



Shalom10|18

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

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- Community Holiday Programs
- Women's Philanthropy
- Jewish Federations of North America
- Counseling Services
- Leo Camp Lecture
- Shabbat B'Yachad

'But all are responsible'

Ruth Messenger to speak here Oct. 4

Ruth Messenger, former CEO of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), is the featured speaker at the Reading/Berks Jewish Federation's Community Campaign event and the Campaign Leadership Gifts Dinner on Thursday, Oct. 4 at the RCOS-KZ building, 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing.

Messenger is a longtime activist and social change visionary. She has worked to mobilize faith-based communities throughout the U.S. to speak on behalf of oppressed and marginalized people around the globe. She will also be speaking with Reading minority communities and their youth. Our discussion will center on what is the specific Jewish ethical responsibility to fight for social and civil justice.

Her primary driving force was her mother. From her, she learned that acts of tzedakah acknowledge our good



Ruth Messenger

fortune. Having done well, we are obligated to give something — time, money or both — to help those less fortunate. Messenger will be speaking to our entire Jewish community on "Social Justice and Judaism: Our Obligation to Work in the World" at 7:30

p.m. A gift to the Reading/Berks Jewish Community Campaign is welcome but not required.

Preceding the community event, Ms. Messenger will speak at the Leadership Gifts Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Her topic here will be "But All Are Responsible." A minimum Community gift of \$1,200 per person is requested to attend the dinner. To RSVP please send an email to info@JFReading.org; register online at ReadingJewishCommunity.org or call 610-921-0624 as soon as possible.

Messenger's primary message to us on Oct. 4 is how we can work together for change.

These events are a great beginning to this year's participation in our Reading Jewish community's long and wonderful history of working for social justice locally, nationally, and around the world.

International affairs to be focus of Leo Camp Lecture

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Russia and international security concerns make the headlines weekly. Current international events as well as evolving U.S. foreign policy will be the topic Dr. Evelyn Farkas is to deliver this month in Reading.

Farkas, a nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council focusing on US defense policy in Eurasia and Russia, will discuss "America and the Crisis of World Order: Back to the 19th Century—and War?" at the 39th Annual Leo Camp Memorial Lecture at Albright College on Thursday, Oct. 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Evelyn N. Farkas is a national security analyst for NBC and MSNBC. Before her work on conventional arms control and international policy toward Russia and the Black Sea, Balkans

and Caucasus regions, Farkas served as senior adviser to the supreme allied commander of Europe and special adviser to the secretary of defense for the NATO Summit. For more than 20 years, she has worked on policies related to peace and stability operations such as terrorism, counter narcotics, homeland defense and export control policy.

Special thanks to the Camp family for sponsoring this annual lecture in memory of Leo Camp, a beloved member of our community.

The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 25th in the Memorial Chapel at Albright College and is free and open to the public.

If you have questions or for more information, please contact Amanda at amandah@jfreeding.org or call 610-921-0624.



Dr. Evelyn Farkas

Yemin Orde earns top ranking

The Yemin Orde High School, located inside Yemin Orde Youth Village, has clinched a top spot on a ranking of outstanding high schools in Israel.

The ranking, published by Israel's Ministry of Education, evaluated high schools according to the academic, social and ethical achievements of their students, and placed Yemin Orde among the top 4.3 percent of all 1,664 high schools across Israel.

"We are grateful for this recognition by the Ministry of Education, and I thank

each of our educators and staff members for making a meaningful difference in the lives of our at-risk youth and in their future," said Shmuli Bing, Director, Yemin Orde Youth Village. "We will continue with our important mission to provide the best education and care for our students and will strive for nothing less than the best in the upcoming year."

Yemin Orde Youth Village is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks' Israel Now campaign.

Out of Israel's 1,664 high schools evaluated, 292 achieved the highest rank from the education ministry. Of these 292 top-ranked high schools, only 72 received the highest exemplary ranking, which included Yemin Orde High School. Educators at Yemin Orde, as well as other top-rated high schools cited by the government, will receive personal cash bonuses from Israel's Ministry of Education as a reward for their schools' outstanding achievements.

Continued on Page 2

Our diverse community

By **Richard Nassau**
Development Director

Diversity is in the news. It seems like a hot topic. Yet the benefits of diversity have always been a subject of discussion and interest.

If you're an investor, all the experts preach diversification. They understand the value of being diversified in the marketplace. At various times, some sectors will do well and some will not.

If you're a business owner, the experts remind you of the value in having a diverse stream of income. Businesses that are too limited (putting all its eggs in one basket) could be problematic. Diversification helps guard against this.

Now I understand these are not the diversity issues that come up in news headlines, but the concept remains. Diversity is an important element, especially for a Jewish community. It is our diversity



that helps define us as a community, no matter what our size or our location.

The Jewish community of Berks County is a diverse one and thankfully so.

One of the Jewish Federation's responsibilities as a community-funder is to support our differences. We help empower and promote our diversity.

Our work at the JCC and Federation strengthens all segments of our Jewish community.

We don't invest in just one type of program. We support wonderful children's programs. Yet, there would be little benefit to our community if we were to limit our focus to just one age group. Federation and the JCC's goal is to provide programs for people of all ages throughout our entire community.

Our goal is to connect people. It is our strength.

Your gift to our Community Campaign supports our diverse community. It ensures we remain connected. Being diverse emphasizes and enhances those

connections.

Think of the joy you feel when you see these connections. Like when you watch a toddler and an older, long-time member of our community share a smile as they also share a piece of candy at a Tot Shabbat.

Think of the benefit you provide when you watch the kibitzing and growing friendship between two JCC Mahjong players from different and diverse backgrounds.

Think of the connections that are so important to us. The respect, consideration and understanding you show to others no matter our diversity or views of Judaism.

Federation welcomes our differences, whatever they may be. We are blessed to be a diverse community. We are better for it.

As we begin a new year, remember to make your gift to our Community Campaign. Please do it now. Continue to embrace and support our diversity, our connections.

To make your gift, go online to ReadingJewishCommunity.org or call us for a meeting, 610-921-0624, and we'll come to you.

ADL program helps us imagine a world without hate

By **Amanda J. Hornberger**

Can you imagine a world where Anne Frank survived the Holocaust? Or Martin Luther King Jr. lived to old age? At the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute on Sept. 5 a group of young professionals were challenged to envision this as part of the ADL's goal to imagine a world without hate.

This summer I was selected as one of 20 participants in the Glass Leadership Institute for the Philadelphia office of the ADL. The Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute (GLI) is a nationally recognized premier nonprofit leadership development program. GLI is designed to give a select group of young professionals an up-close and personal view into the nation's leading anti-hate organization. This nine-month program serves as a comprehensive introduction to ADL.

The ADL was founded in Chicago in 1913 by attorney Sigmund Livingston. Since

its founding the ADL's mission has been to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all.

As a GLI participant I will travel to Philadelphia monthly for interactive sessions on a broad range of ADL topics. The goal is to learn from regional and national ADL experts about the League's efforts to accomplish its mission around the world, including:

- Defending civil rights for all
- Fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry
- Combating hate groups, terrorism and extremism
- Protecting religious freedom and freedom of speech
- Ensuring the separation of Church and State
- Educating about diversity and cultural understanding
- Supporting Israel and monitoring global anti-Semitism

- Developing strong leaders in the fight against hate

- Exposing hate in the media

Here are some recent projects from the Philadelphia office of the ADL:

- Creation of the Black-Jewish Alliance to strengthen ties between the two communities

- Filed a friend-of-the-court brief on behalf of a broad coalition of national and local civil rights organizations to protect the rights of transgender students in the Boyertown Area School District

- Wrote op-eds and articles about white supremacy, family separations and detentions at the border, and increases in hate incidents in Philadelphia region

- Completed its 13th annual Bearing Witness Program for Catholic educators about Jewish and Catholic historical and contemporary relations

I hope to pass along what I learn in this program throughout the year. Join me in imagining a world without hate!

YEMIN ORDE

Continued from Page 1

The Israel-wide evaluation considered the improvements in student achievements compared to the previous school year.

Rated elements of academic achievements are:

- Percentage of children eligible for a Matriculation Certificate. A matriculation certificate in Israel indicates a student's academic readiness for higher education.

- Percentage of children with outstanding academic achievements (high level of English, mathematics, humanities and science)

Rated elements of social and ethical achievements are:

- Non-dropout rate
- Percent of graduates joining the military, national service or gap-year

leadership program (Mechina, in Hebrew)

- Community Service
- Percentage of special education students

In a letter to Yemin Orde High School, Dassi Be'eri, Director, Israel's Department of High School Education at the Ministry of Education, said: "I see great importance in commending the educators who make a difference, who advance each child beyond their expected abilities, who influence and contribute to shaping the future of their pupils and bring them to academic, personal and social excellence.

Most of the 430 at-risk teens who attend Yemin Orde's high school are first generation Israelis – or their parents are first-generation Israelis – and are from

Israel's lowest socio-economic sectors. Many of its at-risk teens have suffered trauma from destructive childhoods framed by elements such as extreme poverty, family dysfunction, abandonment, loss and violence. Yet, with the help of highly-dedicated staff and a successful and innovative educational methodology, called the Village Way, the hearts and minds of these fragile youth heal, as they thrive to embrace hope for their future as productive citizens of Israel.

Yemin Orde High School provides strong academic foundation and has achieved remarkable success at transforming the lives of Israel's at-risk youth provides a paradigm shift in the educational philosophy for Israel's growing population of underserved and fragile youth

*The Board and staff of
Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks
would like to thank*

Andi Franklin

for volunteering her time and talents
to renovate the JCC Youth Lounge!

Development

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[Women's Philanthropy](#)

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[Your Jewish Legacy](#)

[Chai Circle](#)

[L'Chaim Society](#)

[Book of Life](#)

[Letter of Intent](#)

From the President's Desk

Check out upcoming events and our new youth lounge

By William D. Franklin
President

Recent focus groups confirm that one way or another, affiliated or unaffiliated, intermarried or intramarried, young or old, Jews want to be part of a Jewish community. We at the Reading Jewish Federation are expanding our programming and our horizons to better connect our great community.



