Jewish Madison showcases the breadth of Jewish life in the Madison area, including information about religious institutions, social service resources, educational opportunities, community groups, social-action organizations, and cultural resources.

We hope you find this guide useful. Please contact us with any questions at 608-278-1888, email us at info@jewishmadison.org, or visit our website, jewishmadison.org. We’re always ready to be of help.

We do our best to keep this guide up-to-date and accurate. Please let us know of any changes and we welcome your suggestions for future improvements. We hope you will enjoy and use Jewish Madison!

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Jewish Madison is published by the Jewish Federation of Madison

A Guide to Jewish Living in Madison, Wisconsin

Jewish Madison

The Jewish Federation of Madison, Wisconsin

The first Jews came to Madison, then a village of 2,300, in the early 1850’s. In 1856, seventeen Jewish families formed the city’s first synagogue, known as Shaarei Shoumayim, Gates of Heaven.

With the wave of new immigration from Eastern Europe, new congregations and organizations appeared in Madison including Hadassah, the Council of Jewish Women, the Workmen’s Circle, and the UW Hillel Foundation, the second in the nation established in 1924.

In the 1930’s, seeking to bring some unity and cooperation to local synagogues and organizations, volunteers formed the Jewish Central Committee of Madison, conducting the committee’s business out of their own homes and offices.

By 1940, displaced European Jews clearly needed assistance. Offering such assistance and support required a more formal central structure. On May 10, 1940, the Madison Jewish Welfare Fund, the forerunner of today’s Jewish Federation of Madison, was created.

The Welfare Fund worked in the Jewish community to raise money for Jews overseas and for the growing immigrant population coming to Madison as refugees from Hitler’s Europe. In addition, at the request of the federal government, the Fund became the liaison to Jewish members of the United States armed forces stationed at Madison’s Trux Field.

On April 14, 1948, the Madison Jewish Welfare Fund formally incorporated under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, citing as its purpose the coordination, consolidation and centralization of charitable, educational and cultural fund-raising activities in the Madison Jewish community. In 1950, its first full-time professional, Bert Jahr, came to work for the Welfare Fund.

Having at first devoted itself almost exclusively to fund raising, the Madison Jewish Welfare Fund evolved into a broader organization and eventually acknowledged its expanded role in 1974 by taking a new name, Madison Jewish Community Council.

While continuing its fund raising efforts, the Council began to provide services as well – Camp Shalom day camp for children, founded in 1954; social work services to senior adults and their families; a community newspaper, the Madison Jewish News (1969); the Hilde L. Mosse Gan HaYeled Preschool (1970); and the Midrasha Hebrew High School (1975).

In 1978, Jewish Social Services was founded as a separate corporation from the Federation.

(Continued on page 2)
Jewish Federation of Madison continued

Hava Nagila Jewish Community Picnic
With food, music, dancing, swimming, and lots of activities, the Hava Nagila Community Picnic takes place every year at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus on a Sunday in June. For details, call the Federation, 278-1808 or visit jewishmadison.org.

Purim Carnival
The Purim Carnival offers games, food and entertainment. Contact area synagogues for information about services and events in observance of Purim and check the community calendar at jewishmadison.org.

Chabad
For information on Shabbat dinner, Shofar factory, Sukkah party, Hanukkah event, Purim feast, or Pesach Seder, call Chabad at 231-3450 or visit www.chabadofmadison.com

Hillel’s Community Passover Seder
For information about the kosher Seder or home hospitality, call Hillel, 256-8361.

Temple Beth El Community Passover Seder
Temple Beth El welcomes all members of the community to share in our Passover Seder held the second night of Passover. Please watch the Madison Jewish News for more information and reservation form or call the Temple office, 238-3123.

Congregation Shaarei Shamyim’s Young Adult Havurah Passover Seder
Shaarei Shamyim hosts an annual Passover Seder for Jews in their 20’s-30’s. All are welcome to share in this celebration. For more information, please contact the Community office, 257-2944.

Yom Ha’Atzmaut
[Israel Independence Day]
The celebration sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Madison takes place at the Goodman Campus on a Sunday in the Spring and includes programming, food, games, music, and Israeli dancing.

Yom Hashoah
[Holocaust Remembrance Day]
A service of remembrance sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Madison takes place annually and is held at Temple Beth El and Beth Israel Center in alternating years. A commemorative program usually follows the service. The UW campus also commemorates Yom Hashoah at Hillel. The City of Madison dedicated a memorial to the Holocaust on May 3, 1998. It is located in Marshall Park on Allen Boulevard.

In 1995, the Federation moved to its first permanent home, the Max Weinstein Jewish Community Building, named for one of the founders and past presidents of the Federation. In 1999, the Federation established the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus on a 154-acre site in the Town of Verona.

In 2009, in response to a much more mobile and interconnected American and world-wide Jewish community, the organization changed its name for the third time and is now the Jewish Federation of Madison.

Today, the Madison Jewish community numbers more than 5,000 individuals (not including the estimated 5,000 Jewish students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus). The Madison Jewish community offers a full spectrum of Jewish experiences making Jewish life and living in Jewish Madison vibrant and meaningful.


**Houses of Worship**

**Beth Israel Center**

**1406 Mound St, Madison 53711**

**Phone 608-265-7663, bethisraelcenter.org**

Beth Israel is a warm, traditional and egalitarian community that is affiliated with the Conservative movement. At Beth Israel, community is a core value. Congregants lead services, read from the Torah and participate actively in all aspects of Jewish life. We hold age-appropriate Shabbat programming for elementary and preschool aged children during the academic year and offer childcare each Shabbat morning throughout the calendar year. Beth Israel offers a wide array of classes directed towards adults of all knowledge levels with the goal of stimulating the mind and soul while helping people feel comfortable in prayer and study. We understand that the education of our children is a primary mission of our Kehila Kesed, holy congregation, and we have a wonderful Talmud Torah for kindergarten through grade 7. Our eighth graders and high schools have a number of options, from our youth groups Kadima and MOYESY to the community-based midrasha. We especially encourage our young adults to return to the bimah after b’nei mitzvah, and our Jake Heifetz award recognizes those post-b’nai mitzvah students who are active in learning and davening.

We are committed to working for the betterment of the world and have a wide variety of social action projects. There are many social opportunities at Beth Israel as well, from lectures and dinners (like the fabulous Supper Quizz) to our joyous communal celebration of the Jewish Festivals. Please give us a call; we would love to help you get to know Beth Israel better.

**Chabad House**

**1722 Regent Street**

**Madison 53726**

**Phone 608-231-3450, chabadofmadison.com**

The Chabad House offers the community daily and Sabbath and holiday services, family and marital counseling, social evenings and Holiday events and Torah classes. It provides the community its mitzvah and holiday needs, as well as conducting community-wide Hanukkah, Sukkot, and Purim holiday celebrations, a Jewish Women’s Circle, and winter C&J Gan Israel for children ages 4-9, during winter break.

The Chabad on Campus caters to students and offers them Shabbat and holiday meals and programs, varied educational opportunities, and many social events. Chabad House maintains a mikvah open to women upon appointment. Contact Fugie at 608-251-8764.

**Hillel: University of Wisconsin-Madison**

The Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Student Life

**611 Langdon Street, Madison 53703**

**Phone 608-256-8361, whhillel.org**

facebook.com/whhillel

Twitter: @whhillel

The Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Student Life opened in the summer of 2009. The new ‘green’ Hillel features 30,000 square feet of program space including the full service kosher Café O open to the public, a beautiful library, fitness center, outdoor sport court and many rooms for meetings and events. Hillel rents space out to the general public for any size event, including full service kosher catering which is available on-site or delivered.

