The Harrisburg community hosted its second annual J-Serve event on Sunday, April 6. Just under 100 teens volunteered during the event as well as in several secondary programs within the week of the event. J-Serve is the international day of Jewish Youth Service where over 10,000 teens from around the world came together to serve their local communities and make a difference. Based on the ideas of Jewish ideas Tzedakah and Tikkum Olam, the program provides community grants underwritten by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.

Harrisburg, which was fortunate to be a grant recipient for the second year in a row, took the day to do several projects. Volunteers performed outdoor cleaning projects, worked on several projects inside the JCC, made and donated lunches to the soup kitchen feeding 100 individuals, and made and donated blankets to the needy. In addition, groups have helped at the community Girls Sports and Fitness Night and did projects at our Green Hills outdoor facility.
A Message from
Margie Adelmann, CEO
Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg

About a month ago, I shared with you the extraordinary opportunity that we have to receive a $1,000,000 gift from The Alexander Grass Foundation. I think about this every day; about how truly blessed we are to be given this opportunity. With the help of volunteers and staff, we are working to share this wonderful news with everyone who has a heart for the Harrisburg Jewish Community. The only way we will receive one million dollars is by raising $150,000 in new and or increased gifts to the Annual Campaign by June 30, 2014. That’s about a month and a half away and, to date, we have nearly $125,000 pledged! Our Campaign Chair, Sandy Cohen challenged our community to raise $200,000 to show the Grass Foundation what we are made of! We must keep this challenge top of mind and not lose sight of our goal. Failure is not an option!

Recently at Susquehanna Tzedakah Society dinner, long-time community volunteer Ron Isaacman, in his introduction of honorees Sandy and Marcia Cohen, shared that he read Sandy’s open letter in the Community Review regarding The Alexander Grass Foundation Challenge and thought to himself, “he isn’t talking to me- I’ve already made my gift to the Annual Campaign and, in fact, I increased my gift; but then I thought- he is talking to me! He is talking to everyone who has a heart for the Jewish Community and who cares about the future of our community.” Ron then DUG DEEP and made an additional donation to the Challenge and encouraged everyone to consider making an additional gift to the Annual Campaign support this extraordinary opportunity.

Our Campaign volunteers are reaching out to everyone who has not yet made a gift this year and boldly to many who have already made a gift, and in some instances, who have already substantially increased their gift. We want to connect with you, to share our enthusiasm and renewed energy and to invite you to be one in a million. The clock is ticking! Now more than ever we need your help to ensure that Harrisburg stays a vibrant Jewish community now and for future generations.

B’ shalom,

Welcome spring in many colors...
They are the colors of passion...

SHALOM NEIGHBOR DIRECTORY COVER CONTEST

It’s coming up on that time of year when we begin work on the 2014-15 Shalom Neighbor Directory. As in the past, we are once again seeking submissions for the cover of the Shalom Neighbor directory.

Cover designs should be original artwork, photographs, etc. All submissions can be sent to Patti Bromley at p.bromley@jewishfedhbg.org. A committee will determine the winning cover. Deadline for submissions is July 11, 2014.

The contest winner will not only receive recognition in the Shalom Neighbor Directory – and in the Community Review – they will also enjoy the pride of having their creation displayed on our community’s widely-used directory for the next year.

Good luck to all!
It’s now up to you!

The Women of Vision Philanthropic Fund has received applications for grants for 2014. Grants will be made to benefit Jewish women and children in our community through local community agencies, organizations and synagogues. The Grant Committee has weighed the applications and within the financial constraints of the Women of Vision Philanthropic Fund, made its recommendations to the membership of the Women of Vision.

Women of Vision members should have received your ballot recently through email or regular mail. Please cast your vote for these recommendations. The selection of recipients is a democratic process and we need your input!!

Grants will be awarded at the Women of Vision’s Annual Awards Presentation and Chocolate Buffet on Tuesday, June 17. This year’s program is “How Ice Cream Can Change a Woman’s Life.” Please direct questions on Women of Vision grants or the Jewish Community Foundation to Michele at 717 236 9555 (press one) or via email at michele@pajewishendowment.org.

Jewish Community Foundation
Of Central Pennsylvania

Would like to thank these additional Tzedakah Society Dinner sponsors:
The Silver Academy Hires an Assistant Principal

The Silver Academy is thrilled to share the news that Ms. Rachel Zilbering will join its school community in July 2014 as the Assistant Principal of The Silver Academy! Ms. Zilbering is currently Chair of the Department of Mathematics at Boiling Springs High School, where she has taught for the past 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Stonybrook, teaching certification from Wilson College and a Masters in Educational Administration from Temple University. In addition to her experience as a teacher and administrator, Ms. Zilbering has also served as the Webmaster for the South Middleton School District for the past seven years.

A native of Fair Lawn, NJ, Ms. Zilbering has lived in the Harrisburg area for 12 years. She, along with her husband, Assaf, son Joel (5) and daughter Alina (2) are active members of Beth El Temple. While in college, Ms. Zilbering took what she describes as a “life changing” trip to Israel with Hillel, and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to work in a Jewish day school environment. They are especially excited for Joel to begin Kindergarten at The Silver Academy this fall.

At The Silver Academy, Ms. Zilbering will oversee all areas of our General Studies education, including curriculum development, professional development for teaching faculty and support services for our students through the Capital Area Intermediate Unit.

She will assist Mr. Chasan in enforcing school guidelines to maintain proper discipline and conduct. In addition, she will lead us as we continue our work toward accreditation by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools, and take an active role in the development of our new technology plan.

