



THE REFLECTOR

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Stand With Israel! Israel Emergency Campaign Approved

“The Hamas decision to escalate rocket attacks on Israel was designed to provoke an Israeli defensive response that would necessarily endanger Gaza residents. I fully support Israel’s right to defend itself against these indiscriminate rocket attacks ...”

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine



Federation President Richard Samet stands at Haas Promenade while in Israel on 2014 Jewish Federations of North America Campaigner’s Mission.

Editors’s Note: At the time the Reflector was going to press, a JCFR Israel Solidarity Rally was planned for July 28 at the Weinstein JCC. The September Reflector will provide coverage of this important community gathering.

Today, millions of Israelis are struggling to live a normal life after a devastating onslaught of more than 2,000 rockets from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip since July 7.

As a result of this humanitarian crisis for the people of Israel, and to signify that the Greater Richmond Jewish community will **Stand With Israel**, the Board of

Special Note - Federation President Richard Samet and CEO Samuel Asher took part in a Jewish Federations of North America Campaigner’s Mission to Israel on July 13-21. See pages 10-13 for highlights of their experience.

Directors of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond in a special emergency meeting July 23 set in motion a \$100,000 Israel Emergency Campaign to begin immediately. The board unanimously endorsed support for the people of Israel.

JCFR Immediate Past President Nathan Shor and his wife, Nannette, a JCFR board member, will serve as chairs of the Israel Emergency Campaign.

JCFR President Richard Samet, who had returned from

Israel More on pages 10-13

Jack Paul Fine: 1924-2014 A Pillar of Our Community

With the passing of Jack Paul Fine on July 18, the Richmond Jewish community lost one of its most valued leaders who had a deep passion and commitment to Judaism and Israel.

Fine, 90, a former president of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond from 1965-66, received a number of community honors and awards over his lifetime.

JCFR President Richard Samet said, “Jack Paul Fine was a giant in our community and a great leader over his lifetime. His name is synonymous with caring, doing and giving in the Jewish Community.”

“He was a dear friend to so many and a pillar of our community at

Temple-Beth El and the entire Richmond Jewish community,” said Rabbi Michael Knopf of Beth-El at the service on July 20.

“Jack served Temple Beth-El with dignity and honor as president, and together with Bea, they both served and helped to build the Temple in so many ways,” he said.

At Beth-El, he was also a past chair of the building fund of the old and new educational buildings.



Fine More on page 20

DONATE NOW

We can’t silence the rockets. But we can try and soften their impact on the lives of the children and families.

*“No country on Earth would remain passive in the face of hundreds of rockets fired on its cities,”
said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,
“and Israel is no exception.”*

To donate to the JCFR Israel Emergency Campaign
Go to

<https://richmond.secure-fedweb.jewishfederations.org/page/contribute/2015-Israel-Emergency-Campaign>

You may call the
Jewish Community Federation of Richmond
at (804) 288-0045 or write:
JCFR at P.O. Box 17128, Richmond, VA 23226
for more information.

Network JCFR offers many programs, activities



(From left) The Matzo Ballers gather after a recent kickball game - Rachel Schaier, David Levine, Nerice Lochansky, Kevin Fine, Sarah Kelly Daniel, Brooke Kargman, Naomh Hudson, Grace Zell, Kevin Hudson, Zach Brenner, Matt Kaplan and Melanie Phillips.

By Kevin Hudson

This summer, seventeen young adults came together under the leadership of Melanie Phillips to form the Richmond Jewish Federation's kickball team, the Matzo Ballers.

The first time many of the people on the team met each other was in May at a restaurant in the Fan, where we picked up our team T-shirts and chatted with new teammates over some drinks. Over the next eight weeks, the Matzo Ballers met at Gillies Field in Richmond for a total of eight games. One of the advantages of playing at Gillies Field was its location, a short distance from downtown, where our team always went for drinks and food after the games.

Luckily for me, athletic ability was not a prerequisite condition to be on the Matzo Ballers team. The various kickball teams



Grace Zell scores a run.

were divided into several leagues. Our team was in the "super social" league, which was the least competitive category.

Network *More on page 4*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- **August 3** | 3 p.m.
Richmond Chamber Players Concert
Featuring Works of Allan Blank
Bon Air Presbyterian Church
- **August 10** | 5 p.m.
KBI Steakhouse Night
Keneseth Beth Israel
- **August 13** | noon
Hadassah Lunch and Learn
"Dynamic Women of Jewish Renewal"
Weinstein JCC
- **August 17** | 6 p.m.
Reel Theology "Frisco Kid"
Congregation Or Ami
- **August 18** | 8 a.m.
Temple Beth El Golf Tournament
Crossings Golf Club
- **August 18-22**
Camp Sababa
Sponsored by RCJE
Temple Beth-El, N. Parham Road

Visit jewishrichmond.org for a complete calendar of Jewish community events.

Network JCFR set for August

Network JCFR plans the following programs in August.

Flying Squirrels Game, Wednesday Aug. 6, 7 p.m. *The Diamond, 3001 N. Blvd.* Network JCFR has another set of tickets for participants to enjoy a Flying Squirrels game. Take in a thrilling baseball game, and enjoy awesome happy hour specials at The Diamond with other Jewish young professionals, 22-45 years old. To claim your free ticket, email Melanie Phillips at mphillips@jewishrichmond.org.

Poolside Potluck Shabbat Dinner, Friday Aug 22, 5:30 p.m. RSVP for the address. Join other Network JCFR partici-

pants and bring your favorite dish and bathing suit for this special Shabbat experience.

Looking ahead to September

Karaoke Night, Sept. 8., 9 p.m.

For details and to RSVP, call Melanie Phillips, Federation Young Leadership director at (804) 545-8623 or email mphillips@jewishrichmond.org.

Summer Intern

Network JCFR introduces its summer intern Jason Markhoff. Markhoff, a Richmond native, is entering his senior year as a political science major at Christopher Newport University, Newport News.



Jason Markhoff

He is making plans to continue his education in Israel at Tel Aviv University through the Masa master's program in political science and political communication. Markhoff enjoys participating in sports, the beach, reading and his two dogs, Joey and Toby. He will work in the Young Leadership Department, and get a taste of how things work at the Federation.

Join participants at the next Network JCFR event and introduce yourself to our intern.

THE REFLECTOR

הנה מה טוב ומה נעים
שבת אחים גם יחד
*How good & pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell in unity.*

The Reflector is published monthly by the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond. Copy must be received two and a half weeks prior to the date of publication. The Reflector reserves the right to edit or refuse any copy or advertisement submitted. Views expressed by guest writers and reader's letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

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Teens have ‘amazing,’ ‘unforgettable,’ Israel Tikkun Olam Exchange

Three Richmond teens – Hannah Auerbach, Mollie Maistelman and Mali Ben-Meir – experienced an amazing trip while traveling to Israel June 24 - July 7 as part of the new Jewish Community Federation P2G Tikkun Olam Teen Exchange program for incoming 10th - 12th graders.

This summer exchange program is designed to promote a connection between Jewish youth living outside of Israel and Israeli youth. The Richmond teens were home-hosted in the Hadera-Eiron region by their Israeli peers. The Richmond teens and their families will host 4 Israeli teens and an adult staff person Aug. 11-25. Six other teens from Charlotte, N.C., and Jacksonville, Fla., also took part in the P2Gether Program in Israel.

The following are brief reflections on their time in Israel from Hannah Auerbach and Mollie Maistelman.

Hannah Auerbach

This trip was absolutely amazing. As cliché as it sounds, it was genuinely a once-in-a-lifetime experience; not only because this was my first visit to Israel, but also because the P2G program created an overall experience that would be hard to beat in a trip to any country.

The two main components of the trip that made it so special were the places we went and the people we met. Each day we got on our rented tour bus and drove to a different region, so we got to see a lot of the country. From the first morning, when we woke up at 4 a.m. to climb Masada and watch the sun rise over the Dead Sea before breakfast, the days were packed with incredible activities. I have been to very few places in my life where each piece of ground has at least one story of historical importance, and to be in a place where everything had meaning to the Jewish people was unreal. (Although the jet lag might also have had something to do with the feeling of disconnect with reality.)

What sets this trip apart from programs like Birthright was the fact that it is an exchange program, so each of us from the U.S. got to stay with a host teen and their family. The Israeli teens traveled with us the whole time, and they were so kind and welcoming and really made the trip so much more fun. The members of my host family, as well, were so sweet and made me feel cared for and at home during the two weeks I was away from my home. This trip would not have been the same without these wonderful people, and I am so lucky to have been able to



(From left) Mollie Maistelman and Mali Ben-Meir stand near the Dead Sea.

make friends in addition to memories.

