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Harriet Cooper's Tayglach Recipe makes Aliyah

By Hanna B. Smith

In 1975 Haim Shapiro, brother of Lexingtonian Judy Saxe, attended a bat mitzvah reception at Ohavay Zion Synagogue. Haim was a reporter for the Jerusalem Post in those days, and even though he was on vacation and visiting family he could not help but cast a professional eye over the desserts offered at the event. Members of Sisterhood had prepared the desserts, and all were good.

The best of the desserts by far, as Haim Shapiro reported, were tayglach, baked by Harriet Cooper according to a recipe given to her by her mother-in-law, Mrs. Dora Cooper. Haim described the tayglach as "truly sublime, both in texture and taste", and he was happy to see a traditional 'Jewish dish' among the contemporary offerings(see: Culinary Notes by Haim Shapiro, The Jerusalem Post Magazine, December 1975). The Jerusalem Post featured Harriet's tayglach recipe in its December 1975 edition.

Here is the recipe from the Jerusalem Post:

- Beat 3 eggs lightly in a large bowl.
- Sift 2 cups of flour with ¼ teaspoon of salt and ½ teaspoon of powdered ginger.
- Stir the flour mixture into the eggs to form a stiff paste.
- Turn out the dough onto a thinly floured board and knead for a few minutes.
- Divide well-mixed dough into small balls, roll each ball into a long cylinder about ¼ inch thick, then tie each cylinder into a knot.
- Take 1 cup of honey, add 1 cup of sugar and 1 teaspoon of powdered ginger, heat until the honey begins to boil.
- Slowly drop the dough into the honey mixture, let honey return to boil after a few pieces have been thrown in.
- When all the tayglach are in the boiling honey, reduce heat and cook tayglach for 20 minutes.
- Then turn off heat and add ½ cup of boiling water to keep the honey from crystallizing.
- Cool tayglachs and store them in jars.

My exposure to tayglach has unfortunately been only to some rather dry specimen in Jewish bakeries. To gain a better understanding, I searched the internet and found a number of recipes. Several of the recipes *(cont., page 2)*

Camp Shalom announces regional Jewish Camp Fair

By: Tamara Ohayon

It is that time of year, in mid-winter, when we are all dreaming of our warm summer days. If you, like many of us, are starting to think about summer camp, we hope you will join us at this year's Regional Jewish Summer Camp Fair set for Sunday, February 8. This joint effort between Camp Shalom and the Temple Adath Israel and Ohavay Zion religious schools, will be hosted by Ohavay Zion Synagogue.

Beginning at 12 noon, OZS will be open their social hall and have lunch available for purchase. Representatives from Camp Livingston (JCCA), Goldman Union Camp Institute (URJ), Camp Ramah Darom (USY), Camp Young Judaea Midwest (CYJ), B'nai B'rith Perlman Camp (BBYO),and our very own Camp Shalom will have booths and information about the coming summer and be there to answer any questions you may have.

We will also have a special booth with information about scholarships which may be available to our local community members.

Around 12:30 p.m. former and prospective campers will be invited to participate in a campfire chat where everyone will have the opportunity to share their camp experiences and ask questions of their peers.

This will be a wonderful and fun opportunity to learn about some of the many fantastic Jewish camps open to our children. For more information about our regional camp fair, please contact Tamara Ohayon at camp@jewishlexington.org or (859) 268-0672.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Super Sunday Launches 2015 Jewish Federation Community Campaign

Super Sunday 2015 will take place on Sunday, February 22. Volunteers are needed to make telephone calls to your friends and neighbors. There will be three shifts of callers: 9:30 am to 11:30 am, 11 am to 1 pm, and 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. Each shift will begin with a training session and a nosh (we are Jewish, after all).

We encourage all members of the Jewish community to answer your phones that day and to give generously. Pledges made now can be paid out over the year. Final payment is not due until December. *(cont. page 2)*

(Harriet Cooper, continued from Page 1)

add nuts and almonds and form the confection into balls, held together by the honey in which the dough was boiled. Most of the bakers serve tayglach as a Rosh Hashanah treat because of its sweetness.

Jewish food historian and cookbook author Gil Marks reports that a confection similar to tayglach has been around for a long time. Jews living in the Roman Empire fried dough in honey and called the confection vermiculos. During the Middle Ages, Jews in France and Germany called the confection vermesal (see: St. Louis Jewish Light, http://sljewishlight.com/features/article_e2e07804-3946-11ed4). The spelling of the word has varied: taiglach, tayglach, teyglakh. Sephardim call their honey confection pinyonate.

Making tayglach has fallen into neglect, though one would not believe it judging by the number of enthusiastically presented recipes on the internet. One of the reasons for the neglect may be a general lack of interest in the old customs. Health concerns may also play a part, according to food historian Gil Marks.

Still, a recipe that survived a couple of thousand years and travelled around the world, with frequent stops in Eastern Europe, Germany, France, Spain, and the United States, has a lot of life in it. I wish the same for all of us. Enjoy!

(With many thanks to Leon Cooper for making Harriet's recipe available to *Shalom*.)

(Campaign News, cont. from page 1)

Our Women's Philanthropy event will be held on Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 pm at Ohavay Zion Synagogue. We will be entertained by a program of historical ballroom dance performed to music by Jewish composers. The dancers are members of Lexington Vintage Dance directed by community member Paula Harrison and Tim Lamm. The dances will date from the early 1800's through 1930. Lorne Dechtenberg is working with the Lexington Vintage Dance to find the appropriate music and to accompany the performance.

Dinner, dessert and wine will be served. The couvert for the event is $18 and a contribution of $18 or more to the Women's Philanthropy Division of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass Community Campaign is requested.

To volunteer for Super Sunday and /or to register for the Women's Philanthropy event, please call Judy Wortman at 268-0672 or email me at jfb@jewishlexington.org.

Editorial

Barbara L. Goldman

Pirkei Avot 2:8: Hillel used to say, The more tzedakah, the more shalom.

Super Sunday 2015 is happening soon and we need your help. Sunday February 22 will be a very special day for us. So special in fact, it will be helping pave the way not only for the year ahead, but the years ahead. This one day of the year dictates so much in our ability to reach the community and continue to provide our services to the community. There are so many different ways to contribute to Super Sunday 2015 and help with our continued success.

Three different shifts of volunteer callers will be reaching out via telephone throughout the day. The two-hour shifts will begin at 9:30 am, 11:00 am, and 12:30 pm. We are still seeking help to fill all of these volunteer slots.

We need help spreading the word and educating each other about this important day and the many important things we do. Our programs educate and serve all ages, all walks of life, and all of the community. This simple task may seem mundane, but in many ways it is the most important. Please tell your friends and neighbors to pick up their phones! If they don't hear from us, please encourage them to give us a call.

