



Shalom05|18

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

Your Federation Supports:

- Jewish Education
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- Maimonides Society
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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

Learn realities of today's antisemitism at rescheduled Yashek Lecture

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The rescheduled 14th annual Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture will take place on Wednesday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Albright College. Dr. Michael Berenbaum, the project director who oversaw the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and served as its Research Institute's first director, will be in Reading to deliver the 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



Dr. Michael Berenbaum

president and CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which took the testimony of 52,000

Holocaust survivors, including many from our area. 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 May 2 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.

Israeli drumming highlight of June 3 annual meeting, picnic

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Gather your family and friends and join us in the park on Sunday, June 3, for the Jewish Federation of Reading's annual meeting and picnic!

A free kosher picnic meal will be served after our brief annual meeting at noon. Afterwards we will be enjoying Rita's Italian Ice.

A special treat this year will be Israeli drumming led by DaRBuKeF, a drumming group on tour from Israel. Watch these amazing performers and join in the fun!

Guests will also be invited to swim, free of charge, at the Wyomissing Hills Pool, across the street from the pool.

The meeting and fun will take place at Wyomissing Hills Park, 53 Valley Road in Wyomissing.

At noon there will be a very brief annual meeting, then the fun will start at 12:15 and continue until 4 pm.

Free parking is available at the Wyomissing Hills Pool or on the street by the park.

We only ask that you kindly RSVP to Brenda by Friday, May 25, at 610-921-0624 or info@jfreading.org

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



Plenty of fun at the 2017 Jewish Federation of Reading picnic.

How do you pass on your generosity?

By Richard Nassau
Development Director

How do you pass on your generosity? How do you instill the importance of charity? How does the next generation come to understand why it remains so critical to support the Jewish community?



The answers are rooted in our values. Like you, I believe in giving charitably. I value our Jewish community and its vitality. How we continue to be an important part of Berks County. Our recent and historic contributions can be seen everywhere. Not just with dollars, but through our involvement in so many areas. Think about the many members of our Jewish community who have been and continue to be leaders throughout Berks County.

So how do we pass along these Jewish values – the importance of community, of connecting, and especially of charity?

A recent study “Transmitting Generosity to Daughters and Sons” conducted by the Women’s Philanthropy Institute of Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy addressed the charitable question.

The Institute is highly respected for its research and its work on issues of philanthropy. Not surprisingly, its study found children are more likely to be charitable if their parents were charitable. The parent-child relationship also had a stronger connection and mattered more to daughters than sons. Again, not surprising. Women’s philanthropy has always been an important part of our community.

This year Jewish Federations are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Lion of Judah Endowment program. The Lion of Judah is a national symbol of women’s philanthropy. Over 17,500 women have become Lions by making a minimum annual commitment of \$5,000 to Federation campaigns.

These women, along with women at all levels of giving, are making a difference in the lives of Jews here at home in Berks County and around the world. These are dynamic Jewish women expressing their core values by supporting social justice, aiding the vulnerable, preserving human dignity and building Jewish identity. This includes taking an active part in securing our Jewish future by passing their values to the next generation.

The Institute’s 24-page report, released just this year, will have a strong influence on

charitable giving. An influence I am pleased to report that will be rooted in our core Jewish values. I say this because the authors in their introduction wrote the following:

“There is a saying in Jewish tradition, “As my parents planted for me, so do I plant for those who will come after me.” Families embody connectivity, transferring values and human capital from generation to generation in many ways, including passing on traditions of philanthropy.”

Indiana University, the authors, and others understand that our philanthropic traditions are basic to our core Jewish values. Values we learned from parents, aunts, and uncles. Values they demonstrated through their gifts of time and dollars supporting programs both within and outside of the Jewish community.

The Indiana study reminds us of that. How all of us are role models setting examples for the next generation and for our communities. We knew this and now we have the research to back it up. Research that shows it remains our responsibility to continue passing our traditions of philanthropy along to the next generation.

To learn more about the Institute’s findings or Federation’s Women Philanthropy programs, contact me at RichardN@JFReading.org or call us 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

Your Life – Your Legacy... What’s in Your Heart?



photo courtesy of Paul Missari

Reasons to Consider Making a Legacy Gift A Commitment to Our Future

- 1. Lead by Example:** Contact Federation to discuss your legacy and how you can lead by example. Your legacy gift demonstrates your dedication to beloved organizations. There is no monetary gift that must be made now, just your leadership - your promise to be there in the future - through your legacy!
- 2. Your Values:** Establish a legacy gift - whether it's through a bequest in your will, or a portion of your IRA, or another option - and you send a clear message to your children, grandchildren, and the community. You tell one-and-all that being generous, caring about others, and thinking about the future are important values to you. You send a profound message to Jewish community members of all ages.
- 3. Change the Future:** You can change the future! A legacy gift builds endowment funds, and shows your support for the future of our community. You provide future resources that will benefit organizations you love.
- 4. Save Taxes:** While we do not provide tax, legal, or financial advice - we encourage you to contact your trusted advisor. Your legacy gift may save you capital gains, estate, income, and/or other taxes and these savings can be significant.
- 5. Support the Present:** Organizations participating in the community wide legacy initiative receive incentive grants. Grants help current operations, build endowments, and much more. Your future legacy can support us now by helping our community reach its goal.


Ready to Create Your Legacy? Contact Federation today!



Explore your legacy in confidence.
Reading Jewish Federation - 610.921.0624 or
info@ReadingJewishCommunity.org



Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks is a participating organization in the community wide legacy initiative sponsored by the Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA.

**2018 totals
as of April 13**

**Jewish Community
Campaign
\$174,489**

**Includes transfers from Donor
Advised Funds*

From the President's Desk

Join us as we learn together

By William D. Franklin
President

We are often called "the people of the book." Torah study and study in general is the essence of our being as a People. It sharpens our minds, it serves as a guide for a moral life, it creates and enhances community and as an ongoing conversation between Jews across time and space, it binds our families to our people.



As a wonderful example of this, more than 30 seniors participated in the Federation's Community Seder. Sari

Inledon and Carole Robinson led this great Seder with a delicious meal from Boscov's and a special dessert that Sheila Bornstein kindly made. They all said the blessings together, and since none of them would admit to being the youngest, they sang the four questions together. Using a special Haggadah, "The 30 Minute Seder," which is free and online, together they told and remembered the story of our birth as a Jewish nation. This Seder was held during the day to make it accessible, and for many this was the only Seder they could attend. Bob Brok and Helene Berne later thanked me and said it was the best Seder they had been to in many years. This is one beautiful

example of how we come together to learn, enjoy each other's company and celebrate our history. Many thanks to Manor at Market Square and the JFS volunteers who helped make this happen with no cost to the participants.

We are always working on our Jewish High School curriculum. Plans are underway to hold classes mid-Sunday mornings with a brunch to minimize schedule conflicts and make the learning more experiential. The curriculum will include joining the community at pertinent Jewish Film Series' movies and participation in our Community Shabbat, Yom HaShoah and other holiday programs. There are multiple

perspectives on basic truths. Our goal is to help our youth find their unique way of belonging to the Jewish People.

Our Better Together program of seniors and teens will continue to be a part of the Jewish High School. During Passover, the seniors and teens discussed how our story of emancipation and freedom relates to today. The next week, the teens made many different charosets from recipes reflecting the culture and foods of Jewish communities around the world.

By studying with and in the presence of children, we reinforce our Jewish heritage and pass it on to the future. We hope you will be able to join us in learning together.

Leader of Jewish community and beyond dies at 84

Courtesy of Reading Eagle

Nothing was more heartbreaking for Rabbi Alan G. Weitzman than seeing people being turned away from food giveaways in Reading after the donated supplies ran out.

"Rabbi Weitzman was not going to let someone who needed groceries go hungry," said Peg Bianca, executive director of the Greater Berks Food Bank. "He was a man of his word," Bianca said. "He did whatever he could do to help those in need. He made things happen."

In 1983, Weitzman, the rabbi at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, then in Reading, joined with local ministers in starting the Greater Berks Food Bank. Today, the Spring Township-based nonprofit supplies food to 100,000 people in Berks and Schuylkill counties. Bianca said that the community cannot thank Weitzman enough for his contributions.

Rabbi Weitzman moved to Reading in 1964 to serve as rabbi at Oheb Sholom. He began working with other religious leaders in uniting the community, said Rabbi Brian Michelson, who became rabbi of the synagogue when Weitzman retired in 1998. "He was a trailblazer as far as building bridges with other faiths

in the community," Michelson said. "He was a man who was ahead of his time."

Michelson said that Weitzman was instrumental in raising money to move the synagogue from Reading to Wyomissing in 1998. "He did all of the planning to relocate the synagogue," Michelson said.

Tammy Mitgang, former president of the Jewish Federation of Reading, whose marriage was presided over by Rabbi Weitzman said, "Rabbi Weitzman was committed to interfaith marriage and worked with couples from different faiths. He was very inclusive in his thinking and provided spiritual guidance to interfaith families. It was his nature to reach out to everyone."

After retiring from the synagogue, Weitzman founded the Alvernia Seniors College for people ages 55 and older. Dr. Thomas F. Flynn, president of Alvernia University, said Weitzman was a passionate, prophetic voice in the community for racial and social justice and interfaith dialogue.

"Rabbi Alan Weitzman became a treasured member of the Alvernia family as founder of our seniors college, one of the university's most important contributions to the greater Reading



Photo courtesy of Alvernia University

area," Flynn said. "We often say at these moments, rest in peace. But, I dare say, Alan will never completely rest. Heaven may never be the same again."

Dr. Kevin Godfrey, associate professor of theology and friend of Weitzman's, said

the rabbi was a wise and enthusiastic community-builder. "He brought people together and raised their expectations of themselves," Godfrey said. "He cheered us on and made us smile. We learned something about equanimity from him."

We Value Your Opinion

**What's working? What isn't?
What is best for you? Your family?
Our community?**

Federation will be contacting random members of our community inviting them to participate in a confidential 90-minute small group discussion. Groups are limited, and all responses are summarized to ensure a free and open discussion. If invited, participate and tell us.

Federation organizing AIPAC Planning Committee

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) works to strengthen, protect and promote the U.S.-Israel relationship to enhance the security of the United States and Israel empowering pro-Israel activists across all ages, religions, races and political parties to be politically engaged and build relationships with members of Congress from both sides of the aisle

Due to community interest in increasing our involvement with AIPAC, your Federation is organizing

an AIPAC Planning Committee to further engage interested members of our community and schedule programs to enhance understanding of the many AIPAC programs and support materials.