Looking back, our first activity on the first full day- waking up at an insane hour to climb Masada and watch the sun rise- very much encapsulates the spirit of the time we spent in Israel: breathtaking, full of historical weight, spent in good company, exhausting, and followed by really good food.

Hannah Auerbach, 17, is a rising senior at Maggie Walker Governor's School.

Mollie Maistelman

Traveling to Israel this summer was something I will never forget. Not only being able to experience different parts of the country, but being able to be immersed into the culture by living with a family is unimaginable.

The connections I made with the Israelis who hosted us and the Americans that joined me on this trip are unbreakable. Hiking Masada and visiting the Kotel were life changing experiences.

I am so happy that I chose this program as my first trip to Israel.

Mollie Maistelman, 17, is a rising 11th grader at Deep Run High School in Henrico County.

For details, contact Shoshana Schechter-Shaffin at (804) 545-8626 or email sshaffin@jewishrichmond.org



A large group of The teens from the U.S. and Israel gather to salute the 2014 P2G Tikkun Olam Exchange program and welcome all their new friends.



Hannah Auerbach at Mount Bental, near the Syrian border.



The teens from the U.S. and Israel enjoy a cool swim in the Jordan River.



Teens from Richmond along with those from Charlotte, N. C., and Jacksonville, Fla., network with Israel teens.

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More details coming soon!

For details, contact:

Matt Langsam at (804) 545-8652
or mlangsam@jewishrichmond.org

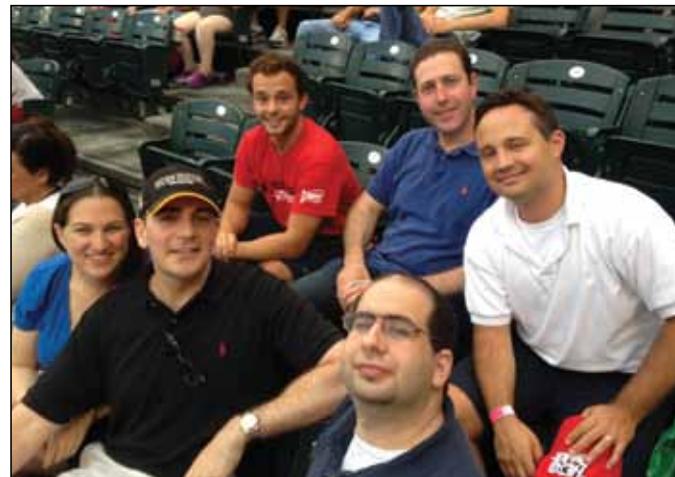


Network JCFR goes to the Flying Squirrels game



On July 9, a group of Network JCFR participants attended a Richmond Flying Squirrels game at the Diamond. (LEFT) Posing for a photo are: (front row/ from left) Jeremy Doochin, Gabby Sirow and Vladimir Shklovsky; (Back row/ from left) Becca Kohn, Zach Brenner and Aaron Brenner.

(BELOW/LEFT- Front row/ from left) Taking time out from watching the game are : Naomi Miller, Matt Pinsky and Warren Fellerman; (Back row/ from left) Jason Markhoff, Matt Kaplan and David Levine.



Network JCFR has another set of tickets for a Flying Squirrels game on Wednesday, Aug. 6 at 7 p.m. To receive a free ticket, email Melanie Phillips at mphillips@jewishrichmond.org.

Network

Continued from page 2

More than an athletic team, playing kick-ball with the Matzo Ballers was an opportunity to spend an afternoon outside once a week, have fun and, most importantly, meet new people.

The post-game gatherings at different restaurants and bars were as much a part of the experience as the games themselves. We began the season as a new team, but finished our season as new friends.

Kevin Hudson, a local attorney, is a native of Arlington. He and his wife, Naomh, also an attorney, live in New Kent.



Zach Brenner scores another run for the Matzo Ballers.



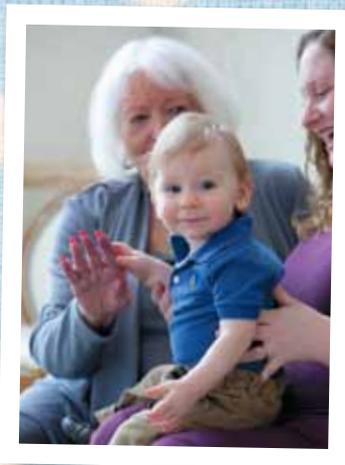
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We also support programs such as **PJ Library, Network JCFR, Richmond Council for Jewish Education, Enterprise Circle, and BBYO.**

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Are you a caregiver? JFS is here to help community members

Odds are it happened slowly: Mom, who never forgets a birthday, failed to call on your special day. She keeps retelling the same stories and the meticulously kept home is looking cluttered.

And then, before you know it, you're like the majority of caregivers, who spend an average of 20 hours a week bringing a loved one to medical appointments, cooking them meals, and calming their fears. Your schedule is likely already more than stuffed with your own kids' schedules, personal and career demands.

You are far from alone. An estimated 65.7 million Americans call themselves caregivers. If you're not a caregiver yet, odds are you will be someday. By 2050, the number of people over age 65 is expected to more than double, to 86.5 million.

With demands on your time and – often more important—your emotions and family dynamics, taking care of an older relative isn't easy, but knowing what support is available can make this time less stressful, more rewarding.

“Caregiving is one of the most challenging tasks a person can take on, especially if the role is ongoing. You can't do it all yourself,” said Lisa Colegrove, JFS Care Management supervisor. “You need help and support to manage the many directions a caregiver feels pulled in. It's important for a caregiver to care for themselves and JFS is here to help.”

JFS offers the following services for caregivers:

JFS Caregiver Support Group – It is held the third Friday of every month from 2-3:30 p.m. and allows caregivers to share their experiences, struggles and resources while receiving support of a JFS Care Manager.

HomeCare by JFS: Provides much needed respite care for caregivers by providing professional nurse's aides to assist your loved one with bathing, dressing, eating, walking, and more while allowing you to meet your needs without worry.

Care Management at JFS – Professionals with knowledge and proficiency in meeting the unique needs of older adults can help you assess your loved one's needs and develop a care plan.

Counseling by JFS – Being a caregiver is one of the most stressful roles a person can take on and caring for oneself is essential to managing that stress. The professional counselors at JFS can help you and your loved ones adjust to the situation.

For additional information on any of the above services, contact JFS at (804) 282-5644.



Jewish Family Services is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

RTA HAPPENINGS



The Maccabeats are coming to Richmond

Join Rudlin Torah Academy and community members on Sunday, Sept. 7, at 3 p.m. for an amazing, invigorating, family-friendly concert by the premier Jewish a cappella group, the Maccabeats.

Originally formed in 2007 as Yeshiva University's student vocal group, the Maccabeats have emerged as a Jewish music and a cappella pop phenomenon primarily as a result of their 2010 Chanukah hit “Candlelight.” With a large fan base, more than 20 million views on YouTube, numerous TV appearances, and three successful albums

– 2010's “Voices From The Heights,” 2012's “Out Of The Box,” and 2014's “One Day More,” the Maccabeats are making the philosophy of Torah u-Madda exciting and hip to every member of their audience.

The group will perform an eclectic selection of Jewish, American and Israeli songs, including old hits and new favorites.

The Maccabeats concert will launch RTA's new music program for the 2014-15 school year. RTA recently received a substantial gift from the estate of Patricia “Tish”

Marmorstein to establish this formal music program. The concert will be held at the Byrd Theater in Carytown and is appropriate for all ages.

Tickets cost \$15 each and can be purchased at (804) 556-1542, or online atwww.rudlin.com/content/default.asp?content=maccabeats.

For more information about RTA, Richmond's only Hebrew Day School, call the school office at (804) 353-1110, or visit www.rudlin.com.

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TICKETS: \$15/PERSON
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RTA / RUDLIN TORAH ACADEMY - RICHMOND HEBREW DAY SCHOOL

Bell Jams at Beth Sholom Lifecare Community



(From left/in front) Participating in the Bell Jams activity are Helen Petrella, Vera Flippen, Norma Taylor and Marilyn DiSalvo; (Back/from left) Norma Taylors, daughter Martha Raper and resident Hannah Hart.

Bell Jams has become an instant favorite activity of the residents at Beth Sholom Lifecare Community.

During Bell Jams, the residents each have a colored bell that corresponds to a specific musical note. While the music is playing, Joe, the Bell Jams leader is holding up pictures showing the residents which notes to play and when.

The key to this activity is to have fun, make music and jam out! Not only is

this activity fun, but it is also therapeutic because it allows the residents to be active, reminisce, and provides social interaction.

For more details about activities, call (804) 421-5347.



Beth Sholom Home is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.

