



Shalom09|21

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

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- Israel Advocacy
- Youth Events
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- Jewish Community
- Relations Council
- Community Holiday Programs
- Women’s Philanthropy
- Jewish Federations
- of North America
- Counseling Services
- Leo Camp Lecture
- Shabbat B’Yachad

In-person Literatour programs return

By Amanda J. Hornberger

The Literatour Berks committee is thrilled to announce the line-up for our third season of Literatour Berks! Please see page 4 for a complete list of authors and dates.

More than a dozen authors will join us in-person to discuss a wide variety of topics from art, to violins rescued from the Holocaust, to magic, the powerful connection to our pets to historical fiction.

There is something for everyone in this season’s line up and we look forward to building on the success of our first two seasons.

Literatour Berks is proud to continue our partnerships with the Exeter Community Library in our third season. We continue to work with independent bookstore, Reads & Company, for book purchases.

Our goal remains to bring quality literature on Jewish topics or by Jewish authors to Berks County.

Save the Date for our first Literatour Berks author event on Monday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m. with Jonathan Santolofer, author of “The Last Mona Lisa”. Join us for a fun conversation about this novel about a real-life art heist as we kick off season three of Literatour Berks.

Interested in supporting Literatour?



Patrons and Sponsors from the community are encouraged to help support this amazing new collaborative program!

Contact Laurie Waxler at lauriew@jfreading.org or 610-921-0624 to find out more.

Your chance to help with Violins of Hope

By Amanda J. Hornberger

With just two months to go until the Violins of Hope collection comes to Berks the excitement is growing!

Our team has been hard at work behind the scenes to create moving exhibits, engaging educational and community events and concerts.

To achieve our goal of promoting unity and understanding through the Violins of Hope, we need YOUR help.

We invite you to join us by serving as a docent or volunteer during the two-week run. Two hours or 20 hours, we just ask that you give what you can to make this a meaningful event here in Reading and Berks County.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating by Sept. 30 by emailing Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org or calling 610-921-0624.

Docent Description

- Available Nov. 1-14
- Serve as guides for exhibit
- Make visits to local schools for educational programs
- Paired with a staff member or another docent
- Ideal skills:
- Comfortable with public speaking especially to large groups and students

Volunteer Description

- Available Nov. 1-14
- Serve as informational resource at events
- Staff informational table before and after events
- Paired with another volunteer
- Ideal skills:
- Comfortable speaking to the general public

Training Date for Docents Only

Sunday, Oct, 10, at 10 a.m. with education team

- Length — two hours
- Learn — historical context and



background information, a history of the violins and their restoration, a sample school visit presentation

Training Date for Docents & Volunteers

Sunday, Oct, 31, at noon with Avshi Weinstein

- Length — two hours
- Learn — stories of the violins and get first look at the exhibit

There is no minimum time requirement for docents or volunteers, so if you are able to help even for one day or one event, we welcome your participation.

Our team appreciates the support

**Violins of Hope
sponsorship opportunities
See Page 6**

and enthusiasm of the community for this project and look forward to working together to bring the Violins of Hope to Berks!

To sign up as a docent or volunteer or to learn more, please contact Amanda Hornberger at amandah@jfreading.org or call 610-921-0624.

Please let us know of your interest by Sept. 30.

JCC and Federation — What’s the difference?

By Laurie Waxler
Development Director

Talking to community members since I began working for the Federation is truly one of the highlights of the job.

I find that many reminisce about their days at the JCC, either the original on Fifth Street or the center near Hampden Boulevard.

The JCC was our first introduction to a Purim festival, and my kids attended preschool, learned to swim and always loved the summer camps. One summer we were lucky enough to host two Israeli camp counselors for two weeks...so fun!

As a young, interfaith family, we found the JCC to be a great place to introduce my kids to the cultural side of Judaism.

After the sale of the JCC building in 2007 and the move to Berkshire Boulevard, things were a little different, but as a family, we continued to support our Jewish community by paying the yearly membership dues.

As Development Director, I have found that while some families in our community support the JCC, others support the Federation, and some support both. I never understood the difference!

Thinking I'm not the only one who might get confused, I decided to do a little research.

The history of the JCC goes back to February 1923, when Max Skaist wrote a proposal for a Jewish Community Center in Reading. By March, a group of 10 men had raised \$100,000 toward the project and after a few years and some additional fundraising, a building was purchased at 134 N. Fifth St.

They finally received their "Certificate of Charter" in 1944, and by 1954, the JCC was serving more than 1,500 adults



and youth.

Looking for a more modern facility and day camp, the board began exploring the new Hampden Boulevard location and celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony in September 1965.

By the time my family moved to Berks County in early 2001, they had just completed a renovation for the preschool wing.

Unfortunately, within the next few years, the JCC found itself with a building that was becoming too costly to maintain and a membership that was decreasing every year. The JCC building was sold to the Reading School District in 2007, and the organization has been in Wyomissing ever since.

The history of the Federation also goes back to the 1920s, when local and national Jewish communities realized the need to centralize their fundraising efforts.

The Reading branch was then known as the Jewish Community Council, and following World War II, our Jewish community was instrumental in sending funding to Europe to help the European Jews fund their immigration to America.

In 1971, under the leadership of Leo Camp, the transformation to the Jewish Federation began, and it was finalized by 1977.

Over the years, our Federation has supported such things as families emigrating from the Soviet Union, an Israel Work-Study-Travel experience for college students, the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center at Albright College, and so much more!

Today our Federation continues to support both our Jewish and non-Jewish community at-large, as well as philanthropic organizations in Israel.

In the early 2000s, prior to the move to Wyomissing, each organization still had its own managing board and director/president. By that time, it became apparent there was a

significant amount of duplication of board members and similar goals between the two organizations.

The unexpected resignation of one of the two directors prompted the conversation and subsequent decision to combine them into one, with one director, and one board. Collectively known as the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, the JCC portion remains the "social arm" of the Jewish community and the rest of the Federation is more of the "planning, coordinating and fundraising arm."

The benefit of a JCC membership is reduced fees for paid events such as speakers and bus trips (which we can't wait to get back to) and continuing to support a tradition that goes back almost 100 years!

The benefit of supporting the Federation goes much deeper. Federation donations support our food banks, our senior programs, our outreach and work with other minority groups in Reading and Berks County and our support to anyone in need. A small percentage of our Annual Campaign supports Israel. Now, but that is a personal choice of the donor.

All in all, both the JCC and the Federation do a lot of good work to support our Jewish Community and no matter which one you choose to support, your donation is used to continue our mission of maintaining a vibrant and Jewish community here in Berks County, socially, culturally, and educationally.

Many thanks to my historians out there (you know who you are!) and to the Penn State Berks students who wrote the book "A History of the Jewish Community in Reading and Berks County" where I found much of this information. If you want to learn more, you can find it at sites.psu.edu/localhistories/books/jewish-community/

Development

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



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today!



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OF READING/BERKS

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Family Service
provide monthly
meal deliveries for
our local seniors. Visit
our website, click on
"Donate" and make a
difference!

www.readingjewishcommunity.org



Strengthening community by celebrating diversity

By William D. Franklin
President

Five years ago the Jewish Federation of Reading got together with Centro Hispano, the Islamic Center and members of the African-American community and LGBTQ community to promote our community's diverse minorities working together.

We had wonderful success meeting with area students and other minority groups to answer their questions and foster understanding and tolerance. Unfortunately, the pandemic limited our actions at a time when the need for



actions only increased. Margo Levin, the Federation's Jewish Community Relations Committee (JCRC) Chair, expanded the work of the Greater Reading Unity Coalition by developing new ideas, plans and collaboration with RCOS' and KZ's social action committees as well as the representatives from the African American, Asian, Hispanic, LGBTQ and Muslim communities. We decided to expand GRUC's activities to include mentoring and food delivery to at-risk and at-home families and toy and clothing collection and distribution. At about the same time, the Philadelphia Ethnic Food Festival was cancelled due to an antisemitic incident. Thinking about this, GRUC decided that a Reading Ethnic Food Festival would

be a great event to create. Fortunately, our very next meeting included Bring the Change, a relatively new Reading organization working to create sustainable communities through education and the power of cultural diversity. Prior to the pandemic, they had hosted a Cultural Diversity Festival. We immediately saw the opportunity to collaborate and expand their 2021 festival to promote and celebrate our community's diversity through music, food, dance and education. The second annual Cultural Diversity Festival will take place on Sunday, Sept. 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. at City Park in Reading by the Bandshell with Israeli food, dance and music as well as other ethnicities' cultural delights! Let's celebrate together!

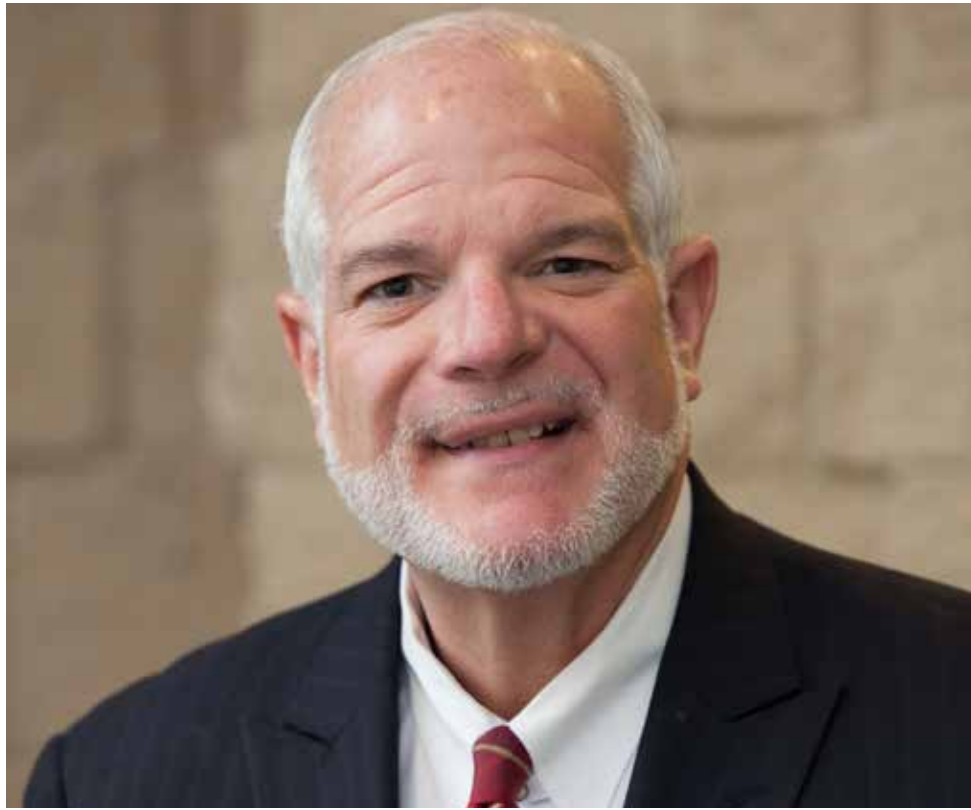
We live in an extraordinary moment in Jewish history. For the first time in almost 4,000 years, we have sovereignty and independence in the Land and State of Israel, and freedom and equality in much of the Diaspora. Our similarities and differences are what makes us strong as a people. Arguing and learning from contrary points of views is a core attribute of being Jewish. To this end, the Federation will continue to seek out and provide programs that reinforce both what we agree upon and what we can learn from each other. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l, said, "By being what only we are, we contribute to humanity what only we can give." L'shana Tova

Kesher Zion Synagogue appoints new spiritual leader

Kesher Zion Synagogue

Cantor Kevin D. Wartell is the new spiritual leader at Kesher Zion Synagogue. He comes to Berks County after 30 years of devoted service to Temple Beth El, Allentown. He retired from his post there in 2018. As their Cantor-Educator he was considered to be one of the Lehigh Valley's leading spiritual leaders. On Sept. 30, 2018, he assumed the title Cantor-Educator Emeritus for the rest of his life, celebrating his lifelong relationship with the synagogue. Cantor Wartell is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan earning a B. A. in Judaic Studies. He earned his advanced degree in Sacred Music and Jewish Education and was granted Cantorial S'micha (Ordination) by his alma mater, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1985. Cantor Wartell received his honorary doctorate from HUC-JIR in 2010. For 24 years, Cantor Wartell was the director of Temple Beth El's Religious School, yielding that position in 2011. In his tenure, Temple Beth El earned the highest award given to a Religious School by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for excellence in Jewish Education. He also created Beth El's High School "Shalsholet" (The Chain) program and remained active in lending his expertise in Jewish education and pedagogy.

