



# Shalom02|18

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

**Your Federation Supports:**

- Jewish Education
- Food Pantry
- Friendship Circle
- Chevra
- Community Shabbat
- Reading Jewish Film Series
- PJ Library
- Jewish Family Service
- Jewish Cultural Center
- Lakin Holocaust Library
- & Resource Center
- Israel & Overseas
- Camp Scholarships
- Israel Trips
- Jewish Community
- High School
- Emergency Support
- Lakin Preschool
- Richard J. Yashek Lecture
- Transportation
- Maimonides Society
- Your Jewish Legacy
- 92ND ST Y Programs
- Joint Distribution Committee
- Meir Panim
- Annual Campaign
- Jewish Agency for Israel
- Yemin Orde
- School Education Programs
- Interfaith Unity Council
- Israel Advocacy
- Youth Events
- Great Decisions Series
- Jewish Community
- Relations Council
- Community Holiday Programs
- Women's Philanthropy
- Jewish Federations
- of North America
- Counseling Services
- Leo Camp Lecture
- Shabbat B'Yachad

## You Count!

### Join us for Community Shabbat

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

On Friday, Feb. 9, our community will gather for its annual community Shabbat service and dinner. This year our community Shabbat our theme is "You Count." The service will be hosted by Keshet Zion Synagogue.

Join us at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom at 6 p.m. for a service led by Rabbi Abelson with participation from Rabbi Michelson and Rabbi Lipsker and other members of our community.

After the service a kosher meal will be served family style, and a vegetarian option is available. The cost is \$20 per person. There is no charge for children 18 and under. All are welcome, and if you need financial assistance to attend, please contact Sari Incedon at 610-921-0624.

We are hoping for another great crowd at Community Shabbat on Feb. 9. RSVP with payment is required by Feb. 1 to Brenda at [Brendas@jfreeding.org](mailto:Brendas@jfreeding.org) or 610-921-0624.

Last year more than 170 community

members attended our Community Shabbat, and our wish is that we will have another large group joining us in February for this special experience. Coming together as a community for this annual event is a special experience for community members of all ages!

For questions or additional information please contact Amanda at [amandah@jfreeding.org](mailto:amandah@jfreeding.org) or 610-921-0624.

**See details and order form on Page 6.**

## Purim Masquerade Party: It will be the bee's knees!



**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

It's time to pull out your flapper dresses and fedoras for the JCC's Purim Masquerade Party! This year's theme is the Roaring '20s, and we invite everyone to dress the part and of course wear masks!

This year's Purim Masquerade Party is on Saturday, March 10, at Stokesay Castle. Join us for heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, desserts and music!

All community members 21 and older are invited to join the fun! Cocktail attire is requested and masks are encouraged! If you RSVP by Feb. 1 you will receive the early-bird discounted pricing of \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. RSVPs are accepted through March 1 at a cost of \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. RSVP to 610-921-0624 or [info@jfreeding.org](mailto:info@jfreeding.org).

Last year's party was fantastic fun for all who attended, so don't miss out on another enjoyable night with your friends at this year's Purim Masquerade Party!

Questions? Please contact Amanda at [amandah@jfreeding.org](mailto:amandah@jfreeding.org) or 610-921-0624



# Jewish values

**By Richard Nassau**  
*Development Director*



Not everyone in my extended family is Jewish. I have cousins and other relatives who grew up Jewish but no longer identify as such. Yet when I visit them, the Jewish influence, especially from my four grandparents, can easily be seen in their lives. Throughout my family, relatives who may not consider themselves Jewish constantly demonstrate their Jewish sense of values. Their list of core values includes community, family, education, and caring for others.

I understand many might not consider these just Jewish values. I would not argue. There is, however, something intangible, something Jewish about how these four values are practiced.

My grandparents had very different Jewish experiences. One set grew up in households in which being Jewish was

an everyday part of their life. My other set of grandparents grew up in families in which being Jewish was an afterthought. What all four shared — their Jewish communality — were their Jewish values. Values they expressed, demonstrated, and passed-down throughout my family.

Those core values haven't changed. They are the values we practice today as a Jewish community here in Berks County. Values of Repairing the World; Building Community; Charity & Social Justice; and Jewish Learning.

For many, our community is our extended family. It is an essential part of our lives, a place to belong, engage, and give back.

Our parents and grandparents cared for and nurtured their community and its members. They embraced and practiced core Jewish values. You see these values today when someone volunteers, or reaches into their pocket to put a coin in the tzedakah box, or brings a meal to someone who is ill.

Community engagement also goes beyond the synagogue or the JCC

or monthly service club. A person's contributions are sometimes visible and sometimes unseen. Wherever they stand, their values are evident by how they take care of their community.

I was asked recently about how our community might respond to the recent tax law changes. Will that influence their generosity or involvement? I believe, like you, it is not tax laws that make us a Jewish community.

It is our shared values and beliefs. Values that came from our parents and our grandparents. Values that identify us as members of this Jewish community.

Our JCC, synagogues, Family Service, Federation and many affiliated programs reflect these core values. Values that were practiced and cherished by generations past and through our continued community involvement generations in the future.

Values we pass down by working to Repair the World – *Tikkun Olam*; Engage and Build Community – *Kehillah*; Promote Jewish Learning – *Torah*; and Advance Charity & Social Justice – *Tzedakah*.

# Development

Annual Campaign

Women's Philanthropy

Maimonides Society

Your Jewish Legacy

Chai Circle

L'Chaim Society

Book of Life

Letter of Intent

**Your future legacy can help ensure we remain a strong and vibrant Jewish community.**

**We are pleased to acknowledge community members who have made a heartfelt commitment to create their own Jewish Legacy by signing a *Legacy Letter of Intent*.**

Thank you.



- |                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Alvin &amp; Betsy Katz</b>       |
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Edwin A. Lakin</b>               |
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Kenneth S. Lakin</b>             |
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Haia Mazuz</b>                   |
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Meir Mazuz</b>                   |
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Richard Nassau</b>               |
| <b>Anonymous</b>                | <b>Yvonne F. Oppenheimer</b>        |
| <b>Cynthia Balchunas</b>        | <b>Gordon Perlmutter</b>            |
| <b>Jeffrey Bornstein</b>        | <b>Carole Robinson</b>              |
| <b>Beth &amp; Robert Caster</b> | <b>Rebecca Robinson</b>             |
| <b>Albert Diamond</b>           | <b>Larry &amp; Alison Rotenberg</b> |
| <b>Jeffrey Driben</b>           | <b>Howard Saidman</b>               |
| <b>Lynn Driben</b>              | <b>Roger Schein</b>                 |
| <b>William D. Franklin</b>      | <b>Jill D. Skaist</b>               |
| <b>Hilde Gernsheimer</b>        | <b>George P. Viener</b>             |
| <b>Radene Gordon-Beck</b>       | <b>Norman Wilikofsky</b>            |
| <b>Victor Hammel</b>            | <b>Emanuel &amp; Yvonne Wittels</b> |
| <b>Jason Hornberger</b>         | <b>Louise Zeidman</b>               |

**ADD YOUR NAME HERE**

For confidential information about *Creating Your Jewish Legacy*, contact Richard at the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks - 610 921 0624.



ENRICHING LIVES  
מעשימים חיים



**2018 totals  
as of Jan. 19**

**Jewish Community  
Campaign  
\$159,334**

**\*Includes transfers from Donor  
Advised Funds**

From the President's Desk

# Feel the warmth of our community in upcoming events

By William D. Franklin  
President

Charles Darwin said: "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." It is heartwarming to



know that our community cares about being Jewish and wants to experience Jewish life. However, our frenetic schedules make it difficult for us to affiliate Jewishly the way our parents did. So, we are developing our own personal Jewishness, working with our synagogues to redefine and nurture what the Reading Jewish community can be.

Despite the cold of winter, the warmth of our Jewish community will be felt in the upcoming events. Our Community Shabbat will take place on Feb. 9, hosted by Rabbi Abelson and Keshet Zion Synagogue at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. For our youth, our PJ Library participants will visit Berks Nature's new Nature Place for a lesson on trees and do their own planting in honor of Tu B'Shevat on Sunday, Feb. 4.