One of the most inspiring aspects about helping give to this wonderful organization is how many different people and programs your pledges can help. Without your pledges it wouldn't be possible. Unlike many donations, pledges don't have to be paid up front, but can be paid out throughout the year to help accommodate your budget. Final payment is not due until December 2015.

To volunteer for Super Sunday or to help show your support, please call 859.268-0672.

"A person's got to think, otherwise that person's no better than a trained seal balancing a ball on his nose. If only that seal could think, he'd know he was making a thousand children laugh." Bette Greene, *Summer of My German Soldier*

Director's Report

Judy Wortman, Executive Director

A Thank You to our Community

As you know, it has been several months since the death of my husband, Rabbi David Wortman. I would like to take this opportunity to use my to express my profound gratitude to the Jewish community and to the UK Healthcare community for the wonderful support my family has received.

David received a liver and kidney transplant at UK five years ago. He had an extra five years of life thanks to the extraordinary care of the transplant team lead by his surgeon Dr. Roberto Gedaly. Dr. Gedaly and all the staff in the department treated David with the utmost respect and dignity. Because he had to take anti-rejection drugs, he was very susceptible to other infections, and he did have a number of hospitalizations for pneumonia and other illnesses. During each of those hospitalizations, he was cared for with love by the UK staff and was visited every single day by Dr. Michael Karpf, the president of UK Healthcare and by Patty Followell RN, Dr. Karpf's assistant. I am forever indebted to them.

I would like to thank my sister Linda Angelo and her wonderful partner Larry Porter for taking care of me these past months during my mourning and my illness. They fed me, shopped for me, did countless errands, and were my healthcare advocates. They and Tamara Ohayon's mother, Malka, painstakingly packed and gave away David's clothing, possessions and books to a number of local charities and to the UK Jewish Studies Library.

Thank you to the JFB staff Tamara Ohayon, Mimi Kaufman, Talia Smolkin and Kathie Kroot for all your hard work while I was out, and for your love and devotion. And I would like to thank Rabbis Smolkin, Kline, Roberts, Smith and Cohen for caring for David and me through these difficult months.

I send profound thanks to my friends on the Federation Board, and from OZS, TAI. Hadassah, the Lexington Havurah and B'nai B'rith, for all you have done for us since David's illness and death – for thousands of dollars in tzedakah in his memory, for food packages and wonderful soups, for chocolate, for flowers and body creams and countless visits and prayers. I feel so blessed by this extraordinary community. Thank you for your embrace. While I have been here in Lexington for only 5 ½ years, it really feels like home because of all of you and I am profoundly grateful.

UK history professor Jeremy Popkin turns one-year contract into 35 years of elite research

BY LINDA B. BLACKFORD, LEXINGTON HERALD LEADER lblackford@herald-leader.com

December 25, 2014

"There's more interest today in history than there ever has been," UK history professor Jeremy Popkin said. "I tend to think it has more of a future than people think." PABLO ALCALA — Lexington Herald-Leader

In 1978, Jeremy Popkin came to Lexington with a newly minted Ph.D. in history and a one-year contract to teach at the University of Kentucky.

The department manager noted, "you won't be here long," and stuck him in a corner seminar room. Thirty-five years later, he's still in that small space as books, some his own, climb the walls around him.

The humble office now houses one of UK's most elite professors, author of 20 books, recipient of numerous academic accolades and the newly appointed William T. Bryan Endowed Chair in History. Although retirement might beckon — Popkin turned 66 this month — he is planning his next project, a definitive history of the French Revolution.

The walls of Popkin's office are stacked with titles that reflect his deep historical interests, namely the Holocaust, the French Revolution, the Haitian Revolution and the study of history itself.

Karen Petrone, chairwoman of UK's history department, was one of the people who nominated Popkin for the endowed chair, partly because of the breadth and depth of his expertise.

"That's what is so unusual; not only has he succeeded in writing influential books, but *(continues next page)*

(Popkin, continued from page 3)

writing them in at least three main areas of historical research," she said. "He's the only one in the department who moves across movements and geography like this."

Popkin thinks his life's work might be traced back to when he was 4 years old. In some old letters, his father, Richard Popkin, a famous philosophy professor, described a summer research trip to Paris, where young Jeremy was pestering him about the meaning of death.

"So he took me to Napoleon's tomb," he said. "That may explain everything."

Plus, he notes, "I grew up thinking all adults went to France to do research."

After getting a master's degree at Harvard, he returned to his alma mater — University of California, Berkeley — to get his Ph.D., specializing in the French Revolution and the press.

But when he came to UK in 1978, there was an extra spot for a class, and he asked if it would be OK to teach something about the Holocaust, which at the time was a fairly novel idea.

"Back then, there were some memoirs and some basic histories, but none of the vast tomes of scholarship there is now," Popkin said. "Few students were interested."

A few years later, a big TV series on the Holocaust came out, and the tomes began to be written. "Now," Popkin says, "it has become my most popular undergraduate class."

By 1990, Popkin had written three books and numerous articles about the press and the French Revolution, but he kept thinking about the one aspect of the French Revolution that no one really talked about — the issue of abolition in a French colony where the enslaved sent countless profits back to the same mother country whose revolution produced the 1789 Declaration on the Rights of Man.

Haitian slaves began the Caribbean's only successful slave rebellion in 1791, but very few historians had examined the extremely complicated political and economic relationships between the two upheavals.

"When I first realized this, there was almost nothing to read, so you can make original contributions right away," Popkin said. "I was interested in first-person accounts; very little attention had been paid to them."

So he tracked down the accounts of people who had lived through the Haitian Revolution, which was roughly from 1791 to 1804. In 2007, the University of Chicago Press published *Facing Racial Revolution: First-Person Narratives from the Haitian Revolution.*

Three years later, Popkin wrote a landmark book on the revolution, *You Are All Free: The Haitian Revolution and the First Abolition of Slavery*, published by Cambridge University.

Petrone, who nominated Popkin for the Bryan Chair, said in her nomination letter that the book could not be overestimated.

"It overturns conventional wisdom on the causes of the abolition of slavery in France and Haiti — events that would transform not only the Francophone world but slavery worldwide," she wrote with colleague Gretchen Starr-LeBeau. "At the same time, it rewrites the history of the Haitian Revolution, an event that is still under-studied and poorly understood, despite its global significance ... This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the histories of race, slavery, and abolition; of the Atlantic world and transnational histories; of colonialism; and of memory and identity."

The critics agreed with her; the book won the American Historical Association's 2011 J. Russell Major Prize for the best book in French history, the Society of French Historical Studies' 2011 David Pinkney prize for best book on French history, and was one of six finalists for the international Cundill Book Prize for 2011.

Popkin does most of his research in France, at venues such as the National Library and the National Archives. He has been to Haiti once, before the devastating 2010 earthquake, using a map from the 1700s to explore Cap Haitien, then known as Cap Francais.

"That was a lot of fun to explore sites where events I had written about had taken place," he said.

