



SHALOM



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TISHRI-CHESHVAN 5775



Exhibit features artwork of Jill Skaist

Page 2

Many reasons why it's cool to be a Jew

Page 3

IDF soldier looks back on summer wartime experience

Page 5

New rabbi leading Keshet Zion Synagogue

Page 7

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE: Fighting poverty in our community

Page 14



2014 totals as of Sept. 16

Jewish Community Campaign \$435,659

***Includes transfers from Donor Advised Funds**

2015 Jewish Community Campaign to kick off Oct. 29

Susan Jackson, an internationally recognized Jewish speaker, will present a discussion on "Jewish Values and Leadership — From Strengths to Needs" as the keynote speaker for the Leadership Gifts Dinner, the kickoff event of the 2015 Jewish Community Campaign.

Describing her presentation as a "dialogue", Susan will discuss Jewish core values and how we put them into action in our lives.

Susan works with organizations throughout North America to help Jews connect with their roots, increase engagement in the Jewish community and make Israel central to their lives and their children's.

Additionally, she provides support in creating programs to develop Jewish

leadership at all levels and within a Jewish context. She is also Director of Women's Philanthropy for the UJA Federation in Toronto, Canada.

The Campaign will be ably Co-Chaired by Haia and Meir Mazuz (see below).

The event will be held Oct. 29 in the Social Hall at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in celebration of RCOS' 150th anniversary.

It will include a dinner provided by Boscov's A-La-Carte Catering and remarks by William Franklin, the Federation's new President.

Requested gift level for the event is \$1,200 per person, 40+ years of age and \$600+ per person, under 40.

Anyone wishing to attend can contact Bill Franklin, Paul Landry or Brenda Seidel at the Federation. Tel: 610-921-0624.



Susan Jackson

Haia and Meir Mazuz to lead Campaign

Haia and Meir Mazuz, longtime leaders of the Berks County Jewish community, have agreed to co-chair the community's 2015 Jewish Community Campaign. In agreeing to head the campaign they expressed excitement at this opportunity to contribute to the Campaign and the Federation's program development in positive ways.

"The Campaign slogan will be 'One People-One Heart,'" said Haia, "and campaign activities will be designed not only to raise

money, but also to strengthen the connections between members of the local Jewish community, Israel and Jews worldwide."

"In addition", she continued, "we are going to work very hard at showing how the Federation's various programs align with some basic Jewish values such as 'tzedakah' and 'tikkun olam'. Because a gift to the Federation is a gift in keeping with those values".

Haia and Meir bring a great deal of experience and knowledge to their roles,

having been actively involved in the life of the community, Jewish and non-Jewish, for many years. "Many local organizations have benefitted from their participation over the years," said William Franklin, President of the Federation. "They have been associated with us for many years, and we are thrilled that they are willing to provide leadership in this important effort".

The Campaign will kick off Wednesday, Oct. 29, with the Leadership Gifts Dinner.

'Stop the Sirens' campaign exceeds goal — \$22,000 and counting!

The Federation's effort for the "Stop the Sirens" campaign of the Jewish Federations of North America has blown past its \$17,000 goal, having reached more than \$22,000 as of mid-September. And gifts continue to be received.

The larger North American campaign has also exceeded its goal of \$36 million. All proceeds from the campaign will go directly to Israel without any administrative costs taken by any of the Federations.

The money will be used in Israel to provide humanitarian support for Israelis who were affected by the summer of violence as Hamas rockets rained down on Israel.

JFNA is working to meet short, medium and long-term needs.

For starters, the money is being used to deal with the immediate needs of those directly impacted by the conflict. During the conflict respite care was offered for children in the areas most often affected by missile attacks. The Jewish Agency for Israel ran programs, funded by the campaign, for 15,000 Israeli children each day. The programs took them

to camps in quieter areas where they could receive counselling, play and just be children for the day.

Since the cease-fire took hold late this summer, Federation support has been focused on four main areas:

- Trauma support and psychological counseling

- Restoring hope, optimism and sense of normalcy to the communities most severely affected

- Providing respite for first-line responders

- Economic recovery.

As the new Jewish year begins, funds will continue to support relief efforts in the South while expanding the purview of assistance to other areas of the country. The following areas will be addressed:

- Ongoing trauma support

- Community resilience

- Training for first-line responders

- Emergency preparedness at the communal and organizational levels.

In addition to these four main areas, JFNA will continue to support the Fund

for the Victims of Terror and will work closely with anchor institutions to ensure key infrastructure is bolstered, including hospitals and institutions of higher education. Funds will be allocated for an evaluation of JFNA's emergency response, the outcomes of which will be instrumental in reacting to future emergency activities.

Looking toward the future, the following issues related to this summer's conflict will require attention from Israel and its supporters.

- Tunnel threat on Gaza border.

- Longer range, higher volume of Hamas rockets

- Psychological damage.

- Fears of an existential threat.

- Impact on tourism, economy.

- Fissures in Israeli society.

- Building on national unity.

- Global anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment.

- Lone soldiers (foreign nationals who volunteer for the IDF) and their needs.

- Improvements in preparedness in Israel's south and beyond.

Jill Skaist exhibit opens at JCC Art Gallery

On Sept. 10 artist Jill Skaist opened an exhibit of her works titled "New and Past Work: 1970 to 2014." The opening reception was attended by more than 40 friends, family and community members.

The exhibit will run until Oct. 30 and can be seen during the Center's business hours. Mondays through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Jill Skaist, center, and friends at the Sept. 10 opening of her art exhibit at the Jewish Cultural Center.



Reception guests enjoy the art,

PJ Library Event: Children and the Shofar

The JCC hosted its first PJ Library event of the year Sept. 21. The doors opened and kids and parents entered for an afternoon of PJ Library book readings, crafts and snacks.

Thank you to our guest reader Dorie Karp for her expert reading of "Apple

Days: A Rosh Hashanah Story." The next book, "Happy Birthday World," was followed by Paul Schwartz blowing the shofar. Thank you Paul for initiating our children to the sounds of the shofar.

Next it was onto the crafts, dipping apples in paint and creating a New Year's

card for grandparents was fun for all. The sound of shofars created by children and parents filled the room.

Each child took home a balloon and each parent left with a sense of Jewish community.

The next PJ Library events are

Saturday, Oct. 18, in conjunction with Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom's Tot Shabbat and Sunday, Nov. 16 at Keshet Zion Synagogue.

Please join us for lots of fun. To learn more, contact Jayne @ JFReading .org or 610-921-0624.



Jacob helps his daughter Gabrielle create a Rosh Hashanah card.



Rose, Dad Jesse, Mom Jessica, Mom Sheina with Seth, Dad Paul, Mom Brenna, Grandma Toby with David enjoy the PJ Library book "Apple Days."



Max and Sam listen intently to special guest reader Dorie Karp



Max, Tracy and Sam wait for Paul Schwartz to blow the Shofar.

From the President's Desk

Join us this year and make a difference in community

By William D. Franklin
President

Shalom! This is a time of possibility. Judaism asserts that every soul comes into this world charged with a unique, positive purpose. During the High Holidays we are reminded that we all can and should make a difference in our world. Unfortunately, the need for assistance continues to grow—be it our Reading Jewish community, our non-Jewish neighbors, or our friends and



relatives in Europe, Israel and throughout the world.

Chesed (kindness), *tzedech* (social justice), and *tzedakah* (righteous giving) are ancient and precious Jewish values. Our Jewish Family Service supports the needs of our seniors and disadvantaged.

Programming Services delivers activities for the entire spectrum of the Reading Jewish community. A Youth Council is being formed to expand community educational events for our teens and facilitate collaboration between BBYO and NYFTY. Our Gratz high school program's enrollment is up over last year, and Reading has the highest

percentage retention rate. Our JCRC efforts serve to educate and unify the Reading community, both Jewish and non-Jewish, about issues and events affecting Israel and people throughout our country and the world.

Working with our committed and knowledgeable staff, I continue to be excited about the opportunities to actualize a vibrant, healthy Jewish community with greater Jewish identity and stronger connections between Jews and non-Jews in Reading/Berks County. We can fill our community with learning, caring, and a commitment to social justice

that will attract and retain Reading Jewry and strengthen commitment to community that is central to Jews everywhere.

Please welcome the New Year by joining us in Tikkun Olam — repairing the world. Let's build upon the strength of our people and the power of our community to help bring our core values to life by linking hopes with funding needs. Together we can expand the impact of tzedakah and enable individuals and our community to achieve its goals.

Andi and I wish all of you l'Shana Tovah ve Metucha — a good and sweet year.

Why it's cool to be a Jew

By Larry Rotenberg
Chairman

Being Jewish is not just a matter of religion. Rather, we are an ethnic and cultural group whose contribution to civilization has been immense.



I am not talking about the clichéd counts of Nobel Prize winners, or this or that individual achievement.

What I do think is important, and of eternal value, are some basic concepts that are now taken for granted.

And here are some, by no means all inclusive (as the lawyers would say)

1. A day of rest: Until Shabbat was enshrined in the Decalogue, the notion of a day of rest was totally alien. And to include a day of rest for servants, slaves, and beasts of burden was considered positively seditious.

2. Monotheism: While the idea of one G-d is a religious concept, it also has vast

ethical implications. If there is one Deity, then all people are his children, and so much in the way of egalitarianism flows from that.

3. Court system: Early on, a multi-layered court system, which was to dispense equal justice for all originated in Biblical times.

4. Animal rights: The Talmud even commands us to feed our animals before we feed ourselves.

5. Monetary damages: We introduced the idea of paying for

damages with money, instead of one's life. Even today, some countries impose harsh physical punishments, such as amputation of limbs.

6. Public education: Mandatory schooling was instituted among Jews in the first century, CE.

And so, during this time of the High Holidays, we should remember that our inheritance from our ancestors is a valued treasure. And we must never forget that the whole, is truly more than the sum of its parts.

The easiest way

By Paul L. Landry

In last month's column I wrote about bequests and how easy they were to establish. They are a great way to create an estate gift to the Federation not just because they are easy to do but also because they are revocable. If your situation changes you can change or cancel it.



But there is an even easier way to arrange a planned gift that is

also easier to change or remove. That is the beneficiary designation. Whenever you establish certain kinds of financial arrangements — checking accounts/savings accounts/money market funds/CDs/insurance policies and others — you are asked to name a beneficiary for the money that is in the account. It's as simple as writing a name and Social Security number.

It's also a great way to make a planned gift to the Federation. You can name the Federation as the beneficiary, or as one of the

beneficiaries, for that account. Since you don't need a will, which usually requires an attorney, it's even easier than a bequest.

To change your beneficiary for an existing account, just contact the company and ask for a change form. They'll send it to you and after you fill it out you send it back. DONE.

It's really the easiest way to make a planned gift to support the important work the Federation does

every day. Please consider naming the Federation as the beneficiary, or partial beneficiary, on a new or existing account today!

If you would like to discuss the possibility of naming the Federation as the beneficiary of one of your financial arrangements, please contact me. All contacts are without obligation and completely confidential.

You can reach me at 610-921-0624 or at paul@jfreeding.org.

2014 Shalom Contributors

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

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Next deadline, Oct. 5

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The ABCs of BDS

The following information was excerpted from information provided by the *Israel Action Network*, a joint effort of the *Jewish Federations of North America* and the *Jewish Council for Public Affairs*.

What are BDS tactics?

• BDS refers to boycotts, divestments and sanctions that place economic and political pressure on states to influence their behavior.

• Jewish communities – along with many in the international community – have supported the use of these methods when appropriate, such as Apartheid-era South Africa in the 1980s and Iran today.

• Unfortunately these tactics have been co-opted by the BDS Movement, which propagates an extreme, inflammatory and biased political agenda designed to undermine the legitimacy of the State of Israel.

What is the BDS movement?

• The BDS movement is a global network of individuals and organizations that aim to isolate Israel politically, economically and culturally, with an overall objective of challenging Israel's right to exist as the sovereign homeland of the Jewish people, an effort often called delegitimization.