In March, the JCC will once again host the Great Decisions series of the Foreign Policy Association. Starting on March 5, local professors will teach and moderate discussions on key international issues. Some of the relevant issues that will be discussed are: Russia's Foreign Policy, Global Health: Progress and Challenges, The Waning of Pax Americana and

Turkey: A Partner in Crisis.

Other events this spring include the Purim Masquerade Party on March 10 and the Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture featuring Michael Berenbaum on March 21.

On Nov. 29, 1947, the UN voted in favor of the establishment of the state of Israel. Six months later, on May 14, 1948, Israel proclaimed its independence. Come celebrate Israel's 70th birthday with us on Sunday, April 22 at RCOS. There will be a talk by an IDF soldier, delicious Israeli food, Israeli-themed games and crafts for the children and a special musical presentation by Pella, a Jewish capella group from New York.

2018 will be an exciting year with many critical domestic, international

and Israel issues to be examined and discussed. Our Israel book group is reading *Danger: Three Jewish Peoples* by Avraham Avi-hai. He describes the three primary groups within Judaism—Diaspora Jews, Israeli secular Jews and the ultra-Orthodox and explains the growing distance between these diverse Jewish groups with suggestions for reuniting our people. These ideas are relevant to the vision of our Reading Jewish community and we will look for speakers to help us better understand them.

We will be conducting small group meetings to learn your key values, concerns and ideas so together we can successfully adapt and further develop our Reading Jewish community.

Thank you.

## ADL reports increase in anti-Semitic incidents

There was a 67 percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents across the United States from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2017 in comparison with the same period in 2016, according to the Anti-Defamation League's annual report on an anti-

Semitism, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

The ADL found 1,299 anti-Semitic incidents were reported during this period, including physical assaults, vandalism and attacks on Jewish institutions. Presenting the organization's annual

report on anti-Semitism to the Knesset's Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora Committee, ADL's Israel director Carol Nuriel stressed that the recorded surge in anti-Semitism does not present the whole picture, as many incidents are not reported. The underreporting of incidents is often due to the fact that victims are frightened of reporting them, or because of the problematic nature of identifying the attack as anti-Semitic.

Nuriel noted that of the incidents reported, there has been a disturbingly high number of anti-Semitic bullying and vandalism incidents in U.S. schools and college campuses. Incidents in K-12 schools in 2017 more than doubled over the same period in 2016 (269, up from 130). On college campuses, a total of 118 anti-Semitic incidents were reported in the first three quarters of 2017, compared with 74 in the same period of 2016 — an increase of 59 percent.

The *Post* reported that MK Nachman Shai (Zionist Union), Chairman of the Knesset Caucus to strengthen Israel-Diaspora ties, described the figures presented by Nuriel as inconceivable. "These figures testify to demons emerging from the bottle and are now threatening to blacken the attitude toward Jews throughout the world," he said.

"We must not remain silent and allow the worsening of the treatment of Jews and Judaism," Shai continued. "This is a significant danger to the State of Israel. Anti-Semitism is the fuel that nourishes

the BDS (boycott, divest and sanction) phenomenon, and the worse it gets, the worse Israel's situation will be in the world."

According to Yaakov Hagoel, vice-chairman of the World Zionist Organization, a recent survey conducted by his organization among American Jews revealed that 70 percent of American Jews experienced an anti-Semitic event in the past year, and only 12 percent had not experienced any anti-Semitic incidents in their lives.

Yigal Palmor, a spokesman for the Jewish Agency, emphasized the rise of political anti-Semitism, pointing at the anti-Semitism crisis in the UK's Labour party, as well as anti-Semitism among the Muslim immigrant populations.

The Charlottesville, Va., "Unite the Right" rally in August was also highlighted in the ADL report as a factor which contributed to a significant bump in anti-Semitic incidents. The report noted that the rally was one of at least 33 public white supremacist events in the U.S. last year, which were supplemented by 188 incidents where white supremacists used fliers to spread their message to new audiences, especially on college campuses.

Ran Yaakobi, a representative of the Foreign Ministry, noted that a delegation from the United States, including members of Congress and senators — Republicans and Democrats — as well as the mayor of Charlottesville, will attend an international conference about anti-Semitism that will take place in Jerusalem this year.

### Legacy Bequests & Memorial Funds

Frances Gould

Richard L. & Maxine R. Henry

Trudi Katz

Sidney Symons

Sue B. Viener



Please remember the Reading/Berks Jewish community with a gift in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO TRAVEL WITH THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM (CPAAM)

#### ON A JOURNEY

TO  
**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE (NMAAHC) AND THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018**

**BUS WILL DEPART FROM READING AT 7:30 A.M. AND DEPART FROM WASHINGTON D.C. AT 4 P.M.**



AFTER ATTENDEES VISIT THE NMAAHC, THEY MAY VISIT THE HOLOCAUST MUSEUM OR VISIT ANY OF THE SMITHSONIAN NEARBY SITES.

DONATION: \$52.00. SEATS ARE RESERVED ON A FIRST COME BASIS.

DEADLINE TO RESERVE SEATS IS MARCH 1, 2018 OR BEFORE.

#### CPAAM

119 N. 10TH STREET  
READING, PA 19601

EMAIL: cpaam@verizon.net

CONTACT CPAAM OFFICE AT  
610-371-8713

## Shalom

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

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

#### Jewish Federation of Reading

Chair: Haia Mazuz  
President: William D. Franklin  
Communications Director: Mark Nemirow, Editor  
Proofreaders: Federation staff

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



# 2017 JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN

## HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

**CAMPAIGN TOTAL: \$528,058**

### ADVANCED LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$25,000 +

Shirley Boscov  
 Irvin and Lois Cohen  
 Howard and Victoria Hafetz  
 Vic and Dena Hammel  
 Richard L. Henry Memorial Fund  
 Berks County Community Foundation  
 Edwin Lakin  
 Jerome Marcus  
 Sandy Solmon and Doug Messinger

### LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$10,000 +

Don Fox  
 Paul and Roberta Kozloff  
 Kenneth and Maralyn Lakin  
 Meir and Haia Mazuz  
 Daniel Shaffer / Irvin G. and Beatrice M.  
 Shaffer Fund, Berks County Community  
 Foundation  
 Henry and Helene Singer

### MAJOR GIFTS

\$5,000 +

Jeffrey and Lynn Driben  
 Hilde Gernsheimer  
 Jill Henry  
 Neil Hoffman and Judith Kraines  
 Neal and Judith Jacobs  
 Gary and Sheila Lattin  
 William Sedlis  
 Jill Skaist  
 Rosalye Yashek

### PACESETTER GIFTS

\$2,400 +

Harriet Baskin  
 Sidney and Esther Bratt  
 Irving and Arlene Ehrlich  
 William and Andrea Franklin  
 David and Debbie Goldberg  
 Michael and Gayle Kastenbaum  
 Paul Mintz and Solange Israel Mintz  
 Robert and Yvonne Oppenheimer  
 Gordon and Carol Perlmutter  
 Robert and Judy Pollack  
 Larry and Alison Rotenberg  
 Jonathan and Janice Simon  
 Allan and Robin Sodomsky  
 George Viener

### SPECIAL GIFTS

\$1,000 +

Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Radene Gordon Beck and Hugh Beck  
 Jim and Cindy Boscov  
 Stephen and Jan Carlson  
 Robert and Beth Caster  
 Glenn and Gaye Corbin  
 Albert Diamond  
 Marc and Marcia Filstein  
 Steven Finkel  
 Samuel and Sarah Flamholz  
 Alan and Lory Fleischer  
 Jeffrey and Deborah Frank  
 Deborah Goodman and John Moyer  
 Carol Greenberg  
 Luba and Michael Karchevsky

Alvin and Betsy Katz  
 Michael Krumholz  
 Elliott and Doris Leisawitz  
 Alan and Lisa Levine  
 Jack Linton  
 Paul and Ellen Mitnick  
 Jeff and Lisa Nemeroff  
 Barbara and David Paul  
 Michael and Barbara Perilstein  
 James Rothstein and Sharon Scullin  
 Roger Schein  
 Paul and Ellen Schwartz  
 Eugene and Helen Shaffer  
 Richard and Mindy Small  
 M. Robert and Kaye Ullman  
 Andrew and Corinne Wernick  
 Randall and Mara Winn  
 Emanuel and Yvonne Wittels  
 Eric and Deborah Zelnick

