

SHALOM

The Journal of the Reading Jewish Community. Published as a community service by the Jewish Federation of Reading, Pa.

SUMMER 2017

Community comes together for annual meeting



Berks County's Jewish community turned out in force for the Jewish Federation of Reading's annual meeting and picnic June 11 at Wyomissing Hills Park. After a brief meeting for some business and to review the past year's accomplishments, participants were able to enjoy a delicious kosher barbecue lunch catered by Boscov's along with plenty of fun at the park and neighboring pool, which was open for all to enjoy. See more photos on the back page of this edition.



Hayden Woodward, Seth Missan and Adeline Woodward



Elizabeth Nassau, Haia Mazuz and Andi Franklin

Announcing the 2018 Reading Jewish Film Series

By Amanda J. Hornberger

Jewish Cultural Center and Fox Theatres is proud to announce the lineup for the fourth year of the *Reading Jewish Film Series*.

The 2018 *Reading Jewish Film Series* will feature a variety of film genres from comedies to dramas to documentaries. The films are from around the world including the Israel, Germany, Italy, France and the U.S. The complete list follows:

Sept. 13, 2017 — "Aida's Secret"

Nov. 1, 2017 — "Hummus! The Movie" with the Islamic Center of Reading

Dec. 13, 2017 — "There are Jews Here"

Jan. 24, 2018 — "The Women's Balcony"

March 7, 2018 — "Body & Soul: An American Bridge" with the Central Pennsylvania African American Museum.*

April 4, 2018 — "Fanny's Journey"

May 16, 2018 — "The Venice Ghetto, 500 Years of Life" *

*Facilitated discussion to follow the film.

Following "Hummus!" on Nov. 1 and in partnership with the Islamic Center of Reading, we will host a complimentary hummus tasting sponsored by Wyomissing Family Restaurant.

Two films will be followed by discussions led by local experts: Dr. Kevin Kjos from Kutztown University will speak on jazz influences in Jewish and African-American culture on March 7 following "Body and Soul." In May, Dr. Daniel Leisawitz from Muhlenberg College will discuss Jewish history in Italy following "The Venice Ghetto," and we invite all to enjoy complimentary Italian desserts from Monte Lauro European Gourmet.

We hope you will join us for films featuring a family torn apart by war, a Middle-Eastern superfood, Jewish life in small communities in America, Orthodox women speaking truth, the history of American jazz music, a French girl's journey of survival during the Holocaust and explore the Venice Ghetto during the 2018 *Reading Jewish Film Series!*

The 2018 *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 \$30 for the series of seven 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.

As Israel celebrates milestone, many still go hungry

Jerusalem Day this year marked the 50th anniversary of the reunification of the holiest city in the world. Israelis and Jews worldwide viewed the reunification of Jerusalem as a momentous event, if not a divinely orchestrated occurrence. But despite the city's continued growth and development, there are still thousands of needy residents in the city.

The Israeli government made a concentrated effort to attract more Jews to move into Jerusalem. However, the difficulty finding work in a city relatively far from Tel

Aviv and other central cities meant that the population is less affluent than Israelis living elsewhere in the country.

In 2007, Meir Panim began its lifesaving work. The organization set up a network of Free Restaurants that feed people of all ages and ethnicities. In addition to the bustling soup kitchen in the Holy City, there are similar facilities in Tzfat, Tiberias, Dimona, Haifa, and Or Akiva. Clients receive freshly prepared, healthy, hot meals every day. Everybody is served without question and is treated

with dignity, respect and warmth.

Meir Panim is supported by local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign. Thousands of people in Israel, including many Holocaust survivors, depend on Meir Panim for their only meal of the day. Today, the agency serves more than 390,000 hot meals annually, with almost half of those meals given to hungry children. Its soup kitchens, food packages, and food shopping ensure that countless men, women, and children have enough to eat.

Jerusalem is still a work in

progress, and there is much to be done to help its residents. An atmosphere of alliance exists among the volunteers who prepare food for Meir Panim. Among them are senior citizens, prisoners undergoing rehabilitation, and national service volunteers.

On Jerusalem Day, Jews across Israel came together to celebrate their unending love for the Holy City. Meir Panim is working hard every day to ensure the well-being of the city's neediest residents, making it possible for them to continue living in a reunified Jerusalem.



2017 totals
 as of July 10

Jewish Community
 Campaign
\$232,983

*Includes transfers from
 Donor Advised Funds

I didn't know Federation funded that

By Richard Nassau
Development Director



So much information to process. It can be overwhelming. Just yesterday working at my computer I came across a specialized community service I wanted to learn more about. I have a neighbor who is ill, and this piece looked like it might be of interest to them. I continued working, knowing I'd come back and take a closer look when I had more time.

I should know better. I'm sure it was in an email that popped up. I searched, and it wasn't there, of course. Maybe it was a text or a post or a link in an article. No luck. The information was buried in there somewhere. I suppose I could do a web search. I was sure to find lots of related material, but no promise I'd find the specific program.

Federation funds more than 50 community programs here and

overseas. These programs are the result of your gifts to our community's annual campaign.

These 50+ Federation funded programs are delivered through Jewish Family Service, Jewish Cultural Center, our synagogues, Jewish Community Relations Council, the Lakin Holocaust Resource Center, Create a Jewish Legacy, and our partners in Israel.

In addition, our programs serve the entire Jewish community from home-bound seniors to active preschoolers. We work to avoid information overload. However, we also want you to know how your donations are enriching lives in our community.

What is the best way for you to learn about our Jewish community? We try not to get carried away. We hope no one is ever surprised to discover, "I didn't know Federation funded that."

We understand our once-a-week email can easily get lost between friends, family, work, school, kids, parents, and that three-times-a-day reminder to use your discount coupon now.

So how can you learn more about a specific program? A program your family would enjoy or a program of interest or one that could benefit your neighbor?

Good communication is key and our responsibility.

We want you to know about programs you can enjoy with your family and members of the community. About our new program initiatives responding to families that are young and growing or redesigned programs that are assisting people who no longer have family close by.

Programs that reach out to welcome new families into our community. Programs that are kid-friendly, and programs your neighbor may need some day.

This fall we'll be undergoing some fundamental changes in how we communicate. Some changes will be obvious and some will be done behind the scenes. Our goal is to give you the information you need in ways that will not get lost or be overwhelming.

There are several ways we now distribute Jewish community

information.

You're reading this, so you probably get SHALOM. Remember to send us address updates if you move or plan to be away for a period-of-time. We're also glad to share SHALOM and community news with your out-of-town friends and relatives. If you pass along their names and address we will send them their own copy.

Become a member of the JCC. Membership includes our community calendar with its extensive community phone directory, along with special member privileges. Let us know if you disconnect the landline so your listing stays up-to-date.

Make sure you receive our weekly emails. We send news and program information to nearly 700 recipients. If you are not getting our emails, call us 610-921-0624 so we can confirm everything in-person.

Like us on Facebook. It is a good way to keep-up with local programs and current events in the broader Jewish community.

Ask us. We are here to be your Jewish community resource.

Yemin Orde Debate Club helps develop students' confidence

In Yemin Orde's third annual Debate Championship, 11 participants explored a range of social and deeply personal issues—from the importance of actively caring for the environment to how agriculture and technology contribute to Israel. One emotional speech discussed the distress of his parents' divorce and another student spoke about the adversity of being an orphan.

The event was sponsored by a top Israeli law firm. Weeks before the championship, debaters visited the firm's Tel Aviv offices (photo at right) where each teen met with an attorney who helped them with their

speeches. The attorneys also shared their personal professional journey and took the group on a special guided tour of a courtroom.

