



Shalom05|21

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

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- of North America
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- Leo Camp Lecture
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Annual meeting to be held at Baseballtown on June 13

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The community is invited to join Jewish Federation of Reading for its annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, at FirstEnergy Stadium in Reading. Celebrate a year of pivoting and new offerings by Federation with a baseball game, pool, dinner, and fun!

Our group will be congregating at the Tower Health Pool Party Deck including the swimming pool, so be sure to bring your suits and towels! The Pool Deck is located just next to Phunland, which includes a moon bounce, fast pitch and other games for kids, available for an additional cost at the game. Space is limited so RSVP today!

The Annual Meeting will begin at 3:30 and will be followed by a kosher picnic meal provided by Boscov's Catering and a Reading Fightin Phils baseball game, beginning at 5:15. Social distancing and masks will be required, and capacity will be limited per First Energy Stadium guidelines.



Children 12 and under are free. Anyone over age 12 is \$5 per ticket including kosher buffet dinner, pool deck and baseball game. Reservations are required by June 4 to info@reading.org or 610-921-0624. Free parking is available at the stadium and nearby lots.

The R-Phils organization will be following federal and state health and safety guidelines. More details on this will be made available as the season draws nearer and as the situation improves.

Each day, more and more people are being vaccinated. Each day our society gets

better and better at handling this situation. The R-Phils play in a beautiful OUTDOOR venue, and we look forward to hosting you and your family for R-Phils baseball games this year. It will certainly feel good to sit outside at America's Classic Ballpark, First Energy Stadium, and hear the "crack of the bat" again this season!

Special accommodations will be available for seniors; please call Carole Robinson to confirm details. We hope community members of all ages will join us for this fun event!

Israel celebration draws crowd



More than 100 people turned out for this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, part of a series of April events planned by shlichah Adi Shalev in an effort to build our community's connection with Israel. See more photos on Page 12.

Development

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

Join us to discuss a must-read book

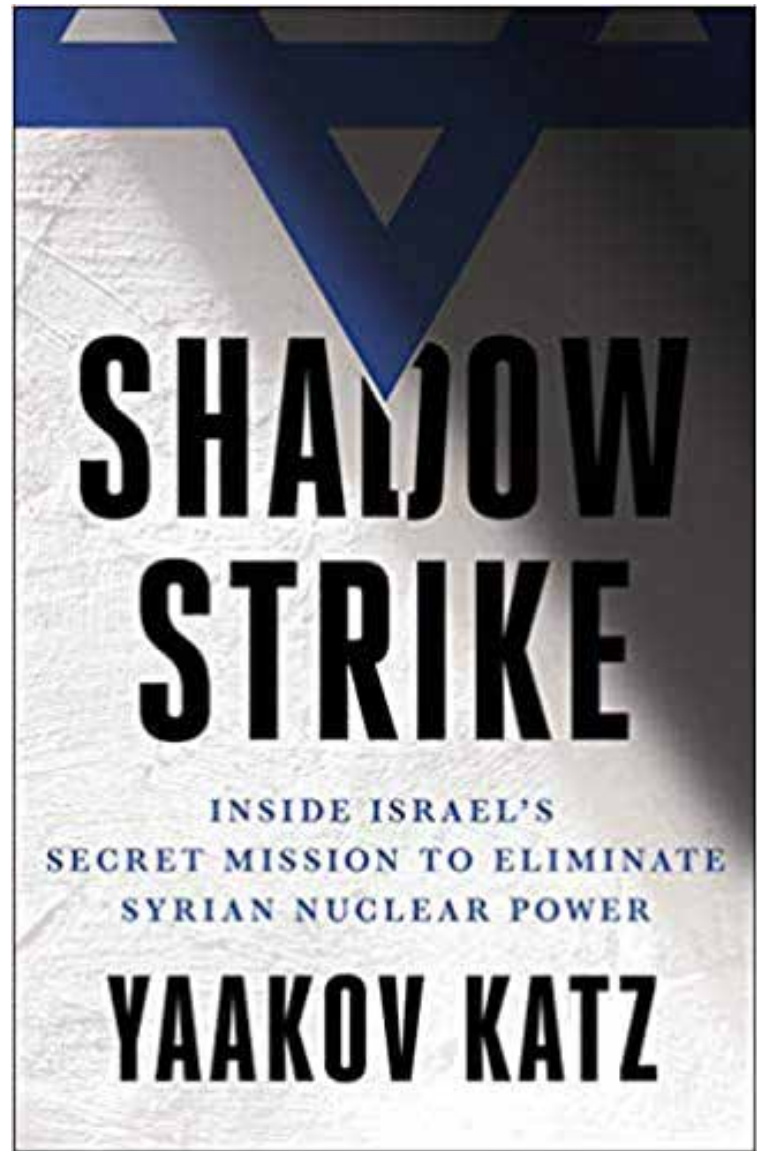
In 2001, the IDF destroyed a secret nuclear reactor being built in Syria. The facts and details of that mission remained hidden from the public until 2017.

Yaakov Katz's book on the subject, "Shadow Strike: Inside Israel's Secret Mission to Eliminate Syrian Nuclear Power," gives a scholarly, historically accurate picture of the political issues and characters involved, the agonizing risks that were taken and the brilliant and precise strategy that accomplished the mission.

And Katz accomplishes that in a page-turner of a book. If this were all, it would be a must-read for anyone interested in the fate of Israel.

But today, parallel events are in play with Iran, Israel and the United States engaging in a game of threats and brinkmanship with respect to nuclear weapons. Therefore, everyone should read the book to better understand the complexities surrounding the current talks of renewing Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement.

Join us for the Israel Book Group's discussion, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at the Federation, even if you cannot read the entire book in time.



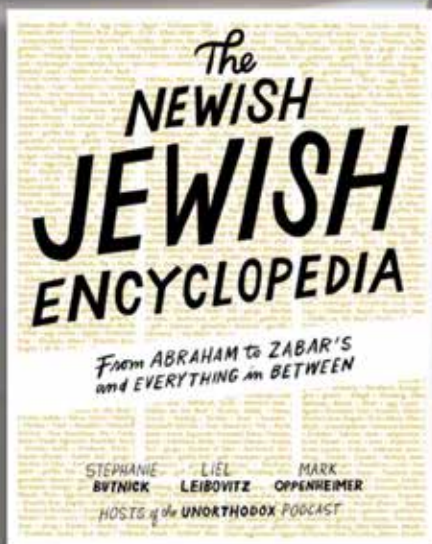
It's Simcha Supplement time

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 HERE. MATERIAL DUE ASAP.

The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia: From Abraham to Zabar's and Everything In Between
with Stephanie Butnick & Liel Liebovitz



**Sunday
May 23rd
11 a.m.
via Zoom**

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Literatour Berks is a program of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks in partnership with Exeter Community Library.

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From the President’s Desk

Meet two new leaders of our Jewish Federation

By William D. Franklin
President

Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, “If you are going to change things, you have to be with the people who hold the levers.” Change is coming to the Jewish Federation and I am pleased to be able to introduce our two new lever holders.

RCOS and JFR continue to work on transitioning our Lakin Preschool back to the Federation. With Jessica Leisawitz as chair, the LPS Advisory Board has been formed and held its first meeting. Its members are Cory Leshner, Jacob Gurwitz, Sheina Missan, Jennifer Koosed, Julie Gabriel, Margo Levin and Judy Synnamon. The Board’s purpose is to: determine policy of future operations to ensure continuity of the Lakin Preschool, research and develop plans to support growth and financial stability and oversee hiring of staff and monitor operations. The key result of the first meeting was to interview and hire Holli Winick Viau as Judy Synnamon’s eventual replacement as LPS educational Director. Holli started at the beginning of April and is working to learn about the school, create and manage the new license application to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and develop a smooth transition plan with Judy and RCOS. This will preserve the wonderful work Judy and RCOS have done over the years. Our goal is to complete the transition by June 30, but it depends on state approval.

