



Shalom01|26

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community published by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

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Adi Shalev Smitheman returns to serve as Program Director

By Adi Shalev Smitheman
Program Director

Dear Reading/Berks Jewish community, I am so happy and grateful for the opportunity to return to the community and serve as your Program Director.

During the three years I lived back in Israel, you were always my community. We stayed in touch, I came to visit, and I felt your warm hug and support—especially after October 7th, during a time when I felt so alone. Even from far away, I always felt like a part of you.

I'm very excited to start this new chapter in my life and in our community, leading and organizing meaningful, educational, interesting and fun programs for all. And as much as I'm capable of planning everything by myself, I believe that doing it alone would be the wrong approach. Programs are meaningful only when they reflect the people they serve. I am part of a community, and our programs should be tailored to the community's needs, to your needs.

The past two years have seen many changes — in Israel, in Jewish communities around the world, in the U.S. and at the Jewish Federation of Reading. Wonderful people moved on to their next chapter after serving the community with all their heart, and they made room for new, motivated people to jump right in. After all those



changes, and even though I know you were asked these questions before, I encourage you to take a few moments and think about the following:

- How do you see the Federation's mission?
- What programs or topics would you like to attend?
- What do you feel is missing, and what do we do too much of?
- What do you take for granted, and

where would you like to get more involved?

A community, especially a small Jewish community like ours, is built on shared values, shared history and the simple but powerful idea of showing up for one another. Judaism has always taught that community is not just a place we belong to — it is something we actively create together. Every person matters. Every voice matters. And every initiative, big or small, can strengthen the fabric that holds us together.

I truly believe in collaboration and in creating partnerships within the community. When we work together, listen to each other and combine our ideas and strengths, we develop programs that are not only better but deeper, more meaningful and more reflective of who we are.

The Federation has the tools, but you, the community members, are the engine, the heart and the lifeblood that keep our community alive. Without you, there would be no community. And with you, truly, the sky is the limit.

Let's connect. Your voice matters, and I would love to meet, listen, and understand what you feel our community needs today. You can reach me at Adis@JFReading.org or simply call the Federation office at 610-921-0624, and we will schedule a meeting.

I can't wait to plan, create, and build together.

Interfaith youth volunteer event in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Vicki Haller Graff
Program Director

As in previous years, Immanuel United Church of Christ, the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks and Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom are partnering to support our community through the 2026 MLK Youth Day of Service. Immanuel UCC, 99 S. Waverly St., Shillington, will host the annual volunteer event for youth and families on Monday, Jan. 19, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The day of service is inspired by the work and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his 1956 speech, "Facing the Challenge of a New Age," Dr. King said we need "to rise above the narrow confines of our individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Even though he wasn't Jewish, his actions in life embodied Tikkun Olam.

With a "day off" from school for Martin Luther King Jr. Day, youth and families are invited to have a "day on" to engage with the community. The Youth Day of Service is a perfect opportunity for young members of our community to learn about service and the issue of hunger. Families with children as young as 5 are encouraged to attend and volunteer to honor Dr. King's legacy. Adults are invited to attend as well.



Our community gathers each January to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through service.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to make sandwiches benefitting New Journey Community Outreach, create food power packs benefitting students in the Governor Mifflin School District, write cards for first responders and homebound community members, and make no-sew blankets. It's always inspiring to see so many people of different ages and faith communities working together for the common good of humanity.

This program allows us to enact so many pieces of our mission: bringing the Jewish community together, working with interfaith partners, practicing Tikkun Olam, and modeling values for our children. When we work together to help others, we can make the world a better place!

To sign up to volunteer or ask questions about the program, please contact the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks office at info@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624.

Looking back, forward as January arrives

By Richard Bradbury
Director of Development
It's January 2026!
W H A T??

I remember lying in bed on the attic of my great-grandparents' row home, next to the railroad tracks, calculating how old I would be when we reached 2000.



Way before the Y2K premonitions of chaos and mayhem (which never transpired, thankfully), the very idea of flipping from 1999 to 2000 seemed other-worldly — but in the same breath, shiny and new! Well, I'd be middle age — which at the time seemed terribly old — but where would the royal “WE” be? Vacations in space? Teleportation? Computerized-everythings? Self-propelled, self-driving cars? It seemed eons away given our paneled station wagon (I was thrilled, and my nana terrified, if “pop” pushed the car above 60 mph), and the fact that “nana” still washed our dishes by hand and hung our laundry out to dry!

Is it any wonder January takes its name from the Roman god Janus? That two-faced idol, looking forwards and backwards; that deity of beginnings, transitions, time, duality and endings. The Gregorian January is traditionally a time to look forward. A time to dream big and make resolutions, for assessing where we are and what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. Conversely, January is a time of reflection — looking back on the past year. Were we successful? Were we generous to others with our time and our resources? It's a time to contemplate regrets and honor people we lost. Were we pleased with the decisions we made and did we take advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves?

Since my arrival at the Jewish Federation in May, I've heard, witnessed, read, and learned so much about the importance of connection and engagement, particularly the desire and need for Jewish connection when our local community is so small. Recent events, like October 7th and the news from

across our country and around the world about the malignancy of antisemitism, shake us and naturally pull our Jewish community closer. We all feel the need to belong — to make meaningful connections — and that feeling grows stronger when we are frightened, confused or when we feel like “the other,” like we don't belong. It's natural, primal, and comforting to want to be with people who “get us.”

Having had the opportunity to participate in a few JFR events since May, my takeaway after each gathering has always been — our community loves a good time! We love to socialize, we consider learning and asking questions a high priority and we especially enjoy getting together to break bread.

In my seven short months, Federation has introduced me into a friendly, caring, generous and gregarious social and professional community, while restoring connections to Jewish friends and family I considered all but lost. I am grateful to look backwards and forwards to discover my sense of “belonging.” BTW: #3 on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs! That Roman Janus is really working its magic!

Think about it: If I found all these connections in seven months, you and yours must have made so many connections during your years here and going way back to the JCC in Hampden Heights! Years and decades of celebrations, memories (happy, sorrowful and all shades in-between). New friends, and even new families, were made while you gathered at the Jewish Cultural Center or our beloved JCC in Reading.

Your Federation pledges to continue to engage you, your family and friends. It's Federation's mission, and our pleasure, to assist in forging and strengthening new connections and creating a healthy, safe and vibrant Jewish community.