In addition, the Federation has purchased a limited number of discounted tickets for the 2019 Policy Conference in Washington to be held March 24-26. If you are interested, please contact Bill Franklin 610-921-0624; williamf@jfreeding.org.

Shalom

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It's Simcha Supplement time

If you had or are having a bar/bat mitzvah or graduation (high school or higher) in your family this Jewish year, share the good news with the community. Please submit a few sentences about the person and their accomplishment, along with a photo.

Text and photos can be sent to Marknem@aol.com or to the Federation office.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 30.

A look at Israel through a special JCC exhibit

By Amanda J. Hornberger

To celebrate Israel's 70th the Jewish Federation of Reading is proud to host an exhibit entitled "Celebrating Israel: Snapshots of the People Behind a Young State." The exhibit is a unique photo display from the collection of The Bernard H. and Miriam Oster Visual Documentation Center Beit Hatfutsot, The Museum of the Jewish People, Tel Aviv.

The exhibit showcases a selection of historical moments regarding the establishment of the State of Israel, as seen through the eyes of its people. Experiences of Jews from around the world who escaped to live freely in a Jewish state are highlighted. Many of those depicted are those who made Aliyah (immigrated to Israel) and shows their struggles and triumphs. The panels and personal stories displayed

enable viewers to look at Israel's historical events through the viewpoint of its early immigrants, giving insight into the country's formation.

"Celebrating Israel" is on display now at the JCC and will remain up through the summer. We invite you to stop by the JCC and explore Israeli history through this unique and eye-opening exhibit.

Interfaith couples invited to share ideas at session

By Amanda J. Hornberger

According to the most recent Pew Study from 2013, nearly 58 percent of all Jews are intermarried. This statistic means that many in our community are married to or in a relationship with someone who did not grow up Jewish or does not identify as Jewish.

Recognizing that being part of an interfaith couple

can be challenging, Jewish Federation of Reading (JFR) in partnership with our synagogues is working to create programs, events and services that are inclusive of interfaith families in our Reading Jewish community.

On Tuesday, May 15 at 7 p.m. we invite members of our community who are interfaith couples to attend a brainstorming session. Our goal

is to learn from you in terms of challenges, obstacles and needs you may have. Together with our local synagogues JFR wants to create an environment of inclusion, engagement and welcome in synagogues and our Jewish community.

We want to help you make Jewish choices while honoring the traditions of both partners and recognizing the fullness of an interfaith family.

With better understanding and increased participation we hope that our interfaith couples will feel more connected and included in the community.

A special invitation will be mailed in early May for interfaith couples.

If you have any questions or would like more information please reach out to Bill Franklin at williamf@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624.

Tot Shabbat and PJ Library at the Highlands

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Kids through grade 2 are invited to join Rabbi Brian Michelson of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom along with PJ Library of Reading for Tot Shabbat at the Highlands at

Wyomissing, on Saturday, May 19 at 10 am.

Tot Shabbat is a fun way for children to learn about Shabbat and includes music and stories. A pint-sized Oneg will follow.

Highlands residents as well as grandparents

and great-grandparents are invited to join the fun! All children are welcome! This event is free and no RSVP is required.

The Highlands is located at 2000 Cambridge Ave. in Wyomissing.

Local support of Federation has impact around the world



Your contributions to the Jewish Federation of Reading helped the Jewish Agency for Israel organize 860 Yom Haatzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) celebrations reaching more than 400,000 people worldwide.

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevre

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

Travel to Venice in finale of 2018 Jewish Film Series

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Join the journey of Lorenzo, a Jewish teen from New York, as he travels to Venice and discovers the history and culture of the Jewish ghetto in "The Venice Ghetto: 500 Years of Life." This documentary reconstructs the history of the oldest ghetto of Europe. The ghetto's atmosphere, places, and history are re-created through interviews to scholars, docu-fiction, and some modern animation. Exploring the history of the Venice ghetto offers us an opportunity to reflect on the story of an

immigration and a slow integration and an example of the enormous wealth that the exchange of diverse cultures can give us.

Following the screening a discussion will be led by Dr. Daniel Leisawitz, director of Italian studies and associate professor of Italian at Muhlenberg College. Monte Lauro European Gourmet (of Temple) will provide homemade Italian cookies and desserts.

The film, the last in this year's Reading Jewish Film Series, will be shown on Wednesday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at FOX

EAST, 4350 Perkiomen Avenue, Exeter Township (next to Boscov's East).

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.



Drug developed in Israel shows promise for several diseases

Israel21c.com

Could one drug effectively treat incurable inflammatory diseases such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis as well as neurodegenerative maladies such as Alzheimer's disease?

Yes, says Professor David Naor of the Lautenberg Center for General and Tumor Immunology in Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem. All these diseases, he explains, are associated with pathological amyloid proteins that could be neutralized by the 5-mer peptide Naor has spent the last 10 years researching and developing.

It will take several million dollars to start clinical trials of Naor's novel, IP-protected peptide — a synthetic protein snippet that significantly reverses the damaging effects of inflammatory diseases and Alzheimer's disease in mouse models, and restores the learning capacity of Alzheimer's mice. "I believe that within two years we would know for certain if our academic product can translate into a

therapeutic drug to combat inflammatory and neurodegenerative diseases," Naor says. "Once you control the inflammation, you can control the disease, so our target is to reduce as much as possible the inflammatory activity."

Naor began by studying 5-mer's effectiveness in rheumatoid arthritis, which affects about one percent of the world population. Currently, about \$30 billion worth of biologic drugs are sold each year that effectively control, but cannot cure, rheumatoid arthritis and other inflammatory diseases. Furthermore, these drugs don't work in one-third of patients. The results of Naor's experiments were astounding. When mice with collagen-induced arthritis were treated with 5-mer peptide, the severely inflamed tissues in their joints reverted to nearly normal. No harmful side effects were observed.

"Once the rheumatoid arthritis experiment was repeated successfully several times, we looked at a different chronic inflammatory disease — multiple

sclerosis, where the inflammation is not in the joints but in the brain," says Naor.

Multiple sclerosis is the most widespread disabling neurological condition of young adults around the world, usually striking between the ages of 20 and 50. There is no cure, but the Israeli-developed blockbuster drug Copaxone reduces the frequency of relapses.

Here, too, Naor's results were noteworthy. Five days after MS-like disease was induced in mice, 5-mer peptide injections caused a significant decrease in accumulation of inflammatory cells in the central nervous system and significant reduction in limb paralysis. The effects were weaker when the disease was more progressed, but theoretically the peptide could be introduced during a remission phase of MS.


Recently, in collaboration with Professor Haim Ovadia from Hadassah

University Medical Center, Naor's lab achieved another breakthrough by delivering 5-mer peptide via mouth rather than by injections, with the same therapeutic effect. "That means that we may be able to produce pills for oral delivery rather than to provide the drug by injection," Naor says.

Spherium Biomed tests of 5-mer peptide in mouse models of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) showed it can reduce the gut inflammation in IBD better than the currently prescribed biological medication, which is effective only in half of IBD patients.

After a quarter-century of failed efforts to develop a cure for Alzheimer's disease, investment money is dwindling. Yet the number of cases is climbing rapidly along with related costs. About one in nine Americans over 65 has this fatal degenerative neurological disorder affecting 44 million people worldwide.

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Outreach efforts succeed thanks to community

By Sari Incledon, M. Ed.

There are so many community members to thank who help Jewish Family Service in our various outreach activities. First we would like to thank the Social Justice Committee of RCOS for donating Shalach Manot (gifts for Purim) that we delivered to Jewish residents of long term care residences throughout the community. JFS and the RCOS committee have been collaborating on this project for several years and the seniors are so appreciative for both the gifts and the visits. Thanks also to the RCOS religious school students who put together and decorated gift bags that our social workers gave to patients of area hospitals. This mitzvah project never fails to bring a smile to patients' faces.



Thanks to Dr. Eric Bluestone for donating his time and expertise to a patient who needed dental work.

Thanks also to Don Greth for volunteering his services to seniors who needed help with tax and rent rebate forms.

Year in and year out we have a program every Thursday afternoon for Friendship Circle, a group of about 20 seniors. Some are educational, others entertaining. We are always looking for new program ideas. We are especially fortunate when we can find our own "homegrown" talent.

In February, Dr. Michelle Mart, Associate Professor of History at Penn State Berks, celebrated President's Day with us by helping us appreciate the accomplishments of our 28th president Woodrow Wilson. In March, Pat Sacks shared her fascinating experiences of her visit to the Arctic Circle. She not only showed us pictures of breath taking scenery and native wildlife, but also discussed the plight of the indigenous people that inhabit the area. We also learned about the Ukrainian-born French-Jewish artist, Sonia Delauney, a co-founder of the Orphism art movement from art educator Beth Krumholz. We will celebrate Israel's 70th birthday with Rabbi Matt Abelson.

Mother Nature forced us to cancel both our February and March food pantries. It always seemed to snow on Wednesdays! But fortunately spring has arrived and on April 11 we were able to distribute more than 8,000 pounds of food (including produce, meat, milk and eggs) to 556 people in 129 households.

Our monthly pantry is a lot of work, but it is gratifying to see how many people's lives we touch in both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Our hardworking April volunteers included: Ellen Schwickrath, Karen Checkamian, Neil Weiss, Robert Schneier, Heather Padilla, Frederick Simmons, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Michael and Phyllis Warshaw, John Goldstan, Norma Beckerman, Cindy and Rebecca Balchunas, Julian Syet, Joe Essig, Carol and Gordon Perlmutter, Sid Lempiner, Vee Vee Scott,



Pat Sacks describes her trip to the Arctic Circle to Lila Shapiro at one of Jewish Family Service's Friendship Circle events.

Al Katz, Randy Winn, Yvonne Wittes, Oleg Umanov, Raymond Gehring, Elliott Leisawitz, Mary Neville, Jenny Reilly, Lea Berger, Lisette de Jesus and Rosa Vasquez. The Olivet Boys' and Girls' Club generously donates space to us for the food pantry and the United Way provides financial support for all of our programs. Thanks to everyone who supports our work through contributions to the Federation.

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

Celebrating Passover with the community



Jewish Family Service holds a community Seder at the Manor at Market Square.

Learning opportunities abound at JCHS

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading Jewish Community High School

On April 9 Better Together, now in its third year as an intergenerational discussion and study group viewed several scenes from the film "Downsizing" at the start of its monthly session in the JCC.

