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WASHTENAW

# JEWISH NEWS

June/July/August 2009

Sivan/Tammuz/Av/Elul

Volume XXXIII: Number 9

FREE

## Aronows receive the Smokler Young Leadership Award

David Shtulman, special to the WJN

**D**rs. Herb and Stefanie Aronow received the Smokler Young Leadership Award at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor's Annual Meeting on May 27. The award recognizes young leaders in the Jewish community for outstanding service to Jewish life.

"Herb and Stefanie Aronow embody what young leadership is all about. They became active in Jewish community life in every city they lived in and when they settled in Ann Arbor, immediately got involved and began to have an impact in the community" says Susan Fisher, president of the Jewish Federation.

When Herb and Stefanie first came to Ann Arbor for medical school in the 90s, there was no Young Adult Division in Ann Arbor, so they got involved in Detroit. When they did their residencies in Cleveland from 1998–2003, they became leaders in the Young Leadership Division of the Federation there. During the next two years in Philadelphia, they were active at Temple Sinai. When they returned to settle in Ann Arbor in 2005, the seeds of a Young Adult Division were just being planted.

The Aronows—together with close friends Laura and Ezra Burstein, Ron and Julie Perry, Mark Bernstein and Rachel Bendit, and a handful of others—turned Ann Arbor's Young Adult Division into a vibrant group, creating a series of programs that remain to this day. These include PJs and

Pancakes, to be held on June 7 this year; Shabbat in the Park kicking off each fall; and Hilarity and Charity, the Young Adult annual fundraising event, which will be co-chaired this year by Stefanie and Andrew Landau.

While Stefanie Aronow has focused her energies over the years primarily on the Young Adult Division and support of the Federation campaign and major events, Herb has shifted his attention to the Federation Board and is just finishing a year as co-chair, together with Gary Freed, of the Federation Annual Campaign. Herb is also a member of the National Young Leadership Cabinet of United Jewish Communities. The Aronows also participated in the Federation's mission to the General Assembly in Jerusalem this past November.

Why would two busy physicians with young children invest so much of their time



Drs. Herb and Stefanie Aronow

in Federation activity? For Stefanie, it's all about the children, "It's really important to teach your children *Tikkun Olam* and to set an example for them." ■

See related article on page 2.

## Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan to perform at JCC on July 1

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

Each year the Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan spends a day entertaining and educating the campers at Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's summer day camp for children entering grades K–8. After spending the day at camp, the Israel Scouts will offer the entire community an evening performance at the JCC, sponsored by the Benard L. Maas Foundation.

The Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of approximately 100 teenage scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel. They use song, dance, and storytelling to celebrate Jewish heritage and bring Israel to life.

This summer the Israel Scouts will perform at the JCC on Wednesday, July 1. The evening will start at 6 p.m. with a pizza dinner, followed at 7 p.m. by the Israel Scouts' all-ages performance. The performance is



The Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan

free and the pizza dinner \$6 per person, or \$18 per family for JCC members and camp families (\$8 per person / \$24 per family for other community members). Reservations for the dinner must be made by Monday, June 29. Registration forms will be available at [www.jccannarbor.org](http://www.jccannarbor.org) and at the JCC.

Host families are needed to host the members of the Israel Scouts Friendship Caravan for one night on Wednesday, July 1. Those interested in hosting, or looking for more information about the Israel Scouts performance, should contact Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 971-0990.

## Rabbi Lisa Delson hired as TBE director of congregational services

Ronnie Simon, special to the WJN

**R**abbi Lisa Delson, Temple Beth Emeth's new director of congregational services, is eager to join the congregational community this summer. Delson is newly ordained from the Cincinnati campus of the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion. Delson received a B.A. in sociology and Judaic studies from the University of Cincinnati in 2004.

Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Delson grew up in the Reform movement at Temple Israel. Throughout high school she was very involved in the North American Federation of Temple Youth, and traveled to Israel

with Alexander Muss High School. While in rabbinical school, Delson served at student pulpit congregations in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Muncie, Indiana; and Newark, Ohio. Delson also deepened her study and commitment to social action by serving as a



Rabbi Lisa Delson

member of the Commission on Social Action at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) in Washington DC. In 2008, Delson participated in the American Jewish World Service's Rabbinic Student Delegation to Ghana. Last summer she led a high school Mitzvah Corps group to New Orleans to aid in Hurricane Katrina recovery.

This summer Delson looks forward to continuing the success of the Caring Community at Temple Beth Emeth, and launching new programs and activities that will strengthen the Ann Arbor Jewish community. ■

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## Community

### Karen Shill wins Steven Elyakin Jewish Educator Award at Federation annual meeting

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

**K**aren Shill, a teacher at both Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth religious schools, was presented with the Steven Elyakin Jewish Educator Award at the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor annual meeting on May 27. The Steven Elyakin Jewish Educator Award honors an Ann Arbor Jewish educator for outstanding commitment to Jewish education and performance in teaching love of Judaism and the Jewish people to youth.

Neal Elyakin describes the award created to honor the memory of his brother Steven with these words. "Steven Elyakin (z"l), for whom this award is named, believed deeply in maintaining a strong connection to Israel and Jewish values. Steven lived in Israel for almost two decades. He worked in the orchards, volunteered with children, and was loved by many. His life was cut short in 1999 when, at the age of 39, he died in a car accident. The Elyakin family established the Steven R. Elyakin Philanthropic Fund to honor Steve's love of Israel, Judaism, and making a difference in the next generation. What better way to honor Steve than to honor those who teach the children about Judaism and Israel."

Karen Shill was nominated to receive the award by Cindy Saper and Terri Ginsburg, education directors at Beth Israel Congregation and Temple Beth Emeth, respectively. Saper says, "Karen has been inspiring students, parents and teachers for many years at Beth Israel and in our community. She treats every student as an individual and truly enriches Jewish life."

Ginsburg adds, "Karen is a truly remarkable Jewish educator. She has a rich background and tremendous depth of Jewish knowledge. Karen draws from resources as diverse as classical artwork, literature, music, and archaeology to tell the Jewish story."

David Shtulman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, commends the Elyakin family for creating this award. "Not only is it a beautiful way to honor Steven Elyakin, it also serves an important purpose. Jewish education is a primary function of any Jewish community. What is more appropriate than for a community to honor its educators?" ■



Karen Shill

### Hadassah to honor Doris Miller at year-end event

Barbara Bergman, special to the WJN

Former chapter president, life member, and a woman of extraordinary talent, Doris Miller, will be honored at Hadassah's Year End Event held on Sunday, June 7, from 1-3 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County (2935 Birch Hollow Dr.) Miller has led the Ann Arbor Chapter of Hadassah for many years, and the chapter has gladly followed. She bestows upon all a keen intelligence, perseverance, and creativity while displaying a love for Hadassah and a kindness to all. Miller has served on the Chapter board continuously for many years. Active in all facets of Ann Arbor Jewish life, Miller continues to be a vibrant example of *menshlikeit*.

Along with honoring Miller, the event will feature a Zumba workout for people of all ages and abilities, from sitting in a chair to dancing on the floor. Zumba is a high-energy workout, but not a typical group aerobics. Hips shake, hands clap, shoulders shimmy, and toes tap to a hip-hop Latin beat. Karen Silverman will lead this Zumba demonstration featuring Hadassah members who participate in Silverman's classes. Refreshments and schmoozing will round out the event.

All are welcome to attend and join Hadassah in honoring Doris Miller. Cost for the event is \$10 per person. For a ride, contact Barb Bergman at 668-6821 or yoshka1942@aol.com. RSVP to Eileen Thacker at 302-1810 or tethacker@yahoo.com.

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#### Special thanks

To Ethel Ellis and Betty Hammond

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Extra copies of the Washtenaw Jewish News are available at locations throughout Washtenaw County.



## Community

### Printed words and images in Jewish history is focus of new book, U-M collection

Harriet Teller, special to the WJN

When some people travel, they collect postcards, banners, or teaspoons as souvenirs. For decades, when Constance Harris visited cities and towns around the world, she sought out Jewish ritual objects and other Judaic items



Constance Harris

in antique shops, bookstores, and thrift shops. She had no way of knowing that her hobby would someday lead to her establishing the Jewish Heritage Collection Dedicated to Mark and Dave Harris, nor did she have any idea that at the age of 82 she would publish the richly illustrated history *The Way Jews Lived: Five Hundred Years of Printed Words and Images*.

On Thursday, June 25, from 4–5:30 p.m., in the Library Gallery on the first floor of the University of Michigan Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, Harris will read excerpts and speak about her work. Copies of the book will be available for sale and for signing by the author.

Constance Harris grew up in New York City and attended Hunter College, majoring in English Literature. She met her future husband, Theodore Harris, when he was a student at Princeton, and after he received his doctorate they married and moved to the Los Angeles area. After a distinguished career at the Rand Corporation, where he eventually became head of the mathematics department, Ted Harris went on to teach at the University of Southern California. Con-

nie and Ted's family expanded to include two children, Marcia and Stephen.

Connie became active in the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles, serving on a variety of committees and as president of the Women's Department. She started a group, the Women's Interfaith Committee, with the purpose of fostering personal relationships and mutual appreciation between people of different religious backgrounds.

Connie's study of art began casually, with a search for works for her living room walls. She had read that prints and drawings by great artists were available at reasonable prices, so she proceeded to look up galleries in the yellow pages and made a foray in which she brought home a drawing by a 16th-century Italian artist. She studied this period of art on her own, then audited a course at UCLA in the history of printmaking. She was invited by the instructor to attend a graduate-level course on portraiture in prints, and was assigned the topic of 17th-century engraved portraits. Her research soon showed her that there was no authoritative book on the subject, so she wrote one (*Portraiture in Prints*, 1987).

Connie was raised to value charity, a belief she likewise instilled in her children. Her daughter, Marcia Harris, was a nurse practitioner who spent her career working throughout the developing world, until she died in an accident in Ecuador in 2000. Marcia's memory is honored through a foundation in her name, which gives grants to help people in the developing world. Connie's son and daughter-in-law, Stephen and Ruth Harris of Birmingham, Michigan, are active volunteers in their community, promoting literacy and music education, as well as helping the elderly. The name of this collection of Judaica honors their sons, Mark (undergraduate at University of Michigan) and Dave (graduate student at University of California, Davis).

In conjunction with the publication of *The Way Jews Lived*, Connie Harris has donated the Jewish Heritage Collection Dedicated to Mark and Dave Harris to U-M. By donating her carefully crafted collection to the U-M, Connie hopes to give future generations some of the Jewish stories and objects that have so fascinated her. ■

### JCC to honor board and volunteers at annual meeting

Margi Brawer, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Jewish Community Center's Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 7, at 10 a.m. at the JCC. The morning promises to be a mix of business and pleasure as the JCC reflects on the successes of the previous twelve months.

Following the brunch, the JCC will recognize retiring board members, elect new board members, and vote on a new slate of officers. Committee chairs will also report on their activities over the past year. The President's Awards for JCC Service, the Above and Beyond Award, and the Krislov Award will be presented at the meeting. An audio-visual presentation will highlight the past year's achievements.

The JCC is especially grateful to all its volunteers; the Annual Meeting offers an opportunity to honor these volunteers and present them with tokens of appreciation for their hard work. Without their dedication, the myriad of educational and cultural events at the JCC would not be possible.

This meeting is open to all community members. Children's programming will also be available. RSVP by June 3, 2009. For more information, contact Rebekah Gamble at 971-0990 or rebekahgamble@jccfed.org.

### Adults reap rewards from Jewish study as Ann Arbor JCC Melton enters second year

Julie Gales, special to the WJN

Thanks to the continuing generosity of the Covenant Foundation and the Ann Arbor Jewish Federation's Humanitarian Award, the Jewish Community Center will resume the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School classes in September 2009. The Mini-School is sponsored by the JCC in collaboration with a consortium of community congregations and organizations.

The Florence Melton Adult Mini-School offers a rigorous but accessible course of Jewish study taught with a pluralistic approach. Jews of all levels of knowledge and observance are welcome. The Melton program of Jewish study was launched in 1986 by philanthropist Florence Melton, in cooperation with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. It is offered in more than 65 locations in North America, Europe, Australia, and Israel.

There are no exams, no homework assignments, no pre-requisites; the only requirement is the desire to learn. The two-year, once-a-week course of Jewish study attracts people like Greg Saltzman, who is participating in Ann Arbor's first Melton class. "The Melton classes address some of the same topics as the religious school classes I took as a teenager, but they're a great deal better," said Saltzman. "All of the Melton students want to be there, and they have an enthusiasm that creates a positive environment for learning. The class is conducted at a level appropriate for smart, highly educated people, yet it is accessible to those with no prior background in Hebrew. Participants in the class have a broad range of religious views, from Secular Humanistic to Orthodox. The class makes you think, helps you understand your Jewish heritage, and is a lot of fun."

The JCC's Melton program will restart in September with a new First Year Class offering "Rhythms of Jewish Living" and "Purposes of Jewish Living," and a Second Year Class for those who have completed Year One. "Rhythms" will explore ideas and texts central to recurring Jewish rituals, and "Purposes" will focus on essential Jewish theological concepts in the Bible, Talmud and other sacred texts. The second year curriculum also comprises two parts: "Ethics of Jewish Living" and "Dramas of Jewish Living." The first will examine ethical issues like justice, life and death, sexuality, and community with case studies from Talmudic, rabbinic, and contemporary literature. The second will address the dramatic developments, experiences, and issues from different periods in Jewish history, as reflected in historical texts.

Classes will begin in early September and run for 30 weeks, excluding holidays. Tuition is \$550 and includes a Melton course pack.

For more information or to register, contact Julie Gales, Melton Mini-School Director, at 971-0990 or juliegales@jccfed.org.

**the florence melton  
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**You are Cordially Invited to the...**

## 2009 JCC Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

**Sunday, June 7th • 10:00 a.m. at the JCC**

**During the Annual Meeting, the JCC Will:**

- Honor outgoing Board members and our volunteers
- Vote on the new slate of nominees for the Board of Directors
- Hear reports from committee chairs about the activities of the past year
- Welcome the new officers

**Families are invited**  
Child care and Children's programming available

**Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers!**

## Seniors

### June/July/August SPICE\* of Life

**\*Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational Programs for Adults**

Merrill Poliner, special to the WJN

#### Tuesdays

**11 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar.**

\$4 per session, or 3 sessions for \$10

**Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet.** \$3 per person

**1 p.m.: Games and Activities.** Join in for a variety of games and activities, including mahjong, quilting, art projects, and other card games.

**1:30 p.m.: Yiddish Tish** (Yiddish Conversational Group). Open to the public, as well as University of Michigan faculty, staff, and students, all ages and levels welcome. Beanster's Café, ground floor, Michigan League. Free. For more information, call 936-2367.

#### Thursdays

**10 a.m.: Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar.**

\$4 per session, or 3 sessions for \$10

**11 a.m.: Current Events with Heather Dombey.**

A Jewish perspective on this week's news. Bring items of interest for group discussion.

**Noon: Dairy Lunch Buffet.** \$3 per person

**1 p.m.: Thursday Special Events and Presentations** (see below for details)

**2:15 p.m.: Literary Group** facilitated by Sidney Warschausky. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, for more information and the current book.

#### Fridays

**1:30 p.m.: Yiddish Reading Group** at the Jewish Community Center. Call Ray Juni for additional information at 761-2765.

#### Thursday special events and presentations

##### June 4

**12:30 p.m.:** Birthday celebration for all with June birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.

**1 p.m.:** Join Marilyn Wolfe, West Bloomfield JCC travel maven, for a travelogue.

##### June 11

**12:30 p.m.:** A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.)

**1 p.m.:** A trio of classical guitarists will provide a musical afternoon.

##### June 18

**12:30 p.m.:** Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker will be available for discussion, questions, and assistance.

**1 p.m.:** Dr. Leslie Swanson of the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Center will discuss the relationship between sleep and mental and physical health, and how to improve sleep.

##### June 25

**1 p.m.:** Join the JCC Seniors on a trip to the University of Michigan Art Museum for a docent tour. Round trip transportation is \$5. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, by June 15 for reservations.