Holli comes to us with a wealth of Pre-K and Jewish educational experiences She earned her Master of Arts in Jewish Studies from Gratz College and a BS in elementary education at Millersville University. She was the lead teacher for PreK students at the York JCC Center for Early Learning, taught second grade in the Lancaster public school system, was the Director of the Jenkins School, a Lancaster private school for



Holli Winick Viau

early learning and was the Director of Education for Lancaster’s Congregation Shaarai Shomayim. Her career objective of guiding and working with children and families fits well with the needs and goals of the Lakin Preschool.

We have also been fortunate to quickly find a replacement for Richard Nassau and have hired Laurie Waxler as JFR’s Development Director. She earned a certificate in Professional Fundraising from Boston University, served as Olivet Boys and Girls Club’s Director of Development and is on the Wyomissing Area School District Board of Directors. You may know Laurie from her many years of volunteer work for the



Laurie Waxler

Wyomissing Public Library, Wyomissing’s PTA, and Girl Scouts.

Laurie also began in early April. Her already full plate includes rejuvenating our Women’s Philanthropy and Maimonides Society events and planning for our Fall Leadership dinner. Recognizing that increasing community engagement with the JFR is a high priority, she is planning to hold parlor meetings and conduct surveys to meet you and better align your needs and philanthropic goals with the Federation’s programs and services.

I know you will welcome Holli and Laurie and work with them to ensure their and our community’s success.

Thank you.

Columnist editing journal on Jews and social justice

From online news sources

New York Times opinion columnist Bret Stephens has taken on a side gig as the editor of a new limited-run journal of essays about Jewish issues.

The journal, titled Sapir, is an initiative of the Maimonides Fund, an increasingly influential force in Jewish philanthropy that supports Jewish identity-building through media, education and Israel engagement.

Over the past year, the fund has also become known for its leadership on COVID relief efforts.

The first of four print issues scheduled for 2021 landed in mid-April and focuses on social justice — a topic Stephens has addressed in columns that criticize progressive efforts.

“Our first issue is on the subject of Jews and social justice,” Stephens wrote in an email to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. “This is a complex, controversial, multidimensional topic. We cover it from a variety of angles — religious, historical, political, ethical — and a range of political persuasions.”

The new journal comes as the Jewish world debates challenges gripping wider American culture, including racism, antisemitism, political polarization and the erosion of democratic norms.

Stephens has chimed in to lament “cancel culture” and “wokeness.”

Sapir appears to be an attempt to address these and other controversial issues, with the stated goal of providing possible solutions to an audience of leaders and professionals in the organized Jewish community.

Maimonides President Mark Charendoff said he wanted to

invigorate a communal conversation that he said has become impoverished amid the shuttering of Jewish publications and the increasing tendency of people to consume news content that conforms to their preexisting views

“The country has become more polarized,” Charendoff said. “And social media is a bad place to unearth new perspectives. Could we create a neutral platform that could afford to present different points of view that are controversial? My vision was this journal.”

He said he tapped Stephens, who has written a biweekly column for The New York Times since 2017, because he trusts the veteran journalist’s ability to produce a high-quality product that’s not beholden to a single point of view.

“I view Bret as center-right,” Charendoff said. “He has been such a public anti-Trumper so I am not sure the right embraces him. He’ll ensure good quality writing and a diversity of opinion.”

As a former editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Post and a longtime hawk on foreign affairs, Stephens is known for his pro-Israel advocacy. The hiring of Stephens by The New York Times in 2017 drew intense criticism over some of the columnist’s previous writing, in which he cast doubt on the reality of the climate crisis and called antisemitism a “disease of the Arab mind.” In 2019, he was accused of promoting a racist and discredited theory known as eugenics for a column about Ashkenazi Jewish intelligence. His columns deal with foreign policy and domestic politics from a conservative angle.

Stephens won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 2013 while writing for The Wall Street Journal.

Stephens noted that his role with Sapir is to commission work from authors and to frame each issue with an introduction, but not to write any of the essays.

Stephens said he maintains full editorial control over the content of Sapir.

This year Stephens took part in a Jewish Council for Public Affairs program moderated by Reading’s Michael Fromm, Chair of the JCPA, on the Biden administration’s policies in the Middle East.



Bret Stephens

Shalom

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General Offices: 1100 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 125
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone: 610-921-0624 FAX: 610-929-0886
Web site: www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Jewish Federation of Reading
Chair: Robert M. Caster, CPA
President: William D. Franklin
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor
Proofreaders: Federation staff

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Second season of Literatour Berks wraps up

By Amanda J. Hornberger

What a season! As I write this, we are down to our final three Literatour Berks programs of our second season.

After starting with more than two dozen events, the end of the second season seemed far off for most of the year. But instead, I'm days away from receiving six boxes of brand-new books and meeting dozens of authors at the annual Jewish Book Council conference in May.

The conference and selection process is always a hectic but exciting time. Our committee spends time reflecting on which programs were successful and which did not quite work for our audience. All while combing through hundreds of books and hearing fascinating stories from this year's group of authors.

Literatour Berks is excited for our third season and we welcome your feedback on this year's events. Send me an email with your thoughts or suggestions: amandah@jfreeding.org

BUT... before we move onto season three, we still have some great events to conclude this second, completely virtual, season of Literatour Berks.

On Monday, May 3, Susie Orman Schnall will be joining us with her latest novel, "We Came Here to Shine". Set during the iconic



1939 New York World's Fair, this novel is about two intrepid young women — an aspiring journalist and a down-on-her-luck actress — who form an unlikely friendship as they navigate a world of endless possibility, stand down adversity and find out what they are truly made of during the glorious summer of spectacle and opportunity.

Then on Thursday, May 13, we will be joined by the Blue Dove Foundation and learn more about mental health and the organization's #quietingthesilence project. The Blue Dove Foundation was created to help address the issues of mental illness and addiction in the Jewish community and beyond. Jewish Federation of Reading is excited to partner on this special program.

On Sunday, May 23, at 11 a.m. gather your friends and prepare to laugh as Stephanie Butnick and Liel Leibovitz of Tablet's Unorthodox Podcast join us for an

afternoon of everything you wanted to know about being Jewish!

Butnick and Leibovitz are the authors of "The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia: From Abraham to Zabar's and Everything in Between" and panelists on the well-known Jewish podcast "Unorthodox". Last year Unorthodox's Mark Oppenheimer visited Wyomissing and featured our community on the podcast. Back again to learn and share more, this will be an event you will not want to miss!

Finally, our second season will conclude on Monday, June 7, with Charles Belfoure, the *New York Times* bestselling author of "The Faberge Secret". Set in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1903, Belfoure's story takes readers on a breathless journey from the gilded ballrooms of Imperial Russia to the grim violence of the pogroms, in his latest thrilling historical adventure.

You can register for any of these events by visiting our website: <https://readingjewishcommunity.org/home/literatour>. Signed copies of the book will be available for purchase through the Literatour Berks official book vendor, Reads & Company of Phoenixville.

Thank you to the sponsors and patrons of Literatour Berks for making this event possible.

Webinar to focus on religion and insurrection

By Amanda J. Hornberger

When rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, some wore shirts that were shockingly antisemitic. Antisemitism is, in fact, pervasive among the far-right groups that united behind the "Stop the Steal" movement.

From the Jericho marchers to the QAnon adherents to the Proud Boys, antisemitism forms the substratum of a host of conspiracy-minded organizations and ideologies, many of whom came together to rally and riot on Jan. 6.