If you haven't already, please join us at our events! Speaking as a “freshie,” and someone with only a Jew-ISH family background, I find Federation programs to be OUTSTANDING! Exclusive audiences with new authors, watching films about Jewish culture (in a theater and sometimes



with the filmmaker!), field trips to theater and Jewish exhibitions, attending lectures and classes with scholarly speakers to discuss geo-political events, celebrating holidays and Holy Days or commemorating solemn Jewish anniversaries.

And sometimes it can be gathering in a safe place “just because,” like meeting for coffee or tea, or Friendship Circle, or a game of canasta or Mah Jongg or to catch a flick! Your Federation is your home for creating connections and celebrating Jewish life regardless of your spiritual path.

As we begin a new year, the staff and board of Jewish Federation thank you for your generosity and support during our 2025 Annual Campaign! Your gifts were the engine behind the amazing programs we offer to you, your community and your neighbors. Without your financial support, Federation would not have the funds necessary to deliver stimulating programming, provide relief and outreach to community members facing difficult times or accomplish the humanitarian work of our Jewish Family Service Food Pantries.

Looking ahead, your financial support in 2026 will be vital to sustaining our work. I'm Richard Bradbury, your Development Director. If we haven't had a chat yet, please contact me: 610-921-0624 or richardb@jfreading.org. Let's schedule a time to learn more about you, your connection to the Federation and what inspires you. Together, let's create something extraordinary for your community and your neighbors.

Community gathers for Hanukkah observance

By Margo Levin
JCRC Coordinator

The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks hosted the Shine A Light on Antisemitism Chanukkah celebration, bringing together elected officials and community leaders.

We are especially grateful to our guest,

Rori Picker Neiss, Senior Vice President and Rabbi in Residence at the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, for sharing a powerful message to our community of unity, respect and hope!

This Chanukkah we honor not only the resilience but the allies that stood by us, demonstrating moral courage and confronting

antisemitism. Thank you to our community partners who helped make this evening meaningful, and to Alvernia University for hosting us and standing with the Jewish community.

Together, we continue to shine a light on hate and stand for unity.



Development

- Annual Campaign
- Women's Philanthropy
- Maimonides Society
- Your Jewish Legacy
- Chai Circle
- L'Chaim Society
- Book of Life
- Letter of Intent



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today!

A Message from the CEO

Thank you for your feedback!

By **Cindy Gerber Tomlinson**

Chief Executive Officer

On Dec. 4, Federation hosted a Meet and Greet for over 40 people who enjoyed kosher deli from Philadelphia and lots of fun and camaraderie! In between the pastrami sandwiches and black and white cookies, I gave a presentation about where we have been lately, and where we are going. If you could not make it, you can also watch the recording on our YouTube channel. Just search on "Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks" on YouTube.

We enjoyed music from the Israeli group The Tamari Project, which performed at the recent General Assembly in Washington, DC, where I fell in love with them. (More on the General Assembly next month.) Most importantly, we hung posters up around the room with some key questions, and those who attended the event answered the questions on post-it notes. It was a fun and revealing group activity! I would like to share that feedback with you.

There were four questions — yes, like Ma Nishtanah — but a little early for Passover. The first one was, "When do you feel most connected to the Jewish community?" There were 13 answers provided, with the primary theme being about the value of community-wide events for socializing and bringing people together. Clearly, we all love to spend time together, no matter what we are doing.

The second question was, "What does Federation offer that you love, what makes you say "yes" and come to an event, and what do we need to do differently?" There were three overarching messages:

1) The great importance of gathering people from all three synagogues and making events inviting to all, including

those who keep kosher.

2) The book-related programs are great, but add other creative social opportunities like adult game nights, holiday events, trivia nights, more movies, monthly evening mahjong, bridge, open art creativity time, programs about Jewish celebrities and their impact on society, "how to" programs, and offsite events.

3) Have more interactive programs "like this one involving feedback from people, giving everyone a voice and allowing for spontaneous thought", and to customize programming by demographic, i.e. group by similar ages and stages in life.

The third and fourth questions were, "What would you like to see Federation offer to our community?" and "What keeps you from participating in Federation programs?" An overarching response had to do with streamlining activities and offering them to the entire community, rather than having redundant, competing events offered by all three synagogues — multiple Chanukah parties, for example. "Time constraints" and "scheduling" were listed multiple times as barriers to participation, and rather than having fewer people attend each of three events, have a large number of people all attend one event while partnering with the synagogues, and all synagogues being respected equally. One person noted, "When all (KZ, RCOS, Chabad) come together, we appreciate all the educational and inspiring programs."

I am very grateful for the wonderful and useful feedback we received that night, and if you were not there, I invite you to email info@jfreading.org with your answers to these questions. All answers are kept anonymous.

We will do our very best to work together as a unified community to address these suggestions and make them a reality.



The Jewish Federation of Reading held a Meet & Greet for Cindy Gerber Tomlinson, CEO, and attendees heard her vision for the future and enjoyed kosher deli!

2026 MLK YOUTH DAY OF SERVICE

Projects accessible to 5+ years old.
Adult volunteers welcome!

MONDAY JANUARY 19TH

10AM - 12PM

IMMANUEL UCC

99 S WAVERLY ST. SHILLINGTON

Food Packing, Sandwich Making,
Card Design, No-Sew Blankets

Questions /RSVP
iucc19607@gmail.com
info@jfreading.org

Shalom

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The opinions expressed in Shalom are of the writers and not the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

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of Reading/Berks

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Noontime Knowledge in January

By Vicki Haller Graff
Program Director

Join us for Noontime Knowledge in January at the JCC. Mark your calendar for the events below. While we always want you to join us in person, Noontime Knowledge is also being live-streamed and recorded on our YouTube Channel.

Wednesday, Jan. 14, noon – Michael Stanislaw, author of “The Unseen Illness”

After years of unexplained symptoms and countless medical appointments, Michael Stanislaw has turned his personal health journey into a message of hope with the release of his new book, “The Unseen Illness: How to Fight for a Diagnosis When You Don’t Fit the Textbook.”

Michael will share his story to raise awareness and offer hope to those who are also struggling. We can all learn from his experience, whether for ourselves or someone we care about. His book and presentation are part memoir and part roadmap for self-advocacy.

Michael will speak at Noontime Knowledge on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at noon at the JCC. He will have copies of his book available for purchase.