Rabbi Dov distributed questions that were answered individually by the teenagers and senior citizens, then in small groups before their ideas were collected and shared for the entire group.

"Downsizing" presents one science-fiction solution to the challenges facing humanity, the global population and the earth itself — for how long can we survive at the current rate of population growth, garbage, climate change, exhaustion of resources, etc.

In the words of one movie reviewer: "The film takes place in an era not too far in the future when a group of scientists in Norway have figured out a way to shrink human beings into 5-inch-tall versions of themselves. The discovery is hailed as a revolution and a possible answer to the climate change emergency. If human beings take up less space, create less of a carbon footprint, make less trash, then perhaps the planet can be saved. Within a couple of years, "downsizing" — as the procedure is called — has swept the planet. "Downsized" communities crop up everywhere, with governments giving tax credit incentives to those who choose to go small."

This leads ultimately to the question of our obligations to our fellow human beings and threats to their existence, their health and perhaps even their survival.

We then shifted to a contemporary threat to others — the chemical weapons attack using barrel bombs with chlorine gas against civilians in Syria by Syrian dictator Assad with the apparent cooperation of Russia.

We considered what were our options as students and seniors or even as American citizens in protecting the innocent. We asked ourselves how we could distinguish the difference between our support of students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and all our outrage in the hundreds of thousands and almost no outrage as we witness the pictures of chemical gassing of Syrian civilians — women, children and the aged — with the apparent compliance of Russia. Ultimately we brought into the discussion how we as Jews, remembering the silence of the world, have chosen to say "never again" to the slaughter of innocent human being without regard to their nationality, religion, age, etc.

We as Jews must put all of these topics into a shared theme: never again.

Thereafter, we lit a yellow memorial candle commemorating Yom Hazikaron laShoah ve-laG'vurah — Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day. A number of individuals took turns reading the words from retired British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks:

Today, on Yom HaShoah, we remember the victims of the greatest crime of man against man – the young, the old, the innocent, the million and a half children, starved, shot, given lethal injections, gassed, burned and turned to ash, because they were deemed guilty of the crime of being different.

We remember what happens when hate takes hold of the human heart and turns it to stone; what happens when victims cry for help and there is no one listening; what happens when humanity fails to recognize that those who are not in our image are none the less in God's image.

We remember and pay tribute to the survivors, who bore witness to what happened, and to the victims, so that robbed of their lives, they would not be robbed also of their deaths.

We remember and give thanks for the righteous of the nations who saved lives,



Students and seniors gather for Better Together at the JCC.



Students enjoy a taste of different charoset varieties.

often at risk of their own, teaching us how in the darkest night we can light a candle of hope.

Today, on Yom HaShoah, we call on You, Almighty God, to help us hear Your voice that says in every generation:

Do not murder.

Do not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.

Do not oppress the stranger.

We know that whilst we do not have the ability to change the past, we can change the future.

We know that whilst we cannot bring the dead back to life, we can ensure their memories live on and that their deaths were not in vain.

And so, on this Yom HaShoah, we commit ourselves to one simple act: Yizkor, Remember.

May the souls of the victims be bound in the bond of everlasting life. Amen.

A moment of quiet followed and we returned to our studies as the Jewish Community High School.

The inside scoop on charoset

One of the symbols most often on the Seder plate is charoset. That aromatic ensemble of fruits, nuts, spices and wine, may be the tastiest traditional food on the Seder plate, but why it is there is a matter of debate. The Torah does not command us to eat it, and, in fact, never mentions charoset at all. Nor is there a blessing for it in the Haggadah. Yet its connection to Passover is ancient.

Charoset is never made the subject of a question. In fact, it is almost a mystery.

Our students of the Reading Jewish Community High School held a hands-on

learning experience making charoset but in a fun approach to reviewing for the soon-to-be-experienced Passover Seder with family and friends.

The evening was set up like the television "Iron Chef" cooking program and competition. We gave out multiple varied recipes and set up a buffet table of ingredients and tools. We created teams of two and then challenged the teams to create their assigned "charoset" recipe — which they knew would be the subject of a contest and group vote for "best" and "least favorite."

The students were also provided with a brochure about charoset to take home, and the Jewish Federation of Reading helped us all by sharing the entire charoset brochure and many more recipes online (thanks to Amanda and Brian).

The winning recipe was American charoset, and a close runner-up was a fruity version often attributed to Surinam. There was a recipe closely identified with the spices of North Africa and the Middle East which was declared "least favorite."

This type of learning activity — which Rabbi Dov calls "Taste and Torah" — fulfills many of the goals for our Reading Jewish Community High School fulfills a number of our goals for each evening, including social interaction for teens from many different school districts, multisensory learning activities, an awareness that our Jewish community is one many worldwide reflecting many cultures, a sense of history experienced by Jews in different lands and different times and to create a thirst for answers and a deep appreciation for the "simcha shel mitzvah," the "joy of Jewish living."

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Congregational News

Shavuot ushers in celebration of summer

By Rabbi Brian Michelson
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

This winter has been the winter that never seems to end. The moment we think we are finally past it, it gets cold or we get more snow. As the great Beatles wrote: "Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter. Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here," so here comes the sun or more precisely the summer. Summer, for me, signifies something special and unique. That is the holiday of Shavuot, which we commemorate starting on the evening of May 19. Shavuot means the end of the school year and a break from the hectic pace of the rest of the year. In addition, Shavuot sort of blesses the coming of summer, and trust me, summer is something we need to bless in all aspects of our life.



There is a playfulness and hopefulness in summer that adulthood seems to dismiss. Children love the summer because school is out and new hopes and dreams are about

to begin and the ability to have time on our hands to contemplate the meaning of life and what really matters. Summer is an important aspect of our culture and our faith, and it's something that needs a blessing.

Shavuot heralds in the summer. Shavuot is a unique holiday that is tasked with blessing this season. This is a special day in which we look deep at the oath made on Mount Sinai and the acceptance of Torah which defines us a people. This is the moment in our history when we stopped being a collection of tribes and united as one people.

On Shavuot, we read the book of Ruth. The book of Ruth is to remind us that at one time we all stood as converts before God and that our greatest leader, David, came from the convert Ruth. The central message of Ruth is not to look at bloodlines, at nationality, or at race, but rather look at character and values. Ruth was a Moabite, a people hated by the Israelites. The Torah teaches that "No Ammonite or Moabite shall be admitted into the congregation of the Lord, none of their descendants, even in the tenth generation shall even be admitted into the

congregation of the Lord." (Deuteronomy 23:4) What irony that the ideal convert through the ages was a Moabite woman in whom God found merit and blessed her line with King David.

The true message of the book of Ruth is one of acceptance, love, and second chances. Ruth comes to Boaz to offer herself to him in hopes of saving her and her mother in law, Naomi, from hardship. As she sits at Boaz's feet, he awakens and notices what she is about to do. He says to her, "Blessed be you to the Lord, my daughter; for your last loyal kindness is greater than the first one, because you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich." Ruth and Boaz saw in each other a chance for a new beginning.

We Jews have been scattered around the globe, finding kindness and hope in others around us. Much like Ruth and Boaz we look to find that spark of love and hope and our moment of clarity and joy. That is what we celebrate on Shavuot and this is what we try to claim each summer.

May your summer be filled with health, happiness, and joy.

Adrienne Cardinal honored for volunteer work at RCOS



Adrienne Cardinal, left, with state Sen. Judy Schwank at the March 17 Irvin and Ruth Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award Dinner. Cardinal received the honor from Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in recognition of her many years of work on behalf of the synagogue's Sisterhood, most notably its annual Rummage Sale, a big fundraiser every summer. Cardinal has been coordinating the event for years and was involved with it long before that.

- Chabad
- Keshar Zion
- Reform Congregation
- Oheb Sholom

May Iyar-Sivan



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

- May 4
7:44 p.m.
- May 11
7:51 p.m.
- May 18
7:58 p.m.
- May 25
8:04 p.m.

- May 5/Iyar 20
Emor (Leviticus 21:1-24:23)
- May 12/Iyar 27
Behar/Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1-27:34)
- May 19/Sivan 5
Bamidbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20)
- May 26/Sivan 12
Nasso (Numbers 4:21-7:89)

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

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

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763
Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
Saturday, May 19: Troy Fidler Bar Mitzvah, 9 a.m.

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034
Friday, May 4: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.
Fridays, May 11 and 25: Shabbat service, 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, May 12: Ben Primack Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.
Friday, May 18: Confirmation, New Member and Teacher Appreciation Shabbat.
Service at 7:45, followed by Cupcake Oneg.
Saturday, May 19: Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at Highlands, 10 a.m.
Tikkun Leil Shavuot Service, 7:30 p.m.

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

Local teen in Maccabi Games

After competitive tryouts, Will Levin of Wyomissing, son of Margo and Adam Levin, was selected to participate in the JCC Maccabi Games as a member of the soccer team for the Philadelphia delegation.

The games, held each summer in North American, are a weeklong Olympic-style sporting competition for Jewish teenage athletes.

This year the games are being held in Irvine, Calif., where the 105 member strong Philadelphia delegation will compete in various sporting events.



All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Abby Goldberg**, daughter of **Debbie and David Goldberg**, for being honored by the American Association of University Women for her academic achievement. Abby is tied for the highest class rank at Wyomissing. ***

Congratulations to **Matthew Driben**, son of **Lynn and Jeff**

Driben, who will be performing his senior piano recital Sunday, May 20, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Yocum Institute for Arts Education, 1100 Belmont Ave., Wyomissing. He is a senior at Wyomissing High School. All are welcome to attend the recital.

Until next time: Shalom!

Radosh honored by Girl Scouts



Dr. Jodi Radosh, left, was honored by Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania for her mentoring work along with Jeannie Savage, center, and Pat Giles. Radosh, an associate professor at Alvernia University, was honored for her work helping Scouts take part in community-based projects that promote learning and public service. About 550 people attended the Take the Lead event at the DoubleTree by Hilton hotel.

Photo courtesy of Reading Eagle

Obituaries

Annalee (Hoffman) Aarons, 86, of Reading. Annalee worked part-time at Thomas Body Parts Inc. and was a very active volunteer in the Reading area, including the Reading Hospital Ladies Auxillary. She also served as president of the RCOS Sisterhood. Annalee is survived by her son Louis of Sinking Spring and a daughter of Philadelphia, there are also two grandchildren.