### SPONSOR GIFTS

\$500 +

Martin and Norma Beckerman  
 Stuart and Carol Cohn  
 Scott and Sandy Davis  
 George and Marcia Eligman  
 Kalman and Margaret Feinberg  
 Gary Ginsberg  
 John and Sari Incledon  
 Ruth Isenberg  
 David and Jeraldine Kozloff  
 Harlan and Carole Kutscher  
 Stephen and Carrie Latman  
 Igor and Nora Maidansky  
 Rabbi Brian and Holly Michelson  
 Jay Moyer  
 Mark and Geraldine Nemirow  
 Philip and Leslie Pomerantz  
 James and Judith Schwank  
 Jerome and Pamela Weisberg  
 Norman and Rita Wilikofsky  
 Louise Zeidman

### COMMUNITY GIFTS

\$118 +

Donald and Ellen Abramson  
 Marshall and Ellen Azrael  
 Wendy Babitt and Todd Staub  
 George and Cynthia Balchunas  
 James and Jackye Barrer  
 Anneliese Bateman  
 David and Barbara Bender  
 Ken and Amy Bloom  
 Eric and Marissa Bluestone  
 Brett and Cindy Chronister  
 Nelson Cohen  
 Claire Cooper

Richard and Susan D'Angelo  
 Jeri Diesinger  
 Ethel Engel  
 Oleg and Tatyana Erlikh  
 Matthew Goldstan  
 Jane Goodman  
 Michael and Patricia Gordon  
 Michael and Zina Gorelik  
 Lawrence and Fran Gross  
 Martin and Karen Jacobson  
 Phyllis Jacoby  
 Myron and Karen Kabakoff  
 Bernard and Janet Kaplan  
 Judith Katz  
 Robert and Shirley Kauffman  
 Nancy Knoblauch  
 Jack and Teri Lefkowitz  
 Ben and Michele Leisawitz  
 Henry Levin  
 Margaret Levine  
 Rabbi Yosef and Chana Lipsker  
 William and Beth Litvin  
 Joan Mellon  
 Bernard and Toby Mendelsohn  
 Anne Missan  
 Jeffrey and Tammy Mitgang  
 Phyllis Murr  
 Richard and Elizabeth Nassau  
 Barbara Nazimov  
 Randy and Esta Neugroschel  
 Michael and Carole Robinson  
 Seth and Barbara Rosenzweig  
 Nicholas and Tracy Rossi  
 Michael and Eve Pardo  
 Sean and Annette Peppard  
 Jesse and Elaine Pleet  
 Frank and Kathleen Politzer  
 Valerian and Svetlana Popov  
 David Sacks  
 Elaine Safir  
 Lynn Salpeter  
 Amy Schein-Hollowbush  
 Peter Schiffman  
 Susan Schlanger  
 Boris and Tatiana Schneider  
 Lila Shapiro  
 Berna Sherman  
 Louis Shucker and Sherry Faust  
 Norma Sigal  
 Bruce and Janine Ure  
 Andrea Watkins and Jeffrey Sternlieb  
 Andrew and Laurie Waxler  
 Jerome and Pamela Weisberg  
 Susan Weiser  
 Sanford Youngerman

**98%** of all funds raised,  
 including your campaign gift,  
 directly support  
**Programs & Services**  
 locally and overseas.

# 2017 JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

## SUPPORTING GIFTS

Lionel and Mary Jane Asher  
 Jeff and Sheila Bornstein  
 Ilse and William Brown  
 Robert and Beth Bruck  
 Ivan and Paula Bub  
 Loretta Charnoff  
 Bonnie Cohen  
 Bruce and Sharyn Cohen  
 C. Harold Cohn  
 Karen and Steven Conover  
 Boris Corbin  
 Paul Delfin and Nancy Russo  
 Michael and Sue Farrara

Miriam Fogelman  
 Irwin and Joan Friedman  
 Barbara Garcia  
 Edward and Ann Golden  
 Harvey and Roberta Goldstein  
 Don and Ann Greth  
 Mel Horwith  
 Marc Jacobs  
 Darryl Jeffries  
 Meredith Jones  
 Scott and Judith Kaneff  
 Nan Kurlancheek  
 Shelly Levy  
 Dennis and Karen Lutz

Frances Mendelsohn  
 Neal and Sandee Nevitt  
 Jonathan Primack and Pam Charendoff  
 Leah Rotenberg and Corby Drone  
 Howard and Amy Saidman  
 Herbert Schneider  
 Moisey Schneider  
 Jon and Alva Scott  
 Harvey and Renee Seidel  
 Janine Shapiro  
 David and Ruth Spillerman  
 Jill Trout  
 Sylvia Wenger  
 Lee Weyant



# Thank You

**You provide the food that feeds the hungry.**

**You care for seniors and aid the less fortunate.**

**You distribute the books that carry tradition  
 from one generation to the next.**

**In Berks County, the U.S., Israel, and more than 70 countries,  
 you bring relief, hope, and compassion to people.**



ENRICHING LIVES  
 מעשירים חיים

- **Honoring our Past**
- **Celebrating our Present**
- **Envisioning our Future**

# Learn about world affairs: Join Great Decisions

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

Russia. Global health. South Africa. Turkey. Media and foreign policy. These are just a few of the hot-button international topics that will be discussed at this year's Great Decisions series at the JCC.

Moderated by local professors from Albright, Alvernia and Penn State Berks as

well as community members, Great Decisions is the country's largest discussion group on world affairs.

Each week a different global issue will be discussed by the group after reading the Great Decision Briefing Book and watching the related DVD.

Our group will be meeting on Monday

mornings, March 5 through April 23, from 10:30 a.m. until noon at the JCC. The cost is \$35 per book or \$40 for two people sharing one book.

To register for Great Decisions and to order a copy of the Great Decision Briefing Book please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624.

# PJ Library celebrates nature at Tu B'Shevat time

**By Amanda J. Hornberger**

Known as the new year for the trees, Tu B'Shevat occurs on Jan. 31 this year. The following Sunday, kids through age 8 are invited to join PJ Library of Reading for a special event in honor of Tu B'Shevat.

Join us on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. at The Nature Place, the brand new home of Berks Nature, and a destination for those who wish to learn and connect with nature through exploration, education, inspiration and conservation. Educators from The Nature Place will lead us in a lesson on trees, and afterwards we'll do our own planting!

The event is free and RSVP is requested by Feb. 1 to Amanda at 610-921-0624 or amandah@jfreeding.org.

The Nature Place is located at 575 St. Bernardine Street in Reading, close to the campus of Alvernia University.

PJ Library in Reading is generously sponsored by the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund.



## You Count: Community Shabbat Dinner and Service

Shabbat *Shekalim* Service Hosted by Kesher Zion Synagogue

### Annual Community Shabbat Dinner

Friday, February 9, 2018

6:00 p.m. Family Shabbat Service

7 p.m. Dinner

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

555 Warwick Drive

Wyomissing, PA 19610



Sponsored by Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County, Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks, Kesher Zion Synagogue, and Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

**Boscov's Ala Carte Catering**  
Kosher meal served family style

- Vegetarian vegetable soup, beef short ribs, oven brown potatoes, walnut grilled asparagus, challah rolls, coffee, tea and dessert
- Chicken fingers and applesauce for the children
- Vegetarian option by request—wild mushroom ravioli with pesto sauce

Adults - \$20 per person\*

Children & youth 18 years and under free

\*Financial assistance available by calling Sari at 610-921-0624

**Kindly RSVP by February 2, 2018**

☆ Community Shabbat Dinner – Friday, February 9, 2018 ☆

Please make checks payable to Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks  
Send to: PO Box 14925 Reading, PA 19612

**RSVP by Feb. 2 – 610-921-0624**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

_____ No. of Adults @ \$20	_____ MC/Visa/Discover # _____
_____ No. of children 6-18 FREE	_____ Exp. _____ Sec. Code _____
_____ No. of children 5 and under FREE	_____ Name on card _____
Total payment \$ _____	_____ Signature _____

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevra

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

# Better Together on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

How does Reading Jewish Community High School's monthly Better Together programs play out as seniors and teens meet one Sunday a month? Our meeting on Jan. 14 during Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend offers a good example.

