



Shalom04|24

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

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- Noontime Knowledge
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- Community Holiday Programs
- Women's Philanthropy
- Counseling Services
- Leo Camp Lecture
- Lakin Holocaust Library
- & Resource Center
- Jewish Community
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Endowment is a symbol of Harry and Rose Sack's legacy

By Laurie Waxler

Federation is proud to announce the endowment of the Harry and Rose Sack Adult Programming Fund. Harry and Rose were a dynamic duo here in Reading and left quite a legacy.

Moving to Reading in 1947 from Indianapolis, Harry was hired as Director of the JCC, then located on North Fifth Street. During his 23-year tenure, he oversaw the move to the Hampden Heights location.

Harry's co-workers described him as a dedicated director who gave his all to build and support our Jewish community. In a previous article written by Judy Botvin, she noted that when Harry asked how you were, he truly wanted to know. He was kind and caring with an educational background in social work and loved nothing more than seeing people happy and engaged.

He focused on programming for all ages and loved the "hustle and bustle" when the JCC was the center of our Jewish community. In response to community members looking for increased involvement, Harry facilitated the development of today's Jewish Federation of Reading in the 1960s from the former, informal group known as the Reading Jewish Council.

As Federation Director, he developed,

among other things, a community relations program, a young leadership committee and the Shalom newspaper. He went on to serve as director of the Federation for four years until his retirement in 1974. Keeping busy after retirement, Harry was appointed as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 1981.

Harry met Rose when they were both studying social work, and they married soon after; they enjoyed a 52-year marriage before Harry's passing in 1992. Rose, having earned her master's degree, oversaw the JCC preschool from 1953 to 1971 and introduced the preschool summer day camp.

Many who grew up in Reading during this time fondly remember Rose as their nursery school teacher. She was also a faculty member at Albright from 1957 to 1976 and oversaw the social welfare curriculum, which she initiated and headed before retiring in 1976 as assistant professor emeritus of sociology.

In 1985, the college established the Rose S. Sack Award for Social Work. She was the first program coordinator for Berks County's Head Start program, appointed to the position by the United Way. Rose seemed to be on every committee in Reading that had anything to do with childhood welfare and education, taking on a variety of roles and was appointed by



Harry and Rose Sack

Gov. Richard Thornburgh to a three-year term as trustee at the Hamburg Center and reappointed for two additional terms. Rose passed away in 1999.

Many thanks to Harry and Rose's son Albert for bringing this endowment to fruition as a meaningful way to keep the memory of this amazing couple alive. Together, they dedicated a large portion of their lives to make our Jewish community a better place. Federation looks forward to utilizing these funds for educational adult programming for many years to come.



Kim Yashek Lockhardt speaks with Karen Frostig on screen during the 18th annual Richard Yashek Lecture at Albright College. Frostig's "The Art of Remembering" lecture was conducted via Zoom due to a travel issue. After inheriting letters written by her grandparents during the Holocaust, Frostig devoted herself to researching and sharing such materials.

Frostig's artwork is on display at Albright's Freedman Gallery through April 14.

Everyone has a cause ... what's yours?

Development

By Laurie Waxler
Development Director

Tikkun Olam is always at the forefront of Jewish tradition, and while I'm not sure it's just a Jewish thing, as I know many non-Jews who also want to save the world, it seems as though I surround myself with like-minded people.



Donations of time, talent and/or treasure not only make an impact in the world, but they also make us feel good. It can be a great feeling when we feel as though we're "doing our part." For some it's a monetary contribution, for others it may be time spent helping our Jewish Family Service at its monthly food pantries, and for others, it could be sharing one's expertise whether it be technology, dentistry, or maybe even sharing your travel stories with a group who can live vicariously through you. Whatever it is, it feels good!

This month I'm walking 50 miles with my puppy Gracie for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Having recently lost a friend to suicide, it seemed like the right thing to do. Rachel Radosh, a senior at Penn State, recently danced in the 46-hour dance marathon known simply as THON. While she personally raised a few thousand dollars,



Gracie sporting her bandana, walking in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

collectively, the dancers raised almost \$17 million for pediatric cancer. Cindy Chronister has been sharing her grandparents Karl and Mathilde's Holocaust Story on social media and to local school districts to raise awareness and help curb antisemitism.

I have no doubt I've missed many people in our community who are currently contributing to causes throughout Berks County, and if you're one of them ... Thank



Cindy Chronister sharing the Holocaust story of her grandparents with Wilson students.



Rachel Radosh, supported by her parents Jodi and Lee at THON at the Penn State Campus

you!! There are so many great causes out there and so many people in need, however, as Development Director of the Federation, I would be remiss not to ask you to think about Jewish Federation when looking for causes in which to donate gifts of time, talent and treasure. We do a lot of great things for our community too!

Thanks for supporting Israel Relief Campaign

By Laurie Waxler

Many thanks to all who have contributed as of March 12! Together we have raised over \$440,000 to aid victims and their families following the Oct. 7 terrorist attack on Israel. With hostages still in captivity, lives lost during and following the attack, families displaced from neighborhoods

that were destroyed and IDF soldiers returning to duty to defend their country, the humanitarian need is not just now, but will be needed for years to come.

All funds raised will be distributed to agencies vetted by Jewish Federation of North America. For a full listing of these agencies, please visit our website

at www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org.

Remember, it's not too late to add your name to the list! All donations up until April 30 will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Reading. Donations are accepted through our website, or checks can be mailed to the Federation at 1100 Berkshire Blvd, Suite 125, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

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Annual Campaign

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L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent

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JEWISH
COMMUNITY
CAMPAIGN**

Please visit

ReadingJewishCommunity.org

org

**Make your gift
today!**



The enduring significance of a strong State of Israel to the Jewish people

By **Brian Chartock**
CEO



The State of Israel stands as a beacon of hope, resilience and identity for the Jewish people worldwide. Established in 1948, it has served not only as a homeland but also as a symbol of collective strength, cultural revival and historical continuity.

As we continue to navigate the complexities of the modern world, the importance of a robust and secure Israel to the Jewish people cannot be overstated. Let us explore together the multifaceted reasons why Israel remains indispensable to Jewish identity and the future of the Jewish people.

Firstly, Israel is the fulfillment of a centuries-old dream of Jewish sovereignty. Throughout history, Jews have faced persecution, expulsion, and genocide, often due to their lack of a homeland. The establishment of the

State of Israel, therefore, represents the realization of a long-held aspiration for self-determination and security. By maintaining a strong State of Israel, the Jewish people can ensure their protection and preserve their cultural heritage for generations to come.