• The movement attempts to have its agenda adopted by institutions such as colleges, faith-based communities, labor unions, civil and human rights organizations and minority groups.

• While they claim they are interested in an equitable and peaceful solution to the conflict, their approach impedes a just outcome and offers a distorted, intolerant and one-sided picture of a complex situation.

• Often the BDS Movement attempts to co-opt well-meaning people who want to help the parties. But it offers a false choice of acting either in Israeli or Palestinian interests. The goal should be to act in both of their interests.

What are the movement's goals?

• Despite claiming to seek peace, the BDS Movement works unambiguously to undermine the “two states for two peoples” solution to the conflict.

• The BDS Movement calls for the return of Palestinian refugees to modern-day Israel, not a Palestinian state, which would eliminate Israel as we know it and replace it with an Arab-majority state in all of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

• Omar Barghouti, one of the founders of the movement stated: “Good riddance! The two-state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is finally dead. But someone has to issue an official death certificate before the rotting corpse is given a proper burial and we can all move on . . .”

• Even Norman Finkelstein, a prominent and harsh critic of Israel, denounced the BDS Movement because it aims for the end of Israel.

• The strategy of the BDS Movement is to delegitimize Israel's very existence in order to secure a one-state solution through Israel's dissolution as a Jewish and democratic, multicultural state.

Will BDS lead to peace?

• The goal of peace depends on Israelis and Palestinians working together with international support toward a negotiated two-state solution. In contrast, BDS tactics are focused solely on pressuring Israel. Rather than improve the situation, these advocates undermine the internationally-backed peace process that is premised on the development of mutual understanding and respect.

• Economic boycotts and divestment actions will not help the Palestinian people. A two-state solution depends on creating an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation

combined with economic development and political achievement.

• Boycotts are not new. Ever since Israel's establishment, the Arab world has tried to use an economic boycott to isolate and weaken Israel politically and economically. The Roadmap plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (proposed by the U.S., E.U., U.N. and Russia) calls for the normalization of relations between the Arab states and Israel, including the return of trade links.

The cultural and academic boycotts

• Promoting an academic and cultural boycott of Israel contradicts the principles of academic freedom and the open spirit of international cooperation between scientists, artists and others. It is particularly counterproductive to target Israel's academic community, which promotes honest debate, criticism and self-examination within Israeli society. Israel's universities enroll significant numbers of Arab students and are important forums for interaction and cooperation between Jews and Arabs.

• The American Association of University Professors has rejected any academic boycott of Israel. Likewise, prominent Palestinian academics have been firm critics of efforts to boycott Israeli universities and academics.

• For similar reasons, the International Trade Union Confederation, which represents 312 organizations in 156 countries and territories representing 176 million workers, rejected calls to support the BDS Movement and, instead, called for a two-state solution to allow both peoples to live in peace and security.

Who has rejected divestment resolutions?

• Divestment resolutions promoted by the BDS Movement have been widely

rejected by a variety of organizations as being counterproductive to the goal of reaching a peaceful solution.

What about sanctions?

• Sanctions typically refer to attempts to limit or ban trade and other relations with certain states. The United States and other Western countries reject applying sanctions to Israel. Indeed trade, scientific exchanges and cultural relations have flourished between Israel and the rest of the world over the last decade.

What is the Jewish community's view?

• While the safety and welfare of Israel is of great concern to the American Jewish community, it holds diverse views on what will bring peace to the Middle East. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the community seeks peace with Israel's neighbors and consistently has opposed the approach, methods and goals of BDS.

What can we do to advance peace?

• Support programs that promote reconciliation and co-existence rather than tearing down either party. We need to support efforts that help the parties move toward a solution that would create a Jewish and democratic state of Israel alongside an independent state of Palestine.

The bottom line

• Israel is a pluralistic and democratic society, and BDS tactics are neither appropriate nor are they an honest attempt to bring about peace. The movement is using these tactics to tell an anti-Israel story that is counterproductive, disingenuous and plain wrong.

• We need to extricate ourselves from a win-lose approach that unfairly demonizes one side of a complicated conflict. We should be building bridges between different peoples, not burning them.

PUBLIC LECTURE

DEADLY MEDICINE

THE GERMAN MEDICAL PROFESSION AND NAZI MEDICAL CRIMES



In his laboratory at a new eugenics institute in Berlin, geneticist Otmar von Verschuer takes blood samples from twins as part of his research study on hereditary links to criminality, mental retardation, tuberculosis, and cancer. In 1927, he recommended the forced sterilization of the “mentally and morally subnormal.” *Archiv zur Geschichte der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Berlin*

1:30 p.m.

Reading Public Museum Auditorium
500 Museum Road
Reading, Pennsylvania
Register:
ushmm.org/events/deadly-medicine-reading

7 p.m.

Albright College
Wachovia Theatre
1621 North 13th Street
Reading, Pennsylvania
Register:
ushmm.org/events/deadly-medicine-albright

Tuesday November, 18

HOW DID MEMBERS OF A PROFESSION committed to helping and healing people become complicit in Nazi crimes? This lecture explores the role of physicians in forced sterilizations and the mass murder of Germany's mentally and physically disabled.

The events are free and open to the public, but registrations are requested.

The afternoon event is co-presented by the Reading Public Museum, which is hosting the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibition Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race from September 14 to January 7.

The evening event is co-presented by the Edwin and Alma Lakin Holocaust Library and Resource Center, which is a partnership between Albright College and the Jewish Federation of Reading.



ushmm.org/connect



Featuring a talk by Dr. Patricia Heberer Rice, a historian with the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. She specializes in the subject of medical crimes and eugenics policies in Nazi Germany.

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THE CAMPAIGN

IDF soldier with local ties looks back on challenging summer

By Mika Fox

My name is Mika Fox. I grew up in Tribeca and went to St. Ann's School in Brooklyn. I am currently a sergeant in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) serving as an infantry instructor in the Negev desert. My original plan to take a gap year before attending college ultimately evolved into enlisting in the Israeli army for a two-year stint. When not on the army base, I live on a kibbutz near the Jordan border with a group of "Lone Soldiers," whose families live abroad and who have chosen to leave their countries of origin to serve the State of Israel. I'm 19 and will complete my two-year service this October.

I arrived in Israel in August 2012, and two months later began a two-and-a-half month basic training and infantry instructor course, learning all there is to know about the infantry of the IDF. After my course I was assigned a specialty — the Gil missile — and completed a two-month intensive course specializing in the missile system. Immediately after, I began training reserve and regular infantry soldiers to use the system. I've spent a year and a half traveling all over the country from the Syrian border to the Gaza border to the West Bank and all over the Negev desert, giving soldiers lessons, teaching them on the missile system and training them on a missile



Mika Fox enjoys a summer visit from her brother, Elan

simulator on my base, Tze'elim.

This July I experienced my second military operation since being in the IDF — Operation Protective Edge. The first was Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 during my basic training. Since I was about a month into my service at that time the only way I could help during the operation was to take over guarding my base while the combat soldiers went off to the Gaza border. However, this summer, during Operation Protective

Edge, was a whole different experience, something I never expected would happen during my service.

Before the ultimate ground invasion, hundreds of soldiers came to my base to train in the classroom and in the field. I, along with my team of three other Gil instructors, spent those few intense days, training soldiers at the Gaza border and on our base.

As if the rigorous training wasn't intense and overwhelming enough, constantly interrupting us were the sirens of overhead rockets. I had spent most of the past year and a half training soldiers, sometimes under intense conditions on the Syrian border where we heard constant mortar fire and spent hours in bunkers; but this was a completely different feeling, knowing I was the last person for the soldiers to ask technical questions before they went into battle in Gaza.

I felt a great deal of responsibility because I had been training these soldiers for the majority of their service how to use a weapon in the safest way. Now, hours before they would enter Gaza, I had no room to make mistakes and had to try my best to get important information through to them after their many sleepless nights and endless training. The soldiers were exhausted, fed up with waiting for orders and, while trying to do my job, I knew I also had to raise their morale as much as I could.

Among the dozens of soldiers I trained, one was my boyfriend, Daniel, whom I've been training periodically for a year, along with the rest of his unit, the elite battalion of the Nahal Brigade. I was lucky enough to see him a couple times before he went into Gaza.

Once the soldiers went in, my work changed completely. There were no more active-duty soldiers to train since they were all in Gaza or on the border waiting to go in. All I could think about was how much I wanted to be there to help them. I felt frustrated and powerless waiting on my base to hear any news. I constantly worried about Daniel, my cousins and my friends who were all fighting in Gaza, but I was also worried about all the soldiers I've trained. In some way, I felt responsible for each and every one of them and really did care for them all.

I spent the following weeks taking my phone with me everywhere I went so I wouldn't miss a call from Daniel or any of my friends or cousins in the war — reading news updates every half hour, and listening to the radio on my base.

As far as my work in the IDF, every week I spent two days in the Golan Heights and on Mount Hermon training reserves that had to be prepared to go to Gaza at any time. They were patrolling the border, replacing the combat soldiers

who had been sent to Gaza. Traveling in uniform throughout Israel during that time was intensely uplifting. I realized that the entire country was connected through a feeling of constant worry for our soldiers that was unlike anything I have sensed before. Of course not everyone had a son fighting in Gaza; but every Israeli knew someone who was there or knew someone who knew someone who was fighting to make their lives safer. There was this sense of solidarity that was felt on my base, on the buses, in the cafes in Tel Aviv — it was all throughout Israel. It's strange to say, but this feeling made me feel like Israel was my home and all of these people were family... one big family, putting politics and religion aside, all wanting the same thing: bring our soldiers safely home.

Then, on July 19, my friend Sean Carmeli, a fellow lone soldier from Texas, was killed while fighting in Shejaiya, one of the most dangerous villages in Gaza. Learning of his death, burying him and comforting his girlfriend, Eden (a very close friend and also a lone soldier), and his family, was one of the most emotionally challenging times of my life — the anguish and the heartbreak was overwhelming. The reality of the war really hit home. I just hoped that the rest of the soldiers would return home safely.

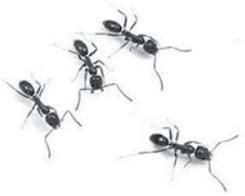
The following Friday, I received a phone call from Daniel's mother that he was in the hospital, wounded from a grenade explosion, with shrapnel in several areas of his body. I rushed to the hospital as fast as I could, not panicky, not in tears, but with paradoxical feelings of worry and relief. I spent all my time between the hospital and my base, juggling my personal life with my job in the army, which overlapped like never before. Fortunately Daniel was released after a few days and is recuperating from his wounds, though he hasn't yet returned to active duty.

A week later Protective Edge appeared to come to an end, and the ground forces left Gaza. My life in the army went relatively back to normal, but my view of my army job had changed.

I now recognize the responsibility I have to teach soldiers something that is critical to the success of their mission and their survival in battle. I've always taken my job seriously, trying to simulate battle while training soldiers in the field, but I never put it into the context of a war, until now. I'm proud of my army service and what I've taught my soldiers over this past year and a half. While I would never wish for war, I'm grateful that I got to experience how my work influences the soldiers defending Israel and how the country unifies during the time of conflict.

Mika Fox is daughter of Tali and Don Fox.