##### July 2

**12:30 p.m.:** Birthday celebration for all with July birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.

**1 p.m.:** "Jewish Ann Arbor" presentation by Richard Adler, University of Michigan-Dearborn professor of microbiology.



##### July 9

**12:30 p.m.:** A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.)

**1 p.m.:** Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, local author and educator, discusses her book, *Across the Chasm*, which chronicles her family's experience with bone-marrow transplant.



##### July 16

**12:30 p.m.:** Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker, will be available for discussion, questions, and assistance.

**1 p.m.:** Join the JCC Seniors on a trip to the Ann Arbor Art Fair. Round trip transportation is \$5. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, by July 2 for reservations.

##### July 23

**1 p.m.:** Join the JCC Seniors on a trip to the University of Michigan Art Museum for a docent tour. Round trip transportation is \$5. Call Merrill Poliner, 971-0990, by July 15 for reservations.

##### July 30

**1 p.m.:** How are the current economic conditions affecting seniors? What strategies are recommended for older adults? A local expert will address these issues. Bring your questions.

##### August 6

**12:30 p.m.:** Birthday celebration for all with August birthdays. Bring family and friends for lunch and birthday cake.

**1 p.m.:** Jen Eschelbach from Recycle Ann Arbor discusses what it takes to be "green."



##### August 13

**12:30 p.m.:** A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address any questions. Free. (This event is repeated the second Thursday of each month.)

**1 p.m.:** "The Magic and Beauty of Color," local artist and author, Fred Horowitz will demonstrate the magical properties of color and color's power as an element of composition.

##### August 20

**12:30 p.m.:** Allison Pollock, MSW, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker, will be available for discussion, questions, and assistance.

**1 p.m.:** Ann Arbor District Library staff will present on an AADL program that has created archives of photographs and recipes. The presentation will explain the program, show examples of materials currently in the archives, and describe how you can share your photographs and recipes.

##### August 27

**1 p.m.:** Aharon Goldstein from Chabad House will discuss his insights into the month of Elul and discuss preparation for Rosh Hashanah.



## Community

### JFS ElderLink makes musical connections

Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson and Deborah Renner, special to the WJN

**K**eeping seniors who no longer live independently connected to the Jewish community and to the Ann Arbor community-at-large is key to their well-being, and a core program of Jewish Family Services' Older Adult Services department. The JFS ElderLink program connects JFS with select residential facilities to provide Jewish cultural-competency training for their staff, along with Jewish cultural programming for their residents. Currently, these facilities are Sunrise at North Ann Arbor, Sunrise of Ann Arbor, University Living, the Sanctuary at St. Joseph's Village, and Arbor Hospice.

Beyond the role that ElderLink plays in helping facilities make Jewish residents feel comfortable in primarily non-Jewish settings, JFS provides volunteers who can create a personal connection. It is the personal touch of compassionate volunteers like Linda Levy that keeps residents connected and lets them know that they are not forgotten by the Jewish community.

The importance of this personal connection was exemplified recently at Sunrise of Ann Arbor, an assisted living facility. Each month Linda Levy visits every Jewish resident, offering a copy of the *Washtenaw Jewish News*, a Jewish snack (such as rugalach), and a chance to *schmooze*. She struck up a friendship with Paul Mischakoff, a resident of Sunrise, who shared with her that his father Mischa had been a world-renowned violinist. Born in a Russian-Jewish village in the Ukraine, he had been the concertmaster of the NBC Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He also spent his summers as the concertmaster at the prestigious Chautauqua Music Festival in upstate New York.

An avid fan of classical music herself, Levy was excited by Mischakoff's revelation, and began to think about how wonderful it would be for Mischakoff if his father could be remembered and recognized publicly today. She asked Arie Lipsky, the musical director and conductor of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, what he knew about Mischa Mischakoff. Lipsky recalled that he is "quite a legend in Chautauqua" and was excited to learn that his son lived in Ann Arbor. Lipsky welcomed the opportunity to meet Mischakoff, and Levy made this happen. She invited Mischakoff to the April 15 Afternoon Delights concert, where Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra members—including Lipsky—perform chamber music. Levy introduced Mischakoff to Lipsky and they reminisced about Mischakoff's father, then presented Lipsky with a framed photograph of Mischa Mischakoff. During this special afternoon, Mischakoff was able to honor and connect with his past, and to be part of the cultural community in Ann Arbor. This is truly what ElderLink is about: remembering and honoring older adults and helping them to remain active members of the community. ■



Linda Levy, Paul Mischakoff, and Arie Lipsky



Mischa Mischakoff.

### Grillin' 2009 to benefit Food Gatherers, June 14

WJN staff writer

Eat and boogie for a cause at the Food Gatherers' Grillin' 2009 Fundraiser on Sunday, June 14, 3–8 p.m. (rain or shine), at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds (5055 Ann Arbor Saline Rd.) Proceeds fund Food Gatherers, which distributes more than 4.2 million pounds of food annually to 150 non-profit programs throughout Washtenaw County. Since Food Gatherers' inception in 1988, this community has converted more than 36 million pounds of food into meals for its neighbors experiencing hunger.

Grillin' 2009 will feature all-you-can-eat gourmet sausages, grilled chicken, vegetarian dishes, delicious desserts, and more, as well as live music by the RFD Boys and George Be-dard and the Kingpins, a silent auction, and kids crafts hosted by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. Advance tickets are available at any of the Zingerman's family of businesses in Ann Arbor, as well as Saline Picture Frame Company and Dexter Picture Frame Company, and can be purchased online ([www.foodgatherers.org](http://www.foodgatherers.org)) or by phone (761-2796). Adults are \$50 (\$60 at the gate) and kids ages 13 and under are \$10. Food Gatherers is the not-for-profit food rescue and food bank program serving Washtenaw County; a portion of the ticket price is tax-deductible.

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## AIPAC urges support for key U.S. legislation

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

In the wake of the AIPAC Policy Conference 2009, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee encouraged congress to sanction Iran, support the Israeli peace process, and continue to fund Israeli defense initiatives.

Among the speakers at the policy conference were Shimon Peres, Joe Biden, John Kerry, and Newt Gingrich. Vice President Joe Biden delivered the concluding address, highlighting the endurance of the U.S.-Israel relationship and affirming the Obama administration's commitment to it. "The bond between Israel and the United States," said Biden, "was forged by a shared interest in peace and security; by shared values that respect all faiths and peoples; by deep ties among our citizens; and by a common commitment to democracy."

The AIPAC Policy Conference 2009 focused on solidifying Israel's future and promoting America's interests in the Middle East by via three important initiatives: tougher Iran sanctions, key peace process principles, and security assistance for Israel.

House and Senate lawmakers have introduced legislation that would reinforce American diplomatic efforts with Iran with the threat of tougher sanctions if Iran rejects U.S. overtures and continues to enrich uranium in defiance of the international community. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act (H.R. 2194 in the House and S. 908 in the Senate) would have a dramatic effect on Iran's economy—Tehran imports nearly 40 percent of its gas and diesel needs—by requiring the president to impose sanctions on companies helping Iran to im-

port and produce refined petroleum products. The legislation was introduced in the House by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Howard Berman (D-CA) and Ranking Member Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), and in the Senate by a broad group of 27 senators. The lead Democrat is Sen. Evan Bayh (IN) and the lead Republican is Sen. Jon Kyl (AZ).

Meanwhile, members of the House and Senate are sending President Obama letters supporting America's efforts to help Israel achieve peace with all her neighbors. The key American principles being emphasized include supporting direct, bilateral negotiations between the parties, remaining both a trusted mediator between the parties and a devoted friend to Israel, and insisting on an absolute Palestinian commitment to end violence against Israel. The lead signatories of the Senate letter are Sens. Christopher Dodd (D-CT), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Arlen Specter (D-PA), and John Thune (R-SD). The House letter was spearheaded by House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and House Republican Whip Eric Cantor (R-VA).

President Obama is expected to request \$2.75 billion in security assistance for Israel as part of the fiscal year 2010 foreign aid bill. This aid request would reflect the second year of a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the United States and Israel in 2007 gradually increasing U.S. security assistance to the Jewish state in order to meet increasing threats. ■

For more information on these initiatives, visit the AIPAC web site: [www.aipac.org](http://www.aipac.org)

## Karla Goldman speaks at JFS Volunteer Appreciation Brunch

Robin Little and Deborah Renner, special to the WJN

On April 26 Karla Goldman, the Sol Drachler Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, spoke at the Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County's annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch. Goldman is an expert in the history of American Jewish communities and the evolving roles and contributions of American Jewish women, and is working to re-launch the U-M's Jewish Communal Leadership Program.

Goldman described the roots of American Jewish volunteerism in early 19th century Philadelphia, a city with a strong philanthropic tradition. The first Jewish communal organizations were based in synagogues, where congregants provided wood for heat, medical aid, loans, and burial services to the "deserving poor." In these early days, women were expanding their roles both within the synagogue and the secular arena. Jewish women worked with non-Jewish women to found the Female Association for the Relief of Women and Children in Reduced Circumstances in 1801. In 1819 many of these same women established the first Jewish organization outside of a synagogue, the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society, for the purpose of helping widows and orphans.

Jewish women were taking new roles within Jewish public life, but they found limited opportunities within the small 19th century American Jewish community. The wave of two million Eastern European immigrants who started arriving in the late 19th century created a tremendous challenge for Jewish organizations and opened new opportunities for Jewish women who already felt at home in America to reach out to their co-religionists. Volunteers found these new immigrants living in places that were dirty and unhealthy. This awareness led to broader efforts for housing, health, and school reform.

Jewish volunteers quickly became leaders in broader municipal endeavors to address these issues. Jewish Family Services and Jewish federations have their origins in these reform efforts, where volunteers worked alongside government agencies to address social problems. Both the National Coun-

cil of Jewish Women, created in 1893, and Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, established in 1912, grew out of this expansion of women's roles and provided hundreds of thousands of Jewish women with avenues to engage in service and philanthropy.

More recently, the Jewish community stepped forward to respond to Hurricane Katrina. The expertise of Jewish nonprofits, like Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County, demonstrated how the Jewish community could mobilize rapidly, unlike the Federal government. JFS had the structure and capacity to receive and resettle people from New Orleans in Ann Arbor in both an efficient and compassionate manner.

At this time of economic turmoil, volunteers are more important than ever. JFS especially needs volunteers to provide companionship and errand services to older adults, particularly as financial pressures on their adult children often means that they have less time to spend with their aging parents. "Friendly Visitor" companions make a great difference in the lives of isolated older adults, and need only to commit to 1-2 hours per week for a six-month period. Volunteers are also needed to work with new immigrants in a variety of areas, including substitute teaching in the ESL classroom, tutoring ESL, helping to fill out job applications, and teaching job-readiness skills.

Professionals with skills in a variety of areas, from social work to accounting to marketing and development, are also needed to support the organization. JFS encourages retirees and others looking for interesting, meaningful, and flexible opportunities to think about how they could use their skills, talents, and experience to support this work. At the same time, JFS will provide these volunteers with a welcoming and supportive atmosphere in which to volunteer. ■

For more information, or to talk about volunteering with Jewish Family Services, contact Deborah Renner at 769-0209 or [deborah@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:deborah@jfsannarbor.org).

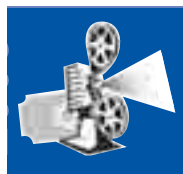
## TBE Brotherhood summer family outings

Marv Wagner, special to the WJN

The Brotherhood at Temple Beth Emeth will sponsor several family outings this summer, including trips to two minor league baseball games at Eastern Michigan University—the Midwest Sliders on July 12 and the Lansing Lugnuts on August 2—and a canoe trip culminating in a barbecue at Gallop Park on July 25.

On the evening of Friday, September 11, the Brotherhood will sponsor a barbecue for the weekly Friday night dinner, with hot dogs, coleslaw, all of the fixings, vegetarian options, and more from the grill. The per-person cost for the meal is to be determined.

Reservations and information will be available on the Temple Beth Emeth web site, [www.templebethemeth.org](http://www.templebethemeth.org). To learn more about the TBE Brotherhood, and for a complete listing of events and meetings, visit the Brotherhood website, [www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood](http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood).



## JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival

Fifteen films were shown at this year's JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival, held May 3-7, 2009, at the Michigan Theater. Film Festival highlights included the opening night Chinese buffet sponsor's reception, discussions with filmmakers, and nationally and internationally award-winning films. Two films generating large audiences had local connections: *The Purple Gang* chronicling the brutal and ruthless Prohibition-era Detroit Jewish organized crime syndicate and *The Champagne Spy*, a documentary about local professor Oded Gur-Arie's father's subterfuge as a spy for the Israeli government.



Above: Enjoying the popcorn before the movies (from left to right) Errol Soslone, Levana Aronson, and Larry and Sue Adler

Left: (from left to right) JCC Cultural Arts Director Julie Gales, JCC Executive Director Leslie Bash, Joel Marwil, and JCC Board President Elaine Margolis



## UMS season to include Berlin Philharmonic, Itzhak Perlman, and Yasmin Levy

Jim Leija, special to the WJN

The University Musical Society's 09/10 season (running September 13, 2009–April 25, 2010) will feature 60 performances by 42 different artists/ensembles, ranging from legendary jazz performers to African and Brazilian musical masters, from international theater to celebrated dance, and from already renowned artists to emerging talent.

"We all know this is a very challenging time," said UMS President Kenneth C. Fischer, "and I'm very grateful and proud that UMS is upholding its commitment to artistic distinctiveness and innovative programming. In addition to the familiar artists and ensembles returning to our stages, the 131st season includes 24 events featuring UMS debuts and 22 featuring artists from outside of the United States. We're especially thrilled to be one of the few communities presenting the Berlin Philharmonic, one of the most celebrated orchestras in the world. We're also pleased to be bringing world-class Shakespeare back to Ann Arbor with this year's weeklong residency by Shakespeare's Globe Theater of London. We believe that this season sends a clear message that artistic excellence is at the heart of UMS's mission.

"Subscribers will notice that most of our series ticket prices have decreased for the 09/10 season, with packages priced for all budgets and installment billing available for the third year in a row. We want to make certain that everyone has access to the best in performing arts no matter what their economic realities may be."

In a special non-series concert, the Berlin Phil-

harmonic will return to Ann Arbor for the first time since 2001, with acclaimed British conductor Simon Rattle in his UMS debut (Tuesday, November 17, 8 p.m.) Regarded as one of the finest orchestras in the world, the Berlin Philharmonic will play Brahms' Third and Fourth Symphonies (three of the four Brahms symphonies will be performed during UMS's 09/10 season), as well as music by Schoenberg.

This year's Choral Union Series will begin and end with two of classical music's biggest superstars. The series will open with violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in his first UMS recital since 2000 (Sunday, September 13, at 4 p.m.) Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Born in Israel, he was introduced to the American public as a young teenager through an appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show* in 1958, and has since performed at the inauguration of President Barack Obama and received both the National Medal of Arts and the Kennedy Center Honors. According to *The Toronto Star*, "Itzhak Perlman wows the crowd... for warmth of tone and generosity of spirit he remains without peer." The Choral Series will conclude with the 27-year-old Chinese piano sensation Lang Lang as featured soloist with the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra (Wednesday, April 7, 8 p.m.), per-



Yasmin Levy

forming works of Prokofiev and Brahms' Second Symphony.

In March the San Francisco Symphony and music director Michael Tilson Thomas will kick off their two-day educational and performance residency (Friday, March 19, 8 p.m., and Saturday, March 20, 8 p.m.) with a performance featuring some of Stravinsky's most well-known works and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, last performed on a UMS program over a decade ago. The Friday performance

will also include works of Kissine, Ravel, and Liszt. The highlight of the Saturday performance will be Mahler's Symphony No. 2 performed with the Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union, soprano Laura Claycomb, and mezzo-soprano Katarina Karnéus.