Secondly, Israel serves as a refuge for Jews facing persecution and discrimination around the world. As antisemitism persists in various forms, including violence, discrimination, and prejudice, Israel remains a safe haven for Jews seeking sanctuary from persecution. In times of crisis, Israel's open doors offer a lifeline to those in need, embodying the principle of "never again" in the wake of the Holocaust.

Furthermore, Israel plays a crucial role in fostering Jewish unity and solidarity. Despite differences in religious observance, cultural practices, and political beliefs, the Jewish people worldwide share a common bond rooted in their historical connection to Israel. By supporting and defending

the State of Israel, Jewish communities strengthen their sense of belonging and commitment to one another, transcending geographic and cultural divides; moreover, Israel serves as a center for Jewish culture, education, and innovation. From its vibrant arts scene to its world-renowned universities and technological advancements, Israel continues to contribute significantly to global civilization.

By maintaining a strong State of Israel, the Jewish people can continue to nurture their intellectual, artistic, and scientific achievements, enriching not only their own community but also humanity as a whole.

In addition, Israel's security is vital for the preservation of Jewish heritage sites and historical landmarks. With the city of Jerusalem at its very heart, Israel safeguards sacred sites such as the Western Wall, the Old City, and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial. By protecting these sites, Israel ensures the continuity of Jewish history and memory,

thus providing future generations with a tangible connection to their past.

Furthermore, Israel's strategic significance extends beyond its borders, serving as a bulwark against regional instability and threats to global security. As a democratic oasis in a volatile region, Israel promotes stability, democracy and peace through its alliances and partnerships with like-minded nations. By defending its borders and promoting peace through strength, Israel contributes to the stability and security of the entire Middle East and beyond.

A strong State of Israel remains indispensable to the Jewish people for numerous reasons. From fulfilling historical aspirations to providing refuge, fostering unity, preserving culture, and promoting security and peace, Israel serves as a linchpin of Jewish identity and continuity.

As we look to the future, it is imperative to support and strengthen Israel, ensuring its enduring significance Dor L'Dor — for generations to come.

Diversity Night at the Reading Phillies

By **Laurie Waxler**

Jewish Federation will once again be teaming up with the Greater Reading Unity Coalition to bring Diversity Night at the Reading Phillies to our Berks County community. The date is set for Sunday, June 30, with the first pitch at 5:15 pm.

The community building event brings together our Federation, Centro Hispano, Islamic Center of Reading, LGBT Center, NAACP and Bring the Change — all uniquely diverse groups working to bring our community members together regardless of race, gender or religious preference.

Last year, members from each organization carried the American flag onto the field during the national anthem. Sen. Judy Schwank joined us on the field, as did several other elected officials. It was a great day, and we hope to have the same beautiful weather and attendance we had last year!

Free tickets will be available closer to the date through our Jewish Federation.

Sponsorships are available for between \$250 and \$1,000, please contact Laurie Waxler for more information at LaurieW@jfreading.org or call our office at 610-921-0624.

Israel Emergency Loan Fund

Jewish Federations of North America

Jewish Federations of North America have launched the Israel Emergency Loan Fund to inject hundreds of millions of dollars into the Israeli economy. This new program provides a lifeline to small businesses across Israel severely impacted by the war and without access to traditional banking credit.

Israel is enduring an economic crisis. Businesses are struggling to survive amid unprecedented pressure. Some measures suggest 25% of all small businesses have experienced revenue

declines of more than 50%, with 77% of small businesses in the north and south experiencing revenue declines of more than 50%.

The Loan Fund aims to attract \$100 million in philanthropic investment capital in partnership with Federations, foundations, and other donors, of which over half has been raised. Through credit lines with the banks, these loans can be leveraged up so that the Loan Fund and its partners will be providing hundreds of millions of dollars of essential capital to the Israeli economy at this time of need.

Community Shabbat



Susan Wilson with Sen. Judy Schwank at Federation's Community Shabbat hosted by Kesher Zion Synagogue on March 1. The event featured a special service followed by a community dinner.

Shalom

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April ✨ Adar II-Nisan



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

April 5
7:15 p.m.

April 6/27 Adar II
Shabbat HaChodesh (Leviticus 9:1-11:47)

April 12
7:22 p.m.

April 13/5 Nisan
Tazria (Leviticus 12:1-13:59)

April 19
7:30 p.m.

April 20/12 Nisan
Metzora (Leviticus 14:1-15:33)

April 26
7:30 p.m.

April 27/19 Nisan
Pesach (Exodus 33:12-34:26)

History focus for pair of Literatour Berks events in April

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Richmond, Virginia, 1811. At the city's only theater, the Charleston-based Placide & Green Company puts on two plays a night to meet the demand of a populace that's done looking for enlightenment at the front of a church.

On the night after Christmas, the theater is packed with more than 600 holiday revelers. When the theater goes up in flames in the middle of the performance, follow four different Richmond residents who need to make a series of split-second decisions that will not only affect their own lives but those of countless others. And in the days following the fire, as news of the disaster spreads across the United States, the paths of these four people will become forever intertwined. Author Rachel Beanland's second novel, "The House is on Fire" is riveting historical fiction inspired by the real events of the theatre fire in Richmond in 1811.

Rachel Beanland was last in Reading during our second season of Literatour Berks in the fall of 2020 with her debut novel Florence Adler Swims Forever. Beanland returns on Wednesday, April 3 at 6 p.m. at Exeter Community Library with her second novel, "The House is on Fire." RSVP to



info@jfreeding.org or call the library at 610-406-9431.

Joining us at Noontime Knowledge on Tuesday, April 16 is Richard Hurowitz, author of "In the Garden of the Righteous: The Heroes Who Risked Their Lives to Save Jews During the Holocaust." This nonfiction title offers illuminating and inspiring profiles that pay tribute to the incredible deeds of the Righteous Among the Nations, little-known heroes who saved countless lives during the Holocaust.

Less than a century ago, World War II took the lives of more than 50 million people; more than 6 million of them were systematically exterminated through crimes of such enormity that a new name to describe the horror was coined: the Holocaust. Yet amid such darkness, there were glimmers of light—courageous individuals who risked



Rachel Beanland and Richard Hurowitz

everything to save those hunted by the Nazis.