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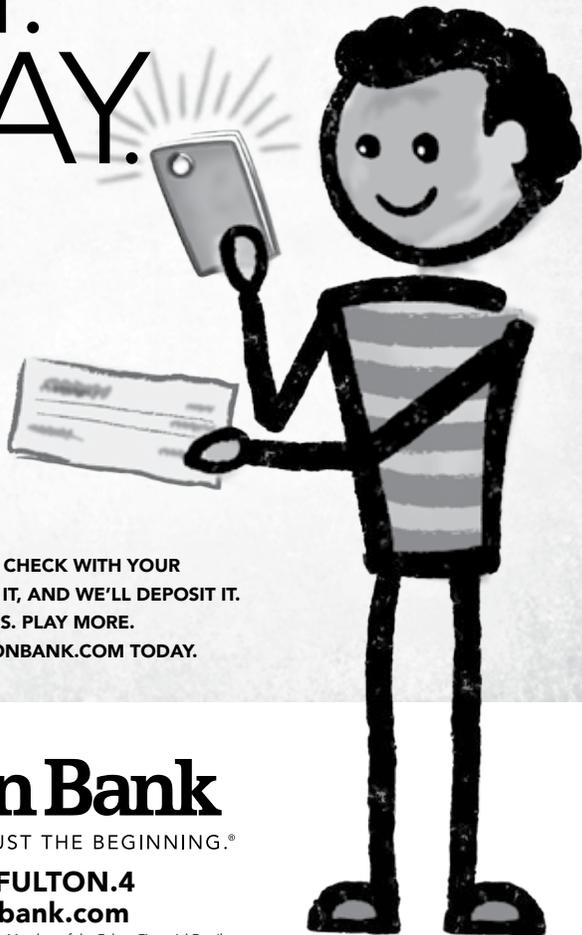
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2014 INTERFAITH KRISTALLNACHT OBSERVANCE

Sunday, Nov. 9

Circle of light 6:30 p.m.; Interfaith Service, 7 p.m.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Fifth and Court Streets, Reading

held in conjunction with the Jewish Community and Trinity Lutheran Church

Expert from Holocaust Museum to speak on Nazi medicine

By Amanda J. Hornberger

For centuries medical professionals have taken the Hippocratic oath to swear to uphold ethical standards and do no harm. What then can explain the role of doctors and scientists in the deadly experiments, sterilizations and deaths committed by Nazis in the name of medicine? The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's traveling exhibit "Deadly Medicine: The German Medical Profession and Nazi Medical Crimes," on display at the Reading Public Museum through Jan. 4, works to answer these questions.

In addition to the exhibit, USHMM's

specialist on medical crimes and eugenics policies in Nazi Germany, Dr. Patricia Heberer-Rice will be a guest lecturer Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. in Albright College's Wachovia Theatre.

Dr. Heberer-Rice's visit is made possible thanks to grants from USHMM and the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center with the support of the Jewish Federation of Reading.

Since 1994 Dr. Heberer-Rice has



Dr. Patricia Heberer-Rice

been an historian with the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her lecture will focus on how medical professionals enforced two significant aspects of Nazi policy: compulsory sterilization and the secret "euthanasia" program, the Nazis' first program of mass murder. More than 400,000 Germans were legally sterilized by physicians backed with the force of the German legal system. Medical professionals also instigated and carried out the "euthanasia" program, which claimed the lives of 200,000 mentally and physically disabled patients and set an important precedent for the Holocaust. Dr. Heberer-Rice will discuss the ways

in which ill-founded science and leading doctors helped lead the Nazis to commit the horrors of the Holocaust.

Thanks to connections between the Jewish Federation of Reading's sponsored Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Albright was the location of choice for USHMM for an evening lecture related to the "Deadly Medicine" exhibit. The lecture will be a fantastic opportunity for students and the greater community to learn about Nazi medicine from one of the country's leading experts on the topic.

To learn more about the exhibit or lecture please visit the Lakin Holocaust Library & Resource Center's website: <http://library.albright.edu/hrc>

All Around the Town

Congratulations to **Betsy and Al Katz** on the birth of their granddaughter, Amalia Aliza, born Sept. 10 to Rachel and David Katz of Boston. Delighted is big brother Gabriel. Amalia is the niece of Beth Anne and Gad Ages and cousin of Lior Ages.

Andy and Corinne Wernick are delighted to announce the engagement of their son Brian Wernick to Joy Rothman daughter of Lois and Roger Rothman of Rockville, Md. Brian is grandson of Sid and Esther Bratt and Mitzi Wernick. Joy is granddaughter of Rhoda Rothman. A summer or fall 2015 wedding is planned.



Brian Wernick and Joy Rothman

Obituary

Martin T. Schneider, 93, of Reading. He was a Coast Guard veteran and worked for the Army as a civilian, living in Germany for three years. He also enjoyed

gardening. He is survived by his daughter Karen and her husband, Randy, of Exeter Township, his grandson Aaron. Martin is also survived by his brother Herbert Schneider of Reading.



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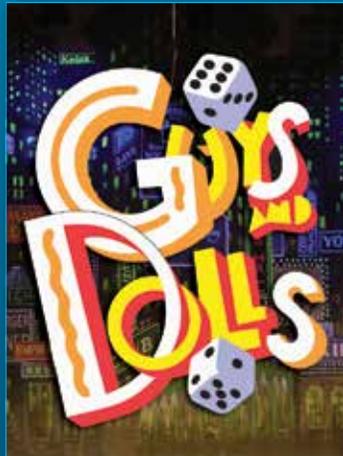
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Congregational News

New rabbi takes helm at Keshar Zion Synagogue

Keshar Zion Synagogue has named Rabbi Rachel Schwartz as its new spiritual leader.

Rabbi Schwartz was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary and has a strong pastoral background. She completed pastoral training at Norwalk Hospital and Honey Hill Care Center, Norwalk, Conn.; The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood, N.J.; and North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, N.Y.

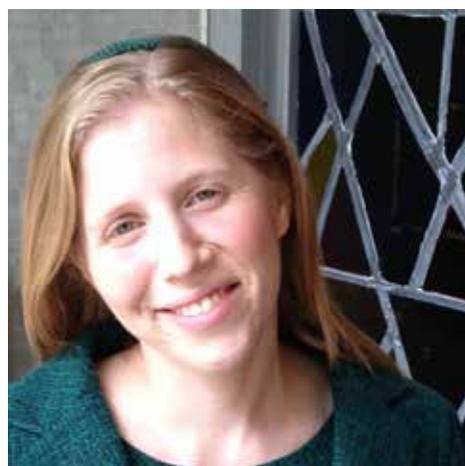
She has been a hospice chaplain for more than five years. She officiated High Holiday Services in Hanover, Pa., and at the Jewish Home in River Vale, N.J., where she also led Shabbat services. She has been a Rosh Tefillah (Head of Prayer) and Educator at Camp

Ramah Day Camp in Blue Bell, Pa., and High Holiday youth service leader and programmer at Bnai Israel, in Emerson, NJ. She has been active in building community and creating ways to reach out to the unaffiliated at the Glen Rock Jewish Center in New Jersey.

"Keshar Zion Synagogue is thrilled to welcome Rabbi Rachel Schwartz to our community," said Lisa Levine, the congregation's president. "We look forward to working with her and learning from her."

Rabbi Schwartz said she was excited to get started with her new congregation.

"Keshar Zion is a very special family," she said. "In a way, it is a hidden gem. It is child friendly and welcoming to the beautiful diversity of Jewish living in



Berks County, including grandparent families, intermarried families, gay and straight families, etc. There is a real

thirst for learning and growth within the congregation, which is any rabbi's dream.

"My hope is to continue to build on Keshar Zion's strengths. We are blessed to have a strong core of dedicated members, and I want to support them in places that they see are important and bring more people in on the journey. I don't want Judaism to feel like another activity that people do in their very busy lives, but rather find a meaningful part of their journey. I want them to feel the joy of it. The synagogue plays an important role in this mission.

"It is an exciting time to be at Keshar Zion as we are entering a period of renewal, and I really hope people will join us this year."

Theater troupe to headline Jewish Food & Cultural Festival

The annual Jewish Food & Cultural Festival returns to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom in Wyomissing Sunday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year's celebration is extra special as the congregation marks its 150th anniversary. In addition to the usual food favorites, this year's event features the return of Reading Theater Project after their triumphant appearance at the festival last year. The group will be celebrating the RCOS anniversary with a look to the past.

The performance will feature highlights from Yiddish theater, songs, and stories. The RCOS choir will perform with

Reading Theater Project's professional actors and musicians. The cast features Christine Cieplinski, Vicki Graff, Joel Gori and Christopher David Roché, with music by Chris Heslop.

In addition, student cantor Jordan Shaner will perform at the festival, accompanied by RCOS organist and choir director Ina Slater Grapenthin.

The event features a wide variety of delicious food for sale, most of which is prepared by members of the congregation. But there's much more to do than eat. Admission is free for the festival's musical performances and educational displays.

The menu features brisket and chicken platters, New York-style deli items, Israeli favorites such as falafel and breakfast selections including fresh bagels and lox. Other favorites include chicken matzo ball soup, noodle kugel, freshly prepared cheese blintzes, chopped liver and several flavors of knishes. For many guests the highlight is dessert. Our famous apple cakes sell out every year, and pastries such as rugelach and mandel bread are big hits as well. There's much more on the menu, too.

A ticket good for one dinner, deli, or Israeli platter costs \$13. Advance tickets are available from Oheb Sholom members

and the synagogue office. New this year is a "late-bird special." Platters will be sold for \$11 if purchased after 2 p.m. on the day of the festival.

As always there will be gift items for sale from Ofar Enterprises and Sisterhood gift shop, along with educational displays.

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom is located at 555 Warwick Drive, a block away from State Hill Road near the Wyomissing Rite-Aid store.

Please call the synagogue office at 610-375-6034 for more information.

Be sure to check out the flyer inserted in this edition of Shalom.



Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom invites you to celebrate our 150th Anniversary by attending a special Shabbat service to honor long-standing members and to unveil our new history wall.

Date: Saturday, October 11, 2014

Time: 10:00 am Service

History Wall Unveiling and Kiddush Luncheon following services. Lunch is complimentary and sponsored by Sisterhood.

Please respond to the office by Wednesday, October 8, 2014 so we can plan accordingly for the lunch.

RCOS Office: 610-375-6034

555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610



Introduce your children to the joy of Shabbat. Tot Shabbat is a musical, story-filled Shabbat morning experience geared towards families with young children through grade 2. Bring your family and friends to celebrate with Rabbi Brian Michelson and stay for a pint-size Oneg offering grape juice, challah, and child friendly treats.

October 18, 2014

November 22, 2014

December 13, 2014

January 24, 2015

February 21, 2015

March 21, 2015

April 18, 2015

May 16, 2015

June 20, 2015

Tot Shabbat services are held Saturday mornings at 10am at Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom located at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610. No registration is required. Please call the Temple office with any questions: 610-375-6034.



Finding the right way to approach the Lord

By Rabbi Rachel Schwartz
Keshar Zion Synagogue

Life is a special gift. And yet, life can be difficult. As we enter the synagogue on Yom Kippur we bring with us all of the struggles and the gifts of the past year as we look towards a new year. We come before God with tremendous hope for



a better year and the reality that some things might not be able to be changed. The question is, how do we approach God and how does God approach us during this time of transition?

In our American society we are used to God being presented as a man with a long beard and a white robe. And yet, the ways to view and connect with God are infinite. The High Holidays present us with many personal and diverse ways to approach God. In the piyut, "Ki Anu Amecha" ("We are Your

people") the poet explores the ways we connect and relate to God. I think there is something moving when we sing "We are Your flock and You are our Shepherd."

During the summer I had the chance, to watch a shepherd move and care for his small flock at Fosterfield Farm. The sheep responded to his clapping and cheery tones as they ran from the field to the barn. How beautiful to think of God clapping and cheering us on, offering us encouragement during difficult times and good times.

The poem continues "We are Your treasure and You are our Protector." How often have we seen jewelers at the end of the day carefully moving their precious jewels out of the window and into a safe. As the world feels increasingly chaotic, I feel comfort thinking of God guarding our journeys in the way the jeweler every day guards her valuables.

Another line sings "We are Your faithful, and You are our Beloved." Friends and partners help us on our way. They cry with us during the difficult times and celebrate our victories. Having a personal beloved God can take away some of the loneliness on our journey.

