

Washtenaw Jewish News

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FREE

Belin Lecture looks at cultural exploitation

Matthew Weingarden, special to the WJN

In the wake of box office success *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*, the seventeenth annual David W. Belin Lecturer Andrew Heinze will turn his gaze upon another of Borat creator Sacha Baron Cohen's widely exaggerated personas in *Is It*

Cause I's Black?: Jews and the Whiteness Problem. Starting with reflections on the comedy of Baron Cohen's infamous Ali G character, Heinze will begin a discussion over the heated question of "cultural exploitation" (the use of African-American idioms by white entertainers), especially as it pertains to Jewish performers past and present.

Baron Cohen has transformed the fictional white gang member, Ali G, into a major media personality with a hit television show on HBO. Ali G's list of interviewees includes a who's who of credible political and intellectual leaders, like presidential hopeful John McCain, former United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, consumer activist Ralph Nader, Author Gore Vidal and veteran journalist Sam Donaldson. In his lecture, Heinze will examine Baron Cohen's Jewish identity and how it influences his comedy, while presenting a commentary on "cultural exploitation" utilized by a range of Jewish comedians over the years.

Now a full-time writer, Andrew R. Heinze was most recently professor of

American history and director of the Swig Judaic Studies Program at the University of San Francisco. He is the author of *Adapting to Abundance: Jewish Immigrants, Mass Consumption and the Search for American Identity*; a co-author of *Race and Ethnicity in America*; and, most recently, author of *Jews and the American Soul: Human Nature in the Twentieth Century*, which was named one of the "Best Books of 2004" by *Publishers Weekly*. Heinze is a regular writer for the *Jewish Forward*, the largest Jewish newspaper in the nation.

The David W. Belin Lectureship in American Jewish Affairs has become a highlight of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies' annual programming with past speakers looking at



Andrew Heinze



Ali G

TBE All-Choir Concert

Cantor Annie Rose, special to the WJN

On Sunday, March 18 at 4 p.m., Temple Beth Emeth will present an hour of non-stop Jewish music presented by 200 musicians in the annual All-Choir Concert under the direction of Cantor Annie Rose. This year's concert will include songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, and English, for voices and many instruments. This annual concert offers the opportunity to experience a wide variety of Jewish music from all over the world right here in our own community.

TBE's Youth Choir will sing delightful upbeat songs, and will present a surprise commercial break in the middle of the concert. The middle school Shir Chadash choir will offer contemporary favorites such as "Sabbath Prayer" and "L'chi Lach." High School Shir Chadash will present its own original settings of prayers including "Shalom Rav," "Shema," "V'sham'ru," "Mi Shebeirach," and "Hashkiveinu." Kol Halev, TBE's Adult Choir, will sing the beloved "Sheyn Vi di Levone" and music by Carol Boyd Leon, Shirona, Naomi Shemer, and Samuel Adler.

Musical staff participating in the concert include David Gitterman, Rosalie Koenig, Abe Morrison and Susan Wagner, with assistance by Ari Goldstein, Ben Henig, Naomi Katz and Beth Reinstei.

The All-Choir Concert is open to the public free of charge. It will be held in the sanctuary followed by a reception in the social hall. For more information, call TBE at 665-4744.

JCC Auction to benefit playgrounds

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's 2007 Auction will be held on Saturday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at the JCC. The event will raise funds to build a new playground for children ages 4-11 and to add new equipment to the Early Childhood Center playground. There will be both a live and silent auction at the event as well as a buffet dinner and live musical entertainment.

The money raised will allow the JCC to better serve the Early Childhood Center. It will also enhance the activities of the Kids Konnection after-school program and the enrichment classes for elementary children by providing enhanced play facilities.

The auction committee has been working for months to acquire many items that will be sold in both the live and silent auctions. These include vacation and travel offers, sports memorabilia, restaurant gift certificates, books, jewelry, art, lessons, photographic sessions, Judaica, tickets to cultural and entertainment events, clothing, and home and food items.

Sponsorships are available to support the playground projects, which entitle contributors to tickets to the event as well as ads in the auction program.

The Auction evening will include a buffet dinner catered by Simply Scrumptious



and musical entertainment by members of the Cool Moose Orchestra. Auction tickets are \$50 per person. In addition, there will be a Kids' Night Out Program sponsored by the JCC at Temple Beth Emeth. ■

For further information about auction tickets, sponsorships, Kids' Night Out or to donate goods and services, contact Rachel Rosenthal at rachelrosenthal@jccfed.org or Sheri Wallach at sheriwallach@jccfed.org or call 971-0990.

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COMMUNITY

Cellobration! benefits music at HDS

Joan Hartman, special to the WJN

Have you ever heard the sound of eight cellos performing together? If not, you're in for a treat at Cellobration!, a concert at Kerrytown Concert House at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 25, featuring Professor of Cello Richard Aaron, members of his cello studio, and soprano Caroline Helton.

Richard Aaron is one of the most celebrated cello pedagogues in the United States. Having joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2006, he recently received a joint appointment as professor of cello at the Juilliard School in New York City.

The Kerrytown program includes *Bachianas brasileiras* ("Brazilian Bach-pieces") No. 5, for eight cellos and soprano by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos. A fusion of Brazilian folk music and the European classical tradition, this is probably Villa-Lobos' most popular work, and contains what one commentator has described as "one of the most romantically beautiful melodies ever written." The soprano soloist will be U-M Assistant Professor of Music Caroline Helton, a "masterful" performer according to critics, with a "clear, bell-like soprano."

Along with his joint appointments at Juilliard and U-M, Aaron teaches at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and during summers at the ENCORE School for Strings; the Aspen Music Festival, Innsbruck; and the Indiana University String Academy. He has presented master classes at the Eastman, New England and Peabody Conservatories, at Oberlin College, Rice University, and at other leading music schools. He is also in frequent demand abroad, teaching at the Paris Conservatory, Yonsei University in Korea, the University of Madrid and other major schools. He is a member of the Elysian Trio and is also no stranger to orchestral playing, having been hired at age 18 by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, the youngest musician ever to join that orchestra.

Aaron comes from a long line of distinguished Jewish cantors, composers and musicians. His great-grandfather, Simon Adler, was a *hazzan* (cantor) in Hamburg, Germany, and his great-uncle, Hugo Chaim Adler, was the first cantor at the Hauptsynagogue in Mannheim, Germany. After Kristallnacht, Hugo Adler served as cantor at Temple Emanuel in Worcester, Massachusetts. Hugo Adler made many contributions to Jewish liturgical music, and his compositions are still performed today. Aaron's uncle, Samuel Adler (son of Hugo) is a well-known conductor, teacher and composer of both Jewish and secular music. One of his best-known melodies is the Motzi blessing, "We give thanks to God for bread."

In the current generation, Aaron's brother, Rabbi David H. Aaron, is a professor of Bible and linguistics at Hebrew Union College

Berlin, from page 1

topics such as Jewish and mixed married families, the Americanization of the Holocaust, and Jewish Feminism. Established in 1991 through a generous gift from David W. Belin of Des Moines and New York, the lectureship was created in light of Belin's deep concern with the future of American Jewry at the turn of the century.

Scheduled for Thursday, March 8, the Belin Lecture will begin at 7 p.m. at the Frankel



Caroline Helton



Richard Aaron

in Cincinnati and also plays the viola. His younger brother, Rabbi Jonathan Aaron, is rabbi at Temple Emanuel, Beverly Hills, California, Head of the Emanuel Academy, and also plays the guitar. Family musicianship and Jewish connection continues into the fifth generation, as Aaron's daughter Sophie attends the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and studies the violin.

U-M Assistant Professor of Music Caroline Helton is a frequent performer in Ann Arbor, as soloist with the Michigan Chamber Players, the Brave New Works Ensemble, the Michigan Opera Works, the U-M Opera Theater, and many other groups. An extremely versatile performer, Helton has sung title roles in repertoire ranging from oratorios, to opera, to 21st century works. She is also active as a teacher, clinician and adjudicator. Her daughter, Hava Kaplan, is in the third grade at the Hebrew Day School and also studies the violin.

Cellobration! is a benefit concert supporting the instrumental music program at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$60 for adults and \$20 for children and include a reception with the performers following the concert. Call 971-4633 by March 16 to reserve seats. ■

Center for Judaic Studies, 202 South Tayer Street, Room 2022, on the University of Michigan campus. A reception will follow Heinze's presentation. Both the Belin Lecture and reception are free and the general public is encouraged to attend. ■

For more information on the lecture or other Frankel Center events, visit <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic> or call 763-9047.

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

COMMUNITY

Klezmer Madness performs at Hill

Susan Bozell, special to the WJN

The end of March brings a treat for the Ann Arbor community, as one of the foremost musicians of the vital new wave of klezmer music, clarinetist David Krakauer, brings his Klezmer Madness to town for a concert at Rackham Auditorium on Saturday, March 31 at 8 p.m., courtesy of the University Musical Society.

While Krakauer preserves tradition, he also moves the art form forward with a spirit of innovation that is inspired by jazz, rock, classical, and

given rise to a diverse repertoire, tremendous international participation and a wide variety of approaches.

"In my own work, as a 21st century American, I freely incorporate influences of funk, jazz, and... hip-hop." This philosophy is certainly reflected in his latest release, *Bubbemeises: Lies My Gramma Told Me*, whose opening track melds Krakauer's distinctive clarinet with a hard-rock beat and guitar riffs.

Krakauer, who recently celebrated his 50th



Klezmer Madness

funk. When talking about what it means to be a 21st century klezmer musician, Krakauer says, "It is an incredibly interesting time to be playing klezmer music—with a rise in Jewish consciousness, with the tremendous excitement of the 'world beat' phenomenon, and simply with the joyous 'danceability' of the music."

Known for his ability to blend styles, he plays a mix of classical chamber music, Eastern European klezmer music, avant-garde, rock and jazz. Krakauer explains his cross-over bent, stating, "While those of us playing klezmer today are still constantly studying old recordings and other source material to retrieve what was almost lost to us, there is at the same time a new sense of freedom and playfulness with the music that has

birthday with a sold-out concert in New York City's Zankel Hall, says, "For me personally, it is important to do two things in playing klezmer. One is to preserve the Jewishness. But the second is to keep klezmer out of the museum—to write new klezmer pieces and to improve on older forms in a way that is informed by the world around me today... When I write a new tune, it has to be danceable, yet full of quirky and weird aspects—in short, klezmer madness!"

Madness? Perhaps, but it certainly sounds like a good time! ■

Ticket prices range from \$22–\$42. To purchase tickets, contact the UMS ticket office at 764-2538.375

Chabad hosts "Purim in the Shtetl" on March 4 at JCC

Shternie Zwiebel, special to the WJN

The entire community is invited to the fifth annual Chabad Purim Around the World celebration on March 4, at 5 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. This year's destination is "Purim in the Shtetl."

The event features Tevya and Goldie as they celebrate Purim in their hometown shtetl. A gourmet dinner and everything Tevya could dream of having on Purim is in the shtetl (from gefilte fish to babaka). Visitors will see the shtetl's farm, learn how to bake a hamantashen at Bella's bakery, and create a keepsake at Yankel's binding. Zlata will demonstrate how she sews a new dress for the holiday. There will even be a chance to sip a luscious drink from Velvel's winery. In addition, families will have the chance to be photographed at the shtetl portrait



studio. Naturally, there will be dancing and singing to live Klezmer music—it's an occasion for the whole family to enjoy. ■

Ticket prices are \$25/family and \$10/person. For more information or to RSVP call 995-3276 or visit www.jewmich.com.

West Lounge Klezmer Fusion band plays at University Commons and U-M Hillel

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

The West Lounge Klezmer Fusion Band, comprised of talented student musicians from University of Michigan, made an impressive guest appearance at The Ark in early February. West Lounge entertained the crowd with their songs "Bei Mir Bist Du Shein" and "Miserlou" during an evening of lively music, dancing and comedy from the Cleveland-based Yiddishe Cup klezmer band.

West Lounge has two more Ann Arbor performances coming up in March. On Monday, March 26 at 5 p.m., klezmer fans can enjoy a free show by West Lounge at University Commons, followed by a wine reception from 6–6:30 p.m. Then two days later, on Wednesday, March 28, West Lounge will be performing at 7 p.m. at U-M Hillel as part of a film screening of *From Shtetl to Swing and Matisyahu – A Short Documentary* co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County and U-M Hillel.

The West Lounge Klezmer Fusion band was formed in 2006. The band plays a mix of music: traditional Yiddish horas, freylachs, niguns, gypsy dances, swing jazz, funk, lat-



The West Lounge Klezmer Fusion Band

in, and rock to name a few. Bandleader and pianist Justin Wedes, a U-M junior majoring in physics and linguistics, says "We have even been known, on occasion, to perform a very enticing hip-hop remix of Hava Nagila with free-style rap."

Several of the eight musicians in the band grew up surrounded by the sounds of klezmer music. Drummer Jack Stratton is the son of Yiddishe Cup bandleader and clarinetist Bert Stratton. Jeff Simon (clarinet), Justin Wedes (piano) and Nicole Lederman (saxophone) all played in the Kidz Klezmer Band of Michigan (based at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills) under the direction of the late Cantor Stephen Dubov before forming West Lounge together. Other members of the group include Chris Agar, bass; Matvey Farber, trumpet; Ofra Rybak, vocals; and Rebecca Kurian, vocals. ■

To learn more about West Lounge Klezmer Fusion band, call Justin Wedes at (248) 730-3439 or email jwedes@umich.edu. For further information on the Monday, March 26 event at University Commons (817 Asa Gray Dr.) call 332-1221. For more information on the Wednesday, March 28 event at U-M Hillel, contact Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990.

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ARTS & CULTURE

Zeitouna film explores local dialog on peace; premiers March 18

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

In early February I was privileged to view a rough cut of the new film about Zeitouna, the local group of twelve Arab and Jewish women who have been meeting together for the past four years.

The documentary, *Refusing To Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story*, produced and directed

And maybe that's good. Maybe that's the whole point. Probably all of us can agree that for decades there has been enough "exciting action" surrounding this issue. Perhaps scenes showing people with such different and historically hostile backgrounds simply being together in one room and talking is exciting—maybe even miraculous—enough.



Members of Zeitouna

by Laurie White, a member of Zeitouna and a local filmmaker, is just under an hour long. It begins by briefly introducing in turn each of the six Jewish and six Arab women in the dialogue group called Zeitouna (*zeitouna* means "olive" in Arabic). The film then follows the group as they meet in each other's homes every two weeks and talk about the enormously charged issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It also includes footage of a visit to the region that six of the women made in May of 2006.

I'd read and heard about Zeitouna in the last few years, but it wasn't until I saw *Refusing To Be Enemies* that I understood the level of commitment these women have made, and how hard it has been to do what they are doing. I came away from the film with a feeling of enormous respect for them, especially because, while all the women are American citizens, a number of them have deep family ties to the Middle East. Several, both Arabs and Jews, have lived there and have families there still. For them, the conflict is not impersonal or simply intellectual. It is not taking place far away from here, among strangers. For the Zeitouna women, the conflict is very personal and hits close to home. Which is all the more reason to admire their courage and their willingness to take responsibility for confronting this tremendously difficult, sometimes seemingly unapproachable, issue.

There is a whole genre of Hollywood movies called "war movies." I am unaware of another type entitled "peace movies." There is a reason for that. War is exciting to watch; there is plenty of action, and life and death dramatics that a filmmaker can use to advance a story. Peace is much more difficult to capture on film. *Refusing To Be Enemies* has plenty of scenes of just "talking heads," and many scenes of the women greeting each other warmly, hugging, cooking and sharing meals and simply sitting in each other's homes, talking with one another. Not the stuff of exciting action that you often find in cinema.

Which is not to say that there is no conflict in the film. We see the women struggling with their age-old prejudices and stereotypi-

cal attitudes. We see them confront each other when they perceive one-upmanship about whose historical pain is greater, the Jews or the Arabs; we see them express their fears about how they will be perceived by each of their communities for simply being in the group.

But over and over again, we watch them go back to talking and to listening.

Perhaps that is the most powerful and valuable message of *Refusing To Be Enemies*; that sometimes it may be more important, even crucial, to talk and to listen, than to act.

The film is likely to trouble some, Jews and Arabs alike. There may be those who will feel that it's not pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian enough, or that it's too much of one or the other. That's natural. Our loyalties to family, to tribe, our memories of ancient and present day conflict and pain are so powerful, that feelings of resentment and betrayal can be very easily triggered. Still, over and over again, the Zeitouna women show that there is hope of another, and more peaceful, way to deal with these feelings.

The World Premiere of *Refusing To Be Enemies* will take place at the Michigan Theater on Sunday, March 18 at 7 p.m. There will be an opportunity to talk with Laurie White and the other women of Zeitouna, after the showing. Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.zeitouna.org or by calling the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, 663-1870. ■

More on Refusing to Be Enemies

Lauren Helwig, special to the WJN

Produced and directed by Laurie White, founder of eyedream1world productions and a pioneering member of Zeitouna, the film profiles the unique sisterhood of these twelve women who find that their diverse backgrounds have more in common than they originally believed.

Inspired by participation in Zeitouna, Laurie White saw the group's experience as a teaching model. The film captures how trust in the group is gradually built and how this marks the beginning of a process whereby each Zeitouna woman reaches a new understanding of one of the most divisive debates of our time: the Israel-Palestine conflict.

"It is through Zeitouna that I was able to hear the voice of the 'other' — their pain and their joy, only to realize that it mirrors my own," says Wadad Abed, member of Zeitouna. "This has profoundly transformed me. I am now more than ever committed to become one."

"There's a groundswell in our nation right now for different models to address conflict in the Middle East," says Lori Carey, pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. "This film is coming out at a powerful time. A growing number of Americans believe that military force alone doesn't offer lasting solutions. And the women of Zeitouna offer a way for people to trade suspicion and fear of others for trust and genuine caring."

The twelve founding members of Zeitouna are Wadad Abed, Randa Nasir Ajlouny, Rula Kort Bawardi, Irene Butter, Johanna Epstein, Leonore Gerstein, Carol Haddad, Benita Kaimowitz, Huda Karaman-Rosen, Aida Khalidi McGugan, and Laurie White.

Since the summer of 2002, Zeitouna has participated in many teach-ins, demonstrations, and

conferences about peace and the Middle East. Members have spoken in high school classrooms and lectured at a wide range of institutions, including universities, libraries, and communities of faith.

Zeitouna's work is invigorated by connecting to a national and international network of groups using similar approaches to focus on the Israel/Palestine conflict including Palestinian and Jewish Living Room Dialogue Groups in California and Womens Coalition for Peace and Women in Black in Israel. Participating in events such as the Midwest Dialogue Conference, in Louisville, Kentucky, keeps Zeitouna in touch with local and global ongoing efforts.

Community pride in Zeitouna's accomplishments is high. "The existence of Zeitouna is inspirational," says Ken Fischer, president of the University Musical Society. "These women and their example add considerably to the many riches we already possess in our community and need to nurture for the benefit of everyone."

The film will feature an original score composed, arranged and performed by local musicians, Shaun Williams and Laith Alattar, balancing and blending western and eastern instrumental traditions.

White, a long-time activist in many arenas, recognized the power of film to affect socio-political change while working as a producer with Michael Moore on his film *Roger and Me*. Some of White's other film projects include *Come Unto Me*, a profile of controversial Detroit artist Tyree Guyton, and *No Excuse*, a commissioned documentary on domestic violence for the Mayor's Taskforce on Increasing Safety for Women.

ARTS & CULTURE

Weisberg art on exhibit at EMU

Helen Weingarten, special to the WJN

The Art Department, Eastern Michigan University, will present "Michigan Collects Ruth Weisberg," a 40-year retrospective of the work of internationally recognized Jewish painter/printmaker Ruth Weisberg, from March 12–April 27. The exhibition will be held in the University Art Gallery, EMU Student Center. An opening reception will take place on Monday, March 12 from 5–7 p.m., followed by a talk by Weisberg about her 40 years as an artist. The exhibition, reception

Ruth Weisberg is a highly respected contemporary American artist. She has had countless one-person exhibitions and has received numerous awards, including in 1988 the National Women's Caucus for the Arts Award for Mid-Career Achievement. Her work is in many private and public collections, nationally and internationally, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the National Museum



The Story of Ruth and Naomi

and lecture are free and open to the public.

In her poetic and layered works of art, Weisberg expresses "the widest and deepest meaning of the human experience," drawing on universal archetypes from myth, fable, religion, story and history to do so. She has been and continues to be "nourished by the history of the Jews, by the history of art, and by the unwritten history of women." Through her treatment of subjects from the Bible, Jewish history and contemporary Jewish life, she has communicated her ever-deepening engagement with her religious heritage. Certain themes persist in her work, such as, in her words, "birth, the generations of family, passion, struggle and contemplation." Memory, connectedness, individuality and loss also figure prominently in her oeuvre.


While the exhibition will include works representing all aspects of Weisberg's career, a number of pieces in the exhibition deal specifically with Jewish themes. In 1970–1971, Weisberg created *The Shtetl*, an illustrated artist's book, which portrays life in a Polish shtetl before World War II while simultaneously foreshadowing the Holocaust. Jewish groups scheduling docent-led tours will be shown the entire book, from which only three prints will actually be hanging in the exhibition. In 1987 Weisberg created "The Scroll," a 94-foot long watercolor drawing, which synchronically presents the life of a contemporary Jewish woman and the history of the Jews. This work initiated a renewed interest in Jewish themes in Weisberg's oeuvre. Prints related to "The Scroll" as well as several works on biblical subjects from the late 1980s and 1990s are also included in the exhibition. Weisberg considers these works to be contemporary midrash through which she makes biblical themes meaningful to today's audiences.


for Women in the Arts, the National Gallery, Washington, D.C., the Art Institute of Chicago and the Detroit Institute of Arts. The Scroll is in the collection of the Skirball Museum and Cultural Center, Los Angeles. In 2000 Weisberg was commissioned by the Central Conference of American Rabbis to illustrate *The Open Door: A Passover Haggadah*. In 2006, she completed *New Beginnings*, a 29-foot mural commissioned by the UJA Federation of New York, which treats the subject of Jewish immigration in the 20th-century.


Weisberg received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan. In 1987 she was given the U-M Distinguished Alumni Award. She taught at Eastern Michigan University from 1966–1969. Although she moved to Los Angeles in 1969, collectors from southeast Michigan have continued to acquire her works. This exhibition will include 40 paintings, prints and drawings spanning her 40-year career, borrowed almost exclusively from collections in the Detroit metropolitan area. A fully illustrated catalogue with essay by curator Dr. Julia R. Myers will accompany the exhibition. ■


The University Art Gallery is in the EMU Student Center on Oakwood St. in Ypsilanti. Directions to the gallery are found at <http://www.emich.edu/fordgallery/map.html>. Gallery hours are Monday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Docent-led group tours can be arranged by contacting Julia R. Myers at 487-1213 or at jmyers@emich.edu. For more information contact Dr. Myers or Larry Newhouse, gallery program director, at 487-0465 or larry.newhouse@emich.edu.

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Join JFS for these community-wide events

Friday, March 9, 2007



JFS Youth and Family Workshop

building support for youth in crisis

9:00am - 3:30pm

Temple Beth Emeth, Social Hall, 2309 Packard Road

Join us for the first Youth & Family workshop which will focus on identifying resources and opportunities for collaboration to support youth experiencing self-destructive behavior.

Sunday, March 25, 2007



Depression Awareness : A Community Conversation

in memory of Dr. Toby Jacobowitz

2:00 - 4:45pm

Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Drive

JFS will host the second community-wide program to address the stigma of depression and discuss services for treatment and support for all individuals involved.

