

Federation to honor Rosenthals at Humanitarian Award Dinner

Laurie Barnett, special to the WJN

Pru and Ami Rosenthal will be the recipients of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County's highest honor at its 2007 Humanitarian Award Dinner on Thursday, May 17 at 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.

"Prue and Ami are two of the finest, most giving people we know. Their contribution to the community has been immeasurable in the 30 years they've lived here," say Herb and Carol Amster, honorary committee chairs. Event co-chairs are Elaine and Bertram Pitt and Menakka and Essel Bailey.

Prue Rosenthal is a dedicated, tireless community leader who has impacted many of our community's treasures. An active member of Ann Arbor's Jewish community, Prue has volunteered for the Beth Israel Congregation, Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, and she has served as President of the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor. Prue, a student of art history, has devoted herself to the University of Michigan Museum of Art where she now serves on the National Advisory Board,

contributing her talent and knowledge to the creation of the new museum. She also served on the board of the University Musical Society for seven years, and was its chairman for three years.

Ami Rosenthal, M.D., recruited from Harvard to direct the division of Pediatric Cardiology at the U-M Medical Center, established an international reputation for this remarkable program and created a network of 13 pediatric cardiology clinics throughout Michigan. He is now a professor emeritus in the U-M Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases. A recipient of numerous awards, he was honored by U-M in 1993 with the Amnon Rosenthal Professorship in Pediatric Cardiology. Ami is also deeply devoted to community service, having served as the chairman of the U-M Board of Student Publications and as a board member of the Hillel Foundation.

Foremost on their agenda is the future of the community—our children. Together, Prue and Ami helped found Save a Heart Foundation to raise funds for the Pediatric Congenital Heart Center. This organization, now well-established, has helped countless

young people receive treatment. They have provided significant funds to education programs at the Museum of Art and the Musical Society, and also have a special interest in creating programs for children in Israel that encourage understanding and tolerance.

Funds raised by the 2007 Humanitarian Award Dinner will support the Jewish Federation's humanitarian, cultural and educational programs in Washtenaw County with emphasis given to new, innovative ideas. A portion of the proceeds will also be donated to the Rosenthals' chosen charity, The PJ Library, a new Federation program that enriches Jewish family life by providing free Jewish books and music to families with young children. ■



Prue and Ami Rosenthal

To make a reservation or for more information about the 2007 Humanitarian Award Dinner, contact Laurie Barnett at the Jewish Federation offices at 677-0100 or laurie@jewishannarbor.org.

Kol Halev presents Gala Spring Concert May 20

Cantor Annie Rose, special to WJN

Temple Beth Emeth's Adult Choir, Kol Halev, will present a gala spring concert on Sunday, May 20 at 4 p.m., showcasing music set for performance on a 12-day concert tour of Argentina

this summer. Accompanied by Ray McLellan, pianist, and an instrumental chamber orchestra, Kol Halev will perform music in Yiddish, Ladino, and Hebrew, under the direction of Cantor Annie Rose. A mesmerizing cycle of Sephardic melodies arranged by American composer Samuel Adler will be featured. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available through the TBE office, 665-4744. The concert will be approximately one hour in length, performed without intermission.

A wide range of familiar melodies are included in the choral/orchestral Yiddish Suite, including "Tumbalalaika" and "Az der

Rebbe Elimelech," as well as the beautiful "Zing Nisht," composed by Kol Halev members Bob Blumenthal and Beth Dwoskin. Selections such as Lewis Lewandowski's "Halleluyah" and delightful Sephardic melodies including "Adiyo" and "Durme Durme" will be accompanied by the chamber orchestra. The final set of the concert includes beloved songs from Israel: "Halleluyah," "Shir Leil Shabbat," and "Hatikvah."

In late June, Kol Halev will embark on its second international concert tour, with plans for concerts with and for the Argentinian Jewish communities of Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Rosario, and Moisesville. The touring group will meet with Jewish community leaders in each city, visiting synagogues, sharing meals and Shabbat services, and singing together. ■

For more information, call Cantor Annie Rose at 665-4744.



Temple Beth Emeth's Adult Choir, Kol Halev

Special features at the JCC Film Festival May 6-10

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

Several special guests and presentations are scheduled to appear at the JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival running from Sunday,



A scene from *Steel Toes*

May 6–Thursday, May 10. The festival will begin Sunday, May 6 at 10 a.m. with a free showing of *Stolen Summer* for middle school and upper elementary school students and their

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Film Festival

Opens Sunday,
May 6

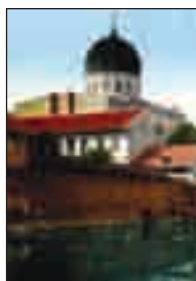
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Volunteers help
build new office.

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World Jewry

In Roumania,
signs of life.

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Community

Rabbi Dobrusin honored on 25th anniversary of ordination

Meira Miller and Ruth Winter, special to the WJN

On Sunday, May 20, Congregation Beth Israel will honor Rabbi Robert Dobrusin on the 25th anniversary of his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. A brunch is planned for 11:30 a.m. for congregants and invited community members. Brunch will be followed by a guest speaker: Dr. Eitan Fishbane, an assistant professor in the department of Jewish philosophy at JTS. Dr. Fishbane's area of specialization is in Jewish mysticism, particularly Hassidic spirituality.

In addition, Beth Israel Congregation is creating the Rabbi Robert Dobrusin Scholarship to support a rabbinical student's study at JTS. The congregation felt that this was the most appropriate way to honor Rabbi Dobrusin, since the Jewish Theological Seminary is the intellectual and religious center of Conservative Judaism. It serves as the preeminent center for the academic study of Judaica outside of Israel, educating Jewish professionals and



Rabbi Robert Dobrusin

lay leadership in the spirit of Conservative Judaism.

"Imagine yourself in Beth Israel's sunny courtyard, sipping a cool drink, eating a delicious brunch, and joining members of the community to honor Rabbi Dobrusin for his teaching, counseling, leadership, and inspiration," said the event's organizers. ■

Correction on Deir Yassin article

The March 2007 issue of *Washtenaw Jewish News* contained an article titled "Deir Yassin Remembered—In Full." One reader faulted the article for not expanding on the Palestinian leader's personal role in the Holocaust:

"The Mufti was one of the initiators of the systematic extermination of European Jewry and had been a collaborator and adviser of Eichmann and Himmler in the execution of this plan. ... He was one of Eichmann's best friends and had constantly incited him to accelerate the extermination measures. I heard him say, accompanied by Eichmann, he had visited incognito the gas chamber of Auschwitz."

The above quote is from Nuremberg trial testimony of Adolph Eichmann's deputy Dieter Wisliceny—hung by Czechoslovakia in 1946 as reported on several web sites

(though we have not confirmed the exact quote from a print source).

Also noted was the periodic boast by Yasir Arafat that he was the Mufti's nephew (Arafat's given name was Mohammed Abdel Raouf Arafat al-Qudwa Al-Husseini). That claim has been challenged as being exaggerated for the political advantage. Corrections: The UN in 1947 had before it the example of India's partition as they contemplated a solution to the Palestine dilemma. However, the UN played no part in that partition. Also, the article named a Nazi-trained Palestinian commander in the 1948 war as being father to the Black September terrorist commander of the Munich Olympics massacre. Both were named Hasan Salame but their relationship is unclear. ■

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The *Washtenaw Jewish News* is a free and independent newspaper. It is published monthly, with the exception of January and August. It is registered as a Non-profit Michigan Corporation. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of its editors or staff.

Special thanks to

Ethel Ellis, Irwin Pollack

The WJN is supported by the donations of the businesses appearing within these pages.

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Signed letters to the editor are welcome; they should not exceed 400 words. Letters can be emailed to the editor at wjn2@aol.com. Name will be withheld at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation: 5,000

Subscriptions:
\$12 bulk rate inside Washtenaw County
\$18 first-class subscription

The deadline for the June 2007 issue of the *Washtenaw Jewish News* is Monday, May 7 at 3 p.m. Publication date: May 29.

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



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Community

Medical Ethics Forum sponsored by Genesis

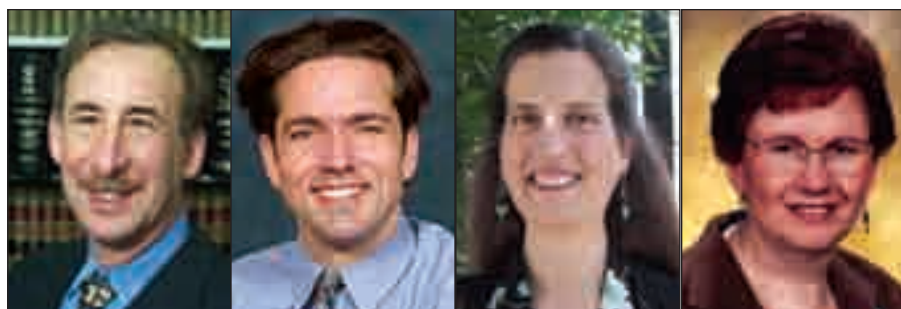
Andrew Mitchell, special to WJN

Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare's Episcopal Church will be cosponsoring a Medical Ethics Forum dealing with end of life issues on Sunday, May 6, from 3–4:30 p.m. at the Church/Temple, 2309 Packard.

A panel of experts on end of life care will be comprised of Ed Goldman, associate vice president and Deputy General Counsel of U-M, Linda Strodtman, R.N., Ph.D., professor at the U-M School of Nursing, Phillip Rodgers, M.D., assistant professor, department of Family Medicine and the director of the Palliative Care Consultation Service at U-M Health System, and Cantor Annie Rose of Temple Beth Emeth.

The topics to be discussed will include (1) decision making, support, and communication among family members and care givers (including a discussion of ethical wills, living wills, and advance directives), (2) the definition of persistent vegetative state and death and whether the medical and legal definitions conflict with the religious and moral, and (3) the issue of assisted death versus the idea of achieving a "good death."

There should be ample time for questions and a period of informal discussion with the panelists will follow the program. The forum is open to the public. For more information, contact Andrew Mitchell at 663-2342. ■



Ed Goldman

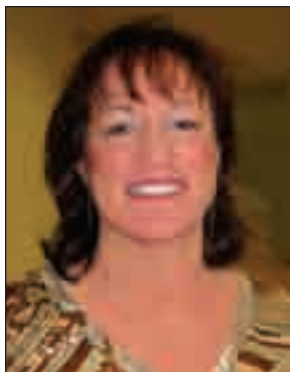
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Annie Rose

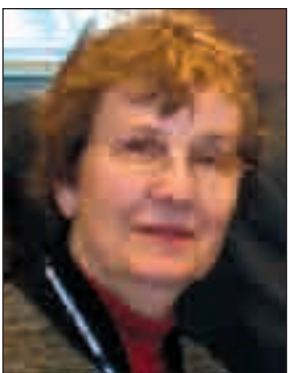
Linda Strodtman

Hadassah to honor Gerber and Adler at year-end event

WJN staff writers



Sue Adler



Florence Gerber

Sue Adler and Florence Gerber will be honored at "The PIEfect Ending" —Hadassah's Year-end event—on Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Moonwinks Café.

Sue Adler will receive the Hadassah Certificate of Merit. Currently Jewish National Fund Chair, Adler has been a longtime member of the Ann Arbor Hadassah board. She has often hosted meetings in her home and has always worked quietly behind the scenes in a very effective manner. Adler also has a great love of Israel.

Florence Gerber will be honored with the Hadassah Love-Of-A-Lifetime award, which is given to a woman whose lifetime of love and commitment to Israel and the Jewish people serves as an inspiration to others. Ann Frank is quoted on the award: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Gerber, this year's Hadassah program chair, actively promotes Israel through her volunteer work for Hadassah, Hope for Peace, Stand With Us, and AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee). She also supports Beth Israel Women's League, Hebrew Day School and ORT.

The evening will also include storytelling by Lyn Davidge and homemade pies for dessert.

To RSVP, send a check payable to Hadassah for \$18 to Eileen Thacker, 1049 Westview Way, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 by May 11. ■

Moonwinks Café is located at 5151 Plymouth Road (Dixboro). Those needing a ride should call Jane Kaufer at 668-0782.

JAAS hosts supper at Blue Nile

Roann Altman, special to the WJN

Jewish Ann Arbor Singles (JAAS) will celebrate spring on Sunday, May 20, from 5–7 p.m., with a light supper at The Blue Nile (221 E. Washington St.).

JAAS is a local organization sponsoring social events for singles over the age of 35. The fall event in December attracted a lively group of almost 40 singles, including some from Detroit, Windsor, and Toledo.

Supper at The Blue Nile will cost approximately \$15 per person. To RSVP (by May 15) and receive further details, email your name, address, and telephone number to j_aa_s@yahoo.com, or call Roann Altman at 483-8352. ■

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Jewish Film Festival

Jewish Film Festival Opening Night offers talk with U-M general consul and ACLU director

Rachel Rosenthal, special to the WJN

Marvin Krislov, vice-president and general Counsel of the University of Michigan and Kary Moss, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan will lead a discussion about the Gottlieb



Marvin Krislov



Kary Moss

Prize winning film, *Steel Toes*, at the Opening Night of the JCC Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival in Ann Arbor on Sunday, May 6. The film will start at 8 p.m., and the discussion will follow the film. *Steel Toes* is an intense drama about a Jewish attorney required by the system to defend an anti-Semitic, hate-filled criminal who has killed a Pakistani restaurant worker for nothing more than spilling something on

his new steel-toed shoes.

Marvin Krislov is responsible for the university's legal affairs, including establishing goals and strategies; serving as senior legal counsel to the board of regents, the university administration, and units, including the health systems; and supervising the professional staff and outside counsel required to carry out these activities. Krislov led the university's legal defense of its admission policies, resulting in the 2003 Supreme Court decision of the importance of student body diversity. He was recognized by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund for his "counsel and leadership" for his work on the cases. He co-chairs the presidential initiative on ethics in public life and has served on the athletics department's transition committee.



Poster from *Steel Toes*

Kary L. Moss has been with the ACLU of Michigan since 1998. She has been a practicing civil rights attorney since 1987, serving as clerk in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, staff attorney with the ACLU Women's Rights Project in New York, and director of the NLG/Sugar Law Center in Detroit. She holds a masters in international affairs from Columbia University and a J.D. from CUNY Law School at Queen's College.

Steel Toes, the main attraction, is the 2007 winner of the Fifth Annual Sarah and Harold Gottlieb Prize for Contributions to Jewish Culture.

All good art is available on many levels and on the surface this profound film is a prime example. Based on writer/co-director

David Gow's own play, *Steel Toes* tells the story of court-appointed Jewish lawyer Danny Dunkelman (Oscar Nominee David Strathairn; *Good Night and Good Luck*), who is assigned the case of a skinhead, Mike, accused of this racially motivated murder. Strathairn, who actually originated this role on stage, delivers a triumphant performance as Dunkelman and as the two perform an elaborate dance of life and death, it becomes clear that the film is about even more than we thought. It is a finely wrought parable that tries to answer the question about what it 'costs' to be one of the 'chosen people'—to be Jewish—and by extension, whether or not it is worth it.

Tickets to the Film Festival screenings are \$10. A Film Festival Pass, good for all 19 films, is \$65. Ticket order forms and a full Festival schedule are available on the JCC website, www.jccannarbor.org. For more information about the Jewish Film Festival, contact the JCC at 971-0990. ■

Film Festival from page 1

families. This film and writer/director Pete Jones were the subjects of the first season of the Matt Damon/Ben Affleck produced HBO reality TV series *Project Greenlight*. This is an



A scene from *Stolen Summer*

affecting and deeply spiritual film about the friendship between two boys, one Catholic and the other Jewish. A free pizza lunch and an educational discussion will follow the film.

The Opening Night feature is *Steel Toes* and stars Academy Award nominee David Strathairn. Strathairn has appeared in over 80 films and television shows including *Good Night and Good Luck*, *L.A. Confidential*, *A League of Their Own* and *The River Wild*. This main attraction is the 2007 winner of the Fifth Annual Sarah and Harold Gottlieb Prize for Contributions to Jewish Culture. Special guests Marvin Krislov, General Counsel for the University of Michigan and Kary Moss, executive director of the ACLU of Michigan, will lead a discussion about the film.

Director Joshua Faudem will be the guest on Monday, May 7 at 2 p.m. for the screening of his film, *Blues by the Beach*, a documentary about the direct taking of innocent life for sup-

posedly political purposes. The film focuses on Mike's Place, a popular American bar on the Tel Aviv boardwalk, where there was beer and fun until a tragic terrorist attack in 2003.

Also on Monday, May 7 at 5 p.m., the feature film is *Checking Out*. Starring Peter Falk, Judge Reinhold, David Paymer, Laura San Giacomo and a host of other stars, this is a witty portrayal of a bizarre Jewish family and tells the story of a former Yiddish Theater star who writes to each of his three children that they should come home immediately as he has decided to commit suicide and wants them there. Director Mark Lane will be there to present his film and lead a discussion following the showing.

Matisyahu and *The First Time I Turned Twenty* are two movies that are appropriate for teens as well as adults. These films are showing on Monday, May 7 at 8 p.m.



A scene from *Matisahu*

On Tuesday, May 8 at 2 p.m., the feature film is *Sentenced to Marriage* (*Mekudeshet*). With unprecedented access to private, secret religious courts, this documentary follows three



A scene from *Sentenced to Marriage*

women as they encounter suffering and important revelations in trying to obtain a divorce in Israel. Local rabbis from the community will lead a discussion after the screening.

Basketball, the ultimate Jewish sport? Well, owners and managers were, but players, promoters? It seems that everybody was Jewish! *First Basket*, showing on Tuesday, May 8 at 8 p.m., is the tale the Jewish historical roots of the NBA. Narrated by Peter Riegert, this film is ultimately about becoming American. Film viewers will be joined by director David Vyorst.

A discussion with Enoch Brater, professor of English and theater at U-M, will take place after the screening of *Wrestling With Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner* on Wednesday, May 9 at 2 p.m. Brater, who was a featured author at the 2005 Jewish Book Festival, will give his unique insight into one of the most important Jewish playwrights today.