Like the Psalmist in Psalm 56 writes, God takes our tears and puts them into God's flask. God cares about our suffering. God cares about us. This holiday season, let us approach God with all of our heart and feel God's presence in our lives through the love from those we care about the most, the words in the machzor, in the support of the Reading Jewish community, and through our actions to make it a special year. Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman writes in his "Prayer for the Healing of Brokenness" "Please listen to my call Help me find the words. Help me find the strength within. Help me shape my mouth, my voice, my heart. So that I can direct my spirit and find You in prayer. In words only my heart can speak. In songs only my soul can sing. Lifting my eyes and heart to you." Let us say, Amen.

End Note: Thank you for such a warm welcome to Reading. We are blessed to have such wonderful Jewish clergy in this community, and I feel lucky that I have the opportunity to work with and learn from Rabbi Brian Michelson and Rabbi Yosef Lipsker. We also have a strong Federation that unites us. We have an exciting year ahead of us. I hope you will join us. L'shana tova!

High Holidays Schedule ב"ה

Erev Yom Kippur Friday, Oct. 3 Tishrei 9, 5775
Mincha Service 3:00 PM
Light candles at* 6:26 PM
Kol Nidrei 6:30 PM
*Candles may be lit at the synagogue for your convenience.

Yom Kippur Shabbat, Oct. 4 Tishrei 10, 5775
Shacharit Service 9:00 AM
Yizkor 11:30 AM
Mincha Service 5:30 PM
Neilah 6:30 PM
Yom Kippur Ends 7:23 PM

Break Fast at Synagogue

*This card is has been provided to you by
Chabad Lubavitch of Berks County*



Schedule of High Holiday Services, 2014 (5775)

Yom Kippur
Kol Nidre Service
Date: Friday, October 3, 2104
Time: 8:00pm

Daytime Services
Date: Saturday, October 4, 2014
❖ Morning Service at 9:30am
❖ Family Service* at 1:30pm
❖ Afternoon Service at 2:30pm
❖ Yizkor Memorial Service at 4:30pm
❖ Closing Service at 5:00pm

* Family service for children up to grade 3. Babysitting available for other services.

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 610-375-6034 www.ohebsholom.org

LOCAL CONGREGATIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM (610) 375-6034
Fridays, Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31 at 7:45 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 18: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

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

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE (610) 374-1763
Weekly services Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.; Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Friday Evening Service – Please call for service information
Babysitting available upon request with one week's notice

CONGREGATION SHOMREI HABRITH

Fall Holiday Fun at RCOS!

Sukkot

Join us as we decorate our Temple Sukkah, followed by a Subway-catered dinner (turkey and veggie sandwiches), Sukkot service and Oneg.

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2014
Time: Decorating at 6pm; Service at 7pm
Place: RCOS
RSVP by Friday, Oct 3
610-375-6034

Simchat Torah

The fall holiday fun continues as we end one cycle of reading the Torah, and celebrate beginning again. Join us for a spirited, musical service!

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Time: 7pm
Place: RCOS
No RSVP necessary

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing
www.ohebsholom.org

KESHER ZION HIGH HOLY DAY SCHEDULE TISHRI 5775



Erev Yom Kippur

Friday, October 3, 2014
Mincha 6:15 p.m.
Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 4, 2014
Morning Service 9:00 a.m.
Yizkor 10:30 a.m.
Congregation Study with Rabbi Rachel Schwartz 4:30 p.m.
Mincha 5:30 p.m.
Neilah 6:30 p.m.
Maariv & Havdalah to follow
Shofar 7:30 p.m.
Communal Break the Fast to follow

Shemini Atzeret

Thursday, October 16, 2014
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
Yizkor Recited

Simchat Torah

Thursday, October 16, 2014
Maariv and Hakafot 6:00 p.m.
Friday, October 17, 2014
Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
Kiddush lunch following services



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Contact Paul Landry at the Federation to find out how!
610-921-0624 / paull@jfreeding.org / 1100 Berkshire Boulevard, Wyomissing, PA 19610

Trip to Israel during crisis a remarkable experience

By Michael Fromm

In early August, Susan and I decided to go to Israel. For no reason and for lots of reasons. The Gaza conflict was anguishing on many levels. Every day it seemed Israel was being unjustly vilified in the media for defending itself against Hamas terrorist attacks. Acts of anti-Semitic violence were being reported in the U.S. and other Western countries with an eerie regularity. Instead of going to the beach, Israeli families spent their summer running back and forth from their homes to bomb shelters, sometimes 10 times in a day. Needless to say, the Israeli tourism industry was virtually defunct. We were frustrated and feeling as if there was nothing we could do about it. Except go there.

Unbeknownst to us, my parents had reached the exact same conclusion at the exact same time. At 75 and almost 80 years old, jumping on a plane to Israel — during a war no less — is a pretty radical move that can only be motivated by a fierce love for the Jewish state and a natural proclivity for performing acts of *chesed* (Hebrew: compassion). Frankly, for all four of us it was instinctive. So we planned a trip together at the end of the month.

My parents were able to get there a few days ahead of us, which was good because it gave them time to acclimate. It was probably their first visit to Israel without the framework of a mission or organized itinerary, and I think they really enjoyed the freedom to catch up with some dear friends and relatives while strolling Tel Aviv neighborhoods such as Neve Tzedek just as they would Soho in New York. My mom even found an ice cream shop that had chocolate sorbet, which signaled a good start to the journey.

Showing solidarity

For us it was going to be a short trip, crammed in between other commitments and taking advantage of the Labor Day weekend. We had arranged some activities in advance, including a few days of site visits at Meir Panim relief centers (I am a board member) and a day of sightseeing in Jerusalem. Other plans, such as a visit to the Gaza border, developed on the fly. Luckily, a cease-fire was reached two days before we got there, which vastly improved our prospects for moving around without safety concerns.

But as much as we wanted to be active and on the move, we felt it was equally important to take the time to express our solidarity and convey our appreciation to the Israelis for their vigilance in the face of dangers we've never had to confront — merely to live as Jews. So we planned as many opportunities as possible to see friends we've made during our many visits over the years.

We arrived in Israel on Sunday evening Aug. 31 and went straight to dinner with my parents' friends, Iddo and Irit Katz, a charming and bright couple in their 50s. Iddo said he felt that in this recent war there were no winners, only losers. Asked why he didn't consider the destruction of the Hamas tunnels and weapons an outright victory, he said: "Behind these terrorists, there are more terrorists. Behind these rockets, there are more rockets. We only delayed the next attack." Wow...welcome to Israel. This conversation was the first of many over the next three days in which we would hear the pained and weary voices of people who spent the summer in a constant state of fear, not knowing how long the current "quiet" will last. It's hard to imagine an existence like this...

on the surface Tel Aviv feels like any bustling U.S. city. But when the sirens sound, in a heartbeat an otherwise ordinary streetscape turns into a panic zone. Iddo explained that children throughout the country are being treated for trauma-related disorders and that there are other indications that this war had a deeper impact than previous ones on the psyche of Israelis.

A visit to Meir Panim

On Monday we traveled to Dimona, one of the development towns in the southern Negev created in the 1950's under Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion. Dimona is described as "mini-India" for its 7,500-strong Indian Jewish community and is also home to Israel's "Black Hebrews," groups of African Americans who believe they are descendants of the ancient Israelites. Because Dimona's unemployment rate now exceeds 10 percent due to recent factory closings and a steady influx of unskilled immigrants, poverty is a growing problem. Nationally, there are 1.7 million Israelis living below the poverty line, including more than 800,000 — or two out of every five — children. Meir Panim, a national network of relief centers, operates a branch in one of the poorest neighborhoods of Dimona that prepares and serves about 400 daily meals, including 150 hot lunches delivered to schools and youth clubs.

We arrived at the relief center at around 10:45 a.m. ready to be put to work. Nissim Elmekayes, a tall Sephardic man in his mid-40s, manages this facility with the help of a part-time cook and about 40 volunteers. Almost 50 percent of his food supplies are donated by producers, farmers, hotels, restaurants and nonprofit organizations (i.e. Leket) that redistribute surplus foodstuffs throughout Israel.

Interestingly, Meir Panim's relief centers are not called "soup kitchens" in Hebrew because they don't operate like traditional soup kitchens. Instead, they are called "free restaurants" because here, "patrons" sit at tables and are waited on by volunteer servers. When they finish eating, their dirty dishes (yes, actual dishes and cutlery) are cleared by volunteers.

According to Nissim, this tweak in the traditional soup kitchen model helps preserve the dignity of people who are otherwise reminded they are poor every minute of every day, except, if he can help it, for the time they spend in his restaurant. In fact, many of his patrons ask to volunteer preparing food, delivering meals and cleaning the restaurant because they want to experience the satisfaction and pride of giving back.

Susan and Barbara were quickly recruited to stuff and fold bourekas, a pastry made with potatoes and phyllo dough. This was somewhat ironic, since my mom hasn't seen the inside of a kitchen in years. Bernie was assigned the role that best suited his experience — dishwasher. I was placed behind a counter to fill plates with spaghetti, meatballs and salad. At one point Bernie was reassigned to salad prep, probably because he demonstrated advancement potential.

As people made their way to the tables, it quickly became evident that this was a daily routine. There were warm greetings from the volunteers and lively banter among the patrons, who obviously knew one another. But the atmosphere was by no means festive. I sensed a somber camaraderie — almost a "we didn't choose to be here but we're here so let's make the best of it" attitude. After finishing their meals,



The Fromms visit with Col. Nachum "Nuchie" Mandel during a trip to the Gaza border. Mandel's IDF troops played a key role in this summer's Gaza fighting

almost everyone came to the "buffet" with containers to take food home...for relatives, schoolchildren, or perhaps for that evening's dinner. No one spoke English, but each patron acknowledged the volunteer servers in his or her own way: A hug, a *toda raba* (thank you) or just a nod. I was caught off-guard when a woman stopped me and said, (loosely translated) "The kindness here warms my heart. Not only is the food delicious, but the human interaction, filled with dignity, makes this place special." That was all I needed to hear.

On our way back to Tel Aviv, we stopped to tour the Southern Israel Nutrition Center, a 50,000-square-foot institutional kitchen that is being developed by Meir Panim to mass-produce meals for distribution to elementary schools throughout the country. Once complete, this state-of-the-art facility will be Israel's largest food relief operation, feeding more than 30,000 children each day. Through fundraising efforts in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Australia — and Israel — Meir Panim has obtained \$10 million of the project's \$12 million total cost. More information about this ambitious and historic project can be found at www.meirpanim.org.

Worn down by war

On Monday night, we had dinner with a group of friends in their 20s and 30s, most of whom have recently become parents. These are really smart, ambitious and worldly people: One works for Google, another has a PhD in brain science, another is a venture capital executive, and another is a cyber security expert...you get the picture. Of course they all spent time in the IDF, two serving in the intelligence corps. We talked about the Gaza war and heard two distinct things: They see this conflict as part of a much larger narrative that pits radical Islam against the West, and they are all looking at job opportunities outside of Israel.

The first point was not a revelation. It has become painfully evident over the last few months that the term "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" is no longer adequate to describe a far more complex state of affairs. That's not to say the issue of Palestinian statehood is beside the point; it is and will remain a very real problem that needs to be addressed. But, our friends conceded that this war brought to light the underlying reality that Israel, as a regional proxy for the west AND a Jewish state, is sure to face an indefinite threat of radicalized

malevolence that will only grow in fervor and sophistication. And who wants to raise children in a constant state of fear. This is what they were saying a week into the latest cease-fire. So I would hesitate to conclude that an entire generation of Israelis has lost the indefatigable spirit that built and defended the Jewish state for 66 years. But, it should be noted that for people with highly portable careers, Silicon Valley may appear more attractive than the Jordan Valley.

Time for sightseeing

Tuesday was a day of traditional sightseeing. We spent the day with our old friend Yossi, a popular guide who said he hadn't worked in over two months due to the drop in tourism. We walked the cobblestone streets of Jerusalem's Old City, ate hummus for lunch in the shuk (Arab market), explored the fascinating new finds at the City of David archaeological site and spent some shekels in the Roman Cardo, a second century BCE excavation that was preserved in the 1980s to house a covered shopping arcade in the Jewish Quarter of the old city.