Sunday, April 22, 2007



5:00 - 8:00pm

Travis Pointe Country Club, 2829 Travis Pointe Road

Climb aboard and experience a cruise-style evening without leaving dry land at the JFS Bat Mitzvah Cruise, celebrating 13 years of service by Jewish Family Services.

For more information or to register for these events call (734) 769-0209 or visit www.jfsannarbor.org



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Camp Tavor Ann Arbor's Summer Home For Jewish Youth



Learn about Camp Tavor at a meeting on March 11,
2:30-4:00p.m. at Michael Simon's home,
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The Visual World of the Rabbis

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

"The Visual World of the Rabbis," the fourth lecture in Beth Israel Congregation's Current Topics in Jewish Studies series, will be held on Sunday, March 18, from 7:45-9:15 p.m. The lecture will be presented at Beth Israel by Rachel Neis, a Ph.D. candidate, Harvard University Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and assistant professor (designate) of history and Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan (beginning September 2007).

Neis' presentation will, through the examination of images and texts, serve as an introduction into the visual world of the rabbis. "Visual" in this context means not only *what* the rabbis saw, but *how* they saw. According to Neis, in the late ancient world (second to sixth centuries B.C.E.) great power and significance was attached to the capacity of sight. Seeing was understood to be potent and to affect both the viewer and the object of vision. She will show that the ancient rabbis of the Talmud in both the Land of Israel and Babylonia tried to cultivate a distinctively Jewish way of looking, seeing and visualizing. This they did by various means including the founding of ritual practices, the regulation of gender relations, the invention of biblical sight-seeing in the landscapes of Palestine and Babylonia and the attribution of great, even deathly, power to the gaze and face of the Rabbi, among others.

Neis wrote her dissertation on "Vision and Visuality in Late Antique Rabbinic Culture" at Harvard University. She researches and teaches about Judaism in late antiquity, rabbinic culture, early Jewish mysticism and law in early Judaism and Christianity. She was an exchange scholar at Princeton University, Department of Religious Studies. She has an M.A. in philosophy of religion from Boston University, and gained a law degree from the London School of Economics. She is currently a visiting scholar in the Department of Near Eastern Studies and a fellow at the U-M Institute of Historical Studies.

This lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call 665-9897.



Rachel Neis

Jewish Film Festival preview features music, films and band

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will show the films *From Shtetl to Swing* and *Matisyahu—A Short Documentary* at a special Jewish Film Festival preview event on Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Michigan Hillel. The West Lounge Klezmer Fusion Band will perform at 7 p.m., before the film. This event is co-sponsored with the U-M Hillel. Tickets are \$10, and 2007 pass holders and sponsors are free. Students with a valid student ID are also free. The Jewish Film Festival is made possible by special grants from the Charles and Rita Gelman Education Foundation and Michael and Patricia Levine. *From Shtetl to Swing*, a remarkable new film, is not only vastly entertaining, it is full of wonderful Jewish music from 1900 to the present day. The film covers the amazing history of Jazz music including Klezmer, Nusach, and others with African-American down-home blues, jazz and more. *Matisyahu* is a Hasidic Reggae/Beat Box/Rapper whose performances meld Jewish tradition with modern sounds, creating a new form of spiritual expression. *Matisyahu—A Short Documentary* follows Matisyahu as he performs in New York City and explains his conversion to Hasidism and his mission to ignite spirituality in others with his music.

The West Lounge Klezmer Fusion Band will entertain before the film. This group is Ann Arbor's newest Klezmer/Jazz fusion ensemble and they are already receiving rave reviews from Jews and non-Jews alike throughout the community. They have appeared at the U-M Hillel, the Michigan League, Beth Israel Congregation, and The Ark.

The sixth annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival runs in Ann Arbor from May 6-10 at the Michigan Theater. Call Rachel Rosenthal at the JCC at 971-0990 for further information, tickets, festival passes or sponsorships.

Hadassah's Miriam's Cup Workshop

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

Hadassah will host a Miriam's Cup workshop on Sunday, March 11 from 1-3 p.m. at Yourist Pottery Gallery. Starting with a lump of clay, participants will create a Miriam's cup, which can be used at the Passover seder. The \$45 cost covers the cost of material and a donation to Hadassah. To sign up for the workshop, call Jill Halman at 662-9628 by Friday, March 2.

Miriam's Cup is a women's ritual for the Passover seder. Its purpose is to honor the role of Miriam the Prophetess in the Exodus and to highlight the contributions of women to Jewish culture, past and present. Women of all ages are supposed to fill Miriam's cup with water from their own glasses after the second cup of wine, before washing the hands. When Miriam's cup is filled, women raise the goblet and say: "We place Miriam's cup on our seder table to honor the important role of Jewish women in our tradition and history, whose stories have been too sparingly told."

According to the website www.miriamscup.com, "Miriam constantly comforted the Israelites throughout their long journey, encouraging them when they lost faith. We fill Miriam's cup with water to honor her role in ensuring the survival of the Jewish people. Like Miriam, Jewish women in all generations have been essential for the continuity of our people."

Yourist Pottery Gallery is located at 1133 Broadway.

Rabbi Rod and Nehama Glogower honored by Orthodox Minyan

Marlene Gitelman, special to the WJN

On the cold night of February 3, the University of Michigan Hillel was filled with warmth and good humor as congregants and friends gathered to honor Rabbi Rod and Nehama Glogower. The evening marked 25 years since the Glogowers arrived in Ann Arbor. University students and alumni also joined in marking this milestone.

The program got off to a rousing start with the music of the "O-Band". The band consists of members of the Hillel student Orthodox minyan; Adam Dalezman, Jason Claude, Micah Druckman, Adam Soclof and Eugene Vorobeychik. Master of ceremonies for the evening was AAOM president, Danny Elbaum. Heartfelt tributes and warm memories were shared by Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County Executive Director Jeff Levin, Hillel Director Michael Brooks, Student Orthodox Minyan Co-president Ilana Parker, Chabad Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, Rabbi Edward Garsek of Toledo and alumnus Zvi Kresch. The speakers expressed their appreciation for the Glogowers' friendship, wonderful teaching and wise counsel.

Naomi Glogower read tributes sent by her sibling— Abby from San Francisco, Ari from Jackson, Mississippi, and Shira from Israel. Their humor and memories were



Rabbi Rod and Nehama Glogower

shared by the younger Glogower children, Yoni and Johanna.

In addition to serving as the Hillel rabbi and teaching in Ann Arbor, Rabbi Glogower teaches adult education classes in the Detroit area. A number of his Detroit students came to join the celebration. A memory book was filled with messages from friends and alumni from all over the country and Israel. The AAOM and friends presented the Glogowers with the gift of an Alaskan cruise. Nehama and Rabbi Rod thanked everyone with anecdotes about what it has meant for them to be part of our unique Ann Arbor community for so many years. ■

Cruise with JFS on April 22— no dramamine needed

Carol A. Lessure, special to the WJN

Experience a cruise-style evening without leaving dry land at the JFS Bat Mitzvah Cruise, celebrating 13 years of service by Jewish Family Services. Climb aboard at Travis Pointe Country Club on Sunday, April 22, beginning at 5 p.m. with a champagne boarding party, and then enjoy wine tasting

with *Intermezzo* magazine editor Becky Sue Epstein, Karaoke, a Newlywed-style game show, dancing, dining, games and more. Middle- and highschoolers will have a separate pool party. Reserve your spot at www.jfsannarbor.org and support JFS— your family in the community.

IEC donors hear from Jewish Agency and SELAH

Eileen Freed, special to the WJN

Nearly 60 donors to the Jewish Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign (IEC) recently enjoyed a dessert reception featuring speakers from agencies that received funding: the Jewish Agency for Israel and SELAH— Israel Crisis Management Center. The speakers were Major Shlomi Bicha, a combat officer injured in the war and now a volunteer for SELAH; Micha Feldmann, the architect of Operation Solomon in which almost 14,500 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in one weekend and now a director of SELAH; and Michelle Herman, regional director of the



Jewish Agency in North America.

Almost \$400,000 was raised by the Israel Emergency Campaign, with most of the funds allocated to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel via United Jewish Communities. The Federation also gave \$36,000 to SELAH, \$18,000 to the Partnership 2000 region and \$3,600 to Hand in Hand schools.



Spa for the body and soul

Almost 120 women participated in Spa for the Body and Soul, Sunday, February 18. Participants had the chance to try movement meditation Ashtanga Yoga, challah baking, discuss grandparenting, raising children, share their own histories and much more. The event was sponsored by Hadassah, ORT, Beth Israel Women's League, Temple Beth Emeth Sisterhood, Chabad,, Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County.



Spa planning committee: Joan Levitt, Carolyn Grawi, Susan Levin, Tina Bissel, Judy Cohen, Shternie Zwibel, Ellisha Caplan and Rachel Portnoy.



(left to right)
Sue Adler,
Diane Baskin,
Elaine Margolis,
Carol Hoffer and
Carolyn Grawi.



(left to right)
Irit Kaye
Yona Mokouri,
Jessica Leiberman
and Miri Shlomi



Stephanie Cherrin,
Charlen Yudowin
and Irene Adler
learn to bake challah.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN AYER

Irene Butter talks about life as a Holocaust survivor

Tim Grimes, special to the WJN

Local resident Irene Butter, who lived through the Holocaust and Nazi concentration camps and who knew Anne Frank, will describe her life and experiences in a lecture on Friday, March 23 from 7–8:30 p.m. at the Ann Arbor District Library Downtown. This free event is held in conjunction with Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2007.



Irene Butler

As a young child, Irene Butter was deported from her country, the Netherlands, to an internment camp and finally to Germany's Bergen-Belsen. Anne Frank, who died in Bergen-Belsen, was one of her fellow prisoners. Butter and her family managed to live through the trials of the concentration camp, however her father died on the departing

train. Butter was sent to relatives in New York where her recuperating mother and brother eventually joined her.

Over a decade ago, Butter and her family returned to the Netherlands and visited Bergen-Belsen. This difficult visit was also a liberating experience for her. Butter's moving story is one of survival and hope.

This event is sponsored by Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Reads, a community initiative to promote reading and civic dialogue through the shared experience of reading and discussing a common book. In 2007, the program will encourage readers of all ages to explore the theme "We The People... – the many people that we are, the diverse communities we have created, and the challenges we face in fostering a continuing sense of belonging and civic engagement in a rapidly changing world." For a list of additional events sponsored by Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads, visit <http://www.aadl.org/aareads/events>. ■

The Downtown Library is located at 343 S. Fifth Avenue in Ann Arbor. For more information, contact the library at 327-4560.

Depression Awareness: A community conversation continues

Susan Kolovson, special to the WJN

In March 2006, Jewish Family Services hosted an event called "Depression Awareness: A Community Conversation." The program was a tribute to Toby Jacobowitz, a member of the Jewish community, a beloved wife, mother, sister and aunt, physician and artist, and a friend to many, who took her life as a result of depression. The goal of the program was to remove the stigma and shame often associated with depression and suicide, and to lower the barriers that prevent us from reaching out to one another.

This year, the conversation continues, with a program format similar to the one that touched the hearts of the more than 150 people who attended last spring. A panel of people from the community, from all walks of life, will begin by sharing their own personal struggles and breakthroughs as they faced depression, anxiety or suicide. Among the questions that will be addressed in small group breakout discussions are: Once depression is recognized and acknowledged, where does one go from there? What are common obstacles and pitfalls? How does one identify what kind of help is available, and what might

work? How does one find support within the community? Mental health professionals representing different types of treatment, ranging from conventional to complementary, will also be present.

The response to last year's program was overwhelmingly positive. Based on feedback from participants, the event is being held in a larger room this year, and there will be more time for discussion. The event will be held on Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. ■

For reservations or further information, contact JFS at 769-0209. Registration is also available at www.jfsannarbor.org.



Toby Jacobowitz

Mark the Date – Humanitarian Dinner May 17

Jewish Federation will honor Prue and Ami Rosenthal at the 2007 Humanitarian Award Dinner to be held May 17 at the Four Points by Sheraton. The Humanitarian Award recognizes members of the Ann Arbor community who distinguish themselves through extraordinary actions of community service and generosity. Invitations to the dinner will be mailed in early April. For more information about the 2007 Humanitarian Award Dinner, contact Laurie Barnett at 677-0100 or laurie@jewishannarbor.org. ■



JFS prepares for impact of Pfizer cuts

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

As Ann Arbor reels under the announcement that Pfizer would close up shop and move its research and development operations out of Ann Arbor, Jewish Family Services braces itself for another wave of new, unexpected clients who never dreamed they would need JFS.

For a social service agency, the loss of over 2,000 professional jobs means more clients and often less funding. "We've already received calls for help from members of our community," says JFS Executive Director, Anya Abramzon. "We offer wrap-around services for those facing major dislocation, such as career services, financial assistance, and a safe place to plot your next steps."

JFS quickly signed on to a community-wide effort to form Strategic Working Action Teams prepared to respond to the Pfizer job loss. As one of Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Sites, JFS will provide career counseling, resume writing assistance, and support in an effort to support dislocated Pfizer employees.

"It is heartening to see the community rally and collectively respond. It shows that people care deeply about Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County," notes Abramzon, "yet many of the programs we tap each year to support our clients, including Packard Community Clinic Counseling Services, Shelter Association Health Clinic, Safe House Health Clinic, Interfaith Hospitality Health Care Access, Hope Medical Clinic, U-M Community Dental Care and Friends in Deed, receive significant funding from Pfizer's Community Grants Program and others like the Corner Health Center benefit from Pfizer corporate and United Way contributions. I am deeply concerned that the funds and programs we



rely on to help people in need will not be as robust in future."

Last year, the agency responded to a 50 percent increase in client requests for services following on the heels of announced cut backs in the automotive industry. The agency also leveraged thousands of dollars of financial assistance from various programs, partner agencies as well as other community resources to secure health care, counseling, rent, utility payments, and other basic needs.

"The Pfizer announcement and continued automotive job cuts provide a wakeup call to all of us," says Margie Checkoway, president of the JFS board of directors, "It should be comforting to realize that JFS is there in good times and bad. JFS provides a safety net for us all. It's more important now than ever to support the agency that is there for the entire community. ■

Absolute YAD gathers at Casey's Tavern

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

The Jewish Federation's Young Adult Division is raising the bar for the bar night with monthly gatherings, branded "Absolute YAD." The events, held one Monday a month in watering holes and lounges in downtown Ann Arbor, offer a chance for people to get out of their routine for the night, meet others with whom they've got something in common, and find out how to make a difference with hands-on volunteer opportunities.

The next Absolute YAD gathering will be held at Casey's Tavern, 304 Depot Street, on Monday, March 5; it will start at 8 p.m. and continue until the last person leaves. Information will be available about volunteer opportunities with the American Jewish World Service. Past Absolute YAD events have included information about volunteer opportunities with Jewish Family Services, A Hope for Peace, and local mitzvah projects.

For young Jews in Washtenaw County looking to get involved, Absolute YAD lowers barriers to involvement that exist in some organized Jewish programs. "This is a way to dip your toe in—no RSVP required, no Jewish knowledge expected—just an interest in checking out a new place, meeting some new people, and learning about ways to get more involved," says Evan Zacks, Absolute YAD chair. ■

The spring schedule includes these gatherings (all start at 8 p.m.):

Monday, March 5: Casey's Tavern, 304 Depot Street
Monday, April 16: The Monkey Bar, 207 S. Main Street
Monday, May 14: Heidelberg's Rathskeller, 215 N. Main Street

BookStock Book Collection Day at JCC

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will participate in BookStock: the Friends of Literacy used Book and Media Sale. Stop by the JCC on Sunday, March 25 from 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. with used books and media, including books, books on tape, records, videos, CDs and DVDs. Donors can drive through and drop them off at the curb. All donations will be given to the Friends of

Literacy for their sale, taking place April 29–May 6 at Laurel Park Place mall in Livonia. Books can also be taken to Laurel Park Place mall on March 18 and April 1 from 1–3 p.m.

The JCC will receive a share of the book sale profits for helping with this project. To schedule a pick-up of large donations, contact Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990. ■



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March

Midori violin
Robert McDonald piano
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 4 PM ▶ Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM
Beethoven Sonata No. 5 in F Major, Op. 24 ("Spring") (1800-01)
Rautavaara Lost Landscapes (2005)
Hindemith Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 11, No. 1 (1918)
R. Strauss Sonata in E-flat Major, Op. 18 (1887-88)
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**
and **WRCJ 90.9 FM**.
This is a CLASSICAL KIDS CLUB concert.

Bay Mo Dilo (Give Me Water)
Tamango's Urban Tap
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 8 PM ▶ Michigan Theater
Funded in part by the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.
Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, Metro Times**, and **Michigan Chronicle/ Front Page**.
This is a NETWORK: African American Arts Advocacy Committee event.

The Songs We Love
Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 8 PM ▶ Hill Auditorium

Supported by **Larry and Beverly Price**.
Corporate Hosts **Borders Group, Whole Foods Market**, and **Comerica Bank**.
Media Partner **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM**, and **Michigan Chronicle/ Front Page**.
This is a NETWORK: African American Arts Advocacy Committee event.

Gilberto Gil
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 8 PM ▶ Hill Auditorium

Sponsored by **Pfizer**
Funded in part by **U-M Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs** and the **National Endowment for the Arts**.
Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM, Metro Times**, and **Michigan Radio**.
This is a NETWORK: African American Arts Advocacy Committee event.

Murray Perahia piano
SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 8 PM ▶ Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM
Beethoven Sonata No. 9 in E Major, Op. 14, No. 1
J.S. Bach Partita No. 3 in a minor, BWV 827
Beethoven Sonata No. 10 in G Major, Op. 14, No. 2
Brahms Six Piano Pieces, Op. 118
Chopin Etude No. 1 in A-flat Major, Op. 25 "Aeolian Harp"
Chopin Etude No. 4 in c-sharp minor, Op. 10
Chopin Ballade No. 3 in A-flat Major, Op. 47
Supported in part by **Donald L. Morelock** and **Ann and Clayton Wilhite**.
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.
This is a CLASSICAL KIDS CLUB concert.
A Prelude Dinner precedes this performance.

Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France
Myung-Whun Chung conductor
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 8 PM ▶ Hill Auditorium

ALL-FRENCH PROGRAM
Ravel Ma mère l'oye (Mother Goose Suite, complete ballet music) (1911)
Berlioz Symphonie fantastique, H. 48 (1830)
Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers**.
This is a CLASSICAL KIDS CLUB concert.

Rahim AlHaj oud
Souhail Kaspar percussion
FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 8 PM ▶ Rackham Auditorium
Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM** and **Arab American News**.

Canadian Brass
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 8 PM ▶ Hill Auditorium

Sponsored by **University of Michigan Health System**
Supported by **The Medical Community**.
Media Partners **WRCJ 90.9 FM** and **Michigan Radio**.

Pablo Ziegler Quintet for New Tango
Claudia Acuña vocalist
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 8 PM ▶ Rackham Auditorium
Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts**.
Media Partners **WEMU 89.1 FM, WDET 101.9 FM**, and **Metro Times**.

David Krakauer's Klezmer Madness
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 8 PM ▶ Rackham Auditorium
Media Partner **Detroit Jewish News**.

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FEDERATION

Graduate student Lora Yagudin — her visit puts a face on dollars at work through the Jewish Agency for Israel

Laurie Barnett, special to the WJN

Lora Yagudin grew up in a small town in southern Russia. Both her parents are Jewish, but when her grandfather landed in jail for being Jewish, her grandmother burned all their documents, including her mother's birth certificate proving she was Jewish.

When the Jewish Agency for Israel opened their offices in Yagudin's town of Sochi, her parents learned about the Na'aleh program for Jewish youth, which allows young Jews from the former Soviet Union to attend high

work and upgrade its performance," says Herman. "The three primary mission areas are immigration and absorption; Jewish Zionist education and partnerships with Israel. Within two years, 80 percent of all Jewish Agency programming will include the next generation."

Helping people resettle in Israel

In 2005, 22,675 new immigrants moved to Israel. New immigrants came from such regions as the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia,

France, South America, Western Europe and North America. The Jewish Agency has 34 absorption centers that house about 11,000 immigrants, some 7,000 of whom are Ethiopian. The sheltered "first home" provides new immigrants with vocational training, attendance at Ulpan to learn Hebrew, empowerment workshops, cultural activities, psychological support and 24-hour staffing to help make sure each individual's needs are met.



Lora Yagudin (left) with Michelle Herman

school in Israel. In hopes of providing their daughter with a better future, her parents sent Yagudin to Israel, where she went on to attend college, serve in the army and today studies in a Master's program at the prestigious Technion in Haifa.

Yagudin, now 24, is one of thousands of young people helped by the Jewish Agency for Israel. She recently visited Ann Arbor along with Michelle Herman, regional director for the Jewish Agency in North America. Together they met with the Federation's Israel Overseas Committee and talked about the important work supported by the Federation's dollars each year.

"I came to Israel alone at the age of 14," says Yagudin. "I wasn't nervous or worried because I knew that I was coming to the Jewish state and that I would be taken care of. During the recent war, I wasn't called up, but I offered to do reserve duty to protect my country. I came to Ann Arbor and the United States to say thank you and show where your money goes."

Through the United Jewish Communities collective overseas funding, the Federation gave \$311,250 during 2005-06 to the Jewish Agency for Israel—nearly half the overall \$639,300 it gave to non-local allocations. The Jewish Agency's two main purposes are to work in communities around the world to keep the promise to every Jew, who for any reason, at any time, wants to come home to Israel and to connect the Jewish world's next generation to Israel.

"The Jewish Agency underwent a strategic planning process in 2004 to focus its

In addition, a new Global Center for Aliyah serves as an international, 24-hour call center that provides information on aliyah and Israel. The center offers help in six languages and provides more efficient, real-time service. It also allows the Jewish Agency to reach into those areas of the world without Jewish Agency representatives.

The B'bayit b'yachad (at home together) program is another new service that helps immigrants integrate more easily into Israeli society and engages Israeli families in taking responsibility for helping new families. An aggressive campaign has matched thousands of Israeli families with new immigrants to help them acclimate to Israeli culture, assist with job searches and networking.

Connecting to Zionist education

The Jewish Agency for Israel has a wide range of programs to connect young Jews to Israel and their Jewish heritage. Each year they send nearly 2,000 young Israelis to summer camps across North America and the former Soviet Union. In Ann Arbor, Camp Raanana benefits from two Israeli counselors each year. The Jewish Agency sends more than 700 Israeli-Jewish educators throughout the world to collaborate with local educators on Israel engagement. They also train more than 1,100 Jewish studies educators in Israel.

The Jewish Agency is one of the largest funders of birthright Israel, which gives young adults who have not yet had the opportunity a free trip to Israel with their peers. It has also developed a new program, MASA, which is a clearinghouse for 120 long-term Israel pro-

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SENIORS

March and April 2007 – SPICE* of Life

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

Mondays

11 a.m. – noon, Fitness Fun – Maria Farquhar; \$4 or 3/\$10, No class 3/15.
Noon, luncheon buffet; \$3.
1–3 p.m., JCC Writing Group.

Tuesdays

10:30 a.m.–noon, Let's Talk.
2 p.m., Mah Jongg.
1–3 p.m., Drop-in hobby time. Bring your project. Coffee and noshes are provided.

Wednesdays

10 a.m.–noon, WCC Emeritus class—The Bible in its Time; Who Wrote the Bible? Taught by Lisbeth Fried, PhD. Through 3/28.