On Saturday, November 14, at 8 p.m., UMS will host the debut of Israeli female vocalist Yasmin Levy. A reviewer with *The Independent* (London) wrote, "Aside from her stunning looks, Levy's biggest asset is her voice, which is versatile, sensuous, and brimming with emotion." Yasmin Levy was born in Jerusalem in 1975 and was introduced to Ladino singing and culture from a very young age. Her father, who passed away when she was only a year old, was the leading figure in the world of research into and preservation of Judeo-Spanish culture dating back to the 15th century. Today it

remains one of the most moving and romantic musical traditions. In her deep, spiritual, and moving singing, Yasmin preserves and revives songs from the Ladino/Judeo-Spanish heritage, mixing it with Andalusian Flamenco. This U.S. debut tour will follow her highly acclaimed appearances at the World Music Expo (WOMEX) and at World of Music, Arts, and Dance (WOMAD) festivals. As Jamie Renton explained in a December 2007 review for *fRoots* magazine, Levy's music "blends her mixture of flamenco, Middle Eastern, Mediterranean, and Sephardic Jewish Ladino traditions to somewhere near perfection. If you're looking to plunge into a deep pool of exquisite yearning and heartbreak, then just dust off your trunks and dive right in."

UMS's 09/10 season will also include jazz performances by Brazilian female vocalist Gal Costa, celebrated jazz trio The Bad Plus, global programming focused on Africa featuring South Africa's Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Senegalese Afro-Pop superstar Baaba Maal, the return of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Company, an innovative new work by the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company based on the life of Abraham Lincoln, Tony Award-winning Broadway diva Patti LuPone, the 89-year-old sitar legend Ravi Shankar, and family-friendly programming, such as the UMS's popular Classical Kids Club.

Single tickets will be available for purchase through the UMS website on Thursday, August 20, and through the UMS Ticket Office (phone or in person) on Monday, August 24, at 10 a.m. ■

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## Congregations

### Temple Beth Emeth summer programming

Ronnis Simon, special to the WJN

#### TBE to honor Abe Morrison on June 5

Every youth at TBE has had a meaningful connection with Abe Morrison. In the many



**Abe Morrison**

years Morrison has worked at Temple Beth Emeth he has been a religious school teacher, song leader, b'nai mitzvah tutor, youth group

advisor, and service leader at both Tot Shabbat and Shira on Friday nights. He has led High Holiday services for middle and high school students continually since ninth grade, and moved smoothly from being an active member of AARTY, TBE's youth group, to being its president and, for the past 6 years, TBE's youth advisor. Morrison was critical in establishing TBE's middle and high school vocal and instrumental groups, Shir Chadash. He has participated, composed for, and conducted the groups since they began in 1996. Morrison's passion for Judaism, his musical talent, and his easy-going personality have made him a vital part of the positive Jewish experience of TBE's youth.

During the June 5 Shabbat service, at 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth will honor Abe Morrison, wish him well as he leaves to pursue a music career in New York this summer.

#### Jewish Hikers of Michigan summer hikes

Jewish Hikers of Michigan (JHOM) will host Sunday hikes at different locations each month

this summer. Hikes are designed to cultivate the love of nature, spirituality, social interaction, and physical activities. They are ideal for anybody who loves nature and likes to meet new people. The group is co-sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth.

The one-and-a-half-hour hikes are scheduled at 11 a.m. on each of these Sundays: June 21 at Marshall Park, July 19 at the Arboretum, and August 16 at Dolph Park. Bring backpacks, munchies, and water. The hikes are not physically demanding, are very scenic, and are free.

For further information, contact Eli Avny at 883-9522, Ronnie Simon at 665-4744, or email [jewish.hikers@gmail.com](mailto:jewish.hikers@gmail.com) for information or to be added to the contact list for future hikes. Directions on where to meet for each hike are found on the TBE website: [www.templebethemeth.org](http://www.templebethemeth.org), under "Caring Community."

#### Summer services at Beth Emeth

Summer is finally here, and with it comes a more casual atmosphere. At TBE, different congregants lead 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Services each

week during the summer. The services are short and are followed by an *oneg Shabbat*, a time for socializing. Newcomers are always welcome to join the weekly Friday services. Prospective Member Shabbat will be August 21 and August 28. On Friday, August 21, the membership committee will provide an ice-cream *oneg* following the service, and on Friday, August 28, a hamburger and hot dog dinner will be prepared by the Brotherhood prior to the service, at 6 p.m. (price to be determined). Members of the board and membership committee will be available at both services to greet visitors and answer questions about joining TBE. Rabbi Levy and Cantor Rose will resume leading the services that evening.

Shabbat morning Torah Study will continue through the month of June, meeting with Rabbi Levy from 8:50–9:30 a.m., and followed by a lay-led service at 9:30 a.m. There will be a 10 a.m. service every Saturday in June, including a bar or bat mitzvah. After a hiatus during July and August, Saturday morning Torah Study and Chapel Services will resume on September 4.

### Summer 2009 at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

#### Friday Night Shabbat events

On Friday, July 3, in honor of Independence Day, Beth Israel will offer a special hamburger barbecue meal at 6 p.m. followed by an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service at 7 p.m.

On Friday, July 31, at 6 p.m. the annual Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service, honoring the memory of Joey Newhouse, will be held in the sanctuary. This special service will include new and old melodies, and will be led by Newhouse's mother Ruth and others. This event will include hors d'oeuvres before the Kabbalat Shabbat Service and a dessert *oneg* following. This event is underwritten by the Joseph Newhouse Beth Israel Musical Enhancement Fund.

On Friday, August 21, at 5:30 p.m. tots and their families are invited to "My Stuffed Animal Tot Shabbat Dinner." In the past, tots have enjoyed this service of songs and stories followed by casual dinner outside in the courtyard. In case of inclement weather the event will be moved into the social hall. There will be a charge for dinner.

On Friday night, August 28, at 6 p.m. the annual Shabbat in the Park will be held at the County Farm Park. Participants will enjoy an outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a dairy potluck Shabbat dinner. Produce from the Beth Israel Gar-

den will be served. In the event of rain, Shabbat in the Park will take place the following weekend.

#### Summer Tot Shabbat

Tots and their parents or special friends are invited to share a Shabbat celebration just for them. These interactive Tot Shabbat services are filled with songs, stories, and exciting Jewish learning. During the summer Tot Shabbat will be held once a month, at 11:15 a.m., on the second Saturday of the month: June 13, July 11, and August 9. Each Tot Shabbat service is led by Peretz Hirshbein or Jessica Kander.

#### Tisha B'av

Services for the holiday on the 9th of Av, which marks the destruction of the first and second temples and other Jewish tragedies, will take place on Wednesday, July 29, at 9 p.m., and on Thursday, July 30, at 8 a.m. Both services will include the chanting of *Megillat Eicha*, the Book of Lamentations. A *mincha* service at 2:30 p.m. on July 30 will include the special Torah readings and haftorah for the holiday.

#### Beth Israel flower and vegetable garden

For the third year Beth Israel has a garden at County Farm Park (in Ann Arbor at Platt and

Washtenaw). The garden is a part of Project Grow, and supplies flowers and vegetables for summer onegs and local food banks. Everyone in the community can experience the joy of agriculture by visiting the garden or volunteering to work with a friendly group of people to help the garden grow. No prior experience is required. Call or email Sam Zwetchkenbaum ([szwetch@umich.edu](mailto:szwetch@umich.edu) or 717-6046) for more information.

#### Annual high school dinner at Chia Chiang

High school students are invited to a free dinner on Tuesday, August 25, at 6 p.m., to renew acquaintances and meet with Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, Rabbi Kim Blumenthal, Cindy Saper, and Jake Kander, and discuss the upcoming year of activities at Beth Israel. Email [programs@bethisrael-aa.org](mailto:programs@bethisrael-aa.org) for further details.

#### Summer services

Daily and Shabbat services continue all summer long, on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., Sunday through Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and on Friday evenings at 6 p.m. On evenings that also have a dinner or special program, the Friday service time may change. See [www.bethisrael-aa.org](http://www.bethisrael-aa.org) for details.

#### Beth Israel Fun Fair

On Sunday, September 6, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., Beth Israel will host a Fun Fair for adults and children, with hot dogs, an inflatable bounce house, a caricaturist, bingo, karaoke, and lots more—all on the grounds of Beth Israel.

#### Free High Holiday tickets to new residents, and others, and membership incentives

Beth Israel will continue its policy of offering free High Holiday tickets to individuals and families who have moved to Washtenaw County since last Yom Kippur. Graduate students and first- or second-year residents at local universities are also eligible for free tickets. Individuals and families who are 35 and under may also become members for a special rate of just \$300 for their first year. Beth Israel continues its policy of issuing reciprocal High Holiday tickets to members of any Jewish congregation (with proof of current membership).

All Beth Israel events are open to the public, and many are offered at no cost. Call 665-9897 for additional information about the summer events. Additional summer events will be posted on Beth Israel's website: [www.bethisrael-aa.org](http://www.bethisrael-aa.org).

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## Visit to Poland and a return home

Noa Gutterman, special to the WJN

It amazes me that flowers and grass grow at Berkenow. Rows of poplar trees pave the path that leads through the camp. Small animals and birds fill the air with their sounds. But in the small ponds in the back of the camp, nothing is alive. The water is polluted with the ashes of thousands of innocent people. These ponds are permanently stained a dark grey that seems to juxtapose the cloudless blue sky. This is how the camp displays its past. This is how Berkenow presents our ancestors. Not with headstones in quiet corners of graveyards. But with decaying human teeth that litter the floor of the ponds.

I feel that there is no way that I can describe what I saw and felt in Poland. I will never be able to do justice to the wreckage of the Auschwitz bunkers. I will never be able to describe how the crematoria at Majdanek still smell like ash. I will never be able to show you, through this article, the appearance of the mass graves in Tikochin, and the way that grass or trees are still not able to grow on that ground.

As I write this article, I find myself at a loss for words, I assure you, a strange occurrence in my life. I waited three weeks after my trip to Poland to write this, because I thought my feelings would have solidified into a conclusive article. The weeks of separation between Warsaw and Jerusalem have done no good. I still feel the same anger and confusion. These are feelings that simply cannot be written down and put into a newspaper article. I can try to tell you about the pair of red children's shoes I saw at Majdanek and how they reminded me of the shoes I wore when I was a child. I can try to tell you about the memorial erected by the Russians, that is simply a pile of ash, each cup, the only remnants of a murdered Jew. I can try to tell you everything. But it will mean nothing. However, I feel that this article should focus on what I found when I returned to Israel, not what I left behind in Poland.

The flight from Poland to Israel is only four hours. I'll admit, I spent most of that flight asleep. But when our plane began to descend into Ben Gurion airport, I realized that I was making the trip that 6 Million were never able to make. And as our pilot landed the plane and welcomed us, in Hebrew, back into Israel, I found myself in tears. Somehow, we survived an annihilation that could have wiped out 2,000 years of history. Sixty-one years ago, David Ben Gurion stood in Independence Hall and declared the Jewish State in the land of Israel. Over the years, soldiers have fought tirelessly to prove to the world that we deserve Israel. I didn't understand this before EIE (Eisendrath International Exchange (program for high school students in Israel)). It is so much more than just a place for Jews to live. It is the physical actualization of our religious and political freedom. It is



Noa Gutterman

the ultimate resistance to the Nazis. Return to Israel was the goal of the Jewish people since 70 C.E. There has always been an enemy to fight against. Whether it be the Roman Caesar or Adolf Hitler, Jews have been targeted for thousands of years. And somehow, we made it. We have our own land. This is something that should not be forgotten simply because we are living in America. Yehudah HaLevi, a famous predecessor to the Zionist movement once said, "My heart is in the East, and I am in the uttermost West." This, to me, is the summation of my feelings on Israel. I cannot make the generalization that Israel is every Jew's home. But it is my home.

***Israel has taught me that the Jewish narrative must not end with my generation. It is my duty—it is everyone's duty—to keep both Judaism and Israel alive. I must never forget that.***

Not just on EIE at Kibbutz Tzuba. Regardless of whether I remain in America or chose to make *aliyah*, join the army, and become an Israeli citizen, Israel will always remain with me. Choosing to live here for four months was difficult. But it is without regrets that I pack my bags and return to America. Israel has taught me to love the country I am in. Israel has taught me to revere the heroes who came before me. But most of all, Israel has taught me that the Jewish narrative must not end with my generation. It is my duty—it is everyone's duty—to keep both Judaism and Israel alive. I must never forget that. ■

## Spiritual destinations beyond Israel

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

During the past year I have written a series of articles describing specific places in Israel and the deep meaning that they hold for me as a Jew. To conclude this series, I want to explore one other question: Is Israel the only place in the world for a Jew to have deeply spiritual travel experiences?

This is a significant question, one that I have thought about for many years. The first time I considered the question was during a trip I took to Israel with a group made up of rabbis and Christian clergy. We took a bumpy jeep ride out to the wilderness east of Jerusalem and stopped at the site of a medieval monastery in the rocky hills. While there, a few of us got into a discussion about one spiritual issue or another and the discussion continued even as we returned on the jeeps to Jerusalem. It was a magical moment, and I asked myself that night: "Could this discussion have happened any place else in the world?"

At first, I thought the answer was "no". Being in Israel struck a common chord among us and there was no denying that there was a different feeling than had we gathered along the shores of Lake Michigan or even at the Grand Canyon.

But, in thinking about it more, I believe that given the right group of people together at the right moment with the right mood and sufficient time to think, that discussion could have been replicated any place in the world.

As one who tends to see every place in the world as a place of potential spiritual significance (not to mention as inspirations for sermons), I don't want to overstate the spiritual potential of a trip to Israel to the point where it seems to exclude the possibility of such an experience any place else in the world. I have found great spiritual meaning in many places, close to home and far away, and I believe that any journey can be one that touches our heart and our minds in unique ways.

Every summer, most of us plan some kind of a vacation. Perhaps the serious economic

situation that we all face will cause us to make changes in our vacation plans this year, and maybe the trips won't be as exotic or as far reaching as they have been in past years. But no matter where we go and no matter what we do, travel can be more than just a chance to "get away"—it can inspire us to learn new things, to explore new ideas, and to feel an elevation of our spirit no matter where we might be.

And if our connection with Judaism is more "national" than spiritual, there are always new Jewish communities to visit, places of historical significance to our people, and moments to cherish as we discover another understanding of being a link in a chain to something greater than ourselves.

I cannot urge you strongly enough, if it is at all possible, to make a first trip or a return trip to Israel. The experience in Israel is one of a kind. There are unique experiences waiting for you; there are elevating, challenging, and inspiring places to see; there are unforgettable moments awaiting you.

But wherever you go this summer and beyond, I hope that you will find your travels can be more than just an "escape," but rather an opportunity to learn, experience, and celebrate what it means to be a human being and what it means to be a Jew.

God said to Abram: *Lech lecha*, meaning "You go;" and the Rabbis interpreted it as "Go for your benefit and for your good." Whether our destination was, like it was for Abraham, the land of Israel, or the next town, I hope you will find personal benefit and good in your travels and may all your journeys be safe ones. ■



Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

## Parsha Nasso

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

As we read in the weekly Torah portion of Nasso (Saturday, June 6), after the Jewish people had finished constructing all of the sanctuary's different components, they brought them to Moses so that he could erect it. The Jews were unable to build the sanctuary by themselves. The massive wooden planks were just too heavy. Recognizing the dilemma, Moses asked God how human beings could be expected to perform such a difficult task. God told Moses to put his hand on the enormous boards; they rose by themselves, and the sanctuary was erected in a miraculous manner. But why was it necessary for God to perform a miracle?

It was the Jewish slaves who built the pyramids in Egypt. The Torah tells us, "And they built treasure cities for Pharaoh, Pitom and Raamses." Each individual stone of the pyramids weighed several tons, yet, as depicted in ancient hieroglyphics and paintings, the slaves nonetheless managed to drag these tremen-

dous weights and build the colossal edifices that continue to exist till this very day.

The wooden planks of the sanctuary weighed far less than these stones. Why then did the Jewish people find it impossible to lift them? Why was it necessary for the sanctuary to be erected by means of a miracle?

The answer lies in the fact that the pyramids were built by slave labor, by *avodat perach* (back-breaking, rigorous work). The only reason the Jewish slaves moved the stones was because Pharaoh compelled them to. The Jewish people had no choice; they obeyed Pharaoh's commands out of fear. This fear motivated them to tie themselves



Rabbi Aharon Goldstein

together with rope (as seen in the paintings) and perform the seemingly superhuman feat.

