



Shalom11|23

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

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Federation is here for you as we deal with horror in Israel

By Laurie Waxler

Many of us have been greatly affected by the recent tragic events in Israel. Completely unexpected and incredibly sad. The saying 'you never know what tomorrow brings' is more poignant than ever.

At 8:45 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7, our Federation staff received an email from Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA) telling us Israel had been attacked. By 11:55, we had an email from Eric Fingerhut, the President and CEO of JFNA, sharing key points of what was happening in Israel, including the launching of "Operation Swords of Iron" to defend the country. It also notified us of an emergency fund that had been established and invited us to a webinar on Sunday at noon. By 12:41 p.m., we received a tool kit complete with where to send donors who want to support Israel, talking points on how to deliver the news to our community, information on how to advocate for Israel and more. Later that afternoon, we were able to share with our community all that we had learned in a short time. Since that time, our hearts continue to break as we read stories of triumph and tragedy.

Without the valuable resources provided by JFNA, we might flounder as an organization and/or as a community. Having a strong Jewish community and a strong Jewish Federation is important now and into the future; because we don't know what tomorrow brings. We are fortunate



to have the partner agencies we have, furnishing us with the latest information so we can use our time wisely, answering calls from concerned community members, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and working with our three local synagogues, meeting the needs of our community.

Each day brings more visuals and harrowing tales of the tragedy. We are fortunate to have close relationships with our local colleges, none of which, as of this writing, have witnessed any anti-Israel aggression. As a matter of fact, we had a group of Kutztown University students attend our vigil in support. Many in our community have family and friends

living in Israel who are scared. Yes, we all know there is a risk to living in Israel but no one ever imagined this. Saturday, Oct. 7, was like any other day until it wasn't.

We want our community to know we are here for you. If ever there was a need for Federation, it is now. If ever there was a need in Berks County for people to come together, it is now. We are just a phone call away, or if you're able, stop by to one of our programs. We envision many small group chats in the coming weeks and months and will offer what we can. But the story has just begun and we will continue to update you with what we learn over the next weeks.

Am Yisrael Chai.



A vigil Oct. 11 at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom/ Keshet Zion drew a tremendous crowd from the Jewish and non-Jewish communities in support of Israel in the aftermath of horrific terrorist attacks. See more on Pages 2 and 17.

Photo by Bill Uhrich - Courtesy of Reading Eagle

Find the light at Federation

By Laurie Waxler
Development Director

With so much going on in the world right now, it can be difficult to find the light but I know it's there somewhere. Perhaps it's in the stories of survival, or in the hearts of those who rushed back to Israel to fight the good fight, or it's with those who continue to support our Federation so we can be here in times of need, and I believe this is one of those times. Wherever it is, we all need to find it and embrace it.

There is light at the Federation/JCC within the calls we're receiving from both Jewish and non-Jewish community members showing support of our Jewish community.

It was also evident at our recent vigil where we had about 400 people in attendance. As I greeted people as they arrived, I knew many of them but would estimate about 50% of them were non-Jewish.

We had representatives from many local organizations, local college students, the mayor of Reading, all there to encourage our community to remain strong, sharing their light with those of us who are grieving.

It's important to show our strength and pride in our Jewish community, our religion, and our culture, and maybe



A candlelight vigil for Israel drew people young and old from across the Berks County community.

Photo by Bill Uhrich - Courtesy of Reading Eagle

most important for our sustenance here in Berks County, we need your continued support through the Annual Campaign. You'll find a list of organizations in this month's *Shalom* and through our weekly emails to where you can donate to help Israel, but we must also ask that you don't

forget about us.

Keeping our Jewish community together is more important than ever and with your financial support, we can be here today and for years to come, to rise up when our community needs us most.

Are you OK?

Mental Health conversations at the JCC

By Laurie Waxler

The past few weeks have been a lot to process for many in our Jewish community. The war in Israel and the loss of innocent lives weighs heavily.

Over the next few weeks, our Jewish community will be partnering with local mental health care professionals to offer

group conversation in an attempt to allow people to share their feelings.

While we are all looking for answers, the sad truth is that there are no answers at this time, but hopefully, together, we can overcome the sadness and confusion and come together as one.

We've scheduled two in-person

conversations: Monday, Oct. 30, at 7 p.m. and Friday, Nov. 3 at noon.

Both events will be held in person at the JCC.

RSVPs appreciated to info@jfreeding.org but not necessary.

"We are stronger together than we are alone." – Walter Payton

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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COME IN WE'RE OPEN

ARE YOU OK?

Join us for a conversation:
The Impact of the War in Israel
on our Mental Health

At a time when we're all looking for answers, having the opportunity to share our feelings and knowing we're not alone is more important than ever. Join us for a conversation at the JCC conducted by local mental health care professionals. Come and share, or just listen....no doubt we are all feeling a little lost these days but together, we can be stronger.

Monday, October 30 at 7 - 8pm
Friday, November 3 at 12 - 1pm

 Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks



My mentor, my colleague, my friend

By **Brian Chartock**
CEO

Dear Federation community,
It was just before the beginning of Shabbat one Friday in September when my cellphone rang. When I answered, unfortunately I heard news that one of my dear friends had suddenly passed away earlier that day. I was devastated, as were my family, friends, and members of the community



to have lost our beloved Rabbi, Eric Wisnia.
Rabbi Wisnia lived a life dedicated to Judiasm, community service, and education. Rabbi Eric joined Congregation Beth Chaim, West Windsor, N.J., in 1977 as its Senior Rabbi and served until his retirement in February 2019, when he was named Rabbi Emeritus. Over those 42 years, Rabbi Wisnia was a force of exuberance, intelligence, guidance, and humor.
I was blessed to have worked with Rabbi Wisnia for 10 years when I was hired to serve as Congregation Beth

Chaim's Executive Director. I learned from Rabbi Wisnia each and every day — not only about Judaism but about how to live a life worth living. With Rabbi Wisnia, every day was really an adventure; in fact, it was a Great Adventure.
Rabbi Wisnia taught me to celebrate my triumphs and embrace my failures — both in my personal and professional life — all for the purpose of striving to be a better person.
Rabbi Wisnia was truly a selfless individual and so often modeled the example of putting the needs of the

community before his own. The way he lived his life was such a positive example to me and my family and, for his imparted wisdom, I will be forever grateful.
One of Rabbi Wisnia's final gifts to others was that he was able to be a tissue donor, thereby continuing to give the gift of life to others; that is who he was...
I will miss my mentor, my colleague, and my friend, Rabbi Wisnia. He was truly one of the greats.
Todah rabah, and may your memory be for blessing.
L'Shalom,
Brian

A crisis that truly hits home

By **Ziv Laskin**

Thank you to the Jewish Community in Reading and its partners and colleagues for all your support.
I was born and raised in Rishon le Zion, a city near Tel Aviv. I enlisted in the IDF in 2018 and served for three years as my duty as an Israeli citizen and in order to protect my country. I served in the Navy for a year and then moved to a combat unit.
After my service I lived on Kibbutz Sofa, where I worked on the farm. This is a community village in the south of Israel, located half a mile from Gaza.
My kibbutz used to be a beautiful and quiet place, a true paradise; and the people, you cannot find this kind of people anywhere, the best of the best, so warm, so funny, so brave, always the first to help.
I remember how after a hard day working on the farm, somehow we had the energy to play soccer every afternoon.
On Oct. 7, the terrorist organization Hamas took over my home, murdered and kidnapped babies, children, women and the elderly.
At 7 a.m. that day, I got a call from my supervisor to see how my family in Israel was doing. At first, I did not understand what she was talking about. I checked the

news and could not believe what I was reading. I immediately called a family at the Kibbutz who had two children with autism and whom I used to help.
The mom answered. She was starting to tell me how Hamas broke in the Kibbutz. She heard the shooting and the screaming of the terrorists. Immediately she took both her kids and dog to the safe room. Her husband was not at home. For almost 24 hours she protected her kids and prayed for them to be saved.
When this nightmare was over, she realized the terrible reality that the kibbutz would not be what it used to be. This woman is an English teacher in a primary school, and some of her students were kidnapped and are in the hands of Hamas.
I am praying for my family, friends, and the people of Israel. My heart is breaking, thinking about all the families who lost their loved ones. I think about the kids I used to play soccer with every afternoon, who will never come play again. It is so devastatingly hurtful.
I what to thank you for your support of me and Israel. It is my hope that you continue to pray and support my home and continue to stand up against terrorism.
Together we are stronger, Am Israel Chai!