Educational excellence has been the hallmark of a Silver Academy education throughout our 70-year history. We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Zilbering to our educational and administrative team. She brings a wealth of strengths and experience to this position, and we can’t wait for you to meet her this summer!

Office of Sen. Teplitz Ready to Assist Seniors

Senior citizens today are more informed than ever. They are health conscious and active. They use the Internet. They remain in the workforce longer. That’s why they deserve to know all the resources that are available to them.

I was pleased to hold my first Senior Fair on May 2 at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Harrisburg. It served as a one-stop shop for information from various state and local agencies, as well as health care providers that offered free health screenings. I hope to make our Senior Fair an annual event.

The fact is, seniors represent a significant portion of our population, so it’s important that they know that there are plenty of resources that cater to all facets of life.

Pennsylvania has the fifth largest population of citizens ages 65 and older. This age group makes up 15 percent of our state’s population.

As the Baby Boomers continue to age, the number of seniors will grow exponentially. In fact, by 2020, Pennsylvania’s 60 and older population is expected to rise to 25 percent of the total population.

As your state senator, I want to ensure that senior programs and services are adequately funded.

I opposed the governor’s attempts to privatize management of the Pennsylvania Lottery.

Pennsylvania prides itself on using our nationally recognized lottery system to provide steady revenue to beneficial programs like property tax and rent rebates, prescription coverage and transportation programs for our seniors. We should not be tinkering with a system that works.

Privatizing management of the lottery would have been a risky move that would have gambled with crucial dollars to important programs. Thankfully, at least as of now, the lottery is intact, as is.

I also want to let you know that my office is ready to serve you. The staff members in my district offices at Kline Village and at Park Plaza in Halifax are available to help you with various issues.

For instance, we can help qualifying residents fill out their property tax and rent rebate applications. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue is now accepting applications for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2013. The deadline to apply is June 30 and rebates are distributed starting July 1.

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older, widows and widowers age 50 and older, and individuals with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is $35,000 a year for homeowners and $15,000 annually for renters, with half of Social Security income excluded.

The maximum standard rebate is $650, but supplemental rebates for qualifying homeowners can boost rebates to $975.

Older adults must reapply for rebates every year because rebates are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year.

Applications are also available at my offices, online at www.revenue.state.pa.us, or by calling 1-888-222-9190.

I hope that older residents will consider my office as one more resource that they can utilize. I encourage seniors to reach out to my office if they need assistance.

I want to thank everyone who participated in my Senior Fair. I look forward to seeing you at our future events.

~ State Sen. Rob Teplitz ~
JCC ADULT PROGRAMS

Classes available at the Jewish Community Center:

SilverSneakers® CLASSIC – Have Fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a ball are offered for resistance, and a chair is used for seated and/or standing support. Tuesday/Thursday mornings 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. AND Wednesday morning at 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Drop-in Fee $5.00 per class. Free to JCC members and SilverSneakers® participants.

SilverSneakers® CARDIO – Get up & go with an aerobic class for you – safe, heart healthy and gentle on the joints. The workout includes easy to follow low-impact movement and upper body strength, abdominal conditioning, stretching and relaxation exercises designed to energize your active lifestyle. Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:45-11:45 a.m. Drop-in Fee $5 per class. Free to JCC members and SilverSneakers® participants.

SilverSneakers®YOGA – Yoga will move your whole body through a complete series of seated and standing yoga poses. Chair support is offered to safely perform a variety of postures designed to increase flexibility, balance and range of movement. Restorative breathing exercises and final relaxation will promote stress reduction and mental clarity. Mondays and Wednesdays 11:45-12:30 p.m. Drop-in Fee $5 per class. Free to JCC members and SilverSneakers® participants.

Gentle Yoga – Easy Poses for those new to Yoga. Must be able to get down on to floor. Mondays at 9:45 -10:30 a.m. or Tuesdays at 5:00-5:45 p.m. Drop-in Fee $5 per class. Free to JCC members and SilverSneakers® participants.

SilverSplash® – Activate your aqua urge for variety! SilverSplash® offers lots of fun and shallow water moves to improve agility, flexibility and cardiovascular endurance. No swimming ability is required and a special SilverSneakers® kickboard is used to develop strength, balance and coordination. Mondays/ Wednesday 9:30 -10:30 a.m. Drop-in Fee $5 per class. Free to JCC members and SilverSneakers® participants.

SilverSneakers®® -- Have Fun and move to the music through a variety of exercises designed to increase muscular strength, range of movement, and activity for daily living skills. Hand-held weights, elastic tubing with handles, and a ball are offered for resistance, and a chair is used for seated and/or standing support. Tuesday/Thursday mornings 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. AND Wednesday morning at 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Drop-in Fee $5.00 per class. Free to JCC members and SilverSneakers® participants.

Every Thursday at 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. SilverSneakers Classic
10:15AM – Discussion Group
Every Thursday at 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. – SilverSneakers Classic
Senior Lunch will be served Tuesdays and Thursdays at Noon.
Reservations are preferred two days in advance if possible, but no later than 4:00PM the day before. Call Cheryl 238-9555 EXT. 3115

JEWSFILM FESTIVAL CONTINUES THROUGH THURSDAY

The Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival continues at the State Museum of Pennsylvania (Sunday only) and Midtown Cinema this week, through Thursday. On Sunday at 2:30, the State Museum hosts our Book Club screening and discussion of Goodbye, Columbus, with moderator Professor Helen Khanzhina. At 6:30, a light dinner reception precedes Jews in Toons, with special guest, writer-producer Mike Reiss.