Jozef Nijboer, 57, of Boyertown. Jozef was a chef for Boscov's Ala Carte Catering. He is survived by his two daughters, Antje and Anneke; his sister Lisa Hayman, two brothers, A.J. and Larry Roberts and two nephews.

Bettina (Wolf) Najer, 90, of Reading. Bettina was born in Berlin, Germany. She was a member of Congregation Shomrei Habrith of Reading and more recently a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. She was predeceased in death by her son Edwin Najer and her husband, Joseph. Bettina is survived by her daughter Ann Orr of Virginia; and grandsons Michael and Steven Orr.

David LeVan, 92 of Reading. David and his wife Selma were owners of LeVan's Gourmet Food Store in West Reading. He was a member of Keshar Zion Synagogue. He is survived by his wife, Selma, and his son Barry of Portland, Ore.

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"Psalms in the Liturgy"

Tradition teaches that King David wrote the Book of Psalms. Among the most popular of all the books of the Tanakh, the Psalms speak to the experiences of adulation, joy, sorrow, and - most importantly - hope. Of the 150 King David wrote, many of them appear in our liturgy. Hallel, Pseuki d'Zimrah, and Kabbalat Shabbat are among the most well known liturgical items that feature Psalms. In this course, co-taught by Rabbi Abelson and Rabbi Flax, we will study the Psalms that appear in the liturgy and inquire into how they articulate crucial dimensions of being human.

- April 19 1. Intro: Scope and focus of Book of Psalms
- April 26 2. Hallel: Psalms 113-118
- May 3 3. Pseuki d'Zimrah: Psalms 145 -150
- May 10 4. Kabbalat Shabbat: Psalms 95-97, 29, 92-93
- May 17 5. Shir shel Yom: The Psalm of the day

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Yemin Orde graduate serves as deputy police chief

Yemin Orde graduate, Mevorach Avraham, is the Deputy Chief of the Netanya, Israel police force.

Netanya has become one of the major and most populous cities in Israel, with a high percentage of new immigrants, especially from Ethiopia, the Former Soviet Union and France. Since assuming his position about 18 months ago, Mevorach Avraham has introduced a new spirit to the police headquarters of this international city.

Mevorach's creative and uncompromising multicultural approach already reflects on the activity of the entire station, where he is highly revered. It has also positively affected the relationship between Netanya Police Force and the local population.

Mevorach's guiding principles are: professionalism, respect, and above all – trust. We are proud of the impact he is making, bringing to the field the values he has absorbed at Yemin Orde Youth Village. Three additional police officers serving under him at the station are also Yemin Orde graduates of French, Russian and Ethiopian descent.

Mevorach, who holds an MA in Public Administration, was orphaned at an early age, and grew up in most unfavorable circumstances. His knowledge, charisma



Chaim Peri with Mevorach Avraham

and commitment now inspire youth of similar circumstances, and his own background immediately places him as an exceptional and accessible role model.

More than 20 years after graduating from Yemin Orde, Mevorach still speaks about the experience that made him who he is: "I love and respect you with all my heart. Know that the Yemin Orde children are present everywhere and this presence is having an effect. You should be proud of what you have created. At attention, and salute."

Recently, participants of Yemin Orde's Young Men's Gap-Year Leadership Program (Mechina in Hebrew) visited Netanya and met with Mevorach to discuss real-life challenges that can occur between police and Israel's immigrant populations. Mevorach's expertise, personal experience and his warm and inviting demeanor made him a role model for his young visitors, who engaged in lively and productive discussions about an important topic. One of the most significant events of the visit was a role reversal simulation where the police played the role of a detainee and the young men played the role of the police. The experience created an open and candid exchange forcing each participant to see what it was like for the other side.

Yemin Orde's men's Mechina was established in 2000 to empower young Israeli men from immigrant backgrounds with the skills necessary to excel in their mandatory military service. The program also helps ensure that these young men can thrive in their civilian life that follows. Yemin Orde's mechina is supported through Village Way Educational Initiatives and private philanthropy.

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

Meir Panim helps Holocaust survivors in Israel

In Israel, at sundown on April 11 and again at 11 a.m. on April 12, sirens resounded throughout the country. Traffic came to a standstill, even on major highways, and pedestrians stood in place for two minutes.

The moment of silence commemorated the 6 million Jews murdered between 1933 and 1945 during the Holocaust and honors those who survived. Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom HaShoah) is a solemn time for reflection on our past, and a call to action for the present and future, so that we can ensure, "never again."

Today, more Holocaust survivors live in Israel than anywhere else. Of the approximately 186,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel, about 60,000 live in poverty. Though Germany pays retribution to survivors, those who moved to Israel after 1953 do not receive these benefits. This is in part because the agreement was signed between Israel and Germany in 1952, and the Israeli government decided to compensate only those who moved to the Holy Land prior to 1953 when payments began.

As the situation of Holocaust survivors erodes, charity organizations often take upon themselves the responsibility of caring for these people.

"Many of the people Meir Panim feeds and provides social welfare services to are Holocaust survivors who live in dire poverty," said Goldie Sternbuch, Director of Overseas Relations for Meir Panim. "We help many Russians who simply could not get out of communist USSR and, when they finally made it to Israel, had no way to make a living here," Sternbuch said.

About 85,000 Holocaust survivors came to Israel after 1953.

In 2014, then Finance Minister Yair Lapid passed a "National Plan to Assist Holocaust Survivors." This increased the allowances of survivors to those who came to Israel before 1953. Nonetheless, the large number of poverty-stricken Holocaust survivors remains as many are stuck in bureaucratic red tape. These elderly and, often, lonely people continue to suffer hunger and depressing living conditions. Sternbuch said they are regularly forced to choose between buying food or buying medicine. "Within our five restaurant-style soup kitchens located throughout Israel, approximately 15 percent to 20 percent of our patrons are impoverished Holocaust survivors," said Sternbuch. "We not only provide them with daily nutrition, we give

them a place to socialize. Most importantly, we show them love and care."

With each passing day, there are fewer survivors to bear witness to the atrocities of the Holocaust and to honor and ensure that they do not suffer in their old age as they did in their youth. Charity organizations strive to pick up where the government slacks.

"While the government sorts through their bureaucracy, organizations like Meir Panim must ensure that their elderly patrons are taken care of," she said. "Not only do we feed many Holocaust survivors, we have refurbished some apartments and provide heaters in the winter."

In many communities, social workers are unable to keep up with the demand of aging Holocaust survivors. City officials often rely on charity organizations to step in and fill in the gaps.

"Every day, Meir Panim sees Holocaust victims suffering from hunger, poverty and loneliness," Sternbuch explained. "I believe it is incumbent on anyone who cares to right a historic wrong that they make every effort to help Holocaust survivors to live out their final years in dignity. Time is quickly running out."

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

Israel & Overseas

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Meir Panim

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Making water from the air to keep kids healthy in India

Israel21c.com

Max Simonovsky's two-and-a-half-year-old son was well trained in routine handwashing. But one day when the water in his Rehovot neighborhood was shut off for repairs, the boy reasoned that if water wasn't available, he therefore had no need to wash his hands after playing outside.

The Israeli dad was fascinated by his toddler's way of thinking and discussed it with friends. They realized that the same line of logic may apply to millions of children in areas of the world that lack running water or electricity.

Further investigation revealed that two leading causes of death in young children in the developing world are diarrhea and respiratory infections. UNICEF and the World Health Organization say both could be significantly reduced by hygiene practices such as handwashing.

Simonovsky had discovered the basis for a social-impact startup, Soapy, which he founded in 2017. "Better hygiene habits require water, soap and training, and also positive feedback and community support," says Simonovsky. "We realized we could provide all of that."

Soapy's off-grid, solar-powered, self-sustaining hygiene station uses water pulled from the atmosphere. A smart system starts the washing cycle automatically when someone approaches, producing an accurate dose of soap and water. The unit operates around the clock.

Local stakeholders partnered with the Israeli startup to install the units in community centers, clinics or schools and develop educational programs to encourage the handwashing habit.

The first Soapy Station is setup in Bagepalli, India, with others coming in Delhi and Bangalore through a partnership with Swasti Health Catalyst, a nonprofit that implements social innovations to ensure health and wellbeing of marginalized Indian communities.

"I met community leaders in Delhi and it was interesting to notice that most asked for units in their own homes first, before presenting the idea to the community," Simonovsky tells ISRAEL21c. "We are trying to work in this direction now because if you have community support it will be easier to implement."

Simonovsky explains that some

of the technology for the Soapy Stations was already in the market while other aspects were uniquely adapted. "The soap formulation, for example, had to be redone because the usual formulation requires much more water than we can provide, wastes too much water in places with water scarcity and allows fewer people to wash their hands. From the same 100 liters of water, our system can provide more than 600 washing cycles, while other handwashing systems provide between 50 and 200 cycles."

He says that Soapy's unique technology for harvesting humidity and transforming it into safe water without additional infrastructure "is significantly cheaper than existing technologies in the field, providing maximum hygiene with minimum costs."

Headquartered in Tel Aviv, Soapy is structured as a for-profit social-impact business. "If you want to make a real impact you need to be profitable because otherwise you rely on external funders and if they disappear, you do too," says Simonovsky, whose background is in pharma and medical-device business development. "We are trying to make the units as cheap as possible as we improve them, and to make them sustainable for very deprived communities," says Simonovsky.

Soapy has been approached by NGOs and industrial companies in India, the US, UK and Africa. "We have the potential for this technology to be implemented into many more countries so for now our focus is on India. When we scale up to the mass-production level we probably will manufacture the stations in India but all the R&D and some of the engineering will remain in Israel."

The business model and price for each place of need vary greatly. The units are priced between \$400 and \$1,500. Each community pays a token fee to the partnering NGO or other franchise to cover maintenance and consumables.

Simonovsky is enthusiastic about the potential of Soapy to improve children's lives. "Children who are healthy come to school more often, so the impact of good hygiene is not only better health but better education," he says.



Even the Fiddler on the Roof has a Jewish mother

Proud moment for a local grandfather



Herbert Schneider attends the graduation of his granddaughter Maggie Nagle from the Coast Guard Training Station in Yorktown, Va., where she was promoted to the rank of Boatsman 3rd Class. He presented her with a framed graduation certificate as well as a plaque indicating that she was the outstanding physical exercise student in her class. Her father and mother, Doug and Nancy Nagle, pinned her new rank on her collar.