Ziv Laskin addresses an October community vigil in support of Israel.

Federations offer vigorous response to attacks

Jewish Federations of North America

Once again, on a holy day of the Jewish calendar, the people of Israel have come under attack. Once again, the brave military forces of the State of Israel are responding and will defend our beloved Jewish state. And once again the Jewish communities of North America stand in total and complete solidarity with our Israeli brethren.
We pray for their safety and will do everything we can to ensure the success of their efforts. Jewish Federations across North America have acted immediately and comprehensively to support our brothers and sisters as they defend Israel. It is a time of solidarity, determination and utmost seriousness. The Jewish people will stand together as we always do.
As of mid-October JFNA had raised \$388 million to support Israel. The campaign goal is \$500 million.
Federations have allocated money to 20 organizations providing emergency relief and support in Israel, including the Jewish Agency for Israel, JDC, World ORT, Israel Trauma Coalition, United Hatzalah, Magen David Adom, ZAKA, Barzilai Medical Center, and the Soroka Medical Center. These funds are being put to urgent needs such as medical care, emergency services, evacuation, transport, housing, supporting victims of terror, trauma relief and psychological

support, as well as preparing for medium- and long-term needs.
More than 100 Federations across North America, including in Reading, have gathered their communities to bear witness to the suffering while demonstrating broad-based support for the Jewish state.
Meanwhile leaders of Jewish Federations met with Israel President Isaac Herzog to express their support. Herzog thanked North American Jews for standing with Israel at this “hour of need.”
“Thank you for all you are doing to speak up, support and defend Israel on the global stage, in the corridors of power, the press, social media and throughout the public arena. We in Israel feel greatly comforted by the fact that the entire Jewish People is with us at this fateful hour,” he told Jewish Federations of North America President and CEO Eric Fingerhut; UJA-Federation of New York CEO Eric Goldstein, and Jewish Federations Senior Vice President Rebecca Caspi in a meeting in Jerusalem.
“Israel is under attack and its people are grieving,” President Herzog said following the meeting. “But the Jewish state has always shown incredible resilience under fire and today is strong, determined and united.”
In Washington, JFNA asked Congress to authorize a significant increase in

the funds available under the Nonprofit Security Grant Program from its current level of \$305 million to \$500 million, providing houses of worship with the resources they need to protect themselves.
With the rising tide of misinformation and hate speech online. It is imperative that the federal government provides adequate funding to help Jewish communities to defend themselves.

Shalom

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Israel: Yesteryear, today and tomorrow

By Cantor Ted Prosnitz

Kesher Zion Synagogue

But first, a Yom Kippur quandary.

Immediately upon the conclusion of Yom Kippur with the especially moving fifth of the long day's services, Neilah, we prayed the standard evening Shemoneh Esrei. In the sixth blessing of the Amidah we pray:

סְלַח לָנוּ, אֱבִינוּ, כִּי חָטָאנוּ, מִחַל לָנוּ, מַלְכֵנוּ, כִּי פָשַׁעְנוּ
מְכַל, חַטֹּאתֵיכֶם, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, תְּטַהֲרוּ.

Forgive us, O our Father, for we have sinned; pardon us, O our King, for we have transgressed. But we have just been assured that from all our sins we will be cleansed:

מְכַל, חַטֹּאתֵיכֶם, לִפְנֵי יְהוָה, תְּטַהֲרוּ.

Why pray for forgiveness? We haven't had time to sin! In our admittedly understandable hurry to conclude, we have have rushed through the evening prayers without the proper kavannah/spiritual intention. For that, we ask forgiveness.

Although we understand that on Rosh Hashannah an entry is made for us in a Heavenly Book, and on Yom Kippur that entry is sealed, still there is a chance to amend that entry until Sh'mini Atzeret. On that day, our tradition explains that the world is judged for rain. For this reason, at the Musaf service of Sh'mini Atzeret we begin the insertion in the Amidah of the phrase

מְשִׁיב הַרוּחַ וּמוֹרִיד הַגֶּשֶׁם

praising Hashem's lifegiving power as the "Causer of the wind to blow and of the



rain to fall." This is one of our connections with the Land of Israel, Yesteryear.

This insertion is made as a remembrance of rain — rain which is necessary for the crops to grow in the Land of Israel according to the agricultural conditions then.

But, we do not actually pray for and ask for rain, yet. Not until the 60th day after the autumnal equinox do we include in the Amidah **וּתֵן טַל וּמָטָר**/Please bless our year with dew and rain. The earlier phrase acknowledged God's power; this later phrase is a request for the rain, and its best distribution. When do we begin to say this? Dec. 5 of this year. That is the tomorrow of this little article.

Today, our prayers have elements that connect us to the Land and the people of Israel years ago, and in the days ahead. On Sh'mini



Atzeret this year, Oct. 7, Hamas launched a no-holds-barred attack against Jews in the State of Israel. The inhumanity of the terrorists shocked Jews and all right-minded people around the globe. That was then. Today — that is the days immediately following the attacks — we stand together with Israel and its people. Other faith communities stand with us in solidarity.

Tomorrow, Israel will respond. And we must make clear the barbarous behavior of the terrorists and expose that their true goal is to simply kill Jews. While the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces uphold universal moral values, the world may see hard-to-accept losses of life. Yet one of the fundamental values of the IDF/Tzahal is, "The IDF and its soldiers are obligated to preserve human dignity.

All human beings are of inherent value regardless of race, faith, nationality, gender or status (www.idf.il/en/)." Gazans will suffer, and have suffered under Hamas rule. If you hear it said that the people living in Gaza are in an open-air prison, that they have nowhere to go, nowhere to hide — that is accurate. And the fault lies with Hamas. Other Arab nations, including neighboring Egypt, which borders Gaza, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates do not want to take in people who might disrupt their own states. Millions of

dollars have been sent to support people living in Gaza.

Israelis have some safe rooms and shelters for protection. Gazans have none, because the money and material that might have been used for that was redirected to build tunnels for terrorism. Israel employed over 20,000 people who crossed over from Gaza every day — until Hamas caused the closure of the border creating additional economic hardship. Hamas does not desire a Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel so that all people might live in peace.

One of the Ten Commandments that Jews and Christians incorporate into their religions is **לֹא תִרְצַח** Do not murder (Exodus 20:12). The Islamic equivalent is "You shall not take life, which God has made sacred, except by way of justice and law" (Quran 6:151–153). The Talmud says: "If someone comes to kill you, rise up and kill him first" (Sanhedrin 72a). Yet, despite this permission, Jewish custom is not to rally and shout "Death to xyz!" Rather our oft repeated, in various prayers, is the desire for shalom, as in "Oseh shalom bimromav, hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu, v'al kol yisrael, v'al kol yosh'vei tevel. May the one who makes peace in the high heavens, make peace upon us, for all of Israel, and for all who inhabit the earth."

One Day

By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker

Chabad Center of Berks County

One day. That's all it took for unspeakable horror, terror and evil to shake us to the core. A day eternally associated with true joy and happiness now has a nasty shadow hanging over it.

We are a generation for whom the inferno of Europe just a few decades ago was seared into our psyche. The callous, brutal and terrifying images and accounts came from others. We are also a generation whose ancestors came to the West to escape callous, brutal and terrifying pogroms in Eastern Europe. Again, the reports and accounts came from others.

We are a generation who, Thank G-d, had never encountered anything like it. Blessedly, it belonged to the painful past. We are shaken because for the first time in our lifetimes we have experienced a devastating, barbaric, inhuman pogrom against innocent Jews — for the crime of being Jewish. This account has not come from others. We are living through it ourselves. What can we do?

At Simchat Torah, when these sickening atrocities took place, I reflected how this day of infamy occurred on the most important date in the Jewish calendar — when we celebrate the Divine gift of the Torah and its code of conduct for the Jew. The contrast between the two could not be starker.

One story from the Holocaust expresses this point vividly. A Jew was being brutally pummelled, punched, kicked and assaulted by a German beast. At some point the German soldier screamed at the bloodied Jew: "You still think you're the Chosen People"? The Jew replied: "Now more than ever." As Jews our focus is that yes, we're chosen to do good.