An informative and interactive webinar

on the subject will be held Wednesday, May 5, at 7 p.m., led by Dr. Jennifer Koosed, President of Keshar Zion Synagogue and professor of Religious Studies at Albright College. You can register by visiting our website: <https://readingjewishcommunity.org/>

- 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

MARCH 2021

NUMBER OF KITS CREATED

209

NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED

115



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FIND YOUR VOICE



LITERATOUR BERKS
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITY

Local group to hold program on Arab-Israel relations

World Affairs Council of Greater Reading

Joseph Braude will discuss "Arab/Israel relations" at the World Affairs Council's Wednesday, May 12, virtual program at noon, in a program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Braude, the founder and president of the Center for Peace Communications, studied Near Eastern Languages at Yale and Arabic and Islamic history at Princeton. He is fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and Persian. Over the past 20 years, he has lived and worked in North Africa, the Levant, the Gulf states and Iran. His most recent book is

"Reclamation: A Cultural Policy for Arab-Israeli Partnership" (2019).

His articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, *The American Interest*, *Foreign Policy*, *Glamour*, *Tablet*, *BookForum*, *The Fix* and *Men's Health*, among others. Braude also writes a weekly column



Joseph Braude

in the pan-Arab magazine *Majalla*.

On the airwaves, Braude has contributed to Public Radio International's *America Abroad*. He is a periodic commentator on NPR and PRI news programs and the host of *Eye on Arabia*, a podcast in English.

Since July 2010, his weekly commentary in Arabic, "Risalat New York" ("Letter from New York"), has aired nationally in Morocco on MED Radio. It is now available as a podcast. He makes guest appearances on pan-Arab TV networks, including Al-Arabiya and Rusya al-Yawm.

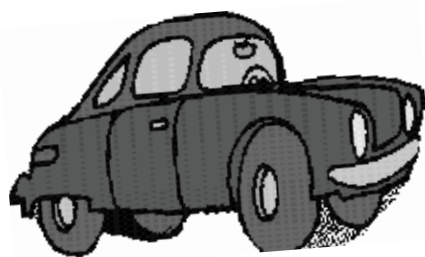
As adviser to the Al-Mesbar Studies and Research Center in Dubai, Braude contributes research

to its Arabic language publications and participates in a variety of strategic initiatives. As strategic adviser to *America Abroad Media* in Washington, he assists in content development and special projects in the Middle East and North Africa.

He is Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, and a contributing editor at *Tablet* magazine.

He has served as a consulting adviser to nonprofit organizations, the U.S. government and the private sector in the realms of Arab civil society engagement, strategic communications and counterterrorism.

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Local program featured at conference



Amanda Hornberger presented to 170 colleagues from around the world at the PJ Library International Conference in April. Our tween Find Your Voice program was featured as a successful effort and showcased as a model program for PJ Our Way communities.



Offices are

CLOSED



MAY 17-18 SHAVUOT
MAY 31 MEMORIAL DAY

FEDERATION OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON THE
DATES LISTED. IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY
PLEASE REACH OUT TO A MEMBER OF STAFF.

williamf@jfreeding.org
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KZ SHAVUOT SERVICE
Monday, May 17, 2021 9:30 am

KZ SHAVUOT SERVICE WITH YIZKOR
Conducted by: Cantor Kevin Wartell
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:30 am

Join KZ via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88288467104?pwd=UU5lbW5Neit1enhMV3VqSkJWdUI1UT09>

Meeting ID: 882 8846 7104

Passcode: 356378

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Lishmor Al HaOlam: Guarding the planet

Green Money²



By Andi Franklin & Solange Israel-Mintz
Another way to contribute to “Tikkun Olam”, especially when considering the environment, is to “vote with your dollars”! How are your investment dollars used? What impact can they have?

This type of investing often goes under the broad headings of “Socially Responsible Investing”, “Impact Investing” or the more inclusive title “Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Investing”.

In the past, a desire to invest responsibly usually meant not investing in companies that were producing harmful or undesirable products, e.g. tobacco, alcohol, firearms. But now investors have taken a broader approach to making investments with the intention of generating positive outcomes, measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. In fact, according to a Morgan Stanley study, ESG investing has grown 274% since 2012, mostly driven by Gen X’ers and Millennials.

ESG investing considers an investment’s financial returns as well as its overall impact. It measures three specific categories:

1. Environmental: Does a company mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions, are the products the company creates sustainable, and does it use natural resources efficiently and recycle responsibly?
2. Social: Does the company participate in community development, such as does it carefully consider diversity and equal opportunity in its hiring?

Does it prioritize human rights everywhere it does business?

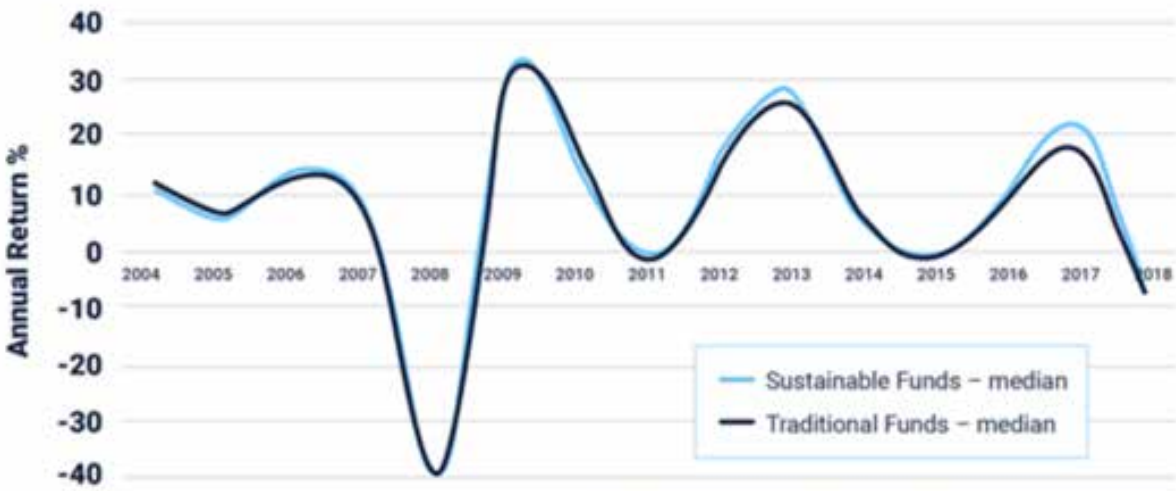
3. Governance: This refers to the company’s leadership and board. Is there reasonable pay for its executives, is the company’s board diverse, and is it responsive to shareholders, customers, and employees?

There is plenty of evidence that ESG investments deliver returns that are similar to those of traditional funds and can often outperform conventional ones and carry less risk.

The same Morgan Stanley study (see accompanying graph), that compared the performance of sustainable funds with traditional funds from 2004-2018 using Morningstar data, also stated that “During a period of extreme volatility, they found strong statistical evidence that sustainable funds are more stable. The study found that sustainable funds experienced a 20% smaller downside deviation than traditional funds. This was



a consistent and statistically significant finding.”
All this is to say, that another way to help causes that we care about is to “put our money where our mouth is.”



source: Morgan Stanley analysis of Morningstar data, 2019

All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Adrienne and Jeff Cardinal** on the birth of their granddaughter Gabriella Ava Del Bosque, born on April 2, to their daughter Lauren.

Mazel tov to **Alan and Sue Weisberg** on the birth of their grandson Jackson

Hatt, son of their daughter Samantha Hatt.

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com or calling 610-921-0624.

Until next time: Shalom!

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Please provide the Federation office with your up-to-date contact information so we can reach you during emergencies and special circumstances.

We will not publish or share unlisted numbers

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THE HOLIDAY OF SHAVUOT

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Tradition saves lives

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker
Chabad Center of Berks County

As the fond and treasured memories of Passover gradually recede, one thing that remains constant and relevant is its compelling message: freedom. Not merely freedom from suffering and persecution. That goes without saying. It is more about the liberation of the self. To be unshackled from the chains of uncertainty, apathy and self-doubt.

Passover is also the primary moment when we transmit our traditions to the generation which follows: our children and grandchildren. Via the memorable Seder nights, with its visuals and tangible experiences, we communicate our rich and storied past to the present. This is also the pathway to the future.

Is tradition really that important? I read an article about a professor who had done incredible and fascinating research into tradition, and how it literally saves lives. Not spiritual lives. Physical survival itself.