Building the sanctuary involved a different type of work entirely. The sanctuary was to be erected willingly, with joy in being able to execute God's command. But the wooden planks proved to be too heavy for the Jews to lift. God didn't want the sanctuary to be built out of a sense of compulsion. Its construction was to be a happy event, not a burdensome one. He therefore made a miracle to express this concept, and the sanctuary was erected with feelings of freedom, liberation, and joyful awe.

So it is as we erect our own personal "sanctuaries"—our observance of God's commandments. Observing God's commandments should never be considered "back-breaking labor"; rather, we should observe God's commands willingly, joyfully, and with full confidence that we have the assistance of the Holy One, our Blessed Creator. ■





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## Europeans still need Holocaust lessons

By Warren L. Miller

WASHINGTON (JTA)—A man convicted of Holocaust denial in Germany and France was scheduled to become president of the European Parliament this summer. It is only a ceremonial post, one awarded to the oldest European parliamentarian, but it is an honor nonetheless—and the honor was to go to French racist Jean-Marie Le Pen. His fellow parliamentarians changed the rules last week to deny him the post.

But it says something that a known Holocaust denier, particularly one who continues to publicize his historical lies, was even in a position to become president of the European Parliament. While it reflects badly on his French constituents, it also says that there is still much work to do to sensitize and educate Europeans about the Holocaust and the moral imperative it teaches.

And make no mistake about it, Le Pen is hardly the only well-known person minimizing the murder of 6 million Jews by the Nazis. A few weeks ago, Archbishop Dadeus Grings, who leads a diocese of nearly 1 million Catholics in Brazil, claimed that “more Catholics than Jews died in the Holocaust, but this isn’t known because the Jews control the world’s media.” Before that, controversial British bishop Richard Williamson said, “There was not one Jew killed by the gas chambers. It was all lies, lies, lies!” The president of Iran, the leader of Hamas and others proclaim that the Holocaust is a myth or exaggerated.

Why, some might ask, should we care about this right now, given all the very real problems we are facing at home and abroad? The answer is simple: The way in which the Holocaust is remembered is a good indicator of the health of a society. Where the Holocaust is denied and the truth is under assault, freedom and humanity often suffer as well.

For those of us in America and elsewhere in the free world, it may be hard to believe that such blatantly untrue rantings can find a receptive audience except by Jew haters and lunatics. A quick Google search produces a massive amount of irrefutable evidence

of the Nazis’ atrocities, but those who spread vile lies about the Holocaust often are not shamed into silence.

Holocaust deniers’ insidious words are dangerous because one of the lessons of the Holocaust is that civilization is fragile and the descent into barbarism can be shockingly quick. Without moral leadership and strong public rejection of intolerance, free people can quickly become slaves, ordinary people executioners.

Since the word genocide was created in 1944, the world has witnessed the Khmer Rouge’s reign of terror in Cambodia, the Hutus’ slaughter of Tutsis in Rwanda, and the Serbs’ ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. These horrors

transpired after the world vowed “Never Again.” It is the memories of all those tragedies that Jean-Marie Le Pen, Dadeus Grings, and Richard Williamson also desecrate when they deny the Holocaust.

While words will not kill, verbal assaults on history are dangerous nonetheless, for they give support to those who would act on their evil intentions if given the chance.

One such man is Iran’s president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has threatened to destroy Israel. He believes, as do many in the Middle East, that if the Holocaust is questioned, so too is Israel’s legitimacy. As stated by Iran’s foreign minister, Manouchehr Mottaki, at a Holocaust denial conference in Tehran: “If the official version of the Holocaust is thrown into doubt, then the identity and nature of Israel will be thrown into doubt.”

When evil men state their intentions to destroy those who stand in their way, we must take them seriously because history has shown—and in Europe, the reminders are everywhere—that evil men will try, and can succeed. ■

Warren L. Miller is chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America’s Heritage Abroad, a federal government agency that works with foreign governments to preserve endangered sites of cultural and historical significance.

*The way in which the Holocaust is remembered is a good indicator of the health of a society. Where the Holocaust is denied and the truth is under assault, freedom and humanity often suffer as well.*

## Celebrate Israel 2009

On Sunday, May 17, over 550 people turned out for Celebrate Israel, the community’s celebration of Israel’s 61st and Tel Aviv’s 100th birthdays. Participants enjoyed a variety of Israel and Tel Aviv-themed activities, were entertained by local acts and Israeli singer, Yoel Sharabi, and dined on Israeli street food by Chef Cari. A seven-member delegation from Moshav Nahalal, Ann Arbor’s Partnership 2000 sister community, created an elaborate exhibit enabling visitors to “experience” Nahalal in Ann Arbor. Persons interested in visiting Nahalal in Israel should contact Eileen Freed, eileenfreed@jewishannarbor.org or 677-0100.



Isaac Roussel, Hannah Roussel and Zora Singer visit with Ido Magal, founder of Lavido Cosmetics, at the Nahalal exhibit.



Nahalal Delegation and Ann Arbor community members: (left to right) – Ido Magal, Joan Lowenstein, Dudi Tamir, Senator Liz Brater, Osnat Tamir, Amalia Eshkol, Ami Eshkol, Ela Aviezer, Yair Hammer (chair, Nahalal committee), Eva Solomon (co-chair, Ann Arbor committee)

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## The secret Jews of the Southwest

By Amy Klein

EL PASO, Texas (JTA)—Three strange things happened to Rabbi Stephen Leon the first week he moved here in 1986 to lead Congregation B'nai Zion, the Conservative synagogue in this border city.

"Rabino," said a Catholic man calling from Jaurez, Mexico, about 30 minutes away. "I need to talk to you."

Every Friday night from the time he was little, the man's grandmother took him into a room, lit candles, and said some prayers in a private language he didn't understand. His grandmother had just died, and he asked his mother if she would continue the tradition. She told him to go find a rabbi.

Three days later, a Catholic woman from El Paso came to the rabbi after visiting a relative in mourning, where she noticed that all the mirrors were covered.

"Why are you doing this?" she asked her relatives. They said it was a Jewish custom.

Then the cable guy came, and the rabbi told him, "Shalom Y'all." The man—a Catholic Hispanic—opened his shirt and showed his Jewish star necklace—he had just found out about his Jewish roots.

"Three incidents in a week and a half?" Leon recalled. "There has to be something going on."

Twenty-two years later that something is

still going on: A steady trickle of Hispanics in the Southwest, from Juarez to Texas to New Mexico, are discovering Jewish roots.

Some are set on their search because of a mysterious tradition practiced by an older relative, such as not eating pork or working on Saturday. For others the clue is an artifact like a *trompito* spinning top that resembles a dreidel, or a set of tefillin that a Catholic grandmother on a road trip once insisted on depositing with the rabbi.

But for the majority of people it's something more tenuous: a word here (*bubbe*, *tzedakah*), a Jewish name there (*Rael*, from *Israel*). Very often it's just a feeling about Catholicism, Jesus, their past or what they say is their soul that leads people to wonder if their family was once Jewish.

Crypto-Jews. *Marranos*. *Anusim*. *Judios*. *Conversos*. They are all terms with different nuances referring to Jews and/or their descendants who were forced to convert after

*For the majority of people it's something more tenuous: a word here, a Jewish name there. Very often it's just a feeling... that leads people to wonder if their family was once Jewish.*

Spain and Portugal expelled all non-Catholics, but continued to practice Judaism or maintained some Jewish customs even as they and their children migrated to Latin America, Europe and finally the United States.

Some Crypto-Jews are interested in the genealogical knowledge but are not planning on leaving Catholicism; others practice a dual Messianic faith with both Judaism and Jesus. A very few give up their Catholic faith and convert—they prefer the word "return"—to Judaism.

"Who do you count?" asked Stanley Hordes, one of the foremost experts on the Crypto-Jews and author of *To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico* (Columbia University Press, 2008).

"Chances are really good that many people have Jewish ancestors going back 500 years," he said, estimating that after half of Spain's several hundred thousand Jews left the country, half converted to Catholicism—half of those Jews converted willingly, assimilating and

eventually blending into Catholic society.

"There were certain families that held onto ancestral Jewish faith and continued to practice," he said. "Today, the overwhelming majority are perfectly content in their Protestantism and Catholicism. Only a handful of cases people are exploring a relationship with mainstream Judaism."

This Shavuot, as Jews around the world celebrate the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai and read the Book of Ruth—the story of the world's most famous convert to Judaism—some of these Crypto-Jewish returnees will celebrate their bar and bat mitzvah with Leon at Congregation B'nai Zion, a synagogue with 400 families.

Ten percent of the members are Crypto-Jews, yet "without my *anusim* I might not have a *minyan*," Leon said.

He's not kidding. On a hot Saturday morning in May, in the imposing angular white B'nai Zion building set starkly against the mountain range dividing El Paso, about 30 of the 50 people sitting in the circular sanctuary topped by a Jewish star skylight are Crypto-Jews. (The larger sanctuary is used on the High Holidays to accommodate the 1,500 members.)

One is Blanca Carrasco, 43, who returned

*continued on next page*

## So you think you're a Crypto-Jew?

By Amy Klein

EL PASO, Texas (JTA)—Stanley Hordes is one of the foremost experts on the Crypto-Jews, with his recent book *To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico* (Columbia University Press, 2008) and his next study on the Crypto-Jews of the Spanish Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and pre-British Jamaica. The former state historian of New Mexico and current adjunct research professor at the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico talks about what a Crypto-Jew is and how to go about finding your past.

**JTA:** What is a Crypto-Jew?

**HORDES:** A Crypto-Jew is someone who professed one faith openly and their Jewish faith secretly. After 500 years this cultural remnant spans a broad spectrum, ranging from people with no consciousness and no practices—nothing but a bloodline, a suspicious name, and a tendency to contract certain genetic diseases, diseases associated with Jewish populations—to people whose grandmother still lights candles on Friday nights, who still observes the Sabbath on Saturday, who still refrain from eating pork and don't mix milk and meat at the same meal, people who still circumcise their children and male infants and have done so long before the doctors were coming through New Mexico...

Technically, a *converso* refers to a person who underwent a conversion himself/herself, but the term has been used to refer to their descendants as well. A Crypto-Jew, or secret Jew, is someone who practices his/her Judaism secretly while openly professing another religion. *Anusim* is a Hebrew term for people who were forced to con-

vert against their will, while *meshumadim* refer to willing converts. The term *marrano* is more complex, and there are many different histories for the term. The one that makes the most sense to me is a combination of two Hebrew words: *mumar* (convert) and *anús* (compelled one). *Marrano* means swine and was meant as a pejorative term used by Jews who did not convert to describe Jews who did.

**JTA:** How did you get involved in the study of Crypto-Jews?

**HORDES:** In 1981 I became the state historian of New Mexico. I started receiving a lot of visits from people who said, "You know, so-and-so lights candles on Friday night." I thought, "Why are you telling me this? It's certainly not unusual for a Catholic woman to be lighting candles." And a couple of weeks later, someone else would come into my office and in a secretive manner say, "So-and-so doesn't eat pork!" Over the succeeding weeks people were telling me about how their colleagues were observing rituals suggestive of a Jewish past. I suspect that they were talking about themselves. After awhile I asked myself, "Could it be possible that there could be a survival of not only Jewish customs but of Jewish consciousness?"

**JTA:** Can a last name help someone tell if they have Jewish blood?

**HORDES:** There's quite a bit of confusion over this question—some people think that names ending in "es" or "ez" are uniquely Jewish. The "es" suffix simply means "son of." But put yourself in the position of someone in 1492 who has made the gut-



**Stanley Hordes**

wrenching decision to stay in Spain and convert to Catholicism. Now if your name was Avraham Ben Moshe, and you're trying to quickly assimilate into Old Christian society, the first thing you'd do is get rid of that name. You'd likely take a name like the Old Christians have, such as Gonzalez or Garcia—or de la Cruz, de Jesus or Santa Maria. There's only a very small number of cases where a name is uniquely Jewish. I've heard so many stories about the name Rael coming from "Israel." Every Rael I've ever found in New Mexico goes back to one Jewish family in southeastern Spain that had converted to Judaism in the 1480s. But you have to be careful about names. There's no other way of ascertaining proof of ancestry except by playing the "who begat whom" game, or conducting extensive archival research through the genealogical records.

**JTA:** What about DNA?

**HORDES:** DNA testing potentially can tell us an awful lot. But we're at only an early stage of this kind of research, and at this point the commercial testing companies can only tell who your mothers' mother's mother's mother is or your father's father's

father's father—all the way back. They can't tell you anything about your mother's father's family or any of the other thousands of ancestors. But culture is not passed down through genes—it's interesting, but it does not define who you are. A lot of us are more interested in cultural traits and Jewish consciousness, including the extent to which descendants of Crypto-Jews tended to marry within the group. The genetic and genealogical research supplies us with a historical plausibility of suggestive Crypto-Jewish practices that may have been passed down. All of these avenues of research complement each other.

**JTA:** Some think this whole issue is untrue, like folklorist Judith Neulander, who thinks Hispanos might be inventing an "imaginary Crypto-Jewish identity," according to the December 2000 *Atlantic Monthly* article "Mistaken Identity: The Case of New Mexico's Hidden Jews."

**HORDES:** Anthropologist Seth D. Kunin addresses these issues in his recently released *Juggling Identities: Identity and Authenticity Among the Crypto-Jews*, (Columbia University Press). We know that thousands of Crypto-Jews on the Iberian Peninsula converted to Catholicism, but secretly held to their ancestral Jewish faith and customs. Some believe that people are inventing a past that they never had in order to deny their black or Indian family background—to climb the social ladder by showing how "white" they are. But there are so many more conventional ways to assert whiteness, why would you want to be Jewish when being different is not valued in that community?



## Continued from previous page

to Judaism last year and is about to celebrate her bat mitzvah on Shavuot, which this year begins on the evening of May 28.

As the rabbi takes the Torah around the sanctuary to be kissed, the congregation sings *Etz chayim chai, l'amachazikim bah* ("A tree of life to all those who hold fast to it...") and Carrasco tears up at the last verse: *Hashiveinu hashem elecha v'nashuva*—"Return us to you, God, and we shall return."

Carrasco's return to Judaism started as a curious Catholic child in Mexico, where she was infatuated with everything in the Bible. By the time she was 20 she converted to Evangelical Christianity, but the doctrine was still lacking for her and her husband, Cezar, who considered himself more of an atheist. Then, about 14 years ago, her mother invited her to a Passover seder at a Messianic congregation in El Paso.

"We felt it was familiar—it felt like home," Blanca Carrasco said.

"Right in that instance, our life changed," she added. "I needed to know more."

Like a number of Crypto-Jews who now attend B'nai Zion, the Carrascos began their religious transformation by praying at the Messianic Center in El Paso, where they learned about Judaism, important rabbis, the Jewish festivals and history, and Crypto-Jews. She found some family names—Espinoza, Israel, Salinas—and a great-aunt who said her grandmother spoke Ladino.

Eventually Carrasco began to believe only in the Jewish traditions, and three years ago she decided to leave the Messianic congregation after a decade there.

"How can I explain to what is in my heart?" she said. "People would tell us, 'You don't have to do it,' but we just love it and want to learn and want to do it."

A year ago the couple underwent a "return ceremony," which is technically a conversion, replete with a conversion certificate, since it requires at least a year of study, *mikvah* immersion and a declaration of faith.

For the Carrascos, their b'nai mitzvah ceremony on Shavuot is just another rite of passage on their journey to Judaism.

"Now we belong—we are not longing anymore, we are here," Blanca Carrasco said. "We reached the place we were heading to."

Talk to a number of the 50 *anusim* families that Leon has returned to Judaism—some of whom will be b'nai mitzvah this week—and you'll hear a similar story.

Margarita Luna remembered that her grandmother always lit candles on Friday night before saying the Rosary. But her mother didn't want to talk about it—perhaps that was because during the Mexican wars in the 1920s they had to hide in a well for a few days. "Always in my heart I feel that I love the Jewish traditions," she says, fingering her *mezuzah* necklace. "And always I say I am Jewish and I need to go back to my roots."

She and her husband, Victor, converted five years ago, and after their b'nai mitzvah on Shavuot, they plan to have a Jewish wedding ceremony and, hopefully one day, move to Israel with their teenage daughter.

