

Emerging Young Leaders

By Steven B. Roth
President | Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg

There is a youthful vigor at the Jewish Federation these days. Young people grateful for the dedication of their predecessors are stepping up and realizing the future of the community is in their hands. Among the new leadership is Rob Friedman a recent addition to the board of directors. Rob along with his wife Jami hosted a parlor meeting in December to ask fellow young community members to join the movement. Others have stepped up as well, including Julia Frankston-Morris, a board member and recently appointed Co-Chair of the Cardozo Society. Alex Halper, a recent addition to the board of directors volunteered to become the Super Sunday Chair. In addition, below is an open letter written by Abby Smith, another young member of the community eager to join the movement.

An Open Letter to the Harrisburg Jewish Community,

When my husband and I decided to move to this area in 2008, we did so only because there was a Jewish community - albeit small - and we truly felt welcome.

That said, the Jewish Federation and JCC seems very different from the one we hear about from our friends who have lived here for many years, and some of the problems as of late were exacerbated by the recent flood.

Now I'm appealing to you - members of this Jewish community - as someone who has watched this process with a very critical eye.

1) I think that the new leadership is taking us in a positive direction.

Though the day-to-day operations at the JCC have not necessarily caught up to the new direction set out by the JFGH Board and the Task Force committees, with a new executive director search underway and the continued leadership by the Board, I think we are on the right track.

2) With that, we are going to donate.

First, we're going to donate our time - our precious, already stretched-thin, sleep-deprived time. I'm going to talk to members of the Board to see how I might best use my skills and expertise, and my husband,

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TOGETHER WE DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS

Can We Catch Up?

By David Weisberg



I thought I'd take the chance to catch up.

When I left federation, I was lucky to land a job as the Executive Director of Friends of the Arava Institute, the North American non-profit charged with raising funds and visibility for the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies in Israel (www.arava.org). I was lucky on multiple counts. The job allowed me to remain in Harrisburg, from which I ran the organization for four years, traveling frequently but always returning back home to my family in central Pennsylvania. But, more importantly, the job allowed me to develop new relationships and perspectives that meaningfully changed my views of the world.

The Arava Institute is an academic institution, based on Kibbutz Ketura in the very south of Israel, that brings together young Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and other university-level students to research and study common environmental issues, along the way developing positive and cooperative cross-border and cross-cultural relationships. I was excited by the idea of the organization, but, before taking the job, I had never had any significant interactions with Palestinians or Jordanians. Quite honestly, I was fearful of them; and Jamie, my wonderful wife, had strong reservations, particularly the first time we picked up a young Palestinian woman at Newark Airport who would be traveling with me as part of an Arava alumni team.

What we learned, almost in the instant of meeting this young woman, and again and again for four years after as we met so many other Arava Institute alumni, is that Palestinians and Jordanians are real people, with real hopes, families, fears, and, like most Israelis, with dreams of peace. The relationships that I had the privilege to develop in no way changed my love for Israel – which I had the opportunity to visit repeatedly over that time – but instead raised my consciousness of the shared desire of the large majority of individuals on all sides of the borders simply to live in peace. And I learned that working together on real and practical quality of life issues based on a shared environment can create a platform for genuine cooperation, trust, and friendship.

Over those years, I had the fortune to visit the West Bank and Jordan, visiting friends and appreciating the real lives and challenges on what had previously simply been “the other side.” In fact, when we celebrated Mikayla’s Bat Mitzvah two years ago with a trip to the Middle East, our journey included celebration dinners with friends in Ramallah and Amman, along with one in Sde Boqer. Nothing has pleased Jamie and me more than to be able to raise Mikayla and Grace with a narrative about the Middle East that isn’t defined by the media but is instead shaped by the friends that they have been able to make – Israelis, Palestinians, and Jordanians that have stayed at our

home and become like part of our family. It gives us hope in a world in which it is often all too easy to despair.

My work with the Arava Institute also provided me with the great fun of working with a long list of celebrities, many of whom I had admired for years and many of whose relationships I built for the Institute myself. Among my board members was Mandy Patinkin, the Tony and Emmy award winning singer and actor, who took a week to travel with me around the country, performing fundraising concerts in people’s living rooms. I had the opportunity to stage a benefit in Los Angeles with Sarah Silverman and Roseanne Barr (who has since become my close friend) and hold events attended by noted personalities including Penny Marshall, Colleen Camp, Dyan Cannon, Richard Belzer, Lainie Kazan, and Bud Cort. I had the opportunity to help facilitate a panel at the United Nations and to have a face-to-face with the Prince of Jordan. And perhaps topping it all, I had the great fortune to be able to develop a relationship with Pete Seeger, who I still visit periodically at his home and is a continual inspiration. You can still see some of the work I did with Pete on an online broadcast I produced in 2010 by visiting www.withearhandeachother.org.

After four years of leading Friends of the Arava Institute, I was seeking a more sedentary life that would allow me to

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It really was June of 2007 when I cleaned off my desk as Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg – and trust that it had desperately needed cleaning the entire nine years that I had been there – and moved on to the next adventure in my career; but, at the same time, it’s hard to believe that it was five and a half years ago.