A group of attorneys from the law firm also served as judges at the final debate competition. Many of Yemin Orde's youth have difficulty speaking publicly because of extreme shyness, low self-esteem and language difficulties. The Village's debate club encourages teens to speak confidentially and communicate clearly, strengthens critical thinking skills and builds research and academic skills.

Many of Yemin Orde's youth



have difficulty speaking publicly because of extreme shyness, low self-esteem and language difficulties. The Village's debate club encourages teens to speak confidentially and communicate clearly, strengthens

critical thinking skills and builds research and academic skills.

Yemin Orde's efforts are supported with local dollars through the Jewish Federation of Reading's Israel Now campaign.



Matthew Dodd

Presents

Songs and Stories of the American Revolution



Appearing Live at
JCC of Reading
Thursday, July 20
1:45 p.m.

1:00 Optional lunch \$7.

Reservations required (610-921-0624).

Program sponsored by the Jacob Krumboltz Fund.



There's still time to order a JCC Calendar!

\$20 per calendar includes calendar with community events and directory

To order please contact Brenda at BrendaS@jfreading.org or call the JCC at 610-921-0624.

Orders due by July 31, 2017.

The Jewish Community of Reading has been invited to attend with CPAAM (Central PA African American Museum in Reading)

Journey with CPAAM to the NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

Washington, DC

Thursday September 28, 2017

Donation: \$50 per person

You are invited to join The Central Pennsylvania African American Museum (CPAAM) as we journey to this Historic site.

*Seats will be offered on a first come basis. Deadline date for reservations is August 31 or when no more seats are available.

In order to secure your seat a non-refundable payment is to accompany this form. Tickets will be mailed upon receipt of payment.

For additional information, contact Mildred Gilyard at 610-223-1339

Name _____

Home Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Make checks payable to CPAAM

And mail to Mildred Gilyard, 4500 Sefranka RD, Temple, PA 19560

From the President's Desk

Israelis, Diaspora Jews must stand together despite tensions

By William D. Franklin
President

On July 31 we will observe Tisha B'Av, a day of mourning to commemorate the destruction of the first and second Temples. Both were destroyed on the ninth of Av, the first by the Babylonians in 586 B.C.E. and the second by the Romans in 70 C.E..



Our sages teach us that the cause of these destructions was not primarily the result of being overcome by external enemies but mainly because of the divisiveness within the Jewish community — hatred of Jews for other Jews. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in

a similar predicament — with many external enemies and much internal division.

On June 25, the Israel government made two decisions apparently concerning religious pluralism. Jewish pluralism is the acceptance of multiple forms of Jewish religious expression. The first decision froze the landmark Kotel (Western Wall) agreement, which provided for proper and dignified space for Jews of every denomination to pray at Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The intent is to upgrade the current interim prayer platform near the Robinson's Arch area of the Western Wall and construct one entrance for all to the Western Wall plaza, which will lead to the different pluralistic, men's and women's pavilions.

The second decision was to advance legislation that would concentrate the authority of conversions in Israel to Judaism. This is in response to the attempt of a growing number of immigrants attempting immediate Israeli citizenship through conversion. This legislation does not affect the status of Jews who have had non-Orthodox conversions outside the State of Israel.

Regrettably, these actions heightened the already growing tension between Diaspora Jews and Israelis. Israel is faced with increased threats from Iran, Hezbollah, regular 'errant' missiles from Syria and the growth of anti-Semitism at the United Nations and countries, including the United States, around the world. Diaspora

Jews see the growing influence of the Orthodox in Israel and the government's administration of Judea and Samaria as further distancing them, resulting in their weakened support.

Speaking to our friends and family in Israel, and our friends and family here in the U.S., Andi and I see the valid issues and concerns of both sides. Israelis and Diaspora Jews are from the same people, and we have a responsibility for each other. While it is important for us to communicate our critically important disagreements with the government decisions, it is more important than ever that we not pull away from Israel at this time. We must remember as we approach Tisha B'Av, that 'those who don't learn from history, are doomed to repeat it.'

Join us Aug. 20 for JCHS orientation and barbecue

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner

Jewish Community High School

The new year will get off to a wonderful start as current Jewish Community High School students and all Jewish teens grades 8-12 are invited, with or without their parents, to a barbecue dinner Sunday, Aug. 20, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the home of Holly and Rabbi Brian Michelson, 458 Wroxham Drive, Wyomissing.

Students will have the opportunity to socialize with their friends and learn about the new courses and the return of some classes by popular request. There will be a chance to ask questions as well. Q&A opportunity and a wonderful beginning of a new year.

A student pays tribute

Recent JCHS graduate Evan Cardinal offers an example of what our program means to students. He wrote the following letter to the Jewish Federation of Reading:

"My time at the Jewish Community High School was wonderfully enriching. Not only did I learn concepts of Judaism I never knew before, I also had a chance to socialize with both teens and senior citizens in the community. I now need something to occupy my Sunday evenings while at Albright, but they may be filled with on-campus Hillel activities.

"I thank the Federation so much for the opportunity to participate in JCHS as well as giving me a mini-Shabbos set."

Better Together returns

Evan made reference to both his general JCHS experience as well as his two years participating with Better Together, in which we had teens and seniors studying and discussing Jewish themes together. Both generations had the opportunity to develop friendships

with one another.

Better Together will be continued in the coming year at the request of the JCHS students, parents and our senior citizens. We are grateful to the Reading Jewish Federation and our Jewish community leadership for enabling us to continue with this wonderful inter-generational educational experience of discussion and engagement of multiple generations.

The program will meet one Sunday each month from 5 to 6:15 p.m. as part of the JCHS.

We welcome new participants. Seniors who are interested in joining the program are asked to please contact Carole Robinson at the Federation office, 610-921-0624. All JCHS students are invited to take part as well. Taking part could fulfill high school community service responsibilities.

Holiday experiences

We have already begun planning to meet the overwhelming popular demand for cooking/baking hands-on experience, and we are ready for our Hanukkah celebration with new and some old recipes, "yummys," background in the history of the "real Hanukkah" and the determination of why the "Books" about the Maccabees were left out of the Jewish Bible/TaNakh. Watch for it – and don't be left out!!

New courses

We are announcing a new course requested by JCHS students: "Reel Israel: The Origin and Evolution of Israel's Culture."

Using selected films – musicals, comedies, action dramas - from and about Israel, we will have discussion and debate frequently concerning events in Israel and the world which affected

the country's popular music, comedy, movies, television, fashion and politics.

Updated courses

"Jewish Bioethics: Moral Choices for Modern Jews"

We will discuss and debate new choices confronting us based on science. We will survey not only what is new but what is the significance of these innovations in our lives. .

"The American Jewish Experience"

The course will cover the saga of American Jewry from the early establishment of Jewish communities in Colonial America through the contemporary problems facing American Jewry today

"Comparative Judaism"

We will survey the major movements of American Judaism as well as the many new and still evolving denominations and "ritual titles" being created.

Teen Philanthropy

With the encouragement of Bill Franklin and the collaboration of the JCHS, we are proposing the first stage

of a Teen Tzedakah Program.

In 1997, philanthropist Harold Grinspoon established B'NAI TZEDEK in Massachusetts to address two needs. Firstly, he was worried about the future of funding for Jewish life in America and believed efforts had to be made to educate a younger generation about the importance of Jewish philanthropy to ensure the future vibrancy of Jewish organizations. Secondly, he was alarmed that a bar/bat mitzvah, rather than launching teens to a new level of Jewish engagement, was all too often the end of their Jewish involvement. B'NAI TZEDEK succeeded and became part of the Jewish Teen Funder's Network.