The session was devoted to the study of current events relating to racism and anti-Semitism in contemporary American culture.

We observed MLK's birthday as well as that of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a Polish-born American scholar saved from the Holocaust by the Reform movement.

After several years, he transferred to teach at the Conservative seminary, one of the leading theologians and Jewish philosophers of the 20th century. He and MLK had a very special relationship, and he was known for a very passionate commitment to civil rights and non-violence.

Heschel, who had joined King in his civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, described his participation in that event as "praying with his feet."

For me, it was a special moment with our teens and seniors to share my own memories from rabbinical school years. The first recollection was the opportunity to be present at a convention for Heschel to present 60th birthday wishes to King. The second memory was of Rabbi Heschel as a guest in our home for holidays and as a teacher in the seminary. These memories set the scene for our studies.

In "hevruta," study groups of two or three teens and seniors examined a political cartoon depicting King walking through "customs" as if he were an immigrant confronting two options, one to the right and one to the left, one for whites and one for blacks. In sadness, King is depicted dropping in a trashcan a sheaf of papers titled clearly, "I have a dream."

Discussants debated several questions: What did the cartoon mean? Did the publication on MLK weekend make a difference? Would it have made a difference if the cartoon



Seniors and teens discuss the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

depicted an anonymous figure or someone from a different race or national origin?

Seniors and teens then considered a different picture, a familiar one showing Heschel marching with MLK in Selma, joining other religious leaders — black and white, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish — as part of the civil rights struggle.

Once again, we studied in "hevruta" to ask challenging questions: What is unique and outstanding about this photograph? Why has it gained such popularity over the decades? Whom could you recognize? Were there other white clergy? Were nuns and black women and/or children marching? How dangerous was it to participate in these marches — and for whom? Why?

I then placed both depictions of racism and anti-Semitism side by side in front of the evening's participants, to compare and contrast these two images depicting our American culture and world attitudes.

We considered both King and Heschel as proponents of universal, general moral imperatives, who issued powerful yet poetic messages beyond their own parochial constituencies to the whole American people. Furthermore, they shared religious principles which were sufficiently broad to include people of good will even if they didn't share the same religious beliefs.



Working on a mitzvah project

We spent more than an hour discussing both our personal and for seniors life-long experience of racism and/or anti-Semitism. We also studied Jewish sources which both oppose both racism and anti-Semitism, in America and the world-wide communities.

It was an evening of insight and reflection which I found encouraging if not inspiring from both generations!

Then, thanks to the Federation, we were all treated to a light dinner. Of course, this was also an opportunity to continue schmoozing and socializing — and for some to check their phones.

The evening's program concluded with a mitzvah project, an activity of service in the spirit of MLK. We created "Good Wishes" cards — using coloring pencils, paint, crayons, scissors, paste, colored paper — for a variety of occasions: get well, miss you, happy birthday, etc. The cards were then given to our own Reading Jewish Family Service for distribution appropriately to members of the Reading community.

Like so many evenings of JCHS — study, socializing, maturing, and preparing for the next stage of our teenagers' lives — college and beyond as community builders.

# Jewish Education

[Camp Scholarships](#)

[Israel Trips](#)

[Jewish Community](#)

[High School](#)

[Lakin Preschool](#)

[Better Together](#)

1st Yahrzeit

## MUSICAL TRIBUTE

*Celebrating and remembering the life of*  
**RABBI ELI LIPSKER**  
*(dear father of Rabbi Yosef Lipsker)*  
*Musician, Composer & Conductor*  
*of Chassidic Music*

SUNDAY  
 FEBRUARY 25, 2018  
 4:00 PM

At Chabad  
 2320 Hampden Blvd  
 Reading, PA 19604

*Buffet dinner will be served*  
*Please join us!*

RSVP CHABADOFBERKS@GMAIL.COM

Join us next time!  
 February 24th at 10:00 am

## Tot Shabbat

Members and non-members are invited. No registration is required. Tot Shabbat services are held Saturday mornings at 10:00 am at Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing unless noted. Please call the Temple office with any questions, 610.375.6034.

A musical, story-filled, interactive hour for children through grade 2. Bring your family & friends to celebrate with Rabbi Michelson & stay for a pint-sized oneg of juice, challah, fruit, & child-friendly treats!

UPCOMING DATES:  
 March\*, April 14, & May 19  
 \*Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands  
 New date to be determined

# JFS touches lives in many ways

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

We are in the middle of working on our 2018 United Way application and are compiling and evaluating statistics that describe the two Jewish Family Service programs that are partially funded by United Way.



United Way partially funds Supportive Services, which includes taxi transportation, counseling, information and referral services, visits to hospitals and long-term care residences, Friendship Circle, Better Together, and a bereavement group. In 2017 our services touched 316 people, which includes 35 people who used taxi transportation, 35 seniors who attended Friendship Circle, and 9 people who attended a monthly bereavement group. In addition our staff made 147 home visits, 205 hospital visits and 379 hospital visits.

The taxi program clients used the service for about 250 rides each month to medical appointments (35 percent), shopping and errands (20 percent), to attend the Friendship Circle and synagogue activities (20 percent) and other activities of daily living (25 percent).

Our monthly food pantry is the other program partially funded by United Way. In 2017 this program was held 11 times at the new Olivet Clubhouse off Perkiomen

Avenue. Inclement weather in March forced us to cancel that month's pantry. Last year we served 619 different households with a total of 1,279 children, 1,180 adults and 293 seniors. We distributed 85,000 pounds of food, including 10,000 pounds of fresh produce and meat, which was greatly appreciated by the clients. In addition the produce and meat improves the nutritional quality of the food we distribute.

We could not run this program without very dedicated volunteers. We need at least 20 volunteers each month. Thanks go to the following 2017 JFS food pantry volunteers who contribute to making this program an important contribution to the needy people of the city — Ellen Schwickrath; Karen Checkamian; Neil and Mary Weiss; Robert Schneier; Heather Padilla; Frederick Simmons; Margo and Will Levin; Lynn Driben; Paul and Ellen Schwartz; Mike Kastenbaum; Michael and Phyllis Warshaw; John Goldstan; Norma Beckerman; Cindy, Rebecca and George Balchunas; Corinne Wernick; Julian Syret; Joe Essig; Carol and Gordon Perlmutter; Vee Vee Scott; Jan Simon; Al Katz; Haia Mazuz; Randy Winn; Yvonne Wittels; Oleg Umanov; Sarah Flamholz; Raymond Gehring; Sid Lempiner; Elliott Leisawitz; Mary Neville; Sheila Bornstein; Jenny Reilly and Lea Berger.

In the fall we invited our volunteers to a thank you lunch that featured a talk by Doug Long, director of marketing at the Greater Berks Food Bank, the agency from which

we purchase the food.

Friendship Circle continues to have diverse, interesting and fun programs. Our Chanukah celebration was doubly special. Marcia Gross, a Reading native now living in Maryland, surprised her friends from a distance and treated the group to lunch! Her friends were very touched. The group continued the celebration and enjoyed an amazing Klezmer duo from the Philadelphia area (sponsored by the Jacob Krumholz fund), that inspired many to get up and dance.

The *Reading Eagle* wrote a wonderful feature article about a 100th birthday party for Friendship Circle member Herb Schneider. The event was sponsored by Herb's out-of-town family.

You don't have to be 100 to celebrate with us. Boris Corbin's family treated the group to lunch in honor of his 86th birthday. In January the seniors participated in an experience that was new for most — an African Drum Circle that was great fun for all. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day we were moved by the award winning movie, "Hidden Figures."

Our group has lunch every Thursday at 1 p.m. followed by a program at 1:45. New people are always welcome. For more information call Carole Robinson or Sari Incledon at 610-921-0624.

Thank you to everyone in our community who contributes to the Jewish Federation and to the United Way. By doing so you are supporting the work Jewish Family Service does that impacts so many in Reading/Berks.

## The beat goes on at Friendship Circle



Friendship Circle enjoyed the hands on drumming at a drum circle led by Michael Clipman on Jan. 18. Clockwise from top left, the entire group; Ethel Engel; Janine Shapiro, Lila Shapiro, Boris Corbin and Rick Ullman; Drummer Michael Clipman with Bob Brok and Herb Schneider.