I’ve kept up with the Jewish community of Harrisburg since then. I get the Community Review in the mail. And while I no longer serve as its editor, I do read it.

But while I’ve had a chance to keep up with the community, I don’t imagine many of you have had the chance to keep up with me. So, on the chance that anyone might be interested in what happens after a kid raised in Harrisburg comes back to spend nearly a decade as the head of the local federation,

Ah, Salami!

By Jack Ogun

Passing the Deli the other day, I noticed a stack of kosher salamis and was suddenly hit by a flood of memories. As a small child living in a home with an Ice box and limited income, salami was a meat staple. Thin slices fried with eggs was a common dish as were sandwiches on Challah with ketchup. As a treat, fresh tomato slices from our garden were added in the summer. So, what is salami? A low-cost beef sausage made from cheaper beef cuts, spices and a healthy blanket of garlic. The whole mix is then forced into a casing and allowed to age while hanging in the butcher shop.

Now comes the best part! My mother, z”l, and I would hop a bus to Pittsburgh to visit my aunt and obtain a chicken for Shabbos. We would go to the chicken store, pick the one she wanted, pay

a quarter extra to have all the feathers plucked and then wait. While waiting, we walked across the street to Herman’s kosher sausage factory. Inside, the counter man, standing under rows of hanging salamis, asked what we wished to buy as he handed little me a thick slice of fresh salami. After reaching out with a shy smile, I ate the ultimate gourmet food for any Jewish child. Then, back to the butcher for our wrapped chicken, tied with string and packed in a fiber handled brown bag, to make carrying easier. The bus trip home and a biology lesson on bird anatomy followed.

Years later, I received another great memory boost. Drafted into the Army, I was hauled off to Fort Knox for training in marching, crawling, climbing and cleaning, as my basic daily chores. Suddenly, on a Friday afternoon,

the sergeant announced that those of the Jewish faith could go down Seventh Avenue to the Chapel for services. Three of us were Jewish and, smiling, took off for this special event. We were warmly greeted by several young women from Louisville who participated and made things seem more like civilian life. The service ended and we were ushered into the small ante room for conversation and an Oneg. There, on the table, was a platter of the most beautiful, freshly made salami sandwiches I had ever seen. The aroma and taste immediately took me back to Herman’s sausage factory. Oy! Being drafted into the Army wasn’t such a bad deal after all. Salami forever, as I picked up the deli treat and headed for the check out.

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The opinions expressed in the *Community Review* do not necessarily reflect the position of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg. *The Federation does not endorse any candidate or political party for any elected office.*



25425

MATCH GIFT

A new match program through the 2013 JFGH Annual Campaign is being offered. The first 25 donors ages 45 and under who make a first time gift or increase their annual campaign gift to \$1,000 or more, the JFGH will receive a matching \$1,000 gift to accompany the donation by leadership donors. For more information, please contact Stuart Gasner at s.gasner@jewishfedhbg.org. Leadership and match gifts continue to come in and will be updated monthly.

Thank you to our current 2013 leadership and match gifts.

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A New Year's Reflection

By Howard Ross | Executive Director

Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania



Here we are, 2013. The Mayan calendar did not portend the end of the world as we knew it, the Harrisburg JCC is brimming with activities (some predicted it would be closed by the end of the year) and we are all paying higher taxes.

I know, you are asking how the above three facts correlate? Allow me to explain:

Doomsday predictions abound. The Mayan calendar doomsday prediction and the end of the

Harrisburg JCC were ripe during 2012, yet like all doomsday predictions (alright, almost all), we survived, the sun continues to shine and I am sitting at my desk in the JCC on Front Street.

On the other side of the coin, we have to pay for it all. Taxes continue to increase to pay for those services which we have come to expect. Social security saw a bit of a raise in 2013 (not much, mind you) and seniors can still use their Medicare cards. As far as the JCC is concerned, I entered the building with a gaggle of children on their way to school at the Silver Academy, the fitness center is filled with men and women working out, the pool is busy and senior citizens are arriving for their lunch and program.

And, like annual taxes, the Jewish community is again reaching out to you for the support needed to assure that each and every one of these activities continues.

But here the correlation ends!

Unlike taxes, the Board of Trustees of the Jewish community cannot assess you at the rate needed (as does government). The Jewish community must rely upon your willingness to support the programs for the good of all.

In just a few days, you will be solicited for the annual campaign. In a way, this is our Jewish tax; our way of paying for the services deemed essential to the benefit and survival of the Jewish community. But, fortunately, when we pay our Jewish tax, we can deduct it from our government tax. The donations we make are noted on our Federal tax returns, reducing our adjusted gross income; thus, lowering our tax obligation.

Now where do you want your money to go, to the Federal government or to your Jewish community? (OK, I know we need both!)

When you are contacted for your annual gift, think about the fact that we have survived both the Mayan calendar and the flooding of our community. We have survived the doomsday predictions and we are fortunate enough to have the opportunity to continue enjoying life and our wonderful Jewish community.

Happy 2013....



How do you create a Jewish legacy?