You now have a newly remodeled youth lounge. Please come and see it. We are planning baby yoga and an arts and music program for toddlers, game nights for our elementary school youth and film nights for teens. These and many other programs are being developed by Amanda Hornberger. Suggestions welcome!

On Oct. 3 and 4 we are bringing in Ruth Messinger,

past president of American Jewish World Service, to speak to our community's youth on how they can change the world through the power of youth vote. She will also speak to leaders of the local Jewish, Hispanic, Afro-American, Muslim and LGBTQ communities to explain how we can and must work together to fight the social and civil injustices that minority populations face. Margo Levin, chairperson of our Jewish Community Relations Committee, is leading this effort and welcomes your input and energy.

Sari Incedon and Carole Robinson are planning programs for our adult community. They will be bringing in speakers on the meaning and preparation of living wills and ethical wills, retirement planning, and the ins and outs of Medicare. These are important issues for adults of all ages. Call and connect with them to discuss your individual questions and concerns.

We are also fortunate to have Ruth Messinger speak



Come visit the beautiful new youth lounge at the JCC.

Thursday evening, Oct. 4 at our Leadership Dinner and later to our Jewish community on "Social Injustice and Judaism: Our Obligation to Work in the World" and "Why We are All Responsible." Please consider joining us for one or both events.

Thank you.

The people — not government decisions — define America

By Alexa Chronister

I anxiously awaited the Supreme Court's recent decision on President Trump's discriminatory travel ban. I've spent the past year in disbelief of the way the leader of our country has spoken about the Muslim community, and I continued to hold out hope that our highest court would ensure the freedom of religion and equality for all that our founders intended.

Standing in front of the steps of the Supreme Court, my heart raced with uncertainty. I didn't want to imagine a world where a country of immigrants, with such strong roots in the freedom of religion, would allow such a discriminatory policy to be upheld. After what felt like an eternity, the news finally came that the ban was ruled constitutional. My previously racing heart now sank in disbelief, as I was forced to realize our country's previously unimaginable fate.

As a Jew and as an American, I recognize the importance of welcoming the stranger, especially to a nation of immigrants. Exodus 23:9 reads, "You shall not oppress a stranger, for you know the feelings of the stranger, having yourselves been strangers in the land of Egypt." Most of the Jewish community, like most Americans, would not be living in the United States if their families were unable to immigrate to this nation.

During World War II, my great-grandparents were forced to flee Germany to escape the Holocaust. My great-grandfather had received notice that he was no longer employed as an electrician, purely because he was Jewish. The store that he worked out of was later decimated on Kristallnacht — the Night of Broken Glass. After losing his job and living in fear of being attacked simply for being a Jew, he and

my great-grandmother decided to flee, leaving behind their families in hopes of religious freedom. When they arrived in America, they were able to live where they wanted, work where they wanted and, most importantly, they had the freedom to practice Judaism without fear of persecution. If they were unable to immigrate to America, I would likely not be here today.

Despite the president's claim that the ban is a national security measure unrelated to the religion of the affected countries' people, his intention is clear. He made his motivations transparent during his campaign when he stated, "Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States." To deny the opportunity to come to America to a population of people, on the basis of their religion, is hypocritical, shameful, and un-American. This policy not only denies the opportunity for countless individuals to immigrate to the United States, but it also cuts off travel between these countries and our nation, separating families.

As part of my work this summer with the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, I attended a rally in front of the Supreme Court after the ruling on the travel ban was issued. I, along with countless other protesters, stood in solidarity with those from the Muslim community and anyone affected by the ban. The overwhelming feelings of sadness, frustration, and anger were easily felt across everyone participating in the event. Yet, these emotions were shared across a diverse crowd of leaders from all faith groups and individuals of all genders, ages, religions, races, cultures, and backgrounds.

In that moment, I realized the decisions of our government do not define who we



Alexa Chronister, second from right, with fellow protesters outside the U.S. Supreme Court.

are as a nation. Instead, the people of our country define who we are as a nation. There I stood, witnessing representatives of diverse groups come together and turn their feelings of sadness and frustration into a desire to take meaningful action. It was a desire to uphold the founding values of our country and ensure equality for all people, regardless of their religion.

Our founders intended for the power of our country to be held by the people, and despite the court allowing an incredibly discriminatory and Islamophobic policy to continue, we

the people decided to stand together and fight for the freedom of religion for all. It is simply not enough to talk about the issue. Our democracy will not prevail if we do not take action.

Alexa Chronister, a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom, is a junior at the University of Delaware, majoring in public policy and minoring in social entrepreneurship. This piece originally appeared on the website of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Shalom

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Wine from the land of milk and honey

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Did you know that Israel is home to 60 commercial wineries and not all wine from the country is Kosher. Learn more about its main wine regions (Galilee, Shomron, Shimshon, Judean Hills and Negev) during a fun night of Israeli wine tasting on Oct. 20!

Spots are still available so gather your friends while explore Israel through its wine

at the JCC's Israeli wine tasting. Learn what makes Israeli wine so unique as you sample four wines from the country and learn about the history of winemaking in Israel from local wine expert George Reppert.

Combined with cheese, crackers and chocolate we will sample a Chardonnay, Shiraz, Merlot and Cabernet Sauvignon.

The tasting will begin at 7:30 pm on

Saturday, October 20 at 555 Warwick Dr. in Wyomissing. The cost is \$20 single or \$35 a couple for JCC members and \$25 single or \$45 couple for non-members.

RSVP is required so we can special order the wines to be brought in that evening. RSVP with payment to info@jfreeding.org or 610-921-0624 by Oct. 3. Seating is limited so RSVP today!

'The Last Suit' kicks off Jewish Film Series

By Amanda J. Hornberger

An aging Jewish tailor leaves his life in Argentina to embark on a journey back through time and halfway around the world in the bittersweet road movie from director Pablo Solarz, "The Last Suit," the first film of the 2019 Reading Jewish Film Series.

"The Last Suit" will be shown on Wednesday, October 10 at 7 p.m. at FOX EAST, 4350 Perkiomen Ave., Exeter Township (next to Boscov's East).

At 88, Abraham Bursztein is seeing his place in the world rapidly disappear. His kids have sold his Buenos Aires residence and set him up to move to a retirement home. Instead, he plots a secret one-way trip to Poland to find the Christian friend who saved him from certain death at the end of World War II, and to keep his promise to return one day.

"The Last Suit" was the winner of the audience award at Jewish Film Festivals in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Miami, and Washington. The film was made in Argentina and Spain, and the dialogue is in Spanish, German,

Polish, and Yiddish, all with English subtitles. It runs 92 minutes.

In partnership with Centro Hispano and in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, there will be a complimentary empanada (Latin American stuffed pastry) tasting following the film screening.

The 2019 Reading Jewish Film Series is co-sponsored by the Rubin Educational Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading and Fox Theatres. Admission is \$5 per film or \$25 for the series of six films.

All films will be shown on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at FOX EAST. Tickets can be purchased at the theater beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the screening, and series tickets can be bought at the JCC. Cash and checks are accepted.

The complete list of dates and films for the 2019 Reading Jewish Film Series can be found below:

Oct. 10 — "The Last Suit"

Nov. 28 — "Shalom Bollywood: The Untold Story of Indian Cinema"



Jan. 9 — "An Act of Defiance"

Feb. 6 — "And Then She Arrived"

March 6 — "Scandal in Ivansk"*

April 10 — "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel"

*Special event following screening

Jewish Cultural Center

92nd St. Y Programs

Game Nights

Community Shabbat

Reading Jewish Film Series

Great Decisions

Interfaith Mitzvah Day

Yom Ha'atzmaut

PJ Library

PJ Our Way

Leo Camp Lecture

Tech Tuesday

Yom Hazikaron

Art Exhibits

Yom Hashoah

Annual Meeting and Picnic

Purim Carnival

Richard J. Yashek

Memorial Lecture

Kristallnacht Remembrance

Youth Events

Purim Masquerade Party

Bridge

Chevra

Mahjong

Trips to NYC/Philadelphia

Lakin Holocaust Library

& Resource Center

Shabbat B'yachad

Community Calendar

Save the Date for JCC Events in 5779

October 4 at 7:30 pm at 555 Warwick Dr.—Leadership Gifts community lecture featuring Ruth Messinger

October 7 at 4 pm at Wyomissing Fire Department—PJ Library event on fire safety

October 10 at 7 pm at Fox East—Reading Jewish Film Series "The Last Suit" with Centro Hispano

October 17-24—Interfaith mission to Israel

October 20 at 7:30 pm at 555 Warwick Dr.—JCC Israeli wine tasting event

October 25 at 7:30 pm at Albright College—Leo Camp Memorial Lecture featuring Dr. Evelyn Farkas

November 8 at 7 pm at Christ Episcopal Church—Kristallnacht Remembrance Service

November 28 at 7 pm at Fox East—Reading Jewish Film Series "Shalom Bollywood"

December 2 at 4 pm at Body Zone—Chanukah on Ice

December 15 at 10 am at the Highlands—Tot Shabbat with PJ Library

December 25-January 2—Family mission to Israel

January 9 at 7 pm at Fox East—Reading Jewish Film Series "An Act of Defiance"

January 18 at 7 pm at RCOS—Ray Waterman at JCRC & RCOS Speakers Series with Oneg

February 3 at 2 pm at Santander Arena—Jewish Heritage Night at Reading Royals

February 6 at 7 pm at Fox East—Reading Jewish Film Series "And Then She Arrived"

February 9 at 5 pm at RCOS—PJ Library pajama Havdalah with Rabbi Michelson

March 1 at 6 pm at RCOS—Community Shabbat Service and Dinner hosted by RCOS

March 6 at 7 pm at Fox East—Reading Jewish Film Series "Scandal in Ivansk" with post film discussion

March 16 at 7 pm at Stokesay Castle—JCC Purim Party

March 21 at 5 pm at Chabad—Community Purim Carnival

March 23 at 10 am at the Highlands—Tot Shabbat with PJ Library

April 3 at 7:30 pm at Albright College—Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture featuring Dr. David Fishman

April 10 at 7 pm at Fox East—Reading Jewish Film Series "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel"

May 2 at 7 pm at the Highlands—Yom Hashoah Commemoration

May 8 at 7 pm at the JCC—Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut event

June 2 at 12 pm—JFR Annual Meeting

On-going Programs (not listed above)

Mondays at 11 am at the JCC—Mahjong

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm at the JCC—Duplicate Bridge

Thursdays at 1 pm at the JCC—Lunch and program (1:45 pm) for Friendship Circle

Second Monday of the month at 2 pm at the JCC—Movie Monday

Third Monday of the month at 2 pm at the Highlands—92nd St. Y DVD Programs

Fire safety theme of next PJ Library event

By Amanda J. Hornberger

In honor of National Fire Prevention Week PJ Library is inviting children to attend a special tour of the Wyomissing Fire Department on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 4 p.m.