Thursdays

10–11 a.m., Fitness Fun; Maria Farquhar, \$4 or 3/\$10
11 a.m.–noon, Current Events. Jewish perspective of the news
Noon, Home-made luncheon buffet, \$3
1–2 p.m., Thursday special presentations (see list below)
2:15–3:15 p.m., Literary group with Sidney Warschawsky

Fridays

1:30–3 p.m., Yiddish Speaking Group; weekly Yiddish conversations, meeting at private home all weeks except when monthly group meets at JCC
1:30–3 p.m., Monthly Yiddish Group; March 9 meets at the JCC the second Friday of each month to view Yiddish films.
FILMS: March 9 – *Overture to Glory* 1940 (Yiddish with English subtitles. Story of a Vilna Cantor who is seduced by the opera, with Moishe Oisher.

Thursday Presentations:

March 1, 1 p.m. Video: *The 1940s: Music, Memories, and Milestones*. A look back at original footage and music from the 1940s. 60 minutes.
March 8, 1 p.m. Carol Hoffer, "Just Taking Orders: Volunteering with the Israeli Defense Force." Hoffer presents her experiences as a volunteer with the IDF.
March 15, 1 p.m. Luda Ketslakh, "Wandering the World: A Photographical Travelogue."

Special events

Monday, March 5, 1 p.m. Musical Monday. Debbie Gombert leads a Purim sing-along and musical performance with standard favorites and new songs to learn.

Sunday, March 18, 1–5 p.m. Intergenerational Interviews: Entering Jewish Adulthood. Students from Congregation Beth Israel's Bar and Bat Mitzvah class (6th graders) will be interviewing older adults about what their lives were like when they were twelve and thirteen years old and entering into Jewish adulthood. The resulting stories, pictures and videos will be on display at Jewish Family Service's Bat Mitzvah Cruise on Sunday, April 22. Interested in sharing your recollections with a student? Call Laurie Wechter at 971-0990 to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, March 29, 11 a.m. Intergenerational Passover Seder. Join children from the JCC Early Childhood Center for a re-telling of the Passover story and a delicious seder luncheon.

Thursday, April 5, 4–6 p.m. Traditional Community-wide Senior Seder. Join in for a community seder for all older adults and their families. \$15 includes a traditional meal. RSVP by 3/22 to Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209.

New Series: Evening Entertainment Excursions (EEE)

A new series, "Evening Entertainment Excursion," (EEE) will bring seniors to cultural events in the evenings or on weekends. Join other Jewish adults to enjoy musical and theatrical performances as well as camaraderie. Transportation will be provided.

March 19, 7:15 p.m. Enjoy an evening of music with a trip to see the University Symphony Orchestra at Hill Auditorium. Meet at the JCC. The show is free; transportation costs \$6/person. Call Abbie at 769-0209 or Laurie W. at 971-0990 to RSVP by March 5.

New Series: Civic Life and Community Engagement

The new "Civic Life and Community Engagement" series piggybacks on the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads program and on the University of Michigan Theme Semester, both of which focus on conceptions of citizenship and the process of fostering a sense of civic engagement, community, and belonging in our modern world. The "Civic Life and Community Engagement" series will bring scholars, community organizers, authors, researchers, and community members to speak on topics ranging from volunteerism to voting, with the hope that these monthly or bi-monthly presentations will spark a dialogue on the many ways to build a vibrant and engaged community for all ages.

Thursday, March 22, 1 p.m. Book discussion: Join in for the kickoff event to the "Civic Life and Community Engagement" series as the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads book choice, Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World* (Random House, 2003) is discussed. Copies of the book are available at the public library and at all major bookstores. Come prepared to share your thoughts on this fascinating book.

SPICE program for older adults has new leadership

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

Jewish Family Services and the Jewish Community Center have established a new partnership in an effort to provide ongoing, high-quality programming for older adults. Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson, L.M.S.W., Ph.D., and Laurie Wechter, L.M.S.W. will coordinate the JCC's SPICE (Social, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, and Educational) Program for Older Adults.

Lawrence-Jacobson is the Community Outreach and Programming Coordinator for Older Adult Services at JFS. She received her B.A. from Brandeis University and her M.S.W. and Ph.D. (in Social Work and Sociology) from the University of Michigan, where she specialized in gerontology and intergenerational programming. Prior to joining JFS, Lawrence-Jacobson taught "Social Work with the Elderly" in the U-M School of Social Work, planned the inaugural Michigan Intergenerational Conference, and worked with older adults with

early memory loss at the Silver Club Coffeehouse. She also serves as an intergenerational consultant to organizations including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the U-M, Generations United in Washington, D.C., and DOROT in New York City. Lawrence-Jacobson has published articles in journals including *Research on Aging*, *the Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, and *the Journal of Gerontological Social Work* and has presented at numerous national gerontology and social work conferences. She lives in Ann Arbor with her husband



Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson



Laurie Wechter

with senior citizens at Neighborhood Senior Services and in private practice. She completed her bachelor's degree in psychology at Kalamazoo College and her M.S.W. at the U-M. Wechter, who shares her life with Ted Sylvester, is a pastel artist and a long-time resident of Ann Arbor. ■

Alan and their baby, Micah.

Wechter is the Direct Services and Volunteer Coordinator for Older Adults at JFS. Wechter is a licensed geriatric social worker who spent the last five years doing case work

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Brit Tzedek v'Shalom hosts Combatants for Peace

Clare Kinberg, special to the WJN

If we can continue talking with each other, anyone can." This was the central message of former combatants Elik Elhanan, an Israeli Jew from Jerusalem and Suleiman Al Hamri, a Palestinian Arab from Bethlehem, when they spoke before a lively audience of over 100 at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County on January 23. Elhanan and Al Hamri spoke earlier in the day to a packed 150-seat lecture hall for Robert Packer's political science class, "The Arab-Israeli Conflict." Their stop in Ann Arbor was part of a 22-city tour sponsored by Brit Tzedek v'Shalom, an organization of 35,000 American Jews whose mission is to build vocal support for a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Elhanan and Al Hamri are co-coordinators of the organization Combatants for Peace whose 250 members, equally Israeli and Palestinian, have pledged to put down arms and continue talking "no matter what." As it turned out the hardest challenge to the two-year-old group came during their tour of the United States, just a few days before they came to Ann Arbor. Abir Aramin, the 10-year-old daughter of one of the Combatants for Peace co-founders, Bassam Aramin, was killed by Israeli Border Police next to her school in Anata in northeast Jerusalem during a clash between stone throwers and the police. Elhanan told the audience at the JCC that, despite conflicts with the Israeli authorities regarding an autopsy and burial, members of Combatants for Peace continued to support one another through this heart wrenching time. While the Border Police are investigating this incident, Elhanan said that this is, unfortunately, the first investigation into the killing of 150 Palestinian children under 12 years old over the past two years.

The deaths of innocent children are particularly raw for Elhanan, whose 14-year-old sister was killed in a suicide bombing in 1997, while he was serving in the IDF as a paratrooper on the Israel/ Lebanon border. The 29-year-old Elhanan told the audience a moving story of transformation from a "regular" Israeli whose duty is to serve in the IDF to an Israeli with a mission to seek an end to the cycle of violence.

Al Hamri told the audience his own parallel story, which led to the same conclusions. At 16, in 1987, during the first *intifada*, Al Hamri and

his friends in Bethlehem were proud to join the resistance to the Israeli occupation, which landed him in a Hebron prison for a year and a half. It was here, among veteran Fatah fighters, he told the audience, that he began receiving a real education in the conflict. As a teenager, out of prison but labeled a "terrorist," his educational opportunities were limited. Even though he was offered a scholarship to study law in Jordan, the Israeli authorities denied his ability to accept the scholarship. He did go on to study social work and psychology at Bethlehem University where he continued participating in the resistance to the Israeli occupation as a member of Fatah. His activities earned him another three years in prison, this time in a desert prison camp in the south of Israel.

During this time, in the early 1990s, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin transformed the terms of the conflict. According to Al Hamri, Rabin came to the prison camp and talked to the prisoners, respecting them as the "Palestinian leaders on the ground." The prisoners told him to "talk to our [PLO] leaders in Tunis." Which, ultimately, Rabin did. When Yasser Arafat agreed to recognize Israel and signed the Oslo peace accords, Al Hamri became committed to the idea of two states. He and his "on the ground" Fatah leadership believed Rabin was a partner in good faith. Rabin's assassination in 1995 was a severe blow, one "gift" among many to the extremists on both sides. Still, Al Hamri has remained committed to the idea that two states, acceptable to both Palestinians and Israelis, can be successfully negotiated, and that violence only makes that day further away.

Now, he and his colleagues in Combatants for Peace are working to build the movement from the ground up: they will talk to anyone and everyone in their own societies, in each others, and around the world to create political pressure on both the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority to stop the cycle of violence and resume the constructive dialogue necessary to achieve two viable states.

Brit Tzedek v'Shalom took the opportunity of the former combatants' emphasis on negotiations to launch their "Let's Talk" campaign, which calls on the U. S. administration to make Arab-Israeli peace-making a priority and to urgently promote talks between "Israel and any



Combatants for Peace tour, January 23, 2007, Elik Elhanan, Suleiman Al Hamri

party willing to talk." According to event organizers, close to 50 members of the JCC audience signed a pledge to support this campaign.

Earlier in the day, the two men had brought their message of non-violence and negotiations to a luncheon with University of Michigan faculty and Jewish community leaders. During the luncheon there was a brief discussion of the possibility of raising funds for a program at the U-M devoted to peace and reconciliation among Israelis and Palestinians.

The majority of the audience at the JCC was clearly supportive of the speakers' message. A Temple Beth Emeth board member said afterward, "There were two standing ovations at the end. A lot of quiet soulful reflection and sighs as we milled around and eventually began drifting toward the exits, and not a few tears." Allison Stupka, coordinator for Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah, said, "I was amazed at their conviction that the cycle of revenge and bloodshed must be stopped. When the Israeli speaker was asked if he really thought peace was possible, he said that he really didn't have a choice because he has a family there."

The tour is not without critics, however. A few days after the pair left Ann Arbor to continue their tour westward, a report prepared in Los

Angeles by Israeli Consul General Ehud Danoch and Consul for Media and Public Affairs Gilad Millo, was sent to the Foreign Ministry and all of Israel's representatives in North America. "The willingness of Jewish communities in the United States to host these organizations, and even sponsor them, is unfortunate. This is a phenomenon that must not be ignored," the report said. The report urged for action to be taken against the "refuseniks" and their organizations, saying, "their negative effect on Israel's image must be stopped."

In response to the report, Brit Tzedek's president, former Member of Knesset Marcia Freedman, wrote in a letter to the Counsel General, "Like Israelis, American Jews are also overwhelmingly pro-Israel and have a wide range of views about how to ensure the future of the Jewish homeland. We certainly share Combatants for Peace's concerns about the negative impact of the occupation on Israel. Yet a primary goal in our hosting the Combatants for Peace tour is to stimulate discussion in Jewish communities across our nation of the many ways to connect to and work on behalf of Israel." ■

Student, from Page 10

grams for young adults.

One of MASA's goals is to bring 20,000 young Jews ages 18-30 to Israel for a semester or one-year program.

The Jewish Agency has also put state-of-the-art technology to work to provide Israel-centered education around the world. With new e-learning platforms, Jewish educators can now access, exchange and share best practices. More than 12,000 students and educators from around the world have participated in the Contact Center's e-academy courses, real-time video conferences, web seminars and e-rooms.

Partnerships with Israel

Partnership 2000 serves as the Jewish Agency's flagship program for connecting Jewish communities around the world with communities in Israel. Today, 44 partnerships with 550 Jewish communities help

create equal opportunities for at-risk immigrants and young people, strengthen Israel's vulnerable communities and engage all Jews in shaping the future character of Israel society.

In addition, Jewish Agency, partnering with American federations, Keren Hayasod and Israeli philanthropists have started a new initiative called Youth Futures. This program brings Israeli young adults to live and work in partnership communities with at-risk youths providing mentorship, education and other services.

Responding to the war

Jewish Agency for Israel has experience serving during a crisis as well. It helped establish emergency safe summer camps within 48 hours of the outbreak of war in the summer of 2006 for Jewish, Arab and Druze children in northern Israel. Nearly 40,000 children attended 50 sleep away camps.

Four absorption centers in the North run by the Jewish Agency were hit during the war, but staff stayed there to help the immigrants. The Jewish Agency equipped bomb shelters and solicited Israeli corporate sponsorship, with 80 companies signing on to help by the end of the war.

The Agency has also been instrumental in helping with plans to rebuild in the North. More than 3,000 people have received emergency loans to rebuild their businesses and students have received scholarships as an incentive to study at colleges and universities in the north. A program similar to "Teach for America" has been developed to encourage young volunteers from North America to teach and volunteer in Northern Israel's schools.

"The war this summer offered new challenges and demonstrated the effectiveness and professionalism of the Jewish Agency," says Herman. "Because of the staffing and in-

frastructure already in place, thanks to annual campaign funding, the Jewish Agency was able to respond quickly and efficiently."

Yagudin, who attends the Technion, remained in Haifa during the war at the Jewish Agency's Aba Houshi Student Absorption Center where she lives. "Whoever thought that Haifa, in the heart of Israel, would be under attack," she says.

"In spite of the war, there was a special atmosphere at Aba Houshi, Yagudin says. "We were mostly all students with no family in Israel and no place to go. The Jewish Agency counselors were with us and we all assisted the new Ethiopian students who had just arrived to Israel. We were like one big family." ■

Activities at Beth Israel Congregation

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Purim activities for all ages

Boys and girls, men and women are invited to dress in costume and attend Beth Israel's traditional Megilla reading combined with an interactive play, A Star Wars Purim, on Saturday, March 3 at 7:45 p.m. This will be followed by a "feast" of ice cream sundaes and hamantashen. The Megilla reading is preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a fun, light-hearted (and blessedly short) Maariv service, which pays tribute to the Jewish tradition of never being afraid to laugh and have some fun in the performance of a mitzvah. On Sunday, March 4 at 8:30 a.m., the Shacharit Service includes a Torah reading and the traditional Megilla reading, followed by breakfast. The community is invited to both services and there is no charge.

On Monday, March 5, (Shushan Purim) Beth Israel offers a Tot Purim Puppet Show and Dinner from 5:45–7 p.m. for three to six year olds and their parents. The day after Purim is traditionally set aside for a fun Purim Seudah (feast). There is a nominal charge for dinner.

Spring Retreat for young families

The Beth Israel spring retreat for young families, May 25–27 at the Butzel Conference Center in Ortonville, Michigan, is a weekend filled with fun for the whole family in a relaxing and beautiful wooded-lake setting. Participants will enjoy a spirited Shabbat with lots of singing, good food, exciting activities and friendly staff. Activities will include crafts, sports, family games, hiking, boating, a camp-fire and more. The Butzel Conference Center offers comfortable resort-like facilities overlooking a private lake. It is located on the grounds of Tamarack Camps, and is staffed by experienced counselors from their summer or other family camp programs. This retreat is open to non-members, and there is a charge.

Tot Shabbat

Tot Shabbats, on Saturdays March 10 and March 24, from 11 a.m.–noon, are intended for three to six year olds and include songs, stories, prayers, and puppets. On March 10 the Tot Shabbat will be run by Peretz Hirshbein, and on March 24 Jennifer Levine will lead Tot Shabbat. A Kid's Kiddush follows. There is no charge.

Parent Open House for parents of children entering kindergarten, first and second grades

Parents of children who are not yet enrolled in Beth Israel Religious School are invited to an open house on Sunday, March 18 from 11 a.m.–noon.

Grades K-1 meets on Sunday mornings, and Grade 2 meets on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons. These youngest students at Beth Israel are introduced to Jewish learning through a program rich in Jewish music, games, stories, and arts and crafts activities. Students learn about the Jewish holidays, have exposure to the Hebrew language, and engage in *tefillah* (prayer) which is age appropriate and interactive. Kindergarten and first grade families celebrate the beginning of formal Jewish education with a Consecration ceremony in the fall, and have other family programs throughout the year.

In second grade, students begin their formal study of Hebrew reading and writing. In the elementary program, students gain

proficiency in Hebrew reading, writing, and *siddur* (prayer book) skills. In Judaic studies, students learn more about holidays, *mitzvot* (commandments), and values in a hands-on curriculum designed to help them experience all facets of Jewish life. Family programs are offered which help build the home-school connection.

For information about the Beth Israel Religious School and the March 18 open house, contact Cindy Saper, education director, at 769-2041

Beth Israel's annual blood drive

Beth Israel's annual Red Cross blood drive will run on Sunday, March 18 from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. in the Beth Israel Social Hall. Giving blood is an easy way to save a life or two, and perform an important mitzvah. There is an online sign-up with the Red Cross. For more information or to volunteer for recruitment efforts, contact Ruth Kraut, blood drive coordinator, at 769-5680.

Adults and families

On March 16 at 7 p.m. Beth Israel offers its second themed Shabbat Meal, this time highlighting the foods of India. Jews have lived in India for hundreds of years, though many have left to settle in the State of Israel. Eial Dujovny, Beth Israel's program director, spent two years living in India, and he will host this event, which is a part of Beth Israel's "Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazeh," (Every Jew is Responsible, One for Another) education theme.

The Indian motif continues at Beth Israel on Saturday, March 17 at 7:45 p.m. when *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*, a critically acclaimed art house film from India, will be screened. It is one of the few Indian films with a Jewish character, though a controversial one at that. Babysitting will be provided by Beth Israel USY chapter (as a fundraiser for their chapter) and special traditional Indian type movie snacks will be offered. This film will be shown on Beth Israel's new DVD projector and wide movie screen. There is no charge for the film itself.

Beth Israel welcomes participation in all of its events and religious services by members of the general community. To be added to the mailing list and/or receive email announcements, call 665-9897.

March activities at TBE

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Purim celebration at

TBE celebrates Purim Sunday, March 4, from 4–6 p.m. The Megillah reading will be in the sanctuary, to be followed by the Purim Carnival with games, prizes and food available for purchase. There will also be an area for tot games. Open to the community.

Families with young children

For families with kids aged 0–5 years old. Older siblings and grandparents are welcome as always. Non-members are welcome at all events. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig, dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or 665-4744 or Jill Pritts, jillpritts@yahoo.com.

Tot Shabbat

Fridays, March 9 and April 13. Tot Shabbat starts at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Tot Dinner at 6 p.m. \$3 per person for the dinner, RSVP to 665-4744 a week in advance. Shira, music for young families, is at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Tot Pesach with Rabbi Levy

Sunday, March 18, 3–4 p.m. Enjoy stories, crafts and music. Stay for the all-choir concert at 4 p.m.

Twenties & Thirties (TNT)

First Friday: Potluck Purim and Shabbat dinner at Ken Mayer and Najda Robinson-Mayer's. Friday, March 2, 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. candlelighting. RSVP by February 26 to Najda, nirobins@comcast.net for directions and what to bring.

Twenties and Thirties (TNT) of Temple Beth Emeth provides a welcoming, inclusive Jewish community through monthly social and cultural activities. Non-TBE members are welcome. Visit the group's website at <http://www.templebethemeth.org/tnt>

Yom Hashoah service

Sunday, April 22, 6:30–7:30 p.m., TBE Sanctuary. This is a commemorative Holocaust Memorial Service taking place during religious school, created by members of the Generations After group and their children. Come hear music, the narratives of Holocaust survivors and view photos of

their lives before and after the war. Refreshments will follow this powerful service.

Movie Tuesdays:

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg, March 20, 1–3 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. A discussion follows the film; coffee and noshes are provided. In the 1930s Jewish mothers would ask their sons: "What kind of day did Hank have?" Hank Greenberg, the Detroit Tigers slugger who came close to breaking Babe Ruth's home run record, was baseball's first Jewish star. Aviva Kempner's loving tribute is chock full of wonderful archival footage from the 1930s and 1940s and interviews with a self-effacing Greenberg and many of his Tiger teammates. Next Movie Tuesday is on Tuesday, April 17. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org.

Adult Hebrew Courses

Biblical and Conversational Hebrew, Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced levels. Six week class begins the week of April 15. Winter and spring semesters are a continuation of the fall semester. New students may be able to join the classes, depending on their skill level. For more information, contact Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Meditation

Continuing Jewish Meditation: Sephirot. Instructor: Judy Freedman; Wednesdays, 7:30–8:45 p.m., TBE Chapel, March 7, 21, 28. For more information, contact Judy at freedmanjudy@comcast.net or 769-1709.

Kohelet (Ecclesiastes), Job and Maimonides

Instructor: Rabbi Robert Levy, Sundays, March 25; April 1, 15, 29; May 6, 7:45–9 p.m. Modern issues about the meaning of life in ancient garb. It is almost scary the "contemporary" ways that these three writers approached the struggle of living. To sign up, contact Devon Fitzig at dfitzig@templebethemeth.org or call 665-4744.

Songs from the haggadah—new music for Pesach

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

On Sunday, March 25 at 7:45 p.m. Gemini's Sandor Slomovits and Beth Israel's Rabbi Robert Dobrusin will feature Slomovits' musical settings of passages from the haggadah, and Rabbi Dobrusin's commentary on the text. Slomovits' musical arrangements include new melodies for familiar songs such as "Dayenu," and also settings of passages from the haggadah that are not traditionally sung. Also included in the program will be an opportunity for members of the audience to discuss and ask questions about the haggadah. The program, which takes place at Beth Israel Congregation, will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. The suggested donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students.

The haggadah is the text used at the seder meal on the first nights of the holiday

of Passover. While there are many contemporary haggadot, the core of the traditional text is over 2,000 years old. It combines interpretation of the Torah's story of the Exodus from Egypt with blessings and readings intended to help participants in the seder remember the lessons of slavery in Egypt and redemption.

Joining Slomovits to present the songs will be his brother Laszlo. The two of them comprise the well-known musical duo, Gemini, and have been writing, performing and recording folk music for children and families for more than three decades. Gemini's recordings, songbooks and video have won numerous awards from, among others, the American Library Association, Parents' Choice Magazine and the National Parenting Publications Association.



Rabbi Robert Dobrusin



Sandor Slomovits

Fight Anti-Semitism with education, effective legislation

Bob Faber, special to the WJN

Group hatred is as traditional as it is irrational: the Sunnis hate the Shiites; the Hutus hate the Tutsis; the Irish Catholics hate their Protestant brothers—and so it goes, a worldwide community conflicted by the admonition to love thy neighbor while its spiritual leaders demand they be destroyed instead.

But standing alone, even within that maelstrom of destructive discrimination, there are the Jews.

It's a standard of philosophical bigotry that the Jews are different. In terms of this discussion they are different by the lack of borders to identify them; different by the longevity of the bias that has marked them for the last two millennia; different in the roots of that bias, extending beyond contradictory faiths and into their genetic identities; different in the universality of the discrimination that continues to mark them. The discrimination against the Jews, in short, is more inclusive than any specific incidents or factors of controversy—it is elemental. Very simply, they are Jews.

All of which is the jump-off point for my criticism of most current efforts to attack anti-Semitism, and specifically of those views and efforts attributed to Abe Foxman, head of the Anti-Defamation League, in an article in the New York Times, January 14, 2007. The irrational bias that underlies the continuing broad hatred of Jews cannot be eliminated, but we can at least hope to reduce its attendant violence. Mr. Foxman's battle against anti-Semitism defines a dedicated man unwilling to compromise with evil, but his program of battle is likely to be more noble and satisfying than productive.

The problem is that anti-Semitism is irrational in its essence, so arguing causes and cases can add volume to the exchange, but little light. If Mr. Foxman's purpose is to end the prejudice, his goal is unrealistically high. Better instead to try to reduce the impact of anti-Semitism with some built-in protections, however limited, perhaps following the process that marked the changes in American anti-Black prejudices. The bias that narrowed opportunities for blacks in many realms during most of our nation's history has given way to blacks in leadership roles such as generals, senators, governors and presidential candidates. The

irrational prejudice that had earlier infected much of America's mavens and mobs still exists, but effective legislative rules have greatly reduced their power and influence.