A good place to start the conversation is with the Jewish Community Foundation, a trusted philanthropic steward with a deep knowledge of the local Jewish community. A Foundation advisor can help you direct your gift to the institution you seek to support. In addition, you can learn how to structure your gift to benefit from tax and other advantages.

Inaugural Boys Sports Night is a Home Run



Capitalizing on the success of the Girls Sports and Fitness Night, the Sports and Fitness Department of the Harrisburg JCC decided to offer a boys sports sampler on Saturday, December 22. Over 50 boys participated in the event held at Sports City. "The teen and tween committee really pushed to see this event occur, and I must admit I am so glad we decided to go ahead and host the night," stated Terri Travers, SFR Director. The adults were not the only ones happy to have the event according to 4th grader Owen

Wiener, "the night was awesome."

The two-hour event began with a boot camp style warm-up led by JCC Fitness Manager Jeremy Kreiser. After working up the first sweat of the night, the boys were divided into four groups for the rest of the evening. Over the course of the evening, each group rotated through four sports that included Wiffleball led by Mark Jacobs, Soccer led by Jerry Shoop, Dodge Ball led by Jeremy Kreiser and Flag Football led by Steve Cooper. Sixth grader Jason Weitzman commented, "It was fun to be with my friends playing sports. I hope we can do it again, especially dodge ball!" Weitzman was not alone in enjoying the dodge ball; 5th grader Joseph Caplan described the dodgeball as "intense" and went on to say "Wiffleball was so much fun."

A special thank you to the staff and volunteers who made the night happen. "Many of our volunteers for the night were JCC lifeguards and current and past high school swimmers and basketball players wanting to give back to the JCC." Travers continued, "If it wasn't for the dedication of our current and past high school students, there is no way we could offer the programs we do." The Sports and Fitness Department would also like to thank our generous sponsors who helped fund the night.

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Repeat Alert! JCC High School Boys Claim Tip-Off Tournament Championship for Second Year



*Picture front row from left to right: Josh Adler, Ethan DeBroff, Jered Green, and David Green
 Back row: Zach Abel, Sam Shaffer, Lance Moody, Alex Malinoski, Anthony Townsend, Jake DeBroff, Joey Good and Coach Terri Travers. Missing from Photo: Jon Wishnow*

The Harrisburg JCC hosted the sixth annual high school boys' tip off tournament December 16-20. The tournament featured 7 CYO teams and the HBG JCC team. The annual tournament has marked the start of the basketball season to many teams in the area. In 2011, the JCC won the championship for the first time. However, with the graduation of 6 key players from that team, the start of the 2012-2013 season was filled with many question marks.

"We are a much different team. We returned some key players, but we have many new faces compared to the past year or two that going in to the tournament I wasn't sure what to expect," commented coach Terri Travers. In the first game of the week, the JCC pulled off an exciting overtime victory of 73-68 over Harrisburg City Catholic. The team was led by Senior guard Ethan DeBroff

who scored 17 and Junior Lance Moody who had a team high 18 points. Key play also came from Seniors Jon Wishnow and Jake DeBroff.

Travers continued, "It was a good win, but we made a lot of bad decisions under pressure. It was a great early test for us to have to learn to think on the court."

On Tuesday, the JCC took on St. Joseph Hanover and pulled off an impressive win of 70-31. The team had very balanced scoring with Ethan DeBroff leading the efforts with 12 points followed by Senior Anthony Townsend with 11, Sophomore guard Josh Adler with 10 and Moody, Zach Abel and David Green each chipping in 8 points. Junior Guards Sam Shaffer and Alex Malinoski added strong defense in the win.

The championship game, held on Thursday, December 20, put the JCC against a much bigger St. Joseph Mechanicsburg team. "I was concerned having watched them play earlier in the week. They are big, they can shoot and have kids who like to push the ball in transition. I knew we had our work cut out for us," stated Travers. However, when it was discovered a few hours before game time that Moody would be unable to play due to a knee injury and Wishnow was out for the day due to illness, the game plan had to change. "We were missing two of our best rebounders against a much bigger team. We had a moment where we all got concerned but then decided that we have to deal with whatever life throws at us. We adjusted our game plan and came out ready to play." The group rose to the challenge and controlled the pace of the game from the start. Forcing St. Joseph's out of their style of play allowed the JCC to gain control and win the championship with a score of 39-23. "I am so proud of our team. We played hard and smart. This is going to be a great season," stated Senior guard Jake DeBroff. Key rebounding efforts came from Senior Jered Green and Joey Good as well as Malinoski.

At the conclusion of the championship game the all-tournament team and MVP were announced. Players were chosen based on coaches' votes throughout the week and input from the tournament committee. Sophomore guard Josh Adler was named to the all tournament team, and tournament MVP went to Ethan DeBroff

2012 JCC Fantasy Football League Crowns Champions!

20 teams competed against friends, family and community members in the first annual JCC Fantasy Football League

For those unfamiliar with Fantasy Football, the concept is based on the statistics of real NFL players, but each fantasy football team is comprised of players from different teams. Subsequently, a well-chosen fantasy team can do very well despite wins and losses in the real season. The actual scoring of the Fantasy Football Challenge utilizes ESPN leader board scoring. All participants played on ESPN.com and played head-to-head against teams from their league each week.