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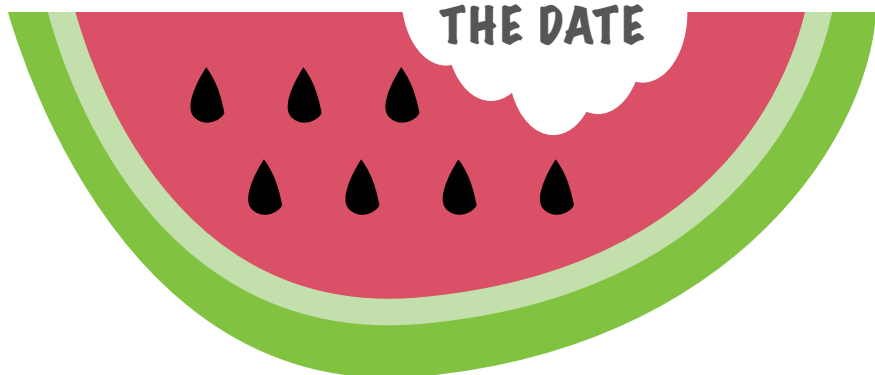
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Chabad hosts powerful tribute to a musical master, beloved parent

By Yakir Havin

It is often said that the name Rabbi Eli Lipsker is synonymous with Chassidic music, and for good reason. Eli was a giant in the world of Chabad niggunim and songs. He composed, played, and taught for over a half a century, and besides for the thousands of recordings he made, Eli had a hand in more than 30 albums of Jewish music. So much was Eli's life involved with, and permeated by music, that on Feb. 25 — shortly after his first *yahrzeit* — his son Rabbi Yosef Lipsker arranged a tribute event infused with all the musical flavors that Eli had brought to the table.

Yosef is the Rabbi of Chabad-Lubavitch of Berks County, and the event — open to all — was held in the grand hall of the Chabad House. Speeches by the rabbi and his wife, Chana, were punctuated by renditions from a band headed by Reading-area native Dan Pardo. The band played several pieces Eli had composed in addition to several Chabad melodies.

One of the highlights of the night was a video presentation of Eli's life with commentary from Pardo, whose life was personally touched by Eli and his music. But the real treat of the evening was hearing Yosef Lipsker play some of his father's works on the piano and the recorder.

Dinner followed with musical accompaniment from Yosef David, a boy in the Wilkes-Barre yeshiva.

As a mentor and teacher at the Wilkes-Barre yeshiva, I had visited Chabad of Reading for Shabbos before. I had come with a group of boys to help make up the required 10 men for a minyan during the time when Rabbi Lipsker had taken it upon himself to recite the Kaddish prayer for his father following his passing. However, I had only ever heard snippets of the musical legacy Eli Lipsker had left behind. I attended the tribute event, and it was an eye-opener for me in realizing just how far-reaching Eli's music actually was, and how much of an impression he

had made on the lives of Jews worldwide.

More recently, I interviewed Rabbi Lipsker about the impetus for the event, the struggles he had in finding a minyan three times a day, his connection to his father Eli, and the love for music they shared.

"I felt compelled to thank the hundreds of people who participated in the minyanim. It was an event of appreciation," said the rabbi. But there was another element behind the unique style of the event. "What better way of honoring my father than by making an event that would suit and highlight his life, and remind us of his legacy and class." Eli's life was encapsulated by his music and composition, so it naturally followed that the event should celebrate this important aspect, rather than being a typical memorial service.

Rabbi Lipsker and Pardo collaborated in numerous meetings before deciding on a short program for the night, with the intention that the musical pieces be played more as a tribute than as a concert. It wasn't just about the music — it was about the man behind it all.

As anyone who has said mourner's Kaddish can attest, attending a minyan three times a day for a year is no easy feat. For Rabbi Lipsker, however, the task was incomparably difficult. While having many minyanim in Reading, and willing members, it was simply not always possible to guarantee a minyan three times a day.

Therefore Rabbi Lipsker took it upon himself to travel one-and-a-half hours each way to Philadelphia for minyanim, a commitment many would have believed was unsustainable, let alone on a rabbi's schedule. But sustain it he did. "Nothing can get in the way of will," he explained. "You could do anything you want to — you just have to be committed to it."

And not only did he sustain the commitment — he took it one step further. Inspired primarily by the practice of his father Eli when he had been mourning his own father (the rabbi's grandfather),



Rabbi Lipsker wanted not only to say Kaddish three times a day. He wanted to lead the services (as the chazan) just as his father did.

Fulfilling this made the mission even more difficult, because there were times when he found a minyan, but the role of chazan had already been filled, forcing him to go elsewhere.

"It wasn't only about a religious practice. You know how to honor someone based on what they did for someone else," he said.

Rabbi Lipsker further elaborated on the deep impact of saying Kaddish for his father. "Imagine someone told you: 'Your father passed away, and three times a day

for a year, you can be with him for one minute, as long as you travel one-and-a-half hours each day.'" Who wouldn't take advantage of such an opportunity?

Each time after saying the traditional recitation of a specific part of the mishnayos before Kaddish, Rabbi Lipsker would put his hand over his eyes, utter the words "in memory of Eliyahu son of Aryeh Zev," and he would feel his father's presence for a fleeting moment.

And although his father Eli is no longer with us, Rabbi Lipsker found that his connection to music is now "greater than ever before." Since his father's passing, he has begun to play more, and to pass on Eli's music to his children.

Arab-sector 'Heart Guardians' tackle local health issues

Israel21c.com

A pilot program aimed at improving cardiac health in Jerusalem's Arab population recently trained its first cadre of volunteer "Heart Guardians" to create community health initiatives. The 25 women granted certificates from Hadassah Medical Organization's Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center for Women at Hadassah Medical Center's Ein Karem campus are all homemakers. They were chosen for their potential leadership qualities from among dozens of women who signed up for free Hadassah-sponsored health courses offered in two community centers.

"What we learned in conducting these courses," related Pollin Center Director Dr. Donna Zfat-Zwas, "is that these women know what they need to do to be healthy, but they don't know how to translate this knowledge into their own daily reality. Empowerment must be the first factor in getting women to take care of themselves."

Free of charge, the women took a 22-week course on the prevention of diabetes, which is becoming more prevalent in Jerusalem's Arab population and raises the risk of heart disease. Then they learned how to design, fund and implement health projects in their own neighborhoods. Several of the women started a health

awareness program in boys' schools in Jerusalem's Old City and in the neighborhoods of Shuafat and Sur Baher. Classes competed with each other to choose healthier alternatives such as water instead of sweetened drinks; healthful breakfasts; and fruits and vegetables for their school snack. The women also convinced Old City kiosk owners to add more healthful options to the snacks they sell near the schools.

Another project encouraged women to walk on a regular basis. They had to overcome their husbands' objection to their going out alone — a cultural taboo in the Muslim community — and find a safe environment for their walks. They published a brochure about how walking can reduce diabetes and heart disease and created walking paths within their neighborhood and in the field of a local community center. Twenty women are now participating regularly.

A third project is an "Over a Cup of Coffee" health club, where women meet in one another's homes to share healthful recipes and talk about health issues. Women whose husbands object to them leaving their own homes for such meetings are included in WhatsApp group discussions. "We are so impressed with the creativity and resourcefulness of these leaders. At our first meetings they were too shy to stand up and speak," said



Heart Guardians graduates and Hadassah officials at the Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center for Women at Hadassah Medical Center, Jerusalem

Zfat-Zwas. "Now, with new tools in community organization, they are already having such a positive impact on their communities and themselves."

At the graduation ceremony, Dr. Maha Nubani Hussein, director of the Pollin Center's work in the Arab sector, said that several participants have decided to go back to school and complete their matriculation exams. "The best part is that many women are connecting with their inner strength,"

said Hussein.

Hadassah's Linda Joy Pollin Cardiovascular Wellness Center for Women, founded in 2013, acts to increase awareness of cardiovascular disease in women, and to increase cardiovascular wellness, especially in hard-to-reach sectors. Heart Guardians is one of a cluster of projects designed for Jerusalem's ultra-Orthodox Jewish, disadvantaged and Arab communities.

Crohn's gene mutation identified in multinational study

ISRAEL21c.com

A major international research group — including scientists from Israel's Hebrew University of Jerusalem and University of Haifa — has discovered a genetic mutation associated with Crohn's disease, an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that affects between three and 14 people out of every 100,000 in any given year.

The study, published in the journal Science Translational Medicine, shows that people who carry the mutation in the LRRK2 gene are at high risk of developing the disease. Surprisingly, this mutation has already been identified in the past as a factor increasing the risk of developing Parkinson's disease.

Prof. Gil Atzmon of the University of Haifa, one of the partners in the study, explains: "The practical significance is that we can already identify carriers of the gene at a young age and recognize that they are in a risk group and need constant monitoring and adjustment of lifestyle in the hope to lower the chance of disease outbreak." Crohn's is particularly prevalent in two main age groups: 15 to 30 years and 60 to 80 years. The

reasons for the development of the disease remain unclear, but may involve a combination of environmental, genetic and immune factors.

"The 1.6 million Americans who suffer from IBD have long been searching for answers when it comes to the painful and confounding conditions that afflict them, including Crohn's disease," said Karen Berman, CEO of American Society of the University of Haifa. The study involving some 50 researchers from Israel, the United States, Canada and the UK sought to examine whether any mutations of specific genes are more common among Crohn's patients. The initial examination related to 5,700 people of Ashkenazi Jewish origin, including both Crohn's patients and those without the disease. Atzmon explains that the genetic affinity among Ashkenazi Jews makes them a kind of "family" in genetic terms, thereby facilitating the identification of a clear association between gene mutations and the expression of the disease. Moreover, Crohn's disease is particularly prevalent among Ashkenazi Jews, and they are the ideal group to study the impact of genetic changes.

After the findings were obtained, the researchers examined the genetic association among a much larger group of some 25,000 subjects from around the world. The findings showed that a specific mutation in the LRRK2 gene creates a statistically significant distinction between those with and without Crohn's disease. The mutation is almost twice as prevalent among patients as among people without Crohn's. Atzmon suggests that since the mutation leads to functional changes in the coded protein, the probability that a carrier of the mutation will develop the disease is particularly high.

Connection between Crohn's and Parkinson's

The finding that the same mutation also increases the probability of developing Parkinson's was unexpected, according to Atzmon, since to date researchers have not identified any similar or associated mechanisms involved in Crohn's, a bowel disease, and Parkinson's, a degenerative brain disease. "One possibility is that there is no connection, and that this gene is responsible for different and unrelated

functions in the body. Another possibility we examined is that the enhanced expression of an area in this gene encourages phosphorylation, influencing a cascade of events each of which leads in turn to the outbreak of either or both of these diseases," said Atzmon.