Cantor Wartell was the founding chairperson of Project Yachad, The Lehigh Valley Coalition for Jewish Education, and served on the board of the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley. He was active in interfaith dialogue, serving on the Multi-Cultural Committee of the Parkland School District and the program committee of the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding. Cantor Wartell is also a certified Chaplain, receiving CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) accreditation in 2013 and 2018. Cantor Wartell was awarded the prestigious Mortimer S. Schiff Award for Prejudice Reduction by The Lehigh Valley Jewish Federation in 2018. Cantor Wartell also served as a certified Police Chaplain for the Allentown Police Department for 29 years. He is a past chair of The Lehigh Valley Jewish Clergy Group. Cantor Wartell is a well sought after public speaker and performer as well as an expert officiant at religious and public assemblies. Cantor Wartell, a native Detroit, is considered "The Fifth Top" by the legendary Motown recording group the Four Tops, having been lifelong friends with the original members of the group since the age of 18. Cantor Wartell has performed on stage with them in many venues, and they are in the process of producing a presentation titled, "From



Cantor Kevin D. Wartell

Moses to Motown ... What Makes a Soul Singer Move the Soul." In addition, he is the creator and host of a radio program he founded in 1989 entitled "Kol HaEmek, the Voice of the Valley," heard worldwide on WMUH-FM (91.7) every Friday morning from 8:30-9:30 a.m (www.muhlenberg.edu/wmuh) or on your smartphone by downloading

the Tunein radio application. Cantor Wartell is married to Marcy Harris-Wartell. He is the proud father of two wonderful adult children, Mirit and Ari, ... and loves his "doggie kids", Habibi and Lucy as well. He is also the very proud "Popdaddy" to grandchildren Joshua, Dylan, Benjamin and Samantha.



Israel Culinary Adventure

Thank you to all who responded to our survey. We have summarized your input and are working with our travel agent to put together a wonderful trip. Dates, prices, and a provisional itinerary will be available soon.
—Luba, Margo & Andi

Shalom

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Theft of Mona Lisa story kicks off third season of Literatour Berks

By Amanda J. Hornberger

A gripping novel exploring the secrets of the 1911 theft and the dark underbelly of today's art world, "The Last Mona Lisa" is a story of heart-stopping suspense as romantic and sexy as it is terrifying and thrilling, one that taps into our universal fascination with da Vinci, the authentic and the fake, and people so driven to acquire priceless works of art, they will stop at nothing to possess them — not even murder.

Join us in-person at Exeter Community Library on Monday, Sept. 13, for an interactive conversation with Jonathan Santlofer, author of "The Last Mona Lisa".

We are thrilled to welcome Jonathan at our first in-person Literatour event since March 2020!

The Past, August 1911: The Mona Lisa is stolen by museum worker Vincent Peruggia. During its two-year absence from the Louvre, replicas of the painting are created and sold as the original by a notorious duo of con artists. Several of these forgeries remain at large, prompting more than one art historian to speculate that the museum might well be displaying a fake.

The Present: Artist and art professor Luke Perrone hunts for the truth behind his most infamous ancestor, Peruggia. His search attracts a reckless INTERPOL detective with something to prove, a beautiful woman who

may want more than Luke's affection, and a hornet's nest of the most unscrupulous art collectors and thieves.

Jonathan Santlofer is an author and artist. He is the author of the memoir "The Widower's Notebook," the international bestselling novel, "The Death Artist", as well as "Color Blind", "The Killing Art", "The Murder Notebook" and "Anatomy of Fear," which won the Nero Award for best crime novel of 2009.

Also a well-known artist, Jonathan has had his work in more than 200 exhibitions worldwide and is included in numerous private, corporate and public collections, among them the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Art Institute of Chicago; the Newark Museum in New Jersey; and Tokyo's Institute of Contemporary Art.

The public is invited to join us for a conversation with Jonathan Santlofer on Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. at Exeter Community Library, 4565 Prestwick Drive, Exeter Township. Masks are encouraged but not required at Exeter Community Library.

Santlofer will be signing copies of the book that will be available for purchase after the event through the Literatour Berks official book vendor, Reads & Company of Phoenixville.

You can register by visiting our website: <https://readingjewishcommunity.org/>



Jonathan Santlofer

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



Literatour Berks event schedule for 2021-22 season

Sept. 13 at 7 p.m.
Exeter Community Library
Jonathan Santlofer
"The Last Mona Lisa"

Oct. 5 at noon
Virtual Event
Tracy Walder
"The Unexpected Spy: From the CIA to the FBI, My Secret Life Taking Down Some of the World's Most Notorious Terrorists"

Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.
Exeter Community Library
Jai Chakrabarti
"A Play for the End of the World"

Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Event
Dr. James A. Grymes
"Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust—Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour"

Oct. 19 at noon
Jewish Cultural Center
David Page
"Food Americana: The Remarkable People and Incredible Stories behind America's Favorite Dishes"

Dec. 1 at 6 p.m.
Berkshire Mall
Chanukah at the Mall event
Joshua Jay
"How Magicians Think: Misdirection, Deception and Why Magic Matters"

Jan. 10 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Event
Joyce Zonana
"A Land Like You"

Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.
Jewish Cultural Center
Philip Boehm
"The Passenger"

Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Event
Mark Sullivan
"The Last Green Valley"

Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.
Virtual Event
Andrew Feiler
"A Better Life for Their Children: Julius Rosenwald, Booker T. Washington, and the 4,978 Schools that Changed America"

March 7 at 7 p.m.
Exeter Community Library
Elyssa Friedland
"Last Summer at the Golden Hotel"

March 20, 10 a.m.
DoubleTree Hilton Reading
Jenna Blum
"Woodrow on the Bench: Life Lessons from a Wise Old Dog"

April 11 at 7 p.m.
Exeter Community Library
David Biro
"This Magnificent Dappled Sea"

April 24 at 4 p.m.
Exeter Community Library
Melissa Stoller
"Planting Friendship: Peace, Salaam, Shalom"

May 17 at noon
Jewish Cultural Center
Dr. Michael Roizen
"The Great Age Reboot: Cracking the Longevity Code to be Younger Today and Even Younger Tomorrow"

Why Jewish Day School?

By Michele B. Leisawitz

The Jewish Day School of Lehigh Valley (JDS) holds a special place in my heart. In 1986, my parents enrolled me at the JDS for kindergarten, and it immediately felt like my home away from home. The JDS instilled confidence in me and made me proud of my Judaism. My seven years at the JDS helped shape me as a person and provided me with countless fond memories.

Although I always hoped that our children would be able to experience a JDS education similar to the one I experienced, it did not seem realistic due to our proximity from the JDS (which is located in Allentown). Well, as with most things 2020, COVID flipped the script.

A few weeks after Pennsylvania schools were required to “go virtual” in the spring, I reached out to the JDS to see what online opportunities might be available. Immediately, it became clear that the head of school, Amy Golding, and the rest of the JDS staff were leaps and bounds ahead of the “virtual” curve.

The JDS graciously allowed our son Adam (currently enrolled in second grade



Adam and Leah Leisawitz

at the JDS), and our daughter Leah (enrolled in fourth grade at the JDS), the opportunity to observe several online classes throughout the remainder of the spring semester. For the first time since they were physically in school, Leah and Adam were excited about learning. This

excitement caused us to explore whether or not we could make the JDS “work” notwithstanding the distance.

Needless to say, after our group Zoom conference with Amy Golding, Sarah Schonbach and Pam Gibson, our decision was made. It was evident that, despite the challenges of COVID and online learning generally, the JDS was determined to deliver a quality educational experience in a loving and caring environment. In a time of such uncertainty, this was exactly what Ben and I wanted for Adam and Leah — some semblance of normalcy. Of the available options (i.e., full-time in person and hybrid), we chose the hybrid option, which is in-person Monday through Thursday and virtual on Friday. It’s worked out very nicely for us. The personal interactions in the classroom have been refreshing and, to the extent possible, safe under the circumstances.

From day one, the JDS has hit it out of the park. More accurately, it was before day one that the JDS began to deliver. A few days before school began last year, Adam received a phone call from his teacher, Mrs. Gerbasio, made with the intent to make his transition to the JDS a smooth one. Adam was happily surprised to receive the phone call and ecstatic when he received a poem in the mail from Mrs. Gerbasio that contained “Jitter Glitter” that Adam was to place under his bed the night before school started to scare away any first day jitters. Adam was thrilled to receive the poem, excited about school and hooked on Mrs. Gerbasio, the Jitter Glitter and the JDS experience.

Leah is enjoying a wonderful JDS experience as well — her teachers are



extremely creative and make learning fun. For example, Leah’s class had a virtual puppet play theatre broadcast to all the parents via Zoom. Leah’s teacher, Mrs. Holly, even dressed up as a mad scientist to perform a science experiment.

Adam’s and Leah’s growth in both the English and Hebrew curriculum has amazed us. The teachers have not only taught them a great deal in Hebrew, Judaic studies and prayers, but they’ve instilled in them a love for Judaism that will last a lifetime — the same love that was instilled in me at the JDS over 30 years ago. The other day, we heard Leah and Adam in the basement playing together and singing “Hatikvah”!

Our experience at the JDS has been more than we could have ever hoped for. The JDS’s ability to adapt and navigate through uncharted waters during these unprecedented times is nothing short of amazing. Adam and Leah, without question, are thriving at the JDS due to the teachers and the JDS experience as a whole. We are forever grateful to the JDS. So, after a wonderful 2020/21 school year at the JDS, it was an easy decision to enroll Leah and Adam for the upcoming 2021/2022 school year.

The Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley and Chabad of Berks are collaborating to provide transportation to and from JDS for Berks County families. Without question, this will make it easier for Berks County families to take advantage of everything JDS has to offer.

If anyone is interested in the JDS or has any questions about it, I’d be happy to share my experience. It’s been nothing short of amazing thus far.

September ✨ Elul-Tishrei	
	
September 3 7:14 p.m.	September 4/27 Elul Nitzavim (Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20)
September 10 7:03 p.m.	September 11/5 Tishrei Vayelech (Deuteronomy 31:1-31:30)
September 17 6:51 p.m.	September 18/12 Tishrei Ha’azinu (Deuteronomy 32:1-32:52)
September 24 6:39 pm	September 25/19 Tishrei Chol Hamod’ed Sukkot (Exodus 33:12-34:26)

TIKKUN OLAM

Grades 10-12

Join us for...


- Volunteerism
- Team building
- Fun & friendships
- Education


Tikkun Olam is mentored by Adi Shalev, our Shlichah, and will take place once a month on a Sunday at 10 am at the JCC or volunteering location.

Register by Emailing Adi at AdiS@JFReading.org or scan the QR code below.