The Film Festival’s own version of an “Afterschool Special” is the 5:30 pm screening on Monday afternoon of Igor and the Cranes’ Journey. Ages 10 and up will be transported by this tale of a boy and his very big dream – grab an after-school snack, come on down, and join Igor and his dad on their search for a very special bird.

And if you have time for a double-feature on Monday, stay on for the 7:30 screening of The Dandelions, a delightful picture in which two nine-year-old girls share the joys and sorrows of having, and being, a best friend.

While each film stands up very well on its own, another interesting double-feature would be Tuesday evening’s The Gatekeepers and Bethlehem, starting at 5:30. The Gatekeepers is an eye-opening documentary that looks at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the vantage point of the policymakers “at the top,” and Bethlehem, at 7:30, is a drama that looks at the same issue from an “on the ground” perspective. Thoughtful and compelling films both, and guaranteed to provoke discussion.

And make time for Aftermath! Two brothers’ search for truth drives this chilling, gothic tale based on real events in World War II Poland. A true one-of-a-kind at this year’s festival and not to be missed, Aftermath screens Monday at 3:00, with an encore on Wednesday at 7:30.

Kidon, which premieres on Saturday night at the Midtown, will have an encore screening on Thursday at 5:30. Goodbye, Columbus is repeated on Tuesday at 3:00; and Defiant Requiem on Wednesday at 3:00.

Additional encore screenings: The Dandelions, Wednesday at 5:30; Bethlehem, Thursday at 3:00; and Igor and the Cranes’ Journey, our closing event, on Thursday at 7:30.

Please refer to your Festival program and our website (www.hbgjff.com) for more information; tickets for all screenings are available at the door, or online through the Midtown’s website (www.midtowncinema.com).

See you at the movies!

GIRLS SPORTS AND FITNESS NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS

Sleet and winter-time conditions at the end of March was not enough to hold back a determined group of girls for the JCC’s annual Girls Sports and Fitness Night. The event held Sunday, March 30th at Sports City had close to 100 girls in K-8th grades trying a variety of sports and fitness activities. “The event was started as a way to expose girls to different exercise options. We are so proud that each year girls get to try something new and exciting,” stated Sports and Fitness Director Terri Travers.

This year the event featured seven stations that the girls rotated through over the course of the night. Sports and fitness options included: Football, Hip Hop Dance, Boot Camp, Soccer, Yoga, Dodgeball and Kickbox.

Special Thanks to Tami Reid for designing the awesome 2014 t-shirts and to our sponsors, the Glick/Grotzinger Family and the Ettinger Family.
HERM MINKOFF SPORTS AD BOOK - GOAL EXCEEDED

Every spring, the Sports, Fitness and Recreation Department sponsors two banquets to celebrate the past year’s achievements. At both the Adult Banquet and Youth banquet, there are books filled with notes of congratulations from proud parents, friends, and other family members. It is a way for everybody to acknowledge the dedication and hard work that our fellow members have put forth during the sports season.

The proceeds from the books help to underwrite these banquets as well as help offset the tremendous cost of maintaining our Sports, Fitness and Recreation Department. The book is entitled the “Herm Minkoff Sports Ad Book” as it is named in tribute to Herm Minkoff who almost single handedly is responsible for the overwhelming response we get when soliciting ads. Herm has always made sure that each year we exceed our sponsorship goal. Herm, the consummate salesman, is at his best mixing his workout time with his sales pitches, and, of course, who can say no to such a loveable and dedicated individual.

Herm has never requested any recognition for his tireless years of hard work. It is no wonder that he was the first recipient of the Merv Woolf Achievement Award. True to his nature even though Herm received that award about 17 years ago, he has been relentless in maintaining the same burning passion he has for our JCC. A grateful JCC says thank you, Herm, for helping us raise over $10,000 this year. You are an inspiration to us all.

Defiant Requiem Launches 20th Annual Jewish Film Festival

By Mary Klaus

Seventy years ago this spring, 150 inmates in a Jewish concentration camp protested the loss of their freedom by singing a powerful rendition of Verdi’s Requiem.

At the time, few people heard about the inmates singing that Catholic choral masterpiece. Yet the singers never forgot it because their performance subtly condemned the Nazi treatment of Jewish inmates in Terezin, about 40 miles from Prague in the former Czechoslovakia.

Decades later, their performance became immortalized in Defiant Requiem, an inspiring documentary. Sidlin said he learned about the performance of Verdi’s Requiem when he stopped in a bookstore and began to browse.

“Why did a choral conductor who was in prison for being Jewish recruit something like 150 singers to learn by rote a choral work that is steeped in the Catholic liturgy with a chorus that was 99 percent Jewish?” he asked himself.

He began looking for answers. Soon, he learned that in the early 1940s, a group of Jewish musicians, artists, writers and poets imprisoned in Terezin used art as their weapon and music as their resistance. Raphael Schachter, a charismatic conductor and fellow inmate, organized clandestine musical gatherings, concerts, lectures and plays.

Eventually, Schachter and his choir of 150 used a single smuggled-in requiem score to perform the choral work in Latin, despite the disapproval of the camp’s Council of Jewish Elders.

Schachter told his fellow inmates that performing the requiem was the pinnacle of defiance. “We can sing to the Nazis what we cannot say to them,” he frequently said.

The Verdi’s Requiem text promised divine judgment against evil, so the singers sang it to condemn the Nazis. They performed it more than a dozen times, accompanied by a legless upright piano as fellow prisoners and Nazi officers listened.