Our response to all tragedies has always been to expand in our goodness and kindness, bringing more light to the world. In other words, being chosen isn't about being stronger, fitter, better, faster and superior. It certainly isn't about hurting others and beating them to a pulp. It's a moral mission — via the Torah — to make the world a better place for everyone, Jew and non-Jew.

It's no secret that the evil perpetrators learned from the worst and that they have a certain admiration for the Nazis and their doctrine of Jew hatred, and attempts at the Jew's extinction. They did unspeakable things in their assault. Pure evil, wicked and tragic. The glee, laughter and maniacal behavior that accompanied the pogrom was their



By Rabbi Yosef Lipsker

We are one family. The actions of one impact all. Wherever you are, your positive actions cast spiritual protection over us all. Now, Jews worldwide are uniting to fight the spiritual front of this war against darkness. They're doing just one more mitzvah. You, too, can do your part.

Stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel.

Do a mitzvah for the recovery of the wounded, the safe return of the captives, and the safety of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Sign in to: <https://onemitzvah.org/israel>
And let's do our part.

way of screaming at their Jewish victims: "You still think you're the Chosen People"? All on a day when we celebrate the Torah. The same Torah which abhors this complete corruption of faith and values. A Torah which cherishes life, sees the good in all and the value of each human being.

To which our response must be: "Now more than ever." This demands that we each do something that strengthens that little bit of our connection to our faith and our Torah.

I would propose that we take a step back, even for a few minutes each day — our chayalim (Israeli soldiers) and our people deserve it — and instead of watching and reading news updates, important as they are, especially when we have family in Israel, and even in the armed forces, to use those few minutes to read a Psalm and for doing another Mitzvah. I've seen footage of our incredible chayalim sing and dance and show up

'Arms' for Israel



ready to fight evil, and realize that creating a positive morale here and focusing on the things that we can do is the most helpful approach right now.

The Jewish people are one body. And when one part is hurting the whole body feels the pain. When one part is strengthened, the whole body feels it too. Our mitzvot, good deeds, strengthen our souls, and thereby the morale of our soldiers and of our brothers and sisters. The people I have spoken to in Israel have told me exactly this.

We all have family in Israel. We are all family. So let's keep sending our good vibes, our good thoughts, our Mitzvahs.

May our personal spiritual growth add to the safety of our people enduring a tough time. May G-d protect Israel, and Jews around the world. May we have good news soon.

Am Yisrael Chai!

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A note from Adi on the terror in Israel

By Adi Shalev

"I was supposed to wear white, not black! You promised me that in a year I'll wear white!" That's what Adir's girlfriend cried over his grave.



"My uncle was a soldier! My uncle was a hero and they killed him!". said Adir's 4-year-old niece.

Adir, who started his position as a company commander two months ago, was murdered by Hamas terrorists who infiltrated the army base "Zikim" while he was protecting the other soldiers under his command. Through his actions, Adir saved the lives of many.

Nathanel Young, a 20-year-old British-born, lone soldier, was killed in the first Hamas attacks on the border. Nathanel is my uncle's brother-in-law. While Nathanel's sister Gaby spoke during his funeral, the rocket sirens began, and everyone needed to find shelter. Even during his funeral, they could not find peace. Nathanel was devoted to his family. As of this writing, Nathanel's family doesn't know the specifics of his death.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Hamas not only shot thousands of rockets at Israel but invaded the country, breaking into settlements. My friend Ziv, who lives in Kibbutz Be'eri, did not answer us for hours. At 4 p.m., when he finally answered, he wrote the following:

"They rescued us from the shelter an hour ago. There was a crazy massacre here and it's still going on. I had terrorists at the door. We are just one center, there were 20. My mom has been disconnected right now, for 5 hours now."

Later, he found out through video that his mother, Marsel, was kidnapped and the family didn't know if she was alive. On Oct. 17 they got the news of her being murdered by Hamas terrorists.

The family of my friend Aya, from



Marsel Frailich-Kaplun was kidnapped and murdered.

Kibbutz Sufa, hid in the shelter for two days until they were rescued. Terrorists were walking around, trying to break into people's homes and murdering them, as they did at the other towns on the border.

It doesn't matter if you're a man, woman, boy, girl, dog, or a baby - they murdered everyone they could and kidnapped whoever they wanted.

My friends and family members are out there. Some are in their mandatory service, and some are in reserve. My social media is full of people who are looking for loved ones or lost loved ones. Words can't describe the shock and horror we're experiencing. There is no excuse for these actions. I'll say it loud and clear - Hamas is a terror organization that wants the people of Israel dead. They want me, my family, and my friends dead.

Hamas is destroying not just our lives but the lives of the innocent people living under their control and the Arabs who live in Israel. The rockets they shot into Israel didn't know the difference between Arabs and Jews, and Arab towns got hit as well. They didn't care whether or not the people they kidnapped were Israeli.

On a more personal note: I want to thank everyone who reached out and asked how my family and I are doing. The truth is, I AM NOT OK. Nothing is OK when my people are being murdered, raped, and kidnapped while they were just living their lives. Some of this



Gaby and Nathanel, left. During the soldier's funeral, rocket sirens went off.



Remembering Capt. Adir Abudi, whose actions on Oct. 7 saved many lives.



reminds me of my grandparents' stories from the Farhud (the pogrom carried out against the Jewish population of Baghdad) and from the Holocaust. And still, even after (and while) Hamas committed horrific crimes, people are standing with Hamas, calling the terrorists "freedom fighters" and saying they were HAPPY to hear the news. I can't explain how much this blows my mind and breaks my heart and soul.

I see the U.S. support, from the government to sports teams. It means more than words can describe, and I see and feel your love. I'm sorry it didn't show in this paper.

As I write this, I'm struggling and feeling alone. I feel like there is no place safe for us.

Please, stand with us, stand with Israel. Share your thoughts and prayers. Share the horrible things that Hamas has done and is still doing. Speak up. The world can't stay silent. You don't need to support the Israeli government, you simply need to care for the Israeli lives and condemn Hamas.

Thank you. May peace will be with us all.

Adi served as our Community Shaliach from 2019-2022. Adi lives in Modi'in, Israel, with her fiancé Craig.



Kristallnacht Commemoration Service

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023
6:30 P.M. CIRCLE OF LIGHT CANDLE LIGHTING
7 P.M. INTERFAITH SERVICE

Christ Episcopal Church
435 Court St. Reading

Join us for our annual commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, which marked the beginning of the Holocaust.

The public is invited to this free event.

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR DONATION BIN AT THE JCC?

CommunityAid

.....
Supports local nonprofit organizations, such as Jewish Family Service that serve those in need in the community

We ask for your help collecting gently used clothing, shoes and accessories in our bin.



Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

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Carole 610-921-0624

FOR MORE INFO

Sparkle this Giving Tuesday and support Federation

By Amanda J. Hornberger

GivingTuesday is a global day of giving held each year on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. GivingTuesday was founded in 2012 and encourages people to do good. After a weekend of shopping with Black Friday and Cyber Monday, GivingTuesday allows you to support nonprofits that you care about in a meaningful way.

This year for GivingTuesday Federation is happy to partner with Sorrelli Jewelry for a “sip and see” jewelry fundraiser. Join us on Tuesday, Nov. 28, from 5-8 p.m. at the Sorrelli store in Kutztown to shop, with 10% of proceeds going to Federation.

The event is a sip and shop, so enjoy prosecco and snacks and try on and purchase jewelry for that special someone, or yourself,

just in time for Chanukah.

Sorrelli is a Berks County based woman-run family business since 1983. Its jewelry is known for its use of gems and the Sorrelli Lifetime Promise in its craftsmanship.

Gather your friends and join us for a fun evening of shopping and jewelry at Sorrelli Jewelry, 220 W. Main St., Kutztown on Tuesday, Nov. 28.

Kristallnacht commemorated on Nov. 8

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Each year our community comes together for an interfaith commemoration and remembrance of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, Nov. 9-10, 1938. Kristallnacht is seen by many historians as the start of the Holocaust and the Nazi campaign of terror in Germany and throughout Europe.

We are fortunate to still have local Holocaust

survivors who will once again be participating in this year’s commemoration through readings and lighting six memorial candles.

Please join us on this special and memorable evening on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at Christ Episcopal Church, 435 Court St. in Reading. The evening begins at 6:30 with a circle of light, our way of bringing light to our community on what

was such a dark night for German Jews. The interfaith and moving service begins at 7. There will be a light reception after the service.