Dates:

- October 3rd - activity with Adi
- November 14th - volunteer opportunity
- December 5th- activity with Adi
- January 9th- volunteer opportunity
- February 6th- activity with Adi
- March 6th- volunteer opportunity
- April 3rd- activity with Adi
- May 1st- volunteer opportunity





JEWISH DAY SCHOOL OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

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Offering engaging academics and strong Jewish values

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We teach students to think differently and encourage them to interpret, reason and see the world across multiple subjects. We offer unmatched academics supported by cutting edge technology, engaging activities and exceptional teachers who nurture and challenge every child.

For more information please email sschonbach@jdsllv.org or call 610-437-0721.



Violins of Hope sponsorship appeal

By Laurie Waxler

By now, you've all heard the news that the Federation and Reading Symphony Orchestra (RSO) are working together to bring Violins of Hope to Reading and Berks County for two weeks in November.

This collection has toured the world appearing in major metropolitan centers and now will be coming to Berks County. This is the first time the exhibit has appeared in Pennsylvania, and it won't return for at least two years.

This amazing exhibit is a collection of string instruments recovered from the Holocaust and restored by Israeli luthier, Amnon Weinstein, as a tribute to his family members who perished during that time.

There will be a variety of educational programs offered throughout the exhibition, including school visits to 14 out of our 18 Districts, reaching almost 4,000 students, and free or low-cost concerts, lectures, and displays at locations including Goggleworks, Albright, Alvernia and Kutztown University.

The RSO's November concert will feature world renowned violinist Pinchas Zukerman and highlight the Violins of Hope instruments as they are played by members of the RSO string section.

While this program will address the Holocaust, it is more than teaching about antisemitism. Our collective hope is to use the stories of the instruments

to educate about the negatives of antisemitism, racism, and other divisions in our local community, and turn the focus to unity, understanding and acceptance.

The budget for the entire program is approximately \$240,000. We send our sincere thanks to Sen. Judy Schwank for securing a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development in the amount of \$65,000.

We have some additional funding coming in from other foundations and local supporters, and now is your opportunity to join our sponsors list if you feel this is a worthy cause you want to support.

While our sponsorships go up to

\$15,000, there are \$500 and \$1000 sponsorships available, which we believe will be mostly individual donors.

Please contact Laurie Waxler at LaurieW@jfreading.org or at the Federation office (610-921-0624) if you, or perhaps your place of work, would be interested in sponsoring Violins of Hope and we'll be more than happy to send you additional information.

*Please note that sponsorships including tickets to the RSO concert begin at \$2,500, so if going to the concert is a priority for you and that level is not comfortable, please visit the Symphony's website at readingsymphony.org or call the RSO office at 610-373-7557 to purchase your tickets.

Israeli team develops method targeting cancer cells directly

From online news sources

A team of researchers at Tel Aviv University has developed a breakthrough RNA-based drug delivery system to target diseased cells that could improve the treatment of blood cancers, various types of solid cancers, different inflammatory diseases and viral diseases — including coronavirus.

"Today, we flood the body with antibodies that, although selective, damage all the cells that express a specific receptor, regardless of their current form," explained Professor Dan Peer, TAU's vice president for research and development, who led the study. "We have now taken healthy cells out of the equation that can help us — that is, uninfamed cells — and via a simple injection into the bloodstream [we] can silence, express or edit a particular gene exclusively in the cells that are inflamed at that given moment."

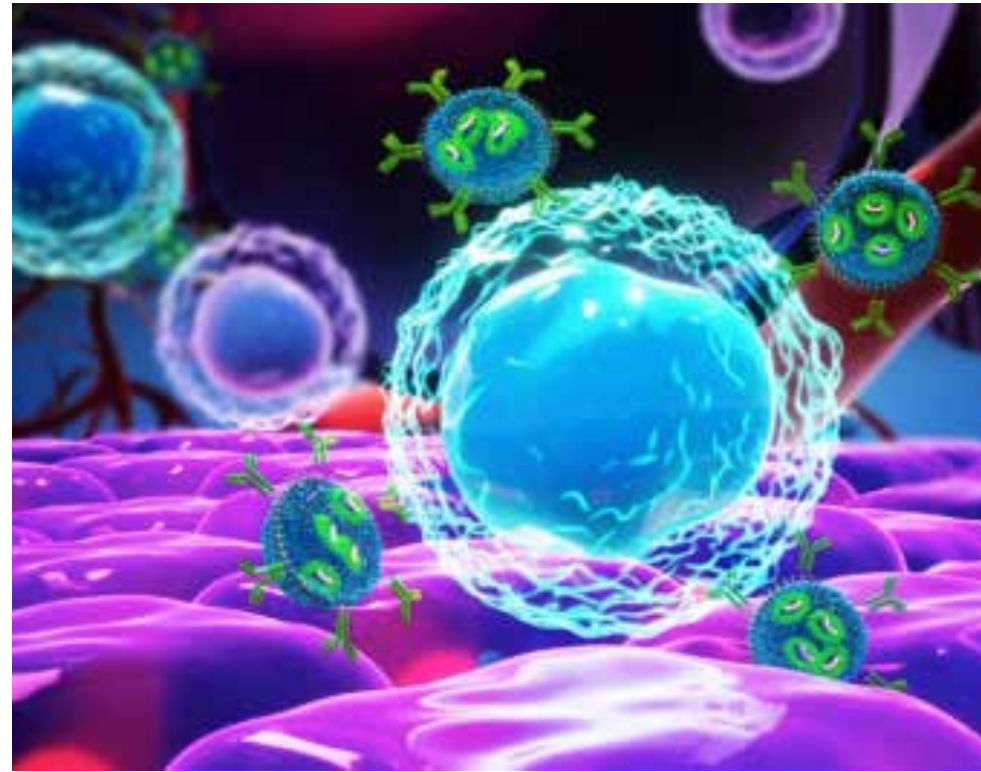
Peer's team has been working on the use of RNA for treating cancer and other diseases for decades. They had already

identified how to differentiate between diseased and non-diseased cells. They were also at the forefront of delivering antibodies to cells. The breakthrough is the ability to deliver the antibodies specifically to the right cells.

"On every cell envelope in the body, that is, on the cell membrane, there are receptors that select which substances enter the cell," Peer said. "If we want to inject a drug, we have to adapt it to the specific receptors on the target cells, otherwise it will circulate in the bloodstream and do nothing. But some of these receptors are dynamic — they change shape on the membrane according to external or internal signals."

Only about 15% of cells are actually diseased, he said, meaning that with this new delivery system, some 85% of cells that are healthy are left to do the work they need to do. "Our development actually changes the world of therapeutic antibodies," Peer said.

The study was published in Nature.



An RNA drug is seen being delivered, targeting infected cells, in this illustration.

Ages +/- 40-60

Jewish Federation of Reading presents...

ADULTS NIGHT OUT

Whether you are looking for a great date night, conversation about current events, or a sense of community, you can find it here!

Join us for our first "Whiskey in the Sukkah" event, on September 23rd at 7pm

For more information and registration, email AdiS@JFReading.org

LET'S TALK JUDAISM

Want to have a better understanding of the Jewish holidays, customs, and values?

The Jewish Federation of Reading is offering a 6-meeting course, to learn more about the meaning of the holidays, understand the different customs and have a safe and open space to learn, ask questions and share experiences.

The course will take place at the JCC between 7:00-8:30 pm, on the following Mondays:

- October 4th, 18th
- November 1st, 15th
- December 6th, 20th

For questions and registration, please contact Adi at AdiS@JFReading.org or fill out the survey below

Arab dentist drills coexistence into his hometown

Israel21c.org

Dr. Khalil Bakly has two dental practices: one in Nazareth, where he treats a mostly Muslim clientele, and one in Netanya, where most of his patients are Jewish. As such, he was privy to multiple voices and opinions surrounding the conflict that recently engulfed Israel, as violence erupted between Israel and the Gaza Strip and, in some cases, between Israel's Jewish and Arab communities.

"As you can understand, I experience both worlds and both populations on a daily basis," he explains. "There's no doubt that there were extremists on both sides in certain areas that succeeded in inducing a really bad and unpleasant atmosphere. I have no doubt that anyone with a bit of sense can understand that it's not in anyone's favor."

This kind of atmosphere of violence and suspicion is something that Bakly

has long been working against in his role as a political and social activist. Like over a quarter of the residents of his hometown of Nof Hagalil (formerly called Nazareth Illit), Bakly is a Muslim who lives in close quarters with his Jewish neighbors. And the recent events that engulfed the country go against everything that he stands for.

"We're against everything that happened — we don't believe in hurting any person, any property, and certainly not religious or holy places. What happened very much harms the atmosphere of partnership and a shared life, and that's why we all rallied to preserve a good atmosphere."

Bakly and his co-activists did that through Habustan (The Orchard), a local grassroots organization that brings together a community composed of Nof Hagalil's Arabs and Jews once a month for meetings,

hikes, lectures and other activities to get to know one another better. "We discovered that there's a lot in common, and we mobilize it for the common good," he notes.

The idea for Habustan came after Bakly and his wife, Reem (also a dentist), erected a coexistence sukkah in 2017. They invited the city's residents to come for kosher and Arab cuisine, prayer, live music and discussions.

"Over the space of three days, 1,500 people visited the sukkah, and I understood that there was potential for conversation, partnerships and the creation of frameworks that would bring Arabs and Jews together to get to know one another better and break twisted stereotypes. When recent events began, we immediately understood that we need to rally in order to bring people together and strengthen social and communal resilience, and we immediately initiated both frontal and Zoom encounters," Bakly explains.

"We also initiated a Facebook and Instagram campaign in which we asked our members and the residents of the city to have their photograph taken together and write a few words about Arab-Jewish relations. The campaign is called 'Arabs and Jews in Nof Hagalil against violence,'" he adds.

"We saw so much involvement and shares by hundreds of people who took part in it. Friends, neighbors, colleagues, people who study together — they had their photos taken together and uploaded hundreds of photos, posts and personal stories, which

greatly helped the atmosphere in the city. It was a very good experience, very encouraging, and greatly strengthened my feeling that there's so much in common and that this needs to be nourished."

"We recently all experienced the Covid pandemic and we saw the mobilization, for example of the healthcare system, including all the doctors and nurses from the Arab community, who nowadays make up more than 30% of healthcare [workers] in the country. They became a defense line for the treatment of the population at large, without distinction between race, religion and sex, of course. It proved how much the Arab community believes in coexistence and a shared life, and how finally there are efforts to strengthen what we have in common. God willing, we'll reach a common life, equality and mutual respect," he adds.

Looking forward, he hopes that more and more communities will emulate Habustan's example. "At the end of the day, we're all living in this country — working together, studying together, meeting one another on a personal level on a daily basis, and not only in Nof Hagalil, but in more cities and communities," he says.

"I'm not naïve; it's clear to me that it requires a lot of work, but I believe in it, and I try to apply it," he concludes. "I have very good relations with the large majority of the Jewish population, and I believe that if each and everyone of us becomes an ambassador of the saying 'Depart from evil and do good,' we'll be in a much better place in the future."