James Steward, director of the U-M Museum of Art will join on Wednesday, May 9 at 5 p.m. for *The Rape of Europa*, the epic story of the systematic theft, deliberate destruction and miraculous survival of Europe's art treasures during the Third Reich and World War II. Steward will speak following the screening.

Emmy Award winning filmmakers Noah and Harvey Ovshinsky and the Raoul Wallenberg Society of Ann Arbor have put together a dedication to the Wallenberg legacy

in the short documentary, *Raoul Wallenberg: One Person Can Make a Difference*, playing on Thursday, May 10 at 5 p.m.. Judie Lax of the Wallenberg Committee, along with Noah and Harvey Ovshinsky will be present to speak about the film.


The Film Festival concludes with *King of Beggars* on Thursday, May 10 at 8 p.m. This is a surprising and unique tale of a Jewish Robin Hood in 16th century Poland where a young man, who believes in earning rights by fulfilling one's duties, sets out to liberate his people and earn his torn 'nation' its own piece



A scene from *King of Beggars*

of land. The film's director will be present to speak about his film. ■

The Jewish Film Festival will showcase 19 films over five days at the Michigan Theater on East Liberty. Tickets are now available at the JCC. Tickets are \$10 each or a Festival Pass, good for all 19 movies, is \$65. The entire film schedule is available at <http://www.jccannarbor.org>, or call the JCC at 971-0990 for more information.




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Campus

Von Ehrenkrook awarded Weinberg Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies

Matthew Weingarden, special to the WJN

Graduate student Jason von Ehrenkrook has been named recipient of the 2007 Marshall Weinberg Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies. Each year the prize is awarded to a graduate student who has passed his or her preliminary exams and is actively engaged in dissertation writing. A doctoral candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, von Ehrenkrook's dissertation examines the cultural interaction between Jews, Christians and Roman sculpture.

In awarding von Ehrenkrook the Weinberg Prize, the Frankel Center Executive Committee noted the originality of his dissertation prospectus, "Navigating a 'Forest of Idols: Jewish and Christian Encounters with Statues in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean,'" and the excellence of his interdisciplinary and interlinguistic methodology. The committee was impressed by his use of "traditional," textually oriented methods and newer approaches to explore perceptions associated with the visual landscape of the ancient world.

Before he began graduate studies at Michigan, von Ehrenkrook studied biblical exegesis at Calvary Theological Seminary and Hebrew Bible at Westminster Theologi-



Jason von Ehrenkrook

cal Seminary. A father of four children, Jason lives with his family in Ann Arbor.

The Weinberg Prize was created through the generosity of Marshall M. Weinberg, LSA 1950, who often presents the award personally during one of his regular visits to Ann Arbor. ■

Local scholars receive funding for study abroad

Matthew Weingarden, special to the WJN

Five promising scholars have been named the 2007 Stanley D. Frankel Summer Fellows and will receive funding for academic work in the months ahead. Supported through generous donations from Judith and Stanley Frankel, the Stanley D. Frankel Summer Fellowship provides financial support for University of Michigan students pursuing work in Jewish studies over the summer months in Europe, Israel or Latin America. The fellowships may be used for research in archives and libraries, advanced language training, archaeological excavations, scholarly workshops, or social welfare and communal reconstruction projects in countries recovering from authoritarian rule.

The 2007 Frankel Summer Fellowship recipients represent the breadth and diversity of U-M's multi-disciplinary Judaic Studies program. They include the following:

- Sonia Isard (B.A. in Economics/B.A. in Russian/East European Studies/Minor Judaic Studies) will travel with a group of 20 researchers to the town of Mogilov-Podolski in Southern Ukraine and study the underground economy that developed during the Soviet era, paying close attention to the relationship of the area's Jewish community with this economy.
- Mika Ahuvia (M.A. in Judaic Studies) plans to attend the Michigan Graduate Summer School in the Greco-Roman Mediterranean for an in-depth archaeological survey of Israel's Roman and Byzantine sites. Participation will enhance Ahuvia's current scholarly interests in Judeo-Islamic cultures in the medieval world.

- Hilary Fineman (Ph.D. in Anthropology) will attend Hebrew University in Jerusalem for an intensive colloquial course in Arabic. Her current research focuses on access to reproductive health services for Arab and Jewish citizens of Israel. Fluent in Hebrew, Fineman hopes to observe Israeli women's use of their native tongues.
- Jonathan Glasser (Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies) will spend six weeks at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University and the Richelieu branch of the Bibliotheque Nationale de France. In France, Glasser will also conduct interviews with musicians in the Algerian Jewish community. Glasser hopes to answer outstanding questions in his dissertation concerning the relationship between Maghrebi-Andalusi music and the notion of social inheritance.
- Alexandra Hoffman (Ph.D. in Comparative Literature) is interested in the historical and literary traditions of the African and Jewish diasporic communities. She is focusing her research on the 1920s Harlem Renaissance and turn of the century classical Yiddish. She will travel to Mogilov-Podolski interviewing residents on minority-majority relationships.

The Stanley D. Frankel Summer Fellowships are awarded annually to U-M students. Applications are typically due at the end of January each year with decisions announced by March. For more information on the fellowships, call 763-9047 or email JudaicStudies@umich.edu. ■

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Jewish Family Services

JFS Bat Mitzvah Cruise, April 2007



JFS board of directors

Alan Friedman,
Leo Szlamkowitz,
Scott Zeunik,
Ron Stairs



Volunteers make JFS dream of new offices a reality

Carol Lessure, special to the WJN

As Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County settles into its new offices at 2245 South State Street, the agency staff and board of directors gratefully acknowledge the many volunteers that made the new office a reality. During the past five months, over 100 volunteers spent weekends, weekdays, and evenings working to transform the new, larger office space—which began as a large, undivided area—into nine private offices, with a conference room, reception area, and a larger classroom for daily ESL classes. The new space offers greater levels of privacy, confidentiality, and security to community members seeking help from the only Jewish social service agency serving Washtenaw County.

The following people and companies deserve special acknowledgement for their extraordinary help and support:

Leo Szlamkowitz, TJ Electric & Construction of Farmington Hills

When Leo Szlamkowitz and his wife and business partner, Julie, agreed to serve as general contractors for the JFS office build out, they knew they had accepted one of their most challenging donation projects ever. At the end of every year their company traditionally volunteers to take on one project, but none have been as extensive and involved as this one. As general contractor, Szlamkowitz oversaw the demolition of existing walls, electric, ceiling, and the re-construction of the new plan while JFS board members and staff helped line up donated or discounted labor and materials. With all the volunteers from the community, the group framed, wired, dry walled, hung a new ceiling and prepared the back offices

with paint and new floor. "It has been one of the most demanding projects as a donation, especially since it is a 60-mile round trip from my home. However, it has been, by far, the most rewarding job! I have literally been able to work side by side with people from every corner of the earth. The people who work at and volunteer for JFS have been so wonderful to work with. I not only have a great respect for what JFS does, I now have many new friends in Ann Arbor," said Leo Szlamkowitz.

Alan Friedman, Modern Mechanical

Over the course of the five-month project, Alan Friedman freely offered his expertise in heating and cooling during his non-work hours, guiding the crew through the process of approval and inspection for the air and heat systems in the new office configuration. "I was delighted to do it," said Friedman, "I admire how much JFS does to help people, and it is one of the few places where you can see your support pay off first hand."

Scott Zeunik, Lloyd Painting Services Inc.

Scott Zeunik and his general manager volunteered their services to paint the main offices of JFS, lending a professional polish to the new offices. Not only did Lloyd Painting prime and paint the walls, but the company also helped prep the drywall and painted all the trim and doors. "Being involved in the JFS project has been a pleasurable and rewarding experience. Everyone was extremely friendly and worked well together toward a common goal. We are pleased to give back the community that has given us so much over the past 25 years and hope that JFS enjoys their new facility as much as we enjoyed working in it."

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PHOTOS BY SUSAN AYER

JFS staff



Lonnie and Ron Sussman
with M.C. Al Muskovitz



Teens enjoyed the pool party

Ron Stairs, Ron Stairs Construction

During the critical months of November and December 2006, Ron Stairs provided several weeks of labor between his dual jobs as a union electrician and self-employed general contractor. Ron Stairs and Leo Szlamkowitz quickly forged an effective working team, finishing up the office framing and drywall. "It was my privilege in renovating for JFS. I like being able to give back to the community whenever possible. It was a unique experience working side by side with people from all over the world for one common cause."

Michael Verdiger, ESL Student

Michael Verdiger, who comes from a moshav outside of Ashkelon, Israel, spent several weeks helping finishing the office, including cutting and preparing the suspended ceiling tiles. "I was happy to help Jewish Family Services," said Verdiger, "All Jews help each other. The English class is very important to me. JFS helps me with English, so I help JFS with building."

Volunteers

JFS also wants to recognize all the handy people who came to lend a hand on the site, including board members, staff, and members of the community. Among those who helped were community youth groups, members of the resettlement community, ESL class members and graduates, members of YAD and Hillel, board and staff members of JFS and students from the Ann Arbor Public School construction program.

Company Donations

Other companies made critical donations, including:

- Home Depot heavily discounted many of their materials, and donated free appliances through their dealers.
- Behr Paints also donated paints through Home Depot.
- Gary Rochman Design & Build donated two days worth of framing and finishing.
- Brighton Builders supplied discounted drywall for half of the office.
- Ann Arbor Fabrication provided discounted labor to remove a concrete interior wall.
- Wolverine-Moore Glass discounted their security glass for the reception area.
- Reliable Tony donated a day of handyman services.
- Bodman & Longley LLP, Infor Global Solutions, Spiegel LLP, Fink & Josephson LLP contributed office furniture.

JFS also recognizes the support of McKinley Properties, Cornerstone Design Architects, and Butzel Long for their in kind donations in securing the property, preparing build out plans and reviewing the lease.

"We are so grateful to those who donated their valuable time to this project," said Board Vice President and Project Manager Mark Berg. "Thanks to the significant contribution of these exceptional community members, JFS has more than doubled its office space and is now in a position to meet the next decade of growing demands for the high quality services it provides to community members in need."

JFS invites the community to a Grand Opening celebration on Sunday, May 20 from 2-4 p.m. There will be an official ribbon cutting at 2:30 p.m. and Mezuzah hangings throughout the office. ■

Grandparent University coming to Ann Arbor

Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson, special to the WJN

Being a grandparent transforms your identity, roles, and relationships. From the joys of sharing special moments with your grandchildren to the challenges of juggling the needs of multiple generations, grandparenting is an experience worthy of discussion and study. The JCC's new "Grandparent University" program will allow Jewish grandparents to share and discuss the highlights and struggles of grandparenting, hear from guest speakers, and participate in activities to enhance the grandparent-grandchild relationship.

Grandparent University will be held from 1-3 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month. The inaugural meeting on May 31 at 1 p.m. will be facilitated by Happy Feigelson, Ph.D., and is entitled "Bubbe/Zaide, Savta/Saba, Grandma/Grandpa: A Lively Conversation on the Joys and Challenges of Grandparenting." Join us for an introduction and overview of Grandparent University, share your interests and goals, and get to know other grandparents as we discuss the best and most difficult parts of being a grandparent. Each monthly session will be facilitated by a professional and will cover a myriad of questions that arise, for better or for worse, in many grandparents' lives, such as:

- What kind of grandparent would I like to be, and how can I best achieve that goal?
- How should I handle conflicts—between my adult child and grandchild, between my multiple families of grandchildren, and/or between myself and my adult children?
- How can I stay involved in my grandchildren's lives even though I live far away? (Or, how can I be a positive presence in my grandchildren's lives while living nearby?)
- How can I serve as a spiritual guide for my grandchildren, including those in interfaith households?

Guest speakers will discuss child development and activities to do with grandchildren at every age and stage, caring for grandchildren with special needs, and addressing loss and grief in your grandchild's life (for example, when parents divorce or when loved ones die). The group will also meet once with the JCC's Jewish Mamas group for a panel discussion with the parent generation entitled "All the Things You Wish You Could Tell Your Own Parents or Adult Children about Grandparenting."

In addition to engaging in lively discussions and learning from educators, Grandparent University members will work on creating a tangible legacy for their grandchildren that will incorporate family stories, photos, and traditions.

Membership in the year-long Grandparent University costs \$40 and includes 12 monthly meetings and a subscription to Grand Magazine, the Official Magazine of Grandparents. Registration is required by May 15. Call Abigail Lawrence-Jacobson at Jewish Family Services 769-0209 for more information and to register. ■



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Noon, Homemade Luncheon Buffet.
\$3.

1-3 p.m. JCC Writing Group.

All are welcome to join!

Tuesdays

Every Tuesday:

Noon. Mah Jongg.

1-3 p.m. Drop-In Hobby Time.

Bring your project. Coffee and noshes provided.

Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5 and 12:

New Class: Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Course

1:30-3 p.m. Taught by Mary Stevens, LMSW, the "Maiden (Innocence), Mother (Creativity), and Crone (Wisdom)" is a life review mini-course that will allow a small group of women to reflect on the stages of their own lives using the concepts of innocence, creativity, and wisdom. Together, participants will identify their unique strengths and create a vision for aging. The last meeting will serve as a special ceremony to honor the growth and wisdom accumulated through the years. Mary Stevens is a social worker and the founder of Life Cycles, which provides counseling, classes and ceremonies for those moving through life transitions. Participants must register in advance through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (formerly Learning in Retirement). Register early—space is limited to 10. There is a fee. For more information or to register, contact the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at 998-9351.

Wednesdays

Wednesday, May 16: Matinee Musicale

1:30 p.m. Refreshments;

2 p.m. performance: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet performs old time favorites including the Best of Broadway and swing tunes. Cost: \$7.00/person.

The Matinée Musicale Series is a five-concert recital series of classical music presented by Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Music Director Arie Lipsky and the A2SO's brass, string, and woodwind ensembles.

Thursdays

Every Thursday:

10-11 a.m., Fitness Fun

Maria Farquhar. \$4 or 3 for \$10.

11 a.m.-noon. Current Event

A Jewish perspective on the news.

Noon, Homemade Luncheon Buffet.
\$3.

1-2 p.m. Thursday Special Events and Presentations
(see below for details).

2:15-3:15 p.m. Literary Group
with Sidney Warshausky.

Thursday, May 3:

1 p.m. Yael Dolev, Food Coach:

"Every Bite a Pleasure: Nutrition Choices for Everyone." Join us for discussion and cooking demonstration. U-M nursing students will be present to share in the fun.

Thursday, May 10:

Noon. Luncheon and Jewish Film Festival.

Join us for a Mother's Day Luncheon at Zanzibar, followed by the 2 p.m. showing of *Sister Rose's Passion* and *Queen of the Mountain* at the Michigan Theater. Buy your own lunch and ticket to the Jewish Film Festival (lunch: about \$10; film ticket: \$10); transportation will be provided. Meet at the JCC at noon. Reservation required: Laurie at 971-0990.

Thursday, May 17:

1:30 p.m. (note later start time).

Jeff Bernstein, Associate Professor of Political Science at Eastern Michigan University, presents "Bowling Alone, Governing Together."

Thursday, May 24:

Closed for Shavuot.

Thursday, May 31:

1 p.m. Grandparent University Inaugural Meeting:

"Bubbe/Zaide, Savta/Saba, Grandma/



A scene from *Queen of the Mountain*

Grandpa: A Lively Conversation on the Joys and Challenges of Grandparenting," facilitated by Happy Feigelson, Ph.D. Registration required by May 15. Call Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson at 769-0209 for more information.

(See article on page 7.)

Fridays

Every Friday:

1:30 - 3 p.m. Yiddish-Speaking Group.

Weekly Yiddish conversations, meets at a private home except when the monthly group meets at the JCC.

Friday, May 11th

1:30 - 3 p.m. Monthly Yiddish Group.

Meets at the JCC to view Yiddish films.

Film: *The Shop Around the Corner*.

Friday, May 11th

10 a.m. Outing to the Senior Housing and Living Expo.

Join friends to explore over 50 exhibits of housing, personal care, and support services at the Senior Housing Awareness Week (SHAW) Housing and Living Expo at Washtenaw Community College. No cost. Transportation provided. Meet at the JCC at 10 a.m. R.S.V.P. to Laurie at 971-0990.

Friday, June 1:

11:00 a.m. Grandparent Shabbat

Following the launch of the new "Grandparent University," join your (or someone else's) grandchildren for the annual Grandparent Shabbat. Call Noreen DeYoung for more information and to RSVP call 971-0990.



A scene from *Sister Rose's Passion*

Local Israel activists attend 2007 AIPAC Policy Conference

Florence Gerber, special to the WJN

AIPAC's (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) primary mission is to work with America's leaders to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. On March 13, Judy and Malcolm Cohen; Liz and Mike Fried; Florence and Marvin Gerber; and Jane and Herb Kaufer met with The Honorable John D. Dingell and Joshua Tzucker, Congressman Dingell's legislative director, in the congressman's Washington, D.C. office. The discussion focused on three AIPAC issues—Iran's nuclear program, security aid for Israel, and standards for the Palestinian Authority. Dingell is against Iran's nuclear program and he said he would vote for \$2.4 billion for Israel military aid.

Dingell was asked to sign the Wexler/Gallegly/Ackerman/Pence letter urging the European Union to maintain the internationally agreed upon standards that any Palestinian government must meet before it can receive aid and recognition. The U.S., European Union, the United Nations and Russia require any new Palestinian government to recognize Israel's right to exist, end terrorism, and accept previous agreements. Dingell said that he believes that the United States should negotiate with the Palestinian Authority and not ask others to intervene.

The Ann Arbor delegates also met with Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow. Both senators back Israel's right to exist, are against Iran's nuclear program, will vote for

military aid to Israel, and agreed to sign the Nelson/Ensign letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging the U.S. to maintain the internationally agreed upon standards that any Palestinian government must meet before it can receive aid and recognition.