Today, as bigotry and intolerance and the threats of fascism and authoritarianism are ascendant once again, these heroes' little-known stories — among the most remarkable in human history — resonate powerfully. Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem, has recognized more than 27,000 individuals as "Righteous Among the Nations" — non-Jewish people such as Raoul Wallenberg and Oskar Schindler who risked their lives to save their persecuted neighbors.

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!

Sense your world at PJ Library Storywalk

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Spring has sprung with daffodils popping up, sun shining and warm breezes. Join us for a fun, spring outdoor event with author Susan Verde and your friends from PJ Library on Sunday, April 21, at 4 p.m. at the Storywalk at Exeter Community Library, 4565 Prestwick Drive, Exeter Township.

The library's outdoor storywalk will feature Verde's new picture book "Can You See It?: Sensing Your World." Gracefully written by Susan Verde, bestselling author of the I Am

books, and winsomely illustrated by Juliana Perdomo, the "Sensing Your World" series teaches little ones to experience the world around them more deeply, using the five senses to find joy, connection, and beauty in the small, everyday moments. "Can You See It?" encourages us to look closer to see deeper — not just with our eyes, but with our whole hearts.

Susan Verde is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling children's book author and a children's yoga and mindfulness expert.

She has written more than 20 picture books, and she is a highly sought-after speaker at conferences, festivals, and schools across the nation. Verde is a frequent contributor to online publications and has appeared on multiple podcasts about writing, parenting, mindfulness, and yoga.

Registration is requested by calling the library at 610-406-9431 or email info@jfreeding.org. Thank you to our Literatour Berks sponsors and partner Exeter Community Library for their support!

Jewish Cultural Center

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

"ART, CULTURE & IDEAS"

THE HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE IN CONVERSATION WITH HODA KOTB:
REFLECTIONS ON FAITH
A PRE-RECORDED PROGRAM

MONDAY, APRIL 8
1:30 PM

CULTURAL CENTER AT THE
HIGHLANDS AT WYOMISSING
2000 CAMBRIDGE AVE.

Art, Culture & Ideas is a monthly series



Lakin Preschool offering summer camp

By Judy Lefante and Wendy Bright
 It is spring, and our thoughts quickly turn to summer camp and our 2024-2025 school year.
 This year Lakin Preschool is offering four weeks of summer camp. Register for one, two, three or four weeks of camp. The last two weeks of June seem like a perfect time to begin outdoor water play and activities. Camp will begin at

9 am and end at noon Monday through Friday.
 Our themes for June are as follows: June 17-21 will be Super Heroes and June 24-28 is Shark Week.
 Camp will resume on July 8-12 with the theme of Pirates and Treasure, and our last week of camp, July 15-19 will include a trip through our solar system.

Registration can be completed online at ReadingJewishCommunity.org or by calling Wendy and Judy at Lakin Preschool.
 Lakin Preschool registration is now open for the 2024-2025 school year. We are a state-licensed Preschool with weekly themes aligned to state standards. We have classes for 2-,3-and 4-year-olds. We are looking forward to greeting new

faces and welcoming back our 2's and 3's who will be in exciting new classes. Tours of the school can be arranged upon request. Please consider registering by June 30.
 Registration can be completed online at ReadingJewishCommunity.org and in-person at Lakin Preschool. Please call to arrange a tour of our facility at 610-223-8058.

Youth Group
 Ages 6-13

READING ROCKS

550 George St. Reading
 Saturday, April 20
 5:45-8pm

\$18 per child
 \$15 for JCC member child
 Pizza & drinks included

Scan the QR code to download the waiver form and bring it with you.



RSVP: Zivl@jfreading.org

LAKIN PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

FOR AGES 2-5
 MON - FRI
 9 AM - 12 PM

A new theme each week!

Camp Weeks:
 June 17 June 24
 July 8 July 15

located in Wyomissing Hills
 555 Warwick Drive, inside Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
 Everyone Welcome!
 \$160 per week

ACTIVITIES:

- Storytelling
- Painting
- Arts & Craft
- Fun Games
- Music & Dance
- Water Play

SCAN HERE TO SIGN UP!

LAKIN PRESCHOOL

FOR MORE INFO:
 610-223-9058
lakinpreschool@jfreading.org
 Register online: ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Happy Passover!

Just a reminder that The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks will be closed Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday, April 24 as well as Monday, April 29 and Tuesday, April 30th in observance of Passover.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

STEVEN LEVINE

RECIPIENT OF REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM'S RUTH & IRVIN BALIS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
 AWARD PRESENTATION AT 6:00 PM
 COCKTAILS & HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES TO FOLLOW

\$36 PER PERSON. DRESSY CASUAL ATTIRE, NO JEANS.
 REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM, WYOMISSING, PENNSYLVANIA
 THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ADULTS ONLY.

RSVP BY MARCH 29

Understanding the power of Pesach for so many Jews

By Rabbi Brian Michelson
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom



Do you know what the most celebrated Jewish Holiday is? It is not Chanukah, despite all the hoopla that we see surrounding the holiday. It is not either of the High Holidays; Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur. The holiday that is celebrated in some way by more Jews than any other holiday is the festival of Passover.

The most recent Pew Study reported that 62% percent of all identified Jews observe Passover in some way. It may be by attending a seder, doing a special house cleaning or not eating certain foods during the holiday. Of those who consider themselves religiously Jewish, nearly three-quarters celebrate Pesach

in some fashion. I have often wondered why this was the case, but if you think about it, it does make sense. Passover is a holiday whose focus is on the home and not the synagogue. We clean our homes, have seders, and celebrate the day-to-day of this holiday in our homes.

Of course, there are special services and Torah readings for the holiday, but they pale in comparison to what this holiday means for us at home.

In addition, because this is such a home-based celebration, I think it is one of the holidays that builds the greatest and most long-lasting memories. I grew up going to synagogue on Pesach, but my real memories are about sitting at the table with my grandfather who rarely did anything overtly Jewish, but he had to lead the seder every year.

I think I still remember the entire first paragraph of the Haggadah we used and

I hear it in his voice. I also recall sitting around the table at my great-aunt's house as we worked our way through the entire Haggadah, but with the added challenge of no two books being the same. We constantly argued about where we were in the service and how much long it would be until we finally ate. These memories are strong because they are about being surrounded by family and friends in a place, we feel safe and at home.