During this exciting event, firefighters will teach about fire safety, allow children to try on firefighting gear and provide a tour of the station and its fire tools and equipment.

To show our gratitude to our local firefighters we invite families to help us in a mitzvah and bring in a new or used coat for the Wyomissing Fire Departments annual Coats for Kids

Drive!

Community members who would like to donate are welcome to drop off coats at the JCC by Oct. 5. Donations will be delivered during our visit.

RSVPs are requested to info@jreading.org or 610-921-0624 by Oct. 4.

PJ Library of Reading is generously sponsored by the Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund of Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks. Participants in the program receive Jewish-themed books throughout the year at no charge.

The fire station is located at 1259 Penn Ave. in Wyomissing.



Albright student protecting marine life in Tel Aviv

Courtesy of Albright College

Evan Cardinal, a member of the Albright College Class of 2021, has been preparing to visit Israel ever since earning a Jewish education scholarship in his junior year at Antietam High School. This summer, as a college sophomore studying political science and international relations at Albright, he finally went to Tel Aviv, working to preserve the Mediterranean Sea.

Evan is a son of Adrienne and Jeff Cardinal and a member of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom.

He interned with ANU, a non-governmental organization whose name means “we” in Hebrew, and is the result of three major social-change organizations merging. The name is

meant to be a call for the organization’s more than 100,000 members to work together with civil society towards social justice.

ANU is known for grassroots campaigns aimed at strengthening Israel’s democracy, advancing socio-economic issues, and diversifying public discourse through media and digital activism.

“Besides marine preservation, ANU has campaigns for political transparency in local municipalities, professional job training for Arab-Israelis and Ethiopian immigrants and regulation of child care facilities,” Cardinal said.

As the sole international relations representative for ANU’s Mediterranean



People Campaign, Cardinal created English descriptions of the campaign’s objectives and events for international audiences.

Working directly with Mediterranean

People Campaign Manager Michael Raphael, Cardinal supported a network of local communities campaigning for the ecological safeguarding of marine protected areas in the Mediterranean Sea, whose coastline extends 28,600 miles. The Sea’s rocky reefs and seagrass meadows support numerous fish, crustaceans, sea turtles, whales and dolphins.

The hours for Cardinal’s nine-week summer internship were a bit different abroad. “ANU requires its interns to work five days a week, Sunday through Thursday, between five to seven hours a day,” he said. “Friday and Saturday are the weekend due to Jewish Sabbath.”

Still, during off hours, Cardinal had plenty of time to explore the city and culture.

“Natives of Israel and foreigners rave about the night life of Tel Aviv, which is indeed fantastic,” he related. “Yet I enjoy public parks, markets and small shops during the daytime.”

Cardinal said the entire experience gave him a better perspective of life — something he hopes to carry into a career rooted in community service after graduating from Albright College.

“Going into this internship, I hoped to see and understand the inner-workings of grassroots campaigning,” he reflects. “Fortunately, I have experienced first-hand and learned that unyielding passion and determination can both attract supporters for a project and inspire substantial policy change.”




2018-2019 EVENTS



Reading Jewish Cultural Center
www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org
610-921-0624 or info@jfreading.org to register



SUNDAY, OCT. 7 4 P.M.	Join us for a tour of a fire station and learn about doing a Mitzvot & fire safety.	Wyomissing Fire Company 1259 Penn Ave. Wyomissing, PA 19610	Open to all PJ Library children ages 0-8. Older siblings welcome.
SUNDAY, DEC. 2 4 P.M.	Community Chanukah on Ice celebration!	Body Zone Sports 3103 Papermill Rd. Wyomissing, PA 19610	All ages welcome!
SATURDAY, DEC. 15 10 A.M.	Musical Tot Shabbat experience with seniors and Rabbi Michelson of RCOS.	The Highlands 2000 Cambridge Ave. Wyomissing, PA 19610	Tot Shabbat is recommended for ages 0-8.
SATURDAY, FEB. 9 5 P.M.	Put your pajamas on for a fun PJ Havdalah with Rabbi Michelson.	RCOS 555 Warwick Dr. Wyomissing, PA 19610	Open to all PJ Library children ages 0-8. Older siblings welcome.
THURSDAY, MARCH 21 5 P.M.	Community Purim Carnival celebration.	Chabd-Lubavitch of Berks County 2320 Hampden Blvd. Reading, PA 19604	All ages welcome!
SATURDAY, MARCH 23 10 A.M.	Musical Tot Shabbat experience with seniors and Rabbi Michelson of RCOS.	The Highlands 2000 Cambridge Ave. Wyomissing, PA 19610	Tot Shabbat is recommended for ages 0-8.

Obituary

Cynthia DeHaven Boscov, 69, of Wyomissing. Cindy graduated from Mount Penn High School and Kutztown University with a degree in early childhood education. After graduation Cindy worked for BCIU as a teacher in a preschool center in Reading. She then went to work in various positions at Boscov’s including a buyer and an assistant in Human Resources. She went back to substitute teaching at Lancaster Country Day School and Linden Hall. After teaching, Cindy devoted herself to volunteering with nonprofit organizations in the Reading community. She was a board member of the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts and a trustee of Alvernia University.

Cindy is survived by her husband Jim and their daughter Rachel. Other survivors include her sister Suzanne Fox and her husband Michael Fox and her nieces and nephews.

NAMI Berks offers support, education to families

By Sari Incledon, M. Ed.

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.



NAMI started as a small group of families gathering around a kitchen table in 1979 and has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today NAMI is an association of hundreds of local affiliates, state organizations and volunteers who work to raise awareness and provide support and education to those in need.

NAMI Berks County is located at 640 Centre Avenue in the rear of Calvary United Church of Christ. Some of you may remember that before our JCC building was sold, NAMI Berks held support groups and programs there. At that time members of our community became aware of NAMI, took advantage of its program offerings and benefitted from them.

NAMI Berks County has three programs

that I would like to highlight and encourage people to try if they are appropriate for them. These programs do not take the place of mental health professionals (psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, etc.) but supplement and complement professional services. Sometimes it is very helpful to talk to people who understand the toll mental illness can take on you and your family, in addition to getting the appropriate professional treatment. The following are three programs that our local NAMI chapter offers:

NAMI Family Support Group – meets second Wednesday of every month. At Calvary UCC, 640 Centre Ave., rear of church from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

- Confidential and safe group of families helping other families who live with mental health challenges

- Attendees use their collective experience and wisdom to support each other

- Free

NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group – meets the first and third Thursdays of every month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. NAMI Connection is a recovery support group for individuals 18 and over with mental illness that offers respect, understanding,

encouragement and hope.

NAMI Connections groups are:

- Free
- Held bi-weekly for 90 minutes
- Designed to connect, encourage and support participants
- Led by trained facilitators living in recovery themselves.

Family to Family Education Program

- Free 12-week education program for family, partners and friends of adults living with mental illness

- Designed to help all family members understand and support their loved ones living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being.

- Information on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health concerns.

- Program is taught by trained teachers who are also family members.

This program began in September and is held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at St. James Church – 644 Penn Ave. in West Reading

To learn more about NAMI Berks County call 610-685-3000 or email at berksnami@gmail.com or call Sari at JFS at 610-921-0624.

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

Learning about bees at Friendship Circle



Members of Friendship Circle spent a recent afternoon learning about bees. Ethel Engel and Helene Berne receive instruction from Lisa Miller of Berks County Parks and Recreation. At right, "flowers" Tootie Moyer and Eileen Kope are dressed for the occasion.



Jewish Family Service is seeking volunteers for a community service project

WHO: Local nonprofit and faith based groups are working together to provide winter clothes for families in need

WHAT: A semi-truck will be delivering 30,000 pounds of clothes to our area in mid-October.

WHEN: Volunteers are needed Oct. 18 and 19 for 3-4 hour shifts to sort clothes for distribution.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Contact Sari Incledon at JFS- call 610-921-0624 or email SariI@jfReading.org if you are able to donate time to this community effort.

Making challah and more at JCHS

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Reading Jewish Community High School

The Reading Jewish Community High School year is off to another great start.

Here's a registration reminder: Emails and "snail mail" requests have been sent to parents whose contact information we have in the JCC-Fed office, including the forms and registration process. We are asking parents to contact the JCC office and Amanda Hornberger by email or phone, as she has requested in those mailings.

If there are still specific questions about the JCHS program and course offerings, please reach out to Rabbi Dov by email [bdlerner1@gmail.com] or by phone by contacting Brenda Seidel at the JCC/Federation 610-21-0624.

Reading JCHS meets Sundays at the JCC, 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. We bring together Jewish teens from across the community to discuss and debate classical and modern Jewish teachings in English, find contemporary meaning in the concepts and values of Jewish tradition and build a teenage Jewish community. Guided by dedicated faculty, students are encouraged to ask the questions that matter to them and develop answers that speak authentically to the emerging 21st Jewish world.