Hillel, The Jewish Student Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, serves over 5,000 Jewish students and faculty. Hillel provides a home and support to over 20 independent student organizations. Every expression of Jewish life is represented: religious, cultural, political, traditional and alternative. Hillel enables University of Wisconsin Jewish students to have a voice in their community — to meet other Jewish students and to develop a genuine Jewish identity as they move into adulthood.

**Congregation Shaarei Shalom**

**Madison’s Jewish Reconstructionist and Renewal Community**

Mailing: P.O. Box 55061

**Madison 53705-8661**

**Services held at First Unitarian Society**

**900 University Bay Drive**

**608-257-2944, shamayim.org**

Congregation Shaarei Shalom is a growing community of over 100 households dedicated to the thoughtful, joyful celebration of Judaism. We are affiliated with both the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation and Aleph: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, and we welcome interfaith couples, gays and lesbians, and Jews by choice. We hold Friday night services and potlucks throughout the month, as well as bi-weekly Saturday morning services. All are welcome to attend Shabbat services and holiday celebrations, and tickets are never required.

Our Bet Sefer is a creative Jewish educational program for children and teens consisting of Sunday morning classes and a weekly Hebrew tutoring program. We also offer an innovative Bar/Bat Mitzvah program, teen youth group, adult education classes, and a Young Adult Havurah for members of the Madison Jewish community in their 20’s-30’s.

**Temple Beth El**

2702 Arbor Drive

**Madison 53711**

**Phone 608-238-3123, templebethelmadison.org**

Temple Beth El is a vibrant Reform congregation of 650 families serving the community through dynamic worship, educational opportunities for youth and adults, social action projects and a wide range of social and recreational programs. Friday night Shabbat services are held weekly. Saturday morning worship occurs on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. We have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, special school services or our musical service. For our families with young children, Temple Beth El offers children’s services throughout the year, a Tots and Tunes program and outings such as apple picking in the fall. Beth El has a Hebrew and Religious School program for children in kindergarten through 7th Grade. We have many teen programs including a Youth and Junior Youth Group, a community-wide High School program (Midrasha), branches with the Rabbi, social action opportunities and employment opportunities in our school. Adult education includes Torah study, lecture series, Hebrew and Cantillation classes, book groups and a Scholar-in-Residence program. We also have plenty of fun activities throughout the year that include holiday programs, special Havdalah events, a family retreat, camping weekend, Mitzvah Day and much more.

Memes can get involved in our many committees as well as our active Men’s Club and Sisterhood, the latter of which hosts the annual Food-A-Rama fundraiser on Election Day.

**Thinking About Divorce?**

Divorce and legal separation are difficult enough without destructive, expensive court battles. There is a better way.

At J. Wexler Law, we use the collaborative model to find legal solutions for families in transition. It is a better approach for people who have been in significant relationships, especially when children are involved, because it allows people to continue to have a relationship after the formality is over. It is the least confrontational way to get the best outcome.

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Janice K. Wexler

Attorney At Law

www.jwexlerlaw.com
COMMUNITY RITUAL SERVICES

Mikvah (Ritual Bath)

Chabad
Call 231-3450 for an appointment.

Mehel (Circumcision Services)

Madison does not have a resident mohel, but our community is served by mohelim from Kenosha, Milwaukee and Chicago. For information about options and referral, contact Beth Israel Center, 256-7763; Chabad, 231-3450; Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, 257-2944; or Temple Beth El, 238-3123.

Marriage and Divorce

Consult the Rabbi at Beth Israel Center (Conservative), 256-7763; the Rabbi at Chabad (Orthodox), 231-3450; the Rabbi at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim (Reconstructionist), 257-2944; or Temple Beth El, 238-3123.

Chevrah Kadisha (Burial Society)

Madison has no exclusively Jewish funeral home. Volunteer members of the Chevrah Kadisha perform traditional purification and shrouding rites in area funeral homes. To request information or services about the Chevrah Kadisha, contact Beth Israel Center, 256-7763 or Shaarei Shamayim, 257-2944.

Cemetery

Madison’s Jewish cemetery, Beit Olamim, is located in Sunset Memory Gardens, 7302 Mineral Point Road on Madison’s far west side. The cemetery is owned by the Jewish Burial Association of Madison (JBAM), a nonprofit organization formed by the Jewish community to run the cemetery. For the accurate price at the time of your purchase, please check with Sunset Memory Gardens. There are two sections at Beit Olamim. The Shaar HaRachamim section provides for burial in accordance with Halachah and traditional Jewish burial practice. The Shaar Shalom section plots are available for those with less traditional Jewish practices and their immediate family. If you are a member of a Madison synagogue, speak with your congregational rabbi about your family’s needs and the options available to you for purchasing plots in either of Beit Olamim’s two sections. If you are not affiliated with a congregation, contact Sunset Memory Gardens during regular business hours. They will refer you to one of Madison’s congregational rabbis to discuss your options. Sunset Memory Gardens office telephone – (608) 833-7211, Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-4:30 PM.

Beit Olamim
A new Jewish cemetery in Madison
Located in Sunset Memory Gardens
7302 Mineral Point Road.

Books and Ritual Objects

Temple Beth El, Hillel and Chabad offer books and ritual objects, as well as jewelry, toys, cards and other items. Some local retailers carry items such as Shabbat or Hanukkah candles, holiday cards and specialties, etc. These include Metcalfe’s Market, Woodman’s and Copps Food Centers grocery stores, as well as Goodman Jewelers, Orange Tree Imports, the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art Gift Shop, and Studio You Paint It Pottery. Barnes & Noble Booksellers has books on Jewish subjects. Local artists make specifically Jewish objects or work in a distinctly Jewish mode.

Services Regarding Death and Mourning

Chevrah Kadisha

Funeral Services
Contact Beth Israel Center (Conservative), 256-7763; Chabad (Orthodox), 231-3450; Congregation Shaarei Shamayim (Reconstructionist), 257-2944; Temple Beth El (Reform), 238-3123 to make funeral arrangements.

Grief Counseling
Short-term grief counseling is available through Jewish Social Services, 278-1808.

Yahrzeit Observance
Available through minyan at Beth Israel Center on Shabbat, Sunday, Monday and Thursday mornings, Sunday through Friday evenings and by calling the office as needed; at Chabad; Shabbat services at Temple Beth El; and at Shabbat services at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim.

Mikvah (Ritual Bath)

Madison does not have an exclusively Jewish mikvah, but our community is served by mikvahim from Kenosha, Milwaukee and Chicago. For information about options and referral, contact Beth Israel Center, 256-7763; Chabad, 231-3450; Congregation Shaarei Shamayim, 257-2944; or Temple Beth El, 238-3123.

Marriage and Divorce
Consult the Rabbi at Beth Israel Center (Conservative), 256-7763; or the Rabbi at UW Hillel, 256-8361 x704 for assistance.

Jewish Social Services may be consulted for referral to a marriage counselor by calling 278-1808.

Ritual Objects

Jewish Madison 2012

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Local grocery stores stock differing varieties and amounts of kosher-for-Passover foods. Metcalfe’s Market, located in the Hilldale Mall and across from West Towne Mall, carries the largest selection. Copps Food Centers (Junction Road, University Avenue, and Whitney Way), and Woodman’s West (Gammon Road) offer a good-sized selection as well. Whole Foods Market and Bakehouse stocks some Passover items.

Catering
Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound Street, has kosher kitchen facilities, including separate work spaces, ranges and ovens for meat and dairy preparation. Anyone who wishes to host a kosher function may arrange for rental and use of the kitchen under supervision. Beth Israel maintains a list (available from the office, 256-7763) of caterers currently active and allowed to work in the kitchens without supervision. Anyone else may work in the Beth Israel kitchen, so long as a mashgiach attends to oversee compliance with kashrut. (Conservative: meat and dairy.)