Is finding historical proof important to

them? "It's not a determinant for my actual connection with God," Victor said. "I think my heart, my feelings, my soul is Jewish. That is most important thing."

For Leon, who led a New Jersey congregation for 22 years prior to coming to El Paso, this has become his mission.

"God said to me, 'I cannot bring back the 6 million who were killed in the Holocaust, but there was another group before who are alive in much larger numbers than Holocaust survivors because it's been 500 years, generation after generation of generation,'" he said. "Their souls are still alive.... You have to do something about it."

Not everyone agrees with this mission. Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg of Chabad of El Paso says he receives his share of phone calls from Mexicans who think they have Jewish roots, but discourages conversion.

"I think the Crypto-Jew is a real thing—500 years ago in the Inquisition hundreds of thousands of Jewish boys and girls disappeared from the Jewish community ... Jews always disappeared from the Jewish community—most of it by force," Greenberg said.

But, he added, referring to the strong religious ties of Mexican families and the community, "We have to be careful—we break families."

"We should put our energy into the Jewish people rather than to try and bring *anusim* back," Greenberg said. "If the *anusim* have a desire to understand Judaism, then let's teach them about their ancestors and let them have an understanding," he added, implying that the best thing to do would be to leave it at that.

Such an approach would be fine with Elay Romero, a retired pipe fitter, who has been retracing his family's lineage through state records and was considering some DNA testing. He discovered Hordes' book about Crypto-Jews and came to Taos, New Mexico, to hear the historian speak on the topic at the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society.

"I'm just curious," Romero said. "If I had Jewish blood, it's fine. But we've been practicing Catholics for generations, and I won't change my affiliation with the Church."

The rabbi, meanwhile, has big plans. In addition to welcoming Crypto-Jews, he helped start an *anusim*/Sephardic learning center and yeshiva in El Paso with Juan Pable Mejia, a graduate of the rabbinical program at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Sonya Loya, the director of Bat-Tzyion Hebrew Learning Center in Ruidoso, New Mexico. The goal would be to bring awareness to the Jewish and general public about the Inquisition and Crypto-Jews on par with Holocaust remembrance.

"The *anusim* will come back eventually; there is a yearning. There is a divine plan out there," Leon said.

With Hispanics being the fastest-growing population and the Jews constantly concerned about their diminishing population, Leon says the Jewish community should welcome those Hispanics who want to explore their Jewish ancestry.

"I think the *anusim* are the only answer," he said. "They are returning one way or another." ■

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## Youth

## HDS awarded Michigan "Green School"

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

The Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor has been awarded the official status of "Green School" by the State of Michigan. The school has been working toward these goals all year under the guidance of second grade teacher Eva Solomon. The second graders took the lead with the initiatives, then recruited all HDS parents, students, and staff.

To earn "Green School" status the school had to demonstrate compliance in multiple areas.

First, the students made sure that each classroom and the school office had at least two waste receptacles, one for trash and one for recycling paper. "We now have two kids each week who make sure that all not-needed paper is recycled," said second-grader Zach Rochman.

Second, the students had to adopt an endangered species. They chose to adopt the moose, penguin, and the polar bear. "We had to earn money to adopt an endangered animal," said Rochman. "We had a popcorn sale," explained Ahava Kopald. "It was really fun!"

The second grade popcorn company was called the Clean Green Popcorn Company. "We voted on the name for the company, and my name got the winning vote," said Mira Strauss. Adding a unit on economics to the studies, each child had a job in the company, including CEO, CFO, treasurer, cook, marketing, and delivery. "This was such a wonderful idea," said fifth-grader Asaf Pollock, who purchased a bag of popcorn. A representative from Ann Arbor's Leslie Science Center visited HDS to talk about endangered birds. The second graders also had their own field trip to the Leslie Science Center.

Building a birdhouse habitat was another requirement for the award. The second graders built birdhouses for their science fair projects. Parent Gary Rochman designed the houses, and parent Eric Rosenberg helped the students build them. Recycled science fair boards were used to present the project to the other families. "I liked making the bird houses," says Amitai Hendrickson. "I had experience from working in my dad's workshop." The birdhouses attract finches, sparrows, and chickadees.

The students also had to establish a garden with native plants. With the help of HDS parent Liora Rosen, the students researched which trees would do well in our area. "We chose the Redbud tree because it is native to many northern states, including Michigan; it is also a flowering tree—good for the bees and the environment," said Rosen. The students planted 10 trees along the side of the building that gets the most sun. "Planting trees is part of our Jewish heritage and identity," Rosen continued. The students planted the trees on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22. "I check the trees every day outside," said student Daniel Hirshbein.

On Earth Day, students brought their lunches in non-disposable containers, and spent a good part of their recess picking up trash outside. Parents Laurie Greenberg and Rachel Portnoy also helped prepare for the Earth Day tree planting. The HDS kindergarten class is planting a garden that will attract endangered butterflies native to southern Michigan.

Finally, as part of being a Green School, HDS has set up a "Recycling Center" with three compartments for ink jet cartridges, used batteries, and old cell phones. The Center is located around the corner from the office, and is open to the community. People can drop off recyclable



Left to Right: Mira Strauss, Ahava Kopald, and Gabe Rosenberg hold the "Green School" banner.

items during building hours. The center was created from recycled materials with the help of HDS parent Dahlia Weinman. The collected batteries are brought to Recycle Ann Arbor and Whole Foods. The phones are sold to Ann Arbor-based ReCellular, the largest cell-phone recycling center in the world. ReCellular founder and CEO, HDS grandparent Chuck Newman, visited the second grade class to talk about the importance of recycling cell phones and other electronic equipment.

Michigan Green Schools began with students and teachers of Hartland Consolidated School District in the fall of 2005. Students and teachers proposed a bill that was eventually signed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in 2006. In the first year of the program, 18 schools participated. Last year 189 schools became official Michigan Green Schools. This academic year, over 300 schools are participating in the growing program.

HDS parent Irwin Weingarten praised the program: "When many HDS parents were born, environmentalism was attributed to the youth, the hippies, and the radicals. This stigma, although diminishing, has persisted even among the leading environmental scientists and professionals today. By incorporating the designation as a Green School into the curriculum, HDS has laid the foundation for a generation which will no longer need 'Green' labels to be responsible for the planet, its people, and its resources. Environmental responsibility will be as instinctual and habitual as the Jewish traditions and ideals we cherish at HDS today."

"I got excited about this project," said second-grader Zach Rochman, "because we are trying to make the world a better place." Ahava Kopald added, "It's not the second grade Green School; everyone in school got involved!" To which Rochman replied, "We have to do work, but it is fun work."

The effects of this program have reached beyond the school. "I talked to my family about what we could do at home," said student Talia Akiva. "We started to collect batteries." Gabe Rosenberg had a similar experience—"We got compost bins and planted a tree"—as did Leo Fried. "At home, we changed the light bulbs." ■



## ECC springs into action with greening and gardening

Margi Brawer, special to the WJN

**T**he Early Childhood Center at the Jewish Community Center is helping raise a new generation of green citizens by teaching gardening, composting and recycling in the classroom.

Gardening opens the joy of exploration, the awe of discovery, and the awakening of young minds to the rich world of learning. Children at the ECC are cultivating four raised-bed vegetable and herb gardens, as well as several other flower gardens. As part of an enrichment class, several children have been busy planning gardens, planting seeds, and nurturing the seedlings. As the temperature climbs, children from all classes are cleaning and preparing the ground for planting. The garden will be an active part of the summer outdoor classroom as the children will tend the garden and harvest the vegetables to use for snacks and lunches.

In addition to the gardening, children are busy composting, and thus reducing the amount of bagged waste produced by the JCC. Worms have helped to compost a small amount of leftover food for the past few years. Children and teachers have maintained a worm composter, taking the opportunity to learn about the life cycle of worms and how worms help gardeners by aerating and enriching soil. This spring the ECC introduced a larger compost bin, allowing them to compost all of the food waste generated by their programs. The ECC has also steadily increased the use of reusable plates



**Priya Weisberg and Rebecca Shapiro move topsoil into the ECC's new raised garden beds!**

and cups in the classroom. Children learn to clean plates of leftover food and place them in soapy water, to prepare them to be cleaned with sanitizer. Teaching the children to re-use, reduce, and recycle now will make them better environmental citizens in the future.

Volunteers are welcome to help build and maintain the ECC gardens. They are in the process of building the last of the raised beds, and appreciate help from anyone with some wood-working knowledge. Volunteer opportunities will continue throughout the summer and fall. Monetary donations to defray the added cost of this program are also appreciated. ■



**Jonah Seinfeld-Chopp, Korinne Baker (front), Jonah Botkin, and Tal Vaknin (rear) work on setting up raised bed gardens on the ECC playground.**

## JCC youth summer news

Deborah Huerta, special to the WJN

### **Camp Raanana to hold open house on June 18**

Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's summer day camp for children entering grades K-8, is gearing up for another summer. All families registered for Camp Raanana are invited to the annual Camp Open House on Thursday, June 18, from 6-8 p.m.

The Open House will be held at Camp Raanana's private beachfront site at Independence Lake Park (3200 Jennings Road, Whitmore Lake, MI 48189). This will be an opportunity for families to tour the campsite, meet the counselors and staff, and enjoy fun activities and a free kosher hot dog or veggie dog dinner.

The registration deadline for Camp Raanana is June 1, although many sessions are expected to be full by that time. Any families interested in registering after the June 1 deadline should speak directly with camp director Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 971-0990. More in-

*continued on page 16*



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Using song, dance, and storytelling, the Israel Scouts celebrate our Jewish heritage and bring the sights and sounds of Israel to life. The Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of approximately 100 scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel.

**Dinner registrations and payment are required by Monday, June 29.  
Please contact Deborah Huerta at 734-971-0990 or [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) for more information.**

<b>JCC Members &amp; Camp Families:</b>	<b>Community Members:</b>
\$6 per person (ages 2 & up)	\$8 per person (ages 2 & up)
\$18 per family	\$24 per family

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## Youth

### JCC Youth, continued from page 15

formation about Camp Raanana is available at [www.CampRaanana.com](http://www.CampRaanana.com). Registration forms will be available at the JCC and at [www.jccannarbor.org](http://www.jccannarbor.org).

#### Host families needed for Israeli counselors

Each year two Israeli *shlichim* join the staff of Camp Raanana, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's summer day camp, enriching the lives of campers and benefiting the broader Ann Arbor Jewish community. The *shlichim* are talented young Israelis who have finished their military service and chosen to spend their summers serving as counselors and Israeli specialists at camps across North America. Camp Raanana's *shlichim* not only have a notable impact on the campers, but also provide local host families with an unparalleled experience.

Carol Lessere, whose family has hosted a *shaliach* for the past two summers, remarked that their *shaliach* quickly became part of the family, captivating her two young sons with stories of Israeli life. "When we volunteered to host one of the *shlichim* for the first time, I wasn't sure our location and modest accommodations would be sufficient. In fact, Camp Raanana assured us that all the *shlichim* need is a private place to sleep and some refrigerator space. What you receive in return is a life experience!"

Two *shlichim*—one male and one female—will be sharing their talents and enthusiasm with Camp Raanana this summer. Gilad Bonfil lives in a small town near Tel Aviv and is looking forward to joining Camp Raanana as this year's sports and nature specialist. Bonfil is currently serving in the army as a combat medic. Before the army, he was part of the Israel Scouts, where he worked as a counselor for two years. He enjoys playing guitar, traveling, and reading, and loves working with children.

Erika Jasaityte is also excited to be joining Camp Raanana as a head counselor for the entering-third-grade group. Jasaityte was born in Lithuania and moved to Israel on her own at age 15 to live in Kibbutz Eilat, near the city of Eilat. She is currently in the army and has worked previously with the children of the kibbutz, as well as at various summer camps. She enjoys going to movies and spending time at the sea with her friends.

Bonfil and Jasaityte will be arriving in Ann Arbor on June 12 and staying for approximately nine weeks. The JCC is seeking several host families who can host one *shaliach* for about three weeks. To volunteer as a host, or for more information, contact Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 971-0990 as soon as possible.

#### JCC to offer Summer Break Program August 24–28

Due to the timing of Labor Day this year, many schools are starting almost a week later than usual. To help bridge the gap between the end of many camp programs and the start of school, the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will offer Summer Break Fun Days from August 24–28. Each day will feature a fun field trip or special activity, plus crafts, games, and gym time or outdoor recess. Students should bring a nut free, dairy lunch and appropriate clothing for playing outside.

The Summer Break Fun Days are for JCC members ONLY in grades K–5; middle school

students are also welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. The cost for each day is \$36 for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (\$32 for additional siblings) and \$10 for extended care from 4–6 p.m. Participants may sign up for one or more days.

Programming details and registration forms will be available in late June at [www.jccannarbor.org](http://www.jccannarbor.org) and at the JCC. Registration and payment are due by Monday, August 17, but spaces may fill up before then.

#### Registration opening for JCC after-school programs

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is looking forward to providing another great year of after-school programs for 2009–2010. Monthly tuition fees have not been increased for the 2009–2010 school year, and tuition now includes extended care during the JCC programs on days off from school. As always, the JCC's after-school programs are designed to provide the fun and excitement children desire and the safety and convenience parents need.

The JCC offers two after-school program options, Kids' Konnection and Kids' Club. Kids' Konnection caters to students in kindergarten through second grade with nurturing staff, daily group time, and exciting supervised activities. Kids' Club is designed to meet the interests of third- through fifth-graders with designated homework time, separate hang-out spaces, and special activity choices. Both programs run from 3:20–6 p.m. daily. Parents interested in after-school programs for sixth through eighth graders should inquire about the JCC's Middle School Helpers program.

The JCC's after-school programs offer convenient scheduling options, allowing parents to choose schedules from two to five days per week. Drop-in care is also available for students who need after-school care only occasionally, or less than two days per week, or for students who need additional days beyond their normal schedule. After-school program participants receive discounts on youth enrichment classes at the JCC and priority enrollment for the JCC's School's Out, Snow Day, and Vacation Fun Days programs.

Several afternoon transportation options are available for students who attend local elementary schools. Ann Arbor Public Schools provide free bus transportation to the JCC from Bryant, Pattengill, and Ann Arbor Open schools. The JCC may also be able to provide transportation from some other elementary schools.

#### JCC seeks after-school program coordinator

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County is seeking a dynamic and experienced individual for the position of After-school Program Coordinator for the 2009–2010 school year. The ideal candidate will have extensive experience working with and planning programs for elementary aged students, solid knowledge of Jewish culture and traditions, and a passion for working with children. Applicants must be available on weekdays from 3–6 p.m. throughout the school year, as well as during most school vacations. ■

For more information about the JCC's youth programs, contact youth director Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or 971-0990.



## Jewish organizations learn how to 'go green'

By Eric Fingerhut

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Jewish organizations may want to “go green” but the challenges—from the cost to simply knowing which products to buy—can be complicated.

That’s where last week’s Jewish Sustainability Conference comes in.

Coordinated by the Coalition for the Environment and Jewish Life, the two-day gathering at a retreat center outside Baltimore brought together about 40 representatives from 17 Jewish organizations, specifically targeting groups that own and operate a significant amount of real estate—including the four major Jewish denominations, the student group Hillel, and the United Jewish Communities.

Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, COEJL’s general consultant, said the goal was to assist the organizations in figuring out what they can be doing and how they can exchange information to help each other.

Sustainability, Cardin explained, means living “a life of dignity and fullness” without diminishing resources or the capacity of the next generation to live well, too.

“It incorporates environmental health” as well as “social and economic well-being,” she said.

“The beauty, and the difficulty of it, is that wherever you turn, you can touch it,” said Cardin, from the food one buys to its packaging, to how it is eaten and its disposal.

Unless an organization has a full-time position devoted solely to sustainability issues, she says, questions arise—for instance, where to find the most sustainable paper products or the best price for them—and companies often don’t have the manpower to investigate.

COEJL, she said, can serve as a clearinghouse, so organizations don’t duplicate the efforts of others in the community.

“If we can be that go-to place for information and tell you 20 miles down the road here’s a vendor in your area,” then, for instance, a religious denomination can spread the word to synagogues in the area, saving time and resources, she said.