Popkin's research has been aided by numerous prizes and fellowships, including the National Humanities Center Fellowship (2000-01), the University of Kentucky Research Fellowship (2003-04), the School of Historical Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton) (2006) and National Humanities Center Fellowship (2012-13).

The Bryan Chair comes with a research stipend that will allow him to go to Paris this summer for research on his next project, a seminal history of the French Revolution incorporating all the new scholarship that Popkin and others have done since historian Simon Schama published *Citizens: A Chronicle of the French Revolution* in 1990.

He hopes it will be a more mainstream book than hisothers, "one that people will actually pay money for,"

he joked. “More popular writers, like Doris Kearns Goodwin, are the writers who get people interested in history. If we (academics) only wrote for each other, than we’d really have to worry about the future of the discipline.”

In the meantime, he’s also working on a memoir about his family, including his father, and his grandmother Zelda Popkin, a novelist in the 1960s.

After 30 years in higher education, Popkin has seen liberal arts degrees get shunted aside in favor of more “marketable” majors like engineering and marketing. But he thinks there’s still a future for scholars and students who want to use the past to explain our complicated present.

“Some recent world events have helped us understand how revolutionaries and revolutions start with wonderful ideals but end up in places they didn’t expect,” Popkin said. “There’s more interest today in history than there ever has been. ... I tend to think it has more of a future than people think.”

Linda Blackford: (859) 231-1359. Twitter: @lbblackford.

Planning for the future: the Presidents Council

By Hanna B. Smith

The Presidents Council is perhaps the least known of Lexington’s Jewish institutions even though it has existed for many years. As the name implies, the council consists of the presidents of the local Jewish institutions, the rabbis of Temple Adath Israel and Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and the executive director and assistant executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass. The Central Kentucky Jewish Federation, now Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, initiated the Presidents Council.

According to Judy Wortman, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, in past years the Presidents Council met only twice a year. About two years ago the council started to meet every six weeks and now meets monthly. The newly revived Presidents Council focuses on joint planning to meet the current and future needs of the Lexington Jewish community.

The council members work well together, in a spirit of optimism for the future, mutual trust and cooperation, according to Judy Wortman. Three more members have been added to the council. These are Attorney Michael Ades, ad hoc member liaison to the Jewish-Heritage Fund for Excellence, Judy Engelberg, past president of Temple Adath Israel, and Jane Chaput, past president of Hadassah.

Judy Engelberg and Jane Chaput were asked to stay on as members even though their terms as presidents of their respective organizations had expired. “Working for the unity of the Lexington Jewish community is important to me. Unity will benefit everyone,” comments Judy Engelberg.

“This committee is forward-looking and positive about the future of our Jewish Community. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction,” said Jane Chaput.

Current as well as future needs include setting program priorities, preparing a new generation of community leaders, evaluating our physical facilities, and developing the necessary financial resources. Council members have met with the president, director, and Grants Commitee of the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence. This fund is based in Louisville and has agreed to include the Lexington Jewish community in its grants.

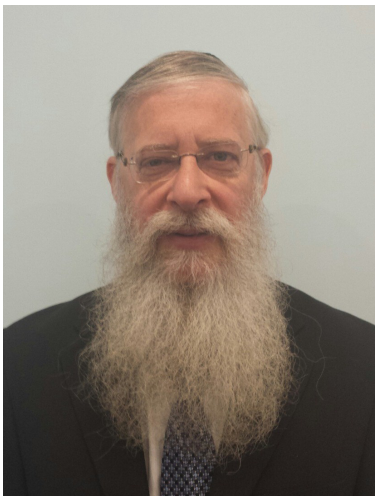
The first grant approved by the Jewish Heritage Fund for Excellence was for Camp Shalom bus transportation, funding for a camp nurse, and for a Jewish program specialist for the 2014 camp season. For now, the JHFE prefers to provide grants through the Presidents Council where the money will benefit the whole community, rather than awarding grants to individual organizations.

In November 2014 the Presidents Council held a retreat for the purpose of long-term planning. In addition to council members, appointees from the Jewish community under the age of 40 years, including teenagers, were invited to present their views. Debra Stein, Senior Director of Learning and Development for the Jewish Federations of North America, was the facilitator at the retreat.

The Presidents Council’s next grant request will be made in June 2015 to finance a feasibility study regarding a potential Jewish campus in Lexington. This campus would house room for the congregations, a facility for Camp Shalom, space for lectures and training as well as for youth group meetings, and offices for the Federation. Owning a camp facility will make it possible to extend Camp Shalom for more than the current two weeks per year. Another plan is to develop a merged youth group that also includes non-affiliated teens. Ideally, all Jewish children growing up in Lexington and surrounding area should have the opportunity to meet and to get to know each other.

Federation Executive Director Judy Wortman is negotiating with Dr. Jacob Ukeles of Ukeles Associates for conducting a feasibility study. Ukeles Associates has conducted population studies in major communities, including the Jewish population of Philadelphia and of New York.

Stay tuned! ‘Shalom’ will present more information about the Presidents Council’s work as it becomes available.



Ask a Rabbi—Rabbi Avrohom Litvin

Will the Real You Please Rise

Back when I was a child, there was a game show called *To Tell the Truth*. Three panelists would try to figure out who was associated with a particular story and then at the end of the game, the real person was asked to rise. I thought of that game show in light of the second Book of the Bible, (in Hebrew Shemos which literally meaning "names" but is usually referred to as Exodus) which we have just begun to read in Synagogues and Temples around the world.

It begins with the words: "And these are the names of the Jews who came into Egypt, Reuben, Shimon" etc. Why does it make such a big deal about the names? Wouldn't it be more accurate to have written: "These are the **people** who came into Egypt, and not have to list individual names? After all, was it the names that came into Egypt or was it the people?

Do we really even need names? Would it be so bad if we called everyone honey or sweetie? Or maybe we could call them Sir or Madam? Or Doctor or Professor? When asked who you are – do you reply with your name, or with your title, or are we all reduced to our social security numbers? In the comic strip Ziggy, he says he doesn't even rate a number but thinks of himself as next. Who is the real you?

The answers to all of these questions may be based on the fact that Egypt was the first exile of the people of Israel. The Jews were about to be enslaved and persecuted for 210 years. How will they survive? The answer is Shemos which means their names!

What is exile? When is a person in exile? Is only being in jail exile? Is exile when you are forced out of your country and not allowed to return? Or can exile even happen on vacation on a luxury cruise? Or to a person in their den watching TV? Can that person be in exile?

Anytime you feel trapped with an environment or circumstance that is hostile or limiting you – that is exile! Exile means you have no control over a situation. A deal end job, enslaved by a mortgage and a car payment, stuck in an unhealthy relationship – these are all various forms of exile.

Yet we do have control of one thing in exile. We have control of how much of ourselves we sink into those circumstances. There is an external you represented by just your name and then the internal real you which is more refined, more spiritual, and can never be held down or enslaved.