B’Tayavon Catering is an owner-operated catering company established in 1994, offering service at both Temple Beth El and Beth Israel Center. Kosher catering is available for events at Beth Israel Center, as well as for off-site events with prior arrangements for kosher kitchen rental. B’Tayavon specializes in good food, including classic Jewish and Middle Eastern dishes, and healthy options. Clients may work with set menus or make special requests, whether dietary or specific cuisines. B’Tayavon may be contacted by phone, 233-7192 or email, b_tayavon@yahoo.com or fit2eatmadison@gmail.com

CAFE O at UW Hillel-The Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Life. Cafe O is a kosher cafe (under the supervision of Kosher Supervisors of Wisconsin) located in UW Hillel, The Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Life. The dairy cafe is open to the public. The UW Hillel meal plan, also operated by Cafe O, is open to the public and provides dairy and meat meals for dine in or carry out and is available Monday-Friday. In addition, Cafe O provides full service kosher catering offering menu choices to accommodate one kosher guest or an entire event, casual to elegant on site or at the venue of your choice. For more information contact Sharon Siegel Langer, owner, at UW Hillel, 256-8361 ext. 712; visit www.cafeosher.com (cafe menu), www.uwhillel.org (meal plan options), or email slanger@uwhillel.org.

Kosher Meats/Groceries
A Kosher Meat Co-op is available which has frozen meat shipped from a reliable butcher in Philadelphia. For information call Beth Israel Center, 256-7763. The Kosher Meat Klub, 4731 West Burleigh, Milwaukee, (414-449-4980) will ship orders to Madison via Badger Bus. A number of local grocery stores stock packaged meats with kosher certification. Metcalfe’s Market, located in the Hilldale Mall and across from West Towne Mall, has the area’s largest selection of fresh and frozen products including meats, poultry, cheeses, as well as packaged kosher items. Trader Joe’s on Monroe Street regularly carries fresh kosher chicken. Copps Food Centers (Junction Road, University Avenue, and Whitney Way), Woodman’s West (Gammon Road), and Whole Foods Market and Bakehouse (University Avenue), stock some items carrying various kosher certifications. Café O at the UW Hillel sells Kosher groceries.
Jewish Education

Early Childhood Education Programs

Hilde L. Mosse Gan Hayaled Preschool
6434 Enterprise Lane
608-278-1808, jewishmadison.org.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Madison, Gan HaYaled offers a preschool program for children ages infancy to five years old. The preschool’s primary goals are to meet the emotional, social, intellectual, and physical needs of the young child and to provide rich Jewish content which will help in developing a strong positive awareness of each child’s Jewish identity. GHY provides year-round, full-day programming for two to five year olds, intersessions, Sh'moove and Tunes for ages 0-2, afternoon programming, and Camp Shalom Katan, a summer program, all with flexible scheduling. The Federation provides full and partial scholarships.

Elementary, Middle, and High School Programs

Beth Israel Center Talmud Torah
1406 Mound Street, 256-7763

The Beth Israel Talmud Torah teaches Hebrew and Jewish Studies to students in grades K through 7. Grades K, 1 and 2 attend school one day per week on Sunday. Grades 3, 4 and 5 meet three times per week, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Grades 6 and 7 meet on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Chabad
1722 Regent Street, 231-3450

Special classes and individually arranged tutoring are available throughout the year.

Chug Ivrit
An After School Program for Grades K-5

Chug Ivrit, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Madison, is an after school Hebrew language program for Kindergarten through fifth grade students. Students participate in arts & crafts, Israeli dancing, singing, music, free choice time, and informal Hebrew language programming. Registration is for the academic year and there is a fee. For more information, please contact the Federation.

Madison Jewish Community Day School (MUCDS)
2702 Arbor Drive, 204-9900
madisonjewishdayschool.com

Madison Jewish Community Day School is a Jewish elementary school serving students grades K-5 from all branches of Madison’s Jewish community.

Our program of general and Jewish studies features Hebrew immersion, small class sizes, and caring educators who challenge and nurture each child. An MUCDS education inspires students to love learning, to think critically, to engage with Jewish life and heritage, and to develop a deep sense of community and responsibility. To arrange a tour or for more information contact Rabbi Rebecca Ben-Gideon at rabbifi@madisonjewishdayschool.com or call (608) 204-9900.

Congregation Shaarei Shomayim
School located at the Center for Families
2120 Fordem Avenue
608-257-2944

Shaarei Shomayim offers a Sunday morning program for students in pre-kindergarten through grade 7 which focuses on Jewish values, traditions, and history. In addition, students in grades 3 through 7 work with a tutor once a week to learn Hebrew reading and recitation of prayers.

Temple Beth El Religious School
2702 Arbor Drive, 608-238-3123

The Beth El Religious School teaches Judaica for grades K through 7 and Hebrew for grades K through 3 on Sundays. Grades 4 through 7 study modern and prayer book Hebrew Wednesday afternoons and during Sunday School. Parents and students grade 3 through 6 study and worship together four times per year in a program called Shabbat yachad.

College and University Programs

The George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies
Ingraham Hall, 1135 Observatory Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1319
608-265-4763
jewishstudies@cis.wisc.edu
jewishstudies.wisc.edu

The Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies offers students, scholars, and community members a vibrant, interdisciplinary approach to the study of Jewish civilization and a thriving intellectual and cultural community at one of the best public universities in the world. With nearly 30 exceptional faculty affiliates specializing in Jewish history, languages, literature, social sciences, and the arts, the Center offers courses in a range of subjects, from Biblical Hebrew to Israeli Politics, Holocaust Education to American Jewish History. Undergraduates can earn either a BA or certificate in Jewish Studies, and more than $30,000 in graduate and undergraduate scholarships is offered annually. Our alumni have gone on to pursue careers in law, medicine, secular and religious education, academia, business, community organizing, and the rabbinate.

In addition to its academic offerings, the center has an extraordinary outreach program. Lectures are free and open to the public, and podcasts of our programs are available on our website. The Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture, founded in 2011, offers a range of community programs, including the annual Madison Summer KlezKamp. Each July, the Greenfield Summer Institute offers adult learners a unique blend of continuing education, entertainment, and fellowship while showcasing the research of UW-Madison faculty and nationally-recognized Jewish Studies scholars. The Conmony Project on Jewish Arts has a long-term commitment to supporting research and practice in the area of Jewish engagement with the arts, both historically and in the contemporary era.

For more information, please visit our website or contact the Center for Jewish Studies.
Jewish Education continued

Edgewood College
855 Woodrow Street
608-257-4861
For information about Hebrew and Religious Studies courses call 257-4661. ext. 2288.

UW Hillel
The Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Student Life
61|1 London Street
608-256-8361, uhillel.org
Hillel offers a variety of educational programs, such as lectures, courses, a film series, weekly Torah Study, Hebrew Roundtable, and a course in Spirtuality. For information call Hillel.

UW Hillel offers many Israel programs and trips to Israel including Birthright, MadPac, ICE (Israel Cultural Experience), Kavanah, and the Israel-Madison Entrepreneurship Group. For more information contact Hillel’s Shaliach (Israeli Program Coordinator) at 608-256-8361.

Adult Education Programs
Beth Israel Center
Beth Israel Center is the site for adult Jewish education. Over the years many have enjoyed our programs: the women’s Seder, yoga and study groups – reading Hebrew, speaking Yiddish, exploring Talmud, learning more about the Amudah and how we understand who is a Jew. Our Tikkun Leil Shavuot brings together members of Beth Israel, the University and the Jewish community to discuss everything from Shavuot men’s choices to objective morality, and our visiting lecturers have included professors, philosophers and musicians. We set our Adult Education schedule in September, so contact the Beth Israel office at 256-7763 or office@bethisraelcenter.org or go to our website, www.bethisraelcenter.org to see what we have planned.