Making challah

One of our new courses is Jewish Food: Fact or Fiction, taught by Barbara Lerner. What makes a food Jewish? Is it family tradition or rabbis and cookbooks? This class will explore Jewish belief, identity and practice connected to food. We will also prepare food for people in need as a form of tikkun olam. Last but not least, we will certainly enjoy some food together.

Students of the JCHS recently learned a traditional challah dough recipe, and they then practiced several different customs in "braiding" or shaping the Rosh HaShanah challah loaves. Unbaked loaves were sent home with each student.

Note for all "Shalom" bakers – Google has an incredible list of suggested recipes for preparing challah dough and how to twist or shape your challah. Barbara's recipe.

INGREDIENTS

Yeast mixture:

1 package dry yeast dissolved in ¼ cup water with 1 teaspoon sugar

Dough ingredients:

4 ½ cups unbleached flour
3 egg yolks or 1 egg and 1 yolk
2 Tbl. Oil
2 teaspoons salt
¼ cup honey
1 cup water

Glaze: 2 egg yolks and 2 tps water

Instructions: Combine flour eggs, oil, salt, honey and 1 cup water and add to yeast mixture once bubbles appear in yeast mixture. Knead 10 minutes by hand or use a bread machine. Place in oiled bowl or let rest in bread machine until it doubles. Punch down and let rise a second time. Raisins or other add ins are best included before this second rising.

After second rising, divide dough in half and form each half into three braiding snakes. Twist into rolls or braided loaves.

Allow to rise again to rest while pre-heating oven to 375° Combine the glaze and brush on loaves before baking. Seeds may be sprinkled on top. Place on parchment paper or oiled baking pan.

Bake: 30 – 45 minutes until sounds hollow when thumped.

Yield: 1 Large / 2 medium challot or 12 or more smaller rolls.

If you want to pursue various flavors and additions to the dough rather than



the more traditional raisins and poppy seed, check out <https://jwfoodandwine.com/recipe-categories>.

Two Berachot/blessings were reviewed – the first how one separates the dough mixture and the second before eating the challah.

Make this blessing before beginning to form the challah:

"Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech haolam Asher K'dishanu B'mitzvotav V'tzivanu L'hafrish Challah."

"Praised are you, Adonai, Eternal our God, Eternal our God, Sovereign of the Universe who has sanctified us by commanding us to separate the challah."

Then separate a portion of dough the size of a large olive. Burn the piece in the oven with aluminum foil, so the oven does not absorb the flavor of the challah.

B'racha #2: Blessing Over Bread Before a Meal

"Baruch Atah Adonai, Eloheinu Melech haolam, Hamotzi lechem min haaretz."

"Praised are you, Adonai, Sovereign of the universe, Who provides bread from the earth."

Learning about the shofar

During the week previously, we assembled all the students for a demonstration of which horns are kosher to be made into a shofar for ritual use during Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services. Rabbi Dov then demonstrated how turn a large kudu antelope horn into a shofar that will be given to RCOS as a gift from JCHS.

Lastly in a hands-on experience of "ReJEWvention" another course being offered in the JCHS, students learned to blow the traditional "notes" of the shofar service – or they tried to mimic Rabbi Dov's shofar sounding.

The shofar is typically made of a ram's horn. Many other antelope, goat and gazelle horns can be used.

Over time doubts arose as to the correct sound of the teruah. The Talmud is uncertain whether it means a moaning/groaning or a staccato beat sound. A system of three sounds was therefore devised to account for all the possibilities:

- Shevarim (or sh'varim) (םירבש) is composed of three connected short sounds.

- Teruah is a series of nine very short notes divided into three disconnected or broken sequences of three notes each. The nine notes of the teruah is equal the three notes of the shevarim in duration.

- Tekiah is slightly longer than either the shevarim or the teruah.

Better Together is back!

Last of all don't forget our Award-Winning JCHS BETTER TOGETHER PROGRAM!

The Jewish tradition teaches that old age is a virtue and a blessing. BETTER TOGETHER is now beginning its fifth year as an intergenerational educational program for senior citizens and teens of the greater Reading community.

Our JCHS school is committed to remaining connected to our Jewish values, affirming the importance of local senior citizens. Students will meet with seniors monthly, studying together and facilitating deep conversation and creating meaningful connections. This course may satisfy local school or youth group goals for community service and involvement. It is also an important item to include on college applications.

Join us next time!
October 13th at 10:00 am

Tot Shabbat

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 one of juice, challah, fruit, & child-friendly treats!

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

FUTURE TOT SHABBAT DATES:
November 17, December 15*,
January 12, February 23, March 23*,
April 13, May 18, & June 8
*Intergenerational Tot Shabbat at The Highlands

Jewish Education

Camp Scholarships

Israel Trips

Jewish Community

High School

Lakin Preschool

Better Together

Do you remember when?

By Tootie Moyer

Do you remember when ...

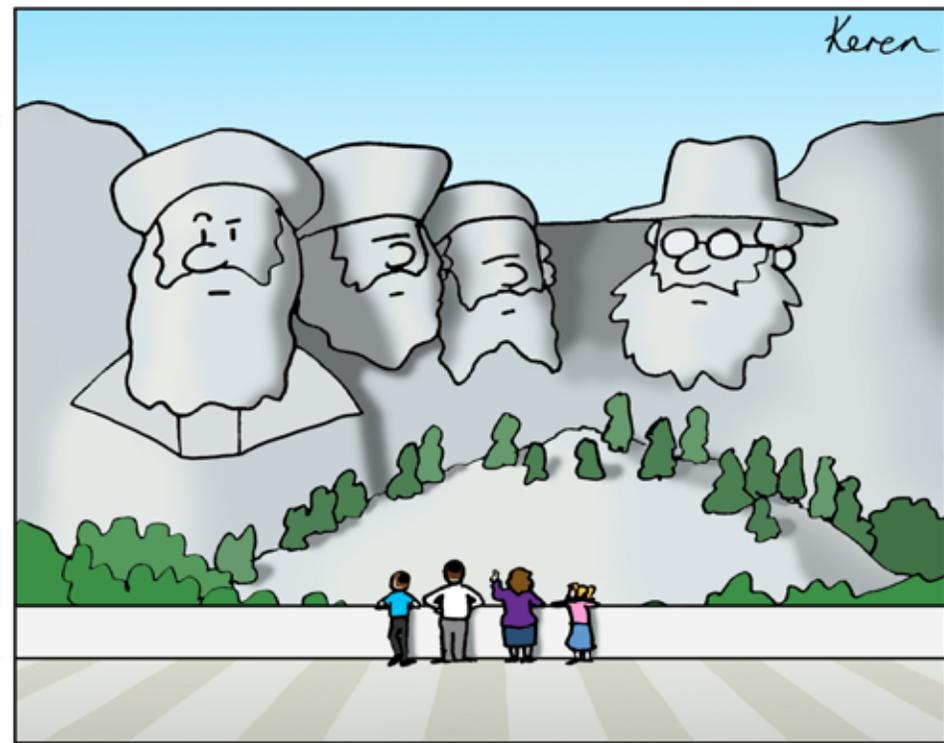
- Government bonds were sold in schools
- We smiled and shook hands before there were high fives
- Little girls wore organdy dresses with full skirts; no jeans like today
- If you had a window fan you were lucky
- Getting a trolley on Penn Street for 5 cents to go to Carsonia Park
- The only soaps sold were Ivory and Fels Naptha
- You ate everything grown in the ground and didn't worry about chemicals sprayed on plants
- You had to wind up all clocks
- If your parents said no they meant "no"
- You didn't smile for a portrait — no "cheese" then
- We always had to say please and thank you to everyone. I think this is a lost tradition today
- You could buy chicken necks and feet at the meat market on Penn Street
- You would listen to big band music and could understand all the words. A few words were not repeated over and over again.
- Hershey's ice cream cost 5

cents a dip

- The yearly Reading Fair was held where Boscov's North is now
- Homes in Hampden Heights and Wyomissing was off-limits to Jews
- When Reading city streets were "smooth" — a long, long time ago
- You used your finger to dial a number on your phone, Now a finger is used to push a button on your smartphone.
- The only place to shop in Reading was Penn Street — we didn't have malls and a lot of stores were owned by Jewish families such as:
 - Harold's Furniture
 - Kins Dress Shop
 - Joseph's Mens Shop
 - Jeanette Dress Shop
- Grandmothers were always called "Bubbie or Bubby"
- We had no dryers. All clothes were hung outside – boy, did they smell great!

This article is dedicated to all over 80 and 90 years young. If you remember or don't remember, I wish all of you including myself the best years that we have left will be the "best years of your life"

See you again!



Mount Rashimore

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763

Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Thursdays, 7:30 p.m.

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034

Friday, Oct. 5: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Fridays, Oct. 12, 19 and 26: Shabbat service, 7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 13: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 27: Dani Radosh Bat Mitzvah, 4 p.m.

CHABAD CENTER OF BERKS COUNTY (610) 921-0881

Saturday mornings: 9:30 a.m.; Friday evenings: 6:30 p.m.

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

October Tishrei- Cheshvan



Shabbat Candle Lightings



Torah Portions

October 5
6:22 p.m.

October 6/Tishrei 27
Bereishit (Genesis 1:1-6:8)

October 12
6:11 p.m.

October 13/Cheshvan 4
Noach (Genesis 6:9-11:32)

October 19
6:00 p.m.

October 20/Cheshvan 11
Lech Lecha (Genesis 12:1-17:27)

October 26
5:50 p.m.

October 27/Cheshvan 18
Vayeira (Genesis 12:1-17:27)



Introducing the JCC ROMEO Club

The JCC ROMEO Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out) met for the first time in September. Back row from left: Paul Schwartz; Ken Bloom; John Incedon. Front row from left: Jake Azrael; Art Fishman; Gordon Perlmutter. Early departure: Hal Cohen. Photographer, Bob Caster.