I think that this is, for me, part of the wonder of Judaism. There is not just one way to be Jewish or to feel Jewish. There are a multiplicity of ways, and we are challenged to each discover what brings meaning and builds memories and connection. Last summer, Holly and I had the opportunity to be in Israel, and we visited the new ANU museum that took over from the Museum of the Diaspora. On one of the walls, there was a paragraph that spoke to me about exactly this concept. I

took a picture of it and I have been carrying it on my phone. It said:

"In this day and age, there are many and diverse ways to be Jewish and belong to the Jewish people: a collective memory, a bond with Israel, a connection with the Jewish religion, knowing and using Hebrew and Jewish languages, an affinity with Jewish culture, a kinship with other Jews and any Jewish groups, ties with family and origins ... each of these ways, separately and combined, constitutes a foundation for the multifaceted identity of Jews as individuals and as a group in modern times.

And what is your way?"

As we prepare for this year's Passover holiday, I want you to reflect on the final question, "And what is your way?" May you find an answer that brings you joy, warm memories, and blessings this Pesach season.

Looking ahead and behind

By Cantor Ted Prosnitz
Keshet Zion Synagogue



I am writing this during Women's History Month, when we complete reading Sefer Shemot, the Book of Exodus, and thinking about Passover. There are four special Sabbaths preceding Passover, known as the Arba Parashiot:

- Shabbat Shekalim-reminds of to support our synagogues and Jewish communal institutions
- Shabbat Zachor-reminds us to be faithful to God and stand up to Jewish hate

- Shabbat Parah-in time to cleanse and prepare for Pesach
- Shabbat HaChodesh-announces the beginning of the new Jewish calendrical year.

The number four is very prominent in the course of our Passover Seder. The source for this are the four expressions of redemption cited from the Torah:

- "I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians
- and deliver you from their slavery;
- I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty judgment.
- I will take you to Me as a nation. (Ex. 6:6-7).

Accordingly, there are Four Cups of wine, Four Questions, and Four Children.

In fact, one way of understanding the Haggadah (literally, The Telling) is to read it as Four Acts, each with a Question, an Answer, and followed by Praise.

(By the way, there are Four Verses of Redemption in Megillat Esther/The Book of Esther read on Purim: (2:5, 8:15, 8:16, 10:3). Look them up. You can find them in a Hebrew Bible/Tanakh, a worthwhile possession to have in every home.)

But I especially want to bring to mind four of our ancestors who are not specifically mentioned in the Haggadah, but may be associated with each cup of wine-our Four Matriarchs:

- Sarah, who brought non-Jewish women to the Abrahamic faith in the One God
- Rebecca, who preserved and promoted Jacob and thus became the

Mother of Israel

- Rachel, who was barren but was eventually blessed with a son, Joseph. Joseph's life took the children of Israel to Egypt from whence Israel became a nation
- Leah, who said, "I will praise Hashem" (Gen. 29:35) and is thus associated with the Hallel portion of our Haggadah.

Our seders celebrate Hashem's hand in history. Our weeklong Hag Ladoshem/festival to the Lord recalls the first Passover and the physical removal of chometz/leaven from our homes. We can also seek to remove the spiritual chometz/sour in our hearts.

May you and all your loved ones enjoy this z'man heireuteinu/season of our liberation.



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
invites you to a
First Night
Community Passover Seder
Monday, April 22, 2024 at 6 PM



MENU: Matzo Ball Soup, Brisket, Gefilte Fish, Tossed Salad, Matzah, Herb Roasted Bliss Potatoes, String Beans, Desserts, & Beverages (Decaf, Coffee, Juice, Tea, & Wine)

Vegetarian Option: Eggplant Rolotini w/ Matzah Stuffing (Please Specify)

Hoping to see all of you as we gather together as a community to share our Seder Meal!

Thank you to the Jewish Federation of Reading for the support of this Seder.

RSVPs and payment due to the RCOS Office by **Monday, April 1, 2024.**
Please pay online at OhebSholom.org or send completed reservation form & check made payable to RCOS:
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

[If financial assistance is necessary, please contact Rabbi Brian Michelson at the Temple at 610-375-6034.](mailto:rcos@ohesholom.org)

NO RESERVATIONS will be accepted after Monday, April 1st. NO WALK-IN SEATING WILL BE AVAILABLE.

of Adults: _____ x \$40.00/each = _____ Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

NAMES (first & last): _____

of Children (6-13) _____ x \$25.00/ea.ch= _____ # of Children (0-5) _____ (need high chair?) yes _____

NAMES (first & last): _____

If you are able to sponsor a college student or someone who is unable to pay: Amount _____

TOTAL # ATTENDING: _____ TOTAL PAYMENT SUBMITTED = _____

Please indicate any seating preferences: _____

* Please provide the names of all attending the Seder so we can make everyone feel welcome with a name tag!*




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RSVP by April 15th to:
office@chabadofberks.org



The deeper meaning of removing chametz from home

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker
Chabad Center of Berks County

The statement, "Let them eat cake," allegedly expressed by Marie Antoinette, sums up the glaring class division in France that led to the French Revolution.



So far removed was she from the plight of most of her fellow countrymen that she couldn't begin to comprehend their condition. To us, her response to the situation seems absurd and ignorant. "The people have no bread? Let them eat cake!" However, it was indicative of a far

greater problem. The upper class of France held themselves so far above the rest of the population that they couldn't even begin to relate to their problems, let alone solve them.

The main problem of the French royal family was arrogance, an arrogance so severe that it took an all-out revolution, a war in the streets, to bring about change.

Getting rid of our ego is one of the themes of Passover

On Passover we are forbidden to eat leavened foods, chametz. In fact, we cannot have any chametz in our homes, nor can we benefit from it in any way during the week of Passover.

Therefore, in the days and weeks before the holiday we devote time to

ridding our homes of even the slightest crumbs of chametz.

Our sages compares the character trait of arrogance to chametz, and the trait of modesty to matza, because chametz must rise up and become inflated, as in ego, while matzo is by its very nature flat, unobtrusive.

There is a story of a disciple of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi, the first Chabad Rebbe. This student was granted a private audience with him, and when he entered the Rebbe's study he asked him, "What do I lack?"

The Rebbe answered him, "You lack nothing in the area of scholarship and fear of G-d.

However, you must get rid of the

chametz in your character, your inflated ego. The cure for this is matza, which symbolizes humility and the setting aside of one's own self for the sake of serving G-d."


