



Shalom 11|22

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

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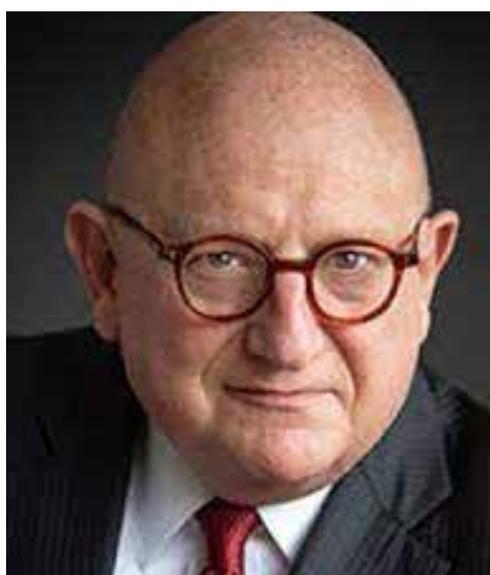
Expert on antisemitism featured at Leo Camp Lecture

**By Amanda Hornberger
Chief Operating Officer**

Ira Forman, former U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, has a profound understanding of the forces that are driving the resurgence of worldwide antisemitism. Forman will join us to talk about modern antisemitism and what is at stake for the diaspora Jewish communities around the world at the 42nd annual Leo Camp Memorial Lecture on Wednesday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Albright Theatre at Albright College. Forman will discuss rising antisemitism and attacks on democracy during the lecture.

Forman is the Visiting Professor of Contemporary Antisemitism at Georgetown University and Senior Fellow at Georgetown's Center for Jewish Civilization. He also serves as the Senior Advisor for Combatting Antisemitism at Human Rights First and a Senior Fellow at the Moment Institute.

He was sworn in as Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism (SEAS) on May 20, 2013, and served in that



Ira Forman

capacity until January 2017. In his nearly four years as SEAS he traveled to more than 30 countries and five continents to advocate on behalf of Jewish communities. Mr. Forman has been in great demand as a speaker and has addressed more than 200

audiences in his time at the Department of State, to articulate the current state of anti-Semitism and explain U.S. policies to counter international antisemitism.

Throughout his career he has spoken and written extensively on Jewish history and public policy. Mr. Forman co-edited and wrote for the reference book "Jews In American Politics." He has written articles on these topics for the Encyclopedia Judaica. He also staffed and helped edit the volume "Democrats and the American Idea" in his role as a Fellow in American Politics and the Economy at the Center for National Policy.

Special thanks to the Camp family for sponsoring this annual lecture, in memory of Leo Camp, a beloved member of our community. The lecture will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, in the Albright Theatre at Albright College and is free and open to the public.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org or call 610-921-0624.



Our community's new Shaliach, Ziv, helps Adam Leisawitz get ready for Sukkot during a children's program dedicated to the holiday. Ziv has been busy this fall introducing himself at a number of local activities. Photos of his visit to Jewish Family Service's Friendship Circle program are on Page 18. Information on Hebrew classes to be offered Nov. 10 is on Page 9. And on Page 16, Ziv explains how Israel's political system works. Watch for more information on Ziv's efforts to help the whole community learn more about Israel.

**Win 10 Disney World Park Hopper passes!
Learn how on Page 3.**

Monthly giving: An easy and affordable way to give back

Development

By Laurie Waxler
Development Director

If you're like me, you get a bunch of solicitations from local nonprofits asking for donations throughout the year. You put them off to the side thinking eventually you'll get to them and before you know it, it's Dec. 15 and you find that pile of asks. You pick and choose the ones most important and write your checks before the end of the year. Such a hassle, right? Well, maybe it's time to think about a regular monthly giving plan for those charities nearest and dearest to your heart. Of course, we hope Federation is one of them!



Tracy Weiss, who grew up in the Reading area and is raising her own kids here with her husband, Mark, has been making a monthly gift to the Federation for years. When I asked Tracy why she preferred this method, she said, "Because it's easy, I don't have to fill out any paperwork, and I always know I'm supporting the Federation, which is important to me."

Tracy went on to share that her father, Jack Lefkowitz, was in the very first class at the JCC preschool. She also attended the preschool and so did her three sons, Harry, Max and Sam. She traveled to Israel with her two oldest boys on the Federation's mission trip several years ago and called it "life changing" for all three of them. For these reasons, Tracy prioritizes giving back to the Federation because she feels the organization has done so much for her and she wants to be sure other young families have the same opportunities.

Are you considering a gift to the



Tracy Weiss with her oldest sons, Harry and Max, on the Federation's Mission Trip in 2018.

Federation this year? A gift of \$360 may seem like a stretch until you realize it's just \$30 a month, a little more than the cost of a pizza these days! \$180 would be just \$15 per month. If you've already sent in your contribution you can still sign up and start your payments in January.

If you're interested in becoming a

monthly donor and spreading your Annual Gift out over 12 months, you can sign up today! Not only will you be making a difference by supporting the Federation, you will earn a few extra points on your credit card. Visit our website or just give me a call and I can answer any questions you might have and help you set it up.

Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy

Maimonides Society

Your Jewish Legacy

Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent



SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY FOR MONTHLY GIVING TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION

Step 1: Visit our website at
• www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Step 2: Click on "Ways to Give"

Step 3: Choose the amount you'd like to give each month.

Step 4: Click on the box that says "Make My Donations Monthly Recurring"

Step 5: Fill out the credit card and billing info and click "Submit"

Step 6: Sit back and relax knowing you're making a difference in your Jewish Community.

QUESTIONS? 610-921-0624



DONATE NOW TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Please visit ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Make your gift today!

Architecture talk at Noontime Knowledge



Sarah Howells appears at Noontime Knowledge to discuss Polish-born architect, Daniel Libeskind, and how his buildings preserve the stories of our Jewish ancestors.

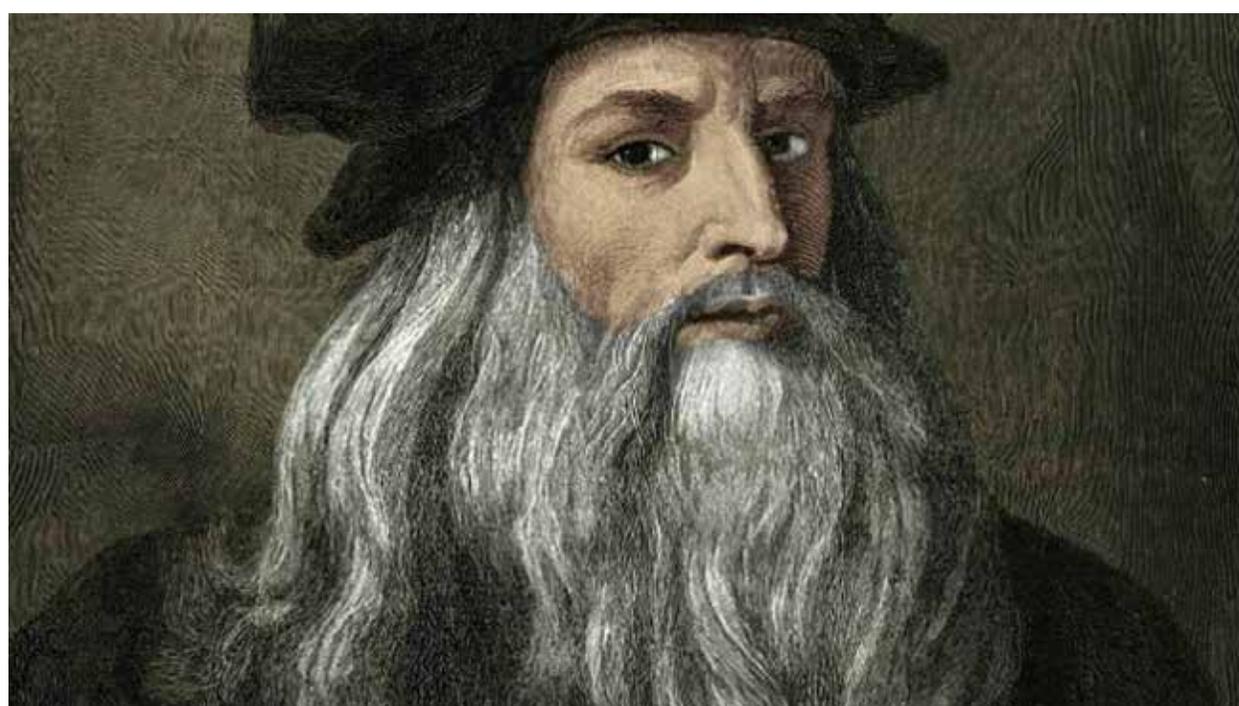
NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

Tuesday, Nov. 15 at noon at the JCC

“Leonardo da Vinci”

Presented by

Scott Schweigert, Curator of Art & Civilization at the Reading
Public Museum



Leonardo da Vinci, Italian Renaissance painter and sculptor, also had an advanced understanding of science, mathematics, and nature, and the relationship between the three. Schweigert will discuss da Vinci's discoveries in art, engineering, flight, hydraulics, music, light, and more.

