family

#### Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In honor of:  
Birth of Amanda and Jason Hornberger's son George Shepherd – Rosalye Yashek  
Adrienne Cardinal receiving the Ruth & Irvin Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award - Rosalye Yashek

#### Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund (PJ Library)

In memory of:  
Albert Incledon – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

#### Friendship Circle Fund

In memory of:  
Albert Incledon – Herb Schneider

## Operation Good Neighbor bringing injured, sick Syrians into Israel

Excerpts from a Jerusalem Post Magazine article by Anna Ahronheim

The border with an enemy country was unexpectedly friendly. Despite Israel and Syria being officially at war, smiling soldiers were ushering in dozens of mothers carrying children into Israel to receive free medical care as part of the Israeli army's Operation Good Neighbor. After passing through the metal detector and quick security procedures, the mothers and children were officially inside the Jewish state and guided by IDF soldiers to a bus that would drive them to their next destination — the Galilee Medical Center, in Nahariya, an hour and a half away.

Major Dr. Sergei Kotikov, one of the senior IDF officers involved in Operation Good Neighbor, said this scene is repeated weekly. He has taken part in more than 50 such operations bringing injured and sick Syrian children into Israel. "The Syrian war came to a point where people started showing up on our border looking for help. They had no trust in their government and could not rely on it – instead turning to a country that for 50 years they were told was the enemy," Kotikov said.

Jerusalem and Damascus have been officially at war since Israel was established in 1948. In 1967 Israel took control of the Golan Heights from Syria during the Six Day War and annexed the area in 1981.

Seven years into Syria's catastrophic

civil war, there are more than 6.1 million internally displaced persons and nearly 3 million living in besieged or hard-to-access areas. Some families have made their way to the Syrian Golan to escape the fighting and live in tents on Israel's border.

The IDF launched Operation Good Neighbor in June 2016 with the goal of increasing the aid given to Syrian civilians while maintaining the principle of non-involvement in the Syrian civil war. "This project has significant impact on Israel's security," a senior IDF officer stated in July. "We have learned from the Americans, who lost the support of much of the Iraqi population. We realized that we could do more for the population near our border than what we were doing at the time."

The operation officially began in 2016, but the IDF has been treating wounded and sick Syrians since 2013. More than 4,000 Syrians have been brought into Israel to receive medical treatment. Some 1,000 children have been treated in Israel since the operation began, including 685 in 2017 alone. About a dozen babies have so far been born in Israel to Syrian women.

IDF has been working with international organizations and donors to transfer aid to more than 200,000 Syrians living close to the Israeli border. In the past year alone, some 700 tons of food and flour; 542,880 liters of gas; 174 tons of clothes; 13 generators;

400 items of medical equipment, such as incubators and surgery room equipment; and 113 pallets holding 2,214 boxes of medicines have been given to Syrian civilians with the assistance of the IDF. In addition, 6,351 packages of diapers have been sent across the border as well as 600 meters of piping to re-establish ruined water infrastructure. Mobile caravans have been delivered to Syrians across the border to use as clinics and classrooms.

Israel also operates Mazor Ladach (Bandaging Those in Need), a field clinic located in an unused military post in the southern Golan Heights on the Syrian border. Built by the IDF and run by an American organization called Frontier Alliance International, it can expand to 18 doctors, providing care to more than 500 patients a day.

The IDF realized that Israel also needs to provide follow-up visits for these children, especially those who have chronic illnesses. "Once a week, a busload of sick children comes into Israel," Kotikov said. He is in contact with Syrian doctors across the border who triage the injured to determine what sort of care they need in Israel.

According to Sharon Mann, International Liaison official at the Galilee Medical Center's Department of International Affairs, more than 2,200 injured Syrians have been treated at the hospital since 2013, 40 percent of them women and children.

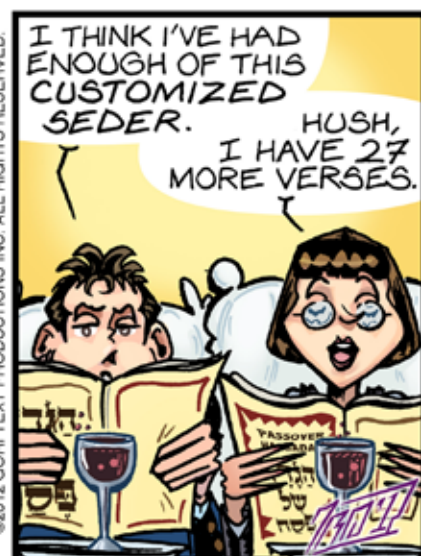
A Syrian mother said that she had heard that Israel was helping her neighbors' sick children. Originally from Damascus, she fled with her nine children to southern Syria to get away from the fighting. "It is my first time in Israel," she said, explaining that she asked for permission for her son, who suffers from problems in his joints, to be seen by Israeli physicians. "All I want is for my son to get the right treatment. I used to see Israel as an occupying power," she related as we waited for a doctor to call her son's name, "but not anymore. My whole opinion of Israel has changed."

A Syrian doctor who accompanied the sick kids and their mothers to the Galilee Medical Center told said he has been doing this for the past eight months. "I was initially approached by another doctor in Syria to take part in this project, and I said no. It wasn't because of politics; it was just that I had no time," he said. It took some convincing, but in the end, he got involved and he does not regret his decision.

"I was afraid at first to come into Israel," he said. "It was different, and it was scary because of what I was taught about this country as I was growing up. But it is not scary anymore. A lot of doctors are afraid to join because of the risks of being found out. But my name is already out there; people know what I am doing. I am torn between helping these children and losing my own life, but I will continue to help."

### EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



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Selected Streits Matzo Ball or  
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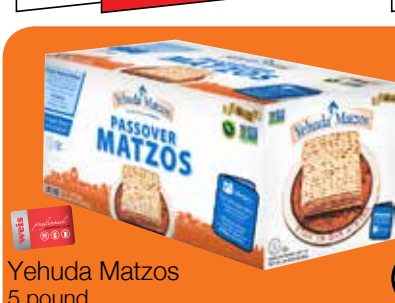
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