Sharing that vision and building with a national program of experiential education and hands-on community responsibility, our JCHS students will learn to raise funds and then allocate them after discussion of the respective merits of each charity.

CHAI CIRCLE Donors (formerly Silver Circle)

Many members of our community have donated to Jewish Federation of Reading for over 18 years. To honor this very special group of donors, Federation has formed a new recognition society, the Chai Circle. These long-time supporters at every gift level have demonstrated their continuing commitment to the Jewish community. They are a wonderful example of tzedakah in action.

Federation is asking everyone who qualifies as a Chai Circle donor to self-identify. Federation records go back many years, but only through self-identification can Federation ensure no one is overlooked.

Later this year, Federation will honor members of Chai Circle at a community celebration. It is an opportunity for Federation to say thank you to the many members of our community for their generous and consistent support over the years.

Add your name now and be recognized.

No minimum gift requirement • No cost to become a member • 18 years of Federation giving

Chai Circle members are why we have a strong Jewish present and a hopeful Jewish future. Thank you for enriching lives in Berks County, Israel and our global Jewish community.

Complete and Return to: JFR Chai Circle • PO Box 14925 • Reading, PA • 19612
Online: www.ReadingJewishCommunity.org

Yes! I am a current donor and have been contributing continually to the Jewish Federation of Reading Annual Campaign for 18 years or more.

First campaign gift was 19_____

Name(s)

Address

Best Email_____ Birthday ____/____/_____

SHALOM

A newspaper serving the Jewish community of Reading, Pennsylvania, and published monthly, September through June, under the Jewish Federation of Reading. Funded by the Reading United Jewish Campaign.

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

Jewish Federation of Reading

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

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

Next deadline, Aug 5

Our 2017 graduates



Lyuba Eydlin, daughter of Lina and Alex Eydlin, received an MBA with a concentration in investments and corporate renewal from Northeastern University, Boston, on May 5.



Emily Rachel Farrara, daughter of Sue and Michael Farrara, is graduating with honors from Rollins College with a Masters in Business Administration, focusing in entrepreneurship and international business. She is employed by The Walt Disney Company in Merchandise Sourcing for Disneyland and Walt Disney World.

Multifaith Ramadan dinner held to promote peace in Mideast

Israel21c.com

A group of 220 Jews, Muslims, Christians, and Druze, including male and female religious leaders and community members from each of these faiths, came to the Galilee village of Ilut on June 8 to share a Multi-Faith Ramadan Iftar Dinner for Peace.

The dinner has been held annually for more than a decade as the signature event of the Abrahamic Reunion, a network of peacebuilders, religious and spiritual leaders and citizens from across Israel and the Palestinian Authority territories.

Iftar is the meal ending each day of fasting during the Muslim month of Ramadan.

"This event helps bring down the walls of separation and fear between our people, the shared family of Abraham," says Abrahamic Reunion Executive Director in Israel, Eliyahu McLean, 48.

After making Aliyah to Israel, McLean co-founded a group called Jerusalem Peacemakers and became a follower of the late Rabbi Menachem Froman, an Orthodox peace activist and one of the founders of Abrahamic Reunion in 2004 along with Sheikh Ghassan Manasra of Nazareth and Anna Less of Florida.

"It started with the Iftar Dinner for Peace, and only four years ago did we expand to become a year-round organization with monthly events," says McLean. "Each of the different religious leaders who are part of our family of spiritual peace builders hosts an event in their home or community."

The Iftar dinner was hosted this year by Sheikh Khaled Abu Ras, the organization's incoming Muslim co-executive director in Israel.

In addition to Ilut residents including local high school principals and teachers, people came from diverse areas: Jerusalem, Golan Heights, Tel Aviv, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus (Shechem) and others.

Rabbi Yakov Nagen, a yeshiva head in Otniel in the Hebron Hills and also active with the prize-winning Interfaith

Encounter Association, co-chairs his region of Abrahamic Reunion with a Muslim imam from Tel Sheva near Beersheva.

McLean says the Arab hosts always go out of their way to get strictly kosher food. But the fellowship goes beyond that. Nagen told attendees that two years ago, the Ramadan fast day on which the dinner was held coincided with the Jewish fast day of the 17th of Tammuz.

"While the Muslim fast ended at 6:49, the Jewish fast ended at 7:15. And the Muslims insisted on waiting to eat until the Jews broke their fast," relates McLean. "Rabbi Nagen always shares that story to show how we make room respectfully for one another in our religious practice. This model can serve as a bridge for faithful people from all walks of society."

Participants have widely diverging views on the practical details of peacemaking in the Holy Land, but each also believes that in order for any peace initiative to succeed there must be "a grassroots interreligious coming together because no plan will work if there is hatred between us. We say that fear and hatred of the other will drive us from any of these solutions," says McLean.

The Iftar Dinner for Peace closed with a circle at which people exchanged blessings and prayers for peace.

"It's a dialogue of devoutness rather than a dialogue of triumphalism. We don't get into who's right and who's wrong," says McLean.

It is not only nonprofit organizations that reach out to Muslim leaders during Ramadan. President Reuven Rivlin continued a yearly tradition by hosting a traditional Iftar meal at his official residence in Jerusalem for Muslim leaders from Israeli society along with ambassadors to Israel from Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Kazakhstan and representatives of the IDF, Police and Prison Services, Israeli industrialists, academics, teachers and doctors.

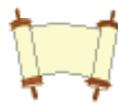
Blintzes for Shavuot at RCOS



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom celebrated Shavuot this year by having congregants make blintzes as part of the holiday observance. Dairy foods are a traditional part of the festival.

July ✨ Tammuz - Av

 Shabbat Candle Lightings

 Torah Portions

July 7
8:18 p.m.

July 8/Tammuz 14
Balak (Numbers 22:2 - 25:9)

July 14
8:15 p.m.

July 15/Tammuz 21
Pinchas (Numbers 25:10 - 30:1)

July 21
8:10 p.m.

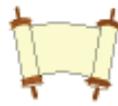
July 22/Tammuz 28
Matot-Massei (Numbers 30:2 - 36:13)

July 28
8:04 p.m.

July 29/Av 6
Devarim (Deuteronomy 1:1 - 3:22)

August ✨ Av - Elul

 Shabbat Candle Lightings

 Torah Portions

August 4
7:57 p.m.

August 5/Av 13
Va'etchanan (Deuteronomy 3:23 - 7:11)

August 11
7:48 p.m.

August 12/Av 20
Eikev (Deuteronomy 7:12 - 11:25)

August 18
7:38 p.m.

August 19/Av 27
Re'eh (Deuteronomy 11:26 - 16:17)

August 25
7:28 p.m.

August 26/Elul 4
Shofrim (Deuteronomy 16:18 - 21:9)

**JOIN THE FUN
AT A SPECIAL SUMMER
TOT SHABBAT BBQ**

**SUNDAY, AUG. 27TH
AT 11:00 AM**

at the home of
**Jennifer &
Joseph Woodward
8 Hummingbird Rd.
Wyomissing**



**Our monthly Tot Shabbat services
will resume at the Temple on Saturday,
September 16th at 10:00 am.**

All Around the Town

Congratulations to **Evan Cardinal, son of Adrienne and Jeffrey Cardinal** for being recognized in two subjects in the *Reading Eagle's* Berks Best section celebrating the top graduating seniors of 2017. Evan was the winner in social studies and a nominee in mathematics.