Chabad
Classes and study groups are offered to the entire community on numerous topics including Hasidic philosophy, holiday observance, Talmud and Torah. A woman’s study group meets monthly. Chabad offers weekly Torah insights by examining the classic commentaries, stories from Midrash, and Chassidic insights related to the parashah. The study meets Tuesdays at 7:00 PM. For more information call Chabad, 231-3450. For women’s study groups call 251-8764.

Jewish Women’s Circle, Chabad
As women, we face an increasingly demanding world: family, work, friends, and community all compete for our time and energy. We long for a respite that will rejuvenate both body and soul. Welcome to the Jewish Women’s Circle. Our goal is to provide a monthly experience that appeals to women of all ages and backgrounds, and enables them to explore their Jewish spirituality while bringing warmth and inspiration to their lives. Each event is complemented by an enjoyable activity, and of course, heart-warming camaraderie. For more information, email: jwcma@gmail.com.

JLI – Jewish Learning Institute
231-3450
Chabad of Madison, in conjunction with YIP Madison (Young Jewish Professionals of Madison) is proud to become an affiliate of the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI). With its acclaimed college-licensed courses, JLI has proven to be the premier higher Jewish education source. The six week course covers a wide array of topics.

Lectures
Center for Jewish Studies Lectures
The Maurice Weisnau Center for Jewish Studies at UW-Madison sponsors frequent lectures on Jewish history, literature, the social sciences, and the arts. All lectures are free and open to the public, and many lectures may be downloaded as podcasts. For more information, including an up-to-date events calendar, visit jewishstudies.wisc.edu.

Greenfield Summer Institute
For more than a decade, the Greenfield Summer Institute has brought together every July people from the Madison community and beyond to participate in a unique blend of continuing education, entertainment, and fellowship. Underwritten by the generosity of Larry and Ros Greenfield and organized by the Center for Jewish Studies, the institute showcases the research of UW-Madison faculty and acclaimed Jewish Studies scholars from around the country. Each year the Institute’s lectures center on a theme; past themes have included Jews and politics, the “Wanderjew,” and Jewish memory. In addition to lectures that explore the year’s theme in depth, the Institute also features concerts, dinners, and other opportunities to socialize. For more information, including copies of past programs, please visit jewishstudies.wisc.edu/greenfield.

Manfred E. Swarsensky Memorial Lecture Series
Each year, Temple Beth El honors the memory of our founding Rabbi Manfred Swarsensky through the Swarsensky Scholar-in-Residence Program. This program brings a Jewish scholar to Beth El to teach our community about a topic of interest. The lectures are provided over a weekend each November (Friday and Saturday evening, and Sunday morning).

Liel M. Blockstein Memorial Lecture Series
Temple Beth El and Jewish Social Services present the Liel M. Blockstein Lecture on a Sunday morning each February.

Torah Study
Congregation Shaarei Shymayim offers bi-weekly study of the Torah portion. The discussion is led by the rabbi and meets from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Shabbat mornings when services are held. For information, call 257-2944.

Temple Beth El offers weekly study of selected Biblical books in translation on Saturday mornings from 9 to 10 a.m. throughout the year. For information call Temple Beth El, 236-3123.

Talgud Study
Temple Beth El (Reform)
2702 Arbor Drive, 608-238-3123
Includes study in the Rabbi and Educator’s Introduction to Judaism class.
Contact the Rabbi for information or assistance.

Interfaith, Outreach
Temple Beth El
Temple Beth El periodically offers programs for interfaith couples. For information call Temple Beth El, 238-3123.

Congregation Shaarei Shymayim
The Rabbi is available for counseling to Jewish couples. For information call 257-2944.

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Jewish Camping Around Wisconsin

Day Camp

Camp Shalom
Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Madison, Camp Shalom is held at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus in Verona. Camp Shalom, founded in 1954, offers 2- and 3-week summer sessions for children entering Kindergarten through 5th grade. The Federation provides some full and partial scholarships. For further information, call the Federation, 278-1808 or visit jewishmadison.org.

Camp Shalom Bogrim
Camp Shalom Bogrim is located at the Irwin A. and Robert D. Goodman Jewish Community Campus and serves campers entering 6th through 9th grades. The camp is held during the winter break. For more information, call 251-8764.

Overnight Camp

B’nai B’rith Beber Camp, Mukwanage
Sponsored by the B’nai B’rith Youth Organization, 1961 Raymond Drive, Northbrook, IL 60062, 708-498-1441.

Camp Chi, Wisconsin Dells
Sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago, P.O. Box 828, Northbrook, IL 60065, 708-272-2301.

Camp Interlaken, Eagle River
Sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Milwaukee, 6225 North Santa Monica Boulevard, Milwaukee WI 53217, 414-964-4444.

Camp Young Judaeas, Waupaca
Sponsored by Hadassah, 6600 North Lincoln Avenue, Suite 304, Lincolnwood, IL 60645, 708-982-2040.

Habonim Camp Tavor, Three Rivers, Michigan
Affiliated with the Labor Zionist Alliance and Na’amat (formerly Pioneer) for students in grades 6, 7 and 8.

Habonim Camp Tavor, Mukwonago
Affiliated with the Labor Zionist Alliance and Na’amat (formerly Pioneer) for students in grades 6, 7 and 8.

B’nai B’rith Youth Organization
BBYO is a worldwide, youth-led Jewish youth organization that emphasizes leadership and Jewish identity. BBYO offers community service, social, athletic, social action, and religious activities. For more information call 414-963-1400.

Habonim
Affiliated with the Labor Zionist Alliance and Na’amat. Habonim is a youth group for eight to sixteen year olds, offering Zionist, social and social action activities. For more information, call 1-800-55TAVOR.

Kadima
Beth Israel Center (Conservative) 1406 Mound Street, 608-256-7763
Educational, social action and just-for-fun programs for Jewish children (who need not be members of Beth Israel) in grades 6, 7 and 8.

Matty
(Madison Temple Youth) Temple Beth El (Reform) 2702 Arbor Drive, 608-238-3123
Matty offers religious, educational, social action and just-for-fun activities for students in grades 9 through 12 who are members of Temple Beth El.

Youth Organizations

BBYO is a worldwide, youth-led Jewish youth organization that emphasizes leadership and Jewish identity. BBYO offers community service, social, athletic, social action, and religious activities. For more information call 414-963-1400.

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Matty
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Matty offers religious, educational, social action and just-for-fun programs for students in grades 5, 6 and 7 who are members of Temple Beth El.

Congregation Shaarei Shayamim Youth Group
Congregation Shaarei Shayamim (Reconstructional) 608-257-2944
All are welcome to join Shaarei Shayamim’s youth group, which provides educational and social programming for students in grades 9-12.
Make a difference: Donate to the Tzedakah Campaign

Please help build our community and assist those facing hardship here and around the world.

When you contribute to the Jewish Federation of Madison Tzedakah Campaign, your single gift will help support more than 20 essential local agencies and programs that serve the Jewish community and the community at-large, as well as humanitarian programs in more than 70 countries worldwide.