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Jewish Family Service hosts Rosh Hashanah at Manor at Market Square



Clockwise from top left, members of the community gather for a Rosh Hashanah service and meal at the Manor at Market Square in Reading; Sylvia Wenger, Louise Zeidman, and Mariette Jacobson; Elaine and Jerry Levine; Paul Schwartz blows the shofar; George and Marcia Eligman celebrate with their son Don,

Shofar workshop is a blast at Chabad



Rabbi Eli Dovid Strassberg led a fascinating Shofar workshop at Chabad on Aug. 26 in partnership with Chabad and Jewish Federation. Children and adults enjoyed a short lesson on kosher animals (Did you know deer are kosher?) and then the real fun began...creating our own shofar!

Clockwise from left, Rabbi Strassberg explains how to cut off one end of your horn to create the opening for blowing; participants search for the perfect horn; David Spiegel prepares to saw his horn



Oheb Sholom's 18th food festival set for Sunday, Nov. 4

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom hosts its 18th annual Jewish Food and Cultural Festival Sunday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing.

In response to extraordinary demand at the 2017 festival, this year the RCOS chefs will be making more food than ever, particularly in the enormously popular deli area.

All the old favorites will be back, including brisket and chicken platters, New York-style deli sandwiches, bagels and smoked fish, falafel and much more.

Get there early for the best selection of food, including a spectacular selection of desserts, including our famous Jewish apple cake, which always sells fast, and our sweet, savory rugelach pastries.

Other delicious treats include homemade blintzes; noodle kugel, knishes in a variety of flavors and matzo ball soup.

There is no charge for admission. Tickets for

dinner platters are available for \$13 in advance from RCOS members or from the synagogue office, 610-375-6034. Platters cost \$14 if purchased at the door. Many a la carte items are available as well. Only cash will be accepted. An ATM will be on site.

This year's musical performance features the Greater Reading Encore Chorale performing at 1 p.m. The Chorale features singers ages 55 and older. They perform at churches and retirement communities throughout Berks County with a broad repertoire of selections from musical theater, patriotic music, love songs and sacred pieces representing many faiths.

There's much more to the festival than food. It's all about giving to the community and repairing the world while offering the broader community a taste of Jewish religion and culture.

The congregation encourages those who attend to bring a canned good or other nonperishable food item for the Greater Berks Food Bank or toiletry items (disposable razors, tooth brushes, shampoos, etc.) for Opportunity House.



JCPA leaders make trip to U.S.-Mexico border

By **Melanie Roth Gorelick & Tammy Gilden**

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

In August we traveled to San Diego and Tijuana to learn firsthand about our nation's immigration crisis as part of a Jewish Leadership Border Mission, led by HIAS (formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and ADL (Anti-Defamation League).

Participants on the mission met with the Mexican Consul General, immigration lawyers, advocates and government officials; visited detention centers; and attended an Operation Streamline hearing. We returned with a deeper understanding that our immigration system is profoundly broken and in dire need of reform.

We learned from our border visit just how much the U.S. has criminalized immigration, often stripping vulnerable people of their dignity and humanity. The participants who visited a federal court during an Operation Streamline hearing witnessed 18 men and one woman shuffling into a courtroom in shackles to be tried simultaneously, with four hearings condensed into one.

Operation Streamline expedites the criminal prosecution and deportation of those caught illegally crossing the border.

Most had been caught the day before and spent the night in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody with little food, water, or sleep. Many looked frightened and exhausted. All pleaded guilty and were deported within 24 hours. We saw two of them the very next day at a men's shelter in Tijuana.

In immigration court, the few asylum seekers we saw who were approved to move forward with their cases will most likely remain in detention, possibly for more than a year, while they await a final determination. These people are invisible, deprived of their civil and human rights, and held in prison-like facilities.

In Mexico, the director of a shelter for women and children shared how family separation has gone on for years. While most women were waiting to gain entry into the U.S., many were undocumented parents recently deported after living in the U.S. for years. They described deportation as a near-death trauma. These women were working to meet onerous requirements, such as having a full-time job and fully-furnished house with a refrigerator, in order to regain custody of their U.S. citizen children. The shelter helps them throughout this process despite the growing number who need



support. Though equipped with only 44 beds, the shelter houses between 110-105 women and children.

While we heard devastating stories, we also met heroic people working to help those impacted by U.S. immigration enforcement, such as those who represent the most vulnerable seeking asylum, including unaccompanied minors, trafficking victims, and sexual and domestic abuse survivors. Service providers on both sides of the border now offer education, psychological and trauma counseling, and skill-building. Others help those who are deported to build lives in their home countries.

It was clear to us that though the "zero tolerance" policy, which remains in force, is intended to deter those who want to enter the U.S. legally or illegally, regardless of whether they are refugees, asylum seekers, or economic migrants, the number of people

seeking entry remains steady. America is still a beacon of hope for those fleeing violence and persecution, even if it means risking detention, kidnapping, or worse. The chance at a better life for them, and most importantly, for their children, is motivation enough.

We need to reform our policies, foreign and domestic, to address our system's failures and the factors forcing people to flee their homes. This is a humanitarian crisis, and we must mobilize our community.

We at JCPA are committed to working toward a sensible, just and humane immigration system, one that balances national security concerns with the protection of civil and human rights.

On Oct. 11, we plan to take this message to Capitol Hill for a Jewish Leadership Advocacy Day on Immigration.



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Myerstown, PA 17067
Phone: 717-866-1400

Study finds almost half of U.S. Jews don't associate with religion

A Pew Research Center study found that nearly half of U.S. Jews do not identify with organized religion, according to a report by the JTA news agency.

More than one in five, however, are considered "Sunday stalwarts" (or Saturday): those who "actively practice their faith, but they also are deeply involved in their religious congregations."

The study defines how people practice their religion. It only includes Jews who define their religion as Judaism, or "Jews by religion."

Conducted last December, the study of more than 4,700 respondents has a margin of error of 2.3 percent, JTA reported.

Among the seven categories, 45 percent of American Jews are listed in the two for the least religious: "religion resisters," who believe in a higher power but have negative views of organized religion, or "solidly secular," those who don't believe in God and do not self-define as religious. The breakdown is 28 percent as "solidly secular" and 17 percent as "religion resisters."

On the other end of the spectrum, 21 percent of Jews are "Sunday stalwarts." Another 8 percent are "god-and-country believers" who express their religion through political and social conservatism, and 5 percent are "diversely devout," who follow the Bible but also believe in things like animism and reincarnation.

The somewhat religious are defined as either "relaxed religious" (14 percent), those who believe in God and pray but don't engage in many traditional practices, or "spiritually awake" (8

percent), those who hold New Age beliefs and believe in heaven and hell.

According to JTA's report on the study, Americans are evenly divided among the seven groups. The largest three groups are "Sunday stalwarts," "relaxed religious" and "solidly secular" at 17 percent each. The smallest are "god-and-country believers" and "religion resisters" at 12 percent each.

"Jewish Americans are the only religious group with substantial contingents at each end of the typology," the study says.

Knesset food legislation could aid Meir Panim's relief efforts

Nearly one fifth of Israelis are living with food insecurity. They are often hungry, and their nutrition requirements go unmet. Meanwhile, more than a third of all food produced in Israel is wasted; half of it is thrown out though still salvageable for consumption.

Members of Knesset in cooperation with Leket Israel — The National Food Bank — have proposed a bill to address this market failure.

After years of stalling in Israel's ministry of justice, members of

the Knesset brought forth the bill in the Labor, Welfare and Health Committee, which passed in its first reading at the beginning of the summer. The goal is to minimize liability in food donations.

"The main concern has been who is responsible if a person eats tainted food," explained Uri Maklev. "Is it the organization that donated the food? Our bill seeks to remove this responsibility and only seek retribution against an organization in cases where there is clear criminal

activity or obvious and intentional negligence."

The new legislation, if enacted, could multiply the capabilities of Meir Panim, an organization that fights poverty in Israel with the support of local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks' Israel Now campaign.

The proposed change is expected to encourage the rescue of would-be food waste into donations for the poor, while protecting donors from civil and criminal liability.

The measure is similar to the United States Food Donation Act and 1996 Good Samaritan Law, which also minimized the liability of donors of good faith who have met food safety requirements set out by the bill.

"There are many organizations that are interested in donating surplus food, but due to their concerns and fears of liability, they destroy the food rather than donate it to the people who need it most," Maklev explained.

He said that according to a recent poll of hotels by the Israel Hotel Association, management at some 80 percent of hotels in the country were interested in participating in a food rescue program but were afraid of lawsuits.

"It is our obligation to help and encourage anyone who wants to donate and not to prevent it," Maklev said.

According to Israel's National Food Bank statistics, half of the salvageable food is found in the retail and distribution sectors. These figures include food that has reached or will shortly reach its expiration date, food with visual defects in the packaging or products and food with faulty marketing.

By rescuing just 20 percent of the food wasted in Israel annually, the problem of food security could disappear, according to backers of measure in the Knesset.

Meir Panim, a charitbale organization established to alleviate and diminish the harmful effects of poverty on thousands of Israelis, offers restaurant-style soup kitchens throughout Israel.

According to Binyomin Ibenbaum, manager of operations and vice



president of development, adopting this measure could mean multiplying Meir Panim's capabilities, feeding thousands more needy in Israel and minimizing the number of those living with food insecurity.

"Sourcing the meals from Israel's National Food Bank, Meir Panim would be better able to serve the needy in Israel if this law passes," he said. "On a personal level, food is not only nutrition, but also a source of hope for a brighter future for disadvantaged men, women, children and Holocaust survivors. A hot meal could be the difference between the cycle of poverty and becoming active, self-sufficient members of Israeli society."

One visitor to Meir Panim's restaurant-style soup kitchen — an immigrant from France — explained: "Sometimes people have to go to a soup kitchen because they pass through difficult times and are trying to support themselves financially. There are ups and downs in life, and when there are downs, they come here — they come to a soup kitchen."