Street parking is available near the church and at the M&T Bank parking lot (next door) and the Abraham Lincoln Hotel garage. For more information, please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreading.org or call 610-921-0624.

Paint & sip with Literatour Berks

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Gather your friends for a fun paint and sip evening at the JCC to benefit Literatour Berks! Join us at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 for a light dinner followed by a paint evening with artist and author Susan Wider. She is the author of “It’s My Whole Life,” a biography of Charlotte Salomon and an ode to how art can capture both life’s everyday beauty and its monumental horrors.

Charlotte Salomon was a German-Jewish artist born in Berlin. She is remembered for her autobi-ographical series of paintings, “Life? or Theater?,” which consists of 769 individual works painted between 1940 and 1942 while she was in hiding from the Nazis in the south

of France, and which has been called a painted parallel to Anne Frank’s “The Diary of a Young Girl” and an early graphic novel. In 1943, she entrusted her paintings to a friend. That year, she was captured and deported to Auschwitz, where she and her unborn child were gassed to death upon arrival. “It’s My Whole Life” covers Charlotte’s remarkable life from her childhood and art school days to her time as a refugee in Nazi-occupied France, where she created the largest single work of art created by a Jew during the Holocaust.


Wider will show us the unique watercolor technique used by Salomon, and we will try our best to replicate the method. This interactive event is part painting class, part presentation and all

fun! After her lecture, Wider will be on hand to sign copies of her book which will be available for purchase.

Pricing is \$36 for JCC members, \$40 for non-members which includes a soup and salad dinner, wine, and painting supplies. Event plus book is \$54 for JCC members and \$60 for non-members. All proceeds from the event will benefit Literatour Berks, now in its fifth season of bringing Jewish authors and books to Berks County!

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


SORRELLI®
KUTZTOWN

Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

Giving Tuesday Fundraising Event

Tuesday, November 28th
5pm - 8pm

10% of proceeds raised during the event
go to the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks.



Federation affiliated with Weitzman Museum Store

By Laurie Waxler

Federation is pleased to announce our affiliation with the Weitzman Museum Store in Philadelphia, a part of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

The store has a wonderful collection of Jewish-themed items such as jewelry, menorahs, artwork, children's books and

toys and everything in between! Looking for something to show your Jewish pride? Or, as we move closer to Hannukah, you may just find that perfect gift in their online store. I encourage you to visit their shop, either virtually or in person, and Jewish Federation will receive 10% back on your purchase.

If you haven't visited the museum

before, I encourage you to go if you're able. It has an incredible collection and tells the personal stories of many Jewish immigrants throughout American history. As their website states, the museum, located on Independence Mall, presents educational programs and experiences that preserve, explore and celebrate the history of Jews in America. Founded


in 1976 by the members of historic Congregation Mikveh Israel, the museum has been a vital component of cultural life in Philadelphia ever since.

Thank you in advance for supporting your Jewish Federation through this amazing outlet! You can find the link on our website homepage, or you can use the QR code in the ad located on page 18.

Community represented at March for Israel



Margo Levin, holding the banner at left, represents the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks at the March and Rally for Israel sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Thousands turned out to support the victims in Israel and to denounce the atrocities committed by Hamas. It was inspirational to see people from all walks of life come together as a community for a peaceful demonstration in support of Israel.



LITERATOUR BERKS


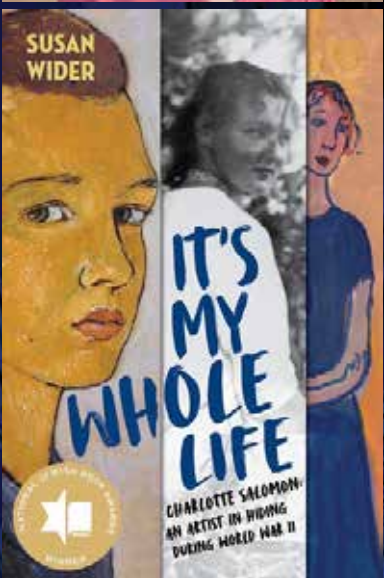
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023

6:00 PM AT THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF READING/BERKS

SUSAN WIDER

AUTHOR OF: IT'S MY WHOLE LIFE


Gather your friends for a fun paint and sip evening at the JCC to benefit Literatour Berks! Join us for a light dinner followed by a paint evening with artist and author Susan Wider.




Wider is the author of *It's My Whole Life*, a biography of Charlotte Salomon, and an ode to how art can capture both life's everyday beauty and its monumental horrors. Charlotte Salomon was a German-Jewish artist born in Berlin. She is remembered for her autobiographical series of paintings, *Life? or Theater?*, which consists of 769 individual works painted between 1940 and 1942 while she was in hiding from the Nazis in the south of France, and which has been called a painted parallel to Anne Frank's *The Diary of a Young Girl* and an early graphic novel.

Wider will show us the unique water color technique used by Salomon and we will try our best to replicate the method. This interactive event is part painting class, part presentation and all fun! Pricing includes a soup and salad dinner, wine, and painting supplies.

JCC members \$36, all others \$40. Event plus book for JCC members \$54, all others \$60. Registration open until Thursday, November 16, 2023.

REGISTER HERE:



JEWISH FEDERATION OF READING/BERKS
 1100 BERKSHIRE BLV. // SUITE 125
 WYOMISSING, PA 19610
 Call 610-921-0624 to RSVP
 or visit www.readingjewishcommunity.org for information!

Lecture offers blueprint for environmental progress



Alon Tal delivers the Leo Camp Lecture at Albright College



Attendees Haia Mazuz and Rob Oppenheimer enjoy Alon Tal's informative and fun lecture.

By Amanda J. Hornberger

On Monday, Oct. 2, Alon Tal gave a fascinating lecture as part of the 43rd annual Leo Camp Memorial Lecture at Albright College. During his talk, Tal discussed the four critical environmental issues that are imperative for a regional strategy: water resources, climate change/sustainable

energy, biodiversity and overpopulation.

In terms of water resources, Tal discussed Israel's innovative desalination technology that helps provide water not only to Israel but to its neighbors as well. Climate change is making the Middle East hotter, and Israel is becoming a hot spot. This ties into water resources

and also use of carbon in the region. Biodiversity and reintroducing plants and animals native to the region back to the area is essential for cooperation between states. Lastly, Tal mentioned population and the need to keep population under control in terms of use of resources as well as carbon impact.

Tal presented a wealth of information and was generally very optimistic about the state of environmental cooperation in the region currently and for the future. His presentation included a lot of great data and we have it available to share if you are interested in learning more or looking at the material in more depth.

Literatour NoontimeProgram focuses on Jews and the Lakota

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Rebecca Clarren only knew the major plot points of her immigrant family's origins.

Her great-great-grandparents, the Sinykins, and their six children fled antisemitism in Russia and arrived in the United States at the

turn of the 20th century, ultimately settling on a 160-acre homestead in South Dakota.

Over the next few decades,

despite tough years on a merciless prairie and multiple setbacks, the Sinykins became an American immigrant success story.

What none of Clarren's ancestors ever mentioned was that their land, the foundation for much of their wealth, had been cruelly taken from the Lakota by the United States government.

America had broken hundreds of treaties with hundreds of Indigenous nations across the continent, and the land that had once been reserved for the seven bands of the Lakota had been diminished, splintered, and handed for free, or practically free, to white settlers.

In "The Cost of Free Land," Clarren melds investigative reporting with personal family history to reveal the intertwined stories of her family and the Lakota, and the devastating cycle of loss of Indigenous land, culture, and resources that continues today.

Come learn more about this fascinating story on Tuesday, Nov. 21, at noon at the JCC!

Award-winning journalist Rebecca Clarren has been writing about the American West for more than 20 years.

Her magazine pieces, for which she has won the Hillman Prize, appear in *High Country News*, *The Nation* and *Indian Country Today*.

Her debut novel, "Kickdown," was shortlisted for the PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction.

"An American Inheritance," her work of creative nonfiction, was awarded a Whiting Nonfiction Award. Her work is regularly supported by the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

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

Registration is requested by calling 610-921-0624 or email info@jfreeding.org

Thank you to our Literatour Berks sponsors and partner Exeter Community Library for their support!

JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY NOONTIME KNOWLEDGE

**"The Cost of Free Land: Jews, Lakota,
and an American Inheritance"
with Rebecca Clarren**

Tuesday, November 21 at noon at the JCC

An award-winning author investigates the entangled history of her Jewish ancestors' land in South Dakota and the Lakota, who were forced off that land by the United States government. What does it mean to survive oppression only to perpetuate and benefit from the oppression of others?



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

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

Story of Sid and Esther Bratt shared at event



The Berks History Center hosted an event in which Stacy Seltzer and Michele Leisawitz told the Holocaust survival story of their grandparents Sid and Esther Bratt.

Photos by Bill Uhrich - Courtesy of Reading Eagle

Join Us for an Inspiring Presentation!



Declutter Your Space:
Tips for Success

Presented by:

STERLING
Senior Life Solutions

Moving, Downsizing, Planning...*Made Easy*

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

JEWISH HERITAGE NIGHT

76ERS GAME

SCAN CODE BELOW
TO RSVP

BUS TRIP TO PHILLY
DECEMBER 11, 2023



\$80 JCC MEMBER OR \$90 NON-MEMBER
\$50 YOUTH UNDER AGE 18

By Carole Robinson

When my granddaughter Freya was a toddler, she insisted on being independent and doing everything by herself. As you can imagine, she was often unable to successfully complete her task and ended up having meltdowns. Her parents explained she needed to use her words and ask for help instead of having a temper tantrum. Freya’s response was to mimic their words and demand, “Can I help you?” instead of asking for help.



Now a wonderful, independent kindergartner, the story still brings a smile to my face. A lighthearted story to ease my way into talking about a serious topic. Unlike Freya, I’m not frustrated and I’m not asking you for help, but I genuinely want to know, “Can JFS help you?” Below are some of the ways that JFS can help!

Do you need food? We hold two monthly food pantries in conjunction with Helping Harvest. We can also provide you with grocery cards if you are in immediate need of food. And if you are unable to get your food, we will deliver it to you. JFS is

committed to fighting food insecurity!

Is transportation a problem? JFS offers a taxi transportation system. We sell discounted books of taxi tickets, a \$75 value for only \$25. If you need a ride to a medical appointment, either Sari, a volunteer, or I will accompany you. We can also give you information about BARTA Special Services. We want to ensure you get to the places you need to go!

Do you need information? JFS arranges programs on Estate Planning, Elder Care Planning, and Medicare. Join us for the “ABC’s of Medicare” on Thursday, Nov. 2, at 7 p.m. Our volunteer Phyllis Dessel will also meet with you for a private Medicare consultation. Contact JFS to arrange an appointment during Medicare Open Enrollment through Dec. 7. We can also inform you about senior residential facilities, refer you to companies that assist in downsizing and moving or connect you with homecare agencies and caregivers. JFS has the answers you need!

Do you require emergency financial assistance? JFS’s Shaffer Fund helps clients in dire situations with rent, utilities, and medical expenses. If you are facing homelessness or in danger of a utility shut-off, please contact me. All information is kept confidential. JFS is dedicated to

meeting the needs of those in crisis in the Jewish community!

Are you lonely? Join us for one of our many programs and interact with other community members. We have a Friendship Circle luncheon and program for seniors twice a month, providing camaraderie and fun. We also offer Noontime Knowledge, an educational and cultural program, and Movie Monday; both programs are opportunities to connect with the Jewish community and make new friends. If you prefer to interact one-on-one, please let me know. Sari and I would be happy to visit with you or match you with a friendly volunteer. JFS doesn’t want anyone to feel isolated and alone!

Or would you just like to talk to someone? Call and let me know that you’d like to talk. I can give you information, offer professional advice, or simply listen. My office door is always open to you and I am only a phone call away! Contact me at CaroleR@JFReading.org or call 610-921-0624.

Let us know how we can help you. I echo the words of former President Barack Obama, “Don’t be afraid to ask for help when you need it. Asking for help isn’t a sign of weakness, it’s a sign of strength.” Let’s all stay strong in these troubled times and work together as a community to offer and receive help.

JFS volunteers work to feed hungry



Volunteers help at Jewish Family Service food pantries. Joan Sherman and Debra Montanino pack food, and Oleg Umanov loads cars.

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

Many thanks to our
October Food Pantry Volunteers
who distributed 18,000 lbs. of food to
534 households.

Mary Anne Avins
Raymond Gehring
Katie Healy
John Incledon
Pete Jacobson
Pete Manicioti
Vicky Miller

Paul Mintz
Debra Montanino
Mary Neville
Annette Peppard
Gretchen Platt
Jen Reilly
Mike Schein

Ellen Schwartz
Paul Schwartz
Joan Sherman
Oleg Umanov
Michael Warshaw
Phyllis Warshaw

JFS continues with wide variety of activities



Jewish Family Service activities this fall included a Sukkot event at Friendship Circle. At left, Claire Bram listens as Brian Chartock and Ziv Laskin explain the holiday, and Moisey Schneider and Mila Ger smell the lulav. At right, Russell Farbiarz and Sheila Bornstein at the JFS Estate Planning Workshop held on Oct. 10. Watch for more JFS programs to aid community members in issues of finance and government services.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

November 2 - "Adventures in Australia & New Zealand "
Travel vicariously with Joan Sherman and Debra Montanino to Australia and New Zealand, a trip that will include some Jewish highlights.

November 16- "Decluttering" with Cindy Gerber Tomlinson
Join Cindy Gerber Tomlinson from Sterling Senior Life Solutions for tips on decluttering your space and enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch.



Friendship Circle is held twice a month on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. at the JCC. An optional lunch is served, followed by an entertaining or educational program or holiday celebration. Programs are free; optional lunch is \$7. Contact Carole at 610-921-0624 to make lunch reservations.

JFS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

This program provides transportation to members of the Jewish community, age 60 and over or those with disabilities, who have no other way of getting around. It allows participants to retain their independence and keeps them from becoming homebound and isolated. It can be used for medical appointments, synagogue attendance, shopping and other errands.

It is easy to participate. Purchase a book of 25 taxi tickets from the Federation at a cost of \$25. Each coupon is worth \$3. The phone number for Reading Metro Taxi is printed on the ticket book. Call the company and arrange your ride. At the end of the ride, sign your coupon(s) before giving them to the driver. Tipping is left to the passenger's discretion. The coupon does not include the cost of tipping.

This program is subsidized by the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks

RCOS Jewish Food Festival returns indoors

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
The 23rd annual Jewish Food and Clutural Festival is set for Sunday, Nov. 5, at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing.
The event, which runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., is a return to full festival activities inside the synagogue after three years of a drive-through format. The menu includes apple cake, brisket, pastrami, corned beef, hot dogs and more. Plenty of the old favorites will be back. See www.ohebsholom.org

for the full menu. Order in advance at the RCOS website through Nov. 1. Credit cards are preferred when purchasing meals on-site. There will be dining areas throughout the building, and a new ordering system should keep things moving.
Mezzo-soprano Molly Nemirow and accompanist Holly Altenderfer will perform songs in celebration of Jewish culture in the Broadway and classical traditions. Performances at 12:30 and 2:30. Molly is a member of RCOS, a vocal

performance major at Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y.
Educational activities include

sanctuary tours, a shofar-blowing demonstration and displays on Jewish holidays.

All Around the Town

Mazel tov to **Dan Pardo**, son of Mike Pardo and the late Eve Pardo, on serving as piano accompanist for “American Idol” finalist and Broadway star Constantine Maroulis, whose tour is coming to the

Miller Center for the Arts at RACC on Nov. 2.

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

Poetry corner

5784

*God must be rolling His
holy shoulders and possibly
chuckling a bit
as a new holy year begins*

*listening to our petitions for
blessings and
forgiveness
in spite of our rare
success*

*We count upon compassion
as we bump along
life's road
- disaster
- calamity
- catastrophe*

*Holy
within
One*

— Nancy Knoblauch

Coffee Time

Join our Shaliach, Ziv, for Israeli coffee and chatting about Israel

Fridays
10:30 a.m. Nov 3rd
JCC Nov 17th

RSVP to
zivl@jfreeding.org

November 27 at 1:00

Movie Monday



"Armageddon Time"

This film follows a young Jewish-American boy who befriends an African-American classmate in 1980s Queens, New York. He begins to struggle with his family's expectations and growing up in a time of inequality and prejudice.