Congratulations to **Rob & Yvonne Oppenheimer** on becoming great-grandparents. Annie Megan Oppenheimer was born on July 1. Delighted parents

are Andrew Oppenheimer and Susan Kirby and grandparents are Richard and Elaine Oppenheimer.

Mazel tov to **Carole and Michael Robinson** on the marriage of their daughter Madelyn to Jakob Shipe of Hawthorne, NJ..

We love good news about members of our community! Please share it by emailing Marknem@aol.com.

Obituaries

Daniel Sherman, 91, of the Heritage of Green Hills. Daniel was born in Wilkes-Barre and raised in Kingston, he served in the Army during World War II. He was employed as a business manager for various companies until his retirement. Daniel is survived by his nieces and nephews and by his sister-in-law Sarah Sherman of New Jersey.

John H. Winston, 63, of Wyomissing. John graduated from Reading High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Albright College. He was Vice President of Marketing at Montgomery and Partners Advertising Agency prior to retiring. John is survived by his mother, June Winston, of Florida; his father and stepmother, Dr. Norman and Jeanne Winston of Florida; and his brother Greg Winston. He is also survived by his partner of 27 years James H. Connor.

Lorayn (Seifer) Fischman, 89, of Reading. Lorayn worked as a legal secretary and was a top-notch homemaker and a highly accomplished artist, working with watercolors, pastels and ceramics. After putting daughters through various stages of schooling, at the age of 35, she attended college at Montclair University. She finished magna cum laude with a degree in English literature. Lorayn is survived by her husband, Arthur, and three daughters: Ilene Fischman of Robesonia, Sheryl Cook Lawrence and her husband, David, of Shillington and Lisa Heflin and her husband Ronald of Maryland. Other survivors include a grandson, a great-grandson and sister-in-law Phyllis Fischman of Sinking Spring.

Maurice Greenfogel, 92, of Wyomissing. Maurice served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He enjoyed playing golf with his family and friends, especially his son and grandson. Maurice is survived by his wife, Claire; his daughter Vivian; and his son Stephen, and his wife, Enid. There are three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Barbara D. (Sussman) Anan Kogan, 69, of Wyomissing. Barbara earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Hartford University, studied journalism at Temple University and received her doctoral degree in Optometry from Southern College of Optometry. She was self-employed at her own optometric practice in Washington, D.C., and was a member of the American Medical Writers Association. She was a research writer and journalist. Barbara is survived by her sister Bonnie Sussman-Versace and brother-in-law Philip Vesace of Wyomissing.

Shirley Q. Blumberg, 92, of Maryland and formerly of Mount Penn. She was a member of Keshar Zion Synagogue. Shirley is survived by her children, J. William Blumberg of Maryland and Andrea Watkins and her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Sternlieb, of Wyomissing. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Sherbyn W. Ostrich, VMD, 79, of Robesonia. Sherbyn was a longtime veterinarian in Berks County and Lebanon County. He owned and operated Cacoosing Animal Hospital, Wernersville, the Animal Hospital of Lebanon and Eagles Peak Animal Clinic. He served as president of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association. Sherbyn is survived by his wife, Dianne, and his children: Sheryl and her husband, Karl Hanlon, of Colorado; Janelle and her husband, Thomas Jander of Colorado; Ann Marie and her husband, Todd, of Robesonia, and Michael Ostrich and his wife, Sarah, of Womelsdorf. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, his brother Albert, and his sisters Leah and Polly and their spouses.

William Marzano, 72, of Exeter Township, companion of Frieda Podolsky. Survivors include sons, Jason and Ian, two stepchildren and four grandchildren.



Shabbat B'yachad participating families were honored at the Jewish Federation of Reading annual meeting in June. From left are Michele Leisawitz, Jessica Leisawitz, Jennifer Gurwitz, Jennifer Woodward, Tracy Rossi and Jennifer Koosed.

Shabbat dinner program to continue in September

By **Amanda J. Hornberger**

"This is an amazing program that really helped bring young families together!" That is the description of the Shabbat B'yachad program from a participant in the program. Last year Shabbat B'yachad brought together 14 families with young children for bi-monthly Shabbat dinners in homes.

Thanks to a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Jewish Federation of Reading is able to continue to fund and support these Shabbat dinners next year. Our original four dinner groups will continue but next

year we are looking for families with school age children who would like to participate in the program to join us! We will be starting a new Shabbat dinner group with those families with children in school.

Interested in learning more about Shabbat B'yachad? Please contact Amanda Hornberger at amandah@jreading.org or 610-921-0624. Interested families can learn more about the program, its requirements (Only 1: participate in up to five FREE, Shabbat dinners from September-May) and the MANY benefits!

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763
 Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
KESHER ZION NOW LOCATED
AT 555 WARWICK DRIVE, WYOMISSING

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034
 Fridays, July 21 and 28 and Aug. 11, 18 and 25, 7:45 p.m.
 Friday, Aug. 4, 10 a.m.
 Saturday, Aug. 19: William Stein Bar 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

B'H

CHABAD BERKS COUNTY INVITES YOU TO

PRE HIGH HOLIDAY FAMILY COOKING

Men, women, children and families are invited to join us for our first cooking class of the new year. Try out different High Holiday traditional recipes.

- Honey Cake
- Apple Cake
- Trinnies
- Round Challah
- Caramel Candied Apples

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10, 2017 1.30-4.30PM

Chabad
 2320 Hampden Blvd
 Reading PA

\$15 per person
 \$50 max per family of 4
 RSVP is necessary to
 chabadofberks@gmail.com or 6103341577

Local congregation well-represented at camp



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom has an impressive contingent at the Union for Reform Judaism's Camp Harlam in Kunkletown, Pa. Here Rabbi Brian Michelson and Holly Michelson are joined by campers Chloe Carlin, Easton and Aspen Weizer, Dani and Rachel Radosh, Ari and Alexandra Levin, Ruby Nemeroff, Molly Nemirow and Talia Spillerman; and by camp staff members Alexa Chronister and Brandon Missan. Also in the photo are Rabbi Larry Malinge and members of Temple Shalom of Aberdeen, N.J. RCOS camp participants missing from photo are Ari Spillerman, Bryce Weizer and Eliana Alweis.

Israel Book Club: 'The Story of Hebrew' by Lewis Glinart

By Andi Franklin & Moisey Schneider

This book recounts the history and evolution of the Hebrew language and its miraculous longevity. It explores the extraordinary hold that Hebrew has had on Jews and Christians, who have invested it with a power beyond any other language.

It begins with the opening verses of Genesis. Some believe Hebrew is the primordial language with which the Eternal created the universe and that Adam himself spoke Hebrew. Some, during the Renaissance, saw Hebrew as the universal mother tongue, a perfect lingua humana that could resolve controversies and prevent wars. Answers to these questions are shrouded in the mists of time. Archaeologists have found hundreds of short inscriptions dating back to the 10th century BCE. The oldest biblical fragment is the Priestly Blessing.

Through the centuries, Hebrew served many purposes showing that it is a stunningly flexible language. It has been used for narrative, prophecy, law and romance, and later for science, medicine, journalism, politics, philosophy and always for everyday commerce and communication.

Hebrew was spoken in pre-exilic Israel (585 BCE). With the first exile, Aramaic surfaced as its first challenger. Hebrew and Aramaic were both spoken, as were many other languages. Aramaic was the lingua franca of the region; however, Hebrew alone survived into the common era. With the later, more enduring exile, Hebrew stopped being the spoken language of the Jews. The Maccabean uprising in 167 BCE produced a century of Jewish self-rule, a Hanukkah miracle, the expulsion of foreign armies, cultures and language, and a heroic narrative culture in Hebrew.