Four easy ways to contribute:
1. Visit jewishmadison.org
2. Offer your pledge when a volunteer calls you
3. Send in the form below or the form you receive in the mail
4. Call the Federation office at 278-1808

Tzedakah Campaign Pledge Form

I/We pledge $___________ to the Tzedakah Campaign

Name ________________________________ City __________________ State ______ Zip ______

Home Phone __________________________ Email __________________

Signature ____________________________ Date ____________

☐ Will donate online at jewishmadison.org  ☐ Send bill  ☐ Check enclosed

Charge my credit card: ☐ VISA  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express  ☐ Charge my credit card monthly

CC Number: __________________________ Code: ______________ Expires: ____________

We hope you’ll agree to be included in our donor appreciation listing along with almost all our donors. Your listing will serve as an inspiration to others to help build our community and those facing hardship here and around the world. If you prefer NOT to be listed, please check this box ☐

Hilde L. Massie Gan HaYeled Preschool educates more than 100 children year-round and provides scholarships for low-income families

Camp Shalom serves more than 1,000 children each summer of various religions, including those with special needs, and provides scholarships to the 20% of children from low-income families

Jewish Social Services provides services to nearly 1,000 individuals and agencies annually in both the Jewish community and the community-at-large through senior, individual, and immigration programs

Madison Jewish Community Day School provides a challenging and innovative curriculum of general and Jewish studies and serves families from all parts of Madison’s Jewish community

Midrasha Hebrew High School educates more than 100 students annually and provides $2,000 Federation incentive scholarships to graduating seniors for continuing Jewish studies

UW Hillel offers activities to the UW’s 5,000 Jewish students Taglit-Birthright Israel provides free, first-time peer educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults

Hilde L. Massie Gan HaYeled Preschool
6434 Enterprise Lane
Madison, WI 53719
ADULT ORGANIZATIONS

Temple Beth El Sisterhood - Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ)
608-238-3123
Open to women members of Temple Beth El, WRJ serves the Temple, family and community through varied programs and projects. Members participate in four programs, annual Kinetic Family Sisterhood Shabbat, college connections and community projects such as YWCA Third Street. Popular new programs such as the annual Kugel Sale and Mah Jong tournament were added to the roster in 2011. WRJ supports youth through camperships and leadership training programs and is involved in regional and national WRJ projects. Temple Beth El’s Sisterhood annual Food-A-Rama is always held on Election Day in November. In 2012, Food-A-Rama is teaming up with DAIS (Domestic Abuse Intervention Services). A portion of some of the proceeds collected at Food-A-Rama will go directly to DAIS’s capital campaign to build a new shelter.

Women’s League of Beth Israel Center
608-256-7763
The Women's League at Beth Israel Center is a group of service-oriented women committed to enriching congregational life. Members support Beth Israel’s Talmud/Torah and youth groups, contribute to the library, assist with holiday celebrations, present meaningful gifts to new babies, Bat- and Bar-Mitzvah students, and graduates. Contributions are made to groups such as Jewish Social Services, neighborhood houses, and abuse centers. Membership is open to Jewish Theological Seminary and sends Torah fund cards to commemorate simchas and benights.

JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

THE JEWISH LIFE CYCLE

Days of birth. In ancient Israel, the first-born were dedicated to serve G-D in the Temple. On a specified day, the first-born were paid to the Cohen (priest) to serve in the boy’s stead. Today, the Cohen is given five silver dollars, which are donated to charity, and a festive meal follows.

Confirmation
A ceremony held in Reform synagogues, usually during the observance of Shavuot, to confirm the Jewish membership of the congregation’s 10th grade students. The students usually have completed post-Bar/Bat mitzvah Jewish study.

Mikveh (Ritual bath)
“Living” water (collected rain water piped into a pool) is used for purification. During the days of the Temples in Jerusalem, there were many occasions when ritual purification was required in order to participate in the Temple services. Today, only women still are required under Jewish law to immerse themselves in a mikveh immediately before (on the day of) Shabbat and before immersing for Purim. Although both parties must agree to the get, in Jewish law, a Get (religious divorce) is required in addition to a civil divorce. Immoersion is also required by Jewish law before conversion. Many observant women immerse themselves before the Sabbath and holidays for spiritual reasons.

Death
Jewish tradition recognizes death as the completion of life. Burial takes place as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours. Traditionally, the body is washed by members of a Chevra Kadisha (burial society). During the completion of life, burial takes place. Burial takes place. The body is dressed in white linen garments, so that everyone goes to the grave equally. Preserving the body through embalming is prohibited by Jewish law, as are metal caskets, which preserve the remains. Judaism has a formalized mourning procedure with seven days of intense mourning (Shivah) followed by 30 days of semi-mourning (Shlishim). After a parent’s death, semi-mourning continues for a year.

Divorce
Judaism recognizes that every marriage is not a success and allows for divorce. Financial provisions are made in the ketubah (marriage contract). Under Jewish law, a Get (religious divorce) is required in addition to a civil divorce. Although both parties must agree to the get, no grounds are required. The Beth Din (religious court) prepares the get and handles the documents.

Marriage
The Lord and the said: “It is not good that the man should be alone; I shall make him a helpmate for him.” —Genesis 2:18

One of the first blessings every parent bestows upon a child is that he or she get married. This wedding consists of several main parts. The main ele- ments are kiddush erusin (sacramentation of betrothal); the baiat, blessing; presentation of the ring; reading of the ke- tubah (marriage contract) and its presentation to the bride; recitation of the seven marriage blessings; drinking of wine to sanctify the marriage and break- ing of the glass. Traditional weddings are preceded by the beth din, in which the rabbi and grooms place the veil over the bride’s head after making certain that he is getting the correct bride. The beth din custom is from the patriarch Jacob, who was fooled into marrying his intended bride’s sister.

Sanctity unto Me all the first-born, whatever openeth womb among the chil- dren of Israel, both of man and of beast, it is Mine. —Exodus 13:1

Redemption of the first-born son (if he is the family’s first child) takes place 30 days after birth. In ancient Israel, the first-born were dedicated to serve G-D in the Temple. On a specified day, the first-born were paid to the Cohen (priest) to serve in the boy’s stead. Today, the Cohen is given five silver dollars, which are donated to charity, and a festive meal follows.

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Cultural Arts

Dance

Yonim Israeli Folk Dance Troupe, a program of the Jewish Federation of Madison, performs locally at major Jewish community events, nursing homes, schools, as well as several regional and some national events. The dancers rehearse on Sunday afternoons and evenings at Beth Israel Center. Students in grades K-12 enjoy being with their friends, learning about Jewish culture and traditions, dancing, and enjoying the music. Yonim’s structured program is designed to encourage children and teens to connect with others who share similar interests, and enjoy folk dancing and international music. Any interested student in kindergarten through twelfth grade is welcome, regardless of dance experience. Yonim also offers recreational dance classes for the boys and for the community as well as instructional dance for Bat Mitzvot and Weddings. For more information please contact yonim@jewishmadison.org.

Library/Libraries

Beth Israel Center’s AJ and Celia Rosenberg Library is open to the public and has a substantial collection of fiction, non-fiction, children’s and reference books. The library also has liturgical learning audio tapes, audio books, music CDs and a large collection of videos of Jewish interest. For more information, contact the librarian at 256-7763 ext. 15 or library@bethisraelcenter.org.

Chabad’s library offers a selection of books, tapes, and videos for loan. Call 231-3450 or 257-1575 for information.

Edgewood College’s library holds a variety of materials on Judaism and on Israel. For further information call 257-4801, ext. 3300.

Hillel’s library, available to all, has a general collection of fiction and non-fiction in English, available for 2-week checkout. The library is open at all hours when the building is open. For information call Hillel 256-8361.

Temple Beth El’s library, open to the public, has a large collection of fiction and non-fiction, reference books, and an especially strong collection of children’s books. For information call the Temple Beth El office, 238-3123.