Michael Stanislaw worked as a graphic designer for over 37 years before illness reshaped his life and perspective. Through determination and research, he became a passionate advocate for patients navigating complex or misunderstood conditions. His debut book, “The Unseen Illness,” blends personal storytelling with



Sara Howells, shown at the Nov. 12 Noontime Knowledge, returned in December

practical insight — encouraging others to find strength, voice, and community along the path to diagnosis.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, noon – Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, author of “To Forever Inhabit This Earth”

To get us in the mood for Tu B'Shvat and engaging in the natural world, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, a Jewish Book Council author, will speak about her book “To Forever Inhabit This Earth: An Ethic of Enoughness.” You can hear this Noontime Knowledge / Literatour Berks presentation on Tuesday, January 27, noon, at the JCC.

The great work of today’s generations is nothing short of saving the earth. We know enough, are capable enough.

The question is: do we care enough? Will we work hard enough? Do we even recognize when we have enough? Now noted environmentalist Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin challenges us to develop the individual and collective will needed to create change and offers spiritual and practical guidance to invigorate that effort. “To Forever Inhabit This Earth” is a powerful must-read for anybody interested in the intersection of environmentalism and spirituality.

Cardin implores us to envision the world, not as a commodity but as a fragile, improbable, extraordinary gift whose well-being and future now depend on us, and using meticulously researched Jewish texts and the teachings of other faith traditions, she makes the case that environmental sustainability is a fundamental religious principle--and something we can address, if we have the will to do so.

Nina Beth Cardin is a community rabbi who works to promote environmental health and justice. She is the Chair of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the Social Justice Commission of the Masorti/Conservative movement and co-authored (with her husband, Rabbi Avram Reisner) the Conservative movement’s legal opinion on sustainability.

Noontime Knowledge programs are free and open to the public — bring a friend! Planning to attend any or all of the Noontime Knowledge programs? Please let us know by emailing info@jfreeding.org or calling 610-921-0624. Would you like to present or recommend a presenter? Please contact Adi Shalev Smitheman, Program Director, at adis@jfreeding.org.

Noontime Knowledge talks continue to fascinate




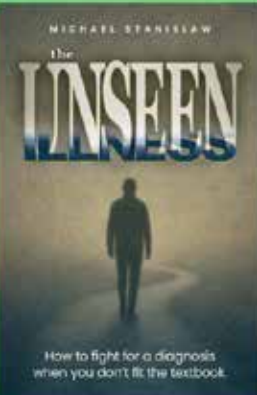
David Denby, author of “Eminent Jews,” speaks at Noontime Knowledge / Literatour Berks in November. Sara Howells discusses Jewish female modern artists at Noontime Knowledge in December.



NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE
at the JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Ste. 125, Wyomissing

The Unseen Illness
with Michael Stanislaw


Wednesday, January 14, noon




After years of unexplained symptoms and countless medical appointments, Michael Stanislaw has turned his personal health journey into a message of hope with the release of his new book, *The Unseen Illness: How to Fight for a Diagnosis When You Don't Fit the Textbook*. Michael will share his story to raise awareness and offer hope to those who are also struggling.

To RSVP call the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreeding.org

Noontime Knowledge is a free program, held twice monthly, provided by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks to educate our community on a variety of topics.




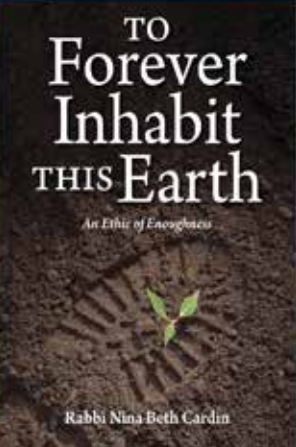
Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks



LITERATOUR BERKS
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH
12:00 PM AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION

NINA BETH CARDIN




AUTHOR OF:
TO FOREVER INHABIT THIS EARTH; AN ETHIC OF ENOUGHNESS


A must-read for anybody interested in the intersection of environmentalism and spirituality. Using meticulously researched Jewish texts, Rabbi Cardin makes the case that environmental sustainability is a fundamental religious principle.

Join us for an afternoon with Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, author of *To Forever Inhabit This Earth: An Ethic of Enoughness*! Nina will be leading a discussion of her book as well as signing & selling copies during the event.


NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM




VISIT THE FEDERATION WEBSITE




Jewish Book Council



Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



DOUBLE TREE by Hilton

JEWISH FEDERATION OF READING/BERKS • 1100 BERKSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 125 • WYOMISSING, PA 19610
Call 610-921-0624 to RSVP or visit www.readingjewishcommunity.org for information!

Looking back on a great year of programming

By Vicki Haller Graff
Former Program Director

By the time you read this article, I'll be the Executive Director at the Yocum Institute of Arts Education in West Lawn. I hope to see you there, at theater productions, preschool pick up, or in an arts class. I also hope to see you at future Federation events. Though I am leaving the staff, I am still a member of the community, and there are programs I'm looking forward to attending. Though I was only at Federation for a year, we accomplished a lot. I say "we" because nothing can be credited to one person. Program development and implementation are a team effort, and each program depends on your attendance and engagement to be a success. The Federation exists to serve the community, and you are a significant part of that.

Jewish books and authors are a major part of our community, through our partnerships with the Jewish Book Council and PJ Library. Literatour Berks programs have engaged almost 250 at the JCC and the Exeter Community Library, thanks to the dedicated partnership of Nancy Russo and the library staff. A highlight was Adam Nimoy's talk at our 25/26 Literatour Kick Off event in September; he spoke about his relationship with his father and sobriety and read from his book "The Most Human."

One cannot mention Jewish books without PJ Library! This incredible and free program for Jewish children ages 0-12 delivers books to their homes and supports our staff for programming and professional development. We started the year with 55 kids signed up and are ending with 79! I

am confident there are even more kids and families who aren't signed up. This is your sign to register your children or grandchildren (or nieces, nephews, cousins, and Jewish neighbors) for PJ Library. It's an incredible resource for families to bring Jewish life into the home and helps us connect with families in our local Jewish community.

I worked at Fox Theatres for eight years, and in my role, I worked on the Reading Jewish Film Series, so I was delighted to return to the program through the Federation. Film is a wonderful way to take a journey through time and emotion, and it was very satisfying to sit with the film committee to review and discuss the films for this year's series! I have to confess, I also enjoyed negotiating with the film companies, like I did at Fox. We chose four excellent films, diverse in style and topic, and I hope I will see you at the theater in January or February! For the first two films, 85 people attended, and I hope we get 85 more for the next two!