Noontime Knowledge, designed to educate on a variety of topics, will be held on the third Tuesday of each month at noon. Everyone is invited to attend at no cost to participants. Please make a reservation if you would like to attend by emailing CaroleR@JFReading.org or calling the JCC at 610-921-0624.

JFNA's humanitarian efforts during the holidays

Jewish Federations of North America
 In response to Hurricane Ian Jewish Federations of North America are providing relief to those in need. In Florida, they are sending immediate relief to Jewish Federations of Lee/Charlotte, Naples and Sarasota in the form of housing, clothing, transportation and food to those affected.
 In collaboration with the South

Florida Federations, they fed close to 1,000 people at a Yom Kippur kosher break-fast. Federations have also allocated funds for 200 senior living evacuees in Sarasota. Having received more than \$100,000 from 700 individuals, they have already allocated \$250,000.
 JFNA also continues to support the Ukrainian refugees. During the

High Holy Day season, hundreds of refugees in Poland enjoyed special activities and educational programs. JFNA has been working in partnership with JDC and the Office of the Chief Rabbi of Poland. Volunteers also helped provide a special holiday concert, sharing songs of hope. JFNA continues to rise to the challenges for Jews across the world, whether taking

care of the Ukrainian refugees, helping Ethiopian Jews make Aliyah, or other Jews in need.
 JFNA is also happy to announce a new partnership with Repair the World to engage next-gen (20s and 30s) Jews in social justice projects and Jewish learning. We look forward to learning more about this exciting initiative.

Do you remember?

By Tootie Moyer
 Do you remember when you woke up every day feeling good?
 Few people were in their 90s. No one had a walker.
 The children Grandma Tootie taught at the old JCC preschool are now grown up.
 There were no measuring cups; all you needed was a feel, taste, and look.
 We had no fans or air conditioning. Carsonia Amusement Park cost 25 cents a ride.

Candy bars were 2 cents each and milk was 12 cents a quart.
 You only used cash; no credit cards.
 \$20 used to fill two bags of groceries; today it doesn't fill half a bag.
 Only men were sports announcers, newscasters and politicians.
 All men went to work. No stay at home dads.
 Only women were teachers and nurses.
 Mail was walked to every house;

no mail cars.
 Vacuums and religious books were sold door to door.
 Wedding gifts were what you wanted to buy; there were no gift lists.
 All men had short haircuts.
 All clothes had to be ironed.
 Words you do not hear today: Big Band, groovy, and jitterbug.
 Whitner's Department Store on Penn Street used the air tube.
 These famous people: Claude Rains, Marlene Dietrich, Sophia

Loren, Mitzi Gaynor, Dolores Del Rio, Lauren Bacall.
 Radio shows that were famous: "Stella Dallas," "Lum and Abner," "Amos and Andy," Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor.
 Shirley Temple as a child star in these movies: "Good Ship Lollypop," "Heidi," "Little Princess," "Bright Eyes," "Poor Little Rich Girl."
 I want to thank all my readers. I really appreciate the calls and notes I get. Stay well and I'll see you soon again.



Interfaith
Celebration of Gratitude
 AT THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 23, 2022 7pm
Immanuel United Church of Christ
 99 S Waverly St Shillington PA

Add your voice to the Community Choir
 by emailing music@immanuel-ucc.org

Sponsored By: First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County,
 The Islamic Center of Reading, Immanuel United Church of Christ,
 Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

Grief support group

Do you or someone you know have an interest in participating in a grief support group?

Please contact Carole at CaroleR@JFReading.org or call 610-921-0624.



Market at the Market
Thursday, November 17 • 9:00-10:30am

Meet Manor at Market Square at the Wyomissing Farmer's Market!
 Stop by Becca's Gourmet Coffee & Donuts for a complimentary donut and cup of coffee. Have questions about senior care? We would be happy to answer them.

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 Independent Living • Personal Care • Memory Care

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Jewish Federation of Reading & Berks

WALTER RUSSELL MEAD
Author of Special Providence

THE ARC OF A COVENANT

THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL, and the FATE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

ISRAEL

BOOK CLUB

The JCC Israel Book Club invites you to read *The Arc of a Covenant* by Walter Russell Mead.

Book club discussion will take place in the next few months.

The book is available from all major book retailers.

Kristallnacht commemoration on Nov. 9

By Amanda J. Hornberger
Chief Operating Officer

Each year our community comes together for an interfaith commemoration and remembrance of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, Nov. 9-10, 1938. Kristallnacht is seen by many historians as the start of the Holocaust and the Nazi campaign of terror in Germany and throughout Europe.

We are fortunate to still have local Holocaust survivors who will once again be participating in this year's commemoration through readings and lighting six memorial candles.

Please join us on this special and memorable evening on Wednesday, Nov. 9, at Christ Episcopal Church, 435 Court St. in Reading.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a circle of light, our way of bringing light to our community, on what was such a dark night for German Jews. The interfaith and moving service begins at 7. Following the service a light reception will be held.

There is street parking available near Christ Episcopal Church as well as the M&T Bank parking lot (next door) and the parking



garage by the Abraham Lincoln hotel.

If you have questions or would like to get additional information, please

contact Amanda by email at amandah@jfreading.org or by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624.

Jewish Heritage Night at Philadelphia 76ers

By Amanda J. Hornberger
Chief Operating Officer

Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks invites the community to celebrate Jewish Heritage Night at a basketball game with the Philadelphia 76ers vs. Toronto Raptors on Monday, Dec. 19. Game time is 7 p.m. at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

The bus leaves the JCC at 5 p.m. and will return immediately following the game.

Kids under 13 are required to bring an adult. Teens will be monitored by our Shaliach Ziv Laskin and JCC staff.

Any youth who attends three community youth events from between September and December this year can attend for \$30. Youth events at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, Keshet Zion, Chabad and the JCC all count towards the three-event requirement. This does not include religious school attendance.

Pricing includes roundtrip transportation and ticket to the 76ers game (200 level seat). The cost is \$65 per JCC member or child, \$80 per community member or child (non-JCC member) and \$30 per youth who attends

three community youth events through December.

A \$30 deposit per youth is required by Dec. 1. Adult registration with full payment is due upon registration. Registration open until Thursday, Dec. 1.

You can register online at ReadingJewishCommunity.org or scan the QR code on the ad in Shalom (See Page 4).

If you have questions or for more information, please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org or call 610-921-0624.

Keeping up the Momentum



Participants in the JCC's Momentum program enjoy a Sukkot hike. The group of women from our community traveled to Israel last summer and are continuing to gather regularly for inspiring experiences.

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevra

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

The best way to teach tzedakah is by example

By Rabbi Brian Michelson
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

A colleague of mine wrote this story about his mother ... She was in Florida for a few months for the sunshine, and the rest. She is in her 80s, a long-ago immigrant from Europe.



In Miami, she stops someone she sees and says, "You are the son of Mr. So-and-so from such-and-such a town in Europe." The man is astounded and wants to know exactly how she might know that. The elderly woman

explained, "Your father was a wood chopper in Europe. He used to chop wood and leave it at night behind the houses of the poor so they wouldn't be embarrassed to take it. Even though it has been years since I saw your father, as soon as I saw you, I recognized your father's face."

— *From Gym Shoes & Irises*
 by Danny Siegel

Tzedakah is one of the highest ideals in Judaism. More than just charity, it is a responsibility and a duty; it is righteousness itself.

Tzedakah is the one area that unites Jews no matter what their personal beliefs and practices

are. When it works, the effects of Tzedakah find new cures for diseases old and new. It creates support and self-respect for our aged, helps children to flourish, strengthens family life; provides vocational retraining, builds greater understanding and cooperation among different religious and racial groups, brings people to freedom, and helps in a host of ways in our neighborhoods, in our city, across the nation, and around the world.

I am occasionally asked if, as a Jew, I celebrate Thanksgiving. I remind the questioner that Thanksgiving may have started with the Pilgrims, but it is one of the most American of holidays. It is celebrated by the many religious and ethnic groups that now call the United States their home. Regardless of our background, we try to ritualize our gratitude for our life and good fortune.

Even when times are hard, we are pushed to remember how fortunate

most of us are. We celebrate this gratitude with our families and community by sharing what we have, by giving Tzedakah.

There is an old Yiddish proverb that says, "The longest road in the world is the one that leads from your pocket."

The tzedakah habit, like many other habits, begins at home. Educators know that repetition is important in teaching a value. To learn the tzedakah habit, a child needs to observe and hear about tzedakah frequently.

This month, make the giving of a bit of tzedakah part of your weekly Shabbat or Thanksgiving observance. Take the tzedakah box off the shelf, or even better, design and create one with your children's or grandchildren's help.

Let our future help put the money in the pushke. The greatest lesson we can teach them is by being the people we want them to be.

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT

76ERS GAME

SCAN CODE BELOW TO RSVP

BUS TRIP TO PHILLY

DECEMBER 19, 2022

\$65 JCC MEMBER OR \$80 NON-MEMBER
 \$30 YOUTH THAT ATTENDED 3 FALL EVENTS

Obituary

Joan E. Cohen, 88, passed away Oct. 13 in her home in Wyomissing. She was married for 52 years to the late Lewis Cohen, and they were longtime members of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. She graduated from high school in 1952 and soon started a career modeling

in New York. Following her modeling career, Joan returned to Reading and met her Lewis. Joan is survived by her three children, Samuel R. Cohen of Golden Valley, Minn.; Budd Cohen, husband of Stacey of Audubon; and Daniel A. Cohen of Spring Township. She is also survived by two grandchildren, Alexander and Abigail of Audubon.

All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Rob Seesengood and Jennifer Koosed** on the birth of their granddaughter Maisie Faye to Abby and Ben Stanley.

Send good news to Marknem@aol.com or call 610-921-0624.

Until next time: Shalom!

What's the Deal

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610.775.2300 | THEHIGHLANDS.ORG/EVENTS



November ☆ Chesvan-Kislev



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

November 4
5:39 p.m.

November 11
4:32 pm

November 18
4:26 pm

November 25
4:22 p.m.

November 5/11 Chesvan
Lech Lecha (Genesis 12:1-17:27)

November 12/18 Chesvan
Vayera (Genesis 18:1-22:24)

November 19/25 Chesvan
Chayei Sarah (Genesis 23:1-25:18)

November 26/2 Kislev
Toldot (Genesis 25:19-28:9)

Join us in the RCOS Chapel on Saturday,
 November 12th at 10:00am

Tot Shabbat

Join Rabbi Michelson for a musical, story-filled interactive hour for children through grade 2. Members & non-members welcome. No registration required. Future Tot Shabbat dates: 12/17, 1/21, 2/11, 3/11, 4/15, 5/13, 6/17.

U.S. House committee hears testimony on antisemitism

American Jewish Committee

Excerpts from remarks by Holly Huffnagle, U.S. Director for Combating Antisemitism, American Jewish Committee, before a meeting of the House Homeland Security Committee:

We are gathered here in New Jersey and virtually because we are facing a growing threat of antisemitism and extremism. There has been a 25% increase in antisemitic incidents in the state in 2021, and it is on track to increase again in 2022. New Jersey is not alone. Unfortunately, we are witnessing rising antisemitism across the United States.

We must look at a few key questions. The first is what is happening right now? The second is why. Why is this happening in this moment? And third and finally, what does rising antisemitism mean for the future of the United States and what can be done? While American Jewish communities continue to thrive in the United States — and thank goodness they do not face levels of persecution here compared to other parts of the world — we must turn the tide back on rising antisemitism to protect not only American Jews, but our democracy as well.

First, what is happening? Antisemitism is rising in the United States. It is becoming more violent, and more open. According to the FBI, crimes targeting Jews comprised 55% — the majority — of all religious bias crimes, although Jews are only 2% of the population of the U.S. In the past year, 41% of Americans have seen antisemitism — and many more than once. And American Jews are experiencing antisemitism. In fact, one in four (24%) American Jews have personally been targeted by antisemitism this past year. American Jews are also changing their behavior out of fear of antisemitism. They are avoiding certain places, avoiding wearing things that might identify them as Jewish (such as a kippa or a Star of David necklace), or avoiding posting content online that might reveal their Jewish identity. That last piece jumps significantly for young American Jews (ages 18-29). Today, antisemitism is more visible, easier to access, easier to share and spread than ever before.

Second, why? Why is antisemitism rising? And why now in 2022? No reason justifies antisemitism, but there are several factors happening concurrently contributing to the current rise.

Rising economic uncertainty.
Waning confidence in government and in democracy.

An increased emphasis on race and national identity.

A deepening polarization over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The fading legacy of the Holocaust, combined with Holocaust denial and distortion.

The Internet and social media.
More sources of antisemitism.

And ignorance. Not only do one-third of Americans not know what antisemitism is, the majority who do, see antisemitism solely as a hatred. Antisemitism is also a certain perception about Jews — a conspiracy. Antisemitism perceives its targets as having too much privilege, too much power, and attacks them for that. We cannot just see antisemitism as a hatred or a religious bias; Jews are primarily attacked today for who they are, for their perceived power and influence, or for the Jewish state, Israel.

This brings us to the crux of the issue. What does rising antisemitism mean for the future of America? And what can be done? How can we go beyond simply responding to antisemitism, but actively work to prevent it?

To prevent antisemitism, understand the problem. 34% of Americans are not familiar with the term antisemitism or have heard it but do not know what it means. For those who have a practical need to identify and respond to antisemitism, the best tool continues to be the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism, which defines antisemitism as “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews.”

To prevent antisemitism, engage the Jewish community. 36% of Americans do not know a Jew. Many Americans think of Jews solely as a religious group. But Jews are a diverse, multiethnic, multiracial people. Given this diversity, characterizing Jews as

only “white” and “privileged” ignores history and present reality. Congress can lead here in helping constituents understand antisemitism and who Jews are. Creating a diverse network of community leaders to discuss antisemitism and hate crimes, is critical.

To prevent antisemitism, invest in Jewish community security. Attacks against Jews are often perpetrated by white supremacist extremist groups and homegrown violent extremists. Through funding and legislation, Congress plays a crucial role in safeguarding Jewish institutions.

To prevent antisemitism, be prepared for the patterns. A heightened awareness of the situations and times when antisemitism increases enable proactive planning to combat it.

To prevent antisemitism, gather better data. There still isn't a comprehensive study that looks at antisemitic attitudes, sources of antisemitism and root causes, and American Jews' experiences with antisemitism all in one place.

To prevent antisemitism, issue unequivocal condemnations. We continue to see blatant incidents of antisemitism, yet responses are often “antisemitism and all forms of racism, intolerance, and xenophobia are unacceptable wherever and whenever they occur.” But grouping antisemitism with a long list of other hatreds and bigotry, when it was only the Jewish community attacked, is unhelpful and even hurtful.

To prevent antisemitism, depoliticize the fight against it. While bipartisanship has been critical to U.S. success in countering hatred of Jews in the U.S. and abroad, the fight against antisemitism has become increasingly politicized. We urge government leaders to participate in bipartisan caucuses and coalitions to

counter antisemitism and hate.

To prevent antisemitism, urge the White House to create a national action plan to combat antisemitism. At the very least, the White House can appoint an official to improve interagency coordination to deploy each agency's resources most effectively and ensure a whole-of-government response to antisemitism, which is currently lacking.

To prevent antisemitism, fund educational initiatives. The importance of education in prevention cannot be overstated. Education and trainings — on Jews, the Holocaust, antisemitism, and more importantly, Jewish life — provide an opportunity not only to show solidarity but to gain knowledge and tools to identify and respond to antisemitism and Jewish community needs. Because of its complexity, antisemitism should be addressed as a unique form of hatred.

Finally, to prevent antisemitism, stop its proliferation online. 15% of young American Jews (18-35) were personally targeted by antisemitism online in the past year (many more have seen it) and 31% have avoided posting content online that would identify them as a Jew out of fear of antisemitism. Social media companies have the responsibility to remove antisemitic content. Social media companies should be held liable for content on their platforms.

Despite the threats of antisemitism, Jews across the country and around the world are proudly displaying their Jewish identities. The Jewish community has incredible allies, from local houses of worship and community leaders to elected officials at all levels, such as the Members of Congress here today. And those leaders are speaking out, in defense of their Jewish friends and for the sake of our democratic values.

B"R

BERKS

CHABAD CYCLING CLUB

ALL ARE WELCOME

WE WILL HELP YOU GET SET UP

Join us for scenic bike routes
All level riders are welcome
Shorter and longer rides
Faster and slower paced

Chaired by Dr. Meir Mazuz & Rabbi Yosef Lipsker
For more info call 610-334-3218 or office@chabadofberks.org

22nd Annual Jewish Food Festival Drive Thru Sunday, November 6th - 11 am to 4 pm

Pre-ordering is strongly recommended at:
OhebSholom.org
Pre-order deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 2nd

Apple Cake: Whole (\$35) • Half (\$20) • Quarter (\$10)

Brisket Platter (\$20) • Brisket with Gravy, Large Knish, Honeyed Carrots
• Homemade Apple Sauce, Challah Roll

Bucket of Brisket (\$20) • One Quart of First-Quality Brisket Pieces, Carrots, Gravy

Corned Beef Sandwich Platter (\$20) • Corned Beef with Jewish Rye Bread, Cole Slaw
• Homemade Apple Sauce, Pickle Slice, Mustard

Pastrami Sandwich Platter (\$20) • Pastrami with Jewish Rye Bread, Cole Slaw
• Homemade Apple Sauce, Pickle Slice, Mustard

Bagel Platter (\$18) • Bagel & Nova Lox, Philadelphia Cream Cheese
• Homemade Hummus, Slice of Onion, Carrots

Matzoh Ball Soup (\$12) • One Quart of Jewish Chicken Soup with Homemade Matzoh Balls

Limited number of items available the day of the event for cash only. Contact free pick up in the Temple parking lot.

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing
610.375.6034 • ohebsholom.org



Anneliese at RCOS



Rabbi Brian Michelson Leads Havdalah at the Vox Phila "Anneliese" concert held Oct. 15 at Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom. Members of Berks Sinfonietta took part in the program, which featured a choral work telling the story of Anne Frank. The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks was a supporter of the event.

Movie program fun, enlightening

By Cantor Ted Prosnitz
Keshet Zion Synagogue

On Monday night, Oct. 3, several people from our community joined about 200 people virtually to participate in a discussion of a Moishe Oysher film.

Hosted at the Jewish Federation of Reading, people who had watched the film "Overture to Glory/Der Vilner Balabesl," which had been available to view at no charge, Zoomed into a lively and enlightening gathering.

Cantor Murray Simon, whose congregation on Sanibel Island, Fla., had just been swamped by Hurricane Ian, led and moderated the get-together.

This Yiddish film imitated the famous film "The Jazz Singer," which was in turn based on a Yiddish play based on a real-life cantor.

The Cantors Assembly is showing two more films starring the incomparable Moishe Oysher. There is no charge to watch the films, though registration is required. Once you receive the link to watch the film, you will have 36 hours



to view it. The next film will be released on a Sunday in November and another virtual discussion will be held the next night, Monday, at 8 p.m. More information is available at www.cantors.org/oysher/.

HEBREW CLASS

Thursday, November 10th
JCC
Taught by Ziv Laskin

LET'S SPEAK HEBREW!

CLASSES WILL BE HELD EVERY OTHER WEEK

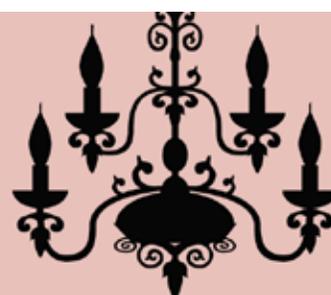
Beginners- 6:00 to 6:45 pm
Advanced- 6:45 to 7:30pm

RSVP to
ZivL@jfreeding.org



Going away for the winter?

Be sure to alert the Federation office of your address so you can keep up to date with what's happening in our community.



Torah and Tea for women

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Intentional acts of kindness

By Carole Robinson

I spent a recent weekend in Newport, R.I., with my three young grandchildren, Milo, Freya, and Eve. One of our favorite activities was gathering beach rocks to paint. These “kindness” rocks were later scattered around town to bring smiles to those who discover them.



A fun activity for all of us, and timely, too, as World Kindness Day is Nov. 13. It was founded to promote kindness and encourage good deeds. Everyone is invited to celebrate this holiday by performing at least one intentional act of kindness. It's as easy as painting rocks (like my family did), holding a door open for a stranger, smiling warmly at a store clerk or giving a compliment. According to Amelia Earhart, “A simple act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.” Together, we can all work to create a kinder world.

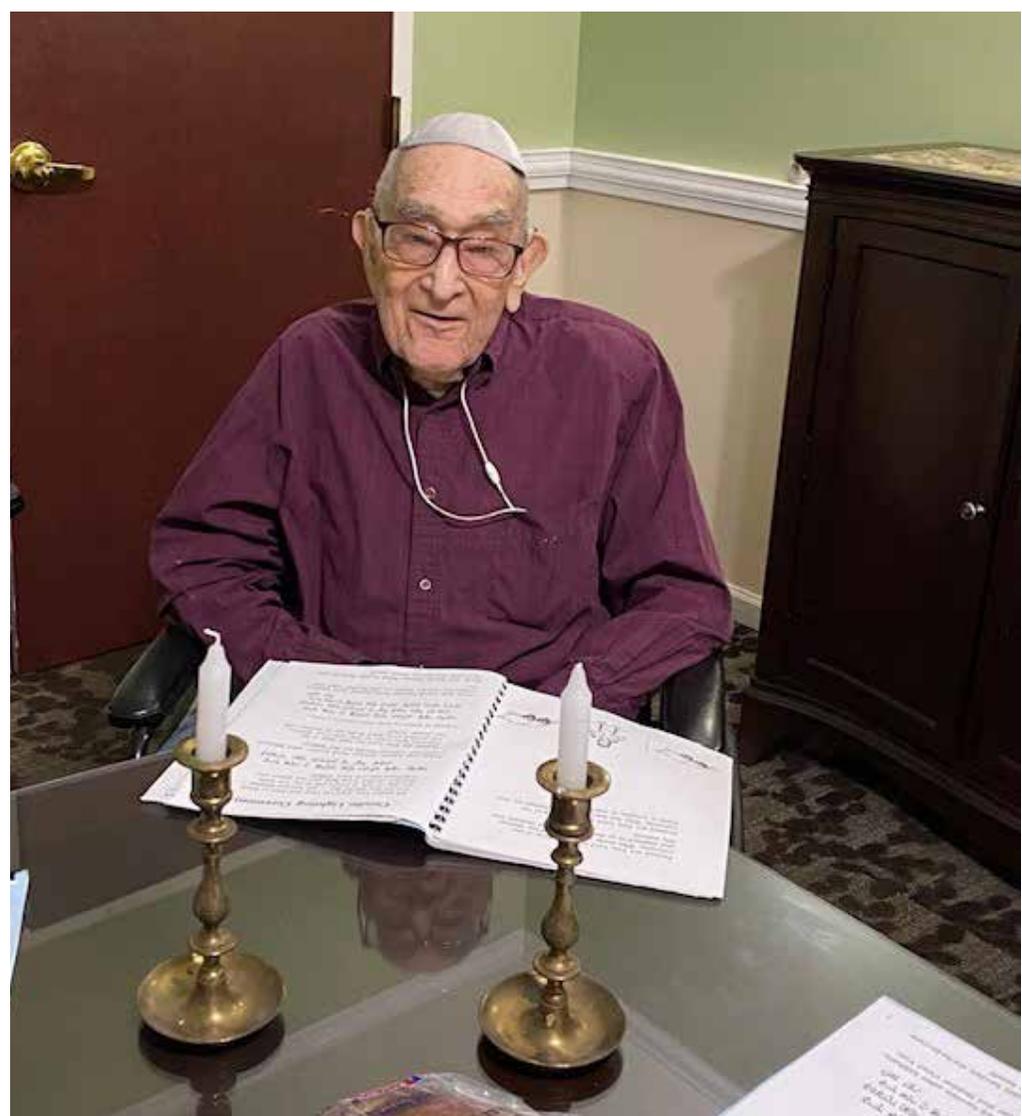
Jewish Family Service relies on the kindness of the community to provide many essential services. For instance, JFS organizes holiday celebrations for Jewish seniors. On Sept. 22, we celebrated an early Rosh Hashanah service and meal with 30 seniors. This meaningful event would have been impossible without our volunteers. Sheila Bornstein, Sue Farrara and Paul Schwartz served the meals. Sheila also brought delicious home-baked desserts. Paul Schwartz and Jason Bram delighted the attendees with their shofar blowing. Sue Farrara, Scott Bram, Aileen Endy, and Mike Robinson delivered meals to about 20 seniors who were unable to attend in person but felt remembered by the community. Phyllis Dessel addressed New Year's cards to be mailed to additional seniors. Thank you all for your invaluable help and kindness celebrating Rosh Hashanah with our seniors. We would also like to offer a special thank you to the Isadore and Anna Oritsky-Gladys and Eli Skaist Philanthropic Fund for its sponsorship of our holiday meal program.

Even though the High Holidays are over, JFS still needs kindhearted volunteers for Shabbat. We have been leading monthly Shabbat services at the Manor at Market Square and would like to expand this program. At one recent Shabbat, the residents thanked me and the Jewish Federation for bringing Shabbat to them. They would like us to come more often so that they don't forget the Shabbat service. We are looking for volunteers to lead a brief service, which we would be happy to review with you. No musical talent needed — they even thank me — just a little of your time and kindness required.

Another JFS activity that requires kind volunteers is our two monthly drive-through food pantries. A few hours of your time will help hundreds of families. Sari and I looked at the number of people our pantries have been helping this year. In January, we served 200 households and distributed almost 10,000 pounds of food. By September, we provided food for 577 households and gave out over 20,000 pounds of food. In the past eight months, our pantry numbers have almost doubled. Our pantries open at 9 a.m., but cars start lining up at 6 a.m. Many clients depend on our food to feed their families. We would not be able to help so many hungry people without our volunteers, who collect household information, pack bags of food, hand out schedules and fill the trunks of cars with food. Thank you to our recent pantry volunteers: Cynthia Balchunas, Raymond Gehring, John Inledon, Pete Jacobson, Sid Lempiner, Margo Levin,



Our community's seniors celebrated a festive early Rosh Hashanah at the JCC thanks to Jewish Family Service and its many volunteers and supporters.



Jerry Levine enjoying Shabbat services at the Manor at Market Square. JFS is looking for volunteers to help expand the number of Shabbat services offered.



Jewish Family Service volunteers have another busy day at the monthly Olivet Food Pantry.

Paul Mintz, Mary Neville, Annette Peppard, Jenny Reilly, Mike Schein, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Phyllis and Michael Warshaw, Miryam Axler, Barbara Bender and Yvonne Wittels. Contact me at caroler@jfsreading.org or 610-921-0624 if you would like to spread kindness as a food pantry volunteer.

These intentional acts of kindness

may seem small to you, but remember, each act creates a ripple effect in our Jewish community. With that in mind, I urge you to embrace “kindness” and share your time, talents, and smiles with the community. In the words of the Dalai Lama, “Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.”

Jewish Family Service

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Counseling Services

Transportation

Financial Assistance

Hospital and

Home Visitations

Living with Loss

Information and

Referral

Case Management

Holiday Programs

Hearing aids now available without prescription

From Federation staff

The federal government is allowing pharmacies and big-box stores to sell hearing aids without prescriptions, according to a report in *The Washington Post*.

The move to allow over-the-counter hearing aid sales, which took effect in mid-October, is expected to lead to lower prices and expand access for millions with untreated hearing loss.

The *Post* reports that this will be a test of consumer-driven health care, as hearing aids require fine-tuning and patience for first-time users. Manufacturers say they are ready to smooth the process for new customers, relying on features such as smartphone apps that allow consumers to calibrate the devices themselves and call centers

and help desks to assist with fit and tuning.

Advocates for the change said it should lead to price competition and improvements in sound quality, design and added features such as call-streaming and music. They say it will give the hearing impaired more options without having to see a doctor. Retail, no-prescription sales are limited to devices designed for people 18 and older with mild to moderate hearing loss.

The *Post* reports that most medical insurance plans, including traditional Medicare, do not cover hearing aids or audiology visits for fitting, which will continue to limit access for many.

Lexie and Jabra are companies offering over-the-counter devices for \$799 per pair. Prescription hearing aids

and accompanying audiological services often cost \$4,000 to \$8,000.

Lexie devices are being sold in 11,000 stores including Walgreens, Walmart and Best Buy. Jabra's device are available in 300 Best Buy stores.

Walgreens told the *Post* that Lexie hearing aids are to be sold from behind the pharmacy counter. Purchasers will be directed to Lexie's website, which has hearing tests and references to help desks.

The *Post* reported that CVS expects to have hearing aids in its stores in November.

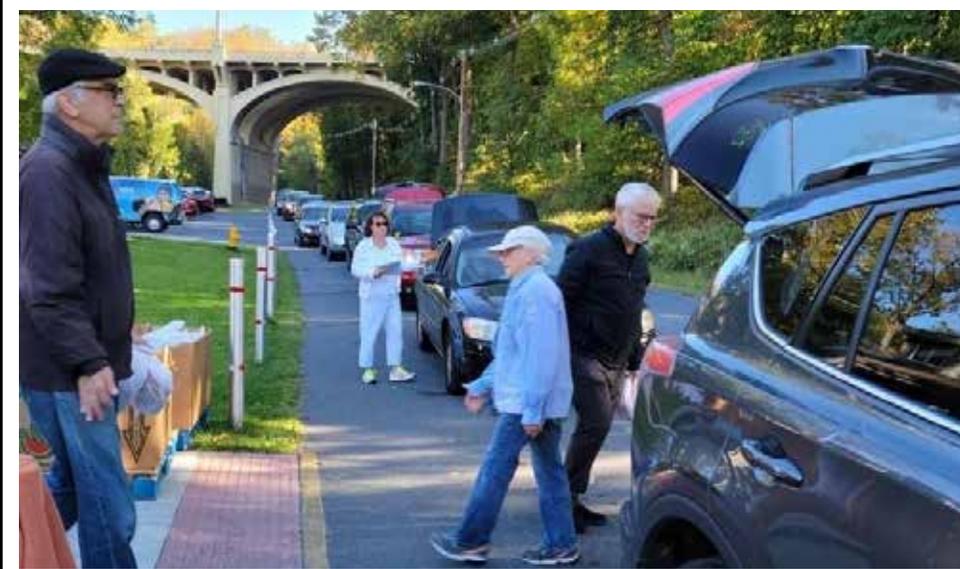
Hearing specialists say untreated hearing loss can lead to cognitive decline, isolation and dementia, but only a fraction of the 28.8 million who could benefit from hearing aids use them, according to the

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. Of those who could benefit, just 16% of adults under 69 and just 30% over 70 have them, the agency said.

Advocates are hoping lower prices and easier access encourage more people to seek treatment.

As more people learn about over-the-counter hearing aids, they will discover a marketplace full of largely unregulated devices that look like hearing aids but are less-sophisticated sound amplifiers. The *Post* says experts warn people with hearing loss to avoid products that aren't registered as medical devices with the FDA. Most lack key features of hearing aids, such as being able to adjust to specific frequencies of sound.

JFS off to a busy start this fall



Clockwise from top left, Scott, Claire and Jason Bram gather for Jewish Family Service's Rosh Hashanah celebration at the JCC. Jason joined with Paul Schwartz to blow Shofars to usher in the new year. Bottom left, Volunteers work to help distribute goods at the monthly JFS Olivet food pantry.

Friendship Circle November programs

Friendship Circle is held on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 1 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.

Thursday, Nov. 3 - The ABCs of Medicare

Medicare Open Enrollment is Oct. 15-Dec. 7. This is your opportunity to join, switch, or drop a plan. Join Phyllis Dessel to learn about Medicare and health insurance changes for 2023. Bring your questions.

Thursday, Nov. 17 - Thanksgiving celebration



Enjoy a festive meal and be thankful with your Friendship Circle friends. Gobble, gobble!

Prize-winning distillery uses water from Jerusalem air

Israel21c.org

Who is the thinker behind Thinkers Distillery? It sounds like a question on a game show.

Once an officer in the Israeli Air Force, she then became a first-class flight attendant for El Al Airlines while earning an MBA in finance at Reichman University. And then she started the premium quality spirits company, Thinkers Distillery.

The answer is Yael Kaplan, cofounder of the spirits company that opened its doors in January 2020.

The Jerusalem-based distillery has sold 100,000 bottles in the past six months and already has a \$10 million contract with Total Wine & More, the largest wine retailer in the United States.

While Thinkers imports winter wheat from France and England, the water in its spirits is drawn from the air of Jerusalem using technology from WaterGen, an Israeli firm that developed a way to extract and purify water from ambient

moisture.

Bennett Kaplan, Yael Kaplan's husband and the company's spokesman, said Thinkers has found "a bountiful resource: the sky. We have forged an entirely new path in spirits by acquiring our water from air."

Another distinction of Thinkers spirits is their very low amount of congeners — chemical substances produced during the distillation and fermentation process when sugars are converted into alcohol.

Thinkers' computerized distillation system removes these unwanted congeners, which ordinarily have to be masked with other flavors.

"We say it's 'furthered,' which is our trademark," Yael Kaplan said. "The word captures the startup nation because we take things further."

Visitors can watch the action The Thinkers Distillery and visitors' center is on Agrippas Street in Jerusalem, next to the Machane Yehuda Market.

Bennett Kaplan said the distillery is "part research library, part chemistry lab,

part design studio."

On its premises, the company offers tours to teach visitors about the history of alcoholic drinks and how it makes its spirits, along with tastings and snacks.

The brand's kosher-certified line now includes two gins (the "Israeli Sunset" gin is flavored with strawberries and flower petals), two vodkas and a bourbon whiskey, with more varieties on the way.

"I developed a love for wines and spirits when I was a stewardess," Yael Kaplan said. "Then, whenever I could, I would visit wineries and distilleries throughout the world on my layovers."

She married shortly after getting her MBA and immediately started a family. A few years after Kaplan's last child was born, she decided it was time to start a business and knew she wanted that business to be a distillery. She enlisted a friend, Avi Ingber, to join her.

They worked around the clock with scientists to create premium spirits.

Thinkers has won top prizes at

worldwide competitions, both for the products and for the bottle designs. Bennett Kaplan said that people "study our bottles the way they used to study Beatles' album covers."

Lacking the necessary raw materials, Israel has a negligible history in making spirits, Bennett Kaplan said. It never paid for Israelis to import raw materials.

But now things are changing and there are several distilleries popping up in the country.

"This is like the start of the Gold Rush for spirits," Kaplan said. Until 2000, he said, "virtually all large spirits companies had started in the 1880s."

Since then, he said, the alcohol industry's technology didn't grow in sophistication. It was before "the science of taste and smell."

Kaplan said that Israel is in the forefront of taking ideas and making them better.

"We're trouble-shooters," he said. "We see what others are doing and then we improve them."

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 printed 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. The coupon does not include the cost of tipping.

This program is subsidized by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks



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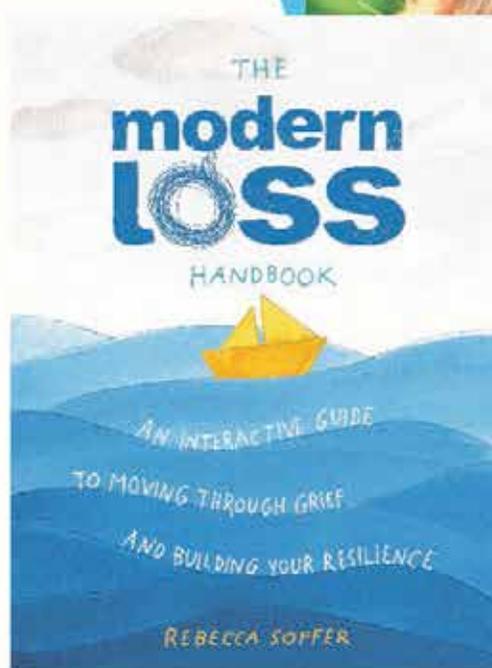
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A tale of two aliyot

By Dan Elbaum

Jewish Agency for Israel

'It was early in the morning when my father woke me up. He told me that we were going to escape our village in Ethiopia that night to begin the journey to Israel. He told me that I was to go to the market and buy a pair of shoes, a jug for water and a shovel. When I asked him why we would need a shovel he said, 'Not all of us will make it.'"

I was sitting on a bus in Gondar, Ethiopia, as I heard that story. The only sound came from the bus hitting rocks on the dirt road. I was there with 60 Jewish leaders from North America on a mission sponsored by The Jewish Agency for Israel and The Jewish Federations of North America. We were there to show our support for Ethiopian Jewish community members still yearning to be reunited with their families in Israel. The next night, we accompanied 200 new Ethiopian immigrants on a chartered flight to Tel Aviv.

Just six months earlier, I found myself in a not dissimilar situation on a flight accompanying 180 Ukrainian Jews to Israel. This was in the weeks after the Russian invasion and the refugees had escaped to Budapest. As the flight readied for takeoff, I saw a young woman crying as she Face-timed with a young man in a Ukrainian military uniform. It seemed he was

trying to comfort her and express how happy he was that she was flying to safety in Israel.

In 2022, Israel will welcome a greater number of new olim than it saw during any year since the fall of the Soviet Union. This year has seen more immigrants from Ukraine, the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia than the worldwide total (a little over 28,000) in 2021. Bear in mind that 2021 was a year of substantial aliyah because of the number of prospective immigrants who had delayed their plans due to COVID-19 in 2020.

Having now traveled with both Ukrainian and Ethiopian Jews, I have found myself reflecting on the differences in the experiences of these two aliyot. There were many similarities. They were both escaping wars and incredibly reliant on a people whose language they did not speak. There were tears on both occasions and mothers on both planes grabbed their children's hands tightly.

But there were two main differences. First, simply put, the Ukrainians were sad to depart and the Ethiopians were overjoyed. For Ukrainian Jews, the decision to move to Israel happened in moments. These people had every opportunity to move to Israel before the invasion but like me had chosen to live their lives somewhere else. Many of them appeared to be people of means

who had lost everything in an instant and were now on a journey to a country that they had never visited. They were grateful but terrified.

In contrast, many Ethiopian Jews had been waiting for over two decades to come to Israel. Several told our delegation that they had siblings in Israel whom they had never met. Jerusalem for them is more than a place, it is the stuff of dreams. As my Jewish Agency colleague, Sigal Kanotopsky, told me about when she was a little girl in Ethiopia and a bird flew away, she would shout up to it "carry words of peace to our holy city of Jerusalem."

The second difference is more complicated. When I looked at the Ukrainian refugees, I saw myself. Like me, they lived a fully Western lifestyle and their clothes and pace of life mirrored my own. For months after meeting with them, I have had the same thought: this could happen to me. These people were living in a developed country as doctors, lawyers and consultants, and one day woke up to discover that their apartment walls were shaking and their safety was very much in danger.

On the other hand, the Ethiopian Jews come from a world that most of us could never contemplate. They live in abject poverty, and in fear of civil war and oppression. A visit to the market carries the risk of rape and even

murder.

Amid this perilous situation, they have not chosen to assimilate into other communities for safety. They have not tried to hide their identities. They go to synagogue, wear Stars of David and sing songs of Jerusalem they learned from their parents. And they wait, some with suitcases that have been packed for decades. They are Zionists to their core. From leaving key family members behind to walking for miles in a scorching hot desert, the sacrifices they have made and continue to make in order to be Israeli are remarkable.

As I do on nearly every trip to Israel, I visited the Western Wall before leaving. As I touched the ancient stones, I thought about the new olim beginning their first full day in Israel, those who are still waiting and I thought of those who never made it. Mostly, I thanked God that Israel is there for all Jews, regardless of our color, background or whether the decision to make Aliyah was sudden or years in the making. No matter where we live or who we are, we are privileged to live in a world with a Jewish state and we can never take it for granted.

Elbaum is head of North America at The Jewish Agency for Israel, and president and CEO of Jewish Agency International Development. This piece was originally published in the Jerusalem Post.

JFS hospital and 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 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

rehab. This is what we're here for. Please call Jewish Family Service social workers for help at 610-921-0624.

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Why Shira Haas is a superhero on and off screen

Israel21c.org

Israeli actress Shira Haas is going to play Sabra, an Israeli superhero, in the film "Captain America: New World Order."

At just 27 years old, Haas already has gained international fame for her roles in productions including the Israeli TV series "Shtisel" and in the Netflix series "Unorthodox."

Here are some fascinating facts about this fast-rising star.

- Haas is the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors from Eastern Europe.

During World War II, one of her grandfathers was interned in the infamous Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland. Haas has a very close relationship with her 86-year-old grandmother.

- Her professional career began at age 14, when she earned herself two theatrical roles at the Cameri, Tel Aviv's prime theater.

She appeared in Shakespeare's "Richard III" as well as in Joshua Sonbol's "Ghetto" while still attending the Thelma Yellin Arts High School in Givatayim, east of Tel Aviv.

- In 2014, Haas received a surprise Facebook message from Israeli casting director Esther Kling, urging her to audition for the lead role in the Israeli film "Princess." Haas took the advice, and her acting won her Best Actress at the Jerusalem Film Festival. "Princess" also got her noticed in the United States by *The New York Times* and *The Hollywood Reporter*.

- Haas's first international movie, in 2015, "A Tale of Love and Darkness," was also the directorial debut for Israeli American actress Natalie Portman. Haas told Ynet that she found Portman to be a role model, "impressive and humble and real."

- In 2017, Haas auditioned and was hired over Skype for her role in the American-made "The Zookeeper's Wife." Ahead of the film's release, she appeared on NBC's *Today* show, another first for her.

- She made the Israeli *Forbes* list of 30 under 30 in February 2019.

- In order to make sure that her Yiddish was perfect for the dialogue in "Unorthodox," Haas arrived in Berlin two months before the shooting to take language classes.

She also took piano and singing lessons to prepare for her role in the series.

- In 2020, she was nominated for a Golden Globe Award and a Primetime Emmy Award for the role of Esty in the Netflix miniseries "Unorthodox." She made history by becoming the first Israeli actor nominated for a primetime acting Emmy.

For the Israeli film "Asia" in 2020, Haas was honored as Best International Actress at the Tribeca Film Festival Award, and in Israel received the coveted Ophir for Best Supporting Actress.

- Like the superhero she portrays in the upcoming Marvel movie, Haas and her parents are sabras, a term used to refer to native-born Israelis. These are compared to the cactus fruit sabra, ("tzabar" in Hebrew), which is prickly on the outside yet soft on the inside, as Israelis are reputed to be.

- Haas, the youngest of three siblings, was born in 1995 in Tel Aviv, where she currently lives with her husband. The family moved to Hod HaSharon when she was a year old.

- Haas was diagnosed with kidney cancer at the age of 2. Within three years, treatment had saved her life but stunted her growth.

- Despite being entitled to a medical exemption from military



service due to the impact of having cancer in childhood, Haas enlisted voluntarily in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) Military Band and theater unit.

- Haas always thanks her parents publicly for their encouragement and support in enabling her to become the best artist she can be.

- While the Sabra character was first introduced in Marvel comics

40 years ago, the corporation says it is now taking a new approach to the character with Haas for the next Captain America movie.

The reaction of anti-Israel elements after the announcement of the film has caused the character to become controversial even before the film's anticipated release in 2024. Let's see how she handles the challenges.

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Israeli team aids in Hurricane Ian recovery

Israel21c.org

When Dr. Sharon Slater spotted “Paul” in a Red Cross shelter in Fort Myers, Florida, the 45-year-old chef was standing between two beds looking very agitated.

She approached him gently, introduced herself as a clinical psychologist from Israel’s United Hatzalah Psychotrauma and Crisis Response Unit (PCRU) and asked if she could speak to him.

Paul told Slater that he and his wife had sold everything and moved to Fort Myers from Missouri two weeks prior to the hurricane. Now, the house in which they’d invested all their money was demolished. A small plastic bag held everything he owned.

“He kept repeating, ‘I lost everything, I couldn’t save anything.’ He had no job, no home, no possessions,” Slater tells ISRAEL21c.

This was the kind of intense personal crisis that Slater and her teammates from Israel are trained to alleviate with short but effective interventions.

They flew from Israel on Saturday night, Oct. 1, as soon as it was clear that Hurricane Ian was wreaking extraordinary death and destruction.

“It was touted as a once-in-500-years hurricane that even Americans and Floridians found overwhelming,” explains Slater.

“My experience in assisting after the building collapse in Surfside [in June 2021] taught me that even though the Americans are quite capable of handling disasters on their own, our trauma team brings different techniques, some of which were created in Israel on the basis of need, and we have something to add.”

Welcomed once again by the Floridian

Red Cross volunteers, Slater and a handful of other Israeli psychologists and social workers on her team combed two shelters looking for people who appeared especially lost, helpless, anxious or isolated.

The Israeli counselors always ask permission to approach because, she says, “there is so little in their control. This gives them an opportunity to control whether they want to interact with us.”

When Paul indicated his assent and repeated his mantra, Slater pointed to one of the beds he was standing between and asked, “Paul, who sleeps in this bed?”

“My wife,” he replied, and then repeated, “But I couldn’t save anything.”

Slater asked again who sleeps in this bed. And then Paul understood: He had indeed saved something – the woman most important to him. With that realization, his tears began to flow.

When he’d composed himself, Slater asked what was overwhelming him, and he gave her a list of major concerns. She advised him to choose the most urgent problem to focus on first, to the exclusion of all others.

Paul decided that his priority was finding a home to rent. Slater said, “Just focus on that for now and after that you can worry about finding a job.”

Immediately, she saw the tension leave his face and body. Paul thanked her, and she moved on.

This is one of the trauma intervention protocols created in Israel.

In one Red Cross shelter, Slater blew bubbles with a 3-year-old boy and soon spotted the child’s mother, “Charlene,” sitting on an air mattress. Charlene shared that she is a single mom of three

small children. She’d recently been released from prison and had suffered two major losses: the grandmother of the 3-year-old boy, who’d been caring for him, had died. Her best friend also died. Charlene hadn’t had time to find a job before the hurricane took away whatever little she’d managed to get together.

“I asked what helped her negotiate all these challenges. She pointed up and said, ‘God.’ I asked if she prays, and she told me that she speaks to God every day,” Slater recalls.

Slater asked Charlene if she and Dr. Einat Kauffman, clinical director of the PCRU, could pray with her for two minutes. Charlene agreed.

“Afterward, I told her that I had prayed for God to give her resilience to take each day at a time and keep her family together. Charlene said she had prayed for gratitude that she and her kids are under one roof, and have their health, and that she’s not incarcerated.”

Charlene was crying tears of relief when the Israeli women left her, and she called after them, “God bless Israel!”

One the eve of Yom Kippur, Kauffman and her team were called over by a group of firefighters on Fort Myers Beach to help them with a family that was refusing to leave their condo, which had been deemed unfit for human occupancy.

The couple and their three children hadn’t left the apartment during the pandemic, and they were still too afraid of the virus to leave now despite having no food, gas, electricity or clean water.

Kauffman approached and helped them weigh the risks of each worst-case scenario: contracting the disease in its current form, which for most is not lethal, or staying in an apartment in an unsafe

building that might collapse.

“I told them that members of our very own team had responded to the Surfside collapse and explained to them a bit about what happens when a building collapses. I spoke to the wife and mother, and she understood me and I understood her, and I tried to allay her fears. She said she would discuss the issue with her husband and children,” Kauffman says.

“A few hours later, the firefighters who had requested our help sent me a photo of the family after they had exited the building and the firefighters were going to take them to one of the nearby shelters,” she says.

“The important part to remember is that in the case of the evacuees, these are all stories of survival. These people went through some of the most trying experiences in life, simply to survive when their world came crashing down. They are still struggling, and I am glad that I was able to be there to help.”

Hurricanes never hit at convenient times, but Ian was especially challenging for the Israeli professionals because of its proximity to the High Holidays.

Each of the seven volunteers made the decision to leave their families at a time when families normally gather.

In fact, Slater barely made it home before nightfall on the eve of Sukkot. Three Arab members of United Hatzalah came to the airport to meet the volunteers and drive them home just in time.

Paramedic Dov Maisel, vice president of operations for United Hatzalah of Israel, said the calculus is simple.

“We go because people are in need of help and we can’t sit idly by when this level of disaster strikes,” Maisel said.

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A look at how elections work in Israel

By Ziv Laskin
Shaliach

The election for the 25th Knesset of Israel will held Nov. 1. The Israelis are going to have an impact on the future of the country by choose their representatives in government.

As a Jewish American, you have the power to affect Israel's identity. Your involvement is important for Israel and has an impact on issues like education, economy, religion and more.

With the election coming up, here's some information about Israel's system of government.

Israel has three authorities:

Legislative — The legislative authority is called the Knesset. The Knesset is the Israeli House of Representatives, and 120 members serve in it. The Knesset, located in Jerusalem, has the sole authority in the country to enact laws. The Knesset also has a role in drawing up a constitution for the State of Israel. It is the supervising arm of the government.

Implementation — The government is the implementation authority, it is chaired by the Prime Minister and the ministers, and they are entrusted with the management of the state and public aspects.

Judiciary — The role of the judiciary authority is to interpret the laws and regulations and discuss legal disputes of all kinds. It is an independent system that does not depend on the other two authorities.

Israel's system of government is a parliamentary democracy. The dominant authority is the Knesset.

The citizens vote for the party that they want to represent them in the Knesset. The party with more votes gets more seats in the Knesset. We call this a "mandate" — a seat in the Knesset



The Knesset is Israel's legislative authority.

that represents a certain percentage of the voters' votes given to a party in the elections. For example, the party that gets a mandate of 12 has 12 seats in the Knesset. A party with more seats will have more power and a chance for the leader of the party to be the prime minister.

Parliamentary democracy is an indirect system, which mean the government and the prime minister are appointed by the Knesset and the president (The president is also elected by the Knesset; the powers of the president of the state are mainly ceremonial and symbolic).

The party that gets 61 or more votes form the representatives in the Knesset. The parties manage negotiation and suggestion among them to get their votes. The leader of the party that gets enough votes become the prime minister of Israel and has the ability to build the government.

In my opinion the election system in Israel is decent to any kind of population that has the representatives of the party that best connects with their values. On the other hand, the leader of the party with the most votes doesn't always become prime minister. For example, after the last election, a few parties came together and made a rotation among their leaders.

JEWISH TEEN CLUB
CTEEN JR.



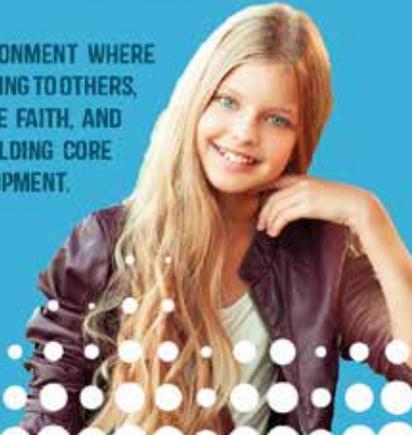
FOR STUDENTS
IN GRADES 6-8



MEETING BI-MONTHLY
SUNDAYS @12-1.15
CHABAD 2320 HAMPDEN BLVD

JEWISH TEEN CLUB HARNESSES THE INCREDIBLE POTENTIAL OF TEENAGERS WITH AWESOME PROGRAMS THAT BRING TEENS TOGETHER TO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT WHERE TEENS CAN LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES THROUGH GIVING TO OTHERS, IDENTIFY WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARE THE SAME FAITH, AND WILL BE PART OF A GROUP THAT FOCUSES ON BUILDING CORE VALUES AND STRESSES POSITIVE CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT.



FOR MORE INFO PLEASE
CONTACT CHANA AT 610-334-1577

This month's dates: Nov. 6 and 20

Come celebrate
Chanukah together as a
community

Chinese and Movie
Night
@ Chabad



Sunday, December
25 5PM

\$16 Adults
\$12 kids (Under 10)



Chabad 2320
Hampden Blvd

RSVP by
December 20 to
Office@ChabadOfBerks.org

Challahs
by Chana

ENHANCE YOUR SHABBAT EACH WEEK
WITH DELICIOUS, FRESH, HOME BAKED
CHALLAH - PLAIN OR WITH TOPPINGS.



\$7 EACH CHALLA

Toppings include sesame, everything or crumb.
Please specify when you order

Orders must be in by Tuesday each week
Text Chana Lipsker @610-334-1577

All proceeds go to support Camp Gan Izzy of Berks

Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information

Please mail your payment with complete information to the Jewish Federation, PO Box 14925, Reading, PA 19612-4925 or bring to the Jewish Cultural Center, 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing. You may set up a "savings account" for the purpose of sending cards. Please contact the Jewish Federation at 610-921-0624 for further information.

Contributions as of Oct. 19

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:

Get well to Brenda Seidel — Sharon & Julian Syret

JFS Taxi Service

In honor of:

Get well to Brenda Seidel — Joanie Friedman

Sue B. Viener Fund for PJ Library

In memory of:

Joan Cohen — George Viener

Honorials 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

Evelyn Thompson Fund

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:

Meir Mazuz's mother — Doris & Elliot Leisawitz

42ND ANNUAL LEO CAMP MEMORIAL LECTURE

Rising Antisemitism and the Attacks on Democracy

Presented by Ira Forman

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

7 p.m., Albright College, Albright Theatre. Experience Event. Free and open to the public.

Hate is rising throughout the U.S. and the world. Learn about modern antisemitism and what is at stake for the diaspora Jewish communities around the world. Ira Forman is the senior advisor for combatting antisemitism at Human Rights First, and is a senior fellow at the Moment Institute. He was formerly special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism in the U.S. Department of State.

Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. For more information, call 610-921-0624.





Ziv meets Friendship Circle

The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks' new Shaliach, Ziv Laskin, gave a presentation before Friendship Circle on Oct. 6 at the JCC as part of his ongoing effort to introduce himself to the community. Ziv, an Israeli who arrived in Pennsylvania this summer, is the second person to join our community to work with people of all ages and backgrounds to learn more about Israel.



The Leader-Janeczek family

Family-owned, Family-involved

An editorial submission from G. Michael Leader, Chairman & CEO of Country Meadows Retirement Communities

Family-owned, family-involved. These four words characterize the Leader family's role in the senior living profession for more than 55 years. Country Meadows Retirement Communities was founded by my late parents, former Pennsylvania governor, George M. and Mary Jane Leader. And over 30 years later, it is still owned and managed by the second and third generations of our family. I like to say the profession is imbedded in our family genes.

So, you might say, "What's the big deal?" The deal is about quality and experience. My father used to say, "You pay a lot more attention to what's happening

and work harder when your name is attached to the business." And, I might add, because we love what we do.

We understand the critical success factors in senior living and know when something is missing. Unlike providers whose corporate leadership is headquartered in another state or even on the West Coast, our family lives and works in central Pennsylvania. We can drive to every campus easily and are at our campuses regularly throughout the month. With so many years of experience, along with regular exposure to what's happening through personal visits, we are better able to assess problems when they exist and start the process to fix them.

On behalf of my family, we hope we have the opportunity to serve your family.

Life gets better.®

Family is important to you. And us.

Country Meadows is family owned and managed. We understand the value of taking care of families and have been serving seniors for over 30 years. We offer a full range of lifestyle options and fellowship on a vibrant campus. Our residents enjoy social hours, spiritual life programs, on-campus religious services and more each week and life every day.

Call today to learn more or to schedule a tour.

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