We ended the day with a stroll through the Machne Yehuda market, an open-air bazaar crammed with vendors hawking everything from fresh fish to athletic socks. The smells and colors of spices and teas, pastries, fruits and vegetables, meat, candy and flowers — make this experience memorable. The market's mixture of stands and cafes attracts locals and tourists, rich and poor, young and old, religious and secular, Jews and non-Jews. In the days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, there is a special section of the market where patrons perform the custom of swinging a live chicken over their heads, symbolically transferring their sins to the chicken, which is then slaughtered and donated to the poor.

We stopped for dinner at Machneyuda, one of Jerusalem's hottest restaurants tucked away on one of the narrow streets adjacent to the market. This place, a personal favorite, features a bustling open kitchen where the staff bangs on pots and pans in rhythm to the pulsing international music as they prepare menu items ranging from roasted figs and beef tartar to polenta with truffle oil and grilled whole fish. It's a real scene. Barbara couldn't resist jumping into the kitchen to show chef/owner Uri Navon a thing or two she had learned at the Meir Panim restaurant the day before.

Touring the border area

The night prior to leaving New York, Susan and I had the honor of meeting Col. Yonatan Branski, commander of the Gaza Division of the IDF, who was in the U.S. for three days of speaking engagements. Col. Branski graciously arranged a tour of the border area for us. So on the last day of our whirlwind visit, we left the hotel at 6:30 am for a spellbinding morning with Col. Nachum (“Nuchie”) Mandel, Deputy Commander of the Givati Brigade of the IDF. This unit is comprised of three main battalions with more than 4,000 infantry soldiers designated by purple berets. We met Colonel Mandel and his 20-year-old driver, Private Zur Shmidt, in a parking lot off the main north-south road along the coast that connects the Negev Desert to the more heavily populated areas near Tel Aviv. We followed his truck into Kibbutz Erez, a farming community of 450 families located at the northeast corner of Gaza. We couldn’t help noticing the bomb shelters next to every public bus stop.

We drove to a hilltop just outside the kibbutz looking out at the Gazan towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya in the distance. From these residential areas and others along the narrow 5-mile wide Gaza Strip, rockets were being launched toward the spot where we were standing just a week ago. From the fields on the other side of a fence 20 yards away, terror tunnels snaked into the outskirts of Israeli cities such as Sderot and to kibbutzim such as Erez located along the border. Col. Mandel told us that during the conflict most of the inhabitants of these communities had relocated to the homes of friends and relatives further north. Since the cease-fire two days prior to our arrival, families had started returning. As if it had been arranged for our benefit, we heard the ringing of school bells behind us signaling the start of classes on the second day of the new academic year. It was a chilling reminder that the children of these kibbutzim are growing up with the threat of terrorism a mere stone’s throw away.

Because the Givati Brigade specializes in engineering and reconnaissance, it was Col. Mandel’s troops who penetrated deep into Gaza City and surrounding towns in search of terror tunnels, rocket launchers and weapons stockpiles. They found a network of 32 tunnels, and the IDF destroyed every one. Some started in residential neighborhoods — even inside homes — and others just outside schoolyards, mosques or hospitals. The reason soldiers had to find the entrances to the tunnels is that the exits were either camouflaged or were not yet penetrating the ground surface (so as to avoid detection). In some tunnels, soldiers found fake IDF uniforms that Hamas would have used to infiltrate local communities. In others, they found motorcycles that were thought to be part of a massive plan to send hundreds of terrorists through the tunnels in one sweeping attack that would have resulted in a massacre of Israeli civilians. Built 60 to 100 feet underground, these tunnels were up to 2.5 miles long and took nearly four years to construct. They took less than 30 days to destroy.

Stories the media didn’t tell

The hunt for weapons caches caused significant problems for the IDF due to the Hamas strategy of storing arms in dense population centers rigged with mines. Private Shmidt, who is starting his final year in the army, told us about an incident involving 20 IDF special forces commandos who were investigating reports of a weapons stockpile at a

UNRWA (UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) medical facility. When the commandos entered the specific area of the hospital that their intelligence sources had indicated, they detonated a booby-trap that killed three soldiers and critically injured four others. This story was widely reported in the mainstream media as a botched Israeli strike that resulted in the errant death of Palestinian civilians. UNRWA officials went on record accusing the Israeli government of violating international humanitarian law. And yet there was no mention of the dead IDF soldiers, and there was no acknowledgement that the hospital had served as a weapons depot. Our driver, who was helping with translation, saw the stunned looks on our faces and said, “The truth has always been here.”

The story the media initially reported was later debunked, but the truth never received the same headlines. It did, however, provoke members of the U.S. Senate to send a strongly-worded letter to the State Department demanding an independent investigation into UNRWA’s ties to Hamas. As if on cue, UNRWA announced the “discovery” of three caches of rockets stored in Gaza schools, but media reports quickly surfaced suggesting the recovered weapons had been returned to Hamas. State Department spokesman Edgar Vasquez stated, “The international community cannot accept a situation where the United Nations — its facilities, staff and those it is protecting — are used as shields for militants and terrorist groups. We remain in intensive consultations with UN leadership about the UN’s response.” Not surprisingly, that’s exactly where the story ended.

Private Shmidt told us that during one of the ground incursions he was fired upon by a Hamas fighter who then grabbed a small boy and raised him up to shield himself from return fire. Yes, *New York Times* and CNN, this really happened. Of course Shmidt could do nothing, as the IDF has a strict policy on what (not) to do in these situations. In fact, Col. Mandel told us that attorneys were stationed on every army base to participate in decisions about where, when and how to strike back after Hamas attacks in order to minimize civilian casualties (this has been confirmed by the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

After moving further south to another lookout point with a clear view of Gaza City, we knew our tour would soon come to an end so it was time to ask the big questions: What now? Do you think Netanyahu should have finished the job? What are the implications of ISIS and other fundamentalist movements on Israel’s conflict with Hamas? The answers to the first two were simple: What now? “We wait until the next attack and do what we always do.” Do you think Netanyahu should have finished the job? “Of course we do.” These were the predictable words of a career military man. But Col. Mandel’s answer to the third question revealed a larger worldview that confirmed the worst fears many of us have imagined upon reading reports of anti-Semitic violence in Europe and here in the U.S. What are the implications of ISIS and other fundamentalist movements on Israel’s conflict with Hamas? “We know now we are fighting a much bigger enemy. That much is clear. The governments of the west need to see that too. If you validate terrorism, it will soon come to your door.” I will never forget those words.

Help for those at risk

From the Gaza border, we headed north to visit another Meir Panim relief



A visit to Machneyuda, one of Jerusalem’s hottest restaurants. It features a bustling open kitchen where the staff bangs on pots and pans in rhythm to the pulsing international music.

center in Or Akiva, a city about a half hour from Tel Aviv located just inland from the Mediterranean Sea. Or Akiva is a relatively small community with a population that is far less affluent than its neighbor, the trendy port city of Caesarea. Here, Meir Panim’s branch is led by Ilanit Hafuta, a 5’2” dynamo of a woman who runs a food distribution operation, a job placement service, a vocational training program and in her spare time provides counseling to troubled adolescents. To say she is an asset to her community is an understatement.

Ilanit took us to the Ofek School, a high school that specializes in educating teens that are either orphaned or living in local “dormitories” (government-funded children’s homes). The principal of the school, Miriam Shabtai, has designed curricula to prepare students for jobs that do not require a college degree. She also works closely with the IDF on a pre-conscription program that instills discipline and includes a physical training regimen. Because the school’s budget is limited, Shabtai relies on Ilanit to secure donations of school supplies, musical instruments, snacks, and other materials that are used to enhance the institution’s resources. It is clear that Meir Panim is an essential partner in the school’s mission to prepare at-risk kids to be productive members of Israeli society. The world needs more people like Ilanit.

By the time we got back to our hotel to pack up for the airport we were worn out. But not too worn out to have dinner with Col. Branski, the commander who had arranged our Gaza border tour from New York. He had flown back to Israel that morning

and attended a class at Tel Aviv University for his masters degree in public policy, so he graciously agreed to join us for a bite before heading home to his family in the Judean Hills (West Bank) north of Jerusalem. He asked us about our tour, already knowing that it had been a “successful mission” (he had of course checked in with Col. Mandel). An engaging man of 47 who speaks perfect English, Branski is retiring from the IDF to pursue a career in politics. Oy! In his words, he’s just moving from one battle zone to another.

A wide range of experiences

Aided by the timing of the cease-fire, we were able to move around freely and made the most of our short stay in Israel. In fact, we were engaged literally until the moment before we boarded our return flight, meeting with the mayor of Sderot (who happened to be flying to Canada for some lectures) in the El Al lounge!

Our experiences ranged from inspiring to distressing. We saw proud Israelis who care for their own and ask for little in return, and we saw brave and vigilant Israelis who risk their lives to carry on the legacy of the nation’s visionary founders. But we also saw the despair of Israelis suffering the ravages and indignities of poverty, and we saw the anguish of Israelis whose resolve has been eroded by the constant threat of terrorism.

Perhaps my most sobering observation is that the stoicism and resilience of the Israeli people — which has always been a great source of strength and reassurance for American Jews — is something we can no longer take for granted. And that is why we need to keep going back.

Youth Group News

BBYO and NFTY: My Yin and Yang

By **Marissa Missan**

The Jewish community is small. In organizations such as BBYO and NFTY, the small community has a large impact. These organizations impact Jewish teens, local communities, and countries around the world. It gives every Jew an opportunity to belong to a Jewish community, regardless of the

Jewish population he/she lives in. Living in Reading, these two organizations became my source for Judaism, learning philanthropy, and fun.

Evaluating where I live, I think it is vital that instead of viewing one another as rivals, NFTY and BBYO, especially on a local level, unify more. With a small Jewish population, competing

for members can exhaust the active members in the Jewish community and discourage active members to participate in multiple organizations.

Although different, NFTY and BBYO teens get a sense of a Jewish community, and both are equally worthwhile for Jewish teens to participate and explore.



The pendant on Marissa Missan's necklace depicts the harmony of BBYO and NFTY in her life.

Groups that had been rivals can make each other stronger

Originally published in eJewish Philanthropy

By **Rabbi Rick Jacobs**

As I write this, I'm on a literal and figurative high — literal because I'm writing to you from a flight back to New York from Dallas, where I had the privilege of attending and addressing the BBYO International Convention. Wait a minute, you're thinking, Why is the president of the Union for Reform Judaism going to a BBYO convention? Isn't BBYO the rival of NFTY, the Reform youth movement?

I'm here to tell you — and you can quote me on it — that BBYO is not our rival. They are our partner.

NFTY and BBYO both offer significant channels for Jewish teens to have experiences that can influence lives in permanent and profound ways. Through these channels, we engage tens of thousands of teens in weekend retreats, Israel trips, summer camp programs, and other leadership experiences that research shows are the most powerful Jewish identity-building experiences that our community has to offer.

But it is still not enough. Together, NFTY and BBYO reach only 3.5 percent of North American Jewish teens. Clearly, there is so much more to be done.

To the extent that these two youth movements can help one another and cooperate in pursuit of common goals, we must — by all means possible. To the extent that each offers unique and diverse options, we must be respectful and supportive. In doing so, we will maximize our collective effort to reach as many Jewish teens as possible, which is the ultimate goal of the Reform Movement's Inspired Engagement initiative.

There were 35 teen leaders from NFTY and 35 teen leaders from BBYO who took this call to action very seriously when they met in Dallas to discuss the power and potential of working together. These teens, who hail from all across North America, spent time brainstorming and made a commitment to follow up with one another after the event. During this meeting, two young women — one from NFTY and one from BBYO — shared a bit about their backgrounds. They didn't know each other, but to their surprise, they learned they were from the same Reform congregation! Both young women found enormous personal fulfillment and leadership opportunities from their participation in the two different youth groups. Now, they're working together to think about different ways to

engage even more of their peers.