The professor – Reuven Feuerstein — was a Holocaust survivor who, after the war, made his home in Tel Aviv. He



was always fascinated by the human brain. He argued that intelligence is not a fixed quantity, determined at birth by one’s genes. Rather, it is a variable that can be developed at every stage of life. He never believed in IQ testing, as it only indicates what the individual has learned, not what the individual is capable of learning.

He established the “International Centre for the Enhancement of Learning Potential” in Jerusalem. One of its key objectives is “to help children and adults of all backgrounds, religions and etiologies overcome cognitive, emotional, psychological and social disabilities and maximise their potential, with a view toward integration to the greatest possible extent”.

For more than half a century, and in over 80 countries, Professor Feuerstein’s theories and applied systems have been implemented in both clinical and classroom settings, and his theory on the malleability of intelligence has led to over 2,000 research studies.

In simple terms, it means figuring out what in the brain is blocking a child (or an adult) from learning, and looking for a pathway to explain things so that the brain begins to open and understand.

When asked why the professor had seen such incredible success, the late

Emeritus Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, who knew him well, declared that there were three reasons: ‘First, the basis of his work was love. He loved the children and they loved him. Second, he had transformative faith. Under him children developed skills no one thought they could because he believed they could. He had more faith in them than anyone else. Third, he refused to write anyone off. He insisted that children with disabilities should be included in society like every other child. They too were in the image of God. They too had a right to respect. They too could lead a full and meaningful life.’

That is the background. What about the professor’s approach to tradition and survival?

During one of his many visits to the U.S., Professor Feuerstein was invited by a congressional team to examine the high suicide rate of young native Americans living on reservations. Professor Feuerstein always believed that tradition — regardless of religion or nationality — is an essential part of a person’s mental health.

He discovered that the young people on the reservations were missing the link to their tradition, while the pervading American (Western) culture didn’t offer them a meaningful alternative.

Feuerstein set up a program together with Indian chiefs to help instil cultural pride in the youth.

He would later comment — while emphasising the centrality and importance of tradition — that if one can activate the internal Jewish spark, one can see amazing transformations.

No wonder the first message Moses rammed home was ‘Vehigadeta Levincha’ “And you shall tell your children” [Exodus. 13:8]. The conventional rationale behind Moses’ exhortation is the preservation of our faith and practices.

Thanks to Professor Feuerstein’s work and research we now understand this message even more clearly: just to survive physically one needs tradition. Throwing away tradition is practically throwing away life.

Tradition and faith may seem difficult and burdensome. Certainly when out of practice or knowledge. But, in the fullness of time, one begins to appreciate its structure, its meaning, its purpose and the calm it brings.

Our tradition and our faith really is the elixir of life.

As we journey away from Passover, heading to Shavuot - the anniversary of receiving the Torah - let’s keep this in mind. Strengthening our connection to our faith will add years to your life — literally.

U.S. report finds Palestinians funneling aid to terrorists

From online news sources

The Biden administration privately confirmed to Congress that the Palestinian Authority has continued to use international aid money to reward terrorists but said the finding won’t impact its plans to restart funding.

In a State Department report obtained by the *Washington Free Beacon*, the administration said the Palestinians spent at least \$151 million in 2019 on its “pay-to-slay” program, in which international aid dollars are spent to support imprisoned terrorists and their families. Financial statements further indicate that at least \$191 million was spent on “deceased Palestinians referred to as ‘martyrs.’” Despite this practice, which violates U.S. law and prompted the Trump administration to freeze aid to the Palestinians, the “Biden-Harris Administration has made clear its intent to restart assistance to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza,” according to the report.

It remains unclear how the Biden administration will restart American aid without violating a 2018 bipartisan law known as the Taylor Force Act, which prohibits the U.S. government from resuming Palestinian aid until the payments to terrorists are stopped. The latest report on the matter is likely to rankle pro-Israel lawmakers in Congress who see the payments as a gift to the Palestinian government as it continues to sponsor terrorism and foment anti-Israel hatred.

A spokesman for Sen. Ted Cruz (R., Texas), a primary backer of the Taylor Force Act and proponent of continuing the freeze of Palestinian aid, told the *Free Beacon* the Biden administration is planning to skirt laws barring taxpayer dollars from reaching the Palestinian government. “Congress correctly and overwhelmingly passed the Taylor Force Act to limit assistance to areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority, because the Palestinian Authority just shifts fungible resources to pay terrorists,” the spokesman said. “Sen. Cruz is concerned that in the rush to elevate the Palestinians and downgrade the U.S.-Israel relationship, the Biden administration is looking for ways to circumvent the restrictions on American

taxpayer dollars going to those areas in ways that will benefit the Palestinian Authority.”

The State Department admitted it was unable to certify that the Palestinian Authority and PLO are complying with the Taylor Force Act, primarily because they have “not terminated payments for acts of terrorism to any individual, after being fairly tried, who has been imprisoned for such acts of terrorism and to any individual who died committing such acts of terrorism, including to a family member of such individuals,” according to the report.

The Palestinian government continues to fund the “pay-to-slay” program, the State Department confirmed in the unclassified March 18 report. A classified version of the report with “additional information on the amount the PA is believed to have transferred to” terrorists during 2019 also was produced by the State Department. Those figures, which likely stand at more than \$155 million in 2020 alone, could lead to bipartisan opposition of the Biden administration’s efforts to resume Palestinian aid.

“Plans for [resuming] this assistance are being developed, and the resumption of assistance to the West Bank and Gaza, including any assistance for the PA using [fiscal year] 2020 funds, will be fully consistent with applicable requirements under U.S. law,” the administration claims in the report without explaining exactly how it will legally execute that plan.

Another private State Department memo outlining the Biden administration’s efforts to increase diplomacy with the Palestinian government indicates it planned to resume the flow of U.S. aid dollars wito the Palestinians this spring, according to a copy of that memo recently leaked in the press. In addition to paying terrorists and their families, the State Department determined the Palestinian government has “not taken proactive steps to counter incitement to violence against Israel.” Thus, the U.S. government also could not certify for Congress that the PA has made good on repeated promises to end incitement and recommit to peace negotiations.

The report highlights contradictory

statements by PA president Mahmoud Abbas made throughout 2020 promising to pursue peace and also continue terror operations against Israel. Moreover, “incitement to violence and glorification of terrorism occur in public statements and social media posts by PA officials and politicians, in official media broadcasts and social media outlets, and in school textbooks,” according to the report.

Palestinian Media Watch, an Israeli watchdog group, recently determined the Palestinian government spent around 3.2 percent of its total 2020 budget, or \$155 million, on the “pay-to-slay” program. Many of these payments were obscured by the PA, which funneled some \$300 million to the PLO so that it could continue payment to terrorists in violation of U.S. law.

May ☆ Iyar-Sivan

Shabbat Candle Lightings

Torah Portions

May 7

7:48 p.m.

May 14

7:55 p.m.

May 21

8:01 p.m.

May 28

8:07 pm

May 1/19 Iyar

Emor (Leviticus 21:1-24:23)

May 8/26 Iyar

Behar/Bechukotai (Leviticus 25:1-27:34)

May 15/11Sivan

Bamidbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20)

May 22/11 Sivan

Nasso (Numbers 4:21-7:89)

May 29/18 Sivan

Beha’Alotcha (Numbers 8:1-12:15)

ZOOM WITH US!

May 15th at 10:00am

Tot Shabbat

Join Rabbi Michelson for a musical, story-filled interactive hour for children through grade 2. Members & non-members welcome. No registration required. Zoom link available at ohebsholom.org. The final Tot Shabbat date of the season is June 12th.

Do you remember?

By Tootie Moyer

- You had to dial the operator to make a long-distance call.
- We called poppy seed “mun”.
- We had diaper service — no disposables.
- We used cornstarch instead of baby powder for a baby’s rash.
- Cars had rumble seats in the back.
- Houses had wallpaper instead of paint.
- We had one bathroom for the whole family.
- We had a coal stove in the kitchen for heat and cooking.