# Jewish Family Service

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

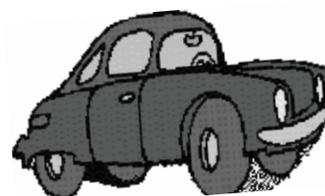
### Jewish Family Service Food Pantry Collection



We are serving more families each month! Please bring donations of canned tuna, soup, fruits and vegetables to the JCC. Thank you!

We also need plastic and paper grocery bags!

### Enjoy Tax Benefits While Contributing to Jewish Family Service Vehicle Donation Program



Call Sari at 610-921-0624, e-mail sari@jfreeding.org or go to [www.charitableautoresources.com](http://www.charitableautoresources.com)

# All together now

By Rabbi Matthew Abelson  
Keshar Zion Synagogue



At the height of winter, we prepare for two upcoming holidays: Purim (Feb. 28-March 1) and Passover (March 30-April 7). Purim, like Hanukah, is a minor holiday, but it provides a counterweight to Yom Kippur. Yom Kippur represents cosmos. The universe is orderly, governed by a Sovereign Who judges with the proper proportion of justice and mercy. Purim represents chaos. The universe is not governed in any discernible way. Chance, luck, and randomness are its features.

Celebrating Yom Kippur but not Purim distorts our view of the Torah's teaching. We reify a view of Judaism that is, to be sure, nearly accurate, but we deny those very real moments throughout the year when randomness, chance, and luck — for good and bad — pervade our lives. The truth of Purim challenges the truth of Yom Kippur and is not consumed.

Passover is, like Yom Kippur, a major holiday, but it differs from Yom Kippur in what it teaches us about how God relates to the Jewish people. Yom Kippur teaches us that an unbridgeable gap exists between humans and God. Across the

unbridgeable distance between God and humans is God's concern and love, which is expressed, strikingly, through God's judgment: "Who will live and who will die; who shall live and who shall die; who shall reach the end of his days and who shall not, who shall perish by water and who by fire; who by sword and who by wild beast..." as Unetanah Tokef states.

Passover stresses God's activity and God's partnership with the Jewish people, described poignantly as the exodus from slavery in Egypt. It is also distinctly collectivist in outlook. God's judgment on Yom Kippur occurs person by person, individual by individual. During Passover, we undergo a collective experience — strong and weak, good and bad, happy and unhappy alike. Yom Kippur involves a kind of selection. For Passover, all hands are on deck, and no one may exit the ship.

The question that arises for me is: How do we approach Passover knowing that we must pass through Purim first and recognizing that Yom Kippur is, in a crucial sense, the origin point of our year, 5778? Another way of phrasing the question is: How do these holidays cohere into the general category of "holiday," whose objective is to situate us in sacred time? Clearly, this is a large question — too large to answer in this moment. My hope is that you will consider the question and

seek an answer. One of the best ways to unearth such an answer is to experience the holidays themselves. I encourage you to celebrate Purim and Passover too — in toto.

As we search for an answer to this important question, two smaller questions will be helpful. Why doesn't Purim follow Passover? Why must it precede it? This question, I will seek to answer. While other holidays fall between Yom Kippur and Passover, Purim is the last one, the final separator between these, the two most important holidays in the Jewish calendar. The answer I offer depends on the key difference between Yom Kippur and Passover: the former is about the individual and the latter is about the collective. The former excludes, selects, and chooses whereas the latter includes everyone. Purim negotiates the transition from individual to collective. It even subtly mocks by highlighting randomness, chance, and luck. Perhaps the best of us were here for Yom Kippur, but by Passover are no longer among the living. Has God actually judged? And has He judged fairly and correctly? Purim's gesture toward mockery of the concept of cosmos enables us to breathe. Good and bad, righteous and wicked, pious and decadent, we're going to leave Egypt during Passover, and we're going to depart from Egypt all together.

## Get ready to rock at RCOS 'All Beatles' Purim Spiel

It's time for great food, great fellowship and great fun! On Wednesday, Feb. 28, Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom will rock the house with its Third Annual Purim Spiel. This year, spiel writer/director Mike Pardo has upped the ante and created an all-new musical retelling of the Book of Esther using song parodies of the greatest band in the history of rock music — THE BEATLES!

Yes, that's right! The Fab Four will be the narrators of this year's spiel, but with a TWIST! Mike has reimagined the legendary foursome as Eastern European Jews with

thick Yiddish accents and a lot of chutzpah! You'll be falling on your tuchises in laughter at the antics of these mishuggeneh musicians.

As in the past two years, the RCOS Purim Spiel will be held in the Temple social hall. An Italian dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Purim play, which should begin around 7:10 p.m. and last about 45 minutes. After that, of course, comes dessert—hamantashen! YUM!!! Since many people will be coming with young children, we're hoping to get everyone fed and entertained in time to return safely to their homes by

8:30 pm. The play is G-rated and suitable for the entire family, so we're hoping to see everyone there! The spiel is open to RCOS members and nonmembers alike.

In order to defray the cost of food, a modest \$6 per person admission is being charged. Children 2 years of age and under are free. In keeping with the Purim tradition of tzedakah, one dollar per admission collected will be donated to Mazon, A Jewish Response to Hunger. We are asking people to please RSVP by Friday, Feb. 23, if they plan to attend. Please send a check for the total

amount to the Temple office (555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610) and enclose a note that the money is for the Feb. 28 Purim Event.

It is impossible to know how much food to prepare without an accurate idea of how many people plan to attend. We DON'T want to run out of food and we DON'T want to have to turn people away.

So, again, please RSVP by Feb. 23. It's going to be a great evening of hysterical entertainment — surpassing, if possible, the previous two spiels. This is an event you DON'T want to miss! See you there!

## Volunteers needed for mitzvah of the highest order

*"The highest act of gemilut chesed (acts of loving kindness) is that which is done for the dead, for there can never be any question of repayment". (Tanhuma Vayehi 107A)*

Keshar Zion Synagogue has been providing Tahara (ritual washing) services for the entire Berks County Jewish community for many years.

Participation in tahara is a mitzvah of the highest order. It

is performed by Jews to honor a deceased person who is Jewish.

Generally, women perform tahara on women and men for men. Keshar Zion has a women's group and a men's group with chairpeople for each.

There are two major elements to the service. First is the cleaning of the body, and second is the ritual washing and dressing in a shroud.

The entire process takes place at the funeral home and should be done a few hours before the funeral service. Because there is a need to physically move the body during both processes, at least three people (ideally four) are needed.

It is critical that the chairpeople have a sufficient number of people on their lists to accommodate everyone's vacation/travel/

work schedules. The more people that are on the lists, the less frequently one is called. No one does this alone! It is a communal effort.

If you would like to learn more about chevra kadisha, either talking to the chair people or attending a washing, please call the Keshar Zion office (610.374.1763) or email kzbookkeeper@entermail.net.

# Congregational News

Chabad

Keshar Zion

Reform Congregation

Oheb Sholom

### February Shevat-Adar



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

February 2  
5:06 p.m.

February 9  
5:14 p.m.

February 16  
5:23 p.m.

February 23  
5:31 p.m.

February 3/Shevat 18  
Yitro (Exodus 18:1-20:23)

February 10/Shevat 25  
Mishpatim (Exodus 21:1-24:18)

February 17/Adar 2  
Terumah (Exodus 25:1-27:19))

February 24/Adar 9  
Tetzaveh (Exodus 27:20-30:10)

### LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

COMMUNITY SHABBAT HOSTED BY KESHER ZION  
FEB. 9 AT 6 P.M. AT RCOS. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR DINNER.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763  
Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034  
Friday, Feb. 2: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.  
Fridays, Feb. 16 and 23, 7:45 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 24: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881  
Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

# Jewish Summer Camp Financial Assistance Program

In January your Jewish Federation of Reading held a meeting with parents and youth interested in the new JFR Jewish summer camp financial aid program.

After working with two major regional Jewish camps, Camp Harlam and Camp Ramah, a collaborative effort with Jewish summer camps and our local synagogues has been developed.

Key aspects are:

- The Jewish Federation of Reading will act as the central application entry point and will notify the appropriate camp and synagogue of the potential applicant and the potential need for financial assistance.