The University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Memorial Library has books and periodicals of Jewish interest, in English, Hebrew and Yiddish, throughout its general collection. The non-general public may use these materials — in the library, but not for checkout — by means of a day pass, issued at the library. Bring two forms of identification with you to obtain the pass; no fee is required.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society, 1,600 photos which accompany interviews with Wisconsin State Historical Society’s Wisconsin Survivors of the Holocaust: A Documentation Project collection. The Sound and Visual Archive of the Wisconsin State Historical Society holds these materials; for information, call 256-6400 or write to the WSHS, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture

The Mayrent Institute for Yiddish Culture was founded in 2011 as part of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies and is dedicated to the celebration and continuity of community-based traditional Yiddish culture. The Institute places a high value on cultural literacy by presenting Yiddish music, dance, history, folklore, crafts and visual arts through its classes, publications, record-ings and documentaries, as well as Madison Summer KlezKamp. Students and music lovers alike will also appreciate the Mayrent Collection of Yiddish recordings at Mills Music Library. More information is available at mayrentinsti-tute.wisc.edu.

Conney Project on Jewish Arts

The Conney Project on Jewish Arts, an initiative of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at UW-Madison, is a far-reaching educational program that aims to raise awareness of the contributions of Jewish artists and scholars and to encourage and support new scholarship and production in the field. Every two years (including 2015), the Conney Project sponsors a four-day conference on Jewish identity and the arts. More information is available at conneyproject.wisc.edu.
Helping to provide information and funds for worldwide issues. Beth El also participates as a host congregation for the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

UW Hillel
The Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Student Life
611 Langdon Street
608-256-8361, uwhillel.org
Challah for Hunger: The UW-Madison chapter is a registered student group that will bake 100 loaves each week and proceed from the weekly challah baking have gone to AJWS’s Sudan Relief and Advocacy Fund as well as a local organization of the group’s choosing. Purchase challah at www.uwhillel.org. Fresh Madison Market or McTaggert’s. For more information contact info@uhillel.org or 608-256-8361.

Alternative Break Programs: Hillel’s Alternative Break programs provide the opportunity to give back to the global community, while making connections with other UW students. Hillel’s trips are designed to be immersive experiences — past UW Hillel Alternative Break include Israel, Argentina, Rio de Janeiro, New Orleans and Rwanda. For more information contact Hillel’s shalalah at 608-256-8361.

UW Hillel Badger Volunteers meets once a week at MSCC-Mendota, through the Madison Center Badger Volunteers Program.

Jewish Social Services of Madison
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim Social Action Committee
608-257-2944
Congregation Shaarei Shamayim has a strong commitment to the larger community and is engaged in a variety of social action work. For information on current and ongoing projects call the office, 257-2944.

Temple Beth El Social Action Committee
2702 Arbor Drive, 608-238-3123
Temple Beth El has a strong committee that leads and sponsors projects such as a High Holy Day Hunger Project, a community Mitzvah Day, provides meals for Porchlight Men’s Shelter as well as other Jewish genetic diseases, contact the University of Wisconsin-Madison Clinical Genetics Program, 262-250-7.

Jewish Social Services of Madison
6434 Enterprise Lane, Madison, WI 53717
608-278-1808
jss@jssmadison.org
jssmadison.org

Each year, more than 100 volunteers donate time to Jewish Social Services, visiting nursing home residents and homebound individuals, serving as ESL tutors, providing clerical and office support, providing medical, legal and other professional services, assisting each Monday at Lachayim Lunch Time Plus Program, providing rides for seniors and the disabled, and serving on the Board and its many committees.

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Selves or manage their financial matters, JSS may be able to serve as corporate guardian, financial agent or conservator. We decide on a case-by-case basis whether the agency is able to serve and only does so when no appropriate family member or friend is available. A fee may be charged, but no one is turned away because of an inability to pay.

Adoption Information
Adopting a child can be a rewarding experience, and members of our community choose adoption for a variety of reasons. Some are experiencing infertility, while others wish to create or expand their family. Increasingly, singles and gay and lesbian couples are becoming parents through the adoption process. Regardless of the reason for adoption, it is important to make sure that it is right for you.

Adoption presents many issues and choices to consider. Jewish Social Services can assist in obtaining reliable information and will provide confidential, caring support for those considering adoption. JSS is not a licensed adoption agency.

Madison is the home to Jewish families who have adopted children in a variety of ways and from different places, both nationally and internationally. Because 25% of Jewish adoptions are trans-racial, there are many faces to our Jewish community. JSS is available to connect you with adoptive families who are willing to share their stories and offer insights.

Domestic Abuse Information
Perpetrators of domestic abuse can be men or women, gay or straight, spouses, partners, parents or adult children, old or young. Regardless, there is help for the victims. Domestic abuse can happen in any family. No one has the right to hurt you; it’s not your fault. You are not alone.

Emotional Abuse – name-calling, mind games, threats, humiliation, intimidation
Physical Abuse – hitting, kicking, choking, use of a weapon
Sexual Abuse – forced sex or unwanted sexual acts
Economic Abuse – prevention from working, control of money

IF YOU ARE EVER IN DANGER, DIAL 911!

Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors
PO Box 8773, Madison, 53708-8773, 256-8883
JLDS meets semi-annually for a long weekend of intensive workshops and group events.

Jewish Lesbian Group
JLG meets for holidays and other occasions. Call 256-8883 for information.

Where to get confidential help:

Jewish Social Services of Madison
608-278-1808
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday

For Immigrant and Refugee Women
608-278-1808
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday - Friday

24 Hour Crisis Lines
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services: 1-800-747-4045
National: 1-800-799-7233
Dane County Department of Human Services
Elder Abuse & Neglect Helpline: 608-261-9933
Child Protective Services Helpline: 608-261-5437
After Hours Emergencies: 608-255-6067

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The Jewish Holidays

The Jewish Calendar – An Introduction

The Jewish day begins and ends at sunset, not at midnight. The Jewish Calendar is lunar in nature; there are 12 months, reckoned according to the time that it takes the moon to travel round the earth. Each month consists of either 29 or 30 days. The lunar year consists of approximately 354 days, while a solar year (the time it takes the earth to make a complete circuit round the sun) consists of 365 days. Therefore, some adjustment of the lunar year has to be made to match it to the solar year. If there would be no adjustment, the religious calendar would become variable. Thus, for example, the Festival of Pesach, which should always occur in the spring (in Israel), would occur earlier by days each subsequent year until the Spring Festival would be kept in winter! The adjustment is achieved by inserting an extra month in the lunar calendar seven times in nineteen years. A year of 12 months is called Shanah Peshutah (an ordinary year), while a year of 13 months is called Shanah Me’uberevet (a leap year). In a cycle of 19 years, a leap year occurs on the 3rd, 6th, 8th, 11th, 14th, 17th and 19th years. These distinctive Jewish aspects of the calendar is why Jewish holidays always fall on a different “secular” calendar day each year. It also explains why consulting most “commercial” calendars for a specific Jewish holiday results in confusion – the holiday really began at sundown Friday night and ends after sunrise Saturday.

Shabbat - The Sabbath, a day of rest, worship and study, begins 20 minutes before sundown Friday night and ends after sunrise Saturday.

High Festivals

The Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement differ from other festivals in that they are more concerned with the individual; there is less national or historical significance associated with them than with other holy days in the Calendar. The New Year brings the individual before his God and touches upon the ideals of life, sin and repentance. Because of the critical nature of these concepts, Rosh Hashanah is preceded by a period of preparation in which people attempt themselves to the proper mood for the great day.

The month of Elul and Selichot

Throughout the month of Elul, the shofar is sounded on weekdays after the morning service to remind the worshipers of the forthcoming holy days. Further, in order to inspire a mood of penitence, special “Selichot” or penitential prayers are recited as the Festival days draw near. The first Selichot service is held early in the Sunday morning of the week prior to the New Year (and better still at midnight when the stillness of the hour creates the atmosphere of solemnity suited to the penitential period).