The Ann Arbor residents were part of the approximately 6,000 who attended the March 2007 AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, D.C. Featured speakers included Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and House Republican Leader John Boehner, Joe Lieberman—as well as Vice President Dick Cheney, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Benjamin Netanyahu.

American support for Israel didn't start with President Truman's 1948 recognition

of the Jewish state, historian and author Michael Oren told AIPAC's Policy Conference. (Oren's book *Power, Faith, and Fantasy* is on the New York Times Best Seller List.) And it won't end if millions of American Christians continue to hold political clout in Washington, according to a subsequent address by

Pastor John Hagee of San Antonio's Cornerstone Church. Oren traced the U.S.-Israel bond to colonial times, and Hagee delivered a stirring explanation of Christian Zionism. All the speakers voiced support for Israel. ■



(left to right) U-M student Alana Kuhn, Florence Gerber, Herb Kaufer, Malcolm Cohen, Congressman John D. Dingell, Liz Fried, Mike Fried, Jane Kaufer, Judy Cohen and Marvin Gerber in the congressman's Washington, D.C. office

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Congregations

Programs and classes at Beth Israel

Elliot Sorkin, special to the WJN

Stewardship Morning For Families

A family Lag Ba'Omer event in the spirit of Tikkun Olam (perfecting the world) will take place at Furstenberg Park, Sunday, May 6 from 9 a.m.–noon as part of a volunteer “Stewardship Morning” arranged through the Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Adopt-a-Park Program. Participants will help to remove the invasive, non-native garlic mustard plant from the park, followed by an hour-long nature walk led by the park staff. Participants should come dressed in good walking shoes and should bring a pair of sturdy gloves for the weeding. The park is located off of Fuller Road just past Gallup Park and across from Huron High School. To RSVP, contact the Program Department at 769-1651.

Tot Lag Ba'Omer Picnic

On Sunday, May 6 at noon, Beth Israel will be hosting a Tot Lag Ba'Omer Picnic at Gallup Park for families with children from zero to five years old. (Enter the park from Fuller Road, cross the bridge and follow the road to the last parking lot.) Participants are asked to bring a vegetarian dish to share and some picnic blankets to spread out. Beth Israel will provide drinks, paper products and activities for the kids. In case of rainy or questionable weather, please call 769-1651 at 11 a.m.; the program will be held at an alternative site.

Tot Shabbat

This month Tot Shabbat for families with children up to the age of five will take place on Saturday, May 12 at 11 a.m. and will be led by Peretz Hirshbein. The program includes, songs, prayers, stories, and a special kid only kiddush. There is no charge and no reservation is necessary.

“Guilt and Pleasure” at Border’s Bookstore

Beth Israel is beginning a monthly discussion at a local café. The May discussion will be held on Monday, May 14 at 8 p.m. in the coffee shop of Borders Bookstore located in the Arborland Mall. This month features a discussion of articles from *Guilt and Pleasure*, a quarterly journal, “based on the belief that a good argument—especially on issues of community and identity in America—has become too rare a thing.” To RSVP, or if you have any questions, contact the Program Department at 769-1651. All the articles are found online.

Screening of New Israel Movie: Aviva Ahuvati

On Tuesday, May 15 at 8 p.m., Beth Israel will be screening the award-winning Israeli film *Aviva Ahuvati* (*Aviva my Love*) (2006) in the large social hall. This film has won nine awards at international film festivals and been nominated for seven others. It is a quirky and dramatic film which questions the value of intellectual property and at what value it ought to be sacrificed. Assi Levy dazzles as the lead, and the supporting cast provides welcome doses of laughs and gravitas. The movie is in Hebrew with English subtitles. This event is free of charge and is open to the general public.

Shabbat Yoga

Rachel Portnoy, a Registered Yoga Teacher, will inaugurate a new yoga class on Saturday, May 19 from 9–10 a.m. in Room 15. The class is a gentle “yoga flow” class that will help increase openness and awareness of participants before they join the regular Shabbat services in the main sanctuary. Themes from the emerging practice of Jewish Yoga and the week’s parasha will be incorporated into this session, which is suitable for all ages. Participants are asked to arrive five minutes before the class and bring along some comfortable clothing. Yoga is practiced bare footed on yoga mats, some of which will be made available. The program is free, but RSVP to the Program Department at 769-1651 if you are interested. For now, this class will be provided once a month, every third Shabbat of the month.

Spring Retreat

The Spring Retreat for Young Families will take place from May 25–27 on the grounds of the Tamarack Camps at the Butzel Conference Center in Ortonville Michigan. A great getaway for the whole family, this is a warm, relaxing Shabbat weekend in a beautiful wooded setting near a private lake. This year’s theme will be about connecting to the environment, and parents and kids will have the opportunity to personally meet many of the animals living on the grounds and learn about their lives. There is a charge, and the retreat is open to non member families. The registration deadline is Monday, May 7. Call the Program Department at 769-1651 for application and further information.

Shavuot Celebration

Beth Israel marks the beginning of the holiday of Shavuot on Tuesday, May 22 with a special Shavuot service at 9:30 p.m. followed immediately by a “Tikkun Leil Shavuot” study session from 10 p.m.–midnight. The theme of the study sessions is “*Hibat Ha’aretz* - Our Love for the Land of Israel: Past, Present and Future.” For millennia the Jewish tradition has spoken its love for the land of Israel. The holiday of Shavuot, one of the three pilgrimage festivals in which Jews brought the first fruits of the land to Jerusalem, is an appropriate time to consider the meaning of *hibat ha’aretz*, the love of the land of Israel, throughout our history and today. What does this concept mean to us in the 21st century? How does it unite us as Jews? How do different people relate to this love and express it in different ways? The focus will be different texts, ancient and contemporary. At midnight, the event will conclude with a festive oneg featuring a variety of cheesecakes. The evening is free of charge, open to the community, and participants are welcome to stay as long as they wish. There will be Shavuot morning services on both Wednesday, May 23, and Thursday, May 24, starting at 9:30 a.m. The Yizkor service will take place on Thursday, May 24 at approximately 11 a.m.

May activities at TBE

Devon Fitzig, special to the WJN

Medical Ethics Forum

Forum on End of Life Issues, Sunday, May 6, 3–4:30 p.m.
This year’s forum, cosponsored by TBE and St. Clare’s, will deal with end of life issues. See article for more information.

God’s Top Ten: The Essential Commandments

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Adult Study Session with Rabbi Levy, Tuesday, May 22, 9 p.m.
Enjoy some Torah learning and cheesecake.

Temple Beth Emeth Shabbat Shuttle

TBE is excited to use Jewish Family Services’ new van one Friday night a month. Get a free ride to Temple. Join for Shabbat Services on Friday, May 18 (Confirmation Service). To sign up, call Devon Fitzig, 665-4744 by May 11.

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, May 11 (last one before the fall) 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.

Tots in the Park

Thursday, May 17 & Tuesday, June 12, 6–7 p.m.
Musical fun at Burns Park! Look for the group on the grass near the playground. Participants are encouraged to bring their own dinner. Canceled in case of rain.

Twenties & Thirties (TNT) Events

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>.

Movie Tuesday:

Itzhak Perlman: In the Fiddler’s House, Tuesday, May 15, 1–3 p.m. at Temple Beth Emeth. Virtuoso violinist Itzhak Perlman takes viewers on an eye-and ear-opening tour of klezmer music from New York to Krakow. This traditional music of Yiddish-speaking cultures, which infuses other Eastern European influences from Rumania, Greece, Turkey, Russia, Poland and The Ukraine, remains important in Jewish immigrant culture. People who have flexible daytime schedules are invited to stay for a discussion following the film. Noshes and coffee provided.

Continuing Jewish Meditation

Wednesdays May 9, 16, and 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the TBE Chapel. Counting the Omer:
The time between Pesach and Shavuot is the traditional time in Judaism to do self reflection and work on our soul traits. A process dating back to Kabbalistic times sets in place a method for systematically doing this. Open to beginning or experienced meditators.

Rabbi Jonathan Brown discusses Rabbi Nelson Glueck

Friday, June 15 at Shabbat Services, 8 p.m., Rabbi Brown, former interim rabbi at TBE (2002), will discuss his new book, *Nelson Glueck: Biblical Archaeologist and President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase following the service.

Second Fridays Shabbat service introduced at AARH beginning May 4

Aura Ahuvia, special to the WJN

The Ann Arbor Reconstructionist Havurah is starting a monthly Friday night service emphasizing learning and discussion. Each service will have a different topic, ranging from traditional texts to contemporary politics, art, literature, science, philosophy and theology. The 90-minute service/discussion will run from 6:15–7:45 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County. These additional services will take place May 4, June 8, July 13 and August 10.

The service on Friday, May 4 will be co-led by Rabbi Nathan Martin and his wife, Abby Weinberg, on “Answering the Call: Counting the Days from Liberation to Revelation,” a reference to the process of counting the Omer following Passover, and how to approach it from a spiritual perspective. Martin is the new assistant director at the University of Michigan’s Hillel. He is also a graduate from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia. The service is open to the community, and babysitting will be offered.

The new services will complement the Reconstructionist Havurah’s main current

offering, which is a music- and prayer-oriented service on the last Friday of each month. This well-established service, also held at the JCC, begins at 6:15 p.m. along with a simultaneous Tot Shabbat service held separately, and concludes with a potluck dinner. Both the established music- and prayer-focused service, and the newer, more learning-focused service are designed to actively engage everyone, in keeping with the Havurah’s core value of participation.

The Havurah introduced the newer learning service format, in part, to appeal to those who may feel that they connect more readily to Judaism by actively engaging with ideas, via discussion and shared perspectives, than with a more traditional service format.

Newcomers and those interested in exploring different ways of connecting with Judaism and the Jewish community are welcome at the new Friday night learning services and also at the last-Friday-of-the-month services and potluck. For more information, visit the Reconstructionist Havurah’s website at www.aarecon.org or contact Aura Ahuvia, 975-9045. ■



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Shavuot—Peace and unity

Rabbi Aharon Goldstein, special to the WJN

The preparations for receiving the Torah, and the “receptacle” for it, are peace and unity, as our Sages explain in the Mechilta in reference to the words, “And Israel encamped there facing the mountain” (Ex. 19:2) – in the singular, as one man, i.e., “all Israel, like one man, with one heart.”

The Midrash expresses the same thought in this way: “The Holy One, blessed be He, wished to give the Torah to the Jewish people immediately upon leaving Egypt, but they were divided and lacked unity. When they came to Sinai, they were all united into one unity. Said God, ‘The Torah is all peace; I shall give it to the peace-loving nation.’”

Such peace and unity must be directed toward the purpose of Torah and mitzvot (commandments), as indicated in the words of the Torah quoted above: “And Israel encamped there facing the mountain.”

Unity and peace are powerful enough, even where misused in the quest of unworthy objectives, as was the case with the Tower of Babel episode. However, such unity cannot be long-lived, and this is not the way to bring God’s blessings. But in the case of the Torah—God’s Torah, and mitzvot—God’s mitzvot—peace and unity are the means by which to attain unity with God; such unity can be attained only through the Torah and mitzvot. This feeling of unity must express itself in mutual love and in efforts to unite with the rest of our people through the study of our one Torah and the observance of its precepts.

During the forthcoming days, until the Festival of Shavuot, every one of us should explain to those whom we can influence, that

it is the duty of every Jewish man, woman and child to practice ahavat Yisrael—loving your fellow Jew—especially at this time, over and above the duty to practice it daily.

It is necessary to explain further that ahavat Yisrael is the preparation for the Giving and Receiving of the Torah and to disseminate and explain the words of Rabbi Shneur Zalman, the founder of Chabad, that “Love your fellow as yourself” is a receptacle for “You shall love God your God.”

Thus, love of God, love of the Torah and love of the Jewish people all become one.

The Maggid of Mezritch explained the words of the Mishna: “Know, what is above—(from) you,” to the effect that everything coming from Above is dependent on you, and each good deed may tip the scale.

This is especially so in the case of a good deed done in the cause of peace and ahavat Yisrael, which the Baal Shem Tov made an integral part of the foundation of Chasidut, since in this way, the individual Jew becomes united with all the people of Israel.

This, then, is the true preparation for receiving the Torah; for the Torah was given for the purpose of bringing peace into the world—the big world, and the small world (i.e., man), bringing peace

and unity between man and his Maker.

Let every one, and especially those who speak publicly, disseminate these thoughts far and wide.

In this way may we be certain that all of us, in the midst of all our people, will merit—in the words of my father-in-law of saintly memory—to receive the Torah “inwardly and with joy.” ■



Haftarah for Parashat Behukotai

Rabbi Robert Dobrusin, special to the WJN

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

For centuries, the Haftarah reading has been associated with the bar (and later, bat) mitzvah ceremony. It is unclear how such a close relationship developed; but, in most synagogues, we expect to hear the bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah chant the Haftarah reading on the morning of their simcha.

When I work with our b’nai and b’not mitzvah on their D’var Torah, I am reminded of the strong connection that our children develop with the Prophetic reading as most of them initially refer to the reading as “My Haftarah.” Our students know that this is a bit of a “pet peeve” of mine; I prefer that they say “Today’s Haftarah” or “The Haftarah that I read,” because I believe that we can’t take ownership of something we share with other b’nai and b’not mitzvah who have read this Haftarah and, more importantly, that we share with our entire people.

But I understand and respect this deep connection. In fact, I feel it too. So, permit me to share some thoughts on “The Haftarah that I read” at my Bar Mitzvah 39 (gulp!) years ago this month.

Parashat Behukotai is the final section of the book of Vayikra, Leviticus. It focuses on two major aspects: agricultural laws dealing with the Sabbatical year and the Torah’s concept of reward and punishment.

The Haftarah reading, from the book of Jeremiah, picks up both of these themes. Jeremiah uses agricultural imagery to reflect on the idea of reward and punishment, and to give it a twist that makes it a bit easier for us to accept given the reality of life.

Jeremiah says: “Blessed is the person who trusts in God,” and then goes on to speak about how that individual will have strong roots which will enable him or her to withstand heat and drought and still flourish. The word “roots” is, I believe, the key word in this prophecy. Jeremiah is telling us that faith provides us with the foundation which will insure our stability, patience and wisdom to face the negative experiences of the world. He is not guaranteeing that the heat and drought will not come. Instead, he says we can withstand them with faith.

This is reminiscent of what I believe to be the intended meaning (p’shat) of the famous phrase from the u’ntaneh tokef prayer for the High Holy Days: “But teshuva (repentance), tefilla (prayer) and tzedakah (righteous deeds) avert the severity of the decree.” While many translate this

last phrase as: “avert the severe decree,” the prayer seems to be saying that the “decree” of difficult times might come regardless of our behavior, but that repentance, prayer and righteous deeds take away some of the sting from that which occurs and enable us to carry on through difficult times.

Jeremiah preceded his statement about the roots that faith provides with the contrasting statement: “Cursed be the person who trusts in the human being.” He compares this person to a scrub bush with weak roots (I prefer to translate it loosely as a “tumbleweed”), without any mechanism by which to fight off heat and drought.

Jeremiah’s thought might be inspiring, but it should make us ask some significant questions. Can we really live our lives with-

out trusting other human beings? Is it really an either/or proposition: trust in God or trust in human beings? Of course, it isn’t. We need to find and surround ourselves with people we can trust, and failure to do so removes the joy and meaning

from our world.

One commentary notes that since Jeremiah says: “Cursed be the person who trusts in the human being,” using the singular, he must be referring to one particular human being. There is only one human being that each of us knows and has contact with and that is, of course, ourselves. This commentary notes that Jeremiah is saying: “Cursed be the person who trusts only in him or herself.”

If we think about repentance, prayer and righteous deeds, we note the unifying aspect of the three: they all are done in community. Repentance includes apologizing to the person we have harmed, prayer is ideally done in a minyan, tzedakah involves reaching out to others. So, we can deduce that it is not only faith in God that provides us the roots to withstand the negativity of life. It is the community that that faith leads us to: trust in sharing our lives with our partners, with our families, with our friends, with our community.

I recently found the words I spoke at my Bar Mitzvah. They were hardly the same as the words I wrote above. Each of us changes and each of us grows and “our Haftarah readings” grow with us as we consider them year by year. May we all continue to grow in learning, in faith, and in trust of those with whom we share our world. ■

Lag B’Omer, 33rd day of the Omer Count

Chabad.org

Lag B’Omer, the 33rd day of the Omer Count — this year, May 6 — is a festive day on the Jewish calendar, celebrated with outings (on which the children traditionally play with bow and arrows), bonfires, and other joyous events. Many visit the resting place (in Miron in Northern Israel) of the great sage and mystic Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, whose *yahrzeit* (anniversary of his passing) the day marks.

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, who lived in the 2nd century of the Common Era, was the first to publicly teach the mystical dimension of the Torah known as the “Kabbalah,” and is the author of the basic work of *Kabbalah*, the *Zohar*. On the day of his passing, Rabbi Shimon instructed his disciples to mark the date as “the day of my joy.” The Chassidic masters explain that the final day of a righteous person’s earthly life marks the point at which “all his deeds, teachings and work” achieve

their culminating perfection and the zenith of their impact upon our lives. So each Lag BaOmer we celebrate Rabbi Shimon’s life and the revelation of the esoteric soul of Torah.

Lag BaOmer also commemorates another joyous event. The Talmud relates that in the weeks between Passover and Shavuot a plague raged amongst the disciples of the great sage Rabbi Akiva “because they did not act respectfully towards each other”; these weeks are therefore observed as a period of mourning, with various joyous activities proscribed by law and custom. On Lag BaOmer the dying ceased. Thus Lag BaOmer also carries the theme of Ahavat Yisrael, the imperative to love and respect one’s fellow man.

Conversion for those raised Jewish? Rabbis address patrilineal issue

By Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA)—When David Levine stepped into the mikvah last year, he believed he was affirming what he already was, not converting to something new.

“I was raised Jewish, was always told I was Jewish,” says the 35-year-old Californian, who did not want his real name printed. “I went to Jewish camps, even had a bar mitzvah.”