'Faces of Faith' program

Always eager to join the conversation, the residents of Parkside Assisted Living attended an interfaith "Faces of Faith" lecture series at Lakewood Manor on July 16.

The series, designed to promote and encourage intellectual and religious conversation, has been ongoing since 2012. Honored guests and panelists included Rabbi Jesse Gallop of Congregation Beth Ahabah; Dr. Phyllis Rodgeron Pleasants Tessier, and Asian-American Society of Central Virginia Chairman Malik Khan.

These three panelists spoke on behalf of three major world religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam—as they led "An Interfaith Panel on Peace."

Topics discussed included each religion's definition of peace, how the actions of various extremist groups often clash with this definition, and the unique situation that exists between the three religions in the Middle East.



Resident Candy Coleman holds program for the lecture series.



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(From left) Weinstein JCC Development Director Margret O’Keefe and Capital and Endowment Campaign co-chairs Ric Arenstein and Lynn Schwartz working at one of the 4 brick paver phone-a-thons.

Weinstein JCC Brick Paver Campaign kick-off

Phones were ringing off the hook last month when 19 Weinstein JCC board members spent 10 hours stretched over four evenings conducting a phone-a-thon to raise awareness and funds in support of the Brick Paver Campaign – kicking off the Community phase of the Capital and Endowment Campaign. Together, these volunteers assisted by Center staff called more than 600 members – answering questions and sharing information about this commemorative giving opportunity.

Co-chaired by Shelley Gouldin, Sara Villalona

and Suzanne Peck, the Brick Paver Campaign has raised \$62,000 through the sale of more than 30 bricks in its first month. Pledge forms continue to be received as more and more community members choose to participate in this meaningful way to support the future of the Weinstein JCC, as well as celebrate, commemorate and honor the special people in their lives. The bricks, payable over 5 years, continue to be available for purchase

Brick Paver *More on page 16*

Weinstein JCC Patrons of the Arts kicks off with Elliott Yamin Oct. 19

Join the Weinstein JCC Patrons of the Arts as it kicks off of the 5th Patrons of the Arts season with Richmond native and American Idol Season 5 Finalist – Elliott Yamin. This intimate show on Oct. 19 at 3 p.m. will feature Yamin’s incomparable vocal talent accompanied by a single guitar.



Elliott Yamin

A California native, Yamin moved to Richmond at 11 and grew up near the Weinstein JCC. He attended Beth-El, Douglas Freeman High School, and famously worked many jobs around town occasionally

singing in bands and competing in local karaoke competitions. His final local job at the Westbury Pharmacy was cut short when Yamin was encouraged to audition for “American

Yamin *More on page 16*



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POA pre-season event featuring Dr. Ruth

The Weinstein JCC Patrons of the Arts, in partnership with Virginia Repertory Theatre, will host the dynamic and incomparable Dr. Ruth Westheimer as a pre-season event on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Center.

Va. Rep. opens its production of "Becoming Dr. Ruth" – a one-woman show that retells the incredible life of Ruth, the pioneering radio and television sex therapist. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport and joining the Haganah in Jerusalem as a scout and sniper, to her struggles to succeed as a single mother coming to America, this biographical account is filled with the humor, honesty and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became "Dr. Ruth."

Ruth will attend Va. Rep's Saturday, Sept. 20 performance at the Hanover Tavern and then visit the Weinstein JCC on Sun-



Dr. Ruth

day afternoon to speak about the show, her life, and answer questions from the audience. Va. Rep. will offer discounted tickets to this production for Weinstein JCC Patrons of the Arts subscribers. The discount code will be available Sept. 1.

Contact Erin Mahone with questions at (804) 545-8644 or emahone@weinsteinjcc.org.

Dr. David Ebenbach to speak at the Weinstein JCC on Oct. 6

The Weinstein JCC's fall Jewish Education line-up begins on Monday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Weinstein JCC with Dr. David Ebenbach.

Ebenbach is the author of a spiritual guide to creativity called "The Artist's Torah" (Cascade Books), as well as two books of short stories – "Into the Wilderness" (Washington Writers' Publishing House) and *Between Camelots* (University of Pittsburgh Press) – and a chapbook of poetry called "Autogeography" (Finishing Line Press).

With a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an MFA in writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts, Ebenbach teaches creative writing at Georgetown University.

He will discuss his book, "The Artist's Torah" – as we enter the beginning of the Jewish year. The book is an uplifting and down-to-earth guide to the creative process,

wide open to longtime artists and first-time dabblers, to people of every religious background or none and to every creative medium.

In this book, readers will find a year-long cycle of weekly meditations on a life lived artistically, grounded in ancient Jewish wisdom and the knowledge of artists, composers, writers, and choreographers from the past and present. He explores the nature of the creative process – how it begins, what it's for, what it asks of you, how you work your way to truth and meaning, what you do when you get blocked, what you do when you're done – and encounter questions that will help you apply the meditations to your own life and work.

Above all, "The Artist's Torah" teaches readers that creativity is a natural and important part of the human spirit, a bright spark that, week-after-week, this book



Dr. David Ebenbach

will brighten.

Come prepared to think about your creativity, to participate in activities and be empowered to embark on the 5775 with an inspired outlook.

Contact Erin Mahone with questions or to register at (804) 545-8644 or emahone@weinsteinjcc.org.

Weinstein JCC Patrons of the Arts

Here's a
Sneak Peek
at our
2014-2015
Season!



MUSIC ✦ VISUAL ARTS ✦ CONVERSATION ✦ THEATRE ✦ FILM ✦ DANCE

The 2014-15 Patrons of the Arts season is just around the corner. Look for our full program guide this month and get ready for every unique and entertaining event!

Call us at 545.8644 to learn more!





“Every aspect of Israeli life is impacted by the actions of Hamas,” said JCFR President Richard Samet.



These two Ethiopian young children enjoy their new life in Israel.

Israel Emergency Campaign to Help Children, Elderly, Disabled, Other Vulnerable Groups

Israel

Continued from page 1

Israel on July 21, along with Federation CEO Samuel Asher, briefed the board on their experiences.

“It was very eye-opening,” Samet emphasized. “Every aspect of Israeli life is impacted by the actions of Hamas. “It’s not just the tourism or the Soldiers being called-up.”

He added, “Everybody we talked to and every person we met has somebody who has been impacted, called-up, been in the IDF or has lost somebody.

“All the schools that we visited were affected. One school we visited north of Tel Aviv was asked to take in another 100 or so kids because the schools near Sderot and Ashdod were being evacuated.”

He said the kids in another school could not be transported for summer activities since it was deemed too dangerous.

Samet noted, “They need our help. It is our land. It is the only land we know we will be welcomed if we have to go there to live.”

He said, “We also saw incredible things in many areas happening in Israel including advances in technology.”

Asher said, “It was an amazing time to be in Israel. We visited an Ethiopian Absorption Center where the children are just happy to have a nice bed, food and support.

“We also saw Soldiers – young kids – go-

ing to war. They’re brave and doing what they have to do,” he said.

“Our partner agencies – JDC and JAFI – are doing amazing things on the ground. They are taking children out of harms way. In one week alone more than 45,000 kids have received immediate relief from the line of fire. They are helping the most vulnerable – the elderly and disabled to give them reassurance through home visits, trauma hotlines and counseling,” he noted

“But the needs still persist,” Asher noted.

The Jewish Federations of North America authorized nearly \$5 million in initial aid for our partner agencies in Israel to defray the costs of increased demand for programs and services during the first week of hostilities alone. In the second week, JFNA allocated an additional \$3.5 million to support the continuation of those services and fund additional services now in demand.

“It’s time to **Stand With Israel**,” Asher said.

Nathan Shor said, “Nannette and I agreed to chair this campaign because nothing is more important than helping the people of Israel. The people of Israel have lived through this everyday for the past three weeks (on July 23), and the past eight years.

“Those of us in the U. S. – in Richmond

– can’t imagine what the Israeli people are living under today. The trauma that people are going through is terrible. All we want to do is help the people live through this,” he said.

Shor said the Federation will reach out to the Synagogues and the general community to help with the Israel Emergency Campaign.

“We know so many people – Jews and non-Jews – who love Israel and will give to this Campaign and help the people,” Shor said.

“Every dollar raised will be invested in the people of Israel – the families. Not a bit will go to the military or technology. It will go to food, structure, housing and counseling for those in need,” he said.

The following are some important points about the conditions impacting the Israeli people.

Israel Today

- Hamas’ upgraded military capabilities mean that today, three quarters of Israelis live within range of rocket fire.

- Missiles have hit from Beer Sheva in the south to Haifa in the north. And it’s not over yet. Because in the precious few seconds between



Richard Samet has fun with children at Ethiopian Absorption Center.

a siren blast and a rocket hit, lives can be destroyed, or changed forever.