The fantasy football league was sponsored by the Young Adult Committee.

Keep an eye out over the summer for information on the 2nd Annual JCC Fantasy Football League.

Do you have what it takes to be crowned champion??

JCC 1 League

Champion:

Bill Ward

2nd place:

Aaron Hank

JCC 2 League

Champion:

Sammy Schwab

2nd place:

Aaron Weisberg

HBG JCC Basketball Magnets Now On Sale

Purchase your magnet for only \$7 to show your support of the Harrisburg JCC Basketball Program. Magnets are being sold by the Sport and Fitness Department at the Harrisburg JCC. For more information, contact t.travers@jewishfedhbg.org.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!! ORDER YOUR MAH JONGG CARDS TODAY

The Harrisburg JCC Senior Adult Club is once again selling the National Mah Jongg League's card for 2013.

The price of the 2013 card is \$7.00 for a standard card and \$8.00 for a large-print card.

Please make your checks payable to the Harrisburg JCC Senior Adult Club and mail them to:

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Harrisburg JCC
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by January 24, 2013. The Mah Jongg League will mail your card to you in the spring. Thank you. Cheryl

BBYO Tournies 2012

By David Rosen

This past November, Harrisburg BBYO traveled to Allentown, PA to participate in Central Region East's annual Tournies Convention against 13 other nearby chapters surrounding the Central/Eastern PA, Southern NY, and Delaware area. Tournies, which is short for Tournaments, consists of many different challenges where each chapter goes against each other individually in events such as Poetry, Singing, and Storytelling, and as a team in events such as Volleyball and Basketball. All chapters are split into 3 divisions, one for large chapters, one for medium-sized chapters, and one for smaller chapters. This year, as many years before, Harrisburg was categorized in Division II with the other medium-sized chapters.

From the break of Shabbat on Friday night until the busses were loaded Sunday afternoon, different challenges and activities were non-stop. The weekend is not all competitive; we also participated in two Shabbat services and a Havdalah service, all self-lead by teens in our region. They are very interactive and always include every member that is present.

All in all, through every event, Harrisburg BBYO came out with many 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place medals, including places in Volleyball, Basketball, Checkers, Backgammon, Singing, and Ping-Pong singles and doubles. When it came to the awards ceremony on Sunday night, Harrisburg BBYO was given a few special pieces to take home. Each Tournies, a trophy known as the Spirit Stick is given to one chapter in each division; the chapter that showed the most spirit and confidence carried through the whole weekend. Not only was Harrisburg BBYO awarded the Spirit Stick for Division II, but we also received the 2nd place trophy for the division. I, being a part of this great team, was thoroughly proud to be a part of it.

BBYO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) is the world's only independent, international, pluralistic Jewish youth movement for students in grades of 8 through 12. Every year, your local BBYO region, Central Region East, (covering Central/Eastern PA, Southern NY, DE) hosts 5 conventions. IT (In Training) Convention in February for the benefit of new members only, looking to learn the mission and values of BBYO. WOW Weekend in April, and Spring Convention in May where the region elects a new board to lead the region in the upcoming year. Following Spring Convention is RLTI (Regional Leadership Training Institute), which gives members the knowledge to be a respected and efficient leader. And lastly, in November, before the new year hits, Central Region East hosts Tournies; a convention full of fun and competitive activities where all members can show off their athletic and artistic abilities.

BBYO is a huge part in my life, and I don't know where I would be without it. BBYO changed my life, and it might just change yours too.



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Thursday, January 24, 2013

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

JCC

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Questions?? Contact Andrea at a.weikert@jewishfedhbg.org

Bring your favorite Pinterest craft & instructions how to assemble it. The Pinterest party is your chance to make a new project that has been pinned on the website www.pinterest.com.

Pinterest is an online pinboard where you can bookmark things you find online that you would like to make at a later date.

Odin Rathnam, past Concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, presents program to the Senior Adult Club



On Tuesday, January 22, 2013 Odin Rathnam, past Concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, will lecture and play selections for the Senior Adult Club after lunch program.

Since his critically acclaimed Lincoln Center debut in 1993, the American violinist has established himself as one of the most passionate and versatile artists of his generation. He has received unanimous

praise from critics and audiences for his "captivating temperament," "brilliant technique" and "recalling the legendary violinists of the past." A veteran performer at many major European and American festivals including the Algarve International Music Festival in Portugal, Denmark's Tivoli and Vendsyssel Festivals, Deia International Festival in Mallorca, Aspen and Caramoor, he has also appeared in recital on the Market Square Concerts series, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and Carnegie Recital Hall, where Rathnam first appeared at the age of 15. As a soloist, he has performed with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, the New Amsterdam Symphony, the Columbian National Symphony, the Camden and Hayes Orchestras in England, the York Symphony, the Hershey Symphony, the Lancaster Symphony, the Central Pennsylvania Symphony and the Harrisburg Symphony, enjoying collaborations with conductors including Stuart Malina, Richard Westerfield, Stephen Gunzenhauser, Anne Harrigan and many others.