Noontime Knowledge had over 450 people attend 22 programs. Some people attended just one that caught their interest and others attended almost all of them! These programs are offered for free during the day twice a month (except in the summer). Topics are wide-ranging and have covered Jewish music and arts, history and current events, Israel and the Holocaust.


I could go on to speak about learning from brilliant speakers Boaz Dvir and Ambassador Daniel C. Kurtzer at the Richard J. Yashek and Leo Camp Memorial Lectures at Albright College, welcoming IDF soldiers Yarden and Yoav




Vicki Haller Graff plays dreidel with a child at a PJ Library Chanukah storytime at the Exeter Community Library. Federation provided six library story times in December.

into our community, and remembering past generations at the Kristallnacht and Yom HaShoah Commemoration.

The Jewish Federation of Reading provides so many opportunities through the year to engage, learn, give back, and reflect... to list them all would take up this whole newspaper.



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

January 2 4:31 p.m.	January 3/14 Tevet Vayechi (Genesis 47:28-50:26)
January 9 4:38 p.m.	January 10/21 Tevet Shemot (Exodus 1:1-6:1)
January 16 4:45 p.m.	January 17/28 Tevet Va'eira (Exodus 6:2-9:35)
January 23 4:54 p.m.	January 24/6 Shevat Bo (Exodus 10:1-13:16)
January 30 5:02 p.m.	January 31/13 Shevat Beshalach (Exodus 13:17-17:16)

Wyomissing!

Eat to support bbyo



honeygrow





Use promo code **GIVE135** on the honeygrow app, at honeygrow.com, or in-store at the kiosk before checking out.



10:30 AM - 10:00 PM
Thursday, January 15th
we'll donate 20% of all orders placed by supporters to your organization.



honeygrow
2715 N Meridian Blvd

TECH THURSDAY

Thursday, January 15
2:30pm to 4pm
at the JCC



Bring your iPhone and let Mike Farrara, retired Wyomissing Area Tech Ed Teacher and former Apple employee, go over some of the new iOS 18 features. He will give you some of his favorite tips and tricks for photos and more!

Mike will also lead you to cool Apple YouTube tutorials you can watch at home, since you can't take him with you.

Please RSVP to info@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 if you can join in the fun!



Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

"ART, CULTURE & IDEAS"

THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING



NOAM WEISSMAN WITH DAN SENOR:
UNPACKING ISRAELI HISTORY
PRE-RECORDED PROGRAM

MONDAY, JAN 12
1:30 PM

CULTURAL CENTER AT THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING
2000 CAMBRIDGE AVE.





Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

Art, Culture & Ideas is a monthly series. Upcoming dates:
Feb 9

Moving, creative documentary next in film series

By Vicki Haller Graff

Program Director

The next film in the Reading Jewish Film Series is a unique documentary, “Among Neighbors.” The film will be presented on Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. at the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, 201 Washington St., Reading, in the Boscov Theatre. Their parking lot is well lit and the building is accessible.

Combining evocative hand-drawn animation with revelatory interviews and verité footage, “Among Neighbors” examines Jewish-Polish relations through the story of Gniewoszków, a small, rural town where Jews and Polish Catholics lived side by side for centuries. At its core, the film zeroes in on the last living Holocaust survivor from the town, and an aging eyewitness who saw Jews murdered there — not by Nazis, but by her own Polish neighbors.

Today, all signs of Jewish life in the small town of Gniewoszków have vanished — even the Jewish tombstones disappeared, having been stolen from the destroyed cemetery. Now, a lifetime



after the Holocaust, award-winning American filmmaker Yoav Potash (“Crime After Crime,” Sundance Film Festival) unearths the deepest mysteries of this town, revealing both the love and the hatred that local Poles felt for their Jewish neighbors. The town’s oldest residents, in the twilight of their days, divulge secrets held their entire lives, and their stories

come to life in stunning animated scenes, accented by artful touches of magical realism.

Ultimately, their collective, heartfelt account lays bare the manner in which ordinary Polish townsfolk made life and death choices about their Jewish neighbors, with decisions that reflect both the very best and the very worst of human nature. As this

history is now questioned and whitewashed in favor of a more “patriotic” and politically popular narrative, “Among Neighbors” shows how true patriotism means embracing the truth, no matter how painful it may be.

This film was selected for the Reading Jewish Film Series for its unique approach to storytelling and will play in January to connect to International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Looking ahead: the final film in this year’s series is “Shoshana,” playing Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7p.m.. Actors Harry Melling (“Harry Potter” series, “The Queen’s Gambit”), Irina Starshenbaum, Douglas Booth (“My Salinger Year,” “Loving Vincent”) star in a troubled love story set against the British Mandate just before the founding of the state of Israel. The film is prolific writer-director Michael Winterbottom’s passion project, 15 years in the making and based on real people and events, and tells the story of cross-cultural relationship between a ranking member of the British Palestine Police Force and a young Jewish woman to explore the way extremism and violence push people apart, forcing them to choose sides.

Your Clothes Can Change Lives

Donate your gently used clothes to CommunityAid to help JFS (partner #50100) support those in need.

CommunityAid
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AND DONATION CENTER
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Temple, PA 19560

or in our parking lot bin

Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks
1100 Berkshire Blvd
Wyomissing, PA 19610

READING JEWISH FILM SERIES

Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

GoggleWorks
Center for the Arts

Monthly film screenings at Goggleworks
New Jewish films
November 2025 to February 2026

Among Neighbors

January 13, 7pm
One witness can change history.

Combining magical realism and evocative hand-drawn animation with revelatory interviews and verité footage, “Among Neighbors” examines the story of a small, rural town where Jews and Polish Catholics lived side by side for centuries before World War II. The film brings the Polish response to the Holocaust to life through the last living eyewitnesses, revealing both love and betrayal as it zeroes in on one of the last living Holocaust survivors from the town, and an aging eyewitness who saw Jews murdered there — not by Nazis, but by her own Polish neighbors.

Shoshana
February 17, 7pm

In this edge-of-your-seat thriller inspired by real events, a British police officer and a Jewish woman fall in love amidst the political turmoil of 1930s Tel Aviv. With British control over Palestine precarious and conflict inevitable, everyone is forced to choose a side. From acclaimed director Michael Winterbottom (The Trip, A Mighty Heart).

Learn more and buy tickets at
ReadingJewishCommunity.org or scan the QR code.