- The elderly, the disabled, the disadvantaged and new immigrants have specific and urgent needs for comfort and care.

- For the tens of thousands of children who live within 25 miles of Gaza, the current situation is not a flare-up. They have spent the last 13 years under fire.

Our partner agencies are teaming up to provide them with much-needed time away in summer camps and youth villages far from the line of fire.

Israel *More on page 11*

“It was an amazing time to be in Israel. We visited an Ethiopian Absorption Center where the children are just happy to have a nice bed, food and support,” said Federation CEO Samuel Asher.



Linda Hurwitz, National Campaign chair, for Jewish Federations of North America, poses with Ethiopian children at an Absorption Center.

Israel

Continued from page 10

Editor's Note - Federation President Richard Samet and CEO Samuel Asher took part in a Jewish Federations of North America Campaigner's Mission to Israel on July 13-21. The following are highlights of their daily experience.

July 16

Today we began our journey north to visit Ben Yakir Youth Village sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel and JCFR. As we were about to pull away, however, our guide announced that sirens were sounding and we should evacuate the bus and return to the interior of the hotel immediately. Within minutes the situation was over, and we were on our way.

After touring the youth village, we proceeded to Hadera, Richmond's partnership community, to hear from Dr. Adi Fine, director of pediatrics at Hillel Yaffe Hospital. We learned about a JCFR project through World ORT to assist children with long stays in the hospital with their schooling.

We are now off to Nazareth to visit a JDC program focused on Jewish-Arab co-existence, sponsored by the Venture Fund for Jewish-Arab Equality and Shared Society.

Day 8: Update on Operation Protective Edge and Federation Response

Today, the group joined 1,000 children from throughout southern Israel at the Shefayim Water Park, where they were enjoying a day of fun far from Gaza, thanks to The Jewish Agency for Israel.

By the end of the week, more than 10,000 children and teens will participate in activities like this. Their smiling faces inspired us, though the group were all aware that by the end of the day they could very well be returning home to more sirens.

I don't think there is a single person following events here in Israel who doesn't have the number 15 etched in their mind – the 15-second warning that many Israelis have to sprint to a safe space. We are so focused on the speed with which Israelis must act that it is easy to forget what happens to those who can't run from harm's way.

JDC's Center for Independent Living in Beer Sheva is the main facility serv-



Leaders from Federations interact with Ethiopian children and staff at an Absorption Center.

ing people with disabilities throughout all of southern Israel – Jews and Bedouins. There, the group heard the heartbreaking story of one client who has had to relocate into his concrete safe room. He can't leave it, even to go to the bathroom. If a siren sounds, he's not sure he'll make it back

in time. But with a portable toilet from JDC he can maintain his independence and dignity through long days and nights in the shelter.

Israel *More on page 12*



“More than 1,381 rockets have now been fired by Hamas into Israel since July 7, the start of Operation Protective Edge. That is an average of over 145 rockets per day aimed directly at heavily populated civilian areas,” said JCFR President Richard Samet.

Israel

Continued from page 11

July 17

In The North - Day Four

We're on Route 89, driving up through the groves of pear trees that line the slopes of the Golan Heights. As we skirt the border, our guide quips that it's safer to be next to Hezbollah than in other parts of the country. This is as we travel to Kibbutz Ga'Aton to observe the Kibbutz Dance Company and learn about the post college and other programs available to Jewish youth throughout the world by the efforts of MASA and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

We also toured the high school in the Druze village of Horfaish, nestled deep in a valley at the top of the Galilee region. We enjoyed the presentations by the students of that school using Ort technology, and visited the memorial for Colonel Nabi Marii, a son of the village, and the greatest Druze war hero in Israel's history. Col. Marii was killed in Ramallah in 1996. He is respected as the epitome of bravery and loyalty by Jew and Druze alike.

He is a shining example of how two peoples can not only coexist, but can share and love one nation.

Sadly, as we viewed the program describing Nabi Marii's fierce loyalty to Israel, the five hour U.N. humanitarian cease fire expired, which Hamas marked by promptly launching rockets into Ashdod.

This was little surprise, as Hamas continued to lob rockets and mortars out of Gaza even as the U.N. attempted to bring water, food and medication in during the five hours between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. We are watching the news closely, as it appears that Hamas has left Israel with little choice but to continue

to attack Hamas' ability to drop rockets on Israel's citizens.

The Situation

Israel has proposed a temporary cease-fire and announced that it will halt all attacks for a 5- hour period today, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. to allow Gazans to buy essential supplies and other humanitarian needs.

Despite this humanitarian "cease-fire truce," several rockets have been reported fired from Gaza in to Israel.

At around 4.30 a.m., Thursday, IDF soldiers identified a group of 13 heavily armed terrorists attempting to enter Israel from the southern Gaza Strip. The gunmen emerged from a tunnel 250 meters inside Israel, two kilometers from Kibbutz Sufa in the Eshkol region, and were detected by the IDF who attacked the group and destroyed the tunnel.

The terrorists attempted to drop their weapons, including hand-held RPG rockets, and flee.

Maj. Gen. (res.) Israel Ziv, responded to the attempted attack by thirteen terrorists into Israel territory this morning, saying that the timing "is not random" but shows "how cynical Hamas can be" by planning such a maneuver at the outset of a humanitarian cease fire.

More than 1,381 rockets have now been fired by Hamas into Israel since July 7, the start of Operation Protective Edge. That is an average of over 145 rockets per day aimed directly at heavily populated civilian areas.

According to an Israel Channel 2 poll taken two days ago, 53% of respondents said they opposed a cease fire with Hamas, while 35% said they support it. 12% said they did not know or refused to answer.



Campaign Mission group talks with high school students in the Druze village of Horfaish and observe how they are using the latest technology - Ort smart boards.

July 18

We Depart Kibbutz Ha'Goshrim

It is hard to believe that it is already Friday morning as we depart Kibbutz Ha'Goshrim, in the shadow of the Golan Heights in the far north of Israel.

Despite the mountain breeze and the incredible view of the Houla Valley, we are all keenly aware that Israel is now in a ground war, and that we are nestled against her border with Lebanon. As we head south toward Jerusalem we get regular reminders as we pass olive drab trucks pulling empty flatbed trailers north.

At a rest stop we see the same flatbeds loaded with armored personnel carriers alongside buses filled with soldiers, all headed south toward Gaza.

Things happen here rather quickly. In the five days we have been here, one cease fire was rejected by Hamas, rockets were launched from Lebanon, a second cease-fire came and went with its expiration heralded by the launch of dozens of Hamas rockets, and Israel was once again forced to commit troops to a costly and dangerous invasion of Gaza in order to stop the militants' constant barrage of rockets intentionally targeted at civilian Israelis. But, for Iron Dome, there almost certainly would have been multiple Israeli civilian casualties. With it, Israel's citizens go on as well as possible with their normal, everyday, lives.

And we continue our mission.



Flatbed trailers carry IDF armored personnel carriers north from Jerusalem.

Last evening, we were briefed by IDF Colonel Kobi Marom on the status of Israel's borders with Lebanon and Syria and learned of the incredible number of rockets, over 80,000, that Syria has trained on her. We followed that with a much less dire, and much more enjoyable visit to an Ethiopian absorption center. As we handed out Shabbat candy to the children, we were invited into single room, 200 square foot apartment shared by a family of four. As Mom prepared traditional Ethiopian injera bread for Shabbat dinner, we learned that this family is supremely happy in their one room because it is in Israel. Adi, our guide, explained to us that they, like himself, didn't come for the culture, but for Israel. We are here because we have the freedom and means to get here: Adi and his fellow Ethiopian émigrés are here because they lacked freedom, and because Israel, with our help, went and got them.

Israel *More on page 13*

The Power of Connecting

July 25

By Alan H. Gill, CEO
The American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee

No matter how long one lives in Israel, you don't ever get used to the sirens, the break in the calm, the wait-to-see if the missile that is approaching will be intercepted, or not, by the Iron Dome.

The ongoing crisis has utterly exhausted so many Israelis. They are raw from missile attacks reaching deep into the country, the boom of explosions, blaring sirens, and the funerals of the young fallen soldiers on TV. Sleep is elusive as one never knows when the next missile will be launched and the sirens will sound.

I heard their stories over the last several days while visiting JDC's emergency operations in central and southern Israel with our stalwart professional colleagues, who are working day and night, and got to see for myself, again, what the constant assault from Gaza has wrought. The people here are resilient, keeping a stiff upper lip despite the continuous barrage and frayed nerves.

And their stories are a stark reminder of the reality they live with every day. The twenty seconds to determine which safe space or bomb shelter a father can make it to with two children in his arms, half asleep and terrified, as he sprints for the four flights of stairs. The answers a mother can provide to her just-potty-trained child who is afraid of using the toilet out of fear that a "bad guy" will come up from the tunnels below.