For reservations, please call Cheryl at 236-9555 Ext. 3115

Don't Miss This Program! JCC Senior Adult Club Thursday January 31, 2013

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, Dusty Knisely will speak to the Senior Adult Club about her experiences in a Japanese Concentration camp between 1942 and 1945. In 1933, Knisely was born in China of U.S. Missionary parents. On December 8, 1941 in the early morning, the Japanese came to her house and put her family under house arrest. Months later they were taken to a concentration camp with the foreign allies in their area. Later, they were moved to a large camp further in the interior with people from all over Northern China.

As an adult, Knisely and her husband, along with their four children, have spent most of their lives teaching in international schools with an American curriculum – schools children would have attended if their parents worked overseas.

Please call Cheryl at 236-9555 Ext. 3115 to make your reservations to hear Dusty's fascinating story!

On the Horrific Murders in Newtown, CT

By Rabbi Akiva Males

In the wake of the awful slaughter in Newtown, CT, many persuasive arguments will be offered by people far more qualified than I regarding increased gun control, placing armed guards at schools, curbing violence in the entertainment industry, and better treatment of the mentally ill.

However, there is one aspect of the tragic events at Sandy Hook that I do feel qualified enough to weigh in on: the heroism of Victoria Soto. According to the information Wikipedia has so far collected:

Teacher Victoria Leigh Soto was reported to have attempted to hide several children in a closet and cupboards. As the gunman entered her classroom . . . several of the children then came out of their hiding place and tried to run for safety and were shot dead. Soto put herself between her students and the shooter, who then fatally shot her. Six surviving children from Soto's class crawled out of the cupboards after the shooting and fled the school . . . As reported by his parents, a 6-year-old boy in Soto's class fled with a group of his classmates and the children escaped through the door when the gunman shot their teacher.

With the most dreaded chaos swirling around her, 27 year old Victoria "Vicki" Soto had the presence of mind to try hiding several of her students, and then place herself between them and a crazed murderer. Vicki's actions on that fateful day undoubtedly saved several precious children.

Where did Vicki find such strength on that last morning of her life? What influences in her life caused her to reflexively act with such selflessness, bravery, and heroism? While I don't know if we'll ever learn the

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community calendar

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013

Girls Sports Night - 7-9 p.m., JCC

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

JCC Open House, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., JCC

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

Senior Adult Lunch Program - 10 a.m., JCC

Program "The Jewish Perspective"

with Bob Axelrod, 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Senior Adult Lunch Program - 10 a.m., JCC

Program: Sing-a-long with pianist

Al Good man, 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Senior Adult Lunch Program - 10 a.m., JCC

Program: Musical program with Odin Rathnam,

Violin virtuoso, 12:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Senior Adult Lunch Program - 10 a.m., JCC

Program: Lecture - Medicare Fraud

Prevention, 12:30 p.m.

Pinterest Party - 7 p.m., JCC

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Getting to Know Our Staff



Katie Mace, Certified Personal Trainer, Certified TRX Instructor Running Coach

Tell us about yourself:

I have a 2-year-old son, Brady, who keeps me very busy! I enjoy exercise, primarily running and weight training. My husband and I (and Brady) work as Relief-House Parents for the Milton Hershey School, which we really enjoy doing. I love the beach and outdoors and count down the days until the warm weather every year! The only TV show that I sit myself down to watch each week is Glee. I have been a Certified Personal Trainer for a couple of years, but like many of us, it has been a passion for much longer.

What do you like best about your job?

I love watching a client's confidence grow over time. My goal as a trainer is to focus less on a scale number and more on physical fitness changes; strength, endurance, and control. Watching members of our Couch to 5K program cross the finish line after their first race, or seeing a client hold a plank for a minute after practice, is what I live for. I love giving clients the power, confidence, and knowledge to keep

growing on their own outside of our weekly sessions.

What motivates you?

I love a challenge. Every year I pick a race or goal to work towards. In the past, I've trained for some half marathons, sprint triathlons, and faster 5K times. I like to work towards something, train hard and stay focused on a goal. It's amazing to me what you can teach a human body to do. My long-term goal is a half Ironman.

What are you like as a Personal Trainer?

I like to think of myself as a fitness ally. I take my job very seriously and really engage in each client as individuals. I sit down daily and plan out lesson plans for each session; I like to keep things new and unique but focused appropriately to each person. Even in a group setting such as a Bootcamp or TRX, I try my best to make sure each individual is being challenged. I also feel that it's very important to stay connected with clients after they leave; there is a lot of time between week-to-week sessions, and if a client knows you're thinking about them, they're more apt to stay the course.



Saturday, February 2, 2013 | 7:00 PM | JCC

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LEADERS continued from cover

Brandon, is already serving on the camp and early childhood programming committee.

Second, we're going to donate our money. We're going to donate enough money to fulfill the challenge grant - a minimum of \$1,000 - since our money will literally have twice the impact due to the 25 for 25 match program. 25 for 25 Match is a program this year from the JFGH Annual Campaign. The first 25 donors ages 45 and under who make a first time gift or increase their annual campaign gift to \$1,000 or more, the JFGH will receive a matching \$1,000 gift to accompany the donation by leadership donors. For more information, please contact Stuart Gasner at s.gasner@jewishfedhbg.org.