Attempts to convince or convert confirmed haters are impossible causes, so better instead to reduce their playing field by adopting rules against bigotry to make them less effective or damaging. Once again, as with the Blacks, irrational hatred and ignorance are not illegal, but legislative efforts prohibiting discrimination in housing and employment and education—and even membership privileges in clubs and organizations that benefit from federal taxes or services—has reduced their effectiveness immeasurably. The bias is not gone, but its power to limit and destroy lives is significantly reduced.

Attacking anti-Semitism by attacking the anti-Semites is a pointless power play against an incomparably larger and essentially indestructible foe. As anti-Semitism is rooted in and sustained by ignorance, a better approach would be to counter that ignorance by promoting the facts. The vast majority of bigots, of course, will be insensitive to or dismissive of alternative information, but those less committed (i.e., less irrational) members of communities and those with the power and responsibility to set the rules are likely to be a bit more sensitive to the integrity of the system.

As one example, the old Henry Ford delighted in railing against the conspiratorial schemes of the manipulative "international Jewish bankers." Never mind that of the \$8.4 billion in international loans outstanding in 1925, one of the early years of Ford's crusade, \$7.3 billion were held by non-Jewish bankers. Or that in 1935, when J.P. Morgan held \$1.4 billion in foreign loans, those conniving Jewish bankers held just 7% of that total. The control of the banks was clearly in the hands of those Jewish bankers—despite the fact that of the 430 directors of the 19 largest banks in New York City, only 30 were Jewish.

Anti-Semites, of course, educated over the years with just such lies, were untouched by these new "facts" and simply dismissed them, but slightly more reasonable, or less irrational, citizens would at least have an alternative to the generally accepted lies of the villains.

And the commonly accepted canard that Zionism is a ploy of international Jewry designed to conquer the world, is rarely examined and disputed, so it stands as unchallenged truth. The fact, of course, is that after millennia of suffering the horrors of discrimination, persecution, and expulsion in all the world's communities—without

sympathy or support from any of the world's political or military powers—they were finally forced to find a safe haven for themselves or to succumb to annihilation. Faced with worldwide repeats of their expulsion from Spain in 1492, and the deadly attacks on the shtetls of Russia instigated by the Tzars, and the unspeakable fact

of the Holocaust unopposed by the entire world community, it was evident that their only hope for survival was a homeland of their own. It may be true that details of the pilgrimage could have been organized differently, but the necessity for such a movement is clear and convincing, while the manufactured claims of its being an organized cabal is clearly without evidence or logic.

Currently, the most visible and painful controversy confronting the Jews is the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. Whoever or whatever the cause, the Palestinian people are victims of inexcusable and unacceptable suffering and, unfortunately and unfairly, only the Israelis are held accountable. Rather than attack Palestinian sympathizers with confrontational counter-arguments, however, our spokespeople would be better served by providing and publicizing more full explanations of the issues and facts.

A good example is President Carter's comments in his book, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. His reference to the 1948

War of Independence, for example, notes simply that the Palestinians "were driven ... from what they still consider their homes," without mention of the coordinated attack on the infant state the morning after statehood by neighboring Arab nations. And his summary of the Six Day War was limited to, "On June 5th, Israel launched preemptive strikes" —without touching on the massive Egyptian/Syrian military buildup that made any alternative to preemption the equivalent of suicide. But Mr. Carter is not alone in his misunderstanding of the facts, and his book gives us an opportunity to clarify the issue—an opportunity that should not be wasted by simply angrily attacking the author.

Abe Foxman and the ADL and others are invaluable allies of beleaguered Jews worldwide, but to better serve their purpose their focus should be on supplying valid information to potential allies (i.e., neutral or less irrational anti-Semites) than to simply rail against their enemies and their lies. Foxman's fury against the common claim that, "Jews control the media, control the government, control Congress," for example, should be met with statistics, challenging the other side to produce contradictory evidence. Of course it will have no impact on the most dedicated anti-Semites—Protocols of Zion, after all, is still a bestseller in many parts of world—but the somewhat more responsible leaders of communities will be less likely to fall for such gross falsehoods if they are shown to be outrageous. In sum, it is better to target Jimmy Carter as a potential convert than to attack him as an enemy or a fool.

It has been about two thousand years, after all, that the Jews have been persecuted just for being Jews. It is better now to educate and enlist the Jimmy Carters in this cause of justice than to rail against them and push them more firmly into the camp of the committed bigots. The numbers and motives and passions—and geographical dispersion—of the world's anti-Semites make their defeat impossible. Far better to change the rules of the game by criminalizing the more damaging actions of the anti-Semites and let them enjoy their outrage in a vacuum. ■

The discrimination against the Jews, in short, is more inclusive than any specific incidents or factors of controversy—it is elemental. Very simply, they are Jews.

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Shabbat Hahodesh

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

This article is one in a series on the Haftorah, the reading from the prophets during the Shabbat morning service. Each month, Rabbi Dobrusin comments on one of the traditional Haftorah readings for that month.

As we prepare for Pesach, our thoughts go in many different directions. There is the need to *kasher* the house, purchase special food and prepare for the seders.

But, often amidst all the preparation, we neglect to prepare ourselves spiritually for this holiday of redemption from slavery. This is unfortunate, especially since the tradition gives us many opportunities to prepare.

One of those opportunities comes from listening carefully to special Haftorah readings, readings from the Prophets, read on special Shabbatot before Pesach. These readings can inspire us to consider the issues which are the foundation of the holiday.

One of those Haftorah readings is read on Shabbat Hahodesh, the Shabbat before the

beginning of the month of Nisan, which is observed this year on March 17. This reading comes from the book of Ezekiel and focuses on the prophet's vision of a rebuilt Temple. It talks about a ritual for cleansing the Temple which would take place on the first day of Nisan.

The date on the calendar is clearly the connection between Ezekiel's reading and Shabbat Hahodesh. But, this close to Pesach, one would hope that we could find something more spiritually meaningful in the reading. And, I believe we can.

Ezekiel's vision of the rebuilt Temple is based upon symmetry and order. In what seems to be a rather trivial detail, Ezekiel envisions that a semblance of order would be kept in the Temple, despite the crowds he anticipates, by the fact that people would exit the Temple by the opposite gate they came in. Those who came in from the North would leave by the South. Those who came in from the South would leave by the North (Ezekiel 46:9). Ezekiel envisions a situation where no

one turns around and leaves by the same gate they entered.

I believe that we can interpret this in two ways. First, it is a reminder that no one should leave the seder or the observance of Pesach the same as when they came. When we sit down at the seder, we are preparing to engage in a process of transformation of one kind or another, and if the words of the

We should prepare ourselves spiritually for this holiday of redemption from slavery.

Haggadah have not touched us, the taste of the *maror* not moved us, the opening of the door for Elijah not inspired us and changed us in some way, we have not had a successful Pesach experience. Ezekiel's words can inspire us to realize that any such meaningful experience will only take place if we are

properly prepared.

Secondly, Ezekiel's vision gives us a message that we might not otherwise see in Pesach. He reminds us that there is no turning back on the important roads that we take. While we can obviously change our minds and change direction in life, and while sometimes that is a positive development, we have to keep looking forward and moving ahead in life, not continually going back over ground we have already covered.

While our people have come a long way since Egypt and while the path hasn't always been straight and while we have a long way to go, we must continue to look forward, move towards a greater sense of redemption and closer to the visions we have for our world.

As we prepare to celebrate Pesach this year, we should take Ezekiel's words to heart and look ahead and continue to move forward. ■

One sheep, 70 wolves and a great shepherd

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The Talmud explains that one of the reasons the Jewish people were threatened with annihilation—Heaven forbid—during the time of the Purim story was because “they derived pleasure from the banquet of that evil person [King Achashveirosh].” The text indicates that it was not because of our attendance at the banquet—which was mandatory and moreover the food and drink served was kosher—that the harsh decree came about. Rather it was because we “derived pleasure.”

What was it about deriving pleasure from this banquet that was so appalling that it nearly resulted in the destruction not only of those who attended, but even of those who were not invited?

Our Sages liken the existence of the Jewish people in times of exile to a “solitary sheep that finds itself surrounded by 70 wolves.” Thus, “great is the Shepherd who protects and guards His flock.” Consequently, the continued existence of the Jewish people is sometimes dependent upon miraculous means—the watchful eye of the “Great Shepherd.”

The Jewish people are assured of God's protection only when our conduct is consonant with relying on Him for protection. However, when we choose to rely entirely

Purim is unique among all the festivals in that it commemorates a miracle that was completely clothed in nature.

on natural means—on one or more of the “70 wolves”—then we remove ourselves from His divine protection and place ourselves at the mercy of natural forces.

The reason our “pleasure” was the cause of such a terrible decree will be understood accordingly: It was not punishment for a sin, but rather the natural consequence of our conduct.

After the king had elevated the evil and anti-Semitic Haman to a position of exceptional power, the situation of the Jewish people was similar to that of the “solitary sheep

that finds itself surrounded by 70 wolves.” At the same time, our conduct—“deriving pleasure...” —forfeited miraculous protection.

For this invitation to the feast was so important to the Jews of that time, they were so extremely honored by the invitation, that it caused them a great deal of pleasure. Thus they partook not because they had no choice, but because of their delight in being invited.

Since the Jewish people themselves gave credence to one of the “70 wolves” and took pleasure in being invited by “that evil person,” they annulled their supernatural guardianship. Instead, they placed themselves at the (natural) mercy of the “70 wolves”—something that threatened the continued existence of the solitary sheep.

It is true that while the Jews are under the dominion of another nation they are obligated to honor that nation obey its laws, and pray for that country's peace and welfare. Thus, when King Achashveirosh invited the Jews to attend the feast, they were compelled to do so.

Nevertheless, they should have understood that the existence of the Jewish people

is not at all contingent on any king of flesh and blood, but wholly dependent on God. Moreover, the ongoing existence of the Jews is a miracle clothed in the garments of nature—“great is the Shepherd” who guards us in a manner that transcends the world.

Thus, their pleasure that so important an evil person as King Achashveirosh—upon whom they felt their lives depended—invited them to a meal, indicated that they had forsaken their trust in God and had placed their faith in the hands of one of the “wolves.”

This also helps us understand why Purim is unique among all the festivals that celebrate God's miracles on our behalf, in that it commemorates a miracle that was completely clothed in nature.

The reason for this is as explained. Since the evil decree came about because the Jewish people chose to rely totally on the forces of nature, the Purim miracle therefore revealed, within nature, that God's conduct with the Jews—even as they exist in the natural realm—is truly above and beyond the natural. ■



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YOUTH

Hebrew Day School public speaking curriculum helps grads shine

Joan Hartman, special to the WJN

In almost any month in Ann Arbor, you can see a graduate of the Hebrew Day School performing somewhere in the city. Musicals, drama, comedies, dance, Young People's Theatre, Huron Players, Pioneer High School, Community High School, Emerson—HDS grads, as well as many of the school's current students, play both starring and supporting roles. This month (March 2007), for example, Mara Abramson HDS '04, stars as Dorothy in the Tappan Players' performance of *The Wiz*.

"HDS trains students in communication skills not generally taught in most elementary schools," says Head of School, Dina Shtull. "Starting at the earliest ages, we make a concerted effort to ensure that our children feel confident and secure standing up in public."

Shtull explains that students start with group singing—they sing together every day. Kindergartners perform for the parent body at monthly Rosh Chodesh (New Month) celebrations. They then perform for larger crowds at the yearly Chanukah festival and graduation. First graders perform in plays for their parents and the school as a whole. Each student receives a manageable part to memorize and is coached on articulation and presentation. In second and later grades, students give lengthier or more involved oral presentations for their classmates and small groups of parents. This may include poetry recitation or oral reports on famous Americans, which they do in the first person dressed "in character."

Students have multiple additional performance opportunities such as singing for the Jewish Federation Main Event or at a nursing home. Members of the HDS Klez Kids Band have played at Kerrytown Concert House, at the JCC with Rick Recht's Jewish Rock Band, and with Reva L'Sheva in Detroit. Students see these public performances as exciting and fun, whether they are singing, reciting, speaking, acting, or playing a musical instrument.

"We believe strongly in 'learning through doing,' says Shtull. "Step by step, our students become better, more confident speakers and presenters, practicing their skills through a variety of modes while their proficiency improves. Students never get a chance to think of public speaking or public performance as daunting or overwhelming. Instead, every activity is designed to maximize a sense of camaraderie, enjoyment and accomplishment."

"By emphasizing public speaking, HDS has given my children an important life skill," says Barbara Kramer, a local attorney who has an HDS alumna, a student at HDS, and an upcoming ganster (kindergartner). "One of the unexpected and most gratifying benefits of my children's HDS education was that they learned to speak comfortably in front of a large roomful of people. By getting up in front of a group and speaking or performing month after month, they gained a skill that should serve them for the rest of their lives." ■



Some of the stars

Name: Ben Freed HDS '00

Current school: senior at Huron High School

Performances: most recently Xavier Valentine in Huron Players' production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*; also Oscar Madison in Huron Players' *The Odd Couple*, and appeared in *Singin' in the Rain* at Huron. Also appeared in *Clumsy Custard Comedy Show*, Huron (2004); and *The Importance of Being Ernest*, Immanuel College, London (2004).

Favorite role: Oscar Madison in Huron Players' *The Odd Couple*.

Quote: "At HDS every month we would put on a show for the whole school on Rosh Chodesh. However, Rosh Chodesh wasn't the only time that we would be up in front of a group. Leading T'fillot, making class presentations, and performing in the annual Chanukah and graduation festivities all helped make me feel comfortable performing in front of a crowd."

Name: Robert Axelrod HDS '03

Current school: freshman at Huron High School

Performances: frequent star of Young People's Theater, and Emerson, Pioneer and Huron Players productions. Roles have included "Nathan Detroit" in Emerson's production of *Guys and Dolls*, Sergeant Kelly in *Musical Comedy Murders of the 1940's* at Pioneer High School, and Jabe Torrance in the Huron Players' production of Tennessee Williams' *Orpheus Descending*. Also starred in two Young People's Theater productions, as Tyrone Jackson in *Fame* and Conrad Birdie in *Bye Bye Birdie*. Had an extra opportunity to use the public speaking skills he learned at HDS as the Emerson School's student body president.

Name: Lindsey Beaver HDS '05

Current school: 7th grade, Forsythe Middle School

Performances: in 2006, major roles in *The Lion*, *The Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Fame*.

Quote: "HDS did a great job preparing me for all these theater experiences because of all the love and kindness in the audience at HDS, and all the support people showed."

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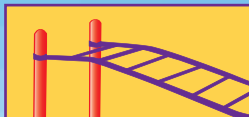
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YOUTH

Nature abounds at Camp Raanana

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

Mornings at the Jewish Community Center's Raanana Day Camp begin with Camp Director Craig Pollack, greeting the campers as they get off the bus at the camp's beautiful lakeside home. Often, *Boker Tov* (good morning) announcements are briefly interrupted by the surprise arrival of a pair of sand hill cranes or a passing deer. Enjoying and learning about the natural world is just one of the many things that makes Camp Raanana such an extraordinary place for children to explore, create and have fun during their summer.



"Every morning when I arrive at the lake, I take a few minutes before the campers arrive to appreciate the beauty of our camp site and remind myself how fortunate I am to be able to share this place with our campers," says Pollack. In fact, Pollack believes that for children, spending time in natural settings leads to a better understanding of their role in the natural world. He believes that when this happens to a child, they are better equipped to fulfill the mitzvah of "*tikkun olam*"—repairing the world.

Camp Raanana runs for eight weeks and is open to children entering kindergarten through the age of 13. The camp is located on its own private beachfront at Independence Lake County Park in Webster Township. A weeklong post-camp vacation program is also offered at the JCC after the camp season has ended. Campers have a wide variety of activities to choose from during their day. Sports skills, arts and crafts, nature hikes, orienteering, fishing, row boating, Israeli culture and dance, drama and trips to the Spray Zone (a refreshing play area with sprays, geysers and showers) are just some of the activities that keep the campers engaged and excited throughout the day. Third and fourth grade campers also have the opportunity to participate in several optional overnight camping trips offered throughout the summer. "I felt that my son Eli was in great hands in the Bears fourth grade group. There's such a nice, relaxed fun atmosphere at camp," says parent, Stephanie Rowden.

Red Cross certified swim lessons are offered and weekly field trips and special events like the Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan performance provide new and different experiences each week. On Fridays, Shabbat is celebrated with group skits, Hebrew songs and Israeli dancing. Parents are always invited to join their campers in the Shabbat activities. Parent Natalie Iglewitz says, "I really feel that Camp Raanana is a superior camp experience and that the director and the staff he chooses are outstanding counselors and role models. When my son is at camp, I feel he is in a safe environment with staff members who know

and understand him and set good parameters and structure in the activities they offer throughout the day."

The camp's pre-kindergarten program is staffed by loving, nurturing, experienced staff who accompany the same campers throughout the summer. Campers in the pre-kindergarten group are offered the opportunity to engage in the full variety of camp activities, while also being given more time for rest and low-key activities such as storytelling and arts and crafts. A three-day schedule option is also available for campers in the Pre-kindergarten program. Parent Laura Hirshbein notes that "Our kindergartner Daniel has been singing the Debbie Friedman songs he learned last summer all year long, and he can't wait to be a counselor one day. He came home tired and happy every day, and never wanted to go home." Campers who are entering sixth through eighth grades can participate in the Pioneer Travel program. This program is designed to fulfill the more mature needs and expectations of this age group. Emphasis is placed on exploring new challenges, participating in excursions and expeditions as well as traditional camp activities. Campers in this group go on field trips four times a week to places such as water parks, museums, sporting events, hikes, canoeing and ropes courses.

Raanana also offers an extended care program at the JCC. The morning program runs from 7:30-8:45 a.m. and the afternoon program runs from 4-6 p.m. This year the afternoon program is offering weekly themes



and special events. Organized sports, craft projects, games, cooking and dance activities and nature activities are all part of the fun. For the first time, Raanana is offering non-member registration rates. For an additional fee of \$45 per session non-members are welcome to participate.

Camp Raanana is a state of Michigan licensed program. All head counselors are college aged and have had years of camping experience. Each summer two shlichim (Israeli staff) spend the summer teaching the campers about Israel and engage the children in a wide variety of activities that celebrate their Jewish heritage. Swim lessons are American Red Cross certified and safe bus transportation is provided by Ann Arbor Public School busses. "My son, Cameron loves Camp Raanana for so many reasons—swimming, wildlife, sports and, of course, great counselors. I love it because it's a safe, fun, enriching camp run by staff I trust and who are great with kids," says parent Julie Beck. ■

For additional information or a registration form for Camp Raanana, contact Craig Pollack, camp director at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org

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"My son, Cameron loves Camp Raanana for so many reasons- swimming, wildlife, sports and, of course, great counselors. I love it because it's a safe, fun, enriching camp run by staff I trust and who are great with kids," says parent Julie Beck.

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YOUTH

JCC Brownie Girl Scouts winter camp out

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

The girls of Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County Brownie Girl Scout Troop #474 thought that they had camped in bad weather before. They have started camp fires in the rain, hiked in a downpour, and slept in tents in the cool of fall. But during the first week-end of February, the troop went camping in weather so cold that schools were closed when they returned! The girls arrived at Camp Linden, not far from Fenton, Michigan, in the coldest weather of the year, and settled in, preparing to spend a lot of time indoors, and keeping busy to avoid cabin fever.



Teamwork

Before going on a camping trip, Girl Scouts plan their meals and activities. For this trip, the girls planned three meals. For one meal, the Brownies made pizza pockets (pizza sandwiches) and fruit salad. Pizza pockets are made using pie irons, cast iron forms that can be closed around food and placed in the fire. Before using them, the girls learned fire safety. Making fruit salad provided the girls practice cutting with knives. Of course, no camping trip is complete without s'mores, made using the fire in the fireplace.

Besides cooking, the girls made traditional Girl Scout sit-upons, and played a lot of games, as it was too cold to go on the planned hike. However, for brief periods of time they would bundle up and take turns leaving the lodge to trek to the sledding hill a short distance away. Despite the weather, the girls had a fantastic time. As mother Galit Duniets said, "Liana was asking to stay three more days!"

Camping is an important activity for Girl Scouts (and everyone else) because it teaches so many things. Through the experience, the girls learn to have confidence in their abilities, as they try things they have never done before and succeed. They learn teamwork, develop appreciation for the outdoors, and become aware of conserving resources. As one parent said, "Eleanor had a great time and I know it was a good experience for her to be so independent."

Girl Scout Service Unit

While camping does not have to be an expensive proposition, it does take some

funds, and it takes expertise on the part of those leading a trip. Many troops do not have either the financial or human resources to camp. However, the girls in the JCC's Girl Scout Troops are fortunate to be part of Ann Arbor's Service Unit D, made up of troops from Bryant/Pattengill, Burns Park, Angell, Tappan, Pioneer, the Ann Arbor Learning Community, and the Washtenaw Multicultural Academy, as well as the JCC. This Service Unit holds an encampment called the Cake-O-Ree Camp-O-Ree every fall that all troops can attend for free. For many girls, this encampment is their first camping experience. In September 2006, the JCC Brownies took advantage of this opportunity to camp starting before sundown on Friday, and into Sunday, which allowed *shomer* Shabbat girls in the troop to participate in the experience.

Cake auction funds fall camping

The "Cake-O-Ree" is made possible every year by a fun cake auction, at which cakes made by parents in all the troops are auctioned off. This year, the annual cake auction will be held at the JCC on Sunday, March 11. The cakes will be on display, dinner will be available at 5 p.m., and the auction will start at 6 p.m. During the event, activities for young children will be provided by the girls of the JCC's Junior Troop #1205. The cake auction is open to the public, and would be a good opportunity for any families who are interested in learning about Girl Scouting.

For more information about the cake auction, call Amy Bullock at 677-5814, or email her at abullock@bignet.net. To learn more about Girl Scouting at the JCC, email Peretz Hirshbein at jccgirlscouts@gmail.com, or call 213-6707.



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YOUTH

PJs, Pancakes and lots of fun at YAD family event

Ellisha Caplan, special to the WJN

Breakfast for dinner, comfortable dress (PJs optional), a fantastic bedtime story and lots of fun for the whole family are on the menu at PJs and Pancakes on Sunday, March 11 from 5–7 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County.

A highlight of the event is storyteller Corinne Stavish, who has been featured at storytelling festivals and conferences across the nation. Stavish is a professor in humanities at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, and was Professor of the Year in 1999. She has edited a book of Jewish folktales, and published numerous articles and recordings. In 2001, Stavish was awarded Detroit Jewish Woman Artist of the Year for Literature. Her CD *Hussies, Harlots, Heroines: Shady Ladies of the Bible* won a gold award, and her most recent CD, *Solidarity Forever: Growing Up Union* recently won a Storytelling World Honor. She is a juried artist in the Michigan Touring Arts Directory and has twice been nominated for a Michigan Governor's Award for the Arts. Stavish co-chaired the National Jewish Storytelling Network for the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) for ten years.

PJs and Pancakes marks the first event sponsored by the Jewish Mamas, a group of nearly 30 women who get together once a month to discuss parenting through the lens of Judaism. Sharri Gordon, M.S.W., facilitates the monthly meetings, which are co-sponsored by the Young Adult Division of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and the JCC's Early Childhood Center: "PJs and Pancakes is a great way for families to 'do Jewish' together in a fun, family-oriented atmosphere."

There's a tzedakah component to the event too. Families are asked to bring a lightly used toy or doll to donate to Jewish Family Services for the children that visit their offices.