The 80-year-old determining if it's easier to sleep on the floor in their safe space or chance having to wearily climb out of bed when the siren wails. The father living just 10 kilometers from the Gaza border, phone constantly in his hand, assessing if it's safe for him to give his daughter permission to go the local market, knowing full well a missile could fall at any time.

The parents having to decide between going to work or ensuring their children are not left alone during the day, unable to go to summer camp because they are closed. The professional caregivers, working 15-hour days, having to find time – and a quiet, private space – where they can break down and cry, worried about showing their pain to their families or the seniors they serve.

The children worrying why mommy seems so nervous all the time and why daddy was called away. The shiva visits to the mourning families of the fallen soldiers. In this atmosphere, it does not seem like relief, or hope, is near.

www.JewishRichmond.org



Alan Gill of JDC lifts a young deaf boy in the air with joy while visiting a respite facility in Ashdod. Photo courtesy of Sasson Tiran Photography

But that's when I met "Shula," a mother of three deaf children, who was together with her family at one of the dozens of respite activities JDC is running for thousands of vulnerable Israelis living in heavily bombed areas. We bused her from Ashdod to experience a day away from the relentless sirens and missile attacks. Shula approached me immediately, her two adorable twin girls in her arms. She told me about her worries, the lack of sleep, the concerns about missiles and tunnels, and general anxiety.

And then she told me, pointing out to the crowds enjoying the water park, "You don't know how much we needed this."

She was overflowing with gratitude, tears welling in her eyes. "I feel like I am alive again," she said.

At that moment her son, covered in freckles and standing by her side, looked up at me and reached out. And I picked him up – reflexively as I do with my own grandkids – and began lifting him in the air as he smiled and giggled.

And suddenly, in that moment, and for several moments thereafter, all was fine in the world. We were standing together laughing and enjoying the simple pleasure of a child's joy. We were all uplifted. Me, a mother, her children, and those all around us. Yes, we all knew they would return to the constant onslaught of missiles. But for that short period – an oasis during wartime – we understood the power of connectedness, of reaching out to another person in pain, and the living, breathing ideal that we are all responsible for one another.

On the long ride home I said a prayer for better days and for our courageous soldiers who are doing everything within their power to keep us safe. And I felt deeply privileged that I am part of a global response that gave Shula and her children a chance to experience normalcy again, even for a moment, even for a day.

Alan Gill will be the guest speaker Oct. 1 in Richmond at the Federation's Grand Event.

JDC Responds to Crisis in Israel

As rockets continue to be fired on Israel from Gaza, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's emergency response system has been in activation since the first day of the crisis to ensure the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable Israelis impacted by the escalating crisis. As we have so many times in the past, JDC stands shoulder-to-shoulder with all Israelis.

JDC's network of programs for the most vulnerable have activated their emergency phone chains and are regularly checking in on those they serve, providing for their safety, and meeting their needs as the emergency continues.

JDC's Day Centers for the Elderly in Merchavim, Sdot Negev and Beer Tuvia are delivering meals to the homebound and other elderly who rely on the centers for hot meals.

JDC's Better Together program for families in low-income neighborhoods is creating alternative recreational activities for children in the range of the rocket fire,

with an emphasis on activities for children who may have to endure extended stays in bomb shelters.

JDC's Center for Young Adults in Sderot is welcoming children and families to utilize the "safe space" available at the facility, and young adult volunteers are developing activities to occupy the city's children, who due to the emergency cannot participate in the usual summer activities.

JDC is working closely with Israel's Ministries of Social Affairs and Social Welfare, Education, and Health; the Home Front Command and the National Emergency Network. JDC's experience in responding to past emergency situations in Israel – during the second intifada, the Second Lebanon War, the Carmel Fires disaster and Operations Cast Lead and Pillar of Defense – is being put to work to ensure that support and assistance can be delivered quickly and effectively.

Editor's Note: For more on JDC, see the article on page 20.

JAFI Responds to Crisis in Israel

As Operation Protective Edge continues, the Jewish Agency for Israel has been working closely with government and local municipalities, coordinating efforts with the national emergency authority and its partners and colleagues at Jewish Federations of North America, JDC and others.

Aliyah & Absorption

JAFI has over 2,500 new olim in the Southern region (Ibim, Be'er Sheva, etc), and all are being provided with the necessary therapy and guidance. All facilities are secure, with up to date emergency equipment.

Ravit Eliya Leib, MSW, is the director of Social Services for The Jewish Agency Absorption Centers in southern Israel. She has two children, whose summer program has been cancelled due to the current situation, but Leib recruited a family member to care for them, so that she could continue to care for the new immigrants.

"It's so important to create a routine, to normalize this abnormal situation," she said. "The staff is used to emergency situations, but the olim have to learn to get used to it."

Leib recounts her work with a 42-year-old olah from Ethiopia, "T," who arrived two years ago with her 6 children in such dire physical condition that she was brought from the airport to a hospital by ambulance. Extremely disabled, she had been unable, in Ethiopia, to get the medical care she needed.

In previous periods of rocket attacks,

when air-raid sirens went off, it was so difficult for her to get to a bomb shelter that her family members took turns staying with her in her home.

In Israel, "T" has received intensive rehabilitative services, and recently got up from her wheelchair for the first time. "Last night, when the sirens went off," Leib says, "T" came down to the shelter on her own two feet. It was an incredible moment for all the olim, seeing her arrive there on her own."

Israel Experiences:

"They came for an Israel Experience, but they are getting an Israeli Experience..."

We have over 4,500 young adults in Israel on short term experiences, and an additional 3,000 on long term programs. Communications have gone out to parents of Onward, Masa, and other program participants, and the Facebook feeds of the programs are being regularly updated, as well.

Masa's 24-hour hotline for parents – 1-855-462-6272 – is up and running.

In the south of Israel there are some 2,200 senior citizens living at Amigour sheltered housing facilities. JAFI visits them on a daily basis to ensure that their daily routine is not disturbed, and that even in these tense times they live there in comfort and security.

All of their facilities are secure and their equipment, up to date.

For more on JAFI, visit www.jewishagency.org.

Experiential learning takes off at Congregation Beth Ahabah Religious School

Another year of stimulating Jewish education is planned for the pre-K- grade 12 students at the Barbara and William B. Thalhimer Jr. Religious School at Congregation Beth Ahabah.

Projects, field trips, family learning and more make Jewish learning personal, relevant and enjoyable. The Sunday students (pre-K-grade 7) learn about holidays, values, Jewish life, Israel, Hebrew and more through hands-on exploration. Whether the students are making hummus, growing plants, painting pictures of creation or traveling to Monticello or Philadelphia, the program provides important tools that engage students' imagination and enhances Jewish identity and community.

Music is a strong part of the program and the lively T'fillah services ring with our students' voices in prayer and song. An art



A third grader proudly displays his Creation Painting during a Geshet Family program.

infused curriculum incorporates large and small projects around the school.

An optional mid-week Hebrew program combines social time with extended Hebrew study. The Monday night program (grades 8-10) offers electives, retreats, social time and Confirmation classes. A new 11th and 12th grade program meets on Sunday afternoons



Hannah Piracha (center), music teacher and Madrichim, teach Hebrew through a musical game about colors and numbers using a parachute.

for lunch and teen directed discussion. Youth Groups, choirs, and the youth band, Ruach Chadash, meet after school on Sundays.

For registration information visit www.bethahabah.org or contact ramona@bethahabah.org or call (804) 358-6757.

Reel Theology set for Aug. 17 with 'Frisco Kid' at Or Ami

Congregation Or Ami's Adult Learning Committee will show "The Frisco Kid" as its monthly Reel Theology movie on Sunday, Aug. 17 at 6 p.m.

"The Frisco Kid" is a 1979 movie directed by Robert Aldrich. The movie is a Western comedy featuring Gene Wilder as Avram Belinski, a Polish rabbi who is traveling to San Francisco, and Harrison Ford as a bank

robber who befriends him. On the way he is nearly burnt at the stake by Indians and almost killed by outlaws.

The screening is free and open to the public. There will be an informal potluck before the movie and a group discussion afterward led by Rabbi Ahuva Zaches.

Or Ami is located at 9400 Huguenot Road. For details, call (804) 272-0017.



(From left) Skyler, Shane Legano, Jack and Shaanan enjoy time in their bunks at the AdVenture Camp in Goochland County.