As the performances continued through June 1944, the Nazis decimated the choral group, sending many to the gas chambers. Schachter kept recruiting new singers and Defiant Requiem kicked off the 20th annual Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival this past Thursday, with Conductor Murry Sidlin, who has served as dean of the Catholic University of America School of Music and also was a documentary participant, as special guest speaker. teaching them the requiem. On Oct. 16, 1944, Schachter was deported to Auschwitz. He died the next day in the gas chambers.

Upon learning Schachter’s story, Sidlin was inspired to tell his story in a concert drama, Defiant Requiem which emphasizes the resilience of the human spirit.

The documentary continues to do that today.

The Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival, which runs from May 15-22, features nine films. They will be shown at the Jewish Community Center, Midtown Cinema and State Museum of Pennsylvania. An encore screening of Defiant Requiem will be held at the Midtown on Wednesday, May 21st at 3:00 p.m.

For more information on the festival, visit www.jewishharrisburg.org.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE INTERNS COMPLETE THEIR YEAR WITH THE AGENCY

SHANNON OREHEK

I am currently completing my MSW coursework at Millersville University and will be graduating this month. My final internship has been with Jewish Family Service. I have had the pleasure of working with the JFS staff since August 2013.

I have a background in working with adults with mental disabilities, so the experience of working exclusively with seniors in the SeniorLinks department has been a true eye opener. It has taught me many skills, including communication, writing and coping skills. I had the hands-on opportunity to help complete a funding proposal and a transportation proposal for seniors in Dauphin County, complete assessments for new clients for Kosher Meals on Wheels (KMOW) and Two’s Company, and review treatment goals with clients. Of course, this was always under the supervision of JFS staff.

These new experiences brought to light the many different types of services that are needed to help the variety of clients that JFS serves. I hope to incorporate the skills that I learned during my internship in my professional and personal life. I send a big thank you to all the JFS staff for supporting and encouraging me to become who I am today!

~ Shannon Oherek ~

KAYLA MORIN

I am a BSW student at Elizabethtown College, PA, graduating this month. I chose to do my senior field placement at Jewish Family Service in the AdoptionLinks program. Adoption has always been a special interest of mine, having grown up around many adoptive and foster families. After discussion with my field advisor, I decided to apply for an internship at AdoptionLinks and was excited when I was offered the internship at the end of my interview with AdoptionLinks’ Director, Rachel Kuhrt, LCSW.

When I started in the fall, I spent two days a week at JFS, mostly shadowing the AdoptionLinks staff. I went on home visits, to court, observed play therapy sessions and attended the monthly support group. I was allowed to write some sections of the home studies as well. By the time the spring semester came, I was more independent. Rather than just observing on home visits, I was asking the families questions; instead of writing a section of a family profile, I was writing entire profiles. At the start of the spring semester, I was assigned to update a child profile. This entailed obtaining documents from the county and schools and calling numerous caseworkers and families to gather information.

I had the opportunity to take part in clinical and staff meetings, attend Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) meetings and their winter conference, go to court for hearings and adoption finalizations, observe social skills and support groups and do matching for families by calling caseworkers about kids in care.

I loved my time at AdoptionLinks and learned an incredible amount about the adoption and foster-care system. I am going to miss working with the staff and am so thankful I had the opportunity to work with this agency.

~ Kayla Morin ~
home studies as well. By the time the spring semester came, I was more independent. Rather than just observing on home visits, I was asking the families questions; instead of writing a section of a family profile, I was writing entire profiles. At the start of the spring semester, I was assigned to update a child profile. This entailed obtaining documents from the county and schools and calling numerous caseworkers and families to gather information.

I had the opportunity to take part in clinical and staff meetings, attend Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) meetings and their winter conference, go to court for hearings and adoption finalizations, observe social skills and support groups and do matching for families by calling caseworkers about kids in care.

I loved my time at AdoptionLinks and I learned an incredible amount about the adoption and foster-care system. I am going to miss working with the staff and am so thankful I had the opportunity to work with this agency.

~ Kayla Morin ~
NO RIGHT
By Samantha Speraw
Grade 10
Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School

"He has no right to deprive future generations of a past that belong to our collective memory." Elie Wiesel's motive for writing his inspiring and powerful testimony of his survival through the Holocaust, Night, is a principle which should be self-imposed upon all people. The Holocaust is not something to remember because it will make you a better person, or more sensitive, or seemingly humane and enlightened. The Holocaust is something to be kept alive in our collective memory because we have no right to forget it. We do not have any right to dishonor the dead or dismiss the living and future generations by forgetting or in any way lessening what occurred. In denying empathy, reducing or lessening what happened into numbers and facts and tolerating anti-Semitic or any other hateful behaviors we deprive all of those living and soon to live of the real truth of the Holocaust.

The Anti-Defamation League developed what is known as The Pyramid of Hate. This is a pyramid showing the different levels of intolerance that escalate into tragedies like the Holocaust, The Armenian Genocide, the genocides in Bosnia, Rwanda and other horrific crimes. The first level being composed of things usually deemed permissible by society. Things like a "harmless" joke, one "little" racist comment, the acceptance of stereotypes, etc. In his stand-up special what popular stand-up comic and internet personality, Bo Burnham sings, "The Holocaust and 9/11, that shit's funny 24/7. Because tragedy will be exclusively joked about, because my empathy is buzzing me out." Statements like these which, exemplified in this case, seem to be innocently conceived for a quick laugh. Even though it seems that he wasn't trying to offend people and disgrace the memory of a catastrophe, he did. To make statements like this lessen the horrifying reality of what the Holocaust was. It perplexes me, and I'm sure many others, how the eradication of so much precious life becomes funny.