I spoke about this partnership when I addressed the BBYO opening ceremonies, where I was greeted by incredible ruach from BBYO's teens and their guests from NFTY. In my remarks, I discussed the importance of celebrating both our similarities and our differences and of working together as a kehillah kedosha, a holy community. "We are part of something much larger than our respective youth movements," I told them. "We are part of the Jewish people, past, present and future. The Jewish future depends on you feeling connected to and responsible for each other, not just for those in your youth organization. What you are discovering about Judaism this weekend could easily become the most important anchors in your lives."

I shared with them a powerful example of a teenager who, just like them, made Jewish life a priority, despite the busyness of secular life. Jason Brown, a Reform Jewish teen from Chicago, competed in the Winter Olympics in Sochi. Jason has been a competitive skater his whole life, and in the midst of his training, he spent five summers at URJ Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) in Wisconsin. Why? Because Judaism is a priority to Jason and his

family — they realize that Judaism is part of their whole lives. I commended the teens in the room who, like Jason, have made time to deepen their connections to our people and heritage, as part of their many other commitments. And as I closed my address, I told them, "Remember, BBYO and NFTY, that we are stronger when we work together to expand our reach to even more Jewish youth. May our Jewish heritage and the Jewish community always be for you a sacred anchor especially "when the winds of changes shift."

Friday afternoon, our NFTY leaders left the BBYO convention and traveled to URJ Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas, where, for four days, 130 teen leaders from our 19 NFTY regions took part in a leadership retreat and board meeting. They elected a new North American board and thought together about plans for the future of NFTY — and of our Jewish community as a whole. These young people deeply understand that they are not youth leaders; they are full leaders of the Jewish community and poised to make major contributions now and far into the future.

Rabbi Rick Jacobs is the president of the Union for Reform Judaism.

A Jewish teen first, a NFTY-ite second

Originally published in the URJ NFTY Blog

By **Blake Dickler**

This year I had an incredible opportunity to attend the BBYO International Convention (IC) in Dallas, Texas. Yes, I — a diehard NFTYite — attended a BBYO event. I am very happy I chose to do so.

I had been taught that BBYO is vastly different from NFTY, and that I should have nothing to do with those who affiliate themselves with AZA or BBG. So, when I signed up to attend IC as a NFTY representative, I was a bit apprehensive. My view would change.

As BBYO teens arrived at the hotel, I noticed a similarity between NFTY and BBYO — a strong sense of community. Participants dropped their belongings and rushed to embrace friends they hadn't seen in months. Despite this similarity, I still knew very little about BBYO, but I was open to learning more at our mifgash, the meeting between the youth leaders of BBYO and NFTY. For the first time in history, we came together to discuss our similarities and our differences in order to foster a relationship between the two organizations.

The mifgash started with an activity where we, the teen leaders of BBYO and NFTY, walked around a room looking at signs posted on the walls. Each sign showed a different part of the United States and Canada, and included two numerical values and a percentage — the first number was the total BBYO participants in

the area, the second number was the total NFTYites in the area, and the percentage represented Jewish teens in the area who engage in Jewish life after b'nai mitzvah.

This last figure was the most appalling. Only 3.5 percent of Jewish teens are being engaged in Jewish life after b'nai mitzvah. Even more appalling is the fact that about 60 percent of Jewish teens between the ages of 13 and 18 express interest in partaking in Jewish activities. That means that 56.5 percent of Jewish teens want to engage in Jewish life and haven't. Thankfully, I was not the only one in the room who found this statistic upsetting. When we returned to our seats, the room was abuzz with chatter about how to resolve this problem — with recognition that some teens will connect more with NFTY, some will connect more with BBYO, and some will find meaning in both. It is not important which organization teens choose, as long as they are able to find a place where they feel they belong and can be Jewish in a safe and encouraging environment.

We broke up into groups based on our own geographic location so we could meet the BBYO leaders from our own area. Toward the beginning of our discussion, an interesting challenge arose when one of the BBYO leaders said that there is a USY chapter just starting out and her BBYO chapter is starting out as well and that because of the two organizations both starting, they are having a hard time getting members.

From our discussion, an idea resulted. What if, instead of a NFTYite approaching a Jewish teen and telling him or her to join NFTY, we approached this Jewish teen and told him or her that there are many options available for Jewish teens who are interested in furthering their Jewish life after bar or bat mitzvah? We could then present them with all the Jewish youth group options and encourage them to try different groups until they find where they feel they connect well. Currently many teens are told to try NFTY or try BBYO because it's "fun and you will have a good time." Often, the teen tries the suggested youth group, and if he or she doesn't feel a connection, concludes that youth groups aren't for them and never tries a different youth group, even if he or she wants to continue to be involved in Jewish life after b'nai mitzvah. If, instead, a teen is given all the options along with an understanding that there are different youth groups for different reasons and not everyone can connect to a certain youth group, the number of Jewish teens engaged in Jewish life after b'nai mitzvah will increase.

Although this was a vital realization at the mifgash, it was not the only one during the two days we were together. While we talked about the youth groups' values and principles, it became evident that our groups share a common commitment to social action. We talked about the community service and social action projects in which we partake. Only then

did this question arise: "Why don't we work together to partake in social action?" Some NFTY regions and BBYO councils already do this, but not all. As a group, we realized the value of working together to give back. As separate entities, we can do a lot, but together we can do even more. Instead of raising tens of thousands of dollars for a cause, we can raise hundreds of thousands. The leaders of both movements feel strongly that in the future, we should undertake social action projects together.

Social action is not the only thing we want to do together. During the final part of the mifgash, we discussed with our BBYO counterparts from our area what it is that we will take back with us and implement upon returning home. The overwhelming idea was to organize some sort of gathering, a dinner, a social event or something else—not as NFTY, not as BBYO, but as Jewish youth. It doesn't matter what movement Jewish teens join, as long as they are involved in Jewish life.

After this experience, my thoughts and beliefs about being involved in a Jewish youth movement have completely changed. It isn't the specific youth movement that matters; what matters is that we, as Jewish teens, have a community to which we can turn.

Blake Dickler is an active NFTYite and a NFTY Mid-Atlantic Region (NFTY-MAR) Board Member.

Want to learn more about the local chapters of BBYO or NFTY?

For BBYO, contact Janine Ure through the Jewish Federation office, 610-921-0624.

For NFTY, contact Scott Stein through the Reform Congregation Oheb Shalom office, 610-375-6034

Judge only myself

By Anne Seltzer



It is the time of year again when we look inward to see what we need to repent for to God. To see whether we have kept our promises; or whether because we haven't tried, or because it was just too difficult, we have failed.

This isn't to discuss whether I have passed or failed the vow test but to discuss my judging of others actions. Frankly, I have an opinion on almost everything. I have gotten better at keeping them to myself, but still I fail. What I have tried harder to do is to stop thinking judgmental thoughts. No one knows what they will do in a situation until they walk in someone else's shoes.

Having said that, I don't believe anyone would dispute the fact that Ray Rice had no right to punch his now-wife in the face and knock her out. But many people are condemning her for staying with him and sticking up for him in the media. This is wrong. It is a pattern of abusers to beg forgiveness, promise to change, and act loving in words and gifts to someone they have abused. This is their way of drawing them back into the relationship. Unless they are receiving intense therapy, there is not much chance of an abuser changing. The pattern will repeat itself until the victim becomes brave enough to find a way to leave, just continues in that role, or ends up dead. Often there are children involved as well. Even though it should be a slam dunk that the victim would leave for the safety of the children, it is not because of financial concerns or because the abuser has threatened to kill the children if the victim tries to leave. There is a great deal of fear involved. Many abusers make sure their victims are distanced from friends and family, so the victim has no one to turn to.

It is hard for those of us who have never suffered abuse to understand,

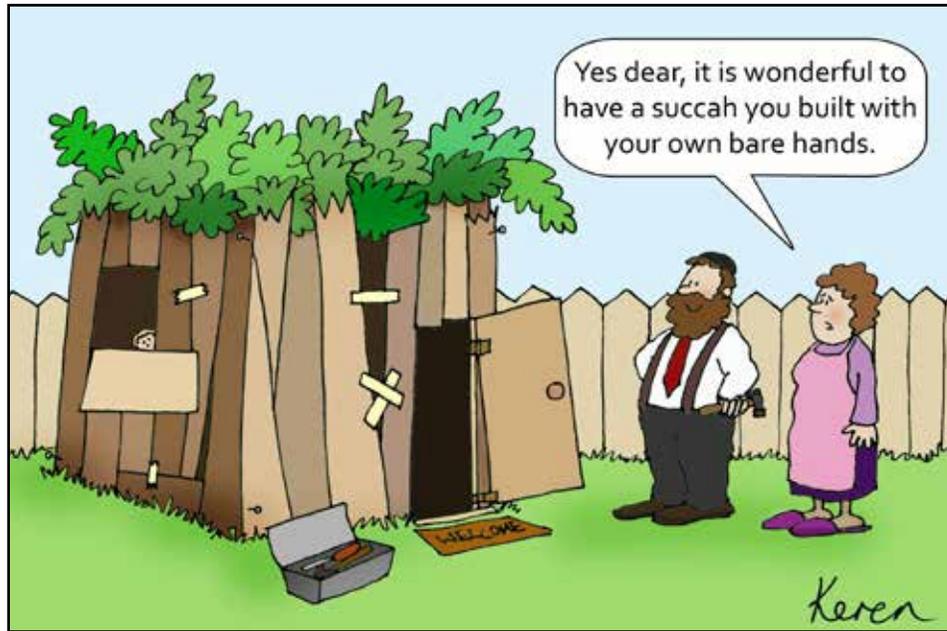
but we must try to understand the fear Mrs. Rice may be feeling right now. The man who abused her, a large football player, has lost his job, his reputation, and his endorsements. Perhaps he is blaming her. Perhaps she is scared for her life because he is angry and needs to lash out at something or someone. Perhaps she truly loves him. Her plea for the public to leave them alone was heartfelt. Truly it is none of our business. We are only making it more difficult for her. Although I truly believe it is wrong and would love to take her hand and lead her to a safe house, it is not my decision to make. Only she can decide.

The good that has come out of this is that once again abuse is in the spotlight. Experts are now discussing it and perhaps making other people brave enough to speak out and get help, possibly to leave their abuser. Hopefully because of the Rices, lives will be saved. Abuse is always wrong, and yes, one more time, this is me being judgmental. Because it is our holiday season, here is a cookie that is perfect for the harvest. I have made these for years.

Pumpkin Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 c. quick or old fashioned oats, uncooked
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 c. canned pumpkin
- 1 c. butter or margarine, softened
- 2 c. chocolate chips

Combine flour, oats, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Cream butter, add sugar, then egg and vanilla. Mix all well. Alternate adding dry ingredients and pumpkin, mix well after each addition. Stir in chips. Drop by tsp. onto parchment lined pans. Flatten slightly if desired. Bake at 350° for about 10-15 minutes. Might take a little longer. Make sure cookies are firm and slightly browned. Cool and enjoy!



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Please contact the Federation office to be sure we have your address.

Jewish Family Service

**United
Way**



Fighting poverty, hunger in our community

By Sari Incledon, M.Ed.

On Tuesday, Aug. 19, the front page of the *Reading Eagle* reported that 1 in 5 Berks residents haven't had enough to eat and received food from a pantry at least once a year. Coincidentally that



same day the monthly Jewish Family Service food pantry (operating at Keshet Zion Synagogue) served a record number of households — 194 — and we stayed open an extra hour to serve every person in need. We had just enough food.

The 2014 Hunger in America survey provided the above statistics, and our pantry clients were among those surveyed. Feeding America, the nation's largest organization of emergency food providers, conducted the survey and it was funded by the Howard G. Buffet Foundation. The survey shows that almost one in four who receive food assistance are children and that the percentage of seniors has grown from 6 to 15 percent.

Another key finding is that a growing percentage of residents who use food pantries are choosing between paying for food and paying for other key expenses such as utilities, housing or medical care.