The significance of the new finding is that it will be possible to use a relatively simple genetic test at a very young age to determine whether someone is a carrier of this genetic mutation. If they are, medical monitoring will enable intervention in the early stages of the development of Crohn's disease.

Even more importantly, carriers will have the opportunity to adjust their lifestyle habits in order to reduce drastically the chance of an outbreak of Crohn's — for example, by quitting smoking (or not starting to smoke), trying to reduce stress and emotional anguish, avoiding processed industrial food, and so forth. "In the longer term," Atzmon concluded, "the development of a drug that can respond both to the risk of Crohn's and the risk of Parkinson's could be a real breakthrough that will be beneficial for large numbers of people."

High-tech capsule could be alternative to colonoscopy

ISRAEL21c.com

Let's face it: Nobody wants to go through a colonoscopy, recommended for people over 50 to screen for colorectal cancer — the third most common cancer, with approximately 1.4 million new cases diagnosed worldwide each year, and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

Because nearly one-third of the eligible U.S. population and more than 60 percent of people outside the U.S. choose to avoid the invasive endoscopic colonoscopy procedure and its laxative preparation, global screening rates remain low. Yet evidence shows the removal of adenomatous polyps found through colonoscopy can reduce

colorectal incidence and mortality.

Check-Cap, based in the northern Israeli town of Isfiya, recently received the European Union's CE Mark for its C-Scan system, an ingestible x-ray capsule for preparation-free colorectal cancer screening. Without undergoing any laxative preparation, the patient swallows the ultra-low dose x-ray capsule along with one tablespoon of a contrast agent and fiber supplements with each meal. Over the next two or three days, the system collects data enabling generation of 2D and 3D maps of the colon before eliminating the capsule naturally. Physicians look at the maps on a clinical data viewer to identify pre-cancerous polyps and other abnormalities. Only if

a polyp is found, which happens in up to 25 percent of cases, would the patient have to get a colonoscopy.

Check-Cap CEO Alex Ovadia said, "The first version of C-Scan was tested at multiple sites in Israel, and since we finished the CE study we've developed an advanced version of the capsule now in clinical study." Founded in 2005 by medical device inventor Dr. Yoav Kimchy, Check-Cap also will initiate a pilot study to demonstrate safety to the US Food and Drug Administration, followed by a pivotal

US study in 2019. "Dr. Yimchy understood that people don't want to get screened for colorectal cancer, so he started working on a technology that could allow for screening of the colon without colonoscopy and bowel preparation," says Ovadia. "It was challenging because there were so many aspects no one had ever done before. What's unique is that the position of the capsule is tracked in real time in the patient's body. We scan the colon only when the capsule is in motion in the colon, which limits the amount of x-ray exposure."



Shavuot Celebration

at Keshet Zion Synagogue

Saturday Night, May 19, 2018 - 8:15 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Study Session One:	8:15-9:00
Maariv & Havdalah (Food & Coffee):	9:00-9:30
Study Session Two:	9:30-10:15
Food & Coffee Break:	10:15-10:30
Study Session Three:	10:30-11:15
Study Session Four:	11:15-12:00

Sessions will be taught by Rabbi Matthew Abelson, Dr. John Incedon, Dr. Robert Seesengood, and Dr. Jennifer Koosed

Sunday, May 20th	Monday, May 21st
9:30 a.m. Shavuot Services	9:30 a.m. Shavuot Services
Kiddush to follow	(including Yizkor) Kiddush to follow

There is no charge. Reservations are recommended and would be helpful in order to accommodate everyone who is attending. Thank you!
Please RSVP on or before May 10, 2018



CHABAD OF BERKS

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שבועות SHAVUOT



מִמוֹשְׁבֵיכֶם תָּבִיאוּ לַחֶם שְׁתֵּים שְׁנַי עֶשְׂרֹנִים סֵלֶת תִּהְיֶינָה חֲמֵץ תֹּאפִינָה בְּכוּרִים לַה'

You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of bread as an elevation offering; each shall be made of two-tenths of a measure of choice flour, baked after leavening, as first fruits to the Lord.

Challah Crumbs.com

Mother's Day Cryptogram

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

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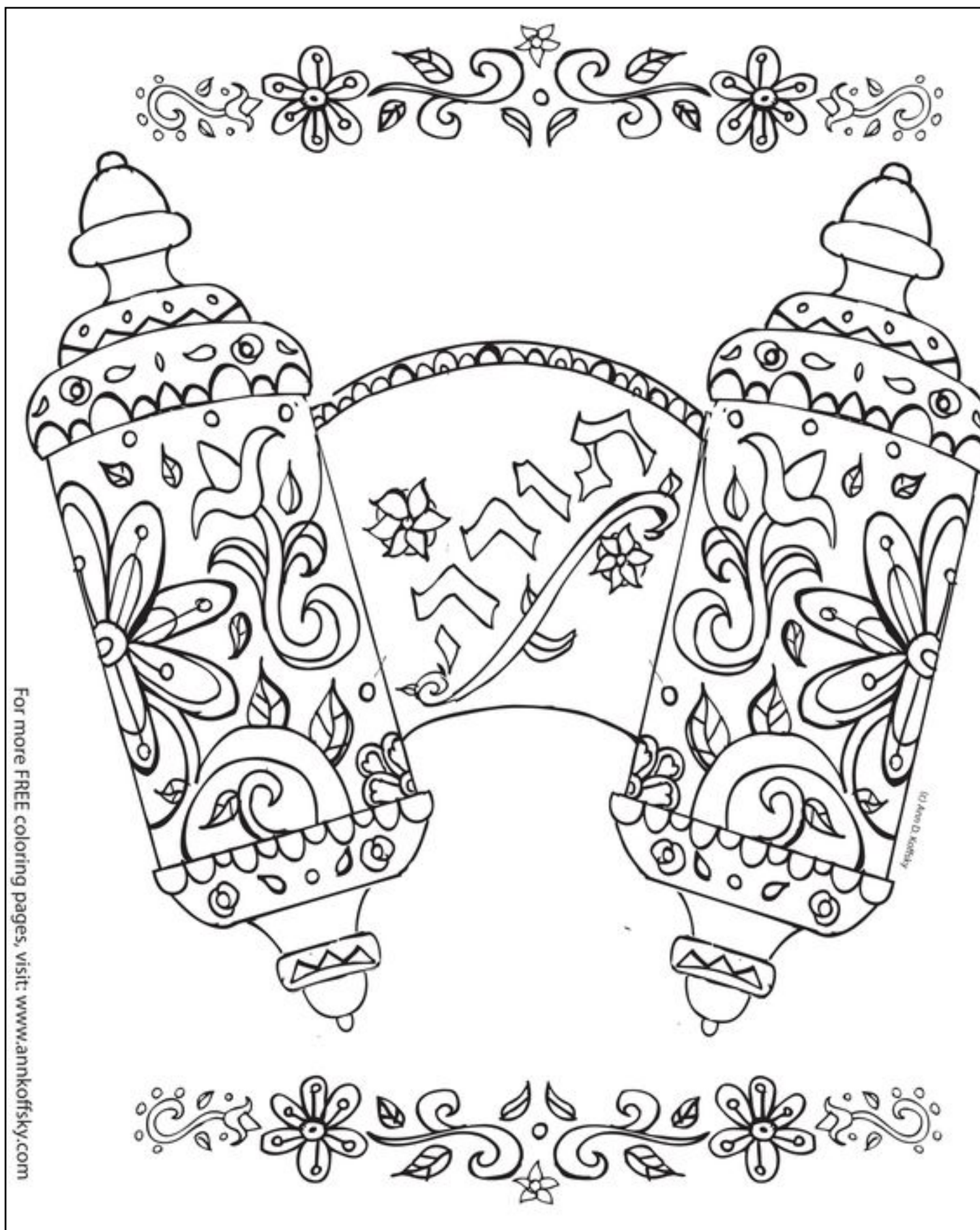
Jewish - Holidays - Shavuot

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- sinai
- cheese
- sevenweeks
- dairy
- commandments
- sivan
- flowers
- study
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Israel's religion and state rift a minefield for U.S. Jews

By Maayan Hoffman
Jpost.com

Four out of five Jews in the world live in either Israel or the United States. The Atlantic Ocean has forever geographically separated these two societies. Yet, despite the physical distance, American and Israeli Jewish communities have long celebrated shared values.

Today, however, the bonds between the two communities seem to be fraying. Part of the problem has to do with perceptions of present-day Israel. "The State of Israel was historically a source of pride and hope for many Jews in the Diaspora," said Professor Yedidia Stern, Vice President of the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI), one of the country's largest independent centers of research and action. "However, this is changing...the perception of Israel today is not as bright as it used to be."

Stern identified three areas of conflict between Jews in Israel and the Diaspora. The first, he said, is that Israelis are more conservative while most Diaspora Jews are liberal. Second, while Israelis have voted for more hawkish governments for the last two or more decades, American Jews tend to vote Democratic. Stern believes these two gaps can be overcome. He said differences in perspective provide a richness to Jewish life and dialogue, so long as the two sides are tolerant and respect one another.

The third divide, however, threatens to unhinge an already precarious relationship, and that is the divide on issues of religion and state. In Israel, decisions about Shabbat, kashrut at state institutions and in the Israel Defense Forces, military conscription, conversion to Judaism, marriage, divorce and other questions of personal status are all governed by a mechanism that maintains existing arrangements that date back to the pre-state period, known as the "status quo." Most of the government coalition agreements signed in recent decades contain a stipulation that the status quo in matters of religion be maintained, in order to win ultra-Orthodox support and ensure ultra-Orthodox participation in the coalition.

Stern said the government has long pandered to the needs of the ultra-Orthodox minority in Israel at the expense of more moderate Israelis and of Diaspora Jews, who connect to Israel largely based on religion. He said, for example, continual

delays on a government decision to upgrade the egalitarian space at the Western Wall was "a slap in the face of the Jewish Diaspora." "We do not want a society where one's dream is another's nightmare," Stern said.

To understand the complexity of the situation, one must appreciate the differences between the way Jews on both sides of the ocean relate to their faith. In Israel, the public space is Jewish by nature — from the language, to the calendar, to the state holidays, and even street names.

Secular Israeli Jews report taking part in Jewish rituals that have become deeply embedded in Israeli culture. For instance, nearly 87% of Israelis say they attend or hold a Passover Seder, according to a January 2017 report by the Pew Research Center. About a third of Israeli secular Jews say they keep kosher at home, and a similar share (30%) fast all day on Yom Kippur.