Torah teaches we must only allow our external selves, symbolized by our names, to be enslaved in the day to day difficulties of life. Yet our true inner selves should always remain holy and pure and free.

While Pharaoh tried to drown the Jewish babies in the waters of Egypt, Moses was placed in a basket to rise above those waters. Instead of the Egyptian waters (culture) engulfing him, he floated in the basket and rose safely above the water below him.

Each of us has the capacity to be like Moses and remain internally free and committed as Jews even if our external selves must deal with all of the trials and tribulations of the culture and society around us.

G-d promises that very soon he will return all Jews to Israel in peace with the coming of the Moshiach. Until that day, we allow our external selves to fight the good fight in this troubled world, yet our inner selves, our souls, we keep free and pure, and above the fray. This is what the Jews did by bringing only their "names" into Egypt and it is the key to making it through the difficulties we face in life as well.

Have a question? Ask a rabbi

The rabbis write columns in response to questions submitted by the readers. We encourage you--whether you are a member of the Jewish community or not--to submit your queries on theology, morality, ethics, religious observances, etc. for response by one of our rabbis. If you have an issue you would like to see addressed, please email it to shalom@jewishlexington.org and put "Ask a Rabbi" in the subject line of your email. (It may take quite a while until your question is answered or it may never be answered, if no rabbi selects it.) You will not be identified as the writer of the question to either rabbis or readers, nor will you be asked to specify which rabbi should answer.

ASK JFS

Mimi Kaufman

Sibling Rivalry

Sibling conflict is one of the dynamics parents wish we could do without. Why can't they just get along? I used to hear my mother say all the time. Know that conflict between and among siblings helps children to learn positive social skills and conflict negotiation. Moderate amounts of conflict can play a beneficial role in future relationships when it is balanced by warmth and support. To quote Pamela Dugdale, "Siblings are the people we practice on, the people who teach us about fairness and cooperation and kindness and caring, quite often the hard way." It is our job as parents to help them learn ways to deal more effectively with their rivalry, ultimately teaching them skills for a lifetime. Sibling rivalry is a very natural part of family life. It does not mean that your children do not like one another. Your children are competing for their parents' attention and approval. Knowing that makes it a little easier to arm yourselves with some strategies to help enhance sibling relationships and prevent some of the discord. Here are a few:

1. Treat each child as an individual and avoid making comparisons. Don't label your children. Ie. "This is Johnny, he is our athlete" Look for their individual strengths and interests and needs. Acknowledge their efforts and successes.

2. After a conflict, show children empathy but do not take sides.

3. Be proactive about giving quality time alone regularly if you can. Being present, available and interested is paramount.

4. Let your children know that love is not something that comes with limits by your actions and words. We don't always like each other but we still love each other even when angry.

5. Children, like adults, need their own possessions, space and time alone. Don't make them share everything and do everything together. Ie Don't make Johnny take his little brother to all of his play dates. Recognize their need to be apart sometimes.

6. If children are fighting in order to get attention, take a time-out for yourself. With you out of the picture, their incentive to fight is gone.

7. Spend time having fun as a family together. Enjoying each other's company reduces future conflict.

8. Intervene when necessary, especially with little ones. Stop aggressive behaviors. Enforce the "no hitting" rule. Offer them solutions that can help teach conflict resolution. Ie. Trading toys, taking turns, and a compromising solution that is acceptable to both children.

These are skills our children need to learn, and it is our job to teach them. The various ways that you role model to handle differences and conflicts are teaching your children how to handle these situations as they mature.

Tickets Go On Sale for "Jews in Magic" Show April 18

TAI Fundraiser Fun and Educational

Jews have distinguished themselves as composers, writers, philosophers and scientists for centuries. It may surprise you to learn, however, that Jews have also been forerunners in the field of magic. Their contributions to the art have been legendary.

Master magician, Manny Sperling, who has entertained audiences across the country is coming to Lexington to share his tales of intrigue about magicians and illusionists like Houdini and Eddie Fields, both of them Jewish. Sperling has researched the backgrounds and performances of Jewish magicians, pulling tricks out of the hat of magicians of bygone year, which has resulted in a lavish production, called "Jews in Magic".

The show will be on the evening of Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the Pavilion A auditorium at UK HealthCare Chandler Hospital. The curtain will rise at 8:00 pm. There will be refreshments afterward. Parking is convenient and free.

Prior to the show, generous patrons of the Temple will have the pleasure of dining at the home of Dr. Michael and Ellen Karpf. Dr. Karpf is the Executive Vice President of Health affairs at the hospital, and Ellen is a local arts advocate and has served on the board of the Lexington Philharmonic.

Patron tickets are $500 a couple and include priority seating and recognition at the performance, as well as the lovely dinner before the show. A limited number of patron tickets are still available. Reserved seating is $50 per person and general admission is $20. Tickets must be purchased in advance of the evening of the show.

For information about becoming a "Jews in Magic" patron, please contact Ellen Karpf at ellenkarpf@icloud.com. For tickets, call the temple office at 269-2979 or contact Ruth Baker at ruth@sadjava.com. Ticket distribution will begin on March 1.

Jewish Federations Hail Release of Alan Gross from Cuban Prison

December 17, 2014

New York - Human rights activists across the United States are uplifted by the news that Alan Gross, a Jewish-American contractor, was freed from a Cuban prison after five years of captivity. The Jewish Federations of North America share in the joy felt by Judy Gross and her family, and thank President Barack Obama and his administration for working to free Gross, who was convicted of espionage despite consistently stating that he was in Cuba for no reason other than humanitarian ones.

Michael Siegal, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Jewish Federations of North America, stated:

"This week, as the Jewish community celebrates the miracles of Hanukkah, we are grateful to celebrate the release of Alan Gross. We also remember that there are hundreds of innocents held captive throughout the world - many of whom are American citizens - and we hope they too are returned home to their families as soon as possible. Since the beginning of Alan's unjust incarceration, Jewish Federations has worked closely with Alan's family, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to bring about his release. Over the years - and as recently as this week - we have spoken publicly and privately to the very highest levels of the U.S. government - and with key influential players to advocate for his freedom. We stand in awe of Judy Gross' determined campaign to ensure that the world would not forget her husband. We are thankful to President Obama and Vice President Biden for their instrumental role in bringing about Alan's long-overdue return trip home."

The Jewish Federations, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning).

Israel 21c: Former paratrooper helps New Yorkers tap into the Israeli entrepreneurial ecosystem

By Abigail Klein Leichman

Lior Vaknin speaking at the first meeting of Israeli Startups NYC

Last March, a 30-year-old Harvard-educated data scientist came to the first meet-up of Israeli Startups NYC knowing little about Israel aside from an article he'd read about the Tel Aviv startup scene, he told founder Lior Vaknin.

Two months later, "Brad" was on a plane to Israel to see it for himself.