But when Levine joined a Conservative congregation after his marriage, the rabbi told him that because his mother was not Jewish, he needed a legal conversion. That was hard to hear, he says, even though the rabbi was “very sensitive” and moved him quickly through the study process.

Levine views his mikvah experience—the final step in conversion—as very different than for a person with no Jewish parents or grandparents.

Approximately 1.5 million Americans have one Jewish and one non-Jewish parent.

“I felt Jewish all along,” he says. “I didn’t see it as a break with the past. It was just sort of a continuum.”

Rabbis, especially Conservative rabbis, are seeing more and more of these cases: young adults with Jewish fathers and non-Jewish mothers, people who have spent their lives in the Jewish community, coming forward to seek conversion. Rabbis and candidates alike say it requires different sensibilities and a different approach.

“The conversion process is the same, but the emotional journey is very different,” says Rabbi Avis Miller of Congregation Adas Israel in Washington, a longtime advocate of greater outreach to the adult children of intermarried parents. “They already feel part of the Jewish family.”

According to national figures, approximately 1.5 million Americans have one Jewish and one non-Jewish parent. More than 360,000 of them are between the ages of 18 and 29, the product of the first big surge of intermarriage in the late 1970s and early ’80s.

Many of those young adults with non-Jewish mothers grew up in the Reform movement, which since 1983 has accepted patrilineal as well as matrilineal descent. In earlier generations they may have been excluded from the Jewish community; now, like Levine, they are raised Jewish.

As adults, some decide to undergo formal conversion. Some seek out Orthodox rabbis. Some ask Reform rabbis, although conversion is not needed for Reform recognition.

But the largest number are found in the Conservative movement, which requires conversion of people with non-Jewish mothers.

Rabbi Michael Siegel of the Anshe Emet congregation in Chicago sees many more of these cases than he did 20 years ago. He attributes that to “an entire generation growing up under Reform auspices.”

Rabbi Joel Meyers, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the rabbinic arm

of the Conservative movement, says they are most often people who “grew up very involved with Judaism and the Jewish people, who think of themselves as Jewish.”

As a result, he says, “we try very hard, with great sensitivity and compassion, to work with them.”

Each conversion candidate meets with a sponsoring rabbi, Meyers explains, who ascertains the candidate’s Jewish knowledge, observance level and commitment to the Jewish people. Those with strong enough Jewish backgrounds may not have to study much, if at all. For them, the conversion “is more of a technicality,” one Conservative rabbi explained.

Because their conversion experience is different, so is the terminology used to describe what they are going through.

Miller is one of a growing number of rabbis who use the word “affirmation.” Siegel prefers to call it a “completion,” explaining, “I tell them, as far as I’m concerned you’re Jewish. But every people has its definition of citizenship. It’s not a judgment, it’s a formality. We want to celebrate your Jewishness and complete it from a legal perspective.”

Sensitivity is needed, these rabbis say, because many such adult children of intermarried parents resent having their Jewishness questioned.

“They say, ‘But we’re Jews! We’re not converting!’” says Rabbi Stu Kelman of Netivot Shalom in Berkeley, Calif. “I understand what they’re saying, but since matrilineality is a Conservative movement standard, we have to take a strong but compassionate stance.”

“The initial reaction is one of resentment. Often I end up working with people to overcome the resentment before we even begin talking about conversion,” he says.

Many confront the problem while preparing for a key life-cycle event such as marriage or a bar mitzvah. That can lead to great emotional upset.

“Here’s a person who sees himself as Jewish, who grew up with all things Jewish, and now at what should be the happiest day of their lives, they find themselves under question,” Siegel says.

Rebecca Goldstein (not her real name) had plenty of anger. Goldstein, 31, is still seething from the rejection she felt as the daughter of a non-Jewish mother whenever she stepped outside her Reform community.

She first ran into it was when she was 19, when her Jewish boyfriend wouldn’t introduce her to his grandmother. She experienced it again the year she spent in Israel on a student program—Israelis would ask whether she was planning to convert.

“It was a weight I had to carry during the entire program,” Goldstein says. “I felt the burden of having to prove myself more than people ‘born Jewish,’” she says.

Goldstein converted while she was pregnant—not because she wanted to, but to spare her child what she went through.

“I didn’t want my daughter to have to face that duality,” she says. “I converted, but resented that I had to do it.”

“This is a problem the Jewish community has created for itself, and those of us who can help have the responsibility to do so,” says Rabbi Carol Levitan, program director of the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, referring to the divide between those Jewish

streams that recognize patrilineal Jews and those that do not. “When it’s a person who clearly identifies as Jewish and is knowledgeable, I’m eager to make it happen without making them jump through hoops.”

Some Conservative rabbis have come up with new ceremonies to embrace patrilineal converts in a loving, nonjudgmental manner.

Rabbi Sharon Brous, a Conservative rabbi who leads the non-affiliated Ikar community in Los Angeles, discovered a couple of children in her first b’nei mitzvah class two years ago who had non-Jewish mothers but had been raised in communities that accepted patrilineality.

Brous knew they would have to go to the mikvah before their b’nei mitzvah. To spare them the embarrassment of being singled out, she decided that all b’nei mitzvah candidates at Ikar would immerse.

Their classmates and parents stand behind a screen and offer blessings they have composed for the person standing in the ritual bath. If a conversion is needed, an extra prayer

is said.

“For the halachic Jews it’s spiritual preparation for the bar mitzvah,” Brous says. “For the non-halachic Jews, it’s the final step toward conversion. They’re affirming in their b’nei mitzvah that they are responsible adults in the Jewish community.”

The young teens use the ceremony to articulate their feelings about Judaism in front of their peers and parents.

“It’s an incredible celebration,” Brous says. “Even though we created this ritual for kids who need that affirmation halachically, it’s turned out to be great for everybody.”

Jenny Balmagia, 14, celebrated her bat mitzvah at Ikar last June. Her immersion was also her formal conversion, since her mother is not Jewish.

“My rabbi said we were all going to do it, so it didn’t feel weird,” she says. “It was a good experience because it put me in the right place for my bat mitzvah.”

“But,” she adds, “I didn’t feel any more ‘Jewish.’ I always was.” ■

Converting patrilineal Jews with sensitivity

by Sue Fishkoff

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) Most young adults with non-Jewish mothers who seek conversion end up in the Conservative movement.

That makes sense: Many were raised in Reform, Reconstructionist or Renewal communities that accept patrilineality, and then their parents, or they themselves, switched affiliation to a Conservative congregation that requires the conversion of those with non-Jewish mothers.

But Reform and Orthodox rabbis also are dealing with the phenomenon, which is increasing as more children from the first big intermarriage wave of the 1970s and ’80s enter adulthood.

Rabbi Barry Freundel of Keshet Israel, a large Orthodox congregation in Washington, is chair of the conversion committee for the Rabbinical Council of America, the professional association of Orthodox rabbis. He confirms that Orthodox rabbis are seeing more of these cases, generally young people who were raised Reform or Reconstructionist and then became more observant and want to convert according to halacha, or Jewish law.

“It’s very painful to find out they’re not Jewish,” Freundel acknowledges. “Once in a while,” Freundel says, he has heard people refer to the process as an affirmation rather than a conversion, but not often.

“They just say, ‘I grew up Jewish, I feel Jewish, I understand the halacha says no and I want a halachic conversion,’” he says.

Rabbi Arnie Gluck of Temple Beth-El in Hillsborough, N.J., says that although the Reform movement to which he belongs recognizes patrilineality, he has performed many conversions for patrilineal Jews who want ritual confirmation of their Jewishness.

Gluck considers these people fully Jewish already, so he sees the ceremony as an affirmation rather than a conversion. In fact, he likes the idea promoted by some Jewish leaders that all b’nei mitzvah candidates should go to the mikvah to affirm their spiritual connection to Judaism.

But he respects individual needs, and if a patrilineal Jew wants to go to the mikvah, he’s happy to help.

“Who am I to tell them that they feel Jewish enough for themselves?” he says. “Some feel very strongly they don’t want to be in a position where their Jewishness could be questioned by anyone.”

But only some Conservative rabbis, and no Orthodox rabbis, recognize Reform conversions. So the finger-pointing is not necessarily staved off, and many Jewish leaders fault Reform rabbis who don’t make that clear to their congregants.

Kathy Bloomfield is Mikvah Center director of Mayyim Hayyim, a community mikvah in Newton, Mass. She has seen many cases, she says, of older children who were raised Jewish in Reform congregations and later faced questions about their status.

“Maybe the family moved and joined a Conservative congregation, the time comes for their bat mitzvah and they’re told they’re not Jewish,” she says. “We need to tell the Reform community that patrilineal descent is wonderful, but they have to be prepared when they go to college and are told they’re not Jewish.”

Being up front about the different interpretations of “Who is a Jew?” prevents emotional trauma and helps ease the way for those who ultimately choose conversion.

“They shouldn’t come into the mikvah angry at the world for making them do this,” she counsels.

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Camp Raanana prepares for summertime fun

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

The Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County's Camp Raanana day camp is preparing for another season of summertime adventures at its lake-front home in Independence Lake County Park. Camp counselors eagerly await the arrival of excited faces, both familiar and new.

Overnights

New additions to this year's programming include two overnight camping trips for the Pioneer group, (fifth–eighth grades) on July 12 and August 2, as well as two overnights for the Bear group, (third and fourth grades) on July 19 and August 9. The overnights will be open to all campers in those two age groups, even if the camper is not enrolled for that particular week of camp.

Special events

New weekly field trips and special event days for the entire camp will also be part of the fun. In addition to regular field trips, the Israeli Scouts Friendship Caravan will return on July 9 to perform for the community. A special Shabbat At The Lake program will be held on August 10. On August 15, the Camp Raanana campers will host a Friendship Carnival for mentally and physically challenged children attending High Point School.

Swim lessons, Hawaiian beach parties and visits to the park's zero-depth Splash Zone Play Area will keep everyone smiling and cool throughout the summer.

Exploring new interests

Camp Raanana is for children entering kindergarten through 13 years of age and is one of the few Jewish camp programs in Washtenaw County. Summer camp is the perfect place for children to explore new interests, gain self-confidence and skills and interact with other Jewish youth while engaging in a full spectrum of fun and educational activities.

Raanana campers have input in the planning of their weekly schedules and are encouraged to try new activities. Program components include sports, nature, song and dance, arts and crafts, Judaic programs, fishing, hiking, rowboating, bird watching, environmental education and a Red Cross instructional swim program.

Older campers

The Pioneer Program is geared for older campers between the ages of 10 and 13 who work together to plan their own field trips and activities for the week. A Counselor In Training program is also offered to help prepare teens entering ninth and tenth grades to become future counselors. ■

For more information or a registration form, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or e-mail craigpollack@jccfed.org.



New JCC after-school Enrichment Classes

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

A new series of JCC after-school enrichment classes will begin the week of May 7.

Cooks and Books

Cooks and Books is a fun, hands-on cooking class that combines storytelling with learning the art of cooking. Each week class participants will listen to a story read by teacher, Rebeckah Gamble, whose theme is directly related to the cooking activity of that week. Old favorites such as *Stone Soup* and *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* will all be part of the fun. The class emphasizes teaching children how to prepare foods safely, follow recipe and measuring directions, as well as educating about the components of a healthy well-balanced diet. This class is open to children in kindergarten through fifth grade and will run on Wednesdays.

T-Ball

T-ball teaches children how to play the game of baseball while improving hand and eye coordination as well as giving them the needed assistance to be successful in hitting

the ball. This class is open to children in kindergarten through third grade and will run on Tuesdays.

Martial Arts

Martial Arts for Health and Fitness is a fun, energetic activity that teaches children how to take care of their body and achieve a healthy, balanced lifestyle. Students learn respect for themselves and others in a fun and engaging teaching environment. Every class session will include physical warm-up exercises with stretching, breathing exercises, basic hand and foot techniques, principles of self-defense, practice of techniques with partners and finally a warm-down and review. This class is open to children in second through seventh grade and will run on Thursdays.

For further information, look for a flyer in the mail or inside the JCC's *Chai Lights* magazine. For questions, call Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or e-mail craigpollack@jccfed.org.

JCC to host Kids' Night Out Program in May

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

A Kids' Night Out program will be held at the JCC on Saturday, May 12 from 6:30–10 p.m. This month's theme is Beach Bash. The program is open to children in kindergarten through fifth grades and includes a pizza and veggie dinner, and an ice cream sundae bar. The cost of the evening is \$18 for

JCC members (\$16 for additional siblings), and \$22 non-members (\$17 for additional siblings). Space is limited, so register early.

To register or for more information, contact Craig Pollack, Youth Director at 971-0990 or craigpollack@jccfed.org.

Grandparents/Special Friend Shabbat Luncheon hosted by JCC's Early Childhood Center

Peretz Hirshbein, special to the WJN

The JCC Early Childhood Center will celebrate the fifth annual Grandparents/ Special Friend Shabbat on Friday, June 1. Each year, one Shabbat is set aside where the children are encouraged to invite their grandparents, or a special adult friend to attend. This event will be the culmination of a week long focus on Shabbat as a study unit. Classes will work on making their own Shabbat ritual items such as challah covers and candlesticks. Story times will center on Shabbat tales as well.

The Shabbat luncheon will be held in the JCC gym from 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. "Tot Shabbat" families will be included in the celebration and all children are encouraged to bring grandparents or other "special friends" as their guests. Song leader Brett Levy will

lead everyone's Shabbat song favorites and ECC preschoolers will treat the group to songs from the Ethical Start program, inspired by passages from *Pirkei Avot*.

ECC Director Noreen DeYoung says, "We believe that early childhood is an ideal time to begin teaching core Jewish values. This is accomplished through our Ethical Start program. Children listen to and discuss teachings from *Pirkei Avot* as a way to internalize Jewish values. The songs from the program are very effective and the kids love to sing them! Bringing the generations together only makes the experience more meaningful."

For more information contact Noreen De Young at 971-0990.

Athletes wanted for 2007 JCC Maccabi Games

Craig Pollack, special to the WJN

The JCC is looking for enthusiastic teenagers ages 13–16 years who love sports to become part of the Ann Arbor JCC Maccabi team. The Ann Arbor Maccabi team will take part in the 25th JCC Maccabi Games in Houston, Texas, August 5–10, 2007. The Maccabi Games are a wonderful opportunity to compete in your favorite sport and meet other teens from around the country.

There are still spots open on the Ann Arbor team and a variety of individual sports to choose from.

If you are interested in competing or would like more information, contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org.



Jewish Film Festival

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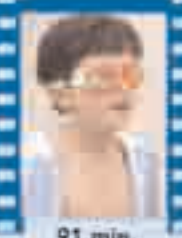
OPENING RECEPTION FOR SPONSORS WILL TAKE PLACE SUNDAY, MAY 6 AT 6:30 PM

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Jewish Community Center of Washtenaw County in association with the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater will be bringing the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival to Ann Arbor for the fifth year. The festival will be showing nineteen films in five days at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

WE THANK THE CHARLES AND RITA GELMAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION,
MICHAEL AND PATRICIA LEVINE AND THE MICHIGAN THEATER FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

SUNDAY, MAY 6

STOLEN SUMMER • 10:00 a.m.



91 min.

This film and writer/director Pete Jones were the subjects of the first season of the Matt Damon/Ben Affleck produced HBO reality TV series Project Greenlight. This is an affecting and deeply spiritual film with a lovely story about the friendship between two boys, one Catholic and the other Jewish.

STEEL TOES • 8:00 p.m.



91 min.

This very special main attraction is the 2007 winner of the Fifth Annual Sarah and Harold Gottlieb Prize for Contributions to Jewish Culture. Steel Toes tells the story of court-appointed Jewish lawyer Danny Dunkelman (Oscar Nominee David Strathairn; Good Night and Good Luck), who is assigned the case of a skinhead, Mike, accused of this racially motivated murder.

Sponsored by Sarah and Harold Gottlieb and Simply Scrumptious Catering

MONDAY, MAY 7

DARK NIGHT • 2:00 p.m.



20 min.

During their return to their post, three Israeli soldiers run into a deadly ambush and commandeer a Palestinian couple's home to wait for their rescuers. Lack of communication breeds increasing hostility until a small detail is revealed that helps them find common ground.

Followed by...

BLUES BY THE BEACH (MEKUDESHET)



90 min.

This film is a very important film about the direct taking of innocent life for supposedly political purposes. Focusing on Mike's Place, a popular American bar on the Tel Aviv boardwalk, where there was beer and fun until a tragic terrorist attack in 2003.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County

CHECKING OUT • 5:00 p.m.



95 min.

Starring Peter Falk, Judge Reinhold, David Paymer, Laura San Giacomo and a host of other stars, this is a witty portrayal of a bizarre Jewish family and tells the story of a former Yiddish Theater star who writes to each of his three children that they should come home immediately as he has decided to commit suicide and wants them there.

Sponsored by Fran and Irwin Martin

MONDAY, MAY 7 cont.

MATISYAHU • 8:00 p.m.



35 min.

Matisyahu, aka Matthew Miller, is a phenomenon and if you want to know what kind of music your children are into, you'd better see this short film. In fact, bring them along.

Followed by...

THE FIRST TIME I TURNED TWENTY



97 min.

Here is a wonderfully appealing tale of an underdog who struggles in a hostile environment. This remarkable tale about a girl who remains true to herself is laced with dark humor and a fabulous jazz soundtrack – the sort of uplifting film that will send you from the theater feeling great.

In memory of Robert G. Portnoy by Maida Frank Portnoy, Rachel Portnoy and Adam Eichner and Family, Edward Portnoy and Mira Blushtein and Family, and Jewish Family Services.

TUESDAY, MAY 8

SENTENCED TO MARRIAGE • 2:00 p.m.



65 min.

The story of how to get a 'Get' in Israel is a difficult but important one. With unprecedented access to private, secret religious courts, this documentary follows three women as they encounter amazing suffering and important revelations.

Sponsored by Hillary Murt and Bruce Friedman

PAPER DOLLS • 5:00 p.m.



89 min.