2018 Shalom Contributors

We wish to thank the following members of our community for their generous support of Shalom:

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Alan & Lisa Levine

Lee & Jodi Radosh

Carolyn Vella & John McGonagle

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Simchat



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Monday, October 1, 2018

Morning service 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor recited

Kiddush lunch following services

Monday, October 1, 2018

Simchat Torah Evening service:

Maariv and Hakafot 7:15 p.m.



Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Simchat Torah Morning service 9:30 a.m.

Kiddush lunch following services



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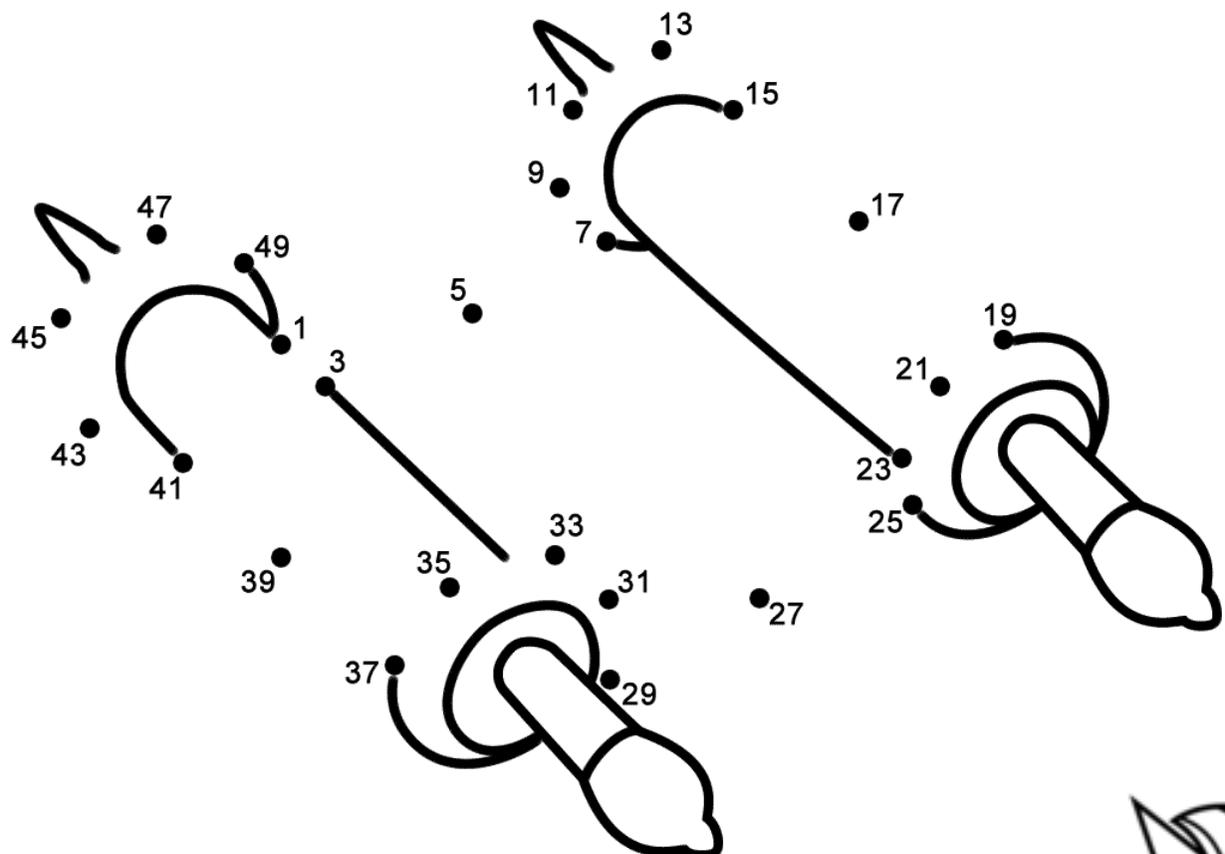


Simchat Torah

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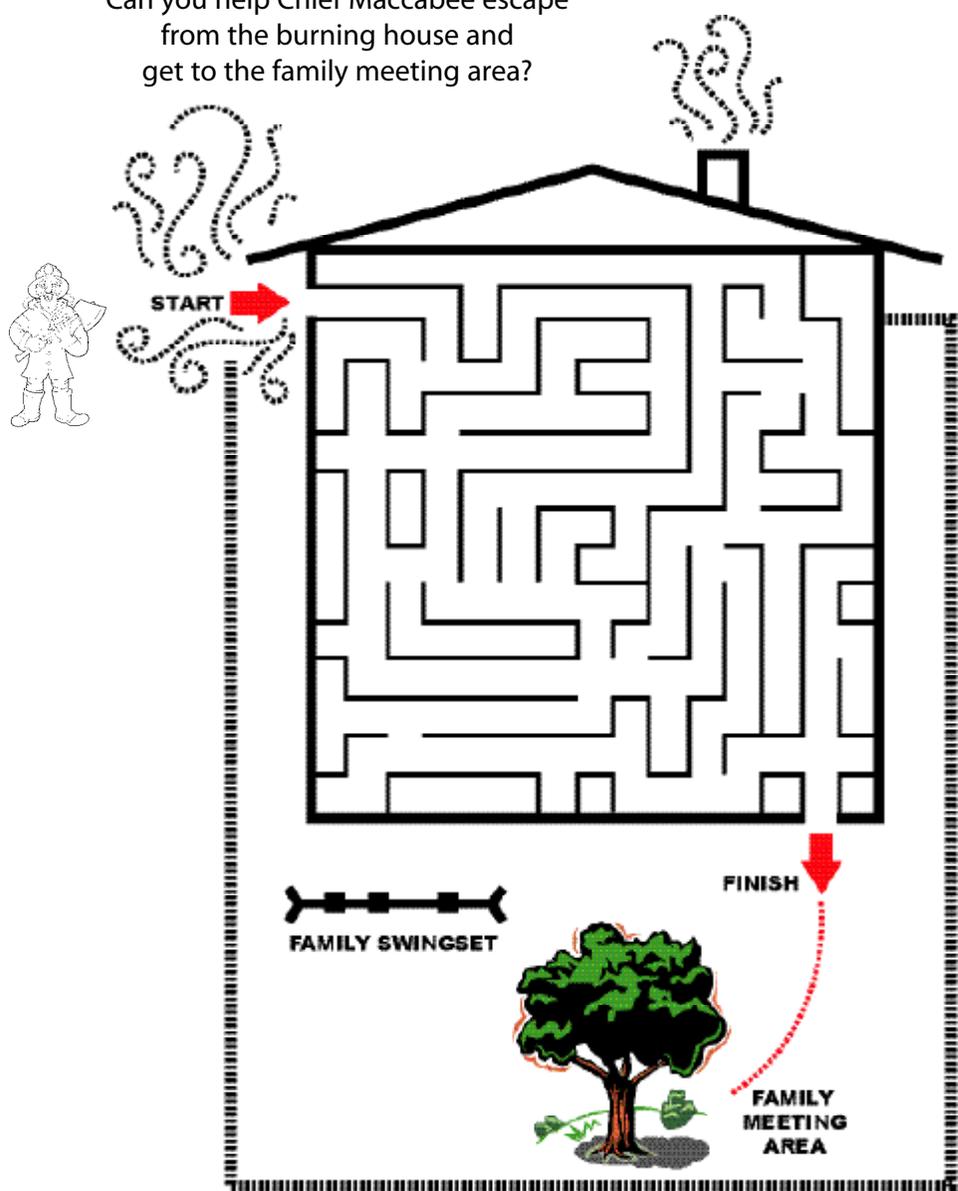
- CARRYING
- TORAH PORTION
- COMPLETION
- SYNAGOGUE
- DANCING
- LAST
- SIMCHAT TORAH
- PROCESSION
- CELEBRATION
- SINGING
- REJOICING

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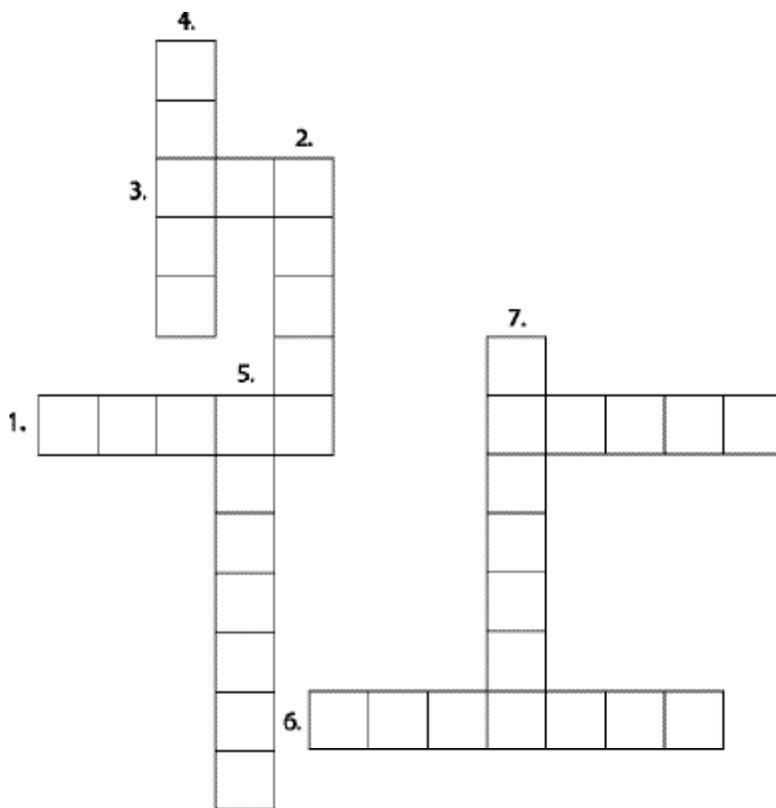
Maccabee Maze

Can you help Chief Maccabee escape from the burning house and get to the family meeting area?