3) I encourage you to do the same.

For every ounce of skepticism and uncertainty, try to match that with an hour of your time or a dollar from your wallet. It's a major leap of faith, but if I - a true cynic - found faith in the process, I think you can, too.

We need to stop complaining from the sidelines and dig a little deeper. Then we can truly say that we did our part as members of this Jewish community to ensure a future for the Federation and the JCC.

Please email me if you want to talk through my evolution of thinking, your own, or any other issues at AbbyLSmith@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Abby Smith
Harrisburg, PA

We should all be encouraged by this youthful reinvigoration. This movement of activism should inspire not only other young people but should re-inspire our long time members and donors to recommit themselves to the future of the Jewish Federation. Campaign co-chair and major gifts co-chair, Julie Wright Halbert, shared "I am so moved by the young leadership's engagement with their time, leadership and generosity of tzedakah. I am equally appreciative and thankful of the leadership donors who are matching the young adults' gifts. The investment of all involved is exactly what will ensure the success of our JFGH and our Jewish community family."

For more information about ways you can help with the campaign you may contact the campaign department via Beth Romano at b.romano@jewishfedhbg.org or David Herman, Campaign Co-Chair at dherman@att.net or Julie Halbert at jbhalbert@comcast.net.

CATCH UP continued from page 2

spend more time with my family. Through my work with Arava, and its partnership with Hazon (www.hazon.org), the leading Jewish environmental non-profit in North America and pioneer of the Jewish Food Movement, I had become familiar with an amazing place in the northwest corner of Connecticut called the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center (www.isabellafreedman.org). As it turns out, Isabella Freedman was looking for a new Executive Director, and, just nineteen months ago, I was fortunate to find myself hired for the job, relocating with Jamie and the girls to the beautiful southern Berkshires.

Isabella Freedman is a magical place. Nearly 120 years old, the organization has grown from one that started out offering weeklong summer vacations to Jewish factory girls from New York to becoming a senior adult summer camp to now serving as a home for values-based Jewish exploration and transformation. Isabella Freedman pioneered what is now a growing movement of young Jewish farmers, founding the Adamah Jewish Farm Fellowship just ten years ago. Today, we have our own working organic farms, making amazing goat cheese and the world's best pickles. After a merger with the Elat Chayyim Center for Jewish Spirituality in 2006, Isabella Freedman became a primary destination for Jewish spiritual retreats, and the one place in the northeast that Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, the founder of the Jewish Renewal movement, visits on an annual basis. Each year, our Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot retreats have capacity crowds of people who see our site as their North American pilgrimage destination. And this past year I've had the opportunity to create new programming opening portals for Jewish connection in innovative ways including shared passion for baseball, love of the Grateful Dead, and immersion into Ethiopian Jewish culture. Last year, I conceived of and developed the country's first ever Jewish LGBTQ Teen Shabbaton and the Center's first conference for Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Religious Educators, and I am currently working on a groundbreaking Jewish-Sikh Conference for June 2013.

Isabella Freedman is a one-of-a-kind organization in the Jewish world, attracting those of all levels

of observance, ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and financial abilities, and I'm looking forward to seeing more participants from the greater Harrisburg Jewish community here in the coming years.

But the most exciting development in my career, and certainly an exciting development for Isabella Freedman, as well, is the one that's happening right now. In early December, Isabella Freedman announced a merger with Hazon, the nationally renowned Jewish environmental and food-focused non-profit that I mentioned earlier. The merger – which is an effort I've been working on with partners at Hazon for many months – will be a marriage of equals, with the new entity to be called Hazon and having its main address at a campus in Connecticut that will still be known as the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center.

It will provide me the opportunity to work side-by-side with Hazon's charismatic founder, Nigel Savage, a friend and colleague I've known for over five years, from both my work with Arava and Isabella Freedman. I am honored that Nigel and I will be co-executives of the merged national organization, as I will have the title of Chief Executive Officer for Hazon, and Nigel will have the title of President. I'm also excited that I'll have the opportunity to work with Harrisburg's own Sydney Maisel, who once played on the JCC Junior High Basketball team with my older daughters and who now works as the Senior Development Associate at Hazon, and will soon be part of my staff.

As the CEO of Hazon, I'll have even more opportunities to reconnect with the Harrisburg Jewish community, whether through Hazon's national CSA (community supported agriculture) network, of which Harrisburg has been a participant; one of Hazon's wonderful Jewish food conferences; or through members of our Harrisburg Jewish family coming to participate on one of Hazon's many amazing bike rides, whether in New York (beginning at Isabella Freedman!), in the San Francisco Bay Area, its cross USA Ride, or the Arava Institute-Hazon Israel Ride, a five-day 300-mile bike ride through Israel on which a number of folks from Harrisburg have already participated.

Over five years after cleaning up

my desk at the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg, how do I feel? I feel lucky, changed, hopeful, excited, and absolutely grateful, not only for the opportunities that present themselves to me today, but also for the opportunity that Harrisburg gave me fifteen years ago to begin a career in Jewish communal service. Today, I find myself soon to be the CEO of one of the most innovative national organizations helping to shape the Jewish community across North America, after helping to lead a merger process that's attracted the interest of major national Jewish media and funders.