"PJs and Pancakes is just what we all need during those cold winter months when people just want to curl up inside," says Stefanie Aronow, last year's PJs and Pancakes chair, and current co-president of the Young Adult Division. The cost per family is \$18, and includes dinner, the storyteller and arts and crafts projects.

For more information or to register, visit www.jewishannarbor.org/weareyad or contact Ellisha Caplan at 677-0100 or ellisha@jewishannarbor.org

HDS and JCC team up to provide early childhood Sunday morning programs

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

In March, the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor and Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County Early Childhood Center will start a series of Sunday morning programs called Sunday Fun, designed to introduce families with young children to some of the rich early childhood resources in the Jewish community. The first event will occur on Sunday, March 4 from 10–11 a.m. at the JCC. According to JCC Early Childhood Director Noreen DeYoung, "We believe that we have a mission to reach out to all Jewish families in our community." These programs will occur monthly for an entire year and are funded by a generous grant from the Benard L. Maas Foundation.

On one Sunday morning a month, from 10–11 a.m., children ages two and up and their parents will be able to come to hear great storytellers, singers, and more at the JCC. On March 4, master storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor of the Ann Arbor District Library will be with the featured guest for Purim. On April 22, percussionist and Hebrew teacher Aron Kaufman, of the Hebrew Day School, will use drumming and Hebrew to teach about Israel. Dina Shtull-Leber, Head of School at HDS says, "We are so grateful to the Benard L. Maas Foundation for recognizing the need to reach Jewish families who may not be connected to a particular Jewish institution, and for making this program possible."

For more information, call Peretz Hirshbein at 971-0990.

JCC Camp registration, reunion event at Colonial Lanes

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Camp Raanana day camp will hold a registration and reunion event at Colonial Lanes Bowling Center on Sunday, March 11 from noon–2 p.m. This is the final opportunity to register for camp before the early bird discount ends. It is also a chance to find out what's new at camp for this summer, meet new and returning staff members, bowl a game and enjoy a slice of pizza. There is no charge for this event, however RSVP is required. For more information or a registration form, or to sign up for the March 11 event at Colonial Lanes, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org

JCC Auction Kids' Night Out on March 17

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will hold a Kids' Night Out event at Temple Beth Emeth on Saturday, March 17 from 5:30–9:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend the JCC's 2007 Auction at the JCC and drop their children off at Temple Beth Emeth for an evening of fun and games. Activities will include arts and crafts, games, and a movie, along with a pizza dinner, veggies and a ice cream sundae bar. The cost of the evening is \$20 for JCC members (\$18 for additional siblings), and \$24 for non-members (\$22 for additional siblings). Space is limited so register early. For more information or to register, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.




Sunday, March 25th, 10:00 a.m.

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Caroline Helton, *soprano*
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Caroline Helton, soprano, Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Michigan, is a frequent performer in Ann Arbor, as soloist with the Michigan Chamber Players, the Brave New Works Ensemble, the Michigan Opera Works, the University of Michigan Opera Theater, and many other groups. Described by critics as a "masterful" performer, with a "clear, bell-like soprano," she is active as a teacher, clinician and adjudicator.

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YOUTH

Open Enrollment for the JCC Early Childhood Center

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community of Washtenaw County Early Childhood Center will be accepting applications for child care and pre-school programs for the 2007–2008 school year beginning Monday, March 5 for children and siblings currently enrolled in the program. Applications for member families of JCC affiliate organizations (TBE, BIC, HDS, JCS, etc.) will begin Monday, March 12, and enrollment for the general public will begin Monday, March 19.

Childcare programs are offered to children ages two months to five years old in a state licensed and NAEYC accredited center. The ECC play-based center offers a developmentally appropriate curriculum to best meet the needs of each age group and the highly educated, warm and nurturing staff help children to excel in all aspects of their lives. All children three years and older participate in a pre-school program designed to prepare children for kindergarten.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children can register for full or part time. A half-day pre-school program is offered for children three to five years old. This program meets from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The ECC follows a play-based, developmentally appropriate curriculum that is tailored to meet part-time needs.

All of the ECC programs integrate a Jewish curriculum with a developmentally appropriate program. Children in pre-school classes also participate in "An Ethical Start," a curriculum designed to teach ethics to young children using a central Jewish text, Pirke Avot.

For more information about any of the ECC programs or for an application, call Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990.



JCC early childhood educators attend staff training

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

This winter, the entire staff of the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County Early Childhood Center spent two days in the woods attending a training retreat. On Sunday, January 28, the staff made their way to the High/Scope Conference Center, located on beautiful, wooded, rolling terrain in Clinton, Michigan. With the generous assistance of the Benard L. Maas Foundation, the entire staff was able to stay and train together in one of the lodges at this scenic facility.

Training in new standards

On the first day of the retreat, the ECC's Infant/Toddler teachers were trained in the new state standards for safe sleep for infants during a session called "Beyond Back to Sleep." Recent research has led policymakers to implement stringent new regulations to reduce the risk of infant mortality due to respiratory failure. The teachers of children ages two and up attended a science workshop specifically aimed at teaching how to integrating science into all parts of a developmentally appropriate program. After this workshop, the teachers divided into multi-classroom teams to develop curriculum materials to support this science integration.

On the second day, trainers from the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation, an internationally known research organization, joined the ECC staff to introduce them to the High/Scope approach to Early Childhood Education. The researchers of High/Scope ask "How do children learn, and what is the best way to facilitate that learning?" High/Scope is responsible for the research that found that for every dollar a society spends on early education, it will recoup seven in benefits.

Focus on active learning

The High/Scope training focused on Active Learning, the idea that people learn best when presented with a variety of open-ended materials, the ability to make choices about how to use them and the opportunity to describe how they used these materials. Active Learning is equally important for all of our children, from the ECC's youngest babies to its oldest preschoolers.

Between training sessions, the teachers enjoyed meals together, played games and sang together, helping to build a more cohesive and collegial teaching staff in order to best serve the children.

School's Out/JCC's In Days on March 12

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will offer a School's Out Day for Ann Arbor Public School students on Monday, March 12 with a trip to COSI Science Center in Toledo. COSI features hundreds of hands-on exhibits that allow visitors to discover the many wonders of our world. Activities include creating your own roller coaster, riding a high wire cycle, composing music, exploring the giant tree house, using the power of the sun, and climbing a rock wall.

On Friday, March 16 a trip to the Howell Nature center is planned for Hebrew Day School students. This hands-on nature center has created natural habitats for a wide variety of animals native to Michigan. A guided tour of the animals and their habitats and a variety of interactive games will teach participants about Michigan's diverse ecosystem.

The cost for either School's Out program is \$30 (8 a.m. –3:30 p.m.) and an additional \$9 for extended care from 3:30–6 p.m. Space is limited so sign up early. To register or for additional information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Local bicyclists headed to Israel

WJN staff writers

It's five degrees below zero outside in Ann Arbor—not very good bicycling weather. But every night four student members of the University of Michigan Hillel and one community member of the Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan saddle up on their indoor training bicycles to prepare for the trip of a lifetime, IsraelRide 2007.

On May 1, the five Ann Arborites—Josh Weinstein, Jon Millman, Jamie Messenger, Jason Pomerantz and Larry Baitch—will join 168 other individuals from throughout the United States, Australia and Israel on a 350-mile bicycle ride from Jerusalem to Eilat. The trip is a fundraising and awareness-raising effort for the Jewish National Fund (JNF) and two other important Israeli organizations— the Arava Environmental Institute and Hazon.

Why will these intrepid cyclists travel 70 miles a day through the heat of the Negev? “Because,” as IsraelRide cyclist Dr. Larry Baitch states, “in Israel, issues of the environment are not esoteric—they are a matter of survival in a small, fast growing country. As Israel continues to endure terrorism, armed



border conflict and internal social pressures, it is urgent that we continue to support and sustain Israel in every facet of life.”

Although the goal of “making the desert bloom” has been one of the prime directives of the Israeli Interior Ministry and the JNF. Last year Israel was the only country in the world

to have a net gain in the number of trees.

The negative ramifications of Israel's growth are less well-known. Internal population growth and immigration from other nations have stressed the environment. Housing and commercial development, high technology manufacturing and a sharp in-

crease in the use of automobiles and other consumer goods create acute environmental pressures. Solid and industrial waste, plastic and paper consumer waste, air and water pollution threaten quality of life in Israel and have called for creative solutions. Israel leads the world in water desalinization, solar power and has made strides in recycling and other environmental technologies.

Growth of the Israeli population is working its way toward the Negev. It is estimated that about 250,000 of Israel's population will locate to the Negev in the next decade. Israel intends to implement this population shift through intelligent planning and acute attention to environmental issues. But the JNF and Israeli environmental organizations such as the Arava Institute and Hazon will play a key role by maintaining vigilance over the effects of development on the fragile Negev environment.

The IsraelRide cyclists have each committed to raising \$3,600 for the JNF, Hazon and the Arava Institute. They welcome donations which can be made online at www.israelride.org. ■

Hillel expanding its horizons for Israeli college students

By Dina Kraft

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Before the new Hillel office at Tel Aviv University was ceremoniously unveiled, a student in a group talking with Adam Bronfman told the philanthropist that the world's largest Jewish campus organization “has a lot of work to do” at his school.

With its new on-campus digs there, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life is better equipped to get the job done.

Organizers are hoping the location dedicated last month—spacious with hardwood floors, plush couches and several classrooms, as opposed to the tiny, cramped off-campus office Hillel had occupied—will reflect the movement's growing success in Israel.

“It's an honor to be part of this journey being created in Israel,” Bronfman, who is helping the Hillel movement grow in Israel, said as he hung the mezuzah.

The concept of Hillel in Israel might at first seem like an oxymoron.

Around the world, the organization works to bring a sense of identity and involvement to young Jews—on the surface not an issue for Jewish Israeli students. But those students who have been flocking to its events in Israel in recent years in greater numbers say its pluralistic brand of Diaspora-style Judaism is a revelation.

“Zionism is not enough,” said Asher Grinner, 29, a graduate student at Tel Aviv University. “Secular Israelis are giving up on their Jewish identity, aside from doing their army service and speaking Hebrew.”

“There are lots of negative connotations to the idea of Judaism here, but without a Jewish identity there is no real reason to be here,” he said.

In Israel, feeling connected to the country as a Jew is not the problem. But there is a sense of isolation from the religion and culture of Judaism itself among the secular majority, Hillel activists say.

Avishag Ashkenazi, 23, another Tel Aviv University student, said Hillel helped show her the many ways of being Jewish.

“People see Judaism as something strict and old that has nothing to do with their lives,” she said. “Hillel and the pluralistic approach says to them, ‘Judaism is what you

There is a sense of isolation from the religion and culture of Judaism itself among the secular majority, Hillel activists say.

make of it, it's in your hands.’”

For many Israeli students who equate Judaism with Orthodoxy, the idea is revolutionary, said Esther Abramowitz, director of student life in Israel for Hillel.

“In Israel we tell people that you can own your own Jewish story,” she said.

Hillel opened its first center in Israel in 1951 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In recent years it has spread to Tel Aviv University and other campuses. Hillel has a center that serves both Haifa University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, as well as the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya and at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. There are plans to open centers for colleges in northern Israel.

This month, Hillel is bringing a taste of tikkun olam-style community activism that has worked so well for its students abroad to about 300 Israeli students, who are spending their February break in the North in places hard hit by last summer's war with Hezbollah: Kiryat Shemona, Haifa and Ma'alot.

The project was sponsored by The Samuel Bronfman Foundation and led by Adam Bronfman, the foundation's managing director.

The program has students volunteering to clean up and paint bomb shelters in need of repair and meeting with local residents. It includes follow-up funds for community projects students decide to initiate upon their return.

Before the new Hillel office's dedication, Bronfman and his wife, Cindy, talked with students about being involved with Jewish culture on campus.

“We have realized that having a Jewish Israeli identity for Israelis is different from having an Israeli identity,” he told the group of about 30 students.

The students told Bronfman and Hillel board members of their experiences. One spoke about spending time as an Israeli emissary in Canada, when he realized how much he could learn from North American Judaism. Another spoke about his friends, secular like himself, who viewed Judaism negatively, as the domain of the fervently Orthodox, or *haredim*, full of restrictions and rules and not a welcoming world where they might one day find their place.

“Israeli secular society is losing its Jewish identity more day by day,” said Yoav, the Tel Aviv University student who talked about Hillel having much to do on his camp and asked that his last name not be used. “Young people in Tel Aviv don't see Jewish identity as something they need or long for.”

“It may have been hip to be a Zionist in the '50s or '60s, but these days we have our own country and many of my friends ask if they will even stay here,” he said. Later, he added: “I fear many people are losing their sense of connection to this place.”

Students also spoke of the stigma that still surrounds Hillel on Israeli campuses.

Some students, they said, think it is a religious organization aimed at making the students observant even though it is a non-denominational group that advocates no religious agenda.

Nevertheless, Rabbi Yossie Goldman, director of Hillel Israel, said he was enjoying seeing a renaissance of Jewish student life in Israel.

Proof of that was increased involvement in Hillel-related projects that explore Jewish identity and community social action.

“We tell our students, ‘Interact with your Jewish identity—it's your heritage and Judaism belongs to every Jew,’” he said.

Among the projects done by Hillel at Tel Aviv University, for example, was volunteering at a shelter for battered women, working with children awaiting heart surgery, teaching classes on Jewish texts and justice in a disadvantaged neighborhood, and launching human rights initiatives on campus.

Doron Rubin, the director of Hillel at Tel Aviv University, has seen the focus of the organization's work shift in the past four years from overseas to local students.

“Our challenge is to reach those students who hear the word Judaism and move to the other side of the street,” he said.

Rubin spoke about the phenomenon of Diaspora Jews using Israel identification as a means to bolster Jewish identity in their own communities.

“Just as Israel is a resource for overseas Judaism, Diaspora Judaism is now a resource for building Jewish identity for many Israelis,” he said. ■

The best gift you can give Israel is yourself

Carol Hoffer, special to the WJN

For 12 days in December, 2006, Ann Arbor resident Carol Hoffer volunteered at Naora army base in Israel. This is her account of the experience.

Afula Israel, Naora Army Base

On December 17, 2006, I was welcomed along with eight other new American volunteers to the Sar-El Volunteers for Israel program. We received army uniforms, jackets and volunteer badges for our shirts. We were shown our housing: army barracks with steel bunk beds, army blankets and an army sleeping bag. Because of the cold weather, each room included a space heater. Sheets and pillows were provided by the volunteers. Men were housed in one barrack, women in another. Married couples were not together. The women placed blankets across the windows for a shade and warmth. Together we figured out how to make the room work.

The Naora army base is located in the east side of Israel Valley, 20 miles from the Lebanese border. There are many Israeli Arab villages in the area, and we could hear their calls for prayer. Naora was Ariel Sharon's base during the Yom Kippur War, and it is the supply base for armor for two infantry and artillery units that serve 3,000 reservists. Currently 300 soldiers are on base. Most are home-based soldiers returning to the base each day. This unit provided supplies for the Lebanon War of July 12–August 14, 2006, which ended with a cease-fire.



Daily routine

Our daily program was to rise at 6:30 a.m. and eat breakfast with soldiers and former Soviet Union senior citizens who work in the laundry. Breakfast included Israeli salad, yogurt, flat cheese, feta-like cheese, chocolate or vanilla pudding, chocolate drink, sweet hot tea and sliced white bread. At 8:15 a.m. we reported for flag raising. Our *madricha* (guide) told us the news of the day, an experience like having a high school student listen to the radio and give you the highlights. We had no radio, TV or computer—our cell phones were our link to the world outside the army base. After flag raising and the daily news summary, we started our work assignments. We broke for lunch at noon, and the workday ended at 5 p.m. Dinner was at 6:30 p.m., with the menu exactly the same as breakfast. From 8–9 p.m. every evening we had a group lesson.

Stocking the shelves

The job assigned to our group was to restock and organize the supplies. Along with everyone's hopes for eventual peace, it's im-

portant to be prepared in case these supplies will be needed again. Work assignments for the first week involved a 45-minute bus ride to another camouflaged warehouse supply base. Here we stocked shelves with ration kits, washed jerry cans, counted uniforms, assembled uniform packets and folded tarps. We put office equipment on supply shelves, counted binders and finally the most important tasks of all, packaged army sniper jackets and armor carrier jackets in plastic. Each jacket showed much wear and tear and was very heavy, with a ceramic plate inside. When we tried on a jacket, we could not imagine a young soldier, wearing it in summer heat and running through a city.



We encased the jacket in plastic, punched holes with a box cutter, sat on the packet to expel the air, wrapped five jackets together and put them back on the shelf. We stopped counting how many jackets we did. A volunteer from Beverly Hills, named Honey, put notes of good wishes in some of the jackets.

Ours was a peaceful time for volunteering. None of us forgot the 1,000 rockets that fell in the area including Haifa in the past summer. During this time Israelis lived in bomb shelters, and now there are far too many disabled soldiers recovering painfully at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. In July, 2006, 750 Sar-El volunteers came from all over the world to assist the troops. Those volunteers worked 12–15 hours a day, packed medical kits that immediately were sent out to the field. Having volunteers come to Israel always makes a great contribution to morale.

Guides share their perspective

Our *madrichot* (guides) were 19-year-old female soldiers specially selected for this assignment. They each speak two languages other than Hebrew and have the job of keeping the volunteers active on the assignment, arranging for trips off base, and solving any issues that arise. Every evening they prepared a lesson for us to learn more about the army, military life and the issues soldiers face.

We reviewed some of the basics about the Israeli army: women serve for two years, men for three years, and most begin service at age 19. Soldiers on our base are paid \$85 per month while in the service. Many had to work and save prior to joining the Army. The year after they serve in the Army, many work and save up for an extensive trip. Thailand,

South America and India are current hot spots for Israeli soldiers to visit before they settle down to study or work. Reserve duty continues for men one month a year, until they are age 50.

Personal connections

During meal times we interacted with soldiers—we met two Ethiopian soldiers with great smiles. One told us he has a sister who finished the Army two years ago and now is living in Los Angeles selling cell phones. Another soldier plans to study psychology; he was immediately introduced to the psychologist in our group and also to a volunteer from San Francisco who is a suicide prevention counselor. Home hospitality was offered to soldiers who planned to visit U.S. soon. This felt like an immediate family experience.

Our Sar-El group included two Frenchmen, in addition to nine Americans, and we used a humorous active pantomime to relate to the Frenchmen. One of our *madrichot* spoke French, as she had made Aliyah to Israel from France at age 16. Now at 19 she was serving in the Army. Some Sar-El volunteers return each year, like Steve of Philadelphia, who was on his sixth trip (his wife Marcia joined him for the first time this year). For Linda of New York, this was her fourth trip. Honey and Linda came as cousins from across the U.S. All of us made new friends on the trip. We had so much laughter and so much to share. We all loved Israel and saw this as an opportunity to strengthen our ties with different parts of the community.

Sar-El function and history

When assigned the job of folding maps by Major Tiran Attia, he told us more about all that Sar-El and VFI accomplish. Sar-El has the authority to use volunteers in a variety of positions. Some volunteers from the former Soviet Union who live in Israel now serve as “Ha Doda Tova,” (a good aunt), to help soldiers with special needs. They may also work with the soldiers with Down's Syndrome. Sar-El works with day soldiers who face too many family issues at home to be able to stay overnight on the base. Sar-El also takes college age participants from the birthright program who want to extend their stay in Israel. They, too, can volunteer at an army base for a few additional weeks. Sar-El volunteers can stay with IDF from two to three or more weeks as needed. Every volunteer must leave the base on Thursday and return on Sunday morning. This gives people a chance to visit friends and family, tour Israel or stay at a kibbutz or youth hostel for additional experience other than tourist.

The history of Sar-El goes back to the summer of 1992. During the Peace for Galilee Operation, General Davidi conceived of a way to help relieve the critical manpower shortage in Israel. He sent emissaries to the U.S. to enlist volunteers to help harvest crops on kibbutzim and keep the economy going while thousands of workers were away serving in the Army. More than 600 Americans responded immediately to help. To date, well over 100,000 volunteers have participated in Sar-El and VFI (Volunteers for Israel) from all 50 states and 35 countries. In 2007 the 25th Anniversary of the VFI program, they hope that the number of volunteers will double.

Educational component

Every volunteer must leave the base on Thursday and return on Sunday. Some use the Sar-El experience prior to making Aliyah. Others volunteer to work in hospitals or nursing homes, assignments with a four-week commitment.

There is a valuable educational component to the Sar-El experience. We heard a lecture on the “Status of Bedouins in the Negev” and went on a field trip to Haifa, including the Naval and Immigration Museum, the German Colony of Haifa and a Ba-Hai Temple visit. Although I have been to Haifa and Israel numerous times, I had not been to some of these sights and thus learned a lot from the experience.

When General Davidi, age 80 and leader of Sar-El, came to speak with us his topic was “Extreme Muslims.” He traced the history of the Muslim experience through the ages and gave us very disturbing portrayal of signed peace agreements. He thanked us for coming and asked, “Did you have enough work to do?” We proudly told General Davidi of washing 150 chairs for the dining room and folding maps.



After Sar-El

During my assignment, there was relative quiet in Israel. Civil war was breaking out in Gaza and Israel stayed on the sidelines. President Ford died in the USA. Teddy Kolek mayor of Jerusalem died. After my Sar-El assignment ended, I remained in Israel with my husband Gideon for a visit to Petra and friends and family. We were warned not to venture into Jordan, and the day our bus was scheduled to leave we watched European CNN show the hanging of Saddam Hussein many times over. Then, there was a three-foot snowfall in the mountains of Jordan leading to Petra that caused additional excitement on the trip because the Jordanians had plowed only one lane.

Stop for a minute and consider the reasons why you too would like to give yourself the best gift of all: volunteering for Israel. Seeing the country in a new way and experiencing contact with the Israeli Defense Force and the work they are doing for all of us in keeping Israel safe and free. ■

For further information about Sar-El and VFI including the program schedule for 2007 the 25th Anniversary year, visit the website www.vfi-usa.org or contact VFI regional office for Michigan Ed Kohl at (248) 420-3729 or Michigan@vfi-usa.org.

As Bush releases budget, groups line up to fight for vital programs

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA)—How many federal program cuts does it take to get the Jewish community ready to fight tax cuts?

President Bush is about to find out.

Within hours of the release of the president's proposed budget for 2008, a wall-to-wall coalition of Jewish groups called on members of Congress to fight budget cuts that could adversely affect programs for the poor and elderly.

More pointedly, the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella body for Jewish federations, was circulating an internal memo that drew a direct line between the program cuts and Bush's proposals to make tax cuts permanent.

"A significant portion of increased spending would be dedicated to tax cuts that expire in 2010," it said. "Under this approach, a number of human service programs are slashed or even eliminated."

It was an extraordinary analysis for an organization that in the past has focused on the program trees and ignored the ideological forest. UJC traditionally has instructed its lobbyists and activists to avoid talk of tax cuts, which sharply divide Republicans and Democrats, and keep their arguments limited to specific programs that may have bipartisan appeal.

The anonymous memo writer acknowl-

edged that tectonic policy shift. Noting the "mammoth" \$3 trillion budget proposal, the writer said, "While the details have some relevance, it's direction and approach are more important."

Some Jewish officials predicted an evolution among community leaders who in the past have warned against opposing tax cuts.

"The community is more and more willing to look at the complete picture," said Hadar Susskind, Washington director for the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella body for Jewish community relations councils, which in the past has advocated against tax cuts.

JCPA, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Reform movement have led the opposition to tax cuts. UJC, which boasts a slate of Republican donors, until now has resisted opposition.

"Some elements that argued against tax cuts are coming to understand" that taxes and revenue "are intimately connected, and at some point you lose credibility if you're not willing to talk about the revenue side," Susskind said. The spending side of the budget already was coming under fire.