“ACOUSTIC ENTERTAINMENT BY VINCE ROLLINS”

JANUARY 22 2:00 P.M.
at the JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd Wyomissing

Musician Vince Rollins will have you singing along while he entertains with a diversified song selection of classic rock, modern rock, oldies. Song requests welcome.

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Reading Hospital CEO to discuss visit to Auschwitz

By Vicki Haller Graff
Program Director

Jewish history, especially the Holocaust, is not just for the Jewish people to learn and remember. This history must be learned by everyone so it never happens again. Dr. Charles Barbera, president and CEO of Reading Hospital, had an opportunity to visit Auschwitz and learn from the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust.

He will share his experience and learnings with the community on Thursday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m., at the JCC (1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125, Wyomissing). This presentation is free, suitable for teens and adults, and RSVPs are appreciated.

Dr. Barbera's presentation includes a detailed review of his visit and educational program with the International Center.

He will share the history he learned and stories of his own experience in Poland.

Charles F. Barbera, MD, MBA, MPH, FACEP, is president and CEO of Reading Hospital and president of the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences. He is the first physician in the hospital's more than 150-year history to hold this position.

He joined Reading Hospital in 1996 and became the Chair of Emergency Medicine in 1999, a position he held for more than 20 years. Dr. Barbera was key in the creation and accreditation of Reading



Dr. Charles Barbera

Hospital's Trauma Center, developed a successful Community Paramedic Program, and was instrumental in the development of Reading Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department and Psychiatric Emergency Department. He was also the clinical leader in the health system's expansive telemedicine efforts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and developed Tower Health's EMS System, TowerDirect. He oversees the administrative, clinical and operational functions of Reading Hospital, Berks County's tertiary care academic medical center.

Dr. Barbera is the immediate past Chair of the Pennsylvania Trauma System Foundation Board, is a member of the Gift of Life Medical Advisory and Policy Board, Alvernia University, The United Way of Berks County, Diamond Credit Union, Threshold Rehabilitation

Services and The Foundation of Reading Area Community College. He previously served as the president of Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians and The Berks County Medical Society and on the boards of Autism Society of Berks County, American Heart Association, and the Children's Home of Reading.

He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from Temple University School of Medicine, his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Arts from LaSalle University, his Master's in Business Administration from Alvernia University, and his Master's in Public Health from The George Washington University.

Your RSVP is appreciated so we can be sure we have enough seats: let us know if you plan to come by emailing info@jfreeding.org or calling 610-921-0624.

Fun, basketball and Jewish unity at 76ers game

By Margo Levin
JCRC Coordinator

It was a fun-filled Jewish Heritage Night at the 76ers game on Dec. 2 as Federation members of all ages got to see their home team, led by superstar Tyrese Maxey with a game high 35 points, soundly defeat the Washington Wizards at Xfinity Mobile Arena.

The weather outside may have been damp and dreary, but things inside

were in full swing as we waved our rally towels and cheered on the Sixers. We were joined by other Jewish groups who shared our spirit for the team and for the occasion.

A memorable part of the night for the kids took place at halftime when they got to go down on the court and high five the Wizards players. This was a handclapping, foot-stomping night until the final buzzer.



Obituary

Michael Schiffman, 82, of Wyomissing died on Dec. 10. Born in Reading he attended Dartmouth and earned a Master's degree in English Literature at Columbia University. He returned to Reading to become an executive at Oritsky Inc., his family's suit manufacturing company. Later he became a wine salesman and enjoyed leading wine seminars.

Michael loved reading and writing poetry and enjoyed playing the French horn, listening to chamber music and fly-fishing. Michael was a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom and volunteered with its Social Action committee and the food festival. He was also a volunteer tutor at Tyson-Schoener school. Michael is survived by his wife Janice, his son, Matthew Schiffman of Oregon and several cousins.

Movie Monday at the JCC

January 26, 2026, 1pm



The Last Days

Oscar-winning documentary
executive produced
by Steven Spielberg



Focuses on the plight of five Hungarian Jews who survived imprisonment in Auschwitz. Though these survivors recount the horrors they witnessed and endured as a result of the Nazis' "Final Solution," their individual triumphs are a testament to hope and humanity.



Grab a seat for a Jewish themed movie each month at the JCC (1100 Berkshire Blvd., Ste. 125, Wyomissing). It is usually held on the 4th Monday of the month, and the popcorn and the movie are both free!

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January 2026

Tev

01.01 7:00 pm

KZ Community Minyan
Thursday, January 1, 7:00 pm
Start the new year with the Jewish community minyan. KZ hosts two weeknight minyans each month. The second is on January 15, 7pm.

Location: KZ, 555 Warwick Dr., Wyomissing

01.06 12:00 pm

JCC ROMEO
Tuesday, January 6, 12:00 pm
"Retired old men eating out" meets monthly. Join in for camaraderie and conversation. Newcomers are welcome to attend.

Location: Paolo's, 2480 Lancaster Pike, Reading

01.12 1:30 pm

JCC Arts, Culture, and Ideas
Monday, January 12, 1:30 pm
Pre-recorded video program: Noam Weissman with Dan Senor: Unpacking Israeli History podcast that's redefining how people engage with Israel's story, past and present.

Location: The Highlands, 2000 Cambridge Ave., Wyomissing

01.13 7:00 pm

Reading Jewish Film Series: Among Neighbors
Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 pm
Next up in the Reading Jewish Film Series: Among Neighbors, a documentary, follows the only living survivor from a Polish town where a large number of the Jews were murdered... after the Nazi defeat.

Location: GoggleWorks, 201 Washington St., Reading

01.15 2:30 pm

JCC Tech Thursday Workshop
Thursday, January 15, 2:30pm
Mike Farrara, former tech ed teacher and Apple employee, shares tips and tricks for iPhone users!

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

01.19 10:00 am

JFR MLK Day of Service
Monday, January 19, 10:00 am
Practice Tikkun Olam with volunteers of all ages and our interfaith partners to remember the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Location: Immanuel UCC, 99 S. Waverly St., Shillington

01.23 4:45 pm

Chabad Tu B'Shevat Shabbat
Friday, January 23, 4:45pm
Come celebrate the new year for trees and Israel's seven species with a special Shabbat program for families.