Brought to you by:
Maccabee Aish, Inc.
www.jewishfireprevention.org

Crossword Puzzle



Across:

- 1. Every level of a home needs a _____.
- 3. Every room needs two ways _____.
- 6. If there is a fire, my family has a meeting place _____.

Down:

- 2. Practice your family escape plan _____ a year.
- 4. I know the fire department emergency _____ number.
- 5. Never go into the _____ without a grown-up.
- 7. Always stay away from _____, fires and matches.

(answers: 1. smoke alarm, 2. twice, 3. out, 4. phone, 5. kitchen, 6. outside, 7. candles)

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Judith & Neil Hoffman



May this be a year of peace, progress and prosperity for our community, Israel and the entire world.

Carolyn Vella & John J. McGonagle



May you have a sweet & prosperous New Year.

The Levine Family

Israeli eyedrop invention may allow you to chuck your glasses

Israel21c.com

Would you rather wear glasses or contact lenses, have laser surgery, or put drops in your eyes to see well? Consumers are starting to demand the third option, as new scientific advances have made corrective eye drops possible. This is big business: A couple of years ago, pharma giant Novartis acquired a company developing a topical treatment for age-related farsightedness (presbyopia), while others are experimenting with eye drops to dissolve cataracts.

In Israel, two startups are in the clinical stages of testing their corrective eye drops. Orasis Pharmaceuticals is developing

pharmaceutical-grade eye drops intended to improve near vision so people won't need their reading glasses. CEO Elad Kedar says presbyopia affects the majority of people over age 45.

"The lenses in our eyes, like any other organ, get old and gradually lose the flexibility to change shape to focus on near objects," Kedar says. "The reduction in flexibility makes it difficult to focus on near objects and eventually you need reading glasses."

Though reading glasses are effective, he continues, many people don't like using them because they are inconvenient and easily misplaced, and they are considered

a sign of old age.

"There has been a long journey to find alternative solutions such as contact lenses or inlays, but all have problems of efficacy, safety or convenience of use. We developed a first-in-class pharmacological solution using a combination of existing molecules already used in the eye for other indications. You just put a drop in each eye and you can potentially see well for several hours. It can be very safe and convenient."

Developed at Bar-Ilan University's Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials (BINA) in Ramat Gan, Nano-Drops offers a patented solution for correcting all refractive

errors that cause blurry vision – farsightedness, nearsightedness and astigmatism.

In preclinical tests using pig eyes (which are similar to human eyes), Nano-Drops, applied in a three-step process, achieved significant corrections for both farsightedness and nearsightedness by locally modifying the corneal refractive index. Further testing will be done to determine how long the effect lasts.

Dr. David Smadja, an ophthalmologist at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Medical Center said, "In the future, this technology may enable patients to have their vision corrected in the comfort of their own home."

Israeli nonprofit involved with effort to aid African farmers

In August, Startup Nation Central (SNC), a Tel Aviv-based nongovernmental organization, hosted a delegation in Israel of agri-tech experts from Israeli startups and members of Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), a Kenyan NGO, for a project to improve food security in Kenya.

The Nairobi-based AGRA works to "increase the incomes and improve food security for 30 million farming households in 11 African countries by 2021.

"This is a huge opportunity for Israel and for African farmers, an opportunity that Israeli technology can change the lives of independent African farmers," said Shira Goldblum, strategic partnerships manager at Start-Up Nation Central.

The goal of the delegation was to foster relationships by using Israeli technologies and solutions to improve the quality of results for African farmers.

"NC hosts around 60 highly-tailored delegations per year," Goldblum said. "We worked with AGRA to identify the challenges they're aiming to tackle, and looked for innovative solutions in Start-Up Nation Finder, our innovation discovery platform that maps some 6,000 currently active Israeli tech companies. We believe we put AGRA in front of some outstanding startups."

Startup Nation Central is a nonprofit organization that matches problems of

business and government leaders with the people and technologies that can solve them.

AGRA's website identifies the problems facing African farmers, including infertile soil, unreliable water supply and low-quality seeds. The dialog between the Israeli experts in agriculture technology and AGRA aimed to offer solutions to these issues.

AGRA President Dr. Agnes Kalibata spoke about the multi-sector, agricultural initiatives to advance African countries toward sustainable development goals.

Ido Batchko, co-founder and CEO of Tel Aviv-based Amaizz, made a presentation on using his company's

technology to minimize post-harvest losses.

Naty Barak, CEO of Netafim – also based in Tel Aviv, spoke about smart-drip and micro irrigation solutions for African farmers. "Africa is the new frontier and we are working all over Africa but there is one challenge: to work with small-holder farmers. We cannot ignore 500 million small-holder farmers who produce 80 percent of the food in the developed world, and we are a private company, so we need partners."

"The meeting was great because AGRA can be a very important link for our work in Africa. We [the world] face many problems such as water scarcity and we, Israel and Netafim, have an answer," he concluded.

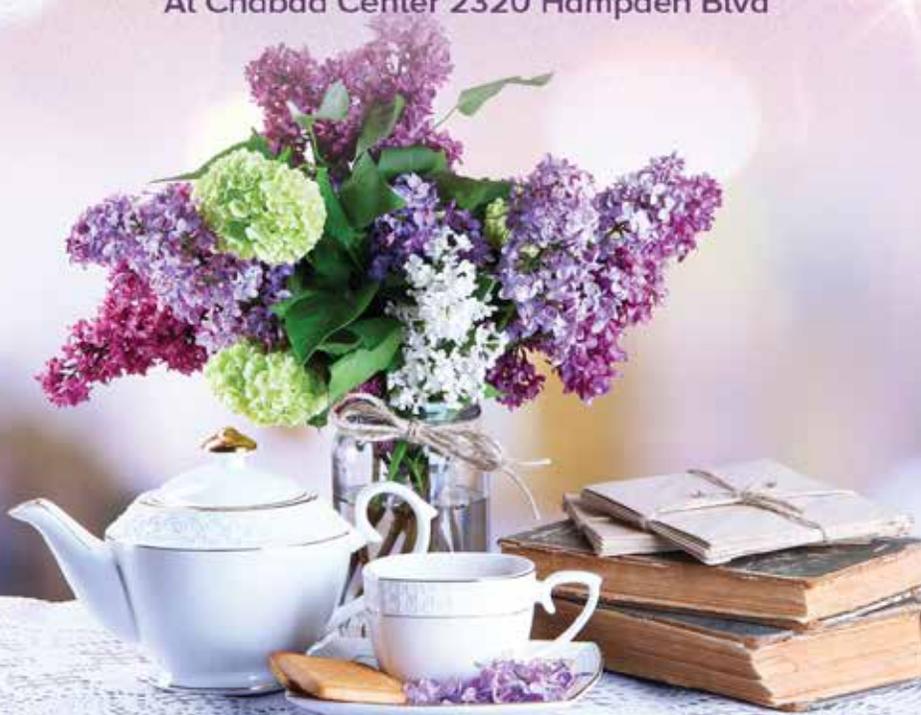
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Israeli schools where David and Dawud play together at recess

Israel21c.com

Afnan Abu Taha doesn't want her two daughters feeling alienated from their Jewish peers as she did when growing up in an Arab village. She doesn't want them to struggle with Hebrew as she did in college. Neither does she want them to lose their own identity, language, heritage and culture. So she and her husband sent their girls to the Hagar School, the only Israeli public school in the Negev providing bilingual multicultural education.

Afnan Abu Taha stated that "I want my daughters to speak Hebrew fluently and to have Jewish friends and to feel we can live together and do things together for a peaceful future."

Hagar began in 2007 with a single kindergarten and now has 330 children from kindergarten to sixth grade. Administrators do some creative calendar juggling to provide the requisite number of instruction days despite closing for major Jewish, Muslim and Christian holidays. "When you hear the song played to signal the start of recess — alternating between an Arabic song and a Hebrew song — the children tear outside and play together and you can't tell the difference between them," says Hagar Executive Director Sam Shube.

Shube previously headed Hand in Hand Center for Jewish-Arab Bilingual Education in Israel, Israel's only network of bilingual schools. It was founded in 1998 around a nucleus of 20 graduates of the mixed kindergarten at the International YMCA in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem Hand in Hand is the largest, now encompassing about 700 students in K-12.

Hand in Hand subsequently opened locations in the Galilee, Haifa district, Tel Aviv-Jaffa and Kfar Saba/Tira. Gaby Goldman, Hand in Hand director of communications- "In the past five

years we've had a steady growth of about 15 percent. In the 2017-18 school year our total enrollment was 1,750 and we have at least 100 more this year. Even more impressive is the demand — 1,200 students on waiting lists all over the country. We have about 10 communities that want us to help them open a new kindergarten or school. This is how new locations start."

Hand in Hand operates under the aegis of the Education Ministry and adds curricular material in language, historical narratives and religious heritage. Hebrew-speaking and Arabic-speaking co-teachers are frank about their divergent views on issues, modeling the ability to agree to disagree, says Goldman.

Parents, family members and activists form organized communities at each Hand in Hand school, holding activities such as dialogues and outings supported by USAID (the United States Agency for International Development). "It's not fair to put the responsibility of shared living only on the children," explains Goldman.

Shared living is a difficult goal to accomplish, especially as children grow older and more politically aware. "We don't live in a Disney movie," says Goldman. "We live in a place where families may have been hurt by aspects of the conflict. Hand in Hand is not a bubble; it's a greenhouse and we nurture those little plants to become stronger trees."

Vicky Makhoul entered Hand in Hand Jerusalem at age 4 and graduated in 2017. While cousins in her Christian Arab family "tend to stay with their Arab friends in their comfort zone," the trilingual Makhoul says "people from our school go out into the real world and make friends with those different from them."

Had she attended a typical Arab



school or Jewish school, she muses, "I'd be a different person in my ideology. I think I'd only know one side of the story and I would not be open to hearing the other side," though she admits views from the other side sometimes can be difficult to hear. Only in her senior year did she begin fully appreciating how the school not only helped shape her identity but also her opportunities. "When you speak three languages fluently, more doors will be open for you," she says.