"I went to the meet-up to find out more information because I was curious about what others outside of the US are doing in the tech sphere," say Brad (for business reasons, he wants to stay anonymous for the time being). "Lior is a fantastic advocate for the Israeli tech ecosystem," Brad continues.

"He put me in touch with a ton of VCs in Israel. During a trip to Europe for work in May, I took a side trip to talk to some people in Tel Aviv who are doing interesting things, and I met up with a bunch of companies."

Vaknin, a 27-year-old Tel Aviv native, former paratrooper and serial entrepreneur, came to New York to launch his online dating site Blind8.

Though more than 200 Israeli tech companies operate in New York, he discovered that Israel-New York business ties are not as developed as they are in Silicon Valley, despite plentiful capital and talent in the Big Apple.

So Vaknin decided it was high time to "heat up the synergy between the Israeli and New York tech communities," he tells ISRAEL21c.

His initial feelers confirmed that New Yorkers want to learn from their peers in the Middle East.

"We have this 'startup nation' image and people don't really know what it means. They hear about the Waze acquisition by Google but want to know what makes Israel so successful while living in a tough neighborhood. They want to know what they can learn from us."

One-Day Incubator

His approach indeed struck a chord. Boasting a membership of 2,000, Israeli Startups NYC is now the largest active Israeli-American tech community in New York and began a partnership with Microsoft called One-Day Incubator.

"Every Thursday, five teams come to the Microsoft Bizspark office in Times Square for a one-day experience where they get free office space, coffee, facilities, mentors and guidance to build their startup to the right size — all for free," says Vaknin, who created the initiative in cooperation with fellow Israeli Zack Weisfeld, head of Microsoft Ventures Global Accelerators.

"The concept is not targeted only to Israelis, but we are bringing in Israeli mentors so people from all over the world launching a startup in New York can see how strong Israel is in the startup space. This will further help us brand Israel as a startup authority. I love to put Israel in the right perspective in other people's eyes." *(continued page 14)*

Read *The Golem and the Jinni* by Helene Wecker

and join us for a community-wide discussion led by University of Kentucky Professor of English, Randall Roorda

Tuesday, March 24, 2015
7:30 p.m.
in the Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass office

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The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS
THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE. THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Tzeason of Tzedakah

By Talia Smolkin

What an incredible Tzeason of Tzedakah this year. Once again, we truly came together to give to our neighbors and celebrate our community. Many thanks to our incredibly energetic and giving volunteers!

And many thanks to the wonderful partners who were able to sponsor a program this year, and a special thank you to the hardworking staff and volunteers at these organizations who made it happen: B'nai B'rith, Kentucky Hillel, Lexington Chapter of Hadassah, The Lexington Havurah, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and Temple Adath Israel.

This year, we served as a community for Catholic Action Center, Catholic Action Center Christmas Store, God's Pantry, Hope Center's HopeMobile, Mayfair Village, Men's Hope Center, Meals on Wheels, Moveable Feast, Ronald McDonald House, Sayre Christian Village, and Stewart Home School.

Tzeason of Tzedakah is a great starting off point for individual year-long volunteering activities. All the wonderful organizations we volunteered for are continuously looking for volunteers. Interested volunteers can contact these organizations directly, or contact Talia at talia@jewishlexington.org with any questions about getting in touch.

And in gratitude:

As a thank you, A Cup of Commonwealth has offered any drink for free for our Tzeason of Tzedakah volunteers.

Volunteers can find the sleeve for their free drink either at the counter or the Pay It Forward board at this generous coffee shop.

A Cup of Commonwealth (acupofcommonwealth.com) is located near Thoroughbread Park:

105 Eastern Avenue, Lexington, KY 40508

They're generally open Mon - Fri 6 am - 9 pm; Sat 7 am - 7 pm; Sun 7 am - 5 pm.

Volunteers are welcome to post a photo with their drinks on Facebook or other social media.

B'tayavon! Enjoy!

Thanks again to our volunteers!

Mike Ades
Aminoff-Kraman Family
Arnson-Svarlian Family
Judy Baumann
Dianne Bazell & Larry Kant
Marcia Blacker
Debra Booker
BourneFamily
Brennan Family
Shirley & Jared Bryan
Austin Cantor
Cerel-Suhl Family
Jane Chaput
Diana & Rick Clewett
Gail Cohen
Leon Cooper
Alison Courant
Brian Derer
Joe Diamond
Sue Ezrine
Fran Friedman
Jon Glixon
Steve & Susan Goldstein
Kathy & Mike Grossman
Estelle Hamburg
Josephine Hernandez
Mickey Hernandez
Darcie Jarman
Adira Jarman
Odette & Marty Kaplan
Max Kaufman
Mimi Kaufman
Katrina Knight
Kathie Kroot
Regina Allen
Janice Kuperstein
Amia Kurs
Jana LaZur
Ben Lookofsky
Connie & John Loventhal
Lela Lyon
Nathan McKee
Robin Michler
Katy Miller & Brent Smith
Moosnick Family
Ann & David Morris
Eden Myers
Betty & Lowell Nigoff
Brian Nigoff
Nelson Family
Karen Petrone
Howard Rackmil
Jacob Rackmil
Rice Family
Rabbi Daniel Roberts
Ricki Rosenberg
Jonathan Sarfin
Judy & Stanley Saxe
Janet Scheeline
Mary Nell
Ruth Scott
Bobbi & Lou Shain
Shedlofsky Family
Pat Shraberg
Rabbi Uri Smith
Julie Smoak
Rabbi Moshe Smolkin
Anna Socolof
Alan Stein
Tina Trent & Ira Cooper
Dawn Vermey
Claire & Harold Weinberg
Janie Welker
Justin & Betsey Wides
Leanne Zimmerman

JFB Community Winter Dinner

Sunday, December 14 at TAI

PJ Library Hands on Hanukkah Story Time

Monday, December 22 at Joseph Beth Booksellers

(ISRAEL 21C, cont. from page 9)

Vaknin notes that Israeli tech exits in 2013 totaled $7.6 billion, and that Israel has more NASDAQ-listed companies than any other country outside the United States.

He wants meet-up participants like Brad to understand that Israel is a whole lot more than what they see on the news. "We have our issues like any other country, but we have a lot of good stuff we can give to the world."

Personality and drive

About 200 people come to Israeli Startups NYC events, which recently included a startup pitch night and a panel discussion entitled "How to Build a $100 Million Business."

Panelists included Israeli-American success stories: Gil Dudkiewicz, founder and CEO of mobile advertising platform Startapp (and formerly CEO of SweetIM, which he joined as a pre-revenue company and led to a $41 million acquisition); Assaf Henkin, founder and COO at content-activation platform Kontera, acquired for $150 million; and Zvika Netter, CEO and cofounder at Innovid, which offers interactive ad formats for online video.

TIME magazine selected Netter as a "Tech Pioneer Who Will Change Your Life" in 2009.