In the beginning years of the Common Era, the Rabbis chose Hebrew over Aramaic as the medium in which to preserve the Torah, Mishnah and Midrash. By doing so, they saved the language, and out of this preservation grew a great corpus of Hebrew literature.

As Jews fanned out across Arabia and Europe, Hebrew adapted by accumulating words, styles and functions of other cultures. In 902 Saadia Gaon, a Babylonian philosopher and linguist, had a sweeping vision of how Hebrew could be revived. "It is incumbent on us all and all of God's people, to study and explore Hebrew at all times — men, women and children." In 10th century Andalusia, Hebrew, with minor stylistic tweaks, lent itself to a golden age of poetry and linguistics. Shmuel Ha-Nagid was a Talmudist, grammarian and poet in that golden age fusing Hebrew's ability to be both secular and spiritual. Maimonides, following Saadia, became a giant of rabbinic exegesis and philosophical rationalism.

Later in the 12th and 13th centuries after expulsion and worse, Jews brought technical literacy and Hebrew from the Arabic Muslim Sephardic world to the European and Ashkenazic one with thousands of scientific and medical treatises. In 1518, Petrus Mosellanus, rector of Leipzig University, declared: "Hidden in the libraries of Jews lies a treasure of medical knowledge so great it seems incapable of being equaled by books of any other language." As time moved on, European theologians, jurists and political philosophers turned to Hebrew and its texts as a source of wisdom and justice. They used it to erase accretions of impure commentary in Christian scripture and as a source of legal and political principles for courts and kingdoms. Unfortunately, one of the primary goals of Christians to embrace Hebrew was the conversion of Jews.

In the early years of the United States, the Hebrew Bible took center stage. Settlers who built New England saw themselves as latter day Israelites brought to the Promised land. They met in meeting houses where, as in synagogues of old, knowledge of Hebrew was widely used. The first presidents of Harvard, Columbia and Yale were Hebrew scholars who emphasized the language and the values embedded in it.

In 1780 two books appeared, one

in Berlin and one in the tiny Ukrainian village of Koretz, that changed the future of the Hebrew language. The first was a new translation of the Torah, called the Biur, having the Hebrew side-by-side with modern German and thereby establishing Hebrew in its rightful place as the Jewish classical language. The second was the first work of Chasidic thought, and it was in Hebrew, not in Yiddish. This work fundamentally altered the Jewish philosophy of language. It taught that, just as divine sparks of holiness permeate everyday life, so too the sparks of the Holy Tongue permeate everyday language.

In the late 19th century, a European Hebrew revival started after Russian anti-Semitic pogroms occurred. The national-political revival, Tehiyah, was a revolt against both assimilation and traditional religiosity. Tehiyah had a significant influence on Eliezer Ben Yehuda, who decided that survival of the language and its people were inextricably linked. The Ben Yehuda family left Russia and sailed to what was then Palestine with the goal of reinvigorating Hebrew as a spoken language. His son was the first child in

almost 2,000 years to become a native Hebrew speaker. Hebrew became the official language of Zionism only after stiff challenges from German and Yiddish advocates.

Thousands of Russian Jews practiced Hebrew in anticipation of making Aliyah. Hebrew speaking clubs sprang up across Russia and the American Jewish intelligentsia spoke, wrote and went to Hebrew-only camps.

No country has ever attempted such a grand linguistic resurrection, let alone an impoverished country fighting a protracted war of survival against a ring of foes. But in Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, the State of Israel and the Hebrew language had an extraordinary leader. Hebrew perfectly suits a nation of poets, sages, farmers, soldiers and start-up technology whizzes.

To read the story of Hebrew and its miraculous longevity is to read the story of the Jewish people and our miraculous longevity.

Please join us at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24 at the home of Andi and Bill Franklin to discuss Dore Gold's "The Fight for Jerusalem."

SAVE the DATE

Federation's Leadership Dinner

Sunday, October 15th

4:30 pm Reception

7:00 pm Community Presentation

Israel, America, and the Middle East

with

Tamara Cofman Wittes, Brookings Senior Fellow



Israel is losing support among minorities, millennials

By **Byben Sales**

What do you think of when you think of Italy?

Maybe you picture beautiful works of art set against rolling Tuscan hills. Maybe a steaming plate of spaghetti topped with rich marinara sauce, served with a deep red wine. Now what do you think of when you think of Israel? If you're like most Americans, you picture walls of concrete enclosing an austere and strict country. The men wear black hats, the women long skirts. Everyone looks pretty serious.

That's what Brand Israel Group, a group of former advertising professionals who set out to sell Israel to Americans, found in a series of focus groups beginning in 2005. The group has since commissioned two surveys of the American public — in 2010 and 2016 — and didn't like what it found.

According to the surveys, Israel has pretty broad backing among American citizens but is losing support among a range of growing demographics. As pro-Israel advocates tout "shared values" between the United States and Israel, fewer and fewer Americans actually think they believe the same things as Israelis.

"Shared values are the bedrock of our relationship, and young Americans do not believe Israel shares our values," said Fern Oppenheim, one of the group's co-founders. "That's a huge issue. We have to have a narrative about the heart and soul and humanity of the Israelis."

The survey was conducted online in September and October 2016 by the polling firm Global Strategy Group, and sampled 2,600 Americans among a range of demographic groups.

Knowledge of Israel has gone up — but favorability is down

More people say they know about Israel now than they did in 2010. While only 23 percent of Americans said they know at least a fair amount about Israel in 2010, the number rose to 37 percent in 2016. Knowledge of Israel grew among every demographic group except college students, where it fell precipitously — from 50 percent to just 34 percent, a number on par with the national average.

But it appears that the more Americans learn about Israel, the less they like it. In 2010, 76 percent of Americans viewed Israel favorably. In 2016, the number had fallen to 62 percent. Levels of support have dropped as well. In 2010, the study found that 22 percent of Americans were "core" supporters of Israel, which dropped to 15 percent by 2016.

Israel is losing out among a range of growing demographics — from Latinos to millennials.

The groups with relatively high levels of favorability toward Israel, according to the study, included men, Republicans and older Americans. The groups that like Israel less are the mirror image: women, Democrats and millennials, along with African-Americans and Latinos. And those

population groups are all growing.

A majority of all of these groups still sees Israel favorably, but the numbers are falling. Favorability among Democrats dropped 13 points, from 73 percent to 60 percent. Among women, it dropped from 74 percent to 57 percent.

Among African-Americans and Latinos, favorability toward Israel fell 20 points each, from about three-quarters each to just over half. Fewer than half of African Americans and Latinos believe "Israel shares my values."

The results among college students may surprise people. Colleges are hotbeds of anti-Israel fervor, right? Not so much. The study found declining results for Israel among college students, but a majority still view Israel favorably. Moreover, contrary to what some advocacy groups might say, most college students hardly encounter the Israel debate at all.

Favorability toward Israel fell 17 points among college students between 2010 and last year, but still stands at 54 percent. Nearly all Jewish college students used to view Israel favorably, but even after a 13-point drop, the favorability stat still stands at 82 percent.

Still, Oppenheim noted a shifting picture among Jewish college kids. While 84 percent of Jewish college students leaned toward the Israeli side of the conflict in 2010, only 57 percent do now. Support for the Palestinian side, meanwhile, grew six fold, from 2 percent

to 13 percent.