Implementing the advice given by the Rebbe to his student, we can look at Passover cleaning as something we do not do just to our homes, but to ourselves. As we peer into each and every corner, dig through every closet, and clean out everything, we are instructed to do the same with our own characters, to look for ways to refine ourselves from our arrogance and grow through humility.

Wishing you all a kosher and happy Passover!

Commissioners Town Hall

Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30 PM

Join us at the Exeter Community Library as we host Commissioners of Berks County for a Town Hall event! The commissioners will share information about the county and take questions from the public.



4569 Freshwick Dr.
Reading, PA 19606
www.berkslibraries.org/exeter
610-406-9431

SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Federation of Reading's

Annual Meeting

Join us for a family picnic in the Wyomissing Hills park!
More details coming soon!

June 2, 2024

11:30 am - 2:00pm



vote.pa.gov

Passover and the Primary


Passover begins at sundown on **Monday, April 22**, and Pennsylvania's **primary election** is **Tuesday, April 23**.

APRIL 2024

1	2	3	4	5		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 DEADLINE TO APPLY	17	18	19	20
21	22 PASSOVER BEGINS	23 PRIMARY DAY	24	25		
28	29	30				

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You can also donate clothing anytime in the bin in our parking lot located at 1100 Berkshire Blvd.



Your donations turn into financial assistance to support the important work we do in our community!

ADL conference a powerful experience

By Margo Levin

I had the opportunity to attend the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) conference #NeverIsNow on March 6 at the Javits Center in New York.

We heard from prominent speakers, including Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO and National Director. We also heard from Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt (Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism), Nuseir Yassin (an Israeli-Palestinian vlogger known as Nas Daily), and Dara Horn (an award-winning author and the Creative Advisor for the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History). The speakers addressed the alarming rise of antisemitism in the U.S. and worldwide and shared useful tools on how to combat the very difficult task of dealing with it.

There were eye-opening breakout sessions on a variety of topics including protecting Jewish communities against Swatting, new ways to fight anti-Zionism



and antisemitism at colleges, empowering allies in the fight against extremism and hate, how to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive in the digital age and how social media disinformation shapes the 2024 election.

One particularly meaningful panel (that especially got my attention) was Women's Voices on Sexual Assault as

a Weapon of War and Antisemitism: Oct. 7 and beyond. There was not a single empty seat in the room for this panel, which drew an audience of not only women but also men and many students.

A discussion was held regarding the sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas against Israeli women and men. The evidence is clear: Horrific acts of sexual violence were committed.

What is so disturbing is the denial and the silence by woman's organizations from around the world. This is a troubling precedent not only for Israeli women but for all victims of sexual violence no matter where it takes place.

Just as Israelis from every walk of life came together in the face of the atrocities inflicted on the nation on Oct. 7, so too have Jewish women's organizations in the U.S., including the National Council of Jewish Women, Jewish Women

International and Hadasah International. They have come together to work on behalf Israeli women, Jewish women and, most significantly, all women. If you are not already familiar with these organizations and the worthwhile cause that they support, please check them out.

Despite these dark times, I did see the unity among us, and I am hopeful for the future given that half of the 4,000 attendees were young adults and represent a new generation of leaders in the Jewish community who are ready to stand up for Israel and the Jewish people throughout the world.

As Jonathan Greenblatt told us: "The time for complacency is over. We can't assume American Jewish life will be a comfortable life — unless we transform from observers to activists and onlookers to advocates. We will not let our country be lost to the antisemites. We will fight. We will win."

An eye-opening education on antisemitism

By Alex Civil
Bring the Change

When I was invited to attend the "Never is Now" event by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, I was unsure of what to expect. After a long ride from Pennsylvania to New York, I arrived at the Javits, eager to learn.

The morning session featured a variety of great speakers covering multiple topics. One speaker who particularly stood out to me was Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt. Her extensive knowledge and impressive resume were evident as she discussed antisemitism. Previously, I believed that educated individuals were less likely to be racist or antisemitic, but her insights challenged that notion. One of her quotes that resonated with me was, "Individuals can be both a PhD and an SOB simultaneously," highlighting that education does not necessarily prevent antisemitism.

During the event, I learned about the "J7 task force," representing the seven

largest Jewish diaspora communities worldwide: the United States, France, Argentina, Canada, Australia, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Intrigued by this group, I attended their breakout session on "How Global Leaders are Fighting Antisemitism Together."

The panel discussed the global efforts to combat antisemitism. Marie Van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, shared insights from Britain, where some Jewish children hide their identity due to safety concerns. Canadian Jews feel a sense of betrayal, while American Jews faced challenges after the Pittsburgh massacre, with some experiencing boycotts reminiscent of 1930s Germany. The panelists also highlighted the sense of solidarity and support from governments and law enforcement worldwide, including the Church of England, the Royal Family, and the US and Canadian governments.

The conference introduced

me to many new terms, including DARVO, which stands for Denying Attack Reverse the roles of Victims and Offenders, describing the act of blaming the victim for the offender's actions. This phenomenon is seen in international politics in conflicts around the world.

Another term I learned was the phrase "from the river to the sea," describing the geographical area from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. This phrase has different meanings depending on the perspective, with some viewing it as a Zionist movement similar to the Monroe Doctrine in U.S. history, while others see it as a call to wipe Israel off the map.

One of the most impactful moments of the event was the presentation of the Daniel Pearl Award to Nuseir Yassin, also known as Nas Daily. Nuseir, a person of mixed Palestinian and Jewish heritage, shared his experiences of facing backlash after making videos promoting unity between Israel and Palestine. His story resonated with me, as I have often found myself under fire from both sides while trying to promote unity and understanding.

Overall, the event emphasized the importance of standing up against antisemitism and promoting unity, even in the face of adversity. It highlighted the need for global collaboration and legislative action to combat hate speech and discrimination. I firmly



Margo Levin and Alex Civil at the ADL Conference.

believe that we all have a role and obligation to this world as soon as we are alive.

In conclusion, I echo Kofi Annan's sentiment: "We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race."

April 15 at 1:00

Movie Monday



Three Minutes A Lengthening

"Three Minutes-A Lengthening"



A home movie shot by David Kurtz in 1938 in a Jewish town in Poland. It is the only moving images left of the Jewish inhabitants of Nasielsk before the Holocaust. The existing three minutes are examined to unravel the human stories hidden in the celluloid.

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



Grab a seat for a Jewish themed movie each month at the JCC. It is usually held on the 4th Monday of the month, the popcorn and the movie are both free!

