



Jewish Federation of Springfield, Il
Education & Culture Committee Presents

Chicago's Historic Synagogues

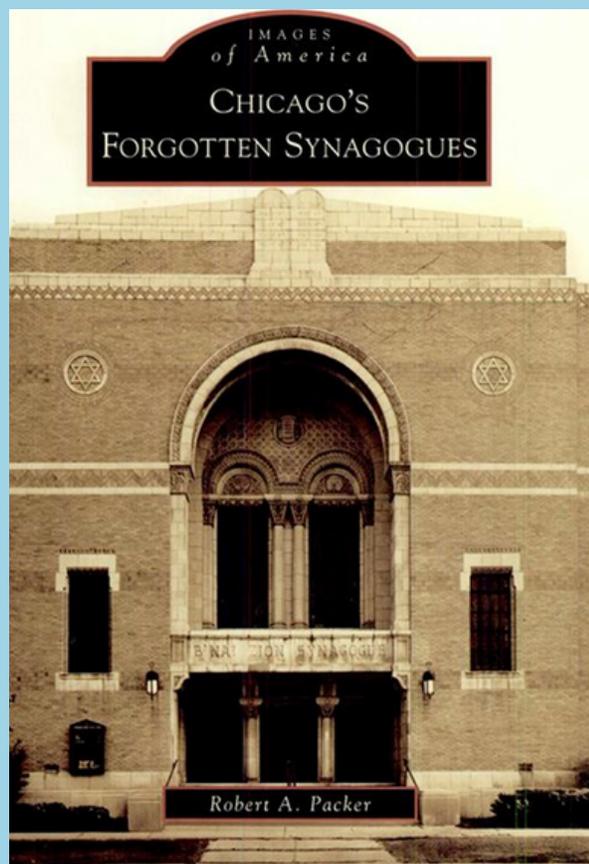
Monday, February 21, 2022

7 pm

Via Zoom

Presented by Robb Packer, author of *Doors of Redemption: The Forgotten Synagogues of Chicago* and *Chicago's Forgotten Synagogues*. Robb Packer is a former history teacher and is a professional building consultant and freelance photographer. His work has appeared in many local publications. Packer's goal has been to document the many old synagogues and communal buildings before they meet the wrecking ball.

RSVP by Friday, February 18
to rsvp@shalomspringfield.org
or 217.787.7223 ext. 18



Your generous contributions made this Education & Culture program possible - thank you!

MESSAGE

From the President



Arden Lang

I intended this article to consider Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year of Trees, or Jewish Arbor Day. It's impossible not to appreciate the beauty of trees, many of which outlive us by generations. We benefit from their shade. Our indoor lives are enhanced by the wooden products that offer us shelter. Our meals are improved by the fruits and nuts trees produce. We gain peace by walking in parks and forests. Tu B'Shvat has particular meaning today given our increasing awareness of Climate Change. News articles tell us and we see for ourselves that our children and grandchildren suffer stress, worrying about what physical environment and weather patterns they will inherit. Tu B'Shvat has meaning for our time. Trees should be celebrated. They must also be protected.

But, I must confess, I've been stopped in mid-thought by the events at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas. Even though fears of increasing global antisemitism invade our thoughts, the tragic events in Texas make it that much harder to grasp the new reality in which we live.

I have been particularly affected by the op ed piece about the hostage situation that appeared in the Sunday, January 16, *New York Times*. Many of you might have read the article written by the historian and writer Deborah Lipstadt. Titled, "For Jews, Going to Services Is an Act of Courage," the piece begins

with a discussion of a phrase central to Blessings to the Dawn, and repeated in the Amidah. That phrase translates to "we praise God again for freeing the captives[.]" Lipstadt posits that, as a result of the recent terrorist event, Jews around the world have been affected anew by that oft repeated phrase. Lipstadt's own rabbi considered it an act of "courage, defiance and faith" to go to the synagogue for daily prayers or even to his synagogue office. Now, even more than a few weeks ago, Jews consider the perils of group worship and reconsider plans for careers in the rabbinate.