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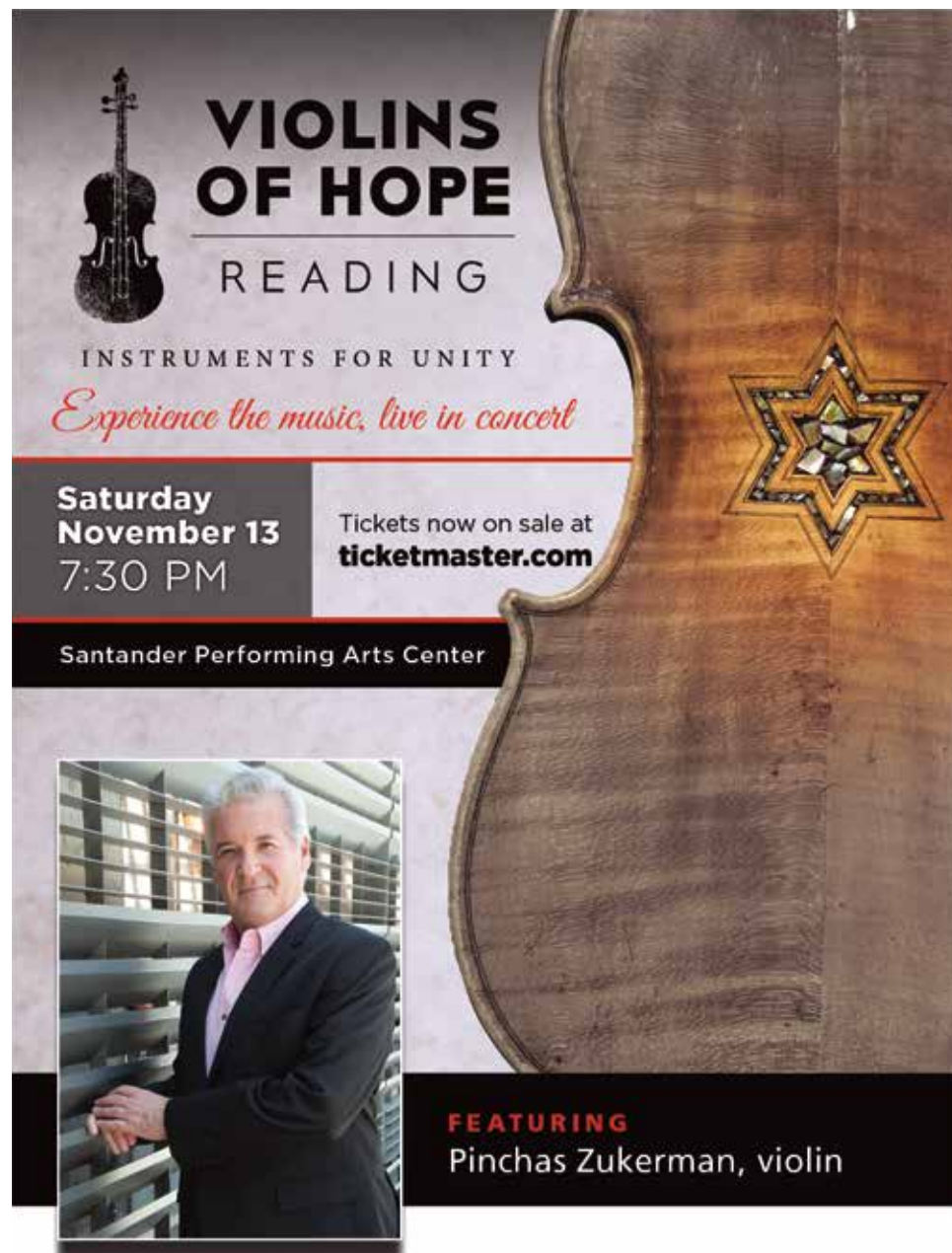
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Lishmor Al HaOlam: Guarding the planet — Solange Israel-Mintz & Andi Franklin

Polluted water = H 2 Oh No!

On June 16 the Reading Eagle ran a front-page article on the presence of “forever” chemicals in Berks County water systems. Of the 43 sites tested in Berks County two were among the highest in plastics pollution in the state. So ... we decided to do some research on pollutants in tap water. What are the pollutants, what are the dangers and who is at risk, and how can we protect ourselves?

We first contacted Chip Bilger, Executive Director of Western Berks Water Authority, who was very helpful in giving an overview of what to look for and what to worry about. For most of us, our water is tested often and is within established guidelines. However, Berks County tap water comes from a hodgepodge of sources — rivers, lakes, groundwater, streams, private wells. As water travels over the surface or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and picks up other substances. Therefore, it is suggested that you check with your locale’s specific water source. If you use water from a private well, it would be wise to have it tested. Don’t freak out! All tap and bottled water will have some contamination. Here is what to look for:

There are three main categories of water pollution. The first is microbial contaminants. These are pathogens such as bacteria, protozoa, and viruses. High levels in water may be the result of poorly managed agricultural runoff from livestock waste, organic fertilizers, and poorly managed or accidental

leakages of urban sewage. Intestinal diseases such as cholera are the result of microbial pollution. High levels of microbial contaminants are rare in the United States, and emergency warnings are posted when necessary. However, those who are immune compromised are more vulnerable to small levels of microbial pollution. In addition, those who use CPAP machines, neti pots and nasal rinses also need to avoid tap water. Filters remove some, but cannot remove all, microbial contaminants. Both groups should use boiled (one minute at a rolling boil) or distilled water. Boiled water is preferable since you know it is clean, and the plastic container is eliminated — always an environmental plus.

Heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, cadmium, copper, and zinc are the next worry. Most metal pollution comes from mining companies where acid mine drainage system is used to release heavy metals from the mined ores. This heavy metal waste, other industrial runoff, and automobile accidents often create metal pollution. Even the natural weathering of rocks can result in heavy metals leaching into our water. In addition, the linings of older plumbing pipes can leach metals into our household water. Remember Flint, Mich.!! Again, for most of us, the levels in our drinking water are routinely monitored and within established guidelines. The risk here is chemical buildup. It can result in toxic damage of livers, kidneys and intestines, and some cancers. Furthermore, lead is a developmental neurotoxin, so buildup in children is even more dangerous. Granular activated carbon filters (GAC), in under sink models, three stage filtration systems and reverse osmosis systems have high ratings for

metal removal, but none can take out all.

The third category of pollutants is those “forever” chemicals that motivated our research. Two groups stand out here— BPAs and PFAs. BPAs, bisphenol A, is a chemical used to harden plastics. It was used in baby bottles but has been discontinued. However, BPAs are still used in linings of canned food and drinks. BPA’s also leach into water from industrial waste. Ninety percent of us have BPAs in our bodies right now and it is not going anywhere.

Although Food and Drug Administration (FDA) studies show that levels are currently low, given that BPAs stay with us these levels can and will increase. Our children are particularly vulnerable. According to the Mayo Clinic, exposure to BPAs is a concern because of the possible health effects on the brain and prostate gland of fetuses, infants, and children.

Additional research suggests a possible link between BPA’s and increased blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. High quality filtration systems can filter out some larger BPA particles. Most do not remove microparticles and only a few labs in the world even perform the expensive tests for them. The best strategy is to eat and drink clean. This means using glass or stainless-steel containers to store food and beverages instead of plastic. The FDA recommends BPA-free products for bottles, sippy cups, and storage of infant formula. Last, NEVER heat food in any plastic.

The second group of “forever” chemicals are PFAs — per and polyfluoroalkyl substances. The chemical bond between carbon and fluorine is one

of the strongest in nature and is very stable in water. This means it does not degrade easily and sticks around in the environment for many thousands of years. For us that’s close enough to “forever”! PFAs are used in fire-fighting foams, non-stick cookware, microwave safe wrappers, water repellant cloths, personal care products, cleaning products and much much more. PFAs are used in more than 9,000 products. The production and use of products containing PFAs pollutes our water and our environment.

Although much is still unknown, a growing body of science suggests that there are potential adverse health impacts — liver and thyroid issues, decreased fertility, hormone suppression and cancers. PFA’s are ubiquitous in human blood serum samples, and it is worrisome since they are retained and cumulative in our bodies. Reverse osmosis and three stage filters achieve good removal, up to 94% if properly maintained. Otherwise, they make the situation worse. Granular activated carbon (GAC) filters remove only 73%.

A wishing well may help, but there are better options. Boiling water, well-maintained three stage water filtration systems, and reverse osmosis systems make an immediate, positive difference. Other things to do are to reduce our consumption of single use plastics, and to support research for alternative materials and more advanced filtration systems for our public water.

A special thanks to Chip Bilger, Executive Director of Western Berks Water Authority.



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'Lean on Me'

By Cantor Kevin Wartell
Keshet Zion Synagogue

*"Sometimes in our lives
We all have pain, we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise,
We know that there's always tomorrow.*



*Lean on me when you're not strong
I'll be your friend, I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on..."*

The High Holiday season is a time of deep inner reflection and healing. Healing our relationships with each other...healing our souls...and healing our relationship with G-d. Let's be honest ... I pray for a living. That's what I do ... I am honored to be The SHALIACH TZIBBUR of Keshet Zion Synagogue...a "Messenger of Prayer" on their behalf. But even if I did not play that role professionally, I would find the concept of prayer and synagogue community very inviting. There is a certain energy to communal

prayer ... a sharing of our spirits and our fears about tomorrow and all of our tomorrows. Many people may find the idea of community sharing a difficult, even uncomfortable situation to put oneself through. Trust me, once in the moment; there is a bonding and a cleansing that occurs in the synagogue environment. We are blessed to live and serve in a community that respects each other and is guided by a Federation that serves the needs of the entire community of the Greater Jewish Reading geographical reach.

Shana Tova...a Happy, Healthy New year to you and your loved ones. May it be a year of true sweetness, both spiritually as well as physically for each and every one of you. ---
*"...Lean on me when you're not strong
And I'll be your friend I'll help you carry on
For it won't be long
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on..."*

("Lean on Me" words and music written by Bill Withers, 1972)

Put repentance, prayer and charity into practice

By Rabbi Brian Michelson
Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom

As we prepare for the upcoming holidays, we recall the grandeur of this time of year. Everything feels major and important. We think about taking big actions, making big promises to be better in the coming year, and we pray that the year to come will be a good one for us.



One of the most iconic parts of the New Year liturgy is the "Une'taneh Tokef, Let us proclaim the power of this day." It is a section that is as big as the High Holidays feel. It asks God to judge us kindly. Une'taneh Tokef includes what is probably the most important line of the entire High Holiday liturgy: "But repentance, prayer, and charity temper

judgment's severe decree." It sounds and feels like it should be a moment of grand gestures and significant piety. However, I want to take issue with this assumption. As we prepare for the coming New Year, I want to suggest that the "repentance, prayer, and charity," that is called for in the Une'taneh Tokef is not about the big things we do during this upcoming holiday season; rather, they are about the small things that we do or can do every day. Judaism is rarely about the one or two big acts, but rather trying to affect the way we live our everyday lives with the values of Judaism. **Repentance** — Asking for forgiveness. There is a wonderful tradition of asking those we may have wronged for forgiveness in the time around the Yamim Norahim. However, how much better would it be if we could readily admit our mistakes or missteps when they happen as opposed to waiting until this special

time of year. Imagine how much better we might feel acknowledging and dealing with our guilt when it happens instead of letting it build up our guilt or resentment. **Prayer** — The High Holidays are filled with services and prayer all meant to encourage us to be aware of who we are and what we have. This year, instead of thinking of prayer as an obligation of the Jewish New Year, let us try and incorporate it more as a regular part of our lives. Learn a new blessing and use it, as appropriate, throughout the coming year. Let it inspire us to be grateful more often. **Charity** — Giving is fundamental to the living out of our faith. We are called upon to help others and to work towards repairing the world. One of the best ways to do this is through sharing what we have with others. Yet, High Holidays should not be the only time when we practice Tzedakah. It should be a regular practice. I hate having coins

in my pockets, so I have started a new ritual. Whenever I get home and have coins in my pocket, I put them into the Tzedakah box we have at home. Once it is filled, we trade in the coins for cash and donate the money to one of the charities we support. If you find it amusing that I still use coins and cash, think about when you use your debit or credit card. Keep track of what you have spent and round up to the next dollar and then donate that money to charity. All of these ideas are about taking the words we shall speak and making them real, not only during these High Holidays but every day. If we can do so, next year when we get to the line about "But with repentance, prayer, and charity we can transcend the harsh decree," we can say them knowing we have done right for the past year. May 5782 be a year of health and blessing for us all.