"We see that children from Hagar grow up with a very sophisticated perspective on what democratic society means," says Shube. "Children go back to their own social circles at home with a more nuanced view of who they are. They are less susceptible to the 'us against them' attitude."

Abu Taha says her girls, now in grades seven and five, have an appreciation of their own and their friends' cultures and holidays. "They deal very well in all situations. They get along well with their cousins in

Arabic and when we're with friends who speak Hebrew they also do very well. They know about their identity even better than children in the Arab schools because of the differences between them and their friends."

Ehud Zion Waldoks, father of a third-grader and a first-grader, agrees, saying: "Hagar doesn't try to say that everybody is the same. There are very clear distinctions between who is Jewish, who is Arab, who is Christian, who is Muslim. They just try to impart that everyone and their traditions are worthy of respect."

"The Zion Waldoks kids are among the few students from religious Jewish families. Their parents supplement their religious education at home because Hagar's curriculum does not include prayer or Bible study. They keep their kids in the school because its values are important to them. "At that age it can be very formative to really understand that Israel is not just Jews, that Arabs are not 'them' and everybody can coexist naturally as people."

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As America and the world endure the horrors of another hurricane season, the Jewish Federation of Reading/Berks is prepared to mobilize our community to help once again. Thanks to the generosity of our community, in 2017 we allocated \$20,000 for relief from a series of storms in the continental U.S. and Puerto Rico, and local people contributed supplies to aid those afflicted by tropical storms. All funds raised for hurricane relief support the global disaster-response efforts of the Jewish Federations of North America, IsraAid and NECHAMA. Details of JFNA's 2017 hurricane response are below.

HURRICANES IRMA & MARIA

RELIEF AND RECOVERY

In September 2017, two deadly hurricanes brought widespread destruction to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Florida and Georgia. Jewish synagogues and community centers were nearly washed away and communities were left stranded without food and water and in dire need of trauma support.

Jewish Federations immediately set up the **2017 Hurricane Relief Fund** to help meet urgent needs and enable rebuilding. Our network of local and international partners allowed us to respond quickly and efficiently to this emergency.

Recovery from disasters such as these can take years, **so we have allocated nearly \$400,000 for long-term assistance**, but we anticipate local needs will require additional support.

The following organizations received funding from the 2017 Hurricane Relief Fund:

IsraAID, NECHAMA, The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Foundation for Puerto Rico, and other local Jewish human service agencies, Federations, community centers and synagogues.

Jewish Federations provided approximately **\$1.6 million** in emergency funds to aid those hardest hit by devastating storms Irma and Maria.

HERE'S HOW WE HELPED



800K

Providing Emergency Assistance

Our network delivered generators, food and water—offering a lifeline to those in desperate need just days after the storms hit.



165K

Sustaining Jewish Communal Life

Our network repaired and restored flooded synagogues and other centers of Jewish life that suffered structural damage.



150K

Extending Trauma Counseling

Our partners provided trauma counseling to those most impacted as they cope with the devastation caused by these storms.



76K

Investing in Jewish Education

We, along with our network of private funders, provided families with scholarships to Jewish day schools and overnight camps to ensure Jewish continuity and offer additional relief to families.



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 Sept. 14

Edwin and Alma '51 Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center

In memory of:
Edwin Lakin – Barbara Nazimov

In honor of:
Rosalye Yashek's special birthday – Amanda, Jason, Nina and George Hornberger, RCOS Sisterhood

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In memory of:
Edwin Lakin – Scott Esterbrook, Ed Lakin's PwC Team, Robin and Jess Drezner, Amy Schein-Hollowbush, RKL, LLP, Lisa and Ellis Block, Carol and Bernie Gerber, Anzie and Edward Golden, Bob and Judy Pollack, Al Weber, Julie Stein

Edwin and Alma Lakin – Lynne Howells
Mitzi Wernick (Andy Wernick's mother) – Lisa and Ellis Block, Bob and Judy Pollack

Cindy Boscov – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Carol and Bernie Gerber, Anzie and Edward Golden, Bob and Judy Pollack

Enrique Castaneda Flores (Margo Levin's father) – Debbie and David Goldberg

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:
Bob Kauffman's special birthday – Andy and Corinne Wernick
Sari and John Incledon's new home – Louise Zeidman

Honorials and Memorials

Contributions may be made to the following Funds:

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

In memory of:
Adrienne Bartos – Sharon and Julian Syret
Marian Ehrlich (Dr. Irving Ehrlich's mother) - Sharon and Julian Syret
Edwin Lakin – Sharon and Julian Syret, Jim and Jackye Barrer, Gayle and Mike Kastenbaum
Mitzi Wernick (Andy Wernick's mother) – Sharon and Julian Syret
Cindy Boscov – Susan and Mel Blum

JFS Food Pantry

In honor of:
Rosalye Yashek's special birthday – Elaine Safir

Jewish Federation - Richard J. Yashek Memorial Lecture

In honor of:
Rosalye Yashek's special birthday – Steve Hammel

Lakin Preschool Fund

In memory of:
Edwin Lakin – Sue and Larry Adler, Gertrude Ruchman, Claude Sherman, Greg and Jamie Maack, Lynn and Dick Gordon, Susan and Tom Zeimer

IsraAID sends team to help flood victims in southern India

Israel21c.com
Israeli humanitarian NGO IsraAID sent an emergency response team to the southern Indian state of Kerala, which has been hit by the worst flooding in living memory. More than 350 people have been killed since the monsoon began at the end of May, and at least 220 have died since Aug. 8, when the rains grew heavier. About 725,000 people have fled their homes to emergency

relief camps, and thousands have been left stranded in areas rendered inaccessible by the floodwaters. The monsoon rains have been significantly heavier than usual and have covered the region.

The emergency team traveling to Kerala this week consists of international and Nepali staff from IsraAID's office in Nepal, who will distribute urgent relief items and assess the longer-term psychosocial and WASH

(water, sanitation and hygiene) needs of the affected communities. Members of this team responded to heavy flooding in the Terai region of southern Nepal in 2017.

"According to the Indian authorities, Kerala is facing its worst flooding in a century. In the face of this devastation, IsraAID will be partnering with local communities and NGOs to help meet the affected population's pressing needs," said

Yotam Polizer and Navonel Glick, IsraAID's co-CEOs. "Based on IsraAID's experience, both internationally and in the region, we will focus initially on urgent relief distributions to evacuated communities, while our team assesses next steps in accompanying the affected population on the path to recovery."

As of 2018, IsraAID has responded to crises in 47 countries, and has programs in 17 countries.

Breathalyzer developed in Israel could help Parkinson's patients

The Times of Israel
Researchers at Israel's Technion Institute of Technology have developed a device they say can detect the early onset of Parkinson's disease by analyzing the breath of users.
Exhaled breath long has been known as the most accessible and useful source for monitoring health and disorders. Technion researchers led by Professor Hossam Haick set out on a quest to find out if a breathalyzer could help identify patients who are at the very early stages of Parkinson's disease.
Parkinson's disease is a degenerative

condition that affects dopamine-producing neurons in an area of the brain. Dopamine is a chemical responsible for coordinating movement. Symptoms of the disease develop gradually, causing patients to experience hand tremors, limb rigidity and gait and balance problems. Though there is no cure, the affliction is treated by dealing with the symptoms by using dopaminergic medications. Because people with Parkinson's start experiencing symptoms only later in the course of the disease, when a substantial number of neurons have already been damaged, scientists are

trying to find ways to identify bio-markers that can lead to an earlier diagnosis and hopefully treatments to help slow down its progression.

More than 10 million people worldwide live with Parkinson's, with some 60,000 Americans diagnosed each year and nearly 1 million forecast to have the disease in the United States by 2020. The breath analyzer developed by the Technion team is meant to help detect the early onset of the disease and help with follow-up treatment. Initial tests found that the breathalyzer managed to detect early Parkinson's disease with over 80

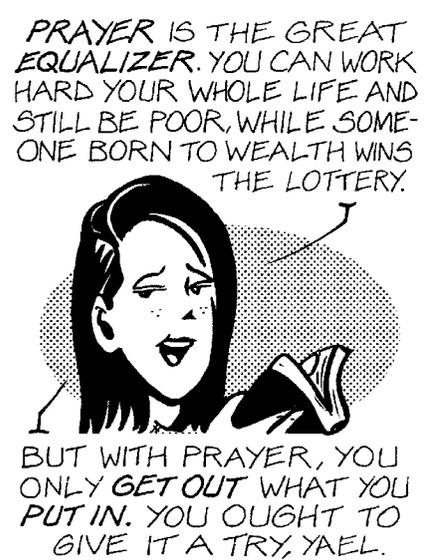
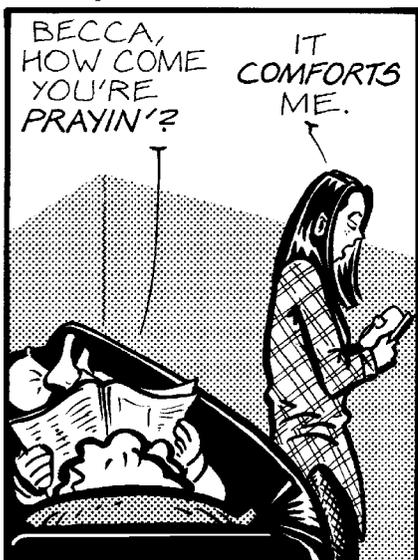
percent accuracy.

Though larger studies are required, the researchers say that it has potential to screen at-risk individuals without the need for big and expensive analytical tools or highly trained specialists.

The researchers have also identified the breath characteristics of 17 diseases.

"We have proven that each of these diseases has a signature in breath," Haick said, noting that they could use the same technology for those diseases, including multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's, lung cancer and gastric cancer, he said.

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE
by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com



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Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

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