As Lipstadt further points out, Jews in America are now adopting additional safety precautions for entering synagogues already employed in such places as Germany, Turkey, Poland, Italy, or Colombia. College students are reticent about attending Hillel services or outwardly identifying as Jews. By contrast, in America today, large mainline churches are able to welcome newcomers with open arms.

Another Blessing recited at Dawn that Lipstadt finds pertinent includes thanking God for opening up the eyes of the blind. Lipstadt hopes our non-Jewish neighbors have their own eyes opened to the threat of anti-Semitism around them.

Keep in mind that Lipstadt, a scholar on the topics of antisemitism and the Holocaust, has been nominated to lead the expanded State Department office to confront antisemitism abroad. The Senate is blocking Lipstadt's confirmation.

Federation is relieved that Beth Israel, a small congregation with limited funding, was helped to survive with the aid of training from SCN (Secure Community Network). SCN is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. It was founded under the auspices of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Springfield's recurring social and educational series for active retirees. Enjoy socializing and learning with friends young and old.

Knosh & Knowledge

WED., FEBRUARY 23, 2022 | 9:30-10:30 AM
VIA ZOOM PRESENTATION

Books Build Big Dreams: Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Central Illinois

with Katrina Hays,
Director of Community Impact,
United Way of Central Illinois



RSVP by Monday, February 21 to (217) 787-7223 x 18
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Hear from humanitarian, advocate, and the
first actor who uses a wheelchair to win a
Tony Award



– Ali Stroker – at JDAD!

Ali Stroker as the first actor who uses a wheelchair to appear on Broadway when she originated the role of 'Anna' in Deaf West's acclaimed revival of Spring Awakening.

Paralyzed from the chest down since age two, Ali has encountered significant adversity. Despite often appearing on stages with limited accessibility, she is a trailblazer in an industry that has been slow to embrace performers with disabilities.

We are honored that Ali is joining us for this important event. Her remarkable ability to improve the lives of others through the arts, whether disabled or not, is captured in her motto: "Making Your Limitations Your Opportunities."

SO, DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM ALI STROKER – JOIN US – at JDAD.

Join us on February 23&24 for Jewish Disability Advocacy Day | Jewish Together

> REGISTER NOW



<https://www.jewishtogether.org/jdad-2022#register>

FEBRUARY 2022

		1	2	3	4	5
			12 pm TBS Lunch 'N Learn 7:30 pm Fed. Bd Mtg	5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism 7 pm TI Bd Mtg	1:30 pm Fed P2G Pre-Book Club Discussion 5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Tefillin Club 12 pm Fed P2G Book Club 2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Class	6:15 pm Hadassah Book Club	1 pm TI S'Hd Book Club 7 pm Fed. Leadership Mtg	12 pm TBS Lunch 'N Learn 7 pm Hadassah Bd Mtg	5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism 7 pm TI Adult Ed	5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 am Religious School 2 pm TBS Exec Bd Mtg 2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Class		6:30 pm SBJE Bd Mtg	12 pm TBS Lunch 'N Learn TI S'Hd Activity	7 pm Fed JCRC	5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
12 pm Fed P2G Film Club 12 pm TBS S'Hd Mtg 2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Class	7 pm Fed. Educ. & Culture Program	7 pm TI Bd Mtg	9:30 am Fed Knosh & Knowledge 12 pm TBS Lunch 'N Learn 12:10 Fed Exec. Comm. Mtg 7 pm Hadassah Gen Mtg	5:30 pm TBS Intro to Judaism 7 pm TI Adult Ed	5:30 pm TBS Shabbat 6 pm TI Shabbat	9:30 am TI Service 10 am TBS Torah Study 10:30 am Chabad Service
27	28					
9:30 am Religious School 10 am Fed P2G VirtuArts 2 pm Chabad Women's Torah Class						

Partnership 2GETHER Report



I first heard the term ‘community of interest’ in the late 1990s, the early days of the development of online learning at the University of Illinois – Springfield. I remember very well one of the UIS faculty members who was an ‘early adopter’ organizing periodic meetings of faculty who were experimenting with what was then the new application of technology to instruction, namely use of the World Wide Web to create virtual classrooms.