Location: Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd., Reading

01.26 1:00 pm

JCC Movie Monday
Monday, January 26, 1:00 pm
Documentary "The Last Days" focuses on the plight of five Hungarian Jews who survived Auschwitz. Their individual triumphs are a testament to hope and humanity.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

Shevat 5786 to Shevat 5786

01.08 1:00 pm

JFS Friendship Circle
Thursday, January 8, 1:00 pm

Fact or Crap - join Friendship Circle for a fun trivia game where participants decide whether a statement is a fact or "crap." Lunch is \$7 at 1pm, free program at 2pm.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

01.10 10:00 am

RCOS Tot Shabbat
Saturday, January 10, 10:00 am

Rabbi Michelson leads a musical shabbat for children ages 0-7 and their caregivers. Open to all families. Stay after for the tasty oneg!

Location: RCOS, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyo.

01.14 12:00 pm

JCC Noontime Knowledge
Wednesday, January 14, 12:00 pm

Presentation by Michael Stanislaw, local author of The Unseen Illness. He will share his health journey and offer insights on how to navigate our complicated health care system.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

01.14 7:00 pm

Chabad Tu B'Shevat Social
Wednesday, January 14, 7:00pm

Enjoy wine and cheese with friends to celebrate the birthday of the trees. RSVP requested.

Location: Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd., Rdg.

01.21 6:00 pm

RCOS Happy Hour
Wednesday, January 21, 6:00 pm

Come relax, mingle, and toast to another wonderful year with RCOS! Cash bar and appetizers provided.

Location: Mimmo's 290 Morgantown Rd., Reading

01.22 1:00 pm

JFS Friendship Circle
Thursday, January 22, 1:00 pm

Musician Vince Rollins will have you singing along while he entertains with a classic and modern rock songs. Sponsored by the Jacob Krumholz fund. Lunch is \$7 at 1pm, free program at 2pm.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Reading

01.27 12:00 pm

JCC Noontime Knowledge and Literatour Berks
Tuesday, January 27, 12:00 pm

Literatour Berks author Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, presents her book, To Forever Inhabit this Earth, and makes the case that environmental sustainability is a Jewish value.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

01.29 7:00 pm

JCC Lecture: Auschwitz Immersion
Thrusday, January 29, 7:00 pm

Dr. Charles Barbera, President and CEO of Tower Health, will talk about his recent visit to Auschwitz, the notorious concentration camp in Poland.

Location: JCC, 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

Dementia Friends

By Carole Robinson
Director, Jewish Family Service

My mother-in-law, Gloria, enjoyed preparing gourmet meals for her family. She also liked to shop, sing and socialize. Things changed when Gloria began mismanaging money, getting lost while driving to familiar places and forgetting how to prepare her favorite recipes. Eventually, she couldn't remember how to perform simple tasks and people's names eluded her. Despite her dementia and all the changes, Gloria took pride in being well-dressed, and she still loved to sing. It was tough watching Gloria's cognitive decline, but once she had the ongoing support and socialization she needed in personal care, she was happy again.



I'm sure many of you have your own dementia stories of parents, grandparents, friends, or neighbors and can relate to Gloria's journey. Like myself, you may have seen firsthand how isolating and upsetting it can be for people living with dementia and for the people who love and care for them.

People with dementia need assistance in their daily lives yet still want to feel included in their communities. Dementia Friends, developed by the Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom and a program of Jewish Healthcare Foundation in the United States, aims to give people an understanding of dementia and the little things they can do to make a difference.

This month I want to highlight a



A productive program on Dementia Friends led by Victoria Griffis.

local hero involved in Dementia Friends in Berks County: Victoria Griffis, a community liaison for Comfort Keepers, an organization that provides in-home senior care. Victoria is a Certified Dementia Practitioner, a Dementia Friendly Champion and the Chair of the Community Engagement Committee for the Berks County Walk to End Alzheimer's. She told me, "What I love most about the Dementia Friends program is how accessible the material is. And it really puts a focus on how much stigma surrounds cognitive diseases in our society. We are working daily to bring awareness and advocacy through Dementia Friendly Berks County."

Victoria began her Dementia Friends Pennsylvania presentation to Friendship Circle on Dec. 4 by explaining that dementia is not a specific disease but rather an

umbrella term for a decline in memory severe enough to interfere with daily life. The most common type of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, accounting for 60%-80% of cases.

Next, Victoria highlighted differences between aging and early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's. The following are normal aging: Sometimes forgetting names or appointments, occasionally misplacing things, sometimes having trouble finding the right word or making a bad decision once in a while. But memory loss that disrupts daily life, challenges in solving problems, difficulty completing familiar tasks, confusion with time or place, new problems with words in speaking or writing, misplacing items and losing the ability to retrace steps, poor judgment and changes in personality are indications of Alzheimer's.

Continued on Page

Volunteers work to feed community



Andy and Corinne Wernick work at a December food pantry.



Many thanks to our December Food Pantry Volunteers who braved the cold to distribute food to about 600 households.

MaryAnne Avins
Cindy Balchunas
Sam Flamholz
Sarah Flamholz
Sharon Gernsheimer
John Incledon
Pete Jacobson
Sid Lempiner

Lisa Levine
Paul Mintz
Annette Peppard
Jenn Reilly
Mike Robinson
Mike Schein
Ellen Schwartz
Russ Shanahan

Brad Snyder
Oleg Umanov
Phyllis Warshaw
Michael Warshaw
Andy Wernick
Corinne Wernick

JewishFamilyService

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Counseling Services

Transportation

Financial Assistance

Hospital and

Home Visitations

Living with Loss

Information and

Referral

Case Management

Holiday Programs

DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Continued rom Page

Victoria offered tips for communicating with a person with dementia: Treat the person with dignity and respect. Be patient and supportive. Offer comfort and reassurance. Avoid criticizing and arguing. Encourage nonverbal communication. She also recommended making statements, rather than asking questions, and being specific about what you want the person to do. Give visual cues and avoid quizzing.

The five key messages of Dementia Friends:

- Dementia is not a normal part of aging
- Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain.
- Dementia is more than having memory problems; it can affect thinking, communication, and doing everyday tasks.
- It is possible to have a good quality of life living with dementia.
- There's more to the person than the dementia. People living with dementia are a valuable part of the community.

Victoria concluded her informative program by listing some actions for the

new group of Dementia Friends to take: Get in touch with someone you know living with dementia. Change how you talk about dementia by saying “living with dementia” rather than “suffering with dementia.” Smile and say hello instead of avoiding a person living with dementia. Carry out a personal action, such as being more patient when out in the community. And encourage friends to become Dementia Friends.

These small things can have a big impact on those living with dementia. “While no one can change the outcome or dementia or Alzheimer’s, with the right support you can change the journey.” Tara Reed, author of “A Practical Dementia Guidebook.” Let’s work together to be Dementia Friends!