Notably, nearly a third of Jewish college students said they experience antisemitism on campus. Of those, more than 40 percent said the antisemitism wasn't connected to Israel.

But what college students can agree on most regarding Israel is that they barely hear about it. More than three-quarters of college kids said Israel rarely or never comes up. On college campuses with an organized pro-Palestinian presence, the number drops only slightly, to 70 percent.

Americans see Israel as ultra-religious and war-torn

Israel has spent years and millions of dollars trying to portray itself as the place where "Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot invented the cherry tomato on the beach using Waze. Or something like that.

Israel's touting of its tech industry, warm climate and Mediterranean food may have worked a bit on Americans, who view Israel as innovative (78 percent) and cool (63 percent). But around three-quarters of Americans still see Israel as dominated by conflict. And though only 10 percent of Israeli Jews are haredi Orthodox, 73 percent of Americans view Israel as ultra-religious.

So, while American Jewish leaders have protested this week that a small haredi minority dominates Israel, that minority, for many Americans, is the image of the Jewish state.

Therapy developed in Israel could prevent heart failure

Innovative nano-polymer developed in Israel reduces cardiovascular inflammation and plaque, and improves the heart muscle.

Arteries are lined by a thin layer of cells, the endothelium, which keep them toned and smooth and maintains blood flow. Atherosclerosis begins with damage to the endothelium, typically caused by high blood pressure, smoking or high cholesterol.

When endothelial cells become inflamed, they produce a molecule called E-selectin, which brings white blood cells (monocytes) to the area. That leads to dangerous plaque buildup in the arteries.

At present, there are several available treatment options for atherosclerosis, but no therapy can reverse arterial damage and improve the heart muscle.

An innovative nano-polymer made in Israel shows promise in actually reducing arterial damage and improving the heart muscle.

"The new polymeric therapy may have life-changing benefits for millions of people."

This E-selectin-targeting polymer selectively repairs damaged tissue without harming healthy tissue, so it has no side effects — unlike statins, which are currently the leading medication used for treating atherosclerosis.

"Our E-selectin-targeting polymer reduces existing plaque and prevents further plaque progression and inflammation, preventing arterial thrombosis, ischemia, myocardial infarction and stroke," says Prof. Ayelet David of the Ben-Gurion University (BGU) department of clinical biochemistry and

pharmacology.

Patented and in preclinical stage, the new polymer has been tested on mice with positive results.

In a study soon to be published, David and fellow researchers describe how they treated atherosclerotic mice with four injections of the new biomedical polymer and tested the change in their arteries after four weeks.

"We were stunned by the results," said Dr. Jonathan Leor, director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at Sheba Medical Center and professor of cardiology at Tel Aviv University, who collaborated with David on this research study.

"The myocardial function of the treated mice was greatly improved, there was less inflammation and a significant decrease in the thickness of the arteries,"

said Leor.

David and Leor suggest that this polymer-based therapy may also be helpful to people with diabetes, hypertension and other age-related conditions.

"As such, the new polymeric therapy may have life-changing benefits for millions of people," they stated.

"We are now seeking a pharmaceutical company to bring our polymer therapy through the next stages of drug development and ultimately to market," said Ora Horovitz, senior vice president of business development at BGN Technologies (BGN), BGU's technology and commercialization company.

"We believe that this therapy has the potential to help a great number of people," said Horovitz.

Study busts myths about lives of Levant 'cavemen'

Research shows that Neanderthals in Northern Israel were a resilient population before modern humans arrived from Africa 60,000 years ago.

A joint study conducted by an international team led by Israeli researchers may prove that Neanderthals in the Levant were not exclusively cave dwellers, as was previously believed to be the case.

According to the study, published Wednesday in the journal *Scientific Reports*, Neanderthals constituted a resilient population that survived successfully in caves and open landscapes 60,000 years ago, before modern humans reached the region.

The researchers, who excavated an open-air site of Ein Qashish, on the banks of the Qishon stream in Northern Israel, determined that Neanderthals, known in folklore as "cavemen," conducted much of their activities in the open landscape.

The study focused on an analysis of two pairs of the first Neanderthal skeletal remains found outside caves

in the Levant. The remains were dated to the late Middle Paleolithic period, between 70,000 and 60,000 years ago by Dr. Naomi Porat, from the Geological Survey of Israel.

The first specimen is represented by a single upper-molar tooth, and was studied by Dr. Stefano Benazzi and colleagues from the University of Ravenna in Italy and the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig.

"This tooth is attributed to a Neanderthal using advanced imaging and statistical techniques," said Benazzi.

"The other individual, studied by Dr. Ella Been, in collaboration with researchers from Bar-Ilan and Tel Aviv Universities, is represented by lower limbs of a young Neanderthal, 15-22 years in age, who suffered from injuries that caused limping. This individual was found within a rich archaeological level containing flint tools, animal bones, and some unusual finds for this period, such as a marine shell, pigments, and an

antler of a deer."

The fate of Neanderthals and the nature of their interactions with modern humans are among the focal questions in the research of the Middle Paleolithic period, which lasted ca. 200,000 years. The Near East is the only region known today where the two populations co-existed during that time.

"The finds from Ein Qashish allow, for the first time in the history of research in this region, to tie material culture remains in an open-air site with the Neanderthals, known until now only from cave sites," said Hovers.

"The current study indicates that Neanderthals repeatedly visited the site of Ein Qashish, and that the settlement system of Neanderthal groups included both caves and open-air sites."

Fieldwork at the site, and subsequent research on the finds, were conducted by researchers and students from the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Haifa.

A number of researchers have recently postulated that Neanderthals adapted to life in rugged mountainous terrains, whereas modern humans adapted better to flat and open landscapes. However, the findings from Ein Qashish prove that Neanderthals inhabited sites in diverse topographic and ecological contexts.

Another contentious topic concerns the causes for the disappearance of the Neanderthals. One of the most widely-accepted explanations offered was that it was difficult for Neanderthal groups in the Levant to cope with the environmental outcomes of a trend of an increasingly drying climate that was characteristic of the time period. "The unique find from Ein Qashish indicates that Neanderthal groups repeatedly returned to the open-air sites during this time," said Barzilai. "Our study suggests that Neanderthals were a resilient population that successfully existed in the north of Israel at the time that modern humans arrived from Africa some 60,000 years ago."

Israel rushes aid to Sri Lanka as floods displace tens of thousands

Israel has delivered emergency supplies to Sri Lankan authorities as they struggle to cope with the impact of floods and mudslides that have killed nearly 200 people and displaced more than 80,000 from their homes in recent days.

Mudslides have become common during Sri Lanka's summer monsoon season as forests across the tropical Indian Ocean island nation have been cleared for export crops such as tea and rubber. Another massive landslide a year ago killed more than 100 people in central Sri Lanka.

As many as 99 people were missing, according to Sri Lanka's Disaster Management Center, and the death toll was expected to rise as authorities try to rescue those still stranded.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution (JDC) is providing emergency aid to victims of the devastating flooding and

mudslides that killed hundreds of people and displacing hundreds of thousands more in Sri Lanka this week. This is the worst natural disaster to hit the island nation since the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami.

JDC deployed a first-responder unit to provide food, water and other emergency aid in Sri Lanka's five hardest-hit districts, including Galle and Kalutara on the coast.

"We mourn the loss of life in Sri Lanka and are working to ensure that desperately needed assistance is delivered to survivors who have lost so much in this disaster," JDC CEO David M. Schizer said.

The Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot was celebrated around the time the flood took place. During the holiday Jews commemorate receiving the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai.