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Social action at Kesher Zion



The Kesher Zion Social Action Committee is excited by its ongoing mitzvah project. The group partnered with the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren to help those in need at the New Journey Community Outreach/Food Pantry. New Journey is a nonprofit organization supporting those in need in our community. They have approximately 300 people in need of a meal each day. KZSA volunteers make 20 pounds of BBQ to add to the batches made by the volunteers from the church for distribution to those served by New Journey. Volunteers from both groups fill lunch bags and deliver the bags and the BBQ to New Journey.



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Obituary

Julian Joseph "J.J." Syret, 82 of Wyomissing, passed away on March 7. Born in Baltimore, Julian served in the Coast Guard and was employed as a salesman for MJ Earl in Reading from 1969 until his retirement in 2017. He

was a congregant at Chabad- Lubavitch of Berks County and volunteered at the JFS food pantry. Julian is survived by his wife, Sharon, daughter Jennifer L. Gresh and husband, Steven; and grandchildren Ryan Syret and Mackenna Gresh. His son Louis Syret predeceased him in 2015.

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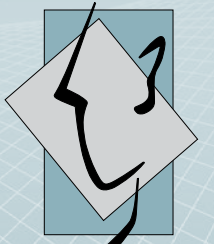
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Climbing the mountain of age

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

My husband Mike and I hosted a birthday party for my mother-in-law when she turned 50. I was in my early 20s, and I still have a vivid memory of thinking how old “50” was. My perspective has certainly changed as I age; now I think of people in their 50s as middle-aged and people in their 80s as older adults!



And I’m not the only one whose views on aging are changing! Roseanne Leipzig, MD, PhD, a top doctor with more than 35 years of experience caring for older people, spoke about our society’s perceptions of growing old and ageism at the Federation on March 13. Her book “Honest Aging: An Insider’s Guide to the Second Half of Life” describes what to expect physically, functionally, and emotionally as you age with practical advice, empathy, and humor.

One of the main points that stood out to me in her presentation and her book was Dr. Leipzig’s positive attitude towards aging. She provided a reality check for people 85 and older, quoting statistics, “Most of us will live into old age and be in good shape.” It is important that we keep a positive attitude as we age, as studies show that people who have a negative view of aging live 7½ years less and perform worse on memory and hearing tests.

I can understand why people might have negative views about aging. These fears stem from the uncertainties around death, physical and mental deterioration, being alone, being a burden and diminishing relevance. However, we all have to recognize that as we age, change is inevitable; according to Dr. Leipzig, “normal aging” involves physiological, psychological, and functional changes that occur in most people as they get older. What is essential to growing old is not fighting the fact that we are changing, but how we embrace these changes, and this can make all the difference!

For instance, you will walk more slowly, have flabbier arms and a pot belly, have “senior moments,” be more sensitive to medicine, urinate more during the night and



feel less thirsty when dehydrated. Other geriatric symptoms are common: falls and balance problems, cognition issues, loss of vision and hearing, dizziness, incontinence, sleep problems and frailty. With exercise, many of these issues may resolve. So, instead of having a negative attitude (“I’m too shaky to take walks”), take the viewpoint to see this as an opportunity to try something new (“I’m joining a yoga class to improve my strength and balance!”).

That’s the whole MO around Dr. Leipzig’s book: shifting your attitude towards aging. Despite the challenges of aging, Dr. Leipzig pointed out the upsides — you become less insecure, you say and do what you want, you focus on the present and what’s important, you have more emotional control, and increased wisdom. She advised us to think about what we will do with the rest of our lives and suggested adapting to the “new normal” by reframing what it means to be independent.

Dr. Leipzig summed up her thoughts on cultivating a positive mindset around this “new normal” and aging: “I think the first thing is to recognize that if we’re lucky, we’re all going to get old ... I think it’s really recognizing the self-fulfilling prophecy that’s in there and also standing up and resisting ageism wherever you see it.” I highly recommend those going through the aging process now to read her book. “Honest Aging” is available for purchase at our official book vendor, Reads and Company Bookshop, [ReadsandCompany.com](https://www.ReadsandCompany.com).

As someone who is actively climbing the “mountain of age” (Mike is turning 70 this month!), I purchased the book and continue to focus on positive thinking! My personal mantra around aging echoes the actress Ingrid Bergman: “Growing old is like climbing a mountain; you get a little out of breath, but the view is much better.” Order the book and embark on your own adventure climbing the mountain of age!

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



JFS thanks ...

Lakin Preschool children and parents for their donation of \$130.50. This tzedakah will be used to purchase food for our JFS food pantries. The children also participated in a tzedakah project, packing lunches which will be given to children facing food insecurity. Thank you for your generosity and for caring about others.

Fun times at Friendship Circle



Above, Robert Schneier and Mary Engleson sharing a laugh at Friendship Circle. At right, Louise Zeidman and Carole Robinson enjoying President's Day fun at Friendship Circle on March 15.

Friendship Circle meets twice monthly for entertaining and educational programs along with a chance to see friends. See below for scheduled events in April.

JFS food pantries keep doing great work

Many thanks to our March Food Pantry volunteers who distributed 24,000 pounds of food to 520 households.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mary Anne Avins | Pete Mancioni |
| Miryam Axtel | Debra Montanino |
| Cindy Balchunas | Mary Neville |
| Raymond Gehring | Annette Peppard |
| Patty Hartman | Jenn Reilly |
| John Incedon | Russ Shanahan |
| Pete Jacobson | Joan Sherman |
| Sid Lempiner | Oleg Umanov |



Pete Jacobson and Russ Shanahan take a quick break at a very busy JFS Food Pantry.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

April 4- "Succulent Planting Party"

Plant a succulent garden with Terri Sanelli and Kim Kostival. Lunch and program are sponsored by The Residence at Village Greens.

April 18 - "Passover Seder and Meal" 11:45 a.m.

Jewish Family Service invites you to a Passover Seder led by Sari Incedon and Carole Robinson. Reservations are required by April 8th. Call 610-921-0621 or email CaroleR@jfreeding.org to RSVP or with questions. ***Please note the time change for this program***



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

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

What to know about Aliyah

By Ziv Laskin

What is Aliyah? Aliyah is the return of the diaspora Jew to their homeland, Israel. Aliyah occurred long before Israel was established; Jews have been immigrating to Israel since ancient times. However, the first major wave of Aliyah happened around 1882-1903 from Eastern Europe, Yemen and Iraq, with 35,000 Jews immigrating to Palestine during that period.