Of course, Mr. Burnham's empathy is a hugehummer; the mass murder of over six million individuals is remarkably heartbreaking. But to suggest that jokes and comments are okay so as not to feel empathy is terribly wrong. We should not be afraid of feeling uncomfortable about the subject. What sane human feels comfortable with the thought of a whole world allowing such events to take place? A normal human psyche would not and could not feel comfortable with the capacity of evil it takes for something like the Holocaust to occur. Feeling uncomfortable about the subject is a sign of appropriate empathy. To erase our empathy is to replace it with apathy. Apathy is defined, by Webster's Dictionary, as "a lack of feeling or emotion." To remove our emotions from such a serious crime means we would be turning the Holocaust into just facts. Simple facts which, without connected feeling or emotions, make it easier for us to distance ourselves from the truth of the havoc which occurred. To be far from our empathy is a dangerous place to be. These seemingly harmless acts allow people to progress to acts of prejudice, discrimination, violence and, if we do not stop our fear of our emotions and tolerance of disrespect for what took place, genocide. The obligation of stopping these acts extends not only to the decision not to participate in them, but to stop any such behavior if we observe it.

The words of Albert Einstein resonate with the need to not stop our fear of our emotions and tolerance of disrespect for what took place, genocide. The obligation of stopping these acts extends not only to the decision not to participate in them, but to stop any such behavior if we observe it.

No Right is at all debatable.

In America, land of the free, the spread of these ideas is protected by our constitutional rights. As beautiful of a thing as freedom of speech is, to tolerate the spread of Holocaust denial literature, speech and ideals is dangerous. The Westboro Baptist Church, a group which spreads hate speech toward homosexuals and the United States Armed Forces, has recently been labeled a hate group, which places certain restrictions on the organization. Similar restrictions must also be placed on those who deny the Holocaust. If they are allowed to spread lies and anti-Semitism at their own free will, the lines between simple speech and worse acts become blurred.

It is observable in more modern history, during the Civil Rights Movement and the institution of Jim Crow laws. What was so bad about using slurs against a black man? What became the difference between a slur and public humiliation? What difference is there between public humiliation and spitting in his face, or between spitting and beating, or between beating and lynching? The same circumstances were what allowed the Holocaust to progress, yet somehow we let that type of hate occur such a short time later? When we allow ourselves to live comfortably in the first level of this progression, or the Pyramid of Hate, we allow others to push the limits to see the extent of crime that will be socially permitted. Once we give the impression that these things are acceptable, who's to say it won't be pushed to the extent of the Holocaust again? We must not only make it a point not to participate in these behaviors, but to stand against any of this behavior as it happens.

As Elie Wiesel puts it, "We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." Not only is it important for us to prevent these behaviors from ever starting so that a devastation like the Holocaust were to ever occur again, but it...
THE HOLOCAUST TEACHES US MANY LESSONS
By Hallel Cheskis Grade 8 The Silver Academy

The Holocaust was a devastating time for all of humanity. Over eleven million people were killed. Imagine if all those people and the things that were done to them were forgotten. That would be horrible because then there would be the possibility of history repeating itself, in addition to many other devastating consequences. Who knows if another person who is just like Hitler might come along and start another Holocaust? Something like that could actually happen if we do not keep the memory alive.

Today there are many educators informing their students about the horrific tragedies of the Holocaust. But is it enough to just merely teach about the occurrences of that time? What I think should be taught to future generations, in addition to the actual events and the sufferings of the Holocaust, is why the Holocaust happened in the first place. Why did the Nazis target the people they did? What did those innocent victims do to deserve to be murdered by the millions? What fueled the hatred in Hitler’s heart? I decided to research such questions in order to educate myself on the matter.

Sadly, the Holocaust victims were not limited to Jews, but were people from all different backgrounds, religions, and races. These people were Jehovah’s Witnesses, Roma Gypsies, Christian priests and pastors, homosexuals, the mentally and physically disabled, blacks, and any people who did not agree with the Nazi ideology. One of the reasons why all these people (including the Jews) were killed was because Hitler and the Nazis believed that they were “infesting” the so-called “superior Aryan race.” The Nazis believed that the world would be a better place if it was rid of such people, just because they were different than everyone else.

The majority of those who were being persecuted by the Nazis were the Jewish people, and there are many theories as to why the Nazis felt that they were a threat to the Aryan race. No one knows for sure, but the most probable reason as to why the Nazis hated us so much was because of the anti-Semitic rumors that had been floating around Europe for hundreds of years. For example, the Jews killed Jesus; the Jews used the blood of Christian boys to make matzoh; the Jews were the minions of the devil, and many more. All of those things are false, yet they were seen as the horrific truths to the Nazis. But how did these rumors come to be?

Well, all of these rumors were created because some Christians were upset with the Jews for refusing to accept Jesus as the Messiah and the son of G-d. Another reason why the Jews were so severely persecuted by the Nazis was because the Jews were doing very well economically, while the rest of Germany was not. Hitler saw this as an opportunity to single out the Jews and blame them for the economic depression that the rest of the country was experiencing as a result of their debt from World War I. Because of their financial problems, and because the Jews had no financial problems, it was very easy for the rest of Germany to be blinded by their jealousy and to blame the Jews for all of the political problems. In fact, Hitler called the Jews communists, or in German Judeo-Bolshevism.” With all these lies, Germany and other parts of Europe began to see that the Jews needed to be “exterminated.”

In conclusion, we should start teaching younger generations not only about the terrible events of the Holocaust, but also about the hatred that started it all. More importantly, we should be teaching our children what horrible things hatred can do. We should teach them to look past other people’s physical features and beliefs and to look at their essence and humanity. As the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

* Hallel read her essay at the Yom Hashoah observance at the Holocaust Monument on April 27th.