Referencing the holiday, Schizer said: "We honor our tradition and its value for human life by joining with our Sri Lankan partners to save lives and carry forward a shared commitment to compassion in

the face of adversity."

JDC's disaster-relief programs are funded by special appeals of the Jewish Federations of North America and tens of thousands of individual donors.

If Palestinians and Israelis can cooperate on the environment ...

Investing in peace and the environment makes sense. Palestine and Israel are on the same side of the Paris Accord. In a world of scarce resources that is hotter and dryer than ever before, the lack of water for people and nations will be a constant cause for further conflict. The Middle East, especially the land lived in by the peoples of Jordan, Israel and Palestine — and now more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees — is small — smaller than the state of New York.

If one nation pollutes, they all experience repercussions — if wastewater is dumped in the Mediterranean, it washes up on the others' beaches; if water is not available for domestic and agricultural use it will disrupt the lives of their peoples. Much of the land is already a desert, some even hyper-arid — receiving less than 1 inch of rain a year. Little grows and what does requires intelligent conservation and sophisticated reuse of water. Sunlight and thus solar power is plentiful for those with the land and know-how

to capture it. Rivers and aquifers are shared. There is no escaping the fact that nature knows no borders.

Palestinians, Jordanians and Israelis are working together on cross-boundary solutions to environmental problems. Surprised? Well, you might be. The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies — located in the south of Israel, largely housed on one of the few remaining traditional kibbutz communities, has been working to educate young leaders from all three of these societies and build trust for 20 years. This has led to cooperative research and development in renewable energy, water conservation, as well as wastewater treatment and reuse and sustainable agricultural innovation.

How can a small Institute in the middle of nowhere accomplish this? As Margaret Mead famously said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." In fact, the Arava Institute, from its inception was committed

to educating and working beyond borders. At the Arava Institute students — Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis and citizens of the world, largely North Americans — are actively trained to respect each other by learning about environmental challenges together and by intensive peace-building leadership seminars. These students are increasingly in positions to make a cooperative future possible.

The Arava Institute is moving forward to build political solutions to the region's environmental problems. Last fall representatives from Jordan, Israel and Palestinian entities (some the Institute's own alumni) came together to look at the issues. Today those partners are in working groups, focusing on viable cross-border solutions. The environment cannot wait for a peace accord that seems intractable or for environmental accords that all three of these parties are signers of the Paris Accord, even if the United States has withdrawn its support.

Why should we care about the

resources of Israel's neighbors? Beyond Israel's self-interest in clean beaches and aquifers, Israel as a leader in water reuse and conservation, as well as desalinization, and knows that stable neighbors are an essential element in securing peace; and water and accessible energy are essential for economic, social and political stability. Climate change will have a major impact on an already water-scarce region. Only through cross-border cooperation will the region be able to adapt peacefully to higher temperatures, less rainfall, biodiversity loss and the shift in climate zones.

Looking for solutions, as partners on environmental issues, is part of the way forward. If the Arava Institute can make progress then hopefully so can our governments and leaders. We must look forward to building a more peaceful, sustainable and healthy future that will allow for the region to teach about the possibilities of peace and the importance of environmental cooperation today and for our future.

Wearable radar can help doctors track heart attack signs online

Ohio State medical researchers are conducting a clinical trial with patients wearing a web-enabled vest that also features radar technology that was first used by the military and rescue teams in Israel to see through walls and rubble in collapsed buildings.

Wearable radar technology originally developed for the Israeli military is now being tested by doctors at Ohio State to better detect signs of patient heart failure at home.

Until now, cardiologists haven't had a simple way to proactively monitor patients at home for fluid changes in the lung, a possible sign of congestive heart failure. The standard has been to rely on patients weighing themselves daily and reporting symptoms such as swelling or shortness of breath. By then, it could be serious enough to require treatment in the hospital, says Dr. William Abraham, director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center.

"With heart failure, the heart isn't strong enough to keep up with the body's needs and fluid stays in the lungs and too much fluid makes it hard to breathe," Abraham says. "We've learned

these methods don't catch the disease progression early enough, and that's why hospitalization and re-hospitalization rates for heart failure have changed very little in the last 20 to 30 years."

Ohio State medical researchers are conducting a clinical trial with patients wearing a web-enabled vest that also features radar technology that was first used by the military and rescue teams in Israel to see through walls and rubble in collapsed buildings.

The results are promising, with an 87 percent reduction in heart failure hospitalizations when using vest lung fluid monitoring. The vest measures fluid inside the lungs from outside a person's clothing and could be a new way to prevent repeated trips to the hospital for the nearly six million patients living with heart failure in the U.S., Abrahams says.

The vest, created by Israeli medical wearables developer Sensible Medical, allows radar to go through the chest wall via the vest and obtains an accurate measurement of water inside the lungs. The results are then uploaded by a web-enabled monitor connected to the vest and delivered to the patient's

electronic medical record.

Ohio State researchers launched a small pilot in 2015 with the five-year old wearable radar technology and now Wexner is expanding the trial nationally at about 40 other healthcare locations. "We can use that data to see when the lungs are trending towards being too wet and make adjustments to the medication on an outpatient basis or over the phone," says Dr. Rami Kahwash, director of the Wexner Heart and Vascular Research Organization. "The goal is to keep the patient within a normal range, feeling well and out of the hospital."

Patients in the clinical trial wear the vest over their clothes and use the lung fluid monitor at home to take daily readings that each last about 90 seconds. The data from each reading is uploaded online to the patient's electronic health record where the results are reviewed by a cardiologist or nurse.

The results are promising, with an 87% reduction in heart failure hospitalizations when using vest lung fluid monitoring, Wexner says.

The vest has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for personal purposes but has not

yet been endorsed by the FDA for more widespread use in a medical practice until the clinical trials are done and practice guidelines have been developed, Kahwash says.

Researchers didn't say what a wearable and radar-enhanced patient vent costs but did note "the cost of the vest will be comparable to current devices used in remote hemodynamic monitoring, with the advantage that the vest is reusable and does not require an implant procedure which will reduce the overall cost."

It's also unclear if the cost of the vest will be covered by health insurance. But going forward Ohio State medical researchers do say the remote patient monitoring and wearable vest technology does have potential to help better monitor other types of chronic conditions for patients at home.

"Within health care, the vest is currently being investigated in the remote management of patients with heart failures in the outpatient setting," Kahwash says. "Its use may potentially expand to assist in appropriate triaging of patients who come to the emergency room with shortness of breath and in guiding inpatient heart failure therapies."

Jewish Family Service

United
Way



Birthday milestone: Edith Mendelsohn

By Sari Incledon and Carole Robinson

Congratulations to Edith Mendelsohn for reaching a momentous birthday. Happy 100th birthday, Edith!

Edith Katsoff was born in Philadelphia on July 22, 1917. Her mother came from a town in Russia that no longer exists. Her father was born in Philadelphia. He was a self-educated typist and invented his own shorthand. She had one brother, Raymond Solomon



Greenberg. As a girl, she enjoyed sewing clothes for her dolls. She remembers impressing her family as a second-grader reciting "The Night Before Christmas" in its entirety. Edith graduated from high school in 1935 and met her future husband Milton Mendelsohn soon afterwards. Milt was a senior at Temple University, and Edith was dating a fraternity brother who suggested they visit Milt, who was sick in bed. Her girlfriend told her, "You'll hear from that guy. He took one look at you and fell helplessly in love." It took a little time because the fellows wouldn't give Milt her phone number right away because they thought he was too old for her.