Shalosh Regalim: The Three Pilgrim Festivals - Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot

The Torah states, “Three times a year you shall keep a feast unto Me.” (Exodus 23:14) This injunction refers to the three joyful festivals in the Jewish Calendar, Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot. These holidays are known collectively as Shalosh Regalim - the Three Pilgrim festivals, since the Jews were commanded to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem as part of their celebration. Each of these festivals commemorates important stages in the history of the Israelites: Pesach - the Exodus from Egypt; Shavuot - the Giving of the Ten Commandments at Sinai; and Sukkot, the Journey in the Desert en route to the Promised Land. These Pilgrim Festivals also had an agricultural significance: Pesach - Barley harvest; Shavuot, Wheat harvest; and Sukkot - Final ingathering of the produce.

Additional Jewish holidays

Jewish holidays also include the Fast Days of Tannit Bechonim (Fast of the Firstborn), Fast of Tammuz, Tisha B’Av, Tzom Gedaliah, Fast of Tevet and the Fast of Esther. Minor Festivals include Hanukkah, Purim, Lag B’Omer, and Tu’Shvat. Israeli Festivals, also observed in the United States, include Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom Hazikaron (Day of Remembrance), Yom Ha’Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day).

Rosh Hashanah

(Rosh Hashanah is the 1st and 2nd day of the Hebrew month of Tishri, which usually falls in September or October, and marks the beginning of a ten-day period of prayer, self-examination and repentance, which culminates on the fast day of Yom Kippur. These ten days are referred to as Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe or the Holy High Days. While there are elements of joy and celebration, Rosh Hashanah is deeply religious occasion. The customs and symbols of Rosh Hashanah reflect the holiday’s dual emphasis, happiness and humility. Special customs observed on Rosh Hashanah include the sounding of the shofar, round challah, eating apples and honey (and other sweet foods) for a sweet year. There is also a customary service observed before Rosh Hashanah, Selichot, meaning forgiveness. Refers to the penitential prayers recited by Jews prior to the onset of the High Holiday season. It is a solemn and fitting preparation for ten days of reflection and self-examination.

Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the “Day of Atonement” and refers to the annual Jewish observance of fasting, prayer and repentance. This is considered to be the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. In three separate passages in the Torah, the Jewish people are told, “the tenth day of the seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be a sacred occasion for you: You shall practice self-denial...” (Leviticus 23:27). Fasting is seen as fulfilling this biblical commandment. The Yom Kippur fast also enables us to put aside our physical desires and to concentrate on our spiritual needs through prayer, repentance and self-improvement. It is customary in the days before Yom Kippur for Jews to seek out friends and family whom they have wronged and personally ask for their forgiveness.

Sukkot

Sukkot (Tishri 15) - Sukkot, a Hebrew word meaning "booths" or "huts," refers to the Jewish festival of giving thanks for the fall harvest as well as the commemoration of the forty years of Jewish wandering in the desert after Sinai. Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur on the 15th of Tishri, and is marked by several distinct traditions. One tradition, which takes the commandment to "dwell in booths" literally, is to build a sukkah, a booth or hut. A sukkah is often erected by Jews during this festival, and it is common practice for some to eat and even live in these temporary dwellings during Sukkot. Shemini Atzeret (Tishri 22) - The “Eighth Day of Solomon’s Assembly,” the festival observed the day after Sukkot. In Israel, Shemini Atzeret also marks the completion of the annual cycle of Torah reading (see Simchat Torah) in the Diaspora.

Simchat Torah (Tishri 23 in the Diaspora, Tishri 22 in Israel) - Simchat Torah, Hebrew for “rejoicing in the Law,” celebrates the completion of the annual reading of the Torah. Simchat Torah is a joyous festival, in which we affirm our view of the Torah as a tree of life and demonstrate a living example of never-ending lifelong study. Torah scrolls are taken from the ark and carried or danced around the synagogue seven times. During the Torah service, the concluding section of Deuteronomy is read, and immediately following, the opening section of Genesis, or B’reishit as it is called in Hebrew, is read.

Hanukkah ( Kislev 25) - Hanukkah, meaning “dedication” in Hebrew, refers to the seventh or eight day celebration during which Jews commemorate the victory of the Maccabees over the armies of Syria in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and “rededication” of the Temple in Jerusalem. The modern home celebration of Hanukkah centers around the lighting of the Hanukkiah, a special menorah for Hanukkah, unique foods, and is marked by several distinct traditions. One tradition, which takes the commandment to “dwell in booths” literally, is to build a sukkah, a booth or hut. A sukkah is often erected by Jews during this festival, and it is common practice for some to eat and even live in these temporary dwellings during Sukkot. Shemini Atzeret (Tishri 22) - The “Eighth Day of Solomon’s Assembly,” the festival observed the day after Sukkot. In Israel, Shemini Atzeret also marks the completion of the annual cycle of Torah reading (see Simchat Torah) in the Diaspora.

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Homeland by eating foods that could be found in Israel. In the sixteenth and seventeenth century Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu B’Shvat similar to the Passover seder. Today, Tu B’Shvat has also become a tree planting festival in Israel, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend.

Fast of Esther (Adar 13) - Commemorates Esther’s fasting before pleading with King Ahasuerus to spare the Jewish people (See Purim).

Purim (Adar 14) - Purim is celebrated by the reading of the Scroll of Esther (known in Hebrew as the Megillah) and a festive seder. The elevation of Esther is the only Book of the Bible in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim is an unusual holiday in many respects. First, Esther is the only Book of the Bible in which God is not mentioned. Second, Purim, like Hanukkah, is viewed by tradition as a minor festival. The elevation of Purim in a major holiday was a result of the Jewish historical experience. Over the centuries, Haman became the embodiment of every anti-Semite in every land where Jews were oppressed. The significance in Purim lies not so much in how it began, but in what it has become — a thankful and joyous affirmation of Jewish survival against all odds.

Taanit Bechorim (Nisan 14) - On Taanit Bechorim, known as Fast of the Firstborn in English, the firstborn son of a father or mother fasts, beginning at dawn, as an expression of thanks for the deliverance of the firstborn Egyptians who were spared when the firstborn of the Egyptians were wiped out by the tenth plague.

Peach (Nisan 15) - Pesach, known as Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home service called the seder, the order of prayers, rituals, readings and songs for the Pesach seder. The Pesach seder is the only ritual meal in the Jewish calendar year for which an order is prescribed, hence its name. The seder has a number of scriptural bases. Exodus 12:3-11 describes the meal of lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs which the Israelites ate just prior to the Exodus. In addition, three separate passages in Exodus (12:26-7, 13:8, 13:14) and one in Deuteronomy (6:20-21) enunciate the duty of the parents to tell the story of the Exodus to their children. The seder plate contains various symbolic foods referred to in the seder itself.

Yom Hashoah (Nisan 27) - Initiated in 1950, Yom Hashoah, also known as Holocaust Remembrance Day, occurs on the 27th of Nisan. "Shoah," which means catastrophe or utter destruction in Hebrew, refers to the atrocities that were committed against the Jewish people during World War II. This is a memorial day for those who died in the Shoah.

Yom Hazikaron (Iyar 4) - Day of Remembrance commemorating those who died during Israel’s Wars of Liberation and defense. Always the day before Yom Ha’Atzmaut.

Yom Ha’Atzmaut (Iyr 5) - Yom Ha’Atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, marks the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948.

Fast of Tamar (Av 9) - Tisha B’Av or Tisha B’Av is the only day in the Jewish calendar that is observed as a day of mourning. Yom Yerushalayim (Iyar 18) - An omer marks the completion of a seven-week period of mourning. In this week of mourning, the day they were to receive the Torah. Shavuot (Iyar 18) - Shavuot is a beneficiary of the Federation’s Jewish Educational Fund. The Jewish Agency for Israel and Zionist Education of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The Jewish Agency for Israel is the official source of blessing in our tradition.