She also points out that the price of certain materials, such as sustainable cleaning products, can be significantly reduced if bought in bulk—an option for many of the participating organizations.

In addition, the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center, where the meeting was held, includes an organic farm, so participants received some education on sustainable food options.

Cardin hopes to follow up with monthly “Webinars” or other projects that provide information and sustain the relationships that the conference began to build.

Participants were excited by the conference’s results. Rachel Cohen, a legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said it was “exciting and inspiring to create new connections all across the broad spectrum” with people working on this issue that she “never had the chance to meet face to face.”

Rabbi Jack Abramowitz, associate director of synagogue services for the Orthodox Union, said it’s “hard selling people” in their member synagogues “on protecting the environment if it’s going to cost 50 percent more,” but he learned that in many cases such efforts are pretty much a wash financially, and in the end provide long-term savings.

Not only can it “help our bottom line,” but “we’re practicing what we preach,” he said.

There also was some discussion of halachic problems that might arise from possible green solutions. For instance, Abramowitz noted that suggestions to hook up synagogue lights to motion detectors are problematic on Friday nights and holidays, so Orthodox synagogues might have to get some kind of override for Shabbat.

Similarly, a certain type of toilet paper that would be better for the environment is perforated and thus not compliant with the prohibition on tearing on Shabbat and holidays.

“Those are the type of things we uniquely have to investigate,” Abramowitz said.

Cardin emphasized that all the participating organizations demonstrated their seriousness about sustainability because they all co-sponsored the gathering, paying their costs for attending as well as a fee to underwrite the conference.

“They paid to put sustainability on the agenda,” said Cardin. “The question is where is it on the agenda to bring us to the place we all need to be.” ■

## N.Y. food establishments earn new ethics seal

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—One year after a massive immigration raid at the largest kosher meatpacking plant in the United States, an Orthodox social justice organization announced the first seven recipients of its seal of ethical business practice.

Uri L’Tzedek recognized six kosher restaurants and a kosher supermarket in Manhattan with a Tav HaYosher, or ethical seal. Mike’s Bistro, Mike’s Pizzeria and Italian Kitchen, Cafe Nana, Hewitt Dining, My Heights Cafe, Hartley Kosher Deli, and Supersol of the Westside are displaying the seal in their windows.

Uri L’Tzedek, which was founded by rabbinical students at the liberal Orthodox Yeshivat Chovevei Torah in New York, timed its announcement to May 12, the anniversary of the 2008 raid at Agriprocessors in Postville, Iowa.

The ensuing scandal and ongoing court cases generated widespread discussion of the ethical dimensions of kosher food production, and spurred several new social justice initiatives. They include the Tav HaYosher, envisioned for kosher eateries, and the Conservative movement’s Magen Tzedek, a proposed social justice program for food manufacturers.

Uri L’Tzedek developed the Tav HaYosher project last summer to shine a spotlight on kosher restaurants that treat their workers well, pay fair wages, give adequate work breaks and maintain a safe work environment. It is based on a similar Israeli ethical seal, Tav Chevrati, that has been given to more than 350 kosher and non-kosher restaurants in that country.

“Given recent events in the *kashrut* industry, it is imperative that we implement a system that will prevent abuse and exploitation,” Uri L’Tzedek’s web site explains. Noting that “thousands” of New York restaurant workers are paid below minimum wage, denied overtime pay, and subjected to unsafe working conditions, the statement continues, “we must ensure these abuses are not taking place in kosher restaurants.”

In Los Angeles, a similar initiative spearheaded by three Orthodox rabbis gave its first compliance certificate to two restaurants and two synagogues right before Passover. The L.A. project, Peulat Sachir, also looks at employment conditions, but is not limited to restaurants. In fact, Rabbi Elazar Muskin of Young Israel of

Century City, one of the co-creators, says the group wants synagogues to sign on first.

“Change begins at home,” he said.

Neither project is adversarial, its leaders insist. The intention is not to shame restaurants that do not meet the groups’ standards, but to publicize those who do and encourage others to follow suit.

In the Tav HaYosher program, restaurants apply for the certification and staffers visit to vet working conditions. Volunteer compliance officers trained by the organization visit the sites every six to eight weeks to ensure continued compliance.

The Peulat Sachir project, conversely, actively solicits Jewish-owned businesses and relies on self-policing. “We speak with the owners and the workers, we go through payroll records,” says Yeshivat Chovevei Torah student Shmuly Yanklowitz, one of the founders of the Uri L’Tzedek program. “There’s an anonymous tip line workers can use to call us.”

Not all applicants pass. One kosher restaurant that applied for the seal pays its undocumented workers \$2 an hour, far less than the minimum wage of \$7.15 an hour for non-tipped employees. “We said, at least pay them \$4.80, the minimum wage for delivery workers,” Yanklowitz said. “They said no and we walked away.”

Uri L’Tzedek has trained nearly 60 volunteer compliance officers and is developing a core group of 12. Virtually all are in their 20s or early 30s.

This summer, 10 to 15 college students will receive fellowships to spend six weeks in New York studying Jewish teachings on social justice and serving as field workers for the project.

Yanklowitz says he has fielded calls from Jewish food activists in Washington and Chicago eager to bring the program to their cities, but for now the group is focusing just on Manhattan and plans to build slowly.

The fact that the project is up and running gives the lie to the notion that it’s too difficult, or inappropriate, to monitor the ethical practices of kosher establishments, Yanklowitz says.

“There’s a huge cultural shift taking place,” he insists. “Thousands have signed on to say they will only buy from these places. The spirit of volunteerism in the young Jewish community is very strong.” ■

## Streak of ‘Jewish humanism’ in new eco-friendly TV show

By Alex Weisler

NEW YORK (JTA)—Though television personality Annabelle Gurwitch describes herself as secular, she says a streak of Jewish humanism runs through *Wa\$ted!*, the eco-conscious reality show she hosts on the Discovery Channel’s Planet Green network.

Each episode of *Wa\$ted!* tasks Gurwitch and her co-host, actor Holter Graham, to audit a household and encourage it to become greener and more cost-efficient.

One episode put the spotlight on Reuben and Belinda Ehrlich and their four children—a Modern Orthodox family from West Orange, New Jersey, who sought out the show after seeing it advertised on Craigslist.

“They take the idea of *tikkun olam* very seriously, as I do, too,” Gurwitch told JTA, using the term for “repair of the world.” “What greater way to express that than by leaving a smaller footprint on the earth?”

Gurwitch and her team visited the family in December and February to green the way the Ehrlichs prepare for and observe Shabbat. They added multi-use pans instead of single-use aluminum ones, installed a sophisticated lighting system to replace outdated timers, and advocated smaller, less protein-heavy Shabbat meals.

Gurwitch said she and her team worked hard to ensure the Ehrlichs weren’t enduring financial hardship because of their religious practices. “The goal of the show is to find low-cost or no-cost ways to lower your footprint,” she said. “I am interested in seeing the idea of environmentalism taken out of this elitist, West Coast, East Coast idea, that just wealthy celebrities can do this green thing. If there’s not an economic incentive, who’s going to do it?”

Reuben Ehrlich, who works in pharmaceutical marketing, said the green focus fits in with other Jewish values such as *tzedakah*, commonly

translated as charity, and *chesed*, or kindness. “I think it just has to do with a recognition for our place in the world and what we leave behind,” he said. “One more thing that’s in harmony with everything else we’re working to do.”

Belinda Ehrlich, a writer who works from home, said the lessons the show teaches are not applicable only to Jews. “It’s been great,” she said. “I’m composting all of our food. I’ve changed the way I cook, and it’s something that anybody can do whether they’re Jewish or not.”

The focus on advocating changes that individuals can make in their own lives is Gurwitch’s passion, she says. While working as a commentator for National Public Radio, she became overwhelmed with dire environmental news—the doom and gloom found in films such as Al Gore’s Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*.

“I had the idea that people were getting

alienated by these big, big ‘Omigosh, we’re headed to doom’ things,” said Gurwitch, the former host of *Dinner and a Movie* on TBS. “Sometimes it just makes you want to just eat a steak and leave your lights on for 24 hours a day. You get panicky.”

*Wa\$ted!* tries to set attainable goals for its participants, said Allan Butler, the show’s executive producer. “We don’t ever come here just saying to the families, ‘Here’s what you can do to save the planet,’” he said. “We try to make it much more relevant to them.”

But, Gurwitch added, personal lifestyle changes often can be the catalysts that lead to more widespread results.

“This is not going to make sea levels stop rising. This is not the big, major work,” she said of the show. “But I do believe that the idea behind this is about changing your social norms so the larger issues will change eventually.” ■



## On Another Note

### Support your local symphony

Sandor Slomovitz, staff writer

**L**ike nearly every arts organization I know, the Ann Arbor Symphony has been forced to make some painful decisions in order to be able to weather the storms of the current economic climate. I thought of that recently, when I saw the brochure detailing their 2009–2010 schedule.

It brought to mind a story I once heard about Winston Churchill. Churchill, who seems to have formed a memorable quote on just about any topic you can imagine, even had something to say about funding for the arts. During WWII, when the British budget was strained perhaps even more than our own government's these days, the Lord of the Exchequer came to the prime minister and suggested areas where cuts could be made, including funding for the arts. Churchill is supposed to have thundered back, "Good God, man, no! What do you think we're fighting for?" I really admire that stance. And I really admire that the A2SO is fighting—creatively, of course—to offer our community the same extremely high level of programming this coming season as they have in rosier times.

What follows is my shameless, guiltless, unabashed boosting for the A2SO's upcoming season, their 81st, and Maestro Arie Lipsky's 10th with the Symphony.

Remarkably, no aspect of the A2SO's usual offerings has been cut for next year, except, generously, some of their ticket prices, which now start as low as \$6. That's less than the price of a movie ticket! And, in my humble and admittedly biased opinion, it's the rare movie that can compare to a live A2SO concert.

As every season, there is music here for everyone, from toddlers to seniors and everyone in between. The A2SO's six Saturday night concerts, beginning in September and ending in April, are the cornerstone of the season. You can find more details in the Symphony's brochure and website ([www.a2so.com](http://www.a2so.com)), but here are some of the highlights that I am particularly looking forward to.

The September all Beethoven night features the master's beloved violin concerto, with Ilya Kaler as soloist. Kaler's list of accolades and accomplishments would take up the rest of my allotted space here, but suffice it to say that he is returning seven years after he last appeared with the A2SO. I missed him that time, when he was the featured soloist in Leonard Bernstein's *Serenade for Violin, Strings, Harp and Percussion*. I won't make the same mistake this year.

In October, David Requiro will make his debut with the A2SO. Requiro, a U-M student of Richard Aaron, won the 2008 Naumburg International Violoncello Competition, perhaps the most prominent competition in the country. Enough said.

In November, besides Brahms and Bizet, there will be Prokofiev's "Overture on Hebrew Themes." Prokofiev, who never was at a loss creating his own original gorgeous melodies, here brings his considerable compositional talents to develop themes from some Jewish folksongs. Pianist extraordinaire Anton Nel, a favorite of A2SO's audiences, returns to perform the Prokofiev, as well as Brahms' piano concerto No. 2.

The January annual Mozart Birthday Bash this season moves from the Symphony's

usual home at the Michigan Theater to Hill Auditorium, and features one of the A2SO's own, Andrew Pelletier, in Horn Concerto No. 3. The concert will conclude with what the Symphony's brochure rightly describes as "one of humanity's greatest creations," the Mozart *Requiem*.

In March there is Ann Arbor's Pulitzer Prize-winning-composer Bill Bolcom's humorously titled *Seattle Slew: Three Dances in Forequarter Time*, and Dovrak's cherished *New World Symphony*. The concert will also feature the return of Arkadiy Figlin, this time with Gershwin's Piano Concerto in F. Figlin, was here three seasons ago, and I well always remember his brilliant performance of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Maestro Lipsky, who has conducted Figlin a number of times, says this about him: "He feels at home with Beethoven or Ellington, Rachmaninoff or Gershwin. During the day he plays for the American Ballet Company in New York City and at night he plays in jazz clubs. Performing Gershwin with Arkadiy is always a special treat. His dual training guarantees a fresh carefree approach with the needed accuracy."

The season will conclude next April with Berlioz, Mussorgsky, and one of the gems of the classical repertoire, the Brahms Violin Concerto, with the A2SO's own brilliant concertmaster, Aaron Berofsky, in the soloist's role.

Besides the six Saturday night concerts, there will also be a half-dozen KinderConcerts. This season, for the first time, Maestro Lipsky will join Gari Stein and Kathryn Goodson for two of the programs for the A2SO's youngest fans—just another indication of Maestro Lipsky's commitment to music education and his natural ease with, and affection for, children of all ages.

There will be four concerts in the Benard L. Maas Foundation Family Series, with Ann Arbor's own renowned Chenille Sisters returning as featured soloists in one, and local playwright Jeff Duncan's Mozart World Tour coming back for a well-deserved encore in another.

Finally, the A2SO will offer five Afternoon Delights concerts, their very popular chamber music series at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. (As I am writing this it is April 2009, and I have just returned from the next-to-the-last performance in this year's season. With the music still fresh in my ears, it is very easy to write that I can think of few things more delightful than spending an afternoon listening to Aaron Berofsky, his wife Kathryn Votapek, Yehonatan Berick, and Maestro Lipsky play Mozart.)

Longtime A2SO executive director Mary Steffek Blaske and her staff are some of the warmest, most knowledgeable and helpful people I've ever met, the musicians of the orchestra continue to improve and excel every season, and I can't say enough good things about Maestro Arie Lipsky, both as a musician and as a human being. This organization and these people have earned our respect and affection and deserve our support. Their music has buoyed us up for many years and will continue to help carry us through these difficult times. ■

## Browsing the Web

### Did you hear the one about the bubbe telling a joke...

By Alex Weisler

NEW YORK (JTA)—Like the summer action flick *Snakes on a Plane*, director Sam Hoffman's Jewish humor website is up front about what it offers: old Jews telling jokes.

From February through the end of April, OldJewsTellingJokes.com offered just that. Each Tuesday and Thursday, a new video was posted of an over-60 Jew raucously recounting his or her favorite jokes.

The site quietly has become a hit. The series' Facebook page lists nearly 2,000 followers, and the site has logged nearly 2 million video plays. A new season is set to premiere next month, and First Run Films recently optioned the web series for a forthcoming release on home video—hopefully by the fall, producer Eric Spiegelman says.

The OldJewsTellingJokes homepage may be spare, but the simple interface is effective enough for the site's needs.

Every video starts off with a snippet of

Jewcy, Jewlicious, Jewssip and other sites.

But San Francisco resident Adam Gomolin, 24, says he stumbled on the site a different way.

"It was my non-Jewish ex-girlfriend," he said with a laugh. "She had an abiding love of Jewish culture."

Six months later that relationship may be over, but Gomolin, a policy associate in the office of San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, still checks the website frequently.

A young urban professional "not phenomenally connected" to his Judaism, the site is a way Gomolin can achieve some "commonality... that *je ne sais quoi*."

"I'm not a pious guy, but I do have a very strong cultural feeling," he said. "It's in your bones."

On April 30, Spiegelman wrote an appeal on the site asking frequent visitors to write their own Jewish jokes and interweave them



"Dave Tarras' B flat Bulgars," a jaunty klezmer romp from noted Yiddish musician Henry Sapoznik. Each joke gets a simple title—"Chicken" or "Broccoli," for instance—and Hoffman writes a bit of backstory beneath each would-be Rodney Dangerfield or Fyvush Finkel.

The biographies are as tongue in cheek as the site's jokes.

"When we were growing up in the seventies, Bert had a groovy moustache that made him look a little like Gomez from the Addams family," Hoffman writes for one man.

"Notorious amongst her friends as an inveterate collector, she also plays a mean kazoo" is the descriptor given to one woman.

To cast the series in summer 2008, Hoffman's father, Barney, e-mailed 15 to 20 friends who fit three requirements: over 60, Jewish, capable of telling one hell of a joke.

Those who answered the call—mostly men, and two women—met at a vacant storefront in Highland Park, New Jersey, where Hoffman was waiting with a professional film crew, sandwiches, and the guarantee of a free DVD for each participant, according to one of the joke tellers, Neil Lawner.