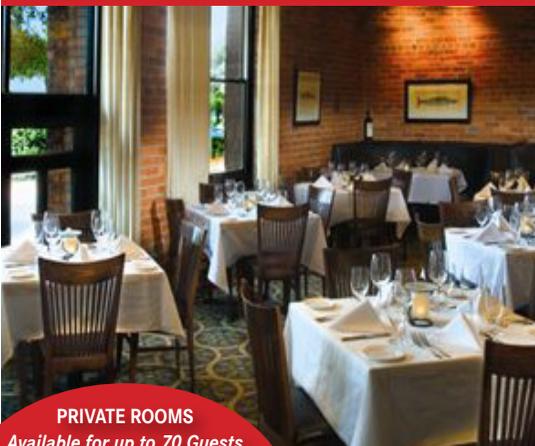


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Cub Scout Pack 613 news

Cub Scout Pack 613 had an amazing time at the end of June at Cub Scout Pirate Adventure Camp in Goochland County. They enjoyed swimming, hiking, BB-gun training, fishing, and songs and skits around the camp fire.

It was a wonderful time of bonding and adventure for the boys. Many of the pack's fathers were able to attend, making it an excellent family time had by all.

In July, Cub Scout Pack 613 enjoyed a "Movie Under the Stars" showing of "The

Lego Movie." They enjoyed popcorn and great company on blankets enjoying the movie "drive-in" style.

Pack 613 has many more adventures to come, so check out its Facebook Page (Cub Scout Pack 613) for information about how to get involved.

To take advantage of all that Scouting offers, contact KBI, the Scouts' Charter Organization, at (804) 288 -7953 or KBI@cavtel.net with any questions, comments, or suggestions.



Tot Shabbat, year of learning fun at Temple Beth-El

At Temple Beth-El Religious School, the staff is gearing up for the new school year, and a fun year full of new learning opportunities are planned.

The program will incorporate more movement and activity into Hebrew activities, so that students will learn Hebrew vocabulary through everyday movements and activities. As the re-tooling of the high school program continues, students will participate in a wide variety of activities while exploring and staying connected to their Jewish heritage. New and returning teachers make up a dedicated and experienced staff that cares about making sure our students love Jewish learning.

This year there will be a full calendar of Tot Shabbat and Junior Congregation services planned. If you have children, from infants to 7, join other children and their families for Tot

Shabbat services on the following dates: Friday, Sept. 5 (Shabbat dinner afterward); Saturday, Dec. 20; Saturday, Jan. 10; Saturday, Feb. 28.; Saturday, March 14; Saturday, April 25, 2015; and Friday, May 8 (Shabbat dinner afterward).

Junior Congregation services, for children ages 8 and older, will be held on the following Saturday mornings: Sept. 13, Dec. 20, Jan. 24; Feb. 28; March 28; April 18,; and May 16. Join members and guests for joyful Shabbat celebrations for your children filled with song and dance.

If you are looking for a fulfilling Jewish educational experience for your child, we'd love to show you what Temple Beth-El Religious School has to offer. Contact Hazzan Marian at (804) 814-3582 or at hazzan.turk@betherichmond.org to learn the details.

Bubbles and Brunch

Temple Beth El Sisterhood will host its annual event, Bubbles and Brunch, on Sept. 7, at 9:15 a.m., at a member's home. Join members and guests for this special event as they welcome Adira Rose Knopf who has come to Richmond with her husband, Rabbi Michael Knopf, Temple Beth-El's new Rabbi.

www.JewishRichmond.org

The event is free for paid Sisterhood members. Bubbles and Brunch also is open to the community. Join the Sisterhood for events throughout the year; TBE temple membership is not required.

For more information about the upcoming event location and TBE Sisterhood, email thesisterhood1@gmail.com.

KBI's community educators

Since 1852, Beth Israel has been a center for Richmond's community of traditional Judaism. In the last several years, this has taken on a broader and new meaning. Not only does Keneseth Beth Israel host Richmond's largest Jewish event in the Jewish Food Festival and is the local place for minyan 365 days a year, but its membership assists with the Torah education across the city.

Educators are at institutions of every denomination: Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox. More than 30 members have taught in recent years at Aleph-Bet Preschool, Congregation Or Atid, Keneseth Beth Israel, Rudlin Torah Academy, Shaarei Torah, Temple Beth-El, Congregation Beth Ahabah, Weinstein JCC Preschool and Yeshiva of Virginia.

In 2012, Sarah Roth was working with the kindergarten at Beth Ahabah. She particularly enjoyed seeing the growth of the children as they were able to recognize all the Hebrew letters by the end of the year even though it was just a weekly class.

In 2013-14, Gali Saar (also at Aleph Bet) taught the third grade at Beth-El where she remembers the joy of teaching the correct blessings to go with the respective foods. Don Cantor recalls the eagerness of the Beth El seventh graders as they wanted to learn more about

the siddur (prayer book) and how they realized they needed to work on their Hebrew skills in order to have a more meaningful experience.

Rabbi Yisrael Meir David of Yeshiva of Virginia reflected on his first year by recalling not just the students' awesome and pure joy for acquiring knowledge, but how they said thank you at the end of the year; the students gave him a meaningful gift of the Shulchan Aruch (code of Jewish law). Catherine Marks teaches second grade at Or Atid and commented how it was "simply gratifying to teach the future of the Jewish people."

Rabbi Royi Shaffin of Or Atid commented on how fabulous Yael Fletcher and Catherine Marks have been as teachers. "They each bring their own unique perspective, and it adds to the colorfulness of the Or Atid education."

Rabbi Yosef Bart, principal of RTA, likes nothing more than to excite Jewish families about Jewish education and encourage them to decide to let their children further their understanding of their heritage. He takes pleasure in seeing them refine their character and how they turn out to be wonderfully respectful children, who are walking examples of what it means to be a Jew.



Or Atid Happenings

Join Congregation Or Atid for its annual Shabbarbeque Series.

Shabbarbeques start at 6:15 p.m. and services are at 7 p.m. Bring the family; the whole mitzpacha and your your friends, too. Guaranteed to have the time of your life.

Aug. 1 - Lotsa Pasta Nosha. Baked Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread and a special Kosher Italian dessert.

Aug. 8 - Hamburgers, hotdogs, chips

or fries, dessert

Aug. 15 - Bubbe's Shab'burger'que. A bissala choice of hamburgers - beef, turkey, veggie, plus a few side dishes to complete the nosh.

Aug. 22 - Prospective member Shabbat Under the Stars

For details about Or Atid programs and activities, call (804) 740-4747.

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5400 Men's Club

Aug. 4 - Barbara Schneider: The John Marshall Foundation: In the Opinion of the Court (Joint Program)

Aug. 11 - Don Wade and Freddy C, "A Musical Program." (Joint Program)

Aug. 18 - Dr. George Vetrovec, MCV, "I Wonder What My Doctor Thinks;

Recent Press Releases Related to Cardiovascular Health." (Joint Program)

Aug. 25 - Nathan Richards, Evatran, "Cordless Automotive Recharging System." (Joint Program)

Yamin

Continued from page 8

Idol." He traveled to Boston with a friend and his mother to take a shot.

In 2006, he embarked on the adventure of a lifetime as a contestant on Season 5 of "American Idol." He became famous for his exceptional R&B vocal style, sweet and humble demeanor - and his relationship with his feisty and loving mother, Claudette. He has since released six albums and traveled the world as a singer and ambassador, representing causes like Malaria No More and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

The Weinstein JCC Patrons of the Arts is honored and excited to host "our hometown boy" for the inaugural event of the 5th season. There is no doubt that this performance will set a high bar for this celebratory year of exceptional arts and culture at the Center. Please join us for this unforgettable event!

Tickets are available online at weinsteinjcc.org. Contact Lisa Looney with questions at 545-8608 or email at llooney@weinsteinjcc.org.

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Suzanne Peck, Brick Paver Campaign co-chair, made calls to Center members and supporters.

Brick Paver

Continued from page 8

with the first installation in the Neil November Plaza and at the entrance of the Preschool planned later this month.

The Weinstein JCC sends a tremendous thank you to those who have purchased a brick paver and all that have participated in the Capital and Endowment Campaign to support the future of the Center.

For those who would like more information, contact Jay Jacobs at (804) 545-8643 or visit weinsteinjcc.org for additional order details.

Together we can ensure our programs and services are available not only for ourselves but also for our neighbors, including those with financial issues, a family member with special needs, or the need for affordable childcare. In other words, you can help to create a memorable today, while investing in an even better future.



The Weinstein JCC is supported, in part, by a generous contribution from the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond.



Estate planning made easy

By Robert Nomberg
PRESIDENT & CEO, RJF

In a nutshell, estate planning is really what you want done with what you own. The good news is, you can provide for the people and causes important to you by taking simple steps now. Creating your plan for the future can be easy and even enjoyable.

While an attorney should always draft your will, we can help demystify the process and prepare you for meeting your attorney with these simple steps:

1. Itemize Your Assets - Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. On the left side, write something you own. On the right side, write the name or names of the person(s) you wish to receive that item or asset.