- We went to the doctor for a shot; now a pharmacist can do it.
- We had outhouses for bathrooms.
- We only had bathtubs, no showers.
- We used a scrubbing board to clean clothes.
- Yes, we washed dishes by hand; no dishwasher.
- There were very few cars on the streets, and we played basketball and roller skated.
- Weddings were a simple affair, most were held at the home of the bride or groom.
- You did not know if your baby

was going to be a boy or a girl — SURPRISE.

- You could not drive for a week after a major snowstorm. Streets were not plowed.
- You wrote thank you and condolence notes, now they are texted.
- Bagels were crusty on the outside we did not toast them.
- We walked to school no matter how far away we lived.
- We had to learn the “times table” in school. We used our brain instead of calculators.
- Teachers wore a suit or dress, no jeans.

• At our junior high school prom, we all wore the same dress. Except for color we made them in sewing class.

• Do you remember these entertainment icons: Donald Crisp, Joan Fontaine, Janet Gaynor, Jean Harlow, Bert Lahr?

• Do you remember anyone over the age of 80 or 85 years old? There are five of us in Friendship Circle, including me, I was 97 in April.

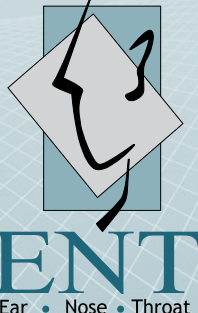
Do you prefer the “good old days” or today? I like today because I have my kids. My memory has now shut off. Hope to see you soon. Take care of yourself and stay well.



‘Red Sea Spies’ an April topic for Literatour

Author Raffi Berg and Mossad agent Dani Limor took part in an April Literatour Berks discussion on Berg’s book “Red Sea Spies: The True Story of Mossad’s Fake Diving Resort.” Limor was active in the mission, which delivered thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel and inspired a recent Netflix drama.

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NECK**
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 • 7PM

Rugelach crust chocolate swirl cheesecake
Spinach/cheese star
Mini cheesecakes

Upon registration ingredients
and Zoom info will be sent out.
RSVP Lipskerreading@aol.com



An introduction to Ladino - ונידאל

On April 17 Tot Shabbat and PJ Library of Reading hosted Sarah Aroeste, author of the PJ Library title “Buen Shabat, Shabbat Shalom”. Aroeste taught kids some words in Ladino which were sung in original songs. Aroeste, inspired by her family’s Sephardic roots in Greece and Macedonia, has spent the last two decades bringing her contemporary style of original and traditional Ladino music to audiences around the world. Aroeste writes and sings in Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish dialect that originated by Spanish Jews after their expulsion from Spain in 1492.

To help parents in explain Ladino and the Ladino culture to their children, community member Frantz Peretz offered to write the article you will find below. He is an instructor of Biblical Hebrew and Theological Philosophy at the Instituto Hebreo Español, and a member of RCOS. His reflections are posted at emunahbaderekh.blogspot.com

By Frantz de Santiago Peretz-Bennazar

So much has been written about Ladino, but not enough! Often Ladino and Sephardic history are ignored. However, the last 25 years witnessed an interest in the study of Ladino.

Within the Sephardic communities, Ladino has been preserved for centuries in the religious literature, at home and by many Spanish-Portuguese Jewish organizations around the world. Nevertheless, within these communities Ladino is fading away among the new generations; preferring the language where they live or assimilating to Western European or North American ways of life; losing Sephardic values and culture.

This and many other reasons led Israel’s former President Yitzhak Navón, z”l, and the host of Kol Yisrael in Ladino, Moshé Shaúl, et al. to develop the National Authority of Ladino; to preserve and encourage the use of the language, setting “standards” for the written Modern Ladino, like YIVO does for Yiddish. It must be mentioned that Yitzhak Leví, z”l, was the pioneer at radio Kol Yisrael, which is still broadcast news segments in Ladino.

The term Ladino comes from the word latino (latin). It is common between Romance languages to exchange the t for a d or an l for an r, etc. In linguistics it is used in reference to djudezmo or Judaeo-Spanish. It was the

בראשית:

אין אל פרוכסיפיו קריאו אל דייו לוס סיילוס אל לה טיירה. אל לה ט
רה אירע צאנה אל צאזא; אל איסקוריחד איספאצא סוצרי לאם פאם
דיל אביסמו: אל אל איספיריטו דיל דייו סו מוציאס סוצרי לאם פאסוס
לאם אגואס. אל דיטו אל דייו, סואס לוז, אל פואי לוז. אל צידו אל ד
לה לוז קי אירע בואינס: אל אפארטו אל דייו אינערי לה לוז אל לה אוסו
ה יידאה. אל לייאמו אל דייו אה לה לוז דיאס, אל אה לה איסקוריחד ליי
נוצי: אל פואי לה טארדי אל לה מאניאנה און דיאס.

אל דיטו אל דייו, סואס איספאנדידורה אין מידיו די לאם אגואס, אל
פארטי אינערי אגואס אל אגואס. אל איזו אל דייו לה איספאנדידורה
אפארטו לאם אגואס קי איסטאן דיבאטו די לה איספאנדידורה, די לאם
גואס קי איסטאן אריצא די לה איספאנדידורה: אל פואי אנסו. אל לוי
אל דייו אה לה איספאנדידורה סיילוס: אל פואי לה טארדי אל לה מאני
אל דיאס סיגורו.

אל דיטו אל דייו, סו פאניין לאם אגואס דיבאטו די לוס סיילוס אל
לוגא, אל סו אפאריסקה לו סיקו: אל פואי אנסו. אל לייאמו אל דייו
סיקו טיירה, אל אל אפאניאמיינטו די לאם אגואס לייאמו מאריס: אל ז
אל דייו קי אירע בואינס. אל דיטו אל דייו, אגס איסמולייסיר לה ט
איסמוליו, יידא קי אגס סימיינטי, ארצול די פרוטו קי אגס פרוטו כ
סו מאנירה, קי סו סימיינטי איסטי אין אל סוצרי לה טיירה: אל ז
אנסו. אל סאקו לה טיירה איסמוליו, יידא קי אלז סימיינטי סיגון
מאנירה, אל ארצול קי אלז פרוטו, קי סו סימיינטי איסטי אין אל כ
סו מאנירה: אל צידו אל דייו קי אירע בואינס. אל פואי לה טארדי
לה מאניאנה אל דיאס טיסיורו.

אל דיטו אל דייו, סואן לוזירוס אין לה איספאנדידורה די לוס ז
לוס פארס אפארטאר אינערי אל דיאס אל לה נוצי, אל סואן פור נ
טון יאלים, אל פור פלאזוס, אל פור דיאס אל אגיוס: אל סואן פור
רוס אין לה איספאנדידורה די לוס סיילוס פארס אלומבראר סוצר
סו טיירה: אל פואי אנסו. אל איזו אל דייו לוס דוס לוזירוס גראנד
אל לוזירו גראנדי פור פודיסטאניא דיל דיאס, אל אל לוזירו פיקי
(1)

A page from Genesis in Ladino.



Moshe Shaul and Yitzhak Navon during a conversation at the November 1999 conference on Ladino writings in Jerusalem, in which Frantz Peretz participated. ©Frantz 1999.

The use of Roman script can be seen in the Biblia de Ferrara. The Sephardic cursive script is called solitreo. The vocabulary today includes words in Portuguese, Turkish, Bosnian, Arabic, Hebrew, Greek, French, etc. Ladino followed the grammar and syntax of the old castellano in conversations and non religious literature, while the grammar and syntax of Biblical Hebrew (תירבע) was commonly followed in the translations of the Tanakh. Contemporary writers of Ladino literature adopted a Roman script phonetic system used in the journal Akí Yerushaláyim (closed after 37 years). Şalom is still printing a page in Ladino using the Turkish phonetic system.

Moshé Lazar, editor at Laberynthos, made available the best collection of Ladino books in both Roman and Aramaic-Hebrew script, e.g., religious work from Soncino. Needless to say, the main classic of Ladino literature remains the Me'am Lo'ez (מעמ לועז); an anthology from Rabbinical commentaries and Talmudic sources started by Rabbi Yaakov Khuli, z”l. An English edition by Aryeh Kaplan, z”l, was published by Moznaim Press. Editions in Modern Hebrew and Modern Spanish phonetics are available.

There is still so much to write about Ladino! Send any questions or request for information to the author ihieb.usa@gmail.com.

Wednesday, May 5 at 7 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

RELIGION AND INSURRECTION: ANTISEMITISM AND THE
STORMING OF THE CAPITOL

Dr. Jennifer Koosed
Professor of Religious Studies
Albright College

When rioters stormed the Capitol building on January 6, 2021 some wore shirts that were shockingly antisemitic. Antisemitism is, in fact, pervasive among the far-right groups that united behind the “Stop the Steal” movement. From the Jericho marchers to the QAnon adherents to the Proud Boys, antisemitism forms the substratum of a host of conspiracy-minded organizations and ideologies, many of whom came together to rally and riot on January 6.

Scan QR Code to Register

Sponsored by Jewish Community Relations Council of
JFR and KZ Social Action Committee

Jewish Family Service promotes well-being during pandemic

By Carole Robinson

According to an old proverb, April showers bring May flowers. Jewish Family Service staff and volunteers “planted a lot of seeds” during this past rainy month through a variety of activities.



These activities included a COVID-19 vaccine clinic, Passover meal deliveries to seniors throughout the community and two drive-through food pantries. Although these activities appear diverse, they are connected by a common theme: putting down the roots to allow our Jewish and non-Jewish community to be nourished and nurtured as we continue to navigate through the pandemic.

According to the FDA, the most important tool to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Getting a vaccine helps keep you from getting seriously ill, even if you do get COVID, and protects the people around you, especially those at high risk for severe illness from COVID.

In addition to safeguarding their health, vaccination allows people to resume some “normal” activities and lift their spirits. Unfortunately, many of our seniors and other people eligible for the vaccine were unable to find vaccine clinics with openings. Due to the efforts of Tracy Rossi, the Jewish Federation and JFS organized a vaccine clinic in March and distributed the second doses on April 11 to 320 people, including house calls to seven homebound people, providing peace of mind to those most vulnerable as they look forward to a more social summer.

We extend our gratitude to the West Reading Drug Store and Esterbrook Pharmacy for procuring the vaccine. We would also like to acknowledge our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to pharmacists Tracy Rossi and Tom Mancuso and to Dr. Linda Bloom and Dr. Karen Wald for administrating the vaccine. Our clinic operated smoothly and successfully thanks to the hard work of Jeff and Sheila Bornstein, Nancy Russo, Paul Delfin, Pam Russo, Ann Marie Ferguson, Sharon Scullin, Jim Rothstein, Paul Missan and Andi Franklin.

JFS also took time this April to nourish our community with some holiday food. Traditionally at Passover, JFS invites seniors to come together for a lunchtime Passover Seder and meal. Our older community members enjoy observing Passover as a group without having to travel out of town or go out at night. Although we were not able to ask the four questions in person this year, we were able to provide a kosher for Passover meal for 45 seniors, complete with matzah ball soup, gefilte fish, roasted chicken, and dessert. Not only did our seniors get to feast on special Passover foods, they enjoyed a social visit with their meal deliverers. The visits meant as much as the delicious food, providing social interaction during the pandemic to our most vulnerable group.

Connecting with others supports a stronger immune system, lowers levels of stress and makes people happier. Talk about nourishing your body and soul at the same time!

This would not be possible without the help of our delivery volunteers, Sue Farrara, Corinne Wernick, Cindy Balchunas and Stef Brok. Thank you for keeping our seniors who live alone or have health issues connected to the larger Jewish community and letting them know we care.

In addition to those April activities, JFS operates two monthly food pantries in partnership with Helping Harvest.

Continued on Page 11



From top, a food pantry recipient gets a stuffed animal, Nancy Knoblauch receives a COVID-19 vaccination at the JFS clinic, and Mel Singer gets ready to enjoy the Passover meal that was delivered to him by community volunteers.

JewishFamilyService

- Food Pantry
- Friendship Circle
- Counseling Services
- Transportation
- Financial Assistance
- Hospital and
- Home Visitations
- Living with Loss
- Information and
- Referral
- Case Management
- Holiday Programs



Scott Davis, left, receives his second COVID shot at the JFS vaccine clinic. Diane Fidler receives her Passover meal

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

Continued from Page 10

There is a strong relationship between nutrition, health and food insecurity. Poor nutrition is one of the key lifestyle risks for diet-related diseases. Accessing healthy food is a challenge for many low-income families. Helping Harvest recently introduced the Healthy Pantry Initiative, changing its focus from providing food to providing the most nutritious food possible to improve people's health and well-being.

JFS operates one of 10 pantries working with Nutrition Educator Brenna

Ricca. Brenna is teaching us to best use available resources to promote nutritious foods, provided by Helping Harvest, and healthy eating habits to our clients. We have been ordering more fresh produce, lean meats and dairy for our pantries; we have also been providing recipes and sharing resources promoting good nutrition and health to the 250 households we serve each month.

Thanks to Brenna and to our recent pantry volunteers, Ellen and Paul Schwartz, Pete Jacobson, Cindy

Balchunas, Margo Levin, Jeanine Levy, Sid Lempiner, Jannine Shapiro, Jen Reilly, Mary Neville, John Incledon, Raymond Gehring and Oleg Umanov for giving our Reading community an opportunity to better nourish themselves.

American humorist Mark Twain quipped, "The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd druther not." We are educating the food pantry recipients to enjoy making healthy choices.

All of these April JFS activities — the second COVID-19 vaccine clinic, the Passover meal deliveries to seniors throughout the community and two food pantries — allowed us to put down the seeds to help our community flourish. I don't know about you, but I am eager for the May flowers!

Contact Carole at caroler@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624 if you need help at this time or if you would like to volunteer with JFS and help promote community well-being.

The Fabergé Secret by Charles Belfoure



**Monday
June 7th
7 p.m.
via Zoom**
Registration required.

To register, visit:
www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour

**Literatour Berks is a program of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
in partnership with Exeter Community Library.**



A busy April in Berks County's Jewish community



Our shlichah Adi Shalev and her colleagues at Federation put together an impressive slate of April events, including, clockwise from top left, a Yom Hazikaron (Israel memorial day) community ceremony; an Israel baking class with pastry chef Lior Mashiach; a course in making the Israeli treat Krembo; and a Humans of the Holocaust youth education program.

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"Passover pyramid dig," top, had the students at CHS making bricks and then smashing them and digging for mini items relating to the Passover story. Following this activity the students made beautiful copper/glass Seder plates. Chabad also marked the holiday by sending out ready Seder plates, along with grape juice and matza and a Seder meal too, for those spending the holiday at the Caron treatment center.

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New Dead Sea Scroll fragments found in desert cave

From online news sources

Some 1,900 years ago, Jewish refugees fleeing the Romans made their way to the Judean Desert. Among the belongings they carried with them were scrolls featuring the biblical books of Zechariah and Nahum. Two millennia later, fragments of those texts have reemerged, the Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced.

It is the first such discovery since the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947 and the early 1950s.

The inhospitable environment was considered a safe haven as the war between the Roman Empire and the Judean rebels led by Shimon Bar Kokhba raged around 130 CE. Jews found shelter in the caves and brought what they thought they needed for their new life.

In recent decades, the caves have been targeted by looters eager to find artifacts to sell on the private market. For this reason, a few years ago, the IAA, in cooperation with the Civil Administration’s Archaeology Department, launched a rescue operation to survey all the caves in the area.

The findings, which include not only the biblical fragments, but also dozens of artifacts dating back as early as 10,000 years ago, have been astounding.