Lawner, an assistant professor of orthodontics at New York University's School of Dentistry, has three jokes posted on the Web site. He says the site's appeal may stem from a forgotten "Catskill Mountains vintage" brand of humor.

"It describes really a little bit of a lost generation of joke-telling Jewish guys," he said. "That standup comedy, joke-telling Jewish guy is a little bit passe. You don't see that much anymore."

In the months since its launch, OldJewsTellingJokes has become a hit in the Jewish blogosphere, frequently popping up on

with family stories. The site's founders hope to craft a book from users' submissions, he said in the post.

Suzanne Leichtling says she was inspired to submit "The Frugal Traveller"—a story about her father—when a cousin e-mailed her about the site.

For Leichtling, a special education teacher from Cocoa Beach, Florida, the site succeeds when it goes beyond "just jokes."

"They were not really connected to anything having to do with the families," she said of the stand-alone joke videos. "[The new project] is like a cultural archive, a place for people to reminisce and then update their reminiscences to fit with the now."

Though Spiegelman says a few dozen stories have been received, just three have been posted on the site.

Gomolin's story—"Special Food"—recounts the time his grandfather Isadore Pollack, hungry for a late-night snack, mistook the family dog's diet chow for his wife's mandlen. His grandfather's death a year ago has brought the site's purpose into even sharper focus for Gomolin.

"For the first time, I'm forgetting Zayde a little bit," he said. "He's not as clear in my head as he used to be."

It's this, the fluidity of memory, that makes preserving a collective Jewish cultural consciousness all the more important, he adds.

"My father's side of the family is Holocaust survivors, and there's this movement to chronicle these stories before they're lost forever," Gomolin said. "I don't know if this is something that rises to that level of phenomenal importance, but let's write these stories down and let's share them." ■



JUNE 12 - JULY 5



Festival Photography by Myra Korman

ann arbor summer festival

2009

### MAINSTAGE

Diana Krall • Pink Martini • Gladys Knight  
Los Lobos • Savion Glover • Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings  
Whose Live Anyway? • Zap Mama  
The Capitol Steps • Tango Connection  
Ahn Trio • José González • Circo Comedia • Dean & Britta • Neal Medlyn  
Pistolera • Alice Russell • Qool DJ Marv • The Kin • Sneakin' Out

### TOP OF THE PARK

NOMO • Orquesta Sensacional • The Macpodz • The Ragbirds • My Dear Disco  
Great Lakes Myth Society • George Bedard & the Kingpins  
Down the Line • The Sun Messengers • Hot Club of Detroit • Madcat & Kane  
The Crawdaddies • Bugs Beddow Band • FUBAR • Hullabaloo • The Terraplanes  
That 1 Guy • Lady Sunshine and the X Band  
Tango Folias • West Philadelphia Orchestra • Nite Flight • Salmagundi  
My My My • Zebula Avenue • Jo Serrapere & the Willie Dunns  
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# Calendar

## June 2009

### Monday 1

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

**Annual Spring Dinner:** ORT. Dine with friends and recognize generous donors to ORT America. 6 p.m. at Quarter Bistro Restaurant, 300 South Maple Road. 6 p.m. Rides available, if needed. For information or to reserve, contact Joan Levitt at [jlevitt@comcast.net](mailto:jlevitt@comcast.net) by May 22.

### Tuesday 2

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Biblical Reflections:** Jewish Learning Institute. Finding You in the Book of Genesis. Six-session course examines classic stories from Genesis in a modern light, focusing on eternal relevance to everyday life. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

### Thursday 4

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**Birthdays and Film Outing:** JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with birthdays in June. Friends and family are invited to join group for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Followed by travelogue by West Bloomfield JCC travel maven Marilyn Wolfe at 1 p.m. For information, call 971-0990.

**Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

### Friday 5

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Tot Shabbat:** TBE. 5:30 p.m. followed by Shira at 6 p.m. and Shabbat Service honoring Abe Morrison and Blessing the Class of 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

### Saturday 6

**Torah Study:** TBE. With Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. followed by Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions

of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

### Sunday 7

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Book Club:** BIC. Current book is *A Pigeon and a Boy* by Meir Shalev. Discussion facilitated by Nika Bareket. 10 a.m.

**Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Brunch:** JCC. Outgoing board members and volunteers will be honored and new board members will be elected. Highlights of the past year will be reviewed. Reservations required by June 3. Contact Rebekah Gamble at 971-0990. 10 a.m.

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Annual Meeting:** JGSMI. Annual meeting, reception, and election of officers for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan. With featured speaker Erin Einhorn, author of *The Pages In Between*. Holocaust Memorial Center, 28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. 1:30 p.m. For information, including cost, or to RSVP by June 5, contact [programs@jgsmi.org](mailto:programs@jgsmi.org).

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

### Monday 8

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

### Tuesday 9

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Biblical Reflections:** Jewish Learning Institute. Finding You in the Book of Genesis. Six-session course examines classic stories from Genesis in a modern light, focusing on eternal relevance to everyday life. 9:30–11 a.m. at Chabad House and 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

### Wednesday 10

**Annual Meeting:** TBE. 7:30 p.m.

### Thursday 11

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3

Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Musical Presentation:** JCC Seniors. A registered nurse will take and record blood pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m. followed at 1 p.m. by a trio of classical guitarists who will provide a musical afternoon.

**Curator Chat:** Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. Judy Levin Cantor, fourth-generation Detroit, writer and historian, will discuss the essence of the traveling exhibit, *From Haven to Home: Jewish Life in America*. The exhibit is presented by the Jewish Historical Society in cooperation with the American Jewish Historical Society. 6 p.m. at Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Avenue at Kirby, Detroit. Free for members of the Detroit Historical Society. \$5/ Jewish Historical Society members; \$10/community members. For information, phone 313-833-1801 or visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

**Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

### Friday 12

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

### Saturday 13

**Torah Study:** TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. followed by Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.

**Eco and T-Shirt Shabbat:** BIC. With summer camp sendoff. 9:30 a.m.

**Tot Shabbat:** BIC. For tots ages 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of tcalendar.*

### Sunday 14

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

**Mussar Study Group:** BIC. 9:45 a.m.

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Annual Meeting and Reception:** BIC. Annual congregational meeting and dessert reception. 7 p.m.

**Lilith Salon:** TBE Sisterhood. 7:30 p.m.

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

### Monday 15

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

### Tuesday 16

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

### Wednesday 17

**Author Series:** Jewish Historical Society of Michigan. After World War II, the nation underwent a mass migration from urban centers to newly created suburbs. Join author Barry Stiefel as he recounts the Detroit Jewish community's transition. Free for members of the Detroit Historical Society. \$5/Jewish Historical Society members; \$10/community members. 6 p.m. at Detroit Historical Museum, 5401 Woodward Avenue at Kirby, Detroit. For information, phone 313-833-1801 or visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

**Caregiver Conversations:** JCC and JFS. Monthly program for adult children in a variety of caregiving roles for their aging parents. Tonight's topic is "Caring for the Caregiver." Caregivers are at high risk for both physical and mental illness. 6:30–8:00 p.m. at the JCC. RSVP encouraged to Abbie at 769-0209 or email to [abbie@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:abbie@jfsannarbor.org).

### Thursday 18

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Presentation:** JCC Seniors. Dr. Leslie Swanson of the University of Michigan Sleep Disorders Clinic will discuss relationship between sleep and mental and physical health and how to improve sleep. 1 p.m. Prior to the program, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker Allison Pollock, MSW, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m.

**Camp Open House:** JCC. For families registered for Camp Raanana. Tour the camp site, meet the counselors and staff, enjoy fun activities and eat kosher hot dog or veggie dog dinner. 6–8 p.m. at Independence Lake Park, 3200 Jennings Road in Whitmore Lake. For more information, contact Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or call 971-0990 or visit [www.camppraanana.com](http://www.camppraanana.com).

**Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

### Friday 19

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Tot Shabbat:** TBE. 5:30 p.m. followed by Shira at 6 p.m. and Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*



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## Saturday 20

**Torah Study:** TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. followed by Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 21

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Hike:** Jewish Hikers of Michigan. 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 22

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 23

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Mussar Study Group:** BIC. 7 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 25

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**Seniors on the Go:** JCC Older Adult Program. Seniors will travel to the UM Museum of Art for a docent tour. Round trip transportation is \$5. Reservations required by June 15. Contact Merrill at 971-0990. 12:45–2:45 p.m.

**Reading and Book Signings:** UM Library. Constance Harris, benefactor to the University of Michigan Library of the Jewish Heritage Collection, will read excerpts from and speak about her recently published book, *The Way Jews Lived: Five Hundred Years of Printed Words and Images*. Copies of the book will be avail-

able for sale and signing by Mrs. Harris. 4–5:30 p.m. in the Library Gallery on the first floor of the UM Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.

**Study Group—Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 26

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Tot Shabbat:** TBE. 5:30 p.m. followed by Shira at 6 p.m. and Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at the end of the calendar.*

## Saturday 27

**Torah Study:** TBE. Led by Rabbi Levy at 8:50 a.m. followed by Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. and Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at the end of calendar*

## Sunday 28

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad.

Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

## Tuesday 30

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## July 2009

### Wednesday, July 1

**Israeli Scouts:** JCC. Using song, dance and storytelling, the Israeli Scouts celebrate Jewish heritage and bring sights and sounds of Israel to life. The Friendship Caravan is part of a larger delegation of approximately 100 scouts who travel to North America each summer to represent the land of Israel. Pizza dinner at 6 p.m.; Free performance at 7 p.m. \$6/person or \$18/family for dinner for JCC members. \$8/person or \$24/family for community members. Reservations required by June 29. Contact Deborah Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or phone 971-0990.

**Summer Services Begin:** TBE. Led by congregants each week. 7:30 p.m. No Saturday services until September.

## Thursday 2

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**Birthdays and Presentation:** JCC Seniors. Celebration for all with birthdays in July. Friends and family are invited to join group for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. followed at 1 p.m. by a presentation on “Jewish Ann Arbor” by Richard Adler, professor of microbiology at UM-Dearborn. For information, call 971-0990.

**Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 3

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Barbeque and Kabbalat Service:** BIC. Hamburger barbeque followed by outdoor Kabbalat service. 6 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 4

**Adult Bat Mitzvah 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** BIC. 9:30 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 5

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 6

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 7

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Mussar Study Group:** BIC. 7 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 9

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Presentation:** JCC Seniors. A registered nurse will take and record blood pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. by a discussion led by local author and educator Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, who will talk about her book, *Across the Chasm*, which chronicles her family's experience with bone marrow transplant.

**Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 10

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 11

**Tot Shabbat:** BIC. For tots ages 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 12

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Minor League Game:** TBE Brotherhood. Family outing to EMU stadium for minor league game (Midwest Sliders). For information, visit [www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood](http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood).

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 13

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*



# Calendar

## Tuesday 14

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mah-jong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 16

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Art Fair Outing:** JCC Seniors. Trip to the Ann Arbor Art Fair from 12:45–3:30 p.m. \$5/roundtrip transportation. Prior to the program, Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker Allison Pollock, MSW, will be available for discussion, questions and assistance at 12:30 p.m. Reservations required by July 6 to Merrill at 971-0990.

**Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 17

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 18

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 19

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 20

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at

Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 21

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mah-jong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Mussar Study Group:** BIC. 7 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 23

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**Seniors on the Go:** JCC Older Adult Program. Seniors will travel to the UM Museum of Art for a docent tour. Round trip transportation is \$5. Reservations required by July 15. Contact Merrill at 971-0990. 12:45–2:45 p.m.

**Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 24

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 25

**Canoe and Barbeque:** TBE Brotherhood. Trip to Gallup Park for canoeing and a barbeque. For information, visit [www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood](http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood).

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar*

## Sunday 26

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday, 27

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 28

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mah-jong, quilting, art projects and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Wednesday 29

**Tisha B'Av Evening Service:** AAOM. 9 p.m. at UM Hillel.

**Tisha B'Av Evening Service:** BIC. 9 p.m.

**Tisha B'Av Evening Service:** Chabad. 9:40 p.m.

## Thursday 30

**Tisha B'Av Services:** Chabad. Morning services at 7:30 a.m. Afternoon and Evening Services at 8 p.m.

**Tisha B'Av Services:** At UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 for *Shacharit*, *Mincha* and *Maariv* times.

**Tisha B'Av Services:** BIC. Shacharit service at 8 a.m. Mincha Service at 2:30 p.m.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**Discussion:** JCC Older Adult Program. A local expert will answer questions about how the current economic conditions are affecting seniors and what strategies are recommended. 1 p.m.

**Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 31

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Musical Kabbalat Service:** BIC. In the tradition of Joey Newhouse. 6 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

# August 2009

## Saturday 1

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat–Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 2

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya–Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Minor League Game:** TBE Brotherhood. Family outing to EMU stadium for minor league game (Lansing Lugnuts). For information, visit [www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood](http://www.templebethemeth.org/tbe/brotherhood).

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 3

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email andre@jfsannarbor.org. *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 4

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mah-jong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Mussar Group:** BIC. 7 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 6

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Birthdays and Presentation:** JCC Seniors. Birthday celebration for all with August birthdays. Families and friends are invited to join in for lunch and birthday cake at 12:30 p.m. Followed at 1 p.m. by a discussion about what it takes to be “green”, led by Jen Eschelbach from Recycle Ann Arbor.

**Talmud Study Group–Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 7

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*





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# Exceptional



## Opportunities

Clague Middle School students Maadhuri Srinivasan, Olivia Chapman, Marya Cooney, Lorenzo Johnson, Claire Fendrick and Abby Calef  
Class of 2015

With more than 74 different languages spoken in Ann Arbor Public Schools — more than 25 at Clague alone — students are exposed to an enriching and culturally diverse learning environment filled with opportunities to explore the differences and similarities that make up our unique student population. This academic and social interaction creates exceptional opportunities for these future citizens of the world to take pride in who they are and who they might become.

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A community celebration that fights hunger where we live

## Grillin' 2009

A BENEFIT FOR FOOD GATHERERS

Sunday, June 14, 3-8 PM (rain or shine)

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds  
5055 Ann Arbor Saline Road

...and food for all!

### A Picnic with a Purpose!

- Gourmet sausages, grilled chicken, vegetarian dishes, and down-home delicacies from the area's best restaurants
- Live bands featuring the musical talents of RFD Boys, The White Ravens, and George Bedard and the Kingpins
- Food inspired silent auction
- Fun for kids of all ages hosted by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
- Cash beer and wine

To purchase tickets visit our website at [www.foodgatherers.org](http://www.foodgatherers.org) or call us at 734-761-2796.

**Additional ticket sales locations:** Zingerman's (Deli, Bakehouse or Roadhouse) in Ann Arbor, as well as Saline Picture Frame Co. and Dexter Picture Frame Co.

**Tickets:** \$50/Adults (\$45 tax-deductible)  
\$10/Kids (\$8 tax-deductible)

**Tickets at the door:** \$60 Adults/\$10 Kids

### The Feast Donors

Al Dente Pasta Co.; Ann Arbor YMCA Chain of Plenty; Arbor Brewing Company; Arbor Springs Water Company; Bella Ciao Trattoria; Busch's Fresh Food Market; Café Zola; Carmela Specialty Foods; Casey's Tavern; Coffee Express; The Common Grill; The Earle; eve; Fabulous Food; Food Art Catered Affairs, Inc.; Food Gatherers Community Kitchen Job Training Program; Knight's Steak House; Monahan's Seafood Market; O & W, Inc.; Palio Restaurant; Produce Station/Frog Holler; The Quarter Bistro & Tavern; Red Hawk Bar & Grill; Shalimar Restaurant; Simply Scrumptious Catering; Tios Southwestern Café; United Meats & Deli, Inc.; West End Grill; Zingerman's Bakehouse; Zingerman's Creamery; Zingerman's Delicatessen; Zingerman's Roadhouse

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#### Special Grillin' Gifts

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Martin Bandyke





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## Saturday 8

**Maccabi Games Begin:** JCC. Teens aged 13-16 will represent Ann Arbor during a week of Olympic-style sporting competition and community service with Jewish teens from across North America. For information, contact Debora Huerta at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or by phone at 971-0990.