A movie about outsiders, the Paper Dolls of the title are transsexual Filipinos who have come to Israel and work as sensitive caregivers, willing to do what needs doing in an Israeli society that has a hard time coming to terms with who does it.

Sponsored by Alice and Clifford Hart

THE FIRST BASKET • 8:00 p.m.



100 min.

Basketball, the ultimate Jewish sport? Well, owners and managers were, but players, promoters? It seems that everybody was Jewish! Narrated by Peter Reigert, this film is ultimately about becoming American.

Sponsored by Patricia and Michael Levine



98 min.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

WRESTLING WITH ANGELS: PLAYWRIGHT TONY KUSHNER • 2:00 p.m.

Whether through *Angels in America*, the screenplay for *Munich* or his joyful commitment to his partner, Tony Kushner's masterful blending of serious questions and pulse-quickening answers have made him the most important Jewish playwright alive. Sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Society



96 min.

THE RAPE OF EUROPA • 5:00 p.m.

Meticulously researched, beautifully organized and edited, this film tells the epic story of the systematic theft, deliberate destruction and miraculous survival of Europe's art treasures during the Third Reich and World War II. Sponsored by The Rita and Charles Gelman Educational Foundation



17 min.

THE TRIBE • 8:00 p.m.

If we told you we could cover 5,768 years of Jewish history, customs, religion, culture, fights and other tumult in 17 minutes, you would pay just to see the trick, right? Well, this is your chance.

Followed by...

ONLY HUMAN



90 min.

This glorious Spanish family comedy reworks the age-old story of meeting the parents – but this time with a hilarious up-to-the-minute Jewish twist and addresses head-on what happens when cultures clash within our very homes.

Sponsored by Shira and Steve Klein



98 min.

THURSDAY, MAY 10

SISTER ROSE'S PASSION • 2:00 p.m.

Sister Rose Thering spent over fifty years challenging authority, particularly institutionalized anti-semitism and bigotry inside the Catholic Church. Drawing on scripture and deeply held religious beliefs, Sister Rose spoke out for tolerance and understanding.

Followed by...



56 min.

THURSDAY, MAY 10 CONT...

QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAIN

Theresa Goell abandoned the comfortable lifestyle with her conservative Jewish family in 1933 to pursue her pioneering passion at Nemrud Dag, an isolated, mysterious mountaintop in southwestern Turkey, becoming 'Queen of the Mountain' and gaining worldwide attention for her work.

Sponsored by Kathy and Al Bloom



11 min.

RAOUL WALLENBERG: ONE PERSON CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE • 5:00 p.m.

Emmy Award winning filmmaker Harvey Ovshinsky and the Raoul Wallenberg Society of Ann Arbor have put together this brief dedication to the Wallenberg legacy. Just a short Vorspice that happens to be an Emmy winning miniature masterpiece.

Followed by...



111 min.

SOPHIE SCHOLL: THE FINAL DAYS

This true story of Germany's most famous anti-Nazi heroine is brought to thrilling life in this multi-award winning film as we watch trials that quickly escalate into a searing test of wills.

Sponsored by Carolyn and Larry Hiss



95 min.

KING OF BEGGARS • 8:00 p.m.

A surprising and unique tale of a Jewish Robin Hood in 16th century Poland where a young man who believes in earning rights by fulfilling one's duties, sets out to liberate his people and earn his torn 'nation' its own piece of land.

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Youth

An Egg-cellent science adventure in the Hebrew Day School kindergarten

Dina Shtull, special to the WJN

In preparation for Passover and as part of the integrated science, math, and language arts curriculum at the Hebrew Day School of Ann Arbor, the kindergartners had some egg-citing adventures in the month of March.

The kindergartners (gansters) incubated 30 eggs in their classroom. For 21 days, they observed the eggs closely for any sign of change and carefully monitored their temperature and humidity. They also made predictions about when they would hatch and how many would hatch. The class conducted an experiment called "candling" the eggs, which is akin to a very low-tech ultrasound. They rigged up a special apparatus to help direct the light of a lamp through a hole in a can into one of the eggs. Students were able to see the dark mass that was the chick and some were able to identify what they thought was a beak and feathers.

After 21 days of incubation, 14 chicks hatched out of 30 incubated eggs. The leftover eggs gave the class the opportunity to talk about the meaning of the expression, "don't count your chickens before they hatch!" Once the chicks were big enough and ready to get used to human handling, the gansters were allowed to pick up a chick and play with it in an enclosure they made on the floor.

As part of the science and writing curriculum, the kindergartners wrote down their observations of the chicks in their science journals. They determined which of their predictions had come true and which had not. They watched as the chicks emerged and then explored their new environment and

pared these animals. As an art project in the school's integrated curriculum, children created their own paper version of an animal hatching from an egg.

Students had many other egg-cellent adventures this month. They used the eggs-perimental method to discover that it is very hard to crush an egg in your bare hands. They learned that even if they tried hard, the arc shape of the egg distributes the forces evenly over the egg's surface and makes it very strong. They also spun eggs and saw that a hard-boiled egg spins faster than a fresh one (because the liquid in the fresh egg moves out to the edge of the egg and slows it down, just as when you're ice skating and stick out your arms). They also learned how to make an egg float by putting more items in the water (until the water became more dense than the egg). In small groups, children used eggs to engage in other math and science experiments requiring prediction, observation, data collection and measurement. For example, each child was given a hard-boiled egg and had to figure out how many squares it would cover, how much space it would take up, and how much mass would be needed to balance it. The students then used worksheets to document their results.

As part of the school's integrated Judaics curriculum, the gansters learned that in Jewish tradition eggs symbolize the new beginning granted to the Jews when they were able to escape from Egypt. Eggs also symbolize spring, and Passover is known as Chag HaAviv, the Holiday of Spring. In a model Seder they put their new knowledge into action when they ate yummy hard-boiled eggs. All in all, it is not an eggs-aggeration to say that an egg-cellent learning adventure was had by all. ■

For more information on the Hebrew Day School and its integrated curriculum, call 971-4633 or visit www.hdsaa.org.



Checking out the incubating eggs



Baby chicks

wrote down and/or drew what they saw.

In small groups, gansters explored the fact that a multitude of animals hatch from eggs, not just chickens. They began by reading *Chickens Aren't the Only Ones*, by Ruth Heller. A variety of plastic eggs filled with different animals awaited their exploration, and they identified, organized and com-



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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.

Eschewing revenge, station broadcasts message of hope

by Daniel Estrin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As they usually do, Israeli radio stations marked this year's Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Victims of Terrorism by switching their playlists to somber tunes.

But Radio All For Peace, a Jerusalem-based, Israeli-Palestinian station whose listeners are split about evenly between Israel and the Palestinian territories, extended its Memorial Day commemoration across borders: It broadcast a daylong marathon of interviews with bereaved families on both sides of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The interviews were taken from the station's weekly show "New Direction," hosted in Hebrew and Arabic by Israeli Sharon Mishiker and Palestinian Aziz Abu Sarah, each of whom lost a brother in the conflict.

The hosts belong to the Bereaved Families Forum, an organization of Israeli and Palestinian families whose loved ones were killed in the conflict and who work toward reconciliation between the two peoples.

In each hourlong program, the "New Direction" hosts interview a Palestinian and an Israeli from the forum about why they chose dialogue over revenge.

"There are many differences between Palestinians and Israelis, the war isn't over and the killings haven't ended — but the pain of bereavement that exists on both sides is an

equal pain," Mishiker and Abu Sarah said on the air Monday morning, in alternating Hebrew and Arabic, as they introduced the Memorial Day marathon.

"To honor both peoples and their emotions, and with a deep commitment to forwarding peace and reconciliation, Radio All For Peace decided to dedicate this day to the bereaved on both sides who chose a pathway of reconciliation and peace building, and not a pathway of revenge and killing."

The 12-hour broadcasts began at 8 a.m. and alternated between an hour of quiet music in Arabic and Hebrew and an hour of interviews. The marathon ended in time for Israel's Independence Day.

"Each side, the Palestinian side and the Israeli side, tends to recognize its own pain and ignore the other's pain," said Shimon Malka, the station's Israeli co-director. "Through this day of programming, Radio All For Peace's message is clear: No one is alone. Pain is not exclusive."

"We've been living the same thing for the last 59 years," added Maysa Baransi Senora, the Palestinian co-director, "and nothing has changed. Every year there is more killing on both sides. 'New Direction' says to its listeners, we haven't gained anything through all this killing, let's find a new direction."

Among those interviewed was Robi

Damelin, an Israeli activist in the Bereaved Families Forum whose son David was killed by a Palestinian sniper during military service. Damelin wrote a letter of reconciliation to the sniper, which was delivered to the sniper's family by two Palestinian members of the forum.

Others interviewed included Arnona Weiler, an Israeli who lost two siblings in the conflict; Naila Daruza, a Palestinian whose photojournalist husband was killed while on assignment; Yuval Rot, an Israeli whose brother was kidnapped and killed by Hamas; Aisha il-Khatib, a Palestinian whose brother was wounded on his way to visit his uncle and who died years later from his wounds; and Nadia Kadur, an Israeli Druse whose son died in a suicide bombing.

The interviewers are no strangers to bereavement: Abu Sarah's older brother, Tayseer, died as a result of Israeli jail beatings and interrogations 18 years ago. Ten years years ago Mishiker's younger brother, Gilad, was one of 73 soldiers who died in a large-scale helicopter crash en route to army service in Israel's southern Lebanon security zone.

"When you lose someone, no matter if you are Palestinian or Israeli, you feel the same," Mishiker said.

Mishiker said that one reason he feels at ease with Aziz is that "when he speaks about his brother, I hear myself."

While Radio All for Peace's other programs are broadcast in either Hebrew or Arabic, "New Direction" is the only bilingual program on the station and in the region. The translations may be laborious to listeners, but Mishiker sees bilingualism as part of the show's message.

"The process of reconciliation is a very, very slow process," he said. "It's not a fast-food counter. You need patience."

"New Direction" enjoys one of the highest ratings on Radio All For Peace: Nearly 26,000 listeners in Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and around the world tune in each week. The show is aired Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.

Jerusalem time, locally on 107.2 FM and online at www.allforpeace.org.

"People want to hear the real stories," Abu Sarah said. "That's what we offer: the real person. Not the political view, not people who plan what to speak beforehand, people who say, 'Look, this was hard for me, they killed my son, I wanted to go and kill somebody, but I thought about it and this is what works.'" ■

Daniel Estrin is a freelance reporter based in Jerusalem. He volunteers as host of an English-language program on Radio All For Peace.

Israeli art exceeds Sotheby's expectations

By Ben Harris

NEW YORK (JTA)—Soon after Israeli photographer Adi Nes completed his 1999 work, "Untitled (The Last Supper)," a staged image of Israeli soldiers positioned to evoke Leonard da Vinci's painting of the same event, a collector paid him \$1,000 for a print. A few weeks later, a second collector offered \$1,500.

So when the picture sold in February at Sotheby's annual auction of Israel and Jewish art for \$264,000—more than triple the high estimate in the auction catalogue, and more than double what it sold for in a 2005 auction—more than a few eyebrows raised.

"Even the auction house was surprised because the estimation was low," Nes said in a recent telephone interview from Tel Aviv, where he lives. "The funny thing was, the person who aquired it for \$1,000 last year sent me an e-mail after the second auction and said that he felt he did a very good business deal."

Though it didn't even fetch the highest price at auction—that honor went to the late painter Reuven Rubin, two of whose works sold for \$324,000 each—the Nes sale is viewed by many in the art world as a milestone in the emergence of Israel as a global artistic force. The international profile of Israeli art has been on the rise for several years.

It has been led by the country's photographers but also artists in other media, including video, painting, dance and sculpture.

In 2002, the video artist Michal Rovner had a solo show at the Whitney Museum in New York and Ori Gersht had one at the Tate Britain in London. The following year, nine Israeli artists were chosen for the prestigious Venice Biennale. Prices for contemporary Israeli work have also been creeping up to levels approaching luminaries like Rubin and Mordechai Ardon, another late Israeli painter.

But this season, as Israel reaches its 59th year, a rubicon of sorts has been crossed. The 2007 Sotheby's sale brought in nearly \$5 million, a 25 percent increase over the 2005 sale, and included record sales for several Israeli artists. It fell short of last year's tally of more than \$6 million, but that number was reached on the strength of just four paintings—two by Rubin and two by Marc Chagall that together accounted for more than a quarter of the total.

The Sotheby's sale is timed to coincide with Israeli art week in New York, an annual event begun in 2004, which has expanded to an entire season of lectures, exhibitions and special events running from February through May. This year, it will culminate May 17 with the opening of an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art by photographer Barry Frydlander, the first Israeli to have a solo show at the museum.

"I think the interest is growing," said Rivka Saker, the director of Sotheby's Israel who is based in Tel Aviv but spends a lot of time in New York. "The work is good; it is comparable to things done in other places; and that's why it's also getting more attention from the collectors and also getting higher prices."

Theories abound for the rising interest in Israeli art—from the broader explosion in the global art market to a post-9/11 fascination with the implications of life in an era of anxiety and terrorism. But the development also owes much to the efforts of Saker herself, who has emerged as a key link between Israeli artists, the international galleries that showcase their work and the collectors who buy them.

"She's the fulcrum," Andrea Meislin, a gallery owner in New York, said

of Saker. "She's the center around which everything else revolves."

As the founder of Artis, a nonprofit organi-

zation promoting contemporary art from the Jewish state, many of the major exhibitions of Israeli art in New York over the past three years are attributable to Saker—if not directly, than to the awareness she has studiously helped foster. Artis also draws financial support from the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, Lynn Schusterman, Michael and Judy Steinhart and other leading Jewish philanthropists. Meislin credits Saker not only as a primary supporter and cheerleader for Israeli art, but also for the creation of her own gallery in Manhattan, which has itself emerged as a key launch pad for aspiring Israelis. It was at Meislin's gallery that Frydlander had his first New York show, as part of Artis' inaugural Israeli art week, and where MoMA curators first encountered his work.

Frydlander won the MoMA's attention largely on the strength of one photograph, "Flood," which, like all his photographs, is a composite of hundreds of smaller images taken over a period of hours or weeks and then painstakingly stitched together on a computer. The method allows for a striking amount of detail in a large photograph.

"Flood" was shot from the window of Frydlander's Tel Aviv studio overlooking an Israel Defense Forces museum visited regularly by Israeli schoolchildren. In the foreground is a rooftop, sections of which are submerged in water. Beyond that a group of students struggles to stay dry as the water rushes past, their bodies pressed against the walls of a run-down building.

"That picture, like some others, has a way of evoking the relationship of present day life with a biblical past that I find very remarkable," said Peter Galassi, MoMA's chief photography curator.

The photo also evokes the tensions of contemporary Israel, where the political is never far from view—though it's not necessarily close ei-

ther. Virtually all the photographs from Current Visions: Inside Israel (Part 2), now showing at Meislin's gallery, or from the Jewish Museum's current exhibition Dateline Israel, a collection of photographs and video art installations, have political overtones, though many won't be immediately apparent to those not well versed in the subtexts of Israeli society.

Some will see in Frydlander's photo "Breakwater," shot during last summer's war in Lebanon, a couple embracing in the sea; others will find a pair of vulnerable bodies seeking refuge from the turbulent, untamed forces around them. Rina Castelnuevo's "Hilltop Youth," from the Dateline Israel show, depicts a couple lighting Chanukah candles in their window; those in the know will recognize the telltale signs of a settlement outpost.

The Israeli work included in "Dangerous Beauty," an exhibition currently at New York's Chelsea Art Museum, shows even less evidence of the themes typically associated with Israeli art. Indeed, in many ways it shows Israeli artists grappling with the same issues—in this case the idealization of particular conceptions of beauty—that preoccupy their colleagues around the world.

All of which well suits the Israeli government, which has thrown its support behind Artis, and which has labored—particularly since the Palestinian uprisings—to foster an image of the Jewish state abroad that is not inextricably bound to violence and conflict.

But it also suits boosters like Meislin, herself a onetime immigrant to Israel, who admits to harboring hope that by promoting Israeli art, the country can achieve a measure of normalcy in its relations with the wider world.

"It thrills me that this is going to be a normal country," Meislin said, "whose artists are going to be accepted as normal artists." ■

UJC makes major changes to fulfill its fund-raising goals

by Jacob Berkman

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Eight years after the creation of the United Jewish Communities, its leaders are planning to dramatically alter the structure and focus of the umbrella organization for North America's Jewish federations.

The most sweeping changes, according to an internal UJC document outlining the draft proposal, would include:

- The dissolution of the organization's four pillars that until now have defined the group's areas of focus. This would include the end to the Renewal and Renaissance pillar, whose focus on Jewish identity building and education had become central to the federation system after the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey showed a dramatic increase in the intermarriage rate.

- * Shifting part of the operation to an expanded Israel office, where a major function would be to reach out to wealthy philanthropists in that country and the former Soviet Union. This global outreach appears to be a significant departure for a system that has focused on North American donors. The reorganization essentially would create two teams, domestic and Israeli.

The plan, which is being circulated to individual federations, must be approved by the UJC's board of trustees and possibly other governing bodies, according to UJC officials. The next board of trustees meeting is set for early June, but officials said they did not know if the board would have anything to vote on at that time.

UJC leaders say the changes are necessary to streamline a system that has not achieved the goals that were set when the organization was formed in 1999. Changes also are needed, they say, to adapt to a modern philanthropic world in which private foundations are achieving more than public philanthropy.

"If we fail to move in this direction now, UJC, too, will lose momentum and fail to achieve the dreams that were envisioned for it," concludes the background paper, dated March 16, which emerged from a meeting of selected top lay and professional UJC leaders. "UJC never lacked a vision; we have only lacked the full execution of well-laid plans. Let's not lose what may be our last chance to move forward."

The Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal merged in 1999 to form UJC with a dual mandate: to increase the dollars coming into stagnating federation campaigns, with a specific mandate to increase funds for overseas needs, and to give the federations more services for the fees they were paying their national organizations.

Neither has been fully successful.