Samantha read her essay at the State Capitol’s Yom Hashoah observance on April 28th.
YOM HASHOAH HONORS HOLOCAUST VICTIMS WITH MORNING CEREMONY, OVERNIGHT VIGIL

By Mary Klaus

During a sunny morning ceremony in Riverfront Park and a subdued evening one in the Chisuk Emuna sanctuary, the Harrisburg community remembered six million Jews killed in Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

The community's 2014 Yom Hashoah observances began on a sun-splashed Sunday morning in front of the Holocaust monument in Riverfront Park.

With the Susquehanna River to their right and Front Street traffic to their left, about 150 people gathered around the 15-foot-high steel monument featuring barbed wire, Stars of David and a Jerusalem stone basin listing the death camps.

Rabbi Eric Cytryn of Beth El Temple recalled “with deep humility and awe the courage of all those who perished.” He called the victims precious people “created in the image of G-d. We remember our brothers and sisters of the house of Israel and our cousins in Adam and Eve’s family who perished because of racist beliefs and genocidal practices.”

The rabbi led the crowd in Hebrew songs before introducing winners of the 15th annual Schwab Holocaust Essay contest.

Zachary Hendricks, a Greencastle-Antrim High School junior, read his winning senior-division essay. Hendricks expressed shock at the ignorance about the Holocaust.

“It is vital that we keep the history of the Holocaust alive,” he said. “We need the next generation to have this knowledge so history does not repeat itself.”

Hendricks spoke of the gassing of innocent people in Syria and of injustices in Russia, Uganda and other countries. He said people can’t remain silent about atrocities and shouldn’t simply accept them.

Halle Cheskis, Silver Academy eighth-grade student, read her essay which won the eighth- and ninth-grade division. He said people must learn why the Holocaust happened.

“We should teach our children what horrible things hatred can do,” he said. “We should teach them to look past other peoples’ physical features and beliefs and to look at their essence and humanity.”

Vivian Blanc, keynote speaker, described how her mother, the late Freda Rosenchein Lederer, survived the Holocaust and her time in three concentration camps.

Blanc’s maternal grandparents were killed in the gas chambers and her mother worked as a slave laborer for a German munitions factory. Blanc’s father also was a Holocaust survivor.

“My parents’ survival of the Holocaust was not easy,” she said. “Their building of a new life in a new country with renewed hope did not come without difficulties. They were afraid. They were displaced. Although determined to live a life of fulfillment, they did carry their fear with them.”

The Holocaust cast a long shadow, Blanc said. She said she has learned that life is never predictable, justice is rare and one can’t expect fairness.

Hours later, those sentiments were echoed during the “Reading of the Names” program at Chisuk Emuna.

After a welcome by Dr. Margaret Grotzinger, congregation president, and Hebrew songs sung by eight members of the Jewish Children’s Youth Choir, 30 students from the Silver Academy and the Hebrew school taught the concentration camps.

Reading the names pays tribute to those whose lives were snuffed out,” said Felicia Berkwitz, Reading of Names Committee chairwoman. “It’s up to us not to let the world forget that the Holocaust happened and not to let it happen again.” Names were read round-the-clock for 24 hours.

Chisuk Emuna also hosted “Through Their Eyes: Modern Visions of the Holocaust,” a powerful photography exhibit created by Dr. Mark Glick of Lebanon, whose mother survived the concentration camps.
On Monday, May 5th, the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg joined with fellow Jewish communities across the nation and the world to celebrate Yom Ha’Atzmaut – Israel Independence Day. As part of this celebration, Aubrey Yanzito, from the office of U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, presented a certificate from Senator Toomey in honor of Yom Ha’Atzmaut to Jewish Federation of Great Harrisburg CEO Margie Adelmann. We are grateful to Senator Toomey for this recognition.

---

**Beth El Temple presents**

**Ronald H. Balson, author**

**Once We Were Brothers**

**Wednesday, May 28, 2014**

**Book Review and Discussion—7:30 p.m.**

Ronald H. Balson, a Chicago trial attorney, is also an educator and writer. His practice has taken him to several international venues, including villages in Poland that inspired Once We Were Brothers, his first novel.

The gripping tale about two boys, once as close as brothers... who find themselves on opposite sides of the Holocaust.

---

**A tribute to Holocaust survivors and their generations will open the evening’s program.**

$18 per person **(dessert and book signing)**

Dinner with Author: 5:45 p.m.—

$75 per person **(dinner, dessert, book signing)**

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available. Call Beth El Temple, (717) 232-0556, for details!

patty@bethelhbg.org • www.betheltemplehbg.org

---

**RSVP by May 22, 2014**

Name(s)

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

☐ Sorry can't attend, but would like to support this event.

Amount Enclosed: $
At Beth El Temple Religious School, a school-wide program entitled “Becoming a Mensch” has been featured this year. The program has been created by Educational Director Robert Axelrod and the Religious School faculty. The purpose of all of the activities and lessons of this program has been to stress to our children the importance of behaving properly. Judaism's mitzvot serve as the guide, for all of us, to determine what is proper behavior. Our year-long program has presented an array of fun activities to guide each of our children in becoming a mensch.

Our program started on opening day last September with a series of plays, performed by the faculty for parents and children, which highlighted the behavior of four Jewish characters – Abraham, Esther, Judah Maccabee, and Moses – stressing positive characteristics of each. This led to our creation of a Mitzvah Tree, now on the wall of the school foyer. Children have had opportunities to earn mitzvah leaves by performing acts of good behavior reflective of mitzvot. For each mitzvah performed, a child earns a leaf stating the child's name and the mitzvah performed. This tree is in full bloom and still growing. Every Sunday morning, the names of children who have earned a new leaf are announced, and the leaf goes up on the tree.