- For families requiring financial assistance, JFR will work with parents for payment registration deposit; JFR will fund as 'first' dollars if necessary; deposit is refundable.

Requirements:

- JFR member
- Synagogue members (at some level) to be eligible for synagogue

financial support

c) Students submit short essay on why they want to attend camp. Essay to be submitted with financial aid request application.

d) Camper submit and/or present short synopses of experiences and value after camp session.

• Financial support:

**JFR Jewish Camp Funding Levels**  
 Family income \$30,000-\$ 39,999  
 Parents' portion 10 percent

Family income \$40,000- \$59,999  
 Parents' Portion 25 percent

Family income \$60,000-89,999  
 Parents' Portion 50 percent

Family income \$90,000-\$125,000  
 Parents' Portion 75 percent

The information and financial assistance application are available on the JFR web site.

Please call Jewish Federation of Reading President Bill Franklin at 610-921-0624 if you have any questions.



## Social Action Films at RCOS

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom's Social Action Committee has selected a variety of films that will be shown throughout the year. These films will provide information and stimulate discussion on hotly debated topics. Information on related local programs and agencies will be included. Each film is about an hour long. There will be time set aside for discussion.

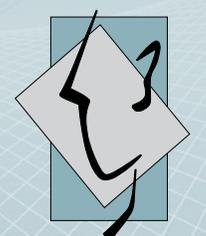
Sunday, Feb. 18 1 p.m.	<b>JUST EAT IT</b>	Food Waste, Sustainability, Advocacy	We all love food, so how could we possibly be throwing nearly half of it away? This film looks at food waste from farm to retail to home. The filmmakers show how they survived for 6 months only on food that would otherwise have been thrown away.
Sunday, May 20 1 p.m.	<b>Multiracial Identity</b>	Multiracial identity and related societal issues	"Multiracial people are the fastest growing demographic in America, yet there is no official political recognition for mixed-race people." The concept of grouping people by race is merely a social construct. This film explores the social, political, and religious impact of the multiracial movement and the lived experience of being multiracial.

## Obituary

**Shirley (Riebman) Friedman**, of Wyomissing. She was the widow of Gene Friedman. Shirley worked for several Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., law firms for more than 15 years. She was a former manager of a Reading linens outlet and a sales associate for the former Heather Shop

and for Coach Leather Outlet. Shirley was a secretary for the Sisterhood of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom and served as a cook at the RCOS Jewish Food & Cultural Festival. She is survived by her daughters Ellen Friedman of Delaware and Carol Friedman Cooper of Maryland; and twin grandsons Ben and Aaron Cooper.

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



**ENT**  
 Ear • Nose • Throat

**HEAD & NECK**  
 Specialists, P.C.

Physicians:

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

Nurse Practitioner:

Rosemarie Montgomery  
 MS, CRNP, FNP-C

### THE AUDIOLOGY CENTER

Diagnostic Audiology & Hearing Aid Services

Audiologists:

- Kathleen D. Vivaldi, AuD, FAAA
- Melanie A. Appler, AuD, FAAA
- Matthew R. Bonsall, AuD, FAAA



Providing diagnostic and rehabilitative services for all types of hearing loss, for any age group. Hearing and Balance Disorders State of the Art Hearing Aid Fittings In House Hearing Aid Repairs

**ENT Head & Neck Specialists, PC**  
 985 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing  
 610-374-5599 • www.ent-hns.net

# ENGAGE

in new friendships.

610-775-2300  
 2000 Cambridge Ave.  
 Wyomissing

**ENGAGE**  
 WELLNESS-FOCUSED LIVING  
 AT THE HIGHLANDS

[THEHIGHLANDS.ORG](http://THEHIGHLANDS.ORG)

A member of Reading Health System

# Village Way educators light the way for at-risk youth

Recently, educators from two Village Way Educational Initiatives partner schools, located in Arab communities, gathered to network and share first-hand experiences in order to learn from each other. The schools involved in the workshop are Jisr a-Zarka and Mahat Acco School, both vocational schools.

Jisr a-Zarka, a newcomer to the Village Way integration process, is located in one of the poorest towns in Israel. Mahat Acco School is in its fourth year of Village Way partnership and hosted the event. Educators from Mahat Acco shared stories of its transformation thanks to the Village Way methodology, and added useful tips and insights relevant to educators from Jisr a-Zarka, who serve a similar population of troubled youth.

Mahat Acco School Director Eyad Salah said: "When we established the school, people said we were a jungle and our students had no chance. We were thrown to deal with these children without any training. I found out about the Village Way in an academic course, and realized there are not many holistic educational methodologies for working

with youth at-risk. The concept of the Village Way is a humanistic one, which is appropriate for all religions."

Salah said educators needed to make adjustments to their teaching styles, which was not always easy when the school first integrated the Village Way methodology. "Learning and applying the Village Way required us to change, which was difficult at first. But it is impossible to make a significant difference if the educator does not change from within," Salah said. "Teachers are the only solid thing in the lives of youth at risk. Unlike regular school teachers, who can enter a class and just focus on teaching, we must come from the heart, otherwise it doesn't work."

Salah noted that compassion and personal attention adds so much to the classroom experience for a fragile youth. "The most important anchor a place like ours is the human anchor, the conscience and the love that you give," he said. "When you close the door of the class and no one sees how much love there is for the students. If you work in such a loving way with students

and see how they obtain emotional strength, how they change slowly."

And to his peers at Jisr School, who face many challenges on a daily basis, Eyad advised: "I really believe your school can become the light of the Jisr Village, a lighthouse that distributes light. Each one of you here can be part of that light."

Eyad Salah was recently featured in the Israeli newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, as part of a top 50 list of social heroes who devote their lives for the greater good. The Village Way Educational Initiatives (VWEI) was launched in 2006 to expand the successful Village Way methodology, first modeled at Yemin Orde Youth Village, to other youth villages, therapeutic residential communities and public high schools in Israel. Today, VWEI is integrated in 36 educational communities in Israel, impacting 14,200 youth and 1,775 educators. The goal is to expand to a total of 59 educational communities by 2021 and reach 25,000 youth and 2,800 educators.

Yemin Orde is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign.

# Israel & Overseas

Jewish Agency  
for Israel  
Yemin Orde  
Jewish Federations  
of North America  
Joint Distribution  
Committee  
Meir Panim

# Meir Panim works to fight Israel's poverty problem

New figures released by the National Insurance Institute state that 1.7 million Israelis, including more than 800,000 children, are living in poverty. In Jerusalem, 55 percent of children live below the poverty line (down from 58 percent in 2015), followed by similar numbers in northern and southern Israel.

"How can we feel good that there is some lessening of people living in poverty in Israel when the numbers are still shocking?" Goldie Sternbuch, Director of Overseas Relations for Meir Panim. "Meir Panim's restaurant-style soup kitchens located throughout the country are still filling up each day with hungry people."

For the past 16 years, Meir Panim has provided immediate and long-term relief to impoverished young and old living in Israel through its network of welfare programs, including soup kitchens. "Our top priority is giving hungry people a hot, nutritious meal on a daily

basis," continued Sternbuch. "This is not only a lifesaving act; it also gives marginalized people a social outlet and lets them know that they are cared about."

Meir Panim is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign. It annually serves 390,000 hot meals at its "free restaurants," where patrons are served with a smile by friendly volunteers rather than having the degrading experience of standing in line for their meals.

The organization also delivers 168,000 Meals-on-Wheels to homebound, disabled and elderly people. "Time is running out to give victims of the Holocaust the dignity and care they deserve," said Sternbuch. "Meir Panim volunteers not only deliver food but also socialize with the elderly, ensuring that they are checked on daily."

Recognizing that Israel's future depends on the health and education of today's children, Meir Panim provides over 81,000

hot lunches each year to needy children, operates after-school clubs and gives struggling families prepaid food shopping cards and food packages around holidays.

The report stated, "despite the marked improvements in the poverty and inequality rates in 2016, and a drop of a full percentage point in two years in the incidence of poverty among individuals even according to OECD calculations, Israel's relative position internationally continues to be grave.

Individuals in Israel who net a monthly paycheck of \$920 or less are considered poor. Couples earning less than \$1,480 and families of five making less than \$2,800 are statistically impoverished.