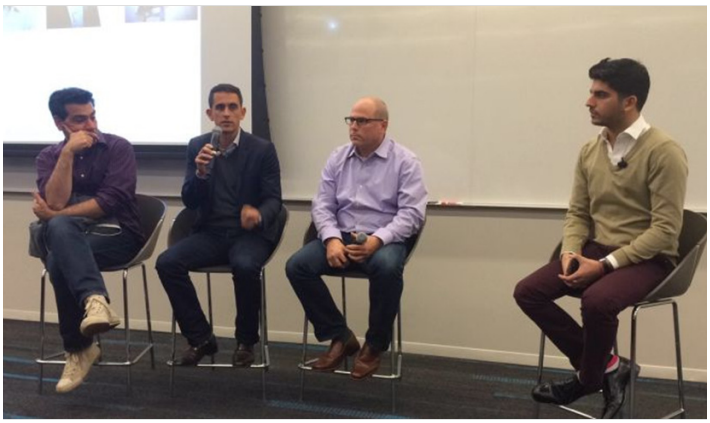
Based on the buzz created by Israeli Startups NYC, Vaknin was put on the speakers' bureau of the Israeli Embassy to the United States and hopes to expand the voluntary venture to additional American cities next year.

Meanwhile, Brad tells ISRAEL21c that his Tel Aviv visit provided him with connections that could be relevant for the future.

"I was really impressed by the thriving ecosystem there despite the small population. I was fascinated by how disproportionately devoted to tech and startups Israel is," he says.

"I suppose it speaks to the Israeli mentality, personality and drive. I was also impressed by how receptive everyone was. They were very welcoming, and I never felt excluded for not being Israeli."

For more information, go to http://israelistartupsnyc.com/.



"How to Build a $100 Million Business" panelists included, from left, Zvika Netter, Assaf Henkin, Gil Dudkiewicz and Lior Vaknin.

Spring/Summer 2015
registration is now open!

Taglit-Birthright Israel provides the gift of first time, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26. Birthright is a unique partnership between the Israeli government, leading Jewish philanthropists, and local Jewish communities and Federations. Contact Tamara Ohayon at the Federation office with general questions or for suggestions on trip organizers at (859) 268-0672 or tamara@jewishlexington.org
Visit their website for more info!

TAGLIT · תגלית
birthright israel
www.birthrightisrael.com

Want to give your child a cherished Jewish camp experience?
Looking for your next adventure in Israel?
Worried about the cost?

JFB's Jewish Family Services (JFS) is now accepting confidential applications for camperships to not-for-profit Jewish summer camps in the region (including our local Camp Shalom) and scholarships toward not-for-profit Israel educational programs. Income is a criteria used to evaluate eligibility for camperships.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2015.

Applications can be requested from JFS.

For more information, contact Mimi Kaufman, JFS Director, at (859) 269-8244 or jfs@jewishlexington.org.

The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS

THE LEXINGTON CHAPTER OF HADASSAH

Melanie Shapiro, President

Dear Hadassah Sisters,

2015 brings the promise of more daylight. As the winter months go by, the short, gloomy days will gradually increase in duration and warmth as we all await the emergence of spring. Each day, each week, each month, we will enjoy more and more daylight. This month, I would like you to consider three stories of light from Hadassah.

The first story concerns you, my Hadassah friends. Although the final figures have not been tallied for 2014, I am confident that our chapter has worked hard to reach and exceed our goals. The light of Hadassah stars such as Evalyn Block, Odette Kaplan, Kathie Kroot and Kathy Feinberg (and many more) have brightened our Central Kentucky skies with their dedication to so many projects this past year.

Metaphors of light have often been employed to describe the effects of education. 2014 brought us "Every Beat Counts," Hadassah's heart-health program facilitated by Gayle Bourne and Rebecca Craft Carlos. And with the help of Janice Newman and friends, our associates event highlighted health issues particular to men, like lung and prostate cancer. Our Hadassah book club never fails to educate and enlighten our members, thanks to the efforts of co-chairs, Vivian Bitensky and Peggy Leep.

And now, two more stories of light from Hadassah.

A two and a half month old baby boy was brought from East Jerusalem to be seen by HMO's Pediatric Ophthalmologist Dr. Irene Anteby. The family assumed he was blind, but Dr. Anteby realized he wasn't reacting to light because dense cataracts were blocking his vision. "Most people think of cataracts as something that happens to old people, but sometimes babies are born with them," Dr. Anteby says. "You have to act quickly because a baby has to develop vision early or he will be blind." If cataracts are removed too late, the brain may never learn to "see." With time of the essence, the infant was immediately scheduled for surgery to implant both eyes with intraocular lenses. Complicating chances for success was the fact that Dr. Anteby had to predict the growth of the baby's eye in order to customize the lens to serve him through adulthood. After the operation, he still had to be fitted with tiny frames. Now this baby will see the beautiful sights of Jerusalem thanks to Hadassah and you.

Sunlight has its down side, too, since it can cause deadly melanomas."Today we are seeing a revolution in the treatment of melanoma," states Dr. Michal Lotem, head of Hadassah's Center for Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy. Dr. Lotem has been treating patients with advanced cases of the disease with a melanoma vaccine for 16 years. She uses the patient's own tumor to create the vaccine and her trials show that vaccinated patients have a higher survival rate than those who are not vaccinated. Over 200 patients have had highly satisfactory results in terms of safety, lack of toxicity, and effectiveness. An even more advanced therapy for metastatic melanoma, is available at Hadassah and at only a dozen other medical facilities worldwide. It is hoped that this type of research and treatment at Hadassah will shed new light on a deadly problem.

I am beaming with pride as I continue to represent Hadassah in our community. I hope we use the extra minutes of sunlight to accomplish even greater things in 2015. Join with me as we celebrate Hadassah Medical Organization, our beacon of hope and set our sights on the Repair of the World, Tikun Olam beginning right now.

B'Shalom,

Melanie Shapiro

Hadassah President

Hadassah Shabbat 2015: February 27-28

The Lexington Chapter of Hadassah invites the community to share in the celebration of Hadassah Shabbat Zachor on February 27-28. Held on the Shabbat preceding Purim, this annual program honors our namesake, Queen Esther, and commemorates the founding of our organization by Henrietta Szold, during the Purim season of 1902.

This meaningful cross-community observance will begin on Friday evening, Feb. 27, at Temple Adath Israel at 7pm. Hadassah members will participate in the service and host the oneg afterward. On Saturday morning at the 10am Torah service at Ohavay Zion Synagogue, numerous Hadassah members and associates will read from the Torah and be honored. Everyone is encouraged to stay for the kiddush lunch sponsored by the chapter.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Evalyn Block at eblock3375@gmail.com or Kathy Feinberg at feinbergkathy@gmail.com.