In February, the students and their teachers completed the next segment of our “Becoming A Mensch” program. Classes took the same four Jewish characters – Abraham, Esther, Judah Maccabee, and Moses – and wrote their own skits highlighting different positive behavior traits of these four individuals. These skits were superbly written, prepared, and performed in mid-February by the children with the guidance of their teachers.

Grades 4 and 5 focused on Moses by highlighting some of his positive behaviors portrayed in the two Torah portions “Vaera” and “Bo.” In these portions, Moses directly confronts the Pharoah prior to the Israelites leaving Egypt. Moses demonstrated his leadership of the Israelites by speaking up to the Pharoah, out of concern for his fellow Israelites. Moses’ behavior eventually paid off, benefitting the Jews, who were finally allowed to leave Egypt.

All of the students enjoyed watching these performances and were able, after each, to identify the specific behaviors of these historical characters which made each a mensch for his/her time.

We are continuing this “Becoming a Mensch” program through the end of this school year. We are actually adding new branches to our Mitzvah Tree given how many leaves our students are earning for their performance of mitzvot. When in the Temple next, please visit the school foyer to take a look at our continually blooming Mitzvah Tree.
At the Beth El Temple Annual Meeting on May 21, we will honor Marsha Davis as she steps down as synagogue president after a dynamic two-year term, and will also thank outgoing officers of the synagogue Rick Leiner, Jeff Cohen, Ellen Rabin and Howard Stein as they complete their terms of service on the Executive Board. New officers and Board members will be voted on and installed. The slate of officers to serve through 2016 include President Paul Latchford; Vice Presidents Ross Wiener, Jennifer Ross, Neysa Maisel, and Harvey Freedenberg; Treasurer Jeffrey King; Assistant Treasurer Jason Weinstock; and Secretary Deborah Barisch. The new “Class of 2017” Board members to serve a three-year term include Robyn Chotiner, Sandi Topper, Daphne Champagne, Assaf Zilbering, and Gary Schwartz. Faith Goldsmith will fill a vacancy in the Class of 2015.

With a special welcome, we will greet our new Executive Director Ben Wachstein and all our new members who have joined our congregational family within the past year.

An entertaining and social evening has been planned, with delicious appetizers and a dessert buffet prepared by our Kitchen Supervisor and Head Chef, Paul Schmansky.

The 2014 Beth El Temple Annual Meeting will take place in the Arthur and Pearl Anne Rosen Sisterhood Hall. Please join us.
BETH EL TEMPLE  
232-0556 | www.betheltemplehbg.org  
Minyan 7 a.m. daily and 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.  
Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m.  
Shabbat morning service 9:15 a.m.  
Saturday night mincha/maariv/havdalah at same time as Friday evening candlelighting time  
Through May 31: Clothing drive sponsored by Social Action Committee. Adult items only in good, clean condition to benefit clients at Dress for Success and Downtown Daily Bread.

Saturday, May 17: Confirmation Ceremony for our 10th Graders. Confirmands help lead the service. Kiddush luncheon sponsored by confirmation parents.


Wednesday, May 21: Board of Directors meeting 6:00 p.m. Beth El Temple Annual Meeting 7:30 p.m. Installation of new officers and board members.

Monday, May 26: Bar Mitzvah of Eitan Bronner 9:00 a.m. Parshat Nasso.

Wednesday, May 28: Beth El Book Club welcomes Ron Balson, author of “Once We Were Brothers.” Patron dinner 5:45 p.m. Lecture 7:30 p.m. followed by Q&A, book signing and dessert reception. Community invited to participate.

Saturday, May 31: Bar Mitzvah of Jason Weitzman 9:15 a.m. Parshat Nasso.

Sunday, June 1: Social Action Afternoon of Service with Habitat for Humanity 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: Beth El Temple Raffle 10:00 a.m. Champagne Brunch, raffle drawing and award of prizes! Tickets on sale now at Beth El Temple office.

Wednesday, June 11: Sisterhood Summer Social at home of Bonnie Peisner, pot luck dairy dinner 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 21: Java ‘n Torah 9:00 a.m. Interactive Study before Shabbat morning service. Topic: “Undermining Authority: It’s Not Just an American Thing: The Torah and the Rabbis.”

CHISUK EMUNA CONGREGATION  
232-4851 | www.chisukemuna.org info@chisukemuna.org  
Weekly Minyan times:  
Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m.  
Monday, Thursday mornings, 6:50 a.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, 7 a.m.  
Sunday through Thursday evenings, 7:15 p.m.  
Saturday, May 17: Bat Mitzvah  
Sunday, May 18: Rosh Hodesh – It’s a Girl Thing, 3:30 – 5:00 pm  
Sunday, May 25: Men’s Club presents Hearing Men’s Voices, 9:30 am. This session, led by Dr. Mark Glick, is titled “Spirituality: Unique Stumbling Blocks for Men.”  
Saturday, May 31: Bar Mitzvah

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL  
Lebanon | 273-2669  
Visit the Congregation Beth Israel Web Site at www.congregation-beth-israel.org  
All are welcome to our egalitarian services:  
Sundays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 7:30 a.m.  
Our Shabbat services, led by Rabbi Paula Reimers, are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evenings and on Shabbat morning at 9:30 a.m. followed by Kiddush.