"We urge you to fight cuts that would be harmful to the vulnerable populations we advocate on behalf of," said the UJC let-

ter, sent to every member of Congress. It went on to say that programs such as the Social Services Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant, Food Stamps, State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, and the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program "are critical to the elderly, refugees, children and persons with disabilities. Please keep these populations in mind as Congress develops its budget resolution." The letter was signed by 16 national Jewish groups, including UJC, JCPA and the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox religious streams, as well as 62 local groups.

In language that echoed the letter from the Jewish groups, Democrats, now the majority in both houses, pledged to battle the cuts.

"This budget represents more of the same wrong priorities: placing a higher priority on huge tax cuts for multimillionaires than on urgent national needs," U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), speaker of the House of Representatives, said in a statement. "It cuts Medicare and Medicaid by \$300 billion while failing to reinvest those funds to help cover any of the 47 million uninsured Americans, and also not providing SCHIP sufficient funds to reduce the number of uninsured children."

Pelosi suggested that Democrats would

closely scrutinize to what degree the Iraq war was siphoning off tax dollars. "Although our troops will get the resources necessary to meet their needs, we cannot afford to mortgage our children's future to the president's misguided policies in Iraq," she said.

The White House said the cuts were inevitable—and modest—considering the president's hopes of wiping out the \$250 billion federal deficit by 2013.

Rob Portman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said the growth of programs such as Medicare for the elderly, Medicaid for the poor and Social Security was "unsustainable."

"These looming challenges are the biggest budget problem we face," Portman said Monday in presenting the budget. "We take a good first step by proposing sensible reforms, primarily in Medicare, that are less than a 1 percent deduction in the annual rate of growth."

Among the more worrisome proposals, said William Daroff, UJC's Washington director, is one that would starve caregivers for the elderly of the federal funds that allow them to offer equal services to the poor and the well-off. "These proposals would be damaging to providers by compelling them

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Non-Jewish Germans bring back a once-familiar, rich Jewish world

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA)—Lars Menk, a non-Jew, calls himself “meshuga.” Instead of taking a lucrative job in advertising, the Berliner resident became a letter carrier so he’d have more time to pursue his passion of researching German Jewish names. Menk’s 800-page volume with the etymology and geographical origins of 13,000 such names, collected on adventures across Germany, was published recently.

“I loved it,” Menk said of his cross-country tour. “I took pictures, I collected documents.”

Menk, 45, was one of five people to receive this year’s Obermayer German Jewish History Awards in a ceremony at the Berlin Parliament House. The event was among several in Germany marking Holocaust Remembrance Day on Jan. 27.

The Obermayer Award highlights the richness of prewar Jewish life. It was created seven years ago by American Jewish businessman Arthur Obermayer, who was inspired by his contacts with historians in his family’s ancestral town of Creglingen in southwestern Germany. Obermayer later created a Jewish museum in the town. His competition has recognized the work of some 40 Germans, all non-Jews. The awards include small financial stipends aimed at furthering their work. Recipients have spent years building living memorials to German Jewish heritage, and many have established strong ties with survivors, their children and grandchildren.

“Thanks to their efforts, many Germans know more about the contours of a once familiar world,” Deidre Berger, director of the American Jewish Committee’s office here, said in her keynote talk at the event. “As stated in the

Talmud, he who has saved a soul has saved the world. In this spirit, each of the honorees has touched the lives of many far beyond the borders of their towns and municipalities.” xWalter Momper, president of the Parliament, said the recipients’ works form an important bulwark against anti-Semitism. “Without expecting any compensation, these people have of their own will and in their free time brought the Jewish heritage back to life,” he said. Obermayer said their efforts showed “how a terrible period in a country’s history can continue to impact its inhabitants” half a century later.

The awards are co-sponsored by the German Jewish Community History Council, the Office of the President of the Berlin Parliament, and the German Jewish Special Interest Group of JewishGen, an international Jewish genealogy organization on the Internet.

Menk began his labor of love when, delving into his ancestry, he discovered a Jewish great-grandmother. He began studying the genealogy not only of his family, but of other Jews.

“I was fascinated,” he said.

Though their projects varied, the Obermayer honorees shared the qualities of modesty and volunteer spirit.

“I have a lot of helpers,” said Ernst Schaell, 79, who for 20 years has been painstakingly restoring tombstones in the Jewish cemetery in Laupheim. Most of the Jews in that southwestern town were deported and never returned.

Schaell, who had a stroke a few years ago, says he is “a bit handicapped” and relies on the help of other volunteers, the youngest of whom is 35.

“You have to restore all sides of a stone,”

Schaell explained, “and they are heavy.”

Former schoolteacher Johannes Bruno, who immigrated to Germany 50 years ago from Italy and has lived 40 years in Speyer, has devoted his retirement to researching the rich Jewish history of the Rhine River town, writing three books and numerous articles. Speyer once was renowned for its Jewish learning and culture. He’s neither German by birth nor Jewish, so Bruno asks the inevitable question himself: “Why? Smiling, he says the answer is simple.

“I discovered that there was too little information available,” Bruno said, and he offered to fill in the gaps.

Florence Covinsky of Scottsdale, Ariz., nominated Bruno for the award. They met after Covinsky visited Speyer in 2000 with her mother, Hannah Hirsch, then 90. Covinsky and Hirsch had searched the Jewish cemetery in vain for family tombstones.

“I always heard the saying that when you go to a cemetery, someone in heaven smiles,” Covinsky said.

After returning to the United States, Covinsky’s mother wrote to the town of Speyer and asked for help.

“Johannes wrote back and gave her the inscription” for the tombstone, Covinsky said. “And I kept on writing to him. He started telling me more about what he was doing”—guided tours, articles, books, tours of the mikvah, lectures—“and I realized, ‘Wow.’”

Like Bruno, Wilfried Weinke was bothered by the lack of information about Jewish life in his home city of Hamburg. “I am a muckracker of forgotten history,” said Weinke, a historian who has created exhibits that have been dis-

played at venues such as the Jewish Museum of Frankfurt.

Inga Franken of Berlin was honored for her reconciliation work and her efforts to unearth local history. Several years ago Franken, a co-founder of the One-by-One contact group for children of survivors and perpetrators, saw an elderly man staring at the building in the former East Berlin where One-by-One regularly meets.

“He told us it had been a Jewish children’s home,” she recalled. Amazed, Franken sought and found survivors in Israel who had lived in the home. “I was able to rescue their life stories,” she said.

Carole Vogel of Lenox, Mass.—whose father, Max Garbuny, was born in Berlin and managed to escape Nazi Germany—calls Franken’s work “phenomenal.” Vogel and Franken visit schools in Germany and the United States, where they speak with students about “making choices.”

“Our fathers were born the same day,” Vogel said. “Her father was a Nazi and mine paid the price. We both grew up in the shadows, and there were no winners for either side.”

On the day of the award ceremony, Lucille Eichengreen, who nominated Weinke, asked Menk if he’d ever heard of her family name. xx“Of course,” he said immediately, “it’s a very important Jewish name in Westphalia.”

Menk knows these names represent a great tragedy. Many are gone forever—they represent all that is left of murdered families. One name came to mind: Sochaczewer, from Posen. “Only three people survived, and all three are very old men without any male descendants,” he said. “So the name will vanish.” ■

When in Rome, do like the Jews: Kosher restaurants flourish in Rome

By Paul Bompard

ROME (JTA)—Just 50 yards from the Trevi Fountain, in the heart of old Rome, is a new kosher fast food spot and pizzeria.

Da Michele is the newest of a flowering of restaurants, fast-food outlets, groceries, butchers and catering services that now offer tourists and Romans many aspects of kosher cuisine—not just the Roman tradition—and has forced the Jewish community to radically reorganize and expand its kashrut control service.

Shops selling kosher products say the increased demand is coming mainly from Jews. But restaurateurs say at least half their customers are non-Jews who want to sample classic Roman Jewish cooking, which many consider to be the most sophisticated of traditional Roman cuisines.

The boom in kosher restaurants has been noted in many newspapers, as well as food and general-interest magazines. An element of “ethnic trendiness” appears to be leading non-Jews to the kosher eateries, too.

In a population of nearly 4 million, Rome has only 14,000 “official” Jews, and perhaps as many who consider themselves Jewish but aren’t registered with the community. Observance of religious and kashrut laws traditionally has been very low.

Twenty years ago, the Eternal City had only one kosher restaurant, two butchers, a couple of groceries and a pastry shop. Today there are five full restaurants, eight fast-food places of various kinds, 12 butchers, nine groceries, two bakeries, at least two catering services and one

pastry shop that are kosher.

Most of the options aren’t in Rome’s old Jewish ghetto but are scattered in surrounding residential neighborhoods. The menus are no longer limited to the Roman tradition of

In a population of nearly 4 million, Rome has only 14,000 “official” Jews, and perhaps as many who consider themselves Jewish but aren’t registered with the community.

kosher cuisine. Due in part to the influx of thousands of Libyan Jews in the 1960s and ’70s, they now include many Middle Eastern dishes or new fusion recipes.

“Years ago most Roman Jews ate what other Romans ate, unconcerned with kashrut,” said Joseph Arbib, head of the community kashrut office and a Libyan emigre.

Three factors explain the boom, he said: “First, a general heightening of interest in Jewish identity and traditions, a phenomenon which we see all over the world and not just in Rome. Second, Libyan Jews were always much more observant than the Romans, and their arrival in Rome created a new demand for kosher food. Thirdly, the Jewish schools teach the principles of kashrut to children, who then go

home and influence their parents.”

Consequently the community has had to expand the kashrut office. The number of full-time kashrut inspectors has grown from two to five, with each covering a section of the city. Others are called in for special events like catered banquets, Arbib said.

Some of the kosher restaurateurs grumble—off the record—that community authorities charge too much for overseeing kashrut and issuing a kosher certificate while doing too little to ensure supplies of top-quality kosher products.

Arbib says some of the complaints are exaggerated.

“The surveillance that our office provides is very strict, and the *mashgiach* [kosher supervisor] goes to the restaurant or fast-food outlet every day,” he said. “The money does not go into the community account, but is used by our office to only partly offset the cost of paying the *mashgichim*.”

Perhaps the most fashionable of Rome’s kosher restaurants is La Taverna Del Ghetto, on the main street of the ghetto where until 1870, the city’s Jews were forced to live and locked in at night. The Taverna, a meat restaurant focusing on traditional Roman Jewish cuisine, was opened in 1999 by an Israeli restaurateur named Rafael and his Roman wife, Miriam.

A couple of cobblestoned streets away is Yotvatah, a dairy restaurant opened in 2002 by Marco Sed, whose family has been in Rome for 2,000 years. Yotvatah specializes in Roman

Jewish dishes and also sells kosher cheeses, including mozzarella.

Moving out of the ghetto to the residential neighborhood around Piazza Bologna are two restaurants run by the same family. Amram Dabush, a Libyan Jew with Italian ancestors, left Tripoli in 1967 and moved to Israel. Around 1990 he came to Rome with his wife and four sons, then in their late teens and early 20s.

In 1991 they opened Medio Oriente, which as its name suggests offers Middle Eastern food like shwarma, hummus, couscous, falafel and kebabs. In 2002 the family opened a second restaurant, Gan Eden, which is more Roman-oriented but also provides a number of Eastern delicacies, as well as a more stylish decor.

Rome’s fifth kosher restaurant is the Yesh steakhouse, in another residential area near Viale Marconi, south of the city center. The furnishings and decor are modern; the menu is rooted in the Roman tradition.

Among the many fast-food places, Da Michele is a standout. Owner Michele Sonnino, of ancient Roman-Jewish stock, had opened a fast-food place and pizzeria in 1994 in the ghetto. Ten years later he sold it and opened the current spot by Trevi Fountain.

Along with the pizza Sonnino and his wife, Cinzia, boast an excellent Sicilian version of felafel, omelets, meatballs alla Romana and stuffed pita. They also make what may be the finest suppli, or fried rice balls, anywhere in Rome—kosher or non-kosher. ■

Caribbean congregations ebb and flow

By Brian Harris

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (JTA)—Asked how Jews in Aruba keep their 40-family community alive, Martha Liechtenstein says jokingly, “We have learned to breathe underwater.”

Then she turns serious. “Passion, perspective, consistency in purpose and, above all, educating the youth,” she says.

Scattered around the Caribbean basin, small Jewish communities like the one in Aruba persevere in maintaining Jewish life, despite problems in some places just to form a minyan.

“It’s very hard in a country overwhelmingly Christian with very few native Jews,” acknowledges Janeen Issacs, one of just 20 members of the Nassau Jewish community, and the only one who lives in the Bahamas capital.

“We all live in secular Christian countries, and we all face the same challenge,” added Ainsley Henriques of Jamaica.

Driven by their size and out-of-the-way location, 12 non-Orthodox communities in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico joined to form the Union of Jewish Congregations of the Caribbean and Latin America. Amid signs of encouragement and difficulty, the group recently celebrated its 10th anniversary in Costa Rica.

Delegates at the meeting accentuated the positive: Where once there was one rabbi among their communities, now there are seven, including two at the B’nei Israel congregation in Costa Rica; attendance at the annual conference tripled; and the conference drew speakers such as Rabbi Uri Regev, president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, as the international Reform movement is known; and Rabbi Shmuel Sztenhendler, director of the World Council of Masorti, or Conservative Judaism.

There are other signs of vitality as well: Six communities have full-time rabbis, all Argentine and from the Conservative movement; two communities have easy access to kosher food year-round, thanks to larger Orthodox communities in their countries; and congregational groups have traveled to Israel.

In El Salvador, a full-time rabbi serves a 125-member congregation that “is thriving, not surviving,” according to president Ricardo Freund.

The congregation was helped by an exercise in business management last year. The process, which included elaborating a mission statement and undertaking a strategic plan, has led to a diversification of activities—including some for younger members—and ordering the congregation’s finances. The congregation is now financially self-sustaining, with 80 percent of its budget going to paying for the rabbi.

On Aruba, Rabbi Marcelo Bater says he keeps the community together by visiting the 30 member families every day. Bater agrees that keeping Jewish life alive on the Dutch West Indies island is a challenge.

“I go visiting people with daily face-to-face contact to make them feel that ours is one great family,” he said. A group from the congregation visited Israel last year.

The communities in Aruba and nearby

KOSHER CUISINE

Take an exodus from heavy fare, try fruits and veggies at seder

By Linda Morel

NEW YORK (JTA)—Hard-boiled eggs, brisket, matzah balls laced with chicken fat and flourless cakes that require eight eggs. Not to forget the farfel casseroles laden with margarine and often containing harmful trans fats or the saturated fat of butter. Passover may be the quintessential spring holiday, but many of its foods are far from “lite” in calories, cholesterol and fat. This heavy fare evolved in part because most American Jews emigrated from Eastern European countries, where snow was still knee deep when Passover arrived and it made sense to beat the chill by indulging in foods that stick to the ribs. But must we continue this pattern in a country with gentler springs, central heating, and rising rates of heart disease, diabetes and obesity?

To balance the hard-boiled eggs, glistening casseroles and meaty entrees on seder tables, enlightened hosts often select side dishes brimming with fresh produce. They’re filling but light, tasty and attractive. “Health hazards come with affluence,” explains Michael van Straten in *The Healthy Jewish Cookbook: 100 Delicious Recipes from Around the World*. “As Jews acquired money they added more meat to their diet, consuming fewer vegetables, beans and grains.”

An osteopath, acupuncturist and a naturopath—a practitioner of healing without drugs—van Straten, became a pioneer in nutrition long before most people realized that rich foods aren’t healthy.

“In my early 20s I was already studying naturopathy, seen as cranky nutrition,” says van Straten, who lived in England until recently. “I loved my mother’s Jewish cooking, but soon became aware of the health risks.”

Sharing an apartment with fellow students, he began tweaking her recipes to reduce fat and add nutritious ingredients. Years later he explored recipes from across the Diaspora, culling light fare to feature in *The Healthy Jewish Cookbook*.

“The basic principles of kosher cooking are healthy, particularly those which forbid the consumption of milk and meat foods in the same meal,” van Straten says. “This simple practice immediately reduces the amount of saturated and artery-clogging fat.” His quest to healthier eating led him to Sephardi cuisine, which calls for the olive oil and produce found in sunny Mediterranean countries.

Still, Passover lures many from heart-smart foods. Jewish women—and some men—take pride in preparing their most luscious recipes for the holiday, which celebrates the Israelites’ freedom from bondage, the defining moment in Jewish history.

“High fat foods are usually high calorie foods,” says registered dietitian Lisa Ellis. “The cholesterol found in egg yolks, full-fat dairy products and meat is unhealthy, artery-clogging fat.”

Ellis, of White Plains, New York, has four children and keeps a kosher home. She often prepares seders for 15 to 20 people. “When you consume so much high-fat, high-calorie food in a short time span, your gall bladder has to work harder than it should,” she says. “Foods high in fat stay in the stomach longer than vegetables and fruit because they take longer to digest.” Ellis says this all becomes a burden on someone’s system.

Some of the ritual foods associated with Passover are full of fiber—the charoset, bitter herbs and greens.

Ellis says there are ways to cut down on the eggs and fat-laden dishes associated with this special holiday. “Sometimes you can use less fat and fewer eggs in recipes,” she says. “Experiment with recipes before Passover arrives.”

In place of margarine, Ellis suggests using trans-fat free oils such as olive, canola and safflower. Olive oil sometimes works well in baking. “You save here, you save there, it all adds up,” she says.

Another suggestion: “If you want to participate in the egg course, just eat the egg white,” Ellis says. “It’s pure protein and under 20 calories, with no fat.” If you feel deprived without tasting the yolk, she suggests cutting the egg in half and sharing it with someone else at the table.

For seder guests, who have no control over the fat that goes into the cooking, Ellis says to shrink the portion sizes.

“Portion control is the most important thing when considering high fat, high cholesterol foods,” she says. “If you eat half portions, you’ll consume half as many fatty foods.”

As seders entail several courses, no one is leaving the table hungry. The problem is, many people leave too full. “If you’re prone to indigestion, you run the chance of getting reflux,” Ellis says. “Your stomach has a lining to protect it against the acids that break down food. If that acid backs up into the esophagus, which has no protective lining, you can experience a burning sensation in your chest and throat.”

Ellis selects her seder menu carefully. “I don’t serve brisket on Passover if I’m making matzah balls because they contain chicken fat,” she says. “Instead I prepare a skinless chicken dish with dried fruit, which provides fiber.”

She recommends eating plenty of fruits and vegetables during Passover to counteract the binding effect of matzah.

Van Straten stresses the importance of whole wheat matzah. “One of the great problems of Passover is constipation, already a widely suffered Jewish illness, made worse by the lack of fiber,” he says.

When it comes to side dishes, Ellis prefers steamed vegetables. For seders she sautes broccoli or string beans in a little olive oil, sprinkling slivered almonds on top. Besides honey glazed carrots, her menu typically features a salad.

Noting that many people crave a good matzah farfel, she serves a small one, so “everyone gets to try a little.” Ellis adds fiber by preparing the dish with peaches or other fruit. She caps off the meal with pastries, but also offers fresh fruit for a lighter choice.

Afraid your family and friends will rebel against spa cuisine on Passover?

Give them the chopped liver, potato kugel, brisket and sponge cake they crave. But these brown foods are crying out for the healthy crunch of fiber. Fruits and vegetables not only add color to the table, they complement the season. Remember, a sprig of greens on the seder plate is the first sign of spring.

The recipes here, as well as the historical information and health notes, are from *The Healthy Jewish Cookbook*.

Nutty spinach with raisins

Yield: 4 servings

The combination of spinach, nuts and dried fruits is a common favorite with Jews in the Middle East and North Africa. This recipe comes from Rome, but it was almost certainly taken there by Jewish traders during the days of the Roman Empire.

2 ounces (about 1/3 cup) seedless raisins
1/4 cup pine nuts
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 clove garlic, very finely sliced
2 1/4 pounds baby spinach
Juice of 1/2 lemon

Soak raisins in freshly boiled water for 10 minutes. Dry roast the pine nuts.

Put olive oil into a large pot. Sauté the garlic very gently for 2 minutes.

Wash the spinach, even if the package says it’s already washed. Add to the garlic pot with water clinging to the leaves. Cook covered over gentle heat until the spinach is wilted—not more than 5 minutes.

Drain the raisins. Add to the spinach along with the pine nuts, stirring gently. Serve with lemon juice squeezed on top. Delicious hot or cold.

Health note: With all the nutrients in spinach—especially the beta carotene—the protein and minerals from the pine nuts and the heart-protective properties from the garlic, this recipe is exceptionally healthy.

Braised carrots

Yield: 4 servings

Carrots are widely used in all Jewish communities, from the coldest parts of Eastern Europe to the kitchens of the Mediterranean and the hot spots of the Middle East, Asia and India. Adding mint and raisins is typical of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish cooking.

3 tablespoons olive oil
8 young carrots with the bottom 1/2 inch of their leaves
About 1 cup vegetable broth, or use a low-salt bouillon cube
1 tablespoon freshly chopped mint
1/4 cup raisins
2 tablespoons finely chopped flat-leaf parsley

Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan and sauté the carrots gently, until golden all over—about 6 minutes. Add enough broth just to cover. Add the mint and raisins. Cover and simmer until the carrots are almost tender—about 15 minutes.

Uncover and bring to a brisk boil, until most of the liquid has evaporated. Sprinkle with parsley for serving.

Health note: Rich in cancer-fighting beta carotene, carrots are one of the few vegetables that are better eaten cooked than raw, as the cooking process makes the nutrients easier for your body to extract. The oil in this recipe improves absorption of beta carotene, a fat-soluble nutrient that is also good for night vision.

Continued on page 34

Stop looking at intermarriage through rose-colored glasses

By Steven M. Cohen

NEW YORK (JTA)—Not many years ago, it was taken as axiomatic that intermarriage constitutes a significant threat to Jewish continuity. For individual families, we understood that more often than not, the children of the intermarried would be raised as non-Jews. And since intermarrying Jews have fewer children, and because most of their children won't identify as Jews, intermarriage implied fewer Jews in the next generation.

The community responded admirably, albeit inadequately, to this challenge. For many good reasons, it expanded funding for day schools and trips to Israel. Synagogues and JCCs became more welcoming and accepting of intermarried families. It supported a variety of "Jewish outreach" efforts aimed at bringing families closer to Jews and Judaism by teaching Jewish practices and values. In contrast, "interfaith outreach" seeks to make all mixed-married couples feel more accepted, even when they choose to celebrate Christian and Jewish holidays in the same household.

Social scientists, myself included, have charted—and implicitly celebrated—the growing and exhilarating diversity of Jewish identities, communities and innovation. Since the early days of American Jewish sociology and its founder, Marshall Sklare, of blessed memory, we have documented the rises, falls and rises of Jewish identity over the life course. Jewish identities today are more varied, fluid and mobile than ever.

But with this said, we need to recognize that as a group, intermarried Jews are far less active in Jewish life—however one measures it—than inmarried Jews. The large gaps cover number of Jewish friends, raising one's kids as Jews, belonging to synagogues and JCCs, living with Jewish neighbors, attending worship services, celebrating Jewish holidays, giving one's children a Jewish education, caring about Israel, giving to Jewish causes and their own assessment of the importance of being Jewish.

When we ask intermarried Jews, "how important is being Jewish to you?" as a group they score far lower than inmarried Jews.

Some news from the field has been encouraging. But for every report of an apparent success, we have an overall pattern of, let's call it "less than success." Sure the Baltimore Jewish population study reports that 62 percent of children in intermarried homes are being raised as Jews, but the rate in San Diego is 21 percent and apparently less than 40 percent nationwide. Just 15 percent to 20 percent of intermarried couples are synagogue members, as compared with 60 percent of inmarried couples.