2. Organize Your Estate - Make the process of organizing your estate and plans even easier by downloading our free wills guide (visit www.createlegacy.org). This fill-in-the-blank guide walks you through the process of gathering information about what you own, your family and your goals.

3. Write Down Questions - Consider practical questions, such as, "If I give my house to my adult son and my adult daughter, what will they do with it?" If you come up with a question that you can't seem to find a solution for, make a note to ask your attorney.

4. Review Your Plans for Family - You can give some assets to family right away and others over time. Ask us how you can provide an income stream or a lump sum to a loved one and achieve your personal and inheritance goals with various trusts and annuities.

5. Consider Charity - Remember to include any charities that are important to you in your plan. If you have given during life, then consider providing for these organizations through your estate. Ask us about plans like charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities that can help your family and our mission. We can help you create a legacy plan that will include all the charities you wish to support either during or after your lifetime.

6. Visit Your Attorney - Bring the information you have gathered and questions to your attorney. Your attorney can draft a will or trust that will achieve your goals. You complete the plan through a simple signing process.

7. Update Your Plan - Update your estate plan as your life changes. Marriages, births, and deaths are all events that may make you want to revise your plans.

Please contact me at Robert@rjfoundation.org with any questions or call (804) 545-8656 to learn more about creating a legacy plan to support the charities of your choice.

Chamber Players to feature Richmond composer's music - Aug. 3

On Sunday Aug. 3, the Richmond Chamber Players Interlude concert will feature the music of beloved composer Allan Blank, who died in Richmond last year.

The players will perform Blank's "Study for Solo Viola," and "Links" for Clarinet, Violin and Piano."

Richmond Chamber Players Summer

Interlude concerts are at Bon Air Presbyterian Church 9201 W. Huguenot Road, four consecutive Sundays in August, and begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for seniors; students \$18, students 18 and under are free.

Come hear composer Allan Blank's exquisite music.

For details, call (804) 217-7205.)

Jefferson-Lakeside turning 100 - memorabilia, more requested

Jefferson-Lakeside Country Club is turning 100 next year.

If you have any memorabilia, photos or other Lakeside related items you would be

willing to loan or donate to the Club, contact the club manager, Martin Thompson at (804) 266-2456.

www.JewishRichmond.org



Annual Flower Sale: Order by Sept. 8

Please support Hadassah's annual fundraiser for the High Holy Days by buying a beautiful floral centerpiece for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. All orders must be placed by Sept. 8.

For only \$45, Coleman Brothers Florist will deliver a lovely fall arrangement to loved ones locally and out of town for \$60. All arrangements will be delivered on Sept. 24 for Rosh Hashanah and Oct. 3 for Yom Kippur. It also makes a lovely hostess gift for friends.

The money raised supports many Hadassah programs in Israel including its efforts in pace-setting health, education and youth institutions.

To order, make your check for \$45 or \$60 per arrangement payable to Richmond Hadassah. Include the recipient's name, address, phone number, and which holiday you would like the flowers delivered. Also include your name and phone number. Send the information and check to Carolyn Perlman, 12808 Fox Meadow Drive, Richmond, 23233.

For details, call Carolyn Perlman at (804) 360-3604 or (804) 399-6669.

Free Life Memberships

Longtime Hadassah member Emily Sterling is paying forward her gift of Life Membership in Hadassah to new college graduates by donating \$25,000 to establish a special project - 100 graduation gifts of Life Membership (women) or Associate (men). These awards are valued at \$212 and come with no strings attached.

Recipients must be a graduate of Virginia college or university since May 2013. Graduates who would like to receive a free membership should notify Co-Membership Vice Presidents Elaine Ragone or Beth Rochkind or Project Chair Janie Schwarz. All can be reached at Richmond.chapter@hadassah.org.

Hadassah Book Club: Aug. 10

The Hadassah Book Group will discuss "The Boys in the Boat and Their Epic

Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" by Daniel Brown on Sunday, Aug. 10, at 1 p.m. at the Weinstein JCC.

This book is a departure from the books usually discussed. It's the story of how nine boys of humble backgrounds from the University of Washington - against all odds in an extraordinary display of camaraderie and precision - faced the rowing teams of other elite powers from universities in the western and eastern U.S. and Great Britain, and ultimately the German crew rowing for Adolph Hitler in the 1936 Munich Olympics. And they defeated them all.

Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion or to just listen to this compelling story that reads like a novel.

For further information, contact Deborah Cohen at Deborah.Cohen@suntrust.com.

Lunch and Learn: Aug. 13

Join Hadassah's Lunch and Learn as Julie Beck-Berman guides members and guests through Dynamic Women of Jewish Renewal on Aug. 13 at noon at the Weinstein JCC.

Move with the group into the 21st century to learn about the current way women in Jewish Renewal are helping to lead the way through creative Jewish insights and practice into the Jewish future. Bring a bag lunch or buy it from the café - treats will be provided.

For details, contact Julie Beck-Berman at julirfbb@aol.com or Carolyn Belgrad at cbelgrad@comcast.net.

Restaurant Fundraiser: Aug. 25

Stay in "vogue" and join Richmond Hadassah at Estilo Restaurant (Spanish for Style) on Monday, Aug. 25 from 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Join members and guests all day to support Hadassah. Estilo will donate 10 percent of all food sales to Hadassah's projects.

Located at 7021 Three Chopt Road in the Village Shopping Center, Estilo serves foods inspired by Central and South America with an emphasis on Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Costa Rica, the Caribbean and Mexico.

For details, contact Estilo at (804) 484-6046 or Lynne Armstrong at citroniover@yahoo.com.

Save the Date: Sept. 12

Richmond Hadassah invites the community to members and guests at Shabbat Under the Stars, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m., at the home of Ann and Elliot Eisenberg. Participants will enjoy each other's company and partake in an Israeli-themed supper.

In lieu of a couvert, bring unopened school supplies that will be donated to a local school in need. As usual Tzedakah for Hadassah will be appreciated.

More information will be forthcoming in the September *Reflector*.



With Roman and his sister in their meager home in Kutaisi are (from left) Federation staffer Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin, Michal Zivan Coffey, Matt Miller, Kevin Fine, Nerice Lochansky, Shir Bodner and Shaun Hoffman, a JDC staff member. The two live alone and rely on the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for their vital needs.

Richmonders see how JDC is the vital lifeline for Jews in the Republic of Georgia

The families were involved in Jewish life, they were teaching their children to lead a Jewish life, they were proud to be Jewish. - Michal Zivan Coffey

The JDC has set up supports for Roman to live in his family home and provide him with the necessary provisions to survive. - Zach Sisisky

This is a second in a three-part series focused on the reflections of 10 young leaders, ages 23-38, from Richmond, who traveled to the Republic of Georgia in the Former Soviet Union in late May. They took part in an American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee-Entwine education and service trip.

They are all 2014 Fellows of the Susan and Mark B. Sisisky Global Jewish Enrichment Fund of the Richmond Jewish Foundation.

Staffed by the Federation's Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin, they visited and discovered the significant needs of the Georgian Jewish community in the capital city of Tbilisi and smaller communities of Rustavi, Gori and Kutaisi.

During their stay, they bonded, were inspired and witnessed how Jews there often are struggling and at the same time thriving due to the amazing help of the American Joint

Distribution Committee.

Here are two first-hand accounts and experiences of Michael Zivan Coffey and Zach Sisisky.

Both are active in the community. Coffey is director of the VCU Campus Learning Center. Sisisky is the founder of the Richmond Autism Connection and a teacher of the autism spectrum disorder at VCU Autism Center.

Michal Zivan Coffey

There are so many things I could tell you about our experience in Georgia.

The people, the children, the Heseds, the beauty of the country, the amazing work of JDC – I could speak for hours on all of these things. However, in reflecting what this experience was about for me, it was about caring for other Jews and sharing our Judaism a world away.

It was about sharing Shabbat in the Hillel in Tbilisi and singing the same prayers I would at home in Richmond and it was hearing the children at the Hesed in Gori sing Hava Nagila. The beauty in those moments was incredible.

We met Jewish families living without running water or indoor plumbing; we met those who rely on JDC for food support but with every family there was warmth in welcoming us.

The families were involved in Jewish life, they were teaching their children to lead a Jewish life, they were proud to be Jewish.

To have those experiences with families faced with huge challenges is an incredible reminder that we cannot allow anything to stop us from teaching our children.

I am very thankful to the Susan and Mark Sisisky Global Jewish Enrichment Fund Fellowship for the opportunity to see Jewish life thriving, even when conditions are very hard.