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

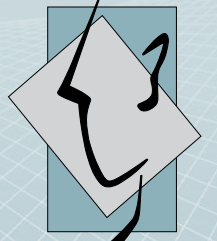


Grab a seat for a Jewish themed movie each month at the JCC. It is usually held on the 4th Monday of the month, the popcorn and the movie are both free!

Pediatric and Adult Patients

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Thyroid Nodules, Neck Masses & Sinusitis



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Jeffrey S. Driben, M.D., FACS, ECNU
Scott J. Cronin, M.D., FACS
Adam P. Vasconcellos, M.D., FACS
Chetan Y. Safi, M.D.

Nurse Practitioner:

Rosemarie Montgomery
MS, CRNP, FNP-C

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Audiologists:

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Matthew R. Bonsall, AuD, FAAA
Jenna L. Galan, AuD, CCC-A



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Fall means holiday learning at Lakin Preschool



By Judy Lefante and Wendy Bright
Lakin Preschool

Lakin Preschool children have been busy this fall preparing for Yom Kippur and Sukkot. They decorated the sukkah with painted apple garlands and 3-dimensional fruit. The PJ Library books were utilized to reinforce the meaning of these special times of year in the Jewish year. The children had an opportunity to make beautiful art for the sukkah with Ziv from the Jewish Federation of Reading. Miss Susan from Keshet Zion has been visiting us each Friday for Shabbat and taught us some new songs with her special puppet. We welcome our new volunteer Elyse Horowitz to Lakin. She will be working with all of the classes to create many styles of art based on the work of children's author Eric Carle for the spring art show.

Obituaries

Richard Roeberg, 81 passed away on Oct. 10. He graduated from Albright College in 1964 with a degree in accounting. In 1965 he joined the family business, National Cleaners, and worked there devotedly for 58 years. He was a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom and enjoyed singing with its choir. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, daughters Lisa Roeberg of Florida and Becky Roeberg (Jamie) of Maryland and four grandchildren. He is also survived by two stepchildren,

Jennifer Claster (Jake Owens) and Max Claster (Krystal) and a brother, Michael. ---
Edward Golden, 82, passed away on Oct. 10. He grew up in Wynnewood and graduated from Penn State University. Edward will be remembered for his kind and caring personality, his intellect and great sense of humor. He loved all things Philadelphia, music, and hanging out at Barnes and Noble. An avid sports fan, he loved watching Eagles, Sixers, and Penn State games. Edward is survived by his wife, Ann; his sons Andrew (Virginia) and Casey (Jihan), and five grandchildren.

November ☆ Chesvan-Kislev



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

November 3
5:41 p.m.

November 10
4:33 p.m.

November 17
4:27 p.m.

November 24
4:23 p.m.

November 4/20 Chesvan
Vayeira (Genesis 18:1—22:24)

November 11/27 Chesvan
Chayei Sarah (Genesis 23:1-25:18)

November 18/5 Kislev
Toldot (Genesis 25:19-28:9)

November 25/12 Kislev
Vayeitzei (Deuteronomy 28:10-32:3)

23rd Annual Jewish Food & Cultural Festival Sunday, November 5th - 11 am to 4 pm

WE'RE BACK INDOORS

Indoor festival with option to pre-order online with indoor pick up

Pre Order deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 1st at: ohebsholom.org

FEATURING:

Apple Cake & Assorted Desserts
Platters of Brisket & Chicken
Sandwich Platters of Corned Beef & Pastrami
Breakfast Platter with Bagel and Lox
Hot Dogs, Knishes, Matzah Ball Soup & More!

Credit Card preferred or Cash Accepted

Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing
610.375.6034 • ohebsholom.org



Jewish Family Service Program “ABC’s of Medicare”



Thursday November 2, 2023 7:00pm
at The Jewish Federation of Reading
1100 Berkshire Blvd., Wyomissing

Speaker: Phyllis Dessel
Retired from Berks County Area Office of Aging

- Learn about all the parts of Medicare:
- The difference between traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans
 - How to choose a drug plan and a Medicare supplement
 - When you can change your plan
 - When to apply for Medicare

The event is free and all are invited. RSVP to 610-921-0624

More Happy Hour fun with Federation



The Federation's fall Happy Hour was held at WineDown and the Whiskey Bar in West Reading.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Jewish Family Service is grateful to our committed volunteers!

Here are some ways that you can help:

Help Fight Hunger

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

Share your Professional Expertise

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

Share your time

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

Donate your vehicle to JFS or donate clothing to CommunityAid

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



Contact Us



**Carole Robinson at
610-921-0624**



Jewish Federation
of Reading/Berks

**AGES
5-13**

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5:15 PM-7:30 PM



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RSVP:
INFO@JFREADING.ORG

A FUN OPPORTUNITY FOR KIDS TO GET
OUT AND PLAY WITH FRIENDS!

PIZZA & DRINK WILL BE PROVIDED





SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR WAIVER



Ziv Laskin and Margo Levin represent the Federation at the Berks Cultural Diversity Festival held on Oct. 1 in Reading's City Park. The event featured organizations from a wide variety of religious, ethnic and cultural groups providing information and activities. Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council works together with our Greater Reading Unity Coalition partners to promote diversity and understanding throughout Berks County.

Reform Congregation
Oheb Sholom & Keshet Zion
Invite You to Join Us

Jodi Eichler-Levine
From Baking to Barbie:
*Jewish Women's Changing Roles
in the Modern World*
Friday, November 10th


In 1691, a German Jewish woman often known as Gluckel of Hameln began writing the story of her life. She was an active partner in her husband's jewelry business and gave birth to fourteen children. A few centuries later, in the United States, another Jewish woman named Ruth Mosko Handler co-founded the toy company Mattel with her husband - and soon, her creation - the Barbie doll - became an international icon. Jewish women's histories are tales of both change and continuity. This talk will introduce you to some key women from the last few hundred years - and show how they deployed their power in the home, in the boardroom, and from the pulpit.

Jodi Eichler-Levine is the Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization and a professor of religion studies at Lehigh University, where she also directs the Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies. She is the author of Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis. Her work has appeared in numerous venues, including The Washington Post, CNN, Salon, Kveller, Shofar, and American Quarterly.

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

**Challahs
by Chana**

ENHANCE YOUR SHABBAT EACH WEEK
WITH DELICIOUS, FRESH, HOME BAKED
CHALLAH - PLAIN OR WITH TOPPINGS.



\$7 EACH CHALLA
*Toppings include sesame, everything or crumb.
Please specify when you order*
Orders must be in by Tuesday each week
Text Chana Lipsker @610-334-1577
All proceeds go to support Camp Gan Izzy of Berks

Year gets off to busy start at Chabad



Top left, Chani Apfelbaum of “Busy in Brooklyn” hosted a busy and fun evening of cooking demonstrations and food sampling. Special thanks to committee members Nancy Russo, Luba Kofman, Sheina Castillo Missan, Janine Schneider-Ure and Mindy Kay McIntosh and young volunteers Bella Karchevsky, Eva Karchevsky, Shayna Sulpovar, Leah Leisawitz and Melanie Leshner. Top right, with more than 100 reservations, the popular Sushi in the Sukkah required us to expand the area for the event. Bottom right, the most recent Torah and Tea was an evening for Israel. And at bottom left, Cteenjr got off to a great start with a session on Israel. We Zoomed with Israeli soldier, Nate Ferder, originally from Reading and learned about what we as Cteens can do to be a part of helping Israel.





PLEASE JOIN US FOR

JUNIOR CONGREGATION

OCTOBER 28TH
10:30AM
KIDDUSH TO FOLLOW
KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE
555 WARWICK AVE
WYOMISSING, PA 19610



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Reading community stands with Israel



A large crowd turned out for the Reading Jewish community's vigil for Israel in October. At right, Rabbi Brian Michelson with Ziv Laskin, Amanda Hornberger, Brian Chartock and Sheila Bornstein.

Photos by Bill Uhrich, courtesy of Reading Eagle.



Chabad's Community Unity Shabbat for Israel was a beautiful and meaningful evening. Starting with words and video clips of inspiration, followed by Shabbat candle lighting, and on to services and a four-course Shabbat dinner where people from the community spoke, sang and prayed together. The atmosphere was warm and embracing.

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE
555 WARWICK DRIVE WYOMISSING, PA 19606

DO A MITZVAH
PLEASE HELP US MAKE A MINYAN ON
THE FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS OF
EVERY MONTH SO THOSE NEEDING TO
SAY KADDISH ARE ABLE TO.