The federation donor base shrunk from 630,486 donors in 1999 to 564,343 in 2005. And from 2001 to 2005, the last years for which numbers are available, the combined campaigns of North America's federations, adjusted for inflation, were down by 11.1, according to official figures.

Despite repeated cuts to staff and services that since 1999 have brought its budget from \$46.2 million to \$38.7 million, UJC leaders say their organization is still seen as a bloated. They say the group's structure complicates the decision-making process, as well as setting and following through on a clear vision.

The dues federations pay to UJC have been a point of contention, particularly for larger federations that do not feel they are receiving

an adequate return in terms of services.

"The top priorities in my mind in creating these two teams are to focus on global operations and to do a much better job of servicing our stakeholder federations," Howard Rieger, UJC's president and CEO, told JTA.

UJC leaders say the reorganization is made even more critical considering the success of endowment funds, capital campaigns and recent emergency campaigns. In recent years the UJC system raised more than \$4 billion in capital campaign money, another \$358 million last year for its Israel Emergency Campaign and about \$50 million in supplemental campaigns for overseas and domestic disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

The changes are designed to help the federation system better articulate the needs of the Jewish people domestically and abroad, they say.

Joseph Kanfer, chair of the UJC's board of trustees, told JTA that the background paper came after months of meetings with the UJC's executive committee, conference calls with lay leadership and meetings among the four pillars that are being disbanded: Campaign/Financial Resource Development, Israel/Overseas, Human Services and Social Policy, and Jewish Renaissance and Renewal.

Changes are needed to adapt to a modern philanthropic world in which private foundations are achieving more than public philanthropy.

Kanfer said the pillars, which include some 800 lay volunteers from local federations, have become rife with overlap, have not communicated well with each other and have made it nearly impossible to create consensus.

The restructuring also appears to acknowledge that the federation system's traditional methods of courting major donors and reaching out to smaller donors, primarily through Super Sunday phonathons, need to be broadened.

It also suggests that the federation system needs to better tap into alternative revenue streams and to keep up with a philanthropic world that is becoming increasingly centered on private foundations, according to Jeffrey Solomon, the president of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies and a consultant on the original UJC merger.

A major role of the new Israel operation would be to reach out to the emerging class of Israeli philanthropists who are flush with cash from Israel's booming high-tech sector and from those who have benefited from the privatizing of Israel's economy, Rieger said.

At the same time, the background document said the office would reach out to new super-wealthy philanthropists in the former Soviet Union.

According to sources inside and outside UJC, Rebecca Caspi, executive director of worldwide human resource development for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, has been tapped to head the Israel office.

Rieger would not confirm this, saying only that UJC has had serious negotiations with someone but that the organization was not ready to make an announcement.

It is unclear how that would affect Doron Krakow, the current UJC vice president for Israel and overseas. Krakow would not comment.

The Israel office would act as a liaison between the individual federations and the recipients of federation money overseas, primarily the Jewish Agency for Israel and the JDC.

Some 18 individual federations have offices in Israel, but UJC would like to bring them all under the umbrella of its expanded Israel entity. That office would also handle mission planning in an attempt to deliver a unified message about Israel's needs, according to the background paper.

The Israel office also would be charged with "needs assessment," "program evaluation" and "overseas allocations," meaning the UJC would keep a better eye on how exactly its donors' dollars are being spent overseas—in tune with a new philanthropic world in which donors want more control over how their charity is allocated.

Domestically, the Campaign/Financial Resource Development pillar, which traditionally helped federations run their campaigns, would be folded into UJC Consulting, which is charged primarily with helping federations develop new strategic plans and community development.

By consolidating, UJC hopes it can identify the best fund-raising methods and help apply them to individual federations.

A major part of the plan involves UJC helping local federations figure out how to work with private foundations, which since 1990 have exploded.

Jewish foundations, with assets in excess of \$30 billion, pump more money into the Jewish community than all of the federation campaigns combined. Those foundations have yielded the creation of landmark Jewish initiatives, such as birthright Israel, which has provided free Israel trips to some 100,000 Jews aged 18 to 26, and B'nei Tzedek, a project of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation that teaches early teenagers how to become young philanthropists.

Despite the dissolution of the Renaissance and Renewal pillar, which focused on Jewish identity building, education and outreach to the young, Kanfer said the federation system is not abandoning those issues, but wants to work with other existing programs and develop some new ones.

At federations across the country, the reaction to the proposals appears to be wait-and-see.

"The restructuring can mean so many different things," said Barry Shrage, CEO of the Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston. "It's hard to tell what is going on in the minds of the leadership."

UJC's two main overseas recipients, the Jewish Agency for Israel and JDC, also are in a holding pattern to learn how the reorganizing might affect them. Traditionally they have received nearly 100 percent of the UJC's overseas budget, though in recent years each has engaged in its own direct fund raising in North America.

Though there has been some grumbling, particularly from JAFI lay leaders upset that they were not consulted on the restructuring, Kanfer said they would be meeting with the groups soon.

"JAFI and JDC are going to be full partners at the table," he said. ■

JDC's receipt of Israel Prize is tribute to American Jewish giving

by Steve Schwager

NEW YORK (JTA) – Surprised, pleased and flattered as we at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee were to learn that our Israel operation had won the esteemed Israel Prize this year, we took time to thank our well-wishers, then sat down to ask ourselves: Why JDC?

The answer in part is that the award recognizes the enlightened philanthropy of an American Jewish community that has been helping Israeli society for generations. The JDC is only one representative leader in a modern era of a donor-oriented, recipient-sensitive new philanthropy.

The JDC has been working in Israel for 93 years. We've partnered with the Turkish Sultans, the British Mandate and Israeli governments left or right to benefit the citizens of Israel. In recent decades we have developed new partnerships between donors and recipients, Americans and Israelis, nongovernmental organizations and the government. The hallmark of these endeavors is a sincere, honest partnership with mutual respect and appreciation.

And so, while geneticists we are not, we often say that Israel is part of the JDC's DNA. What does this mean?

Israel is built into our organizational culture. We recognize the centrality of the State of Israel in Jewish life today and realize that as much as we can teach our Israeli partners about social programs, we have learned from them.

Together with our Israeli partners, the JDC fosters an approach of strategic intervention. We identify the needs, research solutions and respond. In the language of genetics, we believe in a cloning process: If an experiment is successful, we will ensure that the results positively affect a wide range of populations.

We encourage ingenuity by thinking out of the box, adopting an entrepreneurial spirit and daring to experiment with new directions in social services. Our programs draw on the new and the unprecedented.

JDC-Israel uses a "magnetic dollar," a high leverage system in which every dollar allocated by American federations is matched by an additional \$8 from partners in Israel and America. In today's world of charitable giving, donors are pleased to realize how far their dollar goes through JDC.

And last but certainly not least, in the politically charged environment of Israel, where partisan interests are paramount to many daily decisions, the JDC stands as a paradigm – a non-political, neutral and unbiased entity.

Trusted by opposing ministries or conflicting parties, JDC can convene forces of social change around the same table and harness their best energies in the service of those in need.

This Israel Independence Day, as Judge Ellen Heller, JDC's president, and Arnon Mantver, our director-general in Israel, accept the Israel Prize on our behalf at a ceremony in Jerusalem, the JDC acknowledges that we do so in the name of the entire American Jewish community.

For every federation, every donor and every supporter, JDC is the humble representative. ■

Steve Schwager is the executive vice-president of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Getting Jews out of Turkmenistan is community leader's vital role

by Matt Siegel

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan (JTA)—Lyuba Garbuzova, a 46-year-old grandmother of two, was arrested late last year and detained by authorities in Uzbekistan on charges of smuggling cash across the border into this Central Asian republic.

The money, provided by foreign Jews, represented six months worth of food and medical donations intended to care for the 1,200 people in Turkmenistan's mostly elderly Jewish community.

After spending two months under virtual house arrest in Uzbekistan while facing a six-year prison sentence, Garbuzova was acquitted of all charges and allowed to return to Ashgabat.

She was not dissuaded by the ordeal.

"I have one simple goal," she says: "Send people to live in Israel."

Her level of defiance isn't surprising given who Garbuzova is and what she does for a Jewish community facing perhaps the most severe restrictions in the former Soviet Union.

Garbuzova is the cornerstone of a community operating without a rabbi or synagogue, under the glaring eye of a totalitarian regime, and trying to take care of its poorest and neediest with just the intermittent charity sent by friends and concerned Jews abroad.

For Garbuzova, an energetic woman with bright eyes and a quick wit, no task is too big or too small. She delivers donated food packages to almost every city in Turkmenistan, driving across the punishing terrain of a country that is 80 percent uninhabited desert. She holds

Shabbat services, teaching young attendees the prayers so they can perform them.

But Garbuzova considers her most important task to be helping Jews immigrate to Israel.

During decades of communism, Jews across the Soviet Union often changed their surnames in an attempt to avoid anti-Semitism. Now, because the archives remain closed under the current Turkmen regime, it can be nearly impossible to provide the proof of one's Jewish roots required for aliyah to Israel.

So what do they do in the meantime?

"We sit and we wait," Garbuzova says.

The measure of her success can be seen in the dwindling number of Jews left in Turkmenistan. In 1989, the last year a Soviet census was taken, there were 2,500. That number has been slashed by more than half.

"I've sent so many, there's hardly any left," Garbuzova says, her pride barely contained behind a thin smile.

Born to nonreligious parents in the Ukrainian city of Cherkasy, it wasn't until she moved to Ashgabat in 1978 with her ethnically Turkmen husband that she began the process of rediscovering her heritage.

Six years ago, community leader Iosif Schlochitsky asked Garbuzova, who had wanted to be a lawyer but feared failing her clients, to take over the community's piecemeal charity operation.

Mere blocks from the sprawling ministerial buildings that comprise the heart of modern Ashgabat, the Jewish community's office stands worlds apart.

Located in an aging residential block at the end of the myriad back alleys of the city's old quarter, one would be hard-pressed to find it save for three faint chalk outlines on the steel door that bars the way: a Star of David, a flower and a heart.

Once inside, the compromises necessitated by the state are immediately visible. Between the two Israeli flags hangs the ubiquitous photo of Saparmurat Niyazov, the country's late president and self-declared "father of all Turkmen." Beside the holy books is a copy of "The Ruhnama," Niyazov's rambling diatribe in poetic meter on his and his people's divinity.

How does Garbuzova deal with the seeming inconsistency of displaying a photo of the man responsible for the country's religious laws, under which Judaism is illegal? With a sharp sense of humor and a bit of creativity.

"You can see that the Israeli flags are cloth, but he is on paper," she says with a laugh.

Much of Garbuzova's success has been due to this ability to work peacefully on both sides of the divide.

There is little of the firebrand in Garbuzova, no fiery rhetoric about mistreatment of Jews, but rather the cool calculation of a seasoned agent willing to do what it takes to make the best of an untenable situation.

The state intelligence services—still referred to by locals as the KGB—know that Garbuzova is operating an unregistered operation from her humble offices, but she has been able to avoid any confronta-

tion that might jeopardize her work.

Garbuzova insists that nothing like the anti-Semitism she encountered in her native Ukraine exists in Turkmenistan, but rather that the Jews are just one of the minorities, including ethnic Russians, who have been pushed aside by the state's preferential policies toward ethnic Turkmen.

Still, she's aware of the particular double standard facing Turkmenistan's Jews.

"Under the Soviet Union we were like one big family," she says, but now "there's a church, there are mosques. What's wrong with having a synagogue?"

Her office must serve as a de facto synagogue and Sunday school, as well as a dozen other things.

"They become a family here," Garbuzova says of the community members. The children who flood her offices refer to her as "mom," and she in turn calls them her children.

But she's aware that she won't be able to stay in Turkmenistan forever; nor does she want to.

When her youngest daughter, Masha, 17, finishes high school next year, the two will finally go to join Garbuzova's two older children in Israel. She wants opportunities for her daughter that don't exist in Ashgabat. So Garbuzova is training her successor.

"There's no future for them here," she says of Turkmenistan Jews. "They don't have the right last name." ■

In Romania, signs of life in a once-vibrant community

by Ben Harris

ORADEA, Romania (JTA) In the garden of the Zion Synagogue, a grove of newly planted fruit trees is struggling for life. The synagogue, whose silver dome towers over this city of 210,000 in western Romania, has fallen into disrepair since it ceased functioning in 1995, a casualty of the city's declining Jewish community.

Inside, the sanctuary is a shadow of its former self. Thieves have made off with the chandeliers and light fixtures. The floorboards and pews were ripped out and burned as firewood in an attempt to stave off the harsh Romanian winter. And the garden, wedged between the synagogue and the tranquil Crisul Repede River, is overgrown and filled with trash.

Built in 1878, the synagogue was the centerpiece of a flourishing prewar community of 33,000 Jews, more than 90 percent of which was wiped out in the Holocaust. But in the years since it stopped hosting regular Shabbat services, the building has slowly lost its grandeur.

"I want the synagogue backyard to look nice," says Kepes Sandor, 73, the building's caretaker, who planted the plum and apricot trees. "What kind of thing is this, that you leave a synagogue backyard untended?"

Like Zion's garden, Romania's Jewish community has lain fallow for decades, its finest crop of young people heading to Israel or the West in search of better lives. But having weathered Nazism and communism, Romanian Jewry is showing new signs of life.

Around the corner from Zion, a Jewish community center is under construction, complete with a fitness center and kosher pizza cafe. An energetic cadre of university students teaches in the religious school and helps fill the pews at Friday evening services. And in January, a young rabbinical student arrived from New York for a six-month stint at the country's only "rabbi" outside Bucharest.

"Generally speaking, it is a renaissance of Jewish life here in Romania," says Aurel Vainer,

president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania and the community's representative in Parliament.

The remnant of Romanian Jewry that survived the Holocaust returned to face still another threat to its existence in the form of communism. Now, nearly two decades after the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's brutal communist dictator, the scars of that period are fading.

"The Jews come back and they have pleasure to be together with their brothers and sisters," Vainer says. "It is a new kind of life now."

Like many post-communist societies, Romania's path to democracy has been riddled with potholes.

The Ceausescu regime was particularly oppressive, even by Eastern European standards at its secret police force of 11,000 was among the Soviet bloc's largest proportional to the population and the country has struggled to cope with its legacy.

During Passover, a political crisis resulted in the dismissal of Justice Minister Monica Macovei, a leading crusader against government corruption.

Nevertheless, with its entry into the European Union in January, Romania appears inexorably, if haltingly, headed in the right direction. But the sense of burgeoning optimism evident in the headlines hasn't filtered down to Oradea's Jews, who still exude a sense of gloom.

"Nothing is sure here," says Edith Homonnai, 20, a student of psychology and international relations at the University of Oradea, who says she yearns to leave Romania. Despite the promise of E.U. membership, Homonnai notes wryly, "everything is increasing except the paychecks."

"Nobody can assure me that I will have the possibility to be independent and not live with my parents for the rest of my life," she says.

While the young fret about their economic future in a country whose journey to Western

prosperity is certain to be long and arduous, the community's senior members do worry that their passing will herald the end of traditional Jewish life here.

"They want everything, but they don't know and they don't want to learn their religion," Lazar Freund, one of the community's most senior members, says of the younger generation.

At 85, Freund is among the few who remember life before the Nazis, and his mournful eyes betray an absence of hope at what will follow him.

"They do wonderful things regarding community life," like dancing and choir, he says, but "nothing which is connected with the synagogue."

Between the poles of young and old is a vast leadership vacuum. Romanian Jews in their 40s, 50s and 60s are in short supply, their ranks thinned by the Holocaust and four decades of communist rule. Those that are present are frequently less literate Jewishly than the youth, who came of age after the fall of the Iron Curtain and have benefited from educational and travel opportunities denied to their parents.

"They're called the lost generation because their parents were survivors of Auschwitz and that's why they never really connected to their identity," says Homonnai, who teaches a weekly class in Maimonides' principles of faith to students twice her age.

But perhaps the biggest challenges facing Oradea's Jews, as in many post-Soviet Jewish communities, are the problems born of a half-century of rampant intermarriage. Under communism few could find Jewish mates, resulting in a community in which many members are not Jewish according to religious law.

Menachem Hacohen, Romania's Israeli-born chief rabbi, says the return of these non-halachic Jews to the fold is one of his main objectives, but he has made little progress persuading the Israeli rabbinate to relax their con-

version standards.

"I think they are a lost case," Hacohen says of the rabbinate. "We have to find our own ways and to create our own tools how to solve this problem."

Teodor-Felix Koppelman, who has led the Oradea Jewish community for 15 years, says the hardest part of his job is maintaining a daily minyan even if 20 people show up, fewer than half can be counted toward the quorum of 10.

Unlike many in the community, Koppelman claims to be somewhat optimistic about the future.

"I don't say it's perfect what we have here, but it's far better than the rest," Koppelman says. "In 10 or 20 years we're going to be better Jews, whatever happens, than we are today. In the future things cannot get worse, they can only get better."

One source of hope for Oradea was the arrival in January, after years of clamoring, of rabbinical student Yitzhak Szyf. At a Passover seder Szyf led for some 120 people, he delivered a message that seemed tailor-made for his audience.

Explaining the seder portion in which five famous rabbis are said to have spent the whole night relating the story of the Exodus, Szyf noted that Rabbi Akiva was known for his optimism.

"They started the seder in darkness, but after spending a night with Rabbi Akiva, their students saw the light," Szyf said in English, his words translated into Romanian. "He succeeded in teaching them that even in the worst situation, it's worth being optimistic."

"On Pesach, the entire commandment is at night because that's the whole point of Pesach, to take the night and turn it into a day." ■

Washington

Groups revving up to fight ruling on late-term abortion

By Rachel Mauro

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Supreme Court decisions usually are considered final, but Jewish groups that favor abortion rights are taking this week's ruling upholding a ban on late-term abortions to lawmakers.

The groups, which consider the April 18 ruling a rollback of the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that upheld abortion as a matter of privacy and a woman's choice, say they will now go to state legislatures and to Congress, and ultimately make it a matter for the 2008 presidential elections.