In the United States, Judaism is expressed on an individual, familial or communal level, Stern explained. American Jews represent only about 2 percent of the U.S. adult population, and only about one-third of American Jews say "all" or "most" of their close friends are Jewish, according to that same Pew report.

Alan Hoffmann, CEO and Director General of The Jewish Agency, said that while Diaspora Jews are diverse on a micro level, they all have one macro thing in common: Jews in the Diaspora live their Jewish lives without exercising sovereignty. As such, they are not involved or necessarily interested in the "hurly burly of political life in Israel that forces political compromises that come out of having sovereignty." Instead, "the expectations of world Jewry from Israel are expectations about religious life, which is not of much interest to many Israelis." To help bridge this gap, Hoffmann recommends a change in perspective. "We need to think of the Jewish people as a family," said Hoffmann. "In every family there are lots of people who are not the same as each other, who disagree with each other — even fundamentally. But there is an overarching sense of loyalty to the entire family."

Hoffmann said the global Jewish community is quickly losing this notion of "one family," in part because of the deterioration of what was once a "mutual taking advantage of each of these populations" by the other. On the one hand, American Jews for

many years would send money to Israel, creating a Jewish haven from which they might one day benefit, and burnishing Israelis' sense of justification for serving on the front lines of a Jewish cause. On the other hand, as American Jews were assimilating and thriving in the US, they did not necessarily want to have Israel interfering in their lives, so keeping Israel at a distance worked for them.

Today, Israel is thriving and has less need for American dollars. In fact, after a hurricane recently ravaged the Jewish community of Houston, Texas, the State of Israel signed an agreement with the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston to transfer \$1 million in aid. It is the first time Israel has sent such support to American Jews hit by a natural disaster.

Further, technology advancements are bringing people together like never before, making the world smaller and more accessible, and the Diaspora Jews and Israel more easily connected. Moreover, easier travel and programs like Taglit-Birthright Israel and Masa Israel Journey have brought a collective 750,000 young Jews to Israel.

The 2017 Pew Research Center report found that four out of every ten Americans Jews have been to Israel at least once and many have been there more than once. Hoffmann explained that sometimes when these young Jews decide to stay, they are quickly disillusioned by their inability to practice Judaism in their homeland the way they did back home. "You have to learn the skills of how to deal with the different people in your family," said Hoffmann. He recommended the establishment of "some kind of structure" to allow the Jewish people to come together and resolve some of these issues. "We've lost the notion of a place in which some of the critical issues that create tension in the family can be explored and better understood," said Hoffmann. "Not everything has to be resolved, but if we get to the point where people understand each other better and are more aware of how different members of the family feel and why they feel the way they feel, I think there will be much more understanding."

But Stern said that while American Jews' opinions must be heard and taken into account by policymakers, they should not be equally crucial to Israel's decision making processes in all areas.

"For example, Israel should refrain from conducting its security policies according to what Americans feel

Israel should do," said Stern. "If you want to take part in all decision-making processes in Israel, you have to pay taxes and send your kids to the army."

Nonetheless, Stern and Hoffmann both feel that Israel should alter its approach to issues of religion and state to be more inclusive—and think Diaspora Jews could be important allies in this regard. For example, the Knesset is in the final stages of debate on what is known as the Nation-State bill, which includes ideas about the Israeli national anthem and state symbol, having Saturdays and Jewish holidays as national days of rest, the Law of Return, and commitment to Diaspora Jewry, among other items.

IDI has expressed concern that the bill in its current iteration upsets the delicate balance between Israel's democratic and Jewish identities, subordinating the democratic dimension to the Jewish.

Institute leadership proposed a positive alternative to the bill, clarifying that Israel will not be governed by religious law and that any Nation State bill must also protect the rights of minority citizens. "World Jewry is watching this bill," said Hoffmann. "I think to the degree that this bill tries to frame the relationship between Israel and world Jewry, it is a minefield." He said if the government wants young Jews to be excited about, or eventually even to move to Israel, the country will need to offer a Judaism "that is attractive to those young Jews."

Both men agreed there is scope for action on other fronts as well. As Professor Stern put it, "given the ignorance and apathy among broad swathes of the Israeli public on the concerns that motivate Diaspora Jews and the price Israel is paying for inaction on matters of religion and state, there is room to launch an educational campaign designed to sway public opinion on these issues. Israelis need to be better informed about these issues so that they may apply pressure on their representatives to change reality."

All in all, despite the challenges, Stern emphasized that we live in what he called "the golden age of Jewish civilization", with the State of Israel giving the Jewish people sovereignty, self-determination and a renaissance of Hebrew culture, while the United States affords Jews more freedom and security than ever before. So now is not the time to deepen divisions but to come together and effect change, building on the strengths of the two communities.

As Stern concluded, "We can debate many things, but we need to act together for 'tikkun olam.'"

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Thank you!

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Tot Shabbat with PJ Library at The Highlands!

Tot Shabbat

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

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

SAVE THE DATE:
Tot Shabbat End of Summer BBQ.
Sunday, August 26th at 11 am.

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 April 13

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:
Annalee Aarons – Dena and Vic Hammel

Yemin Orde Youth Village

In honor of:
Dena and Vic Hammel's 50th anniversary – Ernestine Urken

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

Mediterranean diet is secret to Israelis' long, satisfying lives

ISRAEL21.com

Herbs, spices, seeds, nuts, olive oil and other plant-based foods are the backbone of the Mediterranean diet

The combination of a Mediterranean-style diet, low alcohol consumption, strong family and cultural values, and an excellent healthcare system could be the main factors that put Israel in fifth place worldwide on the longevity scale, according to National Geographic Travel.

As of 2015, the longest average healthy lifespan is enjoyed in Japan,

Korea, Switzerland, Italy and Israel, in that order.

This ranking was one of the aspects noted as significant by the authors of a newly issued United Nations report on the level of happiness in 156 countries.

In the U.N.'s overall happiness ranking, Israel came in 11th behind Finland, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Sweden and Australia.

The Jewish state was in 12th place in terms of happiness among foreign-born citizens.



Dershowitz on Israel at 70: 'A light unto the world'

JNS.org

In honor of Israel's 70th birthday, attorney and legal scholar Alan Dershowitz announced that he is donating an ambucycle to Israel's volunteer medic organization, United Hatzalah. JNS interviewed him about this gift and to hear his thoughts on Israel at 70.

What prompted you and your friends to donate an ambucycle to United Hatzalah for Israel's 70th?

There is a group of guys I've known since kindergarten. We've known each other for 75 years, more or less. And we try to spend several weekends a year together and try to get together on New Year's Eve. We all went to yeshivah in Borough Park in Brooklyn together. We all went different ways, but we are still very close. We are turning 80 this year, and we thought it would be nice commemoration of our birthdays to do something that saves lives, and I can't imagine a charity more worthy than Hatzalah.

What do you think of when you reflect on Israel at 70?

No country in the history of the world ever contributed more to the welfare of

humankind in such a short period of time than Israel. Hatzalah is a perfect representative of that. In Hatzalah, you have Jews and Arabs, Christians and Muslims, atheists, religious and secular, people living in the territories all working together to save lives. It represents the best of Israel. People call Israel the startup nation, and I call it the lifesaving nation. Israel has saved lives through its medical technological breakthroughs, through its agricultural breakthroughs and through its pharmaceutical breakthroughs. Israel saves more lives in teaching the world how to prevent terrorism, in teaching the world how to absorb immigrants ... Israel has really been a light unto the world for 70 years.

How do you define the U.S.-Israel relationship at this point in time?

It couldn't be stronger ... but there are trends that are quite dangerous — trends among young Democrats [turning] away from Israel pose risks to the bipartisan consensus in support of Israel. And that's why I remain within the Democratic Party — to try to strengthen the Democratic Party's approach to Israel.

What are Israel's current challenges at 70 years?

I think the biggest challenge is Iran, both a nuclear Iran and [Iranian-supported] Hezbollah to Israel's north. Another challenge facing Israel — one that is really Israel's domestic problem — is how to resolve disputes between the haredi community and the modern Orthodox community, and the secular community. That is a very, very serious issue. And number three: how to make peace with the Palestinians, to make some kind of compromised peace with the Palestinians. Those are the issues facing Israel today.

As a legal expert, can you comment on the current status of the Taylor Force Act, and what impact you hope it will make regarding the United States and the Palestinians?

The Taylor Force Act is mostly symbolic. It sends a powerful message that the United States will not tolerate Palestinian terrorism, whether from Hamas or from the West Bank, and that the Palestinian Authority has to do a lot more to constrain it and condemn it, and not to promote it. I think a very powerful message needs to be sent to the Palestinians that the world and

the United States will not tolerate the Palestinians talking out of both sides of their mouths: on the one hand, nominally condemning terrorism; and on the other hand, naming streets and parks glorifying terrorism and glorifying terrorists.

What is your take on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal woes?

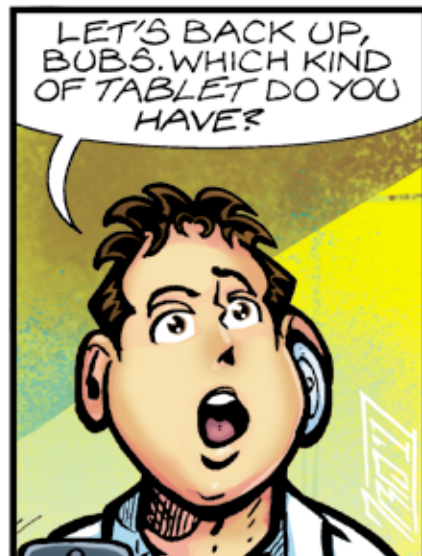
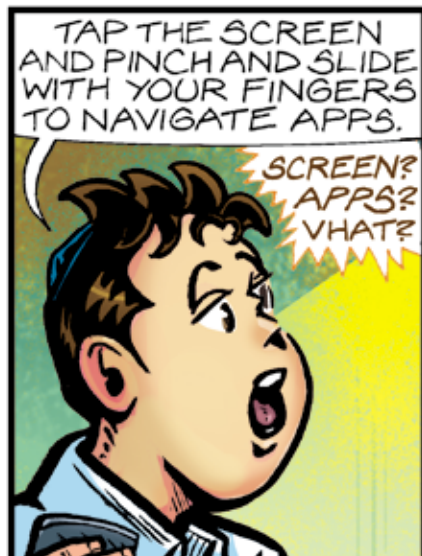
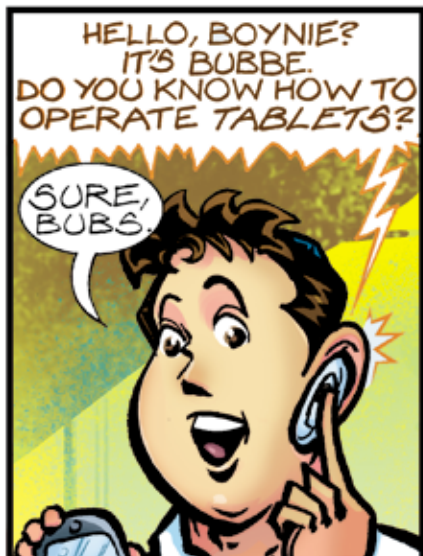
It's very important for Netanyahu to be able to continue with the work he's doing in terms of diplomatic successes on behalf of Israel with China, Russia, with South Africa and Africa, and I strongly oppose what I call the criminalization of political differences. If people don't like what Netanyahu is doing, then they will vote against him. But the idea of turning what he's done into crimes is very antithetical to democracy.