ALL ARE WELCOME

**MINYAN STARTS AT 7:30 PM AND LASTS
20-25 MINUTES**

OCTOBER 19	NOVEMBER 2 + 16	DECEMBER 7+21
JANUARY 4+18	FEBRUARY 1+15	MARCH 7+21

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
ROBERT SCHNEIER
(484) 987-4805
ROBERTBSCHNEIER@GMAIL.COM**

Veterans' BENEFITS CLASS

Thursday, November 9th | 1-3PM

The Berks County Veterans Affairs office will be at Manor at Market Square to present a class on the benefits available to military veterans and their families.

Edwin Jankowski, benefits educator and outreach coordinator, will share information about services available to you and your family that can help offset the cost of senior care, along with other important information.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by November 6th.
Call Madison at 610-624-1299 or email maglover@manoratms.com

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INDEPENDENT LIVING
USNews
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12 books to help readers better understand Israel

Israel21c.org

Israel is facing an unprecedented war. While abroad “contextualization” of the conflict seems often a little thin, at home the war’s historical context is understood in an entirely different way, and has mostly to do with the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and our very right to exist. To understand the way Israelis

are viewing and acting upon this war, we’ve compiled reading recommendations that bring to light this country’s multifaceted and complex history.

Israel: A History by Martin Gilbert

Gilbert starts his history at the beginning of the 20th century, when political Zionism began making waves,

and ends it at the first intifada in the 1990s. He examines events in great and nuanced detail.

Jerusalem: The Biography by Simon Sebag Montefiore

This is a most comprehensive account of the most famous city in the world: right back from the times of King David and all the way up to the Six-Day War.

The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land by Donna Rosenthal

This has become a must-read for anyone trying to understand the often crazy, difficult and clashing realities permeating the land. Rosenthal interviewed Jewish, Muslim and Christian Israelis from all walks of life, giving a real sneak peek at communities and issues that don’t often make the headlines.

Chances for Peace: Missed Opportunities in the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Elie Podeh

This book explores episodes ranging from Arab-Zionist negotiations at the end of World War I and the Six-Day War up to the 2007 Annapolis Conference and the Abu Mazen-Olmert talks in 2008, giving a wide, comprehensive analysis of Israel’s relations with the region.

Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle by Dan Senor and Saul Singer

This addresses how Israel became the entrepreneurial hot spot that it is. The authors give a well-rounded view of the way Israel pulled itself upward into the high-tech stratosphere.

The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust by Tom Segev

No history or understanding of Israel is complete without the Holocaust. This book deals with the tricky history of the Holocaust as viewed from pre-state Israel and the effects of the Holocaust on the country’s establishment, character and people.

Israel: A History by Anita Shapira

This examines the emergence of political Zionism in the late 19th century, immigration to Israel and the wars, political events and cultural shifts that brought the country to where it is today.

Catch-67: The Left, the Right, and the Legacy of the Six-Day War by Micah Goodman

Whether one agrees or not with Goodman’s assessment of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its chances of resolution, his book makes for a detailed, thoughtful and well-argued read. Perhaps even more than it captures the situation on the ground, it also captures what Israelis try to make of it, which is a fascinating feat of its own.

No Room for Small Dreams: Courage, Imagination, and the Making of Modern Israel by Shimon Peres

Authored by the late Shimon Peres, one of Israel’s legendary presidents, this gives a detailed account of the decisions and events that shaped the country. As a statesman involved in the machinations of the state from the very beginning, Peres was uniquely positioned to give an insider view of the way Israel became what it is.

The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem by Sarit Yishai-Levi

Not a history book in any way, but one that all lovers of history should reach for. The fictional story of the multi-generational Armoza family in Jerusalem, spanning from the beginning of the 20th century all the way to decades later, touches upon so many things, drawing from the author’s family history..

Enemies and Neighbors: Arabs and Jews in Palestine and Israel, 1917-2017 by Ian Black

This tackles the complex, 100-year-long conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. While his conclusions can’t be called optimistic, this makes for an excellent read.

1948 by Yoram Kaniuk

This novel is a heart-wrenching account of the author’s military service as a teenager in Jerusalem during Israel’s War of Independence. He tries to remember what happened to him and his friends in the frenzy and desperation of war, all while noting the blurred lines between reality, memory and oblivion.



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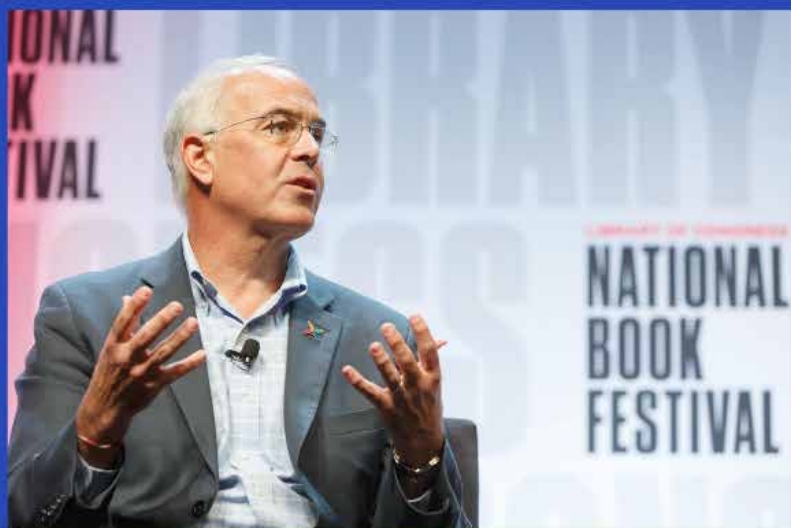


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Celebrating Israel’s unexpected heroes

Israel21c.org

When Rachel and David Edri returned to their home in Ofakim on Oct. 7 after running to a bomb shelter early that morning, five Hamas terrorists were waiting for them inside. The attackers, brandishing grenades and Kalashnikov rifles, ransacked the house and threatened the couple. But Rachel fought to remain composed, hoping that their sons, both local police officers, would realize what was happening and bring the YAMAM counterterrorism squad before it was too late.

Police officers did arrive, and to avoid accidentally hurting the Edris they tried to negotiate rather than storm the house. They killed one terrorist who stepped outside and wounded another. But resolving the crisis took a very long time.

For 20 hours, Rachel kept their captors calm with a mix of Hebrew and Arabic conversation. She even bandaged the hand of the injured terrorist.

She also plied them with food. She is a Jewish mother, after all. She knew hunger can be a dangerous trigger.

“I saw they were mad, and I asked them if they were hungry,” she said. “I made them coffee and gave them cookies.” She gave the wounded terrorist water and canned pineapple.

Meanwhile, their son drew a detailed sketch of the house for the SWAT team. Along with a rescue dog, the team eventually managed to enter through the roof and kill the remaining four terrorists, freeing the Edris.

Israelis have created many amusing memes celebrating the courage, and cookies, of “Savta” (Grandma) Rachel. Some are calling for her to become our next national leader. There’s even a website selling T-shirts of Rachel, with proceeds going to war victims.



Rachel Edri

Bedouin Israeli businessman Sami Elkrenawi owns five small hotels in the Negev Desert, mostly in the town of Mitzpeh Ramon.

Since the start of the war, he has hosted — at his own expense — evacuated families from the Gaza border communities in 50 hotel rooms, complete with food and drink.

He also buys them clothing since many of these refugees lost everything in the vicious attacks. Plus, he gives donations of supplies to IDF soldiers stationed in the south.

“My family serves in the army. We love Israel. And we feel so bad about what’s happening — no Muslim should accept this,” he says, emphasizing that killings and kidnappings, torching houses, and other atrocities committed by Hamas are not sanctioned in his religion.

Elkrenawi said he had a bad feeling something would happen on Oct. 7, the 50th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War that also began with a surprise attack.

“I knew Hamas was getting weapons



Sami Elkrenawi

from Iran and would attack one day. I said, on 7 October this year it’s a Saturday and it’s a Jewish holiday [Simchat Torah] and I think there will be a surprise to Israel from Iran or Lebanon. I wasn’t thinking about Gaza. And I heard the first boom at 7 in the morning. I couldn’t believe what those animals did.”