According to the definition provided by Wikipedia, a community of interest is a gathering of people assembled around a topic of common interest. Its members take part in the community to exchange information, to obtain answers to personal questions or problems, to improve their understanding of a subject, to share common passions, or to play.

Among its other aims, the Partnership2Gether fosters the development of communities of interest among the 16 US partner communities, Budapest, and the Western Galilee region of Israel.

Of course, the pleasure of participating in communities of interest sponsored by the Partnership is the opportunity to connect with other Jewish people with whom we share common interests or life experiences. For example, because of the P2G Book Club, I’ve had a chance to share the experience of reading well-selected books not only with fellow readers in Springfield, but also with avid readers in Indianapolis, Peoria, Northwest Indiana, to name just a few of the US communities, along with our friends in the Western Galilee. Similarly, through my involvement with other Partnership-sponsored communities of interest, I’ve gotten to know a fine physician from Austin and a gerontological social worker from Ft. Worth, as well as several staff members from the Western Galilee Medical Center. Other communities of interest have been built around music, art, education, and children of Holocaust survivors. Café Olam is a conversational language club, with groups that meet to build language skills in Hebrew, English, Yiddish, Arabic, and Hungarian.

Take a look at the Partnership website <<https://www.westerngalilee.org.il>> to learn more about these and other Partnership programs.

Harry Berman, Partnership2GETHER Chair

P2G Book Club
PRESENTS

Pre-Book Club Discussion
Fri., February 4, 1:30 PM
KADDISH FOR AN UNBORN CHILD
Sun., February 6, 12:00 PM CT



Tamas Don, Curator
MODEM, Budapest, Hungary
Contemporary reflections on antisemitism and Jewish identity after the fall of the Iron Curt



2ND SESSION
Sunday, February 27
10:00 am CT / 11:00 am ET

rebrand.ly/P2GARTS



PJ Library sends free Jewish children's books to families across the world every month. We know that something magical happens when parents sit down together to read with their children. PJ Library shares Jewish stories that can help your family talk together about values and traditions that are important to you.

A program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, PJ Library is made possible through partnerships with philanthropists and local Jewish organizations. Families raising kids from birth through 9 years old with Judaism as part of their lives, are welcome to sign up. PJ Library welcomes all Jewish families, whatever your background, knowledge, or family make-up, or observance may be.

Through our partners around North America, we also offer activities for your family — because you've got to get out of the house and meet new people sometimes.

Your children are learning about the world around them through the stories they hear. PJ Library books can bring Jewish ideas and inspiration for you and your children to share together.

Through your generous contributions and the Neal J. Feldman Fund, we are able to send PJ Library books at no cost.

Make Your Own Happy Box

Everyone feels scared or down sometimes. Put together a Happy Box to open whenever you need some comfort.



SUPPLIES

- A small-to-medium sized cardboard box
- Art supplies – markers, stickers, glitter glue, etc.
- Your favorite things!

DIRECTIONS

- Decorate your cardboard box with your favorite art supplies (the more colorful, the better!).
- Choose special items from around the house that make you feel happy and safe – maybe a stuffed animal, soft blanket, family picture, or a favorite book – and put them in the box.
- Keep the box in a safe place so that you know right where it is. With a little help from your favorite things, you'll be feeling better before you know it.

ETHIOPIA - OPERATION ZUR ISRAEL

On November 28, 2021, the Government of Israel approved the decision to bring an additional 3000 Ethiopians to Israel in 2022. Through Operation Zur Israel, new Ethiopian immigrants will be welcomed at Jewish Agency absorption centers and will receive a full range of services and programs in order to successfully integrate into Israel Society.



ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH FACTS

- Jewish Federations, through their partner The Jewish Agency for Israel, have facilitated Aliyah for more than 97,000 Ethiopian immigrants since the early 1950's.
 - In the 1980's, some 8,000 Ethiopian Jews made Aliyah through "Operation Moses," and in May 1991, 14,300 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in just 36 hours through "Operation Solomon."
 - In the early 2010's, more than 7,000 Ethiopians immigrated to Israel through "Operation Dove's Wings."
 - Most recently, between December 2020 and March 2021, 2,150 Ethiopian olim arrived in Israel through "Operation Rock of Israel."
- As of 2021, there are an estimated 159,000 Jews of Ethiopian origin living in Israel, about 44% of whom are Israeli-born children of Ethiopian parents.
 - In 2016, the Israeli Defense Forces reported that 88.2% of Ethiopian men and 64.9% of Ethiopian women enlist.
 - As of November 2021, there are 4,800 Ethiopian olim - including 1,680 children - living in one of The Jewish Agency's Absorption Centers.



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SAGE NOTES



Nancy Sage
Executive Director



When I heard about the hostage situation at Temple Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, I thought back to the murders at Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh, Chabad of Poway, the kosher butcher shop in Paris, and the synagogue in Halle, Germany. I felt the fear and anger that rages throughout the Jewish world whenever such horrific antisemitic incidents occur, and I found myself trying to picture what it must have been like for members of the Dallas-Fort Worth Jewish community. I could not imagine the strength and courage of the hostages during the life-threatening eleven hours and Rabbi Cytron-Walker's bravery when he opened the door that led to their safety. Thankfully the hostages are safe, but for

them and for the community in Colleyville the trauma endures, and a prolonged process of healing has just begun. For the rest of us, we are again reminded of the vicious hate crimes of recent years, while, at the same time, we are looking inward at our own security and the urgent need to dedicate ourselves to combatting antisemitism.

Throughout the past week, several of the seminars and newscasts that I listened to pointed to the role played by SCN (Secure Community Network) in responding to the crisis at Colleyville. SCN's coordination with law enforcement through the Federations and the area Jewish organizations was a critical piece in managing the crisis throughout this terrorizing time within each community. For us in Springfield, what happened at Colleyville touches close to home as the Federation in Fort Worth is part of the Partnership2Gether program in which we participate. Barry Abels, Federation executive director, wrote to our Partnership colleagues. "We are beginning the process of healing ... We truly appreciate the support of our partners..."

We, as a community, are fortunate to have strong connections with SCN (funded by Jewish Federations of North America) since the time that Barry Seidman brought SCN's executive director to Springfield as the featured speaker for our campaign event. SCN receives specific support from our Federation and, in turn, provides vitally needed services related to the security of our community and its institutions. When SCN visited Springfield several years ago, they visited the temples and Chabad and conducted formal assessments as requested. SCN made recommendations as to how security could be strengthened at each site and the community better protected and addressed the community. SCN also met with city and county law enforcement officials and with the local office of the FBI when they visited.

In these threatening times I take comfort in the day-to-day support we receive from local law enforcement and in the FBI's sharing of their expertise in matters of security. I can say that we are fortunate that their concern is real and that they consistently respond to specific situations, especially during the times when there are high alerts such as our High Holiday season.

Federation's Community Security Committee, chaired by Pat Chelsey, is meeting to identify training needs and security measures that we can take, working with SCN, Springfield Police Department, and FBI to fulfill the needs. It has been a while since we've gone through the Stop the Bleed and Active Shooter training, and it would be beneficial to have those programs repeated. We will be emphasizing the importance for community members to be alert to suspicious activity. As the saying goes, "if you see something, say something". We are fortunate that JFNA continues to provide technical assistance workshops to help local communities qualify for the National Security Grant Program. Over the past two years, Temple B'rith Sholom and Temple Israel submitted successful applications and received the federal grant.

JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) is our consistent pillar of strength in the fight against antisemitism. A key part of its agenda is outreach to the wider community and to its diverse religious and ethnic groups.

SAGE NOTES

CONTINUED



Through such outreach, we can create understanding, form alliances and (hopefully) dispel myths, prejudices and misunderstandings. A committee recently convened, chaired by Karen Westbrook, has set as its goal “shining the light”, working on how we might best explain Jewishness and Judaism to the overall community. Federation and JCRC will remain vigilant in the fight against antisemitism and in the effort to keep our community secure.