While Jewish religious engagement is steady or rising, Jewish connections and "collective identity" trends are clearly declining. While the inmarried are leading more intensive Jewish lives, the intermarried as a group remain much less engaged.

Some outreach advocates say intermarriage is a fact, feeding the fatalistic view that there's nothing that can be done to influence the rate. Yet there's much that is being done to affect the rate.

Some sociologists claim we can find evidence of high rates of Jewish commitment

among the intermarried as a group, if only we measured properly. But on no measures do the intermarried outscore the inmarried.

Some speculate that because Jewish identities are fluid, or because the intermarried have become so numerous, the intermarried as a group may well move toward significant Jewish engagement. Yet no study shows the gap narrowing. Jewish identities are changing—but the basic import of intermarriage is not. San Francisco, for example, reports that from 1986 to 2004 observance patterns by the inmarried climbed, while those for the intermarried fell, further widening the gap between inmarried and intermarried.

The Steinhardt Foundation/Jewish Life Network published my study, "A Tale of Two Jewries: The Inconvenient Truth for American Jews," to refute the wishful thinking and false optimism that has grown up around the intermarriage question. (See www.jewishlife.org/pdf/steven_cohen_paper.pdf.)

For anybody who's been reading and writing the scientific analyses over the last few years, there's nothing new here. It simply reminds us that intermarriage continues to grow in number; that most intermarried couples raise non-Jewish children; and that the children of the intermarried overwhelmingly marry non-Jews.

However, Jewish education—e.g., day schools, youth groups, Jewish camps, Israel trips—lowers intermarriage. So does Jewish association, such as experienced by living in areas with Jewish neighbors, attending universities with large Jewish student bodies, and participating in Jewish cultural events, spiritual communities and social justice activities.

I also highlight the growing conviction that we have to do better at promoting conversion, making conversion the ultimate objective of outreach efforts.

"A Tale of Two Jewries," is an advocacy piece. It was not written for the intermarried, nor as a guide for how to engage with the intermarried. It is meant to communicate. It is meant for the Jewish policymaking community—the philanthropists, those who advise them, the federations and other agencies that are making critical funding decisions.

It says intermarriage poses a grave threat to the numbers of communally identifying Jews. But it also says that you can make a difference.

You can invest in Jewish education. You can support growing efforts by Jewish young people in social justice, culture and spiritual communities. You can launch experiments to convert more non-Jews to Judaism, such as by paying for community rabbis dedicated to helping prospective converts embark upon Jewish journeys. You can do all this and more.

Or you can watch the Jewish population start to contract as my generation of baby boomers begins leaving this world for the next, to be replaced—or not—by a numerically much smaller cohort of Jewish descendants. The choice is yours. ■

Steven M. Cohen is a professor of Jewish social policy at the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

Don't write off the intermarried: A case for community outreach

By Edmund Case and Micah Sachs

NEWTON, Mass. (JTA)—Charles Dickens' classic "A Tale of Two Cities" begins with the famous opening line: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Sociologist Steven Cohen's new study on intermarriage has a similar title, but a different spirit.

Ignoring positive recent evidence from Boston and elsewhere that more intermarried families are raising their children as Jews, Cohen's "A Tale of Two Jewries" sees only the worst of times when it comes to intermarriage.

It is uninformative to compare the Jewish behaviors and attitudes of inmarried couples with all intermarried couples, as Cohen does. Sadly, one-third of intermarried couples are raising their children in another religion. It necessarily follows that intermarried couples, taken as an undifferentiated whole, are less Jewishly engaged than their inmarried counterparts.

Cohen sets up a straw identity chasm between inmarried and all intermarried families, and then knocks down intermarriage as "the greatest single threat to Jewish continuity"—the sound-bite headline for which his paper will be remembered.

What is productive is to compare the Jewish behaviors and attitudes of inmarried couples with those of intermarried couples who are raising their children as Jews. When sociologists Benjamin Phillips and Fern Chertok made that comparison in a 2004 paper titled "Jewish Identity Among the Adult Children of Intermarriage: Event Horizon or Navigable Horizon?" they found greatly reduced gaps.

A child's Jewish identity is determined not simply by the fact that the parents are intermarried but largely by the environment the family creates, and in particular by their decision to raise the children as Jews. Phillips and Chertok conclude that "Tarring all intermarriages with the same brush" makes the loss of Jewish identity "a self-fulfilling prophecy."

The logical conclusion for policymakers to draw from an analysis that focuses on "two Jewries" is to write off the intermarried and support only increasing the Jewish engagement of the inmarried. In contrast, the logical conclusion to draw from an analysis showing that intermarried families raising their children as Jews are closer to inmarried families in their Jewish engagement is to support encouraging more interfaith families to raise their children as Jews.

Cohen concludes in "A Tale of Two Jewries" that Jewish education experiences "work." In that respect he undoubtedly is correct, but measuring their success by the degree to which they reduce intermarriage is a serious mistake. Cohen acknowledges that Jewish education experiences "exert salutary effects even in the event of intermarriage. ... [They serve] to further chances of Jewish continuity [including] by increasing the likelihood that the mixed married couple will raise its children exclusively in Judaism." It would be far wiser to publicize the success of Jewish education experiences on that basis.

The reason is that recruitment—how to promote the use of Jewish education—is the "true challenge," as Cohen says. But Jewish

education can't be "sold" to the intermarried on the basis that the experiences will reduce the chances that their child will intermarry. "Send your children to our day school/camp/etc. and they won't succumb to intermarriage, the greatest single threat to Jewish continuity" is not a message that resonates with parents who did intermarry and who are raising their children as Jews. Promoting those experiences on the basis that they increase the chances that the children will make the same Jewish choices as those parents did—that is a message that is credible, open and inviting.

Half of the children who identify as Jews today have one Jewish parent. Transformative Jewish education experiences—day schools, camps, youth movements and Hillel, Israel travel and study, and intensive adult education—could have twice the impact, for little extra investment, if they attracted interfaith families and their children.

The timing of Cohen's paper is particularly unfortunate because after the recent finding that 60 percent of Boston's interfaith families are raising their children as Jews, policymakers and funders have a very clear road map to follow to seek comparable results everywhere:

- Fund the Reform movement's outreach staff and programming, as the Boston federation does, and foundations do in San Francisco. Every Union for Reform Judaism regional office could have a substantial outreach effort like those cities.
- Back the efforts of Rabbi Charles Simon's Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs and its pioneering kiruv work in the Conservative movement.
- Spur the JCC world to explicitly communicate the message that the JCCs welcome everyone in the Jewish community including interfaith families, and to have at least a part-time professional devoted to offering outreach programs in the JCCs.
- Support independent outreach organizations.
- Fund more evaluations of the impact of outreach programs—every one of the few done to date shows increased Jewish engagement after participation.

The Jewish community has an opportunity to make this the best of times concerning intermarriage, not the worst. Seeing intermarried families as a separate, inferior portion of our population, as Cohen does, leads to a dead end; intermarried families, like anyone else, will not affiliate with a group that demeans them and offers little programming to welcome them.

The key to Boston's successful targeting of interfaith families is not the actual outreach programs; those flowed from a communal choice to adopt a welcoming and inclusive attitude toward interfaith families and to respond to intermarriage positively.

Which shall we be: two Jewries or one? ■

Edmund Case is the president and publisher of Interfaithfamily.com; Micah Sachs is its online managing editor.

Milken Archive celebrates American Jewish music

Sandor Slomovits, staff writer

They were the soap operas of their time and very popular with the hordes of Jewish immigrants who flocked to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Most of what comprised the genre of American musical Yiddish theater of that time featured utterly forgettable (and thus justly forgotten) plots, peopled with stock, predictable and exaggerated characters. It was often the kind of potboiler art for which the words “shlock” and “dreck” might have been invented. And the genre was even more ephemeral than



Michal Michalesco and Lucy Finkel in the original 1923 production of *The Golden Bride*, featuring Joseph Rumshinsky's love duet, “Mayn Goldele.”

present day TV soap operas, flourishing as it did before the mass use of modern methods of recording and preserving everything.

Ah, but the music! In the heyday of Yiddish vaudeville and Yiddish musical theater, (or Second Avenue, as it was often called, because of the location of most of its theaters in New York) the music was the main attraction and the essential ingredient of this beloved art form. Today, these songs still have the power to make us laugh and cry, decades after the people and the way of life that inspired them have disappeared.

And once again, thanks to the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music, we have extremely high-quality, authoritative and authentic recordings of this music. *Great Songs of the Yiddish Stage, Volume 3*, released in November of 2006, is the last of the 50 CDs created for the Milken Archive over the last few years. And like all the previous recordings, it is top drawer in every way, featuring excellent musicians,

state-of-the-art recording quality, and is supported by thorough research and scholarship.

The Milken Archive, founded by Lowell Milken in 1990, is a natural extension of the Milken Family Foundation, which Mr. Milken founded jointly with his brother, Michael Milken, in 1982. The Foundation's stated mission is “...to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research.”

Previous recordings released by the Milken Archive have consisted of an amazing variety of American Jewish music (defined not only as music by Jewish composers, but also by “non-Jewish composers inspired by Jewish texts or themes”) by well-known composers such as Leonard Bernstein, Kurt Weill, Darius Milhaud and Dave Brubeck, as well as by less familiar but highly respected composers such as David Amram, Samuel Adler and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. Besides classical music, chamber works, symphonies and operas, the Archive contains traditional and contemporary sacred liturgical music, folk, popular and Yiddish theater music and many other styles that fall under the rubric of American Jewish music. All the music has been especially recorded for the Archive releases and many of the less well-known works received their premiere recorded performances here.

Spokesperson for the Archive, Angela Duryea, says, “This is one of the most ambitious recording projects ever, a documentation of a significant portion of the many and varied contributions to American music, reflecting Jewish life and culture in our country. It ensures that this music cannot be lost to history.”

Now that this first phase of the Milken Archive is completed, the project will continue. Along the way, the Archive has also been recording and collecting oral histories and interviews filmed with composers, conductors, performers, and other Jewish music personalities, relating to Jewish music in America. They will be making these available, along with other Jewish music they have recorded, such as Kurt Weill's “The Eternal Road.” This next phase of the Milken Archive will consist of a comprehensive collectors edition, called *The World of Jewish Music in America*.

Duryea says, “This compilation may eventually contain as many as 100 CDs, organized within 20 multi-disc volumes according to themes in American Jewish history and culture.” Intended primarily for libraries and educational institutions, these recordings will also be available to the general public. The music and liner notes from the existing 50 CD archive, is already accessible to students through the Naxos Music Library, the world's largest online music listening service for libraries and universities.

But back to *Great Songs of the Yiddish Stage*. This CD, the third one in the Archive devoted to this music, consists mostly of songs by Joseph Rumshinsky, the first, and still considered to be one of the greatest of the composers, along with Sholom Secunda, Alexander Olshanetsky and Abraham Ellstein, who created music for Second Avenue productions.

As with all previous Milken Archive recordings, Artistic Director Neil Levin's liner notes are as enjoyable and instructive as the music. Levin is a scholar with an amazing depth and breadth of knowledge about seemingly every aspect of American Jewish music.

He writes, “The musical forms, conventions and styles of Second Avenue, especially as it advanced toward its mature stage, grew out of and relied heavily on Viennese and

other Central European light operetta traditions.” But, as Levin writes, the music was also heavily influenced by the earlier European Yiddish Theater, and especially by Abraham Goldfaden (composer of the immortal song, “Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen”) as well as by the folk music of many European countries and also by Jewish liturgical melodies.

These plays and songs were for, and about, those Jewish immigrants who came to America a century ago. They reflect that immigrant experience and express the fears and hopes of those people. Today, these songs can still help us to remember, and to be grateful for the men and women who paved the way for all of us.

And they are also, simply, very enjoyable to listen to. As Neil Levin says, this is, “a legacy of wonderful songs.” ■

CD Israel.com highlights unique music

Emily Eisbruch, special to the WJN

“Varied” is an apt word to describe the Israeli music scene. There's traditional folk music, ethnic music featuring diverse instruments and sounds, “old-fashioned” Hebrew songs, and contemporary music in the genres of rock and rap, among many other categories. Where does a person living in Ann Arbor turn to find out about and purchase Israeli music CDs? Fans of traditional Israeli music may want to visit the website www.mazornet.com/jewishcl/israelmusic.htm. For fans of pop culture and best-selling CD's, a good destination is www.israel-music.com/. Those looking to discover some talented but less well-known Israeli musicians, particularly in the spiritual genre, can visit the website of Yoram Getzler, a music aficionado and self-described “disseminator of ideas and music.”

Getzler's website, www.cdIsrael.com, provides information about—and the chance to purchase—CDs by lesser-known Israeli musicians, who represent what Getzler calls “truly Israeli musically creative expression.” For example, one of the CD's available on www.cdIsrael.com is Jerusalemite Miriam Ahavut El's CD *The Beloved*. AhavutEl, who grew up in a Hasidic family, is one of the pioneers of Jewish renewal music in Israel, fusing ancient texts with song to express great joy, depth and faith. An interesting interview between Getzler and AhavutEl is also available on the website, in the section “Audio Interviews with our Artists.” In the traditional/renewal category of music, a CD called *Niggun, Nishama, Haftaah*, arranged by Getzler himself, is also featured.

Another CD presented on the site is La Juderia, which features songs in Ladino by Yasmin Levy, an artist whose beautiful singing first inspired Getzler to make lesser-known Israeli music available to as wide a circle of people as possible. Arab/Jewish

ensembles are also represented on the site, including oud and guitar music on a CD called Artists for Peace, with musicians Nabil Abu-Nicola and Samia Ashkar (both Arab Christians from Nazareth) and Ofer Golany, a Jewish pacifist from Jerusalem.



Yoram Getzler

Getzler, whose home base is Moshav Aminadav near Jerusalem, explains that he himself came from a family of composers of Hassidic music. He comments that the site is “one expression of my Zionism, a form of Zionism known as Cultural Zionism.” As part of the introduction of the website, all CD's are currently available for \$12, plus a \$2 shipping fee. For more information, visit www.cdIsrael.com or email Yoram Getzler at info@cdIsrael.com. ■



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CALENDAR

March 2007

Thursday 1

Mid–Winter Break Fun Day: JCC–Youth Department. Trip to The New Detroit Science Center to explore the many wonders and mysteries of our world. Hands-on activities plus an awesome movie in the IMAX Theater will be part of the fun. Bring a peanut-free dairy lunch. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. with extended care from 4–6 p.m. at the JCC. \$35/program; \$32/additional siblings; \$8/extended care per child. Contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun, with Maria Farquhar 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events Discussion with a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Guest Presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group led by Sidney Warschausky, 2:15 p.m. At the JCC.

English as a Second Language Evening Classes: JFS. Ongoing Thursday evenings 6–9 p.m. at Jewish Family Services, 625 State Circle Drive. Contact Jewish Family Services at 769-0209 or email info@jfsannarbor.org for more information.

Family Purim Program: JCC-Early Childhood Center. Fun for the entire family including dinner, games and singing. Come dressed as your favorite character from the Purim story. \$10/adults; \$5/children ages 2 and up. At the JCC. For information, contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990 or ntheyoung@umich.edu.

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 Bava Metzia chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 2

Mid–Winter Break Fun Day: JCC–Youth Department. “Scrap Book Sensations” program. Make a special craft project at the Scrap Box and go home with your own bag of goodies to use for future projects. Bring a peanut-free dairy lunch. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. with extended care from 4–6 p.m. at the JCC. \$35/program; \$32/additional siblings; \$8/extended care per child. Contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

Purim and Shabbat Dinner: Temple Beth Emeth TNT: Join the TBE Twenties and Thirties Group for potluck dinner at Ken Mayer and Nadja Robinson-Mayer’s house. RSVP to Nadja at nirobins@comcast.net.

First Friday Shabbat: Jewish Cultural Society. Humanistic service and potluck veggie dinner. 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the JCC. For information, visit www.jewishculturalsociety.org or phone 975-9872.

Purim Celebration: Jewish Cultural Society. JCS hosts fun and frolic for families with games, hamantaschen and more. 11 a.m.–noon at the JCC.

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

Saturday 3

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

A Star Wars Purim: Beth Israel Congregation. Megillah reading and interactive skit featuring Darth Haman, Mordchai Ben Obi, King “Please Call Me Emperor” Ahashverosh, and Queen Esther, “she’ll always be my little princess.” Kids and adults are encouraged to dress in costume. Chatzkes for the kids, hamantaschen and ice cream sundaes afterwards. 7:30 p.m. at BIC.

Megillah Reading: AAOM. 7:40 p.m. at UM Hillel.

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

Sunday 4

Shacharit and Megillah Reading: AAOM. 9 a.m. at UM Hillel.

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.*

Sunday Fun: JCC and HDS. Children ages 2 and up and their parents will join master storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor for stories and Purim fun. Come dressed in Purim costumes. 10 a.m. at the JCC. RSVP to sundayfun@hdsaa.org or call 971-4633 for more information.

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.*

Purim Baskets for Seniors: Jewish Family Services. Decorate, prepare and deliver Purim baskets to area seniors and collect B’nai Mitzvah stories from older adults about what their lives were like when they were entering Jewish adulthood. Cosponsored by GAP, in partnership with JDate, YAD and JFS. 1–3 p.m. at the JCC. Deliveries within 10-mile radius. Contact Laurie Wechter at 971-0990 or laurie@jfsannarbor.org for more information. GAP members may also RSVP to Ellisha at ellisha@jewishannarbor.org.

Purim Carnival: Temple Beth Emeth. Megillah reading in the sanctuary followed by Purim Carnival with games, prizes and food available for purchase. Special area for tot games. 4–6 p.m.

Purim in the Shtetl and Grand Purim Feast: Chabad. Dress in shtetl attire and sing to live music at a delicious shtetl buffet that Tevya always dreamed of. Megillah reading at 5 p.m.; Purim feast and program at 5:30 p.m. with family photographs, a keepsake to take home, dancing, and more. \$23 (in advance) \$35 (at door)/family; \$8 (in advance) \$10 (at door)/individual. At the JCC. Phone 995-3276 to RSVP or for information.

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

Monday 5

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Luncheon Buffet, noon; Writing Group, 1–3 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Tot Purim Puppet Show and Dinner: Beth Israel Congregation. 5:45–7 p.m. at BIC.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the “driver’s seat” to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Rabbi’s Book Club: Temple Beth Emeth. Discuss the book *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges* by Nathan Englander. 7:30 p.m.

Absolute YAD: Young Adult Division of Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County (YAD). Get out of your busy routine and meet people you have something in common with. Find out how to “make a difference” with hands-on volunteer opportunities around the community. 8 p.m. at Casey’s Tavern, 304 Depot Street.

Study Session: Beth Israel Congregation. “The Siddur: Context and Interpretation.” Rabbi Dobrusin will lead this class providing a close reading of the major prayers for Shabbat, along with commentary and texts in Hebrew with English translations. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m. at BIC.

Tuesday 6

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Let’s Talk—social support discussion, 10:30–noon; Mah Jongg, Noon–2 p.m.; Drop-In Hobby Time. Bring your knitting, model airplane or other project. Coffee and noshes provided, 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each Tuesday (excluding vacation times) using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

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. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Under One Roof: Muslim and Jewish Women Coming Together. EMU Hillel. 7–9 p.m. at EMU Student Center. RSVP to Gal at shortstuff853@sbcglobal.net.

Wednesday 7

WCC Emeritus Class: JCC Seniors. “The Bible in its Time,” Lisbeth Fried, PhD. teaches “Who Wrote the Bible?” 10 a.m.–noon. *Through 3/28.*

International Women’s Day Celebration: Jewish Family Services. Join a worldwide tradition honoring mothers, wives, friends and colleagues. Bring potluck to share. Transportation provided on request. 1:30 p.m. at Parkway Meadows, 2575 Sandalwood Circle. For information, contact Nina Dmitrieva at 769-0209 or nina@jfsannarbor.org.

Meditation: TBE. Led by Judy Freedman. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 8

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun, with Maria Farquhar 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events Discussion,–Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Guest Presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group led by Sidney Warschausky, 2:15 p.m. At the JCC.

17th Annual David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Journalist Andrew Heinze will present “Is It Cause I’s Black: Jews and the Whiteness Problem.” Starting with reflections on Sasha Baron Cohen and his infamous “Ali G” persona, Heinze will discuss “cultural exploitation” in America. 7 p.m., 202 South Thayer, Room 2022.

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 Bava Metzia chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 9

Youth and Family Workshop: Jewish Family Services. Gathering parents, mental health, medical, legal and educational professionals, the workshop will explore resources available and resources needed to assist families with pre-teen and teenage children at risk of crisis behavior. Suggestion donation (for food) is \$10. For information, phone 769-0209 or register online at www.jfsannarbor.org.

Yiddish Movie Day: JCC Seniors. Monthly Yiddish-speaking group meets the second Friday of each month with a planned program of Yiddish films. 1:30 p.m. at the JCC. Call 971-0990 for information.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat Service at 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m. Shira at 6:30 p.m. Family Service with second grade families at 7 p.m. Chapel Minyan service at 8 pm.

Alternative Spring Break Shabbat: EMU Hillel. 6–6:45 p.m. at EMU Hillel. RSVP to Audrey at Audrey@emuhillel.org.

Shabbat Potluck and Movie Discussion: GAP: Film viewing of “Nicholas Winton: the Power of Good” and discussion. See <http://powerofgood.net> for information about this film that tells the story of Nicholas Winton who saved 669 children in Prague in the 1930s. Bring a dish to share. 6–9 p.m. at Barry’s house near the stadium. RSVP for directions by March 7 to Laurie at 649-4192.

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

Saturday 10

Tot Shabbat: BIC. Stories, songs, prayers and a special kid Kiddush for parents and children 3–6 years old. 11 a.m. at Beth Israel.

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

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

Sunday 11

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.*

Miriam’s Cup Workshop: Hadassah. Make your own Miriam’s cup from clay, which can be used at your Passover Seder. \$45 covers cost of material and a donation to Hadassah. 1–3 p.m. at Yourist Pottery Gallery, 1133 Broadway. To reserve, call Jill Halman by 3/2 at 662-9628.

PJs and Pancakes: Young Adult Division of Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County (YAD): Breakfast for dinner, comfortable dress (PJs optional), fantastic bedtime story and lots of fun for the whole family. 5–7 p.m. at the JCC.

Camp Raanana Reunion and Camper Registration: JCC–Youth Department. Parents and campers are invited to bowl and enjoy a pizza lunch while finding out what’s new at camp. Participants will also be able to take advantage of the Early Bird Special and receive \$5 off per session. 12:30–2 p.m. at Colonial Lanes Bowling Center, 1950 South Industrial. For information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Krav Maga Workshop: EMU Hillel. 1–3:30 p.m. Contact Audrey at Audrey@emuhillel.org.

Cake Auction: JCC Girl Scouts. Auction held annually to send Girl Scouts camping. Cakes on display and dinner available for purchase at 5 p.m.; Auction starts at 6 p.m. Children’s activities provided by JCC Troop #1205. RSVP to Amy Bullock at abullock@bignet.net or phone 677-5814.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Put on your dancing shoes and join friends for a night of Israeli dancing with veteran instructor Tom Starks. \$5/person. 7–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Jewish Concepts—for Women: Chabad. Learning the deeper meanings to the Jewish way of life.

CALENDAR

8 p.m. at Chabad House. *Every Sunday.*

Monday 12

School's Out, JCC's In: JCC-Youth Department.