Edith and Milton got married in 1939 and moved to Reading for Milt's work. Milt called Edith

"Katsy," derived from her maiden name. Milt grew up in Reading and had a very large extended family here, the Mendelsohns and the Daniels. Edith enjoyed becoming part of this family and spending time with them. She and Milt were regular attendees at the Reading Symphony. Milt was a violinist and they both enjoyed classical music. Their first home was at 301 S. Fifth St., and rent was \$33 a month.

Edith and Milt had two children, Susan and Jimmy, and raised their family in Pennside. Edith was proud that Susan and Jimmy both graduated with honors from college. Susan was a dancer, and her husband was a scientist at Fermilab in Illinois. Edith and Milt loved when their granddaughters Beth and Judith, Susan's kids, spent parts of the summer in Reading and went to day camp at the JCC. Judith lives in Philadelphia and is the executive director of the Philadelphia Sinfonia, a youth orchestra. Beth is working on a Master's degree in Wyoming. Edith's son Jimmy was a lawyer and argued a case before the Supreme Court. His wife, Susan was a professor of medicine at the University of Alabama. Edith always loved when her grandson Daniel, Jimmy's son, visited and became Edith's bridge partner. Daniel now lives in Boston, works for Google, and is engaged. Sadly, both Susan and Jimmy died of cancer, and Edith also recently lost her son's wife, Susan, a few



Edith Mendelsohn with her granddaughter Judith

months ago in a car accident.

Edith's three grandchildren are very dear to her, and she cherishes her relationships with them. Fortunately, Judith lives nearby and is able to visit frequently. Edith also has an especially close relationship with her nephew Steve and his wife Pamela.

Milt worked for the post office his entire life. Edith's favorite job was in the investment department of American Bank. That is where she became an expert on investment. Edith and Milt retired to Cambridge Commons in Wyomissing. Then they moved to the Manor at Market Square in Reading, where they were among the first residents. Edith still resides there.

Edith and Milt, longtime members of Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom, were both avid

bridge players, and Milt ran bridge at the JCC for many years. Edith's favorite pursuit as a grown-up was duplicate bridge. The couple also volunteered for Meals on Wheels and Edith enjoyed delivering meals to the homebound clients. Edith doesn't read much anymore because she has a hard time seeing, but she watches TV, goes on the computer, and is an accomplished knitter. Her computer teacher Mike has become one of her best friends.

Edith recalls that 30 was her worst birthday. "It sounded very old to me."

This month she'll enjoy spending her 100th birthday with many close friends and family members. She has led a happy life, and her advice to others is to take good care of your health.

Tom Vollmer and Friends

Thursday, August 3, 1:45 pm at the JCC



Enjoy a musical afternoon with Tom Vollmer, Berks County's best known pedal steel guitarist. Tom is joined by Haley Sheeler, guitar and vocals, and by Mitch Wolfe, keyboards and vocals. New and used country tunes and Big Band.

1:00 Optional lunch \$7. Reservations required (610-921-0624)

Program sponsored by the Jacob Krumholz Fund.

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 July 7

Lakin Holocaust Resource Center

In memory of
Lee Hammel – Rosalye Yashek

Jewish Family Service

In honor of
Rebecca Balchunas' college graduation – Driben Family
Scott Goldberg's college graduation – Driben Family
Naomi Michelson's college graduation – Driben Family
Eric Waxler's college graduation – Driben Family
Birth of Edith Blanck's great-granddaughter – Marcia and George Eligman
Birth of Yvonne and Rob Oppenheimer's great-granddaughter Annie Megan – Berna and Karen Sherman

In memory of:
Lorayn Fischman – Gordon and Carol Perlmutter
Lee Hammel – Andy and Corinne Wernick, Sid and Esther Bratt, Helene and Henry Singer, Gordon and Carol Perlmutter
Our beloved Archie – Berna Sherman and Family

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:
Marriage of Dr. C. Harold Cohn's granddaughter – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer
Marriage of Paul and Jo Cohn's daughter – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer
Bar Mitzvah of Will Levin – Debbie and David Goldberg
Birth of Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer's great-granddaughter Annie Megan – Tammy and Jeff Mitgang

In memory of:
Lorayn Fischman – Dr. C. Harold Cohn and Rebecca Chick
Lee Hammel – Cheryl and Eric Farber, Elaine Safir, Barbara Nazimov, Manny and Yvonne Wittels, Hilde Gernsheimer, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Lisa and Ellis Block, Sue and Herb Wachs, Anzie and Edward Golden
Barbara Kogan (Bonnie Sussman Versace's sister) – Dena and Vic Hammel
Shirley Blumberg – Cheryl and Eric Farber

JFS Food Pantry

In memory of:
Lee Hammel – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

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

Yemin Orde

In memory of:
Vic Hammel's birthday – Ernestine Urken

JFS Taxi Transportation Program

In memory of:
Shirley Blumberg – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer

Doris Levin Memorial Fund

In honor of:
Marriage of Madelyn Robinson – Ethel Engel, Sy Youngerman
Marriage of Andrew Robinson – Ethel Engel, Sy Youngerman

In memory of:
Joe Rozecki – Carole and Michael Robinson, Bob & Deb Levin, Stephanie & Dennis Arbige

Jewish Cultural Center

In memory of:
Victor Jacobs – Diana and Anton Kleiner

Harry & Rose Sack Fund (Adult Programming)

In honor of:
Edith Mendelsohn's special birthday – Albert and Nancy Sack

Get well/speedy recovery:

Grace Cherson – Albert and Nancy Sack
Elliott Leisawitz – Albert and Nancy Sack

Sue B. Viener Memorial Fund (PJ Library)

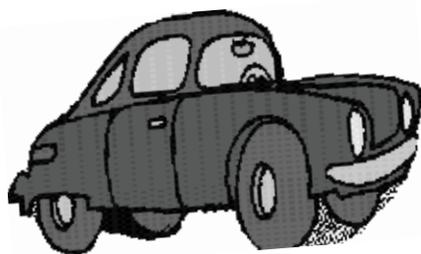
In honor of:
Radene Gordon-Beck's special birthday – Sue and Herb Wachs

Friendship Circle

In honor of:
Sy Youngerman's special birthday – Ethel Engel

In honor of:
Shirley Krieger – Carol and Bernie Gerber, Glenn and Gaye Corbin

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



Call Sari at 610-921-0624,
e-mail sari@jfreading.org
or go to
www.charitableautoresources.com

Jewish Family Service Food Pantry Collection



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

We also need plastic and paper grocery bags!

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



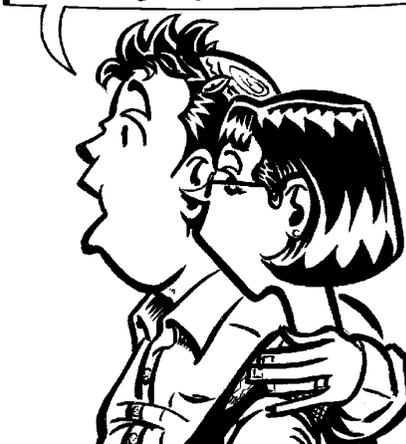
GAL GADOT IS AMAZING. SHE'S AN ISRAELI SOLDIER, A MOVIE STAR AND A MOM. SHE TRULY IS WONDER WOMAN.



I CAN RELATE. YOU CAN? SURE!



ANY WOMAN WHO STAYS MARRIED TO ME IS A WONDER WOMAN.



YOU'RE RIGHT! WHAT AM I DOING WITH YOU?

...AND I COULDN'T FEEL LUCKIER.

NICE SAVE.