In her book "There Shall Be No Needy — Pursuing Social Justice Through Jewish Law and Tradition," Rabbi Jill Jacobs says, "The overarching Jewish attitude toward the poor is best summed up by a single word in Deuteronomy 15: 4-11: achikha (your brother) — "you shall surely open your hand to your brother, to the poor and the needy in your land". In the Sept. 18 *Reading Eagle* we were happy to learn that Reading is no longer the poorest city in the nation. In spite of the improved ranking, Reading still has a high percentage of people living below the poverty line. Jewish Family Service is proud to partner with our community non-profit agencies to meet the unmet needs of our fellow citizens.

This year Jewish Family Service has given food assistance to 21 Jewish households. In addition we helped 94 households in August and in September 168 households from varied ethnic, racial and cultural groups received food

assistance from our program. Our food pantry is one of just a few in the city of Reading that will provide food for people facing emergency situations when no pantries are open. We are able to do this important work thanks to the generosity of donors to the Federation and United Way. We are especially grateful to Keshet Zion for sharing space with us and to our very committed volunteers.

Rabbi Jacobs urges us not to consider the poor person a drain on our resources, but to regard our assistance as an investment in the future of the community. She adds, today's client may be tomorrow's community leader and a giver of tzedakah.

New Scarves, Hats and Gloves Needed

Jewish Family Service is working with nonprofits throughout the community to provide help for at-risk and homeless families at the 6th Annual People First Event. Bring your items to the JCC, or send a check and we will shop for you.

Checks payable to Jewish Federation of Reading, PO Box 14925, Reading PA 19612-4925

Help for Holocaust Survivors

The Claims Conference has reached a landmark agreement with the German Finance Ministry under which the organization and the German government will together provide assistance to Jewish child survivors of the Holocaust. Those survivors of the Shoah who were born in 1928 or later and who were in concentration camps, ghettos, or for at least six months under Nazi occupation (or 12 months in Nazi Axis countries) in hiding or under false identity will be eligible to receive a special one-time payment of approximately \$3,300 because of special needs. The fund is expected to become operational Jan. 1, and details will be made available after approval by the German Bundestag and the Claims Conference.

Jewish Family Service will help anyone who needs assistance making a claim.

Living with Loss

Monday, Oct. 20

3 - 4:30 p.m. at the JCC

For more information, call Sari at 610-921-0624

Jewish Family Service offering help in choosing health plan

Medicare — Open enrollment is Oct. 15- Dec. 7

ACA (also known as Obamacare) —
Open enrollment is Nov. 15-- Feb. 15,

Phyllis Dessel, who formerly worked at the Berks County Area Office of Aging, is willing to share her expertise and assist people who need help choosing a health insurance plan.

To make an appointment with Phyllis please call JFS at 610-921-0624.



6th People First Event Collection



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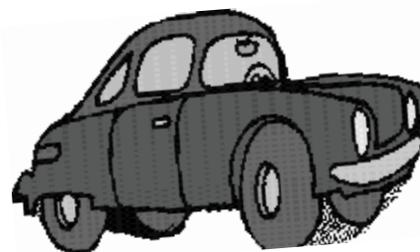
Date Due: October 22, 2014

Jewish Family Service is collecting the above items for the 6th Annual People First Event helping at-risk and homeless families in Berks County.

Please bring items to the JCC. Or send a check and we will shop for you. Send your check to us by October 22. Checks payable to Jewish Federation of Reading (note People First on check), PO Box 14925, Reading PA 19612.



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Jewish Family Service Food Pantry Collection



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

We also need plastic and paper grocery bags!

After Gaza conflict, prepare for a stormy year on college campuses

By Alina Dain Sharon

JNS.org

This summer's 50-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza has spurred a sharp rise in both anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incidents around the world. At the same time, the boundary between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism has become increasingly blurred, particularly on American college campuses.

Trouble for Jewish students got underway even before the start of classes this fall. At an orientation event in late August, a pro-Israel student at Temple University was punched in the face by a member of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and called a "baby killer," "Zionist pig," and "kike."

Given this climate, pro-Israel organizations are taking special precautions for the upcoming academic

year.

"We are expecting that things can get very ugly this year on many college campuses, including some that were quiet in the past," Kenneth L. Marcus, president of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and former staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, told JNS.org.

Phil Nordlinger, director of the Hillel International branch at Temple University, said the branch has "offered members of the community a safe place to discuss their Judaism, feelings towards Israel, reactions to the [SJP] incident, or concerns about safety on campus with Hillel professionals and counselors from the university's counseling center."

"We are also working closely with the Temple administration to ensure that the concerns of Jewish students at

Temple are heard and met," Nordlinger told JNS.org. "We value our partnership with the administration and are working with them to ensure a campus climate of civility where our students feel it is safe to celebrate their Jewish identities and show support for Israel."

Elliott Hamilton — a student at Pitzer College in Claremont, Calif., and a fellow for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA) — wrote in a recent op-ed for JNS.org that the Temple SJP incident came as no surprise to him.

"SJP historically bullies pro-Israel students and invites vehemently anti-Semitic speakers to campus under the pretense of 'dialogue,'" he wrote.

In order to educate both students and staffers about the difference between legitimate criticism of Israel

and hate speech, the Brandeis Center has introduced a resource guide called the "Fact Sheet on the Elements of Anti-Semitic Discourse," which is being distributed to campus officials across the U.S.

"We want university administrators to understand that much of the anti-Israel protest activity that we see on college campuses is really not just about politics. In fact, it has roots in ancient and medieval Jew hatred," said Marcus.

To that end, the guide builds on the U.S. State Department's definition of anti-Semitism, which confirms that "when criticism of Israel involves demonization, double standards, or delegitimization, there's often something more involved than just politics," Marcus explained.

"For example, when anti-Israel activists obsess about the 'Israel Lobby,' people need to understand that this notion is rooted in old-fashioned ideas about Jewish conspiratorial control," he said.

The Hillel International umbrella, meanwhile, is working to strengthen its continued mission to help students develop their Jewish identity and their connection to Israel.

Amid the increased harassment and intimidation of Jewish and pro-Israel students on campus, Hillel is playing a very active role in addressing the situation, said Hillel spokesperson Arielle Poleg. Every campus is different, with some facing more anti-Israel activity than others, but Hillel is generally working to create a secure environment on each campus in the aftermath of the Gaza conflict.

"A lot of Hillel directors have been working closely with campus police or campus security at their universities just to make sure their facilities are secure, that Jewish students know that they are safe," Poleg told JNS.org. "Of course, students are being advised not to engage in any kind of physical confrontation and to always place physical safety first."

Upon their return to campus, Hillel engaged about 4,000 students who participated in Hillel-led Birthright trips to Israel this summer. During the Gaza conflict, Hillel worked with the Birthright organization to "adjust itineraries as needed to ensure the safety and security of all groups," said Poleg.

Students who are active with Hillel on various campuses have also applied to receive Israel Solidarity Grants from the Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC), a Hillel partner organization. ICC's grants are a new initiative to help students, campus professionals, and faculty launch visible initiatives in support for Israel on their campuses. Checks are set to go out to the first 65 grantees for projects such as leadership dinners, rallies, statements signed by student leaders and published in campus newspapers, and more.

Jacob Baime, executive director of ICC, said he believes the greatest threat of fallout from the current conflict is the potential of an erosion of confidence of pro-Israel students and other stakeholders on campus." In that vein, the ICC Academic Network — composed of 64 professors on 54 campuses — is making a concerted effort now to organize private meetings with pro-Israel students in order to increase their confidence, Baime told JNS.org.

Additionally, ICC is fostering collaboration among its pro-Israel partner groups on campus, including a recent two-day retreat in St. Louis attended by 30 field professionals. A larger ICC retreat is planned for December in Orlando, Fla.

Groups such as SJP "don't do anything to bring people together, they don't do anything to actually help the plight of the Palestinians," Baime said.



"Come Together"

The Miller Center of RACC
Saturday, October 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm

The Miller Center's presentation of Koresh Dance Company is made possible in part by funding from the Jewish Federation of Reading, Jerome I. Marcus and the Rubin Family Fund of the Jewish Federation of Reading.

An Israeli-influenced contemporary dance company, Koresh is known for its engaging performances and technically superb dancers. It brings to stage... "exciting lifts, athleticism that borders on gymnastics and plenty of passionate partnering." -*Philadelphia Inquirer*

For tickets and information, contact the Miller Center Box Office at 610.607.6270 or visit www.racc.edu/millercenter.

**Koresh Dance Company will visit Congregation Oheb Sholom
Sunday, October 19 at 10:30am**

to teach Israeli folk dance and discuss how it is infused into their contemporary style. Following the workshop, Israeli artistic director

Ronen Koresh will show video and talk about how his Israeli roots have influenced his choreography.

About Koresh Dance Company

Koresh Dance Company was founded in Philadelphia in 1991, and is widely recognized for its superb technique and emotionally-compelling appeal. It presents bi-annual home seasons as the resident dance company of the Suzanne Roberts Theatre, and has toured in over 38 states and 7 countries. The Company's interdisciplinary foundation promotes high-speed attack and gestural diversity drawn from Graham technique, Luigi jazz, classical ballet, hip hop and Israeli folk dance. Guest choreographers including Donald Byrd (Spectrum Dance Theater), Ohad Naharin (Batsheva Dance Company), Robert Battle (Battleworks/Alvin Ailey), Itzik Galili (Galili Dance) and Paul Selwyn Norton have produced works for the company. The company currently consists of dancers Shannon Bramham, Fang-Ju Chou Gant, Joseph Cotler, Jessica Daley, Micah Geyer, Krista Montrone, Kevan Sullivan, Robert Tyler, Asya Zlatina, and Melissa Rector, who also serves as the Company's Assistant Artistic Director. The company is supported in part by the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, Dance/USA Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the William Penn Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation.

Ronen (Roni) Koresh was born and raised in Israel. He received early dance training from his mother, a folk dancer in the Yemenite tradition, and from teachers Alida Gera, Micha Deri, Nira Paz and Moshe Romano. Koresh joined Martha Graham's Batsheva 2 Dance Company before enlisting for 3 years in the Israeli army. In 1983, he moved to New York to study with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. He began performing with Shimon Braun's Waves Jazz Dance Company in Philadelphia, and in 1991, founded Koresh Dance Company in Philadelphia, followed by the Koresh School of Dance in 1993.

About the Koresh School of Dance, Outreach, and Community Development

The Koresh School of Dance, established in 1993, welcomes over 20,000 students every year to classes at all levels and for all ages. In 2013, Koresh Dance Company reaffirmed its commitment to Philadelphia by purchasing a property in the heart of Center City. There, the school extends dance education and performance resources to its community by presenting emerging artists in bi-monthly Koresh Artist Showcases and providing professional training and performance opportunities to the exceptional dancers of the Koresh Youth Ensemble. In 2013, Koresh launched the now annual Come Together Festival, which in its first year presented 27 companies in 11 performances over 9 days.

Koresh Dance Company is committed to community-building and outreach. While on tour, the company provides post-performance discussions, residencies, open rehearsals, lecture demonstrations, master classes and video discussions to its audiences. At home, Koresh Kids Dance brings arts education to economically disadvantaged elementary-school students by partnering with Philadelphia public schools to provide free weekly dance classes, promoting children's creativity as a conduit for non-violence and life goals.



KORESH
DANCE COMPANY

Gratz JCHS News

School enrolls student from Pottstown; registration still open to all

By Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner
Branch Director, Gratz JCHS

The Reading Branch of Gratz Jewish Community High School, meeting Sunday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the JCC, is delighted to welcome a new student from Pottstown,

Students and teachers welcomed Hunter Lomire, an 11th-grader who has begun attending JCHS with the full, gracious support of the Reading Federation in their continuing effort to bring Jewish education to all 8th-12th grade students in the Greater Reading community. He is enrolled with students his own age in "Comparative Religions - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," in addition to a course in "Jewish Literacy."