“More than 80 fragments of different sizes have been uncovered, some of them carrying text, some not,” Dr. Oren Ableman from the IAA Dead Sea Scroll Unit told The Jerusalem Post. “Based on the script, we dated them to the end of the first century BCE, which means that by the time it was brought to the cave, the scroll was already a century old.”

The researchers ascertained that the artifacts matched other fragments uncovered several decades ago and preserved at the IAA laboratory. They



belonged to a scroll featuring the biblical Book of Zechariah, written in Greek, except for God’s name, which was marked in paleo-Hebrew.

“This was probably a way to show the importance of the name of God,” Ableman said.

The new discovery is particularly groundbreaking because one of the excerpts that was deciphered presents

a version of Zechariah that was never encountered before, he said.

Verses 16 and 17 of the eighth chapter of Zechariah read: “These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to one another, render true and perfect justice in your gates. And do not contrive evil against one another, and do not love perjury, because all those are things that I hate – declares the Lord.”


In the fragment, the word “gates” is replaced by the word “streets.”

“We had never seen this before,” Ableman said.

It is not uncommon for texts appearing on the Dead Sea Scrolls to be different than the biblical text we know today. Scholars rely on these differences to understand more about how the canonized version of the Bible developed.

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DEAD SEA SCROLLS

“In this manuscript, we can see the effort of the translators to remain closer to the original Hebrew compared to what happened with the Septuagint,” Beatriz Riestra of the IAA Dead Sea Scrolls Unit said, referring to the earliest Greek translation of the Bible from the third century BCE.

The practice of leaving God’s name in Hebrew was already found in other Dead Sea Scrolls fragments, as well as in several manuscripts from more recent periods from the Cairo genizah, a collection of hundreds of thousands of documents kept in the storeroom of a synagogue in the Egyptian capital, she said.

Together with the manuscript, the archaeologists found several coins minted by the Jewish rebels under Bar Kokhba’s leadership, carrying the writing: “Year 1 for the redemption of Israel.”

“Coins are an expression of sovereignty,” Donald T. Ariel, head of the IAA’s Coin Department, told the *Jerusalem Post*. “Minting coins meant to be free.”

“At the time, “The aim of this national initiative is to rescue these rare and important heritage assets from the robbers’ clutches,” IAA Director Israel Hasson said in a press release. “The newly discovered scroll fragments are a wake-up call to the state. Resources must be allocated for the completion of this historically important operation. We must ensure that we recover all the data that has not yet been discovered in the caves, before the robbers do. Some things are beyond value.”

The cave offered several other unique findings, including the skeleton of a child dating back some 6,000 years.

“By moving two flat stones, we discovered a shallow pit intentionally dug beneath them, containing a skeleton of a child placed in a fetal position,” IAA



prehistorian Ronit Lupu said. “It was obvious that whoever buried the child had wrapped him up and pushed the edges of the cloth beneath him, just as a parent covers his child in a blanket.”

The skeleton underwent a process of natural mummification and is exceptionally well preserved.

The cave in the Judean Desert’s Nahal Hever is some 80 meters below the cliff top and can be accessed only by clinging to ropes.

Some 80 kilometers of caves have been surveyed within the IAA operation. About half of the area remains to be explored.

Organic materials, including parchment, wood, textiles and human or animal bodies, usually do not last that long. However, the exceptionally dry climate of the Judean Desert preserved thousands of remains to this day.

Another cave harbored another surprise: a prehistoric basket woven some 10,500 years ago, about 1,000 years before the invention of pottery. Experts believe the artifact, with a capacity of some 90 liters, is the earliest intact basket ever discovered.

Hananya Hizmi, head of the Civil Administration’s Archaeology Department

in Judea and Samaria, said: “As early as the late 1940s, we became aware of the cultural heritage remains of the ancient population of the Land of Israel, with the first discoveries of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Now, in this national operation, which continues the work of previous projects, new finds and evidence have been discovered and unearthed that shed even more light on the different periods and cultures of the region. The finds attest to a rich, diverse and complex way of life, as well as to the harsh climatic conditions that prevailed in the region hundreds and thousands of years ago.”

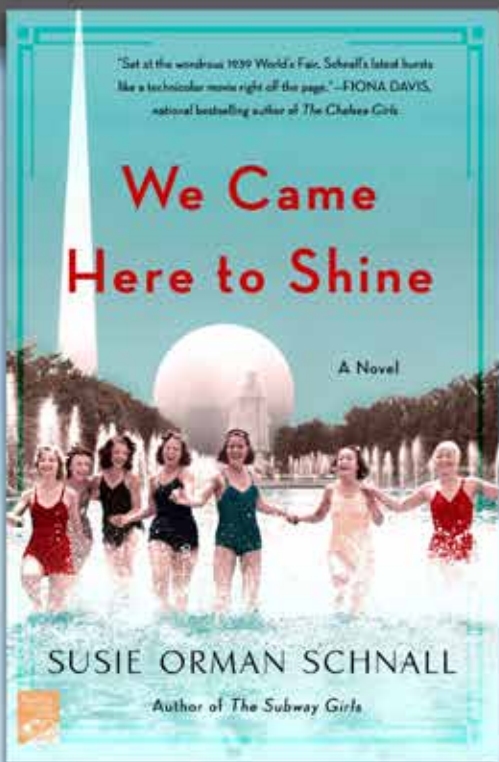
We Came Here to Shine

by Susie Orman Schnall

**Monday
May 3rd
7 p.m.
via Zoom**

Registration required.

To register, visit:
www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour



**Literatour Berks is a program of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
in partnership with Exeter Community Library.**



Jewish, Arab-American groups back hate-crimes bill

From online news sources

Jewish and Arab-American groups are joining in support of a bipartisan bill in the House and Senate that would streamline the reporting of hate crimes.

The NO HATE bill would train law enforcement across the country to report hate crimes according to a single standard.

Anti-defamation groups have long complained that assessing hate crimes in the United States is frustrated by wildly varying standards among police departments determining what crimes should be designated as hate crimes,

when law enforcement reports the crime at all.

Among the groups backing the new bill in a joint release were the Jewish Federations of North America, the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council and the Arab American Institute. Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Jerry Moran, R-Kan., and Reps. Don Beyer, D-Va., Fred Upton, R-Mich., Judy Chu, D-Calif., and Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., introduced the measure. Blumenthal is Jewish.

The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks is part of Jewish Federations of North America.

JFNA spearheaded a letter signed by 30 Jewish organizations covering all Jewish religious streams, and ranging from left to right, from Ameinu to the Zionist Organization of America, urging backing for the bill, which was then in draft mode. That letter was pinned to reports of a rise in crimes targeting Asian Americans spurred by the coronavirus pandemic.

Others joining in praising the introduction of the bill included Asian American umbrella groups; the

Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, an umbrella group; law enforcement in Miami and Washington, DC; and the families of Heather Heyer and Khalid Jabara. The bill is named in part for Heyer, killed in 2017 during a neo-Nazi march in Charlottesville, Va., and Jabara, who was murdered in Tulsa in 2016 by a neighbor who for years had targeted Jabarin's family with anti-Arab epithets and violence.

The bill also backs programs that rehabilitate perpetrators of hate crime through community service and education.

Can a cup of yogurt ‘cure’ your case of COVID-19?

From online news sources

Researchers from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev say they have identified molecules in kefir that are effective at treating various inflammatory conditions, including “cytokine storms” caused by COVID-19.

Kefir, which is similar to yogurt but thinner in consistency, is a fermented drink made by inoculating cow's or goat's milk with microorganism mixtures, such as yeast and bacteria. A cytokine storm is when the body's immune system goes into overdrive and attacks itself — one of the leading causes of death in COVID-19 patients.

The research was conducted by PhD student Orit Malka and Professor Raz Jelinek, vice president and dean for research and development at BGU. It was recently published in the peer-reviewed journal Microbiome.