Yet Meir Panim notes an increase in the number of working poor who are asking for help. Though unemployment rates shrank from 5.3 percent to 4.8 percent between 2015 and 2016, poverty among the employed rose slightly. "We have noticed a deterioration in the basic standard of living of Israelis over the years," Sternbuch said.

"Though we regularly help single-parent families, even those with two working parents struggle to keep food in their kitchens. We help them as well."

Israel's government recently slightly raised the minimum wage, as well as child and elderly welfare allowances. Still, the general feeling is that salaries need to more closely align with the cost of living.

Joint (Arab) List MK Dov Khenin vowed to seek another increase in the minimum wage. "The bleak figures in the poverty report among working families show that the minimum wage is still not sufficiently high and must be raised further," he said.

This reality leaves Meir Panim with the daunting task of filling in needs the government has yet to meet. "Each year, when the OECD report comes out, we know that government officials will declare that help must be increased," said Sternbuch. "But, when people are hungry, we can't wait for laws to be enacted. We need to provide immediate help. That's what Meir Panim does every day."

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

**ONEG SPEAKER SERIES**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH**

**Dining with God: Beer, Wine, & Bread Across Religions**

Presented by **Dr. Jennifer L. Koosed**

What would be served at a dinner with God? Some of the earliest religions set the table first with wine or beer & bread. Wine and bread especially have long and deep roots in religious ritual—in the religion of ancient Israel but also across the ancient Near East & in Greco-Roman religions. Not only have wine, beer, & bread contributed to the development of religions but they were also integral to the building of cities and the development of complex societies. All three of these three foods are replete with history and full of wonder.

**SHABBAT SERVICE AT 7:00 PM. SPEAKER/ONEG AT 8:00 PM**

Dr. Koosed is Professor of Religious Studies at Albright College. She has a Diploma in Jewish Studies from Oxford University; a Masters in Theological Studies from Vanderbilt Divinity School; and a Ph.D. in biblical studies from Vanderbilt University.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

**ADRIENNE CARDINAL**

RECIPIENT OF REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM'S 7TH ANNUAL RUTH & IRVIN BALIS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD

---

**SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2018**

COCKTAILS AT 6:00 PM — DINNER AT 7:00 PM

---

THE RUTH & IRVIN BALIS AWARD IS PRESENTED TO A TEMPLE MEMBER IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ONGOING DEDICATION TO VOLUNTEERISM. THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY, MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS, JEWISH & NON-JEWISH, ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN ELEGANT EVENING OF TRIBUTES TO OUR HONOREE INCLUDING COCKTAILS, DINNER, & MUSIC.

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM, 555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING, PA 19610

---

**RSVP CARD DUE BY MARCH 2ND**

# How debating teaches tolerance among Jewish, Arab teens

Israel21c.com

It took Steven Aiello about 20 minutes to drive from a high school in the Jewish Israeli city of Petah Tikva to a high school in the Arab Israeli city of Kafr Kassem to lead debate clubs based on the Model United Nations (MUN) model he so enjoyed during his graduate diplomacy studies at IDC Herzliya.

But the two schools' geographic proximity belied a wide cultural gulf separating them. And even the most talented members of the two clubs could not get into official MUN groups due to a lack of English fluency and money.

So Aiello, a Jewish interfaith activist who served on the national Israeli MUN team, solved both problems by organizing MUN-style debates between Jewish and Arab schools in 2012.

Assigned to represent a particular country, whether or not they personally agree with that country's stance on the issues, the novice debaters were given a cost-free way to polish their English and rhetorical skills while making friends. Aiello's students loved it.

In 2016, he formalized the program as Debate for Peace (DfP), a volunteer-run project of the Interfaith Encounter Association in partnership

with Jerusalem Peacebuilders and supported by the US Embassy in Tel Aviv. It grew quickly.

"Originally it was publicized by word of mouth through teachers. The demand was so much higher than expected that in one year we went from four to 14 schools and doubled the number of conferences in Israel to eight. Now we have more than 30 participating schools. Altogether we have kids from 40 to 50 towns and villages," says Aiello, who moved to Israel in June 2009 and works at Tel Aviv startup Rootclaim. "We're giving our kids the skills and opportunity to debate about topics like Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security, women's rights and racism. And it never devolves into a shouting match."

Whereas politicians often need goading to come to the negotiating table, Aiello notes, "Kids from [the Galilee Arab village] Sakhnin voluntarily came to Tel Aviv — five hours round trip by bus — to do just that. It's really inspiring."

DfP runs weekend retreats in Israel and takes kids to MUN conferences abroad to give them more exposure to disparate cultures and viewpoints. DfP co-director Nooralhuda Hoji, 20, from the Arab village of Kalansua, led an Israeli-

Palestinian delegation to the Asfar Sports and Human Rights for Peace conference in Azerbaijan last May. In June, Hoji and Aiello discussed their work with Muslim communities in Istanbul. In August, two DfP members attended the Save the Dream peace camp in Athens, while another two flew to New York City to meet with Muslim and Jewish community leaders.

Last October, Aiello spoke at the European Parliament accompanied by seven DfP students, who attended a peacebuilding workshop led by international NGOs.

The opening DfP event for the 2017-18 school year at Bashaer High School in Sakhnin drew 250 registrants from 50 municipalities — 100 more kids than expected. DfP member Benjamin Chelsky, 15, of Modi'in will go to Cyprus with DfP in February for the MediMUN conference on the topic of international weapons disarmament. "I've really gained a lot of friends from all around Israel," Benjamin tells ISRAEL21c. "Before DfP I wasn't actively against any particular group, but now I don't really see a difference. I see 'the other side' more as the same as us."

Some debates have been challenging, "like negotiations with other Palestinians and Jews about 'the conflict,' but it ended really well," says Benjamin, who spends at least 10 hours per month on research and speech-writing. "In my group we try to build trust before doing anything foundational because you can't force anything on others before they trust you. Then you become friends and can talk about more sensitive topics and try to solve the big issues," he says.

Alia Habib Allah, 17, from Ein Mahel near Nazareth traveled to Kosovo for the second annual Jewish-Arab MUN conference in December, where DfP members George Abu Daoud and Aviv Hanukah

won Best Delegate awards. Alia represented Kazakhstan on topics ranging from climate change to terrorism and gender. "At my first conference I was really nervous because I had never expressed my opinion to people I didn't know. DfP has helped me with my self-confidence. I learned how to write and present a speech in English, and how and when to use body language to make a point."

Coming from a Muslim family that supports her participation, Alia has represented Canada, Algeria, Romania and Turkey in various debates. She also attended Jerusalem Peacebuilders camp in Texas. Her experience in DfP has reinforced her dream of studying medicine, she says, "because it's also about helping others."

Not every participant's family is as enthusiastic about DfP as Alia's. Some parents and schools worry about the teens' safety when traveling to what might be considered hostile territory.

"We have a Bedouin girl who just got on the bus and came without the support of her school," says Aiello. "She doesn't have a passport but she's so good I want her to come to the international MUN conference in Cyprus this February."

The effect of DfP sessions on participants' attitudes can be profound. One group of Arab DfP members told Aiello that they confronted classmates who had made disparaging remarks about Jews.

And at a MUN conference in Belgium, when a Jewish DfP member became upset during a discussion about the Israel Defense Forces, Aiello (an IDF veteran himself) asked an Arab member of the group to take the boy outside, calm him down and give him a hug. "I'm sure this Arab kid isn't going into the IDF, but this was his friend and they love one another. These kids really build friendships," he says.

**Know someone who  
would like the Shalom?  
Please share their address  
and we'll add them to our  
mailing list.**



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
Presents the 3rd Annual

# Purim Spicel

Open to the entire  
Jewish community

**Wednesday, February 28th  
6:30 to 8:30 pm  
RSVP by Friday, February 23rd**

RCOS players retell the story  
of Esther as a dinner show

\$6/person for vegetarian lasagna dinner  
(\$1 of which will be given as tzedakah to Mazon)

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

610.375.6034  
temple.office@ohebsholom.org  
ohebsholom.org



**Calling all  
Elvis  
Lovers**

**Friday, February 9  
3:00 pm**

You are invited to pick  
some sweet treats from our  
dessert bar and shake your  
hips to your favorite love  
songs performed by Jeff Krick!