**Tot Shabbat:** BIC. For tots ages 3–5 years old and parents. 11:15 a.m.

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 9

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 10

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 11

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.; \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 13

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**“Magic and Beauty of Color” Art Demonstration:** JCC Seniors. A registered nurse from Care Response will take and record blood pressures and address questions at 12:30 p.m. followed at 1 p.m. by local artist and author, Fred Horowitz's demonstration of the magical properties of color and color's power as an element of composition.

**Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a compos-

ite of practical law, logical argumentation, and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 14

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 15

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 16

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 17

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

## Tuesday 18

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**Mussar Study Group:** BIC. 7 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 20

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations, 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Presentation:** JCC Older Adult Program. Ann Arbor District Library staff will discuss a library program that has created archives of photographs and recipes, 1 p.m. Jewish Family Services Geriatric Social Worker Allison Pollock, MSW, will be available at the JCC for discussion, questions and assistance, 12:30 p.m. Contact Merrill at 971-0990.

**Study Group—Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 21

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Stuffed Animal Tot Shabbat:** BIC. For preschoolers and their parents. 5:30 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 22

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 23

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday, 24

**Summer Break Fun Days:** JCC Youth. A week of Fun Days to bridge the gap before the start of school. Field trips, crafts, games, gym time, outdoor recess, and more. For JCC members only who are in grades K–5. Middle school students are welcome to participate as helpers for a reduced fee. \$36/day for care from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. \$32 for additional siblings. \$10/extended care from 4–6 p.m. For more information, contact Deborah at [deborahhuerta@jccfed.org](mailto:deborahhuerta@jccfed.org) or by phone at 971-0990.

## Tuesday 25

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m., \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Games and activities including Mahjong, quilting, art projects, and card games, 1 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

**Yidish Tish (Yiddish Conversational Group):** All ages and levels welcome including UM and non-UM participants. 1:30 p.m. at Beanster's Café, ground floor of UM Michigan League. For information, call 936-2367.

**High School Students Dinner:** BIC. Annual event. 7 p.m.

**Weekly Torah Portion—for Women:** Chabad. Reading the Bible may be easy, but understanding it is no simple matter. Study the text in the original, together with the classical commentaries. 8:30 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

## Thursday 27

**Prayer, Weekly Torah Reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women:** Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC.

**SPICE of LIFE:** JCC Seniors. Energy Exercise with Maria Farquhar, 10 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events with Heather Dombey, a Jewish perspective on this week's news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Buffet Lunch, noon; Special

events and guest presentations (see description below), 1 p.m.; Literary Group with Sidney Warschausky at 2:15 p.m. Call Merrill Poliner at 971-0990 for name of current book.

**Presentation:** JCC Seniors. Aharon Goldstein from Chabad House will bring insights into the month of Elul and discuss preparation for Rosh Hashana. 1 p.m.

**Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law:** Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Taanit chapter 2. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

## Friday 28

**Weekly Yiddish Reading Group:** JCC Seniors. Meets at the JCC. 1:30 p.m. Call Ray Juni at 761-2765 for information.

**Shabbat in the Park:** BIC. Outdoor Kabbalat service followed by a potluck dairy dinner. County Farm Park. In case of rain, the event will take place the following weekend at the same place. 6 p.m.

**Friday evening services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Saturday 29

**Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women:** Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics:** Chabad. Study group code of law for Shabbat, and study of Jewish Ethics, 1/2 hour before sundown. *Every Saturday.*

**Shabbat services:** *See listing at end of calendar.*

## Sunday 30

**Reading Hebrew through the Prayer Book—for Women:** Chabad. An in-depth study into the prayer book, an overview of the weekly Torah reading, with Jewish philosophy. 9:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Tanya—Jewish Mysticism:** Chabad. Delve into the basic text of Chassidism and open your eyes to the beauty of Judaism. 10:30 a.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

**Jewish Concepts—for Women:** Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life. 8 p.m. *Every Sunday.*

## Monday 31

**English as a Second Language Daily Classes:** JFS. Ongoing class from 9 a.m.–noon on Mondays–Fridays and 1–3 p.m. on Mondays–Thursdays at Jewish Family Services, 2245 South State Street. For more information, contact JFS at 769-0209 or email [andre@jfsannarbor.org](mailto:andre@jfsannarbor.org). *Ongoing.*

## Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

**Shabbat Service: AAOM.** Services held at UM Hillel. Call 994-9258 in advance to confirm time. 7:30 p.m.

**Shabbat Service: BIC.** 6 p.m.

**Shabbat Service: TBE.** Tot Shabbat at 5:30 p.m. followed by Shira at 6 p.m.; Shira: Traditional Service at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 665-4744.

**Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah.** 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email [info@aaarecon.org](mailto:info@aaarecon.org) or visit [www.aaarecon.org](http://www.aaarecon.org).

**Shabbat Service: Chabad.** Begins at candle-lighting time. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals and Jewish holidays. Call 995-3276 in advance.



### Weekly Shabbat services

**Shabbat Services: AAOM.** Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. Call 662-5805 for information. *Mincha/Ma'ariv* with *Seudah Shlisheet* and *Dvar Torah* every week. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. UM Hillel.

**Shabbat Services: BIC.** 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. *Mincha.* Morning childcare from 10 a.m.—12:15 p.m.

**Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah.** Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email [info@aaecon.org](mailto:info@aaecon.org) or call 913-9705 or visit [www.aaecon.org](http://www.aaecon.org).

**Shabbat Services: Chabad.** Morning services at 9:45 a.m. Afternoon services 45 minutes before sundown.

**Shabbat Services: Pardes Hannah.** Generally meets the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Call 663-4039 for more information. 10 a.m. Led by Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg.

**Shabbat Services: TBE.** Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. Chapel Service at 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service at 10 a.m. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at [www.templebethemeth.org](http://www.templebethemeth.org) for service details.

**Home Hospitality for Shabbat and Holiday Meals: AAOM.** Call 662-5805 in advance.

**Home Hospitality and Meals: Chabad.** Every Shabbat and *yom tov* (Jewish holiday). Call 995-3276 in advance.

### Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed:

Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan (AAOM)  
1429 Hill Street 994-5822

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah (AARH)  
P.O. Box 7451, Ann Arbor 913-9705

Beth Israel Congregation (BIC)  
2000 Washtenaw Ave. 665-9897

Chabad House  
715 Hill Street 995-3276

EMU Hillel  
965 Washtenaw Ave., Ypsilanti 482-0456

Jewish Community Center (JCC)  
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 971-0990

Jewish Cultural Society (JCS)  
2935 Birch Hollow Drive 975-9872

Jewish Family Services (JFS)  
2245 South State Street 769-0209

Jewish Federation  
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah  
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 761-5324

Temple Beth Emeth (TBE)  
2309 Packard Road 665-4744

UM Hillel  
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

### Shabbat Candlelighting

**June 5 7:48 p.m.**  
**June 12 7:52 p.m.**  
**June 19 7:54 p.m.**  
**June 26 7:55 p.m.**

**July 3 7:55 p.m.**  
**July 10 7:52 p.m.**  
**July 17 7:48 p.m.**  
**July 24 7:42 p.m.**  
**July 31 7:35 p.m.**

**August 7 7:26 p.m.**  
**August 14 7:17 p.m.**  
**August 21 7:06 p.m.**  
**August 28 6:55 p.m.**

## Affordable entertainment all summer long

David Erik Nelson, staff writer

Ann Arbor supports a charming menagerie of summer diversions, few of which will strain a tight budget. Although **The Ark** (316 S. Main, [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)) offers a wide range of country, folk, roots, and world musicians, their June schedule is distinguished by several great alt-country acts. “Alt-country” music eschews the polished commercialism of Nashville-centered pop country, in favor of the lyrics-driven back-to-basics sound of American roots music. On June 14 the Ark presents Australian husband-wife duo Kasey Chambers and Shane Nicholson. The Ark’s marketing director, Barb Chaffer Authier, notes that “songwriting is a big strength for them”—*People* magazine called Chambers and Nicholson’s music “as honest as a Boy Scout and as open as a drunkard writing his resignation at 4 a.m.” A week later, on June 15, will be Authier’s top pick for the summer: Alejandro Escovedo. “His first performance at the Ark, a couple of years ago, was one of the best shows I’ve ever seen... he’s got lots of different musical influences; he was involved in the punk scene early on, and was at the dawn of the alt-country movement, and he’s got some jazz influences... and he’s just a wonderful performer.”

July will be an especially good month for guitar aficionados, with Dave Alvin and the Guilty Women showcasing their “really excellent guitarists... kind of an alt-country feel with a rock sensibility” on July 7, and Louisiana bluesman Sonny Landreth performing July 24. Landreth’s intricate slide technique has made him one of Eric Clapton’s favorite blues guitarists. According to Clapton, Landreth is “probably the most underestimated musician on the planet and also probably one of the most advanced.”

The Ark will cap off the summer with an August 30 show by Yid Vicious, a group of Wisconsin-based klezmer musicians that are always “lots of fun.”

**The Michigan Theater’s** (603 E. Liberty St., [www.michtheater.org](http://www.michtheater.org)) Summer Classics film series will offer much-loved films on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. The series will include Marilyn Monroe’s *The Seven Year Itch* (June 14 and 16), Audrey Hepburn’s *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* (June 21 and 23), Jimmy Stewart’s *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (June 28 and 30), Steve McQueen’s *Bullitt* (July 5 and 7), the 1929 German silent film *Pandora’s Box* (with live organ accompaniment, on July 12 and 14), the Marx Brother’s *Cocanuts* (July 19 and 21), and will end with two classics, *Citizen Kane* (September 6 and 8), and *Psycho* (on Monday, September 7; free admission to all students). Michigan Theater marketing coordinator Jenny Jackson is especially pleased to bring these classics to theater audiences: “I’m personally really excited to see *The Seven Year Itch*... it’s just so iconic... especially on the big screen.”

This summer, the **Ann Arbor Civic Theater** ([www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org)) will offer three “interactive theater art” camps in their rehearsal studio (322 W. Ann St.). All three camps are student-driven and exploratory, fusing dance, acting, writing, and the visual arts. The “Free your Imagination in Theatre” camp is for children entering grades K–3, and runs weekday mornings for two weeks, June 22–July 2. “Create Your Own Theatre Adventure”

is for children entering grades 3–6, and runs weekday mornings, August 17–28. “A Grand Theatrical Experiment” is for middle-school students, on weekday afternoons from June 22–July 2. All camps will be directed by Jenny Koppera, who headed several successful children’s productions at the Civic Theater while completing her master’s degree in children’s theater at Eastern Michigan University. According to Cassie Mann, Ann Arbor Civic Theater program director, Koppera “just has this rapport with kids.... Both in directing and the camps, she engages the children and involves them and gives them a responsibility, to themselves and to the group, and they really rise to the occasion. That’s really how she gets them to all be a cohesive group, instead of a bunch of kids running all over the place. It’s a joy to see her work with the kids; she’s fabulous.”

This summer also includes staged readings of the two winners of the Civic Theater’s third annual Playing Around playwriting contest. Of the 19 entries, University of Michigan drama professors Greg Poggi and Oyamo selected *Great In-Expectations*, by Savannah Hagen, and *Not Then, Not Now*, by Michael Kramer. Each short play explores mortality, responsibility, and fidelity in modern America. These staged readings will be held at the Civic Theater’s rehearsal space on Friday and Saturday evenings from July 10–18; Friday performances will be followed by a Q&A with the playwrights and judges. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$15 for reserved seating.

Although the Ann Arbor Civic Theater only has one main-stage production left this summer, the musical *Kiss Me Kate* (June 11–14), they have already announced their 2009–2010 season, which will include three musicals (*The Producers*, *Nine*—Maury Yeston’s musical based on Federico Fellini’s autobiographical film *8½*—and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*) and three plays (Steve Martin’s *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *The Laramie Project*).

Selection committee chair Mark Batell explained, “We wanted to create a season that had some comedy and escapism, but also some important, relevant drama... That’s why our diverse season includes the zaniness of Steve Martin as well as the haunting and timely drama *The Laramie Project*.”

For many Ann Arborites, summertime is defined by the almost 100 separate events in the 26th **Ann Arbor Summer Festival** ([www.annarborsummerfestival.org](http://www.annarborsummerfestival.org)). The Festival (June 12–July 5) will include both “main-stage” performances in the Power Center, Hill Auditorium, and the University of Michigan Museum of Art (with tickets as low as \$10), and nightly free films and live music at the outdoor “Top of the Park” (a.k.a. “ToP,” in the Ingalls Mall in front of the Rackham Graduate building). This year’s festival will go beyond the usual films, dancers, and musicians, introducing a number of innovative performers under the umbrella of “Festival Fringe,” as well as free “After Dark @ Top of the Park” late-night dance parties with local DJs and musicians. The fringe elements of this year’s line-up include mainstage performances like the theatrically bizarre *The Neal Medlyn Experience Live!* (skinny, white Neal

Medlyn’s faithful re-enactment *The Beyonce Experience Live!* concert DVD); hip-hop inflected classical string chamber musicians, the Ahn Trio; and José González, whose only U.S. appearance this year will be his July 1 performance at the Summer Festival. González, an Argentinean indie-folk singer, started out in Swedish hardcore punk bands, but is now noted for his solo classical guitar work and eclectic covers, like Joy Division’s “Love Will Tear Us Apart” and Springsteen songs “Born in the U.S.A.” and “The Ghost of Tom Joad.” Fringe free shows at ToP will include the West Philadelphia Orchestra (Eastern European folk-gypsy klezmer), That 1 Guy (classically-trained bassist Mike Silverman, whose custom-made electro-tub-bass fuses roots music and hip-hop), and the father of “nrrrdcore hip-hop” himself, MC Frontalot.

Both the mainstage and ToP will also include more conventional fare, such as mainstage performances by tap dancer Savion Glover, political satire with the Capitol Steps, the Circo Comedia, Los Lobos, and Gladys Knight. ToP’s film offerings will embrace all tastes, including new Hollywood movies (e.g., *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and *Twilight*), thrillers (*Jaws*), action (*The Forbidden Kingdom*), classics (*Sunset Boulevard*), and comedies (*Airplane!*, *Raising Arizona*). ToP’s free music likewise runs the gamut, including Ann Arbor mainstays like afro-inflected Nomo, the funky Macpodz, the folky Ragbirds, and rocking blues with Madcat and Kane, as well as Black Jake and the Carnies (punk bluegrass), Bichini Bia Congo (the only Midwest-based traditional Congolese dance company), the Crawdaddies (pop zydeco), and the kid-friendly Deep Fried Pickle Project.

The Festival will abound with kid- and family-friendly performances and events; of special note is the opening-weekend Body Masterpiece face-painting troupe (which must be seen to be comprehended: [www.bodymasterpiece.com](http://www.bodymasterpiece.com)) and nightly hands-on activities at the Kidzone tent. The Festival closes on July 5 with a sing-along screening of *The Sound of Music*. ■

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## Vitals

### Mazel tov

Noah Aaron on his bar mitzvah, on June 6.  
 Katia Kassof on her bat mitzvah, on June 6.  
 Marley Beaver on her bat mitzvah, on June 13.  
 Benjamin Friman on his bar mitzvah, on June 13.  
 Victor Cook on his bar mitzvah, on June 13.  
 Samuel Perlman on his bar mitzvah, on June 20.  
 Maya Raphael on her bat mitzvah, on June 20.  
 Oren Steiner on his bar mitzvah, on June 20.  
 Shimon Newman on his bar mitzvah, on June 27.  
 Eitan Rubinfeld on his bar mitzvah, on June 27.  
 Eszter and Tomas Gombosi on the birth of their granddaughter, Grace Julianne Gombosi, to parents Zoltan and Alison Gombosi, on May 2.  
 Karen Shill and Merton Shill on the birth of their granddaughter, Eliana Bracha Sholem, daughter of Leah and Jonathan Sholem (Shill), May 10.

### Condolences

Elayne Tyner on the death of her father, Daniel Niss.  
 Muriel Gluckman on the death of her husband, Mel Gluckman.  
 Linda Bender on the death of her grandmother, Mollie Greenfield.  
 Nancy Margolis on the death of her father, Joseph S. Nupuf, on April 16.  
 Kathy Bloom on the death of her father, Paul Peters, May 4.

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