If you would like to know how you can become a Dementia Friend or would like a copy of the Dementia Friends workbook, please contact me at caroler@jfreanding.org or 610-921-0624. Here are some links with additional information about dementia.

<https://www.dementiafriendlypa.org>
<https://www.dementiafriendlypa.org/dementia-friendly-communities/current-communities/berks-county>

Thankful for community at Friendship Circle



Bret Miller, Pete Jacobson, Brad Snyder and Jane Polonski celebrate Thanksgiving at Friendship Circle on Nov 20, where the Just Friends Duo performed a woodwind concert.

Friendship Circle meets twice a month with fun and educational programs and great fellowship. See the upcoming schedule below.

JFS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

This program provides transportation to members of the Jewish community, age 60 and over or those with disabilities, who have no other way of getting around. It allows participants to retain their independence and keeps them from becoming homebound and isolated. It can be used for medical appointments, synagogue attendance, shopping and other errands.

It is easy to participate. Purchase a book of 25 taxi tickets from the Federation at a cost of \$25. Each coupon is worth \$3. The phone number for Reading Metro Taxi is on the ticket book. Call the company and arrange your ride. At the end of the ride, sign your coupon(s) before giving them to the driver. Tipping is left to the passenger’s discretion. Coupon does not include cost of tipping.

*Program subsidized by
The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks*

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Jan 8- “Fact or Crap ”

Fact is often stranger than fiction. Join Friendship Circle for a fun trivia game where participants decide whether a statement is a fact or a load of “crap”. It’s your call!

Jan 22 “Vince Rollins Acoustic Entertainment”

Musician Vince Rollins will have you singing along while he entertains with a diversified song selection of classic rock, modern rock, oldies. Song requests welcome.

Program sponsored by the Jacob Krumholz Fund.

Friendship Circle is held twice a month on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m at the JCC. An optional lunch is served, followed by an entertaining or educational program or holiday celebration.

Programs are free; optional lunch is \$7. Contact Carole at 610-921-0624 to make lunch reservations.



A tale of two holidays

By Rabbi Ted Prosnitz
Keshet Zion Synagogue

No, not the two holidays that might spring to mind. But, yes, the first holiday is Hanukkah. Hanukkah means “dedication,” as in the title of Psalm 30: A song of dedication of the House, of David. The Jews rededicated the Temple after cleansing it from its desecration by Antiochus IV.

This was the Second Temple, having been rebuilt after the Babylonians destroyed the First Temple. Led by the Maccabees, the Judeans revolted against the Syrian-Greek rule that



prohibited Torah study, observance of the Sabbath, and other Jewish practices. Exactly three years to the date after Antiochus erected a Greek pagan altar, atop the Temple’s altar for offerings to God, Judah Maccabee cleansed the Temple on the 25th of Kislev. That is the first day of the eight day long Festival of Lights.

Eight days after Hanukkah ends is a second holiday — the Fast of the Tenth of Tevet. This fast commemorates the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, which culminated in the destruction of the (First) Temple. As many sages and scholars have made clear, Judaism is God, Torah, and Israel.

After having fought for and won the freedom to practice our religion — as

the Children of Israel, to observe the Sabbath and recognize the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — it would be a Pyrrhic victory to abandon it. We are the inheritors of 400 centuries of a relationship with the Creator of the universe.

Two threats to the continuation of our people are Jew hatred, given a pseudo-scientific name of antisemitism, and assimilation. As barriers to comingling with non-Jews lessened, Jewish participation in broader community programs increased. Identification of efforts such as social justice as integral to, not separate from, Judaism should not be lost.

Despite efforts to prevent Jewish practice and to eliminate Jewish lives, in the thundering words of Zog Nit Keinmol,

the Jewish Partisan’s Song, We Are Here!

Each year as we light the Hanukkah lights, let us recall that our ancestors were once slaves in Egypt, and the Lord our God redeemed them from that house of bondage. Under Greek rule, though they were physically free, spiritually they remained enslaved.

The Maccabean struggle was essentially a battle for freedom of thought and religious practice. It was, history tells us, mankind’s first conflict to achieve religious liberty.

We have the opportunity to promote the general welfare, support our Jewish institutions with our presence and with our substance, and to perform mitzvot. “A mitzvah is a candle, and the Torah is light” (Proverbs 6:23). Don’t let the light go out.

‘October 8’ essential viewing to understand troubling protests

By Jennifer L. Koosed

On Nov. 6, the Federation hosted a screening of the documentary “October 8” (Wendy Sachs, 2025) at the GoggleWorks. The film is a searing indictment of the pro-Palestinian protest movement as it unfolded immediately following the terrorist attacks of Oct. 7, 2023. It is particularly powerful in its examination of the way Hamas has hijacked the language of social justice in its propaganda.

The imposition of a U.S. racial justice framework on the Israel-Palestine situation, as well as the charges of “apartheid” and “genocide” were calculated to connect especially with young Americans and turn public opinion against Israel. Such propaganda has been circulating for years, laying the groundwork for the explosion that happened following Oct. 7.

The first time that I heard that Israel was committing genocide against the Palestinian people was in April 2023 — approximately four months before Israel invaded Gaza as a response to Hamas’s incursion. A student group at Albright College had requested money to bring a speaker to campus who would give a lecture about this genocide.

The faculty who received this request

were puzzled. We investigated, and the proposed speaker seemed to be a professional provocateur, someone who makes his living going to college campuses to give intentionally offensive, inflammatory, and often completely erroneous lectures.

We declined the group’s request, contacted the Albright administrator who dealt with issues of diversity, equity and inclusion and reached out to the student group. We worked with the students to find a speaker who could represent the perspectives of the Palestinian people while being fair and factual. A college campus is a place to hear different views and debate ideas; a college has no obligation to platform hateful and, even more importantly, false information.

Immediately following the Oct. 7 attacks, while Hamas and Hezbollah were firing thousands of rockets into Israel, flyers started appearing at Albright, charging Israel with genocide. I pulled one down and again contacted the administrator responsible for DEI (a position that no longer exists) and reached out to the student group.

She told me that they already knew about the flyers. They were in the process of removing them and were looking for the

students who were posting them. They were a clear violation of the campus’s policies and would not be tolerated.

My experience serves as a counterbalance to the documentary. The footage of the protests on college campuses is harrowing. But, there are about 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States, and these protests happened at a very small percentage of them.