KESHER ISRAEL CONGREGATION  
238-0763 | www.kesherisrael.org  
Participate in our daily Minyanim. Mornings: Sundays and Federal holidays at 8 a.m., Monday through Friday at 6:45 a.m. Rosh Chodesh and fast days at 6:30 a.m. Evening services begin at 20 minutes before sunset.  
Please join us for our 9 a.m. Shabbat morning services - followed by Kiddush.

TEMPLE BETH SHALOM  
697-2662 | www.tbshalom.org  
Temple Beth Shalom’s Friday evening Shabbat Services are at 7:15 p.m, followed by an oneg in the social hall. Saturday morning Shabbat services are at 9:00 a.m., followed by a pot-luck lunch.

The Sisterhood Book Group will meet on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Aviv Bliwas, to discuss the book, “Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void,” by Mary Roach. Please contact Aviv at aviv@bliwas.com if you plan to attend.

CONGREGATION BETH TIKVAH  
Carlisle | 245-2811 | www.bethtikvah.org  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

HISTORIC B’NAI JACOB  
Middletown | 319-3014 | www.bnai-jacob.org  
Historic B’nai Jacob Synagogue, Water and Nissley Streets in Middletown, will conduct Shabbat services on Friday, June 6th at 7:30 p.m. We are a Community Shul, all are welcome. Tel 717-319-3014 Visit web site for more information.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM  
233-6459 | www.ohevsholom.org  
Friday, May 16: Shabbat Service, 6:00 pm, Lehrman Chapel  
Friday, May 23: Shabbat Service, 6:00 pm, Lehrman Chapel  
Friday, May 30: Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary  
Saturday, May 31: B’nai Mitzvah, 10:30 am, Sanctuary
LENARD ALLEN BRENNER

Lenard Allen Brenner, 86, passed away on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at his residence with his wife Lois by his side. Lenard was born on July 2, 1927 in Harrisburg, PA to the late Jacob & Sara Brenner. He attended William Penn High School, graduating in 1945. Lenard then attended Penn State, obtaining a BA in Business Administration before proudly serving his country in the Army Air Corp during World War II. After he was discharged he began to work for Miller's Furniture before starting his own company, Brenner Furniture in 1971. Lenard was self-employed for over 30 years before his retirement.

In 1947, Lenard met the love of his life, Lois Radiss. They were married in 1950 and spent 64 wonderful years together. Lenard will always be remembered by his family as being a loving and caring husband, father and grandfather. He was a great mentor and teacher.

Lenard served on the board of the Kesher Israel Congregation. He was a member of the National Home Furnishing Association and sat on the local Chamber of Commerce.

Lenard is survived by his beloved wife Lois Brenner, his 3 sons: Jay Brenner and wife Alexis, Dr. Jerry Brenner and wife Sadie and Richard Brenner and wife Janetta, his brother Dr. Marlin Brenner and wife Marsha and his 3 grandchildren: Thomas, Sarah and Zachery Brenner. Funeral services for Lenard were held on Monday, April 28th at the Kesher Israel Cemetery Chapel at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Lenard’s name to the Kesher Israel Congregation, 2500 N 3rd St, Harrisburg, PA 17110 or to Hospice of Central PA, 1320 Linglestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17110. To leave an online condolence to the family please visit us at HetrickBitner.com or on Facebook.

ETHEL ROSE CHASAN

Ethel Rose Chasan, mother of Nachum Chasan, passed away Wednesday, April 23, 2014 at the age of 98. She was buried in Herzliya, Israel alongside her beloved husband, z’l. Shiva was observed in Jerusalem.

SHMUEL FEINTUCH

Shmuel Feintuch, beloved father of Layala Males, passed away at his home in Brooklyn, NY on Thursday, April 24, 2014. The funeral took place Friday, April 25th, in Brooklyn, NY, and he was laid to rest in Long Island, NY.

SANDY SNYDER

Sandy Snyder, beloved congregant and Past President of Beth El Temple, passed away on Friday, April 25, 2014 in Rockville, MD. Sandy is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara, and his children Jeffrey (Lynn) and Ira (Lisa). Sandy was predeceased by his daughter Arleen. Sandy is also survived by his beloved grandchildren, Rachel, Isaac, Eitan, Jeremy and Sam Snyder, Devorah (Jonathan) Delman and Yehoshua, Gidon and Rivka Magier. Funeral services were held on Sunday, April 27th at the Gazebo at the Gardens of Remembrance Cemetery, Clarksburg, MD.

---

community calendar

**TUESDAY, MAY 20**
Senior Lunch Program, 10 a.m., JCC,
Program: Film Festival film

**THURSDAY, MAY 22**
Senior Lunch Program, 10 a.m., JCC,
Program: “Name That Tune” with Al Goodman

**MONDAY, MAY 26 – MEMORIAL DAY**
Fitness Center Open 7 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Pool Open 7 a.m. - Noon
Business Offices Closed

**TUESDAY, MAY 27**
Senior Lunch Program, 10 a.m., JCC,
Program: “The Jewish Perspective” with Bob Axelrod

**THURSDAY, MAY 29**
Senior Lunch Program, 10 a.m., JCC,
Program: Musical concert: Susquehanna Middle School Orchestra, 12:30 p.m.
You can be one in a million

Together we do extraordinary things

Help us reach our goal of $150,000 in NEW or INCREASED gifts towards the Annual Campaign by June 30th and the Federation will receive a total gift of $1 million gift from The Alexander Grass Foundation.

Scan here to make your gift today or contact Beth Romano at 717-236-9555 ext. 3204 / b.romano@jewishfedhbg.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling, toll-free with Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.