Passover in English, is a major Jewish spring festival, commemorating the Exodus from Egypt over 3,000 years ago. The ritual observance of this holiday centers around a special home service called the seder, the order of prayers, rituals, readings and songs for the Pesach seder. The Pesach seder is the only ritual meal in the Jewish calendar year for which an order is prescribed, hence its name. The seder has a number of scriptural bases. Exodus 12:3-11 describes the meal of lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs which the Israelites ate just prior to the Exodus. In addition, three separate passages in Exodus (12:26-7, 13:8, 13:14) and one in Deuteronomy (6:20-21) enunciate the duty of the parents to tell the story of the Exodus to their children. The seder plate contains various symbolic foods referred to in the seder itself.

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### Ten Year Calendar of Jewish Holy Days

#### Shabbat (Sabbath)
Observance begins every Friday at sunset concluding at sunset on Saturday.

We request that these Holy Days and Shabbat be respected when scheduling events.

For further information or assistance please call the Jewish Federation of Madison at 278-1808.

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#### Rosh Hashanah
Jewish New Year Begins Ten Days of Penitence.

- **2012**: Sep 16 Sat Eve, Sep 17-18 Mon, Tue
- **2013**: Sep 8 Sat Eve, Sep 9-10 Mon, Tue
- **2014**: Sep 24 Wed Eve, Sep 26-27 Fri, Sat
- **2015**: Sep 10 Fri Eve, Sep 11-12 Sat, Sun
- **2016**: Sep 26 Wed Eve, Sep 28-29 Fri, Sat
- **2017**: Sep 8 Fri Eve, Sep 9-10 Sat, Sun
- **2018**: Sep 24 Wed Eve, Sep 26-27 Fri, Sat
- **2019**: Sep 10 Fri Eve, Sep 11-12 Sat, Sun
- **2020**: Sep 26 Wed Eve, Sep 28-29 Fri, Sat
- **2021**: Sep 8 Fri Eve, Sep 9-10 Sat, Sun
- **2022**: Sep 24 Wed Eve, Sep 26-27 Fri, Sat
- **2023**: Sep 10 Fri Eve, Sep 11-12 Sat, Sun

#### Yom Kippur
Day of Atonement.

- **2012**: Oct 3 Mon Eve, Oct 4 Mon, Tue
- **2013**: Oct 19 Sun Eve, Oct 20-21 Mon, Tue
- **2014**: Oct 8 Sun Eve, Oct 9-10 Mon, Tue
- **2015**: Oct 27 Wed, Oct 28-29 Fri, Sat
- **2016**: Oct 15 Sun, Oct 16-17 Mon, Tue
- **2017**: Oct 24 Wed, Oct 25-26 Fri, Sat
- **2018**: Oct 13 Sun, Oct 14-15 Mon, Tue
- **2019**: Oct 22 Wed, Oct 23-24 Fri, Sat
- **2020**: Oct 10 Sun, Oct 11-12 Mon, Tue
- **2021**: Oct 19 Sun, Oct 20-21 Mon, Tue
- **2022**: Oct 8 Sun, Oct 9-10 Mon, Tue
- **2023**: Oct 27 Wed, Oct 28-29 Fri, Sat

#### Sukkot
Festival of Booths. Harvest festival of thanksgiving.

- **2012**: Sep 27 Wed, Sep 28-29 Fri, Sep 30 Sat, Sun
- **2013**: Sep 15 Wed, Sep 16-17 Fri, Sat
- **2014**: Sep 10-11 Mon, Tue, Sep 12 Wed
- **2015**: Sep 28 Wed, Sep 29-30 Fri, Sat
- **2016**: Sep 23 Wed, Sep 24-25 Fri, Sat
- **2017**: Sep 18 Wed, Sep 19-20 Fri, Sat
- **2018**: Sep 7 Wed, Sep 8-9 Fri, Sat
- **2019**: Sep 26 Wed, Sep 27-28 Fri, Sat
- **2020**: Sep 21 Wed, Sep 22-23 Fri, Sat
- **2021**: Sep 10 Wed, Sep 11-12 Fri, Sat
- **2022**: Sep 29 Wed, Sep 30-31 Fri, Sat
- **2023**: Sep 8 Wed, Sep 9-10 Fri, Sat

#### Simchat Torah
Celebrates the conclusion of the year long cycle of reading of the Torah (Five Books of Moses) and renewing the cycle.

- **2012**: Nov 3 Mon, Nov 4-5 Tue, Nov 5 Wed
- **2013**: Nov 17 Sun, Nov 18-19 Mon, Tue
- **2014**: Nov 7 Mon, Nov 8-9 Tue, Nov 9 Wed
- **2015**: Nov 16 Sun, Nov 17-18 Mon, Tue
- **2016**: Nov 3 Mon, Nov 4-5 Tue, Nov 5 Wed
- **2017**: Nov 17 Sun, Nov 18-19 Mon, Tue
- **2018**: Nov 7 Mon, Nov 8-9 Tue, Nov 9 Wed
- **2019**: Nov 16 Sun, Nov 17-18 Mon, Tue
- **2020**: Nov 3 Mon, Nov 4-5 Tue, Nov 5 Wed
- **2021**: Nov 17 Sun, Nov 18-19 Mon, Tue
- **2022**: Nov 7 Mon, Nov 8-9 Tue, Nov 9 Wed
- **2023**: Nov 16 Sun, Nov 17-18 Mon, Tue

#### Pesach (Passover)
Festival of Freedom, recounting the deliverance from slavery. This is an 8 day observance and includes special dietary rules. The first two and last two days are observed as Holy Days.

- **2012**: Mar 25 Fri Eve, Mar 26-27 Sat, Sun
- **2013**: Apr 2 Fri Eve, Apr 3-4 Sat, Sun
- **2014**: Apr 17 Fri Eve, Apr 18-19 Sat, Sun
- **2015**: Apr 4 Fri Eve, Apr 5-6 Sat, Sun
- **2016**: Apr 19 Fri Eve, Apr 20-21 Sat, Sun
- **2017**: Apr 25 Fri Eve, Apr 26-27 Sat, Sun
- **2018**: Apr 9 Fri Eve, Apr 10-11 Sat, Sun
- **2019**: Apr 4 Fri Eve, Apr 5-6 Sat, Sun
- **2020**: Apr 10 Fri Eve, Apr 11-12 Sat, Sun
- **2021**: Apr 6 Fri Eve, Apr 7-8 Sat, Sun
- **2022**: Apr 2 Fri Eve, Apr 3-4 Sat, Sun
- **2023**: Apr 20 Fri Eve, Apr 21-22 Sat, Sun

#### Shavuot
Festival of Weeks. Marks giving of the law (Torah) on Mt. Sinai.

- **2012**: May 15-16 Wed, Thu
- **2013**: May 23 Sat, May 24-25 Sun, Mon
- **2014**: May 30 Sat, May 31-31 Sun, Mon
- **2015**: Jun 6 Sat, Jun 7-8 Sun, Mon
- **2016**: Jun 13 Sat, Jun 14-15 Sun, Mon
- **2017**: Jun 20 Sat, Jun 21-22 Sun, Mon
- **2018**: Jun 27 Sat, Jun 28-29 Sun, Mon
- **2019**: Jul 4 Sat, Jul 5-6 Sun, Mon
- **2020**: Jul 11 Sat, Jul 12-13 Sun, Mon
- **2021**: Jul 18 Sat, Jul 19-20 Sun, Mon
- **2022**: Jul 25 Sat, Jul 26-27 Sun, Mon
- **2023**: Jul 31 Sat, Jul 31-31 Sun, Mon

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