After the creation of Israel, Jews from all over the world continued to immigrate to Israel, especially from Muslim countries where Jews faced oppression and were forced to leave. For instance, my family made Aliyah from Iraq after experiencing discrimination and violence. Approximately 150,000 Jews returned to Israel from Iraq during that period, while today only four Jews

remain in Iraq.

There are various reasons for making Aliyah today; some people do it for ideological, religious, educational, security or lifestyle reasons. Obviously, it is not an easy decision, and the process can be lengthy and complicated. However, last month, I had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Aliyah and Absorption of Israel. He was eager to learn more about the diaspora Jews and how the Israeli government can better support and connect with them.

Additionally, I learned about the organization Nefesh B'Nefesh, which makes the Aliyah process much more accessible and streamlined. Moreover, every individual making Aliyah receives full support from the government, including grants, assistance in finding employment, and integration into the community.

In my opinion, Aliyah plays a crucial role in the preservation of Jewish identity by affirming the right of any Jew in the world to return to their homeland.



Ziv Laskin celebrates with Federation colleagues and the Exeter Community Library after receiving a Berks County Public Libraries Certificate of Merit for all his What's Cooking? with Ziv classes held at the library in Exeter Townshipp.



Ziv Laskin joins Louise Zeidman to enjoy some Purim fun.

Save the Date!



DIVERSITY NIGHT AT THE FIGHTIN PHILS

JOIN US TO SUPPORT ADVANCEMENTS IN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN BERKS COUNTY!

June 30, 2024
game begins at 5:15pm

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contact Laurie Waxler for more information:
LaurieW@jfreading.org

MY IDF STORY

Join us for a series featuring four personal stories of IDF soldiers! Get ready to dive into the heart of their military experiences across various units in the IDF.

- ✓ Feb 22: Yuval Moha-Caracal Mix-gender combat unit
- ✓ March 28: Avi Eisen- Hovlim Israeli Naval Academy
- ➔ April 25: Boaz ozery- Oketz IDF's canine unit
- *May 12: Yom Hazikaron Event

In person event

Jewish Federation of Reading
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7:00PM
*May 12 is at 12pm

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Studying Jewish warriors at Noontime Knowledge



One of the JCC's March Noontime Knowledge programs featured a talk on "Jewish Warriors: Then and Now," presented by author Steven Hartov.

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JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY

NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

“In the Garden of the Righteous: The Heroes Who Risked Their Lives to Save Jews During the Holocaust”
with Richard Hurowitz

Tuesday, April 16 at noon at the JCC

These powerfully illuminating and inspiring profiles pay tribute to the incredible deeds of the Righteous Among the Nations, little-known heroes who saved countless lives during the Holocaust. The book chronicles extraordinary acts at a time when the moral choices were stark, the threat immense, and the passive apathy of millions predominated.

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

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.

BBYO offers fun activities for teens



The BBYO Berks chapter had a wonderful time at Top Golf in King of Prussia. Please email Luba.karchevsky@gmail.com to get more information on joining BBYO.

The teens are planning fun and educational events for the next school year. Do not miss out on your teenagers enjoying fun activities together with their Jewish peers!

LITERATOUR BERKS
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS

APRIL 21ST, 2024
4:00 PM AT THE EXETER COMMUNITY LIBRARY

SUSAN VERDE
AUTHOR OF: **CAN YOU SEE IT?**

Susan Verde is a #1 New York Times bestselling children's book author and children's yoga and mindfulness expert. She has written more than 20 picture books, and she is a highly sought-after speaker at conferences, festivals, and schools across the nation. Verde is a frequent contributor to online publications, and she has appeared on multiple podcasts about writing, parenting, mindfulness, and yoga.

Susan will be leading an afternoon walk on our StoryWalk® as attendees read along, and afterwards she will be selling and signing her book as well as leading a discussion!

This program is brought to us by Literatour Berks, The Jewish Federation of Reading & Berks, and the Exeter Community Library.

This event is appropriate for children of all ages!

Jewish Book Council
exeter community library
Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
EXETER COMMUNITY LIBRARY
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READING, PA 19606
Call 610-406-9431 to RSVP
or visit www.berkslibraries.org/exeter

Scholar in residence



Shoshana Mambi, a rabbi in training from Uganda, teaches Reform Congregation Sholom Religious School students during her weekend as a scholar in residence in the community.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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Contract for Selling Ḥametz /Prohibition of Chametz

On Pesach it is prohibited to possess ḥametz (leaven). All ḥametz that will not be eaten or burned before Pesach must be sold to a non-Jew. All ḥametz utensils that will not be thoroughly cleaned by then, should be stored away in closets or rooms while preparing for Pesach. The storage area is locked or tape-shut, and leased to a non-Jew at the time of the sale. You may use an agent both to sell the ḥametz to the non-Jew on the morning before Pesach starts and also to buy it back the evening after Pesach ends. Locking your ḥametz away and signing this contract is an easy way of observing one of the most important laws in the Torah. Ḥametz which remains in the possession of a Jew over Pesach may not be used, eaten, bought or sold even after Pesach.

Please identify all locations where you may own ḥametz, sign and date this contract, and give it to Cantor Ted Prosnitz, cantorprosnitz@gmail.com, Keshet Zion Synagogue, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 by 12 noon Monday, April 21, 2023.

There is no charge for this, but a donation for Maot Hittin or other charity is encouraged.

DELEGATION OF POWER FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

I hereby empower and authorize Cantor Ted Prosnitz to sell all Ḥametz that may be in my possession, wherever it may be - at home, a place of business or elsewhere. This includes all goods which may be delivered to me over Passover as well as stocks owned in full or in part in corporations which sell or deal with Ḥametz. Cantor Prosnitz has full rights to sell, dispose, and conduct all transactions, including rental of the property where the Ḥametz is stored and rental of right of way as he deems fit and proper, for such time which he believes necessary in accordance with detailed terms and forms explained in the contracts in his possession. The above power hereby being given, is meant to conform with all Torah and Rabbinic regulations and laws.

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 Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

An eventful March at Chabad



Chabad Hebrew School had a fantastic family trip to New York on March 3. The trip started in Boro Park, a very large Jewish community, and we learned about some of the things that form the infrastructure of a large Jewish community. We then headed to Crown Heights to the area of Chabad headquarters. There, we visited a local Jewish artist, followed by a fascinating tour of the behind the scenes of a scribe, including how the parchment is made and stretched and then to a matzah bakery.