"This isn't going to go away," said Phyllis Schneider, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, perhaps the most vocal group advocating for reproductive rights. "This is the beginning of a new fight now."

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in his majority ruling that those opposing a 2003 U.S. law banning late-term abortions "have not demonstrated that the Act would be unconstitutional in a large fraction of relevant cases."

Kennedy said other procedures are available to women whose lives are threatened by their pregnancies.

Reaction from Jewish groups was swift.

The decision's "disregard for the rights of the so-called 'fraction' of women who, for a range of reasons, including the preservation of their own lives, need specific reproductive health services, is heartless and insensitive," the Reform movement's Religious Action Center said.

Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America said the court "inappropriately inserted itself into the personal lives of American women."

The minority decision in the 5-4 ruling, written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who is Jewish, said the majority decision "chips away" at women's rights.

Ginsburg wrote that the ruling "recalls ancient notions about women's place in society and under the Constitution — ideas that have long since been discredited."

Supporters of the law say "health exceptions" are murky and note that the bill includes an exception when birth would threaten a woman's life. Opponents counter that women in such dangers may obtain the abortion only through a legal challenge, a process they say is burdensome.

Among Jewish groups, only the fervently Orthodox Agudath Israel of America praised the decision.

"At a time when social and cultural trends tend to undervalue human life, laws that prohibit the killing of partially delivered fetuses serve as a vital reminder of the enormity of the moral issues surrounding the taking of human life," Agudah said.

Other groups expressing disappointment in the decision included the Anti-Defamation League and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella body for Jewish community relations councils across the country.

"We hope Congress will act to reverse the unfortunate legislation that triggered this decision," JCPA Chairwoman Lois Frank said.

The Orthodox Union, the modern Orthodox umbrella body, had no comment. In the past it has said that decisions on abortion — including late-term abortion, a method that conservative groups call "partial-birth abortion" — should be left to the mother, her doctor and her cleric.

Jewish religious law considers the mother's health paramount, and Jewish activists — even the conservative — traditionally have sought to write protections for women into abortion legislation.

This was a case where halacha, or Jewish law,

and justice should coincide, said Susan Weidman Schneider, editor of Lilith, a Jewish feminist magazine, "and it certainly doesn't with this Supreme Court decision."

"There is a sense I have that Jewish women have not been on the ramparts as much as they used to be," she said. "The question is why and what do we do now" that can help mitigate this decision.

Dr. Paul Blumenthal, a professor of obstetrics at Stanford University, said the decision undermined the physician-patient relationship.

"It means that women are no longer going to get the best possible care from physicians because a lot of clinical decision-making is taken out of our hands," he said.

The immediate political focus, NCJW's Schneider said, would be on a Democratic effort in the U.S. Congress to codify the Roe v. Wade findings into law. Lead sponsors for the Freedom of Choice Act in both houses are Jewish: Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.).

"NCJW will certainly rev itself up and be working" on the act, Schneider said. The probability of a presidential veto would be less important than the fact that passing the act "puts Congress on record in support of the right to choose."

The fight will be defined in part by where anti-abortion groups empowered by the decision take their reinvigorated efforts to end abortion.

"It's likely two-fold, both at the state level and in Washington on Capitol Hill," said Jeff Sinensky, general counsel for the American Jewish Committee. "We're sure to see efforts around the country to introduce anti-abortion legislation."

The AJCommittee, which filed an amicus brief in the case, expressed its "disappointment" with the ruling.

"AJC opposes governmental interference in a woman's ability to choose the safest medical procedures that best protect her ability to bear children in the future," the group said.

Sinensky said the decision would ultimately play out in the 2008 elections.

"Obviously it pushes the issue of abortion rights into the presidential campaign as a major issue," he said.

Schneider said NCJW would maintain its aggressive posture regarding the makeup of the Supreme Court.

"We'll be watching upcoming judicial nominations," she said.

NCJW was nearly alone among activist groups in aggressively campaigning against President Bush's two successful court nominees, John Roberts and Samuel Alito. The pair tipped the balance since 2000, when the court last considered a late-term ban — and rejected it.

"This ruling underscores once again that the composition of the Supreme Court matters," the NCJW statement said. "Who serves on the court has a direct bearing on our ability to exercise our constitutional rights, including reproductive freedom."

It's a message Hadassah was coming around to, said Shelley Klein, the organization's director of advocacy.

"It's strikingly clear that the Supreme Court and the federal court system are no longer the bulwark of rights we hoped it would be," she said. "If federal courts do not protect rights, then it comes back to legislatures. It makes Congress more significant, states more significant." ■

JTA Washington Bureau Chief Ron Kampeas contributed to this story.



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On Another Note

Celebrate with Craig 'N Company

Sandor Solomovits, special to the WJN

Potluck meals are, in addition to all their other virtues, a great opportunity to learn. Everyone usually brings their most successful, tried-and-true recipes and so, besides getting to gorge on familiar favorites, we can try unusual, even exotic dishes we've never encountered before.

Music sampler recordings are similar smorgasbords. We can hear artists and styles we already know and love, and also ones we've never heard before. Of course, just as at a potluck you might encounter the occasional overly spicy dish, or the Jell-O surprise that the hostess insists you try, there may be cuts on a sampler that are not to your taste. When it comes to music, you don't have to find a way to surreptitiously scrape the offending dish into the garbage. That's what the right-facing double arrow button is for on your CD player.

In any case, with music you won't get indigestion or need Alka-Seltzer later.

And, just as at a potluck, after hearing someone rave about a dish you passed up, you might go back and try it and find it delicious. You might even decide to go back for seconds. In the same way, after hearing an unfamiliar style even if at first you decide that it's an acquired taste, you may find later that you can't get the tune out of your mind.

Craig 'N Company's *Best of the Celebrate Series* is the latest release from Craig Taubman's highly successful record label. It's a two-disc album featuring 33 songs and tunes from nine separate recordings that the company has previously released. Each of those recordings is dedicated to a different Jewish holiday, theme or genre; Shabbat, Passover, Hanukkah, Kids, Klezmer, Yiddish, Love, Narrow Bridge, and Peace.

The range of styles on this album is enormous, from classical to klezmer, from rock 'n roll to Dixieland, from cantorial to Celtic to country.

The Best of the Celebrate Series kicks off with Craig Taubman's of "L'cha Dodi" from the Friday night Shabbat service. I have to confess that, being the son of an orthodox cantor, and having heard my father sing the traditional melody of "L'cha Dodi" countless times as I was growing up, this Dixieland arrangement felt a bit jarring on first hearing. But, even before I went back to listen to it again, I found myself humming the infectious melody and tapping and nodding along—and not just on Friday night.

Which leads me to a very short, and hopefully not too pompous polemic about traditional versus modern. Here it is.

Everything that's now traditional, once was modern.

That's it. I'm off my soapbox now.

This tension between the traditional and the modern, between ancient texts carried by contemporary musical styles and arrangements, between the purist and the avant gardist, exists on a number of the cuts on these recordings. Yet they all feel respectful and affectionate, rather than irreverent, or blasphemous.

Here are some of my favorites. There are

two versions of "Elijah Hanavi." On one, from the Passover recording, nylon string guitar, cello and choir accompany David Broza's supple baritone on the familiar melody. This spare arrangement, plus a surprising modulation, and the way Broza ornaments the familiar melody, all make for a hauntingly beautiful rendition.

Then there is the Moshav Band's version, from the *Peace* recording, featuring a fresh new melody coupled with a folk-rock arrangement, complete with an electric guitar solo. Also sounds just right.



Craig Taubman

There are a number of familiar names here. The only live cut on the recording is Debbie Friedman singing her own, "Not By Might-Not By Power." She's obviously having a ball, as are her ecstatic fans. Neshama Carlebach contributes a compelling contemporary setting of her grandfather Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's "Melech Rachaman" from the Musaf service of the Three Festivals. Naturally, Craig Taubman has several pieces. Besides the "L'cha Dodi," he offers an intimate setting, featuring his crystal clear guitar picking and warm voice, of the quote from Hoseah, "V'erastich Li," which is sometimes recited at weddings. Another one of my many favorites here is SAFAM's cantorial/klezmer blended setting of "Pitchu Li" from the Pesach Hallel. "Open for me the gates of triumph, the gates of victory, the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and praise Ha'shem."

But there are also artists I was not as familiar with, that I now plan to hear more. Shirona's gorgeous voice is perfectly highlighted by the sparse piano accompaniment on "Ki Elecha" from the Anim Z'mirot. Her setting of the text, "My soul yearns for your presence..." beautifully expresses the essence of the feeling behind those words. After my first hearing of Judy Frankel's Ladino flavored "Hanuka." I hit the backward facing arrows on my CD player a number of times.

There is much, much more to savor here, and it's all kosher. Nu. So eat already! *The Best of the Celebrate Series* CD can be purchased from the Craig 'N Company website at www.craignco.com.

One last note. I want to offer a giant *todah rabbah* to Rabbi Dobrusin of Beth Israel for his ever-generous help in locating the sources and translating some of the texts used on these recordings. Of course, any errors are mine. ■

Kosher Cuisine

Widen your culinary horizons

by Judy Baumann, R.D., food editor

Opportunities abound to learn more about food, good nutrition and cooking. With Americans on the go more than ever, we are exposed to foods of different cultures, both in the U.S. and abroad. Regional specialties, ethnic dishes, imported foods, wines and beers make eating an adventure. Local restaurants and grocers offer wine tastings and cooking classes, either with or without an accompanying meal. On a trip to New Orleans, I attended a Cajun cooking class that included lunch. It was a pleasant way to learn more about that area's regional cooking and to acquire food preparation hints.

With summer approaching, use farmers' markets as a resource to learn more about the produce they sell. Chili farmers, apple growers and organic garlic growers love nothing more than to share their love of their products by discussing with their customers the differences among the varieties they sell and how to eat and cook them to their best advantage. Taste food samples—this is a wonderful opportunity to expand your eating repertoire! During a family trip to Alaska, we sampled rutabaga and popcorn with sugar at the farmer's market in Anchorage and bought some to add to our picnic fare.

Yet other venues for broadening your knowledge about specific areas of cooking are specialty cookbooks. Their narrow focus allows authors to explore their topics more thoroughly, so they are often good reference books. A fine example is *The Top One Hundred Italian Rice Dishes* by author and cooking instructor Diane Seed. As a resident of Rome, Italy, Seed has authored several books on Italian and Mediterranean cuisine.

Seed writes that rice was probably brought to Sicily by the Arabs in the 8th or 9th century, and these early rice dishes were baked or fried. In the 13th and 14th centuries, botanical gardens experimented with growing rice, and soon monasteries discovered the benefits of this economical crop. Rice cultivation needs flat land and access to a lot of water, and Milan and the area around the river Po proved ideal.

Today, Italy is the major European rice producer. Most Italian regions have at least one traditional rice dish, and in some rice is more important than pasta. The introduction to *Italian Rice Dishes* offers instructions on how to cook and deep-fry rice and four basic recipes for stock (which you might want to make up in larger batches and freeze for future use). Each of Seed's recipes is like a cooking class, with clear instructions and suggestions. The pronouncement on the book cover, "including 50 risotto recipes" was intriguing as risotto is one of my favorite foods. Recipes in the book run the gamut from risotto, baked rice dishes, chicken and rice from the Venice ghetto to interesting desserts like rice and orange soufflé. If you're a rice aficionado, you will enjoy this cookbook, especially with all of summer's fresh vegetables. If you are not familiar with risotto, all I can say is try it! I introduced spinach and mushroom risotto to my mother a couple years ago, as she loves rice. Since it takes only about half an hour to make, she was hooked and makes it often.

Bread for Breakfast by Beth Hensperger, also grabbed my attention, as I love breakfast—any time of the day. The book is delightful, with great photos of food. Hensperger includes not only made-from-scratch muffins and sweet breads, but coffee cakes using cake mixes as their base. Her baking expertise provides us with recipes for bagel bread, blintzes, blintz casserole, brioche pretzels, croissants and more. Want to add home-made toppings? You’ll find many recipes for jams and fruit butters. The cookbook is well designed with lists of ingredients as sidebars, interesting recipe notes and easy-to-follow directions. From everyday breakfasts to company brunch, *Bread for Breakfast* is a good source when you want to be creative and try something a bit different.

Enjoy the following recipes, and remember to get in those five fruits and vegetables a day! Happy eating! ■

The Top 100 Italian Rice Dishes contains some recipes with shellfish and pork, but WJN readers will find that most recipes can be used within the guidelines of kashrut; also grated cheese and other unacceptable foods can often be omitted and other seasonings substituted.

Banana-cream cheese blintz casserole

makes 8 servings

Preparation tips: This is perfect for a brunch party. All the ingredients of traditional blintzes are combined in a totally different fashion to make an easy-to-prepare casserole with flair and flavor.

Cheese filling:

| | |
|---|--|
| 2 cups (16 oz.) cottage cheese | 3 tablespoons fresh squeezed lemon juice |
| 1 lb. cream cheese, at room temperature | 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract |
| 2 large eggs | pinch of salt |
| 2/3 cup sugar | 2 firm bananas, sliced |

Batter:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour | 1 t pure vanilla extract |
| 1 tablespoon baking powder | 2 T sugar |
| large pinch of salt | 1 T ground cinnamon |
| 8 T (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted | 3 pint baskets fresh strawberries |
| 1 cup sugar | 2 T sugar, or to taste |
| 2 large eggs | 1 pint cold sour cream, optional |
| 1 c milk | |

To make the filling, use a heavy-duty electric mixer on medium speed, beating all of the ingredients until smooth and well blended. Fold in the sliced bananas. This can be refrigerated in a covered container and made a day ahead (fold the bananas in just before assembling the casserole).

Pre-heat the oven to 300° (275° if using a Pyrex or dark finish pan).

To make the batter, place the flour, baking powder and salt in a mixing bowl or in the work bowl of a food processor fitted with the metal blade. Using a handheld immersion blender, a balloon whisk, or the food processor, add the melted butter, sugar, eggs, milk and vanilla, and beat until smooth, 1 minute.

Grease a 9" x 13" **baking pan**. **Place the sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and stir to mix. Pour** half of the batter into the prepared baking pan. Gently place large spoonfuls of the cheese and banana filing evenly over the batter. Spread slightly with the back of the spoon, without mixing the filling into the batter. Pour the remaining batter over the top of the filing. Sprinkle with the cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake on the center rack of the oven until set, about 1 hour 15 minutes. Slice the strawberries and sprinkle with some sugar. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Serve the casserole warm, passing the bowl of cold strawberries and cold sour cream separately.

from Bread for Breakfast by Beth Hensperger

Old-fashioned sour cream coffee cake

makes one 10" tube pan

Preparation tips: The author serves this cake (which has got to be the richest version ever of the famous Jewish culinary classic) with fresh jumbo strawberries for brunch. A fluted pan with a 12-cup capacity, known as a Bundt pan will bake the batter into a large handsome cake that is suitable for a pedestal cake stand. Note from Judy: My mother has made the “classic” coffee cake, but she swirls the nut mixture through all the batter with a knife or narrow spatula.

Batter

| |
|--|
| 4 c unbleached all-purpose flour |
| 4 t baking powder |
| 1 t baking soda |
| 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg or mace |
| 1 t salt |
| 1 c (2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature |
| 2 1/2 c granulated sugar |
| 4 large eggs |
| 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract |
| 1/2 teaspoon almond extract |
| 2 c sour cream |
| 1/4 c cultured buttermilk |
| 3/4 c chopped pitted dates |
| 3 tablespoons confectioners’ sugar, for dusting |

Nut Crumb

| |
|-------------------------|
| 1/3 c light brown sugar |
| 1/2 c sugar |
| 2 t cinnamon |
| 1/2 t nutmeg or mace |
| 1 c pecans |

Preheat the oven to 350° (325° if using a dark-finish pan). Grease and flour a 10” plain or fluted tube pan, 12-cup (standard) Bundt pan, or two 9" by 5" **loaf pans and set aside.**

To make the nut crumbs, place all of the ingredients for the nut crumb in a food processor fitted with the metal blade, and pulse until the nuts are finely chopped. Set aside.

To make the cake, in a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg, and salt. Set aside.

In the large work bowl of a heavy-duty electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 1 minute. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly after each addition. Add the vanilla and almond extracts, sour cream, and buttermilk, blending on medium-high speed just until smooth. With the electric mixer on low speed, gradually add the dry ingredients to the sour cream mixture. After all of the dry ingredients have been added, beat well on medium speed until fluffy and smooth yet thick, about 2 minutes. There should be no lumps or dry spots. With a large rubber spatula, scrape half of the batter into the prepared cake pan. Sprinkle with half of the nut crumb mixture and distribute the dates around the pan; top with the rest of the batter. Sprinkle with the remaining nut crumb. Use a small metal spatula or flat knife to smooth the top layer, making sure no filling is showing.

Bake on the center rack of the oven for 60 to 70 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean and the top of the cake is no longer shiny. Remove from the oven and let stand in the pan for 20 minutes. Remove from the pan by carefully inverting the cake onto a rack to cool completely. Place the rack over a piece of waxed paper, and dust the cake with the confectioners’ sugar. Transfer the cooked cake to a serving plate. Serve at room temperature. This cake freezes well for up to 2 months; dust with confectioners’ sugar just before serving.

From Bread for Breakfast by Beth Hensperger

Eggplant risotto

serves 4

Preparation tips: In Italy there are eggplants of every size and hue, just asking to be cooked. Be sure to use fresh eggplants; it is not worth making this with dull, soft ones. The author recommends purging them in salt first to prevent their bitter juices from spoiling the risotto. The introduction to Seed’s cookbook gives brief, but complete instructions for cooking the various types of rice dishes, so it’s important to read that before cooking the recipes. I’ve added some useful tips below, using some of her techniques. You may need more or less stock, so have extra on hand.