What are your hopes for Israel's next seven decades?

For Israel to get even stronger. I can imagine what the peace dividend would be if Israel were allowed to turn its swords into plowshares, its nuclear weapons into nuclear medicine. The peace dividend would be incredible. And that's why I am a strong supporter of Israel and a strong supporter of the peace process.

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



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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, MAY 2, 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

MAY 2018

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1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610.921.0624
readingjewishcommunity.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:30pm Yashek Memorial Lecture at Albright Chapel	3 1pm Friendship Circle	4	5
6 KZ Annual Meeting JCHS	7	8	9	10 1pm Friendship Circle	11	12 Bar Mitzvah Ben Primack
13 Mother's Day	14 2pm 92Y program at The Highlands	15 7pm at JCC Interfaith Program	16 7pm Jewish Film Series at Fox East, Venice Ghetto	17 1pm Friendship Circle	18	19 10am PJ Library & Tot Shabbat, at the Highlands EREV SHAVUOT
20 SHAVUOT	21 SHAVUOT JCC CLOSED	22	23 9:30am Biketown at Lakin Preschool	24 1pm Friendship Circle	25	26
27	28 MEMORIAL DAY JCC CLOSED	29	30	31 1pm Friendship Circle		

Jewish Cultural Center
92nd St. Y Programs
Game Nights
Community Shabbat
Reading Jewish Film Series
Great Decisions
Interfaith Mitzvah Day
Yom Ha'atzmaut
PJ Library
PJ Our Way
Leo Camp Lecture

theCenterPiece 05|18

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



The Reading Jewish Film Series, co-sponsored by the Rubin Education Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$5 per film. All films will be shown at 7 pm at Fox East, 4350 Perkiomen Avenue. Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30pm or at the JCC during regular business hours. Cash and checks are accepted.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16
"THE VENICE GHETTO, 500 YEARS OF LIFE" *



Imaginative docu-fiction techniques bring alive the paradoxical wonders of Europe's oldest Jewish ghetto and its integration into Italian society, in this edifying and heart-warming film. The Venice Ghetto, 500 Years Of Life recounts its tale through the eyes of its fictional character Lorenzo, a Jewish teenager from New York sent to Venice to learn about his family origins. Scholars recall various turning points and consequential figures in the ancient lagoon city's evolution, as well as the rich and eclectic panoply of language and culture, daily life and rituals, and architectural landmarks of the Venetian Jewish quarter. Lorenzo's journey of discovery is also depicted by exquisite animation that colorfully reconstructs historical events.

* Post-film discussion led by Dr. Daniel Leisawitz, the Director of the Italian Studies Program and Associate Professor of Italian at Muhlenberg College. Monte Lauro European Gourmet (of Temple) will provide homemade Italian cookies/desserts after the screening.

NOT YOUR FATHER'S ANTISEMITISM
The 14th Annual Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture
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*Why is antisemitism in the 21st century different from Nazi antisemitism or traditional antisemitism?
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Join us and learn why those who refight the last war often lose the next one.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 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 Encyclopaedia 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, interviewer and producer to more than twenty films, including three Academy Award winners.

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE
Edwin S. Redkey Holocaust Library and Resource Center

MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, June 3 at noon
Jewish Federation of Reading Annual Meeting at Wyomissing Hills Playground. FREE picnic lunch, Israeli drumming and swimming to follow meeting.



ENRICHING LIVES
מעשירים חיים

BIKETOWN

Wednesday, May 23, 9:30 to 11:30am



Biketown is a popular annual event hosted by the Lakin Preschool Committee in conjunction with the teachers and staff. The children bring their parents, grandparents or caregivers as well as their bikes or riding toys to school for a hands-on, fun-filled morning. One half of the parking lot will become a safe environment where the children can explore roads and shops on their riding toys. A mock town will be set up in the Social Hall to mimic services in the community. There will be a Grocery, Bake Shop, Salon, Book Store, Medical Office and others. We will be offering 7:30 am drop off, regular afternoon programming and Stay and Play until 2 pm. Here are a few things to remember for the day of Biketown:

- *Every child must come with an adult helper. This adult is expected to stay with the child and supervise the child during all the Biketown activities.
- *If you bring a bike, you need a helmet
- *Bring the address of someone special for your child to send a postcard from our Post Office
- *If you desire, apply sunscreen to your child
- *Please bring a packed lunch, a refillable water bottle and a backpack
- *Water and snack will be available
- *Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry

At 11:30am the children will be dismissed to their classrooms to eat their lunch under teacher supervision. Parents are asked to help with clean up until 12:30.

Lakin Preschool Year End Schedule 2017-2018

Friday, April 13..... Ready to Read begins
 Tuesday, April 18..... Jenn Brooks to speak about Insects
 Monday, May 7..... Final day of Village class and ABC
 Wednesday, May 9, 16 and 30..... Last an d make-up days for Sprouts
 Tuesday, Wednesday May 9, 10.....Preschool vision screening
 Monday, May 14..... Final day of Our Time
 Tuesday, May 15..... Final Day of Soccer Shots
 Wednesday, May 16..... Final Day I Love Stories
 Friday, May 18..... Final Day Ready to Read
 Wednesday, May 23..... Bike Town—Sprouts please attend!
 Make-up day I Love Stories, March 22
 Thursday, May 24Final day of Kaleidoscope
 Monday, May 28..... No school: Memorial Day
 Wednesday, May 30..... Last Day of Preschool
 Hearing Test ages 3 and older
 Thursday, May 31..... Make-up day for Wednesday, March 21
 No Soccer Shots. Stay and Play until 2pm
 Hearing Test ages 3 and older
 Friday, June 1..... Make-up day for Thursday, March 22
 Monday, June 4..... Make-up for Thursday, January 4
 Tuesday, June 5..... Make-up for Tuesday, January 16
 Stay and play until 2. Last day of school make-ups

GET READY TO READ



Fridays, 12:30 – 1:15 pm
 April 13, 20 May 4, 11, 18

•Miss Laura, Instructor • Fee: \$60



Open to children who will be in kindergarten in September, GET READY TO READ uses the whole language method to encourage pre-reading and reading skills. Enrollment is limited to children who have indicated an interest in reading and writing and already recognize most letters of the alphabet.



DVD Program
 Monday, May 14, 2pm
 at the Highlands Cultural Center

Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer with Thane Rosenbaum: Defending the Jewish State



Ron Dermer, the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, has risen to the challenge as an articulate and passionate defender of the Jewish state. Join Forum on Law, Culture and Society director, Thane Rosenbaum, for a wide-ranging and timely conversation with Ambassador Dermer.

Interfaith Program

May 15; 7 pm at JCC

The Jewish Federation of Reading is working with our synagogues to create programs to enhance the inclusion of interfaith families in our Reading Jewish community. We invite members of our interfaith community to attend a brainstorming session. We want to explore what obstacles you are encountering and what programs should be developed to encourage meaningful inclusion and engagement in synagogues and our Jewish community. We want to help you build strong Jewish homes and lives while embracing the richness that a multicultural family life brings; and hope that with increased participation you will develop an increased feeling of belonging.



Intergenerational Program
 Join us for a fun,
 musical Shabbat experience
 and Oneg!
 All are welcome!
 Saturday, May 19
 10 am
 at the Highlands Cultural Center
 2000 Cambridge Ave., Wyomissing

Friendship Circle

1:00 pm -- Luncheon catered by Boscov's Ala Carte*
 1:45 pm -- Program/Speaker. Varied programs are informative, educational and fun.
 Optional luncheon (\$7). RSVP to Carole at the JCC by Monday.

Friendship Circle May Programs

- 3: Bob Hassler will play American folk songs and the blues on his guitar. He will be joined by his friend Sid Lempiner on the harmonica.
- 10: "The History of Postcards."
- 17: Thursday Film Festival -- "The Big Sick" -- Have your taxi pick you up at 4:00.
- 24: "Songs and Stories of the Red, White, and Blue" with musician Matthew Dodd.
- 31: Margo Levin will share her recent experiences in Poland and Israel, and talk about the current problems facing Israel.

Thursday, May 24 at 2:00 pm

"Songs and Stories of the Red, White, and Blue"



This program features America's greatest patriotic songs, including The Star Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful, You're a Grand Old Flag and Yankee Doodle. Matthew Dodd tells the fascinating stories behind their composition and the people who wrote them. Using a backdrop of flags from the different periods in which the songs were written, Matthew sings and plays the guitar, banjo, harmonica, mandolin, concertina and dulcimer.

Thursday Film Festival May 17



After meeting at a stand-up comedy show, funnyman, Kumail, and graduate student, Emily, embark on a romance. As the expectations of his strict Muslim family create conflict between the couple, their relationship begins to crumble. (120 min)

Join local historian Paul Druzba for a look at how postcards have evolved since they were first introduced in the late 19th century, including nostalgic scenes of early Berks County.

Thursday,
 May 10, 2:00 pm
 "The History of Postcards"

Join us for **Bridge** at the JCC Duplicate Bridge Club Wednesdays at 12:30pm. All players are welcome. If you need a partner call Sue Wesner 610-972-5327 or Brian Snyder 484-838-0977. Sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League
 \$3 JCC members \$6 Nonmembers

Mah Jongg is played at the JCC every Monday at noon. Everyone is welcome to join the games. Contact Amanda Hornberger, AmandaH@JFReading.org