Almost 60 people from the community prepared for Purim by baking hamantashen together at Chabad with Janine Ure and Chana Lipsker. You name the filling, they had it, plus a great array of toppings too. It was a fun afternoon.



Chabad hosted an incredibly powerful evening with Iris Haim and her son Tuval. Iris is the mother of Yotam, who was taken hostage on Oct. 7 and then accidentally killed by the IDF. Iris is a beacon of light, a lighthouse of strength, courage, resilience, and positivity. Iris's story serves as a reminder that we have the power to transform our pain into a source of strength.

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

PILATES CLASSES AT THE JCC




Join Martha Connolly of Pilates At Any Age, LLC who will be instructing classes of Pilates, starting Tuesday, April 2nd. All community participants are welcome, no experience is necessary and all levels (including beginners) are welcome. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and either grippy socks or bare feet and bring a water bottle. 45 min chair class at 9:30 am on Tuesday and a 45 minute mat class at 10:30am on Tuesday. \$5 per class. Class fee is payable by cash or check only.

\$ 5 PER CLASS
TUESDAYS IN APRIL
9:30AM - 10:15AM CHAIR CLASS
10:30AM - 11:15AM MAT CLASS

***PLEASE NOTE THE DAY AND TIME CHANGE FOR CLASSES ***
NO CLASS TUESDAY APRIL 24, 30

1100 Berkshire Blvd Suite 125
Wyomissing

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



RCOS students give back



Sixth- and seventh-grade students from Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom make lunch for the people at Opportunity House as a community service project.

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.

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

Shop the weekly discount days at



at 5370 Allentown Pike Temple PA 19560
Center Hours: 9am- 6pm, Monday - Saturday

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY



Hero Day
for firefighters, EMS, police, active duty military, veterans, healthcare workers and clergy. Must show ID!



Senior Day
for everyone 55 and older! Please remember to ask for your discount.



Family Day
for EVERYONE! Our most popular day of the week.



Education Appreciation Day
for students, teachers and all school employees! Must show ID!

Find bargains & support our nonprofit partner CommunityAid. Proceeds benefit JFS.



Follow us on social media!



Jewish Federation of Reading & Jewish Cultural Center of Reading



@jfedreadingberks

Don't forget to share your email with us to keep on the latest Community news!

Send us an email at info@jfreading.org to get added to our email list!

JOIN RCOS

Thursday, May 2nd
6:00-8:00 pm

Happy Hour

Nitro BAR

416 PENN AVE

2ND FLOOR @ WEST READING MOTOR CLUB
WEST READING

FREE PARKING | FREE APPS | CASH BAR

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 March 15

Jewish Family Service

In memory of:

- **Thomas Gavigan** - Russell & Jeri Diesinger, Linda & Scott Bram and family, Corinne & Andy Wernick, Sue Wachs, Cheryl & Eric Farber, Jonathan & Jan Simon
- **Gerald Levine** - Corinne & Andy Wernick
- **David Pleet** - Jonathan & Jan Simon, Ellen & Donald Abramson
- **Julian Syret** - Carol & Bernie Gerber and family, Carrie & Stephen, Josh & Robyn Latman, John & Jane Leader, Susan & Mel Blum, Cheryl & Eric Farber, Phyllis Dessel, Debbie Goodman, Eric & Deborah Zelnick, Corinne & Andy Wernick, Stuart & Joanne Zager, Anzie Golden, Lynn & Richard Gordon, Judy Copeland
- **Irwin Kabakoff** - Corinne & Andy Wernick

Evelyn F. Thompson Nursery School Fund

In memory of:

- Thomas Gavigan** - Beth and Bob Caster
- David Pleet** - Beth and Bob Caster
- Mark Creal** - Beth and Bob Caster

In honor of:

- Jonathan & Jan Simon's new granddaughter, Claire** - Beth & Bob Caster

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 Adult Education Fund**
- Evelyn Thompson Fund**

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:

- Thomas Gavigan** - Henry & Carolyn Ansell, Frank Politzer, Anzie Golden, Myron & Karen Kabakoff
- Julian Syret** - Betsy & Al Katz, Vic & Dena Hammel

In honor of:

- Amanda Hornberger receiving a Girl Scouts Take the Lead award** - Debbie & David Goldberg

Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund for PJ Library

In memory of:

- Albert Citron** - George Viener



Sunday, May 5th, 2024
12:00 noon - 3:00 pm
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive Parking Lot

\$10 Quarter Apple Cake
\$13 Kauffman's Chicken BBQ Platter

\$22 Quarter Apple Cake & Chicken BBQ Combo Platter

\$22 Quart of Jewish Brisket

\$11 Pint of Jewish Brisket

Credit Card Preferred or Cash Accepted on Event Day

Pre-Order Starts April 15th
Credit Card Only

www.ohebsholom.org



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Jewish Family Service is grateful to our committed volunteers! Here are some ways that you can help:

Help Fight Hunger

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

Share your Professional Expertise

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

Share your time

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

Donate your vehicle to JFS or donate clothing to CommunityAid

Enjoy tax benefits of donating a car or help our clients through our partnership with CommunityAid.



Contact Us
Carole Robinson at 610-921-0624

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The Best Care In Sight!

COMPREHENSIVE VISION & MEDICAL EYE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AGES

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Douglassville, PA 19518
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MYERSTOWN
356 West Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
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weis
markets

Happy Passover



7⁹⁹
lb

U Fresh Kosher Boneless Chicken Breast Fillets



3⁹⁹
lb

U Fresh Kosher Cut Up Chicken Fryers



3⁹⁹
lb

U Fresh Kosher Whole Broiler Chickens

We have a selection of Kosher for Passover cakes and cookies made by Molly's Bakehouse.

U **2 for \$5**
Gunter's Honey 12 oz

U **2⁹⁹**
Streit's Fruit Slices 8 oz

U **5⁹⁹**
Rokeach or Yehuda Gefilte Fish 24 oz

U **2 for \$6**
Kedem Concord Grape Juice 64 oz

U **3⁹⁹**
Bosco Chocolate Syrup 22 oz

U **2 for \$5**
Manischewitz Potato Pancake Mix 6 oz

U **1⁴⁹**
Manischewitz Matzo Ball Mix 5 oz

U **1⁹⁹**
Dr Brown's Soda 2 L

REDEEM
APRIL 7 THROUGH APRIL 30

FREE with 100

Streit's Matzos 5 lb