Tending our gardens

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker
Chabad Center of Berks County

Throughout the current crisis, I have met with people outdoors, often in their private gardens. These visits have afforded me the opportunity to observe the color and vibrancy of the different backyards. The lawn, trees, flowerbeds and plants.



One particular garden stood out for its neatness, immaculate arrangements and symmetry. The colors were alive and vibrant. It felt warm, welcoming and cozy. I asked the owner how long it took to create such an idyllic setting. He responded that it took some four decades. In other words, the gorgeous view was not generated in a day. It was an ongoing labor of love. Gardens are not sterile environments. They are vibrant, full of life and energy. The greenery in the garden — all of it — grows and grows and never stops. This greenery will find a way to blossom and bloom. Nothing can get in its way. Nothing. If the garden is going to be maintained in pristine condition, without it overgrowing out of control, one must be out there constantly — tending to its many needs. The greenery of our gardens — the trees, the bushes, the flowers and even the weeds — thrive on water and sunshine. They love the rain and the moisture, and they smile when the sun shines through. The elements may drive us indoors. Outside, however, those same elements brings the garden to life. We humans love a nice garden. It provides solace and peace, and a place

to quietly process our thoughts. But, if we are to enjoy its comfort, we must tame the garden. Because the garden is always growing and flourishing. Because life is about growing. Stagnancy is the enemy of life. Over the COVID crisis, we have experienced much stagnancy in our personal lives. After all, when one's movements are restricted it is difficult to feel alive, upbeat and excited. When the usual routine is curtailed, we feel lost and abandoned. The return to normality has been slow and labored. I suspect, that motivation and joie de vivre are not easily stimulated after so much inaction. While it is understandable, it is unhealthy. It is physically detrimental, but especially mentally and emotionally. Of course, it is not just greenery that grows. We humans also need to grow. It is vital to our well-being to find a way forward. If greenery finds a way to blossom and bloom — with nothing getting in its way — then we can surely do the same. We can, and must, embrace life again. We are now a few days from Rosh Hashanah. A new year is about to begin, and the old one is about to end. It is our annual individual assessment. What type of year has it been. What type of year will the coming year look like. As Jews, this is also a chance to focus on our personal growth — particularly as it relates to our faith. During this current crisis, many have experienced stagnancy and complacency. The excuse has been Covid. While this is understandable, it is unhealthy — as individuals and to our very future. Rosh Hashanah is a time to be honest with ourselves, and then to shake off the inertia. It may have happened through no fault of our own.

But the solution is up to us — it is in our grip. It just takes determination and decisiveness. If greenery — despite adversity and hardship — finds a way to blossom and bloom with nothing getting in its way, then we can surely do the same. Looking for a New Year resolution? Go

for a walk around the garden. Then, come back indoors and restore your own color and the vibrancy. Reclaim your personal garden. Rehabilitate your life. Chana and I wish each and every one of you a wonderful and happy New Year ahead, full of promise, blessing, good health and much success.

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Hunger Action Month

By Carole Robinson

It's easy to get caught up in "doomsday" scrolling of all the bad news out there and feel overwhelmed with how little you can control. With all the problems the world faces today, how can one person possibly make an impact? I'm writing today about how one little act can make a huge difference in our local community. Just one "little did" on your end really adds up during Hunger Action Month.



The pandemic has led to more families turning to food banks than ever before. Feeding America calculates that 40% of current food pantry clients need assistance due to COVID-19. According to Helping Harvest, 100,000 people qualify for food assistance in Berks and Schuylkill counties. Many of these people work part-time or full-time jobs, but they struggle to meet their basic needs due to low wages, underemployment, and necessary expenses like rent.

Feeding people with food insecurity involves more than just supplying food, particularly for children and seniors. A lack of access to fresh, healthy foods leads to poor nutrition and higher levels of obesity and other diet-related diseases. Childhood hunger can have a lasting impact on mental and physical health and academic achievement. Food insecurity among seniors increases disability, decreases resistance to infections, and extends hospital stays, exacerbating care giving needs and health care expenditures.

Feeding Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the state Dept. of Health, launched the Healthy Pantry Initiative (HPI) to increase healthy food options at food pantries and improve the health of food pantry clients.

The JFS monthly food pantry, located at the Olivet Boys and Girls Club, is part of this community health program. Brenna Ricci, HPI Nutrition Educator, works with JFS to expand access to nutritious foods, provided by Helping Harvest, and promote healthy eating habits at our food pantry.

Feeding America data shows that 80% of food pantry clients purchase inexpensive unhealthy food in order to stretch their budget. For this reason, it is particularly important to offer fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, proteins, and dairy based on the MyPlate.gov model. JFS has been supplementing our shelf-stable Helping Harvest order with bags of produce and fruit as well as additional packages of fresh chicken, meat, and cheese to help pantry recipients fill half their plate with fruits and vegetables, half with grains and proteins. We are also requesting the following healthy food donations:

- Low-sodium canned vegetables
- Canned fruit in 100% juice or light syrup
- Low-sodium or water-packed chicken, tuna, and salmon
- Dried beans, peas, lentils
- Whole wheat pasta, barley, and rice
- Whole-grain cereal and rolled oats
- Low-sodium peanut butter

By Carole Robinson and Sari Incledon

For many years, Jewish Family Service has been able to get the names of all Jewish hospital patients, both affiliated with congregations and non-affiliated from Reading Hospital and St. Joseph's. This allowed us to visit as many patients and families as possible and provide social service and friendly supportive visits. Fortunately, we



SDA Food Pantry volunteers packing extra boxes of fruits and vegetables for clients on Aug. 10

In addition to increasing healthy food options, JFS is encouraging consumption of these foods by providing recipe cards, printed in Spanish and English, to give families ideas for making healthy meals. When possible, we bundle foods with these recipe cards.

We also share nutrition educational resources, such as free, online monthly nutrition and cooking classes, with Spanish translation option.

The topic for June was whole grain and the recipe was savory oatmeal; in July, fruits and vegetables were featured with recipes for fruit smoothies.

Helping Harvest is also promoting the SWAP (Supporting Wellness at Pantries) stoplight method, with "red" items to be chosen rarely, "yellow" chosen sometimes, and "green" chosen often based on healthy eating nutrition guidelines. The foods are ranked by the amount of saturated fat, sodium, and added sugar, with suggestions on how to use the items. For instance, though beef ravioli is considered "red" because it is not heart-healthy, it can be improved with a side of steamed vegetables or a fresh salad. Peanut butter, a "yellow" food, has no cholesterol but is high in sodium and has 2.5 grams of saturated fat and 2 grams of added sugar. It can be used in a fruit smoothie. Canned potatoes, a "green food," are an excellent source of potassium and can be enjoyed frequently.

September is Hunger Action Month, when people across America will work together to fight hunger, spread awareness, and take action on the hunger crisis. Although the task of reducing food insecurity in Berks County sometimes seems daunting, I am encouraged by these proactive words from poet Shel Silverstein.



Packed boxes of ground turkey and chicken breasts for food pantry recipients

Woulda-Coulda-Shoulda

Layin' in the sun,
Talkin' 'bout the things
They woulda coulda shoulda done...
But those Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas
All ran away and hid
From one little Did.

Raise awareness of food insecurity in our community by wearing orange on Sept. 17, Hunger Action Day. Help conquer hunger by making a monetary donation to JFS Food Pantry or by donating nutritious foods (see recommended healthy food list above). Take action by volunteering at one of JFS's two monthly food pantries. Food pantry volunteers are needed from 8:30-11:30 am at the Olivet Pantry on the first Wednesday of the month and at the Hampden Heights Pantry on the second Tuesday of the month (Contact Carole at 610-921-0624 or CaroleR@JFReading.org for more details).

You too can make a difference with "one little Did."

Help us support our hospitalized

continue to receive daily emails from Reading Hospital of all Jewish patients, unless they request that their names not be shared.

Unfortunately, after the merger of Penn State Health and St. Joseph's Hospital, this information is no longer available from them. Despite several conversations with St. Joseph executives, they claim HIPPA, and security concerns prevent them from proactively sharing this information. In

addition, because so many Jewish patients are unaffiliated, the information is not made available to our Rabbis.

If you, family members or your friends are hospitalized at Penn State Health-St. Joseph's Hospital, please be aware of the need to contact us and/or your congregation to receive supportive services and a personal visit.

Please call if you have any questions.

Jewish Family Service

Food Pantry

Friendship Circle

Counseling Services

Transportation

Financial Assistance

Hospital and

Home Visitations

Living with Loss

Information and

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Case Management

Holiday Programs

JFS programming going strong through summer



Adi Shalev, left, does a presentation for Jewish Family Service's Friendship Circle. Louise Zeidman, right, enjoys her boxed lunch delivery.

A Very Israeli
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featuring Chef Michael Solomonov
& Cookbook Author Adeena Sussman



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Understanding the ‘hows’ of antisemitism

By Samuel Hyde

We all agree that antisemitism is bad. People are less likely to be seduced by this hate because we all know where it leads. But anti-Zionism is not perceived to be in the same category. It is sold as speaking truth to power, masked as justice.

The antisemitism we all acknowledge as bad started out looking nothing like where it led. In fact, in comparing the beginnings of antisemitism with anti-Zionism the similarities are striking. In the secular 19th century, Jews were designated as Semites, yet it was never intended to mean anything but Jew.

In the Soviet Union, which claimed to not notice differences in people or religion, Jews were designated as Zionists, and today the designation of Zionism in the West is described as having immutable loathsome qualities. To Christian Europe, we were Christ-killers. To the Nazis, we were an impure race. To the Soviets, we were capitalists. And today, when the greatest sins of the world are racism and colonialism, the Jewish collective is defined as the ultimate bastion of white supremacy, and Israel is seen as a state born in sin.

Antisemitism relies on the greatest authority of any given time. Religion in ancient times, science in the modern era and human rights today.

It is only by appealing to the religious doctrine that all Jews of the 12th century could be referred to as the killers of Jesus, 1,000 years after his death. It is only by appealing to the authority of perverted science, that Jews could be accused of endangering its racial purity. It is only by appealing to a distorted version of human rights that Israel and Zionism, a Jewish liberation movement, could be considered its greatest violators. It is only by appealing to this distortion that the same people who continually agreed to partitioning the land into a Jewish state and a Palestinian state, could be the ones standing in the way of a two-state solution.

Why go to all these lengths to single out a group and distort reality? Because humans have a primal need for scapegoats, and for some reason my people have been the designated choice for so many and for so long. For medieval Christianity, we stood between a brutish world and salvation. For Germany and Europe, we stood between them and glory. For Stalin, we stood between him and a communist utopia.

So, why bother fighting colonialism and its aftermath? Because it is easier to designate Zionists as colonialists and blame them. Why bother fighting racism and its systems? Because it is easier to designate Zionism as racism and blame it. Ignore archaeology, manipulate history, solve injustice solely by fighting for the liberation of some at the expense of another, sell people on the idea that there is no such thing as a universal truth, just broad narratives, paint the Jewish story of indigeneity to the Land of Israel and our self-determination as Zionist propaganda.

But the problem with human scapegoats is that unlike ancient animal ones, humans might resist, and one cannot have that. So, action must be taken to reduce this resistance: Strip them of their defenses, push them to the margins, and use the modus operandi of “cancel culture” to suffocate the voice of the Jew from their own conversation, but do it all

gradually and never use the word Jew.

Antisemitism, just like anti-Zionism, also lured Jews into dropping their defenses and identity by telling them they would be accepted. In Germany, Jews were told if you are the good kind of Jew who fought for Germany in World War I, you would be spared. They weren't.

Jews today feel increasingly unwelcome in their traditional home of liberal politics and progressive ideology, something we have been at the forefront of change in, not just for our own community but for others, Harvey Milk and gay rights, Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem in leading second wave feminism, and Rabbi Joachim Prinz and the civil rights movement.

Antisemitism didn't start by stripping Jews of their rights, confiscating their citizenship and pushing them into ghettos.

It started by pushing Jews out of the spaces they were able to attain in the

greatest authority of that time.

We need to talk about the ongoing and desperate attempts of the non-Jewish world to divorce Zionism from Judaism and try to water down our peoplehood to strictly a religion.

We must talk about the continuous lies targeted at Zionists that are rooted in the same antisemitic tropes used to murder and expel our people.

This is all part of an intentional effort from the outside to divide our community within. In letting that happen, we are allowing the continued and endless cycle of anti-Jewish hate to spread once more, we must break our own cycle as well of desperately seeking to assimilate and gain acceptance from the non-Jewish world. Israel is the heart and soul of the Jewish people, it has been for millennia, and will be for an eternity.

The job of fighting antisemitism is irrelevant if only viewed through a lens of hindsight.

The real work is understanding the

way antisemitism functions in society to notice this shape-shifting world view, whatever it may call itself and how it positions the Jewish collective into whatever that given society hates or fears most

Tragic hindsight is not a lens to understand anti-Jewish hate, it is the lens to remember and commemorate. But, to truly prevent tragedy, we have to notice, acknowledge and fight the unfolding rhetoric that allows Jewish hate to be normalized in society. “What” happened is simply irrelevant if there is an unwillingness to engage in “how” it happened.

Only once people understand the “hows” of antisemitism, can “never again” be a slogan of reality.

The writer is a political journalist and Jewish and Israel rights activist based in Tel Aviv. He studied antisemitism and the Holocaust and aims to redefine the way in which the non-Jewish world interacts with Zionism.

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Adi Shalev with her family at her brother's bar mitzvah this summer; a highlight of her long-awaited visit home to Israel.



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community, Israel
and the entire world.

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Amy, Lee and Luke Berger



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**Vicki Haller Graff
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New Year blessings to all.
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May you have a
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and Family**



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Haia & Meir Mazuz



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The Rotenberg Family



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Norman Wilikofsky



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sweet & prosperous
New Year.

**Manny & Yvonne
Wittels**



Best wishes for a
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Peaceful New Year

Eric & Marissa Bluestone



REFORM CONGREGATION **OHEB SHOLOM**

Schedule of High Holiday & Festival Services, 2021 (5782)

All in-person attendance is subject to change and may be limited.

Selichot (Official start of the Holidays)

Date: Saturday, August 28, 2021

◆ Documentary: "A Cantor's Tale". Followed by desserts and discussion.

Time: 8:30 pm

◆ Joint Selichot Service w/ Keshet Zion

Time: 10:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Date: Monday, September 6, 2021

Time: 8:00 pm

Rosh Hashanah Day Services

Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021

◆ RH Morning Service at 10:00 am

◆ RH Torah Service at 2 pm

◆ RH Shofar Service at 3 pm (**outside**)

◆ RH Family Service at 4 pm (**outside**)

◆ Joint Tashlich Service with KZ at the Reading Public Museum at 5:30 pm

Shabbat Shuvah

◆ Friday, September 10 at 7:45pm (**in-person**)

Annual Cemetery Service

Date: Sunday, September 12, 2021

Time: 1:00 pm at Mt. Sinai Cemetery

Yom Kippur

Kol Nidre Service

Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Time: 8:00 pm

Yom Kippur Day Services

Date: Thursday, September 16, 2021

◆ Morning Service at 10:00 am

◆ Family Service at 1:30 pm (**outside**)

◆ Afternoon Service at 3 pm-

Torah will be read

◆ Yizkor/Memorial Service at 4:30pm

◆ N'ilah Service at 5:15 pm (**outside**)

Sukkot

◆ Sukkah Decorating & Service

Date: Monday, September 20, 2021

Decorating Time: 6:00 pm

Service Time: 7:00 pm (**outside**)

◆ Service in the Sukkah

Date: Friday, September 24, 2021

Time: 6:00 pm

◆ Tot Shabbat in the Sukkah

Date: Saturday, September 25

Time: 10 am

Shemini Atzeret – Simchat Torah

◆ Simchat Torah/Consecration Service in the Sanctuary

Date: Monday, September 27, 2021

Time: 7:00 pm



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Keshet Zion Synagogue
High Holidays
Tishrei 5782

Selichot

Joint Program & Service with RCOS & KZ together

Saturday, August 28, 2021

Program: 8:30 p.m.

Dessert: 10:00p.m.

Service: 10:30p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 6 2021

Evening Service 6:15 p.m.

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

2200 State Hill Road

Wyomissing, Pa 19610

(directly across from KZ/RCOS)

Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Tashlich 5:30 p.m. at **Reading**

Public Museum: Mincha to follow

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Shuvah

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Kever Avot /Dedication of Cemetery Genizah

Sunday, September 12, 2021

(At the Keshet Zion Cemetery)

Memorial Service 11:00 a.m.

Erev Yom Kippur

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

Mincha 6:15 p.m.

Kol Nidre 6:45 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Thursday, September 16, 2021

Wyomissing Church of the Brethren

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Mincha 6:15 p.m.

Neilah 7:00 p.m.

Shofar 7:45 p.m.

Maariv & Havdalah to follow

Sukkot

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Kiddush in the Sukkah following services

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Kiddush in the Sukkah following services

Shemini Atzeret

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor Recited

Kiddush Luncheon following services

Erev Simchat Torah

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

Evening Service 7:15 p.m.

Simchat Torah

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

Kiddush following services

Services will be held both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

Tickets and face masks are required for in-person services. Please RSVP by Monday, August 16 , 2021. kzsecretary@entermail.net or 610-374-1763

B"H

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HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES 5782-2021

ROSH HASHANAH

Monday, September 6

Light candles at..... 7:09 PM
Mincha Service..... 7:15 PM
Ma'ariv Service..... 7:40 PM

Tuesday, September 7

Shacharit Service..... 9:00 AM
Children's Program..... 10:30 AM
Shofar Service..... 11:00 AM
Kiddush following Services at approx 12:30 PM
Mincha Service..... 1:30 PM
Tashlich Service..... 2:00 PM
Ma'ariv Service..... 7:40 PM
Light candles after 8:06 PM

Wednesday, September 8

Shacharit Service..... 9:00 AM
Children's Program..... 10:30 AM
Shofar Service..... 11:00 AM
Kiddush following Services at approx 12:30 PM
Mincha Service..... 7:00 PM
Ma'ariv Service..... 7:40 PM
Yom Tov Ends..... 8:05 PM

YOM KIPPUR

Wednesday, September 15

Light candles at..... 6:54 PM
Kol Nidrei..... 7:00 PM
*Candles may be lit at the synagogue for your convenience.

Thursday, September 16

Shacharit Service..... 9:00 AM
Children's Program..... 11:00 AM
Yizkor..... 11:15 AM
Mincha Service..... 5:30 PM
Neilah..... 6:30 PM
Yom Kippur Ends..... 7:51 PM
Break Fast at Synagogue



Everyone Welcome!

Please call 610-334-3218, Email: Office@ChabadofBerks.org, or visit www.chabadofberks.org/highholiday to reserve a seat

This program is sponsored by Dr. Jerry Marcus

Palestinian health indexes tell an unknown story

By Jonah Cohen

A number of progressive publications and social media influencers have spent the past few weeks accusing Israel of “genocide” and “ethnic cleansing.” One prestigious magazine, The New Republic, branded Israel as a “settler colonial” state engaged in a “never-ending war against Palestinian health,” a kind of updated version of the old European charge that Jewish intruders poison their neighbors’ wells. But if all that were true, then wouldn’t these crimes be reflected in the standard health indexes used worldwide to measure a people’s overall physical well-being—such as in Palestinian life expectancy, infant mortality, population growth, and so on? Let’s look at the data.

Life Expectancy — In 1967, the year Israel took over the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Jordan and Egypt, the average Palestinian could expect to live only 49 years, according to a United Nations report by Dr. Wael Ennab of An-Najah National University in the West Bank. Once Israel entered the scene, that expectation climbed to 56 years in 1975, jumped to 66 years in 1984, and has since hovered around 75 years, which is higher than the global average. It is also higher than in Iran, Pakistan, and many Arab countries, including Egypt. It is even higher than several countries in the Americas. Israeli presence in the land, while bemoaned by many Palestinians, nevertheless corresponded with major leaps forward in human longevity.

Infant Mortality — Here again we find improvements in Palestinian well-being since 1967. The Palestinian infant mortality ratio in 1967 was between 152 and 162 per 1,000 births, dropping to 132 per 1,000 in 1974, and plummeting to 53-63 per 1,000 in 1985. Happily, the number has now plunged to 15.6 per 1,000, making Palestinian babies safer than those in many other countries. A pregnant woman’s baby stands a better chance of survival in the West Bank and Gaza Strip than in Brazil, Turkey, Egypt, and numerous other nations around the world.

Birth Rates, Death Rates, Population

Growth — As a result of high birth rates and dropping death rates, the West Bank and Gaza Strip are among the world’s top areas in population growth. Add the above data on ever-rising life expectancy and plummeting infant mortality, and a complex picture emerges in which, somehow, amid decades of war against the Jewish state, Palestinian life and health are improving.

Access to Water — If it is true that “water is life,” then Israel has enhanced life for Palestinians by providing increased access to clean drinking water. When Jordan occupied the West Bank, just four out of 708 Palestinian towns and villages had modern water supply systems and running water. Enter the hated Jews and in just five years the network of fresh water sources expanded by 50 percent and continued to grow, thanks to Israel’s introduction of modern water management techniques, extensive pipeline development, and deep wells beside urban centers. By 2004, 96 percent of the West Bank population enjoyed running water, even during months of low rainfall. Palestinian water consumption also consistently rose, exceeding annual increases from population growth. Regrettably, theocratic Hamas’s sewage management and over-pumping of Gaza’s aquifer—and obsession with war—have worsened regional difficulties. But if Palestinians made peace with Israel, then pioneering Israeli conservation technologies would surely offer yet more hope and benefits to Gazans’ water situation.

War Deaths — Given the extensive media coverage and worldwide protests over alleged Israeli war crimes, one might reasonably assume that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is among the bloodiest disputes on earth, if not in history. But judged in terms of total dead—roughly 30,000 over 100 years—the conflict is in fact a minor skirmish in comparison to the butcher’s bill of South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, or nearly any European and American wars. Of the 5 million lives lost in the last 70 years of wars in the Middle

East and North Africa, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict encompasses less than 1 percent of the total in the region. In the last 10 years, the death toll in Syria’s civil war has proved over ten times worse than the entire history of Israeli-Palestinian fighting. By some estimates, Palestinians are more likely to die in a car accident than at the hands of an Israeli soldier.

I don’t cite the above data in order to justify every Israeli policy regarding the West Bank and regarding the Gaza Strip. Nor do I want to minimize or discount the civilians who suffered in the latest round of Hamas-Israel fighting. My point here is that these decades-long trends of rising Palestinian life expectancy, declining infant mortality, growing populations, increased water supplies, and comparatively low casualty rates disprove the incendiary claims that Israel is committing genocide, guilty of ethnic cleansing, or in a never-ending war against Palestinian health. Such accusations are as false as the

old antisemitic charge of well-poisoning, which once sparked medieval riots and pogroms not so unlike today’s attacks against Jews on the streets of Europe and America.