Let me conclude by saying how thankful I am to those who reached out to us during and after the Colleyville incident to express their horror and dismay and to demonstrate solidarity with us. Dr. Ashraf Tamizuddin, who is a member of the local Islamic community wrote:

"Please accept and convey my heartfelt sympathy to the Jewish community for the most despicable act of violence that happened in the Texas synagogue. There are no words strong enough to condemn it. The use of religion for such attacks is especially reprehensible.

My prayers are with the Jewish community; I pray that God will protect all of you and protect all of us from such actions."

If the Federation can assist you in any way, if you have questions or concerns, or are in need of financial or social service assistance, please contact Nancy Sage, Executive Director, at (217)787-7223, ext. 12. All calls are confidential, and your privacy will be respected.



Camperships are now available for Jewish overnight camps through the Joni A. Wolfson Campership Fund. Please contact Nancy Sage at nsage@shalomspringfield.org to request an application today!



Unity. Continuity. Mutual Responsibility.

Our mission is to give every young Jewish adult around the world the opportunity to visit Israel on an educational trip.

Birthright Israel is supported by the Jewish Federation of Springfield, IL.
More than 65 from Springfield have participated.

Our Story

Birthright Israel began with a bold idea—offering a free, life-changing trip to Israel for young Jewish adults between the ages of 18 and 32 and, in doing so, transforming the Jewish future.

Our mission is to give every Jewish young adult around the world, especially the less connected, the opportunity to visit Israel on an educational trip. Today, Birthright Israel is the largest educational tourism organization in the world that has given over 750,000 journeys to the magical state of Israel. 750,000 unique moments of self-discovery and life-long friendships, life-changing Shabbats, Dead Sea swims, mountain hikes and culinary adventures.

The trip is impactful, leaving you different than before. It is given freely, with no expectation of anything in return. Most importantly, it is personal, like the best gifts always are.

Goals

Birthright Israel seeks to ensure the future of the Jewish people by strengthening Jewish identity, Jewish communities, and connection with Israel via a trip to Israel for the majority of Jewish young adults from around the world. Our hope is that our trips motivate young people to continue to explore their Jewish identity and support for Israel and maintain long-lasting connections with the Israelis they meet on their trip. We encourage our alumni to take active roles in Jewish organizations and to participate in follow-up activities worldwide.

Why do we do it?

Founded in 1999 by a remarkable group of committed Jewish philanthropists led by Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, Birthright Israel aims to give every young Jewish person equal opportunity to explore life's most important questions. about identity, community, connection to a homeland.

Learn More

Through your generous contributions, the Jewish Federation of Springfield, IL provides funding for Birthright Israel. The gift of a Birthright Israel trip is also made possible thanks to the generous support of many sources, including the State of Israel, the program's founders and other philanthropists, the Jewish Federation system and Keren Hayesod, the Jewish Agency for Israel, parents of trip participants, alumni of the program, and thousands of individuals donors from around the world who believe in our mission.

In North America, Birthright Israel Foundation also raises the necessary funds thanks to 30,000+ donors each year, to ensure that Birthright Israel remains a gift to young Jewish adults for years to come.

Learn more at BirthrightIsrael.com.

Community

CONDOLENCES

Condolences to:

Mel Routman and Carol & Ralph Loewenstein, on the passing of Mel's sister and Carol's aunt, Margaret Routman Schoenfeld

Greg & Leslie Sgro, on the passing of Greg's mother, Jeanette Catherine Sgro.

Shalom Springfield is generously underwritten with support from the following community partners:

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In Memory of:

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Stan Gralnick, from Howard Chodash, MD
Eleanor Zuraski, from Harry & Deborah Berman
John Woods, from George & Jori Sisk

Lenore Loeb Fund

In Memory of:

Jeanette C. Sgro, from George & Jori Sisk

Jim & Edith Myers Adult Education Fund

In Memory of:

Jack Frisch, from Howard & Lori Hammel

Gail & Len Lieberman Future of Springfield Fund

In Memory of:

Len Lieberman, from George & Jori Sisk

Food Insecurity

In Memory of:

Margaret Routman Schoenfeld, from the Westbrook Family
John Woods, from Carol Herzog
Eleanor Zuraski, from Carol Herzog

Adult Education

From Malcolm & Amy Levin