RSVP by calling Heather  
or Jill at 610-616-5112.

**MANOR AT  
MARKET SQUARE**

Independent Living & Personal Care with **No Buy-In Fees!**  
803 Penn St., Reading, PA 19601 • [www.manoratms.com](http://www.manoratms.com)

### Federation Honorial - Memorial Card Information

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

### Contributions as of Jan. 17

#### Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:  
**Albert Diamond's birthday** – Brett and Jamie Diamond  
**Birth of Jackye and Jim Barrer's new granddaughter** – Dena and Vic Hammel  
**Michael Perilstein's birthday** – Manny and Yvonne Wittels

In memory of:  
**Neal Shaffer** – Henry and Helene Singer  
**Irvin Berger (Lee Berger's father)** – Hilde Gernsheimer  
**Shirley Friedman** – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

#### Doris Levin Memorial Fund

In honor of:  
**Birth of Carole and Mike Robinson's new granddaughter** – Andy and Corinne Wernick

#### Jewish Family Service

In honor of:  
**Birth of Jim and Jackye Barrer's new granddaughter** – Andy and Corinne Wernick  
**Birth of Amanda and Jason's Hornberger's son** – Betsy and Al Katz, Louise Zeidman

### Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

<b>Federation Jewish Community Campaign</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Jewish Family Service</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Leo Camp Lecture Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>JFS Food Bank</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>JFS Taxi Transportation Program</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Holocaust Library &amp; Resource Center</b>	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Doris Levin Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>PJ Library Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Harry &amp; Rose Sack Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>Evelyn Thompson Fund</b>	<b>\$10</b>

#### Evelyn Thompson Nursery School Fund

In honor of:  
**Herb Schneider's 100th birthday** – Beth and Bob Caster  
**Birth of Amanda and Jason Hornberger's son** – Beth and Bob Caster

In memory of:  
**Floyd Ruttenberg** – Beth and Bob Caster  
**Neal Shaffer** – Beth and Bob Caster

#### Holocaust Library & Resource Center

Get well/speedy recovery:  
**Rosalie Yashek** – Louise Zeidman

In memory of:  
**Elizabeth Azman** – Barbara and Michael Perilstein

## The ties that bind Jerusalem

By Matti Friedman

Different religions have their own holy sites in Jerusalem, the city where I've spent my entire adult life. The place I believe to be among the most important, however, is a grubby swath of garages, welding shops and furniture stores known as the Talpiot industrial zone. It's a short walk from my street, so I spend a lot of time there — the industrial zone is where you can find the best hardware store, the cheapest supermarkets, my barber and stores selling just about anything you could ever need.

When President Donald Trump announced on Dec. 6 that the United States would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move its embassy here, Arab leaders called for "days of rage" and a chorus of Western observers predicted an explosion. The predictions were predictable.

The city is certainly volatile, considering: the proximity of sites holy to Muslims, Christians and Jews, all under Israeli control; the fact that more than one-third of the city's residents are Palestinians, mostly Muslims, who aren't Israeli citizens and tend to see Israeli rule as illegitimate; and the city's existence in a region engulfed in a religious war. But what is truly interesting about Jerusalem is not the proximity of the brink, but the way the city's residents often refuse to play their part in the script by stepping off.

The Friday after Trump's announcement, a crowd of reporters gathered at the Old City's Damascus Gate to document the violence that was supposed to erupt. But little happened, and everyone went home. There weren't spontaneous mass celebrations on the Jewish side or mass disturbances on the Arab side.

I don't think many veteran residents are surprised. Jerusalemites — Jews and Arabs — don't necessarily have much in common, but we've all hewed out private lives in an immensely complicated political environment, and share an acute sense of the fragility of those lives. People here aren't bears in a political circus who dance on call. Every act of bloodshed here is heavily covered, which creates the impression that Jerusalem is a violent place, but that's misleading. If you count every single violent fatality reported here this year in this city of 860,000 — not just political violence but apolitical homicides, too — the number is 27. That's 27 too many. But it's less than a quarter of the homicide number last year in Jacksonville, Fla., a U.S. city the same size.

Understanding Jerusalem means seeing it not as a symbol but as an actual city. Anyone inclined to truly grasp the place will have to look at the prosaic power of daily life. Our temple to daily life is the Talpiot industrial zone.

Recently I went to one of the big supermarkets in the zone. This is an

Israeli area, but of the 50-odd workers I counted, at least two-thirds were Palestinian. One cashier, a Jewish woman in a modest hair covering, was serving three Muslim women in modest hair coverings. At a SuperPharm nearby, the scene was similar — an Arab female pharmacist serving a Jewish woman with a prescription, a Jewish cashier and two Arab guys stocking the shelves. From there, I went to a franchise of Fox, a clothing chain. Of seven customers in the store with me, three were speaking Arabic. When I reached the counter, the cashier turned out to be Palestinian; the only giveaway was a slight Arabic accent in his Hebrew. Ten years ago, it would have been remarkable to see Palestinian customers or salespeople in a Jewish part of town, but today what's remarkable is how unremarkable it's become.

My friend Marik Shtern, a geographer at the Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research, is the author of a report written with a Palestinian colleague, Ahmed Asmar. The city's economic engine in Jewish Jerusalem is drawing more and more workers from the city's Arab areas, and mixing in the workplace has dramatically increased. The movement was exacerbated by Israel's construction of a separation barrier to combat a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings between 2000 and 2004. At the same

time, the chances of a peace deal that would divide the city have evaporated. No one's about to risk a power vacuum in a city that's a three-hour drive from Syria. So the city's Jews and Arabs have realized they're stuck with each other.

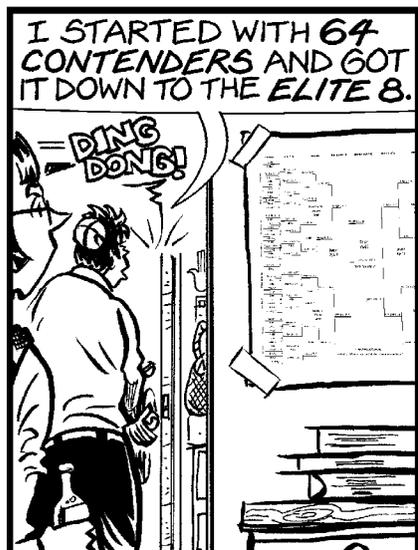
Palestinians and Israelis might not like each other, but their fates are becoming more tightly entwined, and everyone has more to lose if things fall apart. This isn't saying the city is equal or happy. Shtern and Asmar found that many Israelis saw the presence of Arab colleagues as proof of progress and noted a "moderating" of their political views about Arabs. But their Arab co-workers know that these are Israeli businesses, and they are far more likely to be stocking shelves than managing the store. The human dynamic here is both positive and negative and tricky to foresee.

The mood here, a day's drive from the urban apocalypses in Aleppo and Baghdad, is a strange one these days. I'm not sure Jerusalem has ever been so politically hopeless, or so quiet. It's not so mysterious if you pay less attention to political headlines and more to people in the industrial zone. If you think an embassy is more important than a supermarket, you'll miss the human drama in the produce aisle.

Matti Friedman is an Israeli Canadian journalist and author of "The Aleppo Codex" and "Pumpkinflowers."

## EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



© 2016 BY GORFINKEL PRODUCTIONS INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Thx EL



# weis wishes you a *Happy Purim*



# \$2.49 per lb

## Fresh Kosher Chickens

Whole or Cut-up Fryers



# \$3.99

## Hamantaschen

Mechaya - 10 ounce



Savion Fruit Slices  
6 ounce

## 2 FOR \$4



Kedem Grape Juice  
64 ounce

## 2 FOR \$6



Gunter's Pure Honey  
12 ounce

## 2 FOR \$5



Fox's U-Bet Syrup  
22 ounce

## \$1.99



Joyva Ring Jells 9 ounce

## \$2.99



Tam Tams Snack Crackers 9.6 oz

## 2 FOR \$4



### EAT BETTER, SPEND LESS.

Prices Effective through March 7, 2018

*We also carry many of your favorite Kosher deli,  
dairy, frozen and grocery products.*

We reserve the right to limit quantities. Not responsible for typographical or pictorial errors.