Given all the above data, it seems fair to say that if Palestinian leaders hadn’t rejected numerous offers for statehood — in 2000 at Camp David, in 2001 at Taba, in 2008 after the Annapolis Conference, to name just three — then Palestinian health would now be on par with the world’s most flourishing nations. Unfortunately, for many progressive news outlets today, promoting these peace plans isn’t as exciting as decrying genocide and other mythical Jewish crimes, but such compromise proposals remain far more likely to advance Palestinian health and well-being.

Jonah Cohen is communications director for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA.org).

Our gratitude



Steve Willems, SIOR Managing Principal & NAI Business Director

The Jewish Federation of Reading thanks Steve Willems for his pro bono work to obtain value appraisals of the piece of land we are exploring for our Common Campus facility. His expertise was most helpful for our planning and budgeting work.

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HIGH HOLIDAYS 5782 – 2021

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Phone; 610-374-1763 Email: kzsecretary@entermail.net

PRAY:

- Rosh Hashanah Monday, September 6, Evening service 6:15 p.m. at the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren
- Rosh Hashanah Tuesday, September 7, Morning service 9:00 a.m. at the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren
- Tashlich Service Monday, September 7, 5:30 p.m. at the Reading Public Museum.
- Rosh Hashanah Day 2, Wednesday, September 8, Morning Service 9:00 a.m. Wyomissing Church of the Brethren
- Shabbat Shuvah Saturday, September 11th, Morning service 9:30 a.m.
- Kever Avot/Dedication of the Cemetery Genizah Sunday September 12, Memorial Service 11:00 a.m. Keshar Zion Cemetery
- Erev Yom Kippur on Wednesday, September 15, Mincha 6:15p.m. followed by Kol Nidre at 6:45 p.m. at the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren
- Yom Kippur on Thursday, September 16th Morning service 9:00 a.m. at the Wyomissing Church of the Brethren Mincha 6:15 p.m., Neilah 7:00 p.m., Shofar 7:45 p.m. Maariv & Havdalah to follow

MEND THE WORLD:

- Please bring a can of food to Kol Nidre services for those in need
- Donate to the charity of your choice
- Israeli Bond Appeal
- Torah Fund

Services will be held both in-person and virtually via Zoom.

Tickets and face masks are required for in-person services.

Please RSVP by Monday, August 16, 2021

Your timely RSVP are both kind and appreciated. kzsecretary@entermail.net or 610-374-1763

To join via Zoom, please request the link and passcode at kzsecretary@entermail.net

NAME _____ PHONE _____

We/I plan to participate in the following Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Programs:

Number Attending

- | | |
|---------|--|
| # _____ | Erev Rosh Hashanah on Monday, September 6, 2021 |
| # _____ | Rosh Hashanah on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 |
| # _____ | Rosh Hashanah on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 |
| # _____ | Erev Yom Kippur on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 |
| # _____ | Yom Kippur on Thursday, September 16, 2021 |

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Israel Book Club: ‘The case against BDS’ by Alan Dershowitz

By Moisey Schneider
and Andi Franklin

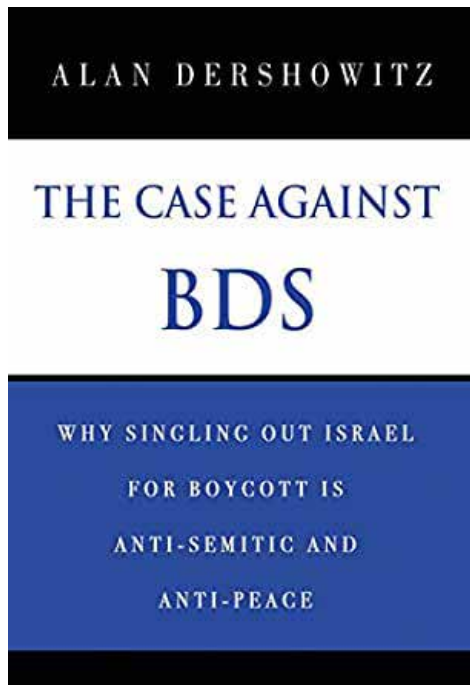
In “The Case against BDS,” author and attorney Alan Dershowitz chronicles the never-ending attempt to destroy Israel, Muslim countries, the international Left, and anti-Semites in the world have joined forces to create a worldwide campaign aimed at the complete economic and cultural isolation of the Jewish State. The name of this campaign is BDS — boycott, divest, sanction.

The roots of BDS were the Nazis who organized the boycott of Jewish businesses, academics, and artists in the 1930’s and Muslim leaders who organized the Arab boycott of all Israeli and Jewish commerce in the years following the establishment of Israel. The BDS movement began at the 2001 U.N. sponsored World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban. Just as Israel was offering (and the Palestinian leadership was rejecting) a Palestinian state in Gaza and more than 95% of the West Bank, the Arab nations promoted the tactic of de-legitimizing Israel by boycotting and isolating the Jewish State.

This tactic became known as the BDS movement. BDS was formalized in 2005 just as Israel was removing all Jews from Gaza and turning over control to the Palestinian Authority. Why did BDS emerge as Israel was offering the Arabs freedom and sovereignty?

Clearly, their goal was not to improve their lives and independence, but rather to eliminate Israel as a Jewish state.

Dershowitz writes that since 2004, Marwan Barghouti, who ironically received an advanced degree at Tel-Aviv



University, has been the key driving force behind the global BDS campaign. He has called for the end of Israel’s existence as a Jewish state and wants it to be an Arab state with a Muslim majority.

A recent NGO Monitor report revealed that members of the European Union are among the foremost backers of BDS in recent years. Dershowitz concludes that the economic boycott has been increasingly successful in delegitimizing Israel in financial institutions in European and Arab countries.

Trade unions in Germany, Spain, and the United Kingdom also adopted the boycott and ended the partnership with Israel’s Histadrut, the General Organization of Workers in Israel. To date, in the United States, economic boycotts have largely failed.

Dershowitz brings us to the past.

Boycotts have been used to stigmatize and delegitimize Jews throughout history. In Nazi Germany, the word “Jude” was splashed across Jewish-owned stores and then extended to Jewish culture and academia. In addition to its economic boycott, he says, BDS tactics denounce normalization projects with Israel. Dershowitz argues that this threatens the peace process by encouraging Palestinians to reject all peace offers.

BDS is gaining ground in American academia. Former Professor Norman Finkelstein compares Israel to Nazi Germany and argues that Hamas and Hezbollah have the right to target Israeli civilians.

The American Studies Association has issued a call for an academic boycott against institutions in Israel whose universities, ironically, have affirmative action programs for Palestinian students and a higher level of academic freedom than most others in the world.

The Brooklyn College political science department has endorsed the BDS campaign, which it justifies on the basis of freedom of speech.

Dershowitz’s concern is that this is a step on the road to turning academic departments into biased, partisan, and one-sided propaganda centers. As a result, many pro-Israel young academics refuse to speak up. They discreetly told Dershowitz that the message is clear—“If you support Israel, we will attack you, damage your reputation, hurt your student’s evaluation, and undermine your chance of gaining tenure.”

The recent war between Hamas and Israel revealed, even in Congress, growing bias, ignorance, and overt antisemitism. Many sharply criticized

Israel for its defense against Hamas, while remaining silent about the war crimes committed by Hamas.

Sen. Bernie Sanders wrote an angry article in *The New York Times* demanding that Israel stop defending its citizens, both Jewish and Arab, against the rain of Hamas’ bombs and rockets. Rep. Ilhan Omar insisted that the Jewish State is the single cause of the conflict.

And, while Jews throughout United States were physically attacked, not a single Democratic congressperson, would oppose or criticize this abhorrent behavior. Unfortunately, neither the ADL nor the JDCA uttered a peep.

Even many American Jewish leaders fail to take seriously the rising tide of antisemitism that masquerades as anti-Zionism. The strategy of separating the Jews from the Jewish state is gaining strength. Michelle Goldberg of *The New York Times* wrote a column with the laughable headline, “Attacks on Jews over Israel are a gift to the right.”

Comedian Sarah Silverman objected to attacks on Jews in Los Angeles, not on the grounds that they were evil acts of antisemitic violence but rather because WE are not Israelis.

Professor Dershowitz shows in his book that Congress, universities, and journalists are complicit in the strategy to divide us. He is almost a lone soldier fighting the antisemitism that masquerades as anti-Zionism and for this he has been ostracized and rebuked by many in government, academia, and the media. He should not be alone in this fight

Our next book is “Catch 67” by Micah Goodman, which we will meet to discuss at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 6.

The Last Mona Lisa by Jonathan Santlofer

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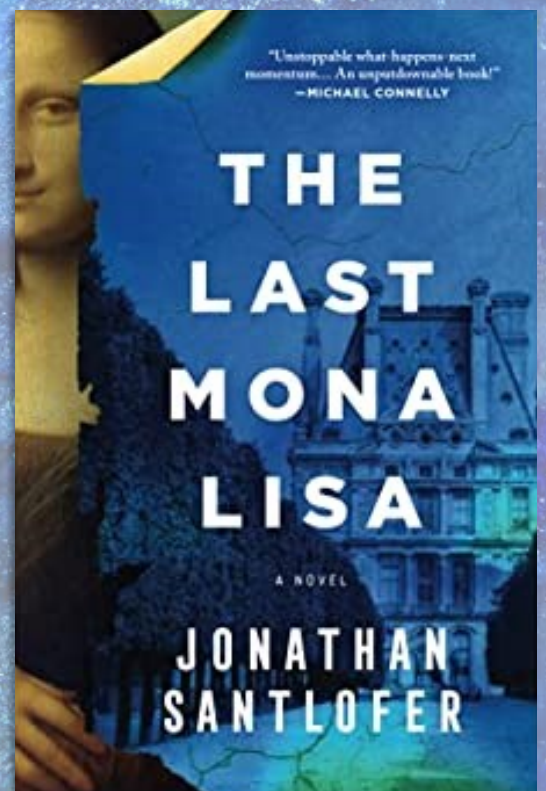
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Solidarity with ‘Palestine’ means Kalashnikovs for kids

By A.J. Caschetta

The academics who sign statements of solidarity with “Palestine” claim to have done so out of a deep respect for human rights. Their advocacy for Palestinians and refusal to acknowledge Israel’s right to exist receive a great deal of attention, but their silence regarding the villains who train, equip, and brainwash Palestinian children into becoming child warriors has gone mostly unnoticed. Since these academics do not seem to care about the human rights of Israelis, they should consider their role in denying the rights of Palestinian children.

Every summer since the Oslo Accords, reports have come out of Gaza about the summer camps that are nothing more than terrorist training camps for children. Today’s uncritical supporters of “Palestine” should worry that they are lending tacit support to the indoctrination and weaponization of child warriors.

This year’s theme at Hamas camps is “Sword of Jerusalem,” which is how the terror organization refers to the 11 days of warfare in May during which 4,600 missiles were launched from Gaza at Israel. There are four divisions this year: one for junior-high-school students, one for high-school students, another for university students, and one for adults, presumably the slow learners of the Palestinian resistance.

PIJ, the other terror organization that controls life in Gaza, has its own summer camps for children, operating in the summer of 2021 under the slightly more optimistic theme “Sword of Jerusalem — the Promise Draws Near.”

Men pretending to be politicians from PIJ’s “political wing” explained that the children in the camps were being trained in how “to remove the alien corn [i.e., Israel] that was planted by the West and took over Palestine.” What they are really doing is teaching kids to kill and die.