What happened in those mostly elite spaces was violent and antisemitic and counter to the whole ethos of higher education. I am astonished that any college administrator let a group of students behave as those students did with impunity.

The DEI officers also failed at these institutions. They failed to recognize the demonization of Israel as a form of

antisemitism, they failed to recognize antisemitism as a pernicious prejudice, and they failed to protect Jewish students. At the same time, this did not happen at most institutions.

As a film that showcases some of the worst eruptions of antisemitism in the immediate wake of Oct. 7, “October 8” is essential viewing. These student protests, the failures at the UN to address especially the sexual violence of Hamas’s attacks, and the contempt many expressed toward hostages (even children!) point to deep wells of antisemitism. We should not look away. However, we also need to remember that there are other forces, often quieter but equally powerful, moving in the opposite direction.

Jennifer Koosed is a professor of religious studies at Albright College.

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‘Bad Shabbos’ director appears at Reading screening



Daniel Robbins, writer and director of “Bad Shabbos,” appeared at a screening of his film presented by the Jewish Federation at the Boscov Theatre in the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts in Reading. Above, Robbins, speaks with Sue Farrara, Sandy Solmon and Mike Farrara following the screening. At right, Robbins delivers a talk on the film.



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JFS hospital, outpatient visits

By Carole Robinson and Sari Incledon

Jewish Family Service social workers visit Jewish patients at local hospitals, senior communities, nursing homes and rehab centers.

Our goal in these visits is both to be friendly and supportive at a difficult time, and to provide access to social services that supplement and complement the case managers at these locations.


If you or a loved one is at a local hospital or nursing home and would like

a visit, please call us.

If you or a loved one are treated at a hospital out of our area we are also available for follow-up visits upon discharge.

At times of ill health, stress or crisis, families are often looking for information about home care, transportation services, senior communities, nursing homes and rehabs. This is what we're here for.

Please call Jewish Family Service social workers for help at 610-921-0624.



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Make a great decision to join our Great Decisions group

By **Amanda Wertz**

Administrative Assistant

America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy, Trump Tariffs and the Future of the World Economy, U.S.-China Relations, Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation, Ukraine and the Future of European Security, Multilateral Institutions

in a Changing World Order, U.S. Engagement of Africa and The Future of Human Rights and International Law. These are the eight most critical global issues facing the United States that will be discussed at this year's Great Decisions series at the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Moderated by professors from

Alvernia University, Kutztown University and Penn State Berks as well as other community members, Great Decisions is the country's largest discussion group on world affairs.

Each week a different global issue will be discussed by the group after reading the Great Decision Briefing Book and watching the related DVD. Our group will be meeting on Monday mornings from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the Jewish Federation of Reading, located at 1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite

125 Wyomissing, beginning Feb. 16.

Great Decisions runs for eight weeks through April 6. The cost is \$35 per book or \$40 for two people sharing one book.

We always have a lively and intellectual discussion and welcome new participants!

To register for Great Decisions and to order a copy of the Great Decisions Briefing Book, please contact Amanda Wertz at info@jfreading.org or call 610-921-0624.

Preparing for holiday

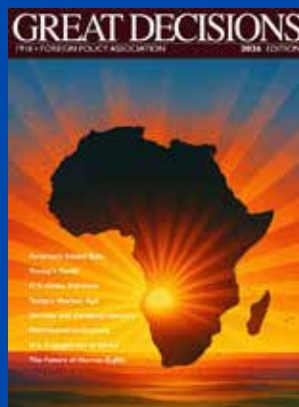


At Chabad's pre-Chanukah ladies night out, many different gorgeous menorah tray designs were made out of alcohol ink. It was a really fun evening.

2026 GREAT DECISIONS

Meeting at the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
1100 Berkshire Blvd. Suite 125, Wyomissing

Monday mornings 10:30 a.m.
February 16 through April 6



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Contributions as of Dec. 16

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Carole and Sari’s kindness during recent hospital stay - Louise Zeidman
Marc and Marcia Filstein’s new home - Roger Schein

Jewish Family Service Food Pantry
Happy Holiday Wishes:
Dayle Early - Jane Goodman
John Hawkins/Silvia Ritchie - Jane Goodman

Honorariums and Memorials
Contributions may be made to the following Funds:
Federation Jewish Community Campaign
Jewish Family Service
Leo Camp Lecture Fund
JFS Food Bank
JFS Taxi Transportation Program
Holocaust Library & Resource Center
Doris Levin Fund
Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund for PJ Library
Harry & Rose Sack Fund for Adult Programming
Evelyn Thompson Fund

In memory of:
Stephen Small - Sharon Scullin and Jim Rothstein
Diane Schreiber - Margo Thomas

Harry & Rose Sack Fund for Adult Programming
In memory of:
Jerry Aberg (brother of Mimi Gavigan) - Jonathan and Jan Simon
Gemma Welsh-mother of Beth Shor - Jonathan and Jan Simon

Jewish Family Service Friendship Circle
In honor of:
Louise Zeidman’s daughter Dr. Joan Zeidman’s engagement - Jonathan and Jan Simon

RCOS MEMBERSHIP INVITES YOU TO

Happy Hour

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 21
6:00pm - 8:00pm

MIMMO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
290 MORGANTOWN ROAD

PARKING * CASH BAR * APPETIZERS

SAVE THE DATE

Mediterranean Nights

Join your friends at RCOS for an evening of music, fun, and great mediterranean cuisine!

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 @ 6:30 pm

Cocktails, Dinner, Music
& Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award presentation to Jill Haas

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Chabad of Berks invites you to

*An Evening of
Fragrances & Scents*

Create your own signature fragrance
Learn the mystical meaning of scent

Tuesday | Feb. 24 | 7 PM

WWW.CHABADOFBERKS.ORG/RSVP

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Jewish Family Service is grateful to our committed volunteers!

Here are some ways that you can help:

Help Fight Hunger
Join us at a JFS Food Pantry to distribute food to our hungry neighbors.

Share your Professional Expertise
Present a program on travel, photography, or your unique interests or hobbies to our seniors.

Share your time
A small investment of your personal time can make a profound difference in someone’s life. Visit a shut-in, shop for a homebound senior, or take someone to a doctor’s appointment.

Donate your vehicle to JFS or donate clothing to CommunityAid
Enjoy tax benefits of donating a car or help our clients through our partnership with CommunityAid.

Contact Us
Carole Robinson at 610-921-0624

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks