



Shalom04|23

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

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Local Holocaust survivors to share their stories

By Stacy Seltzer and
Amanda J. Hornberger

Esther and Sid Bratt have called Reading home for the past 67 years. This community has embraced them, and they feel fortunate to raise a family here.

In fact, their Reading ties are now connected to four generations as two (of their nine) great-grandchildren live down the street from the Highlands (which is where Esther and Sid currently reside)!

However, Esther and Sid did not spend their childhoods in Reading. Those years were spent fighting to survive as Adolf Hitler and the Nazis took over their hometowns.

Esther was born in Vilna, Poland, and Sid was born in Guttstadt, Germany. They were both children when the war began and adults by the time it ended. Their lives were never the same.

Join the Reading Jewish Federation's Yom HaShoah program on Monday, April 17 at 7 p.m. at the Highlands to hear Esther and Sid's stories of survival and to honor those who perished in the Holocaust.

The community is invited to this event, which is open to the public.

We are lucky to have local Holocaust survivors join us for the program which include a candle lighting and name reading of victims of the Holocaust with ties to our



Esther and Sid Bratt

local community

If you have family members who were killed in the Holocaust and you would like their names added to our name reading,

please email the names to Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org by Friday, April 14.

The Highlands is located at 2000 Cambridge Ave., Wyomissing.



March was filled with fun, including a Dr. Seuss reading celebration and Purim at the Lakin Preschool (See Centerpiece) and the Purim Carnival co-sponsored by Federation and Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. Look for more Purim photos from around the community on Page 15.

Please consider a donation to our Passover Campaign

By Laurie Waxler
Development Director

Passover is soon approaching, and many will start cleaning their cabinets and getting ready for this meaningful holiday. It is the one holiday I've celebrated with my husband since we met, and while our seder plate is never perfect (we point to the freezer for the shank bone) it's an annual tradition we've been able to share with our kids and extended family and friends. Andy's grandmother, Sylvia, gave me my first seder plate 30 years ago and I have treasured it ever since ... not because it was the most beautiful, but because it was from her.



The Federation recently sent out a Passover Campaign letter requesting additional contributions to support our Jewish Family Service, and one of our partner organizations in Israel, Meir Panim. I'm hoping you took a minute to read it and learn about our unsung heroes at JFS. Carole and Sari organize two monthly food pantries serving over 400 families per month, they create and drop off 50+ special holiday treats to seniors throughout the year, they make regular phone calls and welfare checks on seniors living alone, and hospital visits when we know you're there. Those are the things we can talk about in

2023 Passover Campaign

Support our Jewish Family Service with your donation today!

Shalom, but just like medical HIPAA, we have JFS HIPAA and can't always discuss the more in-depth ways our JFS staff helps our community.

For this upcoming Passover, they are planning a seder and meal for Friendship Circle and will be delivering meals to seniors who are truly housebound and have no family with whom to celebrate. It's sometimes the little things that mean so

much, and that's what our Jewish Family Service offers our community.

I hope you'll consider a donation to the Passover Campaign this year and when you ask the 4 questions during the seder, perhaps you can ask the 5th question of "What can we do to repair the world?" Supporting your local Federation, Jewish Family Service, and Meir Panim is a good start. Wishing you all a blessed holiday.

Engaging with community at Interfaith Seder

By Margo Levin and Debbie Goldberg

The Passover Seder is all about asking questions. Moreover, the Seder challenges us to ask the difficult questions that we might, could, or should regularly ask of ourselves, especially as they relate to tikkun olam, repairing the world.

Our Passover rituals also poignantly remind us that knowledge is not the same as practice. That no matter how much we know, we are still obligated to engage in the practice of the mitzvot; whether those mitzvot occur at the Seder table or in our daily lives. And, we can then expand that practice by asking those tough, thought-provoking questions. For instance: Are we doing enough to combat the injustices around us? What can I do to help my Jewish community? What can I do to help my community at large? How can I repair the world around me?

In an effort to educate our non-Jewish friends about the deeper meaning of the Passover holiday, the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) chaired by Margo Levin and Debbie Goldberg hosted its first Interfaith Model Seder on March 8, and the theme was "Unity."

We were able to share our Jewish traditions and the Seder's message of freedom with our partners from the Greater Reading Unity Coalition, including the NAACP, LGBT Center, Islamic Center, Bring the Change, and the Hispanic Center.

The Seder was led by Rabbi Brian Michelson of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom and Cantor Ted Prosnitz of Keshet Zion. Judith Kraines was a huge help in preparing our Seder table. The Model Seder proved to be an enlightening evening for everybody, as we strengthened our relationships and common ties within our Berks County community. It also sparked wonderful conversations about the freedoms we all share and the inclusive world we all strive for.

We hope that our Jewish community will join us in continuing to search for the answers to our questions; not just now, but throughout the entire year. We look forward to continuing to work with our Reading community partners to foster acceptance of diversity and to build upon the bonds we have already established.



DONATE NOW TO OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

Please visit ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Make your gift today!

Community Shabbat 2023 — Together Again

By **Brian Chartock**
CEO

Dear Federation community,
On Friday, March 10, the Jewish Federation of Reading Berks held a beautiful Community Shabbat at Chabad Lubavitch (Chabad). We were also joined by Clergy and congregants from Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom (RCOS) and Keshet Zion (KZ). Additionally, so many members of our larger Jewish community were present. It was a welcoming and powerful evening filled with authentic “ruach” — spirit, spirituality and FUN. For the first time in a couple of years, our Jewish community was able to gather to worship



and celebrate Shabbat as one family — “together again.”
While sitting next to Rabbi Lipsker (Chabad), Rabbi Michaelson (RCOS) and Cantor Prosnitz (KZ) on the bimah during Kabbalat Shabbat service — the Friday night prayers welcoming Shabbat, I was overcome with tears of joy.
Throughout the entire evening, I found myself contemplating the gratitude and respect that I have for this community. Becoming part of your Jewish Federation of Reading continues to be a wonderful and enlightening experience. So many people have and continue to share their heartfelt stories of generations growing up here in Berks County. I have learned it has not always been an easy road to be Jewish in Berks County; but that our

community has always rallied throughout the years to create a warm and loving environment, while offering a variety of meaningful ways to practice Judaism.
Federation strives to ensure that everyone feels a part of the community.
In Hebrew, the word “kehillah” is quite significant and may be defined in several ways. One definition of kehillah that resonates with me is as follows: The Jewish community of a city organized for the administration of charities and communal work.
The Jewish Federation mission embodies so many elements of that definition; in essence, Federation, through philanthropy, community building and in conjunction with our partner organizations, strives each and every day to ensure that our community and our world is a better

place.
Thank you for your continuous support of the Federation, including the Jewish Cultural Center (JCC), Jewish Family Service (JFS) and the Lakin Preschool.
And a very special thank you to Cantor Prosnitz, Rabbi Michaelson and Rabbi Lipsker for their partnership and friendship to the Federation.
Community Shabbat allowed our Kehillah — congregational community — to come “together again,” on March 10, and it is moments like that we will always remember and cherish — moments that make so much of what we all do all — Clergy, staff and volunteers alike — all the more rewarding and fulfilling.
L'Shalom,
Brian

ADL issues warning on white supremacist propaganda

Anti-Defamation League

In 2022, the ADL Center on Extremism (COE) tracked a significant increase in white supremacist propaganda efforts, which included the distribution of racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ+ fliers, stickers, banners, graffiti and posters, as well as laser projections. Our data show a 38% increase in incidents from the previous year, with a total of 6,751 cases reported in 2022, compared with 4,876 in 2021. This is the highest number of white supremacist propaganda incidents ADL has ever recorded.
In addition to the overall increase in incidents, 2022 saw antisemitic propaganda more than double, rising from 352 incidents in 2021 to 852 in 2022. For the third straight year, the number of overall propaganda incidents on campuses dropped, from 232 to 219, the lowest since ADL began tracking campus incidents in 2017.
Propaganda campaigns allow white supremacists to maximize attention for their groups and messaging while limiting the risk of individual exposure and public backlash that often accompanies more public activities. Propaganda allows a small number of people to have an outsized impact.
Propaganda was reported in 2022 in every state except Hawaii, with the highest levels of activity in Texas, Massachusetts, Virginia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, California, Utah, Florida, Connecticut and Georgia.
The Perpetrators
Throughout 2022, at least 50 different white supremacist groups and networks distributed propaganda, but three of them — Patriot Front, Goyim Defense League (GDL) and White Lives Matter (WLM) — were responsible for 93% of the activity. As has been the case since 2019,

Texas-based Patriot Front was responsible for the vast majority — 80% — of propaganda distributions in 2022. The group distributed propaganda in every state except Alaska and Hawaii but was most active in Massachusetts, Texas, Michigan, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Utah.
Since rebranding in 2018, Patriot Front has used a cynical iteration of “patriotism” to promote its white supremacist and neo-fascist ideology. The group continues to avoid using traditional white supremacist language and symbols in its messaging, instead using ambiguous phrasing like “For the Nation Against the State,” “Revolution is Tradition,” “Reclaim America,” “America First” and “One Nation Against Immigration.”
The Goyim Defense League was responsible for at least 492 propaganda incidents in 2022, representing roughly 7% of the total propaganda.
The Active Clubs nationwide network, was responsible for 92 propaganda distributions in 2022. Propaganda from this network was recorded in 16 states, but most were in Virginia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.
Antisemitic Propaganda Distribution
2022's massive uptick in antisemitic propaganda was largely due to GDL's growth and initiation of propaganda campaigns. The formation of new antisemitic white supremacist groups also contributed to the rise in antisemitic incidents. These new groups — the Texas-based Aryan Freedom Network, NatSoc Florida, the Iowa-based Crew 319, the Southern California-based Clockwork Crew (aka Crew 562), Florida Nationalists and the short-lived, New York-based Aryan National Army — were responsible for 7% (or 62 incidents) of the antisemitic propaganda distributions. Extremists used fliers, posters,

stickers, banners and graffiti to share their antisemitic views. In Florida, NatSoc Florida and/or GDL used laser projectors to cast antisemitic messages on buildings on at least seven occasions. Individuals associated with GDL, Crew 562 and Crew 319 drove around in vans draped with antisemitic propaganda.
Campus Propaganda Distribution
In 2022, there were 219 incidents of white supremacist propaganda distribution on campuses, a 6% decrease from 2021 and the lowest number since ADL began tracking in 2017. While the majority of these incidents occurred at colleges, at least 11 incidents were reported on K-12 campuses.
On-campus propaganda was recorded in 39 states, with the highest levels of activity (from most to least active) in Texas, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan.
White Supremacist Banners
In 2022, white supremacist groups increasingly used banners, often draped over highway overpasses, to publicize their hate. ADL recorded at least 252 banner drops, a 38% from 2021.
Patriot Front was responsible for 75% of the year's banner drops, with 192 incidents, repeating previous years' messaging: “No More Foreign Wars,” “Revolution is Tradition” and “Liberty or Death.”
White Supremacist Events
In 2022, ADL documented 167 white supremacist events, a 55% increase from the 108 recorded in 2021. Events took

place in 33 states, with the most activity in Massachusetts, California, Ohio and Florida.
WLM has been organizing small, monthly demonstrations that attract between five and 15 people and usually take place along the roadside, on an overpass, at a park or outside a government building. The neo-Nazi National Socialist Club's 2022 events included protesting the Somali population in Maine, a literary event in Rhode Island and several drag queen story hour events in Massachusetts.
Patriot Front was responsible for four of the largest flash demonstrations. Patriot Front also protested LGBTQ+ events in Texas and Ohio. In June, 31 members of Patriot Front were arrested in Idaho, after police stopped a U-Haul truck near a “Pride in the Park” event. Patriot Front members found in the truck were dressed uniformly and equipped with riot shields, and were charged with criminal conspiracy to riot.
Earlier in the year, white supremacists associated with the National Socialist Movement were arrested for their alleged role in the hate crime assault of a Jewish man during a January neo-Nazi roadside rally in Orlando, Fla.
White supremacists also held private gatherings such as fight nights, white power concerts and conferences, including the America First Political Action Conference in Orlando, the annual American Renaissance Conference in Tennessee and the National Justice Party's National Party Meeting in Ohio, which was the best attended extremist event of the year.

It's Simcha Supplement time

If you had or are having a bar/bat mitzvah or graduation (high school or higher) in your family this Jewish year, share the good news with the community. Please submit a few sentences about the person and their accomplishment, along with a photo.

Text and photos can be sent to Marknem@aol.com or to the Federation office.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 30.

Shalom

A newspaper serving the Jewish community of Berks County, Pennsylvania, and published monthly, September through June, under the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. Funded by the Annual Jewish Community Campaign.

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



Jewish Federation®
OF READING/BERKS

Passover a reminder that diversity is our strength

By Rabbi Brian Michelson
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

There are so many rituals and customs that surround the celebration of Passover that it could make your head spin. Every family has its specific customs and ways of doing things and the challenge is that everybody thinks their way is the right way.

Within my own family, there are three different traditions when it comes to eating the simple hard-boiled egg at the beginning of the meal. One part of the family, simply dips the whole egg into the saltwater and eats it.



Another part slices up the egg and adds saltwater to it to make a cold egg soup. A third family tradition is to make eggs and onions, where the eggs are chopped up like egg salad and mixed with onions that have been fried in schmaltz (chicken fat from the top of the soup). Each of these three ways can be very tasty, but which one of them is “right”? There are at least nine different “Shmurah Matzahs” and five different types of regular “Seder Matzahs” for sale. Why can’t we all just eat one type of Matzah?!

Shouldn’t we have just one seder with one codified system of observance and rituals? This way a seder in one place would be just like a seder 300 miles away. We could count on the same rituals and practices. It would

be nice and predictable. Why would we want that? I believe that it is our diversity that makes us special.

On the seventh day of Pesach, we recall the parting of the Red Sea. If you picture it a la Cecil B. DeMille, it was one giant pathway that cleared the way for the people from one side to the other. This paints a picture of us unified as one giant mass of people. However, there is a wonderful midrash that teaches that when the waters divided, they, in fact, broke into 12 separate pathways — one for each of the twelve tribes.

This midrash teaches us that God saw that each tribe had its melodies and traditions. Rather than forcing everyone into the same mold, God made room for each tribe to maintain

its family tunes and traditions. God found a way for each of us to celebrate in our way, yet we are all going in the same direction. This is a message of inclusion, tolerance, and acceptance. This is something worth remembering this time of year.

We are one community made up of people from vastly different backgrounds and views. As we celebrate this Passover and recall this midrash about crossing the sea let us remember that true freedom is an attitude that requires loving, respecting, and protecting all the members of our community — regardless of practice or lack thereof. As Jews, we have never been of one mind and this is the way we should like it.

Chag Samayach v’Kasher!!

What ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ says about our people

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker
Chabad Center of Berks County

Chaim Topol - the unforgettable Israeli actor who played the central character, Tevye the milkman, in the musical and film “Fiddler on the Roof,” recently passed away.

Topol was an impressive actor, but he was equally a fine person. In the early 1990s I met him after a performance. Thirty years later, the warm impression he left is still vibrant and strong despite the passage of time.

Soon I began to reflect on why “Fiddler on the Roof” is still the production around which so many Jews coalesce. More than any other classic, it is this one which stands out. What is it about Fiddler that touches us so deeply, which plucks at the heartstrings, which brings a tear to the eye?

Perhaps it is the story of the wandering



Jew — always struggling in the face of unrelenting persecution. Maybe it’s the grime and perspiration of the daily grind contrasted by the peace and tranquility of Shabbat. It might even be the dilemmas posed by the next generation — and the choices they make.

In truth, it’s all of the above. The Jew’s place in the outside world. The craving for Nachas from our children. We identify with Tevye’s character as his journey — and the challenges he confronts — is very much ours, too.

Even more than the narrative, it is the melodies and lyrics which truly make us sit up and notice. “Tradition” — why we do what we do! “To life, to life, L’Chaim” — no further words required. “Matchmaker, Matchmaker,” desperately hoping and praying that our partner in life is out there waiting for us.

“The Sabbath Prayer” as the lady of the house lights the eternal Shabbat lights and prays for her family. Who cannot be touched when a mother, wife or daughter illuminates the world and,

behind the hands covering her tearful eyes, prays that all should be well with her family.

“Is this the little girl I carried, or the little boy” — as we watch our children mature, become Bar or Bat Mitzvah and stand under the Chuppah. The music from “Fiddler” is the music which best articulates and expresses these feelings and emotions.

Most profoundly, there is a reminder that while there have been dark days in our history, both past and present, there is an incredible amount of light. While “Fiddler” is not a religious production, it does demonstrate how

it is specifically our religion — and all the meaningful practices of our faith — that truly provides that solace, comfort, optimism, hope and belief that our people will always prevail. In the darkest of times, it was our tradition which got us through.

As we approach the holiday of Passover and get together with our friends and families continuing the many customs and traditions of this holiday of freedom, let us dust off our own fiddle, and start playing the music of our faith - by embracing its tradition. It worked then, and it still works today.

Have a Happy Pesach!


All Around the Town

Mazel Tov to **Sharon and Ron Berman** on the birth of the new granddaughter, Aubrey Jade. Aubrey’s parents are Kate and Adam Frank and live in NYC.


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

Until next time: *Shalom!*

Passover 2023 / 5783



Keshher Zion Synagogue



Passover Services 2023

SERVICES WILL BE HELD BOTH IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

THURSDAY	APRIL 6	9:30AM
FRIDAY	APRIL 7	9:30AM
WEDNESDAY	APRIL 12	9:30AM
THURSDAY	APRIL 13	9:30AM

THURSDAY 4/13 SERVICE WILL INCLUDE YIZKOR

THE SHABBAT ZOOM LINK WILL BE USED FOR ALL OF THESE SERVICES

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE KZ OFFICE SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

Keshher Zion Synagogue
www.keshherzion.org

555 Warwick Drive
Office: (610) 374 – 1763

Wyomissing, PA 19610
Fax : (610) 927 - 6248

Obituaries

Naum Ger, 86, of Pennside died on Feb. 25 in Reading Hospital. Born in Ukraine, Naum was a graduate of the Ukraine Institute of Technology and was employed as an electrical engineer. He was a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. He is survived by his wife Lyudmila, sons Gary and Steven and a granddaughter, Zoe.

Rhoda Koch, 81 died on March 17. Originally from New York, Rhoda lived in Florida before relocating to Berks County to live with her son Steven and daughter -in-law Tracey and their two children. She enjoyed playing mahjong at the JCC and spending time with her family. Another son survives her.

CHABAD OF BERKS
COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER
Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 PM.
At Chabad, 2320 Hampden Blvd.
Reading, PA 19604
Please RSVP at chabadofberks.org
or by email to office@chabadofberks.org.
To buy shmurah matzah or to sell chometz
please visit chabadofberks.org

Maimonides Society: Is there a doctor on board?

By Laurie Waxler

The Maimonides Society gathered at the JCC on Sunday, Feb. 26, and learned from Jody Musso, DO, FAAEM, about medical emergency treatment, outside the medical setting. Dr. Musso presented a fascinating talk that ranged from the contents of a "Stop the Bleed" bag to how to properly apply a tourniquet to what standard medicines and medical supplies are available in airplanes for emergencies ... and everything in between!

The room was filled with health care providers from a variety of backgrounds including cardiology, radiology, ophthalmology, pathology and more, and everyone learned something. While physicians and other health care providers are very adept at doing what they do in their hospital or medical practice setting, it is sometimes a different story at the park, at a sporting event with your kids or even travelling in an airplane.

Dr. Musso reported to the group that health care providers have no legal obligation to treat patients outside their practice. They do, however, have an ethical obligation under the American Medical Association to do the right thing, but I can't imagine anyone in that room who wouldn't hesitate to help another in an emergency situation.

Dr. Lee Radosh shared his recent experience on a plane where flight attendants requested medical help for a passenger who had recently gone scuba diving and was exhibiting symptoms of the bends, or decompression sickness. Of course, Lee pitched in to help,

but the only thing they could really do to help the passenger was to descend, land, and get her to a hospital for treatment.

Medical emergencies happen at any time and we should all be prepared, regardless of our background. Anyone can learn basic first aid, CPR, and AED operation to help a loved one - or anyone in need - emergency care. Classes are available through local agencies both in person and online. Organizations such as RACC, the Red Cross, and a variety of ambulance associations offer a variety of classes.


Our next Maimonides meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 23. We will focus on organ donation from two perspectives: from a living donor and from a transplant surgeon. All Berks County health care professionals are invited to attend.




Dr. Jody Musso addresses the Federation's Maimonides Society



Health care providers in the Maimonides Society gather at the JCC to learn about emergency medical treatment outside the medical setting.



Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks
Maimonides Society



"Organ Donation: 2 Perspectives"


Presented by
Jason Hornberger, Living Donor
and
Michael Goldstein, MD, FACS
Director, Division of Organ Transplantation Program
Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine

Sunday, April 23
9:45 am - 11:30 am
Jewish Community Center
1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125
Wyomissing, PA

Hear Jason's personal story of being a living organ donor (kidney & liver) and learn more about the surgical side of transplantation.

Open to all Jewish health care professionals in Reading & Berks County.
Includes light breakfast, education and & social networking opportunities.

Register by emailing Laurie Waxler at LaurieW@jfreading.org





JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY

NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

with

Jean Hoffmann Lewanda

Tuesday, April 18 at noon at the JCC

This is a memoir of an 18-year-old Austrian Jew who escaped to Shanghai, China by himself in 1938. Follow his journey during World War II and his decision to stay in China after the Communist takeover. Jean is Paul's daughter and will be speaking on Yom Hashoah.

RSVP by calling the JCC at 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreading.org

Books available for signing & purchase at event

Noontime Knowledge is a free program, held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, provided by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks to educate our community on a variety of topics.

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.

Art, culture and ideas series marks Yom HaShoah

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Art, Culture and Ideas at the Highlands was a big hit in March! Thanks to the more than two dozen attendees we are thrilled to continue this new series of programs. In April the topic for Art, Culture and Ideas is Richard Hurowitz in conversation with Abe Foxman on “In the Garden of the Righteous”.

Nearly 28,000 non-Jews, who found the courage and moral fortitude to defy the authorities and their neighbors by risking everything to

protect Jews persecuted by the Nazis, are featured in the Avenue of the Righteous Among Nations at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

At a moment when bigotry, intolerance and authoritarianism are once again ascendent, Richard Hurowitz has written “In the Garden of the Righteous,” an extraordinary volume chronicling not only the heroes who rescued Jews but, as Golda Meir once said, “saved hope and the faith in the human spirit.” This is a conversation with Hurowtiz and Abe Foxman about the people who

refused to close their eyes or immerse themselves in passivity and the lessons they pass on about kindness and conviction.

Join us on Monday, April 10 at 1:30 p.m. in the Cultural Center of the Highlands of Wyomissing for this informative program. No registration is required. The event is free and open to the public.

Art, Culture and Ideas programs will occur on the 2nd Monday of each month at The Highlands of Wyomissing (2000 Cambridge Ave.)

Tot Shabbat and PJ Library at the Highlands

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Children through grade 2 are invited to join Rabbi Michelson and PJ Library of Reading for Tot Shabbat at the Highlands on Saturday, April 15 at 10 am. Tot Shabbat is a

fun way for children to learn about Shabbat and includes music and stories. A pint-sized Oneg will follow.

Highlands residents as well as grandparents and great-grandparents are

invited to join the fun! All children are welcome! Participation in this event is free, and no RSVP is required.

The Highlands is located at 2000 Cambridge Ave., Wyomissing.

Escaping the Holocaust in Shanghai

By Amanda J. Hornberger

On Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, join us to learn from second generation survivor, Jean Hoffmann Lewanda at the JCC for Noontime Knowledge on Tuesday, April 18 at noon. Hoffmann Lewanda is the next author in Literatour Berks and will discuss her book “Witness to History from Vienna to Shanghai: A Memoir of Escape, Survival and Resilience.”

This is the story of an 18-year-old Austrian Jew who escaped to Shanghai, China by himself in 1938. Upon arriving in China, not only does Paul support himself but also helps his parents, sister, aunt and uncle leave Europe and survive World War II in Shanghai. Paul relates how the Sephardic Jewish community came to the aid of the Jews fleeing Central Europe. He



provides a detailed description of the two years that the family was confined to the Hongkew Ghetto.

While many in the Jewish community elected to leave China as soon as possible after WWII, Paul and his young wife, Shirley, elected to stay on after the Communist takeover. This decision led to a sequence of events that rivaled the perils of the war years.

Jean Hoffmann Lewanda was born in 1954, one year after her parents, Paul and Shirley Hoffmann, arrived in the United States from Shanghai. Jean spent her professional career as a special educator, but always maintained a deep-seated interest in her family background. It is with enthusiasm and commitment that Jean now researches and shares the strength and determination that enabled her loved ones to find a path to freedom.

After her lecture, Hoffman Lewanda will be on hand to sign copies of her book, which will be available for purchase that day.

Registration is requested by calling 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreeding.org Thank you to our Literatour Berks sponsors and partner Exeter Community Library for their support!

"ART, CULTURE & IDEAS"

THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING



RICHARD HUROWITZ IN CONVERSATION WITH ABE FOXMAN ON "IN THE GARDEN OF THE RIGHTEOUS"

Monday, April 10

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: May 8 June 12

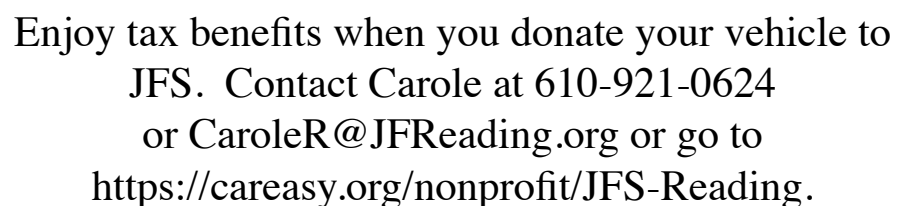
Academic Engagement Network

The petitioners note that, “[A]ntisemitism cannot be effectively combated

More than 1,000 global entities, including 850 government bodies such as the U.S. State Department, the European Union, and the United Nations, have adopted the IHRA definition as their official definition of antisemitism. More than half of U.S. states have individually

In the U.S. context, the definition should not be imposed as a hate speech code, but it is a sensible tool for understanding how antisemites may express their hatred against Jews in the form of anti-Israel expression, sometimes just by replacing the word “Jew” with the word “Zionist”

Former Canadian Member of Parliament and Minister of Justice Irwin Cotler and U.S. Rep. Donna Shalala serve on AEN's Advisory Board, chaired by former University of California President Mark G. Yudof. Deborah Lipstadt, a writer who specializes in addressing issues of antisemitism, was an AEN Advisory Board member before taking on the role of U.S. Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism.



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: 5/13, 6/17.

An update from Adi

By **Adi Shalev**

Shalom everyone!
Somehow, it has been seven months since I moved back to Israel, after living in Reading for three years. It's amazing how time flies and how long it took me to adjust back to life in Israel (on some days I feel like I'm still adjusting).

So, what happened since I moved back? I'm back in my hometown Modiin (which keeps developing and there were a lot of new places and buildings that were not there last time I was in Israel!), and I work as a project manager in a company that provides E-learning solutions to companies, organizations and governmental offices.

Back in December Craig and I got engaged, and now we are planning our wedding and our future together. I'm happy to be back with my family and friends, enjoying what Israel has to offer and feeling at home. With that being said, I do miss our community and our work together.

When I was in the U.S., I connected you to Israel, and now that I'm back in Israel, I give myself the right to "represent" you and talk about other perspectives that people here do not necessarily know or think about. I now have the ability to give people a better understanding about the Jewish U.S. communities.

And one more thing I want to share with you; As you may know, there is a lot going on in Israel these days with the new government and laws they are trying to apply.

I want to ask you, personally, to not forget that the government is not the



people of Israel, as you can see with the amount of people protesting on the streets and trying to protect our country.

I wish us all a happy Passover, full of family, great food, and freedom. I am sharing two of my favorite Passover recipes with you, I hope you'll try them and maybe they'll become part of your tradition too!

The first is Kubbeh Pateta, a traditional Iraqi dish (my great grandmother's recipe) for the holiday and the second is one of my favorite treats, Krembo Cake! I look at Passover as a reminder to be who we are and have the freedom to celebrate ourselves. What does Passover mean for you? (I'd love to hear from you!)

With love from Israel,
Adi Shalev
Shinshinadi@gmail.com

ADI'S KUBBEH PATETA

for Passover



"Kubbeh is a unique Pesach treat! My savta (Grandma) and Ima (mom) make it only during Passover. This is a dish my great-grandmother made in Iraq and the fact that we continue to the tradition, makes it so special to me."

DIRECTIONS

1. Boil the potatoes with the peel until you can insert a fork into them. Drain and peel and mash into mashed potatoes. Let cool.
2. To prepare the meat....fry the onion until golden. Add the ground beef, stirring frequently until browned and crumbled. Add black pepper and salt to taste. Let it cool.
3. Add the chopped parsley and optional almonds to the meat mix and set aside.
4. Add the egg, salt, turmeric, paprika, black pepper, and potato flour to the potato mixture. Mix until there are no potato chunks.
5. Prior to getting ready to fry the kubbeh, set aside a bowl of water and a baking tray with parchment paper.
6. In a separate bowl, beat one egg and 1/4 tsp each of salt, black pepper, turmeric, paprika,
7. Take 1 Tbsp of the potato mixture and make a ball. Wet your hands and flatten the ball, molding it into the shape of a bowl. Add the meat mixture into the center and fold potato mixture over top to close the ball and place on baking tray.
8. Heat oil in a large pan over medium - medium high heat.
9. Before placing in hot oil, dip the kubbeh in the egg mixture and then fry on both sides until brown.
10. Enjoy!

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE POTATOES:

- 5 medium potatoes
- 1 egg
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. turmeric
- 1/2 t. paprika
- 1/2 t. black pepper
- 2 T. potato flour (or other flour that is kosher for Passover

FOR THE MEAT:

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 lb. ground beef
- black pepper
- salt
- 1/2 c. chopped parsley
- 1/2 c. toast chopped almonds (almonds are optional)
- 1 egg
- 1/4 tsp each salt, black pepper, turmeric and paprika



ADI'S KREMBO CAKE

for Passover



"Krembo is one of my favorite treats in Israel. It is only sold during part of the year so when it is in the stores, you know winter is coming. Krembo is also a big debating topic in Israel because there is always the question...do you start eating from the top or the bottom?"

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
 2. Beat together egg whites and 1 cup of sugar until stiff.
 3. Add the yolks and beat again for a few seconds.
 4. With a spoon, add the instant chocolate pudding and baking powder to the mixture and fold gently.
 5. Spray a springform pan with oil, pour in mixture and bake for 15-20 min.
1. Beat the filling ingredients together.
 2. Spread over cooled cake base from Step 1.
 3. Place the cake in the freezer for at least 30 minutes. (It will make it easier to spread the chocolate cream)
1. Melt the heavy whipping cream and dark chocolate in the microwave in short pulses, until it is uniform batter.
 2. Spread batter over cooked bake.
 3. Place the cake in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

INGREDIENTS

CAKE BASE:

- 5 eggs
- 1 cup + 2 T. sugar (divided)
- 4 oz box instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 T. baking powder

FILLING:

- 16 oz heaving whipping cream
 - (for pareve, use nondairy)
- 4 oz box instant vanilla pudding
- 2 T. sugar

DAIRY CHOCOLATE CREAM:

- 4 oz heavy whipping cream
- 3.5 oz dark chocolate

PAREVE CHOCOLATE CREAM:

- 3.5 oz dark chocolate
- 2 T. margarine
- 1/4 c. water



Pediatric and Adult Patients Treating Ear, Nose, Throat Problems Thyroid Nodules, Neck Masses & Sinusitis



Physicians:

James P. Restrepo, M.D., FACS, ECNU
Charles K. Lutz, M.D., FACS
Jeffrey S. Driben, M.D., FACS, ECNU
Scott J. Cronin, M.D.
Adam P. Vasconcellos, M.D.

Nurse Practitioner:

Rosemarie Montgomery
MS, CRNP, FNP-C

THE AUDIOLOGY CENTER

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Author of WWII thriller appears at Literatour

Steven Hartov, author of “The Last of the Seven,” appeared at a Literatour event on March 1 at the Exeter Community Library. In Hartog’s novel, a team of European Jews escape the Continent, join the British Army and return home to exact their revenge on Hitler’s military. Hartov discussed his work and took time to sign books and meet with the audience.

WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A **RECOVERY SIMULATION**

A Recovery Simulation is an event that helps participants experience and understand the challenges faced by those in early recovery from substance use disorder.

PLEASE JOIN US

April 20, 2023 at 1:00 PM
at Easy Does It, Inc
1300 Hilltop Rd, Leesport, PA

HOW IT WORKS

- A 3-hour event with about 40 participants
- Participants receive a Life Card that represents a person in early recovery
- Each participant must complete "tasks" from the Life Card by visiting tables manned by volunteers (see chart above)

This event is made possible, in whole or in part, by funds received through the Berks County Opioid Settlement Agreement.

For more information or to sign up as a participant or volunteer, please visit sosberks.org or contact Jackie Steed at jsteed@cocaberks.org; (610)376-8669 ext 107.

SOS Berks is a coalition invested in providing our community with the tools to raise awareness, stop the stigma, and end opioid overdose deaths in Berks County, PA.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Criminal justice & human service professionals
- Educators, school administrators, college students in a related field
- Legislators & faith-based leaders
- Anyone wishing to understand the challenges of early recovery

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Volunteer to run a table
- Recruit participants

INTRODUCTION TO SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN

PROTECT YOURSELF

Sunday, May 7 at the JCC

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Join us for an introductory class with instructor Irv Gill, a 6th degree black belt in American Kenpo Karate. If attendees are interested in further education, the Federation will plan a 7-series class in the Fall.

- Learn crime statistics in our area
- Learn more about awareness and preparedness
- Learn several key defensive tactics
- Learn at least 1 new technique that can be a solution to more than one situation

Free for JCC members, \$18 for non-members

RSVP required to info@jfreeding.org or register online at ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Class size limit: 20 women ages 16+

Have you had the conversation?

By Carole Robinson

My title is catchy and you must have numerous thoughts on where I'm taking this article. No, I'm not talking about the dreaded conversation with your teen. Now that I cleared that up, let's talk about making important decisions! First, pull out your calendar and look at an important date coming up in April.



I'm sure that April 15 is a familiar date for all of you. It's the day that federal individual income tax returns usually are due to the IRS. But here's a date you may be unfamiliar with — April 16, the day after the tax deadline. What is April 16? It's National Healthcare Decisions Day. National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) was established as a nationwide initiative in 2008 to stress the importance of making decisions about your care prior to an illness or injury. It highlights advance care planning and considering

your options and preferences for future healthcare.

There's nothing more motivating than a pandemic to put urgency into making important health care decisions. COVID-19 made people understand the importance of talking with loved ones and health care providers. They do not want their loved ones to be burdened with tough healthcare decisions. Although most of us agree it is important to talk about values and wishes for care from now through the end of life, only about one third of us have actually had such a conversation.

Because this conversation may be difficult to start, The Conversation Project and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement created a "Conversation Starter Kit" to make it easier for people to talk about their wishes for end-of-life care. "Your Conversation Starter Kit" is not designed to be completed in one session. It is many conversations, broken down into four steps – Get Ready, Get Set, Go, and Keep Going. Each section provides space for you to evaluate what matters most to you to ensure your family

knows how you feel.

Step 1: Get Ready

Consider the facts and think about what you need to do before having the conversation.

Step 2: Get Set

Fill out a "Where I Stand" scale indicating how long you want to receive medical care and how involved you want your loved ones to be,

Step 3: Go

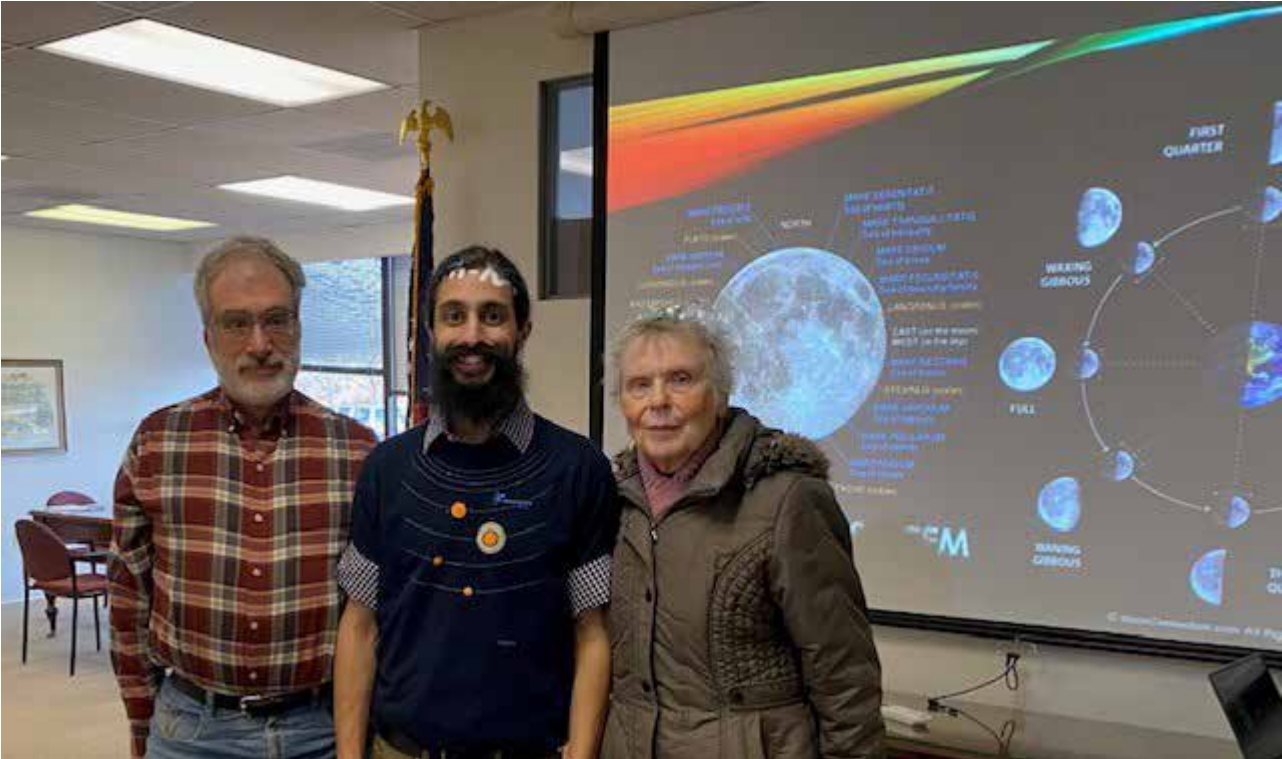
Answer questions about who you want to talk to and when/where would be a good time to talk.

Step 4: Keep Going

Legal and medical documents you should know about such as Health Care Planning (ACP), Advance Directive (AD), Health Care Proxy (HCP), and Living Will.

Winston Churchill once said, "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." If you would like to have this conversation with your loved ones, more information is available at www.TheConversationProject.org. Finish your taxes, screw up your courage, and start talking and listening.

Celebrating space at Friendship Circle



Berks Astronomy President Elan Lift teaches Friendship Circle about space on March 9. Pictured are Bret Miller, Elan Lift, and Lila Shapiro. Friendship Circle meets twice monthly for education, fun and fellowship. See below for this month's activities.

Friendship Circle April 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.

April 6 and 13 - No Friendship Circle; JCC closed for Passover

Thursday, April 27 - Steve Barth concert

Singer/guitarist Steven Barth will entertain with music from Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor, John Denver and older songs from musicals, including works by Rodgers and Hammerstein. You are welcome to sing along with Steve!



Plastic Grocery Bags Needed

JFS needs plastic grocery bags for our food pantries. Drop off at the Federation office between 9-4.

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Counseling Services

Transportation

Financial Assistance

Hospital and

Home Visitations

Living with Loss

Information and

Referral

Case Management

Holiday Programs

Do you remember?

By Tootie Moyer

Do you remember when you listened to music on a victrola and then you used a turn table?

In an office you used carbon paper to copy but now a printer is used.

Bath tubs had 4 feet.

You went to the dentist only when you had a toothache.

You didn't use a walker to walk you only had the use of crutches

Most homes had a coal bin in front of their home.

Dry cleaners did your laundry, they picked it up and delivered it.

Doctors did not use throw away gloves.

You talked to each other at dinner, now as soon as you are done eating, out comes the smartphone.

We walked to shul for services, there were no cars.

We kept our newborn babies in our own homes for a couple of weeks, now most go out in a week.

Girls wore dresses for every occasion, they did not wear slacks.

You sat on the windowsill to wash windows.

Mothers made their own mashed

baby food, now you can get it already made in jars.

The only cereals we had were corn flakes, all bran or Rice Krispie's?

You were so happy when your teacher picked you to clean the blackboards

Teachers could slap your hand or put you in the corner for misbehaving, not anymore

We sat in the rumble seat of a car with our hair blowing in the wind?

Penn Street was the only place to shop

During WWII we all had victory

gardens, patriotic gas and butter

Short hand was taught in high school.

These famous people: Carol Lombard, Betty Grabel, Vincent Price, Dolores Del Rio

Corned beef, lox, bagels, pastrami and Jewish pickles were only sold in a Jewish deli

You only used soap and water to wash your hands not a spray

Mom always said , "Eat your dinner, there's hungry children overseas."

Stay Well and give someone a hug!

See you soon, Tootie!

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 rehabs. This is what we're here for.

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



A BIG thank you to our hamentashen delivery team who helped spread Purim cheer to 100+ Jewish seniors!

Cindy Balchunas	Robert Schneider
Sue Farrara	Judy Schwank
Debbie Frank	Sharon Syret
Eddie Kazin	

Many thanks to our March Food Pantry Volunteers who distributed 15,800 lbs of food to 438 households!



Cindy Balchunas	Paul Mintz	Mike Schein
Raymond Gehring	Debra Montanino	Joan Sherman
John Incledon	Mary Neville	Michael Warshaw
Pete Jacobson	Annette Peppard	Phyllis Warshaw
Sid Lempiner	Jenny Reilly	Yvonne Wittels



SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION



Awarded Medicare's Highest Ranking – 5 STARS

Highest Quality Care | Private Suites | Resort-Like Surroundings

Our team of skilled therapists promote functional independence and wellness in a holistic, personalized way – we aspire to restore your health as quickly and safely as possible. Our beautiful new rehabilitation center includes 18 private suites and is complemented by services and amenities.

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THE HIGHLANDS
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Calling all Snowbirds!



Have you been receiving your Shalom at a 2nd location, or changed your address during the winter months?

Because Shalom is sent through bulk mail, it cannot be forwarded via 1st class mail.

Help us keep our records up to date! We appreciate your help in updating us when you leave, the address you would like us to use while you're away, and when you return. You can email us at info@jfreading.org or call 610-921-0624.



Thank you!

The national days of Israel

By Ziv Laskin
Community Shaliach

Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Hazikaron are two of the most important national holidays in Israel, and they hold great significance for Israelis. These two holidays are closely related to each other.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is Israeli Independence Day, while Yom Hazikaron is a day of remembrance for those who lost their lives in defense of the country.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is celebrated on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, which usually falls in late April or early May. This day marks the anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. The celebrations begin the night before, and Israelis across the country gather to celebrate their independence.

On Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli flags are displayed everywhere, and the streets are filled with parades, fireworks, and celebrations. Schools and workplaces are closed, and people gather with friends and family to enjoy traditional foods and celebrate their country's independence. Israelis typically spend this day outdoors, having barbecues, picnics, and attending concerts and other cultural events.

Every evening of Yom Ha'atzmaut my family and I watch the ceremony of the occasion and enjoy the time with each other. After that we meet with friends to watch the fireworks and partying on the colorful streets. It always warms my heart to see Israelis all over the country celebrate together the independence of Israel. On the day after, my family and I are among the millions of millions of people watching old Israeli movies and having a barbecue.

Yom Hazikaron, on the other hand, is a day of mourning and remembrance, and it is held on the day before Yom Ha'atzmaut.

On this day, Israel honors the memory of the soldiers and civilians who have lost their lives in defense of the country, as well as victims of terrorism. Throughout the day, sirens sound throughout the country, and people stand in silence to pay their respects to the fallen.

The commemoration of Yom Hazikaron begins the night before with an official ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. On the day itself, Israelis attend ceremonies and visit military cemeteries to lay flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers. At 11 a.m., a two-minute siren sounds throughout the country, and Israelis stand in silence to remember those who have lost their lives.

Yom Hazikaron is a very emotional day for me. While I was in school, we had a Yom Hazikaron ceremony every year, I remember the pain in my heart every time when the names of the fallen were read, even if I do not know any of them. This feeling increased during my service in the IDF. On Yom Hazikaron I visited a military cemetery. To stand next to the families who lost their love ones and knew it was now my turn to protect my country.

This feeling increased during my service in the IDF, on Yom Hazikaron I was visiting a military cemetery. To stand next to the families which lost their loved and give them a comforting hug and know that is my turn now to protect my country.

The two holidays are closely linked, as Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrates Israel's independence and the freedom and strength of the country, while Yom Hazikaron reminds Israelis of the sacrifices made to achieve and protect that independence.

The proximity of the two holidays serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of Israel's past, present, and future, and the ongoing struggle for peace and security in the region.

These days are so important for Israel and me, I'm so proud to be the Shaliach of Reading on these days and share the pride, mourning and happiness with our community.

The Jewish Federation invites you and your family to observe these significant and special days.

The Yom Hazikaron observance will be held on April 25.

The Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration will take place on April 30.

YOM HA'ZIKARON

On this day, Israel honors the memory of the soldiers and civilians who have lost their lives in defense of the country, as well as victims of terrorism.

Tuesday, April 25th
12 p.m. at JCC

Join us for this remembrance event to hear a story of a naval tragedy from Ziv Laskin, our Israeli emissary.

Desserts will be served after the event.

RSVP: Zivl@jfreeding.org
or
610-921-0624



Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks



YOM HAATZMAUT



Join us for a community celebration of 75 years
of Israeli Independence!

Sunday, April 30th
4-6pm

Held at Chabad 2320 Hampden Blvd

\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION PER FAMILY INCLUDES

SPEAKER, INTERACTIVE ISRAELI TRAIL ACTIVITY FOR

KIDS, HUMMUS SNACK, MUSIC AND MORE!

RSVP to info@jfreeding.org or
610-921-0624



Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks



Kesher Zion presents “An Afternoon With the Pros”

Kesher Zion Synagogue

Kesher Zion would like to thank everyone who came out to attend “An Afternoon With The Pros.”

Former Harlem Globetrotter Derek ‘The Wizz’ Murphy and ‘Up For The Challenge’ founder Tiffara Steward were able to give the children (and adults) valuable life lessons and then shared their basketball skills with the children. We hope everyone had a wonderful time.



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: April 16 and 30


Save the Date

Sunday, June 11

Jewish
Federation’s
Annual
Meeting

An adult evening of
Wine & Comedy

at the
GoggleWorks
Center for the Arts

Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

A day in New York for local families



Chabad Hebrew School families took a bus trip to New York that included visits to the headquarters of the OK labs, a stunning spa-like Mikva, a hand-baked matzah factory tour and a scribe, plus free time for shopping and eating. It was a fun, informative and eye-opening look at a day in the life of a large, busy Jewish community.

Reform Congregation
Oheb Sholom Invites You
to Attend Our

**Down the
Rabbit Hole of
Authoritarianism**
Presented by Millersville
University Professor Emeritus
Jack Fischel
Friday, April 21st

The events of August 17 in Charlottesville, Virginia, where neo-Nazis, wielding banners and swastikas, shouted "Jews will not replace us" marked a turning point for American Jews and our society as a whole. When President Trump, in the aftermath of the "unite the right" rally, responded by saying there were "very fine people on both sides," it became clear that the president had, perhaps unknowingly, legitimized ant-Semitism and racism as white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and other far-right groups moved from the shadows into the mainstream of our cultural and political life.

Dr. Fischel's lecture will detail how conspiracy theories, the use of the "big lie," and the challenge to factual reality threaten the very fabric of our democracy.

Dr. Jack Fischel taught for 36 years at Millersville University and subsequently taught a course on the Holocaust at Messiah College for the next 16 years. A prolific writer, Dr. Fischel is the author/editor of nine books on the Holocaust and Jewish popular culture and history.

Shabbat Service at 7pm. Speaker/Oneg at 8pm.



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
Kozloff Night of Music
SATURDAY, MAY 13TH AT 7 PM



This year's Jeraldine Kozloff Night of Music will feature the Dave Posmontier Ensemble from Philadelphia performing klezmer, jazz, and other music featuring (mostly) Jewish composers.

The Night of Music honors Jeri Kozloff's memory, raising money for the Jeraldine Kozloff Music Fund which supports Oheb Sholom's annual music programming, the wonderful performers that we will bring to the Temple to perform in our services and on other occasions.

You can show your support and purchase your tickets by visiting our website [OhebSholom.org](https://ohebsholom.org) and clicking on the appropriate link, using the QR code below, or going directly to:

<https://ohebsholom.org/kozloff-night-of-music/>



555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610
610.375.6034 • WWW.OHEBSHOLOM.ORG • TEMPLEOFFICE@OHEBSHOLOM.ORG

Purim fun around the community



Purim Party at Keshar Zion Synagogue.



"Purim in Hawaii" held at Chabad enjoyed a record-breaking crowd, delicious Hawaiian foods, Aloha hair braiding and an exotic bird show.



Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom hosted a Purim Carnival in conjunction with the Jewish Federation, as well as the annual Purim Spiel, an uproarious and original musical comedy written and staged by Mike Pardo.



At left, Creenjr and their families at a HamanTash bake at Chabad. At right, Chabad Hebrew School enjoyed a Red Carpet Purim, partying like Shushan celebrities! The children designed their own graggers, prepared Mishloach Manot and designed their very own mocktails and star cake pops. They made masks to review the Purim characters and enhance their costumes, then took part in a red carpet runway show to display their costumes!

Jewish Federations of North America news

Jewish Federations of North America

President Biden’s proposed 2024 budget includes critical investments in Jewish Federation priorities including support for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Holocaust survivors, Israel, and health care. Jewish Federations will continue to advocate to Congress in favor of these priorities, including the following:

Nonprofit Security Grant Program: \$360 million. This provides grants to nonprofits to help fund security measures.

Holocaust Survivors: \$8.5 million: The Holocaust Survivor Assistance Program is a partnership between Jewish Federations, the Administration for Community Living, Jewish family service agencies, and other partners to address the unique needs of the aging Holocaust survivor population, other older adults who have experienced trauma, and their caregivers. Jewish Federations are advocating for \$10 million in the final spending package.

Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act: \$15 million: This law, which Jewish Federations helped enact in 2021, assists the FBI in collecting hate crimes data and providing the Department of Justice with better tools to analyze these crimes. Jewish Federations are advocating for \$20 million in the final spending package.

Department of Justice Community Relations Service: \$28.1 million: Through providing community-based trainings to facilitate, mediate, and improve conflict prevention and response, this is a critical tool to build local communities’ capacity to prevent and respond to hate crimes. Jewish Federations will advocate that this program be funded at \$40 million.

Israel’s Defense: \$3.1 billion in security assistance and \$500 million in missile defense spending.

Middle East Partnership for Peace Act: \$50 million. The Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act funds people to people programs between Israelis and Palestinians.

Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism: \$1.7 million. This State Department role enables the United States to lead in the international fight against antisemitism. Jewish Federations will advocate for \$2 million in the final FY 24 appropriations package.

Refugee Support: \$17.8 billion. The budget proposal would help the Department of State to assist with the resettlement of up to 125,000 refugees and fund the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement to support health and human services for refugees arriving in the United States.

Situation in Israel

Thirty Federation leaders representing communities across the United States and Canada visited Israel to express their concerns with Israeli leaders on the proposed judicial reforms and to convey the implications these changes will have on the North American Jewish community.

In a joint statement the leaders released, they said, “While each of the parties has, to one extent or another, committed itself to seeking compromise, no process other than President Herzog’s efforts are underway at the intensity required to achieve success. It is our view that the time for compromise is now. Continuing to move the bills forward as currently formulated is causing harm that will not be easily repaired.

They continued, “We did not

advocate for a specific plan, but we did note that the essence of democracy is both majority rule and protection of minority rights. This balance is preserved through establishing checks and balances between legislative authority and an independent judiciary. We urged that a clearly articulated system of checks and balances be in the final plan.”

Members of the delegation met with President Isaac Herzog, Minister Nir Barkat, opposition leader Yair Lapid, MK Benny Gantz, MK Simcha Rothman, MK Danny Danon and other members of the Knesset, as well as senior business leaders who oppose the reforms.

Refugee resettlement

JFNA welcomed a recent statement by the Department of Homeland Security that humanitarian parole for Ukrainians whose

one-year admission was in danger of lapsing will be extended automatically by another year. This announcement means that as many as 20,000 Ukrainians who fled the invasion in its earliest days, as well as communities across the country who have helped resettle them, can breathe a sigh of relief knowing they will not be entered into removal proceedings.

“Guided by our Jewish values to extend our hands to support those in need, Jewish Federations will continue to advocate for policies that ensure displaced Ukrainians — thousands of which are being resettled by Jewish Human Services Agencies around the country - can continue to live in safety and security in the United States,” said AVP of Public Affairs & Government Relations at Jewish Federations of North America Darcy Hirsch.

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New Israeli pilgrimage route revives ancient path

Israel21c.org
After twice completing routes on the challenging Way of Santiago (Camino de Santiago), which attracts people of all ages from around the world, Golan Reiss had one question in his mind. Why didn't the Holy Land, a magnet for spiritual travelers over the centuries, have an official pilgrim's route that could end on a spectacularly high note in the city of three faiths, Jerusalem?
Reiss acknowledges Israel's Jesus Trail and National Trail but says these focus mainly on hiking in nature. What Reiss and his partner in the project, Yael Tersiuk-Nevo, started to map out seven months ago is a 400-kilometer route, The Way to Jerusalem, based on ancient Holy Land pilgrimages.
"This is a journey which exposes you to the tremendous power that comes from a long, physical walk through history, characters and symbols and always ends in a significant place," he said. "In addition to this physical path, and no less important, is the inner path pilgrims undertake." The spiritual path, he adds, "is something everyone makes on their own and does in his own way. It's not an Israeli way or our way, but something very personal."
It's also not limited to certain religions or cultures. Reiss would like to see Christians, Muslims and Jews walking the route, as was done historically.
"When we make a pilgrimage, such as The Way to Jerusalem, we are all equal and it doesn't matter what language we speak or what faith we hold," adds Reiss.
The turning point for Reiss, 54, came in 2021 after leaving his position in El Al's Security Division after 15 years. Always an avid hiker, Reiss felt it was time to do more than "look at views."
"I decided to put all my faith in the road and confront the rules and barriers that I had built around myself all my life.

It was time to let go of always planning and the pressure."
Reiss's first pilgrimage, on the Camino do Frances, took 43 days to traverse nearly 500 miles from France to northwest Spain. At the endpoint is where all the ancient pilgrim routes that crisscross Europe meet.
"It was a life-changing experience. I opened myself up to everything. I kept on thinking how amazing it is that an Israeli Jew can find friendship and a connection with Christian priests," Reiss says.
To plan The Way to Jerusalem, Reiss and Tersiuk-Nevo turned to, among others, Doron Bar, a professor of Land of Israel studies at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, who has widely researched the development of national holy places in Israel. They also consulted extensively with Open University Professor Ora Limor, a specialist in medieval history.
Tersiuk-Nevo was inspired after reading about Egeria, a lone woman pilgrim who in the fourth century walked from Galicia to Jerusalem over a period of four years and wrote a pilgrimage diary. She envisages The Way as an experience in which women can empower themselves physically and mentally.
The route that The Way will cover was used by Jewish pilgrims in the days of the Second Temple and by Christians in the fourth century. Muslims also made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, especially after the Ottoman conquest of Arab lands.
The route comprises four sections: The Commencement, The Attachment, The Challenge and The Silent Way.
Recently two pilot walks took place covering The Silent Way. The group took six days to walk from the Jaffa Port in Tel Aviv to Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem. Along the route they were hosted by locals in Beer Ya'akov, Yad Rambam, Neve Shalom,



A physical and spiritual path through Israel. Israel21c photo by Golan Reiss

Abu Ghosh and Ein Kerem. Reiss and Tersiuk-Nevo are still drawing up lists of simple, affordable guesthouses.
For Reiss, one of the highlights of this segment is Tel Gezer, an archeological site settled in the second millennium BCE near an ancient coastal trade route.
"It's immensely powerful because Tel Gezer is set on a hill overlooking the coastal plain and when you look left you

see urban Israel and to your right you see the mountains leading up to Jerusalem."
Reiss and Tersiuk-Nevo agree that the final hilly ascent up to Jerusalem is a physically challenging segment.
"But at the end of the day you do it at your own rhythm and build your mental resources. Pilgrimage teaches us the need for connection, sharing tolerance and patience," Reiss concludes.

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Youth group enjoys sushi making



Community Shaliach Ziv Laskin invited high school students for a Shabbat dinner with sushi making and games.

YOM HASHOAH

Holocaust Remembrance Day

Monday, April 17

7 p.m. at the Highlands

2000 Cambridge Ave. Wyomissing

Join us for a special candle lighting and evening of remembrance for victims of the Holocaust.

Hear the stories of survivors Esther and Sid Bratt who have lived in Reading for over 65 years

Open to the public. No RSVP required.

Survey explores young Latinos’ views on Jewry

American Jewish Committee

A new American Jewish Committee (AJC) study of Latino Millennial and Gen Z leaders in the United States reveals a troubling disconnect between this growing segment of the American population and the Jewish community.

Despite the growing number of antisemitic incidents over the past several years, 52% of Latinos, ages 18-40, say they perceive that Jews, in comparison to other minority groups, are facing the least amount of discrimination. 34% said the Jewish community is experiencing significant levels of discrimination, and 54% disagreed. Moreover, 42% of young Latinos say the Jewish community is well-positioned to fend for itself, while 39% say Jews need the support and collaboration of the Hispanic community.

“Amidst rising levels of antisemitism, including violent attacks on Jews across the United States, the misperceptions among younger Latino adults of the threats American Jews are facing are disconcerting,” said Dina Siegel Vann, Director of AJC’s Belfer Institute for Latino and Latin American Affairs (AJC BILLA). “The Latino and Jewish communities must bridge these gaps, especially when both minorities are targets of hate. We need to stand together as one against bigotry and violence in America.”

Discussion of the study will be the focus of the National Conversation of the State of Latino-Jewish Relations that AJC BILLA will convene with leaders of both communities on April 27 in Washington.

Through BILLA, AJC has prioritized building alliances between U.S. Latinos and Jews based on shared agendas.

Latinos are the fastest-growing

ethnic minority in the U.S. The Hispanic population has grown 23% since 2010, totaling more than 62.1 million people in 2020. 85% of the AJC study participants were born in the U.S.

The study of Latino Millennial and GenZ leaders in the U.S. was intended to gauge their views of discrimination and antisemitism in America as well as perceptions of U.S. Jewry and the State of Israel.

In general, 52% of young Latinos say they have a positive association with Jews, 15% say they have a negative association, and 32% are neutral. 47% believe there is a natural connection between Jews and Hispanics, while 33% say there is no connection, with 20% choosing to not answer.

Young Latinos, however, do not view American Jews as facing levels of discrimination similar to what they and other minorities endure. 50% of Latinos consider Jews more like whites than other minorities, while only 40% said Jews are like other minorities. 34% of Latino Millennial and GenZ leaders think Jews are facing significant levels of discrimination in the U.S. and 54% do not.

When participants were asked what they would call discrimination against Jews, 74% chose the term “antisemitism” and 13% provided other description that showed awareness and understanding of discrimination against Jews.

None of the 125 respondents offered a direct reference to current discriminatory activity against Jewish people in the U.S.

On the positive, 66% of those interviewed said that, as a young emerging leader, discrimination against Jews is an

issue they “personally have a responsibility to engage on and speak out against.”

Asked what their first thought about Jews is, 68% said they think first about Jews in the U.S., and 15% think first about Jews in Israel. 76% of young Latino adults are familiar, and 20% are not, with the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. 41% personally sympathize more with the Palestinians than with Israel, 24% sympathize more with Israel,

and 19% sympathize with both.

Respondents were not asked about the Holocaust, but many raised the topic, revealing they see it as a historical event that has no bearing on their lives. They do not see a connection between the persecution of Jews and their own experiences with discrimination, or that bigotry and violence targeting one minority can adversely affect others as well.

JFR Youth Event at the JCC

HAVDALAH & GAMES

Saturday, April 1
6:30–8 pm
Ages: 9-14

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Contributions as of March 17

Evelyn S. Thompson Nursery School Scholarship Fund

In memory of:

Ken Thompson, husband of the late Evelyn Thompson - Tyler and Jane Grey

Doris Levin Fund

In memory of:

Jenny Saft - Seth Gross

Holocaust Memorial Fund

In memory of:

Her grandparents, Celia and Maurice Kornblit and the Holocaust Center’s work to preserve the history of survivors - Michelle Kornblit and Rafi Huntley

Naum Ger - Esther and Sid Bratt

In honor of:

John Incledon’s 75th birthday - Ellice and Rich Gunter

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:

Marcia Gross - Anzie and Edward Golden

Ruth Isenberg - Anzie and Edward Golden

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

In honor of:

Sharon and Ron Berman’s new granddaughter, Aubrey - Debbie and David Goldberg

John Incledon’s 75th birthday - Anzie and Edward Golden

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:

Sharon and Ron Berman’s new granddaughter Aubrey - Corinne and Andy Wernick

Best wishes to Jewish Federation staff - Sylvia Wenger

In memory of:

Marcia Gross - Sheila and Bob Spector


Naum Ger - Corinne and Andy Wernick, Louise Zeidman


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.

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