Several years before the coronavirus

pandemic, Malka noticed that yogurt had a therapeutic effect and began studying it in Jelinek's lab, Jelinek told *The Jerusalem Post*.

They identified molecules in the yogurt that had dramatic antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties.

“One of the main reasons people die of COVID is the cytokine storm,” Jelinek said. “Cytokines are immune molecules that are designed to help the body fight invaders like viruses. But in certain circumstances, and scientists don't know exactly why, the body goes into a sort of overdrive and secretes many cytokines – so many that it kills you. That is what happens during COVID.”

“We knew that we had found these molecules in yogurt with anti-inflammatory properties,” he said. “So, when COVID started, we said, Let's see if these molecules can help against cytokine storms.”



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Professor Raz Jelinek and Ms. Orit Malka with their unique probiotic yogurt at Ben-Gurion University laboratory.

#QuietingTheSilence
by The Blue Dove Foundation

Thursday
May 13th
7 p.m.
via Zoom

Registration required.

To register, visit:
www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org/home/literatour

Literatour Berks is a program of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
in partnership with Exeter Community Library.

#QuietingTheSilence
PERSONAL STORIES

A collection of personal stories dedicated to raising awareness, understanding, support, and hope for those who struggle with mental illness and addiction in the Jewish Community

The Blue Dove
FOUNDATION

The Blue Dove Foundation was created to help
address the issues of mental illness and addiction in
the Jewish community and beyond.

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 April 16

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:
Sid and Esther Bratt’s 70th Anniversary – Gladys Lewis

In memory of:
Edith Mendelsohn – Amy and Marc Besser

Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund (PJ Library)

In honor of:
Birth of Susan and Alan Weisberg’s grandson Jackson Hatt – The Egolf Family

In memory of:
Ernestine Urken (Vic Hammel’s mother) – George Viener

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:
C. Harold Cohn – Dena and Vic Hammel
Edith Mendelsohn – Anzie and Edward Golden, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Albert and Nancy Sack

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
- PJ Library Fund
- Harry & Rose Sack Fund
- Evelyn Thompson Fund

Alison Rotenberg – David Rotenberg

Harry & Rose Sack Fund

In memory of:
Edith Mendelsohn – Albert and Nancy Sack

Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In honor of:
Sid and Esther Bratt’s 70th Anniversary – Ellen and Don Abramson, Louise Zeidman, Laurie and Larry Wernick, Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Al and Betsy Katz

We want to thank everyone for their good wishes in honor of our 70th Wedding Anniversary

– Esther and Sid Bratt

Groundbreaking efforts in Israel show great promise

From online news sources

Tel Aviv University researchers made a groundbreaking discovery in the fight against brain cancer by preventing glioblastoma from spreading, according to a press release.

Glioblastoma is an aggressive type of cancer that can occur in the brain or spinal cord. The researchers managed to achieve the breakthrough by detecting a failure in the brain’s immune system that can be used against the deadly cancer. The failure in question stems from a protein called P-Selectin (SELP), which researchers used to restore the normal activity of the brain, blocking the spread of the cancer.

Prof. Ronit Satchi-Fainaro of Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine led the international research team in the endeavor. Researchers also compared healthy brain tissues with other tissues infected with glioblastoma. “We examined the interactions between the immune cells in the brain and the glioblastoma cells in tumors that were recently removed from patients’ brains,”

said Fainaro.

Researchers studied which proteins are secreted when the microglia immune cells (the cells of the immune system) meet with the glioblastoma cells, as cells are able to communicate with one another through proteins. Their studies led to the SELP protein, which was revealed to be disrupting brain immune system functions and boosting glioblastoma tumors. Fainaro believes that the study may have therapeutic implications, as there is the possibility that SELP could be used to treat pain associated with sickle cell anemia.

Model farm to promote irrigation

The Israeli government will establish an 8-acre model farm in Embu County to teach farmers how to harness advanced irrigation technology to produce food.

Farmers seeking to benefit from the training will be enrolled at the Don Bosco Tech Africa Centre near Embu town. The farmers will be introduced to

Israel’s farm technology and expected to adopt it across farms in the county.

The Israeli Embassy said in a statement that the partners, which include the Embu County government, the Don Bosco center, Cultiv Aid, Water 4 Mercy and Sygenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, have signed a memorandum of understanding at the residence of Ambassador Oded Joseph in Nairobi.

“The program is designed to have a multiplier effect enabling Israeli innovation to reach the smallholder farmers across Embu County. It is hoped that the model will be replicated elsewhere in Kenya after around two and half years of operation,” Deputy Ambassador Eyal David said in the statement.

The Israelis, who are reputed for their ability to use irrigation to turn an otherwise arid nation into the greenest on the planet, said they hoped the project would see successful technology transfer to Kenyan smallholder farmers.



This farmer relies on irrigation water to grow watermelon in a semi-arid area of Kenya.

EVERYTHING’S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



Lakin Preschool enrolling children for fall

Lakin Preschool, located at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in Wyomissing, offers preschool through Pre-K programming for babies, toddlers, and children up to age 6. Enrollment has begun for the 2021-22 term.

For more than 50 years, Lakin Preschool has built a reputation as a center of excellence for preschool education, emphasizing self-confidence, independence, cooperation, and problem-solving skills. The program integrates Jewish holidays and traditions but welcomes children of all backgrounds and religions. The value of good deeds, caring for one another, and education are reinforced in all classes.

Classes are tailored to each developmental preschool stage, including: Sprouts (12-24 month olds), Little Stars (2 year olds), Discovery (3 year olds), Adventurers (4 year olds) and Pre-Kindergarten.



Lakin Preschool Enrollment Form 2021 -2022

Please fill out a Lakin Preschool Enrollment Form for each child you are enrolling. If there are any questions, please call Judy Synnamon at 484-332-5981 or e-mail at judy@lakinpreschool.com.

Date of Application: _____

Child's Last Name: _____ Child's First Name: _____

Birthdate: _____ Gender: _____ Age as of September 1, 2021: _____

Name of Parent(s) with whom Child resides: _____

Street Address: _____ Apt #: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary contact's daytime phone number(s): _____

Primary contact's e-mail address: _____

1. Check class	2. Check days will be attending	Annual Advertised Tuition Rate (No Deposit or Discounts	Annual Tuition ACH Payment (less Deposit, ERD & ACH)	Monthly ACH Payment (less Deposit, ERD & ACH)
		*Most economical option; other payment options on reverse side		

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre k <input type="checkbox"/> Adventures	<input type="radio"/> 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	<input type="radio"/> 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Discovery	<input type="radio"/> 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	<input type="radio"/> 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
	<input type="radio"/> 3 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,332.00	\$1,992.00	\$221.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Little Stars	<input type="radio"/> 5 days/week	\$3,236.00	\$2,842.00	\$316.00
	<input type="radio"/> 4 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,826.00	\$2,456.00	\$273.00
	<input type="radio"/> 3 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$2,332.00	\$1,992.00	\$221.00
	<input type="radio"/> 2 days/week (circle): M T W Th F	\$1,723.00	\$1,420.00	\$158.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sprouts	Semester 1 (Starts September 12) Wednesdays	\$190.00	\$190.00	
	Semester 2 (Starts January 16): Wednesdays	\$190.00	\$190.00	

Please note Lakin Preschool's Enrollment Policy:

- A \$200.00 deposit is required with this Enrollment Form which will be credited to your tuition bill. Families who make their deposit before March 31, 2021 will receive a 3% Early Registration Discount (ERD).
- \$50.00 of the deposit is non-refundable except in the event of illness (as verified by a physician); moving out of town; or if approved by the Director.
- Tuition is to be paid monthly by check, ACH transfer or credit card before the first of each month. An additional 3% discount is provided when you authorize payments to be automatically deducted from your checking account, i.e. Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payments (noted as on fee schedule above). See back of form for full fee schedule and all payment options.

I have read the above and understand Lakin Preschool's Enrollment Policy. I agree to pay all fees due.

Signature: _____ Date: _____