Families praising Elkrenawi on social media say that he refused to accept any payment. But with his expenses now adding up to million shekels, he began seeking donors to help him continue providing free room and board at the Adama Boutique Hotel, Selina Desert Garden, Tzukim, Sol, and Selina Tzukim Arava. Minister of Diaspora Affairs Amichai Chikli is helping Elkrenawi secure donations.

Just turned 26, combat veteran Inbal Rabin Lieberman serves as the security coordinator of Kibbutz Nir Am, near the Gaza border. On the morning of Oct. 7, swarms of heavily armed terrorists from Gaza infiltrated 22 kibbutzim and other communities in the area, killing hundreds. But nobody was killed at Nir Am,



Inbal Rabin Lieberman, left, meeting Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai after she ensured the safety of everyone at her Gaza-border kibbutz.

thanks to Lieberman’s fast actions.

She’d been alerted by the Israel Defense Forces at 6:30 a.m. to awaken her 12-person security team. She and her uncle Ami Rabin, the previous security coordinator, did much more. They distributed weapons to members of the team and instructed them to take up positions at the gate of the kibbutz. They then went house to house, making sure Nir Am’s families were sheltered in fortified rooms.

Shortly afterwards, a dozen terrorists approached the kibbutz and at least three were shot dead immediately. They prevented the others from entering, holding out against the infiltrators for more than three hours until soldiers arrived. Tragically and ironically, seven Gazan workers in the kibbutz’s orange grove were killed by the terrorists.

The kibbutzniks were evacuated the next day to a hotel in Tel Aviv. Mayor Ran Huldai came to meet her.

“Inbal is a heroine,” Huldai wrote. “Her story, which is being published everywhere, leaves no one indifferent — for her coolness, courage and bravery. Thanks to Inbal, dozens of lives have been saved. Thanks to her, Kibbutz Nir Am was saved.”

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FOR MORE INFO PLEASE
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“Operation Swords of Iron”

Non-profit organizations suggested if you’d like to send an donation to support Israel



Jewish Federation of North America's emergency fund for Israel

Website: <https://www.jewishfederations.org/2023israel-emergency>

- Jewish Federations are responding, working with our core partners to support victims of terror, helping rebuild damaged infrastructure, and addressing the unprecedented levels of trauma caused by this horrific attack.

Magen David Adom (Israel's paramedics and first responders)

Website: afmda.org

- Donations ensure Magen David Adom's 33,000 paramedics, EMTs, first responders, and first-aid providers, volunteers and staff, have the training, equipment, and medical supplies they need to treat all injured and ill people in Israel. They also have a blood services center where they collect, test, process and distribute to hospitals all the blood needed for the IDF and Israel’s citizens.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Website: jdc.org

- In the country’s south, JDC programs are providing support to those now under attack — including the elderly, people with disabilities, children and families at risk — and are the backbone of their response to this war. JDC plans to expand mental health interventions, strengthen the capacity of nursing homes, provide support for those with disabilities, support small businesses and entrepreneurs to stay in business, and train front-line professionals to meet the unprecedented needs amongst the most vulnerable.

Israel Defense Force (IDF) Widow and Orphans Fund

Website: idfwo.org

- Established in 1991, IDF Widows and Orphans Organization runs projects and activities all year round. It is the representative body for widows and orphans at the legislative level and in the face of the wider public, and it offers emotional, social, financial, and any other necessary support.

Friends of the IDF

Website: fidf.org

- Tens of thousands of soldiers and reservists are on the front lines, facing an unprecedented and harrowing conflict. FIDF is the sole organization designated by the IDF in the United States to collect donations for its soldiers. As their true and only partners,, FIDF is responding to their most urgent needs for humanitarian support which currently includes armored ambulances, field hospitals, plasma, and other life-saving supplies.

Lone Soldier Center

Website: lonesoldiercenter.com

- Established by former lone soldiers and friends of Michael Levin z”l their mission Is To assist Lone Soldiers before, during and after their army service. They provide them with food, laundry, basic necessities, equipment, advice, seminars, social events, Shabbat meals and more. By giving soldiers physical and emotional support, they help them through the difficulties that serving in the army presents.

Physician Volunteers

Website: https://www.nbn.org.il/dr_volunteer/

- Nefesh B’Nefesh, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, is creating a database of international physicians willing to volunteer in Israel during this challenging time.

Yemin Orde Youth Village

Website: impact-israel.org

- A non-profit supported by our Federation, the Youth Village supports at-risk Jewish children from around the world. Emergency funds raised will go toward emergency stipends and financial assistance, enhanced security at Yemin Orde, and increased mental health resources for youth, graduates and staff.

Meir Panim

Website: donate.meirpanim.org

- A non-profit supported by our Federation, Meir Panim was established for the nearly 1 million Jewish children live in poverty. Meir Panim ensures that Israelis struggling to put food on the table will get help. Every day, they deliver thousands of meals from their various branches all over Israel, but the need is much greater and will only continue to grow during with the war.

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 Oct. 16

Jewish Family Service

In memory of:

John Moyer - Corrine and Andy Wernick, Esther and Sid Bratt, Betsy and Al Katz, Sue and Mel Blum, Frederick Singer, Laurie and Andrew Waxler, Marc and Marcia Filstein, Carol and Eric Gerst, Phyllis and Barry Goldberg, Mike and Beth Shor, Shirley Boscov, Ellen and Donald Abramson, Larry and Susan Cutler, Anzie Golden, Gordon and Carol Perlmutter, Sharon and Julian Syret, Roger Schein, Bruce Cohen, Marsha and Joel Adelman, Bernard and Barbara Fromm

Alan Bruce Dombek - Corinne and Andy Wernick

Jenna Schreiber - Andrew and Laurie Waxler

Robert Pollack - Sharon and Julian Syret

Isabelle Arnston - Vic and Dena Hammel, Paul and Solange Israel-Mintz and Family, Debbie Goodman, Corinne and Andy Wernick, Sharon and Julian Syret, Helene and Henry Singer

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Edward Golden - Zena and Harvey Hafetz, Corinne and Andy Wernick, Esther and Sid Bratt, Debbie Goodman, Ellen and Donald Abramson, Betsy and Al Katz, Carrie and Stephen Latman, Sharon and Julian Syret, Carolyn Weaver

In honor of:

Joan Sherman's birthday – Terry Cooper

Rosalye Yashek's 95th birthday - Sharon and Julian Syret

In celebration of:

JFS's visit to Sol - Rachael Deutsch

Evelyn S. Thompson Nursery School Fund

In memory of:

John Moyer - Beth and Bob Caster

Alan Bruce Dombek - Beth and Bob Caster

Pauline Himmelberger - Beth and Bob Caster

Bettina Bonner - Beth and Bob Caster

Jenna Schreiber - Beth and Bob Caster

Isabelle Arnston - Beth and Bob Caster

Robert Pollack - Beth and Bob Caster

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

Jewish Family Service

Leo Camp Lecture Fund

JFS Food Bank

JFS Taxi Transportation Program

Holocaust Library & Resource Center

Doris Levin Fund

Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund for PJ Library

Harry & Rose Sack Fund

Evelyn Thompson Fund

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:

John Moyer - Linda A. Bulvanoski, Dena and Vic Hammel, Stephan and Susan Culter, Elizabeth B. Gaul, Zena and Harvey Hafetz, Eunice Boscov, Carol and Bernie Gerber and family, Judy Copeland

David Wittels - Vic and Dena Hammel

Ivan Botvin - Eunice Boscov

Ellen Labes - Sharon and Ron Berman and family, Radene Beck, Vic and Dena Hammel

Isabelle Arnston - Marc and Marcia Filstein

Richard Roeberg - Vic and Dena Hammel, Susan and Mel Blum, Carol and Bernie Gerber and family

Edward Golden - Susan and Mel Blum, Debbie and David Goldberg, Eunice Boscov, Carol and Bernie Gerber and family, Judy Copeland

In honor of:

Michael and Susan Fromm's granddaughter - Vic and Dena Hammel

Bernard & Barbara Fromm's great-granddaughter - Vic and Dena Hammel

Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In memory of:

John Moyer - Maralyn and Ken Lakin. Louise Zeidman and family, Patricia and Michael Gordon

Isabelle Arnston - Rosalye, Linda and Kim Yashek

In honor of:

Rosalye Yashek's 95th birthday - Vic and Dena Hammel, Louise Zeidman and family

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