B'tayavon: CAULIFLOWER KUGEL
By Vivian Bitensky

1 large head cauliflower
4 cups water
salt to taste
2 large onions diced
4 tablespoons vegetable oil, plus oil for pan
Freshly ground pepper to taste
2 large eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons matzah meal or wheat germ
2 tablespoons cornflake crumbs

1. Wash cauliflower and separate into large florets. Bring water to boil and add salt and cauliflower. Simmer uncovered 15 minutes until tender. Drain and mash.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sauté the onions in vegetable oil until soft and lightly browned.
3. Combine the onions with the cauliflower; add pepper, eggs and matzah meal. Place in a greased 9 inch square pan or casserole. Sprinkle top with cornflake crumbs.

Bake 45 minutes or until golden

Yields 8 servings

Enjoy!

ATTENTION PROUD GRAND-PARENTS, PARENTS, & STUDENTS

We want to publish any original writing produced by our community's elementary- and high-school-age children. If you're proud of something written by one of our kids, either fiction or non-fiction, please email it to shalom@jewishlexington.org

The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS | Women's Philanthropy

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Thursday, March 19, 2015

Ohavay Zion Synagogue

Featuring a special performance by Lexington Vintage Dance

OHAVAY ZION SYNAGOGUE NEWS

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WELCOME
Ohavay Zion Synagogue is a warm and welcoming congregation in Lexington, Kentucky. Through the framework of Conservative Judaism, we explore our Jewish identities and form community. We celebrate our diversity and welcome newcomers. Please join us!

COMMUNITY SHABBAT
Please join our whole OZS community as we celebrate Shabbat together with our friends from Stewart Home on Friday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m. After dinner and schmoozing, we will have a brief but spirited service. For more information or to RSVP please call the OZS office at 266-8050 or email at Office@ozs.org. All are welcome!

JEWISH SUMMER CAMP FAIR 2015
Join our Lexington Jewish community for a regional Jewish Summer Camp Fair Sunday, February 8, at OZS. We'll have lunch available for purchase from 12 noon to 1 p.m. A "campfire" chat will be at 12:30 p.m., with camp presentations and opportunities for campers to share about their experiences. Camps invited to participate this year include: Camp Shalom, Goldman Union Camp Institute (GUCI), Camp Young Judaea Midwest, Camp Ramah Darom, Camp Livingston, and BBYO Perlman Camp. This event is jointly sponsored by Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, and Temple Adath Israel. For more info please contact Tamara Ohayon at (859) 268-0672 or camp@jewishlexington.org

PLAYGROUP
February 8 at OZS 10:15-11:30 Families with kids under 4: Come play! We come together as a community on the second Sunday of each month (mostly) during the school year for a playgroup for our littlest kids and parents/guardians. Please RSVP to pjlibrary@jewishlexington.org so we have enough snacks.

KIDS SHABBAT
Please join us for Kids Shabbat, Friday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m. as we light candles, drink grape juice, have something to eat, sit together on beautiful carpets, sing songs, and read amazing stories from the PJ Library. Newcomers and friends are always welcome!

HADASSAH SHABBAT
Please join us Saturday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. as we come together to celebrate Hadassah. The Choir will be singing at this event, and Hadassah will sponsor the Kiddush Lunch following the Shabbat service.

YOUNG OZS-ERS
Young OZS-ers come together each month for singing, learning and socializing. Please contact Amia Kurs for more information or join our facebook group.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICES
Please join us any Saturday morning of the year, as Ohavay Zion Synagogue celebrates Shabbat. We begin at 9:30 a.m., though please feel free to join at any time during the service. Our worship is filled with joyous song and fascinating Torah discussions. The service concludes around noon, and all are invited to schmooze over lunch after the service. This is a wonderful way to celebrate Shabbat and to meet some nice Jewish folks here in Lexington. Newcomers and friends are always welcome!

TUESDAY MINYAN
Tuesday Minyan is a special time at OZS. During this brief service, students and adults both pray and learn together. There is a warm atmosphere and something for everyone to enjoy. Please join us Tuesday afternoons from 5:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. All are welcome!

BACKPACKING FOR GOD'S PANTRY
Join us each month during the school year as backpacks are filled with food that children take home on weekends from Mary Todd Elementary School. All of the food is child-friendly, nonperishable, easily consumed and vitamin fortified. Our next backpacking date will be in November at OZS check weekly announcements & Facebook for date & times.

STUDYING THE PROPHETS
Please join us Wednesdays at noon as we explore the book of Jeremiah through the teachings of our Jewish tradition. We have a wonderfully diverse group of learners and terrific conversations. All are welcome!

TALMUD STUDY
The Talmud Study group meets each Friday morning for prayer, food, and study. The morning begins with a brief Shacharit service at 7:30 a.m., followed by a light breakfast, and then fascinating study of the Talmud. Newcomers are always welcome!

INTERESTED IN OZS?
Ohavay Zion Synagogue is a warm and welcoming Jewish community. If you are interested, or if you know someone who may be interested in learning more about Ohavay Zion Synagogue, please call our membership chair Kathy Grossman at 268-2596 or email Rabbi Smolkin at Rabbi.Smolkin@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL

124 N. Ashland Ave • Pat Shraberg, President • (859) 269-2979

WHO WE ARE

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation - We celebrate Torah, Justice, Tradition, and Faith. Our mission is to inspire Jews, to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing a multi-generational love for our tradition. Our "Community Center" approach to Judaism gives families a host of unique ways in which to love living relevant, soulful and experiential Jewish lives. Please call the Temple Administrator for more information if you are interested in affiliating with the Temple. The phone number is 269-2979.

FAMILY SHABBAT

Our lively Family Shabbat takes place on the second Friday of each month at 7 PM. We sing songs and enjoy great stories geared to our families and their young children, but with valuable messages for all. TAI has a potluck dinner preceding the service at 6:00 PM on Family Shabbat night. Our next Family Shabbat will be on February 13th when the 3rd and 4th grade Religious School classes will participate in the service.

KIDS' SHABBAT

Our Kids' Shabbat Friday night service is held on the last Friday of each month (during
the school year) and is geared towards children 7 years old and younger and their families.Our next Kids' Shabbat will be Friday, February 27th.

PJ LIBRARY READING TIME

TAI has dedicated space in our Youth Library and our Anita Mersack Outdoor Reading Garden for families to share in our growing collection of PJ Library Books, before, during, and after religious school. The collection is in our Youth Library and our Librarian Leona Stern loves to share in reading time with many families or even just one. These books provide our young children with wonderful introductions to the magic of Jewish storytelling.

KOLLEL STUDY GROUP

Kollel meets at 9 AM every two weeks in the TAI Library. The group explores cultural, ethical, and historical aspects of our 4000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. Please join us any time. Our next sessions will be February 7 & 21.

TALMUD STUDY

We are studying the Pirke Avot, a section of the Talmud on alternate Saturdays at 9 AM in the library. The discussion is always lively and informative and you can join the group anytime. We will meet on February 14 & 28.