But it all started in Harrisburg, and I'll look forward to the ways we can reconnect, such that the work I am doing now can effect positive change in the Jewish community where I grew up.

And please find time to come visit me here at Isabella Freedman in the beautiful Berkshires. But, if you come into my office, please excuse my desk. It's a bit cluttered once again.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS

**WHERE: Jewish Community Center
3301 N. Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110**

WHEN: March 14 and March 15, 2013, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

8 hour classroom – no test – minimal fee (\$14 to AARP – if you belong to AARP you receive a \$2 discount)

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*Howard Spiegler (speaker), event co-chairs
Julia Frankston-Morris and Dan Clearfield*

Exciting Upcoming Program at Keshet Israel Congregation



This year, **Shabbos Shirah** and **Tu B'Shevat** coincide! **KI thanks our good friend Bobby Snyder** who wished to mark his 70th birthday by sponsoring this year's Shabbos Shirah program at KI.

We look forward to welcoming **The Shabbatoners** -- an *a cappella* singing group -- back to our Shul to enhance the Shabbos of **January 25-26, 2013**.

Friday Night Meal at KI

A special Friday night (1/25/13), Shabbos meal accompanied by the Shabbatoners' singing will take place at KI! Reservations for dinner with the Shabbatoners are needed and can be arranged by calling Cecelia at KI 238-0763 (or e-mailing her at kesherisrael@aol.com).

Cost: Reservations made by midnight on Wednesday, 1/16 are \$25 per adult (18 and over) and \$75 per family (family = parents and their children under the age of 18).

Reservations made after 1/16 will be \$30 per adult and \$85 per family.



Please contact Cecelia to make your RSVP as soon as possible!

Everyone is invited to enjoy a delightful (and free) Oneg Shabbos dessert celebration with the Shabbatoners following the Friday night meal at KI (app. 7:30 PM).

Shabbos Day Kiddush at KI



KI greatly appreciates our good friend **Bobby Snyder** for who he is, and his friendship that he generously shares with our congregation.

This Shabbos Shirah, on the occasion of Bobby's 70th birthday, we can thank Bobby by sponsoring a Kiddush / luncheon. *All funds raised beyond the cost of the Kiddush will help KI replenish its "Weekly Kiddush Fund" in honor of Bobby Snyder.*

Please contact Cecelia at Kesherisrael@aol.com to become a sponsor ASAP.

RABBI CYTRYN TEACHES WINTER COURSE

**Once In A While You Get Shown The Light:
Are Humans Alone In The Universe?**

“Once in a while you get shown the light in the strangest of places if you look at it right” sang the Grateful Dead. Dr. Abraham Joshua wrote a book (or two) about this very phenomenon of “seeing the light” – experiencing the inexplicable, the “ineffable.” Is there a common response to the indescribable experience we long for with all our being? Can we, as modern Jews living complicated, messy lives hope to imbue our lives with pious moments where invoking God provokes a like-response from that which is beyond us yet intertwined?

Come and read selections from Abraham Joshua Heschel’s *Man Is Not Alone: A Philosophy of Religion* and judge for yourself: are we alone in the universe? Engage in provocative discussion and partake of food for thought. All in the community are welcome to participate.

Classes meet from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Schein Annex at Beth El Temple on three successive Tuesday evenings beginning January 29. Topics to be covered include the following:

January 29, 2013 – The Sense of the Ineffable | Radical Amazement | The Ultimate Question

February 5, 2013 – Doubts and Faith | The Divine Concern | The Hiding God – Beyond Faith

**February 12, 2013 – The Problem of Living | The Essence of Man
What is Religion – What is Judaism? | The Pious Man**

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Contact the Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania to learn more.

717-236-9555



NEWTON continued from page 10

true answers to those questions, I can say one thing with certainty: I am sure I am glad that Vicki Soto chose to become a teacher. If this is how Vicki died in the classroom, can you imagine how she must have lived in the classroom? How many lives did this incredible young woman have a chance to touch in her all-too-brief teaching career? If not for her brutal murder, how

many more precious children could she have had a positive impact on? Thank G-d, very few teachers are ever called upon to show their true character as Vicki Soto did – and let's pray that no more will ever have to answer that call. However, we all know that there are more 'Vicki Sotos' out there. They can be found in the hallways and classrooms of schools throughout

our country. Let's honor Vicki's memory by finding ways to show our appreciation to her devoted colleagues – the excellent teachers who may have taught us, and the excellent teachers now educating the children in our communities. *Kesher Israel Congregation's Rabbi Akiva Males can be reached at rabbimales@yahoo.com*

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CHISUK EMUNA CONGREGATION

232-4851

www.chisukemuna.org

info@chisukemuna.org

Minyan times: Monday, Thursday mornings, 6:50 a.m.

Sunday through Thursday

evenings, 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 7 a.m.

Friday evening services at 7 p.m.,

Saturday evening at same time

as Friday evening candle-lighting time. Saturday morning services at

9:15 a.m.