- 10 1/2 oz. small, firm, shiny eggplants, diced
- coarse salt for purging
- 3/4 stick butter
- 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 1 1/4 cups fresh tomato sauce
- 2 cups Arborio rice (Carnaroli or Vialone Nano if available)
- 4 cups light meat or vegetable stock, simmering on the stove
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan (if dish is made without meat stock)
- black pepper

Purge the diced eggplants of their bitter juices: Arrange the sliced eggplant on a chopping board. Sprinkle liberally with coarse salt and cover with another board weighed down by a heavy pan. Fine salt should not be used as it is too easily absorbed. After 30 minutes wash off the salt, rinse the eggplant and pat dry with the kitchen towel. Heat half the butter with the oil in a large pan and cook the onion, garlic and eggplants for 5 minutes. Stir in the tomato sauce followed by the rice and simmer for 5 minutes. The rice must be stirred continuously during the cooking process. Then add the stock gradually, a ladle at a time, as the liquid is absorbed by the rice. After about 20 minutes, when the rice is cooked properly—until it is al dente, which means there should be no gritty texture in the center of the grain, but the rice should still offer a slight resistance or bite. Take the pan off the heat, stir in the parsley, Parmesan and freshly ground black pepper to taste; cover and allow to sit for 2 minutes before serving. The finished risotto should be creamy. ■



Calendar

May 2007

Tuesday 1

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, Noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Bring your project. Coffee and noshes provided. 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

BOOKSTOCK—Friends of Literacy Used Book and Media Sale: JCC. Proceeds benefit participating organizations. Monday–Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sunday, noon–6 p.m., Laurel Park Place Mall, 37700 6 Mile Road, Livonia. For more information, or to volunteer, call Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990 or email rachelrosenthal@jccfed.org. *Through 5/6.*

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week (except during vacation) using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. For location, 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 2

Adult Biblical Hebrew #3: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting: TBE. 7:45 p.m.

Thursday 3

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, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m. at the JCC.

“Every Bite a Pleasure–Nutrition Choices for Everyone: JCC Seniors. Discussion and cooking demonstration led by Yael Dolev, Food Coach. U-M Nursing students will also be present. 1 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.

Adult Hebrew: TBE. Spring Semester Class #3.

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 4

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. Call 971-0990.

Friday Shabbat Service: AARH. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. This month’s service led by Reconstructionist Rabbi Nathan Martin and Abby Weinberg on the topic of counting the days following Passover and what this might mean from a spiritual perspective. 6:15–7:45 p.m. at the JCC. Babysitting provided. Call 913-9705 or email info@aareon.org for more information.

Brotherhood Shabbat: TBE. Service conducted by Brotherhood members. 8 p.m.

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

Saturday 5

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah. 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 6

Lag B’Omer Stewardship Day and Nature Walk: BIC. 9 a.m.–Noon at Furstenberg Park.

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.*

Tot Lag B’Omer Picnic: BIC. For families with children up to five years old. Noon at Gallup Park.

Medical Ethics Forum: End of Life Issues: TBE. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth and St. Clare’s Episcopal Church. Panelists will include Ed Goldman, Associate V.P. and Deputy General Counsel of U-M; Linda Strodtman, R.N., Ph.D., Professor of Nursing at U-M; Phil Rodgers, M.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and the Director of Palliative Care Consultation Service at UMMC; Cantor Annie Rose; and Reverend James Rhodenheiser. 3–4:30 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival: JCC. The JCC of Washtenaw County in association with the JCC of Metropolitan Detroit and the Michigan Theater will present the Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival. Showing of 19 films in five days. Time varies by day at the Michigan Theater, 603 East Liberty. \$10/film or \$65/Film Festival Pass for all films. Scholarship opportunities available. Call Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990 for information. *Through 5/10.*

Lag B’Omer Picnic and Carnival: Chabad. Picnic dinner of hotdogs, salads and drinks plus special program, fun and prizes for the whole family. Bring blankets and Frisbees. 4–7 p.m. at the JCC.

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

Monday 7

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; JCC Writing Group. All are welcome to join. 1–3:00 p.m. *Every Monday.*

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.

Tuesday 8

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, Noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Bring your project. Coffee and noshes provided. 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday*

Lifelong Learning Course: JCC Seniors. “Maiden (Innocence), Mother (Creativity), and Crone (Wisdom)” is a six-session life review

mini-course that will allow a small group of women to reflect on the stages of their own lives using the concepts of innocence, creativity and wisdom. Taught by Mary Stevens, LMSW, a social worker and founder of Life Cycles, which provides counseling, classes and ceremonies for those moving through life transitions. Registration required. Space limited to 10 participants. Must register in advance through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (formerly Learning in Retirement). Fee charged. For information or to register, contact the Institute at 998-9351. *Also 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5 and 6/12.*

Adult Biblical Hebrew #4: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Topics in Jewish Law: AAOM. Rabbi Rod Glogower presents different topics each week (except during vacation) using texts from Tanach, Talmud and rabbinic literature. English translations of texts provided. Discussions in areas of law, philosophy and theology. 8 p.m. For location, 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 9

Lunch and Laugh Series: BIC. A look at some of the famous Jewish comedians of the past and how to find humor in our own Jewish experiences. Led by Rabbi Dobrusin. Bring sack lunch. Drinks and dessert provided. Noon–1:15 p.m.

Jewish Meditation: Counting the Omer: TBE. Open to beginning or experienced meditators. Led by Judy Friedman. 7:30 p.m. in TBE Chapel.

Men’s Torah Study: TBE. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday 10

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, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1 p.m. at the JCC.

Luncheon and Jewish Film Festival: JCC Seniors. Mother’s Day Luncheon at Zanzibar Restaurant on State Street followed by the 2 p.m. showing of *Sister Rose’s Passion* and *Queen of the Mountain* at the Michigan Theater. Buy your own lunch (approximately \$10) and \$10 film ticket. Transportation will be provided. Meet at JCC at noon. Reservation required. Phone Laurie at 971-0990 in advance.

Victory Day Celebration: JFS. Honoring World War II veterans and their families who helped defeat Nazi Germany and the memory of the 20 million Soviet citizens who lost their lives. For the Russian-speaking community. \$15 includes dinner. Transportation available arranged in advance. 6 p.m. at Parkway Meadows Clubhouse, 2301 Sandalwood Circle. Contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209 for information.

Adult Hebrew: TBE. Spring Semester Class #4.

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 11

Senior Outing: JCC Seniors. Visit the Senior Housing and Living Expo to explore over 50 exhibits of housing, personal care, and support services. Expo held at Washtenaw Community College. Transportation provided. Meet at the JCC at 10 a.m. RSVP to Laurie at 971-0990.

Yiddish Movie Day: JCC Seniors. Monthly Yiddish-speaking group meets the second Friday of each month with a planned program of Yiddish films. Today’s film is *The Shop on Main Street* (in Czech with English subtitles). 1:30 p.m. at the JCC in the Newman Room. Call 971-0990 for information.

Shabbat Services: TBE. Tot Shabbat Service at 5:30 p.m.; Tot Shabbat dinner at 6 p.m.; Shira, music for young families at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary; Family Service at 7 p.m.; Chapel minyan service at 8 p.m.

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

Saturday 12

Tot Shabbat: BIC. 11 a.m. at Beth Israel.

Kids’ Night Out–Beach Bash. JCC Youth Department. Have a blast at the beach for children kindergarten through fifth grade. Includes pizza and veggies dinner and an ice cream sundae bar. \$18/JCC members; \$22 siblings; \$22/non-members; \$17 siblings. 6:30–10 p.m. at the JCC. Contact Craig Pollack at 971-0990 or email craigpollack@jccfed.org

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 13

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.*

Mother’s Day Concert Outing for Older Adults: JFS. Hear the Ann Arbor Concert Band. \$10/adults; \$5/seniors and students. 2 p.m. at the Michigan Theater. \$6/transportation on JFS CareVan, if needed. Contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209 for information.

High School Shir Chadash Annual Mother’s Day Café: TBE. 6 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.*

Monday 14

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; JCC Writing Group. All are welcome to join. 1–3:00 p.m. *Every Monday.*

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.

Calendar

Tuesday 15

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, Noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Bring your project. Coffee and noshes provided. 1-3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Movie Tuesday: TBE. Screening of *The Power of Good*, a gripping documentary about the courage and determination of a young English stockbroker, Nicholas Winton, who saved the lives of 669 children. Followed by discussion with coffee, tea and a nosh. 1-3 p.m.

Film BIC. 2006 film *Aviva My Love* shown at 8 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday 16

Matinee Musicale: JCC—Older Adult Programs. Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet will perform old time favorites including Best of Broadway and swing tunes. Part of a five-concert recital series. Preceded by a dessert reception. \$7/ person. 1:30-3 p.m. at the JCC. Contact Laurie Wechter at 971-0990 or email laurie@jfsannarbor.org for information.

Adult Biblical Hebrew #5: TBE. 6:30 p.m.

Jewish Meditation—Counting the Omer: TBE. Open to beginning or experienced mediators. 7:30 p.m. in the TBE Chapel.

Thursday 17

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, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.-noon; \$3 Homemade Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), Today at 1:30 p.m. at the JCC.

Talk: JCC Seniors. "Bowling Alone, Governing Together," presented by Jeff Bernstein, Associate Professor of Political Science at Eastern Michigan University. 1:30 p.m.

Tots in the Park: TBE. Musical fun at Burns Park. Look for the group on grass near the playground. Participants are encouraged to bring their own dinner. Rain cancels. 6-7 p.m.

Adult Hebrew: TBE. Spring Semester Class #5.

Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system. (See Thursday May 10.) *Every Thursday.*

Friday 18

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. Call 971-0990.

Museum Outing for Older Adults: JFS. Visit the art exhibit *Imagining Eden: Connecting Landscapes*, a long-term study of idealized human-

made landscapes by California-based artist Lyle Gomes including images of parks, golf courses, gardens and cemeteries that examine the human impulse to shape the landscape. Time TBD. U-M Museum of Art, 1301 South University. Transportation available for \$6, if needed. Contact Nina Dmitrieva at nina@jfsannarbor.org or 769-0209 for information.

Shabbat Dinner: JCC—Early Childhood Center. For families with young children under age six. Shabbat with dinner hosted by PeerK Explorer. \$10/adults; \$5/children 2 years and up. 6-7:30 p.m. at the JCC. Contact Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990.

Confirmation Class of 5767 Shabbat Service: TBE. 8 p.m.

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

Saturday 19

Yoga Class: BIC. With Rachel Portney. 9-10 a.m.

Mystical Insights to the Torah—for Women: Chabad. Learn more about the mystical dimensions of the Torah: Chabad. 1 hour before sundown 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 20

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 Hebrew Day School. Children ages 2 and up and their parents will join San and Laz Slomovitz with guest percussionist Aron Kaufman for "Good Mischief for the Whole Family." 10-11 a.m. at the JCC. RSVP to sundayfun@hdsaa.org. For more information, call HDS at 971-4633.

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.*

Brunch: BIC. Honoring the 25th year of ordination of Rabbi Dobrusin and the Jewish Theological Seminary. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Grand Opening Celebration: JFS. Celebration of opening of new offices of the Jewish Family Services at 2245 South State from 2-4 p.m. Ribbon cutting and ceremony and mezuzah hanging at 2:30 p.m. For information, phone 769-0209 or email carol@jfsannarbor.org.

Kol Halev Concert and Reception: TBE. Kol Halev Adult Choir will present gala spring concert showcasing music set for performance on a 12-day concert tour of Argentina this summer. Music in Yiddish, Ladino and Hebrew under direction of Cantor Annie Rose. \$5/ticket. 4-5 p.m. with no intermission at Temple Beth Emeth. Call 665-4744 for information or tickets.

Supper at the Blue Nile: Jewish Ann Arbor Singles. 5-7 p.m. at Blue Nile Restaurant. RSVP by 5/15 to j_aa_s@yahoo.com or call 483-8352.

Annual Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Dessert: JCC. Honoring outgoing board

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Calendar

members, voting for new board members, and recognition of all JCC volunteers from the past year. 6 p.m. Contact Rachel Rosenthal at 971-0990 or email rachelrosenthal@jccfed.org for information.

Israeli Dancing: JCC. Put on your dancing shoes and join friends for a night of dancing with veteran instructor Tom Starks. \$5/person. 7–9 p.m. For information, phone 971-0990.

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

Monday 21

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; JCC Writing Group. All are welcome to join. 1–3:00 p.m. *Every Monday.*

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.

Tuesday 22

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study: BIC. Study of *Hibat Yisrael*, the love of the land of Israel, in ancient and modern texts and in our hearts. Followed by cheesecake reception. 10 a.m.–Noon.

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, Noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Bring your project. Coffee and noshes provided. 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

Shavuot Services: AAOM. 8:20 p.m. Call 662-5805 for location.

Shavuot Celebration: Chabad. Evening services at 8:45 p.m. followed by festive meal and all-night learning.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: TBE. With Rabbi Levy. Torah learning and cheesecake reception. 9 p.m.

Shavuot Service: BIC. 9:30 p.m.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot: AAOM. Shavuot Torah Study led by Rabbi Glogower. Midnight. Call 662-5805 for location.

Wednesday 23

Shavuot Services and Celebration: Chabad. Morning services at 8:45 a.m. followed by reading of Ten Commandments and ice cream party for children. Festive dairy meal follows for all ages.

Morning Shavuot Services: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. Call 662-5805 for location.

Shavuot Services: BIC. 9:30 a.m.

Jewish Meditation—Counting the Omer: TBE. Open to beginning or experienced mediators. 7:30 p.m. in the TBE Chapel.

Evening Shavuot Services: AAOM. 8:20 p.m. Call 662-5805 for location.

Thursday 24

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

Shavuot Service: AAOM. 9:30 a.m. Call 662-5805 for location.

Shavuot Service: BIC. Service at 9 a.m. Yizkor service at approximately 11 a.m.

Shavuot Picnic: AAOM. 1 p.m. at Burns Park.

Adult Hebrew #6: TBE.

Shavuot Services: Chabad. 7 p.m.

Friday 25

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. Call 971-0990.

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

Saturday 26

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 27

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

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

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

Monday 28

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; JCC Writing Group. All are welcome to join. 1–3:00 p.m. *Every Monday.*

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.

Tuesday 29

SPICE of LIFE: JCC Seniors. Mah Jongg, Noon; Drop-in Hobby Time. Bring your project. Coffee and noshes provided. 1–3 p.m. *Every Tuesday.*

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.*

Thursday 31

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, a Jewish perspective on the news, 11 a.m.–noon; \$3 Homemade Buffet Lunch, noon; Special events and guest presentations (varied), 1:00 p.m. at the JCC.



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Calendar

Grandparent University Inaugural Meeting: JCC—Older Adult Programs. New group, facilitated by Happy Feigelson, Ph.D. Twelve session series: "Bubbe/Zaide, Savta/Sabas, Grandma/Grandpa: A Lively Conversation on the Joys and Challenges of Grandparenting." This first session is an introduction and overview in which participants will share interests and goals. Twelve monthly sessions will explore different themes and issues related to conscious grandparenting. Generally held last Thursday each month. \$40/year including subscription to *Grand Magazine, The Official Magazine of Grandparents*. 1 p.m. at JCC. Register by 5/15. Contact Abbie Lawrence Jacobson at 769-0269 or email abbie@jfsannarbor.org.

Talmud Study Group—Jewish Civil Law: Chabad. Sharpen your wits and knowledge of the Jewish legal system by following the intriguing discussions in the Talmud. The Talmud is a composite of practical law, logical argumentation and moral teachings. Study of the original Talmud tractate Bava Metzia chapter 6. 8 p.m. *Every Thursday*.

June 1

Grandparent Shabbat: JCC Seniors. Join your (or someone else's) grandchildren for this annual Shabbat service. For information or to RSVP, call Noreen DeYoung at 971-0990.

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

Weekly Friday night Shabbat services

Shabbat Services: AAOM. U-M Hillel. Home hospitality available for Shabbat and Shavuot 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 one Friday each month. Musical Shabbat service followed by vegetarian potluck. Tot Shabbat with optional kid's pizza dinner at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For information, call 913-9705, email info@aaecon.org or visit www.aaecon.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. Call 662-5805 for information. Mincha/Maariv with Seudah Shlisheet and Dvar Torah every week at UM Hillel. Torah topics and a bite to eat. Discussions led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars.

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

Shabbat Services: AA Reconstructionist Havurah. Discussion-based format with topics changing monthly. For info, email info@aaecon.org or call 913-9705 or visit www.aaecon.org.

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

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

Shabbat Services: TBE. 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. Torah topics and snacks are part of this weekly tradition. Discussions are led by Rabbi Rod Glogower and other local scholars. Call 662-5805 for time and location.

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

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

"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)
2245 South State Street 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

Shabbat Candlelighting

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| May 4 | 7:17 p.m. |
| May 11 | 7:25 p.m. |
| May 18 | 7:32 p.m. |
| May 25 | 7:39 p.m. |
| June 1 | 7:45 p.m. |

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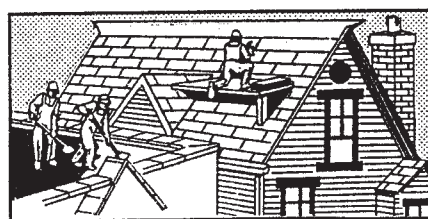
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**Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and the
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Annual Meeting

Thursday

May 31

7:00 pm

Jewish Community Center

featuring special guests

**Irving & Carol
Smokler**

Carol Smokler

When Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Carol Smokler was largely responsible for the overwhelming response from the national Jewish community. As longtime chair of the national Emergency Relief Campaign of United Jewish Communities, she helped bring in more than \$20 million to rebuild the region. This year, she was honored as one of the *Forward 50*, for making a difference in the way American Jews view the world and themselves.

Dr. Irving A. Smokler

Dr. Smokler, past president of the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County and Beth Israel Congregation, is currently Treasurer of Federation's overseas partner, the Joint Distribution Committee, Vice-Chair of the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, and a member of the Executive Committee. He frequently visits the worlds Jewish communities on behalf of the American Jewish communal organizations.

also

**Election of officers and directors
Presentation of the inaugural:
Smokler Young Leadership Award
Steven Elyakin Jewish Education Award**