Zach Sisisky

Roman greeted us with his back bent and veins bulging from his proto-hipster button-front shirt rolled up to the elbow and expertly cuffed slacks. Apprehensive, he accepted gift bags of tea and chocolate for himself and his sister that he let hang from each hand like an albatross. He led us to a sunny, freshly painted yellow room that belied the house itself; dark and dusty with paint peeling and unused furniture precariously stacked in every corner.

We arrived fresh from an overindulgent lunch of meats and vegetables, freshly baked breads and crisp fried potatoes. A condemned lunch we felt obliged to eat after a morning completing an amateur paint job in the home of a former Soviet chess

teacher while the experts smoked cigarettes and critiqued our work with words we could not understand. We knew dinner would be the same decadence but we accepted the food without question and out of loyalty to Zohar, the most hospitable of hosts.

So what does a middle-aged man with cerebral palsy look like in post-Soviet Georgia? Is he living at home with family? Roman

Georgia More on page 19





Tonya Samson Mamistvalova, 82, smiles from her window as the Richmond group leaves her home in Tbilisi. During their time in the Republic of Georgia, they split into small groups and made a number of home visits to Jewish seniors with JDC staff members.



The Richmond group paint a room in the home of Roman and his sister in Tbilisi. They are (from left) Shir Bodner, Michal Zivan Coffey, Federation staffer Shoshanna Schechter-Shaffin, Nerice Lochansky, Matt Miller, and Kevin Fine.



The Richmond group enjoy their experience and take part in activities at the Jewish Community Center in Rustavi.

Georgia

Continued from page 18

is. If he can't work, does he have access to money for food? Roman does. When temperatures dip below freezing in winter, can he heat his home? Roman can.

But Roman is not the norm. According to a report by Disability Rights International, published in 2013 entitled, "Left Behind", "Adults with disabilities are warehoused for a lifetime in Georgia's adult institutions".

What makes Roman different? With hesitation, I asked him if he ever worked. If he said yes, I knew he would do so with pride. Describing how, for years, he was able to throw his strong body and sharp mind behind a purpose. He answered our other questions straightforward and unsmiling with a severe sense of duty or he deferred them to his sister.

How then would he respond to this intrusion? For the first time, he bent his head and looked at the floor, sorry and filled with regret, "I tried, but I failed" he replied.

Where then, do the heat and the food and the clothing come from? His sister's

meager pension from her days as a school-teacher is barely enough for food. The two are unmarried so no income from spouses exist either. The JDC is able to provide the two with meal cards, relief from winter's cold and other necessary items including house repairs.

Whereas society failed Roman by allowing his enormous potential to contribute to the world of work be unrealized, the JDC has not forgotten him nor allowed him to be placed in some dire institution left alone to rock his days away back and forth like so many of his country men. The JDC has set up supports for him to live in his family home and provide him with the necessary provisions to survive.

I can't offer solutions here for Georgia's population with disabilities; just a hope that Roman stays in our hearts as we conduct our daily business. Just a hope that a marginalized population finds a voice. Just a hope that another generation of people with disabilities is not, once again disregarded.

Roman's struggle is our struggle.



At the Gori Hesed Center -- the JDC relief distribution center -- the Richmonders were greeted by a group of children singing "Hatikvah," followed by two children dancing to an ethnic Georgian dance and "Hava Nagilah." This made the group truly proud to be Jewish.



On the first night in Tbilisi, (from left) Zach Sisisky, Hannah Piracha and Yael Fletcher prepare gifts for their home visits along with other members of the Richmond group.

The September Reflector will conclude the series on the visit to the Republic of Georgia by the Richmond group as well as a focus on the Federation's Oct. 1 Grand Event and guest speaker Alan Gill, CEO of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.



Yossi Tamir, director General of JDC-Israel, meets with the municipal director of welfare services in Ashdod. Photo courtesy of Ofir Ben Natan

HOLD THE DATE

The Jewish Community Federation of
Richmond

Grand Event

October 1, 2014
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

Alan Gill, CEO
American Jewish Joint
Distribution Committee



JDC leader visits Southern Israel, encouraged with spirit of people

As the crisis in Israel continues, with an unclear outcome to cease-fire talks, JDC has been hard at work caring for the most vulnerable and operating around the clock to ensure comfort and aid to those living under missile attack.

Yossi Tamir, director General of JDC-Israel, recently traveled to the South to monitor local work and show solidarity with his fellow Israelis.

Tamir and his team left Jerusalem and within 40 minutes arrived in Ashdod. The morning hours were especially tense, since the city has been waking up to sirens every day. Ashdod has been hit by the largest number of missiles in the current operation and the day before his visit, a 10-year-old was injured. Ashdod is the fifth-largest city in Israel and its social resilience is significant in upholding the strength of the home front.

In Ashdod, JDC had begun its crisis assis-

tance with the deployment of 40 community caseworkers, who immediately began reaching out to elderly residing in the city. They also provided respite activities for the elderly and activities for children and youth at risk who are spending time in shelters.

The municipal director of welfare services said JDC's quick response to the crisis was a big help to her. Were it not for the city's system of volunteers together with the caseworkers' moral support of the elderly, the situation would not have been good. JDC is making a significant difference in the city.

Afterward Tamir and his group traveled to the JDC Day Center for the Elderly at the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council, which is located just 800 meters from Gaza. Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council is in charge of 10 kibbutzim, which are always under the threat of missiles.

The commitment of the staff and that

of the Supportive Community father — who daily checks on the well-being of all the elderly in the community — is incredible. The day center staff thanked him for the quick mobilization of the community caseworkers who provided additional support to the overworked community father.

They also stressed that they cannot leave the elderly immediately after the crisis is over. They explained that during the emergency, many elderly appear to be functioning under the pressure; it is only after it has passed that their anxieties emerge and we need to respond to their needs. This is especially so in the case of Holocaust survivors and elderly who do not have familial support.

From there the JDC team traveled to Beersheva and joined the JFNA solidarity mission that was visiting JDC's Center for Independent Living.

They arrived a few minutes early and

walked around the center. Inside was a group of volunteers — students from Ben Gurion University — who were contacting the hundreds of people with disabilities living in the city. The volunteers asked after their well-being and provided assistance when needed.

For example, they told Tamir about a man in a wheelchair that they called, who lives on the eighth floor of a building with no elevator. The man was in distress and unable to fend for himself. The center was able to evacuate the man and send him by ambulance to a safe place in Netanya until the crisis ended.

Tamir noted, "I came out of this visit very encouraged by the spirit and courage of these people, and their determination to uphold their routine despite everything. They are the real heroes, working in the line of fire in order to help the vulnerable populations. We need to continue and support them through these hard times."

Fine

Continued from page 1

He received the JCFR Distinguished Community Service Award in 1980, and along with his wife, Bea, was recognized in 2004 with the Federation's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Twice General Campaign Chair of the Annual Campaign in 1971 and 1981, he was a firm believer in the concept of Federated giving. Fine was a devoted Campaign donor and active volunteer for 68 years. "I got out of the service in July '46 and I made my first pledge of \$100 that year," he noted several years ago.

One of his daughters, Abby Fine Tor, noted at the service, "I felt for many years that my greatest talent in life was picking out the right parents."

She related a story as a child about walking on Monument Avenue with her father and seeing a mess of construction. He said, "Sometimes you have to have a kind of a mess and bad things now, so later on Monument Avenue will be pretty."

His daughter said, "That's quintessential Jack Paul Fine — sacrifice today to have better things down the road."

She said, "He loved the community and everybody loved him."

Kevin Fine, his grandson, said, "I will always remember his fascination with Judaism. Even at the age of 88, sitting in Temple reading translations of the Torah really touched him. He never stopped trying to learn or relate his own life to the teachings of the Torah. His love of this community was always evident in his many leadership roles. He taught us that we

are all responsible for one another within our community as well as for all the Jews throughout the world."

His grandson added, "In a letter my grandfather wrote to my cousin, he quoted his father saying, 'the more he gave away, the more he got.'"

He received the Beth Sholom Home Outstanding Worker Award and served as co-chair of its Capital Campaign.

Fine served as Endowment Fund president (now Richmond Jewish Foundation) and board member and is a Life Trustee of the RJF. While president (now chairman) of the Foundation in 1996-98, he helped to lead the day-to-day efforts in absence of a permanent director for 18 months. In 2002, Fine received the Anne and S. Sidney Meyers Endowment Achievement Award.

He also received an Israel Bonds Award, and was recognized for helping to establish the Jewish Day School (now Rudlin Torah Academy) during his tenure as president of the Federation. At the Federation's 75th Annual Meeting in 2011, he noted that he served as president just prior to the Six Day War.

Fine became active in the Richmond community in 1946 when he was just back from serving as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy during World War II. A native of Roanoke, he was a lawyer who retired as a special agent in estate analysis and financial planning with Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. in 2013. He received a B.S. degree from the University of Richmond and law degree from school.

He joined the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company in November of 1951.