The "Comparative Religions" course is part of the the Gratz College Concurrent Enrollment Program, which allows 11th and 12th grade students to enroll in college courses for credit prior to high school graduation. This program is in partnership with the Gratz Jewish Community High School. Credits earned through Concurrent Enrollment can be transferred to other colleges or universities.

Registration is still open to all Jewish youth in the Greater Reading Federation area by contacting Rabbi Barry Dov Lerner, Branch Director, bdlerner1@gmail.com or Jayne Kleinman, JCC Program Director, 610-921-0624. Enrollment can be accomplished online at <https://secure.gratz.edu/page/signup/jchs-application-for-admission>.

The Video Values course at the Reading Branch of Gratz JCHS continues a very popular blend of contemporary media and their messages from the perspective of Jewish values and principles.



Students take part in the Video Values class at Gratz JCHS, hosted by the JCC of Reading

This is one of three classes offered to students of eighth-ninth grades, taught by Rabbi Dov Lerner, Branch Director, and our new colleague Rabbi Dani Zucker of Pottstown.

Each class is shown several minutes of a selected scene or parts of several scenes from the most contemporary available DVD-issued films, and the students then discuss what they have seen in class and/or what they may have seen of the film previously.

Sometimes the film name is identified in advance, in order to give students a chance to see it entirely on their own in the preceding week, and often the film is brought in "cold" without an announcement.

We also can use clips of online media from YouTube and other websites for the engagement of the students in a particular value concept, and thereafter

there is discussion and learning activities.

We will compare different versions of the same story, e.g. "The Jazz Singer," which was issued in 1927 and revolutionized Hollywood with its synchronized dialogue sequences, leading to the decline of silent films. Three remakes of "The Jazz Singer" have been produced: in 1952 starring Danny Thomas and Peggy Lee; a 1959 television version starring Jerry Lewis; and a 1980 remake starring Neil Diamond, Lucie Arnaz and Laurence Olivier. The story was adapted as a one-hour radio play on two broadcasts of Lux Radio Theater, both starring Al Jolson, reprising his screen role. The first aired in 1936; the second in 1947.

The class relies on the newest releases of films and also the classics provided on Netflix graciously subsidized by the Jewish Federation of Reading.

We welcome Rabbi Dr. Daniel M. Zucker, rabbi and education director of Congregation Hessed shel Emet in Pottstown, to our local Gratz faculty.

Rabbi Zucker grew up in a liberal rabbinic family in the San Francisco Bay area. He studied archaeology and Middle-Eastern studies at the University of California and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He served on the staff of numerous excavations in Israel and is responsible for the discovery of the biblical site of Migdol.



Rabbi Dr. Daniel M. Zucker

Rabbi Zucker began his rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles where he received his M.A. in Hebrew Letters. He continued his studies at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, receiving his ordination in 1978. Rabbi Zucker served congregations in Tennessee, California, Virginia, Illinois, and New York before coming to Pennsylvania.

He has been heavily involved in efforts to rescue Jews from Ethiopia, Syria and Iran, the effort to bring justice to Darfur in Sudan and to establish genuine democratic institutions in the Middle East as an antidote to Islamic radicalism. He is the author of more than 90 published articles on the Middle East.

Rabbi Zucker served as adjunct professor of Hebrew language at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University in Brookville, N.Y., and chaired its Hebrew Department for four years.

Ready for a sweet new year



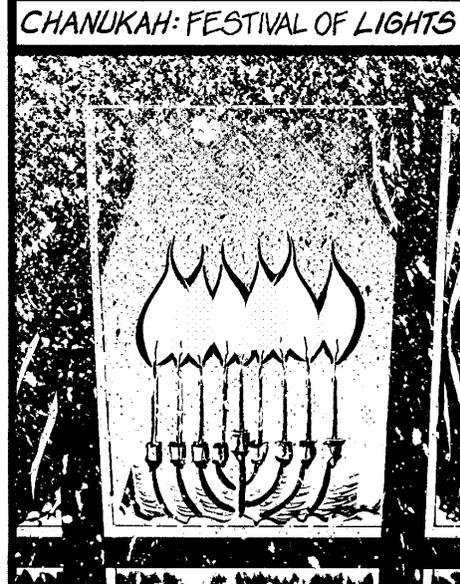
Gratz students enjoy apples and honey at their Sept. 21 class.

EVERYTHING'S RELATIVE

by Jordan B. Gorfinkel • www.jewishcartoon.com

-  BECCA
The Altruist
-  BETH
The Realist
-  BERNIE
The Idealist
-  YAEL
The Perplexed
-  LOUIS
The Rebel
-  ZAYDS
The Traditionalist
-  BUBS
The Bubbe

Your Official Guide To ALTERNATE NAMES For JEWISH HOLIDAYS



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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. 19

Lakin Preschool

In honor of:

Birth of Al and Betsy Katz's new granddaughter Amalia Aliza Katz - Evelyn and Jay Lipschutz

Jewish Family Service

In honor of:

Andrew Oppenheimer's marriage – Andy and Corinne Wernick
 Birth of Jayne Kleinman's twin grandsons – Andy and Corinne Wernick
 Brooke Gunter's engagement – Andy and Corinne Wernick
 Marriage of Laurie and Eitan Kilchevsky's son Amichai – Andy and Corinne Wernick

Get well/speedy recovery:

Sidney Bratt – Helene and Henry Singer

In memory of:

Sheila Rosenzweig – Andy and Corinne Wernick, Alan and Margie Leisawitz
 Sylvia Sulman – Edith Mendelsohn, Kevin Horowitz
 Elizabeth Gordon (Jeffrey Weizer's grandmother) – Chronister Family
 Martin Schneider – Ruth Isenberg

Federation Jewish Community Campaign

In honor of:

Gary Lattin's retirement – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Dena and Vic Hammel

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	\$20
Holocaust Library & Resource Center	\$18
Doris Levin Fund	\$10

Bat Mitzvah of Sue and Herb Wach's granddaughter Sophie – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Trudy Katz's special birthday – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Brian Wernick's engagement – Jackye and Jim Barrer

Birth of Al and Betsy's Katz's granddaughter Amalia Aliza Katz – Jackye and Jim Barrer

Get well/speedy recovery:

George Viener – Debbie Goodman and John Moyer, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

In memory of:

Sheila Rosenzweig – Cheryl and Eric Farber, Jess and Robin Drezner, Helene and Henry Singer, Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer, Jackye and Jim Barrer

Sylvia Sulman – Cheryl and Eric Farber

Ed Bernstein (Jay Steinberg's uncle) – Rob and Yvonne Oppenheimer

Mildred Sigismund – Al and Betsy Katz

Friendship Circle Fund

Get well/speedy recovery:

Judy Hartman – Alice Botvin

In memory of:

Sheila Rosenzweig – Alice Botvin, Glenn and Gaye Corbin

Sylvia Sulman – Wendy Neuhs, Marcia Gross

Reporter offers inside look at coverage of war in Gaza

Matti Friedman recently wrote an article for Tablet Magazine, an online publication of Jewish life, arts, and ideas, sponsored by Nextbook. In it, Friedman dissects the institutional bias against Israel in the mainstream media and how that bias is part of a storyline

that is significantly larger than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Why in a recent article in *The New Yorker* was there only one sentence each about the horrors in Nigeria and the Ukraine, four sentences referring to the ISIS genocides but 30 sentences about Israel and Gaza?

Friedman goes so far as to describe media coverage of Israel as a "narrative construct that is largely fiction" and accuses his former colleagues in the international press of being guided not by journalistic ethics, but by their political worldview. This piece provides valuable insight

into the media's insistence on portraying Israel — ironically — as the neighborhood bully. The complete article can be viewed by accessing this website:

<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/183033/israel-insider-guide>

How will YOU care for your Aging Parent?

How do you know when they need more help?
 Who do you call?
 What resources are available?

Come to the...

AGING PARENT FAIR

Tues., October 7
 5pm – 7pm (drop in hours)

Jewish Cultural Center
 1100 Berkshire Blvd—Wyomissing



Gather information on senior resources and get answers to your questions during this open session.

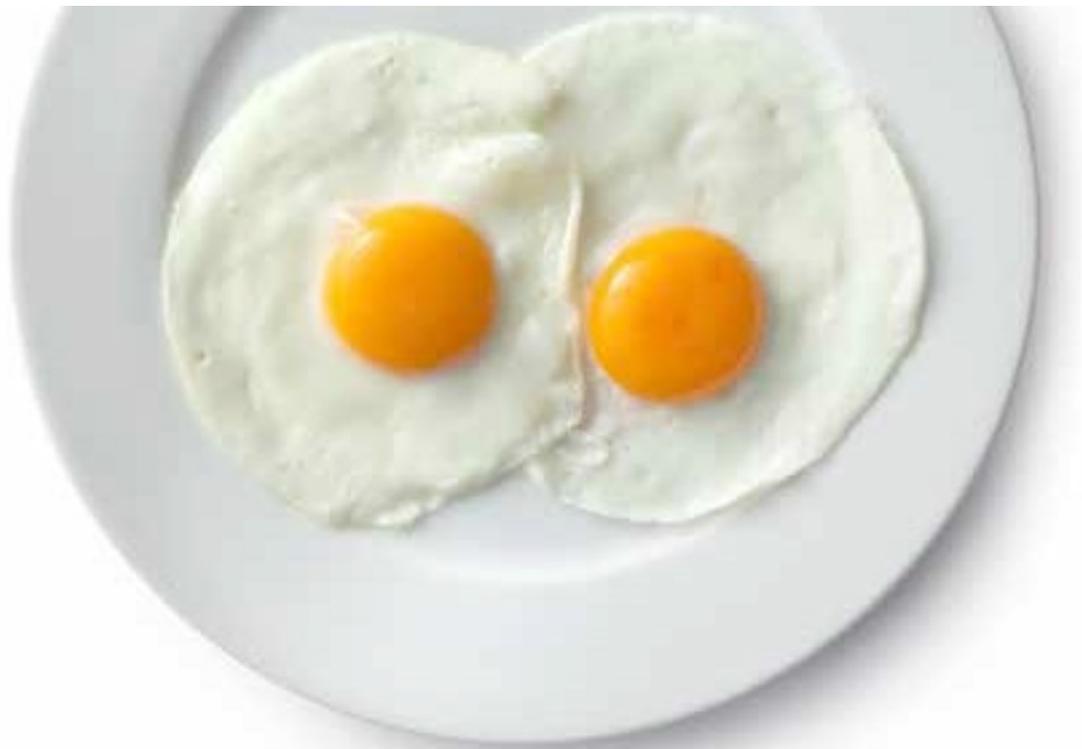
Attending Professionals:

The Berks County Area Agency on Aging, Berks Encore, Berks Veterans Affairs, ACSIA Long Term Care, Alzheimer's Association, Antanavage Farbiarz Antanavage, Comfort Keepers, 1847 Financial, Life Choice Hospice, Health Calls Home Health and Transition Connections.

This session is intended for adult children seeking help, support and resources for their aging loved ones.



For more details call:
 Wendy at Comfort Keepers
 (610) 413-1995



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SECURE THE FUTURE.**

**BEFORE
YOU
FINISH
BREAKFAST.**

It only takes a few minutes to change lives in our community and around the world. Food banks for the needy, care for seniors, Israel experiences for the young — these are just some of the solutions Federation supports with heart, innovation and decades of knowing what works. **Seize the moment: Donate. Volunteer. Get involved.**

Your link to getting started: JewishFederations.org



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I want to help Federation make wishes come true this year. Here's my tax-deductible gift to support Jewish Federation of Reading's 2014 Annual Campaign and make a world of difference both near my own home and beyond:

Name _____ Address _____
\$ _____ amount enclosed Checks payable to Jewish Federation of Reading
Credit Card: ___ Discover ___ Mastercard ___ Visa Card # _____ Exp. date _____ Security Code _____
Name on Card: _____ Signature _____