PARSHA

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 AM in the library as we take a look at the Torah portion for each week. Various Temple members will lead some discussions and everyone will take turns. We will meet on February 7, 14, 21 & 28.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Happy New Year from Sisterhood! We are having a great, casual year, getting to know each other better. Our Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Roberts was very informative and we learned a lot more about Hanukkah and the myths of the Hanukkah story. Get your belly dancing moves ready for Vashti's Banquet on March 15th and please join us for Sisterhood Shabbat on April 24th.

Our latest monthly dinner out with the Sisterhood ladies occurred at Shakespeare and Co. As always, we had fun catching up with one another! It's been so wonderful to see both "old" and new faces at these dinners!

Most of our invitations go out through Evite. If you are not getting your invitations or you do not use email, please contact me either at taisisterhoodpresident@gmail.com or 268-4961. I want to make sure all of you are included!

For membership information, please contact our Financial Secretary, Deb Flomenhoft at dflomenhoft@gmail.com.

Happy New Year,
Laura Creamer

GENERATION TAI DINNER

Generation TAI is our Chavurah group for young adults. Programming runs the spectrum from worship to social action and from Shabbat to holiday meals. We will have a potluck on the first Friday of every month. Our next dinner will be Friday, February 6th and the theme will be "Matza Ball Soup". Please contact Reva Schottenstein at rschott86@hotmail.com or call her at 859-221-9473 to reserve your seat.

IN MEMORIAM

We mourn the loss of Jacob Concors, son of Larry and Cathy Concors and brother of Ethan Concors.

THE LEXINGTON HAVURAH

Gail Cohen, President

The Lexington Havurah, founded in 1978, is a network of diverse people dedicated to Jewish learning and renewal, community building, and tikkun olam *(repairing the world). A havurah is defined as a gathering or community of friends. The Lexington Havurah is affiliated with the United Synagogues of Conservative Judaism and the National Havurah Committee. Members plan, conduct, and share responsibility for all services. For additional information about services or membershiop in the Havurah, please contact me at gail.cohen@twc.com.*

By Judy Goldsmith

We have safely passed the darkest day, the festivals of light – both Hanukah and the twinkly lights of the non-Jewish winter holidays. We've drunk our egg-nog, mumbled our way through Auld Lang Syne, and settled into the long months of winter. For many of us, our *joie de vivre* is doing its best to hibernate. So I'm thinking about fruit.

Fruit. A chance to bring all the senses into delighted accord: smell, touch, and of course taste. The sound of teeth parting flesh, the feel of juice on our chins.

It's winter. Yes, we live in a global economy. Those who can afford to can buy fruit out of season, flown in from Mexico, Africa, places many of us will never visit. Or just from Florida or California. We can buy dried fruit with its reminder and promise of summer, or fruit in cans. But I'm not just going on a sentimental journey. I'm thinking of fruit in both its physical and its metaphoric being.

It's almost Tu B'Shvat, the new year of the trees. We have inherited the story of a memory of a ritual, celebrating the concentric globes of imminence. In Israel, I'm told, the almond trees bloom in early February, at least some years, and the air is scented with fertility and the promise of fruit to come. Here, we reach deep into our sense memories to recapture and hold that promise in our minds and hands.

The rituals of Tu B'Shvat, ringed with plates of fruits, categorized by vulnerability, keep the real and the metaphoric in a vibrant tension. I hold a sip of wine (or grape juice) in my mouth, tasting the tang of the red, the gentler caress of the white. I sink my teeth into a nut wrested from its shell, a slice of orange with the peel, a defenseless grape. I try to visualize myself as open to all experiences, sensuous and holy. And then, with empty hands and a mouth filled only with words, I reach out to find the most holy. I know that it is within and around us, and I strive to feel a part of it.

Some years I get there, some years not so much. But the observance reminds me of the variety of life and taste, and reminds me how blessed we are to live in a world where we can taste, smell, see, hear, and feel so much.

The Havurah will be celebrating Tu B'Shvat on Friday evening, February 6 at 6:30 p.m. We will have a light Shabbat meal, followed by the Seder. For more information, contact Gail Cohen at 859-272-1459.

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Send us your special contributions with a note specifying its intent. Also, let us know if you would like your contribution published in this box in Shalom. You may also make your special contribution online.

Celebrate your loved ones and support our Jewish community by giving a special contribution. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to:

- Candice Rose in honor of Erin Knopf
- Minna Katz-Brown and Trevor Brown, and Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant in honor of Hanna Smith's 75th Birthday
- Linda and Leon Ravvin in memory of Steve Kesten and Harriet Cooper
- Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant in memory of David Wekstein
- Judy B. Wortman in memory of Leon Block and Jeanette Ezrine
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*In honor of Shalom staff past, present, and future.

--- AROUND THE COMMUNITY ---

Please note: Information for Around the Community comes to us from a variety of individuals and Jewish institutions. It's a pretty haphazard arrangement; except for b'nai mitzvah, we do not have the resources or staff to collect information or research each item. If you would like to see an event or life passage in your family acknowledged here, please be sure we get the full and correct information as you would like to see it printed. Send notices to shalom@jewishlexington.org. Remember, we welcome photos too!

Mazal Tov to:

- Jeremy Popkin, who was appointed William T. Bryan endowed Chair in History at the University of Kentucky.
- Janice Fernheimer, for her new book "Stepping into Zion."
- Jim Ridolfo and Janice Fernheimer, on the birth of their son Lior.

Condolences to:

- The family of Jacob Concors, son of Larry and Cathy Concors and brother of Ethan Concors.
- The family of Leon Block, brother of Evalyn Block (Garry Hoover).
- The family of Jeanette Ezrine, mother of Barry Ezrine (Sue Ezrine).
- The family of Carl Goldschmidt, father of Carol Hustedde (Ron).

ATTENTION PROUD GRAND-PARENTS, PARENTS, & STUDENTS. We want to publish any original writing produced by our community's elementary- and high-school-age children. If you're proud of something written by one of our kids, either fiction or non-fiction, please email it to shalom@jewishlexington.org

Shalom
Newspaper of
The Jewish Federation
OF THE BLUEGRASS

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To join the Federation email list contact tamara@jewishlexington,org or visit jewishlexington.org.

The Jewish Federation OF THE BLUEGRASS

Lunch and Learn with our Lexington community rabbis

February 24 with Rabbi Daniel Roberts

At 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month, in the JFB office, rabbis, on a rotating basis, will be discussing the holidays, the Torah portion of the week, and other topics of interest. A dairy lunch is offered at a nominal charge. If you are interested in attending, please call Judy Wortman at 859-268-0672 so we can order lunch for you.

First and third Sundays of the month

Yiddish Drop-in!

10:30 a.m. at the JFB office. An hour of Yiddish with Refoyl Finkel (Rafi Finkel). Beginners welcome, fluent speakers welcome, and those who remember "a por verter fun der heym" also welcome. We'll adjust waht we do to the levels of those who come. No long-term commitment necessary. No charge. Worth every cent, at least!