Field trip to the COSI Science Center for Ann Arbor Schools' students. Try out hundreds of hands-on exhibits to discover the many wonders of the world. Create your own roller coaster, ride a high wire cycle, explore a giant tree house, use the power of the sun, climb a rock wall and more. Extended care is available from 3:30–6 p.m. \$30/JCC members; \$9/extended care. For information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or craigpollack@jccfed.org.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Luncheon Buffet, noon; Writing Group, 1–3 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Frankel Center Lecture: Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Co-sponsored by UM Department of Near Eastern Studies. Dr. Richard Kalmin of the Jewish Theological Seminary will present "Jewish Babylonia in its Late Antique Persian Context." 4 p.m. at 202 South Thayer, Room 2022.

Post-Conversion Group: TBE. 7:30 p.m. at Espresso Royale. RSVP to Janice Gutfreund at mjg@tir.org.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the "driver's seat" to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Study Session: Beth Israel Congregation. "The Siddur: Context and Interpretation." Rabbi Dobrusin will lead this class providing a close reading of the major prayers for Shabbat, along with commentary and texts in Hebrew with English translations. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m. at BIC.

Tuesday 13

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Let's Talk—social support discussion, 10:30–noon; Mah Jongg, Noon–2 p.m.; Drop-In Hobby Time. Bring your knitting, model airplane or other project. Coffee and noshes provided, 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Creative Arts Orchestra: Jewish Family Services. Outing for senior adults to free concert at UM Rackham Auditorium. Transportation available on JFS CareVan; \$6/roundtrip. 8 p.m. Contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209 for more information.

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. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

Wednesday 14

WCC Emeritus Class: JCC Seniors. "The Bible in its Time," Lisbeth Fried, PhD. teaches "Who Wrote the Bible?" 10 a.m.–noon. *Through 3/28.*

Mocktails and Small Talk: EMU Hillel. 7 p.m. For information, contact Danielle at dlin-dow@emich.edu.

Men's Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 15

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

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun, with Maria Farquhar 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events Discussion, Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Guest Presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group led by Sidney

Warschausky, 2:15 p.m. At the JCC.

Dinner Out on the Town: GAP. 6–9 p.m. at Chuck E. cheese in the Target Shopping Center on Ann Arbor-Saline Road. Regress to childhood with fellow GAPers and enjoy sald and pizza, animatronic puppetry and old school arcade games. RSVP by March 14 to Laurie at 649-4192 or lgendron@umich.edu.

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 Bava Metzia chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 16

School's Out, JCC's In: JCC-Youth Department.

Field trip to the Howell Nature Center for Hebrew Day School students. Take a guided tour of the animals and their habitats and play a variety of interactive games that teach about Michigan's ecosystem. Extended care is available from 3:30–6 p.m. \$30/JCC members; \$9/extended care. For information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or craigpollack@jccfed.org.

"The History of the Jewish People:" Jewish Family Services. Monthly series of free talks by Yori Karnofsky at Parkway Meadows, 2575 Sandalwood Circle. 11 a.m. For information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209.

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Indian Theme Shabbat Meal: Beth Israel Congregation. Service at 6 p.m. followed by meal at 7 p.m.

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

Saturday 17

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

Fundraising Auction: JCC. Auction of goods and services to raise funds for a new barrier free playground at the JCC for children 4–11 years old. (Donations of goods and services are sought and volunteers are needed.) New equipment will also be added to the existing Early Childhood Center playground. The evening at the JCC will also include live music, a buffet dinner along with a live and a silent auction. A Kids' Night Out Program sponsored by the JCC will be offered at Temple Beth Emeth. \$50/person. For information, contact rachelrosenthal@jccfed.org or sheriwallach@jccfed.org.

Kids' Night Out: JCC-Youth Department. Drop children off at 5:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth and head over to the JCC for the 2007 JCC Auction. Kids activities will include arts and crafts, games, a pizza dinner and dessert. \$20/JCC members; \$18/siblings. \$24/non-members; \$22/siblings. For information contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Indian Bollywood Film: Beth Israel Congregation. Showing of critically acclaimed film from India, *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer*. Babysitting provided by A2USY as a chapter fundraiser. 8 p.m. at BIC.

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

Sunday 18

Israel Advocacy Conference: EMU Hillel and UM Hillel. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. To register for this free conference, contact Audrey at Audrey@emuhillel.org.

continued on page 32



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CALENDAR

Red Cross Blood Drive: Beth Israel Congregation. Fulfill a mitzvah and save a life. 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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.*

Intergenerational Interviews—Entering Jewish Adulthood. Jewish Family Services. Students from BIC B’nai Mitzvah class will interview older adult students about what their lives were like when they were entering into Jewish adulthood at the age of twelve or thirteen. The resulting stories, pictures, and videos will be on display at Jewish Family Service’s Bat Mitzvah Cruise on April 22. If you are interested in sharing your recollections with a student, contact Laurie Wechter to schedule an interview from 1–5 p.m. at 971-0990 or laurie@jfsannarbor.org.

Tot Pesach: Temple Beth Emeth. Stories, crafts and music with Rabbi Levy. 4–5 p.m.

All Choir Concert: Temple Beth Emeth. One hour of non-stop music presented by all of TBE’s ensembles including the Youth Choir, Middle Shir Chadash, High School Shir Chadash, and Kol Halev. 4 p.m.

Documentary Film: Zeitouna. Premiere showing of *Refusing To Be Enemies: The Zeitouna Story*, a 58-minute documentary about six Arab and six Jewish women who struggle to overcome prejudices, fears, and anger through dialogue. Film will be followed by chance to talk with Ann Arbor filmmaker Laurie White and the women of Zeitouna who are all Washtenaw County residents. 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater. Purchase advance tickets online at www.zeitouna.org, by calling the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, at 663-1870 or at the box office on the day of the premiere.

Lecture Series: Beth Israel Congregation. “The Visual World of Rabbinic” presented by Rachiel Nies, PhD. 7:45 p.m. at BIC.

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

Monday 19

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Luncheon Buffet, noon; Writing Group, 1–3 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Orchestra Excursion: JCC Older Adults Programs. Enjoy an evening of music with a trip to see the University Symphony Orchestra at the UM’s Hill Auditorium. RSVP by March 5 to Laurie Wechter at 971-0990 or Abbie Lawrence Jacobson at 769-0209. \$6/person for transportation, if needed. Meet at the JCC at 7:15 p.m. for 8 p.m. concert.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the “driver’s seat” to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Study Session: Beth Israel Congregation. “The Siddur: Context and Interpretation.” Rabbi Dobrusin will lead this class providing a close reading of the major prayers for Shabbat, along with commentary and texts in Hebrew with English translations. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m. at BIC.

Tuesday 20

Rosh Chodesh Nisan: Hebrew Day School. HDS students celebrate the month of Nisan at an all-school assembly to which community members are welcome. 8:45 a.m. Call 971-4633 for information.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Let’s Talk—social support discussion, 10:30–noon; Mah Jongg, Noon–2 p.m.; Drop-In Hobby Time. Bring your knitting, model airplane or other project. Coffee and noshes provided, 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Showing of *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*. Movie, discussion and nosh in TBE’s adult lounge. 1–3 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

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. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 21

WCC Emeritus Class: JCC Seniors. “The Bible in its Time.” Lisbeth Fried, PhD. teaches “Who Wrote the Bible?” 10 a.m.–noon. *Through 3/28.*

Pre-Pesach Wine Tasting: GAP. Join fellow GAP-ers and enjoy flavors of over 100 kosher wines plus appetizers and listen to sounds of West-lounge, Hillel’s own Jazz/Klezmer band. \$10 donation. Time TBD. RSVP to Laurie at lgen-dron@umich.edu or 649-4192 or to agilman@umich.edu.

Meditation: TBE. Led by Judy Freedman. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 22

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun, with Maria Farquhar 10–11 a.m., \$4 or 3/\$10; Current Events Discussion with a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.; \$3 Homemade Dairy Luncheon Buffet, noon; Guest Presentations (varied), 1 p.m.; Literary Group led by Sidney Warschausky, 2:15 p.m. At the JCC.

Civic Life and Community Engagement Series: JCC Older Adult Programs. Kickoff event for new series that is aligned with the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads program as well as the U-M’s theme semester, both of which focus on conceptions of citizenship and civic engagement, community and belonging. Discussion of this year’s Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads book of choice, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*, by Tracy Kidder. Copies of the book are available at libraries and bookstores. Come prepared to share your thoughts about this book. 1 p.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Laurie Wechter at 971-0990 or Abbie Lawrence Jacobson at 769-0209.

Hunger Banquet: MAZON, EMU Hillel and VISION. 7 p.m. at EMU Student Center. For information or tickets, contact Elijah at gold-dragonmist@gmail.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 Bava Metziyah chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 23

Weekly Yiddish-speaking Group: JCC Seniors. Meets at a private home every week except when monthly group meets at JCC. 1:30–3 p.m.

Bring A Buddy Shabbat: EMU Hillel. Free if you bring someone who has not come to a Hillel event before, otherwise \$5. 6–6:45 p.m. at EMU Hillel.

Musical Shabbat: TBE. “Friday Night Live” with new upbeat music led by High School Shir Chadash and Cantor Annie Rose.

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

Saturday 24

Tot Shabbat: Beth Israel Congregation. 11 a.m.

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

Sunday 25

Rock ‘N’ Roll Hall of Fame: EMU Hillel with Hillel of Metro Detroit. \$35 for transportation, breakfast, lunch and admission to Rock ‘N’ Roll Hall of Fame. RSVP to Audrey at Audrey@emuhillel.org.

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.*

Cellobration: Hebrew Day School. Annual concert to benefit HDS’s instrumental music program. 10 a.m. at Kerrytown Concert House, \$60/adults; \$20/students. For information, contact HDS office at 971-4633.

Humanistic Pre-School: Jewish Cultural Society. JCS parent-child preschool program with Jewish themes from a humanistic perspective. Crafts, food and more at the JCC. For information or to RSVP, call 975-9872.

BookStock Book Collection Day: JCC. The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County will participate in BookStock, the Friends of Literacy Used Book and Media Sale. Stop by the JCC and donate used books, books on tape, records, vides, CDs and DVDs. The JCC will benefit from the proceeds of the sale. 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.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.*

Depression Awareness—A Community Conversation. Jewish Family Services. This event was founded as a memorial to Toby Jacobowitz, a beloved individual who ended her life as a result of depression. 2–4:45 p.m. at the JCC. Call 769-0209 for more information or register online at www.jfsannarbor.org.

Passover Sale: TBE Sisterhood. Giftshop sale. 3–7 p.m.

Poetry Reading: Jewish Family Services. Reading of new poetry by Boris Gankin at the JCC in Oak Park on 10 Mile Road. Co-sponsored by JFS. 3 p.m. Modest fee for tickets and transportation. Contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or call 769-0209 for information.

Chocolate Seder: TBE AARTY. 5 p.m.

Women’s Rosh Chodesh. TBE: 6:30 p.m.

“Power of Good”: EMU Hillel. Film screening at 7 p.m. Contact Clara at clara@emuhillel.org.

Adult Education Class: TBE. Rabbi Levy leads class on Kohelet (Ecclesiastes), Job and Maimonides. 7:45 p.m. Also 3/25, 4/1, 4/15, 4/29 and 5/6.

Songs from the Haggadah: Beth Israel Congregation. “New Music for Pesach,” with San Slo-movits and Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, followed by a wine tasting reception. 7:45 p.m.

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

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

Monday 26

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Fitness Fun with Maria Farquhar, 11 a.m.–noon, \$4/session or \$10/3 sessions; \$3 Homemade Luncheon Buffet, noon; Writing Group, 1–3 p.m. *Every Monday.*

Senior Adult Outing: Jewish Family Services. Outing for older adults to attend free concert by Jazz Combos at the UM McIntosh Theater. \$6 for roundtrip transportation in JFS Care-

Van, if needed. 8 p.m. For more information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

Book Discussion: EMU Hillel. Discussion of *Night* by Elie Wiesel. 7 p.m. at the EMU Student Center.

Jewish Learning Institute (JLI): Chabad. A chance to explore modern cases actually brought before the courts of Jewish law and to examine the reasoning behind the decisions. You get to be the judge as you take the “driver’s seat” to steer your way through Jewish law. 7:30–9 p.m. at the JCC.

Study Session: Beth Israel Congregation. “The Siddur: Context and Interpretation.” Rabbi Dobrusin will lead this class providing a close reading of the major prayers for Shabbat, along with commentary and texts in Hebrew with English translations. Drop-ins welcome. 8 p.m. at BIC.

Tuesday 27

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Let’s Talk—social support discussion, 10:30–noon; Mah Jongg, Noon–2 p.m.; Drop-In Hobby Time. Bring your knitting, model airplane or other project. Coffee and noshes provided, 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Senior Adult Outing: Jewish Family Services. Outing for older adults to attend free concert by Jazz Combos at the UM McIntosh Theater. \$6 for roundtrip transportation in JFS Care-Van, if needed. 8 p.m. For more information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. at UM Hillel. For information, call 662-5805.

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. at Chabad House. *Every Tuesday.*

Wednesday 28

WCC Emeritus Class: JCC Seniors. “The Bible in its Time,” Lisbeth Fried, PhD. teaches “Who Wrote the Bible?” 10 a.m.–noon.

Film Festival Preview: JCC. Showing of *From Shtetl to Swing*, an entertaining new film that is full of Jewish music from the 1900s to the present day. Covers the history of Jazz and Swing with connections to Klezmer, Nusach, Blues and more. Features Louis Armstrong, Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Eddie Cantor and others. The short film *Matisyahu* will follow. Film showing will be preceded by live music of the West Lounge Klezmer Fusion band. 7:30 p.m. at UM Hillel, 1429 Hill Street. \$10/ticket; Free for Film Festival sponsors, pass holders and students with valid ID. For information, contact Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990.

Meditation: TBE. Led by Judy Freedman. 7:30 p.m.

Men’s Torah Study. TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 29

Prayer, Weekly Torah reading and Jewish Philosophy—for Women Chabad. 9 a.m. at the JCC. *Every Thursday.*

Intergenerational Passover Lunch: JCC-Early Childhood Center and Older Adult Programs. Children from ECC will present a Passover skit, along with songs and dances with the assistance of some older adults. A Passover lunch will be served. 11 a.m. at the JCC. For information, contact Noreen DeY-oung at 971-0990.

Senior Adult Outing: Jewish Family Services. Outing for older adults to attend free concert by Campus Philharmonic at the UM McIn-

CALENDAR

tosh Theater. \$6/roundtrip transportation in JFS CareVan, if needed. For more information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

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 Bava Metzia chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday.*

Friday 30

Senior Adult Outing: Jewish Family Services. Outing for older adults to attend free concert by University Symphony Band at the UM Hill Auditorium 8 p.m. \$6/roundtrip transportation in JFS CareVan, if needed. For more information, contact Nina Dmitriev at nina@jfsannarbor.org or phone 769-0209.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday of 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 or visit www.aaarecon.org.

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

Saturday 31

Henry Gershowitz Memorial Shabbat: Beth Israel Congregation. Hosted by BIC Men's Club and followed by a Kugel Kiddush, prepared by BIC cooks. 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 at Chabad House. *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 at Chabad House. *Every Saturday.*

Folk Dancing and Bar Night: GAP. Dancing to music played by Veselba at Gretchen's house at 2625 Traver Road from 7–8 p.m. (teaching of dances) and 8–11 p.m. (live music with some additional teaching). \$5–\$10 suggested donation; \$3–\$5/ students. Afterwards, join the fun at Melange, the newest hotspot on Main Street.

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

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. U-M Hillel. 6 p.m. on 3/2.; 6:15 p.m. on 3/9.; 7:25 p.m. on 3/16.; 7:30 p.m. on 3/23; 7:40 p.m. on 3/30. Home hospitality available for Shabbat meals. Call 662-5805 in advance.

Shabbat Service: BIC. 6 p.m.

Shabbat Service: TBE. Weekly services at 8 p.m. The second week of the month the Friday Services schedule changes to include: 5:30 p.m. Tot Shabbat followed by tot dinner at 6 p.m.; shira song session at 6:30 p.m.; family service at 7 p.m. and chapel minyan at 8 p.m.

Shabbat Service: Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah. 6:15 PM at the JCC the last Friday of 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 or visit www.aaarecon.org.

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

Weekly Shabbat services and classes

Shabbat Services: AAOM. Morning service, 9:30 a.m. Evening service, 35 minutes before sunset. U-M Hillel. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvor Torah every week at UM Hillel. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi

bi Rod Glogower and other local scholars.

Shabbat Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.; 6 p.m. Mincha.

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Participatory, lay-led services. For info, email info@aaarecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aaarecon.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. Weekly Torah Study at 8:50 a.m. led by Rabbi Levy in the chapel followed at 9:30 a.m. by congregant led service. Service in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. on weeks when there is a bar or bat mitzvah. Call the office at 665-4744 or consult website at www.templebethemeth.org for service details.

Seudah Shlisheet Dvar Torah: AAOM. On Shabbat after Mincha every week at U-M Hillel. Torah topics and snacks are part of this weekly tradition. Discussions are led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars.

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

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

"Mystical Insights to the Torah": Chabad. For women to learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. Saturday, one hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

"Laws of Shabbat—Jewish Ethics": Chabad. Study group examines the code of law for Shabbat and Jewish ethics. Saturday, 1/2 hour before sundown. Call 995-3276.

Phone numbers and addresses of organizations frequently listed in the calendar:

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

Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah
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)
625 State Circle Drive 769-0209

Jewish Federation
2939 Birch Hollow Drive 677-0100

Pardes Hannah
2010 Washtenaw Ave. 663-4039

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

U-M Hillel
1429 Hill Street 769-0500

Shabbat Candlelighting

March 2	6:08 p.m.
March 9	6:16 p.m.
March 16	7:24 p.m.
March 23	7:32 p.m.
March 30	7:40 p.m.



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or August 5 - August 20, 2007

Two Week Experience for current 3rd grade campers July 23 - August 5, 2007

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 Toronto ON, M5M1C7
Tel. (416) 789-2193 • Fax (416) 789-3970
michael@campramah.com
www.campramah.com

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Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is looking for a part-time Youth and Family Program Coordinator. Must have an MSW or an equivalent in a related field. Must have strong clinical and programming experience. Jewish community knowledge is desirable. Visit www.jfsannarbor.org or email your resume to elina@jfsannarbor.org.

Infant massage classes for parents and babies. Communicate your love through touch. Deepens bonding. Helps to relieve colic and sleepless nights, relaxes and soothes. Call Audrey Simon, 741-9706.

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Advertising Manager needed at Washtenaw Jewish News. Flexible hours, part-time, approximately 10 hours/week. Must be proficient on Macintosh computer. Call 971-1800 for more information.

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The deadline for the April issue of the Washtenaw Jewish News is Wednesday, March 7. Publication: March 28.

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Curacao offset their costs in part from off-island sponsors, and by conducting weddings and b'nai mitzvot for foreigners.

But some of the communities struggle just to find places to meet. For others, the fear is that they're too small to survive another generation without an influx of foreigners or converts.

All are faced with the prospect of younger members leaving the region in search of better opportunities.

Jamaica's is "partly a graying congregation," Henriques conceded. "I don't think it will last another 50 years. The opportunities for young, trained minds are not great."

The Jamaicans maintain the community's historic synagogue by dint of an endowment, but cannot afford a full-time rabbi. Late last year the community opened a museum documenting 350 years of Jewish history on the island, which Henriques hopes

will assure that the Jews at least will leave some legacy.

Last month the Jamaican community started an ambitious program of post-service events, including guest lectures and communal meals. While Saturday services normally draw 30 to 40 of the congregation's 200 members, the first guest lecture drew a much larger crowd, giving Henriques reason for optimism.

In the Bahamas, the Nassau congregation has twice-monthly Hebrew classes, but no permanent meeting place or synagogue.

Jewish fervor "is strongest among the adults, but not among the children," Issacs lamented. "On Yom Kippur we do a children's service, but the parents do not keep their children home" from school. "That is a sign of weakness." ■

Bush continued from page 25

to provide large amounts of uncompensated care to beneficiaries totaling in the tens of millions of dollars," he said in an e-mail to JTA.

Daroff added that UJC was "not yet convinced that the time is right to 'pull the plug' on Katrina relief to states who have taken on a disproportionate amount of citizens from hurricane-affected areas." Democrats and residents of hurricane-affected states already had slammed Bush for not mentioning relief in his State of the Union address last month.

"Many of these states that have taken in these citizens have large metropolitan areas and, thus, sizable federated communities," Daroff wrote. For UJC, the one bright light happened to be a tax cut: The budget proposes that up to \$100,000 in tax-free rollovers from individual retirement accounts to charity be extended beyond the program's 2007 expiration.

The IRA rollover "added \$10 million to federations last year," Daroff said in an interview. "It's an important incentive."

Other areas of concern, as outlined in the internal UJC memo, include: * Cuts for independent living for seniors, from \$747 million to \$575 million; and for group homes for the disabled, from \$240 million to \$125 million;

* Billions of dollars in cuts to various social-service block grants to the states that the UJC memo said "have extraordinary influence in shaping program delivery on the ground." The cuts in such grants affect poverty alleviation, adoption services and refugee assistance;

* UJC predicts at least \$70 billion in immediate cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. A UJC memo described the cuts as "slashing payments from everything from payments for nursing homes and hospitals, which are already operating on razor-thin margins, to SCHIP, which would include new eligibility caps for children with family incomes as low as 200 percent of the poverty line. Instead of investing in health-information technology, which would save significant resources in the long run, the president is cutting the muscle of two programs geared to America's neediest." Examining the Medicare cuts, Daroff also identified the reduction of inflation adjustments for nursing facilities and home health providers.

"The federation system has long been recognized as providing excellent care both through home- and community-based services as well as in Jewish aging facilities," he said. Cuts "could result in millions of dollars of cuts to Jewish community providers across the nation." ■

VITALS

Mazal tov


Aviva Shwayder on her bat mitzvah, March 3.
Owen Tannenbaum on his bar mitzvah, March 3.
Leon Sunstein on his bar mitzvah, March 10
Adam Manheim on his bar mitzvah, March 10.
Gulia Chernyak on her bat mitzvah, March 16.
Sam Brodkey on his bar mitzvah, March 17.
Julia DeVarti on her bat mitzvah, March 31.
Sara Kerson on her bat mitzvah, March 31.
David and Karen Stutz on the birth of their granddaughter, Shira Nehama Marmor, born on February 4 in Chicago, IL to parents, Debbie and David Marmor.
Andrea Ludwig on the birth of her grandson and granddaughter, Alexander and Allison Arrieta, born on February 6 to son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Jennifer Arrieta.
Caleb Bailie on his bar mitzvah, March 10.
Matthew Sanfield on his bar mitzvah, March 24.
James and Jan Blaha on the birth of their granddaughter, Calina Jewel, daughter of Rachel Blaha and Nate Command.
Eial and Henrika Dujovny on the birth of their son.
Rabbi Ahron and Esther Goldstein on the birth of their granddaughter, Chana Mushka, daughter of Chayale and son-in-law Shmuly, February 11.


Condolences

Ken Shayna on the death of his mother, Gazella Naffziger, January 20
James Shayman on the death of his son, David Shayman, January 23
Debbie Amdur on the death of her son, David Shayman, January 23.
Ava Adler on the death of her mother, Minna Adler, January 31.
Anita Norich on the death of her father, Isaac Norich, January 10.
James Shayman and Andrea Kevrick and Richard and Deborah Amdur on the death of James and Deborah's son, David Shayman, January 22

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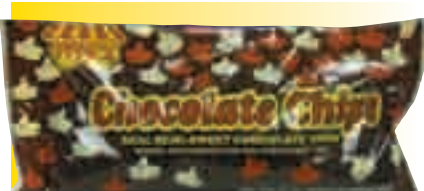
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