The pictures from PIJ camps show children being introduced to their rifles, at first with mock-ups made of wood or plastic and then with more realistic models that fire at a simulator. Eventually they move on to the real thing, learning to fieldstrip and clean their Kalashnikovs. Photos show them running obstacle courses, training under simulated battle conditions of fire and smoke, and learning how to clear rooms like SWAT teams.

As a Hamas recruiter explained in June, the summer camps have been part of life in Gaza for many years. MEMRI has documented these videos since 2013, and before that Pierre Rehov featured them in his documentaries. Palestinian Media Watch, an NGO, has documented the abuse of children for warfare for decades. So researchers, teachers, or scholars can’t say they were unaware of perhaps the worst case of child abuse ever committed. They simply refuse to acknowledge it.

Of course, most of the petition signers are highly unoriginal, as the scores of shockingly similar statements “in solidarity with Palestine” attest. In fact, many are simply taking their cues from *The New York Times*. And when it comes to Palestinian children, the *Times* cares only about dead ones, whom it can use as evidence of purported Israeli perfidy.

As Seth Frantzman points out in the *Jerusalem Post*, “a child killed by an Israeli airstrike is important” to the *Times*, but “a child recruited by Hamas or another terror group and whose life is put at risk receives less attention.”

Middle East–studies specialists are even more culpable because they understand the abuse of Palestinian children better than most non-specialists. So the Middle East Studies Association deserves special opprobrium for its solidarity with “Palestine.”

Teachers’ unions should have an especially keen interest in matters of child safety. Will any of the teachers who have pledged solidarity with “Palestine” also reprimand the child abusers of Hamas and PIJ?

Psychologists should be even more attuned to child abuse. Yet a group called Psychologists for Social Responsibility, whose mission statement boasts of “the ethical use of psychological knowledge, research, and practice,” issued a declaration of solidarity with “Palestine.” It should denounce just as unequivocally the psychological abuse of Palestinian children at the Hamas and PIJ camps.

Scholars of Palestinian descent may be the most culpable. From the safety of her tenured position at Rutgers University, Noura Erakat, assistant professor of Africana studies and criminal justice, is always willing to overlook Palestinian violence and slander Israel. Hers is the third signature on the Rutgers statement, and she knows firsthand the consequences of child abuse in the Palestinian territories, as her cousin Ahmed Erakat was killed after he rammed his car into a group of IDF soldiers at a checkpoint near Jerusalem on June 23, 2020. He spent his formative years imbibing the normalization of violence as dozens of Palestinians used vehicles to attack Israelis, while his uncle, PLO chief negotiator Saeb Erakat, rewarded their families and justified their attacks as “self-defense.”

Every one of the thousands of virtue-signaling academics who signed a petition or letter expressing solidarity with “Palestine” should watch the MEMRI videos and look at the pictures from the Hamas and PIJ summer camps. Those who have children should contemplate the disparity of sending their own children off for a week or two to sing around the campfire and play “Capture the Flag” while the children of Gaza will sing songs of martyrdom and play “Butcher

the Jews.”

I call on all the institutions and individuals that wrote, circulated, or signed a petition or letter of solidarity with “Palestine” to condemn with equal fervor the children’s summer camps run by Hamas and PIJ. I challenge them to prove that their solidarity amounts to

something more than hatred of Israel.

A.J. Caschetta is a principal lecturer at the Rochester Institute of Technology and a fellow at Campus Watch, a project of the Middle East Forum, where he is also a Ginsburg-Milstein fellow.

Obituaries

Helen Kurlansik, 91, of Virginia and formerly of Reading. Helen was born in New Jersey and graduated from Wilson High School near Easton. She and her husband, Joe, moved to Reading in 1969 and opened the Army-Navy Store

on Fifth Street Highway.

She is survived by her daughters; Sheila and her husband, Garry Blatt, of New Jersey, and Brenda Kurlansik of Virginia. Other survivors include her five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and her brother Jack Engelson of Florida.

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Questions

*What if it had been
Adam
instead of Eve the
viper had chosen to
tempt on that fateful day of
eating?*

*Would things be better
would we be in less of a
predicament that the one
we are in?*

*Isn't there a midrash —
side story based on Torah's
big one — that says,
God laughed in delight
when he saw man
had disobeyed Him
and said, "We are One,
Me, her and him,
and it is glorious."*

— **Nancy Knoblauch**
(Republished to correct typographical error)

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A revolutionary blood clot that can heal chronic wounds

Israel21c.org

The body's mechanism for healing wounds is quite miraculous. The wound bleeds. The blood coagulates and forms a clot. The clot sends a biologic signal triggering a cascade of actions that protect against infection and bring blood cells bearing materials to build new tissue in place of the damaged tissue. Usually, this amazing process happens underneath the scab that forms over a wound and it's all over pretty quickly. But many people have chronic, nontraumatic injuries that never heal. These wounds form too gradually to set off the signal and not enough blood flows to the site.

ActiGraft, invented in Israel, is a unique wound-care product – a blood clot that healthcare providers produce in just 12 minutes from a vial of the patient's whole blood mixed with a special reagent inside a coagulation mold. Applied on the wound, this newly created blood clot jumpstarts the natural protecting and healing process that failed to begin before.

"ActiGraft tricks the body into thinking this chronic wound is a new wound that it needs to start healing," says Alon Kushnir, CEO of RedDress, the company he founded to develop this one-of-a-kind device with his father, physician and medical device

inventor Dr. Igal Kushnir. The ActiGraft kit, containing everything needed for the bedside treatment, has FDA and CE clearance and is sold in the United States and 15 other countries including Israel.

Healing instead of amputation - "The first market we got FDA clearance for is untreatable diabetic foot ulcers. All our studies were done on these types of wounds," Kushnir explains. "There was one woman whose toes were amputated but the wound wouldn't heal. She was hospitalized for four months and was scheduled for a further amputation when we stepped in. After less than two and a half months, she walked home."

RedDress has published studies outlining cases with similar results. "Our marketing strategy is to ask physicians for the worst wounds they gave up on. Those are the ones we want to treat," Kushnir says.

"I got a call from a physician in Italy recently about a diabetic ulcer he'd been treating for 12 years. ActiGraft healed it completely in five weeks." The treatment can be repeated once a week until the wound heals. Even the first application eases pain and starts the process.

"I was impressed with the ... consistent improvement in wound healing week to week with ActiGraft," said Dr. Claire Shernoff of Melrose Surgical Associates in Massachusetts. "Another benefit was the significant decrease in pain my patients reported early in their treatments."

Kushnir further said, "We solve a problem that cannot be solved by

any other technology, and we can teach the procedure to the healthcare provider via Zoom in 20 minutes." He notes that people often die from chronic ulcers because they get infected easily, while amputation decreases life expectancy by an average five years. It's therefore no exaggeration to say that ActiGraft can save lives.

The idea for ActiGraft was originally for treating burns. "In 2009, my father was managing an eldercare home and came up with a treatment where he'd coagulate a patient's blood into sheets, freeze it and place it on burns during the first 10 days when you want to reduce pain and the possibility of infection," Kushnir relates. "I looked at this from the business side and I saw that burns are a very small market. I said, 'Maybe your idea can be viable for chronic ulcers.' So we tried it in a nursing home with Dr. Doron Garfinkel," a well-known Israeli geriatrician and palliative care physician. "Within two months, we knew we had something game-changing," Kushnir says. (Results of this study were published here.)

The company will next target nondiabetic chronic wounds, which include venous, pressure and post-surgical ulcers. "I endorse ActiGraft as it uses the body's own healing cascade to help initiate the wound healing process and has a unique role as a topical dressing in the wound-care space," said Dr. Bryan Doner of D&P Medical Group in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a practice specializing in wound care, hyperbaric medicine, clinical research.

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Please feel free to reach out to Ben to discuss any of your legal needs. Ben can be reached at (610) 372-3500 or email at bleisawitz@leisawitzheller.com.

Israeli researchers look for vaccine solution to variants

Israel21c.org

Several COVID-19 vaccines under development in Israel hold out promise for their ability to protect against variants of the virus that are challenging existing vaccines.

Back in May 2020, research groups across the world were racing to formulate vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Realizing it was not going to win that race, Israel purchased millions of vaccines from the United States and led the world in getting eligible citizens vaccinated.

However, domestic inoculations still to come may become significant as primary vaccinations or as boosters against highly contagious variants of the virus.

BriLife

US-based NRx Pharmaceuticals will receive a license for exclusive worldwide development, manufacturing and marketing rights to the novel BriLife coronavirus vaccine developed by the Defense Ministry's Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR).

BriLife is based on a previous, FDA-approved vaccine platform that was further optimized by IIBR and targeted toward COVID-19. Because it is a live-virus vaccine, NRx anticipates rapid

and affordable industrial scaleup and manufacturing.

"As the first-generation COVID vaccines are increasingly challenged by rapid mutation of the coronavirus, we aim to develop a vaccine that can rapidly scale at low cost to serve the needs of both the developed and the developing world," said Chaim Hurvitz, who is director of NRx, chairman of Israeli private equity group CH Health.

Hurvitz is co-leading this initiative with NRx Pharmaceuticals chairman and CEO Dr. Jonathan Javitt.

Javitt tells ISRAEL21c that BriLife presents the entire spike protein of the coronavirus to the body's immune system, while mRNA vaccines present a small slice of the spike protein.

"We expect BriLife will create a broader immunological response and will enhance protection against Covid-19 and its variants," says Javitt.

BriLife is continuing Phase II clinical trials in Israel and the nation of Georgia.

MigVax

MigVax, a vaccine-development startup spun out of the Israeli Science and Technology Ministry's Migal Galilee Research Institute, is developing an

oral COVID-19 vaccine, MigVax-101. It contains pieces of coronavirus protein (not live or dead virus) delivered by mouth to stimulate antibodies and immune cells to fight coronavirus in mucosa, blood and cells.

On June 10, MigVax released results from preclinical tests on lab rats that demonstrated the potential effectiveness of MigVax-101 as an antibody booster for previously vaccinated people.

The company is raising funds to launch Phase I and Phase II human clinical trials.

An oral vaccine offers significant advantages over injected vaccines because it could be taken at home. Although it would have to be refrigerated, it would not need "deep freeze" conditions.

MigVax says its vaccine candidate can be adapted quickly to novel variants. And its protein components are stable, meaning the vaccine may remain effective for longer periods before requiring a booster. Furthermore, MigVax-101 could be more acceptable to a wider population

Oravax

Another oral vaccine is under development at Oravax Medical, a subsidiary of Jerusalem-based Oramed

Pharmaceuticals.

Oravax capitalizes on Oramed's proprietary protein oral delivery (POD) technology and Premas' exclusive virus-like particle vaccine technology, which will target three SARS CoV-2 virus surface proteins — including proteins less susceptible to mutation.

That could make Oravax potentially effective against current and future mutations both as a standalone vaccine as well as a booster for previously vaccinated people.

"Our vaccine is a particularly strong candidate against the evolving Covid-19 virus due to its unique targeting of three proteins rather than one," said Nadav Kidron, CEO of Oramed.

Oravax completed a successful pilot study on animals. Now the vaccine candidate is being tested in animals against variants including the Delta variant.

Early stages

Several other potential Israeli vaccines are in early stages of development, some of them in labs at universities including the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Tel Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University.



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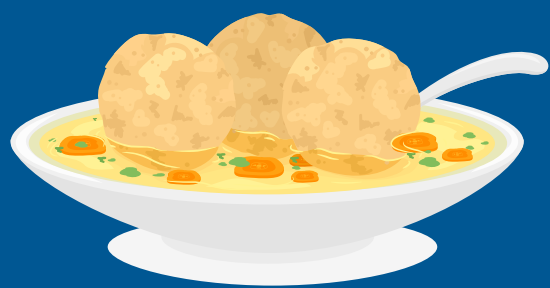
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