SERVICES HELD AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER (JCC)

3301 N. FRONT STREET,
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013

A special PJ Library Family Service will begin at 5:30 pm led by

Mandy Cheskis, Rabbi Muroff, and members of the congregation at the JCC.

Saturday Shacharit/Morning

services will begin at 9:15 a.m. led by Rabbi Ron Muroff and members

of the congregation. Mincha/Maariv 4:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2013

Friday Mincha/Afternoon, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv/Evening

services will begin at 4:50 p.m. led by Rabbi Ron Muroff at the JCC.

Saturday Shacharit/Morning

services will begin at 9:15 a.m. led by Rabbi Ron Muroff and members

of the congregation. Mincha/Maariv 4:55 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2013

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013

Friday Mincha/Afternoon, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv/Evening

services will begin at 5:00 p.m. led by Rabbi Ron Muroff at the JCC.

Saturday Shacharit/Morning

services will begin at 9:15 a.m. led by Rabbi Ron Muroff and members

of the congregation. Special services at 10 a.m. include Tot

Shabbat, Junior Congregation and Women's Torah Study Group.

Mincha/Maariv: 5:05 p.m.

For more information about Chisuk Emuna programs and services, please call our office at 232-4851.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH

Carlisle | 245-2811

www.bethtikvah.org

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HISTORIC B'NAI JACOB Middletown | 319-3014

www.bnai-jacob.org

Historic B'nai Jacob Synagogue, Water and Nissley Street in

Middletown, will conduct Shabbat services on Friday, February 1, 2013

at 7:30 p.m. We are a Community Shul - all are welcome. Visit Web

Site for more information or call our Voice Mail at 717-319-3014

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238-0763

www.kesherisrael.org

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and fast days at 6:30 a.m. Evening services begin at 20 minutes before

sunset.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM 697-2662

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM 233-6459

www.ohevsholom.org

Friday, January 11: Family Shabbat Service, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Friday, January 18: Shabbat

Service, 6 p.m., Lehrman Chapel

Saturday, January 19: Tot Shabbat, 10:30 a.m., Lehrman Chapel

Friday, January 25: Shabbat

Service, 6 p.m., Lehrman Chapel

ROSH HODESH - IT'S A GIRL THING

Just picture a group of teenage girls getting together once a month in the same room, with the same girls and the same leader. Some people would cringe at the thought.

Not the girls who attend Rosh Hodesh - It's a Girl Thing.

In Harrisburg, Chisuk Emuna is the proud organizer of this special program. In its seventh year, four groups of young women (the teens) meet once a month in friends' homes, at the JCC, or at their group leaders' homes to bake, cook, act, sing, listen, talk, and share their thoughts, their concerns, their ups and downs with each other.

This year, the ninth graders were welcomed back by their group leader Julia Frankston-Morris and her assistant Rebecca Doctrow. According to Julia, the 9th graders are now in high school. This is a very exciting time for them and also presents new opportunities and challenges that they get to talk about. Much of their first meeting was spent catching up with each other about their

summers. All of the girls are looking forward to the rest of the year!

Ten seventh graders are returning for their second year with Julia, and then Rebecca. According to Lexi, she has enjoyed meeting new friends and has fun with the creative activities and the good food that they often make as part of their meetings. According to Lexi, "The programs and activities are fun and teach us about being confident Jewish teens."

All of the groups of sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth graders meet once a month with their group leaders including Emily Doctrow and Kayla Reisman. At their meetings, the program directs the learning towards being an adolescent in an ever-changing and complex world through building self esteem, leadership skills and Jewish identity. The program meetings give the girls a safe place to explore their feelings and to discuss issues that concern them.

Please contact Ricci Doctrow (riccirub@comcast.net) or Mandy Cheskis (cheskis@aol.com) if you have any questions about the program.

SHIRLEY MARSHOM

Shirley Marshom passed away on Monday, December 17, 2012 in London, England. Surviving are her husband, Robert; brother Seymour (Roberta) Barget; sisters Aileen, Evelyn, and Marion, along with three daughters, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Funeral services were held Tuesday, December 18th in London. Contributions to Beth El Temple, 2637 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 will be a source of comfort to the family.

SIDNEY ORIEL

SIDNEY ORIEL of Wynnewood, PA, formerly of Harrisburg, PA, passed away on Tuesday, December 18, 2012. He was the husband of the late Phyllis (nee Shapiro); father of David (Robin) Oriel and the late Diane Oriel; grandfather of Jared and Alexis Oriel. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 19th at Temple Beth Hillel/Beth El, Wynnewood, PA. Interment was private. The family respectfully request that contributions in her memory be made to the

American Lung Association or to Beth El Cemetery Association of Harrisburg.

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Women's Megillah Reading

For Women, By Women



Megillah readers represented all local congregations



Sunday, February 24, 2013 9:00 AM
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3301 N. Front Street, Harrisburg PA



All women in the community are invited to join us for a joyous Purim celebration

Costumes strongly encouraged * Refreshments will be served

Megillah to be read by women in the greater Harrisburg Jewish community

New readers are welcome

For more information contact: Marian Frankston - marian2929@gmail.com



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